

Tuesday December 27, 2011

NEWS UPDATE

Stock Markets Rap (as of Dec 26)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Dow	12,294	+124	+1.0
Nasdaq	2,619	+19	+0.7
S&P 500	1,265	+11	+0.9
Global Dow	1,805	+2	+0.1
VIX	20.73	-0.43	-2.0

	Close	Chg	(%)
FTSE 100	5,513	+56	+1.0
DAX	5,879	+27	+0.5
CAC	3,102	+30	+1.0

	Close	Chg	(%)
ASX 200	4,140	+50	+1.2
Nikkei	8,479	+84	+1.0
Shanghai	2,190	-15	-0.7
HSI	18,629	+251	+1.4
H Shares	10,133	+188	+1.9
FTSE STI	2,676	+12	+0.4
SET	1,033	-5	-0.5
LSX	907	-8	-0.8
Vietnam	353	-4	-1.0

Currencies Rap (as of Dec 26)

	Last	Chg	(%)
DX	79.92	-0.01	-0.01
THB/USD	31.32	+0.02	+0.06
THB/LAK	256.11	-0.23	-0.09
LAK/USD	8,023.50	0.00	0.00
USD/EUR	1.3068	+0.00	+0.18
JPY/USD	77.93	-0.16	-0.20

Commodities Rap (as of Dec 26)

	Close	Chg	(%)
Gold	1,606.00	-4.60	-0.29
Silver	29.08	+0.04	+0.13
WTI	99.68	+0.15	+0.15
Brent	107.96	+0.07	+0.06
BDI	1,738	-49	-2.74

Source: Bloomberg

Dow Jones, Nasdaq, S&P 500, VIX for S&P 500, FTSE 100, DAX, CAC, ASX 200, Hang Seng, H Shares, FTSE Straits Times, Gold, Silver, WTI, Brent and BDI as of Dec 23

U.S. Firms See Opportunities in Europe's Woes

As Europe struggles with its debt crisis, American businesses and financial firms are swooping in amid the distress, making loans and snapping up assets owned by banks there. The sales are being spurred on because European banks are scrambling to raise capital and shrink their balance sheets, often under orders from regulators. European financial institutions will unload up to \$3 trillion in assets over the next 18 months, according to an estimate from Morgan Stanley. Sine if these U.S. firms are the buyout giant Kohlberg Kravis Roberts, the Blackstone Group, Google, Wells Fargo, and Capital One Financial. Experts expect these kinds of sales to jump as European banks race to meet the June deadline imposed by the European Banking Authority to raise more than 114 billion euros in fresh capital. Financial institutions also have to increase their Tier 1 capital ratio — the strictest yardstick of a bank's ability to absorb financial blows — to 9% of assets. [\[The New York Times\]](#)

Italian-Thai Seeks Japanese Loans for Myanmar Deep-sea Port

Italian-Thai Development Pcl expects to sign loan agreements next year valued at \$12.5 billion to develop a deepsea port, industrial complex and power plants in Myanmar, Chairman Premchai Karnasuta said. Japan Bank for International Cooperation will likely provide most of the funding for the port, road and railway links in Dawei, less than 300 kilometers (186 miles) west of Bangkok, Premchai told reporters. Thailand's government has backed the project in Dawei to provide an alternative route for exporters, including Japanese companies that use the country as a manufacturing base, to ship goods to Europe and the Middle East. [\[Bloomberg\]](#)

Japan Hopes Europe Will Boost Rescue Mechanism - Sources

Europe should boost the total firepower of its rescue fund and frontload its funding to send a positive signal to investors and international partners that it is determined to solve its debt crisis, Japanese officials said on Monday. "Japan like other non-euro countries is prepared to do something, but unless European countries take decisive action it is hard to make those steps effective," a senior Japanese government official said. "We expect European countries will review the combined ceiling of 500 billion euro of EFSF (European Financial Stability Fund) and ESM (European Stability Mechanism) in a very positive manner," the official said. [\[Reuters\]](#)

China-Invested Securities Firm Opens Doors in Cambodia

The Golden Fortune (Cambodia) Securities PLC (GFS), a joint-venture between Chinese and Cambodian investors, launched its operations here on Thursday, aiming at tapping the country's emerging financial sector. The GFS is one of the two securities dealers obtained license from the Securities and Exchange Commission of Cambodia (SECC), according to the firm's Chairman Zhang Yun Feng. "We see the potential in the upcoming Cambodian Securities Exchange (CSX) and we are committed to participating in the development of Cambodia securities market from the beginning," he said at the launch, adding that the firm has put the initial investment of 10 million U.S. dollars. [\[Xinhua\]](#)

Chinese No Longer Prefer Real Estate Investment

Chinese people's will to buy real estate has descended to the lowest level since 2008 and real estate is no longer a preferred choice for investment, according to the Depositors' Survey in the fourth quarter of 2011 issued by the People's Bank of China, the country's central bank. The survey shows that in the fourth quarter, 16.5% of residents prefer real estate investment, falling sharply by 7.1%. Instead, investment flows into funds, financial products, bonds and stocks. [\[Xinhua\]](#)

China Statistics Bureau Chief: Economy Currently Still In Steady Growth Range

China's current economic growth is still in a steady range, and the nation will keep its macroeconomic control policies "basically" stable next year, China Statistics Bureau Chief Ma Jiantang said on Monday. China will aim to keep overall consumer price rises stable next year and make its policies more targeted, flexible and forward-looking, Ma said in remarks published in the Study Times, a newspaper operated by the Communist Party School. "2012 will be an extremely challenging and complicated year," Ma said, citing growing global uncertainties brought about by the deepening European sovereign debt crisis and global financial market turbulence, which would add uncertainties to China's economy. China will also "fine-tune" economic policies in the year ahead in line with economic changes, Ma said. [\[Dow Jones\]](#)

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