

Star BUSINESS

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Hanoi Apec summit to study 21-nation trade zone

AFP, Tokyo

An Asia-Pacific summit next week in Hanoi would call for a study into a massive free trade pact involving the 21 countries, which include the US, China and Japan, a newspaper said Wednesday.

A draft joint statement of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit would call for a study on the possibility of a free trade agreement for the entire zone, Japan's best-selling *Yomiuri Shimbun* said, without citing sources.

Officials had no immediate comment on the report, but Japan's trade minister Tuesday said the country had no objections to the idea.

Japan had earlier proposed an economic partnership agreement, or EPA, involving 16 Asia-Pacific

nations -- the 10-member Asean Southeast Asian bloc plus Japan, China, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand.

But the United States informally objected to being excluded from the pact, saying it did not want "a line drawn in the middle of the Pacific", Japan's *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper reported Sunday.

"It is quite natural for the United States to express anxiety over its absence from the framework of Asean, which has extremely high potential," Akira Amari, the minister of economy, trade and industry, said Tuesday.

He said Japan's proposal would not overlap.

"An East Asian EPA can play an important role in laying the foundation for a framework including the United States," Amari told reporters. Both the US and Japan have

been seeking bilateral and multilateral economic pacts amid the breakdown in global trade liberalization negotiations.

The US has been holding tough talks with South Korea on what would be the biggest US free-trade deal since the North American Free Trade Agreement with Canada and Mexico that took effect in 1994.

Asean (The Association of Southeast Asian Nations) has also been steadily reducing tariffs in the region as it moves towards a European-style single market by 2015.

China and South Korea have concluded free trade agreements with the Southeast Asian bloc, while Japan has been holding talks with Asean and reached separate bilateral deals with Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

Chevron to help set up healthcare centre in Moulvi Bazar

Chevron Bangladesh and Sylhet Samaj Kalyan Sangstha (SSKS) signed an agreement on Sunday to set up a community healthcare centre near Chevron's Moulvi Bazar natural gas field at Kalapur union of Srimangal upazila.

Andrew L Fawthrop, president and managing director of Chevron Bangladesh, and Belal Ahmed, general secretary and chief executive of SSKS, signed the deal on behalf of their organisations, says a press release.

As per the deal, Chevron Bangladesh will support the SSKS to set up and run the community healthcare centre styled 'Surje Hashi Health Centre', a USAID supported healthcare programme will be run all over Bangladesh.

The healthcare centre is expected to become fully operational by mid December this year. Chevron will fund the project for the next three years.

Fawthrop said, "We are confident that this clinic will be as successful as the one we set up last year near our Bibiyana field."

Oil above \$59

REUTERS, London

Oil was steady above \$59 on Wednesday on the possibility of a deeper cut in supply from Opec in December.

U.S. crude was up 20 cents to \$59.13 a barrel by 0929 GMT. London Brent crude was up 19 cents at \$58.67.

The world's largest oil exporter Saudi Arabia and some other members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said that the oil market remains oversupplied despite a cut that took effect on November 1.

Opec members were concerned about high inventories in the United States and other consuming nations rather than the price of oil, said Saudi Arabia's oil minister Ali al-Naimi.



Andrew L Fawthrop (2-R), Chevron Bangladesh president and managing director, hands over a cheque to Belal Ahmed (2-L), general secretary and chief executive of Sylhet Samaj Kalyan Sangstha (SSKS), after signing an agreement on Sunday. Under the deal, a community healthcare centre will be set up in Moulvi Bazar.



SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 8/11/2006.

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J1	Marine Blue	Gl(St. C)	Myan	H&S	4/11	9/11	3161
J2	Yick Hua	Gl(St. C)	Novo	Allseas	3/11	9/11	2843
J3	New Legend Star	Gl	Tian	Cosco	31/10	11/11	1171
J4	Jin Cheng	Gl	Tian	Cosco	5/11	13/11	2230
J6	Eastern Sea	UnCargo	Kara	Uniglobal	7/11	8/11	481
J7	An Qing Jiang	Gl(Steel)	Osaka	Cosco	3/11	8/11	2987
J8	Sea Bridge	Urea(Bic)	Chin	PSAL	3/11	20/11	1465
J9	Sea Master One	Cont	Sing	PML	30/10	10/11	140
J10	Chung Jin-2	Sugar(Bag)	Bank	Mutual	22/10	9/11	-
J11	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	27/10	10/11	419
J12	Vinashin Mariner	Cont	Sing	PSSL	26/10	9/11	290
J13	Csav California	Cont	Sing	PSSL	29/10	11/11	85

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Cheng Hao	18/11	-	Cosco	Gl(billet)	--
Tigris	8/11	Cana	Rainbow	Wheat	--
Nord Enterprise	9/11	Pera	Rainbow	R.Sugar	--
Mir Damad	10/11	Kol	BSC	Cont	L/iza
Minn Mersey	11/11	Pkl	Nyk	Vehi	--
Oel Enterprise	10/11	Pkl	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Previous River	10/11	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing
Coastal Express	11/11	Chenn	BSC	Cont	Kol

Tanker due

C.P.33	9/11	Pasi	Unidev	CPO(RM4)
Borak	12/11	Hald	FSA	Bitumen(RM4)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:
Gao Cheng
Zhe Hai-315
Amer
Banga Bijoy
Banga Bodor
Marisa Green
Josco View
Bangler Shikha
Kota Berjaya
Qc Wisdom
Xpress Resolve

Vessels not ready:

Eid-a-mostafa	Salt/S. Ash	Purb	Intraport	10/10
Vulturnus	TSP/Sash	Chen	Unique	23/10
Brave Royal	C. Clink	Krabi	BRSL	26/10
Al Muhibidine	Wheat(p)	Russ	MTCL	3/11
Champion Ventura	CDSO	Chan	USL	3/11
Luo Qing	TSP/S. Ash	Fang	Unique	4/11
Topless	HSD/MS	Kuwa	MSTPL	7/11

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

STOCK



PHOTO: BRAC BANK

Brac Bank Ltd recently signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Daffodil International University to introduce an improved system of collecting tuition fees from the students of the university. Imran Rahman, managing director of the bank, and Md Sabur Khan, chairman of the Board of Governors of the university, signed the MoU while Prof Aminul Islam, vice chancellor of the university, among others, was present.