



Kamrun Nahar Chowdhury, a lawmaker, and Md Zakir Hossain, deputy managing director of Mercantile Bank, open the bank's 136th branch in Rajbari yesterday.

MERCANTILE BANK

Dollar totters on US political worries

REUTERS, Singapore

The dollar was down against most of its peers on Wednesday, pressured by a cocktail of negative factors including heightened concerns over a partial US government shutdown and tension between the White House and the Federal Reserve.

Fears of a US and global economic slowdown have sent US 10-year yields tumbling by around 25 basis points in December, adding to the increasing strain on the dollar and further darkening its outlook.

"Moderating US growth and political tensions are negative for the dollar and we expect continued weakness," said Sim Moh Siong, currency strategist at Bank of Singapore.

"I expect the biggest winner of global risk-aversion to be the yen."

The dollar has struggled particularly against the yen, losing ground for eight straight sessions as a broad risk-off move in financial markets benefited the safe-haven Japanese currency. It tried to steady in early Asian trade on Wednesday, edging

up 0.1 percent on the yen.

Analysts at Mizuho Bank said the sharp decline in US 10-year treasury yields US10YT=RR has dented the dollar's performance versus its peers. US 10 year paper is currently yielding 2.73 percent, having fallen from 3 percent in early December.

The euro and the British pound

tacked on 0.2 percent each, changing hands at \$1.1415 and \$1.2705, respectively. The Australian dollar added 0.1 percent to fetch \$0.7043.

Over recent months the dollar has struggled to shake off a growing list of bearish factors, led most recently by speculation over the outlook for US interest rates, falling

bond yields and the plunge in oil prices.

Last week, the Federal Reserve raised rates for the fourth time this year, and largely kept to its plans to hike rates next year despite heightened economic risks.

That prompted US President Donald Trump to step up his criticism of Fed Chairman Jerome Powell, with the public tussle between the White House and the Fed rattling investors.

Trump blasted the Fed on Monday, describing it as the "only problem" for the US economy.

The partial US government shutdown has also added to investor worries about the growth outlook. The US Senate has been unable to break an impasse over Trump's demand for more funds for a wall on the border with Mexico, and a senior official said the shutdown could continue until Jan. 3.

Elsewhere, commodity currencies such as the Canadian dollar traded at C\$1.3609 in Asian trade, close to its lowest level in more than a year. The New Zealand dollar was at \$0.6729, up 0.06 percent on the dollar.



REUTERS/FILE

A money changer holds US dollar bills at a street in downtown Lima, Peru.

Trump hits Fed again on rate rises

REUTERS, Washington

President Donald Trump on Tuesday expressed confidence in Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin amid worries over a weakening economy and a stock market slump, but repeated his criticism of the US Federal Reserve, saying it has raised interest rates too quickly.

Speaking to reporters in the Oval Office after a Christmas video conference with US troops deployed abroad, Trump also said US companies were "the greatest in the world" and presented a "tremendous" buying opportunity.

Asked if he has confidence in Mnuchin, Trump said: "Yes, I do. Very talented guy. Very smart person," he said. His comments came after Mnuchin on Monday held a conference call with US regulators to discuss plunging US stock markets.

The call did more to rattle markets than to assure them. All three major US stock indexes ended down more than 2 percent on the day before the Christmas holiday.

The S&P 500 has lost about 19.8 percent from its Sept. 20 closing high, just shy of the 20 percent threshold that commonly defines a bear market.

Mnuchin also spoke on Sunday with the heads of the six largest US banks, who confirmed they have enough liquidity to con-

tinue lending and that "the markets continue to function properly."

Investors said his move to convene a call with the president's Working Group on Financial Markets, known as the "Plunge Protection team," may have weighed on sentiment.

On Tuesday, Trump praised US companies and said their lower stock prices present an opportunity for investors. "I have great confidence in our companies. We have companies, the greatest in the world, and they're doing really well. They have record kinds of numbers. So I think it's a tremendous opportunity to buy."

US stocks have dropped sharply in recent weeks on concerns over weaker economic growth. Trump has largely laid the blame for economic headwinds on the Fed, openly criticizing its chairman, Jerome Powell, whom he appointed.

"They're raising interest rates too fast because they think the economy is so good. But I think that they will get it pretty soon," Trump said, repeating his criticism.

Media reports have suggested Trump has gone as far as discussing firing Powell, and he told Reuters in August that he was "not thrilled" with the chairman.

On Monday, Trump said "The only problem our economy has is the Fed."

The Fed hiked interest rates again last week, as had been widely expected.



REUTERS

US President Donald Trump speaks with reporters after holding a video call with US military service members in the Oval Office on Christmas morning in Washington on Tuesday.



Shahadat Hossain, a director of Energyprima, presides over the company's 11th annual general meeting at a power plant of the company in Habiganj recently. The company approved 18 percent cash dividend for the year that ended on June 30, 2018. Moazzam Hossain, managing director of the company, was present.

ENERGYPRIMA



NRBC BANK

Officials of NRBC Bank open the bank's 68th branch at Habib Market of Purbadhala upazila in Netrokona yesterday.



PUBALI BANK

Safiul Alam Khan Chowdhury, additional managing director of Pubali Bank, opens the bank's 470th branch at Kapasia in Gazipur.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Principal
Sylhet Mohila Technical Training Centre
Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment
Alompur, Sylhet

Invitation for Tender (IFT)

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment.
2	Agency	Directorate of Technical Education.
3	Procuring entity name	Principal (In-Charge), Sylhet Mohila Technical Training Centre.
4	Procuring entity district	Alompur, Sylhet.
5	Invitation for tender	Supply & Installation of IT Goods.
6	Invitation Ref. No.	SMTTC/STEP/AF/GD-03/Proc(Equip.)/2018/57
7	Date	26/12/2018

KEY INFORMATION

8	Procurement method	Open Tendering Method (OTM)/National Competitive Bidding (NCB).
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FUNDING INFORMATION

9	Budget and source of funds	International Development Association (IDA).
10	Development partners	IDA (World Bank).

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

11	Project/program code	5-2551-5030
12	Project/program name	Skills and Training Enhancement Project (STEP), DTE.
13	Tender package No.	SMTTC/STEP/AF/GD-03
14	Tender package name	Supply & Installation of IT Goods.
15	Tender last selling date and time	23.01.2019 up to 5.00pm.
16	Tender closing date and time	24.01.2019 at 12:00 noon.
17	Tender opening date and time	24.01.2019; 12:30pm.
18	Name & address of the office(s)	
18.1	Selling tender document	Sylhet Mohila Technical Training Centre (SMTTC), Sylhet.
18.2	Receiving tender document	Up to 24.01.2019 at 12:00 noon; Place: Office of the Principal, MTTC, Sylhet.
18.3	Place of opening tender document	Office of the Principal, MTTC, Sylhet.
19	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Office of the Principal, Sylhet Mohila Technical Training Centre (SMTTC) on 14.01.2019 at 11:00am.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

20	Qualification criteria of bidders	(a) The tenderer shall have a minimum of five years of overall and three years specific experience in the supply of goods and related services. (b) The tenderer shall have experience of satisfactory completion of supply of similar goods of minimum BDT 40 (forty) lac for SMTTC/STEP/AF/GD-03 under single contract in the last 05 (five) years. (c) Having up-to-date Income Tax clearance certificate with TIN number, valid trade license, bank solvency, VAT registration certificate. (d) Certificate of liquid assets/working capital/credit facility indicating the amount of BDT 40 (forty) lac for SMTTC/STEP/AF/GD-03 within selling tender document & dropping date. (e) Manufacturer's authorization (where applicable). (f) Detailed as mentioned in section: 2 in the tender document.
21	Brief description of goods	SMTTC/STEP/AF/GD-03: Desktop Computer, Laptop, Video Camera, IPS, Television, Smart Board & Sound System etc.
22	Brief description of related services	N/A.
23	Price of tender document	BDT 1,000.00 (one thousand) only (non-refundable).

24	Package & Lot No.	Identification of lot	Location	Tender security amount (Tk)	Completion time
	SMTTC/STEP/AF/GD-03	Supply & Installation of IT Goods.	Sylhet Mohila Technical Training Centre, Alompur, Sylhet	BDT 1 (one) lac	06 (six) weeks from the signing of contract

PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS

25	Name of official inviting tender	Engr. Shahnaz Parvin.
26	Designation of official inviting tender	Principal (In-Charge).
27	Address of official inviting tender	Sylhet Mohila Technical Training Centre, Alompur, Sylhet.
28	Contact details of office	Telephone: 0821-840505, E-mail: smttc61041@gmail.com

The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Engr. Shahnaz Parvin
Principal (In-Charge)
Sylhet Mohila Technical Training Centre