

Asian bull run continues

AFP, Tokyo
Asia's stock market rally accelerated on Tuesday, with Tokyo leaping 3.18 percent, but a sharp fall in exports from Singapore underlined the severe problems facing the region's economies.

World markets have plunged in recent months as the financial crisis hit companies and sparked a widespread economic downturn, raising fears of another Great Depression.

The slump in demand from the United States and Europe has badly affected Asia's all-important exports, as Singapore's latest figures show.

Japan's Nikkei-225 led the charge with its third straight day of gains while Sydney grew 3.1 percent and Seoul rose 3.4 percent. Hong Kong was up 0.57 percent in the afternoon session.

Share prices, especially in financials, continued to climb despite slight falls on Wall Street, where a late sell-off ended a four-day rebound based on cautious hopes of a recovery.

Other bad news continued to trickle in from around the region, with Hong Kong's Disneyland saying it has shelved expansion plans.

Whether this is all a bounce in a bear market or a real move up from the bottom remains to be seen, said Bob Dickey, a technical analyst at RBC Wealth Management in New York.

But with the market having gone through a five-month bottoming process that included three distinct bottoming moves, we are more inclined to believe that a major market low has been made.

The prevailing global economic crisis has significantly dampened travel demand, translating to weaker uplifts, SIA said.



Jurg Siegenthaler, deputy head of the Embassy of Switzerland, inaugurates an outlet of Kallol Group's Time Zone at Iqbal Centre on Kemal Ataturk Avenue in Dhaka recently. Ghulam Mostafa, managing director of Kallol Group, is also seen.

Md Shamsul Haque, deputy managing director of Islami Bank, and Dinesh Lasantha Rodrigo, MD of Interlocks, shake hands after signing an agreement in Dhaka yesterday. Under the deal, Islami Bank will set up 200 ATM booths.

Rupali Chowdhury, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh, poses with participants in the annual sales conference 2009 in Bangkok recently.

Oil prices drift lower

Oil prices slipped Tuesday, extending losses on lingering disappointment over Opec's weekend decision to hold current production levels amid a spreading global recession, dealers said.

New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for delivery in April, shed 11 cents to 47.24 dollars a barrel.

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Currency

Following is Tuesday's (March 17, 2009) forex rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Table with columns: Major currency exchange rates, Exchange rate of some currencies, Par USD, BDT per Currency.

Table with columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close, Turnover, M.Tk.

Table with columns: Company, Turnover, (M.Tk.), (% T), Big Lot Share.

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Market Highlights

Table with columns: DSE All Share Index, DSE General Index, DSE - 20 Index, CSE All Share Index, CSE - 10 Index, CSE - 30 Index, CSE Slected Index.

Turnover Leaders

Table with columns: Company, Turnover, (M.Tk.), (% T), Big Lot Share.

Capital Gainers/Losers

Table with columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close, Turnover, M.Tk.



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Shipping

Chittagong Port

Table with columns: Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 17/3/2009. Includes columns for Berth No., Name of vessels, Cargo, L Port, Local agent, Date of Leaving, Import disch.

Table with columns: Vessels at outer anchorage, Vessels ready, Vessels awaiting equipment / instruction.

Table with columns: Vessels not entering, Vessels due at outer anchorage.

Table with columns: Name of Vessels, Date of Arrival, L Port, Local Agent, Type of Cargo, Loading Ports.

Bank

Table with columns: Bank Name, Closing Price, Change % Last Day, Average, High, Low, Trade Volume (Share).

Investment

Table with columns: Investment Name, Closing Price, Change % Last Day, Average, High, Low, Trade Volume (Share).

Food & Allied

Table with columns: Food & Allied Name, Closing Price, Change % Last Day, Average, High, Low, Trade Volume (Share).

Textile

Table with columns: Textile Name, Closing Price, Change % Last Day, Average, High, Low, Trade Volume (Share).

Non Traded Issues

Table with columns: Company Name, Closing Price, Change % Last Day, Average, High, Low, Trade Volume (Share).

Not Banking FI

Table with columns: Not Banking FI Name, Closing Price, Change % Last Day, Average, High, Low, Trade Volume (Share).

Engineering

Table with columns: Engineering Name, Closing Price, Change % Last Day, Average, High, Low, Trade Volume (Share).

Fuel & Power

Table with columns: Fuel & Power Name, Closing Price, Change % Last Day, Average, High, Low, Trade Volume (Share).

Pharmaceutical & Chemical

Table with columns: Pharmaceutical & Chemical Name, Closing Price, Change % Last Day, Average, High, Low, Trade Volume (Share).

Life Insurance

Table with columns: Life Insurance Name, Closing Price, Change % Last Day, Average, High, Low, Trade Volume (Share).

Source: Capital Group. Bank and other values are reported on the basis of the closing price of the traded issues. EPS - Earnings per Share; BV - Book Value per Share; ...