Asian stocks close mostly up

AFP, *Hong Kong*

Asian stocks closed mostly up Thursday with a clutch of markets hitting their highest levels in a number of months after oil prices fell and hopes grew that the financial crisis was waning.

The Japanese bourse rose nearly one percent to close at its highest level since January, while South Korean shares surged more than two percent to their highest point since December. The Indian market also jumped over two percent.

Taiwan posted a sharp rise of more than 1.5 percent, taking the Taipei bourse to a level not seen since November last year. Australia posted a more modest gain but still closed at its best finish since mid-January.

The Tokyo market shook off official data showing core machinery orders fell by 8.3 percent in March. Analysts continue to expect Japan to report Friday continued brisk economic growth due to solid exports to emerging nations.

The Asian rally followed a positive performance by US stocks Wednesday. Easing fears of runaway American inflation buoyed Wall Street, but analysts warned items like high fuel costs could yet push up the consumer price index.

However, oil prices have fallen back from recent all-time highs and were trading at below 125 dollars per barrel on Thursday.

The US economy, the world's largest, is battling to recover from a house price downturn and default crisis among subprime -- or riskier -- mortgages.

The crisis has inflicted huge losses at a clutch of international financial firms and led to a global credit crunch, with the US expected to drag world growth lower.

TOKYO: Japanese share prices closed up 0.94 percent at a fresh four-month high after overnight gains on Wall Street and an upbeat earnings outlook from electronics giant Sony, dealers said. The benchmark Nikkei-225 index rose 133.19 points to end at 14,251.74, the highest closing level since January 10.

HONG KONG: Hong Kong share prices closed little changed, dealers said. The Hang Seng index closed down 19.77 points at 25,513.71. Turnover was 80.16 billion Hong Kong dollars (US$10.28 billion).

SHANGHAI: Chinese share prices edged down 0.55 percent, dealers said. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index, which covers A and B shares, closed down 20.11 points at 3,637.32 on a turnover of 112.6 billion yuan (16.1 billion dollars).

TAIPEI: Taiwan share prices closed 1.54 percent higher, dealers said. The weighted index closed up 138.76 points at 9,157.18, the highest finish since 9,300.22 on November 7, 2007.

SEOUL: South Korean stocks closed 2.28 percent up, dealers said. The benchmark KOSPI index surged 41.96 points to 1,885.71, the best level since late December. Volume was 7.28 trillion won (6.93 billion dollars).

SINGAPORE: Singapore share prices closed up 0.28 percent, dealers said. The blue chip Straits Times Index rose 8.92 points to 3,207.43.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian share prices closed 0.5 percent higher, dealers said. The Kuala Lumpur Composite Index was up 6.41 points at 1,294.15.

BANGKOK: Thai share prices closed 0.79 percent higher, dealers said. The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) composite index gained 6.67 points to close at 855.61, and the blue-chip SET 50 rose 5.01 to 617.77.

JAKARTA: Indonesian shares closed little changed, dealers said. The Jakarta Composite Index closed up 0.47 points at 2,449.81.

MANILA: Philippine share prices closed 0.6 percent higher, dealers said. The 30-company composite index rose 15.73 points to 2,878.26. The all-share index gained 9.83 points to 1,773.41.

MUMBAI: Indian share prices closed up 2.21 percent, dealers said. The benchmark Mumbai 30-share Sensex rose 375.19 points to 17,353.54.

Tarek Reaz, head of Mortgage & Auto of Standard Chartered Bank, and Shahzad Akhter, director and COO of Rahimafrooz CNG Ltd, sign an agreement on behalf of their sides in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Rahimafrooz CNG Ltd will provide special discounts and services to Auto Loan customers of Standard Chartered Bank. Other officials of both the organisations are also seen.

CITYCELL

Citycell recently launched One Utshob for its customers. This Utshob offers Citycell customers attractive gift items against the purchase of Citycell One packages from any Citycell Customer Care Centre located in Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Rajshahi, Barisal and Khulna. Kym Goldsworthy, head of Operations Support of Citycell inaugurated One Utshob at Citycell Head Office in Mohakhali, Dhaka.

TRUST BANK

Iqbal U Ahmed, managing director of Trust Bank Ltd, addresses the inaugural ceremony of Badar Spining Mills Ltd, a hundred percent export oriented cotton mill, recently.

SingTel net profit up 4.8pc

AFP, *Singapore*

Southeast Asia's largest telco, Singapore Telecommunications, Wednesday reported a 4.8 percent increase in annual net profit and looked ahead to more revenue growth despite economic uncertainty.

Net profit for the year ended March 31 was 3.96 billion dollars (2.88 billion US) compared with 3.78 billion dollars a year earlier, SingTel said.

The results met company guidance and beat the average 3.77-billion-dollar net profit forecast by analysts.

Currency

Following is Thursday's (May 15, 2008) forex trading statement by **Standard Chartered Bank**

Major currency exchange rates

	BC Sell	TT Buy
US dollar	69.10	68.10
Euro	108.36	103.76
Pound	135.94	130.81
Australian dollar	65.70	62.01
Japanese yen	0.68	0.64
Swiss franc	66.80	62.89
Swedish kroner	12.27	10.77
Canadian dollar	70.18	67.01
Hong Kong dollar	8.88	8.71
Singapore dollar	51.21	49.06
UAE dirham	18.97	18.39
Saudi riyal	18.57	18.01
Danish kroner	15.09	13.42
Kuwaiti dinar	255.71	250.36

Exchange rate of some currencies

	Per USD	BDT per Currency
Indian rupee	42.48	1.62
Pak rupee	68.60	1.00
Lankan rupee	107.74	0.64
Thai baht	32.48	2.11
Malaysian ringgit	3.27	20.95

USD forward rate against BDT

	Buy	Sell
1M	68.34	69.35
2M	68.60	69.69
3M	68.87	70.05
6M	69.70	71.16

Local Market FX

Local inter-bank FX market was active on Thursday. Liquidity improved slightly and the BDT remained almost unchanged against the USD. There was ample supply in the inter-bank market.

Money Market

Money market was active on Thursday. The call money market eased a little and most deals ranged between 10.00 and 15.00 percent compared to 15.00-20.00 percent on the previous working day.

Shipping

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 15/5/2008

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo call	L. Port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Karana Sembilan	Sugar(bag)	Mumb	Everett	6/5	16/5	2256
J/3	Gen Stela	Gi(st. Bil)	Mala	Barwil	10/5	16/5	1923
J/4	Jai Vekhali Meenakshi	Rice(g)	Kaki	Hsa	14/5	18/5	–
J/5	Pagan	Gi(log)	Yang	Mta	13/5	15/5	1033
J/5	Kachibong	Rice(g)	Kaki	Hsa	13/5	17/5	653
J/7	Madina-ke-chand	Rice(g)	Kaki	Cla	11/5	20/5	2309
J/8	Noble Coral	Gi	Sing	Everett	12/5	15/5	5919
J/10	Kota Tabah	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	14/5	15/5	–
J/12	Tabago Bay	Cont	Sing	Mbdl	14/5	16/5	637
J/13	Kota Raja	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	15/5	17/5	–

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Outside port limit				
Wira Keris	–	–	Ibsa	R/a (3/5)
Vessels at outer anchorage				
Vessels ready				
Cape Henry	Cont	Col	Apl	13/5
Vessels not ready				
Yongwang	Cont	Pena	Seacon	9/5
Precious	Wheat	Darb	Msa	4/5
Vessels awaiting employment / instruction				
Banglar Kakoli	–	–	Ambl	R/a (26/4)
Banglar Urmi	–	–	Bsc	R/a (5/5)
Banglar Jyoti	–	–	Bsc	R/a (15/5)
Vessels not entering				
Sea Beauty-1	C.link	Kant	Uniglobal	6/5
Santa Barbara	C. Clink	Kant	Uniship	8/5
Weida-8	Gi(clay)	Chin	Cosco	8/5
Yaad-e-mostafa	C. Clink	Tarj	Intraport	9/5
Theodor	Gypsum	Krabi	Saraf	9/5
Royal Diamond	Raw Sugar	Mumb	Litmond	10/5
Maris	C. Clink	Karab	Litmond	11/5
Asrar-e-mostafa	Slag	Viza	Sunmoon	12/5
Pan Express	C. Clink	Sing	Asll	12/5
African Robin	Gi(c. Peas)	Sing	Mutual	12/5

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Kinship Lucky	15/5	Viza	Seacom	Ms. Billets	–
Ks Trust	16/5	S. Kore	Ancl	C. Clink	–
Pacific Sun-ii	16/5	Lumut	Litmond	C. Clink	–
Bao Jiang	18/5	Fang	Uml	Tsp(fert)	–
Oel Enterprise	16/5	Col	Pssl	Cont	Col
Marina Star-2	17/5	Sing	Maxicon	Cont	Sing
Apl Lilac	18/5	Sin	Apl	Cont	Sing
Zhong Hai	17/5	Sing	Rainbow	Raw Sugar20,000	W/t
Cape Scott	18/5	Sin	Mbdl	Cont	Ptp
Lion Trader	17/5	Mumh	Rainbow	Raw Sugar10,000	W/t
Volissos Power	18/5	Hald	Brothers	Repair	–
Ulan Ude	17/5	Dali	Intraport	Scraping	–
Mcc Sapphire	17/5	Col	Mbdl	Cont	Col
Achiever	19/5	Viz	Seacon	Cont	Kol
Banga Bodor	17/5	Sing	Bandhi	Cont	P. Kel
Lantau Beach	17/5	Sing	Qcsl	Cont	Sing
Santa Suria	18/5	–	Seacom	C. Clink	–
Fokus	18/5	–	Hsa	–	–
Ks Grace	18/5	Sing	Sunmoon	C. Clink	–
Fareast Glory	18/5	Sing	Mbdl	Urea	K/u

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

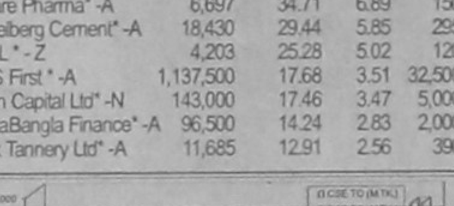
STOCK

TRADED ISSUES May 15, 2008

Company	FV/ML (Tk./No.)	DSE Price Closing	DSE Chg.(%)	DSE Pre.Day	DSE Turnover Share	CSE Price Closing	CSE Chg.(%)
BANK							
AB Bank* - A	100/5	4072.50	-0.46	4091.50	80475	4101.25	[illegible]
City Bank* - A	100/5	618.75	2.23	605.25	20161	621.00	[illegible]
IFIC Bank* - A	100/5	1389.25	-3.66	1442.00	33372	1396.75	[illegible]
Islami Bank BD* - A	1000/1	5779.25	-0.16	5788.75	3026	5755.50	[illegible]
National Bank* - A	100/20	912.50	0.00	912.50	11020	912.25	[illegible]
Pubali Bank* - A	100/5	841.50	-0.59	846.50	7164	840.75	[illegible]
UCBL * - Z	100/5	6096.25	7.31	5681.00	37454	6093.75	[illegible]
Uttara Bank * - A	100/5	2822.00	0.41	2810.50	11140	2824.00	[illegible]
IDLC Finance * -A	100/20	2325.75	9.99	2114.50	45159	2329.75	[illegible]
Eastern Bank * - A	100/20	850.75	-0.93	858.75	5660	849.75	[illegible]
United Leasing * - A	100/20	966.75	12.77	857.25	99127	—	[illegible]
Uttara Finance * -A	100/50	754.00	6.09	710.75	61184	754.25	[illegible]
Al Arafa Islami Bank*-A	100/50	389.25	-0.13	389.75	13150	365.00	[illegible]
Prime Bank Ltd *-A	100/50	644.50	-0.88	650.25	115659	637.25	[illegible]
Southeast Bank*-A	100/50	418.00	-0.06	418.25	25071	415.25	[illegible]
Dhaka Bank * -A	100/50	437.25	-1.91	445.75	12258	436.50	[illegible]
N C C Bank * -A	100/50	332.75	-0.15	333.25	27497	333.00	[illegible]
Social Invest. Bank*-Z	100/50	324.50	-1.14	328.25	29809	328.75	[illegible]
Dutch Bangla Bank*- A	100/50	3751.50	-0.98	3788.75	7123	3740.00	[illegible]
Midas Financing*-A	100/50	375.75	3.37	363.50	19936	377.00	[illegible]
Mutual Trust Bank*-A	100/50	397.25	-0.75	400.25	6631	400.75	[illegible]
First Lease - A	100/50	384.25	4.49	367.75	33504	387.00	[illegible]
Standard Bank *-A	100/50	262.25	-1.50	266.25	50075	261.75	[illegible]
One Bank *-A	100/50	470.50	0.05	470.25	38839	471.00	[illegible]
Bank Asia *-A	100/50	395.25	-1.06	399.50	1754	385.25	[illegible]
Mercantile Bank *-A	100/50	297.75	2.32	291.00	7696	293.75	[illegible]
Export Import Bank*-A	100/50	394.50	0.06	394.25	32851	393.00	[illegible]

Turnover Leaders

Company	Turnover (Vol.)	(M.Tk.)	(%) T	BigLot
AB Bank * - A	80,475	324.37	8.00	485
UCBL * - Z	37,454	226.17	5.58	320
Square Pharma* - A	38,696	200.39	4.94	494
AIMS First * -A	11,432,000	177.65	4.38	70,000
LankaBangla Finance* -A	926,500	137.26	3.38	10,000
Union Capital Ltd* -N	987,550	120.30	2.97	25,000
Heidelberg Cement* -A	74,618	118.89	2.93	900
IDLC Finance * -A	45,159	103.04	2.54	500
Apex Tannery Ltd* -A	89,379	99.18	2.45	900
Jamuna Oil* -N	379,300	91.56	2.26	2,000
AB Bank * - A	11,460	46.36	9.20	300
Jamuna Oil* -N	153,800	37.43	7.43	6,500
Meghna Petroleum* -N	156,800	36.79	7.30	5,000
Square Pharma* -A	6,697	34.71	6.89	150
Heidelberg Cement* -A	18,430	29.44	5.85	295
UCBL * - Z	4,203	25.28	5.02	120
AIMS First * -A	1,137,500	17.68	3.51	32,500
Union Capital Ltd* -N	143,000	17.46	3.47	5,000
LankaBangla Finance* -A	96,500	14.24	2.83	2,000
Apex Tannery Ltd* -A	11,685	12.91	2.56	390



Market Highlights

May 15, 2008

DSE All Share Index : 2589.76963 (+) 1.09%
DSE General Index : 3052.61130 (+) 1.09%
DSE - 20 Index : 2427.19436 (+) 0.97%
CSE All Share Index: 8681.54750 (+) 1.13%
CSE - 30 Index : 7706.99530 (+) 1.18%
CSE Selected Index : 5581.49880 (+) 1.06%

Indicators	DSE	CSE
Total Turnover (Taka)	4,056,323,416.95	503,685,378.75
Total Turnover (Volume)	23,159,207	3,126,555
Number of Contract	78,197	12,737
Total Traded Issues	240	144
No. of Issue Gain (Avg. Price Basis)	111	81
No. of Issue Loss (Avg. Price Basis)	127	63
No. of Unchanged Issue (Avg. P. Basis)	2	-
Market Cap. (Taka)	769,225,261,772	740,712,869,304
Market Cap. (US$)	11,229,565,865	10,813,326,559
Total No. of Listed Securities	288	228
Total No. of Listed Companies	268	212
Total No. of Listed Mutual Fund	14	14
Total No. of Listed Debenture	6	2
Total No. of Share & Deb.	2,180,128,342	414,612,267
Total Issued Capital	109,657,609,870	106,216,354,000
Price Earning Ratio	24.69	24.46
Earning Per Share (%)	32.40	32.15

Capital Gainers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
Kay & Que (BD) * -B	15.18	3.33	290.25	2.011
Intl. Leasing* -N	14.60	8.97	967.50	58.414
United Leasing * -A	12.77	9.36	966.75	91.246
Apex Tannery Ltd* -A	12.46	9.39	1,139.50	99.183
Prime Islami Life* -Z	10.61	8.04	1,532.50	36.195
Intl. Leasing* -N	14.96	10.21	955.00	3.800
Apex Tannery Ltd* -A	12.49	8.90	1,139.50	12.910
Prime Islami Life* -Z	10.47	10.46	1,509.00	0.905
Pragati Life Insu.* -A	10.43	8.80	2,116.75	2.085
IDLC Finance * -A	10.00	10.74	2,329.75	5.7388

Capital Losers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
Meghna Shrimp -Z	-11.02	-7.33	28.25	0.193
Metalex Corporation -Z	-8.52	-8.52	247.00	0.002
Imam Button -A	-8.06	-7.99	142.50	0.1712
Therapeutics -Z	-7.77	-7.74	388.50	0.0505
BEMCO Ltd.-Z	-7.60	-7.64	76.00	0.0008
Wonder Land Toys -Z	-16.31	-16.45	48.75	0.0146
Dynamic Textile -Z	-13.00	-13.32	21.75	0.001
Rose Heaven Ball Pen -Z	-7.55	-3.82	4.90	0.0755
German Bangla Food -Z	-6.90	-9.76	2.70	0.0117
Apex Weaving -A	-6.38	-2.93	157.75	0.115

Non Traded Issues

LCP=Last Closing Price; LTD=Last Trading Date

News from Trade Servers

BLTC: As per audited accounts as on 31.12.07, the Company has reported net loss of Tk. (2.40) m with EPS of Tk. (29.51) as against Tk. (0.48) m and Tk. (5.84) respectively as on 31.12.06. Accumulated loss of the Company was Tk. (44.91) m as on 31.12.07.

MERCANBANK: Mr. A. K. M. Shaheed Reza, one of the Directors of the Bank, has reported his intention to buy 10,000 shares of the Bank at prevailing market price through Stock Exchange within next 30 working days.

LEGACYFOOT: As per audited accounts as on 31.12.07, the Company has reported profit after tax of Tk. 3.70 m with EPS of Tk. 0.51 as against Tk. 1.90 m and Tk. 0.26 respectively as on 31.12.06. Accumulated loss of the Company was Tk. (29.62) m as on 31.12.07.

MEGHNASHRM: The Board of Directors did not recommend any dividend for the year 2007. Date of AGM: 17.09.08. Book closure: 02.09.08 to 17.09.08. Other information of the AGM will be notified later.

Book Closer/AGM/Dividend/IPO

Company	R.Day.BC	Spot	Div	Meeting Date
Square Textile* -A	15-05	12-05	25% 20%B	AGM 16-06
Renata Ltd.* -A	15-05	12-05	50% 20%B	AGM 31-05
Phoenix Insurance* -A	19-05	14-05	20%B	AGM 11-06
BGIC* -A	21-05	15-05	17.5%B	AGM 29-06
BEXIMCO Ltd.* -A	02-07	25-06	15%B	AGM 26-08
Beximco Pharma* -A	02-07	25-06	5%, 10%B	AGM 26-08
Bangladesh Online* -A	02-07	25-06	15%B	AGM 26-08
Beximco Synthetics* -A	02-07	25-06	10%B	AGM 28-08
Federal Insurance -A	07-08	04-08	12%B	AGM 27-08