Asian stocks close mostly up

Afp, Hong Kong

Asian shares closed mostly up Wednesday, buoyed by a surge of more than seven percent in the Chinese stock market on hopes that Beijing will move to support equity prices and economic growth.

The Shanghai bourse rocketed 7.63 percent, its biggest percentage gain in nearly four months. That gave investors a rare day of respite from a plunge of around 60 percent in Chinese stocks since a peak in October last year.

Dealers said there were rumours that Beijing would take steps to shore up the ailing stock market.

Wednesday's surge also followed a claim that China is considering an economic stimulus package of up to 400 billion yuan (58.4 billion dollars) to boost growth.

Elsewhere in Asia, Hong Kong rose more than two percent, while Taiwan and Singapore finished in the black.

But the region's biggest bourse, Japan, edged back 0.10 percent on concerns about the global credit crunch following the US financial crisis.

Among smaller markets, Indonesia led the gainers, rising more than one percent, while India also finished up. But Thailand and the Philippines slipped back.

TOKYO: Japanese share prices edged down 0.10 percent to close at a fresh one-month low as renewed concerns about the fallout from the US financial crisis kept buyers away, dealers said. The Tokyo Stock Exchange's benchmark Nikkei-225 index dropped 13.36 points to end at 12,851.69.

HONG KONG: Hong Kong shares closed 2.18 percent up, dealers said. The benchmark Hang Seng Index rose 446.89 points to 20,931.26. Turnover was 62.33 billion Hong Kong dollars (7.99 billion US dollars).

SHANGHAI: Chinese share prices surged to close 7.63 percent higher, dealers said. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index, which covers both A and B shares, was up 178.81 points at 2,523.28.

SEOUL: South Korean shares closed little changed, dealers said. The benchmark KOSPI index fell 0.7 points to 1,540.71.

SINGAPORE: Singapore shares closed 0.86 percent higher, dealers said. The blue-chip Straits Times Index closed up 23.36 points at 2,751.75.

BANGKOK: Thai share prices closed 0.19 percent lower, dealers said. The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) composite index dropped 1.28 points to close at 690.05 points.

MUMBAI: Indian shares closed 0.92 percent higher, dealers said. The benchmark 30-share Sensex index rose 134.5 points to 14,678.23.

GRAMEENPHONE

Khandaker Omar Farhan, deputy general manager of the Direct Sales Department of Grameenphone, and MA Halim, managing director of Galaxy Home Builders, sign an agreement in Dhaka. Under the recent agreement, the private telecom provider will provide complete communication services to the real estate company. High officials from both parties were also present.

Yunus suggests GP's 20pc IPO for Grameen Bank borrowers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Nobel laureate and Grameen Bank founder Muhammad Yunus has said 20 per cent of the shares on offer in the Initial Public Offering (IPO) of Bangladesh's biggest mobile phone operator Grameenphone (GP) should be reserved for borrowers of the bank.

Speaking at a function in Bangalore on Tuesday, he said the borrowers were keen to pick up the 20 per cent of the IPO shares.

Yunus said the allotment could be made to a trust to be formed by the borrowers capable of buying the shares.

"We have 7.5 million borrowers. Today, they own the largest bank in Bangladesh--Grameen Bank. It's their bank", Yunus said, adding that savings made by the bank clients were so large that even it can buy Bangladesh's biggest company.

Grameenphone announced last month it plans to raise 300 million dollars through the IPO.

Grameenphone is a joint venture between Grameen Telecom owned by Grameen Bank and Norwegian telecom company Telenor, which holds 62 per cent stake and the rest with Grameenphone.

At the function in India's Silicon Valley yesterday, Yunus launched a loan product for poor patients under a scheme jointly floated by India's largest state-owned commercial bank State Bank of India and Bangalore's heart hospital Narayana Hrudayala.

STANDARD CHARTERED

M Mahfuzur Rahman, general manager of the Anti-Money Laundering Department of Bangladesh Bank, and officials of Standard Chartered Bank, Chowdhury MAQ Sarwar, head of Legal and Compliance, Tanvir Haider Chaudhury, head of Shared Distribution and Service Quality, are seen with the participants of the training session on "Anti-Money Laundering" that the bank organised at its country head office recently.

MUTUAL TRUST BANK

Kazi Md Shafiqur Rahman, managing director of Mutual Trust Bank Ltd, presides over the 'Half Yearly Managers' Conference 2008' held at Bangladesh-China Conference Centre in Dhaka recently. Chairman Samson H Chowdhury, Founder Chairman Syed Manzur Elahi, Deputy Managing Director Quamrul Islam Chowdhury, among others, were also present.

CORPORATE BRIEFS

Peoples Insurance

The company has requested shareholders to collect their dividend warrants for 2007 by August 21 during office hours from its office at 36 Dilkusha in Dhaka, the Dhaka Stock Exchange said in a Web posting yesterday.

Apex Tannery

The board of directors of the company has recommended 17 percent cash dividends for 2007-08, according to the DSE website. The annual general meeting of the company will be held on September 24 at 11:00pm at the National Shooting Complex in Gulshan, Dhaka.

Shipping

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 20/8/2008

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo call	L. Port	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Coastal Express-1	Gi(st.c)	Thai	Mutual	16/8	21/8	2414
J/4	Ka Chi Bong	Rice(g)	Kaki	Hsa	16/8	22/8	1905
J/6	Cape Bonavista	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	19/8	21/8	448
J/7	Inter Noble	Gi(st.pa)	Busa	Prog	17/8	27/8	1694
J/9	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Bdship	17/8	20/8	47
J/11	Merkur Lake	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	16/8	20/8	2
J/13	Banga Barta	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	16/8	20/8	–
Cct/1	Dongtai Fortune	Cont	Col	Seacon	17/8	20/8	465
Cct/2	Eagle Progress	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	16/8	20/8	27
Nct/3	Sin Chon	Urea	Ruwa	Litmond	7/8	24/8	–
Ccj:	Kate	C. Clink	Sing	Bsl	10/8	20/8	–
Gsj:	Banga Lanka	Repair	–	Bdship	R/A	30/8	–
Tsp:	Achiever	Repair	Viza	Seacon	15/8	24/8	–

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Outside port limit				
Wira Keris	–	–	Ibsa	R/A (28/7)
Vessels at outer anchorage				
Vessels ready				
Cape Ann	Cont	Sing	Seacon	19/8
Eagle Pioneer	Cont	P. Kel	Ct	19/8
Cape Argo	Cont	Sing	Apl	19/8
Xuan Cheng	Gi	Dang	Cosco	20/8
Yinashin Beach	Gi(st.pa)	Sing	Prog	20/8
Vessels not ready				
B. Jyoti	C. Oil	K. Dia	Bsc	R/A (18/8)
Motivator	Cpo	Dumai	Wth	19/8
Vessels awaiting employment / instruction				
Goulbrun-1	–	–	Mhsl	R/A (15/8)
F. Jahan	Idle	Tuti	Brsl	26/7
Vessels not entering				
Vertigo	Raw Sugar	Mumb	Rainbow	13/8
Mairouli	Wheat	Sing	Rainbow	14/8
Brave Royal	C. Clink	Thai	Brsl	16/8
Nordholt	Raw Sugar	Santos	Elite	17/8
K.s. Harmony	C. Clink	Kohsi	Asll	18/8

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

Currency

Following is Wednesday's (August 20, 2008) forex trading statement by **Standard Chartered Bank**

Major currency exchange rates

	BC Sell	TT Buy
US dollar	69.05	68.05
Euro	103.45	98.94
Pound	130.55	125.35
Australian dollar	61.56	57.92
Japanese yen	0.65	0.62
Swiss franc	64.45	60.66
Swedish kroner	11.56	10.20
Canadian dollar	66.30	63.43
Hong Kong dollar	8.86	8.69
Singapore dollar	50.21	48.13
UAE dirham	18.95	18.38
Saudi riyal	18.56	18.00
Danish kroner	14.37	12.84
Kuwaiti dinar	254.92	249.64

Exchange rate of some currencies

	Per USD	BDT per Currency
Indian rupee	43.33	1.58
PAK rupee	73.90	0.93
Lankan rupee	107.91	0.64
Thai baht	34.14	2.01
Malaysian ringgit	3.33	20.57

USD forward rate against BDT

	Buy	Sell
1 M	68.30	69.24
2 M	68.55	69.64
3 M	68.82	69.98
6 M	69.58	71.04

STOCK

TRADED ISSUES August 20, 2008

News from Trade Servers

Spot Trade Start from 21-08-08:MEGHNASHRM
Normal Trade Start from 21-08-08:PARAMOUNT
Trade Suspended on 21-08-08: NPOLYMAR

PEOPLESINS:
The Company has requested the concerned shareholders to collect their dividend warrants for the year 2007 within 21st August, 2008 during office hours from Company's Registered Office at 36, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.

LEGACYFOOT:
Trading of the shares of the company will also be allowed in spot market with cum benefit from 21.08.08 to 31.08.08, as book closure will start from 02.09.08.

SONARBAINS:
Mr. Syed Mosharraf Hossain, one of the Sponsors/Directors of the comapny, has reported his intention to sell his entire holdings of 25,000 shares of the company at prevailing market price through Stock Exchange within next 30 working days.

MEGHNASHRM:
The company has further informed that the 15th AGM of the company will be held on 17.09.08 at 11:00 AM at Engineering Institution, Chittagong Centre (3rd floor), S S Khaled Road, Lalkhan Bazar, Chittagong. Other information of the AGM as announced earlier.

Market Highlights
August 20, 2008

DSE All Share Index :	2254.33542	(+)	1.75%
DSE General Index :	2620.73636	(+)	1.91%
DSE - 20 Index :	2341.72117	(+)	0.91%
CSE All Share Index:	8231.43550	(+)	1.43%
CSE - 30 Index :	7530.43930	(+)	1.58%
CSE Selected Index :	5351.56680	(+)	1.58%

Indicators	DSE	CSE
Total Turnover (Taka)	1,956,914,181.15	347,957,515.75
Total Turnover (Volume)	11,827,143	2,895,331
Number of Contract	51,939	10,864
Total Traded Issues	225	123
No. of Issue Gain (Avg. Price Basis)	161	92
No. of Issue Loss (Avg. Price Basis)	59	31
No. of Unchanged Issue (Avg. P. Basis)	5	-
Market Cap. (Taka)	738,415,510,009	702,854,656,068
Market Cap. (US$)	10,779,788,467	10,260,651,913
Total No. of Listed Securities	288	228
Total No. of Listed Companies	267	211
Total No. of Listed Mutual Fund	15	15
Total No. of Listed Debenture	6	2
Total No. of Share & Deb.	2,342,753,875	414,612,267
Total Issued Capital	112,550,211,100	109,574,091,830
Price Earning Ratio	19.32	18.85
Earning Per Share (%)	35.95	35.71

Turnover Leaders

Company	Turnover (Vol.)	(M.Tk.)	(%) T	BigLot
Titas Gas TDCL*N	514,750	182.46	9.32	13,400
Beximco Pharma* -A	1,183,790	134.01	6.85	19,800
BEXIMCO Ltd.* -A	915,119	104.84	5.36	12,700
Uttara Bank * - A	34,885	98.23	5.02	155
Islami Bank BD* - A	11,095	79.95	4.09	98
ACI Limited**- A	130,255	65.05	3.32	6,000
National Bank * - A	61,951	63.35	3.24	400
AB Bank * - A	72,147	62.93	3.22	500
LankaBangla Finance* -A	284,300	60.05	3.07	2,000
Brac Bank* -A	63,953	53.87	2.75	1,600
Beximco Pharma* -A	316,072	35.71	10.26	5,000
National Bank * - A	26,297	26.87	7.72	1,000
AB Bank * - A	29,000	25.38	7.29	500
Titas Gas TDCL*N	68,800	24.33	6.99	3,800
BEXIMCO Ltd.* -A	175,854	20.04	5.76	5,000
Brac Bank* -A	16,605	14.11	4.06	500
Grameen M F One*-A	138,500	12.74	3.66	3,000
Trust Bank*-N	28,210	12.12	3.48	1,000
Shahjalal Islami Bank* -A	37,850	12.00	3.45	900
AIMS First * -A	892,500	9.67	2.78	27,500

Capital Gainers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
Dynamic Textile -Z	10.67	7.32	20.75	0.005
Bionic Seafood -Z	10.00	7.14	3.30	0.020
Kay & Que (BD) * -A	9.76	2.52	225.00	0.642
Asia Pasific G Insu.* -A	8.73	3.29	218.00	2.963
Islamic Finance*-A	8.16	1.53	261.75	2.234
Prime Insurance* -Z	19.79	19.79	230.00	0.012
Confidence Cement *A	9.30	9.25	291.00	0.081
Trust Bank*-A	8.50	5.79	437.25	12.118
One Bank *-A	7.95	4.98	397.00	3.111
Keya Cosmetics Ltd* -A	6.48	4.17	67.40	7.4847

Capital Losers

Company	Price Chn. (%) Close	Avg.	Close Price	Turnover M.Tk
BD. Thai Alum. -Z	-7.02	-7.33	281.25	0.084
Maq Paper -Z	-6.67	-6.67	14.00	0.001
Agni Systems Ltd* -A	-5.62	-2.75	63.80	20.9399
Dhaka Fisheries -Z	-5.17	-5.17	55.00	0.0055
Anlima Yarn -Z	-4.46	-4.46	48.25	0.0072
Apex Foods -A	-13.48	-13.48	802.50	0.0080
Agni Systems Ltd* -A	-4.62	-3.09	64.00	3.023
Pragati Life Insu.* -A	-4.48	-4.48	2,360.00	0.4720
Mona Food Ind. -Z	-4.17	-0.4	28.75	0.0672
Ashraf Textile -Z	-3.61	-3.6	8.00	0.397

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, Category is mentioned beside company name.