

Lankan clothing exports on track despite rebel air raids

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka's lucrative garment manufacturing industry Tuesday reassured overseas buyers that a spate of air raids by Tamil Tiger rebels had failed to disrupt exports.

The island's three-billion-dollar apparel export industry said shipments through the sea port of Colombo were not affected and cargo flights would be re-scheduled following night-time bombing raids by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

"The security situation is under control and there is no need for undue apprehension," industry apex body JAAF (Joint Apparel Association Forum) said in response to recent rebel air attacks on fuel depots near the airport.

The Bandaranaike International Airport will close for six hours at night from Thursday after four daring night-time bomb-

ing raids. The military has also restricted domestic flights within the island.

Foreign governments have also

SingTel mobile users top 124m

AFP, Singapore

Singapore Telecommunications (SingTel) said Tuesday its mobile subscribers grew by a record 12 million in the first quarter to top 124 million users at the end of March, the largest such base in Asia outside of China.

"It marks the fourth consecutive quarter that the number of regional mobile subscribers has increased at a record pace," SingTel said in a statement.

"This is the largest mobile customer base in Asia outside of China," the telecommunications company said.

warned citizens against non-essential travel to Sri Lanka after the LTTE demonstrated their air capability in March with two light aircraft.

"Production and export of apparel from Sri Lanka remains unhampered by concerns on the recent attempts by terrorists to destabilise the economic activity in the country," JAAF Chairman, Ajith Dias said.

The clothing industry earned three billion dollars in revenue last year, accounting for over 50 percent of the island's total exports and provides jobs to nearly one million people.

Top international brands, including Victoria's Secret, Marks and Spencer and Triumph source their undergarments from Sri Lanka, which is bidding to become the world's lingerie capital.

Tamil Tigers have waged a 35-year campaign for independence that has claimed more than 60,000 lives.

Thailand moves to rein in foreign retailers

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand's military-installed government on Tuesday endorsed a new retail law aimed at reining in the expansion of foreign retail giants after an outcry by local shop owners.

Under the new law, local governments would assess and approve any proposed new branches of supermarket chains in their province.

A new central body -- the Retail and Wholesale Supervision Committee chaired by the commerce minister -- would also be set up to regulate the retail business nationwide.

The bill marks Thailand's latest effort to tighten the rules on foreign businesses here, after the government in January moved to limit foreigners to holding no more than 49 percent of the shares or voting rights in Thai companies.

The retail measure was initially rejected by cabinet, which complained that the central committee would have too much authority to regulate retailers, but the cabinet on Tuesday gave a revised version the all-clear.

China's trade surplus seen surging in 2007

AFP, Beijing

China's overall trade surplus will soar to 254 billion dollars this year, though growth in the politically touchy figure will slow to 42.8 percent, according to a research report.

The Centre for Forecasting Science of the Chinese Academy of Sciences said the country's trade surplus with the United States will surge 23.5 percent in 2007 to 178 billion dollars while that with the European Union will increase by nearly 44.4 percent to 129 billion dollars.

China has been keen to prove its commitment to ease trade tensions with its major trading partners like the United States after its overall trade surplus soared 74.2 percent in 2006 to 177.5 billion dollars.

In 2005, the overall trade surplus had leapt by a dramatic 218.6 percent to 101.9 billion dollars from 31.98 billion dollars in 2004.



PHOTO: UHSR

Universal Health Services and Research (UHSR) Ltd and Architekton (Pvt) Ltd recently signed an agreement under which Architekton will construct the proposed 15-storey 300-bed Universal Medical College and Hospital of UHSR on Green Road in Dhaka. Managing Director of UHSR Md Mushtaq Hossain and Chairman of Architekton Minhasur Rahman signed the deal at a function in the capital.



PHOTO: FRONTLINE COMMUNICATIONS

MA Mannan, chairman and managing director of Butterfly Marketing Ltd, a home appliances marketing company, inaugurates an LG-Butterfly showroom on Tipu Sultan Road in Dhaka recently. Other senior officials of the company were also present.

CURRENCY

Following is Tuesday's (May 8, 2007) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

Major currency exchange rates			Exchange rate of some currencies	
	BC Sell	TT Buy	Per USD	BDT per Currency
US dollar	69.50	68.50		
Euro	96.01	91.74		
Pound	140.24	135.05		
Australian dollar	59.10	55.48		
Japanese yen	0.59	0.57		
Swiss franc	58.32	55.40		
Swedish kroner	10.79	9.73		
Canadian dollar	64.24	61.53		
Hong Kong dollar	8.91	8.74		
Singapore dollar	46.96	45.08		
UAE dirham	19.08	18.50	1M	68.60 69.61
Saudi riyal	18.68	18.12	2M	68.72 69.82
Danish kroner	13.30	11.97	3M	68.87 70.04
Kuwaiti dinar	236.98	235.25	6M	69.32 70.76

* All currencies are quoted against BDT
* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction
* The forward rates are indicative only and fixed dated
Money Market
Money market was active on Tuesday. Call money rate was stable and ranged between 7.00 and 7.25 percent compared to 6.75-7.00 percent the previous day.



PHOTO: TRUST BANK

Malaysian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Abdul Malik Bin Abdul Aziz and Managing Director of Trust Bank Ltd Iqbal U Ahmed, among others, pose for photographs when the Malaysian envoy visited the bank on Monday.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 8/5/2007

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Banglar Moni	Gl(log)	Yang	Pml	3/5	9/5	1937
J/2	Kiani Satu	Gi	Busa	Allseas	5/5	10/5	2184
J/3	Eid-a-mostafa	Rice(p)	Kaki	Cla	23/4	8/5	490
J/4	Dolphin-ii	Gi	Viza	Sunshie	7/5	11/5	394
J/6	Mol Karina	Cont	Hald	Seacon	6/5	9/5	69
J/8	Golden Star	Urea	Sing	Litmond	26/4	9/5	996
J/9	Delmas Komati	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	5/5	10/5	136
J/11	Dali	Cont	Col	Seacon	4/5	8/5	42
J/12	Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	6/5	10/5	243
J/13	Phu Tan	Cont	P. Kel	Pssl	6/5	10/5	295
CCT/1	Eagle Pride	Cont	P. Kel	Ct	6/5	9/5	200
CCT/2	Ja Vesta	Cont	Sing	Vega	4/5	8/5	35

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Goldensari-Indah	8/5	Vane	Mutual	R-Seedy.p	--
Glory Falcon	8/5	Mala	Litmond	C. Clink	--
Theodor	9/5	Kohsi	Saraf	C. Clink	--
Ocean Ever	10/5	Novo	Usl	Wheat(p)	--
Pracious River	9/5	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing
Banga Borak	9/5	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Oel Freedom	9/5	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Kota Ratna	10/5	Sing	Pil(bd)	Cont	Mong
Csav California	10/5	--	Pssl	Cont	Col
Mir Damad	10/5	Viza	Bsca	Cont	Kol
Xpress Makalu	10/5	Cbo	Seacon	Cont	Col
Kissama	11/5	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing

Tanker Due

Tabtim	9/5	Belwa	Jnship	Cpo(rm/3)	--
Al Kuwaitiah	9/5	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/jp-1	--
Khadijah	10/5	Belwa	Mtcl	Cpo(m/8/3)	--
Dai Long	11/5	Jakarta	Psl	Naptha	DOJ/7/6
Orestis	13/5	Jebel	Uniglobal	M.c. Oil	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/A(6/5)

Outside Port Limit

Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/A(6/5)
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Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels Ready

Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Bdship	6/5
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Vessels Not Ready

Rubin Nacre	R. Seed	Aust	Usl	5/5
Maritime Songkhla	C. Clink	Tanj	Bsl	6/5
Swift	Wheat(g)	Novo	Litmond	6/5
Bi Ro Bong	Rice(p)	Kaki	Hsa	7/5

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

B-Sea	Ballast	Kaki	Intraport	16/3
Borak	--	--	Fsa	R/A(4/5)
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	Bsc	R/A(5/5)

Vessels Not Entering

Libre	R. Seed	Sing	Rainbow	3/5
Sarim	C. Clink	Thai	Litmond	7/5

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

STOCK