

Asian shares mostly lower

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian shares mostly fell Monday, with Tokyo slipping as emergency work to bring under control a crippled nuclear plant in Japan continued to be held up by high levels of radioactivity.

Tokyo slipped 0.60 percent, or 57.60 points, to close at 9,478.53 and Sydney shed 0.19 percent, or 9.0 points, to 4,733.6, while Hong Kong fell 0.39 percent, or 90.48 points, to 23,068.19.

However, late buying helped Seoul to end up 0.11 percent, or 2.35 points, at 2,056.39, while Shanghai closed up 0.21 percent, or 6.19 points, at 2,056.39.

Shares in Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), which operates the plant, plunged 17.73 percent amid criticism over its handling of the deepening crisis.

Concerns over the Japanese crisis overshadowed another strong cue from Wall Street on Friday, where the Dow closed up 0.41 percent thanks to an upward revision of the growth figure for the US economy in the last quarter of 2010.

The Fed in 2008 slashed rates to near-zero in a bid to lessen the impact of the global financial crisis and has flooded markets with cash as part of its quantitative easing policy.

A hike in rates and less money being sunk into the market leads to more demand for the unit.

In early European trade the dollar rose to 81.72 yen from

81.34 late in New York Friday amid hopes interest rates could rise at some point, while the euro slipped to \$1.4072 from \$1.4088.

Higher interest rates usually support a currency as they make it a more attractive investment proposition.

The European currency traded at 115.02 yen from 114.75 yen.

However, the upbeat data out of the United States sent the Australian dollar to a record \$1.0310, its highest since floating on 1983, as dealers developed more risk appetite.

On oil markets, crude eased slightly but uprisings across the oil-rich Middle East and military strikes on crude exporter Libya supported prices.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in May, dipped 38 cents to \$105.02 per barrel while Brent North Sea crude for May lost 14 cents to \$115.45.

Gold closed at \$1,418.00-\$1,419.00 an ounce in Hong Kong, down from Friday's close of \$1,433.00-\$1,434.00.

In other markets: Singapore fell 0.44 percent, or 13.46 points, to 3,057.38. Kuala Lumpur ended flat, edging down 1.30 points to 1,514.25.

Bangkok fell 0.46 percent, or 4.79 points, to close at 1,032.94.

Indian shares rose 0.68 percent with the benchmark 30-share Sensex Index ending up 127.5 points to 18,943.14.

Tata Motors rose 3.25 percent or 38.45 rupees to 1,220.30.



NCC Bank Director Md Nurun Newaz Salim inaugurates the bank's 80th branch at Chhagalnaiya in Feni recently. Managing Director Mohammed Nurul Amin was also present.



Samson H Chowdhury, chairman of Mutual Trust Bank, presides over the bank's 12th annual general meeting and 13th extraordinary general meeting at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday. The bank approved 20 percent stock dividend for 2010. Syed Manzur Elahi, founding chairman, and Anis A Khan, managing director, were also present.

Shipping

Chittagong Port

Table with columns: Berthing No., Name of vessels, Cargo call, L. Port, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving, Import disch.

Vessels not ready

Table with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo call, L. Port, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving, Import disch.

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Table with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo call, L. Port, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving, Import disch.

Vessels not entering

Table with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo call, L. Port, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving, Import disch.

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Table with columns: Name of vessels, Date of arrival, L. Port call, Local agent, Type of cargo, Loading ports.

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

STOCK

Relative Strength Index (14) Report 28-Mar-2011

Large table with columns: Company, CloseP, Dev., RSI. Lists various companies and their stock performance metrics.

AGM/EGM/Dividend/Right/IPO

Table with columns: Company, RD/BC, SPOT Start, Dividend Right, Yend, AGM Meeting /EGM Date, VENUE, Time. Lists company events and dates.

Table with columns: Company Name, Record Date, Right Share, Issue Price, Subscription Date, Premium (Tk.), Draft Prospectus Submitted SE. Lists IPO details.

News from Trade Servers

PEOPLESINS: The Board of Directors has recommended cash dividend @ 5% and stock dividend @ 5% for the year ended on December 31, 2010. Date of AGM: 01.06.2011, Time: 10:30 AM, Venue: Dhaka Ladies Club, 36, Eskaton Garden Road, Dhaka. Record Date: 11.04.2011. The company has also reported EPS of Tk. 2.11, NAV per share of Tk. 19.89 and NOCFPS per share of Tk. 1.91 for the year ended on December 31, 2010.