

# Asia sees mixed trading

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian shares were mixed Friday in cautious trade ahead of key US jobs data while a weak yen provided some support, but concerns over the consequences of last month's earthquake weighed on sentiment.

Tokyo ended 0.48 percent, or 46.71 points, lower at 9,708.39 after gaining more than three percent in the previous two sessions.

But Seoul ended 0.68 percent, or 14.31 points, up at a record high 2,121.01, while Hong Kong jumped 1.17 percent, or 274.38 points, to 23,801.90.

Shanghai rose 1.34 percent, or 39.30 points, to 2,967.41 and Sydney added 0.50 percent, or 23.9 points to 4,861.8.

As workers struggle to avert a catastrophe at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant that was battered by the March 11 quake and tsunami, dealers looked to its impact on corporate Japan following production halts and rolling blackouts.

The closely-watched Tankan survey of business confidence showed an improvement in March but the Bank of Japan said most of the firms that took part submitted their responses before the earthquake.

Tokyo Electric Power (TEPCO), which operates the stricken atomic plant, closed down 3.6 percent at 449 yen, the company now having lost around 80 percent of its pre-crisis market value.

The data came a day after a study by payrolls firm ADP showed US companies added 201,000 jobs in March, the third straight month in which more than 200,000 jobs were created.

The official purchasing managers index rose to 53.4 in March from 52.2 in February, after three consecutive months of slowdowns, the China Federation of

Logistics and Purchasing (CFLP) said in a statement.

The euro was at \$1.4155 in early European trade, unchanged from New York late Thursday, while it also gained to 118.44 yen from 117.11.

The dollar traded at 83.65 yen compared with 83.20.

Meanwhile the Wall Street Journal said that the central banks of Malaysia and South Korea had stepped into the currency markets to halt the rise of their currencies against the dollar.

On oil markets the conflict in Libya and hopes for the global economic recovery sent crude to a two-and-a-half-year high.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate (WTI) light sweet crude for May delivery, rose 29 cents to \$107.01 a barrel in afternoon Asian trade, surpassing the \$107 level last exceeded in September 2008.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in May turned lower, falling 17 cents to \$117.19, but analysts said the upward trend remained.

Dealers bought up the black gold on news that forces fighting for strongman Moamer Kadhafi had wrested two ports as well as key oil hub Ras Lanuf from rebel hands while successfully defending another city.

The gains indicated prolonged civil strife in the war-torn oil-exporting nation.

Gold closed at \$1,433.50-\$1,434.50 an ounce in Hong Kong, up from Thursday's close of \$1,427.50-\$1,428.50.

In other markets:

Singapore closed up 0.47 percent, or 14.62 points, at 3,120.47. Bangkok rose 1.61 percent, or 16.87 points, to close at 1,064.3.

Mumbai fell 0.13 percent, or 24.83 points, to 19,420.39.



Visitors gather around the stall of GMG at Dhaka Travel Mart 2011, a tourism fair, at Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka yesterday. The Bangladesh Monitor, a monthly travel and tourism publication, organised the eighth version of the three-day show.



Md Hemayet Ullah, additional managing director of Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company, speaks at a programme on business development planning, organised by the insurer's Patuakhali zonal office, in Patuakhali recently.

## Weekly Currency Roundup

March 27-31, 2011

### International Markets:

The euro rose broadly on Thursday as above-forecast euro zone inflation cemented the case for gradual rate rises from the European Central Bank, though analysts cautioned against a rapid rise in the currency. Traders said significant quarter-end and fiscal year-end flows were helping to boost the euro, at the particular expense of the greenback. Eurostat estimated that consumer prices in the 17 countries using the euro jumped 2.6 percent year-on-year in March, up from 2.4 percent in February. Economists polled by Reuters had expected 2.3 percent. European Central Bank Executive Board member Lorenzo Bini Smaghi on Wednesday implied that the central bank's policy is to gradually raise interest rates, with markets expecting the tightening cycle to begin in April.

Anticipation that Japan would buck the global tightening cycle and leave interest rates low to support its quake-hit economy is encouraging players to sell the yen to fund higher-yielding investments, in a revival of the carry trade that flourished before the credit crisis began in 2007.

The Australian dollar hit a fresh 29-year high of \$1.0348 after favourable retail sales and credit growth data.

The dollar index fell around 0.5 percent to 75.747, dented by month-end selling and the broad rise in the euro.

### Local Money Market:

Call money rates eased off this week, as the liquidity situation improved.

### Local Market FX:

USD/BDT rates moved up this week.

— Standard Chartered Bank

# HK's first yuan-denominated IPO gets regulatory nod

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hui Xian REIT, the property flagship controlled by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing, has secured regulatory clearance to launch Hong Kong's first yuan-denominated stock offering, IFR reported late on Friday.

Following the long-awaited nod from the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC), the joint bookrunners BOC International, Citic Securities and HSBC Holdings will start premarketing the initial public offering (IPO) next week, IFR, a Thomson Reuters publication, reported, citing sources familiar with the matter.

Hui Xian real estate investment trust comprises the Oriental Plaza in Beijing, which is mainly owned by Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd, the property company controlled by Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing.

Li is planning to spin off the rental properties, aiming to raise about 10 billion yuan (\$1.5 billion), sources previously told Reuters.

A successful listing of Hui Xian REIT may encourage other Hong Kong developers to launch similar products to tap into the bulging yuan deposits in Hong Kong and also allowing them to bet on appreciation in Chinese currency.

The REIT is expected to offer 4 percent yield, some analysts estimate, making the IPO attractive to investors looking to higher return on their yuan deposits in Hong Kong and also allowing them to bet on appreciation in Chinese currency.

At the end of February, yuan deposits in Hong Kong totaled 407.7 billion yuan (\$62.2 billion), more than quadrupling from a year earlier. Such deposits only earn a few basis points in interest income while yuan denominated bonds yield between 1-3 percent.

## Bank of England rate decision in spotlight

AFP, London

The Bank of England is on the radar for investors next week as the central bank slowly moves towards raising interest rates from their record-low level due to a spike on inflation.

London's FTSE 100 index rose 1.85 percent over the past week to finish at 6,009.92 points on Friday, back above the key 6,000 points level. It ended the first quarter Thursday with a modest gain of 0.14 percent.

Most economists predict that the Bank of England will Thursday keep its key lending rate at a record-low level of 0.50 percent, where it has stood since March 2009, owing to Britain's weak economic recovery.

However, the central bank's rate-setting Monetary Policy Committee is aware of the need to rein in high inflation.

British inflation jumped to 4.4 percent in February, the highest level for more than two years and compared with 4.0 percent in January.

The central bank's main task is to keep annual inflation close to a government-set target level of 2.0 percent.

## TD Bank completes Chrysler Financial takeover

AFP, Ottawa

Toronto Dominion Bank (TD) announced Friday it has completed its takeover of Chrysler Financial Corp., positioning the Canadian bank as one of the top five auto lenders in North America.

"The completion of this transaction represents yet another important step in the ongoing expansion of our business," Tim Hockey, head of TD's Canadian banking and insurance, said in a statement.

The 6.3 billion dollar purchase announced in December will allow TD to "accelerate the growth of our loan book," "grow our presence in a large North American market" and offers "great potential for significantly higher future returns," he said.

TD Bank is already one of the 10 largest banks operating in the United States, with some 6.5 million customers and 1,250 branches in 15 states and the District of Columbia.

Chrysler Financial's dealer clients serve approximately one million customers in the United States and Canada.

Chrysler Financial's former owner, Cerberus Capital Management, spent 7.4 billion dollars on an 80-percent stake in Chrysler in 2007 following its failed marriage to Germany's Daimler.

The private equity group relinquished ownership of the automaker as part of a 2009 government-financed restructuring under bankruptcy protection which saw Italy's Fiat take control of Chrysler in exchange for sharing technology.

However, Cerberus was able to retain its stake in the automaker's former financial arm, which has recently seen improved performance.

TD said its existing retail auto lending business will be combined with Chrysler Financial and Chrysler's former financial arm will be rebranded under the TD Auto Finance brand later this spring.

# STOCK

## Weekly News from Trade Servers

**SINOBANGLA:** The Company will be placed in "A" category from existing "B" category with effect from 29.03.2011 as the company reported disbursement of cash dividend @ 10% for the year ended on October 31, 2010. The Stock Brokers and Merchant Bankers are requested not to provide loan facilities to purchase securities of Sinobangla Industries Ltd. between 1st to 30th trading day after change of categorization of the said securities i.e. starting from 29.03.2011 as per SEC Directive No. SEC/CMRRC/2001-43/169 dated October 01, 2009 and SEC Order No. SEC/CMRRC/2001-50/167 dated October 01, 2009.

**IBBLPBOND:** The Board of Directors has recommended annual profit rate for the IBBLPBOND @ 12.35% for the year 2010. Record Date for entitlement of profit of the Bond: 13.04.11. Date of profit distribution: Within 30 (thirty) days from holding of AGM of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd. which will be held on 18.05.11.

**ISLAMIBANK:** The Board of Directors has recommended stock dividend @ 35% for the year 2010. Date of EGM & AGM: 18.05.11. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Agargaon, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207. Record date for EGM & AGM: 13.04.11. The Bank has also reported EPS of Tk. 60.21, NAV per share of Tk. 316.93 and NOCFPS of Tk. 44.92 for the year ended on 31.12.10. The subject matter of the EGM has been announced by the Bank earlier (news disseminated by DSE on 26.12.2010). The Bank has not informed the time of EGM and AGM.

**APEXADELFT:** The Board of Directors has recommended cash dividend @ 40% for the year ended on December 31, 2010. Date of AGM: 03.05.2011, Time: 11:00 AM, Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Agargaon, Dhaka. Record Date: 10.04.2011. The company has also reported EPS of Tk. 202.87, NAV per share of Tk. 685.00 and NOCFPS per share of Tk. (126.39) for the year ended on December 31, 2010.

**ALARABANK:** The Board of Directors has recommended stock dividend @ 26% for the year ended on December 31, 2010. Date of AGM: 10.05.2011, Time: 10:00 a.m., Venue: Golf Garden, Army Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment, Airport Road, Dhaka. Record date: 10.04.2011. The Bank has also reported EPS of Tk. 4.05, NAV per share of Tk. 16.42 and NOCFPS of Tk. (2.50) for the year ended on December 31, 2010.

**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.

**SAPORTL:** The Board of Directors has recommended final cash dividend @ 20% and stock dividend @ 25% for the year ended on December 31, 2010. Date of AGM: 25.05.2011, Time: 11:30 AM, Venue: Army Golf Club, 'Golf Garden', Airport Road, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka (opposite of Radisson Water Garden Hotel). Record Date: 12.04.2011. The company has also reported EPS of Tk. 11.53, NAV per share of Tk. 37.00 and NOCFPS of Tk. 5.00 for the year ended on December 31, 2010.

**OCL:** The Board of Directors has recommended stock dividend @ 25% for the year ended on December 31, 2010. Date of AGM: 25.05.2011, Time: 10:30 AM, Venue: Army Golf Club, 'Golf Garden', Airport Road, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka (opposite of Radisson Water Garden Hotel). Record Date: 12.04.2011. The company has also reported EPS of Tk. 2.68, NAV per share of Tk. 50.00 and NOCFPS of Tk. 2.75 for the year ended on December 31, 2010.

**EXIMBANK:** The Board of Directors has recommended stock dividend @ 35% for the year ended on December 31, 2010. Date of AGM: 09.06.2011, Time: 10:30 AM, Venue: 'Golf Garden', Army Golf Club, Airport Road, Dhaka. Record Date: 10.04.2011. The Bank has also reported consolidated EPS of Tk. 5.33, consolidated NAV per share of Tk. 18.22 and consolidated NOCFPS of Tk. (0.87) for the year ended on December 31, 2010.

**FIDELASSET:** The Board of Directors has recommended stock dividend @ 15% for the year ended on December 31, 2010. Date of AGM: 16.06.2011, Time: 10:00 AM, Venue: Trust Millonayton, 545, Puratan Biman Bandar Sarak, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka. Record Date: 18.04.2011. The Company has also reported consolidated EPS of Tk. 19.85, consolidated NAV per share of Tk. 214.21 and consolidated NOCFPS of Tk. 6.70 for the year ended on December 31, 2010.

**STANDBANKL:** The Board of Directors has recommended stock dividend @ 28% for the year ended on December 31, 2010. Date of AGM: 16.05.2011, Time: 11:00 AM, Venue: Bashundhara Convention Centre, Baridhara, Dhaka. Record Date: 10.04.2011. The Bank has also reported profit after tax and provision of Tk. 1,369.07 million, EPS of Tk. 43.15, NAV per share of Tk. 177.28 and NOCFPS of Tk. 4.57 for the year ended on December 31, 2010.

**CITYGENIN:** The Company has further informed that the subscription period for rights issue will be from 28.04.2011 to 16.05.2011. Record date for entitlement of rights share: 12.04.2011. The purpose of raising fund through rights share is to strengthen the company's capital base and to amplify business expansion.

**CITYGENIN:** The Company has further informed that the subscription period for rights issue will be from 24.05.2011 to 20.06.2011. Record date for entitlement of rights share: 19.04.2011. The company will utilize the fund to enhance financial strengths and to expand other business activities.

**GP:** The company has further informed that the 14th AGM of the company will be held on 19.04.2011 at 10:00 AM at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Noor, Venue: Hall of Fame, Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Record Date: 20.04.2011. The Bank has also reported profit after tax and provision of Tk. 59.35, NAV per share of Tk. 296.23 and NOCFPS of Tk. 205.19 for the year ended on December 31, 2010.

**MERCINS:** The company has further informed that the subscription period for rights issue will be from 28.04.2011 to 16.05.2011. Record date for entitlement of rights share: 12.04.2011. The purpose of raising fund through rights share is to strengthen the company's capital base and to amplify business expansion.

**CITYGENIN:** The Company has further informed that the subscription period for rights issue will be from 24.05.2011 to 20.06.2011. Record date for entitlement of rights share: 19.04.2011. The company will utilize the fund to enhance financial strengths and to expand other business activities.

**GP:** The company has further informed that the 14th AGM of the company will be held on 19.04.2011 at 10:00 AM at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Noor, Venue: Hall of Fame, Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Sher-E-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka. Record Date: 20.04.2011. The Bank has also reported profit after tax and provision of Tk. 59.35, NAV per share of Tk. 296.23 and NOCFPS of Tk. 205.19 for the year ended on December 31, 2010.

**UNIONCAP:** The company has further informed that the 13th AGM of the company will be held on 25.04.2011 at 11:00 AM at Golf Garden, Army Golf Club, Dhaka Cantonment, Airport Road, Dhaka. Other information of the AGM as announced earlier.

**JAMUNAOIL:** As per un-audited half yearly accounts as on 31.12.10 (July' 10 to Dec' 10), the company has reported net profit after tax of Tk. 413.53 million with EPS of Tk. 9.19. However, considering proposed bonus share @ 20% for the year 2009-10, restated EPS will be Tk. 7.66 as on 31.12.10. It is to be noted that 'Other Income' of the company was Tk. 368.60 million as on 31.12.10.

**AS per regulation 30 of DSE Listing Regulations, a meeting of Board of Directors of BSRMSTEEL will be held on March 31, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.; ASIAPACINS will be held on April 07, 2011 at 4:00 p.m.; FIDELASSET will be held on March 30, 2011 at 5:30 p.m. to consider, among others, audited financial statements of the Company for the year ended on December 31, 2010.**

**DHAKAINS:** The Company has informed that the Board of Directors of the company has decided to issue further 7,50,000 ordinary shares of Tk.