Asian stocks close lower on Wall Street's lead

AFP, *Hong Kong*

Asian stocks closed mostly lower on Monday, in volatile trade, with sellers stung by negative sentiment from last week's falls on Wall Street winning a tug-of-war battle with bargain hunters.

US stock markets closed lower Friday after a government survey showed American consumers had pulled in their belts a few notches last month amid lingering economic uncertainty.

A profit warning from the giant retailer JC Penney also depressed US investor optimism and this impacted on sentiment in Asia, where bargain hunters had recently been scouring the markets for good buys.

Tokyo shed 2.3 percent, Hong Kong fell 1.88 percent, Shanghai was down 3.0 percent, Mumbai tumbled 4.44 percent, Jakarta was off 1.2 percent, Bangkok fell 0.99 percent, Kuala Lumpur was 0.9 percent lower and Sydney eased 0.1 percent.

Singapore closed 0.81 percent weaker and Taipei was down 0.59 percent but Seoul closed steady while bargain hunting helped Manila to a 1.0 percent gain as Wellington rose 0.67 percent.

Key US economic data expected to grab market attention this week includes March figures for non-manufacturing activity, and the March employment data.

TOKYO: Japanese share prices tumbled 2.30 percent, hit by losses on Wall Street late last week and by caution ahead of a key survey of domestic business confidence.

Dealers said a drop in Japanese industrial output did little to lift sentiment as investors adjusted positions on the last day of the fiscal year.

The Nikkei-225 index declined 294.93 points to 12,525.54. Turnover rose to 1.84 billion shares from 1.8 billion shares on Friday.

Investors took a cautious stance ahead of the release Tuesday of the Bank of Japan's closely watched Tankan survey, which is expected to show a marked deterioration in business sentiment, dealers said.

MUMBAI: Indian share prices plunged 4.44 percent as sentiment weakened on discouraging US economic data and rising local inflation concerns.

Dealers said the market was weighed down on concerns of a tighter monetary policy after India's finance minister P. Chidambaram said at the weekend the government will take all steps to lower inflation, even if it slows down economic growth.

The Sensex fell 726.85 points to 15,644.44.

"Investors unwound positions unclear of global trends and the possibility of tighter monetary policy to lower inflation," said Advait Date, dealer with brokerage BHH Securities.

HONG KONG: Hong Kong share prices closed lower, down 1.88 percent, on profit-taking after gains last week, with Wall Street's falls and weak US economic data prompting caution.

Dealers added that A-share drops in Shanghai also weighed on sentiment, as investors took cash after shares jumped 10.3 percent last week, the strongest performance of the month.

The Hang Seng index closed down 436.75 points at 22,849.20. Turnover was 74.50 billion Hong Kong dollars (9.57 billion US).

SHANGHAI: Chinese share prices closed 3.00 percent lower as speculation about the introduction of market-friendly policies by the government receded.

Dealers said rumours about a cut in the stamp duty and other potential policies prompted a surge in the stock market last Friday, but those hopes faded after confirmation of the speculation failed to materialise over the weekend.

The Shanghai Composite Index closed down 107.43 points at 3,472.71 on turnover of 66.8 billion yuan (9.6 billion dollars).

SINGAPORE: Singapore share prices closed 0.81 percent lower on profit-taking, with concerns over a slowing US economy weighing on market sentiment.

The Straits Times Index closed down 24.54 points at 3,007.36 on volume of 1.61 billion shares worth 2.19 billion Singapore dollars (1.59 billion US).

ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH

A business partner offers a bouquet of flower to M Fariduddin Ahmad, executive president of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, on the occasion of silver jubilee celebration of the bank on Sunday.

SONY

Rangs Electronics Limited known as Sony-Rangs has launched new sales programme named 'audio united'. The programme will continue till April 15, 2008. Deputy Managing Director of Rangs Electronics Limited J. Ekram Hussain, Henry Lee-RMD Sony Singapore, and Casey Teo-Master Trainer RMD Sony Singapore, among others were present at the launching function.

PAPER RHYME

Representatives from Bangladesh Engineering Industries Owners' Association, Bangladesh Electrical Merchandise Manufacturing Association, and Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia pose for photographs at a function in Dhaka on Sunday. The SouthAsia Enterprise Development Facility of IFC has brought them together as part of IFC's initiative to promote and develop Bangladesh's light engineering sector by facilitating effective business linkages with the global supply chain.

Islami Bank celebrates silver jubilee

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited celebrated its 25th founding anniversary on Sunday, says a press release.

186 branches, 10 zonal offices and head office were decorated with different colourful banners, posters and festoons on the occasion.

Clients were greeted with flowers. Customers and well-wishers expressed their cordial greetings to the executives, officers and employees of the bank.

Prof Abu Nasser Muhammad Abduz Zaher, chairman of the Board of Directors, and M Fariduddin Ahmad, executive president of the bank, expressed their gratefulness to the Allah for the progress so far achieved.

Currency

Following is Monday's (March 31, 2008) forex trading statement by **Standard Chartered Bank.**

Major currency exchange rates

	BC Sell	TT Buy
US dollar	69.20	68.20
Euro	110.96	106.33
Pound	139.68	134.49
Australian dollar	64.87	61.18
Japanese yen	0.71	0.68
Swiss franc	70.89	66.55
Swedish kroner	12.48	10.94
Canadian dollar	69.03	65.96
Hong Kong dollar	8.91	8.74
Singapore dollar	51.44	49.27
UAE dirham	18.99	18.42
Saudi riyal	18.59	18.04
Danish kroner	15.49	13.74
Kuwaiti dinar	255.98	252.37

Exchange rate of some currencies

	Per USD	BDT per Currency
Indian rupee	39.68	1.73
Pak rupee	62.85	1.09
Lankan rupee	107.81	0.64
Thai baht	31.55	2.18
Malaysian ringgit	3.19	21.58

USD forward rate against BDT

	Buy	Sell
1M	68.44	68.44
2M	68.70	68.78
3M	69.01	69.15
6M	69.92	70.30

Local Market FX

Local inter-bank FX market was active on Monday as international markets opened after the weekend break. The market slightly tightened as demand for dollar rose. The BDT remained almost unchanged against the USD.

Shipping

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 31/3/2008

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo call	L. Port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Asraf-a-mostafa	Gi	Yang	Cla	28/3	1/4	1698
J/3	Jai Vekkali Meenakshi	Rice(g)	Kand	Ascl	28/3	1/4	976
J/4	Shwe Zay Yar Aung	Rice(p)	Pateh	Tcl	25/3	1/4	802
J/7	Xin Tong Yu-108	Rice(p)	Yang	Cosco	30/3	3/4	–
J/8	San Mateo	Vehi	Sing	Nyk	31/3	1/4	–
J/9	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Hald	Seacon	30/3	1/4	–
J/10	Dongtai Fortune	Cont	Col	Seacon	30/3	1/4	524
J/12	Oel Singapore	Cont	Sing	Seacon	29/3	1/4	595
J/13	Oel Excellence	Cont	P. Kel	Pssl	29/3	1/4	337
Nct/1	Banga Lanka	W/ld Cont	Col	Baridhi	19/3	31/3	–
Doj/6	Pacific Ruby	Naptha	Hald	Pride	29/3	1/4	–

Vessels due at outer anchorage date: 31/3/2008

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Yong Yue-8	31/3	Kol	Qcsl	Cont	Sing
Chin Shwe Haw	1/4	Yang	Mta	Rice(p)	–
Fraternity Wisdom	31/3	Sing	Everett	Gi(st.c)	–
Banglar Urmi	31/3	Mesai	Pml	Urea(bcic)	–
Phu My	31/3	Sing	Ipl	Cont	Sing
Josco View	31/3	P.kel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Eagle Pioneer	1/4	P. Kel	Ct	Cont	Yangoon
Full Rich	1/4	Hald	Barwil	Gi(st. Bil)	–
Surreal	1/4	Mongo	Pml	Repair	–
Bo Tong Gang	1/4	Fang	Unique	7700 Tsp 949 S.Ash	
Black Rose	1/4	Sing	Psal	C. Clink	–
Pagan	3/4	Yang	Mta	Rice(p)	–
Banga Borti	2/4	Cbo	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Tabago Bay	1/4	Sin	Mbdl	Cont	Ptp

Tanker due

Ama-3	31/3	Mala	Jnship	Cpo	Rm/3
Al Kuwaitiah	1/4	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd	–
High Glow	1/4	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd	–
Chun Feng	2/4	Indo	Wth	Cpo	–
Zhong Ve-5	4/4	Indo	Rysl	Cpo	Rm/3/4
Smooth Sea-3	5/4	Belwa	Pol	Cpo	Rm/4

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Vessels at outer anchorage				
Vessels ready				
Tabtim	Cpo	Bela	Pol	29/3
Banga Borak	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	30/3
Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	31/3
Merkur Bridge	Cont	Sing	Apl	31/3
Vessels not ready				
Al Sabiyah	Hsd/sko	Kuwa	Mstpl	20/3
Yanshuithu	Hsd/ms	Kuwa	Mstpl	29/3
Titan-7	Rice(p)	Viza	Pml	30/3
Vessels awaiting employment / instruction				
Anatolia	Repair	–	Rsship	R/a (20/2)
Alexi-iii	Idle	Chin	Uml	6/3
Fokus	–	–	Hsa	R/a (28/3)
Rahman-noor-rahim	–	–	Cla	R/a (29/3)
Banglar Mamata	–	–	Bsc	R/a (27/3)
Vessels not entering				
Sarim	C. Clink	–	Litmond	R/a (25/3)
Voriosipiroshellas	Mop(p)	Pireus	Litmond	21/3
Madina-ke-chand	Raw Sugar	Kaki	Cla	23/3
Santa Barbara	C. Clink	Kant	Uniship	24/3

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

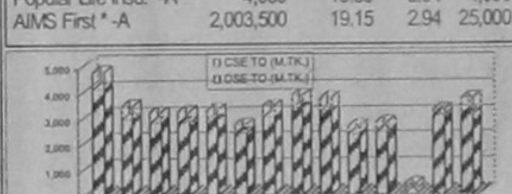
STOCK

TRADED ISSUES March 31, 2008

Company	FV/ML (Tk./No.)	DSE Price Closing	DSE Chg.(%)	DSE Prv.Day	DSE Turnover Share	CSE Price Closing	CSE Chg.(%)	CSE Prv.Day	CSE Turnover Share	Last AGM	EPS (Tk.)	CDPS (%)
[illegible]												

Turnover Leaders

Company	Turnover (Vol.)	(M.Tk.)	(%) T	BigLot
AB Bank * - A	65,001	224.15	7.37	395
Square Pharma* -A	47,560	195.37	6.42	200
Power Grid Co. * -A	246,156	165.61	5.44	3,750
LankaBangla Finance* -A	1,247,000	132.17	4.34	13,000
Uttara Bank * - A	23,341	129.39	4.25	135
Beximco Pharma* -A	1,298,518	99.83	3.28	47,300
Lafarge Surma Cement*-G	175,350	99.51	3.27	2,000
IFIC Bank* - A	33,688	95.11	3.13	500
DESCO Ltd.* -A	83,850	88.68	2.92	500
Heidelberg Cement* -A	50,093	69.70	2.29	945
AB Bank * - A	18,525	63.76	9.78	500
LankaBangla Finance* -A	340,000	36.06	5.53	12,000
Square Pharma* -A	8,512	34.92	5.36	385
Fareast Islami Life Ins* -A	8,550	30.18	4.63	7,900
IFIC Bank* - A	10,170	28.74	4.41	125
Lafarge Surma Cement*-G	40,514	22.90	3.51	500
Meghna Petroleum* -N	79,000	22.30	3.42	3,300
Jamuna Oil* -N	75,300	21.39	3.28	1,400
Popular Life Insu.* -A	4,000	19.80	3.04	4,000
AIMS First * -A	2,003,500	19.15	2.94	25,000



Market Highlights

March 31, 2008

DSE All Share Index :	2547.34359	(-)	0.18%
DSE General Index :	3016.48988	(-)	0.17%
DSE - 20 Index :	2317.33913	(-)	1.03%
CSE All Share Index:	8329.01430	(+)	0.33%
CSE - 30 Index :	7120.05420	(-)	0.19%
CSE Selected Index :	5380.16300	(+)	0.39%

Indicators	DSE	CSE
Total Turnover (Taka)	3,041,946,679.45	651,652,197.50
Total Turnover (Volume)	18,418,513	5,701,621
Number of Contract	69,840	15,360
Total Traded Issues	254	161
No. of Issue Gain (Avg. Price Basis)	72	57
No. of Issue Loss (Avg. Price Basis)	182	101
No. of Unchanged Issue (Avg. P. Basis)	-	3
Market Cap. (Taka)	721,729,263,281	696,367,165,348
Market Cap. (US$)	10,536,193,625	10,165,944,020
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.	2,119,866,775	414,612,267
Total Issued Capital	104,851,946,050	101,507,693,980
Price Earning Ratio	24.65	24.45
Earning Per Share (%)	31.85	31.58

Capital Gainers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
Aramit -*A	18.41	14.49	171.70	0.663
BLTC -Z	13.98	13.80	452.50	0.158
BEMCO Ltd.-Z	13.83	13.87	88.50	0.013
Monno Ceramic -A	10.34	9.80	376.25	1.972
Dutch Bangla Bank*-A	8.95	8.54	4,564.00	16.856
Shahjalal Islami Bank* -Z	26.30	28.83	335.00	1.076
Delta Spinners -A	19.87	19.87	137.25	0.003
Aramit -*A	19.76	19.73	140.60	0.007
ISN Ltd. -*A	19.25	17.73	28.50	0.400
Monno Ceramic -A	15.59	16.15	383.75	0.0307

Capital Losers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
Pharmaco -Z	-16.98	-22.79	144.25	0.635
Dynamic Textile -Z	-13.04	-7.37	30.00	0.526
Rose Heaven Ball Pen -Z	-13.04	-11.02	4.00	0.3885
Maq Paper -Z	-12.73	-12.85	24.00	0.0072
Bangas* -A	-12.71	-12.46	587.00	0.1207
Tripti Industries -Z	-19.64	-18.66	56.25	0.0513
Rose Heaven Ball Pen -Z	-19.61	-16.27	4.10	0.073
German Bangla Food -Z	-18.92	-15.43	3.00	0.0952
M. Hossain GarmentS -Z	-18.27	-13.95	21.25	0.0394
Al Amin Chemical- Z	-16.42	-16.29	5.60	0.003

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	—
Dhaka Bank * -A	100/50	596.50	30/03/08	610.00	30/03/08	28/03/07	37.51	10.0
ENGINEERING								
Kay & Que (BD) * -B	100/50	242.00	30/03/08	155.00	10/12/07	22/08/06	4.15	6.00
FOOD & ALLIED								
Fahad Industries Ltd.	10/500	Not	Listed	5.00	27/03/08	29/12/07	-1.26	—
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	1160.00	30/03/08	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
Modern Industries -Z	100/5	25.75	25/03/08	Not	Listed	07/06/07	-3.59	—
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	—
Quasem Silk Mills -Z	10/100	4.80	30/03/08	Not	Listed	26/05/05	-5.13	—
Modern Dyeing -B	100/5	109.75	30/03/08	Not	Listed	26/12/07	2.56	4.00
Desh Garments -Z	100/10	76.75	23/03/08	Not	Listed	27/12/07	2.31	—
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	48.75	30/03/08	—	—	—
Bangla Process -B	100/5	233.25	25/03/08	Not	Listed	20/12/06	3.89	—
Petro Synthetic -Z	10/50	7.00	06/01/08	Not	Listed	27/09/07	-1.00	—
National Polymer - *A	100/10	1341.00	30/03/08	1250.25	20/03/08	06/12/07	63.34	18.0
PAPER and PACKAGING								
Sonali Paper -Z	10/50	6.90	23/03/08	Not	Listed	27/01/08	-3.67	—
Azadi Printers -A	100/10	60.00	08/06/06	80.00	13/05/07	25/12/06	122.50	10.0
Hakkani Pulp & Paper -B	10/500	23.10	25/03/08	23.80	23/03/08	13/12/07	1.65	8.00
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	—
JAGO Corp. Ltd.	100/50	Not	Listed	38.75	24/03/08	26/06/04	2.74	5.00
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
Himadri Ltd. -A	10/100	7.20	21/09/04	Not	Listed	16/06/07	1.65	10.0
INSURANCE								
Reliance Insurance* -A	100/50	597.75	30/03/08	235.00	04/07/07	07/06/07	34.78	15.0

News from Trade Servers

SEC NEWS: Dynamic Textile Industries Ltd., Quasem Silk Mills Ltd. and Quasem Textile Mills Ltd.: SEC has issued show-cause cum hearing notice to the Companies, their Directors, Managing Directors and Company Secretaries in connection with non-submission of audited financial statements for the year ended on September 30, 2007.

SEC NEWS: Maq Enterprise Ltd., Raspit Data Management & Telecommunications Ltd. and Rose Heaven Ball Pen Ltd.: SEC has issued show-cause cum hearing notice to the Companies, their Directors, Managing Directors and Company Secretaries in connection with non-submission of half yearly financial statements for the half-year ended on December 31, 2007.

DESCO: The Company has requested the concerned shareholders to collect their Dividend Warrants for the year 2006-2007 from 02.04.08 to 10.04.08 during office hours from the Company's Head Office at House # 3, Road # 24, Block-K, Banani, Dhaka-1213.

JAMUNABANK: The Bank has informed that the Board of Directors has decided to purchase a plot of land measuring 18 Katha 04 Chhatak at Gulshan (Plot # 14, Block-CWS (C), Mouza- Vola Shamair) at the rate of Tk. 1.90 crore per Katha as per Baina nama executed between the owners of the land and the Bank on 27.03.08. The total cost of the land including registration fee, VAT, AIT & other charges would stand at Tk. 37,96,91,250.00.

DESCO: In response to a DSE query, the company has informed that the company is not actively considering to split or change denomination of the shares from the existing face value of Tk. 100.00 to Tk. 10.00 per share.

POWERGRID: In response to a DSE query, the company has informed that some investors have applied to Hon'ble Adviser, Ministry of Finance to split/change of denomination of the shares of the company from existing face value of Tk. 100.00 to Tk. 10.00 per share and also to change market lot from 50 to 5. However, neither the Board of Directors of the company have taken any decision about the subject mentioned above nor Chairman BPDB (majority share holders of the company) or at least 10% share holders have applied to call an EGM to discuss the matter till to date.

Book Closer/AGM/Dividend/IPO

Company	R.Day.BC	Div	Meeting	Date	Spot
Summit Power	19-02	4R:5 Premium Tk 45 per share. Subscription date 9-27 March 2008			
Padma Cement -Z	01-06		AGM	21-06	21-05
Sinobangla Industries -B	01-07	5.00%	AGM	30-07	26-06
United Insurance* -A	10-04	28.21%B	AGM	08-05	07-04
BOC (BD) Ltd.* -A	03-04	70%	AGM	08-05	31-03
Uttara Bank * -A	16-04	1B:1	A/EGM	15-05	10-04
[illegible]					
Trust Bank*-N	15-04	10%B, IR:5	A/EGM	03-06	09-04
Tk 100 Premium for right, new record day will be announced for right entitlement after approval in EGM and by concern authorities					
Shahjalal Islami Bank* -Z	03-04	20%B	AGM	04-05	23-03
Bank Asia *-A	30-04	25%B	AGM	01-06	27-04
LankaBangla Finance* -A	21-04	15% 10%B	AGM	19-05	16-04
Social Invest. Bank*-Z	07-08	17%B	AGM	11-09	29-07
Berger Paints*-A	23-04	110%	AGM	08-06	20-04
Premier Leasing*-A	10-04	12.5%B	AGM	30-04	07-04
Prime Finance*-A	15-04	40%B	AGM	30-04	09-04

Company	Meeting Date	Venue, Time
First Lease -A	6-Apr	Trust Milonayatan, Dhaka 11am
Intl. Leasing*-N	24-Apr	Shooting Complex, Gulshan-1 10am
Dutch Bangla Bank*-A	17-Apr	Hotel Sonargaon, Dhaka 10am
Singer Bangladesh *-A	28-Apr	Shooting Complex, Gulshan-1 3pm
BD Finance*-N	20-Apr	BDR Darbar Hall, Pilkhana 10am
Jamuna Oil* -N	26-Apr	
Uttara Finance *-A	16-Apr	Spectra Con. Centre, Gulshan-1 10am
Dhaka Bank *-A	21-Apr	Bangladesh-China FCC 11am
[illegible]		
GlaxoSK (BD) Ltd* -A	22-May	Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong 11am
Berger Paints*-A	8-Jun	BDR Darbar Hall, Pilkhana 11am
IPDC* -A	22-May	BDR Darbar Hall Peelkhana 10am
Bank Asia *-A	1-Jun	Bashundhara City, Panthapath 10.30am
Lafarge S Cement*-G	26-Jun	Bangladesh-China FCC 11am
Padma Cement -Z	21-Jun	Factory Premises, Shahjadpur 10.30am
AB Bank * -A	6-Jul	Bangladesh-China FCC 11am
Al Arafa Islami Bank*-A	13-Jul	Darbar Hall, BDR, Peelkhana 10am
Sinobangla Industries -B	30-Jul	Fac Pre, Munshiganj 11am
Social Invest. Bank*-Z	11-Sep	BDR Darbar Hall, Pilkhana 11am

SNote: 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, Category is mentioned beside company name.