

Asian markets fall on Mideast concern

AFP, Hong Kong

Oil prices surged and Asian stock markets plunged on Thursday, as traders worried about turmoil in Libya and possible further contagion within the Arab world.

Uprisings across North Africa and the Middle East have led to risk aversion among investors, causing them to buy up safe-haven assets such as gold and the Swiss franc, which hit a record high against the dollar.

With crude shipments from the country curtailed, oil prices jumped to highs not seen since 2008, potentially fuelling inflation at a time when many nations, particularly in Asia, are trying to keep it under control.

Brent North Sea crude -- which is more sensitive to Middle East unrest because of Europe's greater dependence on oil from the region -- reached \$119.79 in European trade late in the Asian day, before receding somewhat.

Morocco, Bahrain, Yemen and Iran are already witnessing uprisings, after similar movements led to the ouster of the presidents of Egypt and Tunisia. In Saudi Arabia King Abdullah decreed an increase in social benefits to try to head off a similar fate.

Investors looking for safe havens pushed gold to \$1,414.00-\$1,415.00 an ounce by the end of Hong Kong trade, up from Wednesday's close of \$1,400.00-\$1,401.00.

Stocks were mostly lower as dealers continued to cash out for a

fourth day.

Tokyo fell 1.19 percent, or 126.39 points, to end at 10,452.71, while Sydney closed down 0.75 percent, or 36.60 points, at 4,809.30.

Mumbai fell 3.00 percent, or 545.92 points, to 17,632.41 after street demonstrations on Wednesday highlighted the problem of inflation.

Investors sold equities amid fears that India's central bank was preparing another interest rate hike.

Hong Kong tumbled 1.34 percent, or 305.86 points, to 22,601.04, extending its losing streak to four straight sessions.

Stocks were also dragged down by an 0.88 percent fall on the Dow in New York.

However, Shanghai ended 0.56 percent, or 15.97 points, higher at 2,878.60, led by gains in coal miners and oil firms.

The dollar firmed slightly to 0.9280 Swiss francs in afternoon trade, after sliding to 0.9273 earlier, but still below its previous record low of 0.9301 marked in December.

The euro rose to \$1.3781 in Tokyo trade from 1.3746 in New York late Wednesday. The dollar fell to 82.01 yen from 82.46 yen.

In other markets:

Seoul fell 0.60 percent, or 11.75 points, to 1,949.88. Singapore fell 0.96 percent, or 28.77 points, to 2,973.08.

Kuala Lumpur fell 1.40 percent, or 21.24 points, to 1,489.87. Bangkok fell 1.38 percent, or 13.69 points, to 977.22.



MERCANTILE BANK
Mercantile Bank signed a deal with PRAN-RFL Group on agriculture loan at the bank's boardroom in Dhaka on Wednesday. Md Abdul Jalil MP, chairman of the bank; AKM Shahidul Haque, managing director, attended the programme with Mahtab Uddin Ahmed, chairman of PRAN-RFL Group.



PRILINK SECURITIES LTD
Ishtiaq Ahmed Chowdhury, managing director of Trust Bank Investment Ltd, inaugurates the 10th branch of Prilink Securities Ltd at Kuril in Dhaka recently. Md Zahurul Islam, chairman of Prilink Securities, and Md Abu Syed Tito, managing director, were also present.

Shipping							
Chittagong Port							
Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 24/02/2011.							
Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/2	Banglar Mamata	Rice(bag)	Yang	Mariners	12/2	25/2	2485
J/3	Full Rich	Wheat(p)	Karachi	Pol	15/2	27/2	2785
J/4	Atlantik Pride	Rice(bag)	Hochi	Uni Ship	19/2	1/3	2711
J/5	Coral Hero	Gl(st. Coll)	Sing	Everett	20/2	24/2	2855
J/6	Golden Light	Rice(bag)	Hochi	Uni Ship	19/2	28/2	1776
J/7	Merian	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	22/2	25/2	450
J/8	Ryu Gyang	Rice(bag)	Hochi	Uni Ship	22/2	1/3	80
J/10	Hansa Calypso	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	23/2	26/2	368
J/11	Kola Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	23/2	25/2	373
J/12	Munster	Cont	Ptp	Cma-cgm	20/2	25/2	483
J/13	Sean Rickmers	Cont	Ptp	Mdbl	22/2	25/2	122
Cct/1	Bunga Delima	Cont	P. Kel	Pssl	22/2	26/2	182
Cct/3	Far Colombo	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	22/2	25/2	450

Vessels not ready			
Bk Ace	Wheat(g)	Bulg	Seacom
Bk Ace	Wheat(g)	Bulg	Seacom
Banglar Kallol	Wheat(p)	Karachi	Bsc
Surreal	Wheat/rice	Karachi	Seacon
Unico Anna	Wheat	Karachi	Pol
Banglar Maya	Rice(bag)	Yang	Mariners
Bright Eagle	Rice(bag)	Qasim	Uni Ship

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction			
Banga Lanka	Cement(bag)	--	Baridhi
Banga Lanka	Cement(bag)	--	Baridhi
Banga Borak	--	--	Baridhi
Banga Barta	--	Ctg	Bdship
Banga Bijoy	--	Sing	Baridhi
Banga Borti	--	P.kel	Bdship
Phuc Hai Star	--	Honga	Asll

Vessels not entering			
Jebel-e-rahmat	C. Clink	Kotab	Intraport
Jebel-e-rahmat	C. Clink	Kotab	Intraport
Ocean Pearl	Urea	V. Tai	Litmond
Devprayag	Slag	Sing	Sstc
Miliadias	Urea(bag)	Mesai	Hsl
Amsir	C. Clink	Kant	Litmond
Shen Ming Hong 7	C. Clink	Bukp	Sstc

Vessels due at outer anchorage					
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Brave Royal	24/2	Kohsi	BrsI	C. Clink(royal)	10000 W/t
Massalia	24/2	Rosar	Rainbow	Wheat	20000 W/t
Asrar-a-mostafa	24/2	Yang	Cia	Rice(bag)	3303log
Oriental Elf	24/2	Sing	Jac	Bus	--
Banga Bodor	24/2	Pki	Bdship	Cont	--
Susan K	24/2	Sing	Everett	Gl(st. Bill)	75x1
Sarim	24/2	Kohsi	Litmond	C. Clink	--
Hong De	24/2	Sing	Psal	C. Clink	--
Carla Rickmers	24/2	Pki	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Hansa Centaur	24/2	Sin	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Phoenix Ace	25/2	Mong	Everett	Vehicle	35 Pkgs
Hong Kong Sun	25/2	Krabi	Sstc	L. Stone	--
Palabora	25/2	Mumbai	Everett	P. Cargo	Cont
Grand Royal	25/2	Fuku	Vanguard	Slag	--
Trans Ocean	25/2	Qasim	Total	Wheat	--
Cristina A	25/2	Cbo	Seacon	Cont	Col

Positions of Chittagong Port vessels in line with a berthing sheet of the CPA provided by: **IBFC**

STOCK

Relative Strength Index (14) Report Feb 24, 2011											
Company	CloseP	Dev.	RSI	Company	CloseP	Dev.	RSI	Company	CloseP	Dev.	RSI
BANK				BD. Autocars-B	316.00	-16.25	29.44	PAPER & PACKAGING			
UCBL -A	83.70	-4.90	20.47	Monno Staffers -A	2198.75	0.00	29.71	Hakkani P & Paper -B	39.70	-0.90	33.97
Uttara Bank -A	104.80	-2.90	21.7	Bangladesh Lamps -A	1989.75	-43.75	29.95	SERVICE			
Prime Bank -A	58.10	-2.30	22.85	Aftab Auto.-A	209.50	-14.50	31.62	Eastern Housing -A	701.00	-35.25	28.51
National Bank -A	73.60	-85.90	26.04	BD. Thal Alum -A	730.00	-42.50	32.19	Samorita HospitalA	1149.50	0.00	35.2
Dutch Bangla B-A	1193.50	-42.00	29.55	National Polymer -A	589.75	-27.50	33.09	Summit A. Port.-N	108.70	-1.70	37.17
Shahjalal Islami -A	51.50	-2.00	30.98	Kay & Que (BD)	A 301.50	-24.25	33.55	Ocean Containers-A	98.70	-5.30	39.93
AB Bank -A	1025.00	-52.00	32.08	Quasem Drycells -A	72.00	-2.20	33.58	LEATHER			
IFB Bank -A	882.25	-45.75	32.93	BSRM Steels-A	1393.50	-74.50	35.07	ApexAdelchi Ftr -A	2987.75	-23.25	30.89
Rupali Bank -Z	1295.00	-14.75	33.41	Rangpur Foundry -A	82.40	-4.50	36.43	Apex Tannery -A	1180.75	-51.00	31.25
Brac Bank -A	539.75	-6.50	33.66	Atlas BD-A	275.90	-14.30	37.19	Samata Leather-Z	141.50	0.00	32.22
MutualTrust Bank-A	429.25	0.00	34.18	Aziz PipesZ	395.50	-34.00	38.54	Legacy Footwear -Z	30.20	-3.30	32.71
Mercantile Bank -A	360.25	-10.25	36.08	Golden Son -A	68.20	-2.00	41.13	Bata Shoe Ltd. -A	490.90	-5.00	36.77
ICB Is. Bank-Z	13.90	-0.40	36.26	Navana CNG-A	146.20	-3.20	41.77	CERAMIC			
Standard Bank -A	388.25	-19.50	36.45	Eastern Cables-B	595.00	-3.25	42.95	Monno Ceramic -A	577.50	-46.50	25.72
Southeast Bank-A	385.50	-8.00	36.78	Deshbandhu Polymer-N61.10		-2.80	43.56	RAK Ceramics(BD) Ltd-N101.60	4.10	33.33	
Trust Bank-A	491.25	-9.25	37.03	FOOD & ALLIED			Fu-wang Ceramic-A	340.25	-14.25	36.26	
City Bank -A	633.50	-12.75	37.51	Bangas -A	1033.75	-62.25	20.56	Shinepukur Cera-A	78.00	-0.80	42.41
N C C Bank -A	48.20	-1.20	38.05	Chittagong Veg.-A	2617.25	-137.75	25.41	Standard Ceramic -B470.75	-32.75	47.47	
Jamuna Bank -A	37.70	-1.40	39.09	Rahima Food -A	321.25	-24.75	26.64	CEMENT			
Pubali Bank -A	69.20	-1.20	39.32	Apex FoodsA	742.25	-25.75	32.08	Aramit Cement -A	943.50	-51.25	28.15
Al Arafah Islami B-A	43.50	-0.50	39.96	Fu-Wang Food A	42.50	-1.80	32.76	LafargeS Cement-Z	369.00	-18.50	33.18
EXIM Bank-A	43.90	-2.10	40.11	Shampur Sugar-Z	13.80	-1.10	34.65	MeghnaCement-A	189.80	-8.50	33.31
Islami Bank -A	599.50	5.25	41.21	Beach Hatchery -A	62.20	-4.20	35.45	ConfidencCement A200.90	-6.60	36.55	
First Secu. Bk-A	29.60	-0.30	41.25	Meghna Con. Milk -B	40.70	-2.50	36.43	HeidelbergCement -A2879.25	-23.25	37.2	
One Bank -A	802.50	-30.50	41.89	Zeal Bangla Sugar-Z	15.80	-0.40	36.55	IT INDUSTRY			
Premier Bank -A	47.90	-1.60	43.13	Meghna PET Ind. -Z	17.00	-0.90	36.86	BDCom Online-A	33.60	-1.30	37.08
Eastern Bank -A	92.90	-1.70	44.2	Fine Foods Z	60.80	-5.10	38.72	ISN Ltd. -A	28.70	-1.00	37.13
Social Invest. B-A	42.60	-1.10	44.33	National Tea -A	4810.25	-186.50	39.31	Daffodil Comp.-A	24.30	-0.60	39.09
Dhaka Bank -A	60.80	-1.80	45.32	BATBCL -A	616.60	-5.40	43.78	Agni Systems -A	40.00	-1.40	39.16
Bank Asia -A	731.75	-27.25	46.48	GeminiSeaFood A	1828.25	-92.75	54.62	In Tech Online -A	26.60	0.00	39.79
NBFI				FUEL & POWER			GENERAL INSURANCE				
Delta Brac HFCL-N	1658.25	-55.25	31.45	Bangladesh Welding -A66.70	-5.60	25.09	Rupali InsurA	106.90	-3.60	15.53	
Premier Leasing-A	723.25	-44.00	33.04	Eastern Lubricants -A461.60	-32.40	29.1	Islami Ins.BD-Z	397.00	-23.00	15.78	
Phoenix Fin.-A	1402.50	-93.25	33.57	Jamuna Oil -A	214.60	-14.70	32.24	Peoples Insur -A	53.00	-1.30	20.77
Midas Financing-A	1177.25	-73.00	34.07	Meghna Petroleum-A156.70	-8.60	34.78	Prime Insur -A	102.80	-4.40	21.2	
I P D C -A	407.50	-24.00	34.55	Padma Oil Co. -A	553.10	-29.80	34.76	City G Insu. -A	74.50	-2.80	21.34
Fidelity Assets-A	540.75	-41.75	35.52	Titas Gas A	709.75	-23.75	34.94	Phoenix Insur -A	83.20	-6.20	22.51
National H Fin.-N	823.00	-24.00	36.05	DESCO Ltd. -A	1508.50	-56.75	35.36	Eastern Insur -A	728.75	-31.00	26.78
B I F C -A	738.75	-49.50	36.94	Power Grid Co. -A	679.75	-38.25	35.49	Pragati Gen. I -A	960.25	-33.50	28.76
Islamic Finance-A	611.50	-42.00	37.75	Suntec SpinnersA	1308.00	-22.50	22.45	Continental Insur. -A	400.75	-33.50	29.11
Bay Leasing-A	2109.75	-111.00	38.21	Jonal Ansh -A	1273.25	-32.50	27.29	Nitol Insurance -B	555.00	-44.25	29.95
United Leasing -A	1252.25	-18.50	39.34	Northern Jute -Z	37.00	0.00	42.16	Takaful Islami Insu-A625.50	-36.50	30.21	
LankaBangla Fin. -A	376.40	-24.80	40.46	BOC (BD) Ltd. -A	554.60	6.20	42.88	Mercantile Insur -A	735.50	-57.75	30.39
BD Finance-A	170.30	-8.10	40.69	JUTE			Janata InsurA	1229.00	-69.75	30.72	
Uttara Finance -A	260.50	-20.30	40.81	Sute SpinnersA	1308.00	-22.50	22.45	NorthernGinsur-A	462.25	-32.50	31.07
First LeaseA	1086.75	-42.50	41.7	Jonai Ansh -A	1273.25	-32.50	27.29	Central Insur -A	631.50	-43.25	31.37
IDLC Fin. -A	3963.00	-187.50	48.23	Northern Jute -Z	37.00	0.00	42.16	AsiaPacificInsu. -A	479.75	-32.00	31.52
Prime Finance-A	375.70	-28.20	48.46	TEXTILE			Pioneer Insur -A	1103.00	-63.00	31.78	
People'sLeas.-A	252.10	0.10	48.71	CMC Kamal Tex. -A	51.00	-4.50	21.25	SonarBanglainsu. -A	4433.00	-36.25	32.14
Union Capital -A	212.20	-14.40	49.46	Sonargaon Tex -A	685.25	-53.00	24.34	Provat Ins. -Z	440.25	-22.00	32.24
Intl. Leasing-A	2251.75	-3.50	52.85	Modern Dyeing-Z	366.00	-25.00	24.44	United Insur -A	1265.25	-73.75	32.4
INVESTMENT				Safko Spinning-Z	362.50	-32.25	26.92	Global Insur -A	484.25	-35.50	32.48
MBL 1st M. F.-A	9.50	0.20	0	Saiham Tex.A	80.50	-3.30	28.85	Agrani Insur. -A	504.00	-35.00	32.6
1st BSRS M F-A	1301.75	-54.75	25.21	Tallu Spinning-A	359.00	-31.75	29.04	Purabi G Insu.A	1461.25	-55.50	32.76
ICB AMCL1stMF-A	514.25	-25.25	30.91	Prime Textile -A	400.50	-13.75	29.12	Standard Insur.-A	450.25	-8.75	33.07
Prime Fin. 1st MF-A	20.30	-0.70	31.26	Dulamia CottonZ	192.00	-15.25	29.64	Paramount Insur-A	442.25	-36.25	33.38
ICB -A	3170.00	-110.75	32.04	Desh Garments -B	327.50	-22.50	30.16	Asia Insu.-A	71.80	-5.10	33.82
ICB A. IslamicMF-A	302.50	-13.25	32.31	Mithun Knitting -A	1027.00	-68.25	30.74	Karnaphuli Insur -A	57.00	-2.30	34.27
6th ICB M F-A	605.75	-18.50	34.09	Delta SpinnersA	362.75	-12.75	31.82	Delta Insur -			