

Global stock markets take another beating

AFP, Tokyo

World equity markets spiralled lower Monday as Asia and Europe took their cue from a pre-weekend Wall Street slump sparked by renewed US economic fears, credit concerns and record high oil prices.

Investors were rattled by a steep US decline on Friday, when worries about the outlook for the world's largest economy grew amid poor earnings news on the 20th anniversary of the New York market crash.

Elsewhere Monday, the record-breaking European single currency hit a record high 1.4347 dollars. A strong euro makes eurozone exports more expensive for buyers using weaker currencies, and therefore weighs on European shares.

Frankfurt, London and Paris stock markets slid by about 1.50 percent in European mid-morning deals on Monday. Earlier in Asia, Tokyo tumbled 2.24 percent and Hong Kong slumped 3.7 percent.

Global finance chiefs said over the weekend that the recent financial market turbulence, high oil prices and a US housing downturn were likely to "moderate" global growth from its recent robust

levels.

"Investors have been spooked by three main things," said Barclays Capital analyst Henk Potts on Monday.

"Number one is concern that the problems we have been seeing in the credit market could last longer than originally hoped, and number two is the oil price reaching record levels last week.

"Number three was some disappointing numbers from Caterpillar, which was a sign that the problems we have been seeing are starting to affect the corporate picture."

Potts added that global stock markets were still in positive territory for the year -- despite the fresh downturn.

On Wall Street before the weekend, the Dow Jones index lost a hefty 2.64 percent on Friday after several major companies reported soft earnings and showed caution about the profit outlook.

Caterpillar, the US maker of heavy equipment which is regarded as highly sensitive to global economic conditions, offered weak guidance going forward.

"Uncertainty about the prospects for the US economy have increased after disappointing

earnings amid the credit tightening concerns," said Kazuhiro Takahashi, equity general manager at Daiwa Securities SMBC.

The market has been sensitive to the financial sector given recent US credit market problems. A weak earnings report from banking giant Wachovia, which offered murky guidance going forward, added to market worries.

The dollar also suffered fresh losses after Group of Seven finance chiefs refrained from voicing increased concern about currencies, which markets took as a green light to drive the greenback down to fresh lows.

The yen shot higher, hitting Japanese exporter shares, as the latest stock market rout prompted investors to unwind risky bets funded by selling the Japanese unit.

Japanese exporters have benefited greatly from the weakness of the yen, so investors react nervously to any sign of the currency appreciating.

Wall Street's steep decline Friday sent "shockwaves" through the South Korean market, said Lim Dong-Min, a stock analyst at Dongbu Securities.

Dollar sinks on fears over US economy

AFP, Tokyo

The dollar suffered fresh losses against the yen and hit a record low against the euro in Asian trade Monday as concerns about the US economy sparked another rout on global stock markets, dealers said.

The euro shot higher after top world finance chiefs refrained from voicing increased concern about currencies at their meeting on Friday, which dealers took as a green light to drive the greenback down to fresh lows.

The dollar fell to 114.06 yen in Tokyo afternoon trade from 114.53 in New York late on Friday as speculators unwound risky "carry trade" bets that involve selling the Japanese currency to buy higher-return assets.

The euro rose to as high as 1.4347 dollars before easing back to 1.4323 by mid-afternoon trade here. The euro fell to 163.34 yen from 163.76.

"The dollar-selling pressure is largely based on general concerns about the US economy," said Yusuke Hosokawa, head of forex at Chuo Mitsu Trust Bank.

"Friday's decline in US stocks reignited concerns and sparked another wave of dollar selling," Hosokawa said.

The dollar dropped to as low as 113.27 yen as the renewed falls on global stock markets undermined investor risk appetite and prompted an unwinding of carry trades, dealers said.

"Yen-buying sentiment may continue for the time being as players are trying to avoid potential risk," Hosokawa said.

The Group of Seven finance chiefs said the functioning of financial markets was improving after recent market upheavals, and refrained from voicing increased concern about currencies.

The G7 statement "gave the green light to further dollar depreciation," noted analysts at Barclays Capital.

There had been some concern that European politicians might push for steps to try to prop up the dollar given the negative impact of a stronger euro on eurozone exporters.

But the finance chiefs only reiterated that exchange rates "should reflect economic fundamentals" and that excess volatility is undesirable for economic growth.



Md Shafiqul Islam, chief technical officer of Grameenphone, and KM Nurul Islam, project director of City Centre, sign an agreement on behalf of their organisations in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Grameenphone will provide In-Building Solution (IBS) at the City Centre to strengthen indoor GSM coverage. Other officials were also present.



AKM Kamal Uddin, deputy managing director of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL), speaks at the inaugural session of the training programme on 'Anti-Money Laundering (2nd Phase)' at the bank's training institute in Dhaka recently. Other officials were also present.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (October 22, 2007) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Major currency exchange rates	Exchange rate of some currencies			
	BC Sell	TT Buy	Per USD	BDT per Currency
US dollar	69.40	68.40		
Euro	100.71	96.36	Indian rupee	38.89 1.73
Pound	143.66	138.55	Pak rupee	60.63 1.14
Australian dollar	63.08	59.42	Lankan rupee	112.95 0.81
Japanese yen	0.62	0.60	Thai baht	34.18 2.02
Swiss franc	60.61	57.30	Malaysian ringgit	3.38 20.40
Swedish krona	11.53	10.19		
Canadian dollar	73.20	69.82	USD forward rate against BDT	
Hong Kong dollar	8.97	8.81	Buy	Sell
Singapore dollar	48.53	46.57		
AUD dollar	19.06	18.48	1M	68.53 69.53
Saudi riyal	18.69	18.15	2M	68.67 69.76
Danish kroner	13.99	12.53	3M	68.83 69.98
Kuwaiti dinar	245.98	243.42	6M	69.40 70.79



Dr Pratul B Pawar, director of medical services of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, and Zafar Iqbal Chowdhury, chairman of Bangladesh National Voluntary Society, exchange documents after signing an agreement on behalf of their companies in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Apollo Hospitals Dhaka will provide medical services and special corporate benefits to the staff and members of the society. Senior executives from both sides were present.

TRADED ISSUES October 22, 2007

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Company	FMV/L (Tk/No)	Price	Change	Turnover	Price	Change	Turnover	Last AGM	EPS	Divs	Company	FMV/L (Tk/No)	Price	Change	Turnover	Last AGM	EPS	Divs															
DSE										CSE										Other Info													
BANK										BANK										Other Info													
AB Bank	100/5	305.75	-0.45	3071.50	352.20	-1.51	3089.50	1015	0.60/0.07	71.6	Deja Garments	100/10	72.00	0.00	71.75	20	Not	Not															
Citi Bank	100/5	829.75	-1.34	818.75	625.06	-2.20	816.50	5230	0.64/0.07	20.2	Jallo Spinning	100/10	99.00	0.00	98.75	20	Not	Not															
IFIC Bank	100/5	303.25	-1.30	3096.50	1333	-10.75	Not	Not	25/10/07	37.8	BEXTEL Ltd	100/20	21.00	1.45	20.70/103601	21.00	2.94	20.40/643200															
Islamic Bank BD	100/5	459.50	-4.44	4199.00	7145	-457.50	6.83	4233.00	443	13.60/0.07	147	Sumit Spinning	100/10	98.75	0.00	98.50	20	Not	Not														
National Bank	100/5	131.00	-0.50	131.00	131.00	-0.50	131.00	131.00	131.00	131.00	Dynasty Textile	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	17.75	Not	Not															
Pahadi Bank	100/5	1002.50	0.25	1000.00	9661	1019.00	0.72	1011.75	10525	31.07/0.07	40.2	Mithun Knitting	100/20	158.70	8.72	147.00	4980	104.00	Not														
Rupali Bank	100/5	100.00	-0.75	100.00	100.00	-0.75	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	Mithun Textiles	100/20	41.75	1.21	41.25	1600	42.00	43.50															
UCC Bank	100/5	513.00	-1.50	5201.25	12790	-100.50	2.00	518.75	522	13.20/0.07	35.2	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Urbana Bank	100/5	405.00	0.83	4016.50	5266	4032.50	0.72	4039.50	725	20.04/0.07	62.2	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
UPL Finance	100/20	127.55	-1.55	1294.25	4153	1291.75	-2.14	1320.00	209	16.04/0.07	75.5	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Eastern Bank	100/5	1074.00	2.30	1045.75	10790	1010.00	1.00	1057.25	3880	12.04/0.07	49.3	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
United Leasing	100/20	619.25	0.02	613.00	18780	619.25	0.02	613.00	18780	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Urbana Bank	100/5	675.00	2.08	661.75	26069	665.00	0.76	660.00	100	25.04/0.07	70.1	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Al Arada (Islam Bank)	100/5	561.50	0.92	561.50	561.50	0.92	561.50	561.50	561.50	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Prime Bank Ltd	100/5	910.50	7.18	849.50	18710	910.50	7.18	849.50	18710	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
southeast Bank	100/5	561.50	0.92	561.50	561.50	0.92	561.50	561.50	561.50	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Dhaka Bank	100/5	664.25	5.52	629.50	45164	669.75	6.12	631.75	12740	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
S.C.C Bank	100/5	408.00	7.77	434.25	17924	436.75	6.66	435.75	2116	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Social Invest Bank	100/5	361.00	38.27	307.00	28370	367.50	38.27	307.00	28370	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Dutch Bangla Bank	100/5	589.00	1.16	582.25	201	590.00	Not	590.00	Not	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Vidya Finance	100/5	441.50	3.09	425.25	2893	440.00	2.89	437.50	350	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Mutual Trust Bank	100/5	583.25	10.00	570.25	102565	586.25	10.93	583.25	19850	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
First Leasing	100/5	346.75	1.09	343.00	18563	346.75	1.09	343.00	18563	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Standard Bank	100/5	565.75	1.44	557.50	1222	565.75	1.44	557.50	1222	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
One Bank	100/5	598.50	3.59	577.25	10397	591.50	2.28	583.25	10313	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Bank Asia	100/5	515.00	4.46	491.00	25556	529.25	5.55	501.50	7916	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Eastern Bank	100/5	565.75	1.44	557.50	1222	565.75	1.44	557.50	1222	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Export Import Bank	100/5	444.00	5.72	440.00	183178	441.50	5.72	440.00	183178	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
People's Leasing	100/5	300.00	2.72	299.25	25312	300.00	2.72	299.25	25312	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Prime Leasing	100/5	565.75	1.44	557.50	1222	565.75	1.44	557.50	1222	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Islamic Finance	100/5	187.25	1.18	183.75	12750	186.00	1.18	183.75	12750	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Jamuna Bank	100/5	103.25	0.92	102.25	20171	103.25	0.92	102.25	20171	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Standard Bank	100/5	454.00	0.57	453.00	26550	454.00	0.57	453.00	26550	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
Islamic Finance	100/5	187.25	1.18	183.75	12750	186.00	1.18	183.75	12750	0.70/0.07	58.6	Delta Spinning	100/20	13.00	0.00	13.00	13.00	13.00	13.00														
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