

GLOOM AND DOOM DOMINATE BOURSES

The big story, last Monday in Asia, was the near absolute collapse of the organised resistance of the Taliban, the former, ruling Muslim fundamentalist regime of Afghanistan.

With the collapse, more than 2,000 US troops landed on that backward nation in order to take absolute control of the country in preparation of a new government to be installed, whatever that may be.

There were reports of massacres, with the Northern Alliance forces said to have slaughtered hundreds of Taliban prisoner – after they had surrendered.

War is Hell!

In Asia, generally, stock market indices rose, but nothing to the extent of the Japanese stock markets and the South Korean stock market where, on those bourses, the indices shot through the roof, so to speak.

Getting up there is one step, holding onto that step may turn out to be even tougher, however.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, the blue-chip, Nikkei-225 Stock Average put on a spurt, one not seen for the previous 3 months.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average hit 11,064.30 yen, up about 3.44 percent, compared with the previous Thursday (the previous Friday was a national holiday in Japan).

Not since August 28 had the Nikkei-225 hit anywhere near that level.

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 6.32:One.

Electronics and office-appliance counters were among the biggest gainers, last Monday:

Advantest	Up 7.67 percent to 8,000 yen per share
Canon	Up 5.29 percent to 4,180 yen per share
Casio	Up 4.20 percent to 670 yen per share
Fanuc	Up 5.47 percent to 5,980 yen per share
Fujitsu*	Up 3.24 percent to 1,052 yen per share
Hitachi*	Up 2.56 percent to 961 yen per share
JVC	Up 5.15 percent to 449 yen per share
Konica	Up 5.09 percent to 722 yen per share

	share
Kyocera	Up 2.83 percent to 9,440 yen per share
Minolta	Up 4.82 percent to 239 yen per share
Nikon	Up 5.35 percent to 1,083 yen per share
OKI Electrical Industrial	Up 3.41 percent to 455 yen per share
Pioneer	Up 6.75 percent to 2,925 yen per share
Rohm	Up 2.10 percent to 17,510 yen per share
Sanyo Electric	Up 3.77 percent to 660 yen per share
Sharp*	Up 9.23 percent to 1,693 yen per share
Sony	Up 3.69 percent to 5,900 yen per share
TDK	Up 3.54 percent to 6,720 yen per share
Tokyo Electron	Up 6.74 percent to 6,650 yen per share

* Among the most active counters of the day

Over the weekend, it had been announced that The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi planned to close down 50 outlets of its 310 outlets in Japan, as well as take the opportunity to sack 3,500 of its staff members.

Mitsubishi Trust and Banking Corporation was widely tipped to follow suit in the wake of The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi.

Mizuho Financial Group, also, announced that it would be handing out pink slips to about 7,000 of its staff members.

The Japanese stock markets were helped along, considerably, by news that the US dollar-Japanese yen rate had further strengthen to about 124.06 yen.

This will assist Japanese industry to stay competitive in its major market: The US.

Tobishima Corporation said, the previous week, after the previous Thursday's market had closed for the day, that it had posted a Group Net Loss of about 7.15 billion yen for the first half of its Financial Year, to September 30, 2001.

Also, the previous Thursday, All Nippon Airways announced a Group Net Profit of 16.83 billion yen, off about 47.30 percent compared with the like 2000 period.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the news was just simply depressing.

The Government's Census and Statistics Department announced that total exports in October fell about 13.90 percent, compared with the like period in 2000.

In respect of domestic exports, their value fell 18.10 percent, Year-on-Year, and re-exports fell 13.50 percent.

The figures represented the biggest trade retreat since October 1998.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Main Board's Hang Seng Index gained about 0.62 percent, rising to 11,391.96 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK7.36 billion.

Throughout the morning session, the Hang Seng Index moved very little, about one half of a point by the luncheon bell; all of the gains came in the 90-minute afternoon session.

Gainers were ahead of losers by the ratio of 1.20:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 1.74 percent to \$HK73.25 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.53 percent to \$HK94.75 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 1.60 percent to \$HK79.50 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.55 percent to \$HK27.60 per shares
Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8)	Down 3.16 percent to \$HK2.30 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 3.02 percent to \$HK59.75 per share
China Unicom Ltd (Code: 762)	Unchanged at \$HK9.10 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Down 0.91 percent to \$HK81.50 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 2.96 percent to \$HK1.31 per share
Hongkong Electric Holdings Ltd (Code: 6)	Up 0.35 percent to \$HK28.55 per share

The biggest movers of the day were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asia Logistics Technologies Ltd	862	11.29		0.138
CCT Multimedia Holdings Ltd	1169	11.11		0.55
CCT Telecom Holdings Ltd	138	13.70		0.415
Chinney Alliance Group Ltd	385	15.15		0.038
Dong Jian Tech.com Holdings Ltd	649	28.17		0.91
Global Food Culture Group Ltd	970	12.82		0.088
I-Wood International Holdings Ltd	162	12.50		0.495
Joyce Boutique Holdings Ltd	647		11.54	0.138
Keck Seng Investments (Hongkong) Ltd	184	10.91		0.61
Lung Cheong International Holdings Ltd	348		11.63	0.38
Mandarin Resources Corporation Ltd	70	17.74		0.073

Medtech Group Company Ltd	1031	12.00		0.028
Oriental Resources Group Company Ltd	467		12.86	0.053
Oriental Explorer Holdings Ltd	430	10.42		0.053
Oriental Union Holdings Ltd	1182	20.75		0.64
Pacific Andes International Holdings Ltd	1174	15.79		0.44
Pearl Oriental Holdings Ltd	988	10.20		0.054
Pudong Development Holdings Ltd	258	11.90		0.94
renren Media Ltd	59		13.33	0.013
Skynet (International Group) Holdings Ltd	577	13.64		0.025
SunCorp Technologies Ltd	1063	12.12		0.37
Termbray Industries International (Holdings) Ltd	93	10.00		0.44
U-RIGHT International Holdings Ltd	927	10.71		0.31
Vision Century Corporation Ltd	535	50.98		0.77
vLink Global Ltd	563		10.00	0.018
Winsan (China) Investment Group Company Ltd	85	16.34		0.178
Wo Kee Hong (Holdings) Ltd	720	16.67		0.056
Yanion International Holdings Ltd	82	18.82		1.01

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, it was a similar situation to that which had transpired on the Main Board, with The GEM, hardly moving a muscle in the morning session, then, gaining, fractionally, in the afternoon market.

The Growth Enterprise Index ended the day at 193.69 points, up 0.55 percent by the close of trading.

Gainers were ahead of losers by the ratio of about 1.64:One.

Mr Li Ka Shing's tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001) was the top dog of the day, but its share price stayed firm at the previous Friday's level of \$HK2.55.

Trading in this one counter, at a dollar value of about \$HK41.66 million, represented about 36 percent of the Total Turnover of about \$HK115.57 million.

Prices were, generally, fractionally lower in the blue chips (if one may call any GEM listing a *'blue chip'*).

The double-digit movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Digital Hongkong.com Ltd	8007	24.48		0.30
E-silkroad Holdings Ltd	8071		15.38	0.044
Grandmas Enterprise Solution Ltd	8108		15.00	0.068
iAsia Technology Ltd	8101	27.91		0.55
Neolink Cyber Technology (Holdings) Ltd	8116	11.11		0.40
Panda-Recruit Ltd	8073	17.39		0.054
Proactive Tech	8089	17.86		0.33

In other parts of Asia, this was the situation, last Monday night:

Indonesia	Minus 0.33 percent to 381.43
Japan	Plus 3.44 percent to 11,064.30
Malaysia	Plus 0.15 percent to 640.48
The Philippines	Minus 0.01 percent to 1,088.37

Singapore	Plus 1.19 percent to 1,475.55
South Korea	Plus 4.55 percent to 674.56
Taiwan	Plus 1.97 percent to 4,608.32
Thailand	Minus 1.42 percent to 292.56

Tuesday

The waiting and cogitating were over.

It was official: The US economy had entered the pleasant state of economic recession.

The National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a privately funded organisation in the US, announced that on Monday, November 26, in Washington D.C.

That put the foxes among the hens of Wall Street: Share prices fell in short order on The New York Stock Exchange.

But subsequent buying pushed up indices on the world's largest bourse, during the afternoon session, so that, by the close of trading, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the blue-chip gauge to trading on the Big Board, stood at 9,982.75 points, up 23.04 points, or about 0.23 percent over the previous close (half day on Friday).

On the NASDAQ, its Composite Index ended the day at 1,941.31 points, up 2 percent on the day.

Getting to one plateau is one thing, staying on that level is quite another matter, however.

Investors of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC) had not got wind of the pronouncements in respect of the sick US economy so that many HKSAR pundits put down the selling pressure on The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd to profit-taking.

Nothing could have been further from the truth.

The Hang Seng Index, the *'barometer'* of trading on the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, shed points from the start of trading ... and kept on going throughout the day.

By the time that the closing bell had rung, the Hang Seng Index stood at 11,261.54 points, down about 1.15 percent, compared with Monday's close.

The Total Turnover fell to about \$HK6.60 billion while the ratio of losers to gainers was 1.71:One.

The Ten Most Actives were (note, only one of their number recorded a gain):

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 1.32 percent to \$HK93.50 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 1.02 percent to \$HK72.50 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Unchanged at \$HK27.60 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Down 1.89 percent to \$HK78.00 per share
CLP Holdings Ltd (Code: 2)	Down 0.17 percent to \$HK29.95 per share

Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8)	Down 1.09 percent to \$HK2.27 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Down 0.31 percent to \$HK81.25 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Down 3.77 percent to \$HK57.50 per share
Hongkong Electric Holdings Ltd (Code: 6)	Up 0.88 percent to \$HK28.80 per share
China Unicom Ltd (Code: 762)	Down 2.20 percent to \$HK8.90 per share

There was no special news to influence the market and, if anything, the situation in the territory looked exceedingly bleak in the intermediate term.

Further, there was no economic ‘sun’, trying to peek over the HKSAR horizon.

The biggest losers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
CCT Multimedia Holdings Ltd	1169		12.73	0.48
CEC International Holdings Ltd	759	11.43		0.39
Century Legend (Holdings) Ltd	79	11.54		0.029
Chinney Alliance Group Ltd	385		13.16	0.033
CIG-WH International (Holdings) Ltd	621		10.75	0.166
e-Kong Group Ltd	524		12.70	0.055
Fairwood Holdings Ltd	52	16.49		0.113
Fairyoung Holdings Ltd	231	10.08		0.131
Global Food Culture Group Ltd	970	11.36		0.098
Greater China Sci-tech Holdings Ltd	431	13.11		0.069
Guangnan (Holdings) Ltd	1203		12.73	0.24
I-China Holdings Ltd	240	13.33		0.034
Jackley Holdings Ltd	353	13.64		0.50
KTP Holdings Ltd	645	38.89		0.50
Melco International Development Ltd	200	12.60		1.43
Northeast Electrical Transmission and Transformation Machinery Manufacturing Company Ltd	42		12.05	0.73
Pacific Andes International Holdings Ltd	1174	11.36		0.49
Quality Food International Ltd	735	10.00		0.044
Quality HealthCare Asia Ltd	593	10.00		0.275
Shanghai Allied Cement Ltd	1060	27.27		0.028
Stelux Holdings International Ltd	84	12.40		0.136
Sunlord Chemical Group Ltd	362		10.34	0.52
Swank International Manufacturing Company Ltd	663	17.39		0.054
UDL Holdings Ltd	620	13.33		0.068
Varitronix International Ltd	710	11.11		4.50
Vision Century Corporation Ltd	535		11.69	0.68
Wah Tak Fung Holdings Ltd	297	11.48		0.34
WellNet Holdings Ltd	24	10.53		0.63
Winsan (China) Investment Group Company Ltd	85		10.11	0.16
Wo Kee Hong (Holdings) Ltd	720		14.29	0.048

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 0.27 percent, falling to 193.16 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK129.32 million.

Declining issues were ahead of advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.12:One.

Mr Li Ka Shing's tom.com Ltd (Code: 8002) continued to be the most hotly sought-after share and, after about 18.58 million shares had been traded, the price stood at \$HK2.58, a one-day gain of 0.98 percent.

The \$HK46.28-million worth of tom.com scrip that changed hands represented nearly 36 percent of the entire volume of activity for the day.

But tom.com was the only one of the 3 favourites of GEM investors to make it to the high ground: The other 2 counters – SUNeVision Holdings Ltd (Code: 8008) and Phoenix Satellite Television Holdings Ltd (Code: 8002) – both gave up ground.

SUNeVision Holdings lost about 2.76 percent of its market capitalisation, falling to \$HK1.41 per share, while Phoenix Satellite Television Holdings shed 2.15 percent of its value, ending the day at 91 cents per share.

The biggest movers on this market included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
CASH Financial Services Group Ltd	8122	11.11		0.08
E-silkroad Holdings Ltd	8071	27.27		0.056
Excel Tech International	8048		12.73	0.48
Grandmass Enterprise Solution Ltd	8108		10.29	0.061
Trasy Gold EX Ltd	8063	34.48		0.039

On Asia's biggest and most powerful market, sellers dominated trading conditions.

The Tokyo Stock Exchange gave up 115.41 yen, equal to about 1.04 percent, ending the day at 10,948.89 yen.

It was in complete contrast to Monday's roaring market and took many pundits by surprise.

For certain, profit-taking was a primary cause of the selling pressure because many investors, especially day traders, saw black ink and determined to bank it.

Why not?

After all, there is nothing to prop up Asia's biggest bourse or to justify its recent gains, other than the Prime Minister's hot air, of course.

Isuzu Motors Ltd – 49 percent owned by the US giant, General Motors – reported that things had not gone well for the company in the first half of its Financial Year, to September 30, 2001, since the motor-car company had recorded Group Net Losses of 23.56 billion yen, which added to the Losses of the like 2000 period when its recorded negative 22.13 billion yen.

The company said that it would be sacking 3,300 of its workers in the next few years.

Isuzu expects to lose about 25 billion yen for the full Year, ended March 31, 2002.

It represents the third successive year of losses for this company.

Isuzu set the stage and other motors followed:

Daihatsu Motor	Down 1.14 percent to 521 yen per share
Hino Motors	Down 5.26 percent to 486 yen

	per share
Honda	Down 1.02 percent to 4,840 yen per share
Isuzu Motors	Down 1.94 percent to 101 yen per share
Mazda	Down 2.29 percent to 213 yen per share
Mitsubishi Motors	Down 2.72 percent to 250 yen per share
Nissan Motor	Down 2.90 percent to 602 yen per share
Suzuki Motor	Down 3.72 percent to 1,269 yen per share
Toyota Motor	Down 0.31 percent to 3,250 yen per share
Yamaha Motor	Down 1.97 percent to 795 yen per share

The lone gainer in this section of the market was Kawasaki Heavy Industrial, the world renowned, motor-cycle producer, whose share price gained 5.60 percent, rising to 132 yen.

Aside from a little excitement in the motor section of the market, there was precious little else of any note to move the market, which had been apprised of the US economic situation – and investors were none too happy about the NBER report.

This was the situation, last Tuesday night, as Asian investors and brokers went home:

Indonesia	Minus 0.12 percent to 380.98
Japan	Minus 1.04 percent to 10,948.89
Malaysia	Minus 0.33 percent to 638.35
The Philippines	Plus 2.13 percent to 1,111.52
Singapore	Plus 1.80 percent to 1,502.10
South Korea	Minus 0.66 percent to 670.10
Taiwan	Minus 0.61 percent to 4,580.33
Thailand	Plus 1.33 percent to 296.46

Wednesday

All the vested-interest hype had come to nothing, after all: The US economy was, still, in a great deal of trouble and consumer spending continues to wane at a faster and faster rate.

Wall Street, on learning that US consumer confidence had dropped to a new, 7-year low, let go a barrage of selling, wiping out earlier gains – which were few and far between in any event.

The New York-based Conference Board Consumer Research Centre announced, last Tuesday, that it was highly unlikely that the situation, in respect of US consumer confidence, would be materially altered before the end of the first half of 2002.

Down went share prices with a bang!

On The New York Stock Exchange, the blue-chip gauge, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, lost 110.15 points, or 1.10 percent, falling to 9,872.60 points.

On the tech-laden NASDAQ, its Composite Index gave up 5.28 points, about 0.27 percent, ending the day at 1,935.95 points.

Wall Street set the stage for the rest of the world because it was a forgone conclusion that other losses on other bourses, as well as those of the US, would follow.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, investors were not waiting any longer and sold as soon as it was possible to find buyers.

The Hang Seng Index, the blue-chip indicator of the Main Board, gave up about 1.74 percent of its value, falling back to 11,066.19 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK7.07 billion, with the ratio of losers to gainers, being about 2.76:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Down 4.81 percent to \$HK74.25 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 3.10 percent to \$HK70.25 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.27 percent to \$HK93.25 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 2.36 percent to \$HK26.95 per share
CLP Holdings Ltd (Code: 2)	Up 0.83 percent to \$HK30.20 per share
China Resources Enterprise Ltd (Code: 291)	Down 10.06 percent to \$HK7.60 per share
Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8)	Down 2.20 percent to \$HK2.22 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Down 3.48 percent to \$HK55.50 per share
Hongkong Electric Holdings Ltd (Code: 6)	Up 0.69 percent to \$HK29.00 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Up 1.54 percent to \$HK82.50 per share

An interesting piece of news came from London where HSBC Holdings plc reported that it was holding talks with officials of The Bank of Shanghai with a view to taking a slice of that bank, which is controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The Bank of Shanghai is about 6 years old, is a retail entity, has about \$US11.60 billion in assets (according to the PRC Government), has 196 branches, and employs about 4,500 people.

When the late Chairman Mao Tse Tung (now spelt Mao Ze Dong) swept through the PRC with his People's Liberation Army in 1947 and 1948, HSBC Holdings plc, then known as The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, lost its Shanghai branch along with a great deal of money, following the, then, newly formed PRC

Government, confiscating foreign-owned assets in the country or, in the jargon of the day, nationalising key industries of the country.

Times have changed; people's memories are, clearly, short.

The double-digit movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
CATIC International Holdings Ltd	232	22.50		0.245
CCT Telecom Holdings Ltd	138		10.53	0.34
CEC International Holdings Ltd	759		12.82	0.34
Chi Cheung Investment Company Ltd	112	68.29		0.069
China Resources Enterprise Ltd	291		10.06	7.60
Dong Jian Tech.com Holdings Ltd	649	34.83		1.20
Fortuna International Holdings Ltd	50		11.76	0.03
G-Vision International (Holdings) Ltd	657		12.28	0.10
K.P.I. Company Ltd	605	21.67		0.073
Luen Cheong Tai International Holdings Ltd	1190		12.12	0.058
Medtech Group Company Ltd	1031	11.11		0.03
Melco International Development Ltd	200	10.49		1.58
Shanghai Allied Cement Ltd	1060		10.71	0.025
South East Asia Wood Industries Holdings Ltd	1205	25.69		1.37
Sen Hong Resources Holdings Ltd	76	25.71		0.44
Shui On Construction and Materials Ltd	983		14.29	5.70
Soundwill Holdings Ltd	878		10.53	0.068
South China Brokerage Ltd	619	12.00		0.14
Stelux Holdings International Ltd	211	16.18		0.158
Takson Holdings Ltd	918	11.11		0.80
TechCap Holdings Ltd	673	10.78		0.113
UDL Holdings Ltd	620		11.76	0.43
vLink Global Ltd	563		10.53	0.017
Yoshiya International Corporation Ltd	193		28.99	0.169

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, investors of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC looked at what was happening on Wall Street, determined that more selling would take place, and sold GEM stocks as though they had some terrible infectious disease.

The Growth Enterprise Index lost about 1.05 percent of its value, falling to 191.13 points.

The Total Turnover on this market dropped back to about \$HK75.91 million.

There was no question as to which group was in charge of the direction of the market because the ratio of losers to gainers told it all: 3.08:One.

Mr Li Ka Shing's tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001) continued to be the most popular counter as about 12.18 million shares of this loser changed hands, with the share price, giving up 1.94 percent to \$HK2.53.

There was little happening on this speculative marketplace, which has the distinction of being the worst-performing bourse in the world.

The lone, double-digit mover of the day was Panda-Recruit Ltd (Code: 8073) whose share price moved up 11.11 percent to 6 cents per share – for no apparent and/or logical reason.

In Japan, investors' blood stained the floors of The Tokyo Stock Exchange as its Nikkei-225 Stock Average shed 324.08 yen, about 2.96 percent, falling to 10,624.81 yen.

Japan was watching Wall Street, also, and noting the Consumer Confidence report.

Hitting the Japanese market, very hard, was a report from the international rating agency, Standards and Poors, which downgraded Japan's long-term debt *'paper'*.

The announcement of the S&P came on the heels of the announcement of the bankruptcy of Nigata Engineering Company Ltd.

Banks, motors and select electronics came in for a bashing, especially, but selling was not concentrated to only those sections of the market.

Here are some of the most important losers:

Banks

Asahi Bank*	Down 1.94 percent to 101 yen per share
Mitsui Tokyo Finance	Down 5.04 percent to 848,000 yen per share
Sumitomo Mitsui Bank*	Down 6.46 percent to 681 yen per share

* Among the most active counters of the day

Motors

Hino Motors	Down 4.32 percent to 465 yen per share
Isuzu Motors	Down 3.96 percent to 97 yen per share
Mazda	Down 3.76 percent to 205 yen per share
Mitsubishi Motors	Down 2.00 percent to 245 yen per share
Nissan Motor*	Down 1.83 percent to 591 yen per share
Suzuki Motor	Down 1.26 percent to 1,253 yen per share
Toyota Motor	Down 2.46 percent to 3,170 yen per share
Yamaha Motor	Down 4.28 percent to 761 yen per share

* Among the most active counters of the day

Electronics

Advantest	Down 2.41 percent to 7,700 yen per share
Canon	Down 4.21 percent to 4,100 yen per share
Fanuc	Down 7.33 percent to 5,560 yen per share
Furukawa Electric*	Down 4.28 percent to 738 yen per share
Fujitsu*	Down 2.17 percent to 1,037 yen per share
Hitachi	Down 3.68 percent to 915 yen per share
JVC	Down 2.68 percent to 435 yen per share
Kyocera	Down 4.46 percent to 9,000 yen per share
Minolta	Down 5.58 percent to 220 yen per share
Mitsubishi Electric	Down 4.35 percent to 506 yen per share
Pioneer	Down 3.65 percent to 2,900 yen per share
Ricoh	Down 3.13 percent to 2,320 yen per share
Rohm	Down 3.76 percent to 16,900 yen per share
Sony	Down 3.00 percent to 5,830 yen per share
Tokyo Electron	Down 4.11 percent to 6,300 yen per share
Toshiba Corporation*	Down 4.54 percent to 526 yen per share

* Among the most active counters of the day

While the world watched the mopping up of the last vestiges of the Afghan Taliban, with reports of carnage in that hopeless country, while the Western World was forced to face up to the inevitable facts that most of that part of the world was suffering, or about to suffer, an economic recession, in the most populous part of the world, this was the way that investors saw the situation, last Wednesday night on bourses in Asia:

Indonesia	Plus 0.51 percent to 382.90
Japan	Minus 2.96 percent to 10,624.81
Malaysia	Plus 0.42 percent to 641.06
The Philippines	Plus 0.81 percent to 1,120.57
Singapore	Minus 1.70 percent to 1,476.53
South Korea	Minus 5.68 percent to 632.02

Taiwan	Minus 0.98 percent to 4,535.38
Thailand	Minus 1.27 percent to 292.69

Thursday

Asia was generally directionless, last Thursday, as investors seemed to prefer to watch and to wait to see what the morrow would bring.

Wall Street continued to lose ground, as investors were content to take their knocks and to go home with what little money was left after the sell-offs of late.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost about 1.63 percent of its value, falling to 9,711.86 points.

As for the Composite Index of the NASDAQ, it lost about 2.46 percent of its value, ending the day at 1,888.38 points.

If there had been any indecision on Tuesday, it had vanished by Wednesday as the word went out: Time to sell.

What helped to make a definitive decision as to what was the correct course of action, with regard to Wall Street, was a report from the US Federal Reserve Board, a report that stated that the US economy was very sick in October – and remained quite soft.

The Fed said that there were further signs of weakening in core areas.

A precursor to another interest-rate cut, perhaps?

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), residents were treated to a bit of a shock when they discovered that the 26-year old news magazine, Asiaweek, had closed its doors for good.

Another 80 workers hit the streets with its closure.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Main Board's Hang Seng Index rose about 0.22 percent to 11,090.74 on a volume of activity of about \$HK7.10 billion.

The ratio of gainers to losers was 1.22:One, with about 71 percent of all the counters, listed on the Main Board, staying pat at Wednesday's closing levels.

The Ten Most Actives were:

Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Down 2.02 percent to \$HK72.75 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 0.36 percent to \$HK70.00 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Unchanged at \$HK93.25 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Up 2.73 percent to \$HK84.75 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.37 percent to \$HK27.05 per share
Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8)	Up 1.12 percent to \$HK2.25 per share

Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 3.15 percent to \$HK57.25 per share
China Resources Enterprise Ltd (Code: 291)	Down 2.63 percent to \$HK7.40 per share
China Unicom Ltd (Code: 762)	Unchanged at \$HK8.60 per share
Legend Holdings Ltd (992)	Down 2.88 percent to \$HK3.37 per share

Chartists pointed out that the luncheon break saw the Hang Seng Index dip below the 11,000 level, to 10,996.25 points.

Signs of things to come.

The biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Star Entertainment Ltd	326	14.13		0.21
Dransfield Holdings Ltd	632	19.35		0.037
Fortuna International Holdings Ltd	530	16.67		0.035
Fourseas.com Ltd	755		10.00	0.36
Golden Dragon Group (Holdings) Ltd	329	13.85		0.74
The Hongkong Building and Loan Agency Ltd	145	18.18		0.65
Hongkong Fortune Ltd	121	26.32		0.072
Hua Lien International (Holding) Ltd	969	28.00		0.48
I-China Holdings Ltd	240		12.50	0.028
Jackley Holdings Ltd	630	20.00		0.60
Lung Cheong International Holdings Ltd	348	10.53		0.42
Magnificent Estates Ltd	201		14.71	0.029
Medtech Group Company Ltd	1031		16.67	0.025
Mei Ah Entertainment Group Ltd	391	18.31		0.42
Multifield International Holdings Ltd	898	10.62		0.25
Oriental Explorer Holdings Ltd	430	10.00		0.055
Oriental Union Holdings Ltd	1182	10.61		0.73
Pricerite Group Ltd	996	18.27		0.246
Prosper eVision Ltd	979	11.85		0.151
Shun Cheong Holdings Ltd	650	15.49		0.41
Styland Holdings Ltd	211		18.18	0.054
SunCorp Technologies Ltd	1063	11.76		0.38
TechCap Holdings Ltd	673	10.62		0.125
United Power Investment Ltd	674	44.00		0.36
Vision Century Corporation Ltd	535	23.88		0.83
Yoshiya International Corporation Ltd	193		17.16	0.14
Yunan Enterprises Holdings Ltd	455	27.94		0.87

On The GEM – The Growth Enterprise Market of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd – it was another bad day for those stalwarts, who thought that the worst was over.

The Growth Enterprise Index lost 1.01 percent of its value, falling to 189.20 points on a volume of about \$HK87.89 million.

The ratio of losers to gainers on this market was about 1.55:One.

The market's index was brought down, to a great extent, by the selling pressure, brought to bear on Mr Li Ka Shing's tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001).

tom.com's share price shed 5.94 percent of its value, ending the day at \$HK2.38, after about 12.76 million shares had changed hands.

The turnover of this one counter represented about 35 percent of the entire volume of activity on this marketplace.

Sun Hung Kai Properties's GEM listing, SUNeVision Holdings Ltd (Code: 8008), helped matters along, also, as its share price gave up 2.79 percent of its value, falling back to \$HK1.40 per share.

The double-digit movers on this market were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
First Mobile Group Holdings Ltd	8110	11.11		0.60
Panda-Recruit Ltd	8073		16.67	0.05
Q9 Technology Holdings Ltd	8129		10.00	0.162
Trasy Gold EX Ltd	8063		10.53	0.034

On Asia's largest and most important market, investors on The Tokyo Stock Exchange braced themselves for the worst, as one report after another told of the very sick situation in The Land of The Rising Sun.

The Japanese Government's pencil pushers announced that industrial production in Japan had dropped to a 13-year low.

Japanese factory output had dipped by about 0.30 percent in October to levels that had not been seen since 1988, the Japanese Government's Ministry for Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) said.

For the current month, METI is forecasting another one percent decline in industrial output.

Investors, stuck into shares, listed on The Tokyo Stock Exchange, looked at the data in dismay: The '*new broom*', in the form of the relatively new Prime Minister, had, thus far, made no strides in turning the economic tide.

The blue-chip index of The Tokyo Stock Exchange actually gained fractionally, ending the day at 10,655.96 yen, but it was only an end-run that allowed this index to be in the black.

An interesting statistic was that, of the 20 Most Actives, 7 of their number ended the day unchanged at Wednesday's closing levels.

Life insurers in Japan – and the Japanese do believe in life insurance, unlike many other ethnic groups in Asia – are having a very difficult time of it, it appears, clearly, as one insurer after another announces dismal financial results.

Nippon Life Insurance Company, the nation's biggest life insurer, announced, on Wednesday night, that it had suffered a 7.80-percent fall in core activities for the 6-month period to September 30, 2001.

As for its portfolio of securities, it had shrunk from about 4.20 trillion yen to about 2.40 trillion yen.

That's a tough nut to swallow in anybody's books.

It was on such a depressing note that Japanese investors wound their way home, last Thursday, with the prospects for Friday, being no better than those of the previous day.

This was the way that other Asian bourses fared, last Thursday night:

Indonesia	Minus 0.71 percent to 380.19
Japan	Plus 0.29 percent to 10,655.96
Malaysia	Plus 0.14 percent to 641.95
The Philippines	Plus 0.70 percent to 1,128.47
Singapore	Minus 1.50 percent to 1,450.40
South Korea	Minus 0.50 percent to 628.86
Taiwan	Plus 0.41 percent to 4,465.83
Thailand	Plus 1.60 percent to 297.38

Friday

The magnitude of the potential losses by the fallout of the financial failure of Enron took Wall Street a little by surprise – because one is dealing with an energy company with \$US61 billion in assets.

Enron is widely expected to file for Court protection, this week, according to reports.

Not less than 5,400 workers in Europe, alone, are wondering whether or not they will be able to get paid.

Enron's financial failure will set a new record for a bankruptcy in the history of the world.

The share price of Enron had sunk about 85 percent on Wednesday's market, and the share price lost another 40 percent on Thursday as investors marked down the price to just 37 cents.

Frightening stuff!

On Wall Street, there was a great deal of talk, but little *'do'* about the total situation as the US Government's machinery revved up in order to determine what had happened and who was responsible, if anybody is to be held to blame.

Investors on The New York Stock Exchange, following on from Wednesday's losses of 1.63 percent on the Dow Jones Industrial Average, determined to take another plunge in view of a report in respect of durable goods orders, which indicated a sharp rebound in October.

According to the US Commerce Department, durable goods orders rose about 12.80 percent in October, which compared favourably with the fall of about 9.20 percent in September.

But what many analysts seemed to have failed to realise was that much of the gains was war-related orders – defence goods, communications equipment aircraft and motor vehicles, etc. (Please see first story of this edition)

However, any port in a storm is the motto of sailors.

On Thursday, the Dow gained 117.56 points, or about 1.21 percent, ending the day at 9,829.56 points.

As for the NASDAQ, its Composite Index rose 45.23 points, or about 2.39 percent, rising to 1,933.20 points.

In both cases, the gains on the 2 markets, the largest in the world, did not quite wipe out Wednesday's losses, but it was close.

Asia took heart from Wall Street.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Main Board's Hang Seng Index gained 1.70 percent, exactly, ending the week at 11,279.25 points.

At the luncheon bell, the Index was even higher, up about 2.24 percent on Thursday's close, in fact, but subsequent profit-taking took its toll.

The Total Turnover went to the highest level of the week, at about \$HK9.10 billion, with trading in Mr Li Ka Shing's Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1), being responsible for exactly 10 percent of that figure.

The Ten Most Actives were:

Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 3.78 percent to \$HK75.50 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 1.34 percent to \$HK94.50 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 3.21 percent to \$HK72.25 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 2.22 percent to \$HK27.05 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Down 0.29 percent to \$HK84.50 per share
Hongkong Electric Holdings Ltd (Code: 6)	Down 1.55 percent to \$HK28.55 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 0.44 percent to \$HK57.50 per share
China Resources Enterprise Ltd (Code: 291)	Unchanged at \$HK7.40 per share
Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8)	Down 1.11 percent to \$HK2.22 per share
China Unicom Ltd (Code: 762)	Up 3.49 percent to \$HK8.90 per share

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 2.33:One, but about 61 percent of all the counters, listed on the Main Board, held firmly onto Thursday's closing levels.

There were a total of 28, double-digit movers.

The 3 biggest movers of the day included Century Legend (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 79) and I-China Holdings Ltd (Code: 240), both shares of which rose 42.86 percent to 4 cents. The biggest loser was The Hongkong Building and Loan Agency Ltd (Code: 145), the share price of which fell 15.38 percent to 55 cents.

News wise, it was reported from London, England, that Reuters Financial Television was to close down, next spring.

About 45 employees of the company's 90 staff will be sacked, immediately. The fate of the other 45 staff members was unknown, last Friday.

In 2 days, therefore, 2 major media closures had been announced. (Please see Thursday's report)

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Total Turnover rose to about \$HK232.52 million, an increase in volume of about 165 percent, compared with Thursday's volume of activity.

The Growth Enterprise Index put on about 1.64 percent, ending the week at 192.31 points.

The ratio of gainers to losers was 1.90:One.

This market was dominated by speculators, who were taking a punt of the plethora of new listing, 2 of which took the spotlight, last Friday.

The old favourites were all but forgotten.

The double-digit movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (SHK)
AkuP International Holdings Ltd	8179	13.46		0.295
CyberM International (Holdings) Ltd	8017		10.71	0.25
E-silkroad Holdings Ltd	8071	13.33		0.068
ePro Ltd	8086	11.43		0.117
PINE Technology Holdings Ltd	8013	10.34		0.32
Qianlong Technology International Holdings Ltd	8015	10.13		0.87
STAREASTnet.com Corporation	8010		13.75	0.138

In Japan, the term, '*dead market*', applied because trading on the premier stock market of The Land of The Rising Sun was terribly constrained.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, the '*barometer*' of blue chips, listed on The Tokyo Stock Exchange, rose just 41.48 yen to end the week at 10,697.44 yen, a gain of just about 0.39 percent over Thursday's close.

Hurting this market was more gloomy news about the economy.

The Japanese Government's Labour Force Statistics Office announced that the unemployment rate had, for the third consecutive month, hit a record high.

Unemployment in the world's second largest economy, in October, stood at about 5.40 percent. In September, it was about 5.30 percent, which eclipsed the August figure of about 5 percent.

Not since the 1950s had so many people in Japan been without a means to make a living.

Hitachi, the electronics giant, announced that it would sack 430 workers at its memory chip plant in Singapore and cut production there by about 50 percent.

Fujitsu, Japan's largest manufacturer of personal computers, said that it would shut down its 13-year-old plant in Oregon, the US, where the company had been churning out chips for the computer industry.

Another 670 workers hit the breadline.

Japan is the world's second largest economy and, like '*big brother*', the US, its economy is rather ill, these days.

This was how other Asian stock markets ended the week of November 30, 2001:

Indonesia	Plus 0.03 percent to 380.31
Japan	Plus 0.39 percent to 10,697.44
Malaysia	Minus 0.61 percent to 638.02
The Philippines	Closed

Singapore	Plus 1.66 percent to 1,478.54
South Korea	Plus 2.39 percent to 643.89
Taiwan	Minus 0.55 percent to 4,441.12
Thailand	Plus 1.59 percent to 302.62

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