

Euro under pressure in Asia ahead of Greek vote

AFP, Tokyo

The euro struggled in Asia on Tuesday after dropping to its lowest level in nearly nine years against the dollar, as traders fret about a possible Greek exit from the eurozone and falling oil prices.

In Tokyo, the single currency slightly recovered to \$1.1955 in afternoon trade from \$1.1933 in US trade and \$1.1864 on Monday in Asia, its lowest level since March 2006.

But it weakened to 142.13 yen, against 142.74 yen.

The dollar also slipped to 118.90 yen, compared with 119.61 yen in New York. The yen is considered a safe bet in times of uncertainty.

"Crude keeps dropping and Greek politics are a worry," said Etsuko Yamashita, chief economist at Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. in New York. "There is broad pressure on stocks to fall, and risk aversion is spurring gains in the yen," Yamashita told Bloomberg News.

Fears are mounting that Greece's opposition anti-austerity party Syriza will win this month's general election, jeopardising the country's economic reforms mandated by an international bailout.

Over the weekend, German weekly Der Spiegel quoted government sources as saying that Berlin sees a Greek exit from the eurozone as "almost inevitable" should the left-wing Syriza party win.

That sent the single currency plunging, a drop that was exacerbated by expectations the European Central Bank (ECB) will unveil at its January meeting a round of bond-buying, known as quantitative easing (QE).

The euro's sell-off started on Friday after German business daily Handelsblatt published an interview with ECB head Mario Draghi in which he said deflation was a threat to the eurozone and the bank needed to be prepared to counter it.

Euro zone economy ended 2014 in poor shape: surveys

REUTERS, London

The euro zone economy ended 2014 with its worst quarter for over a year as further price cutting failed to significantly drive up business activity, adding pressure on the European Central Bank to act, surveys showed.

Also of concern to policymakers, the surveys highlighted an ongoing downturn in France and Italy and only a stuttering performance in Germany, Europe's largest economy.

"The weakness of the PMI in December will add to calls for more aggressive central bank stimulus, including full-scale quantitative easing, to be undertaken as soon as possible," said Chris Williamson, chief economist at survey compiler Markit.

Markit's final December Composite Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI), based on surveys of thousands of companies across the region and seen as a good indicator of growth, missed an earlier flash reading of 51.7, coming in at 51.4.

While beating November's 16-month low of 51.1 and marking the 18th month the index has been above the 50 level



REUTERS

A view shows the interior of Le Millenaire mall in Aubervilliers near Paris. The 140-store Le Millenaire, dubbed a "ghost mall" by some visitors, epitomises the current state of France: high expectations stalled by low spending and dispirited entrepreneurs.

that separates growth from contraction, Williamson said the indicator pointed to fourth quarter GDP growth of just 0.1 percent.

"The euro zone will look upon 2014 as a year in which recession was avoided by the narrowest of margins, but the weakness of the survey data suggests

there's no guarantee that a renewed downturn will not be seen in 2015," Williamson said.

Last week, ECB President Mario Draghi fanned expectations he would take bolder steps when the Governing Council meets on Jan 22, saying the central bank stood ready to respond to the risk of deflation.

Risks of a deflationary spiral - consumer price data for the euro zone due on Wednesday is widely expected to show a fall in annual terms - will push the ECB to buy sovereign debt early in 2015, a December Reuters poll showed.

A composite PMI sub-index showed firms have been cutting prices for nearly three years. It came in at 48.1, up from November's 47.6.

That ongoing discounting had only a marginal effect on a PMI covering the region's dominant service industry as it nudged up to 51.6 from November's 51.1, missing a flash 51.9.

And some of that activity was again driven by firms running down old orders. A PMI covering backlogs of work was below 50 for a seventh month at just 47.8, well shy of the 48.6 flash reading.

World Economic Forum to draw a record number to Davos this year

AFP, Geneva

The World Economic Forum said Tuesday that its annual gathering at Davos this month will draw a record number of participants and over 300 heads of state and government bigwigs.

The January 21-24 meeting of the rich and powerful at the posh Swiss ski resort comes amid a spate of global crises, including the worst post-Cold War stand-off between Russia and the West and renewed fears of financial turmoil.

More than 2,500 people are expected to turn up, WEF said in a statement.

"In addition to the 1,500 top business leaders from over 140 countries, more than 300 heads of state, heads of government and government members are also expected to participate," it said.

"In particular, most European countries will be represented by the prime minister, president or chancellor and will be accompanied by strong government delegations."

WEF refused to provide a list of participants, saying its main announcement would be made on January 14.

"Today's leaders are facing challenges that are unprecedented in their complexity, velocity and interconnectedness," said WEF founder and chairman Klaus Schwab.

Sony chief thanks supporters after 'vicious' cyber attack

AFP, Las Vegas

Sony chief Kazuo Hirai on Monday spoke for the first time publicly about the cyber attack that derailed launch of controversial comedy "The Interview," calling the assault "vicious and malicious."

Hirai thanked supporters who stood by the company in the face of the devastating cyber assault, including employees and movie-goers who saw the film when it finally hit theaters.

"Freedom of speech, freedom of expression, freedom of association -- those are important lifelines of Sony and our entertainment business," Hirai

said at a press event.

His comments on the eve of the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas marked his first public statements about the attack on the Japanese company's film and television unit.

"We are proud of partners who stood up against extortionist efforts by criminals who attacked Sony," Hirai said.

Sony employees, he added, "were victims of one of the most vicious and malicious cyber attacks we have known, certainly in recent history."

"The Interview" is now showing at 580 independent theaters in the US, in addition to online platforms, according to Hirai.



JOTEY SAREE

Mohammad Lokman Hossain Liton, chairman of Jotey Saree, celebrates the company's 25th anniversary at its showroom at Gawsia Market in Dhaka recently. Md Sarwar Hossain, managing director, was also present.

Meghna Petroleum Limited
(A Subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong

Tender Notice

1.	Name of the procuring entity	Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong.			
2.	Invitation of tender for	Tender No.	Description	Cost of tender documents	Earnest money
		Pur-042 Dt. 01/01/2015	Construction of 3-storied residential building at Daulatpur Depot, Khulna	Tk 3,000/- (non-refundable)	Tk 5,00,000/-
3.	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM). Tender to be submitted in two separate envelopes, one for technical offer and the other for commercial offer.			
4.	Last selling date of tender document	January 21, 2015	15:30hrs		
5.	Tender closing time and date	January 22, 2015	15:00hrs		
6.	Tender opening time & date	January 22, 2015	15:15hrs		
7.	Name & address of the offices for:				
	Selling of tender documents	1. Purchase Section, Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. 2. Meghna Bhaban, 131, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka.			
	Receiving of tender documents	GM (Operations), Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong.			
	Opening of tender documents	GM (Operations), Meghna Petroleum Limited, 58-59, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong.			
8.	Qualification of tenderer	a) The bidder must be 1st class civil contractor enlisted with any gov./semi-govt./autonomous bodies. b) Interested contractor must have successfully completed civil works at least a value of Tk 100.00 lac in a single order as a prime contractor in any government/semi-government/autonomous bodies including supply of all necessary men and materials within last 05 (five) years i.e. years counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper. c) Average annual construction turnover of Tk 200.00 lac during the period of last 3 financial years. d) The minimum amount of liquid assets or working capital or credit facilities of the tenderer shall be Tk 80.00 lac.			
9.	Special instruction	Technical offer must contain the under noted documents: a) Certified copy of work order from any gov./semi-govt./autonomous bodies amounting not less than Tk 100.00 lac in a single order for civil works including supply of all necessary men and materials within last 5 years along with work completion certificate from the concern authority that the work has been completed within stipulated time with their full satisfaction. b) Certified copy of valid trade licence. c) Certified copy of TIN certificate. d) Copy of VAT registration. e) Earnest money as specified in the tender documents. f) Copy of up-to-date enlistment certificate as 1st class civil contractor from any gov./semi-govt./autonomous bodies. g) Original money receipt of purchasing the tender documents. h) Any other documents as specified in the tender document.			
10.	Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or part of any tender without showing any reason whatsoever.				

Note: If the tender cannot be received/opened on the date of schedule due to any uncontrollable reason, the same will be received/opened on the next working day at same time and same place.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP)
Directorate of Technical Education
Ministry of Education
F-4/B, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Invitation for Tenders

IFT Ref. No: STEP/Admin(1)/11.25(Furniture for STEP)/2014-994 Date: 31.12.2014

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Education.
2	Agency	Directorate of Technical Education (DTE).
3	Procuring entity name	Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) represented by the Project Director, Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP).
4	Procuring entity district	Dhaka
5	Invitation for	Tender, Goods (Single Lot).
6	Invitation ref. No.	STEP/Admin(1)/11.25(Furniture for STEP)/2014-
7	Date	31.12.2014
KEY INFORMATION		
8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)/National Competitive Bidding (NCB)
FUNDING INFORMATION		
9	Budget and source of funds	International Development Association (IDA).
10	Development partners	IDA (World Bank).
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
11	Project/programme code	5-2551-5030
12	Project/program name	Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP), DTE.
13	Tender package No.	GD-33.2
14	Tender package name	Supply of Furniture for PIU Office, Skills and Training Enhancement Project.
15	Tender last selling date and time	28.01.2015 up to 5.00pm.
16	Tender closing date and time	29.01.2015; 2:00pm.
17	Tender opening date and time	29.01.2015; 2:30pm.
18	Name & address of the office(s)	
	Selling, receiving & opening tender document	Office of the Project Director, Skills and Training Enhancement Project, Directorate of Technical Education, 3rd Floor, F-4/B, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207.
19	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	
	21.01.2015, 11:00am; Place: Same as sl-18	
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
20	Eligibility of tenderer	
	(a) Shall have a minimum of 5 (five) years of overall experience in the supply of furniture and related services. (b) Shall have experience of satisfactory completion of supply of similar goods of minimum BDT 14.00 lac (Taka fourteen lac) under single contract in the last 3 (three) years. (c) Others (as mentioned in the tender document).	
21	Brief description of goods	
	Supply of Chair, Table, File Cabinet, Almira etc for Project Implementation Unit.	
22	Brief description of related services	
	None	
23	Price of tender document	
	Tk. 1,000.00 (Taka one thousand) only.	
24	Package No.	Identification of package
	GD-33.2	Supply of Furniture for PIU Office, Skills and Training Enhancement Project
		Location
		Office of the Project Director, Skills and Training Enhancement Project
		Tender security amount (Tk.)
		40,000/-
		Completion time after contract signing (weeks)
		08 (eight)
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
25	Name, designation, address and contact details of official inviting tender	
	Md. Emran Project Director, Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP) Directorate of Technical Education, 3rd Floor, F-4/B, Agargaon, Dhaka-1207. Telephone: 88-02-8181457; Fax: 88-02-9140538; E-mail: step.dte@gmail.com	
26	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

Md. Emran
Project Director, Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP)
Directorate of Technical Education

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The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd.
Gazipur
Website: www.spcbl.org.bd

Local/International Tender

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the competent local/international manufacturers/suppliers for supply of the following items as per under noted schedule. Tender documents showing terms and conditions with specification will be available from the office of The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur and its Liaison Office at Annex Building-1, 6th Floor, Bangladesh Bank, Dhaka-1000 during Sunday to Thursday between 10:00am to 4:00pm against an application in the letterhead pad from the respective firm.

Sl. No.	Name of the items	Nature of tender	Date of selling of tender schedule	Last date and time for submission of offer(s)	Date & time for opening of tender	Value/set of tender schedule (non-refundable)
1.	05 Rolls Filter Paper for Rastelli (GiorType-R-7 Super) Circular Grinding Machine	Local/International Tender	From 06.01.2015 to 25.01.2015	10.02.2015 upto 3:30pm	11.02.2015 at 11:00am	Tk 100.00
2.	8,400 kgs Castor Oil	Local/International Re-Tender	From 06.01.2015 to 25.01.2015	10.02.2015 upto 3:30pm	11.02.2015 at 11:00am	Tk 1,000.00
3.	Electric Towing Tractor (Battery Tractable Vehicle)	International Tender	From 06.01.2015 to 25.01.2015	10.02.2015 upto 3:30pm	11.02.2015 at 11:00am	Tk 500.00
4.	3500 Rolls Plain Paper having one sided water remoisable gum for Cheque Book Finishing Machine	International Re-Tender	From 06.01.2015 to 25.01.2015	10.02.2015 upto 3:30pm	11.02.2015 at 11:00am	Tk 400.00

Earnest money @ 3% (three percent) of the total quoted price shall have to be submitted in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Irrevocable Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh. Irrevocable Bank Guarantee may also be given from any international commercial bank abroad with a counter guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh along with the tender in favour of The Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur. Tender(s) without earnest money shall not be acceptable. Besides, bidder may collect the tender schedule from the Corporation website. In this case bidder needs to pay the price of the tender schedule to any one of the two aforementioned stations and collect receipt or a Cheque/Pay-Order/DD amounting of the aforesaid value shall be attached with the tender (tender will be acceptable after encashment). The tender(s) under sealed cover addressed to The Managing Director, The Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Ltd., Gazipur shall have to be dropped in the tender box kept at Corporation's Office in Gazipur and its above addressed liaison office but all the tenders to be received shall be opened together in Gazipur office as per schedule mentioned above in presence of tenderer(s) if any. Tender may be sent also through postal/courier services which must be reached within the scheduled deadline. One tenderer can offer more than one alternative offer(s); in that case separate tender schedule (original) & separate earnest money shall have to be submitted for each alternative offer(s). The authority reserves the right to reject or accept any tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever. Submission of tender after the specified time shall not be acceptable under any circumstances.

Md. Kalimulla
General Manager (P&S)
Phone: 9205116

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