

# Japan eyes ending most duties on Asean imports

AFP, Tokyo

ally entail the gradual elimination of tariffs over about 10 years.

Japan imports from Asean about eight trillion yen (70 billion dollars) in general machinery, such as electronic equipment, as well as fruit and other agricultural goods.

Specifics about the products to become duty-free are to be fleshed out, but almost all industrial products, including textiles, are expected to make the list, the daily said.

Officials were not immediately available for comment on the report.

Japan's free-trade deals have courted controversy in some Southeast Asian nations, particularly Thailand where activists charge it will make the kingdom a dumping ground for Japanese waste.

## JAPAN PM VISITS INDIA

TO PUSH TRADE

Another report from New Delhi adds: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrived in New Delhi on Tuesday to firm up billions of dollars of investment projects and expand trade ties.

Accompanied by his wife Akie and almost 200 business officials, Abe headed straight to an economic forum in the first event of what an aide called a "fully-packed" three-day schedule.

Abe will be looking to flesh out the strategic partnership

announced by the two countries during Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's visit to Tokyo in December, the senior government official told reporters.

"The big purpose this time is to discuss how we can best proceed in this strategic and global partnership," the official said in New Delhi ahead of the arrival.

"I expect this visit will achieve significant results."

Abe will meet Singh for talks Wednesday, and the two are expected to announce a slate of agreements on economic and academic cooperation.

Japan will also be seeking India's support for a four-way strategic and economic partnership with Australia and the United States, the official said.

The backbone of this idea of the quadrilateral framework is the sharing of basic values such as freedom, democracy and human rights," as well as economic clout, he said.

Japan is investing in a 100-billion-dollar industrial corridor and freight link from the capital to Mumbai, India's financial hub and an Arabian Sea port, with funding estimated at an unconfirmed 30 billion dollars.

Rising numbers of American households are failing to keep up with payments on home loans in the US subprime or high-risk mortgage sector.

That has sparked investor fears over a potential credit squeeze -- whereby banks suspend normal lending practices.

Japan is also negotiating for a pact with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) as a whole. Japan and Asean are due to hold new talks Saturday in the Philippines.

Japan is making the proposal as it sees itself as lagging behind China and South Korea in trade deals with Asean, the Nikkei said, without identifying its sources.

Japan will propose an immediate scrapping of tariffs on 90 percent of Asean imports in value terms, the report said. Free-trade deals gener-

## Global stocks mixed

AFP, London

Global stock markets were mixed on Tuesday, with European indices falling despite earlier gains in Asia, as traders warned of more volatile swings sparked by ongoing credit crunch concerns.

"The uncertainty, as far as the credit crisis is concerned, is not yet over," said Hargreaves Lansdown analyst Keith Bowman.

Tokyo, Hong Kong and most other Asian markets rallied for a second straight day Tuesday amid fears over a potential global credit crisis that could jeopardise global economic growth, dealers said.

However, markets in Frankfurt and London sank into the red on Tuesday, erasing gains won at the open.

London's FTSE 100 index of top shares fell 0.6 percent at 6,038.80 points and Frankfurt's DAX 30 lost 0.52 percent at 7,368.90 points, while the Paris CAC 40 firms 0.03 percent to 5,400.88 points.

Wall Street had closed mixed Monday as investors mulled the US Federal Reserve's actions to keep credit flowing in the face of a deepening mortgage crisis in the United States.

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## Bdjobs.com celebrates 7th founding anniversary

To mark its seventh founding anniversary, Bdjobs.com, a job portal in the country, organised a press conference in Dhaka yesterday, says a press release.

Chairman of the website Ahmad Islam Mugsit, Directors Masumul Haque Shiblee and Mohammad Anis, Chief Executive Officer Fahim Mashroor and Marketing and Sales Manager Prokash Roy Chowdhury were present at the press meet.



Square Hospitals Ltd and Bank Alfalah Ltd have recently entered into a corporate agreement under which employees of the bank and their dependents will get different medical services at special rates from the hospital. KM Saiful Islam, director of the hospital, and Shawkat Hossain, head (Finance & Administration) of the bank, signed the deal, while senior officials from both the sides were present.



Ahmad Islam Mugsit, chairman of Bdjobs.com, a job portal in the country, directors and senior officials are seen at a press conference organised in Dhaka yesterday to mark the job site's seventh founding anniversary.

## CURRENCY

Following is Tuesday's (August 21, 2007) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy	TT/OD			BC			CURRENCY		
		TTCLEAN	OD SIGHT DOC	OD TRANSFER	TT/OD	BC	CURRENCY	TT/OD	BC	CURRENCY
68.9700	69.0000	USD	68.0000	67.9773	67.9320					
94.3165	94.3575	EUR	90.1204	90.0904	90.0303					
138.4918	138.5520	GBP	133.5860	133.5415	133.4524					
56.9003	56.9250	AUD	53.3460	53.3282	53.2927					
0.6135	0.6138	JPY	0.5877	0.5875	0.5871					
58.1682	58.1935	CHF	55.0920	55.0736	55.0369					
10.5467	10.5513	SEK	9.4033	9.4002	9.3939					
66.4643	66.493	CAD	63.5990	63.5778	63.5554					
8.8442	8.8481	HKD	8.6804	8.6776	8.6718					
46.2513	46.2715	SGD	44.4415	44.4267	44.3971					
18.9317	18.9399	AED	18.3645	18.3584	18.3461					
18.5328	18.5409	SAR	17.9870	17.9810	17.9691					
13.0766	13.0823	DKK	11.7824	11.7785	11.7707					
241.3478	241.4550	KWD	239.1849	239.1075	238.9527					

### Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor. kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
41.11	60.5	112.02	33.150	5.9314	0.6860	3.50

### Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Tuesday. USD was stable against BDT in the market.

### Local Money Market

Money market was active on Tuesday. Call money rate was stable and most of the deals ranged between 6.50 and 6.60 percent.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 21/8/2007

Berth	Name of vessels	Cargo	L.Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J2	An Qing Jiang	Gi	Para	Cosco	15/8	22/8	2061
J3	Asrara-Mostafa	Rice(P)	Kaki		11/8	21/8	704
J5	Ju Yong Guan	Gi	Chin	Cosco	15/8	24/8	2181
J6	Martha Russ	Cont	Sing	Qcsl	17/8	21/8	44
J7	Eid-E-Mostafa	Rice(P)	Kaki	Cla	12/8	23/8	3108
J8	Ping Jiang	Gi	Chin	Cosco	16/8	24/8	2231
J10	Banga Borti	Cont	P.Kel	Baridhi	18/8	22/8	18
J11	Hohenf	Cont	Kol	Seacor	19/8	23/8	142
J12	Merkur Bridge	Cont	Sing	Ap	19/8	23/8	416
CCT1+2	Eagle Progress	Cont	P.Kel	Everbest	19/8	23/8	--

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L.Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Marion Star	21/8	P.Land	Kaptai	Wheat(G)	6372 Gsj
Joso View	22/8	P.Kel	Rsl	Sing	
Cape Henry	21/8	Col	Apl	Cont	Col
Sea Crown	21/8	Sing	Sara	C.Clink	--
Tonghai	24/8	Cana	Fsa	Wheat(P)	--
Voc Gallant	21/8	Cana	Litmond	Wheat(P)	--
Hansa London	22/8	P.Kel	Psl	Cont	Mong
Banga Bonik	22/8	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Sin
Oel Freedom	22/8	Cbo	Psl	Cont	Sing
Marlin Chiangmai	22/8	Tari	Bsl	C.Clink	--
Titan-7	24/8	Yang	Pml	GI(Log)	--
Ali Murtaza	22/8	Viza	Sara	G.Slag	Conf
Sarin	23/8	Krabi	Litmond	C.Clink	--
Banglar Shikha	24/8	P.Kel	Bsc	Cont	Ptp/P.Kel

### Tanker due

Fatima	22/8	Bewa	Mtl	Cpo	Rm/8
Laju Sejahtera	22/8	Bewa	Mtl	Cpo	Rm/8
Tablim	22/8	Bewa	Mtl	Cpol	Rm/8
Hc Dalia	24/8	Argen	Rainbow		