

Stocks, euro plunge

Global stock markets plunged Friday as deepening concerns over the euro pushed the currency to 18-month lows, while gold prices hit record highs as investors sought safety, dealers said. They said sentiment turned sharply in the afternoon as US markets opened weaker despite solid economic data, with early losses snowballing in Europe as hopes that the eurozone will sort out its debt nightmare faded fast.

of 2011. That might seem like a very strong call," they wrote. "But let's not forget that the euro spent almost three of the first four years of its life below parity. If there is any possibility at all that its life may be coming towards an end, we see no reason why it should not drop to similar levels." Markets were also hit after Paul Volcker, a special adviser to President Barack Obama and a former Federal Reserve chairman, reportedly warned of the "potential disintegration" of the euro, according to analysts. "Clearly, I think we have to say that the euro failed and fell into a trap that was evident at the beginning," Volcker said at an event in London. "I think Europe's going to have to decide in the end whether to get more integrated or to get less integrated, in which case the euro is the question."



Anis Ud Dowla, chairman of Pioneer Insurance Company Ltd, presides over the company's 14th annual general meeting in Dhaka recently. The company declared 25 percent stock dividend for 2009 and 20 percent rights shares.

Oil prices lower on US supply glut

Oil prices tumbled to three-month lows Friday at the end of a volatile week in which the market was hit by stubborn eurozone economic concerns and a strong dollar. New York's main contract, light sweet crude for June delivery, shed 2.79 dollars to close at 71.61 dollars a barrel. The price had tumbled to 70.83 dollars, the lowest level since February, before recouping some of its losses. In London, Brent North Sea crude for June shed 2.93 cents to 77.18 dollars a barrel. "Stockpiles are getting bigger, demand is not returning as hoped," said Mike Fitzpatrick of MF Global, expressing concern about the next steps in Europe's debt crisis. Countries like Greece, Portugal and Spain, he said, "have to choose between two bad alternatives: accept austerity or be punished in market with crushing borrowing costs."

revealed that American crude stockpiles had risen by 1.9 million barrels last week, more than double the amount forecast by analysts. And crude stockpiles at the key Cushing, Oklahoma terminal, jumped to a record 37 million barrels from 36.2 million the prior week. "Crude oil prices came under selling pressure this week, following record oil inventories at Cushing and amid general uncertain and fragile economic conditions in the eurozone," said Sueden analyst Myrto Sokou. "It seems that global crude oil demand has not rebounded yet to the extent that global oil supply has, and this is possibly going to weigh on crude oil prices in the near term." The oil market had begun the week on a bright note, soaring on Monday after a one-trillion-dollar EU-IMF eurozone rescue plan eased market concerns over the eurozone financial crisis. Investors reacted positively to the European Union and International Monetary Fund aid package, worth 750 billion euros, to resolve the debt and budget deficit situation in Europe.

Weekly Currency Roundup

International Markets: The attention this week was focused on the post election scenario in the UK and events in the Europe. Price action was extremely volatile in both currencies. The euro fell to a one-week low on Thursday, as looming fiscal tightening requirements in the euro zone outweighed the benefits of an aid package aimed at shortening euro zone bond markets. A \$1 trillion rescue deal hammered out at the weekend by global policymakers had eased investor worries a Greek sovereign debt crisis will spread. However, concerns about the ability of fiscally weaker states to make necessary budget cuts and about the impact on growth continue to weigh on the euro. Passage of the rescue deal has boosted risk appetite this week, providing a temporary floor to the single currency. However later in the day, the euro had given back earlier gains to trade down 0.3 percent versus the dollar bringing last week's 14-month low back into focus. The dollar was up around 0.1 percent against the yen. Versus a basket of currencies, the greenback was up 0.3 percent at 85.038. The index hit a 1-year high of 85.268 last week. The Australian dollar trimmed gains to trade up 0.5 percent at \$0.8980 versus the US dollar. Australian employment data came in stronger than expected earlier, pushing the currency back above \$0.9000. Analysts said interest rate rises from the Reserve Bank of Australia may be limited by external factors, potentially catching other Aussie gains. Sterling fell 0.3 percent versus the dollar, hit by a fall in risk appetite and as UK trade data showed the deficit widening more than expected in March. Local Money Market: The call money rates were on record high, and traded mostly around 3-5%. Local Market FX: The USD was stable against the BDT this week. The market was active and there was ample liquidity. DSI Index: Last 30 Days Stock index finished higher over the past month. -- Standard Chartered Bank

Table with 3 columns: Indicators, DSE, CSE. Includes DSE All Share Index (4728.76219), DSE General Index (5747.35414), DSE-20 Index (3164.42906), CSE All Share Index (16680.1075), CSE-30 Index (12299.1727), CSE Selected Index (10683.3074).

Table with 3 columns: Company, Turnover (Vol.), Closing (M.Tk.). Lists companies like BEXIMCO Ltd, Titex Gas, AB Bank, Summit Bank, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close Turnover (M.Tk.). Lists companies like Janata Asia, Janata Insur, Janata Bank, etc.

Table with 3 columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close Turnover (M.Tk.). Lists companies like Armit, Renata Ltd, EXIM Bank, etc.

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Weekly Stock Highlights

Table with 3 columns: Company, Turnover, Closing. Lists various stocks and their performance metrics.

Weekly Capital Gainers/Losers

Table with 3 columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close Turnover. Lists stocks that gained or lost value.

Weekly News Highlights from Trade Servers

Table with 3 columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close Turnover. Lists news highlights for various stocks.

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Source: Capital Gainers & Losers tables are prepared on the basis of the close price change of the traded issues. EPS-Earnings per Share, BV-Book Value per Share, ...