

Asian markets rocket

AFP, Hong Kong Asian markets staged a surprise rally on Thursday as investors ignored the latest bad news and instead cheered signs of the economic crisis may have touched bottom. TOKYO: Up 3.94 percent. The Nikkei-225 rose 334.49 points to 8,828.26. HONG KONG: Up 3.77 percent. The Hang Seng Index closed up 564.04 points at 15,520.99. SYDNEY: Up 2.31 percent. The S&P/ASX200 rose 85.2 points to 3,780.5. SHANGHAI: Up 0.38 percent. The Shanghai Composite Index rose 9.38 points to 2,477.57. TAIPEI: Up 6.74 percent. The weighted index rose 378.51 points to 5,992.57. KUALA LUMPUR: Up 2.41 percent. The Kuala Lumpur Composite Index rose 23.28 points to 990.74. JAKARTA: Up 4.78 percent. The Jakarta Composite Index gained 78.57 points to 1,722.76. BANGKOK: Up 1.69 percent. The Stock Exchange of Thailand composite index rose 8.19 points to 491.69. MANILA: Up 2.06 percent. The composite index gained 42.45 points to 2,103.50 points. WELLINGTON: Up 1.51 percent. The NZX-50 index rose 40.87 points to 2,740.59.

Dollar rises against yen

AFP, Tokyo The dollar rose against the yen in Asia on Thursday, buoyed by recovery hopes after the Federal Reserve said the downturn in the US economy appeared to be slowing. The dollar firmed to 97.75 yen in Tokyo morning from 97.66 yen in New York late Wednesday, helped by an increase in US consumer spending. Market players were heartened after the Federal Reserve said the pace of economic contraction in the United States appeared to be slowing, said Yuji Saito, head of forex at Societe Generale in Tokyo. But the US currency was lower against the euro, which rose to 1.3295 dollars from 1.3269, as the glimmers of a recovery boosted demand for riskier assets. The European currency gained to 129.94 yen from 129.60. The Fed statement "lends credence to the view that the worst of the global financial crisis is now behind us," Standard Chartered analysts wrote in a note. That could boost demand for risky currencies and weigh on safe-haven currencies, they said.



BRAC Bank Ltd participates in the 1st Bangladesh Remittance Fair in Chittagong recently. Syed Mahbubul Rahman, deputy-managing director of the bank, is also seen.

Currency

Table showing major currency exchange rates and USD forward rates against BDT. Includes columns for currency, BCSell, TT Buy, Per USD, and BDT per currency.

Local Market FX Active inter-bank FX market was active on Thursday. USD/BDT rate was similar to the previous working day. The market was liquid. Money Market Money market was active on Thursday. Most deals traded at 25-50 percent. Market was very liquid. The dollar fell broadly on Thursday, hitting a three-week low against a basket of currencies as speculation the global economic downturn is slowing continued to raise demand for riskier assets.



Shafiq Aiam, deputy managing director of United Commercial Bank Ltd, and Henrik Doil, acting chief financial officer of Siemens Bangladesh Ltd, exchange documents after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, the employees of Siemens Bangladesh will enjoy UCB Dual Card facility.

STOCK

Market Highlights

Table with market highlights for April 30, 2009, including DSE All Share Index, DSE General Index, DSE 20 Index, etc.

Turnover Leaders

Table listing turnover leaders for various companies, including Summit Power, BEXIMCO Ltd, and others.

Capital Gainers/Losers

Table listing capital gainers and losers for various companies, including AH-Haj Textile, Hakkani Paper, and others.

Shipping

Shipping schedule table for Chittagong Port, listing vessel names, cargo, local agents, and dates of arrival and departure.

STOCK

Market Highlights

Large table of stock market data, including company names, prices, and changes.

Turnover Leaders

Table of turnover leaders for various companies.

Capital Gainers/Losers

Table of capital gainers and losers for various companies.

Shipping

Shipping schedule table for Chittagong Port.

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