

Tuesday April 3, 2012

Stock Markets Rap (as of Apr 2)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	13,264	+52	+0.4
Nasdaq	3,120	+28	+0.9
S&P 500	1,419	+11	+0.8
VIX	15.64	+0.14	+0.9
MSCI World	1,324	+12	+0.9

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,875	+106	+1.8
DAX	7,057	+110	+1.6
CAC	3,463	+39	+1.1
Euro Stoxx	2,430	+21	+0.9

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,329	-6	-0.1
Nikkei	10,110	+26	+0.3
Shanghai	2,263	+11	+0.5
HSI	20,522	-33	-0.2
H Shares	10,659	+19	+0.2

	Close	Chg	(%)
STI	3,016	+6	+0.2
Malaysia	1,604	+7	+0.5
PSEi	5,111	+3	+0.1
SET	1,199	+2	+0.2
LSX	1,018	-16	-1.5
Vietnam	441	+1	+0.3
Indonesia	4,166	+45	+1.1
FTSE ASEAN	582	+3	+0.5

Currencies Rap (as of Apr 2)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	78.90	-0.11	-0.14
THB/USD	30.83	+0.03	+0.10
LAK/THB	259.36	+0.35	+0.13
LAK/USD	7,990.50	0.00	0.00
USD/EUR	1.3338	-0.00	-0.04
JPY/USD	82.69	-0.18	-0.22

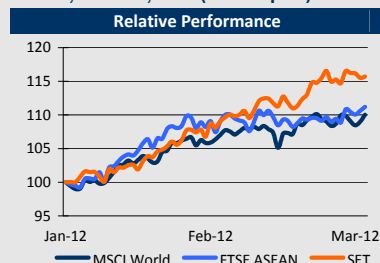
Commodities Rap (as of Apr 2)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,679.70	+7.80	+0.47
Silver	33.10	+0.61	+1.89
Copper	392.10	+9.60	+2.51
WTI	105.23	+2.21	+2.15
Brent	125.43	+2.55	+2.08
BDI	934	0	0.00

Source: Bloomberg

* Shanghai SE Composite Index and Ho Chi Minh Stock Index as of Mar 30

World, ASEAN, SET (as of Apr 2)



Source: Bloomberg

INDOCHINA NEWS

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INDOCHINA NEWS

Myanmar - Myanmar Starts New Currency Regime, 818 Kyat Per Dlr

Myanmar's central bank said it set a reference exchange rate of 818 kyat per dollar on Monday, the first business day under a managed float currency regime that is the most dramatic economic reform. Until now the kyat has been fixed at around 6.4 per dollar although a parallel market exists, with a recent rate in a range of 800 to 820 kyat. That rate has been used for most everyday transactions. The Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) gave the rate on its website, along with indicative cross rates for other currencies. It has given little information about the new system but commercial bankers have said the reference rate would be set after an auction for dollars involving up to 14 private and state-run banks. [\[Reuters\]](#)

Myanmar - EU Executive Hints at Easing of Myanmar Sanctions

The European Commission hinted on Monday that the bloc's foreign ministers would begin lifting sanctions on Myanmar when they meet in three weeks time after a year of reforms that culminated in electoral gains for the opposition on Sunday. The party of Pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi won by-elections by a landslide, Myanmar's election commission announced on Monday. Elections judged free and fair are seen one of the final steps demanded by the West before it eases sanctions. "We do expect the foreign ministers will recognize the changes and there will be a positive signal from the Council," EU foreign affairs spokeswoman Maja Kocijancic told a regular daily news briefing. "The restrictive measures that we have in place expire ... at the end of April and it will be for the Foreign Affairs Council to decide unanimously how to address this issue, and the extent to which sanctions are eased and lifted." [\[Reuters\]](#)

Myanmar - Cathay Pacific Bulks up Thai Route, Eyes Myanmar

Maggie Yeung, manager for Cathay Pacific in Thailand and Myanmar, said the airline is studying the possibility of serving Yangon from Bangkok using its subsidiary Dragonair. Cathay Pacific is studying launching flights to Yangon from Bangkok and Hong Kong. "If studies point to potential we will start [flying to Myanmar] soon," said Maggie Yeung, manager for Cathay Pacific in Thailand and Myanmar. Ms Yeung recently traveled to Yangon to talk with parties concerned and see if Cathay Pacific could fly there based on air traffic rights, airport constraints and passenger traffic volumes. She indicated Dragonair could be used to serve Yangon, probably with three to four flights a week on A320 jets, as Cathay Pacific only operates wide-body jets whose capacity may exceed initial demand. Airline traffic demand for Myanmar is predicted to rise as the country opens up to investment. [\[Bangkok Post\]](#)

Myanmar - Petronas and Partner to Explore Energy Fields in Myanmar

Petroleum Nasional Bhd and Thailand's PTT Exploration & Production Plc (PTTEP) have won the right to explore onshore energy fields in Myanmar, which is looking to boost sales of oil and gas to its neighbours. Petronas was awarded the RSF 2 and RSF 3 onshore blocks in the country and the company is scheduled to sign production-sharing contracts this week, chief executive officer Datuk Shamsul Azhar Abbas said. PTTEP was also awarded two onshore blocks, Shamsul said in an interview in Kuala Lumpur. [\[Malaysia Star\]](#)

Myanmar - Taxation Overhaul Set for April 1: Officials

THE tax base will be expanded from April 1, Ministry of Finance and Revenue officials told the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on March 26. The ministry will reduce income and commercial tax but will expand the base of taxpayers, sources at the meeting said. Ministry officials said commercial taxes will generally be cut by half, to 5%, but some commodities that are harmful to the environment or health or come from extractive industries, such as oil and gas, teak and other woods, jade and gems, cigarettes and liquor, will be taxed at a higher rate. Tax on diesel is set to go down to 8% from 90%, petrol will drop to 10% from 170% while natural gas is to go up to 8% from 0%. [\[Myanmar Times\]](#)

Myanmar - Central Bank to Sign Capital Market MOU

THE Myanmar Central Bank will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Tokyo Stock Exchange and Daiwa Institute to support the development of the capital market, according to U Maung Maung, director of Central Bank. This is the first phase of the program that started in June 2011 and ends in May 2012. They will propose to the ASEAN Secretariat to be more specific in the second phase. "To align with the ASEAN Economic Community according to the AEC blueprint 2015, Myanmar needs to integrate a free flow of investments and freer flow of capital under the single market and implement a productive phase strategy. A bond market should be developed as a first step," he said. [\[Myanmar Times\]](#)

ASEAN - EU, ASEAN to Discuss Extensive Trade Agreement

A key European Union trade official wants to begin negotiations on a far-reaching free trade agreement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN. The comments were made at a business summit between EU and Asian officials Sunday in the lead-up to this week's ASEAN summit in Cambodia. European Union Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht is urging closer economic ties between the EU and the ten-member ASEAN bloc. During a conference of EU and ASEAN officials Sunday, De Gucht urged delegates to make "concrete progress" on negotiations for a free trade agreement between the two regions. [\[Voice of America\]](#)

ASEAN - ASEAN Infrastructure Fund on Track for May

The region's finance ministers set a May launch date for the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund (AIF), a financing project expected to lend as much as US\$4 billion to member countries through 2020. Member countries signed a shareholder agreement for the AIF, with the intention of fully establishing the fund at a meeting to be held in Manila in May. [\[Phnom Penh Post\]](#)