

Asian shares mixed

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian stocks were mixed in quiet trade on Monday as dealers locked in profits from recent gains while two of the region's major markets were closed.

Tokyo's Nikkei ended 0.11 percent, or 10.25 points, lower at 9,671.96 and Shanghai fell 1.51 percent, or 45.57 points, to 2,964.95.

Seoul rose 0.83 percent, or 18.18 points, to finish at 2,216.00.

Hong Kong, Sydney and New Zealand were shut for public holidays, while European and US markets were closed on Friday for the Easter break.

Japanese traders gave up earlier gains as they became nervous ahead of the reporting season this week, which will give the first clues to the impact of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami on the economy.

Auto giants Toyota, Nissan and Honda all reported domestic production had slumped last month due to the quake, which led to power shortages and widespread factory closures.

The Bank of Japan is expected to downgrade its outlook for the year from 1.6 percent to around 0.8 percent in light of the deadly disasters, the Nikkei daily said.

The March 11 earthquake and tsunami battered the northeast coast of Japan and triggered the world's worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl in 1986.

The region's infrastructure, businesses and factories were destroyed, while many local residents were left without jobs, hammering output.

The greenback rose against the Japanese unit, standing at 82.13 yen, from 81.88 yen Friday afternoon in Tokyo. The euro bought \$1.4575 from \$1.4571 and gained to 119.72 yen, compared with 119.30 yen.

Toyota, the world's biggest automaker, said that March production in Japan plunged 62.7 percent year-on-year, while Nissan's output fell 52.4 percent and Honda Motor output plunged 62.9 percent because of the quake.

Toyota shares ended 0.61 percent lower, Nissan dropped 1.81 percent and Honda gave up 1.27 percent.

Most markets finished on a high last week after better-than-expected earnings reports from US corporate giants such as Apple and IBM, which lifted hopes for the global economy.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in June, rose 36 cents to \$112.65 a barrel, while Brent North Sea crude for June gained 24 cents to \$124.23 in the afternoon.

In other markets: Singapore closed down 0.22 percent, or 7.01 points, at 3,187.72. Kuala Lumpur closed flat, edging up 1.30 points to 1,524.05.

Bangkok ended flat, edging up 0.14 points to 1,105.43.

Indian shares edged down 0.09 percent with the 30-share Sensex Index closed down 17.92 points to 19,584.31.

Reliance shares fell 2.97 percent or 30.85 rupees to 1,009.11, while top property firm DLF fell 2.25 percent or 5.5 rupees to 241.5.



AB Bank donated two haemodialysis machine to dialysis and kidney transplantation unit of BIRDEM Hospital Dhaka as part of the bank's corporate social responsibility at BIRDEM in the capital on Saturday. Enamul Hoque Mostofa Shaheed, minister for social welfare, and Kaiser A Chowdhury, president and managing director of AB Bank, attended the programme.



Ali Reza Iftekhar, third from right, managing director of Eastern Bank Ltd, shakes hands with Sandeep Ahuja, director of VLCC Healthcare (Bangladesh) Pvt Ltd, after signing a deal in Dhaka yesterday under which platinum cardholders and priority customers of the bank will enjoy exclusive special privilege packages in VLCC.

S&P revises outlook for Japan auto giants to negative

AFP, Tokyo

Standard & Poor's rating agency on Monday revised from "stable" to "negative" its outlook for top Japanese automakers Toyota, Nissan and Honda, citing the impact of the March 11 quake and tsunami.

It made the same revision for three major auto parts suppliers -- Aisin Seiki, Denso, and Toyota Industries -- citing production slowdowns and stoppages, electricity supply disruptions and lower consumer confidence.

S&P said it expects that the six companies will experience "deteriorated operating and financial performance" in fiscal 2011 due to production cuts resulting from parts shortages following the devastating quake.

"The outlook revisions also reflect our opinion that extended production cuts may erode Japanese automakers' market shares and competitive positions in the longer term," the agency said in a statement.

S&P however affirmed its ratings on all the companies because it expected the impact of the disaster to be less than that of the 2008 financial crisis.

India Maruti quarterly profit up 0.5pc

AFP, New Delhi

India's biggest carmaker by sales, Maruti Suzuki, said on Monday quarterly profits rose by 0.5 percent, beating market forecasts, as strong sales helped counter higher input costs.

Maruti, 54 percent owned by Japan's Suzuki Motor, said net profit rose to 6.6 billion rupees (\$148.3 million) in its fiscal fourth quarter to March from 6.56 billion rupees a year earlier.

Revenues jumped 20 percent to 98.63 billion rupees as Maruti sold 343,340 cars and sport-utility vehicles during the three months, a leap of 19.5 percent from a year earlier.

However, profit for the full-year fell 8.4 percent to 22.9 billion rupees even as sales jumped 25 percent to 361.28 billion rupees, the New Delhi-based company said in a statement.

"The company's profit was impacted by adverse currency movements, particularly on exports, higher commodity prices and new model launches," Maruti said.

STOCK

Relative Strength Index (14) Report 25-Apr-2011

Table with columns: Company, CloseP, Dev., RSI. Lists various companies like Golden Son, Rangpur Foundry, Atlas BD-A, etc., with their respective RSI values.

AGM/EGM/Dividend/Right/IPO

Table with columns: Company, RD/BC, SPOT, Dividend, Yend, AGM Meeting, VENUE, Time. Lists various companies and their upcoming events.

Table with columns: Company Name, Record Date, Right Share, Issue Price, Subscription Date, Right Share Proposed, Issue Price (Tk.), Premium (Tk.). Lists IPO details for various companies.