

Asian markets up

AFP, Hong Kong
Stocks rose in Asia on Tuesday as relieved investors welcomed an easing of tensions on the Korean peninsula after the South's live-fire drill passed off without retaliation from the North.

The euro was also given a fillip after China said it was happy with measures taken by the European Union and International Monetary Fund to ensure financial stability in the eurozone.

Seoul closed 0.83 percent, or 16.81 points, higher at 2,037.09 and Tokyo jumped 1.51 percent, or 154.12 points, to 10,370.53.

Hong Kong ended 1.57 percent, or 354.78 points, higher at 22,993.86 and Sydney rose 0.75 percent, or 35.3 points, to 4,771.9.

A cold snap in China helped Shanghai post a 1.79 percent gain on the back of the mining sector. The index added 51.20 to end at 2,904.12.

The euro fetched 1.3172 dollars in Tokyo afternoon trade against 1.3126 dollars in New York late Monday. The single European currency rose to 110.20 yen from 109.95 yen.

The dollar eased to 83.64 yen from

83.78 yen.
The Bank of Japan's widely expected move to keep interest rates at zero to 0.1 percent had little effect on stocks.

Regional markets were also boosted by energy companies.

In other markets:
Singapore closed up 0.22 percent, or 6.89 points, at 3,139.85.

Manila gained 0.36 percent, or 14.80 points, to end at 4,091.86.

Ayala Land rose 0.9 percent to 16.34 pesos, Metropolitan Bank & Trust added 0.9 percent to 64.95 and Megaworld was 0.9 percent higher at 2.37 but Aboitiz Power shed 2.5 percent to 30.95.

Kuala Lumpur closed up 0.62 percent, or 9.30 points at 1,505.18.

Wellington was up 0.58 percent, or 19.14 points, at 3,319.10.

Air New Zealand was steady at 1.49 New Zealand dollars after the government approved a trans-Tasman tie-up with Virgin Blue, while Fletcher building rose 0.5 percent to 7.77 and Telecom gained 0.9 percent to 2.23.

Bangkok rose 0.66 percent, or 6.68 points, to 1,013.19.

Mumbai closed up 0.86 percent, or 171.44 points, at 20,060.32.



Sultan Mahmood Chowdhury, chairman of Social Islami Bank, presides over the bank's seventh extraordinary general meeting at Hotel Purbani International in Dhaka yesterday. The bank decided to increase its authorised capital from Tk 400 crore to Tk 1,000 crore and issue rights shares at 1:1. Muhammad Ali, managing director, was also present.

Crude mixed

AFP, Singapore

Crude prices were mixed in Asian trade on Tuesday but freezing weather in the northern hemisphere and an expected hike in petrol demand during the Christmas holidays supported markets, analysts said.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for February delivery, gained 13 cents to \$89.50.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in February dipped six cents to \$92.68 a barrel.

Crude prices were "lifted by strong gasoline futures ahead of expected holiday demand and also by cold weather, which supported heating oil futures," Phillip Futures said in a report.

Gasoline prices late Monday hit "their highest level since May on hopes that holiday driving will

Currency

Table with columns: Major currency exchange rates, USD forward rate against BDT, and various currency values like US dollar, Euro, Pound, etc.

Local Market FX
USD/BDT eased off a bit today, as the buying pressure eased.
Money Market Rates
Call money continued to climb down from the very high levels today.



AAM Zakaria, managing director of First Security Islami Bank, opens the bank's Chawkbazar branch in Chittagong yesterday.

STOCK

Relative Strength Index (14) Report Dec 21, 2010. Table with columns: Company, CloseP, Dev, RSI, and various stock symbols like BANK, SERVICE, LEATHER, etc.

Shipping section containing Chittagong Port, Berthing position and performance of vessels, Vessels not ready, Vessels awaiting employment, Vessels not entering, Vessels due at outer anchorage, and Positions of Chittagong Port vessels.

AGM/EGM/Dividend/Right/IPO

Table listing company events including AGM, EGM, Dividend, Right, and IPO with columns for Company, RD/BC, SPOT, Dividend, Yend, AGM Meeting, VENUE, and Time.

News from Trade Servers

KPCL: The company has informed that the 10th EGM of the company will be held on 23.01.2011 at 11:00 AM at Bashundhara Convention Centre, Bashundhara R/A, Baridhara, Dhaka to pass the following resolutions: (1) to insert object clause iii (24) and (25) in the Memorandum of Association of the Company after clause iii (23) subject to permission of the Honorable High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh and (2) to provide corporate Guarantee in favor of Standard Chartered Bank to secure credit facilities for Khulna Power Company Unit II Ltd. (KPUL), a subsidiary of the Company. Record Date for EGM: 30.12.10.