

Asian markets down

AFP, Hong Kong
Asian shares were mostly lower on Wednesday in quiet trade ahead of end-of-year holidays, with Tokyo hit by weak economic figures and Shanghai investors worried about fresh lending restrictions.

Tokyo fell 0.23 percent, or 24.05 points, to end at 10,346.48 after closing the previous day at a seven-month high while dealers were also hit by worse than expected export figures and a weak growth forecast.

Official trade data showed Japan's shipments in November rose 9.1 percent from a year earlier compared with 7.8 percent growth in October.

Shanghai gave up 0.90 percent, or 26.21 points, to close at 2,877.90 after reports that the central bank was mulling methods to cap lending as it struggles to stem the flood of liquidity into the economy, which is helping fuel inflation.

Hong Kong ended 0.22 percent, or 51.33 points, higher at 23,045.19.

Seoul closed flat, edging up 1.02 points at 2,038.11 and Sydney edged up 0.14

percent, or 6.5 points, to 4,778.4 as traders began winding down ahead of Christmas.

Markets, which had fallen on Monday amid concerns over tensions on the Korean peninsula, were given a cue from Wall Street, where the Dow jumped 0.48 percent to a two-year high on the back of upbeat earnings.

Against the safe-haven Swiss unit, the single currency hit a fresh low of 1.2530 in early Asian trading before recovering to 1.2571.

It gained to 1.3127 dollars in afternoon Tokyo trade from 1.3093 dollars in New York late Tuesday and to 109.95 yen from 109.68 yen earlier.

In other markets:

Singapore closed up 0.14 percent, or 4.46 points, at 3,144.31. Kuala Lumpur closed up 0.66 percent, or 9.87 points, at 1,515.05.

Wellington closed 0.10 percent higher, adding 3.28 points to 3,322.38.

Bangkok rose 0.59 percent, or 5.95 points, to 1,019.14.

Mumbai fell 0.22 percent, or 44.52 points, to 20,015.80.



MERCANTILE BANK
Mercantile Bank Chairman Md Abdul Jalil inaugurates the bank's Kushtia branch on Nawab Sirajuddoullah Road in Kushtia Sadar recently. Managing Director (acting) AKM Shahidul Haque and local Mayor Md Anwar Ali were also present.

Oil up

AFP, Singapore

Crude rallied in Asian trade Wednesday as cold weather and bullish energy demand from China sent it to two-year highs, analysts said.

Brent North Sea crude for February delivery rose 15 cents to \$93.35 per barrel in the afternoon after touching \$93.49 in earlier trade.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in February gained 12 cents to \$89.94.

"Oil prices remain supported on cold weather and strong demand indications, with Chinese oil demand," Barclays Capital said in a report.

Icy weather across Europe and northeastern US states would lift crude prices as demand for heat-

Currency

Wednesday's forex statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Major currency exchange rates	USD forward rate against BDT	
	BC Sell	TT Buy
US dollar	71.05	70.05
Euro	95.31	90.27
Pound	111.81	106.63
Australian dollar	72.30	68.47
Japanese yen	0.87	0.82
Swiss franc	75.78	72.25
Swedish kroner	10.72	9.98
Canadian dollar	71.27	68.12
Hong Kong dollar	9.16	8.99
Singapore dollar	55.70	53.25
UAE dirham	19.45	18.97
Saudi riyal	19.05	18.58
Danish kroner	12.86	11.96
Kuwaiti dir	247.51	244.10

Buy	Sell	Exchange rate of some currencies	
		Per USD	BDT per Currency
1M	70.10	45.14	1.56
2M	70.16	85.80	0.82
3M	70.26	111.23	0.63
6M	70.69	30.17	2.34
		3.13	22.53

*All currencies are quoted against BDT
*Rates may vary based on nature of transaction

Local Market FX
USD/BDT market was cautious today.

Money Market Rates
Call money continued to climb down from the very high levels today.

International Market
The euro gained against the dollar and recovered from all-time lows against the Swiss franc on Wednesday, boosted by a news report that China was ready to buy significant amounts of Portuguese sovereign debt. The Jormal De Negocios daily reported China is looking to buy between 4 billion euros (\$5.26 billion) and 5 billion euros of Portuguese sovereign debt to help the country ward off pressure in debt markets, though it gave no details of its sources.



MTB
Bangladesh Bank Governor Atiur Rahman inaugurates an SME/Agri branch of Mutual Trust Bank at Dhanbari in Tangail on Tuesday. MTB Group Chairman Samson H Chowdhury and Managing Director Anis A Khan were also present.

STOCK

Relative Strength Index (14) Report Dec 22, 2010

Company	CloseP	Dev.	RSI	Company	CloseP	Dev.	RSI	Company	CloseP	Dev.	RSI
BANK				BD, Autocars -Z	539.75	14.00	41	SERVICE			
UBCL -A	230.10	-4.20	17.8	Kay & Que (BD)	-A462.25	-3.00	41.22	Eastern Housing -A1278.75	-17.50	26.34	
N C C Bank -A	67.50	-0.20	22.15	BSRM Steels-A	2012.25	-26.00	41.81	Summit A. Port.-N	186.70	-2.80	38.51
ICB Is. Bank-Z	19.90	0.10	25.89	S. Alam Steel -A	827.25	-11.50	41.97	Samorita HospitalA 1450.25	3.50	43.71	
First Secu. Bk-A	40.00	0.10	31.15	Olympic Ind. -A	2903.75	-95.00	42.8	Ocean Containers-A 141.30	0.10	57.92	
Al Arafah Islami B-A	60.10	-0.80	37.33	Golden Son -A	105.70	-1.50	43.92	LEATHER			
Pubali Bank -A	101.70	-0.40	38.67	Aziz PipesZ	566.00	3.50	44.57	Apex Tannery -A	1854.00	-24.00	39.01
Jamuna Bank -A	53.30	0.30	40.42	Singer BD -A	7194.00	3.00	45.53	Bata Shoe Ltd. -A	706.10	12.60	42.17
EXIM Bank-A	58.20	-0.10	40.75	Anwar Galvanizing -Z447.00	-7.75	45.6	Singer BD -A	7194.00	-0.30	45.61	
Brac Bank -A	777.25	10.25	42.2	Aftab Auto.-A	484.80	-3.50	48.16	ApexAdelchi Ftr -A 4239.25	-14.50	53.07	
Dhaka Bank -A	71.70	1.00	42.75	BD, Thai Alum -A	1265.50	-7.75	48.99	CERAMIC			
Rupali Bank -Z	1828.00	-22.00	44.93	Quasem Drycells -A 155.40	-2.70	49.24	RAK Ceramics(BD) Ltd-N175.80-2.10	35.76			
Dutch Bangla B-A	2106.25	-5.75	45.25	National Tubes -A 1541.25	70.25	49.41	Standard Ceramic -B500.75	-7.00	43.52		
Premier Bank -N	62.70	-0.30	45.9	Eastern Cables-B 730.25	1.25	50.81	Fu-wang Ceramic-A 574.75	-20.75	46.73		
IFIC Bank -A	1368.25	10.25	45.97	Monno Stafflers -A 3257.50	-222.00	54.17	Monno Ceramic -A 1187.00	27.75	47.49		
Southeast Bank-A	538.25	5.75	47.04	FOOD & ALLIED			HeidelbergCement -A3582.50	1.00	38.36		
MutualTrust Bank-A	661.75	0.00	48.33	Bangas -A	2161.00	-96.50	36.93	IT INDUSTRIES			
Bank Asia -A	782.25	11.50	48.8	National Tea -A	5479.00	-225.25	38.96	ConfidencCement A291.80	-4.10	20.01	
Mercantile Bank -A	544.75	11.75	49.17	BATBC -A	707.90	-10.50	39.43	MeghnaCement -A 359.70	-7.10	33.47	
City Bank -A	927.25	-1.00	50.44	AMCL (Pran) -A	1781.75	25.25	39.57	Aramit Cement -A 1612.75	-19.00	36.18	
Uttara Bank -A	1584.00	-12.25	50.44	Fine Foods Z	105.90	-4.50	41.34	LarargeS Cement-Z 563.75	-5.75	36.35	
Trust Bank-A	703.50	-8.25	50.71	Apex FoodsA	1234.25	-35.00	44.96	HeidelbergCement -A3582.50	1.00	38.36	
AB Bank -A	1490.75	-12.50	50.79	Rahima Food -B	693.00	-7.50	46.67	DAFODIL Comp.-A	39.40	-0.80	37.46
Standard Bank -A	594.00	4.50	51.05	Beach Hatchery -A	105.70	-1.90	47.72	ISN Ltd. -A	41.80	-0.60	40.91
Prime Bank -A	811.75	42.50	51.18	Meghna PET Ind. -Z	22.80	-0.20	49.96	BDCOM Online-A	52.00	0.80	41.18
Eastern Bank -A	122.20	6.20	51.56	Meghna Con. Milk -B 82.00	-2.70	51.82	Agni Systems -A	61.10	-1.90	41.51	
Islami Bank -A	715.50	-3.50	52.39	Fu-Wang Food A	114.20	-3.60	53.59	In Tesh Online -A	37.80	-0.10	42.77
Social Invest. B-A	51.90	-0.20	52.74	GeminiSeaFood A 1912.00	-13.00	58.6	GENERAL INSURANCE				
One Bank -A	1019.00	0.50	53.01	Chittagong Veg.-Z 3628.00	70.75	66.82	GreenDeltainsu -A 333.30	-3.90	24.79		
National Bank -A	174.50	8.80	62.43	FUEL & POWER			BGIC -A	78.80	-0.90	27.65	
BD Finance-A	232.50	-2.50	21.68	Padma Oil Co. -A	885.20	-17.00	29.12	Karnaphuli Insur -A	99.80	-0.70	32.61
Uttara Finance -A	384.80	3.90	33.07	BOC (BD) Ltd. -A	747.50	6.20	35.81	Asia Insu.-A	226.20	-0.20	36.37
LankaBangla Fin. -A 495.00	-5.90	37	DECCO Ltd. -A	2172.00	-4.75	40.51	AsiaPacificInsu. -A	897.25	-28.00	40.73	
National H Fin.-N 1205.75	0.75	37.61	Power Grid Co. -A 1003.50	-22.25	42.65	Nitrol Insurance -B	960.75	-8.50	41.83		
Prime Finance-A 455.70	1.70	40.12	Jamuna Oil -A	345.90	4.00	44.26	Pragati Gen. I -A	1464.75	25.25	41.86	
Delta Brac HFCL-N2544.25	72.25	40.34	Meghna Petroleum -A243.10	0.80	44.34	United Insur -A	1768.50	-14.75	41.89		
Ultara Leasing -A 1734.00	-28.25	40.54	Summit Power -A 146.00	0.60	47.16	Purabi G Insu.-A	2293.75	-61.00	42.17		
IDFC -A	4676.25	24.50	40.8	Eastern Lubricants -A774.70	1.30	47.47	NorthernGinsur-A	867.00	-3.50	43.86	
IP D C -A	668.75	9.50	42.03	Khulna Power-A	118.30	1.40	47.71	Eastland Insur -A	1590.25	-18.25	44.84
B I F C -A	1071.00	-18.50	42.55	Titans Gas A	1093.00	14.75	58.74	Global Insur -A	876.00	-4.50	45.25
Intl. Leasing-A	2479.75	-11.75	42.96	Bangladesh Welding -A270.80	-2.10	69.56	Prime Insur -A	1536.25	-26.25	45.33	
Union Capital -A	231.00	-4.00	42.98	JUTE			Peoples Insur -A	963.75	0.75	45.34	
Bay Leasing -A	2699.50	-45.75	43.28	Sonali Ansh -A	2585.50	-135.50	37.32	Republic Insu.-A	845.50	-11.00	45.52
Fidelity Assets-A	871.50	-11.50	43.32	Jute SpinnersA	1871.50	-89.00	41.03	Pioneer Insur -A	1912.50	-11.75	46.64
Midax Financing-A	1884.75	-15.00	43.37	TEXTILE			SonarBanglainsu. -A806.25	-26.75	46.79		
Phoenix Fin.-A	2146.50	-18.25	43.48	Saiham Tex.A	181.50	-38.40	23.14	Central Insur -A	1106.75	5.00	47.01
People'sLeas.-A	284.50	-2.20	44.17	CMC Kamal Tex. -A 213.10	-2.60	27.8	Reliance Insur -A	1750.25	-27.00	47.05	
First LeaseA	1491.25	5.00	44.99	BEXTEX -A	77.00	-0.40	33.55	Takaful Islami Insu-A1198.00	5.25	47.16	
Islamic Finance-A	909.25	0.50	47.8	Maksoms Spin-A	69.00	1.40	34	Standard Insur.-A	795.75	-2.00	48.42
Premier Leasing-A	1052.50	-34.75	51.16	Al-Haj Textile -A	66.30	0.10	35.38	Paramount Insur-A	836.75	-13.75	48.79
INVESTMENT				Metro Spinning -A	90.40	-2.60	39.83	City G Insu.-Z	1339.00	50.50	48.85
AIMS First -A	11.43	-0.01	30.29	Desh Garments -B	515.50	-7.75	41.46	Agrani Insur. -A	897.25	-13.25	50.08
ICB -A	4230.75	25.75	36.64	Square Textile -A	216.60	-2.60	42.46	Provati Ins.-Z	811.25	5.75	50.45
Greenem F 1-A	97.70	4.90	53.09	Delta SpinnersA	733.00	18.25	42.78	Mercantile Insur -A 1423.50	15.75	51.02	
Popular Life 1st M.F.-A10.40	0.40	50.39	Mithun Knitting -A	1751.75	-8.75	43.4	Phoenix Insur -A	1490.25	26.25	51.07	
ICB Emp.PMF-A	15.60	0.40	54.15	Prime Textile -A	799.50	-8.50	44.66	Federal Insur.-A	233.80	-0.50	51.29
4th ICB M F-A	2477.25	77.25	54.47	Tallu Spinning -Z	776.75	2.00	44.96	Rupali InsurA	1785.00	27.50	52.88
3rd ICB M F-A	2340.00	40.50	55.47	R. N. Spinning-A	116.10	0.00	45.76	Janata InsurA	2047.25	10.75	53.05
PHP 1st M. F.-A	10.10	0.40	55.5	Beximco Syn.-A	470.25	-11.25	47.89	Dhaka Ins. Ltd.-A	2561.50	6.25	56.51
IFIC 1st MF-A	14.90	0.60	55.53	Sonargaon Tex -A	1330.50	-26.25	48.3	Continental Insur. -A1113.25	12.00	56.91	
Greenem1:Sch.2 -A	28.00	1.90	56.31	Stylecraft -A	6820.00	-378.00	49.57	Eastern Insur A	2449.50	57.50	72.95
DBH 1st MF-A	15.20	0.60	56.48	Dacca Dyeing-N	87.00	6.10	50.28	Islami Ins.BD-Z	1139.75	0.00	87.73
ICB AMCL 1stMF-A 768.00	16.50	57.19	Apex Spinning-A	1618.00	38.75	51.37	LIFE INSURANCE				
1st ICB M F -A 10133.25	233.25	57.48	Milek Spinning-N	101.40	-2.20	51.37	Prime Is. Life -A	388.20	2.00	15.75	
Trust Bk 1st MF-A	16.00	0.60	57.74	Safko Spinning-Z	723.00	94.25	54.37	MeghnaLifelines. -A	411.70	5.10	21.56
Phoenix Fin. 1st MF-A15.20	1.20	58.14	Dulamia CottonB	515.25	0.00	75.42	Fareast Is. Life -A	403.80	1.40	39.7	
ICB A. IslamicMF-A 464.00	21.50	58.29	H.R. Textile -A	1144.50	0.00	78.12	Progressive Life-A 3328.25				