

Star BUSINESS

E-mail: business@thedadlystar.net

Asia makes energy pledge, moves on trade

AFP, Cebu, Philippines

Asian leaders agreed Monday to push for freer trade and more secure energy supplies across the region, wrapping up a week of high-level diplomacy on everything from terrorism to North Korea.

The 16 leaders also found common ground in an especially strong statement on North Korea, saying the defiant regime needed to address international concern about food shortages and its past abductions of Japanese and other nationals.

Leaders including Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh also heard calls to create a vast free-trade zone that would account for around half the world's population.

While Asia has recovered well from the regional financial crisis of a

decade ago, nations need to do more to fight poverty and free up energy markets and trying to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Japan offered two billion dollars in aid to help nations with energy conservation.

"Asia is home to 12 of the world's 15 tallest buildings – a testament to its ability to rapidly generate wealth. But it is also home to the world's largest slums," Kuroda told the closed-door gathering.

Working toward freer trade was a priority throughout the three days of summit talks in the Philippine resort of Cebu, organised by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean).

Asean agreed on Saturday to create a single market by 2015, five years earlier than previously planned.

The bloc – Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines,

Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam – also signed its first convention on fighting terrorism.

Member states also agreed to forge a charter, which would transform Asean into more of a rules-based organisation along the lines of the European Union, later this year.

The summits also saw dozens of smaller meetings on the sidelines, including talks before Monday morning's gathering between Australia's Howard and China's Wen, whose nations are working on their own free-trade accord.

JAPAN MAKES \$2b ENERGY PLEDGE

Another report adds: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a two-billion-dollar aid package on Monday to help Asian nations develop energy-saving technology and ease the region's dependence on oil.

Abe unveiled the offer at a half-day summit of Asian leaders aimed at improving energy security and looking at alternatives to costly fossil fuels, including nuclear power and biofuels.

Japan is a frontrunner in energy-efficient technologies as the resource-poor nation, which relies mostly on oil imports from the Middle East, has been seeking to reduce its consumption since the oil shock of the 1970s.

"Energy-saving is a measure that brings about the maximum quantitative effects and immediate results," Abe told the meeting, as quoted by the official.

Tokyo's aid package includes accepting 1,500 engineers and researchers from other nations as trainees and setting up an energy-saving centre in Asia based on Japanese technology.



Koba Electronics recently opened a showroom at Mirpur in Dhaka to market Korea's Hyundai brand home appliances. Country Director of National Bank of Pakistan QSM Jahan Jeb, Managing Director of the company Matir Rahman and Executive Director Abdur Razzak, among others, were present at the inauguration.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 15/1/2007

Berth No.	Name Of Vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/1	Tug Solid-1	Ball Clay	Kuch	DNS	5/1	--	732
J/2	Hoang Son	Gil(log)	Yang	Gla	13/1	18/1	2675
J/3+2	Hawk-1	Wheat(p)	Ukra	USL	5/1	24/1	249
J/4	Bangler Doot	--	Sant	SSST	1/1	16/1	--
J/7	Lilac Ace	Vehi	P. Kel	Everett	14/1	16/1	--
J/8	Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	API	5/1	19/1	--
J/9	Jin Cheng (liner)	Gl	Inch	Cosco	14/1	19/1	1802
J/10	Pacific Express	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	1/1	15/1	76
J/12	Kota Raina	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	3/1	17/1	368
J/13	Qc Pintail	Cont	Col	QCSL	5/1	17/1	--
CCT/1	Esham	Cont	Malal	CEL	3/1	16/1	129
CCT/2	Banga Bodor	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	3/1	17/1	243

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Spar Cetus	14/1	Sing	Rainbow	R. Sugar	10000 Wlt
Hamburg Harmony	15/1	Sing	C. Clink	Dia/Mtc	
Bangler Shikha	15/1	Ptp	BSC	Cont	
Coastal Express	15/1	Kol	BSC	Cont	
Rhone Borg	15/1	Sing	QCSL	Cont	
Gao Cheng	15/1	Sing	PML	Cont	
Sarim	16/1	Mala	Litmond	C. Clink	
Maritime Peace	16/1	--	Seacom	Mop	
Inca Majden	16/1	Sin	Nyk	--	
Mare Hibernum	17/1	P.kel	Seacom	Cont	
Rio Lawrence	17/1	Sing	QCSL	Cont	
Eagle Progress	17/1	Sing	Everbest	Ptb	
Vtc Light	17/1	Sfax	SSST	Sing	
Calmi Coral	18/1	Yang	TSP	--	
Csav California	18/1	Cbo	PSL	Cont	
Vinashin Mariner	18/1	Sin	PSSL	Cbo	

Tanker due

Southern Orchis	18/1	Viz	Jardine	L. Oil(DJ/7)
Bow Plata	16/1	Kaki	RSA	CPO/RM(9/3)
Kadriah-ii	17/1	Sin	ECSL	Naphtha
Gulf Ahmadi	17/1	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSDMS
Pacific Crystal	21/1	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/JP-1

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (4/1)

Pacific Champion	Pro. Equip	--	IBSA	R/A (12/1)
Sea Drill-6	Pro. Equip	--	IBSA	8/1
Gulf Oni-9	Pro. Equip	--	IBSA	3/1
Cs Topper	--	--	IBSA	R/A(11/1)
Simba	Crude Oil	Jebel	Uniglobal	1/1
F. Jahan	Slag	Visa	BRSL	12/1
Zenobia	Wheat(p)	Novo	Mutual	12/1

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

STOCK