

Asian markets up

AFP, Hong Kong
Asian stock markets were broadly higher on Thursday, with some signs of optimism going into 2011 but the strengthening yen saw Tokyo end the year on a low.

Sydney's S&P/ASX 200 index ended up 0.32 percent, or 15.2 points, at 4,790.4 and Seoul rose 0.37 percent, or 7.51 points, to 2,051.00, its highest close in more than three years.

Hong Kong added 0.13 percent, or 30.04 points, to 22,999.34 and Shanghai rose 0.29 percent, or 8.05 points, to 2,759.58 but traders said the market was still coming to terms with last weekend's interest rate hike, the second in less than three months.

A warning by China's housing ministry of further unspecified measures to rein in the property market added to nervousness, dragging down developer stocks.

The rate hike "has hurt already-weak sentiment as it will have a negative impact on the market liquidity conditions," Dow Jones Newswires quoted Capital Securities analyst Jacky Zhang as saying.

However there were also signs of exuberance, with firmer metals prices helping push Sydney higher after losses on Wednesday caused partly by gloom about China.

In Hong Kong, Haitong Securities said the dip in the market was likely to be limited as China's economic cooling measures had largely been priced in.

Haitong noted that the Hang Seng had climbed just five percent over the year, while "H-shares" - mainland firms listed in Hong Kong - were two percent lower.

Tokyo ended 2010 by losing 1.12 percent, or 115.62 points, to 10,228.92.

The Nikkei's fall came as the dollar plunged against the yen, weighing on exporters as a stronger currency makes their goods less attractive overseas.

The greenback dropped to 81.53 yen in early European trade, off an intraday low of 81.26, but down from 81.62 yen in New York late Wednesday.

The euro rose to 1.3239 dollars from 1.3224 dollars in New York.

Against the yen, the single European currency was marginally higher at 107.90 against 107.88 yen in New York.

Oil rose in Asian trade on expectations that freezing temperatures in the northern hemisphere will stoke demand.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for February delivery, rose 20 cents to 91.32 dollars per barrel in the afternoon.

Gold closed at 1,413.00-1,414.00 US dollars an ounce in Hong Kong, up from Wednesday's close of 1,407.00-1,408.00 dollars.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 0.09 percent to 11,585.38, the broader S&P 500 index gained 0.10 percent and the NASDAQ rose 0.15 percent.

In other markets: Singapore closed up 0.14 percent, or 4.55 points, at 3,212.46.

Kuala Lumpur ended 0.36 percent, or 5.43 points, lower at 1,518.91.

Bangkok edged down 0.18 percent, or 1.83 points, to 1,032.76.

Mumbai closed up 0.66 percent, or 133.04 points, at 20,389.07.



Md Abdul Jalil MP, chairman of Mercantile Bank, inaugurates the bank's 65th branch at Shyamoli in Dhaka recently. AKM Shahidul Haque, managing director, was also present.



Md Harunur Rashid MP, vice chairman of NCC bank, inaugurates the bank's 79th branch at Kalihati in Tangail recently. Mohammed Nurul Amin, managing director, was also present.

Shipping

Table containing shipping schedules for Chittagong Port, including vessel names, cargo calls, local agents, dates of arrival, and departure.

STOCK

Table of Relative Strength Index (14) Report Dec 30, 2010, listing various stocks and their performance metrics.

AGM/EGM/Dividend/Right/IPO

Table detailing financial events including AGM, EGM, Dividend, Right, and IPO for various companies.

News from Trade Servers: PHENIXINS: The Company has further informed that the Board of Directors of the company has fixed the record date on 13.01.2011 for giving effect the change in the denomination of share value from Tk. 100.00 to Tk. 10.00 each as well as Market lot from 20 to 200 shares.