



Utam Adhikary runs a mobile rice husking business in Jashore's Abhaynagar upazila, with customers fixing an appointment calling on his mobile phone and him going round from one village to another charging Tk 60 to remove the outer husks of every maund (around 37 kilogrammes) of grain. On an average day, he can process as much as 50 maunds of the grain. The photo was taken in Joyrabad village at the end of August.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

RFL Houseware opens campaign on waste management

STAR BUSINESS DESK

RFL Houseware launched a campaign named "Bins of Change" to create awareness among the commoner on waste management.

RN Paul, managing director of RFL Group, inaugurated the campaign at its head office in Badda, Dhaka yesterday, a press release said.

"RFL's 'Bins of Change' campaign speaks of change, where using two different bins will change habit. In this case, the new product will play an important role," said Paul.

Toukirul Islam, executive director of RFL Houseware, Esfaqueel Hoque, head of marketing, and Shafiq Shahin, brand manager, were present.

Sterling plunges to weakest vs dollar since 1985

REUTERS, London

Britain's battered pound fell to its lowest level against the US dollar since 1985 on Wednesday, lurching lower as investors dumped British assets in the face of a bleak economic outlook and the soaring dollar.

Sterling has been hit hard by surging inflation, a looming recession and concerns that tax cuts and increased public spending under a new government could exacerbate price pressures.

The currency, down more than 15 per cent against the dollar so far this year, is also a headache for the Bank of England since it increases the cost of imports and can cause more imported inflation.

It fell to as low as \$1.1407, its lowest since 1985, according to Refinitiv data. It was last down 0.4 per cent at \$1.1475, clawing back some ground.

"For now, the momentum is very negative. I would expect that the moves have been so violent that the Bank of England won't like this and may be more hawkish," said Nordea chief analyst Jan von Gerich. "There could be a recovery in sterling but I wouldn't catch a falling knife for now," he added.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Dhaka and Chattogram stock exchanges ended the week in black although most shares on the bourses fell yesterday.

The DSEX, the benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), was up 12 points, or 0.19 per cent, to close at 6,560, the rise for the third straight day.

The DS30, the index that consists of blue chip companies, gained 0.96 per cent to 2,376, while the DSES, the Shariah-based index, was down 0.06 per cent at 1,441.

The key index of the DSE edged up riding on the big cap stocks following a sharp rise in the last two sessions as optimistic investors are depositing fresh funds into securities in the hope of positive movement ahead, said International Leasing Securities Ltd, a brokerage house, in its daily market review.

Losers outnumbered gainers with 188 issues declining, 72 advancing, and 119 remaining unchanged.

Turnover dropped nearly 15 per cent Tk 1,877 crore. It was Tk 2,201 crore on Wednesday.

Among the sectors, jute was up 5.1 per cent and cement rose 2.8 per cent. The travel sector shed 4.5 per cent, the service sector lost 3.6 per cent, and the paper sector suffered a 3.5 per cent price correction.

Investors' activity was mostly focused on pharmaceuticals, which accounted for 23.1 per cent of the day's turnover, and textile, which made up 10.9 per cent of the turnover.

Orion Infusion was the most successful stock, rising 8.72 per cent. Orion Pharma rose 7.51 per cent, Sonali Aansh Industries was up 7.49 per cent, Yeakin Polymer advanced 7.27 per cent, and Kohinoor Chemicals Company added 7.14 per cent.

Bashundhara Paper Mills suffered the most, falling 9.19 per cent. Other major decliners included Nahee Aluminum Composite Panel, JMI Hospital Requisite Manufacturing, Sinobangla Industries, and Apex Foods.

Bangladesh Export Import Company, which rose 6.28 per cent on the day, was the most traded stock, with its shares worth Tk 264 crore changing hands.

Orion Pharma, LafargeHolcim Bangladesh, JMI Hospital, Nahee Aluminum, and IPDC Finance also witnessed significant transactions.

The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) also rose although most of its shares fell as well.

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The Caspi, the all share price index of the bourse in the port city, ended the week at 19,276, up 79.80 points or 0.42 per cent.

Of the securities, 64 advanced, 142 declined and 73 did not show any price movement.

Turnover dropped to Tk 27.93 crore, down more than 35 per cent from Tk 43.10 crore a day earlier.

HOW STOCKS FARED IN THE WEEK

The DSEX had experienced corrections for two days at the beginning of the week before reversing the direction.

The key index added 51.4 points in the week, while the DSES and the DS30 gained 32.1 points and 70.5 points, respectively.

The week saw the DSEX cross the 6,500 point mark. On Sunday, turnover rocketed to Tk 2,296 crore, the highest in 10 months. Turnover, however, averaged Tk 1,818 crore, a decrease of 4.45 per cent from the previous week, said the brokerage house.

Among the sectors, jute advanced 9.1 per cent and pharmaceuticals and chemicals gained 6 per cent.

The service and real estate suffered the most correction, giving up 8.6 per cent, while the financial institution sector lost 5.1 per cent and the general insurance sector fell 3.1 per cent.

Pharmaceuticals and chemicals stocks represented 19.8 per cent of the week's turnover on the Dhaka bourse, while the engineering sector accounted for 12.7 per cent of the turnover.

The Caspi of the port city bourse added 120 points.

| PRICES OF KEY ESSENTIALS IN DHAKA CITY | | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| | PRICE (SEP 8, 2022) | % CHANGES FROM A MONTH AGO | % CHANGE FROM A YEAR AGO |
| Fine rice (kg) | Tk 62-Tk 70 | -3.65 ↓ | 9 ↑ |
| Coarse rice (kg) | Tk 47-Tk 52 | 1.2 ↑ | 6.45 ↑ |
| Loose flour (kg) | Tk 47-Tk 52 | 13.79 ↑ | 52.31 ↑ |
| Lentil (kg) | Tk 100-Tk 110 | 0 | 20 ↑ |
| Soybean (litre) | Tk 172-Tk 175 | 6.44 ↑ | 31.94 ↑ |
| Potato (kg) | Tk 24-Tk 30 | -6.9 ↓ | 42.11 ↑ |
| Onion (kg) | Tk 40-Tk 45 | 0 | 0 |
| Egg (4 pcs) | Tk 40-Tk 43 | 1.19 ↑ | 13.7 ↑ |

SOURCE: TCB

Stocks end in black



Shahidullah Azim, vice-president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), and Parvez Ahmad, chief operating officer of Zaynax Health, show their respective signed documents of an agreement over health and financial inclusion service for RMG workers at the former's head office in Dhaka on Wednesday. Hamidur Rahman Chowdhury, joint secretary for health of the BGMEA, and Maisha Binte Siddiq, head of health projects and B2C at Zaynax Health, were present.

PHOTO: BGMEA



Mohammed Yunus, chairman of Shahjalal Islami Bank, poses for a photograph with young entrepreneurs and officials of the bank at its training academy in Dhaka after distribution of certificates among participants on the closing day of the month-long training course on "Entrepreneurship Development for Developing Entrepreneurs and Making New Entrepreneurs" under the "Skills for Employment Investment Programme" (tranche-3 project) under the supervision of small and medium enterprises and special programmes department of the Bangladesh Bank.

PHOTO: SHAHJALAL ISLAMI BANK

Truss finalises huge power subsidy plan

REUTERS, London

Britain's new Prime Minister Liz Truss on Wednesday readied the final details of a plan to tackle soaring energy bills, which looks likely to cool inflation but add more than 100 billion pounds (\$115 billion) to the country's borrowing.

On her first full day as Britain's leader after replacing Boris Johnson, Truss told parliament she would support businesses and households who are bracing for a recession that is forecast to start later this year.

Sterling fell to its lowest level against the US dollar since 1985, in part due to worries among investors

about the scale of debt that Britain will have to sell to fund the energy support plan, and the tax cuts that Truss has also promised.

A source familiar with the situation told Reuters that Truss was considering freezing energy bills in a plan that could cost towards 100 billion pounds, a major turnaround from her rejection of "handouts" during the early stages of the Conservative Party leadership campaign.

Deutsche Bank said the energy price support and the promised tax cuts could cost 179 billion pounds, or about half Britain's historic pandemic spending push which dealt a blow to the country's public finances.

ECB lifts rates

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cent and putting the 2024 rate at 2.3 per cent, above its 2 per cent target.

Markets were little surprised, however, as investors had already priced a more than 80 per cent likelihood of a 75 basis point move, even if economists polled by Reuters were more evenly split, showing only a slight majority expecting the larger move.

With the ECB statement explicitly saying more rate hikes would be needed, markets continue to expect another 50 basis points at the ECB's October meeting.

Asked about the future direction and pace of rate changes, Lagarde said: "We didn't say 'raise at 75' as if 75 is the norm - it is not."

Going into the meeting, conservatives feared that anything other than an outsized move would signal that the ECB was not serious about its inflation-fighting mandate - officially its sole objective.

That risked pushing up already high long-term inflation expectations, which would signal a

loss of confidence in the ECB and raise questions about the bank's inflation-targeting framework.

Timid action also risked weakening the euro and boosting inflation further through more expensive energy imports.

The euro has been languishing around parity against the dollar for weeks, not far from a two-decade low hit earlier this month.

That means more expensive exports of everything from oil to cars, which then raises prices for consumer.

Policymakers have also made the case for frontloading rate hikes partly to send a strong signal about the central bank's inflation-fighting commitment and partly to get most of the hikes done before the onset of a recession becomes evident.

With high energy prices sapping purchasing power, a downturn is essentially inevitable. However, monetary policy is mostly powerless against a supply-shock driven downturn, firming the argument for hikes even if the economy suffers.



Zakir Hossain, branch manager of Bogura branch at Padma Bank, presides over the bank's discussion meeting in Jhowtia, Bogura on Tuesday. AFM Shahinul Islam, executive director of Bangladesh Bank, Gobind Lal Gain, branch director (administration), and ATM Mustafa Kamal, principal of Bogura Armed Police Battalion Public School and College, were present.

PHOTO: PADMA BANK



Md Habibur Rahman, secretary of the power division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, was greeted with a bouquet before a workshop titled "Installation of Industrial Rooftop Solar System", jointly organised by the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) and Infrastructure Development Company Ltd (IDCOL) at the former's head office in the capital on Wednesday. Sharifa Khan, chairman of the IDCOL, and Habibullah N Karim, vice-president of the MCCI, were present.

PHOTO: MCCI

Importing Russian oil

FROM PAGE B4

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said.

India is the world's third biggest consumer and importer of crude oil, and Sitharaman said Prime Minister Narendra Modi deserved credit for balancing trade and other ties with various countries.

"I give credit to the statesmanship of the prime minister to make sure

globally that we did keep up the relationship with all countries but yet managed to get the Russian fuel, which is what Japan is doing today, which is what some other countries are doing," Sitharaman said at an event in New Delhi.

Indian government ministers have repeatedly said the country needed to keep buying energy from Russia to keep inflation under check.