

# S'pore for integration of ASEAN economy to face China's threat

**AFP, Jakarta**

Southeast Asian countries must hasten economic integration if they want to compete with China, Singapore's Trade Minister George Yeo said Thursday.

"China presents a huge challenge to Southeast Asia. If we do not move quickly to integrate ASEAN, we may be completely overshadowed by Northeast Asia," Yeo told a symposium on the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA), which came into force on January 1.

Yeo called for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) to reduce non-tariff barriers to trade, streamline customs procedures and push for liberalization of services.

"To strengthen our hand in the global game, we must broaden and deepen our economic integration. We should work towards the idea of an ASEAN Economic

Community of independent nations," he said.

"Although much progress has been made, much remains to be done."

Six ASEAN members accounting for 96 per cent of regional trade -- Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand -- have cut tariffs on most regional trade to 0-5 per cent.

ASEAN newcomers Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia are scheduled to reduce tariffs to no more than five per cent from 2006.

China's rapid economic growth will pose a threat to some sectors in ASEAN in the short term but will in the end benefit the region, Yeo said.

"China's prosperity will help bring prosperity to Southeast Asia. The (proposed) ASEAN-China Free Trade Area will give ASEAN preferential market access for ASEAN exports and investments into China," he said.

# NIIT education centre opens in Chandpur

NIIT Limited, the multinational information technology solutions company, inaugurated its new education centre in Chandpur recently, says a press release.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for LGRD, was the chief guest on the occasion.

The centre has been set up in association with M/s B N Enterprise.

The ceremony was also attended by State Minister of Education Ehsanul Hoque Milon, Supriyo Chowdhury, territory head of NIIT Ltd, and Md Kaibiruzzaman, Manager Franchise Operations of Beximco Systems Ltd.

Speaking on the occasion, the minister stressed the need for IT education in Bangladesh and the government's initiative to earmark this sector as 'thrust sector.'

Supriyo Chowdhury outlined the NIIT operations in Bangladesh and announced a new course for the mass segment.



**Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, inaugurates as chief guest NIIT education centre in Chandpur recently.**



**(From left) Faruber Anwar, Arzu Rahman Bhuiya and MR Mridha have been elected chairman, senior vice-chairman and vice-chairman respectively of Shippers' Council of Bangladesh.**

# Congress to sue Bush admn for energy documents

**AFP, Washington**

The investigative arm of Congress said Wednesday it would file suit against the administration of US President George W. Bush to obtain the release of documents about its energy program amid questions on the influence of companies such as Enron on the White House.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) "will take the steps necessary to file suit in the United States District Court" seeking access to records delineating the develop-

ment of the White House's energy policy by a task force headed by Vice President Dick Cheney.

The suit is the first action ever taken by the GAO to enforce its rights to access government documents, the agency said in a letter copied to President George W. Bush announcing its decision.

The White House has repeatedly refused to turn over documents related to the energy task force, insisting it would hamper the administration's ability to formulate policy.

From Winston-Salem, North

# Office bearers of Shippers' Council of Bangladesh

Faruber Anwar has been elected chairman of Shippers' Council of Bangladesh for the next two-year term.

Arzu Rahman Bhuiya has also been elected Senior Vice-Chairman while M.R. Mridha Vice-Chairman of the council.

Their election was held at the twentieth annual general meeting of the Council in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

Earlier on Wednesday an 11-member Executive Committee of the council was elected for a two-year term.

Other members of the committee are: Lutfur Rahman, Mahabub Ali, M.R. Ali, Q.A.F.M. Serajul Islam, A.B. Siddiqur Rahman, Kamran Uddin, Mohammad Akbar and Syed Md Neaz Ahmad.

The meeting reviewed country's transportation system, foreign trade and shipping-related problems in the present day world. It also discussed the role of Shippers' Council to protect the interest of the shippers and to coordinate shippers, shipping agents, government and port authorities.

# Lankan minister calls on BRDB DG

Sri Lankan Minister R A D Sirisena and Neville Piyadi Gama, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka in Bangladesh called on Director General of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) Karar Mahmudul Hassan at his office at Palli Bhaban in the city, says a press release.

Hassan briefed them about genesis and organisational structure of BRDB and its contribution towards rural development and poverty alleviation in Bangladesh.



**Sri Lankan Minister RAD Sirisena and Neville Piyadi Gama, High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to Bangladesh, called on Director General of BRDB Karar Mahmudul Hassan at his office in the city.**

# CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling	Currency	Buying
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean
58.5500	58.5800	USD 57.4000
50.9971	51.0232	EUR 49.0368
83.3167	83.3593	GBP 80.7331
30.2059	30.2214	AUD 28.6556
0.4439	0.4441	JPY 0.4302
34.4533	34.4710	CHF 33.3772
5.5303	5.5331	SEK 5.3441
37.0804	37.0994	CAD 35.9649
7.5145	7.5184	HKD 7.3522
32.0892	32.1057	SGD 31.1990
16.0724	16.0806	AED 15.5026
15.7354	15.7435	SAR 15.1852

  

TT Doc	30 days	60 days	90 days	120 days	180 days
USD 57.2817	56.9282	56.4564	55.9139	55.3242	54.0032
EUR 48.9357	48.6338	48.2307	47.7672	47.2634	46.1349
GBP 80.5667	80.0695	79.4060	78.6429	77.8134	75.9555

The local interbank foreign exchange market was active. Demand for dollar was high. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was steady and the call rate ranged between 6 and 7 per cent.

On Thursday, dollar was steady against the major currencies not comforted much by the 0.2 percent annualized growth US economy posted in the last quarter of 2001. The data surprised the analysts as they had been expecting a 1.0 percent annualized contraction for Q4. US Federal Reserve induced more trust in the economic recovery by leaving the Fed rate unchanged at its 40 year low of 1.75 percent, putting an end to the most aggressive rate cutting spree in history. Meanwhile, euro is still set on its downward journey, with no positive news on the economic front to boost the euroland. Although yen lost a little ground against dollar at the Fed rate left unchanged and the flow of positive US economic data, comments from Japanese officials has stopped the currency from soaring further.

1400 hrs on Thursday, euro traded at 0.8604/06 against dollar, pound sterling at 1.4136/41 and yen traded at 132.91/97 against US dollar.

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# SHIPPING

## Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 31-1-2002.

Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/1	Chung Jin-2	Bitumen(P)	Fuja	OWSL	28/1	4/2	1550
J/2	Hanel Sun	Gi(D.Pe)	W.Aust	Litmond	22/1	10/2	1062
J/4	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pii(BD)	29/1	1/2	244
J/5	Orient Fredom	Cont	P.Kel	PSSL	29/1	2/2	102/242
J/6	Mana	C.Clink	Pipa	PSAL	28/1	6/2	942
J/7	Zee One	Urea	Sing	PSAL	17/1	6/2	2021
J/8	Rizcun Trader	Urea	Yant	Litmond	17/1	1/2	1218
J/11	Banglar Shikha Flag	Cont	Sing	BSC	28/1	31/1	
J/12	Kuo Hsiung	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	26/1	31/1	x/2
J/13	Xpress Padma	Cont	P.Kel	RSL	26/1	31/1	
CCT/1	Banga Biraj	Cont	P.Kel	BdShip	26/1	31/1	
CCT/2	Kota Sig	Cont	Sing	Pii(BD)	28/1	31/1	
CCT/3	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	27/1	31/1	171/x
RM/14	Amazon	Urea	Bont	Uniship	17/1	2/2	
GSJ	Ken Goh	Wheat	Sing	SST	27/1	1/2	5161
TSP	Al Muztuba	Idle	Col	CLA	22/1	5/2	
RM/3	Delicia	Cop	Dumal	Seacom	29/1	1/2	
RM/4	Stripe	Cdso	Jnpt	Seacom	29/1	2/2	760
RM/6	Makmur Perkasa	TSP(P)	Sing	Unique	8/1	31/1	276
DOJ	Sungrisan-8	Urea	Sing	PSAL	21/1	5/2	1180
DD	Banglar Moni	Repair	Mong	BSC	17/1	5/2	
DDJ/1	Sonali	Repair	Yang	Angelic	31/1	5/2	
DDJ/2	Banglar Mookh	Idle	-	BSC	R/A	1/2	
RM/10	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	K.Dia	BSC	R/A	5/2	
C/Jetty	Tug Sbm-1	Ballast	Sing	9/12	-	-	
	Tug Jubilee Dua	Ballast	Sing	9/12	-	-	

## Vessels due at outer anchorage: Date: 31/1/2002

Name of Vessels	Date of Arvl	L Port Call	Local Agent	Name of Cargo	Loading
B.C. Cook (Cont)21/1	4/2	P.Kel	PSSL	Cont	L.Sing
QC teal (Cont)21/1	1/2	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	L.Sing
Dalian (Cont)16/1	1/2	Sing	RSL	Cont	L.Sing
Togo Charm	1/2	-	SSA	C.Clink(Rudy)	CCJ
Xpress Resolve (Cont)24/1	2/2	Hald	Everbest	Cont	L.Col
Banga Lanka (Cont)21/1	2/2	P.Kel	BdShip	Cont	L.Sing
Koniluk(Cont)22/1	2/2	Sing	NOL	Cont	L.Sing
QC Lark(Cont)22/1	2/2	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	L.Sing
Pathain	4/2	Yang	BnsShip	GI(YMA)	
Jin An cheng	2/2	Tampa	Litmond	GTSP(P)	
OEC Mirage (48)26/1	3/2	Sing	Seacom	GI(P.Cargo)	
Banga Bonik (Cont)21/1	4/2	-	BdShip	Cont	L.Sing
Jasamine	4/2	PIAPA	Royal	GI(S.Ash/SL/S)	
OBO Raya	4/2	Sing	OTBL	For Demolition	
Artemis-II	4/2	PACHH	JF	For Scraping	
Sinhai (Cont)27/1	5/2	Sing	BSC	Cont	L.Sing
Triumph Mumbai	5/2	Yang	RML	GI(P.Equip)	
Dawel	5/2	Yang	Everett	GI(SL/C)	
Min Jiang	5/2	-	BdShip	GI	
Banga Barta (Cont)27/1	6/2	Col	Bandhi	Cont	L.Col
QC Dignity (Cont)24/1	6/2	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	L.Sing
Kota Naga(Cont)27/1	6/2	Sing	Pii(BD)	Cont	L.Sing
QC Pintail (Cont)22/1	7/2	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	L.Sing
Luna Azul	7/2	-	Everett	GI(SL/C)	
Banga Biro(Cont)28/1	7/2	-	BdShip	Cont	L.Sing
QC Honour (Cont)28/1	7/2	P.Kel	QCSL	continue	L.Sing

**Tanker due**

Performance-9	Date	Local Agent	CPO (RM/3)
Bunga Cendrawsh	3/2	Bela	USL
	3/2	-	Rainbow

**Vessels at Kutubdia**

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival

**Vessels at outer anchorage**

**Vessels ready**

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Andhika Adhiraksha	CPO	Sing	USL
Kota Agung (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Pii(BD)
Banglar Robi(Cont)	Cont	Sing	BSC

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

# STOCK