

Regional pact on fighting sea piracy takes effect

AFP, Singapore

The fight against maritime piracy and armed robbery at sea got a boost on Monday when a regional cooperation agreement involving 11 Asian nations came into effect.

Cambodia, India, Japan, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam have already ratified the Regional

Cooperation Agreement on Combatting Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships in Asia, the Singapore foreign ministry said in a statement.

Bangladesh and Brunei have signed the pact but are still in the process of ratifying it.

Singapore serves as the depository of the agreement and will host the group's information sharing centre, created to "help improve

operational cooperation when responding to security incidents at sea," the statement said.

Operations at the centre will be launched during the inaugural meeting of its governing council in late November.

The pact is the first regional government-to-government agreement to promote and enhance cooperation against piracy and armed robbery at sea in Asia.

Officials say that vessels plying the Malacca Strait, which passes through Singaporean, Indonesian and Malaysian territorial waters, are vulnerable to pirates and seaborne "terrorism".

The three countries have launched coordinated military air patrols over the waterway, one of the world's most vital sea lanes.



PHOTO: ADCOM

Akij Food & Beverage Ltd launched a ten-day promotional campaign styled 'MOJO-LEMU Festival' from Thursday at the two outlets of Family Needs at Uttara in Dhaka. Aziz Mowla, senior general manager of Akij Food, and Abdus Salek, managing director of Family Needs Ltd, jointly inaugurated the campaign.



PHOTO: ACE

ACE Workshop & Service Centre Ltd recently opened a new showroom on Gulshan-Tejgaon Link Road, where the newly launched Chinese GWM brand vehicles along with Sailor pickup and Hover SUV are put on display. Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary M Shahid Alam, writer Prof Hazera Nazrul and Cultural Counsellor of Chinese embassy in Dhaka Liu Shenzhen, among others, were present at the opening ceremony.

GWM brand vehicles on display at new ACE showroom

ACE Workshop & Service Centre Ltd recently opened a new showroom on Gulshan-Tejgaon Link Road with auto parts division and after-sales service centre.

The recently launched Chinese GWM brand vehicles along with Sailor pickup and Hover SUV are on display at the new showroom, says a press release.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Secretary M Shahid Alam, writer Prof Hazera Nazrul and Cultural Counsellor of Chinese embassy in Dhaka Liu Shenzhen, among others, were present at the opening ceremony.



PHOTO: ONETEL COMMUNICATIONS

Senior officials of Westec Ltd, the owning company of Bay Phone, and Onetel Communications Ltd exchange documents after signing an interconnectivity agreement on Saturday. Under the deal, subscribers of both the phone companies will have access to each other's network.

Oil extends losses

AFP, London

The price of crude oil tumbled further in London trading on Monday in the absence of a severe hurricane threat and on expectations that Iran would not soon face economic sanctions, analysts said.

The price here of Brent North Sea crude for October delivery slid 93 cents to 68.22 dollars per barrel in electronic trade.

Trading in New York was closed owing to the Labor Day public holiday in the United States.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (September 4, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Major Currency Exchange Rates		Exchange rate of some currencies	
BC Sell	TT Buy	Per USD	BDT per Currency
US dollar	70.05	Indian rupee	46.36
Euro	91.35	Pak rupee	60.44
Pound	135.01	Lankan rupee	102.20
Australian dollar	54.99	Thai baht	37.39
Japanese yen	0.61	Malaysian ringgit	3.66
Swiss franc	57.88		
Saudi riyal	18.83		
Danish kroner	12.62		
Kuwaiti dinar	238.88		

USD forward rate against BDT	
Buy	Sell
1M	69.05
2M	69.17
3M	69.31
6M	69.75

Local Market

FX: Local inter-bank FX market was active on Monday as the international markets opened for the week. The demand for USD remained stable and the volume of cross currency transactions was more compared to yesterday. The USD fell slightly against the Bangladeshi taka.

Money Market

Money market was active on Monday. Call money rate remained unchanged and ranged between 6.50 and 7.00 per cent.

International Market

The yen scaled 1-1/2 week highs versus the dollar and rose against the euro on Monday after solid capital spending data gave investors a reason to unwind short

positions in the Japanese currency. Major currencies were expected to trade within narrow ranges with trading activity subdued by the Labour Day holiday in the United States. The yen was up half a percent on the day against the dollar, near an earlier session high which was its strongest level since Aug. 24. The yen also climbed around a third of a percent against the euro recovering from last week's record lows. The euro was a touch firmer against the dollar. The greenback briefly spiked higher on Friday after a keenly-watched US jobs report came in a bit better than expected. The Federal Reserve paused in its two-year old tightening cycle last month and most now expect rates to be stuck at 5.25 per cent for a while.

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SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 4/9/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disc
J/1	Mert-v	Wheat/peas	Odess	KSM	27/8	10/9	224
J/2	Caraka Jaya Niaga-III-4	G(lt/g)	Yang	Sunshine	1/9	4/9	938
J/3	Hpaan	G(lt/ma/pt)	Yang	MTA	31/8	6/9	--
J/4	Toro	Wheat(p)	Novo	ESL	13/8	6/9	1983
J/5	Panagia-1	Wheat(p)	Russ	MTCL	23/8	6/9	469
J/6	Paragon Pescadores	Gt	Yang	H&SL	3/9	7/9	--
J/7	Banga Bodor	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	31/8	6/9	--
J/8	Vien Dong-2	G(st/pa)	Busa	Prog	2/9	7/9	1770
J/9	Ultima	Cont	Sing	PSSL	30/8	4/9	83
J/10	Mare Hibernum	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	27/8	6/9	174
J/11	Vinashin Mariner	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	1/9	6/9	82

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Mir Damad	4/9	Kol	BSCA	Cont	Viza
Rio Lawrence	4/9	Ptp	QCSL	Cont	Ptp
Power	4/9	Maka	Bashun	C. Clink	--
Maritime Chiangmai	4/9	Tarj	BSL	C. Clink	--
Samsun Apollo	5/9	Damm	Litmond	Urea	Boc
Allium	5/9	Sing	Rship	Scraping	--
Banga Lanka	5/9	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
QC Dignity	6/9	Pki	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Borti	6/9	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolve	6/9	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col
Cape Henry	6/9	Sin	APL	Cont	Sing
Iberian Express	6/9	Pki	PSSL	Cont	Sing
OEL Excellence	7/9	Hal	PSSL	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Ocean - Six	5/9	Lumut	Rainbow	CPO	RM/3
Raf Raf	6/9	Hald	FSA	Bitumen	RM/3

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Kudam	Crude Oil	--	OWSL	14/8
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	BSC	R/A (4/9)
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (2/9)

Outside port limit

Banglar Jyoti	Crude Oil	--	BSC	R/A (4/9)
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (2/9)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready	
QC Honour	Cont Sing QCSL 2/9
Kola Rajin	Cont Sing P/Bd 3/9
Amer	Cont Sing CEL 3/9
Cape Bonavista	Cont P. Kel Bdship 2/9
Brave Royal	C. Clink Krabi BRSL 2/9

Vessels not ready	
Dolly	Wheat(p) Pire MTCL 26/8
Iternal Island	Wheat Niko Litmond 1/9
Royal Crystal	Ballast Mong KSM 3/9

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Banga Barta	Ballast Col Baridhi 10/3
Banglar Shourabh	-- -- BSC R/A (21/8)
Sakura	-- -- Seacom R/A (2/9)
Star Providence	-- -- RSA R/A (3/9)

Vessels not entering

Love Star	R/sugar Braz USL 15/8
Pearl Of Baharain	C. Clink Chin Uniship 19/8
Santa Suria-ii	C. Clink Krabi ASLL 25/8
Panagia	C. Clink Krabi ASLL 28/6

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

STOCK