

China, India accelerate growth in developing Asia: ADB

AFP, Manila

Growth in developing Asian economies should rise more than eight percent this year and next, buoyed by strong performances from China and India, the Asian Development Bank said Monday.

In a regional update, it forecast a modest slowing of growth and warned of higher risk factors next year, arising notably from a tightening in credit markets.

"Momentum in (China) and India supports fast growth at the regional level," the Philippines-based lender said, raising the region's gross domestic product (GDP) forecast for this year to 8.3 percent from 7.6 percent.

Next year's growth should be 8.2 percent, up from the earlier forecast in March of 7.7 percent, according to an update of its Asian Development Outlook report released here Monday.

China, on the back of a 13-year

high 11.5 percent GDP growth in the first half, is now expected to grow 11.2 percent this year and

10.8 percent in 2008, up from the earliest forecast of 10.0 and 9.8 percent respectively.

The ADB said this year's updated forecast anticipated a modest slowing of the global economy and a mild recovery in the United States through 2008.

"But the downside risks to growth in 2008 are elevated, and much will depend on whether distress in credit markets deepens and spills over into the wider financial system and real economy," the report said.

It said regional growth outside China and India would be a more modest 5.7 percent this year and 5.6 percent next year.

However, "there is a more general pattern of high and, in some countries, accelerating growth."

It said the Philippines economy should grow 6.6 percent this year while Indonesia, the worst hit by the mid-1997 Asian crisis, was now expected to post GDP growth of 6.2 percent this year and 6.4 percent in 2008.

"Inflation has been brought to

heel. Consumption and investment are up sharply, the business and investment climate is improving, and we are seeing signs that Indonesia might finally break out of the 5.0 percent range and go beyond the 6.0 percent growth rate," Ali said.

The forecast for East Asia was raised to 8.9 percent this year and 8.7 percent next year, while Southeast Asia's forecast was upgraded to 6.1 percent for both years.

South Asian growth would also rise to 8.1 percent for both years, it added.

A US recession could clip growth in developing Asia by between 1.0 and 2.0 percentage points, it added, but the impact should be "modest and short-lived."

Simultaneous steep downturns in the US, the European Union and Japan -- an event the ADB judges improbable -- would put the region at greater risk, although robust reserves and improved financial systems placed it in a better position to weather the storm.



PHOTO: PUBLI BANK
Pubali Bank Ltd took part in the '2nd Bangladesh Single Country Trade Fair' held recently in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Md Ali Akber, consul general of Bangladesh Consulate in Jeddah, Halal Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of the bank, Enayet Karim, president of Saudi-Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce & Industry, among others, are seen at the stall of the bank at the trade show.



PHOTO: TNT EXPRESS
BGMEA President Anwar-ul Alam Chowdhury (Parvez) inaugurates the 2nd branch of courier delivery services company TNT Express at Agrabad in Chittagong recently. Prime Bank Ltd Managing Director Shahjahan Bhuiyan and TNT Bangladesh Country Manager Turab-ur Rahman are also seen.



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE
Grameenphone Ltd has recently signed an agreement with Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) to provide 'xplor' subscribers of the mobile phone operator with 50 percent discount on the annual fee for any SCB credit card, including interest-free Saadiq card. xplor subscribers can also enjoy 'Global Usage Privilege' of SCB credit cards that can be used at home and abroad. Riaz M Zaman, additional general manager and head of Grameenphone thank you programme, and Gitanka Datta, senior business manager (Credit Cards, Consumer Banking) of the bank, signed the deal.

Dollar eases against yen

AFP, Singapore

The dollar eased against the yen in quiet Asian trade on Monday with Japanese markets closed a day ahead of a key US Federal Reserve policy meeting.

In afternoon trade the greenback was lower at 115.26 yen from 115.35 in late New York trade on Friday.

The euro edged up to 1.3882 dollars from 1.3876 after soaring on Thursday to a record 1.3927 on fears for the future of the US economy and expectations of an interest rate cut by the Federal Reserve.

"Before the (Fed) announcement on Tuesday I don't expect these currencies to move too aggressively," said Thomas Lam, a treasury economist with United Overseas Bank Group.

Oil prices fall in Asian trade

AFP, Singapore

Oil prices fell on Monday in Asian trade, easing back from record highs reached last week, dealers said.

At 2:44 pm (0644 GMT), New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in October, was 44 cents lower at 78.66 dollars per barrel from 79.10 dollars per barrel in late US trade Friday when the contract moved briefly to a new high at 80.36 dollars.

Brent North Sea crude for November delivery was 28 cents lower at 75.94 dollars a barrel.

"Any attempt to consolidate over 80 dollars was meeting a lot of resistance," said Dave

Ernsberger, Asia director of Platts.

Abdalla Salem El-Badri, chief of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), said Friday that 80 dollars a barrel for oil did not reflect the current supply and demand situation.

"I don't think 80 dollars will last," El-Badri told journalists in Vienna. "The fundamentals do not support the price."

OPEC decided last Tuesday to pump an extra 500,000 barrels of oil per day from November.

Tobin Gorey, a commodities strategist with the Commonwealth Bank of Australia in Sydney, said the inability of the price to stay above 80 dollars "probably discouraged a few people" and led to the decline.

STOCK



SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 17-9-2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/2	Asrar-e-Mostafa	Rice(G)	Kaki	Cla	1/9	17/9	674
J/3	Butef	Urea(BCIC)	Sing	Misl	R/A	20/9	975
J/4	Xuan Cheng	Gl	Xang	Cosco	10/9	17/9	1275
J/5	Sunvaz	Urea(BCIC)	Sing	Seacom	2/9	19/9	1179
J/6	Eid-e-Mostafa	Rice(G)	Kaki	Cla	9/9	21/9	1045
J/7	Hunjang	Gl	Thai	Cosco	5/9	17/9	1086
J/8	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacom	14/9	18/9	289
J/9	Yong Jiang	Gl	Inch	Cosco	10/9	19/9	1258
J/10	Santa Suria	C. Clink	Krabi	Asl	3/9	17/9	1738
J/11	Sumida	Cont	Col	Seacom	12/9	17/9	26
J/12	Phu My	Cont	Sing	Ipl	14/9	18/9	48

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Outside port limit					

NIL

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Titan-7	Gl(Log)	Yang	Pml	15/9
Dongal Fortune	Cont	Sing	Seacon	16/9
Eagle Progress	Cont	P.Kel	Everbest	16/9
Champion Star	Cdso	Braz	Usl	9/9
ID Commander	G(St.c)	Sing	H&sl	17/9

Vessels not ready

Sunny Falcon	Urea(BCIC)	Sing	Litmond	7/9
Cleodi Salerno	Cdso	P.Luis	Usl	8/9
Maritime Changmai	C.Clink	Indo	Bsl	17/9
Vessels awaiting employment/instruction				
Borak	--	--	Fsa	R/A(4/8)
Bangler Jyoti	--	--	Bsc	R/A(13/9)

Vessels not entering

Ataduru	Wheat(P)	Novo	Angelic	23/8
Krymchakhar	Wheat(P)	Tuap	Unique	29/8
Asrar-e-Mostafa	C.Clink	Kohsi	Pol	9/9
Orientor-2	Wheat(P)	Sing	Mutual	9/9
K.S. Glory	C.Clink	Sing	Asl	9/9
Energy Falcon	C.Clink	Indo	Litmond	11/9
Santa Barbara	C.Clink	Krabi	Uniship	11/9
KS Harmony	C.Clink	Kohsi	Asl	12/9
Maritime Newanda	Wheat(P)	Sing	Rainbow	12/9
Pacific No.1	C.Clink	Kohsi	Bashund	14/9

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