Commodity markets up

AFP, London

Global commodity prices rose this week amid fresh concerns worries over tight supplies of raw materials, particularly for crude oil and metals.

Oil and gold had slid the previous week after striking fresh historic highs.

OIL: Crude prices raced higher on heightened worries about tight supplies as the US government said the country's stockpiles failed to rise last week and as saboteurs attacked a key export pipeline in Iraq.

The data "reflects continued tightness in the crude oil market," said Barclays Capital analyst Costanza Jacazio.

Crude futures bounced even higher on Thursday, reaching more than 107 dollars in New York on news of the Iraq pipeline attack.

Analyst Michael Davies said oil prices also fell on Friday after negative economic comments from US central bank officials "helped to remind the market that energy demand growth could falter in the world's largest consumer."

The weak US currency makes dollar-priced commodities, like gold and oil, cheaper for buyers using stronger currencies, and therefore encourages demand.

GOLD AND SILVER: Gold rose but was well off the record high of 1,032.70 dollars per ounce that was forged the previous week.

"Gold's failure to hold above 950 dollars suggests that in the short-term, the market is still a little top heavy and will remain vulnerable to bouts of profit taking ahead of the month/quarter-end," said James Moore, an analyst at TheBullionDesk.com.

"However, the longer-term outlook remains bullish as investors still seek to offset inflationary pressures created by high fuel costs, ongoing credit liquidity issues, recessionary fears in the US and falling treasury yields."

On the London Bullion Market, gold firmed to 934.25 dollars per ounce at Friday's late fixing, up from 925.75 dollars on Thursday of the previous week.

Silver rallied to 18.36 dollars per ounce from 17.53 dollars.

PLATINUM: Platinum prices moved higher on the back of ongoing production problems in key exporter South Africa.

"Platinum remains well supported," said Barclays Capital analysts.

On the London Platinum and Palladium Market, platinum climbed to 1,990 dollars per ounce at the late fixing on Friday, from 1,823 dollars on Thursday of the previous week.

Palladium increased to 444 dollars per ounce from 430 dollars.

BASE METALS: Base metals rebounded, finding solid support from stretched global supplies and the weak US currency, traders said.

RAINS AND SOYA: Prices were mixed as traders kept an eye on prevailing weather conditions in major producer the United States.

There is "very wet weather over the central United States," said Wachovia Securities Bill Nelson.

"We view these conditions as detrimental for the winter wheat crop in the region. These are also detrimental conditions for the early corn planting."

May-dated soyabean meal -- used in animal feed -- rose to 12.67 dollars from 12.07 dollars.

The price of maize for May delivery increased to 5.50 dollars per bushel from 5.07 dollars.

On LIFFE, London's futures exchange, the price per tonne of wheat for November delivery fell to 150 pounds from 151 pounds.

COCOA: Cocoa prices rebounded after falling sharply on profit-taking the previous week.

The market was rocked by "considerable volatility" which was "largely due to the impact of light speculative selling," said Barclays Capital analysts.

By Friday on LIFFE, the price of cocoa for May delivery rose to 1,320 pounds per tonne from 1,301 pounds on Thursday of the previous week.

COFFEE: Coffee prices also rallied.

SUGAR: Sugar prices were somewhat subdued.

By Friday on LIFFE, the price per tonne of white sugar for May delivery firmed to 337.50 pounds from 325.50 pounds on Thursday of the previous week.

BEPZA

Officials of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) and M/s Modiste (Bangladesh) sign a lease agreement at BEPZA Complex recently. As per the deal, M/s Modiste, a locally owned company, will set up a textile and garments manufacturing plant in Karnaphuli EPZ with an investment of US$15.6m.

PUBALI BANK

Helal Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Pubali Bank Limited, inaugurates a collateral free credit line 'Non-Resident Credit Scheme', aimed to provide financial support for overseas employment of Bangladeshis, by handing over a cheque to Abdus Sattar Majumder, who is looking for an employment in Dubai, in Dhaka recently.

STANDARD BANK

Mosharraf Hossain, managing director of Standard Bank Limited (SBL), presides over the bank's "Managers' Conference-2008" in Dhaka recently. Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed, chairman of the board of directors, and Mohammad Shamsul Alam, vice chairman, of SBL attended the conference. Other senior officials of the bank were also present.

HSBC

Steve Banner, CEO of Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) in Bangladesh, distributes the prize to the winner of the bank's promotional campaign titled HSBC Wedding Loan' at a function in Sylhet recently.

Tata Motors close to building Thai plant

ANN/ The Nation

Indian automaker Tata Motors, following its takeover of Jaguar and Land Rover in the UK, will likely have one more achievement to cheer about.

The Madras-based Business Standard daily newspaper reported there was a likelihood of Thailand's Board of Investment (BoI) approving the company's proposal to manufacture eco-cars in the Kingdom.

Weekly Currency Roundup

March 23-March 27 2008

Local FX Market

Local inter-bank FX market was mostly tight throughout the week; however the BDT remained almost unchanged against the USD.

Money Market

Overnight money market eased during the week with liquidity conditions. Range moved from 10.00-15.00 to 7.50-8.50.

International Markets

International market was subdued this week as many markets across the world were closed for Easter weekend holidays. The dollar was on a rise as the week begun, as investors sold commodities such as oil and gold and bought back the US currency, partly to take profits on winning positions before a long weekend and the first quarter wraps up on Monday. Confidence in US assets was partially restored by the Federal Reserve's aggressive efforts to relieve the credit crisis. The gains in dollar were extended on Monday as JPMorgan raised its offer by fivefold, for stricken banking heavyweight Bear Stearns, and as existing US homes sales rose in February. The euro fell by 0.4 percent on Monday and the dollar rose 0.3 percent against the yen. The dollar fell broadly on Tuesday, snapping four days of gains, with persistent nerves on US economic health dominating sentiment. This occurred as nagging doubts on the overall outlook for the greenback saw investors selling the currency again due to skepticism on the chances of a sustained recovery despite aggressive Federal Reserve efforts to boost liquidity in the financial system. The dollar fell for a second straight session on Wednesday weighed down by surprisingly weak US durable goods orders and remarks by European Central Bank chief Trichet that euro zone rates were at the right level. That left investors focusing on the widening interest rate differential between the United States and the euro zone, driving euro to $ 1.5845. The dollar edged up against the euro on Thursday as the demand for the US currency rose with the looming first quarter end giving the dollar some short term support after two days of steep losses on contrasting US and euro zone data.

Commodities

The week begun with crude oil falling on concern an economic slowdown in the US will reduce demand and the rise in dollar would prompt investors to sell the commodity. Crude oil for May delivery declined by 1.6 percent, to $100.20 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile on Monday. As the week progressed crude oil rose by 5 percent and traded near $106 a barrel on Wednesday as gasoline surged to a record on a US government report that showed supplies dropped more than forecast.

Gold regained some composure overnight and traded around an upward trend intraday on Wednesday with physical trading being spurred once again as bargain hunters pounced on dips as the dollar traded within a cent of its record low against the euro. Gold for immediate delivery advanced to $954.90 an ounce on Thursday, the highest since March 19.

- Standard Chartered Bank

STOCK

TRADED ISSUES of the WEEK March 23 - 27 ,2008

Company	FV/ML (Tk./No.)	DSE Price Closing	DSE Chg.(%)	DSE Pre.Wk.C	DSE Turnover Share	CSE Price Closing	CSE Chg.(%)	CSE Pre.WkC	CSE Turnover Share	Last AGM	EPS (Tk.)	CDPS (%)
BANK												
AB Bank* - A	100/5	3304.75	3.86	3182.00	101706	3300.00	3.81	3179.00	43600	06/09/07	71.6	---
City Bank* - A	100/5	580.25	-0.56	583.50	36324	592.00	1.67	582.25	6700	04/06/07	20.2	---
IFIC Bank* - A	100/5	2716.25	1.82	2667.75	54056	2728.00	1.89	2677.50	12440	25/10/07	37.8	---
Islami Bank BD* - A	1000/1	3658.25	[illegible]	3719.25	10267	3872.00	2.42	3733.50	937	31/08/07	34.7	15.0
National Bank* - A	100/20	935.50	-0.77	942.75	48613	941.00	0.48	936.50	12320	10/04/07	42.0	---
Pubali Bank* - A	100/5	862.00	0.61	856.75	78367	861.00	1.09	851.75	13630	31/03/07	40.2	---
UCBL* - Z	100/5	4330.75	-1.25	4385.75	22375	4400.00	0.39	4383.00	3597	---	25.2	---
Uttara Bank* - A	100/5	4967.25	7.50	4620.75	41159	5000.00	8.20	4621.25	4620	30/04/07	62.2	20.0
IDLC Finance* - A	100/20	1444.75	-1.08	1460.50	34058	1479.00	-0.77	1490.50	2848	16/04/07	77.5	5.00
Eastern Bank* - A	100/20	1029.75	-0.56	1035.50	26221	1019.00	-1.14	1030.75	820	12/06/07	49.5	20.0
United Leasing* - A	100/20	546.00	2.83	531.00	21274	---	Not	Listed	---	07/05/07	58.6	20.0
Uttara Finance* - A	100/50	654.00	1.32	645.50	25437	639.25	0.39	636.75	500	25/04/07	70.3	10.0
Al Arafa Islami Bank* - A	100/50	368.25	2.08	360.75	35799	364.50	1.04	360.75	7950	13/05/07	40.7	---
Prime Bank Ltd.* - A	100/50	670.00	1.63	659.25	34803	670.00	1.82	658.00	3299	29/03/07	46.2	---
Southeast Bank* - A	100/50	556.75	1.50	548.50	180055	560.00	3.23	542.50	25535	22/04/07	39.8	20.0
Dhaka Bank* - A	100/50	578.25	0.09	577.75	21991	579.00	-0.34	581.00	6967	28/03/07	37.5	10.0
N C C Bank* - A	100/50	459.75	2.28	449.50	122786	460.75	2.50	449.50	40779	29/04/07	35.4	10.0
Social Invest. Bank* - Z	100/50	353.50	-5.23	373.00	153260	353.50	-6.30	377.25	21350	10/09/07	5.15	---
Dutch Bangla Bank* - A	100/50	3842.50	-70.36	12965.5	18006	4160.25	-69.94	13840.0	300	30/04/07	179.	25.0
Midas Financing* - A	100/50	335.50	2.91	326.00	10696	320.25	Not	Traded	---	13/12/07	17.6	5.00
Mutual Trust Bank* - A	100/50	512.00	0.34	510.25	25338	515.00	1.53	507.25	8162	17/05/07	47.9	20.0
First Lease - A	100/50	323.00	1.33	318.75	6576	320.00	-1.39	324.50	400	20/06/07	45.8	---
Standard Bank* - A	100/50	300.25	3.00	291.50	96805	300.50	3.18	291.25	36105	29/04/07	17.8	---
One Bank* - A	100/50	453.25	4.02	435.75	46835	460.00	4.96	438.25	7158	29/04/07	33.3	10.0
Bank Asia* - A	100/50	503.25	3.81	489.50	47933	550.00	12.82	487.50	3281	30/04/07	34.1	---
Mercantile Bank* - A	100/50	320.75	-0.85	323.50	35143	318.00	-2.15	325.00	11000	31/05/07	32.9	---
Export Import Bank* - A	100/50	379.25	4.55	362.75	103381	381.00	3.46	368.25	23807	03/06/07	36.1	20.0
People's Leasing* - A	100/50	300.25	1.01	297.25	20700	305.00	0.91	302.25	750	23/06/07	33.2	---
Prime Finance* - A	100/50	651.00	1.68	640.25	24086	665.00	4.72	635.00	1566	29/04/07	30.9	20.0
Premier Leasing* - A	100/50	197.50	-1.37	200.25	35025	205.00	2.50	200.00	6268	28/05/07	19.8	15.0
Islamic Finance* - A	100/50	212.25	-1.16	214.75	39722	220.00	2.80	214.00	6800	07/06/07	18.1	12.5
Jamuna Bank* - A	100/50	323.75	0.00	323.75	41287	320.00	-0.39	321.25	9866	09/09/07	20.6	---
LankaBangla Finance* - A	10/500	97.80	-0.81	98.60	1158000	99.30	0.40	98.90	531000	28/05/07	1.91	10.0
BIFC* - A	100/50	222.25	-1.11	224.75	28250	223.25	0.11	223.00	4950	21/05/07	20.6	10.0
IPDC* - A	100/50	314.00	2.87	305.25	32674	313.00	2.96	304.00	12208	22/05/07	25.0	10.0
Brac Bank* - A	100/50	1022.75	1.59	1006.75	140325	1100.00	9.05	1008.75	39674	18/06/07	27.8	---
Shahjalal Islami Bank* - Z	100/50	347.00	1.61	341.50	117645	345.00	1.32	340.50	33900	---	24.7	---
Premier Bank* - N	100/50	275.50	1.75	270.75	102950	279.00	2.39	272.50	41450	---	20.7	---
Union Capital Ltd* - N	10/500	58.90	-0.84	59.40	380000	60.80	1.33	60.00	201500	---	1.38	---
BD Finance* - N	100/50	279.75	-1.50	284.00	13050	270.00	-7.46	291.75	5400	---	14.8	---
Intl. Leasing* - N	100/50	686.75	-6.56	735.00	19100	678.00	-9.48	749.00	1500	---	44.2	---
Phoenix Finance* - N	100/50	375.25	-0.20	376.00	22250	383.75	2.74	373.50	2800	---	23.4	---
Trust Bank* - N	100/50	586.50	0.82	581.75	149005	584.00	0.74	583.50	80200	---	22.5	---
Fidelity Assets* - N	100/50	278.00	13.35	245.25	115850	274.75	12.03	245.25	68300	---	3.77	---
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

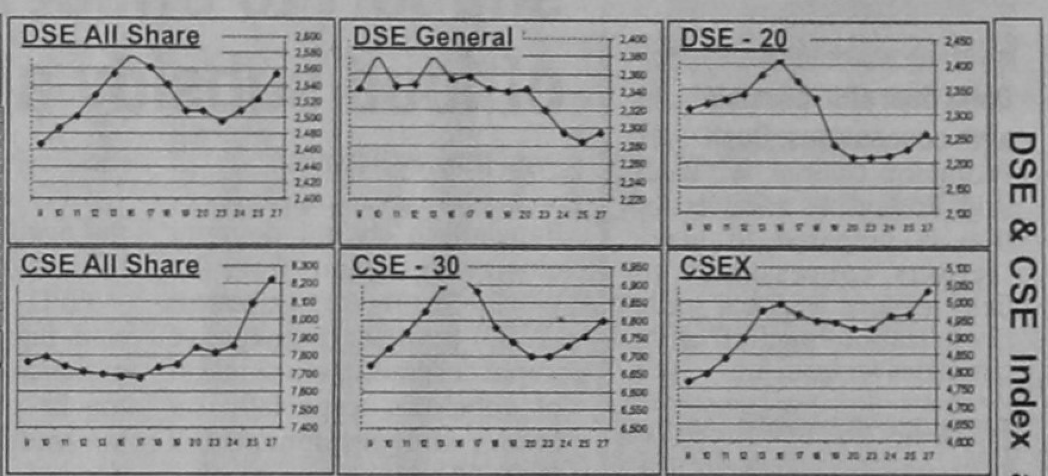
Market Highlights

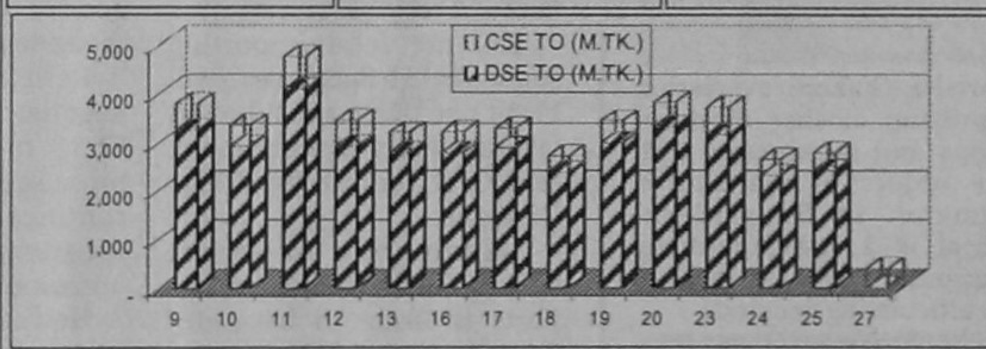
Week March 23 - 27, 08

DSE All Share Index : 2512.90296 (-) 1.64%
DSE General Index : 2972.08844 (-) 1.76%
DSE - 20 Index : 2306.42379 (+) 2.11%
CSE All Share Index: 8223.87420 (+) 4.80%
CSE - 30 Index : 6979.28460 (+) 2.65%
CSE Selected Index : 5301.66240 (+) 5.36%

Indicators	DSE	CSE
Total Turnover (Taka)	7,892,677,532.55	1,669,253,519.00
Total Turnover (Volume)	59,406,191	18,702,867
Number of Contract	211,223	50,946
Total Traded Issues	264	181
No. of Issue Gain (Avg. Price Basis)	131	126
No. of Issue Loss (Avg. Price Basis)	132	54
No. of Unchanged Issue (Avg. P. Basis)	1	1
Market Cap. (Taka)	705,356,102,509	687,724,081,206
Market Cap. (US$)	10,297,169,380	10,039,767,609
Total No. of Listed Securities	287	227
Total No. of Listed Companies	267	211
Total No. of Listed Mutual Fund	14	14
Total No. of Listed Debenture	6	2
Total No. of Share & Deb.	2,118,981,716	414,612,267
Total Issued Capital	104,763,440,150	101,507,693,980
Price Earning Ratio	25.69	25.78
Earning Per Share (%)	29.82	29.52

DSE & CSE Index and Turnover





Turnover Leaders

Company	Turnover (Vol.)	Turnover (M.Tk.)	Turnover (%) T	C Avg. Price
Square Pharma* -A	126,578	4,903.80	6.17	3,874.13
Power Grid Co. * -A	608,650	4,118.49	5.19	676.66
Beximco Pharma* -A	4,656,242	3,678.90	4.63	79.01
AB Bank * - A	101,706	3,366.56	4.24	3,310.09
DESCO Ltd.* -A	297,250	3,158.73	3.98	1,062.65
Grameen M F One*-A	1,668,000	2,136.37	2.69	128.08
Uttara Bank * - A	41,159	2,006.10	2.53	4,874.02
Lafarge Surma Cement*-G	334,205	1,786.89	2.25	534.67
Apex Adelchi Footwear* -A	54,401	1,742.22	2.19	3,202.56
ICB AMCL 1st NRB* -A	223,300	1,589.52	2.00	711.83
AB Bank * - A	43,600	1,440.36	8.51	3,303.57
Beximco Pharma* -A	1,256,748	1,002.13	5.92	79.74
Square Pharma* -A	18,978	784.91	4.64	3,929.24
Power Grid Co. * -A	91,500	640.95	3.79	700.49
Meghna Petroleum* -N	222,900	636.45	3.76	285.53
LankaBangla Finance* -A	531,000	528.08	3.12	99.45
Heidelberg Cement* -A	39,405	517.70	3.06	1,313.80
Lafarge Surma Cement*-G	94,350	512.74	3.03	543.44
BEXTEX Ltd.* -A	2,462,815	472.86	2.79	19.20
Trust Bank*-N	80,200	469.69	2.78	585.65

Capital Gainers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Price Chn. (%) Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
BLTC -Z	48.59	48.60	342.50	0.219
BEMCO Ltd.-Z	41.49	41.77	66.50	0.028
Dandy Dyeing -Z	37.75	37.05	52.00	0.580
Bangas* -A	34.14	39.62	653.25	2.756
Stylecraft -A	32.98	32.99	1,675.50	0.168
Sonargaon Textiles -A	31.23	31.13	171.25	0.309
Jute Spinners -A	29.31	29.34	1,034.50	0.222
Apex Foods -A	25.74	19.66	1,188.25	56.542
Amam Sea Food -Z	25.68	20.00	255.75	0.222
Quasem Textile -Z	25.00	24.92	4.00	0.026
Sonargaon Textiles -A	59.72	59.72	115.00	0.006
Fahad Industries Ltd.	35.14	35.14	5.00	0.005
Apex Foods -A	32.57	32.26	1,280.00	2.822
Monno Fabrics -B	30.87	23.32	124.00	2.193
Apex Spinning - A	29.82	28.40	545.25	0.3020
Dynamic Textile -Z	29.73	29.54	36.00	0.140
Beximco Fisheries*-Z	29.37	28.52	40.75	0.108
Shinepukur Holdings* -Z	28.69	28.93	39.25	20.954
Bangladesh Lamps *-A	25.75	25.44	1,075.75	0.757
Prime Textile -A	24.03	20.18	160.00	0.649

Capital Losers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Price Chn. (%) Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
Dutch Bangla Bank*- A	-70.36	-70.33	3,842.50	69.002
Perfume Chemical -Z	-18.33	-13.85	63.50	1.649
Ambee Pharma* -A	-18.21	-4.09	137.40	7.7525
Wata Chemicals -Z	-15.32	-14.94	241.75	0.3791
Therapeutics -Z	-14.78	-9.47	572.25	1.2593
Anwar Galvanizing -B	-14.68	-12.02	138.00	1.641
8th ICB M F*-A	-13.31	-9.92	945.75	9.177
3rd ICB M F*-A	-12.47	-9.50	2,027.00	1.613
M. Hossain GarmentS -Z	-12.38	-5.50	23.00	0.617
BD. Monospool Paper -Z	-12.00	-10.09	60.50	0.1806
Dutch Bangla Bank*- A	-69.94	-69.94	4,160.25	1.2481
Perfume Chemical -Z	-17.00	-15.2	62.25	0.044
Sandhani Life Insu* -A	-16.97	-17.35	2,050.00	0.1163
Grameen M F One*-A	-15.69	-17.41	109.60	18.7026
Mita Textiles -Z	-15.38	-15.5	55.00	0.012
ICB AMCL Islamic M F*-A	-11.35	-7.27	560.00	7.480
ICB AMCL 1st M F*-A	-10.40	-8.07	715.00	1.209
6th ICB M F*-A	-10.26	-10.74	1,002.00	0.261
Singer Bangladesh *-A	-10.00	-10.11	2,036.25	0.102
8th ICB M F*-A	-9.91	-8.99	1,000.00	0.6010

Non Traded Issues

LCP=Last Closing Price. LTD=Last Trading Date

Company	FV/ML (Tk./No.)	DSE LCP	DSE LTD	CSE LCP	CSE LTD	Last AGM	EPS (Tk.)	DPS (%)
BANK								
Rupali Bank - Z	100/10	2904.25	01/11/07	2826.75	31/10/07	05/12/07	11.58	----
The Oriental Bank -Z	1000/5	928.00	21/06/06	Not	Listed	15/09/05	-481.2	----
FOOD & ALLIED								
E.L. Camellia	100/5	5787.50	21/06/07	Not	Listed	08/05/07	611.00	25.0
Yousuf Flour -B	10/50	23.80	10/03/08	Not	Listed	19/12/07	0.58	----
BD. Plantation -A	100/5	1080.00	18/03/08	Not	Listed	26/12/07	51.64	14.0
Hill Plantation -A	100/5	1120.00	13/03/08	Not	Listed	26/12/07	18.77	12.0
JUTE								
Sonali Ansh -Z	100/5	231.00	18/03/08	Not	Listed	27/12/07	28.45	----
TEXTILE								
Al-Haj Textile -A	10/50	60.00	29/10/07	Not	Listed	27/12/07	2.76	----
GMG Indl. Corp. -Z	10/50	30.30	19/02/06	81.00	08/03/06	18/12/07	-6.51	----
Arbee Textile Mills -Z	10/10	81.00	08/05/99	Not	Listed	29/06/06	-3.75	----
Chic Tex -Z	10/500	2.70	16/01/08	2.50	15/01/08	30/12/04	0.05	----
CMC Kamal Tex. -Z	100/50	52.00	19/12/07	94.00	22/10/03	30/06/05	5.75	----
PHARMA & CHEM.								
JMI-Bangla Co. Ltd.	100/50	Not	Listed	60.00	20/03/08	---	---	---
Petro Synthetic -Z	10/50	7.00	06/01/08	Not	Listed	27/09/07	-1.00	---
PAPER and PACKAGING								
Azadi Printers -A	100/10	60.00	08/06/06	80.00	13/05/07	25/12/06	122.50	10.0
SERVICE								
BD.Hotels -A	10/50	0.00	---	Not	Listed	10/12/07	6.67	35.0
BD.Service -A	10/50	11.00	10/12/03	Not	Listed	11/12/05	2.00	---
MISCELLANEOUS								
Khaza Mosaic Tiles	10/500	Not	Listed	3.00	05/10/05	---	0.76	---
Phoenix Leather -Z	100/5	360.00	23/01/07	Not	Listed	27/12/07	-3031	---
The Engineers -A	100/5	111.00	01/12/04	Not	Listed	29/12/07	899.57	25.0
Savar Refractories -Z	100/5	125.25	19/03/08	Not	Listed	03/01/08	0.72	---
Himadri Ltd. -A	10/100	7.20	21/09/04	Not	Listed	16/06/07	1.65	10.0

Note: Capital Gainer and Loser tables are prepared on the basis of the average price change of the traded issues. In the trade table price change is calculated between closing prices. CDPS= Cash Dividend Per Share in %. EPS=Earning per Share. CDPS & EPS are corresponding to the Last AGM report that held on the date mentioned in the last AGM col. ** CDBL Listed Companies