Asian stocks close mostly up

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian stocks closed mostly up on Wednesday, shaking off rising inflation, a fresh record for the price of crude oil and concerns about the fallout from the global credit crunch.

The Chinese bourse led the risers, surging more than four percent as some investors bet it may have hit a nadir after tumbling around 46 percent from a peak last October. Hong Kong stocks rose nearly 1.5 percent. Japan's stock market managed a 0.23 percent gain even though official data showed the country's trade surplus shrank 30.2 percent in March as a US-led world economic slowdown began to bite.

Investors were also waiting nervously for earnings reports due later this week from big Japanese firms, including Canon and Nintendo.

South Korea and Singapore were in the black. Shares in Seoul shrugged off the shock resignation Tuesday of Samsung chairman Lee Kun-Hee after 20 years in charge. Taiwan and India closed down.

Regional shares ended mostly higher despite figures showing rising inflation.

TOKYO: Japanese share prices closed marginally higher as market sentiment remained firm despite overnight falls on Wall Street, dealers said.

The benchmark Nikkei-225 index rose 31.34 points or 0.23 percent to 13,579.16. The broader Topix index of all first-section shares added 2.93 points or 0.22 percent to 1,314.39.

HONG KONG: Hong Kong share prices closed up 1.4 percent, dealers said. The Hang Seng index closed up 350.09 points at 25,289.24. Turnover was 105.3 billion Hong Kong dollars (13.5 billion US).

SHANGHAI: Chinese share prices surged to close 4.15 percent higher, dealers said. The benchmark Shanghai Composite index, which covers A and B shares, closed up 130.54 points at 3,278.33 on turnover of 86.1 billion yuan (12.3 billion dollars).

TAIPEI: Taiwan share prices closed 0.32 percent lower, dealers said. The weighted index closed down 28.76 points at 9,008.49. Turnover was 183.13 billion Taiwan dollars (6.04 billion US).

SEOUL: South Korean shares closed 0.7 percent higher, dealers said. The index finished up 13.30 points at 1,800.79. Volume reached 331 million shares worth 6.4 trillion won (6.46 billion dollars).

SINGAPORE: Singapore shares closed up 0.2 percent, dealers said. The Straits Times Index rose 6.61 points to close at 3,193.84. Volume was 1.99 billion dollars (1.47 billion US).

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian shares closed up 0.7 percent, dealers said. The Kuala Lumpur Composite Index closed up 8.86 points at 1,288.16.

BANGKOK: Thai share prices closed 1.45 percent lower, dealers said. Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) composite index fell 12.36 points to 837.66, and the blue-chip SET 50 index lost 10.56 points to 602.72.

MUMBAI: Indian shares closed down 0.51 percent, dealers said. The benchmark Mumbai Sensex fell 85.83 points to 16,698.04.

Singapore inflation at 26-year high

AFP, Singapore

Singapore's annual inflation was 6.7 percent last month, the highest in 26 years, the Department of Statistics said on Wednesday.

It said the consumer price index was boosted by higher costs of food, transport, communications and housing.

The March consumer price index figure was down 0.1 percent from February's figure, the department added.

On a seasonally adjusted basis, the index was 0.3 percent higher in March compared with the previous month, it said.

Inflation reached 6.6 percent in the first three months of 2008, compared with the same period last year.

S Asian network of PR firms launched

Burson-Marsteller, a leading global public relations and communications firm, has announced formation of a 'Burson-Marsteller South Asia Network (BMSAN)' with the signing of strategic alliances with independent public relations companies across Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal, says a press release.

The network will be coordinated through Genesis Burson-Marsteller, a wholly owned B-M company in India.

The agreements were signed recently in New Delhi in presence of Bill Rylance, vice chairman (Global Development) and chairman Asia Pacific for Burson-Marsteller, with Strategic Alliance of Sri Lanka, Mediators Pvt Ltd of Pakistan, Cogito Marketing Solutions Limited of Bangladesh, and Media Tech Associates of Nepal.

NCCB

Tofazzal Hossain, chairman of National Credit and Commerce Bank Limited, inaugurates a new Q-Cash ATM booth at the bank's Banani Branch in Dhaka recently. Nurul Amin, managing director, and senior officials of the bank were also present.

Officials of South Asian public relations and communications firms pose for photographs recently at a function in New Delhi where a network of public relations firms of South Asian was launched.

TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

Obaidur Rahman Khan, executive director of Transcom Electronics Ltd, hands over a token key of a brand new car to the winner of the company's recently held campaign styled 'Beat the Heat of Summer & Changhong Superhit Offer' at a function on Tuesday in Dhaka. Arshad Huq, general manager (Sales & Marketing), Habibur Rahman Mollah, GM (Finance & Accounts), and A Kader Khan, head of Distribution of the company, among others, were present.

Currency

Following is yesterday's (Wednesday) forex trading statement prepared by Standard Chartered Bank.

Major currency exchange rates

	BC Sell	TT Buy
US dollar	69.10	68.10
Euro	111.44	106.81
Pound	138.41	133.24
Australian dollar	66.47	62.76
Japanese yen	0.69	0.66
Swiss franc	69.89	65.66
Swedish kroner	12.58	11.00
Canadian dollar	69.94	66.80
Hong Kong dollar	8.88	8.72
Singapore dollar	52.46	50.22
UAE dirham	18.97	18.39
Saudi riyal	18.57	18.01
Danish kroner	15.56	13.79
Kuwaiti dinar	256.81	251.13

Exchange rate of some currencies

	Per USD	BDT per Currency
Indian rupee	39.96	1.72
Pak rupee	64.10	1.07
Lankan rupee	107.85	0.64
Thai baht	31.50	2.18
Malaysian ringgit	3.14	21.83

USD forward rate against BDT

	Buy	Sell
1 M	68.33	69.33
2 M	68.58	69.67
3 M	68.85	70.02
6 M	69.65	71.17

*The forward rates are indicative only and fixed dated

Local Market FX

Local inter-bank FX market was active on Wednesday. There was ample liquidity in the market and demand for dollar was steady. The BDT remained almost unchanged against the USD.

Money Market

Money market was active on Tuesday. The call money market eased a little and most deals ranged between 8.00-9.00 percent which is similar to yesterday.

Shipping

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 23/4/2008

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/4	An Qing Jiang	GI	Inch	Cosco	20/4	28/4	2098
J/5	Madina-ke-chand	Rice(g)	Kaki	Cla	13/4	23/4	1480
J/7	Xuan Cheng(liner)	GI	Cangin	Cosco	15/4	23/4	1041
J/8	Marine Hero	Rice(g)	Kaki	Mutual	21/4	25/4	752
J/10	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	20/4	24/4	320
J/12	Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	21/4	24/4	594
CCT/1	Oel Freedom	Cont	P. Kel	PSSL	19/4	23/4	-
CCT/2	Yong Yue-8	Cont	Kol	QCSL	22/4	23/4	-
CCT/3	Xpress Pumori	Cont	Col	Seacon	22/4	23/4	-
CCJ	Maritime Songkhla	C. Clink	Tanj	BSL	18/4	23/4	-
GSJ	Banga Biraj	Idle	Sing	Bdship	16/4	24/4	-
TSP	Banglar Mamata	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	25/4	-

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Outside Port Limit:				
Wira Keris	–	–	IBSA	R/A (10/4)
Vessels at outer anchorage				
Vessels ready				
Banga Lanka	Cont	Sing	Bdship	21/4
Kota Berani	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	21/4
Zhong Ye-5	CPO	Sing	RYSL	21/4
Mcc Sunderban	Cont	Sing	MBDL	22/4
Unity	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	22/4
Kota Ratu	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	22/4
Achiever	Cont	Col	Seacon	23/4
Ama-3	CPO	Mala	ESL	23/4
Vessels not ready				
Raffles Park	HSD/MS	Kuwa	MSTPL	17/4
Kachi Bong	Sugar	Chenn	HSA	19/4
Theodor	G. Slag	Viza	Saraf	22/4
Al Deerah	HSD/Jet A-1	Kuwa	MSTPL	22/4
Oel Express	Urea(Bcic)	Ruwai	SSST	23/4
Vessels awaiting employment /instruction				
Borak	–	–	FSA	R/A (6/3)
Titan-7	Repair	–	PML	R/A (3/4)
Vessels not entering				
Hilal-ii	Wheat(p)	Niko	Litmond	14/4
Lion Trader	R. Sugar	Mumb	Rainbow	16/4
Protec	C. Clink	Sing	ANCL	17/4
Santa Barbara	C. Clink	Sing	Uniship	18/4
Dong Shun Ocean	C. Clink	Lumut	Sunmoon	19/4
Jag Vikas	Slag	Viza	Sunmoon	21/4
Waadheemoon	Salt	Kand	MVSL	21/4
Maritime Peace	C. Clink	Sing	BSL	21/4
Eka Samudra	Scraping	Indo	Brothers	16/4
C. Elephant	Scraping	Thai	Intraport	20/4
Progress	Scraping	Fujai	Ahz	22/4
Hengle	Scraping	Sing	IMS	22/4

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Cape Bonavista	23/4	P.kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Itc Golden	23/4	Zhou	Sunmoon	C. Clink	W/tta 5500
Harrier	23/4	Vanc	Rainbow	R. Seed	30000 W/tt
Hoang Son	25/4	Yang	Cla	Bunkering	-
Kinship Lucky	28/4	Okha	Seacon	Gl(S. Ash)	-
Al Giorgis	26/4	-	Everett	Spl Cargo	-
Nikolas-ii	25/4	Vanc	Elite	Gi(y. Pe)	25000 W/tt

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

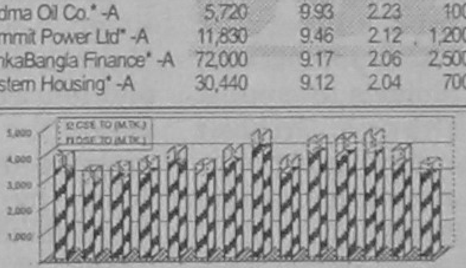
STOCK

TRADED ISSUES April 23, 2008

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

Turnover Leaders

Company	Turnover (Vol.)	(M.Tk.)	(%) T	BigLot
Square Pharma* -A	41,633	190.13	6.08	190
AB Bank * -A	48,681	178.89	5.72	600
Jamuna Oil* -N	351,500	99.59	3.18	2,600
Apex Adelchi Footwear* -A	19,642	96.32	3.08	1,000
UCBL * - Z	18,712	91.45	2.92	100
ACI Limited**- A	266,300	84.16	2.69	2,000
Summit Power Ltd* -A	90,522	72.23	2.31	550
LankaBangla Finance* -A	566,500	71.59	2.29	7,000
AIMS First * -A	4,959,000	65.95	2.11	50,000
Heidelberg Cement* -A	40,655	63.32	2.03	235
Jamuna Oil* -N	166,800	47.42	10.63	4,300
AB Bank * -A	7,345	27.11	6.08	75
Square Pharma* -A	4,599	21.04	4.71	50
Meghna Petroleum* -N	68,000	18.75	4.20	1,000
Heidelberg Cement* -A	6,911	10.92	2.45	250
BATBCL * -A	66,250	10.07	2.26	3,000
Padma Oil Co.* -A	5,720	9.93	2.23	100
Summit Power Ltd* -A	11,830	9.46	2.12	1,200
LankaBangla Finance* -A	72,000	9.17	2.06	2,500
Eastern Housing* -A	30,440	9.12	2.04	700



Market Highlights

April 23, 2008

DSE All Share Index :	2580.84575	(-)	0.81%
DSE General Index :	3053.31949	(-)	1.02%
DSE - 20 Index :	2368.91789	(-)	0.77%
CSE All Share Index:	8553.57810	(+)	0.13%
CSE - 30 Index :	7395.98250	(-)	0.96%
CSE Selected Index :	5522.39480	(+)	0.08%

Indicators	DSE	CSE
Total Turnover (Taka)	3,146,768,396.90	446,175,603.00
Total Turnover (Volume)	20,340,754	3,973,739
Number of Contract	80,360	13,830
Total Traded Issues	256	177
No. of Issue Gain (Avg. Price Basis)	163	100
No. of Issue Loss (Avg. Price Basis)	92	75
No. of Unchanged Issue (Avg. P. Basis)	1	2
Market Cap. (Taka)	745,677,959,088	719,742,488,430
Market Cap. (US$)	10,885,809,622	10,507,189,612
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.	2,152,284,913	414,612,267
Total Issued Capital	107,778,759,850	104,412,503,980
Price Earning Ratio	24.63	24.45
Earning Per Share (%)	32.29	32.03

Capital Gainers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
Rahima Food Corp. -Z	19.50	19.43	59.75	0.938
Saleh Carpet -Z	18.75	15.53	3.80	0.381
BD. Thai Alum. -Z	17.07	13.81	133.75	0.345
Fu-wang Ceramic -B	16.34	13.86	163.75	12.023
Standard Ceramic -A	15.68	12.71	210.25	0.620
ICB -A	33.13	33.13	3,767.50	0.754
BD. Zipper -Z	19.57	19.57	27.50	0.004
Rahima Food Corp. -Z	19.19	19.19	59.00	0.021
Maq Enterprise -Z	18.75	19.70	23.75	0.034
Dynamic Textile -Z	18.64	18.50	35.00	0.4610

Capital Losers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
Renata Ltd.* -A	-25.44	-25.34	8,850.75	12.175
Jute Spinners -A	-9.44	-9.45	930.00	0.186
Samata LeatheR -Z	-8.94	3.45	107.00	1.1915
Excelsior Shoes -Z	-8.22	-4.89	69.75	4.5023
Libra Infusions -A	-7.48	-6.47	1,704.75	0.9950
M. Hossain GarmentS -Z	-18.18	-20	18.00	0.0018
Lexco - Z	-8.25	-7.71	316.75	0.252
3rd ICB M F*-A	-8.00	-7.99	2033.25	0.0610
Olympic Industries *-A	-6.87	-1.41	396.50	1.7221
Meghna Cement Ltd* -A	-6.24	-1.95	600.75	1.612

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	---
ENGINEERING								
Metalex Corporation -Z	100/5	305.00	22/04/08	Not	Listed	24/04/96	-562.5	---
FOOD & ALLIED								
Fahad Industries Ltd.	10/500	Not	Listed	6.00	22/04/08	29/12/07	-1.26	---
BLTC -Z	100/5	324.75	17/04/08	Not	Listed	20/06/06	-168.4	---
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	---
Tulip Dairy&Food -Z	100/10	37.50	17/04/08	Not	Listed	30/12/07	-27.47	---
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	250.00	21/04/08	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 Textile -Z	10/500	4.80	10/04/08	Not	Listed	26/05/05	-1.29	---
Desh Garments -Z	100/10	72.00	22/04/08	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	52.25	15/04/08	94.00	22/10/03	30/06/05	5.75	---
PHARMA & CHEM.								
JMI-Bangla Co. Ltd.	100/50	Not	Listed	50.00	07/04/08	---	---	---
Bangla Process -B	100/5	308.00	20/04/08	Not	Listed	20/12/06	3.89	---
Petro Synthetic -Z	10/50	7.00	06/01/08	Not	Listed	27/09/07	-1.00	---
Berger Paints*-A	10/50	269.60	22/04/08	275.00	22/04/08	28/05/07	13.54	110
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
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
Savar Refractories -Z	100/5	127.00	20/04/08	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

News from Trade Servers

PRIMEBANK: Mrs. Salma Huq, one of the Sponsors/Directors of the Bank, has reported her intention to sell 71,500 shares out of her total holdings of 7,77,967 shares of the Bank while Mr. Mohammad Aminul Haque, Mr. Azam J Chowdhury, Ms. Saheda Pervin Trisha and Mrs. Hasina Khan, all are Sponsors/Directors of the Bank have reported their intention to buy 6,000, 5,500, 6,000 and 47,500 shares of the Bank respectively (in the Block Market) at prevailing market price through Stock Exchange within next 30 working days.
SINOBANGLA: Mr. Abul Hasnat Khan, one of the Sponsors/Directors of the company, has reported his intention to sell 1,66,500 shares out of his total holdings of 5,00,000 shares of the company at prevailing market price through Stock Exchange within next 30 working days.
ENGINEER: As per un-audited half yearly accounts as on 29.02.08, the Company has reported net profit of Tk. 0.49 m with EPS of Tk. 24.44 as against last year\'s half yearly of Tk. 0.92 m and Tk. 45.93 respectively.
PADMAOIL: In response to a DSE query regarding rumor of issuance of Right shares, the Company has informed that \"In the last Annual General Meeting held on 26 January 2008 some individual Shareholders made request on the issue. However, there has been no further development in this regard as on date\".
IBNSINA: As per regulation 30 of DSE Listing Regulations, the company has informed that a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Company scheduled to be held on 24th April, 2008 at 4:30 p.m. at the Head Office in regard to decide the date and time of AGM, consideration of accounts, declaration of dividend and other related matters.
DSE NEWS: As per decision of the Board of Directors of DSE, trading of the shares of Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. will start at DSE with effect from April 24, 2008 under \'N\' category. DSE Trading Code for Delta Brac Housing Finance Corporation Ltd. is \"DBH\" and DSE company code # 20621.

Book Closer/AGM/Dividend/IPO

Company	R.Day.BC	Div	Meeting Date	Spot
Padma Cement -Z	01-06		AGM 21-06	21-05
Sinobangla Industries -B	01-07	5.00%	AGM 30-07	26-06
IPDC*-A	24-04	5%, 10%B	AGM 22-05	21-04
AB Bank * -A	01-06	200%B	A/EGM 06-07	27-05
Lafarge Surma Cement*-G	29-05		AGM 26-06	26-05
Al Arafa Islami Bank*-A	12-06	20%B	AGM 13-07	09-06
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Company	Meeting Date	Venue, Time
Brac Bank*-A	24-Apr	BDR Darbar Hall, Pilkhana 10.30am
Intl Leasing*-N	24-Apr	Shooting Complex, Gulshan-1 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	King of Chi. CC 11am
Dhaka Bank * -A	21-Apr	Bangladesh-China FCC 11am
BOC (BD) Ltd * -A	8-May	Bashundhara City, Panthapath 10.30am
Southeast Bank*-A	28-Apr	Bangladesh-China FCC 10am
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

SNote: Capital Gainer and Loser tables are prepared on the basis of the average price change of the traded issues. 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.

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