

Global stocks rebound on US rate cut hopes

AFP, Undated

World stock markets cranked back into gear on Tuesday, recovering some of their recent heavy losses as investors pinned their hopes on another US interest rate cut, dealers said.

Asian and European shares rallied after an overnight rebound on Wall Street. The Paris market shook off some of its recent falls that were partly caused by the Societe Generale rogue-trader scandal.

Analysts said news of a bigger-than-expected drop in new US home sales had raised expectations that the Federal Reserve will reduce rates again on Wednesday following last week's steep emergency cut.

In Europe on Tuesday, London's FTSE 100 index of leading shares jumped 1.26 percent to 5,861.80 points. Frankfurt's DAX 30 increased 0.93 percent to 6,881.93 points and in Paris the CAC 40 advanced 1.46 percent to 4,918.92.

Investors also monitored top-level talks in London on Tuesday between leaders of Britain, France, Germany and Italy. The discussions hinge on recent global financial

turnout, and efforts to detect and prevent a repetition.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the US central bank's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) kicked off a two-day meeting on Tuesday to decide whether -- and by how much -- it will trim American interest rates.

"The markets are likely to remain in limbo ahead of tomorrow's FOMC decision," said Callyon analyst Stuart Bennett.

Asian markets clawed back some of Monday's heavy losses but persistent worries about the outlook for the US economy capped the rebound. Tokyo was one of the strongest performers with a gain of 3.0 percent, reversing most of Monday's slump of nearly 4.0 percent.

Hong Kong advanced 1.0 percent and Seoul ended 0.7 percent higher. After diving 7.2 percent on Monday, Shanghai regained 0.87 percent.

Dealers took their cue from Wall Street where the Dow Jones rose 1.45 percent on Monday after the government said that sales of new US homes fell 4.7 percent in December while 2007 new home

sales dropped by a record 26.4 percent.

While the figures raised concerns about the health of the US economy, Wall Street responded positively as the data strengthened market expectations that the Fed will cut rates by up to 50 basis points Wednesday, dealers said.

"The rate cuts will provide a strong psychological support for the stock market," said Peter Lai, director at DBS Vickers in Hong Kong.

"It will help ease fears that the US economy will be in recession. I don't think the US economy will be in a recession. Maybe just a slow-down in growth."

With most analysts predicting the Fed will trim at least a quarter point off its base federal funds interest rate, currently pegged at 3.50 percent, on Wednesday, there is a risk of disappointment if it does not act, dealers said.

"Everyone's very nervous," said a London-based dealer on Tuesday.

"I suspect today and tomorrow will be quiet, ahead of the rate decision, at which point we will focus on (US) payrolls data on Friday."

Bush lobbies for more FTAs

AFP, Washington

US President George W. Bush on Monday urged a conclusion to long-running talks on a Doha global trade deal and appealed for new free trade agreements to ensure America can compete in the world economy.

"Today, our economic growth increasingly depends on our ability to sell American goods, crops, and services all over the world. So we are working to break down barriers to trade and investment wherever we can," Bush said in his State of the Union speech.

"We are working for a successful Doha round of trade talks, and we must complete a good agreement this year," said Bush of the talks his administration launched in Doha, Qatar in 2001 and which have repeatedly stalled.

"At the same time, we are pursuing opportunities to open up new markets by passing free trade agreements."

World Trade Organization members in Switzerland earlier this month launched a new round of negotiations to agree a global trade deal to reduce trade barriers and subsidies.

The talks have been bogged down for the past six years because of disputes between developed and developing countries over agricultural subsidies and import tariffs on industrial goods.

Bush also thanked Congress for approving a recent trade agreement with Peru, and appealed to lawmakers to pass more such deals with Colombia, Panama, and South Korea.

Sales convention of Bangladesh held

Nestle Bangladesh Ltd, a leading packaged food and beverage company, organised its 'Sales Convention-2008' in Dhaka on Saturday, says a press release.

Carlo Cifello, managing director, and Mohsin Uddin Ahmed, sales director of Nestle Bangladesh, among others, were present at the conference.

Sales officials of the company across the country took part in the convention.



Niaz Rahim, managing director of Rahimafrooz Superstores Ltd, the owning company of leading chain supermarket Agora, and Md Reza Arfin, managing director of Casada Technology Bangladesh Ltd, exchange documents after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on digital signage service in Dhaka recently. Under the MoU, Casada will set up display system at Agora outlets to show product information and updated news and promotions on it.



Beautician Farzana Shakil has recently entered into an agreement with Market Access Providers Ltd, the brand custodian of Italian CMYK brand skin care products in Bangladesh. As per the deal, she will act as the brand ambassador for CMYK products in the country. Tahmeed A Huq, group executive director of Market Access, and Farzana Shakil signed the deal.

Today's Flight Schedule. Dhaka - Chittagong. Flight No. 5Q-111, 5Q-115. Chittagong - Dhaka. Flight No. 5Q-112, 5Q-116. Fly with Boeing 737 @ Tk. 3,900 (one way). Hotline: +8802 8855254, 01713381102. BEST AIR logo.



Eastern Bank Ltd and Malaysia Airlines have recently entered into an agreement under which the bank's selective credit cardholders will get exclusive priority services from the airline. Mamoon Mahmud Shah, head of Consumer Banking of the bank, and Nur Shaffik Harris, area manager (Bangladesh) of the carrier, signed the deal, while senior officials from both the sides were present.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Table with columns: Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 29/1/2008. Includes columns for Berth No., Name of vessels, Cargo, L. Port call, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving, and Import disch.

Vessels at Kutubdia

Table with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo, Last Port call, Local agent, Date of arrival.

Outside Port Limit

Table with columns: Rig, Deep Driller-5, Nor Sea, Wira Keris.

Vessels at outer anchorage

Table with columns: Vessels ready, Vessels not ready.

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Table with columns: Crown-1, Borak, Banglar Bhoi, Banglar Shikha, Banglar Maya.

Vessels not entering

Table with columns: Sarim, Ryong Nam-2, Ka Glory, Mairi, Pan Express, Radonex, Golden Kiku, Santa Suria-II, Ali Murtaga, Tug Epic Challenger.

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Table with columns: An Qing Jiang, Nord Scan Mumbai, Belicia, Global Progress, Kola Cahaya, Xuan Cheng, Titan-7.

Tanker due

Table with columns: AMA-3, Phlures, Gem Of Dahaj, Yong Cheng-15, Khadijah.

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

STOCK

TRADED ISSUES January 29, 2008. Large table with columns: Company, FV/ML, Price, Turnover, Last, EPS, DPS, etc. Includes sections for BANK, INVESTMENT, PAPER AND PACKAGING, MISCELLANEOUS, INSURANCE, FUEL & POWER, and TEXTILE.

Turnover Leaders. Table with columns: Company, FV/ML, Turnover, Last, EPS, DPS. Lists companies like Brae Bank, Jamuna Oil, Summit Power, etc.

Market Highlights January 29, 2008. Table with columns: DSE All Share Index, DSE General Index, CSE All Share Index, etc.

Capital Gainers and Capital Losers. Tables with columns: Company, Price Chn, Close, Turnover. Lists companies like Wonder Land Toys, A Amin Chemical, etc.

Non Traded Issues. Table with columns: Company, FV/ML, LCP, DSE, CSE, Last, EPS, DPS. Lists companies like Repah Bank, The Oriental Bank, etc.