

Commodities volatile on European air crisis

AFP, London
The commodity markets were roiled this week as severe disruption to global air travel impacted supply and demand for raw materials such as oil and metals, analysts said.
A volcanic eruption in Iceland spewed ash across Europe, forcing airplanes from the skies for safety reasons, with the industry badly hit and only getting back on its feet by Friday.
By late Friday on the New York Mercantile Exchange, Texas light sweet crude for delivery in June eased to 83.96 dollars from 84.08 dollars last week.
On London's IntercontinentalExchange, Brent North Sea crude for June delivery slipped to 86.22 dollars compared with 86.53 dollars for the May-expired contract a week earlier.
Palladium prices hit the highest level in more than two years.
Gold meanwhile failed to hold on to gains made at the start of the week when the dollar had slid in reaction to the Goldman Sachs fraud charges.
By late Friday on the London Bullion Market, gold dropped to 1,139.50 dollars an ounce from 1,151.50 dollars the previous week.
Silver slid to 17.89 dollars dollars an ounce from 18.34 dollars.
On the London Platinum and Palladium Market, platinum rose to 1,725 dollars an ounce from 1,708 dollars.
Palladium jumped to 555 dollars an ounce from 532 dollars.
Base metals prices fell a week after striking their highest levels for more than one year.
By Friday on the London Metal Exchange, copper for delivery in three months fell to 7,740 dollars a tonne from 7,885 dollars a

week earlier.
Three-month aluminium dropped to 2,312 dollars a tonne from 2,474 dollars.
Three-month lead slid to 2,300 dollars a tonne from 2,320 dollars.
Soya prices rose while maize fell as investors tracked strong demand from China and US weather conditions.
By Friday on the Chicago Board of Trade, maize for delivery in July dropped to 3.68 dollars a bushel from 3.74 dollars the previous week.
July-dated soybean meal -- used in animal feed -- climbed to 10.14 dollars from 9.99 dollars.
Wheat for July rose to 5.09 dollars a bushel from 5.02 dollars.
Coffee prices fell for a second week running.
By Friday on LIFFE, Robusta for delivery in July dropped to 1,325 dollars a tonne from 1,385 dollars the previous week.
On the NYBOT, Arabica for July dipped to 131.60 US cents a pound from 132.10 cents.
Sugar prices retreated.
By Friday on the New York Board of Trade (NYBOT), the price of unrefined sugar for delivery in July fell to 16.17 US cents a pound compared with 17.20 cents the previous week.
On LIFFE, London's futures exchange, the price of a tonne of white sugar for August dropped to 488.50 from 503.70 pounds for the May-expired contract.
Malaysian rubber prices declined following rising concerns over tight supplies globally and a decline in production in Thailand.
The Malaysian Rubber Board's benchmark SMR20 edged up to 334.45 US cents a kilo from 334.35 cents last week.



Tahmina Begum, third from right, chairman, and Monir Ahmed, third from left, managing director of Asiatic Laboratories Ltd, attend the company's Annual Sales and Marketing Conference 2010 at BIAM auditorium in Dhaka on Thursday.

Obama renews push for Wall Street reform

AFP, Washington
US President Barack Obama renewed his push for Wall Street reform Saturday, saying the country needed to tackle the underlying problems that caused the economic crisis.
"The economy is on a better footing. But people are still hurting," Obama said in his weekly radio address. "No matter what the economic statistics say, I won't be satisfied until folks who need work can find good jobs."
The president noted that the main causes of the economic

downturn were problems in the US financial sector, and Wall Street firms had taken "enormous, irresponsible risks" that hurt practically every sector of the economy.
Obama is promising the most sweeping regulatory reform drive since the 1930s Great Depression, and is seeking to build momentum for efforts by Democrats in Congress to overcome Republican opposition and pass a new Wall Street reform law.
That effort got a boost on Wednesday, when a Senate panel approved new restric-

tions on derivatives, the shadowy financial instruments blamed in part for igniting the financial meltdown from which America is just emerging.
The Senate Agriculture Committee voted 13-8 to impose new rules on trading in derivatives, with just one Republican joining Democrats.
Republican leaders have so far united in opposition to the bill to impose tougher regulations on banks and finance firms and to frame a new consumer financial protection agency.

Weekly Currency Roundup

April 18-22, 2010
International Markets
The international markets remained highly volatile this week. On Thursday after data showing Greece's budget deficit was worse than previously thought highlighted the market's hunger for a speedy resolution to its debt crisis.
Eurostat revised Greece's 2009 budget deficit to 13.6 percent of gross domestic product from 12.7 percent. The Greek/German 10-year government bond yield spread expanded to 562 basis points after the figures it widened in 12 years as the cost of insuring Greek debt from default surged to record highs.
The Eurostat figures show that the starting point for Greece's debt consolidation is further away than initially thought," said Chris Turner, head of currency strategy at ING in London. The market is getting close to pricing in an end game for the Greece story, which is the acquisition of an aid package. Greece started talks with European and IMF officials on Wednesday on a potential aid deal and a three-year economic policy plan but it could take several weeks before Athens can tap the funds if needed. Greece needs to raise about 10 billion Euros by end-May to refinance debt, make interest payments and fund the deficit. Against the pound, the euro fell to its weakest since late January. Sterling was supported by recent UK data suggesting Britain's economic outlook has brightened. First-quarter GDP numbers are due on Friday. Data on Thursday showed UK retail sales came in at a lower-than-expected 0.4 percent on month in March, but February's figures were revised higher. Analysts said the euro may take another thumping when Greece activates the aid package and formally asks for countries would continue to haunt the euro.
Local Money Market
The call money rate was stable this week, and traded mostly around 4%.
Local Market FX
The USD was stable against the BDT this week. The market was active and there was ample liquidity.
- Standard Chartered Bank

Weekly Market Highlights April 18 - 22, 2010. Includes DSE All Share Index, DSE General Index, CSE All Share Index, and various indicators like Total Turnover and Number of Contracts.

Weekly Turnover Leaders. Table with columns for Company, Turnover (Vol., M.Tk.), and Closing Av. Pr.

Weekly Capital Gainers/Losers. Table with columns for Company, Price Chn. (%), Close Price, and Turnover M.Tk.

Weekly News Highlights from Trade Servers. Dividend Declaration for the year 2009, and various news items for different companies.

Weekly TRADED ISSUES April 18 - 22, '10

Large table listing traded issues for various sectors including Banking, Insurance, Textile, Food & Allied, Leather, and Ceramics. Includes company names, prices, and changes.

Source: Capital Gain/Loss Figures are prepared on the basis of the close price change of the traded issues. EPS-Earning per Share, BV-Book Value per Share. All figures are in Taka. Figures are mentioned in the table in the order of their market capitalization. Figures are mentioned in the table in the order of their market capitalization. Figures are mentioned in the table in the order of their market capitalization.