

Asia currencies mostly up against greenback

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian currencies were mostly up against the greenback this week as concerns in the region continued that there will be a recession in the United States.

JAPANESE YEN: The yen gained ground slightly against the dollar in the past week, as the Japanese currency took advantage of selling pressure on the dollar following renewed fears of a recession in the United States, dealers said.

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR: The Aussie is expected to rise next week as high commodity prices and expectations of further interest rate hikes lift the currency, dealers said.

On Friday the Australian dollar was trading at 92.12 US cents, well up on the previous week's 90.45 US cents.

NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR: The New Zealand dollar is expected to struggle to gain ground next week as risk-averse investors sit on the sidelines amid mounting

evidence of a US slowdown, dealers said.

CHINESE YUAN: The yuan closed at 7.1420 to the dollar Friday on the exchange-traded market, compared with Thursday's close of 7.1415, and a closing price of 7.1799 the week before.

HONG KONG DOLLAR: The city's currency finished the week at 7.79 to the US dollar, compared with 7.8 the previous Friday.

INDONESIAN RUPIAH: The rupiah ended the week trading at 9,175/9,180 to the dollar, compared with 9,165/9,170 to the dollar a week earlier.

PHILIPPINE PESO: The Philippine peso strengthened to 40.64 to the dollar on Friday from 40.755 on February 15.

SINGAPORE DOLLAR: The US dollar was at 1.4075 Singapore dollars on Friday from 1.4140 the previous week.

SOUTH KOREAN WON: The won closed at 948.50 won per dollar Friday, compared with 945.10 won a week earlier.

Dealers said the won may trade in a limited range next week or rise slightly against the greenback due to global financial uncertainty.

TAIWAN DOLLAR: The Taiwan dollar rose 0.77 percent in the week to February 22 to close at 31.495 against the US dollar. The local currency closed at 31.740 a week ago.

THAI BAHT: The Thai baht continued to strengthen against the greenback as exporters sold dollars amid speculation that Thai monetary authorities could soon lift stringent capital control measures, dealers said.

Finance Minister Surapong Suebwonglee said he expects to get information from the Bank of Thailand next week before making a final decision on the controls.

The baht closed Friday at another 10-year high of 32.30-31 baht to the dollar, compared with the previous week's close of 32.52-54.

Japan's auto sales in Asia to top local market

AFP, Tokyo

Japanese automobile sales in other Asian markets are forecast to reach five million units in 2008, surpassing the domestic market for the first time, a newspaper said Sunday.

Combined domestic sales by eight Japanese automakers shrank six percent to 4.94 million units in 2007, and they are expecting sales at home to remain almost unchanged from the 2007 level, the Nikkei newspaper said.

In sharp contrast, sales of Japanese cars in Asia, including China and Pacific nations, jumped 14 percent to 4.8 million units in Asia last year, the business daily said.

MTI Consulting, UK's intangible asset valuation firm sign deal

MTI Consulting has formed a strategic alliance with UK's leading intangible asset valuation company Intangible Business Limited, says a press release.

An agreement to this effect was signed in London recently. MTI Consulting has operations in Bangladesh.

This strategic alliance between two leading consulting companies will offer Bangladesh corporate clients globally acclaimed intangible asset valuation services.

The increasing trends of mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures, compliance, and control & transparency should be placed on valuing intangible assets, which contribute significantly towards a company's net worth, according to the release.



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Grameenphone Ltd and Action Aid Bangladesh, an international development organisation, have recently entered into a corporate agreement under which the mobile phone operator will provide complete communication facilities under its 'Business Solutions' package to Action Aid Bangladesh. Farah Kabir, country director of Action Aid Bangladesh, and Sajjad Alam, head of Dhaka region of Grameenphone, signed the deal.



PHOTO: NAVANA CNG

Navana CNG Ltd and Greenfuel, India have recently entered into a commercial agreement under which Navana CNG will market different CNG (compressed natural gas) conversion products of Greenfuel in Bangladesh. Shafiqul Islam Kamal, chairman of Navana Group, and Akshay Kashyap, managing director of the Indian company, signed the deal.

Currency

Following is Sunday's (February 24, 2008) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Major currency exchange rates	Exchange rate of some currencies
BCSell TTBuy	Per USD BDT per Currency
US dollar 69.10 68.50	
Euro 104.16 99.12	Indian rupee 40.02 1.72
137.44 132.32	Pak rupee 61.96 1.11
65.02 61.90	Lankan rupee 107.83 0.64
0.66 0.63	Thai baht 29.85 2.31
64.29 62.09	Malaysian ringgit 3.22 21.45
11.00 10.15	USD forward rate against BDT
68.98 66.52	
8.87 8.73	Buy Sell
49.74 48.19	
18.97 18.40	1M 68.32 69.31
18.57 18.02	2M 68.56 69.77
14.45 12.30	3M 68.83 69.75
249.84 246.92	6M 69.43 71.25

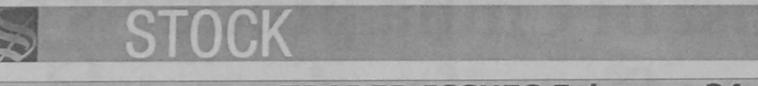
* All currencies are quoted against BDT
* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction
* The forward rates are indicative only and fixed dated

Local Market FX weekend break. Liquidity improved slightly, but the local inter-bank FX market was subdued on Sunday as international market was closed for the day. There was ample supply in the inter-bank market.



PHOTO: ESKAYEF BANGLADESH

Chairman of Transcom Group Latifur Rahman speaks at the 'Annual Business Conference 2007' of Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, a leading pharmaceutical company, in Dhaka on Wednesday. Managing Director of Eskayef Bangladesh AM Razaque, among others, is seen.



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Company	FV/ML (Tk.No.)	Price	Turnover	Price	Turnover	Last	EPS	CDPS	Company	FV/ML (Tk.No.)	Price	Turnover	Price	Turnover	Last	EPS	CDPS
		Chng. (%)	Chng. (%)	Chng. (%)	Chng. (%)	AGM	(%)	(%)			Chng. (%)	Chng. (%)	Chng. (%)	Chng. (%)	AGM	(%)	(%)
BANK									Other Info								
AB Bank	1005	2789.00	-0.13	2792.75	23139	2774.75	-0.11	2778.25	8390	06/09/07	71.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
City Bank	1005	607.75	-0.61	611.50	5833	605.75	-0.21	607.50	305	04/06/07	20.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
IFC Bank	1005	2023.00	-0.86	2115.50	7025	2075.50	-0.86	2115.50	470	25/10/07	37.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Islami Bank	1000	5599.25	0.33	5581.00	12261	5582.00	1.08	5522.50	296	31/08/07	347.15	10	—	—	—	—	—
National Bank	1000	1591.00	0.71	1579.75	10251	1586.75	1.02	1570.75	1620	10/04/07	42.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pubali Bank	1005	950.50	0.16	949.00	8351	947.50	0.32	944.75	817	31/03/07	40.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
UCLB	1005	4312.75	1.18	4350.25	16340	4333.25	0.26	4366.00	3885	30/04/07	25.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Star Bank	1005	4702.75	-0.40	4721.50	10303	4701.25	-0.34	4717.00	225	16/04/07	77.5	50	—	—	—	—	—
UML Finance	1005	1222.25	-0.56	1241.50	15500	1225.00	-0.79	1241.50	1160	12/06/07	49.5	20	—	—	—	—	—
Eastern Bank	1000	1005.00	-0.25	1007.50	5160	1002.50	-0.27	1005.25	180	07/05/07	58.1	20	—	—	—	—	—
United Leasing	10020	2920.00	0.24	2925.00	13838	2920.00	0.24	2925.00	100	25/04/07	70.3	10	—	—	—	—	—
Triza Finance	10050	67.50	-0.31	68.25	4382	67.50	-0.31	68.25	200	13/05/07	40.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
Al Arifa Islami Bank	100500	392.75	-1.63	399.25	6060	392.50	-1.51	394.50	2900	13/05/07	40.7	—	—	—	—	—	—
State Bank Ltd	10050	873.50	0.29	871.00	24450	871.25	0.55	866.50	1160	29/04/07	46.2	—	—	—	—	—	—
South East Bank	10050	539.50	-0.32	541.25	10391	537.25	-0.14	538.00	478	22/04/07	39.8	20	—	—	—	—	—
Dhaka Bank	10050	628.00	-0.32	630.00	5497	628.00	-0.32	630.00	830	28/03/07	37.5	10	—	—	—	—	—
NCC Bank	10050	142.50	1.38	147.00	1184	143.00	1.68	148.25	2702	29/04/07	47.0	10	—	—	—	—	—
Social Invest. Bank	10050	427.50	-1.45	430.00	13000	423.00	-1.05	427.00	1100	10/09/07	51.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dutch Bangla Bank	10050	9598.50	0.60	9604.25	3702	9590.00	0.15	9585.00	100	30/04/07	179.2	20	—	—	—	—	—
Standard Bank	10050	322.25	-2.88	335.50	4900	321.00	-2.88	335.50	390	14/10/07	70.1	50	—	—	—	—	—
Mutual Trust Bank	10050	537.50	-0.40	539.25	1026	536.00	-0.51	538.75	300	17/05/07	47.9	20	—	—	—	—	—
First Lease	10050	372.50	-0.27	373.50	5611	363.50	-0.84	378.00	100	20/06/07	45.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Standard Bank	10050	311.25	0.24	310.50	15043	310.50	0.24	310.50	100	20/06/07	33.3	10	—	—	—	—	—
One Bank	10050	59.75	-1.02	51.00	6134	58.00	-0.49	51.00	1000	20/04/07	33.3	10	—	—	—	—	—
Bank Asia	10050	526.00	-0.28	527.50	3447	518.00	-0.99	523.00	400	30/04/07	34.1	10	—	—	—	—	—
Mercantile Bank	10050	672.50	-0.59	674.25	4380	672.50	-0.59	674.25	100	31/05/07	32.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Export Import Bank	10050	37.50	-0.72	38.25	12700	37.50	-0.72	38.25	1957	31/05/07	36.1	20	—	—	—	—	—
People's Leasing	10050	65.75	-0.24	66.00	6041	65.75	-0.24	66.00	200	29/04/07	30.9	20	—	—	—	—	—
Prime Finance	10050	200.00	-0.37	200.75	4450	197.50	-1.25	200.00	200	28/05/07	19.8	15	—	—	—	—	—
Premier Leasing	10050	305.25	-0.25	305.75	1818	305.25	-0.25	305.75	100	07/06/07	11.5	10	—	—	—	—	—
Islami Finance	10050	338.75	-0.27	339.50	4168	338.75	-0.27	339.50	685	09/09/07	20.6	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lanka Bangla Finance	100500	94.80	-1.66	96.40	7950	94.20	-2.38	96.50	950	28/05/07	19.1	10	—	—	—	—	—
Trust Bank	10050	612.25	-1.12	627.75	4104	612.25	-1.12	627.75	250	21/05/07	20.6	10	—	—	—	—	—
IFDC	10050	315.00	0.00	315.00	5207	312.00	0.16	312.00	1250	22/05/07	25.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bank Asia	10050	1218.75	-1.23	1246.50	21267	1219.50	-1.55	1243.50	250	18/06/07	27.0	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chandrabati Islami Bank	10050	157.75	-1.38	164.25	6300	157.75	-1.38	164.25	3340	14/10/07	70.1	50	—	—	—	—	—
Union Bank	10050	280.00	-1.06	283.00	13000	279.75	-0.44	281.00	600	20/7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Union Capital Ltd	10050	39.70	-1.97	40.60	6250	39.00	-1.64	41.00	550	1/18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RD Finance	10050	117.25	-0.84	118.75	4900	117.25	-0.84	118.75	100	21/05/07	20.6	10	—	—	—	—	—
Int'l Leasing	10050	698.00	-0.32	699.50	600	668.75	-0.08	690.00	200	44.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phoenix Finance	10050	380.00	-0.26	381.50	5100	381.00	-0.33	382.50	500	22	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Trust Bank	10050	672.50	-0.26	674.00	4700	670.75	-0.26	674.00	2080	72.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Islami Finance	10050	257.00	-0.78	255.00	9550	254.00	-1.65	258.25	3900	3.77	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
INDUSTRY																	
ICB	10050	990.50	-1.54	1006.00	300	352.00	Not	Not	300	30/10/07	60.4	14.0	—	—	—	—	—
ICB MF	10050	541.00	-0.19	540.00	10	402.00	Not	Not	10	15/08/07	240.0	10	—	—	—	—	—
ICB MF	10050	1382.75	-2.87	1412.00	4300	1382.75	-2.87	1412.00	100	15/08/07	61.0	10	—	—	—	—	—
3rd ICB MF	10050	1324.00	-4.35	1384.25	25	1200.00	Not	Not	25	15/08/07	69.1	56.0	—	—	—	—	—
4th ICB MF	10050	1202.50	-6.53	1286.50	30	800.00	Not	Not	30	15/08/07	63.1	52.0	—	—	—	—	—
5th ICB MF	10050	1025.25	-2.24	1054.75	20	800.00	Not	Not	20	15/08/07	63.1	52.0	—	—	—	—	—
6th ICB MF	10050	519.50	-4.68	548.25	890	548.50	Not	Not	890	15/08/07	26.0	23.0	—	—	—	—	—
7th ICB MF	10050	669.50	-0.22														