

Asian shares down

AFP, Hong Kong

Asian shares were mostly lower in edgy trade Friday as dealers nervously awaited a key US jobs report amid concerns over the world's biggest economy.

The losses come a day after a regional sell-off that was caused by a slew of miserable US data and follow a warning from Moody's that it could downgrade the US debt rating.

Tokyo fell 0.66 percent, or 62.83 points, to 9,492.21 and Sydney closed 0.38 percent, or 17.3 points, lower at 4,583.1 while Hong Kong dived 1.31 percent, or 304.28 points, to 22,949.56.

Seoul ended flat, edging down 0.73 points to 2,113.47.

However, Shanghai gained 0.84 percent, or 22.84 points, to 2,728.02 on bargain hunting after the index hit a four-month low on Thursday.

Investors were given a weak lead from Wall Street, where the Dow fell 0.34 percent following a 2.22 percent fall on Wednesday.

Eyes are on the Labor Department's May employment data that comes before the markets open in New York Friday. The consensus estimate for the net non-farm jobs created was slashed to 169,000 Thursday from 185,000.

Figures showing a smaller-than-expected drop in jobless claims last week have added to the anxiety, while on Wednesday payrolls firm ADP said the private sector added

38,000 jobs in May, well below the 170,000 expected.

Jitters over the US economy weighed on the greenback. The dollar fetched 80.59 yen in European morning trade, down from 80.88 yen in New York on Thursday. The euro weakened to \$1.4499 from \$1.4484 and to 116.87 yen from 117.16.

In Tokyo the Nikkei shrugged off the failure of a no-confidence vote to oust Prime Minister Naoto Kan, who had earlier pledged to step down once the country is on the road to recovery from the March 11 quake and nuclear disaster.

On oil markets in the afternoon, New York's main contract, light sweet crude for July delivery, dropped 11 cents to \$100.29 a barrel and Brent North Sea crude for July delivery fell seven cents to \$115.47. Gold closed at \$1,531.00-\$1,532.00 per ounce, down from its Thursday close of \$1,540.00-\$1,541.00.

In other markets: Singapore fell 0.47 percent, or 14.93 points, to 3,145.67.

Bangkok slipped 0.18 percent or 1.95 points to 1,057.86. Mumbai closed down 0.64 percent or 117.7 points at 18,376.48. India's largest private firm Reliance Industries fell 1.65 percent or 15.7 rupees to 936.15 after chairman Mukesh Ambani did not make any fresh announcements for business expansion at a shareholders' meeting on Friday.

Housing finance firm HDFC slid 2.99 percent or 20.3 rupees to 659.7.



Tapan Chowdhury, managing director of Square Hospital, launches two ATM booths of Mutual Trust Bank at the hospital in Dhaka yesterday. Anis A Khan, the bank's managing director, was also present.



Model Nobel inaugurates a showroom of Lubnan and Richmen at Tropical Alauddin Tower at Uttara in Dhaka on Friday. Naimul Haque Khan, director of Lubnan Trade Consortium, was also present.

Weekly Currency Roundup

May 29 - June 2, 2011

International Markets:

The euro rose to a one-month high against the weak dollar, boosted by expectations of a quick-fix solution to the Green debt crisis, although gains could be checked by investors selling into the bounce. The euro clawed back ground even after Moody's cut its credit rating for Greece deep into junk territory. Traders said a major Asian sovereign account was a seller around the highs with further stops highlighted on a break of \$1.4500, while option barriers rolling off this month are layered up to \$1.4700. The US dollar was under pressure against the safe-haven Swiss franc hitting record low of 0.8383 on Wednesday. The dollar fell after data on Wednesday showed US companies hired far fewer workers than expected in May and that output in the manufacturing sector slowed to its lowest since 2009. Analysts said a poor US non-farm payrolls number on Friday could trigger more dollar losses and fuel speculation about the need for more monetary stimulus measures after a second round of quantitative easing by the Federal Reserve ends this month.

Local Money Market:

Call money rates were in a lowered territory this week compared to last week and ended the week in the 8.50-9.50% range.

Local Market FX:

USD/BDT rates slowly but steadily edged up this week but there was enough liquidity to support the market.

— Standard Chartered Bank

Nokia shares continue slide after outlook downgrade

AFP, Helsinki

The world's top mobile phone maker Nokia saw its share price slump again Friday, three days after it dramatically downgraded its second quarter outlook and said it could no longer provide a full-year forecast.

Slightly before 2 pm (1100 GMT) Friday, the mobile phone giant's share price had dropped 4.50 percent to 4.50 euros on a Helsinki stock exchange down 1.68 percent.

Following Tuesday's announcement, the company's shares had closed down a whopping 17.5 percent, and they continued to slide Wednesday, although a rumour that Microsoft had agreed to buy the Finnish company appeared to have softened the blow, and the shares ended down 0.76 percent.

The continued slide Friday, after trading stopped Thursday for a public holiday, was not unexpected, Pohjola Bank analyst Hannu Rauhalala told AFP.

"It's quite normal that the share price continues to go down a couple of days" after a profit warning, he said.

The ongoing drop, which has left Nokia's share price at the lowest level since early 1998,

before it became the market leader, followed its announcement its second quarter sales would be far worse than previously expected and that it could no longer give a full-year forecast.

Nokia chief executive Stephen Elop, who joined the company from Microsoft last year, said Tuesday the Finnish company's sharp outlook downgrade was part of a rocky transition period as it phases out its Symbian smartphone platform in favour of a tie-in with Microsoft Phone.

The mobile phone maker said it hopes to regain lost ground when it starts shipping its first Microsoft handsets at the end of this year.

The sharp drop in Nokia's share price in recent days has meanwhile fueled speculation that the world's leading mobile phone company is ripe for sale.

"It's normal there's speculation that somebody is interested in buying Nokia," considering the low share price, Rauhalala said, adding possible matches included Microsoft, Apple or Google.

He said however he did not know whether Nokia would be willing to sell.

Nokia has rejected a report Wednesday that Microsoft had agreed to buy Nokia for \$19 billion (13 billion euros).

Kingfisher posts rising quarterly sales

AFP, London

Kingfisher, Europe's biggest home-improvements retailer, on Thursday posted rising first-quarter sales as warm spring weather in Europe lifted demand for gardening and outdoor products.

Revenues climbed 3.3 percent to £2.73 billion (\$4.5 billion, 3.1 billion euros) in the three months to April 30, compared with the same period of the previous financial year, Kingfisher said in a trading update.

The group, which owns the B&Q chain in Britain and Castorama in France, added that it was also boosted by the later Easter holidays compared to last year, and the impact of extended public holidays in Britain.

"I am pleased that we have made a strong start to the year," said Chief Executive Ian Cheshire in the statement.

He added: "Whilst we have got off to a good start, it remains our view that this year is likely to be a tough one for all retailers, especially in the UK."

"It is also likely that the early spring weather will have brought forward some of our outdoor seasonal sales."

Samsonite to raise \$1.5b in Hong Kong

AFP, Hong Kong

Samsonite said Thursday it may raise as much as \$1.5 billion from a share sale in Hong Kong, as the luggage maker and other global retailers tap the region's capital markets -- and surging customer base.

The firm said it would sell about 671 million shares, about 48 percent of the company, at a price ranging from HK\$13.50-HK\$17.50 (\$1.70-2.25) with the stock scheduled to begin trading in the Asian financial hub on June 16.

Samsonite, which makes suitcases, casual bags and travel products, said its sales in 2010 recovered to \$1.21 billion from \$1.03 billion in 2009, when the global financial meltdown pounded the travel market.

"We ran into some problems especially with the global credit crisis," Tim Parker, the company's chief executive, told a press briefing in Hong Kong Thursday.

A restructuring has boosted Samsonite's profit margins while the company hikes spending on advertising, especially in Asia where the firm's busi-

ness grew 45 percent last year, Parker said.

European private equity firm CVC acquired Samsonite in 2007 in a \$2 billion deal, following several earlier restructurings by the company which almost went bankrupt in 2003.

CVC said at the time that China and India were key to the firm's growth, a point echoed by Parker who said the pair were Samsonite's second and third biggest markets respectively, after the United States.

Italian fashion house Prada has said it would list its shares in Hong Kong later this month after raising about \$2 billion, while US handbag maker Coach, already listed in New York, announced in May that its shares may start trading in the southern Chinese territory by year-end.

Britain's Burberry is also reportedly eyeing a listing in the city as high-end retailers look to profit from the region's rising incomes.

Firms raised more than \$50 billion in Hong Kong IPOs last year, including two monster sales by Asian insurer AIA and Agricultural Bank of China, making it the world's biggest market for new listings.

STOCK

Weekly News from Trade Servers

MIDASFIN: The Company has informed that the Board of Directors of MIDAS Financing Ltd. and Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services (MIDAS) in their meetings have decided in principle to merge MIDAS with MIDAS Financing Ltd., subject to approval of Bangladesh Bank and others regulatory bodies/authorities.

MTBL: The Bank has informed that the Board of Directors of the Bank has approved the issuance of open-end mutual fund in the name of "MTB NRB Unit Fund" for Tk. 200.00 million and "MTB Unit Fund" for Tk. 1,000.00 million to contribute towards development of the capital market.

APEXTANRY: The Company has informed that the Board of Directors of the company has decided to purchase 12 decimals land at Kandi Bailarpur, Savar, Dhaka at a cost of Tk. 40.00 lac for its future use.

BANKASIA: The Bank has informed that the Corporate Office including Share Department of the Bank has been shifted to Rangs Tower (2nd to 6th floor), 68 Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000 from Tea Board Building, 111-113 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 with effect from 29.05.11.

The Credit Rating Information and Services Limited (CRISL) has rated: PRIMEBANK as "AA+" in the long term and "ST-1" in the short term; MERCANBANK as "AA-" in the long term and "ST-2" in the short term; in consideration of financials of the Bank up to December, 2010 and other relevant quantitative as well as qualitative information up to the date of rating declaration.

FASFIN: In response to a DSE query, the company has informed that there is no undisclosed price sensitive information of the company for recent unusual price hike.

RUPALIBANK: As reported by the Issue Manager of the Bank, total 1,18,320 shares has been sold out of 30,68,750 shares up to 01.06.2011.

OCL, SAPORTL: The Company has informed that it has credited the Bonus shares to the respective shareholders' BO Accounts.

SIBL: The Bank has informed that it has credited the Rights shares to the respective shareholders' BO Accounts on 30.05.11.

SUMITPOWER: The Company has informed that it has credited the Bonus shares to the respective shareholders' BO Accounts on 02.06.11.

SALVOCHEM: The Board of Directors has recommended stock dividend @ 5% for the year ended on December 31, 2010. Date of AGM: 04.07.2011, Time: 10:00 AM, Venue: Seagull, Shinghar Dighi, Mawna, Sreepur, Gazipur. Record Date: 15.06.2011. The company has also reported net profit after tax of Tk. 20.15 million, EPS of Tk. 1.43, NAV per share of Tk. 12.05 and NOCFPS of Tk. (0.16) for the year ended on 31.12.10 as against Tk. 7.39 million, Tk. 0.91, Tk. 10.76 and Tk. (3.19) respectively for the year ended on 31.12.09.

ECABLES: The Board of Directors has recommended cash dividend @ 10% for the year ended on June 30, 2010. Date of AGM: 28.06.2011, Time: 11:00 AM, Venue: Factory Premises, Patenga, Chittagong. Record Date: 09.06.2011. The company has also reported NAV of Tk. 392.58 million, EPS of Tk. 6.82 and NOCFPS of Tk. 58.17 for the year ended on June 30, 2010.

DELTALIFE: The Company has informed that the Board of Directors of the Company in an emergency meeting held on 29.05.11 has noted a brief of the judgement (received from the lawyers) given by the hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh vide cases no. 61 & 62/2010 condoning the delay in holding the AGMs due to be held in the years 2005-2010. The Board of Directors resolved that the pending AGMs will be held as per the directives and within the time limit given in the aforesaid court order. In the same meeting it was also decided to hold the AGM due for the year 2004 based on the audited financial statements earlier approved by the Board, in the following man-

ner: Date of AGM: 11.08.2011, Record date: 20.06.11, Dividend recommended: Cash dividend 30% and Stock dividend 20%. Time & Venue of the AGM will be fixed and intimated shortly to the shareholders through notice. Applications for appointment of two auditors for next AGMs will be invited through newspapers.

BEACONPHAR: The Company has further informed that the 5th EGM of the company will be held on 11.07.2011 at 10:30 AM at factory Premises at Kathali, Bhaluka, Mymensingh. Record date for EGM: 19.06.11. Other information of the EGM as announced earlier.

ISNLTD: The company has further informed that due to unavoidable circumstances the 5th EGM and 16th AGM of the company will now be held on 28.06.11 instead of 26.06.11. Other information of the EGM and AGM as announced earlier.

DHAKAINS: The company has further informed that due to unavoidable circumstances the 11th AGM of the company will now be held at Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, 160/A, Kakrail, VIP Road, Dhaka on 27.06.2011 at 10:30 AM instead of Carnival Hall, Bangabandhu International Convention Centre, Agargaon, Dhaka. Other information of the AGM as announced earlier.

NHFIL: The company has further informed that due to unavoidable circumstances the 12th AGM of the company will now be held at "Trust Milonayatan", 545, Old Airport Road (Jahangir Gate), Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka-1206 on 22.06.2011 at 3:00 PM instead of Bangabandhu International Conference Centre, Sher-E-Banglanagar, Dhaka. Other information of the AGM as announced earlier.

MPETROLEUM: As per un-audited quarterly accounts for the 3rd quarter ended on 31st March 2011 (Jan'11 to March'11), the company has reported profit after tax of Tk. 431.56 million with restated basic EPS of Tk. 8.90 for the period of nine months (July'10 to March'11) ended on 31.03.2011. It is to be noted that 'Other Income' was Tk. 291.65 million as on 31.03.11.

JAMUNAOIL: As per un-audited quarterly accounts for the 3rd quarter ended on 31st March 2011 (Jan'11 to March'11), the company has reported net profit after tax of Tk. 662.63 million with basic EPS of Tk. 14.73 for the period of nine months (July'10 to March'11) ended on 31.03.2011. However, considering bonus share @ 20% for the year 2010, restated basic EPS is Tk. 12.27 as on 31.03.2011. It is to be noted that 'Other Income' was Tk. 579.64 million as on 31.03.11 (July'10 to March'11).

EHL: As per un-audited quarterly accounts for the 3rd quarter ended on 30th April 2011, net profit after tax was Tk. 138.56 million with EPS of Tk. 22.33 for the period of nine months (Aug'10 to Apr'11) ended on 30.04.2011. It is to be noted that 'Non-Operating Income' was Tk. 77.31 million as on 30.04.11 (Aug'10 to Apr'11).

SALVOCHEM: As per un-audited quarterly accounts for the 1st quarter ended on 31st March 2011 (Jan'11 to March'11), the Company has reported net profit after tax of Tk. 27.85 million with basic EPS of Tk. 0.81. However, considering proposed bonus share @ 5% for the year 2010, restated basic EPS will be Tk. 0.76 as on 31.03.2011.

SINOBANGLA: As per un-audited half yearly accounts as on 30.04.11 (Nov' 10 to Apr' 11), the Company has reported profit/(loss) after tax of Tk. 13.41 million with EPS of Tk. 1.34.

Sponsor's Buy/ Sell: NCCBANK Mr. Aslam-ul-Karim has intention to sell 70,000 shares. PREMIERLEA Mr. M. Rabiul Huq has intention to sell 10,000 shares. KARNAPHULI Ms. Hasina Nizam has intention to sell 1,00,000 shares. NCCBANK Ms. Sultana Yasmin and Mr. M. A. Quasem have reported their intention to sell 1,00,000 and 50,000 shares respectively. ULC Mr. Syed Ehsan Quadir has intention to buy 300 shares of the Company. SHAHJABANK Mrs. Nasima Akter has intention to sell 1,00,000 shares. BGIC Mr. Mosahid Ali has intention to sell 39,500 shares. ONEBANKLTD Ms. Manzia Jamil has intention to sell 60,000 shares.