

## Asia's economy robust despite plunging shares

AFP, Hong Kong

Ten years ago the crumbling of Asia's paper tiger economies sent shockwaves across the globe, but this time the region is being pummeled by a crisis that is "Made in the United States".

Plunging Asian share prices have again raised the spectre of a financial crisis, but analysts say the region's economies are healthy and can weather the current crisis triggered by woes in the US mortgage market.

The stock market falls included Tokyo's biggest slide in seven years on Friday, some 5.5 percent, while over last week as a whole Hong Kong fell nearly 6.5 percent, Thailand around 6.0 percent and Indonesia 13.5 percent.

"The Asian market fell because of somewhere other than Asia," said Dong Tao, the chief economist at Credit Suisse. "This is a US problem and Asian fundamentals remain strong."

He was referring to parts of the giant US mortgage market, where defaulting borrowers and falling house prices have caused concern on Wall Street about a possible seizure of the financial system.

The uncertainty rippled through the world's stock markets, including

in Asia, but a move by the US central bank on Friday to ease one of its interest rates assuaged some of its concerns in the US and Europe.

That could help sentiment in Asia too, where the recent sell-off has put investors in mind of the 1997 financial crisis.

Asia's position is in fact much more robust than in 1997, said Tai Hui, an economist at Standard Chartered bank.

"The turmoil we have seen has had very little impact on Asian financial stability in the 'real' economy," he said. "I am very sure we are not talking about a financial crisis on the 1997 scale."

The 1997 crisis involved sharp falls in Asian currencies, stock markets and other asset prices, which disrupted and retarded the region's economies.

But today many Asian countries have stockpiled foreign exchange reserves to defend their currencies. The region's economies and firms have also been doing well.

Instead, analysts said the recent jitters reflected globalisation, where the repackaged debt of struggling borrowers in the US is spread across the globe through institutional investors and hedge funds.

The fear for Asian stocks is that foreign investment funds will have to

keep offloading shares to cover losses in the so-called subprime US mortgage market, and in the securities -- credit derivatives -- that are built on the back of it.

Until the extent of that exposure is firmly established, credit could dry up and Asian markets suffer as a result, Tai said.

"The lack of understanding, lack of information about where people are exposed means that there is no real risk profile," he said.

"We have had these credit derivatives packaged in such a complicated way, that you now have markets trying to assess the real risks."

Asian economies also depend on exports to the United States, the world's biggest economy. Any hint of a US consumer slowdown could hit Asia.

"The entire world is too exposed to the US, less on the financial side, more on the export side," Dong said.

The latest selling also highlights another major difference with 1997 -- the newfound strength of China.

Li Kui Wai, a specialist in Asian markets at Hong Kong's City University, believes that China's current economic strength will provide a healthy counterbalance to US weaknesses.

## Malaysia plans new budget air terminal

ANN/ THE STAR

A new low-cost carrier terminal (LCCT) will be built near the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA), while the existing one there will be expanded to cater to an additional five million passengers yearly.

Malaysian Deputy Premier Najib Tun Razak announced this Friday after a Cabinet committee meeting on public transportation.

He said the new LCCT would be built over the next four years and, when ready, would accommodate 30 million passengers a year.

He added that its exact location and cost would be confirmed later, although Transport Minister Chan Kong Choy has said the new LCCT would be part of the KLIA.

As for the KLIA's existing 108-million-ringgit LCCT, Datuk Seri Najib said it was necessary to expand it to meet airlines' needs while the new LCCT was being built.

The expansion would cater to wide-bodied aircraft and would include widening aircraft parking bays, he said.

Work will also be carried out on its arrival and departure lounges and the carpark, to increase its capacity to accommodate 15 million passengers annually.

## China-LatAm 1st business summit to be held in Chile

XINHUA, Beijing

The first China-Latin America Business Summit will be held in Santiago, Chile, on Nov 27 and 28, according to the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT).

The CCPIT, the Export-Import Bank of China, Chile National Chamber of Commerce and Chile Bank will co-host the meeting, which is aimed at enhancing economic ties between Chinese and Latin American companies.

So far, 18 chambers of commerce or associations from 14 Latin American countries have confirmed sponsorship of the summit.



PHOTO: RANGS ELECTRONICS

Rangs Electronics Ltd organised the 'REL Business Conference 2007' in Dhaka yesterday. Company Chairman Aktar Hussain inaugurated the conference, which was attended, among others, by Vincent Yip, Chang Seng Hock and Spencer Low of Sony Singapore.



PHOTO: DBBL

Dutch-Bangla Bank Managing Director Md Yeasin Ali poses for photograph with the newly recruited assistant officers of the bank at the end of their orientation course in the capital on Saturday. Senior officials of the bank are also seen.

## Tokyo, Jakarta set to boost trade ties

AFP, Jakarta

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrived in Indonesia Sunday at the start of a three-nation Asian tour, with a key trade agreement to be signed between Tokyo and Jakarta during his stop here.

Abe arrived at Jakarta's Halim Perdanakusumah airbase, where he was met by local dignitaries led by foreign minister Hassan Wirayuda.

On Monday, the premier will meet with host President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono for bilateral talks and to oversee the signing of a comprehensive Economy Partnership Agreement, which has been under negotiation since mid-2005.

The so-called EPA is a modified free trade deal that sees Japan offer extra benefits to partners beyond simple tariff cuts.

Under the pact, more than 90

percent of trade between the two nations will gradually become tax-free, while energy-hungry Japan will secure access to Indonesian natural gas sources and raw materials and Indonesia will receive assistance in several sectors.

Indonesia is Japan's biggest liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplier and Japan is Indonesia's biggest trading partner.

Southeast Asia's largest economy exported 21.7 billion dollars worth of goods there in 2006, while imports from Japan stood at 5.5 billion dollars over the same period. Around 1,000 Japanese companies operate in Indonesia.

The EPA provides a framework for cooperation in sectors such as trade service and customs procedures, investment, energy and mineral resources, protection of intellectual property, and government procurement.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 19/8/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	An Qing Jiang	Gi	Para	Cosco	15/8	22/8	2021
J/3	Asrar-A-Mostafa	Rice(P)	Kaki	Clia	11/8	22/8	2164
J/4	Jin Cheng	Gi	Inch	Cosco	11/08	19/8	1545
J/5	Ju Yong Guan	Gi	Chin	Cosco	15/8	24/8	823
J/6	Martha Russ	Cont	Sing	Qcsl	17/8	21/8	436
J/7	Eid-E-Mostafa	Rice(P)	Kaki	Clia	12/8	25/8	1772
J/8	Ping Jiang	Gi	Chin	Cosco	16/8	24/8	801
J/9	Cape Bonavista	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	17/8	20/8	136
J/10	Sumida	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	14/8	19/8	115
J/11	Phu My	Cont	Sing	Ipl	17/8	-	114
J/13	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacon	17/8	21/8	604

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	type of cargo	Loading ports
Eagle Progress	19/8	Pkl	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Banga Bijoy	19/8	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Col
Merkur Bridge	19/8	Sing	Apl	Cont	Cbo
Hoheriff	19/8	Kol	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Santa Suria-II	19/8	Krabi	Sunmoon	Gypsum	-
Pac Makassar	20/8	Sing	Cel	Cont	Sing
Josco View	20/8	Pkl	Rsl	Cont	Sing
OEL Singapore	20/8	Pkl	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Eagle Pride	21/8	-	Qcsl	Cont	L/Ptp
Cape Henry	21/8	Cbo	Apl	Cont	Col
Mir Damad	21/8	Chen	Bsca	Cont	Kol
Hansa London	27/8	Pkl	Pssl	Cont	Mong
Banga Bonik	22/8	Cbo	Baridhi	Cont	Sin
OEL Freedom	22/8	Cbo	Pssl	Cont	Sing

### Tanker due

Smooth Sea-4	20/8	Mala	Usl	CpoRm/4
Al Deerah	20/8	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/Sko-
Tabtinn	22/8	Belw	Mtcl	CpoRm/8

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	-	-	Ibsa	R/A (10/8)
Afroditi	Crude Oil	Rast	Uniglobal	19/7

### Outside port Limit

Wira Keris	-	-	Ibsa	R/A (10/8)
Afroditi	Crude Oil	Rast	Uniglobal	19/7

### Vessels at outer anchorage

#### Vessels ready

Yong Yue-8	Cont	Col	Qcsl	17/8
Banga Borti	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	18/8
Csav California	Cont	Col	Pssl	19/8
Smooth Sea-6	Cpo	Belwa	Wh	19/8
Theodor	G. Slag	Viza	Saraf	16/8

#### Vessels not ready

Banga Biraj	-	-	Baridhi	R/A (16/8)
Banglar Robi	Feldspar	Viza	Royal	19/8

#### Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Dali	-	-	Seacon	R/A (19/7)
Borak	-	-	Fsa	R/A (4/8)
Santa Suria	-	-	Asll	R/A (15/8)

#### Vessels not entering

Discovery-II	R.Phos	Kasa	Litmond	21/7
Golden Pacific	C. Clink	Kohsi	Ancl	12/8
Jag Vikram	C. Clink	Kohsi	Usl	12/8
Prashva	C. Clink	Lumut	Litmond	14/08
Noora	C. Clink	Krabi	Asll	14/8

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



PHOTO: CITYCELL

Mir Delwar Hossain, corporate affairs and admin manager of Coats Bangladesh, and Sharif Shah Jamal Raj, head of Corporate Sales of mobile phone operator CityCell, exchange documents after signing an internet service deal in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Coats will enjoy the latter's wireless internet service mycitycell Zoom.

## STOCK