

Star
BUSINESS

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IMF head warns against protectionism

AFP, Singapore

The head of the IMF warned Tuesday that the threat of protectionism loomed over a shaky world economy and called again for urgent action to salvage the Doha Round trade liberalization talks.

"The best hope for continued high growth lies in further increases in international trade," International

Monetary Fund Managing Director Rodrigo Rato told the opening plenary session here of the IMF and the World Bank.

While momentum is currently healthy, "the global growth cycle may be close to its peak," he said.

"Educated and skilled labor is in tight supply and the scope for continuing productivity (growth) is in short supply."

In addition, the world trading system is threatened by a resurgence in protectionism following the breakdown in July of multilateral negotiations aimed at tearing down barriers to global commerce.

"The world will either go forward to greater growth and broader opportunities, or backward to narrow nationalism," Rato said.

"We should not fool ourselves

that there is a comfortable middle ground."

He appealed to the world's major powers "to intervene quickly to conserve the gains made in negotiations so far and to put the Doha Round back on track."

As he spoke here, senior officials from key trading nations were gathering in Cairns, Australia to mount a last-ditch effort to rescue the Doha Round of trade liberalization talks, launched five years ago in the Qatari capital.

The negotiations since then have foundered and have been brought to the brink of total collapse by squabbling over how much each party is prepared to concede on tariffs and market access to free up world trade.

But Rato also had what he said was good news to announce here--the overwhelming approval on Monday by the IMF membership of a sweeping reform initiative that aims to drag the 61-year-old Fund into the 21st century.

In a first phase, four countries that are now key and growing players in the global economy -- China, South Korea, Mexico and Turkey -- will see their voting rights in the IMF strengthened.

The blueprint, which also envisages broader reforms to be thrashed out over the next two years, was backed by 90.6 percent of the votes of member states.

"These governance reforms are tremendously important for the future of our institution," Rato said following the vote.

"They will enhance our effectiveness and add legitimacy to all of the other reforms that we are implementing. There is much work to do but this vote is a great start."

The 184-member IMF, created to help regenerate the post-war financial system, has until now been dominated by the United States, European countries and Japan.

Despite its growing stature as a global economic powerhouse, China had less voting clout than Belgium and the Netherlands combined.



PHOTO: NESTLÉ

Carlo Cifiello, managing director of Nestlé Bangladesh Limited, accompanied by Dr Raj Singh, EVP of Nestlé India Limited who was the chief guest, inaugurate the water tank at Bhabanipur High School in Sreepur yesterday. Mirza Golam Hossain, manager of Business Intelligence and General Affairs of Nestlé Bangladesh Limited, was present.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's (September 19, 2006) forex rate statement by **Standard Chartered Bank**

Major Currency Exchange Rates			Exchange Rate of some currencies		
	BC Sell	TT Buy		Per USD	BDT per Currency
US dollar	66.85	65.60	Indian rupee	46.04	1.44
Euro	86.41	82.14	Pak rupee	60.55	1.09
Pound	127.10	121.94	Lankan rupee	102.49	0.65
Australian dollar	51.87	48.26	Thai baht	37.34	1.77
Japanese yen	0.58	0.55	Malaysian ringgit	3.68	17.98
Swiss franc	54.30	51.71			
Swedish kroner	9.65	8.72	USD forward rate against BDT		
Canadian dollar	60.87	58.06		Buy	Sell
Hong Kong dollar	8.61	8.41	1M	65.69	66.95
Singapore dollar	43.00	41.17	2M	65.80	67.15
UAE dirham	18.35	17.72	3M	65.94	67.36
Saudi riyal	17.97	17.35	6M	66.35	68.05
Danish kroner	11.90	10.73			
Kuwaiti dinar	227.73	225.53			
* All currencies are quoted against BDT			* The forward rates are indicative only and fixed dated		
* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction			ranged between 6.50 and 7.00 percent.		

Local Market

FX: Local inter-bank FX market was active on Tuesday as the international markets opened for the week. The demand for USD remained stable and there is a steady volume of cross currency transactions. The USD rose slightly against the Bangladeshi taka.

Money Market

Money market was active on Tuesday. Call money rate remained unchanged and

international market The yen rallied sharply from two-week lows against the euro on Tuesday after a European official said markets may need time to digest policymakers' message that a stronger yen versus the euro is desirable. The euro had fallen down almost 0.4 percent on the day. It had hit a two-week peak in Asian trade as investors focused on the euro area's favourable interest rate outlook.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 19/09/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/2	Pagan	GI(Y.Ma/P)	Yang	MTA	13/9	19/9	71
J/3	Yong Jiang	GI	Tian	Cosco	12/9	22/9	1422
J/4	Qc Teal	Cont	Col	QCSL	16/9	20/9	133
J/5	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacon	16/9		269
J/6	Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	16/9	22/9	--
J/8	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	16/9	23/9	--

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Banga Bodor	19/9	PKel	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel
Banga Bijoy	19/9	CBO	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Cape Bonavista	19/9	PKel	Bdship	Cont	P.Kel
Zhe Hai-315	19/9	Sing	PML	Cont	Sing
Hoa Lu	20/9	Srra	BSL	R. Sugar	--
Kijang	19/9	Tanj	Rship	Scraping	--
Coastal Express	20/9	Kol	BSC	Cont	L/Paral

Tanker due

C.P.-33	19/9	Pasi	Rainbow	CPO	RM/4
United Dynamic	20/9	Jebel	DSL	Crude Oil	
Tirta Niaga-II	21/9	Yangoon	Sacom	CPO	RM/3/4
Al Barakat-1	21/9	Belaw	MTCL	CPO	RM/8/3
Ocean Six	20/9	Lumut	Rainbow	CPO	RM/3
Jag Preeti	21/9	Chenn	SSLL	HSD	
Al Badiyah	21/9	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD	
Scarlet	22/9	Argen	USL	CDSO	RM/3

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Outside port limit:

Wira Kerts	--	--	IBSA	R/A (07/09)
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Vessels at outer anchorage

vessels ready:

Pacific Express	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	17/9
Vinashin Mariner	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	17/9
Raf Raf	Bitumen	Hald	FSA	16/9
Yongxing (Cont)	Cont	Col	PSSL	18/9
Csav California	Cont	Sing	PSSL	18/9
Kota Petani	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	18/9
Id Harmony	GI	Sing	Prog	18/9
Maritime Songkhla	C. Clink	Tanj	BSL	18/9

Vessels not ready:

Altair-Se	Tsp	Sing	Unique	17/9
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Vessels awaiting employment / instruction:

Banga-Baria	Ballast	Col	Baridhi	10/3
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A (21/6)
Ataduru	--	--	Rship	R/A (9/9)
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	BSC	R/A (15/9)

The Above Are The Shipping Position And Performance Of Vessels At Chittagong Port As Per Berthing Sheet Of CPA Supplied By Family, Dhaka.



PHOTO: GP

Emon Kalyan Dutta, head of GP Regional Sales in Rajshahi, and Md Shokrana, managing director of Hotel Naz Garden of Bogra, sign an agreement on behalf of their organisations in the city recently. Under the deal, the hotel becomes a GP Thank You Partner. GrameenPhone subscribers will enjoy a 20 percent discount on room tariffs at the hotel. Md Moinul Haque Chowdhury, officer of Market Communication of GrameenPhone, and Humayun Kabir, general manager of Hotel Naz Garden, were also present.

STOCK