

Wall Street ends with hope

Wall Street heads into next week with strong tailwind from recent days' rally and brighter outlook as traders keenly await President Barack Obama to unveil new plans for boosting the shaky US economy.

Last week's slew of economic data, led by a better-than-expected employment report and strong manufacturing numbers, increased optimism that the US economy was on a recovery track, albeit at a slower pace than hoped for.

Traders breathed a sigh of relief on Friday after highly-anticipated Labor Department figures said the US economy lost 54,000 jobs last month, much less than most analysts' expectations.

While unemployment rate rose to 9.6 percent, the private sector created 67,000 new jobs, which together with Wednesday's manufacturing data bolstered a modestly optimistic economic outlook.

"For weeks we had only seen bad news

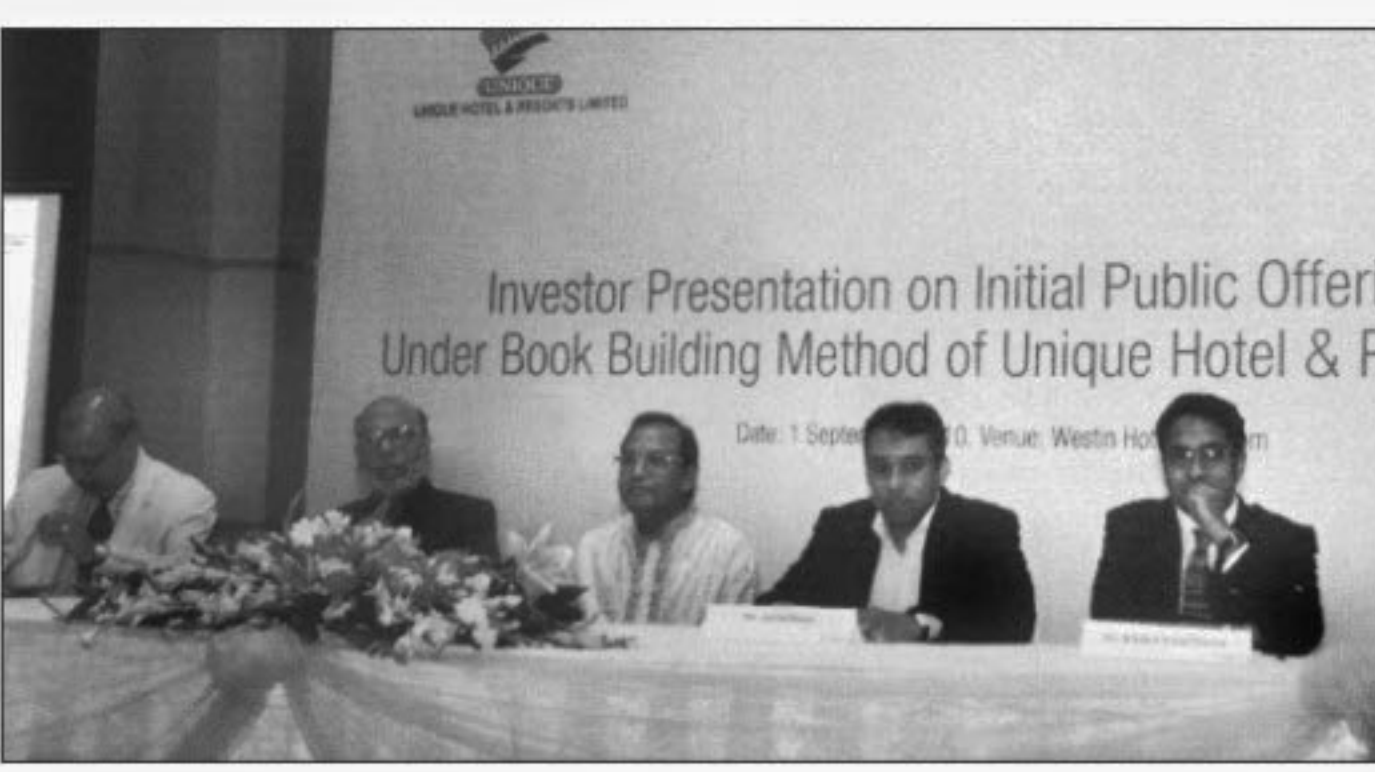
and began developing extremely bleak scenarios of deflation and a second-dip recession, so this was a week of relief," Evariste Lefeuve, an analyst at Natixis North America, told AFP.

With traders returning from Labor Day holiday on Tuesday to a four-day trade week, markets were likely to be choppy as investors continue to take in the passing week's data.

Next week was set to see the release of weekly jobs claims and the trade deficit report, which will offer further indications on the health of the economy.

"The market may recalibrate and recoil at the beginning of next week... trade volumes will go up as people come back from Labor Day," said Jason Schenker, president of PrestigeEconomic.

But most of the attention will turn to President Obama, whose week will be focused on the economy as he travels to the hard-hit Midwest and gives a major White House press conference on Friday.



Investor Presentation on Initial Public Offering (IPO) Under Book Building Method of Unique Hotel & Resorts

Unique Hotel and Resorts Ltd, the owning company of The Westin Dhaka hotel, organised a roadshow for the institutional investors of its upcoming initial public offering under book building method in the capital on Wednesday. Mohd Noor Ali, managing director of Unique Hotel, and Saiful Islam, vice-chairman of BRAC EPL Ltd, are seen.

Oil falls

Oil prices fell below 75 dollars in Asian trade as investors took profit from gains made the previous day and braced for an expected weak US employment numbers, analysts said.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for October delivery, shed 43 cents to 74.59 dollars a barrel in the afternoon.

Brent North Sea crude for October delivery, shed 42 cents to 76.51 dollars.

Traders were taking profit from a hike in prices in New York ahead of the release of the monthly US jobs report later Friday, said Victor Shum, senior principal of Purvin and Gertz energy consultants in Singapore.

Weekly Currency Roundup

August 26 - September 2, 2010
International Markets: The dollar and yen recovered losses on Thursday as risk-taking sentiment was tempered ahead of a European Central Bank policy meeting later in the day and key US jobs data on Friday. Upbeat US and Chinese manufacturing data on Wednesday had lured investors away from perceived safe-haven currencies and assets, lifting stocks, commodities and higher-yielding currencies. The dollar index, a gauge of the greenback's performance against a basket of six major currencies, was steady on the day at 82.557 after falling 0.8 percent on Wednesday, its biggest one-day fall in six weeks. Data on Wednesday showed US private employers unexpectedly cut jobs in August, boding ill for the closely watched non-farm payrolls report on Friday, which is expected to show a fall of 100,000 in August.

The dollar slipped against the yen, and was down 0.3 percent, moving towards a 15-year low hit last week. The yen showed limited reaction to comments by Japanese political heavyweight Ichiro Ozawa, who said action was needed to stem rapid rises in the yen. Ozawa is pitched against Prime Minister Naoto Kan in a party leadership race. The ECB is seen keeping its benchmark refinancing rate at 1.0 percent at Thursday's meeting. It is also expected to extend lending support for banks despite raising its economic growth forecasts as it seeks to balance a multi-speed recovery among the 16 countries in the euro zone.

Local Money Market: The call money rates stabilized this week after having come down sharply the previous week. Local Market FX: USD/BDT was relatively stable this week. This document has been produced for the purposes of marketing and is not independent research. Author: Shareq Husain, Associate Financial Market Sales, Standard Chartered Bank. This memorandum is issued by Standard Chartered Bank and is based on or derived from information generally available to the public from sources believed to be reliable. While all reasonable care has been taken in its preparation no responsibility or liability is accepted for errors of fact or any opinion expressed herein.



Opening Ceremony of NCC Bank Ltd. Md Harunur Rashid, vice chairman of National Credit and Commerce Bank, inaugurates the bank's 70th Branch in Narsingdi on Thursday.

Petrobras sells \$64b of stock

Brazil's Petrobras unveiled one of the world's biggest share offerings Friday, a sale of up to 64 billion dollars in new stock to finance oil exploration aimed at turning Brazil into a leading oil exporter of the 21st century.

The transaction could be expanded to 74 billion dollars if there was heavy demand, the state-run company said.

The cash serves as the core of an ambitious plan Petrobras has already outlined to boost capital expenditure over the next five years to 224 billion dollars as it seeks to tap potentially vast oil reserves discovered recently off the coast of Rio de Janeiro.

The 64-billion-dollar target for the new share offer represents a more than 40 percent increase in the company's capital, which on Thursday was estimated at 150 billion dollars.

Petrobras's share prices rose nearly five percent during trading in Sao Paulo after the announcement, confirming investor confidence in the issuance and Brazil's outlook generally.

Weekly Market Highlights Aug 29 - Sep 02 2010. DSE All Share Index: 5669.86408 (+2.32%). DSE General Index: 6974.86834 (+1.83%). DSE - 20 Index: 3313.62407 (+1.55%). CSE All Share Index: 15437.9591 (+1.82%). CSE - 30 Index: 21009.7431 (+1.83%). CSE Selected Index: 12930.6616 (+1.34%).

Weekly Turnover Leaders. Table with columns: Company, Turnover (Vol., M.Tk.), Closing Av. Pr., and CSE.

Weekly Capital Gainers/Losers. Table with columns: Company, Price Chn. (%), Close, Turnover, and M.Tk.

Weekly News Highlights from Trade Servers. Summary of news items from various sources.

Weekly TRADED ISSUES Aug 29 - Sep 02, '10

Large table listing traded issues with columns for Company, Price, and Volume. Includes sections for FUEL & POWER, PHARMACEUTICAL & CHEMICAL, and INVESTMENT.

Source: Capital Gainer/Losers tables are prepared on the basis of the close price change of the traded issues. EPS-Earnings per Share, BV-Book Value per Share, ...