

African leaders seek more Asian investment

Two-day conference begins in Tokyo

AFP, Tokyo

African leaders pitched Monday for more trade and investment from Asia, saying they were pushing through economic and political reforms that will open up business opportunities in the continent.

"With on-going reforms in Africa, the continent represents a very fertile and rewarding ground for investment," Obasanjo told the conference called to spur trade and investment between the two regions.

said work was still needed at a government level to underpin business confidence.

"Friendly governments have to give a helping hand to their private sectors to gain confidence for investment," Obasanjo said, calling for the creation of a Japan-Africa Trade Investment Centre and a new guarantee agency to underwrite Asian investment in Africa.

"Trade and private sector investment from Asia will assist in boosting economic growth on the African continent," Obasanjo said.

Obasanjo is one of the main leaders of the New Partnership for African Development, a plan put forward with South Africa and other African countries to promote economic and political reform, in return for investment by developed countries.

However, the Nigerian president

Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki

said Africa had major opportunities for investment in infrastructure, as the continent was rapidly urbanizing and improving its power supply, ports and railways.

"There is now great potential for new investments in Africa. We welcome investors from this region to come and invest," Kibaki said.

"Over the last decade, Africa's great potential for attracting investment has been hampered by political instability and insecurity in some countries. However, this situation is changing rapidly," he stressed.



MA Mannan, chairman and managing director of Butterfly Marketing Ltd, hands over a 21" colour TV set free of charge to Aktar Ali, the First 100 Percent Discount winner of LG-Butterfly's promotional campaign.



Chairmen of Evergreen Group and Sheetal Fashion Private Ltd at Plaza AR on Mirpur Road in Dhaka on Friday. Managing Director Mohammad Shakil and directors of the fashion house are also seen in the picture.



Mamoon Mahmood Shah, manager, Personal Financial Services of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Ltd in Bangladesh, and Yeamin Sharif Chowdhury, marketing manager of Transcom Electronics Ltd (TEL), pose for photographs at a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony recently in Dhaka. Under the MoU, TEL customers will get one percent discount on existing personal loan rates of HSBC for loan amounts ranging from Tk 30,000 to Tk 1,000,000 to buy electronic products.

New consulting coordinator of Boeing Tech Team



Imran Asif has rejoined Boeing Technology Team as associate consulting coordinator (ACC) for the joint collaboration task by Boeing and Honeywell Aerospace to develop flight control electronics for the new 7E7 jetliner.

Asif earlier served as associate consulting programmer under the traffic management division of the Boeing for the development of flight-deck software for the 737 jetliner, says a press release.

S'pore jobless rate eases

AFP, Singapore

Singapore's unemployment rate has fallen to its lowest level in five years on the back of strong economic growth in the first half of the year, the government said Monday.

Preliminary estimates showed the unemployment rate, when seasonally adjusted, declined to 3.4 percent at the end of the three months to September from 4.5 percent in the June quarter, the Manpower Ministry said.

CURRENCY

Table showing exchange rates for various currencies against the US dollar, including Indian rupee, Pak rupee, Lankan rupee, Thai baht, etc.

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX trading was active on Monday. Dollar ended almost unchanged against Bangladeshi taka.

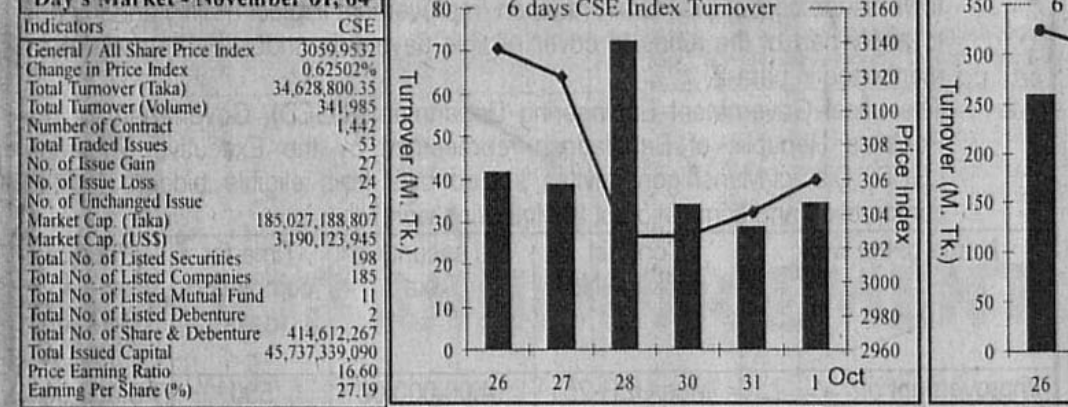
Local Money Market

Money market was active. Call money rate was almost unchanged and ranged between 2.50 and 2.75 percent compared with 2.25 and 2.50 percent previously.



Sales Director of Reckitt Benckiser (Bangladesh) Ltd Kazi Khalid Mahmood, Trade Marketing Manager Zulfikar Ali Siddique, Head of Marketing Naved Khan, brand managers Basit Mahboob and Tanya Rahman pose for photographs at a function held recently to mark the launch of Mortein powerbooster coil and Dettol skin care soap of the company.

STOCK



TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES

Table listing today's traded issues, including Chittagong Stock Exchange, DSE, and Financial Performance, with columns for company name, price, and volume.

Non Traded Issues

Table listing non-traded issues, including DSE, CSE, and Financial Performance, with columns for company name, price, and volume.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Table showing berth position and performance of vessels as on 11/1/2004, including vessel name, cargo, port call, local agent, etc.

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Table listing vessels due at outer anchorage, including vessel name, date of arrival, port call, local agent, etc.

Tanker due

Table listing tankers due, including vessel name, date of arrival, port call, local agent, etc.

Vessels at Kutubdia

Table listing vessels at Kutubdia, including vessel name, cargo, last port call, local agent, etc.

Vessels at outer anchorage

Table listing vessels at outer anchorage, including vessel name, cargo, last port call, local agent, etc.

Vessels not ready

Table listing vessels not ready, including vessel name, cargo, last port call, local agent, etc.

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Table listing vessels awaiting employment/instruction, including vessel name, last port call, local agent, etc.

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

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