

Electronics makers keep eye on US economy

REUTERS, Las Vegas

Electronics makers considering the strain on the U.S. economy are hoping consumers will cut other expenses first, but many see some worrying signs ahead.

Gathered in Las Vegas this week for the "Consumer Electronics Show, gadget, cell phone and television makers are placing their bets on whether U.S. economic troubles from rising unemployment to mortgage market problems will stop consumer spending.

"We need to watch just how cold sentiment is getting," Toshiko Fujimoto, chief executive of Sharp Corp's Sharp Electronics, said on Sunday. "We can't say business is especially good."

Sony Corp's Sony Electronics President Stan Glasgow, who oversees the U.S. electronics business, told Reuters the company had strong sales in recent months, boosted by demand for its Bravia line of televisions.

But Glasgow noted that any slowdown would likely appear first in items such as high-end digital video cameras, as opposed to big screen TVs.

"On the horizon I see that things are getting tougher," he said.

Television and cell-phone makers see their products as must-haves -- or perhaps indulgences to ease larger pains.

"Cell phones are a necessity,"

Muzib Khan, vice president of product management for Samsung Electronics Co Ltd's U.S. telecom business told Reuters in an interview.

Bill Ogle, chief marketing officer for Samsung Telecommunications America, said fourth-quarter sales had risen strongly -- but he noted weakness at the end of the quarter among U.S. carriers.

"We know our carriers have said that toward the end of the selling season business was slowing," Ogle said, adding it was not clear if slowing sales related to the timing of customer contract expirations or other reasons such as the economy.

LG Electronics Inc U.S. Vice-

President of Marketing Allan Jason said consumer electronics was to some extent "recession-free" since travel was often a first cut in discretionary spending.

"If they are spending more time at home, sometimes it means that they are upgrading their consumer electronics product," he said, although he allowed that a very soft economy could slow sales growth in LCD panels, which the company expects to double in the United States over the next year.

But Jason also said LG would bend on price "if the market is not moving quickly enough."

Riddhi Patel, principal television analyst at research firm iSuppli, said she sees North American LCD unit shipments falling 29 percent in the first quarter of 2008 from the last quarter of 2007 -- a much steeper decline than the 5 percent drop seen in the first quarter of last year.

"That cannot be all cyclical," she said.

Overall for 2008, however, she sees 29 percent growth.

"North America is a brutally competitive market. That's particularly true of TVs," Philips (PHG.AS) Consumer Lifestyle strategy chief Kevin Lewis told Reuters in an interview.

"This industry continues to be wonderful in some ways and a tragedy in others. It's a train wreck in many ways," he headed.

Gemini Sea Food proposes 25pc dividend

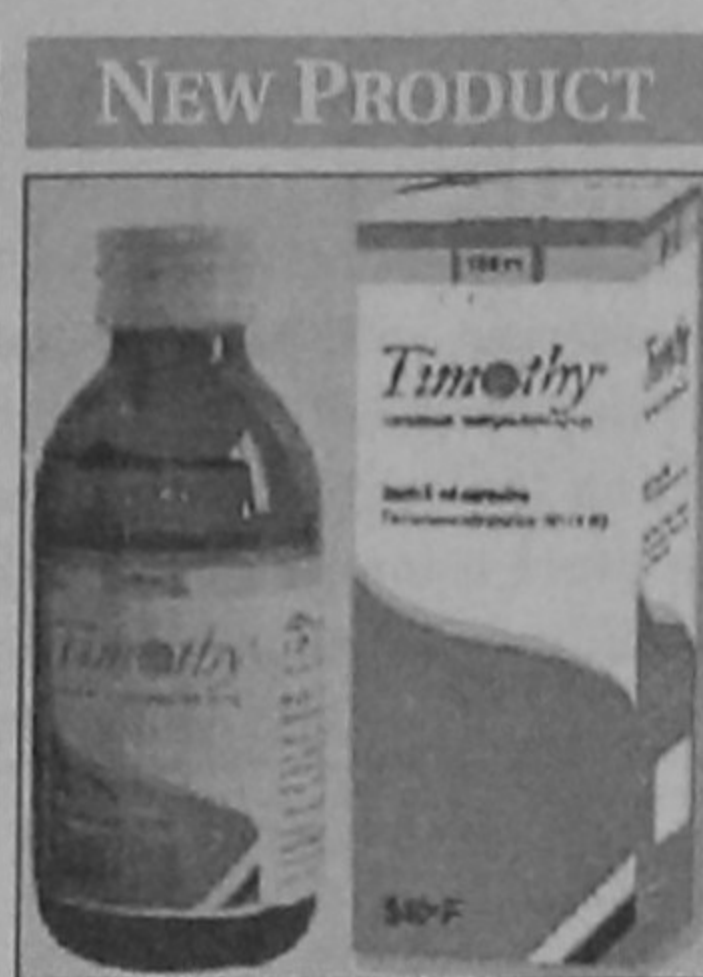
Gemini Sea Food Ltd has proposed a 25 percent dividend for its shareholders for the year 2006-07.

The proposal came at the 25th annual general meeting (AGM) of the company held recently in Khulna, says a press release.

Chairman of the company Amina Ahmed presided over the AGM, which was also attended by directors and managing director among others.



The 25th annual general meeting (AGM) of Gemini Sea Food Ltd was held recently in Khulna. Chairman of the company Amina Ahmed presided over the AGM, which was also attended by directors and managing director among others.



Eskayef launches syrup for spasmodic pain treatment

Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, one of the leading pharmaceutical companies in Bangladesh, has launched Timothy syrup, indicated for the management of spasmodic pain caused due to gastroenteritis, biliary colic, enterocolitis, cholecystitis and mild cystitis.

Each 5 ml Timothy syrup contains titanium methylsulfate INN 10 mg and is presented in 100ml bottle, says a press release.

This is for the first time in Bangladesh, titanium preparation has been launched in syrup form that assures prompt relief of visceral spasmodic symptoms. The syrup is now available across the country.



New MD of Consumer Promotions

Md Ataullah has recently taken over as managing director of Consumer Promotions Limited (CPL), says a press release.

He was previously the chief operating officer of the company.



Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 7/1/2008

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/3	Mercy Wisdom	Raw Sugar	Reunion	Park	6/1	13/1	—
J/4	Andreas-K	Rice(G)	Kaki	Ascl	30/12	10/1	2050
J/6	Sezela	Cont	Sing	Mdbi	4/1	7/1	13
J/7	Libar Car	Vehi	Sing	Nyk	5/1	7/1	732
J/8	Asar-A-Mostafa	Rice(P)	Yang	Cla	4/1	10/1	1553
J/9	Martha Russ	Cont	Col	Mdbi	4/1	7/1	—
J/11	Phu Tan	Cont	Sing	Bsca	6/1	9/1	542
Co/1	Kota Rancak	Cont	Sing	Pi(Bd)	5/1	8/1	—
Co/2	Banga Borak	Cont	Sing	Barshi	3/1	7/1	—
Nc/1	Marvel	Cont	Col	Psal	4/1	7/1	—
Rm/3	Amey	Cdso	Durb	Esl	4/1	9/1	—

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Rig Deep Driller-5	—	—	Ibsa	30/9
Pacific Cheetha	—	—	Ibsa	R/A (3/1)
Nor Sea	—	—	Ibsa	R/A (5/1)
Champion	Crude Oil	Jebel	Uniglobal	29/12
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	—	Bsc	R/A (6/1)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready	Cont	Sing	Apl	6/1
Merkur Bridge	Cont	Sing	Apl	6/1
Hohebank	Cont	Sing	Mdbi	6/1
Eagle Pioneer	Cont	P. Kel	Ct	6/1
Sc Shanghai	Cpo	Dumai	Wth	4/1

Vessels not ready

Al Deerah	Hsd	Kuwa	Mstpl	2/1
Power	Slag	Viza	Ancl	4/1

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Banga Lanka	Ballast	Kara	Bdship	20/11
Crown-1	—	Ind	Brothers	3/1
Banga Bar	—	—	Fsa	R/A (16/12)
Banglar Robi	—	—	Bsc	R/A (25/12)
Sadanand	Ballast	Hald	Mvsl	2/1
Banglar Shikha	—	—	Bsc	R/A (6/1)

Vessels not entering

Boga Saridua	C. Clink	Indo	Basund	1/1
Golden Star	C. Clink	Tarj	Bsl	1/1
Aminas	R. Sugar	Mumb	Usl	1/1
Ali Murtaza	Gypsum	Krabi	Saraf	1/1
Chung Jin-2	Urea(Bcic)	Sing	Seacom	2/1
Banglar Mookh	Urea	Mesid	Bsc	3/1
Abg Keshva	C. Clink	Sing	Saraf	3/1

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Kissama	7/1	Kol	Bsca	Cont	Para
Banga Biraj	7/1	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Donglai Fortune	7/1	Sing	Seacon	Cont	Col
Banga Biyo	8/1	Col	Bandhi	Cont	Col
Banga Bara	9/1	Kol	Bandhi	Cont	Sing
Dabari	9/1	Para	Cosco	Cont	Col
Taiyung Rosa	9/1	Yangon	Sunshine	Gi(Log)	—
Shwe Thara Pru	8/1	Yang	Td	Rice(P)	—
Hoang Gia Ai	8/1	Chenn	Hsa	Raw Sugar	—
Cape Henry	8/1	Col	Apl	Cont	Col
Straits Success	9/1	Sing	Nyk	Vehi	16 Pkgs
Rhine Forest	9/1	Suez	Brsi	Lash Barge	—
New Diamond	8/1	Kore	Barwil	Gi(HrSt)	3500 W/Lt
Sona	9/1	Kol	Sunshine	Bunker	—

The above is the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by ITCC Family, Dhaka.



BRAC Bank Ltd has recently introduced 'Probashi Banking Service' for non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs). Naushad Hussain, head of the specialised banking solution, formally inaugurated the service in Dhaka on Wednesday.



Managing Director of Bata Bangladesh JD Hearn hands over 1600 pairs of school shoes to Mohammed Delwar Hossain, president of Velayet Hossain High School of Tangail, for the students under the shoe company's ongoing 'Back to School' promotional campaign. Marketing Manager MA Quader is also seen at the handover ceremony held recently at the company's factory in Tongi.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (January 7, 2008) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

	BC Sell	TT Buy		Per USD	BDT per Currency
US dollar	69.15	68.15			
Euro	103.12	98.74	Indian rupee	39.12	1.76
Pound	137.52	132.50	Pak rupee	62.25	1.10
Australian dollar	61.65	58.00	Lankan rupee	108.63	0.63
Japanese yen	0.65	0.62	Thai baht	33.38	2.06
Swiss franc	63.41	59.82	Malaysian ringgit	3.28	20.91
Swedish krona	11.57	10.22			
Canadian dollar	70.30	67.14	USD forward rate against BDT		
Hong Kong dollar	8.89	8.72			
Singapore dollar	49.38	47.35		Buy	Sell
UAE dirham	18.98	18.41	1M	68.30	69.27
Saudi riyal	18.58	18.03	2M	68.47	69.52
Danish kroner	14.36	13.31	3M	68.66	69.78
Kuwait dinar	249.88	246.84	6M	69.32	70.69

* All currencies are quoted against BDT

* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction

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Local Market FX

Inter-bank FX market was active on Monday as the international market opened after the weekend break. The BDT remained almost unchanged against the USD, and there was ample demand in the inter-bank market.

Money Market

Money market was active on Monday. The call money market eased a little and most of the deals ranged between 5.00-6.20 percent.

International Market

The international market started in full force, as investors started the first full trading week of 2008 by covering short positions in the dollar. This helped the dollar rebound from one-month lows versus a basket of major currencies set in the wake of weak US jobs data on Friday. The US payrolls report showed an employment rise of just 18,000 in December -- less than even the most bearish forecast.

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Company	FV/ML (Tk.No.)	Price	Turnover	Share	Price	Turnover	Share	Last	EPS	CDPS	(%)
Company	FV/ML (Tk.No.)	Closing	Chg (%)	Pre Day	Closing	Chg (%)	Pre Day	Tsur	AGM	FTK	(%)
BANK											
DSE											
ADB Bank *-A	1005	2672.75	0.02	2673.25	20825	2671.00	-0.09	2673.50	1680	06/09/07	71.6
City Bank *-A	1005	670.50	-0.63	674.75	11883	669.00	-1.03	676.50	1270	04/06/07	37.8
ETC Bank *-A	1005	2628.50	0.31	2629.25	39445	2627.75	0.04	2629.75	5682	25/10/07	37.8
Islam Bank BD *-A	10001	6487.75	-0.29	6506.50	1483	6481.00	-0.32	6502.00	64	31/08/07	347.15
National Bank *-A	10020	427.75	-0.17	430.25	1041	423.50	-0.12	432.75	20	30/04/07	12.0
Pubali Bank *-A	10005	384.25	-0.03	384.50	8697	384.00	-0.15	384.50	2342	31/03/07	40.2
UFB *-A	1005	4202.25	1.54	4135.50	12641	4150.00	1.21	4105.75	350	—	252
United Bank *-A	1005	4570.75	-0.31	4585.75	3715	4561.50	-0.10	4607.50	145	30/04/07	62.2
UPLC Finance *-A	10020	1475.25	-0.31	1482.75	501	1455.00	-0.69	1480.00	9	16/04/07	77.5
Eastern Bank *-A	10050	1011.50	-0.15	1013.00	1102	1010.25	-0.19	1013.50	923	12/06/07	45.2
United Leasing *-A	10020	626.75	-0.05	627.00	1102	626.50	-0.05	627.00	291	29/03/07	46.2
Uttara Finance *-A	10050	660.75	0.06	661.00	1306	660.75	0.06	661.00	10	24/04/07	70.3
Prime Bank Ltd *-A	10050	899.25	-0.22	901.50	23661	898.75	-0.31	902.75	1800	13/05/07	40.7
South East Bank *-A	10050	561.25	-0.40	563.50	7217	555.00	-1.16	561.50	714	22/04/07	39.8
Uttara Bank *-A	10050	690.25	-0.14	691.25	1255	691.00	-0.10	691.25	727	23/03/07	35.4
NCC Bank *-A	10050	433.00	-0.64	430.25	15684	431.75	-0.47	432.25	2950	11/09/07	51.2
Social Invest. Bank *-A	10050	566.25	-0.53	568.75	1870	568.25	-0.54	565.75	7350	10/09/07	51.2
Deutch Bangla Bank *-A	10050	200.00	-2.19	212.25	117	200.00	-2.19	212.25	100	20/06/07	45.8
Medina Finance *-A	10050	367.75	-0.17	369.25	5771	367.00	-0.17	369.25	465	17/05/07	47.9
First Lease *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Standard Bank *-A	10050	361.75	-0.61	362.75	24223	359.50	-0.20	362.50	6218	29/04/07	17.8
One Bank *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Bank Asia *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Mercantile Bank *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Eastern Bank *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
People's Leasing *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Prime Finance *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Prime Leasing *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Islamic Finance *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Int'l Leasing *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Standard Bank *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
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Mercantile Bank *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Eastern Bank *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
People's Leasing *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Prime Finance *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.25	4096	547.00	-0.15	548.25	976	20/06/07	45.8
Prime Leasing *-A	10050	547.25	-0.15	548.							