Euro breaks above $1.43 for first time

AFP, *London*

The European single currency surged past 1.43 dollars for the first time in its short history on Thursday, lifted by the prospect of lower interest rates in the United States.

The euro leapt as high as 1.4305, beating the previous record of 1.4283 dollars that was set on October 1.

Analysts said that the euro, which was created in 1999, has been buoyed by a growing belief that the US Federal Reserve would carry on cutting American interest rates to boost the country's flagging economy.

A brace of weak economic releases on Wednesday added to the greenback's woes.

"The weak dollar is driving the market," said BNP Paribas analyst Ian Stannard. "We're seeing the continuation of the effect of yesterday's US data on the housing market."

The US Commerce Department had said housing starts and permits for future construction fell in September to a 14-year low, with a 10.2 percent drop in starts from August.

The American economy, meanwhile, is managing to hold onto its expansion even as the housing sector is pummeled and consumers show signs of fatigue, the Fed had said in its Beige Book report.

"The market reaction is weak data, weak dollar," added Stannard.

The news will likely support Fed chairman Ben Bernanke and Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson's concerns that the US housing market is a threat to gross domestic product (GDP) growth -- and could spark a new US rate cut.

Meanwhile, caution grew Thursday ahead of a meeting of finance ministers from the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations on Friday.

Markets are nervous that European officials may push the issue of the strong euro at the G7 meeting.

The turmoil in financial markets of the past few months and heightened exchange rate tensions will be prominent on the agenda in Washington.

US Treasury Under Secretary David McCormick said the upheaval in markets over the past few months will be part of discussions along with trade, energy, the environment and reform of international financial institutions.

"Clearly the recent financial market turmoil will be a focal point and a good part of the G7 meeting will be devoted to this issue," said McCormick.

The G7 meeting will include finance ministers and central bank chiefs from the seven leading industrialized nations -- the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

In early European trade Thursday, the euro changed hands at 1.4256 dollars, against 1.4202 dollars late Wednesday, 165.53 yen (165.59), 0.6971 pounds (0.6961) and 1.6717 Swiss francs (1.6764).

The dollar stood at 1.1725 Swiss francs (1.1801).

The pound was at 2.0453 dollars (2.0396).

In London, the price of gold fell to 758.10 dollars per ounce at the morning fixing from 762.50 dollars late Wednesday.

PHOTO: WARID TELECOM

Warid Telecom has awarded the winners of the 'SIM Genie Cricket Quiz' organised on the occasion of the ICC Twenty20 World Championships 2007 with Samsung brand handsets. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the mobile phone operator Muneer Farooqui is seen with the winners of the competition at a prize giving ceremony held recently in Dhaka.

Nestle growth affected by rising raw material costs

AFP, *Geneva*

The Swiss food group Nestle said Thursday that growing raw material costs were having an impact on its growth, as it posted a nine percent increase in sales over the first nine months of the year.

Nestle said in a statement that "input cost pressures were increasing over the second half of the year" and having a "dampening effect" on real internal growth.

The multinational's sales over the first nine months of 2007 reached 78.7 billion Swiss francs (47 billion euros, 67 billion dollars), exceeding analysts' expectations. Nestle did not release data for the third quarter.

"In spite of increasing input cost pressures, I remain confident that Nestle will achieve above-target organic growth and a sustainable margin improvement for 2007 as a whole," said Nestle Chairman and Chief Executive Peter Brabeck.

Sony to sell chip operations to Toshiba

AP, *Tokyo*

Sony is selling its advanced computer chip operations to Toshiba, both companies said Thursday, in the latest sign Sony is raising cash and shedding operations to focus on its core electronics sector.

The sale, set to be completed by March, includes the manufacturing business for the "Cell" chip used in Sony's Corp. PlayStation 3 video game console, Toshiba Corp. spokeswoman Hiroko Mochida said.

Toshiba, which already had a collaboration with Sony in developing and making the "Cell," will continue to produce chips for Sony's video game unit, she said.

A new company will be set up in April, with 60 percent Toshiba ownership, a 20 percent Sony stake and 20 percent Sony Computer Entertainment, Sony's gaming unit, to make the Cell and other advanced chips, the companies said in a statement.

Square Hospitals Ltd and Mobil Jamuna Lubricants Ltd have recently entered into a corporate agreement under which employees of Mobil and their dependants will get different medical services at special rates from the hospital. KM Saiful Islam, director of the hospital, and Rony Riad Rashid, head of Finance and Planning of Mobil, signed the deal, while senior officials from both the sides were present.

PHOTO: FIRST SECURITY BANK

The 'Quarterly Managers' Conference-2007' of First Security Bank Ltd was held on Wednesday in Dhaka. Managing Director of the bank AAM Zakaria presided over the meeting, while senior officials were present.

IMF lowers global growth forecast

AFP, *Washington*

The International Monetary Fund on Wednesday slashed its 2008 global economic forecast, warning that turbulence stemming from a crisis in the US housing sector could crimp growth worldwide.

The world economy is expected to expand 4.8 percent next year after a 5.2 percent pace projected for 2007, the IMF said in its twice-yearly World Economic Outlook (WEO) report.

The downgrade comes in the wake of turmoil in global financial markets in August that prompted the IMF to reverse course after an unusual update in July in which it raised its 2008 global growth forecast to 5.2 percent.

The greatest threat to the world economy is the financial market unrest stemming from the high-risk US subprime mortgage sector, where loans were given home buyers with poor credit histories, the IMF said. This has affected banks and lenders worldwide and made credit conditions more difficult.

"Risks to the outlook lie firmly on the downside, centering around the concern that financial market strains could continue and trigger a more pronounced global slowdown," the 185-nation institution in Washington said.

"Thus, the immediate task for policymakers is to restore more normal financial market conditions and safeguard the continued expansion of activity."

Despite the heightened risks, the IMF said that overall the world economy is poised for "solid" 4.8 percent growth, underpinned by generally sound fundamentals and strong momentum in the emerging market economies, such as China.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 18/10/2007

Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Ins Karmuk	Visit	--	Mmi	16/10	18/10	--
J/3	Xiang Cheng	Gi	Para	Cosco	10/10	19/10	1936
J/4	Santa Suria	C. Clink	Krabi	Asil	08/10	19/10	2510
J/5	Yaad-e-mohammed	Rice(g)	Kaki	Cla	09/10	23/10	652
J/6	Bohai Challenge	Gi	Yang	Everett	15/10	26/10	--
J/7	Woqoof-e-mujdalefa	Rice(g)	Kaki	Cla	30/09	20/10	2546
J/8	Jin Cheng	Gi	Inch	Cosco	14/10	21/10	1505
J/9	Kota Tegap	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	15/10	19/10	304
J/11	Merkur Bridge	Cont	Sing	Apl	14/10	18/10	17
J/12	OEL Singapore	Cont	P. Kel	Pssl	16/10	19/10	319
J/13	Phu My	Cont	Sing	Ipl	16/10	19/10	440

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Marina Star-2	18/10	Kol	Titan	Cont	Kol
Josco View	18/10	P.kel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Hansa London	18/10	Col	Pssl	Cont	Col
Xin Tong Yu-108	19/10	Shangai	Cosco	Gi	--
Seaways Prestige	19/10	Kol	Bsca	Cont	Sing
Oel Freedom	22/10	--	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Tai Young Rosa	19/10	Kolka	Ssbl	For Bunker	--
Suphanat-2	19/10	Thai	Unique	F. Trawler	--
Dali	21/10	Cbo	Seacon	Cont	Col
Kissama	21/10	Chinn	Bsca	Cont	Kol
Eagle Pioneer	20/10	P.kel	Ct	Cont	Sing
Apl Lilac	21/10	Sing	Apl	Cont	Sing
Banga Borti	21/10	Sing	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel
Banga Bonik	21/10	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Col
Csav California	23/10	--	Pssl	Gi	L/sing
Cape Bonavista	22/10	--	Bdship	Cont	P. Kel
Spar Scorpio	20/10	--	Seacom	P. Cenola	--
Pagan	21/10	Yang	Mta	Gi(log)	--
Esham	22/10	Sing	Cel	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Al Kuwaitah	19/10	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/ms	--
Jag Viraj	21/10	Ind	Mbl	Ammonia	--
Smooth Sea-4	22/10	--	Mtcl	Cpo(m/8)	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival

Outside port limit

Rig. Deep Driller-5	--	--	Ibsa	30/09
Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/a (10/10)
Dea Signal	--	--	Ibsa	R/a (11/10)
Pacific Jaguar	--	--	Ibsa	R/a (16/10)

Vessels at outer anchorage
vessels ready

Dong Young	Rice(g)	Kaki	Hsa	14/10
Asrar-a-mostafa	Rice(g)	Kaki	Cla	11/10
Ta Bac-18	Rice(g)	Kaki	Hsa	15/10
Ocean Asia	Cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	15/10
Eagle Progress	Cont	P. Kel	Everett	17/10
Cape Henry	Cont	Col	Apl	17/10

Vessels not ready

Hilal-1	Wheat(p)	Ucra	Able	09/10
Mi Rae	Tsp/s. Ash	Fang	Umi	13/10
Eid-a-mostafa	Rice(p)	Kaki	Cla	17/10
Pan Express	C. Clink	Kohsi	Asll	17/10
Rabindranath Tagore	Hsd/sko	Kuwt	Mstpl	18/10

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Family, Dhaka.

STOCK

TRADED ISSUES October 18, 2007

Company	FV/ML (Tk./No.)	DSE Closing	DSE Chg.(%)	DSE Pre.Day	DSE Turnover Share	CSE Closing	CSE Chg.(%)	CSE Pre.Day	CSE Turnover Share	Last AGM	EPS (Tk)	CDPS (%)
[illegible]												

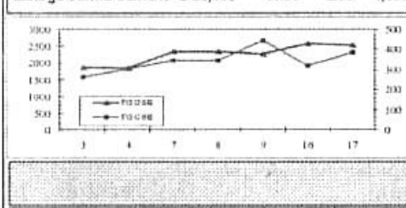
Turnover Leaders

Company	(Vol.)	(M.Tk.)	(%)	T. BigLot
Trust Bank*-N	240,570	240.06	9.95	3,450
Brac Bank*-A	110,718	168.01	6.96	950
Summit Power Ltd*-A	73,148	120.96	5.01	700
DESCO Ltd*-A	71,800	95.50	3.96	1,000
Shahjalal Islami Bank*-N	260,900	87.77	3.64	1,000
Beximco Pharma*-A	1,117,817	71.54	2.96	6,500
Power Grid Co.*-A	108,100	67.54	2.80	1,000
N C C Bank*-A	154,004	65.70	2.72	800
Southeast Bank*-A	117,303	65.62	2.72	4,350
One Bank*-A	106,929	62.30	2.58	500
Trust Bank*-N	63,950	64.11	14.00	1,000
Shahjalal Islami Bank*-N	91,850	30.96	6.76	1,500
BEXTEX Ltd.*-A	1,377,300	26.73	5.84	18,600
Rupali Bank-Z	7,180	20.58	4.49	200
Beximco Pharma*-A	294,000	18.80	4.11	7,300
Premier Bank*-N	55,700	17.47	3.82	500
Summit Power Ltd*-A	8,100	13.49	2.95	200
Brac Bank*-A	8,709	13.18	2.88	500
Square Pharma*-A	3,412	12.00	2.62	100
Lafarge Surma Cement*-G	29,400	11.91	2.60	1,900

Market Highlights
October 18, 2007

DSE All Share Index : 2425.13479 (+) 1.83%
DSE General Index : 2860.56098 (+) 1.81%
DSE - 20 Index : 2182.18777 (+) 1.40%
CSE All Share Index : 7392.97630 (+) 1.90%
CSE - 30 Index : 6485.83950 (+) 1.54%
CSE Selected Index : 4685.11110 (+) 1.95%

Indicators	DSE	CSE
Total Turnover (Taka)	2,413,550,481.60	457,768,975.25
Total Turnover (Volume)	17,649,853	4,951,250
Number of Contract	57,128	12,801
Total Traded Issues	209	130
No. of Issue Gain (Avg. Price Basis)	138	90
No. of Issue Loss (Avg. Price Basis)	62	38
No. of Unchanged Issue (Avg. P. Basis)	9	2
Market Cap. (Taka)	599,666,112,260	582,960,747,843
Market Cap. (US$)	8,754,249,814	8,510,375,881
Total No. of Listed Securities	282	221
Total No. of Listed Companies	263	207
Total No. of Listed Mutual Fund	14	14
Total No. of Listed Debenture	5	1
Total No. of Share & Deb.	1,980,293,083	414,612,267
Total Issued Capital	99,787,229,350	96,462,927,280
Price Earning Ratio	23.67	23.45
Earning Per Share (Tk)	34.93	34.78



Capital Gainers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Price Chn. (%) Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
Beximco Synthetics*-A	19.83	11.95	104.25	5.308
Beximco Fisheries*-Z	16.00	10.68	21.75	0.331
BEXTEX Ltd.*-A	15.64	8.53	20.70	45.239
Purabi Gen. Insu.-A	15.14	15.29	110.25	0.072
Green Delta Insu*-A	13.47	7.14	934.75	7.114
Rupali Food -Z	50.00	11.45	1.50	0.382
Eastern Insurance -A	30.00	30.00	260.00	0.005
Aramit -A	20.00	20.00	91.80	0.014
Saiham Textile -B	17.63	17.56	131.75	0.007
Beximco Synthetics*-A	16.09	14.34	101.00	0.5781

Capital Losers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Price Chn. (%) Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
Fine Foods -Z	-8.00	-8.00	2.30	0.012
Meghna PET Ind. -Z	-5.00	-7.32	1.90	0.010
Sajib Knitwear -Z	-4.59	-5.11	26.00	0.0013
Federal Insurance -A	-4.58	-4.58	125.00	0.0063
ICB -A	-4.17	-4.18	970.00	0.194
Dutch Bangla Bank*-A	-11.50	-11.5	5,000.00	0.0050
Apex Weaving -B	-10.34	-10.19	130.00	0.007
BD. Zipper -Z	-7.14	-7.14	6.50	0.0003
IFIC Bank -Z	-6.09	-6.61	3,103.75	0.0772
Reckitt Benckiser*-A	-6.00	-5.93	329.00	0.033

Non Traded Issues

LCP=Last Closing Price, LTD=Last Trading Date

Company	FV/ML (Tk./No.)	DSE LCP	DSE LTD	CSE LCP	CSE LTD	Last AGM	EPS (Tk.)	DPS (%)
[illegible]								
Dulamia Cotton Mills -B	100/10	36.50	04/10/07	53.25	11/10/01	14/12/06	-13.67	----
Arbee Textile Mills -Z	10/10	81.00	08/05/99	Not	Listed	29/06/06	-3.75	----
Tamijuddin Textile -B	100/10	40.00	09/10/07	41.25	02/06/02	26/12/06	3.68	5.00
BD.Dyeing -Z	100/20	13.75	05/09/07	12.00	09/10/07	14/05/05	-21.03	----
Sunargaon Textiles -A	100/50	72.25	07/10/07	80.00	19/06/07	19/07/07	11.57	10.0
Sreepur Textile -Z	100/50	11.75	30/09/07	9.00	21/08/07	27/11/05	-49.11	----
CMC Kamal Tex. -Z	100/50	49.75	05/07/07	94.00	22/10/03	30/06/05	5.75	----
Safko Spinning -B	100/50	50.50	03/10/07	56.00	26/04/07	21/06/07	3.54	4.00
[illegible]								
Samorita Hospital -A	100/50	135.00	07/10/07	140.00	11/09/07	15/03/07	12.41	10.0
MISCELLANEOUS								
Khaza Mosaic Tiles	10/500	Not	Listed	3.00	05/10/05	----	0.76	----
AGO JAGO Corp. Ltd	100/50	Not	Listed	34.00	24/07/07	26/06/04	2.74	5.00
BSC -A	100/5	2174.50	17/10/07	1910.00	25/09/07	27/12/05	158.68	10.0
Phoenix Leather -Z	100/5	360.00	23/01/07	Not	Listed	21/12/06	-219.3	----
The Engineers -A	100/5	111.00	01/12/04	Not	Listed	24/12/05	759.14	25.0
Savar Refractories -Z	100/5	80.00	26/09/07	Not	Listed	23/12/06	0.60	----
Himadri Ltd. -A	10/100	7.20	21/09/04	Not	Listed	16/06/07	1.65	10.0
Bengal Fine Ceramic -Z	100/50	75.00	08/10/07	60.00	24/09/07	24/12/06	-19.53	----
BD Luggage -Z	100/50	8.50	09/10/07	9.00	16/10/07	29/12/02	2.52	3.00
Standard Ceramic -A	100/50	139.00	09/10/07	140.00	17/10/07	24/12/06	10.30	10.0
Samata LeatheR -Z	100/50	54.50	17/10/07	55.00	17/10/07	24/12/06	-14.76	----

Book Closer/AGM/Dividend/IPO

Company	Book Closer From	Book Closer to	Div./B/R	AGM/ EGM	Date	Venue, Time
IFIC Bank Ltd.	26-Sep	25-Oct	34%B	AGM	25-Oct	BDR Durbar Hall, Pilkhana 11am
Peoples Insurance**	1-Oct			AGM	25-Oct	11:30am
Sonar Bangla Insurance**	26-Sep		7%	AGM	25-Oct	Institute of Diploma Engineers 11am
Peoples Insurance**	1-Oct			AGM	25-Oct	11:30am
BD. Thai Aluminium Ltd.	8-Jun	28-Jun		AGM	25-Oct	Factory Premises, Gazipur 11:30am
Prime Islami Life**	30-Oct			AGM	28-Nov	Bangladesh-China FCC 11am
Popular Life Insurance	04-Oct		12%	AGM	25-Oct	LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, 3pm
Asia Pacific G Insurance **	27-Sep		10%	AGM	27-Oct	IDEB Bhaban, 160/A Kakrail 3pm
Apex Spinning Mills Ltd.	29-Aug	27-Sep	20%	AGM	27-Sep	Shooting Club Gulshan-1 11am
Apex Foods Ltd.	2-Sep	27-Sep	18.00%	AGM	27-Sep	Shooting Club Gulshan-1 8:30am
1st BSRS M F -A	14-Sep	23-Sep	10.50%			
Petro Synthetic -Z	14-Sep	27-Sep		AGM	27-Sep	Shapla Com, Centre, Dhanmondi 11am
Atlas Bangladesh*-A	12-Sep			EGM	27-Sep	Fac. Pre. Tongi, Gazipur
ICB -A	16-Oct	30-Oct	14%	AGM	30-Oct	BIAM Audi., 63 New Eskaton 11am
AIMS First * -A	9-Oct		10%, 1B.5			
National Tubes* -A	8-Oct		10%, 30%B	AGM	6-Nov	Fac Pre., Tongi, Gazipur 11am
Continental Insurance	IPO subscription Nov. 18 - 22, 2007					
Imam Button -B	25-Nov	13-Dec	10.00%	AGM	13-Dec	Fac. Pre. Chittagong 10am
Fidelity Assets & Securities Company Limited	IPO subscription Date 28/10 to 01/11					

SNote: Capital Gainer and Loser tables are prepared on the basis of the average price change of the traded issues. In the trade table price change is calculated between closing prices. CDPS= Cash Dividend Per Share in %, EPS=Earning per Share, CDPS & EPS are corresponding to the Last AGM report that held on the date mentioned in the last AGM col." * " CDBL Listed, Category is mentioned beside company name.