

Asian stocks close mostly higher

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian stocks closed mostly higher on Thursday amid improving hopes for the United States subprime housing industry but prospects of a US recession continued to weigh on sentiment.

Wall Street closed slightly lower Wednesday after Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the US economy may contract in the first half, suggesting the world's biggest economy is already in recession.

However, investors in Asian trade largely shrugged off the remarks as a possible recession in the world's biggest economy has, to some extent, already been factored into the markets.

TOKYO: Japanese share prices closed up 1.52 percent at a one-month high, lifted by a weaker yen and hopes of an easing of the recent credit crunch on Wall Street.

The Nikkei-225 index rose 200.54 points to 13,389.90. Turnover rose to 2,072 billion

shares from 2,067 billion Wednesday.

"With the help of easing credit concerns, the Nikkei ended above technically crucial levels. Also, trading volume is on a recovery trend, and this is worthy of attention," said Investrust technical analyst Hiroyuki Fukunaga.

MUMBAI: Indian share prices rose 0.52 percent shedding morning gains after European markets opened weak led by Wall Street losses overnight.

Dealers said sentiment however continued to be weighed down by local inflation concerns.

The Mumbai Sensex rose 85.15 points to 15,832.55.

"The markets are likely to remain rangebound in the absence of overseas fund buying," said Hitendra Mehta, a fund manager with Fortune Financial Services.

SHANGHAI: Chinese share prices closed 2.94 percent higher as bargain hunters snapped up 150 billion financials and large caps

after a string of recent sharp losses.

Dealers said that investors picked up heavyweight financials and oil refiners ahead of the holiday weekend amid speculation the government may soon announce measures to resuscitate the ailing bourses.

The Shanghai Composite Index closed up 98.36 points at 3,446.24 on turnover of 66.4 billion yuan (9.5 billion US dollars).

HONG KONG: Hong Kong share prices closed higher, up 1.64 percent, as China financials and commodity stocks posted strong gains.

The Hang Seng index closed up 392.2 points at 24,264.63. Turnover was 91.5 billion Hong Kong dollars (11.8 billion US).

SINGAPORE: Singapore share prices closed 1.50 percent higher on investor interest in select blue chips.

Dealers said the market seemed to shrug off a warning from US Federal Reserve chairman Ben Bernanke that the US economy could slide into a recession during the first half of 2008.

IIDFC okays 25pc stock Dividend

Industrial and Infrastructure Development Finance Company Limited (IIDFC) has approved a 25 percent stock dividend for its shareholders for the year 2007.

The approval of the dividend was given at the 7th annual general meeting of the company held in Dhaka recently.

Md Matul Islam, chairman of the company, presided over the meeting, says a press release.

United Leasing declares cash, bonus share dividends

United Leasing Company Limited has declared a cash dividend of Tk 20 per share and one bonus share for every 10 share for the shareholders for the year 2007.

The dividend was announced at the 19th annual general meeting of the company held at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka recently.

Imran Ahmed, chairman of the company, presided over the meeting, says a press release.



Muhammad Ali, managing director of Shahjalal Islami Bank, and Dr Md Enamur Rahman, chairman of Enam Medical College and Hospital, Savar, exchange documents after signing an investment agreement in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Shahjalal Islami Bank extends an investment facility worth Tk16 crore to Enam Medical College and Hospital.



Rapport Bangladesh Limited Chairman Dr M Mosharraf Hossain receives Indo-Bangla Friendship Award from Indian Environment Secretary J.K. Dardo at a function in New Delhi. Bharati Vidya Peeth University awarded Mosharraf the prize recently for his outstanding contribution in establishing relationship among the management professionals and academicians of Bangladesh and India.

Currency

The following is yesterday's (Thursday) forex trading statement, prepared by Standard Chartered Bank.

Table with columns: Major currency exchange rates, Exchange rate of some currencies, USD dollar, Euro, Pound, Australian dollar, Japanese yen, Swiss franc, Swedish kroner, Canadian dollar, Hong Kong dollar, Singapore dollar, UAE dirham, Saudi riyal, Danish kroner, Kuwaiti dinar.

* All rates are quoted against BDT. * The forward rates are indicative only and fixed. * Rates may vary based on nature of transaction dated. Local Market FX: Local inter-bank FX market was active on Thursday. The market was very tight as demand for dollar rose. The BDT remained almost unchanged against the USD.



Ahsan Khan Chowdhury, deputy managing director of PRAN Group, receives the Best Export Trophy from Chief Adviser Dr Fakhrudin Ahmed in Dhaka on Monday. The trophy has been awarded to the group for excellent export performance of its food processing industry in 2002 and 2007.

Shinepukur Ceramics gets nat'l export trophy

Shinepukur Ceramics Ltd has received National Export Trophy (Gold) for achieving highest export of ceramic tableware from Bangladesh in the 2002-03 fiscal.

Osman Kaiser Chowdhury, chief executive officer of Shinepukur Ceramics, received the award at a function in Dhaka on Monday, says a press release.

STOCK MARKET

TRADED ISSUES April 03, 2008

Large table with columns: Company, FV/ML (Tk/No), Price, Turnover, Last AGM, EPS, CDS, DPS, and various sub-sections like BANK, INVESTMENT, ENGINEERING, FOOD & ALLIED, FUEL & POWER, MISCELLANEOUS, PHARMA & CHEM, PAPER AND PACKAGING, and INSURANCE.

Turnover Leaders

Table with columns: Company, Turnover (Vol), (M.Tk.), (T) Biglot, and a bar chart showing turnover for various companies.

Market Highlights

Table with columns: DSE All Share Index, DSE General Index, DSE - 30 Index, CSE All Share Index, CSE - 30 Index, CSE Selected Index, and various indicators.

Capital Gainers

Table with columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close, Turnover, and a list of companies with their respective price changes and turnover.

Non Traded Issues

Table with columns: Company, FV/ML (TL/No), LCP, LID, LCP, LID, Last AGM, Last EPS, Last DPS, and a list of companies with their respective details.

News from Trade Servers

Table with columns: Company, R-Day, BC, Div, Meeting Date, Spot, Company Meeting Date, Venue, Time, and a list of news items from trade servers.

Book Cluster/AGM/Dividend/ IPO

Table with columns: Company, R-Day, BC, Div, Meeting Date, Spot, Company Meeting Date, Venue, Time, and a list of book clusters, AGMs, dividends, and IPOs.

Source: 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 based on closing prices. CDS= Cash Dividend Per Share, % EPS=Earnings per Share, CDS & EPS are corresponding to the Last AGM report that held on the date mentioned in the last AGM cell. ** CDSL List. Category is mentioned beside company name. Prepared by & Copyright to: BUSINESS INFORMATION AUTOMATION SERVICE LINE (BIASL). All above information are collected from daily stock quotations and companies' published audited annual reports. High level of caution has been taken to collect and present the above information and data. The publisher will not take any responsibility for any body using this information and data for his/her investment decision. For any query contact: biasl@bangla.net, Tel: 811 8283 or go to www.biasl.net