

Asian currencies stronger

Asian currencies ended the week mostly stronger against the dollar as investor sentiment moved against the US currency.

JAPANESE YEN: The yen gained ground during the week as rebounding stock markets reduced the dollar's appeal as a safe haven, dealers said.

The Japanese unit stood at 97.72 against the dollar late Friday, up from 98.14 a week earlier.

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR: The Australian dollar was likely to enjoy a continued boost from buoyant investor sentiment in the coming week, after breaching the critical 65 US cents mark, dealers said.

The Australian dollar closed Friday at 65.25 cents, up from the previous week's close of 64.21 cents.

NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR: The New Zealand dollar ended the week at 52.00 US cents, up from 50.16 cents the previous week.

The kiwi jumped higher Thursday after New Zealand's central bank cut the official interest rate to three percent from 3.5 percent, a smaller reduction than some economists were expecting.

The central bank also signalled smaller future cuts and a likely growth for the key rate at 2.5 percent.

The comments about smaller interest rate cuts continued to drive the dollar's firmness on Friday, said Murray Hindley, chief foreign exchange dealer at ANZ Institutional Bank.

"After the big move we had yesterday it has just consolidated," he said.

CHINESE YUAN: On the over-the-counter market, the yuan ended at 6.8380 Friday to the dollar, compared with

Thursday's finish of 6.8388, and a closing price of 6.8400 to the dollar the week before.

The central bank had set the yuan Friday parity rate at 6.8334 to the dollar Friday, compared with 6.8339 Thursday.

The People's Bank of China allows a trading band of 0.5 percent on either side of the midpoint.

HONG KONG DOLLAR: The US-pegged Hong Kong unit was at 7.7538 from 7.7562 a week earlier.

INDONESIAN RUPIAH: The rupiah ended at 11,980 to the dollar, up from 12,070 the week before.

PHILIPPINE PESO: The peso traded lower at 48.65 to the dollar on Friday from 48.50 the week before.

SINGAPORE DOLLAR: The Singapore dollar was at 1.5414 to the US dollar from 1.5475 the previous week.

SOUTH KOREAN WON: The won strengthened to 1,483.50 to the dollar Friday, compared with 1,550.00 a week earlier, amid signs of recovery in the stock markets and a global weakness of the greenback.

Overseas players, who had led the US currency's upsurge over the past month, recently started selling the US currency and foreign investors were reducing their dollar stock sale, dealers said.

TAIWAN DOLLAR: The Taiwan dollar closed at 34.495 to the US dollar from 34.780 a week earlier.

THAI BAHT: The Thai baht rose slightly against the dollar over the past week due to a technical correction, dealers said.

The unit closed Friday at 35.93-96 baht to one dollar compared to last week's close of 36.08-09 baht.

Oil production cut won't help world economy: Saudi

Fresh oil production cuts would not help revive the global economy, Saudi Oil Minister Al-Nuaimi said.

"Any new reduction in the cartel's production would lead to an increase in the oil price and prevent any contribution to reviving the global economy," he told the Saudi-owned daily Al-Hayat.

Nuaimi told journalists on his arrival in Vienna on Saturday that oil demand in 2009 is falling due to the global economic downturn, Al-Hayat reported.

"We are going to discuss with the rest of the Opec members if they are in favour of another production cut or not. And we will decide in light of a collective Opec decision," he said.

Nuaimi said that there was an 80-percent compliance level with the cuts agreed late last year to reduce output by a total of 4.2 million barrels per day.



M Faruqul Islam, managing director of Islami Bank Bangladesh, speaks at the annual development conference 2009, organised by the bank's Barisal zone in the district town recently.



Md Ataur Rahman, chief anti-money laundering compliance officer of IFIC Bank, attends a seminar on the prevention of money laundering, co-organised by the bank's academy and anti-money laundering department in Dhaka recently.

Currency

Following is Sunday's (March 15, 2009) forex statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Table with columns: Major currency exchange rates, Exchange rate of some currencies, and US dollar rate against BDT. Includes rows for USD, EUR, GBP, AUD, NZD, JPY, CHF, CAD, HKD, SGD, KWD, and SAR.

Market Highlights March 15, 2009

Table showing market highlights including DSE All Share Index, DSE General Index, CSE All Share Index, and various indicators like Total Turnover and Market Cap.

Turnover Leaders

Table listing turnover leaders for various companies, including Shimpur Ceramics, Beximco Pharma, and others, with columns for Company, Turnover, and Big Lot Share.

Capital Gainers/Losers

Table listing capital gainers and losers, including companies like Desh Gardens, BOC, and others, with columns for Company, Price Change, and Close Price.

Book Order/Dividend/IPO

Table listing book orders, dividends, and IPOs, including companies like Shimpur Ceramics, Beximco Pharma, and others.

News from Trade Servers

News from Trade Servers section containing various market news items, including updates on currency rates and market movements.

Non Traded Issues

Table listing non-traded issues, including companies like Beximco Pharma, Shimpur Ceramics, and others, with columns for Company, Price, and Last Trade Date.

COMPANY CDBL MARK CATEGORIES

Table listing company CDBL mark categories, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

TRADED ISSUES MARCH 15, 2009

Table listing traded issues for March 15, 2009, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

COMPANY CDBL MARK CATEGORIES

Table listing company CDBL mark categories, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

INDUSTRIES

Table listing industry performance metrics, including various sectors and their market performance.

INVESTMENT

Table listing investment opportunities, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

FOOD & ALLIED

Table listing food and allied products, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

TEXTILE

Table listing textile products, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

PAPER & PACKAGING

Table listing paper and packaging products, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

MISCELLANEOUS

Table listing miscellaneous products, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

GENERAL INVESTMENT

Table listing general investment opportunities, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

NON-BANKING

Table listing non-banking companies, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

FUEL & POWER

Table listing fuel and power products, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

PHARMACEUTICAL & CHEMICAL

Table listing pharmaceutical and chemical products, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

CERAMIC

Table listing ceramic products, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

LEATHER

Table listing leather products, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Table listing infrastructure products, including various companies and their market performance metrics.

Source: Capital Gains / Losses tables are prepared on the basis of the closing price of the traded issues. EPS-Earnings per Share, BV-Book Value per Share. ** indicates CDBL Listed. Category is mentioned beside company name after CDBL Mark. All EPS & BV are calculated according to the company's annual report. EPS/BV of the company is calculated by using the closing price of the company's share on the day of the report. EPS/BV of the company is calculated by using the closing price of the company's share on the day of the report.