

## Asian ministers discuss closer economic ties in Doha

AFP, Doha

Asian foreign ministers met in Doha Wednesday to discuss closer economic cooperation as powerhouses China and Japan tried to work out their differences over the legacy of World War II.

The Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD) meeting was inaugurated on Tuesday by Qatar's crown prince

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani with a call for Asian economic integration.

The two-day gathering continued Wednesday with a series of closed door sessions and was to be followed by a press conference and a final declaration, organizers said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Aso and his Chinese counterpart Li Zhaoxing agreed during a meeting

Tuesday that "we should accelerate the negotiations... on the possibility of joint exploitation" of disputed gas fields in the East China Sea, Aso's press secretary, Yoshinori Katori, told reporters Wednesday.

Katori said the ministers, who met on the sidelines of the Asian forum, also agreed to consider setting up a "consultation and notification mechanism in order to

avoid unexpected emergencies in the East China Sea."

During the meeting, the first between the two countries' foreign ministers in over a year, Aso "stated that he would make an appropriate decision based on his personal conviction and his official position as a minister" on visits to a controversial war shrine, Katori said.

Li had made clear in the meeting that the key obstacle to improving relations was Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's visits to the Yasukuni war shrine.

The sanctuary honors 2.5 million Japanese war dead, including 14 top or Class-A war criminals. China has called off all top-level meetings with Japan due to the dispute.

Japan's foreign minister also met with his South Korean counterpart in Doha Tuesday in a bid to ease tensions between Tokyo and Seoul.



PHOTO: FICCI

Peter Clasen (2-L), leader of a German trade delegation, which is on a seven-day visit to Bangladesh, speaks at a meeting with the Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce & Industry (Ficci) in Dhaka Tuesday. Frank Meyke (2-R), German ambassador to Bangladesh, and Ficci President Masih Ul Karim (C), among others, are seen.



PHOTO: BENCHMARK

Ahsan Afzal, head of Cards of Standard Chartered Bank, and Tauhidul Alamgir Hasan, general manager of Nicole International Ltd, the local franchisee of Panasonic, exchange documents after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) recently. Under the MoU, the bank and Nicole International have launched a promotion offering zero percent interest to the bank's Visa and Master cardholders for purchasing Panasonic products from showrooms of Nicole International.

## StanChart credit cardholders to get benefits for buying Panasonic products

Standard Chartered Bank is offering zero percent interest to its Visa and Master cardholders for purchasing Panasonic products from showrooms of Nicole International with six and 12 monthly instalment facilities under a joint promotion styled 'InstaBuys @ 0%'.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed recently between the bank and Nicole International Ltd, the local franchisee of Panasonic, to launch the joint promotion, says a press release.

Ahsan Afzal, head of Cards of the bank, and Tauhidul Alamgir Hasan, general manager of Nicole International Ltd, signed the MoU on behalf of their companies recently. Other senior officials from both the sides were also present.



PHOTO: ATHENA CREATIONS

State Bank of India (SBI) opened its Gulshan branch at Uday Tower recently. S Chakravarty, deputy high commissioner of India to Bangladesh, Sri Ramesh Kumar, chief general manager (FOs) of SBI, Mumbai, and AJ Bose, chief executive officer and country head of SBI, Bangladesh, among others, were present at the inauguration.



PHOTO: DUTCH-BANGLA BANK

Managing Director of Dutch-Banqla Bank Ltd Md Yeasin Ali (C) presides over the 'Managers' Conference' of the bank held recently in Dhaka. Abul Hassem Khan, deputy managing director (Operation), and KS Tabrez, DMD (Administration), were also present.

## CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (May 24, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	Buy	OD Slight Doc	OD Transfer
69.6200	69.6500	USD	68.5000	68.4772	68.4315	
90.0047	90.0435	EUR	86.4881	86.4593	85.4016	
131.6445	131.7012	GBP	127.4443	127.4018	127.3168	
53.4125	53.4355	AUD	50.6695	50.6526	50.6188	
0.6291	0.6293	JPY	0.6066	0.6064	0.6060	
58.1659	58.1920	CHF	55.9823	55.9637	55.9264	
9.9525	9.9568	SEK	9.0200	9.0170	9.0110	
62.7546	62.7817	CAD	60.4536	60.4335	60.3932	
8.9970	9.0009	HKD	8.8121	8.8092	8.8033	
44.7861	44.8054	SGD	42.9871	42.9728	42.9441	
19.1138	19.1220	AED	18.5035	18.4973	18.4850	
18.7130	18.7211	SAR	18.1212	18.1152	18.1031	
12.4722	12.4776	DKK	11.2683	11.2645	11.2570	
237.4010	237.5055	KWD	235.2496	235.1736	235.0214	

**Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar**

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.62	60.05	102.935	38.525	6.1264	0.6255	3.64

*This memorandum is issued by Standard Chartered Bank and is based on or derived from information generally available to the public from sources believed to be reliable. While all reasonable care has been taken in its preparation no responsibility or liability is accepted for errors of fact or any opinion expressed herein.*

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 24/05/2006.

Berth NO	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/1	Falcon Trader	Wheat(p)	Suez	Seacom	08/05	27/05	1004
J/2	Zhi Qiang	Y peas/sr. seed	Vanc	Litmond	12/05	30/05	1804
J/3	Pearl	Wheat(p)	Russ	USL	07/05	27/05	1563
J/5	Jin Cheng	GI	Xing	Cosco	22/05	28/05	1488
J/6	Pu Trusty	Cont	Col	Seacon	20/05	26/05	247
J/7	Heng Shan	GI	Osaka	Cosco	20/05	24/05	4151
J/8	Helios-II	GI(pa/st)	Busa	Prog	15/05	24/05	1494
J/9	Hua Shan	GI	Osaka	Cosco	20/05	25/05	1855
J/10	Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pii(Bd)	18/05	25/05	251
J/11	Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	APL	18/05	25/05	62

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Marisa Green	24/05	Pki	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Rio Lawrence	24/05	Pip	QCSL	Cont	L/pt/sing
Liberty Eagle	25/05	Kala	Benam	Wt(care)	--
Esham	24/05	P. Kel	CEL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Doot	26/05	Col	BSC	Cont	--
Fareast Sun	26/05	Peradip	Everett	Ursa For Phil	--
Seven Islands	26/05	Kol	OTL	Scraping	--
Coastal Express	26/05	Kol	BSC	Cont	L/Viza
Oel Freedom	26/05	Sin	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Borat	26/05	Sin	Bdship	Cont	Sing

### Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo
Navakun-21	24/05	Lumut	USL	CPO(RM/4)
Tabtim	26/05	Dumai	Rainbow	CPO (RM/3)
Atora	28/05	Sing	CTPL	Fule Oil(RM/3)
Raf Raf	26/05	Hald	Nishat	Bitumen(RM/3)

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Kota Petani	Cont	Sing	Pii(Bd)	20/05
Phu Tan	Cont	Col	PSSL	22/05
Sea Master One	Cont	Sing	PML	20/05
Qc Teal	Cont	Col	QCSL	21/05
Pacific Envoy	Cont	Sing	Pii(Bd)	21/05
Ocean Park	Cont	Sing	Seacon	21/05
Banga Borak	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	21/05
Cape Bonavista	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	22/05
Oel Enterprise	Cont	Sing	PSSL	20/05
Ja Vesta	Cont	Sing	OTL	22/05
Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Seacon	23/05
New Sea Star	Cont	Sing	QCSL	24/05
Can Gio	GI/GI	Chenn	Everett	24/05

### Vessels at outer anchorage

**Vessels ready:**

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Amanat Shah	Sugar	Chenn	Cia	03/05
Santa Suria-II	Sod/chloride	Kand	AMBL	17/05
Al Muztuba	Sugar(p)	Chenn	Cia	17/05
Odighria	Wheat	Ultra	Litmond	18/05
Brave Royal	C. Clink	Krabi	Brsi	19/05
Ocean Star	Wheat(p)	Novo	Pol	20/05
Marlon Park	HSD/Sko	Kuwa	MSTPL	22/05

**Vessels not entering:**

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Sarim	C. Clink	Krabi	Litmond	18/05
Ocean Senang	C. Clink	Zhou	Uniship	19/05
Panagia	C. Clink	Sing	ASLL	19/05
Pacific Vigorous	C. Clink	Japan	Uniship	20/05
Jag Vikram	G. Slag	Viza	Saraf	19/05
Santa Barbara	C. Clink	Kohsi	Uniship	22/05
Alphaship	Ballast	Pirao	Jf	27/04
Sang Thai Venus	Scraping	Bang	A&j	16/05
Pretty Zhe Jiang	Scraping	--	Cosco	20/05

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.

## STOCK