

Down but not out: fears ease over China's weaker yuan

AFP, Shanghai

A year ago on Thursday Chinese authorities stunned global markets by devaluing their yuan currency, raising fears the world's second-largest economy was worse off than thought -- but investors are now more sanguine about a weaker "redback".

The normally stable unit was guided down by nearly five percent over a week last August, and has declined steadily since then.

It closed at 6.6619 to the US dollar on Tuesday, not far from its weakest level for almost six years and approaching the rate where authorities held it rock steady between 2008 and 2010, in a bid to escape the turmoil of the global financial crisis.

But unlike the deliberate government policy of the past, financial markets see economic fundamentals as driving the recent decline in the yuan, also known as the renminbi (RMB).

A rise in US interest rates, Britain's vote to exit the European Union and the failed coup in Turkey have all sparked flight to the dollar.

Even so traders and China's business partners still want Beijing to pursue deeper reforms and greater transparency of its currency regime.

"A year on, investors appear slightly more relaxed about movements in the renminbi but we suspect

that they remain as wary as ever about trusting Chinese policymakers to keep their word," Capital Economics said in a research report. Beijing keeps a tight grip on its currency as part of Communist authorities' control mechanisms, as well as worries sudden inflows or outflows of capital could damage the economy.

The government only allows the yuan to rise or fall two percent on either side of a daily fix on the national foreign exchange market.

Chinese officials have pledged to keep the unit stable, but at the same time gradually move towards making it freely convertible as they seek to secure a greater role in the world financial system.

After years of lobbying, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) late last year finally agreed to include the yuan in its "special drawing rights" reserve currency basket.

"Concerns over the renminbi have eased in recent months and outflows have returned to a more manageable level," Capital Economics said.

Billions of dollars have flooded out of China in the last year, although the torrent has slowed dramatically, with Chinese banks selling \$49.0 billion more in foreign exchange than they received in the April-June period, sharply down on the \$124.8 billion of the previous three months.

China's foreign exchange reserves fell to \$3.2 trillion in July, according to the latest figures, but remain by far the world's largest. The yuan is expected to go lower this year, given the continuing impact of Brexit.

"Global uncertainties are gradually taking a toll," Citic Bank International chief economist Liao Qun told AFP. "And how much longer yuan is going to fall depends on when the euro and pound will bounce back again."

For years Washington criticised China over what officials have said is a grossly undervalued currency, but it has remained relaxed over the yuan's current weakness.

"China has committed to moving in an orderly way to a more market-oriented exchange rate," a senior US Treasury official said on the sidelines of a G20 meeting in July.

"The test will come when there is upward pressure on the RMB and whether China will allow the RMB to appreciate," he told journalists.

Chinese growth is slowing, with gross domestic product expanding 6.7 percent in the second quarter of this year, the same as the previous three months but down from 6.9 percent in 2015.

A weaker currency can help boost exports, and the central rate was fixed at 6.6594 on Tuesday, down almost nine percent on a year previously.



Mahindra & Mahindra first quarter profit rises on higher SUV, truck sales

REUTERS

Mahindra & Mahindra on Wednesday reported a 12.35 percent rise in net profit for the fiscal first quarter, meeting expectations, helped by strong sales of its sport utility vehicles and trucks.

Mahindra's standalone net profit for the April-June quarter rose to 9.55 billion rupees (\$143.07 million) from 8.50 billion rupees in the previous year. Analysts, on average, expected the company to report a net profit of 8.83 billion rupees, Thomson Reuters data showed.

Net sales at India's largest utility vehicle maker rose 14 percent to 119.42 billion rupees.

Mahindra's total vehicle sales rose 11 percent to 121,530 units during the three-month period.

Sales of several carmakers including Mahindra, Tata Motors and Toyota Motor Corp have been impacted because of a temporary ban by India's top court on the sale of large diesel cars in the capital Delhi.

Mahindra said it will introduce a petrol and diesel engine for all its major models over the next three to four years, and will launch hybrid cars by 2022.

Record profits for Australia's Commonwealth Bank

AFP, Sydney

Australia's biggest lender Commonwealth Bank sounded a cautious note about the country's economic outlook Wednesday even as it posted a record Aus\$9.23 billion (US\$7.08 billion) in annual profit.

The Commonwealth Bank's performance is closely watched for guidance on the health of the Australian economy in the current low interest-rate environment.

CBA chief executive Ian Narev said the company remained positive about Australia's economic prospects but warned that the nation's nominal growth, which is not adjusted for inflation, needed to strengthen.

Reflecting softness on the income side of the economy, Australia's nominal GDP grew by 0.5 percent in January-March for an annual reading of 2.1 percent. It was far below real GDP of 1.1 percent in the quarter for a year-on-year figure of 3.1 percent.

"Income growth inside and outside Australia remains weak, so people are not feeling better off," Narev said in a statement.

"When combined with ongoing global economic and political uncertainty, this makes households and businesses cautious, and hesitant to respond to monetary stimulus."

Cash profit, the bank's preferred measure of earnings that strips out one-off costs, rose three percent to Aus\$9.45 billion for the year to June 30 compared to the previous 12 months, broadly matching analyst expectations.

Net profit was up two percent at Aus\$9.23 billion while cash earnings for the six months to June 30 slipped three percent compared to the July-December period.

Earnings from its retail banking division -- the largest in the bank -- rose 11 percent to Aus\$4.44 billion, while business and private banking grew by five percent for the period.

But CBA's bad debts jumped 27 percent, weighing on profits, on higher provisions for resource, commodity and dairy exposures.

The bank announced a final dividend of Aus\$2.22 per share, leaving the final payout to shareholders at Aus\$4.20, which was unchanged from the previous year.

Shares in CBA closed 1.29 percent lower at Aus\$77.40.

"It's a strong, solid result, but there's not a lot in this result that would want to make me buy this company on open," IG Markets' strategist Chris Weston told AFP.

"The outlook that we've seen is fairly benign, there's downside risks to Australian economics and Ian Narev said there's going to be more of the same coming through."

Disney invests \$1b in Major League Baseball streaming business

AFP, New York

Disney said Tuesday that it has invested \$1 billion in the BAMTech video streaming service, Major League Baseball's direct-to-consumer broadcast company, as it positions itself in the fast-changing media industry.

Disney will acquire a 33 percent stake in BAMTech, with the option in the coming years to take a majority stake. BAMTech will be separated from MLB under the transaction.

"Our investment in BAMTech gives

us the technology infrastructure we need to quickly scale and monetize our streaming capabilities at ESPN and across our company," said Disney chief executive Bob Iger.

"We look forward to working closely with BAMTech as we explore new ways to deliver the unmatched content of The Walt Disney Company across a variety of platforms."

Separately, Disney reported a 2.8 percent rise in third-quarter earnings to \$2.7 billion.

RAJDHANI UNNAYAN KARTRIPAKKHA
RAJUK BHABAN, DHAKA-1000.
www.rajukdhaka.gov.bd
Invitation for Tender

Invitation for Tenders

IFT No.03/2016-2017

Memo No: 25.30.0000.148.14.110.15-1506 **Date: 09.08.16**

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Housing & Public Works.			
2	Agency	Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK)			
3	Procuring Entity Name	Chairman, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK)			
4	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka.			
5	Invitation for	Tender for Goods & Related Services			
6	Invitation Ref No	RAJUK/UAP (E/M) -03/2016-2017			
7	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)			
8	Budget and Source of Funds	RAJUK's Own Fund			
9	Tender Package No.	GD/UAP (E/M)/2016-17/G/01/Lot-01 & GD/UAP (E/M)/2016-17/G/01/Lot-02			
10	Tender Package Name	i) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02Nos 250KVA Generator for the Building No: 3C & 3D of Lot-17 under the Project of "Construction of Residential Apartment Building of Low & Middle Income Group of people at Sector -18 of Uttara Model Town (3 rd Phase) Dhaka". ii) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02Nos 250KVA Generator for the Building No: 14A & 14B of Lot-20 under the Project of "Construction of Residential Apartment Building for Low & Middle Income Group of people at Sector -18 of Uttara Model Town (3 rd Phase) Dhaka".			
11	Tender Last Selling Date	Up to 4.00 PM, Date: 05/09/2016			
12	Tender Closing Date and Time	Date: 06/09/2016 Time: 12.30 PM.			
13	Tender Opening Date and Time	Date: 06/09/2016 Time 2.30 PM.			
14	Name & Address of the office (s) a) Selling Tender Document b) Receiving Tender Document	Manager, Sonali/Agrani/Janata Bank, RAJUK Bhaban Branch, Dilkusha, Dhaka. (V) Office of The Member (Development), RAJUK, Dhaka. (VI) Office of The Chief Engineer (P & D), RAJUK, Dhaka. (VII) Office of The Project Director (UAP), RAJUK, Dhaka. (VIII) Office of The Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka. (V) Office of The Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Dhaka.			
	Date, time & Place of Opening Tender Documents	Tender will be opened on 06/09/2016 at 2.30 P.M. by the Tender Opening Committee at The office of The Chief Engineer (P & D), 4 th Floor, RAJUK Annex Bhaban, Dilkusha, Dhaka-1000. The intending tenderers or their representatives bearing Authorization letters may remain present during opening of the tenders.			
15	Eligibility of Tenderer	This invitation for Tender is open to all eligible Reputed contractor/contractors as mentioned below as further detailed in the Tender Data Sheet (TDS) of the Tender Document. c) The minimum number of years of general experience of the Tenderer in the electro-mechanical works shall be five (05) years for Lot 01, 02. d) The minimum specific experience of the Contractor(s) at least 01 (One) contract of Supply and Installation of Generator successfully completed within the last five (5) years with a value of at least Tk. 100.00 Lac (One hundred lac) only for each lot Government/ Semi- Government/ Autonomous Bodies within Bangladesh. c) The required Average Annual Turnover for supply or Production of goods or Turnover for the last five (05) years shall be minimum (i) Tk. 170.00 (One hundred seventy lac) only for each lot individually. [Certificate of turnover should be basis of supply certificate/payment certificate to be submitted along with the Tender.] d) The minimum amount of Liquid Assets or Working Capital or Credit facilities of the Tenderer shall be Tk. 120.00 Lac (One hundred twenty lac) only for each lot individually [Document submitted along with the Tender must be issued in between Publication date & Submission date of the Tender.] e) Tenderer must have up-to-date ABC category Contractory & Electrical Supervisory License from Bangladesh Electrical Licensing Board. f) The Tenderer must have up-to-date Income Tax clearance Certificate from the NBR with TIN up-to- 2014-2015. g) The Tenderer must have up-to-date VAT Registration Certificate. h) The Tenderer must have up-to-date valid Trade License. ** Attested copies of documents mentioned above in Sl. No. a, b, c, e, f, g & h must be submitted along with the tender. ** Years/Date counting backward from the date of publication of IFT in the newspaper in case of a, b & c.			
16	Brief Description of Works	Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02Nos 250KVA Generator			
17	Price of Tender Document (Tk)	Tk. 1000.00 (One thousand five hundred) Only for each lot.			
18	Original money receipt of purchasing Tender document with all other wanted documents (Photocopy duly attested) must be submitted along with the Tender.				
19	Package no.	Identification of Package	Location	Tender Security (Tk.)	Completion of Time
	i)GD/UAP(E/M)/2016-17/G/01/Lot-01	i) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02Nos 250KVA Generator for the Building No: 3C & 3D of Lot-17 under the Project of "Construction of Residential Apartment Building of Low & Middle Income Group of people at Sector -18 of Uttara Model Town (3 rd Phase) Dhaka".	Block-A Sector 18, Uttara Model Town (3 rd Phase)	Tk.3.00(Three) lac only	60 (Sixty) days
	ii)GD/UAP (E/M)/2016-17/G/01/Lot-02	ii) Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02Nos 250KVA Generator for the Building No: 14A & 14B of Lot-20 under the Project of "Construction of Residential Apartment Building for Low & Middle Income Group of people at Sector -18 of Uttara Model Town (3 rd Phase) Dhaka".	Block-A Sector 18, Uttara Model Town (3 rd Phase)	Tk.3.00(Three) lac only	60 (Sixty) days
20	Name of Official Inviting Tender	Md. Anwar Hossain			
21	Designation of Official Inviting Tender	Chief Engineer (P & D)			
22	Address of Official Inviting Tender	Chief Engineer (P & D), 4 th Floor, RAJUK Annex Bhaban, Dilkusha Dhaka-1000.			
23	Contact details of official inviting tender	Phone No: 02-9588524 (office).			
24	a) The Tender Security shall be at the Tenderer's option, be either in the form of a Bank Draft or Pay order or Bank Guarantee in favour of the Chairman, RAJUK from any Scheduled bank of Bangladesh. b) The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.				

(Md. Anwar Hossain)
Chief Engineer (P & D)
RAJDHANI UNNAYAN KARTRIPAKKHA
RAJUK BHABAN, DHAKA-1000.
Phone No: 02-9588524 (office).

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