

## Asia's export recovery seen gathering momentum

REUTERS, Singapore

Things are looking up for Asia's exporters: a recovery from a slowdown earlier this year is gathering momentum and is expected to become more broad based in early 2006, while demand inside and outside Asia appears firm.

The upturn in exports, driven by a pick-up in global demand for technology goods, has been led by tech-focused economies such as those in Taiwan and South Korea.

That recovery should now spread to non-tech sectors in the months ahead, benefiting Southeast Asia, as Japan's economic recovery gains momentum and as demand from fast-growing China holds firm.

"If you look at the data for Korea, Taiwan and Singapore, high-end electronic exports are growing

pretty strongly and that will probably continue," said Yiping Huang, chief economist for Asia at Citigroup in Hong Kong.

However, demand for Asian goods could soften by the second half of 2006 as higher US rates bite into the world's biggest economy, analysts said.

After a stellar year for Asian goods exports in 2004, growth rates eased in the first half of 2005. But there are signs that momentum is once again picking up.

South Korean exports in November rose 12.2 percent from a year earlier to a record high while the latest numbers from Singapore and Malaysia beat market expectations.

Companies are showing positive signs too.

Export prospects have boosted shares in South Korean auto market Hyundai Motor Co, while

Singapore-based Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing Ltd, the world's fourth-largest supplier of build-to-order microchips, last week raised fourth-quarter sales and profit forecasts.

Growth in China's economy, an increasing influence on Asian exporters, is expected to slow next year but analysts said the country's import demand should hold firm.

Export from the region to the United States rose in the first half of 2005 just 4.6 percent from a year earlier, but exports to Japan rose 14.7 percent and shipments to China jumped 23.4 percent.

Japan's economy is showing signs of sustainable growth after more than a decade of stagnation and its growing import demand is seen as an important offset for regional economies that face stiff competition from China.

## Holcim opens club for architects, engineers

Holcim, a leading cement manufacturing company, recently opened "Holcim Architects and Engineers Club" in Dhaka to disseminate information on construction among architects and engineers.

PN Iyer, managing director of Holcim (Bangladesh) Ltd, officially inaugurated the club at Holcim Corporate Office Building at Baridhara, says a press release.

About 400 architects and engineers have already become members of the club.

Members will receive facilities such as books, journals, archives on construction and development, computer and television at the club. Besides, the club will organise seminars training, Gopal Bagchi, coordinator of the club, said.

## Siemens to take part in Corporate Bazaar

Siemens Bangladesh Ltd will participate in Corporate Bazaar, an exhibition of corporate houses scheduled for January 30 - February 1 in Dhaka.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to this effect was signed recently between Siemens Bangladesh and Corporate Bazaar, which is an initiative of Global Online Services Ltd, a corporate internet service provider in the country, says a press release.

Russell T Ahmed, convener of Corporate Bazaar, and Bernd Luetkenhoener, executive director and CFO of Siemens Bangladesh, signed the MoU on behalf of their sides. Aftab Mahmud Khurshid, head of Corporate Communications & Marketing Services, and Sharful Alam, sales and marketing manager of Global Online, among others, were present at the signing ceremony.



PHOTO: UNITREND

Muneer Ahmed Khan, managing director of Unitrend Ltd, an advertising firm, and Omar Goni Chowdhury, MD of Bits & Brushes, a media agency, pose for photographs at an agreement signing ceremony recently in Dhaka. As per the deal, both the companies will beautify the carriages of Suborno Express train on Dhaka-Chittagong route with advertisements and pictures under the concept, 'Branding on Rails'. Other senior officials from both the sides are also seen.



PHOTO: HOLCIM

PN Iyer, managing director of Holcim (Bangladesh) Ltd, inaugurates "Holcim Architects and Engineers Club" at Baridhara in Dhaka recently.

## CURRENCY

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

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buy		
			TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
67.8200	67.8500	USD	66.6500	66.6278	66.5834
82.4691	82.5056	EUR	79.1269	79.1005	79.0478
121.0858	121.1394	GBP	117.0774	117.0384	116.9603
52.2078	52.2309	AUD	49.4810	49.4645	49.4315
0.5784	0.5787	JPY	0.5576	0.5575	0.5571
53.4900	53.5137	CHF	51.4831	51.4659	51.4316
8.9864	8.9903	SEK	8.1834	8.1807	8.1753
59.8165	59.8430	CAD	57.5909	57.5717	57.5334
8.7666	8.7705	HKD	8.5760	8.5731	8.5674
41.4877	41.5061	SGD	39.8220	39.8087	39.7821
18.6150	18.6232	AED	17.9994	17.9934	17.9814
18.2282	18.2363	SAR	17.6313	17.6255	17.6137
11.4060	11.4110	DKK	10.3446	10.3411	10.3342
228.7734	228.8768	KWD	227.0324	226.9590	226.8123

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.95	59.75	102.025	41.045	6.6015	0.7079	3.78

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 14/12/2005.

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/1	Dolly	Wheat (P)	Const	Park	30/11	16/12	2037
J/3	Nordic Confidence	GI (SI HRC)	Hald	Barwill	9/12	15/12	2378
J/4	Pha Shwe Gyawya	GI (Pul/Y Ma)	Yang	MTA	10/12	13/12	421
J/5	Sonali	S Cholori/GI	Kand	SSTL	22/11	18/12	--
J/6	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pi (Bd)	11/12	16/12	144
J/7	Xpress Nuptse	Cont	P Kel	Seacon	11/12	16/12	212
J/8	Ocean Pride	Urea	Pena	PSAL	29/11	14/12	298
J/9	Qc Star	Cont	Sing	QCSL	10/12	15/12	275
J/11	Oel Enterprise	Cont	Col	PSSL	10/12	14/12	--
J/12	Emily-c	Cont	Col	Seacon	9/12	--	--
J/13	Orient Independence	Cont	Sing	PSSL	10/12	15/12	342

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Qc Teal	14/12	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Pki
Sirius-1	14/12	Odesa	PSL	Wheat (G)	--
Kota Ratu	14/12	Sing	Pi (Bd)	Cont	Mong
Swallow	14/12	Sing	Rsship	Demolition	--
Dong Hai	14/12	Guam	Ksm	C Clinic	Conf
Global Sydney	17/12	Kimi	Litmond	Coils	--
Banga Borti	16/12	Col	Baridhi	Cont	P Kel
General	16/12	Suez	Intraport	Scraping	--
Beautiful Queen	16/12	Aust	USL	Wheat (P)	--
Taishun	16/12	Pki	Everett	Vehi	--
Xpress Manaslu	16/12	P Kel	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolute	17/12	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col
Al Muztuba	17/12	Okha	CLA	GI (S Ash)	--
Fu Shen	17/12	Kand	Mutual	--	--

### Tanker due

Andhika Ashura	13/12	--	Rainbow	CPO (RM/3)
Al Deerah	14/12	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/JP-1
Pacific Sound	15/12	Ind	BSL	CPO
Salamat-3	18/12	Hald	Nishat	Bitumen (RM/3)

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Reunion	Cont	Sing	Nol	11/12
Phu Tan	Cont	Tanj	PSSL	12/12
Alaska Dream	GI (Ricg)	Yang	PML	13/12
Germana	Cont	Sing	QCSL	13/12
Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pi (Bd)	13/12
Qc Honour	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	13/12

### Vessels not ready

Hk Deqin-201	GI/Sp Tsp	Sing	Kdsa	R/A (11/12)
Energy Falcon	TPS (Fert)	Fang	Unique	6/12
Endurance	HSD/MS	Kuwa	MSTPL	11/12

### Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicorn	10/11/2004
Dragonis	--	--	Seacon	R/A (10/11)

### Vessels not entering

Sunshine Ubilee	Dap (P)	Sing	BSL	29/11
Santa Barbara	C Clinic	Krabi	Uniship	4/12
Maris	C Clinic	Lumut	Litmond	4/12
Yick Zao	Urea	P Ghov	Litmond	27/11
Merry Falcon	Tsp (Bag)	J Xing	Litmond	29/11
Yasmina	--	B Abb	PML	6/12
Ks Harmony	C Clinic	Pada	ASLL	9/12
Feliz-1	GTSP/Fert	Tunis	SSST	10/12

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



PHOTO: CORPORATE BAZAAR

Russell T Ahmed, convener of Corporate Bazaar, an exhibition of corporate houses scheduled for January 30 -February 1, and Bernd Luetkenhoener, executive director and CFO of Siemens Bangladesh Ltd, pose for photographs at a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony recently. Under the MoU, Siemens Bangladesh will take part in the show.

## STOCK