

Commodities push Asian stocks

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian markets gained for a second consecutive day Wednesday, helped by strong commodities stocks as a fresh rally on Wall Street bolstered investor confidence.

Bourses around the region were helped by a surge in gold prices to record highs, as investors poured money into commodities in the hope that demand is returning.

Gold was at an all-time high of 1,047.80 US dollars an ounce in early London trading Wednesday, while light, sweet crude for November had risen above 71 dollars a barrel in Asia.

Tokyo gained 1.11 percent while gold and mining stocks pushed Sydney 2.23 percent higher. Hong Kong added 2.07 percent.

However, Seoul ended flat after commodity-related gains were offset by a mixed dollar and the impact of a strong local currency on exporters.

Wall Street shares lifted 1.37 percent to

extend their rally for a second day Tuesday as risk appetites were whetted by Australia's earlier decision to raise interest rates.

Investors were eyeing the US third quarter earnings season which was to kick off later in the day with the release of mining giant Alcoa's results.

Shanghai was closed for a public holiday.

TOKYO: Up 1.11 percent. The Nikkei 225 added 107.80 points to 9,799.60.

HONG KONG: Up 2.07 percent. The Hang Seng Index finished 430.06 points higher at 21,241.59.

Resources and oil firms led the rise, with PetroChina gaining 3.6 percent to 9.23 Hong Kong dollars and CNOOC up 1.5 percent to 10.96 dollars.

SYDNEY: Up 2.23 percent. The SP/ASX200 rose 104.1 points to 4,695.7.

SEOUL: Flat. The KOSPI ended down 0.44 points at 1,598.00.

Hyundai Motor slipped 5.3 percent to 96,600 won. Kia Motors fell 4.8 percent.

TAIPEI: Up 0.96 percent. The weighted

index rose 72.61 points to 7,608.66.

SINGAPORE: Up 0.87 percent. The blue-chip Straits Times Index rose 22.74 points to 2,634.63.

Singapore Airlines was 12 cents higher at 13.36 dollars while Keppel Corp advanced 24 cents to 8.05.

BANGKOK: Up 1.44 percent. The Stock Exchange of Thailand gained 10.53 points to close at 741.92.

KUALALUMPUR: Up 0.48 percent. The Kuala Lumpur Composite Index gained 5.88 points to 1,218.61.

Tobacco giant BAT slid 0.4 percent to 44.80 ringgit while telecoms company Axiata slipped 1.0 percent to 3.04 ringgit.

JAKARTA: Down 0.58 percent. The Jakarta Composite Index lost 14.74 points to 2,513.40.

MANILA: Up 2.86 percent. The composite index gained 82.60 points to 2,967.06.

MUMBAI: Down 0.9 percent. The 30-share Sensex fell 151.88 points to 16,806.66.

Oil above \$71

AFP, London

Oil prices climbed above 71 dollars on Wednesday, extending gains won a day earlier on a report that Gulf states were considering dropping the greenback for oil transactions.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for November delivery gained 35 cents to 71.23 dollars a barrel.

Brent North Sea crude for November delivery added 32 cents to 68.88 dollars a barrel in morning London trade.



Signing Ceremonial
Md Moyuddin Ahmed, member (investment promotion) of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority, and Md Tarif Uddin, managing director of German Euro Chemicals Ltd (GECIL), exchange documents after signing an agreement in Dhaka yesterday. GECIL will invest \$3.96 million in setting up a chemical manufacturing unit at Ishwardi Export Processing Zone.

German industrial orders rising

AFP, Berlin

German industrial orders posted their sixth straight monthly rise in August, official data showed on Wednesday, in a fresh sign that a fragile recovery in Europe's top economy is taking root.

A day after Berlin gave a more bullish forecast for growth this year, the economy ministry said that orders rose a better-than-expected 1.4 percent in August from July, following a 3.1-percent increase the

month before.

Germany, one of the world's biggest exporters, has been hit hard by the global recession hurting demand for its products, but Wednesday's data showed foreign orders rising 4.6 percent. Domestic orders fell 1.9 percent.

On a less volatile two-month basis, orders rose 5.8 percent from July and August compared with May and June. Compared with a year earlier, orders soared 20.3 percent, with foreign demand up 24.3 percent.

Shipping

Chittagong Port

Table with 10 columns: Berth No., Name of vessels, Cargo call, L Port, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving date, Import/Export.

Table with 10 columns: Vessels name, Date of arrival, L port, Local agent, Type of cargo, Loading ports.

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STOCK

Market Highlights

Table with 3 columns: Index, Value, Change.

Turnover Leaders

Table with 3 columns: Company, Turnover, Big Lot Share.

Capital Gainers/Losers

Table with 3 columns: Company, Price Chn, Close.

Dividend/RD BC/IPO

Table with 3 columns: Company, Meeting Date, Dividend.

News from Trade Servers

Table with 3 columns: Trade Server, News, Date.

COMPANY CREDIT MARKET CATEGORY

Table with 3 columns: Company, Credit, Market Category.

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