

Asian stocks mainly up

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian markets were mostly higher Wednesday as investors took heart from a rare piece of good news from the United States' economy.

Tokyo, Hong Kong and Seoul all recorded healthy gains of between two and three percent on the back of an unexpected jump in US home sales for January.

And Shanghai added more than two percent on hopes for better liquidity among banks after news that lending had increased. There was also optimism the government will announce further stimulus moves to boost the economy.

However, Sydney was two percent lower on a day the world's biggest miner BHP Billiton announced a 56.5 percent fall in first half profit.

TOKYO: Up 2.73 percent. The Nikkei-225 gained 213.43 points to end at 8,038.94.

Traders said buying from foreign investors as well as domestic long-term investors such as pension funds supported gains in the market.

The market's robust rise was a natural rebound after a three-day losing streak, Hiroichi Nishi, a broker at Nikko Cordial Securities, told Dow Jones Newswires.

HONG KONG: Up 2.3 percent. The Hang Seng Index closed up 287.00 points at 13,063.89.

China-related stocks were responsible for driving the market up following comments by Premier Wen Jiabao that raised expectations China will take fresh market-boosting measures.

"Investors took Wen's comments as a positive and speculated on any possible measures," YK Chan, a fund manager at Phillip Asset Management, told Dow Jones Newswires.

SHANGHAI: Up 2.28 percent. The Shanghai Composite Index, which covers A and B shares, rose 46.94 points

to a near four-month high at 2,107.75.

The state-run China Securities Journal reported Wednesday that January's new yuan loans are likely to exceed 1.2 trillion yuan (175 billion dollars), far above December's 771.8 billion yuan.

Financial companies led the rally. Changjiang Securities rose 4.7 percent to 11.80 yuan.

SEOUL: Up 2.8 percent. The KOSPI gained 32.17 points to 1,195.37.

Foreigners extended their buying spree into the sixth consecutive session, while local institutions were also net buyers.

"Foreigners' interest in local stocks remained selective. They are buying stocks of only a few sectors such as technology, which have upside momentum," said Jung Seung-Jae, an analyst at Mirae Asset Securities.

SINGAPORE: Down 0.26 percent. The STI was 4.53 points lower at 1,707.39.

Oil hovers near \$41

AP, Singapore

Oil hovered near \$41 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as investors mulled the impact of OPEC production cuts and mixed signs about the U.S. economy.

Light, sweet crude for March delivery fell 14 cents to \$40.64 a barrel by late afternoon in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract overnight rose 70 cents to settle at \$40.78.



Md Sirajul Islam, chairman of Karmasangsthan Bank, speaks at the inaugural session of the bank's "Branch Managers Conference 2009" at BIAM auditorium, in Dhaka yesterday.

STOCK

Market Highlights

February 04, 2009

	DSE	CSE
DSE All Share Index	2168.96356 (+) 0.03%	
DSE General Index	2611.20833 (-) 0.06%	
DSE - 20 Index	2133.24382 (-) 0.18%	
CSE All Share Index	7993.85840 (-) 0.31%	
CSE - 30 Index	6677.73420 (-) 0.51%	
CSE Selected Index	5167.35080 (-) 0.42%	

Indicators	DSE	CSE
Total Turnover (Taka)	2,294,484,458.70	278,326,250.00
Total Turnover (Volume)	20,026,023	3,602,603
Number of Contract	66,438	11,690
Total Traded Issues	268	181
No. of Issue Gains (Avg. Price Basis)	205	125
No. of Issue Loss (Avg. Price Basis)	61	56
No. of Unchanged Issue (Avg. Price Basis)	2	0
Market Cap. (Taka)	820,793,189,662	785,506,019,580
Market Cap. (US\$)	11,982,381,593	11,467,241,162
Price Earning Ratio	18.83	18.80
Earning Per Share (%)	25.65	25.37

Company CDML mark Category Mark Face Value Market Lot (EPS/BV) Latest Dividend - Year End
DSE/CSE: Closing 0% Change % Last Day / Average / High / Low / Trade Volume / Start

Company	Turnover	Big Lot
(Vol.)	(M.T.K.)	Share
Beximco Pharma-A	1,051,807	7,75
BEXIMCO Ltd.-A	705,825	14,01
Summit Power-A	118,085	106,25
Shinphur Ceramics-N	753,900	82,02
ACI Formulations Ltd-N	312,700	65,56
Gramtel Scheme2-A	1,099,500	60,51
National Bank-A	60,100	49,58
Fu-Wang Food-B	1,809,600	48,75
Pragati Gen. F-A	38,505	48,72
AMS First-A	2,849,000	43,82
BEXIMCO Ltd.-A	134,220	26,88
Shinphur Ceramics-N	170,000	21,93
Beximco Pharma-A	121,243	20,41
AB Bank-A	18,690	12,33
AMS First-A	527,500	8,11
Gramtel Scheme2-A	143,000	7,87
Summit Power-A	8,280	7,57
ACI Formulations Ltd-N	36,100	7,54
BSRM Oil-A	16,700	7,44
Jamuna Steel Ltd-N	46,600	6,66

Company	Turnover	Big Lot
(Vol.)	(M.T.K.)	Share
Sreepur Textile-Z	18	18,89
Gashghata Aqua-Z	18,42	11,74
Alpha Tobacco-Z	18,18	13,90
BD Luggage-Z	17,70	12,30
M. Hossain Gar-Z	17,44	15,69
BD Zipper-Z	20	20,00
Bengal Fire Cera-Z	20	20,00
Standard Ceramic-B	20	20,00
Gashghata Aqua-Z	19,51	17,36
Perfume Chemical-Z	19,39	19,39
Aziz Pipes-Z	4	-6,19
John Spinners-A	-4,65	-4,65
51 ICB M.F.A	-4,49	-4,49
IFIC Bank-A	-4,01	-3,97
Dutch Bangla B-A	-3,76	-2,21
GMG Ind. Corp-Z	-55,19	-55,19
Sreepur Textile-Z	-23,86	-23,86
Dhaka Fisheries-Z	-12,86	-12,86
Prime Infra-Z	-12,20	-12,20
Midas Financing-A	-10,07	-10,07

Company	Turnover	Big Lot
(Vol.)	(M.T.K.)	Share
Sumit Hospital-A	10,50	10,50
Palma Oil Co-A	18,01	18,01
Oron Infusions-Z	22,12	22,12
Sanofi-Sintelabo-A	15,12	15,12
National Polymer	15,12	15,12
Eastern Bank	15,12	15,12
Sinphur Textile-Z	34,12	34,12
Bangla Process-B	36,12	36,12
Mamun Spinning-N	29,01	29,01
Sinphur Textile-Z	18,01	18,01
Record day applicable for bonus share, not right offer		
H.R. Textile-B	20,02	20,02



Mostafa Golam Quddus, chairman of Rupali Insurance Company Ltd, presides over its annual conference 2009 at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka recently.



AKM Shaheed Reza, chairman of Global Insurance Ltd, presides over its annual business conference 2009 at Sarina Cruise in Dhaka recently.

Currency

Following is Wednesday's (February 4, 2009) forex statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Major currency exchange rates	BC Sell	TT Buy	Per USD	BDT per
				Currency
US dollar	69.45	68.45		
Euro	91.91	87.27		
Pound	101.49	95.58		
Australian dollar	46.34	42.79		
Japanese yen	0.80	0.76		
Swiss franc	62.11	58.22		
Swedish krona	8.86	8.03		
Hong Kong dollar	57.27	55.02		
Chinese dollar	8.98	8.81		
Singapore dollar	47.13	45.26		
UAE dirham	19.06	18.49		
Saudi riyal	18.66	18.20		
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Kuwaiti dinar	228.63	228.69		

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