

Asian shares soured

Asian markets slipped Thursday as cautious investors weighed the prospect of more grim corporate earnings against increasing evidence of a worsening global recession, dealers said. The downward slide in Asia followed a roller-coaster session on Wall Street which closed 1.09 percent lower overnight in reaction to a weaker-than-expected report on US home sales and details of the Obama administration's bank rescue. TOKYO: Down 0.04 percent. The benchmark Nikkei-225 index fell 3.29 points to 7,457.93. Toyota Motor shed 2.8 percent to 3,130 yen, Sony fell 2.7 percent to 1,635 and Canon slipped 2.2 percent to 2,450. "Japan's manufacturing sector as a whole may record a fiscal year loss," warned S & P analyst Takahira Ogawa. "The business climate for Japanese corporations is deteriorating dramatically amid a sharp decline in demand for products." HONG KONG: Down 0.9 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng index dropped 110.14 points to 12,894.94. Ping An dropped 2.4 percent on the local market to 38 Hong Kong dollars, while China Life fell 2 percent to 22.35, as insurers were hit by falls in their A-share investments. SYDNEY: Up 0.5 percent. The benchmark S&P/ASX 200 gained 18.0 points to 3,345.5. ANZ Banking Group gained 4.4 percent to 13.05, Commonwealth Bank lifted 2.3 percent to 29.80, National Australia Bank picked up one percent to 17.51 and Westpac extended 2.9 percent to 16.65. Gold stocks lost ground, as Newcrest Mining slipped 4.1 percent to 30 dollars and Lihir eased 2.4 percent to 32.7. SHANGHAI: Down 3.87 percent. The benchmark Shanghai Composite Index fell

85.32 points to 2,121.25. Hua Xia Bank fell 4.1 percent to 8.82 yuan while China Minsheng Bank dropped 4.1 percent to 4.63. China Merchants Bank dropped 4.4 percent to 14.27. Property developers fell on disappointment over a lack of a government stimulus plan for the sector. TAIPEI: Up 0.55 percent. The weighted index finished up 24.82 points at 4,518.56. Formosa Epitaxy Inc, a maker of light-emitting diodes, rose 2.7 percent at 16.2. Cathay Financial dropped 2.2 percent at 28.50. SEOUL: Down 1.1 percent. The benchmark KOSPI index fell 12.29 points to 1,054.79 points. SINGAPORE: Up 0.04 percent. The main Straits Times Index gained 0.65 points to 1,617.44. Earlier the government said the economy, already in a recession, contracted 4.2 percent in the fourth quarter ended December, worse than the initial estimate of 3.7 percent. KUALA LUMPUR: Down 0.3 percent. The Kuala Lumpur Composite Index fell 3.09 points to 893.42 in thin trade. BANGKOK: Down 0.53 percent. The Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) composite index fell 2.30 points to 431.94. JAKARTA: Down 0.8 percent. The Jakarta Composite Index slipped 9.79 points to close at 1,290.32 in thin trade. MANILA: Down 0.4 percent. The composite index fell 6.72 points to 1,880.38. Meracalco was up 8.8 percent to 86.50 pesos while First Philippine Holdings Corp. rose 2.4 percent to 21.25. Philippine Long Distance Telephone fell 0.2 percent to 2.165 while Bank of the Philippine Islands dropped 2.8 percent to 34.0. MUMBAI: Up 0.59 percent. The 30-share Sensex index rose 52.3 points to 8,954.86.

Oil prices move higher

Oil prices extended gains on Thursday, pushed upwards by a surprise drop in US motor fuel reserves, dealers said. New York's main contract, light sweet crude for April delivery, gained 78 cents to 43.28 dollars a barrel. Brent North Sea crude for 44.85 dollars. Prices rallied Wednesday, gaining more than two dollars in New York, as the market reacted to news of sliding gasoline (petrol) reserves in the US. "Crude prices surged higher yesterday and continued to build on those gains (on Thursday) after the weekly EIA report showed large draws in gasoline amid a rise in demand," said Sueden Financial Research analyst Nimit Khmar. The US government's Energy Information Administration (EIA) said Wednesday that gasoline stocks fell 3.4 million barrels in the week ending February 20. The market had expected no change. This jump in prices is likely to be short-lived, warned Victor Shum, a Singapore-based analyst with energy consultancy Purin and Gertz.



Mashur Rahman, adviser to the prime minister, receives a crest from Anis A Khan, chairman of Bangladesh Leasing and Finance Companies Association, at a quarterly luncheon meeting of the association in Dhaka yesterday.



Dr Salehuddin Ahmed, Bangladesh Bank governor, poses with the recipients of scholarship awarded by Dutch Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL) in Dhaka yesterday. Yeasin Ali, managing director of DBBL, is also seen.

Currency

Table showing currency exchange rates for various countries including US, Euro, Pound, Australian dollar, Japanese yen, Swiss franc, etc. Includes columns for Buy and Sell rates.

Stock

Market Highlights February 26, 2009. Table with columns for DSE All Share Index, DSE -20 Index, CSE All Share Index, etc.

Turnover Leaders

Table listing top turnover leaders with columns for Company, Turnover (Vol.), and Big Lot Share.

Capital Gainers/Losers

Table listing top capital gainers and losers with columns for Company, Price Chn. (%), and Close.

Book Closer/Dividend/IPO

Table listing book closers, dividends, and IPOs with columns for Company, Meeting Date, and Venue.

News from Trade Shows

Spot Trade Start from 01-03-09. CITYGENINS Trade Suspended From 01-03-09. DUTCHBANGL. DSE NEWS: The 47th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Dhaka Stock Exchange Ltd (DSE) will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009 at 11 AM at Grand Ball Room of Radisson Water Garden Hotel Dhaka.

Non Traded Issues

Table listing non-traded issues with columns for Company, FV/M, and Last Trade Date.

TRADED ISSUES February 26, 2009

Large table listing traded issues with columns for Company, FV/M, Change, and Last Trade Date. Includes various companies like Bank, Cement, Textile, etc.

Shipping Chittagong Port. Table showing berth position and performance of vessels as on 26/02/2009. Columns include Berth No., Name of vessels, Cargo, L Port call, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving, and Import/Export.

Source: Capital Gains/Losers table is prepared on the basis of the close price change of the traded issues. EPS-Earnings per Share, BV-Book Value per Share, etc. Includes disclaimer text.