

Asian stocks close mixed

AFP, Hong Kong
Asian stocks closed mixed Thursday after another batch of disappointing economic figures in the US showed Wall Street into negative territory and sent regional players into the wings.
However, the extent of the sell-off and a turnaround in early European business led to late bargain hunting which eased some of the pressure and allowed a few markets to end the day slightly higher.
Overnight, the US Commerce Department announced new orders for durable goods fell 1.7 percent in February, disappointing the market, while new home sales in February fell 1.8 percent, the slowest pace since February 1995.
Shanghai was the standout with a 5.2 percent tumble as the release of excess stock continues to bolster supply and weigh on prices.
But once again it was the spectre of a US recession and its impact on Asian exporters that dominated trade as Tokyo slumped 0.80 percent, Taipei

shed 1.85 percent while Seoul lost 0.20 percent.
Hong Kong rose 0.21 percent.
Of the gainers, Bangkok was up 0.66 percent, Jakarta rose 0.4 percent, Kuala Lumpur was up 0.7 percent, Manila gained 0.3 percent and Singapore closed 1.0 percent higher.
Tokyo: Japanese share prices lost ground for a second straight day as investors fretted about a stronger yen and fresh signs of weakness in the US economy.
"Unless home prices stop falling, households are not likely to turn into reliable buyers of stocks," Mitsubishi UFJ Securities head of equity trading Haruki Takahashi said.
MUMBAI: Indian share prices fell 0.44 percent in line with Asian markets which mostly dropped on continued turmoil in the US housing market.
Dealers said India's leading vehicle maker Tata Motors fell 3.56 percent, a day after it said it was buying British luxury icons Jaguar and Land Rover from ailing US carmaker Ford for 2.3 billion dollars.

HONG KONG: Hong Kong share prices closed slightly higher, up 0.21 percent.
SHANGHAI: Chinese share prices plunged 5.42 percent, the sharpest percentage decline in two months, as investors sold off shares massively in the financial and oil sectors.
Dealers said underwriters might cash out as several recently listed companies exited lock-up, referring to the period after an initial public offering when employees and others who have been given shares are not permitted to sell.
Meanwhile, ordinary shareholders, unfamiliar with the unlock practice, started to panic and dump their shares at a loss.
SINGAPORE: Singapore share prices closed 1.0 percent higher as investors pounced on bargains in late afternoon trade following sharp falls earlier in the day.
Dealers said the index tumbled by 1.2 percent in early trade after the latest US economic data renewed pessimism about the health of the world's biggest economy, but

the losses narrowed by midday due to bargain-hunting.
"This is the last few days of the current quarter. There is always window-dressing," said Song Seng Wun, research head at CIMB-GK Research.
KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian share prices closed 0.7 percent higher as bargain hunting on selected blue chips lifted the market.
"The market closed up today mainly on end-of-first-quarter window-dressing activities and some bargain-hunting," said Lee Cheng Hooi, an analyst at MIMB Investment Bank.
BANGKOK: Thai share prices closed 0.66 percent higher as investors chased gains in blue chips, in banking and energy stocks.
But dealers said market sentiment remained clouded by fears over a recession in the United States.
The composite index rose 5.39 points to 822.96 on turnover of 3.10 billion shares worth 16.40 billion baht (522.34 million dollars).



Kaiser A Chowdhury, president and managing director of AB Bank Limited, receives the Century ERA Award for 2007 for the bank's commitment to leadership, technology, and innovation from Jose E Prieto, executive president of Business Initiative Directions (BID), at the 10th BID Quality Convention in Geneva recently.



The distribution channel of Transcom Electronics Limited awarded prizes to few of the company's light bulb retailers in Barisal area recently for their outstanding sales performance. Head of distribution of Transcom Electronics A Kader Khan and other officials of the company were present on the occasion.

Shipping

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 27/3/2008

| Berth No. | Name of vessels | Cargo | L Port call | Local agent | Date of arrival | Leaving | Import disch |
|-----------|------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|--------------|
| J/2 | Bangs Lanka | S.Ash/M.Salt | Col | Baridhi | 26/3 | 28/3 | 1239 |
| J/3 | Fokun | Rice(G) | Gopal | HSA | 27/3 | 29/3 | 1262 |
| J/4 | Rahman-nor-rahim | Yong | Gi(S/Co) | Yang | 26/3 | 29/3 | 335 |
| J/5 | Inter Hubble | Gi(S/Co) | Yang | Prog | 26/3 | 30/3 | 1074 |
| J/7 | Banglar Doct | Urea(Boc) | Ruwa | SSST | 20/3 | - | 1469 |
| J/8 | Ji Yong Guan | Gi | King | Cosco | 27/3 | 29/3 | 2816 |
| J/9 | Bangs Bodor | Gi | P. Kel | Baridhi | 26/3 | 28/3 | 356 |
| J/10 | Unily | Cont | Col | Seacon | 26/3 | 28/3 | 601 |
| J/13 | Kota Raha | Cont | Sing | Pil(Bd) | 25/3 | 28/3 | 42 |
| CCT/1 | Moc Sundaban | Cont | Sing | MBDL | 25/3 | 28/3 | - |
| CCJ/1 | Theodor | G. Slag | Viza | Saraf | 23/3 | 27/3 | - |
| GSJ | Bnc Genesis | Wheat(G) | P. Said | ASCL | 25/3 | 28/3 | - |
| TSP | Bow Hunter | P. Acid | Kaki | RSA | 25/3 | 27/3 | - |

Vessels due at outer anchorage

| Name of vessels | Date of arrival | L port call | Local agent | Type of cargo | Loading ports |
|---------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Appen Anita | 27/3 | Col | PSSL | Cont | Sing |
| Kota Raha | 27/3 | Sing | Pil(Bd) | Cosco | Rice(P) |
| Xin Tong Yu-108 | 27/3 | Yanagooon | Cosco | Rice(P) | - |
| B. Elephant | 27/3 | Via | Intrajort | Scraping | - |
| Azar-A-Mostafa | 28/3 | Yang | Cla | Gi(Lo) | - |
| Eastam Sun | 28/3 | Tarj | BSL | C. Clink | - |
| Fraternity Wisdom | 31/3 | Sing | Everest | Gi(S/C) | - |
| Seasla | 28/3 | Sing | MBDL | Cont | L/Pip |
| Martha Russ | 28/3 | CBO | MBDL | Cont | Col |
| Titan-7 | 30/3 | Viza | PML | Rice(P) | - |
| Jai Vekkalimenaishi | 28/3 | Kand | ASCL | Rice(G) | - |
| Oel Singapore | 29/3 | Sing | Seacon | Cont | Sing |
| Yong Yui-8 | 30/3 | Kol | GCSL | Cont | Sing |
| Oel Excellence | 29/3 | Pki | PSSL | Cont | Sing |
| Marvel | 3/4 | Col | PSSL | Cont | Sing |
| Moc Sapphire | 4/4 | Apt | MBDL | Cont | Pip |
| Eagle Progress | 4/4 | Sing | Everest | Cont | Sing |
| Sumida | 4/4 | Sing | Seacon | Cont | Sing |
| Chi Yun | 4/4 | - | Cosco | TSP | - |
| Apl Lilaic | 6/4 | - | APL | Cont | Col |

Tanker due

| Name of vessels | Cargo | Last port call | Local agent | Date of arrival |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Pacific Ruby | 27/3 | Sing | Pride | Naphtha |
| Yan Shui Hu | 27/3 | Kuwa | MSTPL | HSD/MS |
| Federal-II | 27/3 | Rast | DSL | Crude Oil |
| Tablun | 28/3 | Bela | Pol | CFO |
| Smoot Sea-3 | 31/3 | Belwa | Thai | Pol |

Vessels at outer anchorage

| Name of vessels | Cargo | Last port call | Local agent | Date of arrival |
|---------------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Rig, Deep Driller-5 | - | - | IBSA | 30/3 |
| Kalko-18 | - | - | IBSA | R/A (B) |
| Zakher Amir | - | - | IBSA | R/A (12/5) |
| Geo Diamond | - | - | IBSA | 13/3 |

Vessels not ready

| Name of vessels | Cargo | Last port call | Local agent | Date of arrival |
|-------------------|-------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Cape Bonavista | Cont | P. Kel | Baridhi | 26/3 |
| Aladdin Dream | Gi(S/C) | P. Kel | ANCL | 26/3 |
| Golden Brilliance | R. Phos Acc | Aqaba | Seacon | 27/3 |

Market Highlights

| Company | Price Chn. (%) | Close | Turnover |
|------------------------|----------------|--------|----------|
| AB Bank | -11.80 | 398.99 | 9.91 |
| City Bank | -11.80 | 315.00 | 22.07 |
| IFIC Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Prime Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Public Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| National Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| UCLB | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Uttara Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| DILC Finance | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Eastern Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Al-Arafat Islamic Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Prime Bank Ltd | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Southeast Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Dhaka Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| N C C Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Social Invest Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Dutch Bangla Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Mutual Trust Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| First Lease | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Standard Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| One Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Bank Asia | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Standard Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Mercantile Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Export Import Bank | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Prime Bank Ltd | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Prime Finance | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Prime Finance | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Prime Finance | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Prime Finance | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
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| Prime Finance | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |
| Prime Finance | -11.80 | 272.22 | 2.51 |



Arjun R Fernando, chief operating officer of Hong Kong Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC), receives 'AAA' and 'ST-1' ratings for the bank's excellent long and short term performance in 2007 from Dr Masihur Rahman, managing director of Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh Limited, in Dhaka recently.

STOCK

Award Giving Ceremony for Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh Limited

16th Anniversary

Sharp investing \$727m in solar cell plant

AFP, Tokyo
Japan's Sharp Corp. said Thursday that it was investing 72 billion yen (727 million dollars) in a new solar cell plant to meet fast growing demand for environmentally friendly power generation systems.
Sharp first announced last year a plan to construct the world's largest solar cell plant in the western city of Sakai but did not disclose its investment at the time.

Currency

Following is Thursday's (March 27, 2008) forex trading statement prepared by Standard Chartered Bank.

| Major currency exchange rates | Exchange rate of some currencies | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|
| BC Sell | TT Buy | Per USD | BDT per Currency |
| US dollar | 69.10 | 68.10 | |
| Euro | 100.75 | 106.13 | Indian rupee 39.93 1.72 |
| Pound | 140.11 | 134.92 | Pak rupee 62.90 1.09 |
| Australian dollar | 64.91 | 61.22 | Lankan rupee 107.80 0.64 |
| Japanese yen | 0.72 | 0.68 | Thai baht 31.41 2.19 |
| Swiss franc | 71.15 | 66.79 | Malaysian ringgit 3.20 21.51 |
| Swedish kroner | 12.41 | 10.88 | |
| Canadian dollar | 69.29 | 66.21 | USD forward rate against BDT |
| Hong Kong dollar | 8.90 | 8.73 | Buy |
| Singapore dollar | 51.38 | 49.22 | Sell |
| UAE dirham | 18.97 | 18.40 | 1M 68.34 68.34 |
| Saudi riyal | 18.57 | 18.02 | 2M 68.61 68.68 |
| Danish kroner | 15.18 | 13.71 | 3M 68.92 69.06 |
| Kuwaiti dinar | 255.61 | 252.01 | 6M 69.82 70.20 |

Local Market FX

Local inter-bank FX market was active on Thursday. The market slightly tightened as demand for dollar rose. The BDT remained almost unchanged against the USD.

Money Market

Money market was active on Thursday. The call money market was a little tight and most deals ranged between 7.50 and 8.50 percent compared to 8.50-9.50 percent on Tuesday.

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES

| Company | Price | Turnover | Price Scale | DSE Financial Performance | Chittagong Stock Exchange | DSE Financial Performance |
|---------|-------|----------|-------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Company | Price | Turnover | Price Scale | Last AGM (%) | Company | Last AGM (%) |
| Company | Price | Turnover | Price Scale | Last AGM (%) | Company | Last AGM (%) |

Book Closing/AGM/Dividend/ IPO

| Company | R-Day | Div | Meeting Date | Company | R-Day | Div | Meeting Date |
|-------------------|-------|------|-------------------------|------------------|-------|------|-------------------------|
| Summit Power Ltd. | 19-02 | 48.5 | Premium Tk 45 per share | Sumit Power Ltd. | 19-02 | 48.5 | Premium Tk 45 per share |
| Sumit Power Ltd. | 19-02 | 48.5 | Premium Tk 45 per share | Sumit Power Ltd. | 19-02 | 48.5 | Premium Tk 45 per share |

Non Traded Issues

| Company | DSE | CSE | Financial Performance | Company | DSE | CSE | Financial Performance |
|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------|--------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Company | Last AGM (%) | Last AGM (%) | Last AGM (%) | Company | Last AGM (%) | Last AGM (%) | Last AGM (%) |
| Company | Last AGM (%) | Last AGM (%) | Last AGM (%) | Company | Last AGM (%) | Last AGM (%) | Last AGM (%) |

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