

Asian govts to borrow over \$2 trillion in 2005

Says S and P

AFP, Singapore

Asia-Pacific governments led by Japan are expected to borrow more than 2.0 trillion dollars in long- and medium-term debt in 2005, Standard and Poor's said Monday. This would bring the total sovereign outstanding debt in the region to more than 10 trillion dollars, with more than 80 percent of the new borrowings issued domestically in Japan, the global credit watchdog said in a statement. New debt issues with initial maturities of more than one year are forecast to be about 170 billion dollars higher this year, representing 9.0 percent growth

compared to 2004, when they grew 20 percent. SP, which rates 18 government borrowers in the region, stressed that 2004 debt growth was skewed by the weakening of the US dollar. "Issuance remains robust (in 2005) as governments take advantage of a still relatively benign interest rate environment, improved credit fundamentals and tight spreads over US treasuries," credit analyst Brendan Flynn said. By the end of 2005, Japan alone is projected to account for 83 percent of total Asia-Pacific gross outstanding debt. "Given Japan's dominance, the majority of new long- and medium-

term debt to be issued in 2005 will be in the AA category," said another SP analyst, Takahira Ogawa. Excluding Japan, regional governments will issue some 370 billion dollars in debt this year, bringing the total outstanding to 1.8 trillion dollars, mostly in local currency and inflation-linked borrowings, SP said. SP noted the increasing popularity of Islamic bond issues in the region. Only the Philippines sources a significant portion of its stock of outstanding debt in foreign currency, resulting in a large foreign portfolio of more than 30 billion dollars, SP noted.

ROK faces labour shortage

ANN/THE KOREA HERALD

The volume of South Korea's employable population is expected to peak in 2009 before spiraling downward and giving rise to a corporate "productivity crisis," new research has found. The research, conducted by the Samsung Economic Research Institute, found that corporations will confront three phases of massive restructuring with the first expected to take place this year, the second in 2017 and the last in 2026. The study on "human resources management plans in the era of aging population and low growth" underscored that an aging society will force changes and challenges on corporations at a faster rate than most assume. Assuming that the primary working age group is between 25 and 54 years old, the number of employable people in Asia's third-largest economy is forecast to peak in 2009 before it moves to trek downward. The research claims that those around 45 years of age, a group that had entered the work force in the mid 1980s during Korea's economic boom, will be forced to retire this year because their employers do not foresee any big improvements in the economy or because they have no room for expansion.



Sayed Husain Jamal, managing director of Vanik Bangladesh Ltd (VBL), and Khawaja Arif Ahmed, managing partner and CEO of AAA Consultant & Financial Advisers, shake hand after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, AAA Consultants will act as manager to the issue of VBL as part of Vanik's move to issue shares through IPO.



Chairman of Mutual Trust Bank Syed Manzur Elahi speaks at the inaugural session of a month-long foundation course on banking law and practice organised by the bank's training institute recently in Dhaka. Among others, Mosharrar Hossain, managing director, Iftekhar Ali Khan, deputy managing director, Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, SEVP, and Salahuddin Mahmud, SVP of the bank, were present at the function.



Md Yeasin Ali, managing director, Abul Hashem Khan, deputy managing director (Operations) of Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL), WJM Wienk, head of Asia Department and Syndication Department, and APJ De Vette, senior investment officer (Asia Department) of the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO), sign two agreements in Dhaka recently. Under the deals, DBBL will get loans from FMO.



K Mahmood Sattar, managing director and chief executive officer, Ali Reza Iftekhar, deputy managing director and chief operating officer of Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL), and Reynaldo P Fera, former president of Planters Development Centre, pose for photographs with the participants of a three-day training session on small and medium enterprise organised by EBL in Dhaka recently.

Fiat eyes future without GM

REUTERS, Turin

Fiat shares and bonds rallied on Monday after the Italian group won a \$2 billion settlement with General Motors, avoiding a long court case but also increasing the pressure to revive its car arm. On Sunday, Fiat and GM dissolved their 5-year partnership and Fiat gave up a put option to force the U.S. giant to buy loss-mired Fiat Auto, long seen as a last-ditch exit clause. Fiat shares were indicated up almost 8 percent before trade began on Monday but traded at around 6.18 euros at 0923 GMT, up 4.2 percent on the day. Fiat's savings shares, which carry fewer voting rights but are paid higher dividends, were up 7.4 percent and its privileged stock jumped 6.4 percent. Ifil -- the holding company of Fiat's founding Agnelli family, which owns about a third of Fiat -- rose 3.6 percent. "The dissolution of Fiat and GM's partnership seems positive for Fiat as it provides them with a much-needed injection of cash," said one London trader.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (February 14, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell		Buy			
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer
63.4000	63.4500	USD	62.1050	61.9226	61.8485
82.8321	82.8974	EUR	79.6248	79.3909	79.2959
119.8197	119.9142	GBP	115.8569	115.5166	115.3783
50.6566	50.6966	AUD	48.1003	47.9590	47.9016
0.6129	0.6133	JPY	0.5874	0.5857	0.5850
53.4570	53.4992	CHF	51.2122	51.0617	51.0006
9.4288	9.4362	SEK	8.3631	8.3385	8.3285
51.8907	51.9316	CAD	49.8835	49.7370	49.6775
8.1368	8.1432	HKD	7.9552	7.9319	7.9224
38.7365	38.7670	SGD	37.5938	37.4834	37.4385
17.4032	17.4170	AED	16.7724	16.7232	16.7032
17.0407	17.0542	SAR	16.4286	16.3803	16.3607
11.5218	11.5309	DKK	10.3515	10.3211	10.3088
217.9968	218.1687	KWD	205.1498	204.5472	204.3024

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
43.71	59.37	99.47	38.425	6.5211	0.7653	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading
Local interbank FX market was active on Monday. Dollar rose against Bangladeshi taka on back of higher demand.

Local Money Market
Money market was active. Call money rate remained slightly lower and ranged between 6.00 and 10.00 percent compared with 7.00-15.00 percent previously.

International Market
The dollar slid nearly one percent against the yen, euro and Swiss franc on Monday as Japanese data highlighted the continued imbalance between Asian trade surpluses and US deficits. Japan's current account surplus rose 35.1 percent in December from a year earlier to a record 1.616 trillion yen.

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SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 14/2/2005

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/1	Anodad Naree	Wheat (P)	Ukra	SSTL	27/1	18/2	217
J/3	Kallisto	Wheat (P)	Argen	Mutual	30/1	20/2	1796
J/5	Pavonis	Gi (Log/Y.Ma/Pul)	Yang	PML	31/1	14/2	349
J/7	Karadeniz-S	Wheat (P)	Darb	Total	06/2	22/2	1030
J/9	Banga Bodor	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	12/2	16/2	179
J/10	Banga Borli	Cont	Sing	Bdship	08/2	14/2	-
J/12	Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	BSC	12/2	14/2	87
J/13	Qc Honour	Cont	P. Kel	QCSL	R/A	14/2	-
CCT/1	Mardios	Cont	Col	Everbest	11/2	16/2	245
CCT/2	KotaTampam	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	12/2	15/2	144
CCT/3	Banglar Shikha	Cont	P. Kel	BSC	12/2	17/2	192
CCJ:	Great Success	Gr. Slag	Visa	SSA	11/2	16/2	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Van Xuan	14/2	Sing	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Amar	15/2	Viza	Total	Rice(P)	-
Hpaan	14/2	Yang	MTA	GI (Y. Mat)	-
Banga Bonik	15/2	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Paulung	15/2	Viza	Mutual	GI (St/Bil)	-
Lady Juliet	16/2	Turk	Lams	M.S. Billits	-
Advance Pescadores	16/2	Yang	Everett	GI(SL/C)	-
Kota Naga	16/2	Sing	Pil (Bd)	Cont	Mong
Kota Cahaya	16/2	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sin
F.V. Sok Khim Thong-7	16/2	Bang	-	Oil	Fishing Trawler
Ocean Pride	16/2	--	PSAL	Potash Fldstar	-
Honeyway	18/2	Yang	MTA	Rice (P)	-
Nan Htaik Gyi	16/2	Yang	MTA	GI (Y. M)	-
Oel Enterprise	16/2	Hald	PSSL	Cont/Col	-

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Type of cargo
Onda	15/2	Rast	OWSL	Crude Oil
Mmm Houston	15/2	Indo	USL	CPO
Padang Halapan	16/2	--	SeacomC.	Soda(Lq)(Rm/4
Al Badiyah	16/2	Kuwa	MSTPL	Hsd/Sko
Atlanta	17/2	Dumal	MTCL	Cpol

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Rig Ocean Sovereign	--	Sing	Beeline	18/11
Gulfstream 9	Pr. Equip	Sing	IBSA	27/11
Dea Captain	--	--	IBSA	R/A (28/1)
Wira Keris	Dr. Equip	Sing	IBSA	R/A (7/2)
Lady Margaret	Dr. Equip	Sing	IBSA	R/A(4/2)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Sing	Bdship	Date
Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	13/02
Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	14/02
Mellum	Cont	Tanj	QCSL	14/02
Tong Shan Hai	Clink	Nant	MBL	11/02
Genco Reliance	Canola	Sing	USL	07/02

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Sing	Uniship	Date
Crystal Ace	Tsp (P)	Sing	Uniship	30/01
Shwe Zar Yar Adng	Gi(Y. Ma/B)	Yang	TCL	11/02
Shwe Thara Phu	Gi (Y. Ma)	Yang	TCL	11/02
Skyros	Wheat(P)	Sant	Total	11/02
Salamat-3	Bitumen	Hald	Nishat	13/02

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo	Hald	Olm	R/A (21/10)
Salamat-2	--	Hald	Olm	R/A (21/10)
Burni Jaya	--	Visa	Unicom	10/11
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	BSC	R/A (1/2)

Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Cargo	Jaada	Litmond	Date
Waralee Naree	Mopi(P)	Jaada	Litmond	29/01
Emirates Star	TSP (P)	Sing	Move	06/02
C. Harmony	Slag	Sing	Move	07/02
New Hope-II	Clink	Kaki	NWSL	11/02
Trust Ace	TSP(P)	Pang	Unique	11/02
Asian Prime	Clink	Tanj	ASLL	13/02

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