

Boeing sets 300 plane order, plant with China

US aerospace giant Boeing has reached deals with Chinese firms to sell 300 aircraft and open a completion centre in the Asian country...

massive Chinese market despite a growth slowdown in the world's second largest economy that threatens to cut into the expansion of air travel.

The state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) also signed an agreement with Boeing on Tuesday to set up a "completion centre" in China for its narrow-body 737 airliners...

Myanmar inaugurates \$1.5 billion economic zone

Myanmar's vice-president opened on Wednesday a \$1.5 billion manufacturing complex aimed at luring investment and creating jobs...

Economic Zone at a ceremony at the site, an hour's drive from the commercial capital of Yangon. The plan is for the zone eventually to host about 100 factories employing more than 40,000 people.

Corp, Marubeni Corp and Sumitomo Corp as well as the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Asian business sentiment drops

Philippine firms most positive

TOKYO, Sept 23, (RTRS): Sentiment at Asia's biggest firms tumbled in the third quarter at record pace due to growing worries about the economic slowdown in China and the risks it poses to the global outlook...

The Thomson Reuters/INSEAD Asian Business Sentiment Index, representing the six-month outlook at 79 firms, was 60 in the September quarter from 71 in June and 66 a year prior.

The 11-point quarterly decline was the steepest since the survey began in 2009, dragging the index to its lowest in almost four years, and showing the extent of damage that a slump in Chinese shares during the quarter had on regional corporate sentiment.

The survey, featuring responses from Japan's Canon Inc, South Korea's Kia Motors Corp and India's NTPC Ltd among others, also showed concern about a decline in emerging-market currencies, which is a threat to economic activity as firms could scale back expansion plans.

Adapt "Global uncertainty hasn't gone away," said Antonio Fatas, economics professor at INSEAD in Singapore. "In fact, it is getting bigger because of China. Asia does not have another engine to replace China. The region has to adapt to that."

Companies in Singapore were the most pessimistic with the country's index falling to 14 from 59, as its financial sector and its port — the world's busiest

container hub after Shanghai — feel the chill from China's slowdown. Only five companies from China replied to the survey, none of which was downbeat. Only one was concerned about the domestic economy...

The survey's biggest gainer was the Philippines which jumped to 100 from 78 in the previous quarter, as the country's economy defies a regional slowdown due to robust government spending.

Thomson Reuters and global business school INSEAD conducted the poll from Sept 7-19. Of 79 respondents, 20 percent had a negative outlook - the most in six years. The survey showed 30 percent of companies were neutral, while 41 percent were optimistic about business conditions for the next six months.

Curb The index measuring the financial sector fell to a record low of 40 as the prospect of a prolonged slowdown in China could further roil financial markets and curb demand for new loans.

Asia's lenders, such as India's HDFC Bank Ltd and PT Bank Rakyat Indonesia (Persero) Tbk, cited concerns about the currency market, stocks and oil prices.

Companies outside the financial sector also expressed concern about the recent sell-off in emerging-market currencies because it hurts their ability to diversify away from home.

Osborne aims to make China Britain's second-biggest trading partner by 2025 UK's finance minister wins China investment



British finance minister George Osborne (3rd left), speaks with Chinese Vice-President Ma Kai (not seen) during the seventh China-UK strategic economic dialogue at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing on Sept 21. (AFP)

LONDON/BEIJING, Sept 23, (RTRS): British finance minister George Osborne won an offer of more Chinese investment in Britain on Wednesday but his trip to a violence-prone region of China drew criticism from a human rights group.

Hualing Industry and Trade Group, based in China's Xinjiang region, intends to invest 60 million pounds (\$90 million) to kick off the three projects in Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield which will have a final gross value of 1.2 billion pounds.

The ministry said the projects, led by Britain's Scarborough Group, are expected to deliver 10,000 new homes, part of the government's efforts to spur development in northern England which has lagged growth in London and the south-east.

Osborne said he was aiming to make China Britain's second-biggest trading partner by 2025, compared with its number-six ranking now. He also announced 10 million pounds in extra funding to enable thousands more British schoolchildren to learn Mandarin by 2020.

Osborne's decision to visit the Xinjiang region prompted criticism from the exiled World Uyghur Congress which said he should have used the trip to draw attention to what the group says is China's repression of Uighurs.

Tensions between Muslim Uighurs who call the region home and the majority Han Chinese have resulted in bloodshed in recent years. Hundreds have been killed in violence across the region, blamed by Beijing on Islamist militants.

At least five police officers were killed by separatists in Xinjiang, according to a report by US-based Radio Free Asia on Wednesday.

"Britain cannot, because of its economic interests, tacitly agree with China's repression of Uighurs," Dilxat Raxit, a spokesman for the World Uyghur Congress, said in an email.

Australian consumer confidence jumps

CANBERRA, Australia, Sept 23, (AP): Australian consumer confidence has jumped following the ouster of the country's unpopular prime minister last week by a moderate rival.

Abbott was one reason for his unpopularity. Australia's economy has suffered from China's slowdown, the main market for mainland exports of iron ore and coal.

Turnbull is already claiming to have boosted business confidence but has given no timetable for policy measures that would promote productivity, business confidence and investment in a sluggish economy.

investment funds

Table with columns: Funds, Fund Manager, Valuation, Valued date, Currency, Net Asset Value (NAV), Prev NAV, Prev NAV Date. Includes sub-sections like National Bank of Kuwait, Gulf Bank, Al Ahli Bank, Burgan Bank, Boubyan Bank, Kuwait Investment Co., National Investment Co. (NIC), Al Mai Investment, Kuwait Financial Centre (Markaz), Kuwait & Middle East Financial & Inv. Co., and Global Investment House.

Table with columns: Funds, Fund Manager, Valuation, Valued date, Currency, Net Asset Value (NAV), Prev NAV, Prev NAV Date. Includes sub-sections like Sectoral Funds, Kuwait Finance & Investment Co (KFIC), KAMCO, Al Madar Finance, Al Madina Finance & Investment Co., Wafra International Investment Co., Shuaa Capital Co., Al Dar Investment Co., Al Aman Investment, Gulf Investment Corp., Ahli United Bank, Bayan Investment Company, Tharwa Investment Co., Bank Al-Bilad, Commercial International Bank, Noor Financial Inv. Co., Al Zumorroda Investment Co., Al Safat Investment Co., Al-Intiaz Investment Co., KFH Capital Investment Co., CapCorp Investment Co., A'ayan Leasing & Investment Company, Boubyan Capital Investment Co., and Kuwait Real Estate Investment Co.