

**DISCLOSURES ABOUT MERRILL LYNCH SHAKES UP WALL STREET :
ASIA SUFFERS THE FALLOUT**

There was, absolutely, no shortage of major news stories, last Monday, with the world, focusing on telecommunications companies, most of which are losing money, heavily.

Like flies, being swatted, one by one of the world's largest telecommunications companies are having to own up to the situation that they are losing the battle to earn a crust.

Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13) announced, last Monday, that it had made available a cash-advance facility in the amount of about \$HK928 million to Hutchison Telecommunications (Australia) Ltd, a 57.80-percent owned subsidiary.

The money is to be used as General Working Capital.

Hutchison Telecommunications (Australia) Ltd is listed on The Australian Stock Exchange.

From the telecommunications giant, Telefon AB L.M. Ericsson (of Sweden), it was announced, last Monday, that it would be sacking another 20,000 of its workers, after announcing yet another loss of about \$US525 million for the first quarter of this year.

It, also, stated that it could not see a return to profits, this year.

Ericsson's share price tumbled 24 percent on the news to a 5-year low.

On another front, in the Philippines, over the weekend of April 20-21, there was widespread concern after a series of bombings in the southern city of General Santos, bombings that left 14 people dead and 60 others injured.

A State of Emergency was declared in the city by President Gloria Macapagal.

Share prices on The Manila Stock Exchange came under pressure all the day. (See list below)

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), share prices fell as the Main Board's Hang Seng Index, the guide to trading in blue chips, lost exactly one percent of its value, falling to 11,139.42 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK8.24 billion, with losers ahead of gainers by the ratio of about 1.42:One.

It looked ominous and the possibility existed that there would be even bigger losses in days to come, due to events, worldwide.

The Ten Most Actives were:

Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 2.18 percent to \$HK67.25 per share
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Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Down 1.01 percent to \$HK73.25 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 2.26 percent to \$HK23.80 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 1.09 percent to \$HK90.50 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Down 0.39 percent to \$HK64.25 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Down 2.30 percent to \$HK85 per share
Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd (Code: 293)	Up 3.16 percent to \$HK13.05 per share
Swire Pacific Ltd "A" Shares (Code: 19)	Up 1.41 percent to \$HK43.10 per share
Hikari Tsushin International Ltd (Code: 603)	Up 22.50 percent to 14.70 cents per share
Wharf (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 4)	Up 2.14 percent to \$HK19.05 per share

There were a total of 31, double-digit movers on the Main Board, last Monday, of which number, 26 double-digit movers rose while 5 double-digit movers fell.

The biggest mover of the day was Emperor (China Concept) Investments Ltd (Code: 296) whose share price rose 20 percent to 24 cents per share.

The biggest loser of the day was AV Concepts Holdings Ltd (Code: 595), the share price of which tumbled 25.93 percent to 34 cents.

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, share prices retreated, generally, with the ratio of losers to gainers, being 1.74:One.

The Growth Enterprise Index lost about 0.66 percent, ending the day at 204.98 points.

The Total Turnover of the day was about \$HK147.95 million.

The market looked very weak.

The biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asian Information Resources (Holdings) Ltd	8025	17.65		0.10
Cardlink Technology Group Ltd	8066	12.24		0.55
Codebank Ltd	8162	12.28		0.064
E-silkroad Holdings Ltd	8071	12.50		0.027
Fast Systems Technology (Holdings) Ltd	8150		14.72	0.168
Fortune Telecom Holdings Ltd	8040	15.49		0.41
Info Communications Holdings Ltd	8082		13.33	0.26
iSteelAsia.com Ltd	8080		15.25	0.10
Qianlong Technology International Holdings	8015	13.46		0.59

In Japan, it was a different story, altogether, but there was little reason for share prices on The Tokyo Stock Exchange to make the gains of last Monday, it appeared to most observers.

The premier stock market's Nikkei-225 Stock Average gained 209.63 yen, equivalent to 1.82 percent, rising to 11,721.64 yen.

Gaining stocks were ahead of losing ones by the ratio of about 1.72:One.

Much of the Nikkei-225 Stock Average's gains could be attributed to rises in the share prices of select electronic *'darlings'*, as the following TARGET list indicates:

Advantest	Up 3.80 percent to 10,100 yen per share
Canon	Up 4.73 percent to 5,090 yen per share
Casio	Up 3.06 percent to 606 yen per share
Fuji Electric	Up 3.82 percent to 326 yen per share
Fujitsu*	Up 4.37 percent to 1,028 yen per share
Hitachi*	Up 3.23 percent to 960 yen per share
JVC	Up 3.76 percent to 580 yen per share
Kyocera	Up 3.91 percent to 9,030 yen per share
Matsushita Electrical Industrial	Up 4.45 percent to 1,691 yen per share
Mitsubishi Electric*	Up 5.16 percent to 591 yen per share
NEC*	Up 3.20 percent to 1,0332 yen per share
Nikon	Up 3.00 percent to 1,647 yen per share
Oki Electrical Industrial	Up 4.35 percent to 336 yen per share
Pioneer	Up 10.21 percent to 2,860 yen per share
Ricoh	Up 4.17 percent to 2,375 yen per share
Rohm	Up 2.83 percent to 20,330 yen per share
Sanyo Electric*	Up 2.28 percent to 584 yen per share
Sharp	Up 2.73 percent to 1,771 yen per share

Sony	Up 3.17 percent to 7,150 yen per share
Sumitomo Electric	Up 3.77 percent to 937 yen per share
TDK	Up 2.81 percent to 7,310 yen per share
Tokyo Electron	Up 3.71 percent to 10,060 yen per share
Toshiba Corporation*	Up 3.41 percent to 577 yen per share

* Among the most active counters of the day

On the negative side of the ledger, however, Hoya Corporation, a leading manufacturer of optical glass and spectacles, announced that its Pretax Profits had fallen by about 5 percent, Year-on-Year, to about 45.77 billion yen.

The reduced profits were due to losses in Information Technology (IT) investments.

The Japanese Government's Finance Ministry announced that the country's 2001 trade surplus had fallen by nearly 26 percent, Year-on-Year, to 7.11 trillion yen.

It was the third consecutive year of falls.

But investors in The Land of The Rising Sun were unperturbed by the news and went along on the ride of The Tokyo Stock Exchange.

But, like any roller coaster, the ride is, usually, quite short.

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

Indonesia	Plus 0.55 percent to 535.68
Japan	Plus 1.82 percent to 11,721.64
Malaysia	Plus 1.12 percent to 807.30
The Philippines	Minus 1.97 percent to 1,373.79
Singapore	Minus 0.18 percent to 1,727.66
South Korea	Minus 0.33 percent to 920.89
Taiwan	Plus 0.22 percent to 6,462.30
Thailand	Plus 0.19 percent to 386.77

Tuesday

US investors had the jitters, last Monday, New York time, as more and more of the world's telecommunication giants told of their situations – which was bad ... bad ... and getting worse.

WorldCom, a major telecommunications player, internationally, with Internet, international data, and commercial telephone services (the second largest in the US, actually), announced, the previous Friday, that it expected lower revenues and earnings for this year, due to commercial customers' cutbacks.

Down came the share price of this company by about 33 percent as the share price sank to about \$US4.

Then, Lucent Technologies, a telecommunications-equipment producer, posted a \$US495-million loss for the second quarter of this year, to March 31, and Management went even further, stating that it had no idea as to the results of the third quarter.

The stage had been set for trading on Wall Street, last Monday.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the '*barometer*' of trading in blue chips, lost 120.68 points, equivalent to about 1.18 percent, falling to 10,136.43 points.

On the tech-laden NASDAQ, its Composite Index sank 38.14 points, or about 2.12 percent, ending the day at 1,758.69 points.

There appeared to be nothing to support the stock markets of the US, with most observers, standing by for more losses before the week was out.

But, while the situation looked grim on the world's largest stock markets, in Asia, investors appeared to be happy just to sit on their hands and to watch the proceedings in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Main Board's Hang Seng Index, the gauge of trading in blue chips in the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), actually gained about 1.85 percent, hitting 11,345.18 by the close of trading at 4 pm.

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 1.59:One.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK8.90 billion, with many observers, wondering as to the reason that Asia's second largest bourse should rise, while the markets of its major customers were in decline.

The Ten Most Active counters of the day were:

China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 3.36 percent to \$HK24.60 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 1.11 percent to \$HK91.50 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 1.37 percent to \$HK74.25 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 1.86 percent to \$HK68.50 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 2.33 percent to \$HK65.75 per share
China Unicom Ltd (Code: 762)	Up 3.38 percent to \$HK7.65 per share
Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8)	Up 2.04 percent to \$HK2.00 per share
Henderson Land Development Company Ltd (Code: 12)	Up 1.97 percent to \$HK36.30 per share
Swire Pacific Ltd "A" Shares (Code: 19)	Up 2.09 percent to \$HK44.00 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 0.63 percent to \$HK1.59 per share

The biggest gainers of the day were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Ananda Wing On Travel (Holdings) Ltd	1189	38.18		0.076
Asia Tele-Net and Technology Corporation Ltd	679	17.14		0.041
AV Concept Holdings Ltd	595	26.47		0.43
Chi Cheung Investment Company Ltd	112	14.29		0.08
e-Kong Group Ltd	524	10.81		0.041
ehealthcareasia Ltd	835	11.76		0.19
Great China Holdings Ltd	141		10.00	0.27
Hop Hing Holdings Ltd	47		12.28	0.25
Luen Cheong Tai International Holdings Ltd	1190		29.01	0.115
Medtech Group Company Ltd	1031	20.00		0.024
New World CyberBase Ltd	276	11.54		0.058
Pacific Challenge Holdings Ltd	166	17.50		0.47
Pearl Oriental Holdings Ltd	988	20.59		0.041
Prime Success International Group Ltd	210		10.22	0.123
Rivera (Holdings) Ltd	281	14.81		0.31
Sino-i.com Ltd	250	11.94		0.075
Vantage International (Holdings) Ltd	15		14.29	1.50
Yanion International Holdings Ltd	82	12.94		0.96
Ying Wing Holdings Ltd	1104	10.61		0.73

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, trading was marked by a decided lack of movement, as The Growth Enterprise Index hovered between a low of 204.83 points and a high of 204.84 points.

The Growth Enterprise Index came to rest at the lowest point of the day after about \$HK139.19-million worth of shares changed hands.

Losers outpaced gainers by the ratio of about 1.67:One, with about 59 percent of the counters that were traded, holding onto previous price levels.

The 2, double-digit movers on this market were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Codebank Ltd	8162		14.06	0.055
E-silkroad Holdings Ltd	8071		11.11	0.024

In Japan, investors on The Tokyo Stock Exchange decided to hold tight as the Nikkei-225 Stock Average zigzagged, throughout the session, ending at 11,736.83 yen, a meagre gain of 15.19 yen on Monday's close.

However, even though the Nikkei-225 Stock Average was in positive territory, losing counters outnumbered gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.45:One.

A private research institution came up with some statistics to the effect that the number of personal computers that were exported from Japan in Fiscal 2001 was about 13.20 percent less than the previous year.

The institute said that this was the first decline in the previous 4 years.

Movie producer and distributor, Toho Company, announced that it had posted a record profit of 22.14 billion yen for its Financial Year, ended February 28, 2002.

That result was equivalent to an increase of about 20.70 percent, Year-on-Year.

In other parts of the most-populous part of the world, this was how other investors saw the situation:

Indonesia	Plus 1.38 percent to 543.06
Japan	Plus 0.13 percent to 11,736.83
Malaysia	Plus 0.10 percent to 808.07
The Philippines	Minus 0.32 percent to 1,369.36
Singapore	Plus 0.74 percent to 1,740.45
South Korea	Plus 0.52 percent to 925.70
Taiwan	Minus 1.11 percent to 6,390.62
Thailand	Minus 1.40 percent to 381.43

Wednesday

Of the 9 major stock markets of Asia, just 3 stock markets made any gains, at all – and those gains were hardly worth a mention in a letter home to mom.

The 3 stock markets were those of Indonesia, Taiwan and the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Asia was concerned about what was taking place in the US, where Wall Street was undergoing a major correction, with one company after another, coming up with depressing news.

On Tuesday, in the financial capital of the US, The New York Stock Exchange saw its major indices fall further into the red, as the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost another 47.19 points, about 0.47 percent, ending the session at 10,089.24 points.

On the NASDAQ, its Composite Index shed another 1.61 percent, falling back to 1,730.30 points.

More companies announced tales of economic woe and US investors, being told, repeatedly, that things were picking up in the US, economically, were not at all convinced as to the veracity of the many statements, made by the most important gurus of the free world.

In Asia, investors appeared to be undecided about the international situation and, as such, did next to nothing.

One of the exceptions to the general rule was in the HKSAR where its 2 stock markets, both managed fractional improvements.

On the Main Board, the Hang Seng Index gained about 0.45 percent after lacklustre trading conditions predominated for most of the day. The Index closed at 11,396.57 points.

The Total Turnover of the day was about \$HK9.31 billion, with losing counters, outpacing gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.13:One.

The Ten Most Actives included:

China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 1.83 percent to \$HK25.05 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.27 percent to \$HK91.25 per share

Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 1.90 percent to \$HK67.00 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 1.06 percent to \$HK69.50 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Up 0.34 percent to \$HK74.50 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Up 0.86 percent to \$HK87.50 per share
Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)	Up 3.77 percent to \$HK14.00 per share
China Unicom Ltd (Code: 762)	Up 1.31 percent to \$HK7.75 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Down 4.74 percent to \$HK10.05 per share
Swire Pacific Ltd “A” Share (Code 19)	Up 4.09 percent to \$HK45.80 per share

The biggest movers of the day were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asia Resources Transportation Holdings Ltd	899	14.71		0.039
China Merchants China Direct Investments Ltd	133		11.81	2.80
Chuang’s China Investments Ltd	298		12.38	0.184
Continental Holdings Ltd	513		11.11	0.40
Daido Group Ltd	544	10.34		0.064
Dailywin Group Ltd	897	14.55		0.126
eForce Holdings Ltd	943		14.29	0.12
Emperor (China Concept) Investment Ltd	298	17.39		0.027
Heng Fung Holdings Ltd	185	21.05		0.092
Hudson Holdings Ltd	758	758	11.11	1.10
Medtech Group Ltd	1031		16.67	0.02
Pacific Challenge Holdings Ltd	166	21.28		0.57
Paliburg Holdings Ltd	617	12.15		0.12
S.A.S. Dragon Holdings Ltd	1184		12.26	0.465
Star Bio-Tech (Holdings) Ltd	1051	34.10		0.232
Starlight International Holdings Ltd	485	11.54		0.058
Stelux Holdings International Ltd	84	21.43		0.17
Swank International Manufacturing Company Ltd	663		23.53	0.052
World Houseware (Holdings) Ltd	713	11.43		0.234

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the action was dominated by Mr Li Ka Shing’s ‘*vehicle*’, tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001).

On a Total Turnover of about \$HK233.86 million, trading in the shares of tom.com, alone, represented nearly 35 percent, at about \$HK81.39 million.

By the close of trading, the share price of tom.com had risen 3.70 percent over Tuesday’s closing price, to \$HK4.20.

The Growth Enterprise Index put on just about 0.47 percent to 205.79 points, but, aside from select counters, losers outnumbered gainers by the ratio of about 1.68:One.

There were just 3 double-digit movers of the day:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
abc Multactive Ltd	8131		14.29	0.12
Computech Holdings Ltd	8081	10.91		0.61
E-silkroad Holdings Ltd	8071	25.00		0.03

In Japan, on The Tokyo Stock Exchange, declining issues outran advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.93:One, in spite of the key index, hardly moving throughout the trading day.

By the close of trading, the Nikkei-225 Stock Average stood at 11,672.88 yen, a one-day loss of nearly 64 yen.

There was no clear definition to the most-important stock market of Asia as stock prices, generally, moved either up or down, just fractionally.

The Japan Chain Stores Association announced that supermarket sales fell about 4.80 percent in Fiscal 2001, Year-on-Year, to about 15,467.10 billion yen.

It was the sixth consecutive year of declines.

From The Japan Department Stores Association came news that sales in departmental stores, throughout Japan, were shaved by about 0.30 percent for Fiscal 2001, Year-on-Year, to about 8.53 trillion yen.

It was the fifth consecutive year of declines for departmental stores.

The audio-equipment maker, Aiwa Company, announced that its Group Net Losses widened to 46.58 billion yen in Financial 2001.

In the 2000 Year, Aiwa had lost 7.57 billion yen.

Aiwa is to be a wholly owned subsidiary of Sony Corporation on October 1, 2002.

And that was, just about, that for last Wednesday.

Other Asian bourses recorded the following results:

Indonesia	Plus 0.22 percent to 544.26
Japan	Minus 0.54 percent to 11,672.88
Malaysia	Minus 1.06 percent to 799.51
The Philippines	Minus 1.06 percent to 1,354.82
Singapore	Minus 0.33 percent to 1,734.72
South Korea	Minus 1.08 percent to 915.69
Taiwan	Plus 1.01 percent to 6,455.39
Thailand	Minus 0.20 percent to 380.76

Thursday

It seemed as though there was no end to companies, announcing depressing economic news in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave, last Wednesday, as media giant, AOL Time Warner, decided to put in its oar – which turned out to be a crab.

AOL Time Warner announced that it had lost about \$US54 billion for the first quarter of this year.

It was one of the highest quarterly losses in the record books of any corporate entity, anywhere in the world.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed another 58.81 points, falling to 10,030.43 points, notching up another deterioration of about 0.58 percent in the blue-chip index on the world's largest bourse.

On the NASDAQ, its Composite Index surrendered another 16.95 points, equivalent to about 0.98 percent, ending the day at 1,713.34 points.

It was a slump, which, as at last Wednesday, had persisted for 5, straight trading days.

In Asia, only 2 stocks market managed any kind of gains, and those gains were only of a fractional nature.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), there was little happening of any earth-shattering importance, although Mr Li Ka Shing's Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8) was sued for about \$HK92 million by a telecommunications giant from Taiwan. (Please see [TARGET Intelligent Report, Volume IV, Number 77, published on Friday, April 26](#))

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index gained 0.11 percent, ending the day at 11,409.29 points.

But the ratio of losers to gainers was a resounding 1.90:One, which, perhaps, gave a better picture of Asia's second-largest bourse.

Whether or not vested interests were standing in the market, TARGET cannot comment, but it is fact that it has happened on many occasions in the past.

The Ten Most Actives were:

China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 1.60 percent to \$HK25.45 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 1.44 percent to \$HK68.50 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.82 percent to \$HK92.00 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Down 0.75 percent to \$HK66.50 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Down 1.68 percent to \$HK73.25 per share
Hikari Tsushin International Ltd (Code: 603)	Up 2.11 percent to 14.50 cents per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Down 0.29 percent to \$HK87.25 per share
China Unicom Ltd (Code: 762)	Down 0.65 percent to \$HK7.70 per share
Aluminum Corporation of China Ltd (Code: 2600)	Down 6.85 percent to \$HK1.36 per share
Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8)	Down 1.01 percent to \$HK1.96 per share

The biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asia Resources Transportation Holdings Ltd	899		10.26	0.035
Asia Standard Hotel Group Ltd	292	13.87		0.197
Coastal Realty Group Ltd	1124		20.86	0.11
Continental Holdings Ltd	513	12.50		0.45
Dah Hwa International (Holdings) Ltd	600		13.57	0.121
Emperor Technology Venture Ltd	283		12.15	0.094
Everbest Century Holdings Ltd	578		11.11	0.024
Far East Technology International Ltd	36		10.00	0.27
Fu Cheong International Holdings Ltd	916		11.24	0.158
GR Investment International Ltd	310		23.08	0.06
Hai Xia Holdings Ltd	384	12.38		1.18
Hop Hing Holdings Ltd	47	32.69		0.345
iRegent Group Ltd	575	22.41		0.255
Jacklin International Holdings Ltd	630	14.81		0.31
King Fook Holdings Ltd	280	22.86		0.43
Man Sang International Ltd	938		12.50	0.14
Mansion House Group Ltd	376		22.64	0.123
Medtech Group Company Ltd	1031	25.00		0.025
New Rank City Development Ltd	456		32.00	0.34
Peking Apparel International Group Ltd	761		10.00	0.27
S.A.S. Dragon Holdings Ltd	1184	13.98		0.53
Sino-i.com Ltd	250		11.69	0.068
Sinolink Worldwide Holdings Ltd	1168	16.46		0.92
Star Cruises Ltd	678	12.70		3.55
Swank International Manufacturing Company Ltd	663	28.85		0.067
United Power Investment Ltd	674		12.24	0.172
Yanion International Holdings Ltd	82	18.09		1.11

On The GEM – The Growth Enterprise Market of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd – it was a similar story to that, being told on the Main Board.

The Growth Enterprise Index put on about 0.22 percent, rising to 206.25 points in a very unconvincing market, which saw losers outpace gainers by the ratio of about 1.55:One.

The Total Turnover of the day rose to about \$HK270.54 million with, once again, Mr Li Ka Shing's tom.com Ltd (Code: 8001), being responsible for a large chunk of that figure.

tom.com's share price rose 2.38 percent to \$HK4.30 after about 24.20 million of its share capital had changed hands.

That volume of business represented a little more than 38 percent of the entire volume of activity of the day.

It appeared, for no particular reason, investors on this speculative market had fallen in love to tom.com ... or should that read, fallen in love with Mr Li Ka Shing?_

The double-digit counters for the day were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
abc Multiactive Ltd	8131		16.67	0.10
AcrossAsia Multimedia Ltd	8061		14.55	0.188
CASH Financial Services Group Ltd	8122		11.43	0.031

Era Information and Entertainment Ltd	8043	11.54		0.29
iSteelAsia.com Ltd	8080	35.00		0.135
M21 Technology Ltd	8153		11.43	0.62

In The Land of The Rising Sun, it was another dreary day on Asia's most important stock market, The Tokyo Stock Exchange.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average surrendered another 24.16 yen, equivalent to about 0.21 percent, ending the day at 11,648.72 yen.

Losing counters outran gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.33:One.

Japan looked at Wall Street, hoping for direction ... which never came.

Fujitsu Ltd, one of the largest producers of personal computers in Japan, announced that it had lost about 382.54 billion yen in the 2001 year.

That was in contrast to the 2000 Financial Year when it reported a Net Profit of about 8.52 billion yen.

Toshiba Corporation, another hi-tech giant of Japan, announced that it had posted a 2001 Consolidated Net Loss of about 254.02 billion yen, a result that contrasted with the 2000 Financial Year when it posted a Net Profit of about 96.17 billion yen.

And yet another giant in electronics, NEC Corporation, followed suit, reporting that it, too, had suffered in the 2001 Financial Year, losing, on a consolidated basis, about 312.02 billion yen.

In the 2000 Year, it had earned a Net Profit of about 56.60 billion yen.

It was a sorry state of affairs, which is stating the obvious.

Poor suffering Japanese investors!

This was how other Asian bourses saw the situation, last Thursday night:

Indonesia	Plus 0.06 percent to 544.59
Japan	Minus 0.21 percent to 11,648.72
Malaysia	Closed
The Philippines	Minus 1.94 percent to 1,328.50
Singapore	Minus 0.42 percent to 1,727.42
South Korea	Minus 4.71 percent to 872.58
Taiwan	Minus 1.55 percent to 6,355.59
Thailand	Minus 2.03 percent to 373.04

Friday

The big news of the day was that Merrill Lynch, one of the largest stockbrokerage companies in the world, was under tremendous pressure, following disclosures that it had hoodwinked its many thousands of clients, over the years.

It had perpetrated, what amounted to, false, or coloured reports, with regard to its stock recommendations.

An official inquiry is to be conducted by the US Securities and Futures Commission (SEC) into the affairs of Merrill Lynch.

Many investors have gone on record to state that lies were perpetrated by analysts of Merrill Lynch, directly or indirectly, in order to feather their own, and Merrill Lynch's, nest.

On The New York Stock Exchange, last Thursday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 4.63 points, rising to 10,035.06 points, in a very uncertain market.

On the NASDAQ, it was a similar story as its Composite Index gained 0.36 points to 1,713.70 points.

The market appeared to be marking time – before the next selling bout.

Merrill Lynch plays only a very small part in Asians, trading on The New York Stock Exchange, because so many of them have lost faith in the US stock markets, following the meltdown of the past few years.

Certainly, Merrill Lynch is hardly important to the vast majority of the population of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), following years of being bullied by certain American know-it-alls in the employ of the Wall Street 'guru?'.

In Germany, it was reported that Siemens, a giant manufacturer, is to cut another 6,500 workers, out of its workforce – in addition to the 10,000 workers that it, already, shed, earlier this year.

Then, another hi-tech company in the US, JDS Uniphase, announced a quarterly loss of about \$US4.30 billion, with its management, stating that it would sack another 2,000 of its workers.

It was the fifth consecutive loss for this company, which used to be included among the 'darlings' of Wall Street.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, it was another dreary day, as the gauge to trading in blue chips, the Hang Seng Index, shed about 0.21 percent of its value, falling to 11,385.08 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK7.95 billion, as losing counters outran gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.29:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Unchanged at \$HK92.00 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 1.18 percent to \$HK25.15 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Down 1.46 percent to \$HK67.50 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 1.13 percent to \$HK67.25 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Down 0.34 percent to \$HK73.00 per share
Hang Seng Bank Ltd (Code: 11)	Up 0.86 percent to \$HK88.00 per share
Pacific Century CyberWorks Ltd (Code: 8)	Up 2.04 percent to \$HK2.00 per share
Li and Fung Ltd (Code: 494)	Down 1.52 percent to \$HK13.00 per share

Hikari Tsushin International Ltd (Code: 603)

Up 6.21 percent to 15.40 cents per share

Wang Sing International Holdings Group Ltd
(Code: 2389)

First trading day –\$HK1.29 per share

The double-digit movers of the day were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Bossini International Holdings Ltd	592	12.31		0.73
China Development Corporation Ltd	487	10.00		0.033
China Strategic Holdings Ltd	235	15.69		0.295
Continental Holdings Ltd	513		11.11	0.40
Daido Group Ltd	544		10.77	0.058
Digital China Holdings Ltd	861		10.53	3.40
Emperor (China Concept) Investment Ltd	296		11.11	0.024
Guangdong Kelon Electrical Holdings Company Ltd	921		15.11	1.18
Hongkong Fortune Ltd	121		56.86	0.08
HyComm Wireless Ltd	499	12.62		0.116
King Fook Holdings Ltd	280		23.26	0.33
Perennial International Ltd	725		12.50	0.28
Poly Investments Holdings Ltd	263		18.18	0.315
Prime Investments Holdings Ltd	721	13.33		0.68
Prime Success International Group Ltd	210	11.61		0.125
S.A.S. Dragon Holdings Ltd	1184		13.21	0.46
Shang Hua Holdings Ltd	317		10.00	0.18
Shun Ho Technology Holdings Ltd	219	10.27		0.161
Sinocan Holdings Ltd	1095		20.00	0.032
Star Bio-Tech (Holdings) Ltd	1051		11.06	0.209
Yanion International Holdings Ltd	82	14.41		1.27

For the week, therefore, the tally of the Main Board was that the Hang Seng Index had lost 132.90 points in 5 trading days, equivalent to 1.18 percent of its value.

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, there were a number of bright spots, but, by the close of trading for the week, it was the bears that predominated.

The Growth Enterprise Index lost 0.65 percent of its value, falling to 204.91 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK210.23 million.

The ratio of losers to gainers was about 1.39:One.

The biggest movers on this market included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
AKup International Holdings Ltd	8179		14.89	0.12
iSteelAsia.com Ltd	8080		32.59	0.091
New Chinese Medicine Holdings Ltd	8085	11.29		0.69

For the week, The GEM's Index had surrendered about 0.65 percent of its value in 5 trading days.

On Asia's largest and most influential bourse, The Tokyo Stock Exchange, the key index, the Nikkei-225 Stock Average, lost another 107.33 yen, equal to about 0.92 percent, as Japanese investors marked down the Nikkei-225 Stock Average to 11,541.39 yen.

The ratio of losers to gainers was about 2.46:One.

Good news emanated out of the halls of political power in The Land of The Rising Sun as the Labour Force Statistics Office informed the country that the unemployment rate had fallen to 5.20 percent in March, down from 5.30 percent in February.

The 50-year unemployment record stands at 5.50 percent, which statistic was recorded for the month of December 2001.

From the country's 2 major stockbrokerage companies, Daiwa Securities Group Incorporated and Nikko Cordial Corporation, it was announced that they, both, had written their respective accounts in red ink for their Financial Years, ended March 31, 2002.

Daiwa Securities said that it had suffered a Consolidated Net Loss of 130.55 billion yen.

This compared with a Net Profit of about 64.55 billion yen for the 2001 Financial Year.

Daiwa Securities is the country's second-largest brokerage house.

Nikko Cordial, the country's third-largest brokerage house, announced that it had suffered a Group Net Loss of 66.36 billion yen, against a Net Profit of 44.28 billion yen for the 2001 Financial Year.

More and more publicly listed companies were reporting tales of financial woe in Japan, pulling the very heart, out of many investors.

And this was how the situation came to a close on Asia's most-important stock markets, last Friday night:

Indonesia	Minus 0.85 percent to 539.96
Japan	Minus 0.92 percent to 11,541.39
Malaysia	Plus 0.23 percent to 801.37
The Philippines	Minus 0.34 percent to 1,323.96
Singapore	Plus 0.05 percent to 1,728.32
South Korea	Minus 0.34 percent to 869.65
Taiwan	Minus 0.77 percent to 6,306.93
Thailand	Plus 0.91 percent to 376.44

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