Asia FX dips as Trump trade war escalates; yuan ticks up on China stimulus

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Published 03/14/2025, 12:21 AM



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Investing.com-- Most Asian currencies ticked lower on Friday, set for weekly

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The US Dollar Index rose 0.1% in Asian trading, drifting further away from a four-month low it reached last week.

Chinese yuan ticks up on PBoC stimulus pledge

The Chinese yuan's offshore USD/CNH and onshore USD/CNY pairs edged 0.1% lower, each.

China's central bank, the People's Bank of China (PBoC), announced plans on Thursday to implement additional monetary tools aimed at stimulating growth.

These measures include potential interest rate cuts and maintaining the stability of the yuan amid a challenging global economic environment.

Asian currencies set for weekly losses amid escalating trade tensions

Trump escalated trade tensions on Thursday, threatening a 200% tariff on European alcoholic beverages, such as wines and champagnes, if the EU moves forward with its planned 50% tariff on American whiskey.

The EU's decision, set to take effect on April 1, comes in retaliation to the U.S.'s newly implemented 25% tariffs on imported steel and aluminum.

Moreover, Trump is set to impose reciprocal tariffs all over the globe on April 2, which could further sour investor mood.

The Japanese yen's USD/JPY pair rose 0.4%, and was set to inch up 0.2% this week.

The Malaysian ringgit's USD/MYR pair gained 0.2%, on track for a 0.7% weekly rise. The Indian rupee's USD/INR pair edged up 0.1%.



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The Australian dollar's AUD/USD pair, and the Singapore dollar's USD/SGD, were both largely muted.

The South Korean won's USD/KRW pair inched 0.1% higher, while the Indonesian rupiah's USD/IDR gained 0.2%.

Data next week: Interest rate decision from US, Japan, China, Taiwan

Globally, the key focus will be on the Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on March 18-19. The Fed is widely expected to hold rates steady next week amid tariff concerns.

In Asia, the Bank of Japan is expected to leave rates unchanged on Wednesday.

"With inflation set to overshoot the BoJ's forecast and the possibility of another strong gain from the Shunto wage negotiations, the BoJ is likely to resume rate hikes in May," ING analysts said in a note.

China's data barrage is due on Monday, including retail sales, industrial output, and trade balance data. China's loan prime rates will be released on Thursday.

Taiwan's central bank is set to hold its quarterly monetary policy meeting on Thursday.

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