

Asian bourses face mixed trading in coming week

HONG KONG, July 15: Asian markets face mixed trading in the coming week with Tokyo expected to break 17,000 points, but other bourses are likely to suffer after Wall Street's fall on Friday on dimmed hopes of a further interest rate cut, brokers said, reports Reuter.

In New York, US blue-chip stocks and bonds fell on Friday as strong June retail sales dashed hopes of another interest rate cut soon. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 18.66 points to 4,708.82.

Brokers in Tokyo said their market was "incredibly strong" and should post sharp gains while Hong Kong will be looking to Sino-US relations and the performance on Wall Street for pointers. Taiwan is set to consolidate.

TOKYO: The Tokyo Stock Market is expected to resume its crusade with some brokers betting the benchmark Nikkei is set to break through the 17,000 mark.

On Friday, the 225-share Nikkei closed a shade ahead, up 12.3 points at 16,517.70, a gain of 1.9 per cent on the week.

"This market's incredibly strong at the moment. Given that we had a seven-session winning streak which led the market up 15 per cent from its recent low, we've only seen a very minor correction the last days," Brandon Ginsberg, of Salomon Brothers, said.

The Colombo stock exchange all-share index closed the week 3.21 points higher at 752.28 from 749.07 the previous week.

JAKARTA: Indonesian share prices are likely to rise on enhanced buying by investors in the coming week after the Friday-Saturday weekend, dealers said.

The focus for the week is expected to be on the elections to the upper house of parliament on July 23.

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pected to rebound in the coming week after local interest rates fell to a six-month low on Friday.

Brokers said third-lines and speculative property stocks were likely to be on the active list, with local players expected to actively trade them.

The Jakarta composite index closed at 508.26 points on Friday, against 509.14 the previous week.

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian market is expected to gain further as the recent uptrend gathered momentum and was drawing higher volumes, traders said.

But attention was expected to be on speculative and smaller-capitalisation counters, they said. Foreign institutions which were sidelined last week as blue chips are still considered pricey, are likely to continue staying out.

The Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange's composite index closed the week more than 14 points up at 1,074.17. Tough resistance is seen at 1,100.

KARACHI: Pakistani stocks are likely to rise on enhanced buying by investors in the coming week after the Friday-Saturday weekend, dealers said.

Enhanced buying of blue chips, available at attractive levels, was expected after the opposition ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) called off weekly anti-government strikes for Fridays and Saturdays, a dealer said.

But others are more positive, suggesting the index is now heading up towards 2,230. Dealers say the battle to take over beverage giant Yeo Hiap Seng is likely to dominate trading next week.

MANILA: Philippine Shares are

expected to rebound in the coming week after local interest rates fell to a six-month low on Friday.

"Hopefully, we would see some technical rally," said Archie Arambulo at Crosby Securities. The 30-share composite index closed the week at 2,882.14 from 2,893.4 on July 7.

SEOUL: South Korean Stocks are expected to rise sharply to test the 1,000-point level late in the coming week on the back of bullish investor sentiment, brokers said.

The market will further consolidate early in the week but only to prepare for a sharp rebound later," Park Sang Woon of Seoul Securities said.

Brokers said rising customer de-

posits at brokerage houses would be the major boosting factor. The composite index closed at 972.02 on Friday, up 29.63 points from the previous Friday's close of 942.39.

SINGAPORE: Shares are expected to hold their present levels or move slightly higher in the coming week after five days of gentle gains, brokers said.

The 30-share Straits Times industrials index finished on Friday at 2,188.34, up 28.35 points over the week. Some technical analysts say the market could see some consolidation before it breaks up above a band of resistance between 2,180 and 2,190.

But others are more positive, suggesting the index is now heading up towards 2,230. Dealers say the battle to take over beverage giant Yeo Hiap Seng is likely to dominate trading next week.

On Thursday the Karachi Stock Exchange's 100-share index rose 11.32 points to 1,664.87.

COLOMBO: Sri Lanka stocks, which ended the week flat, should open the coming week on a cautious note, analysts said.

"Due to the on-going fighting in the north, investors will continue to take a back seat unless they see exceptional bargains," Anush Amarasinghe of CBC Crosby stock brokers said.

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