

OIL PRICES DECLINE AS THINGS START TO RETURN TO NORMAL

The price of crude oil continued to fall on international markets, last Monday, and indices of equity markets, around the world, rose in sympathy.

The worst appeared to be over – at least, for the time being.

The spotlight switched to the US Federal Reserve Board, which will hold its Open Market Committee Meeting on Tuesday, June 29, at which time, the new Fed Funds' Rate is likely to be fixed.

Until then, however, it was make hay while the sun shines.

On Wall Street, it was a good day for bulls.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 148.26 points, equivalent to 1.45 percent, ending the rather light trading day at 10,391.08 points.

On the tech-laden NASDAQ, its Composite Index followed the example, set by the Big Board of The New York Stock Exchange, chalking up a gain of about 2.12 percent, as investors pushed the Composite Index to 2,020.62 points.

The ratio of gainers to losers on the Big Board of The New York Stock Exchange was about 3.75:One, while, on The NASDAQ, gaining counters were ahead of losing ones by the ratio of about 2.50:One.

Last Monday's gains on these 2 equity markets, the biggest in the world, represented the most important single movement in their respective indices since the previous month – which appeared to coincide with the timing of the al Qaeda attack on Saudi Arabia and the oil-price squeeze, indirectly brought about by the lack of action of The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Last Monday, on The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price of light sweet crude was being settled at \$US38.75 per barrel for July delivery, with August delivery, being quoted at \$US38.84 per barrel.

On major European bourses, indices headed for one-month highs, mainly due to the fall in the international price of oil.

Many airlines of the world have been battered due to oil-price increases, which hit a 21-year high, just one week prior.

These airlines are still smarting from that situation and meetings were being held, last Monday, to try to find a way out of such a dilemma should there be a repeat performance.

This was how the indices of major, European equity markets ended their respective trading days, last Monday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	0.99 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	0.74 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus	1.41 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Plus	0.63 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus	0.98 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus	0.82 percent

In Asia, every major stock market index shot up from the sounds of their respective opening bells.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Main Board's Hang Seng Index gained 2.53 percent, ending the session at 12,326.85 points.

The Total Turnover, however, was low, at about \$HK13.72 billion.

Advancing counters outpaced declining ones by the ratio of about 3.94:One.

Most of the gains were made in the morning session, to 12:30 p.m.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 1.28 percent to \$HK118.50 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 4.31 percent to \$HK23.00 per share
China Telecom Corporation Ltd (Code: 728)	Up 7.53 percent to \$HK2.50 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 2.94 percent to \$HK52.50 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Up 3.47 percent to \$HK3.725 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 4.31 percent to \$HK66.50 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Unchanged at \$HK3.30 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Up 2.64 percent to \$HK13.60 per share
China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code: 386)	Up 5.36 percent to \$HK2.95 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Up 4.52 percent to \$HK4.625 per share

As for the Main Board's double-digit gainers, they were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Alpha General (Holdings) Ltd	73	13.79		0.33
Artel Solutions Group Holdings Ltd	931		13.79	0.25
Cheung Tai Hong Holdings Ltd	199		10.71	0.25
Chevalier iTech Holdings Ltd	508	10.47		0.95
China Agrotech Holdings Ltd	1073	16.00		0.58
China Eagle Group Company Ltd	493	112.84		0.315
China Online (Bermuda) Ltd	383	14.00		1.14
CIG-WH International (Holdings) Ltd	621		11.71	0.181
Global Green Tech Group Ltd	274	11.48		0.68
HSBC China Fund Ltd, The	504		11.50	1.00
Nam Fong International Holdings Ltd	1176		12.50	0.035
Pacific Plywood Holdings Ltd	767	11.76		0.038
Plus Holdings Ltd	1013	17.54		0.067
renren Holdings Ltd	59	27.27		0.014
REXCAPITAL International Holdings Ltd	155	15.28		0.083
Shang Hua Holdings Ltd	371	20.00		0.072
Shun Ho Technology Holdings Ltd	219		12.12	0.29
UDL Holdings Ltd	620	47.83		0.034
Universe International Holdings Ltd	1046		13.43	0.058
Wanji Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd	835		20.00	0.02
Wing Lee Holdings Ltd	876	17.86		3.30
Wing Shing Chemical Holdings Ltd	850	10.00		0.33
Sinopec Zhenhai Refining and Chemical Company Ltd	1128	10.83		6.65

Over on the speculative bourse of The Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), known as The GEM – The **G**rowth **E**nterprise **M**arket of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd – The Growth Enterprise Index tacked on a gain of about 1.26 percent, ending the session at 1,126.85 points.

The Total Turnover continued to be very low, at about \$HK69.48 million.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 1.88:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

TOM Online Incorporated (Code: 8282)	Up 2 percent to \$HK1.33 per share
Tiger Tech Holdings Ltd (Code: 8046)	Up 23 percent to 8.60 cents per share
TOM Group Ltd (Code: 8001)	Up 2 percent to \$HK1.72 per share
Greencool Technology Holdings Ltd (Code: 8056)	Up 2 percent to 85 cents per share

The biggest GEM movers were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Creative Energy Solutions Holdings Ltd	8109	10.53		0.21
Shenzhen EVOC Intelligent Technology Company Ltd	8285	13.56		0.67
SYSCAN Technology Holdings Ltd	8083	15.38		0.30
Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119	42.86		0.02
Tiger Tech Holdings Ltd	8046	22.86		0.086

In Japan, The Tokyo Stock Exchange's key index, The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, posted its biggest, single day's gain this year.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average ended the session at 11,439.92 yen, up 311.87 yen, equivalent to 2.80 percent.

On this market, which is the largest in Asia, the ratio of gainers to losers was about 7.83:One.

There was no special news from The Land of The Rising Sun and, although the fundamentals in respect of the US economy looked very promising, the gains on the country's 3 equity markets were due, almost entirely, to the end of the spectacular gains in the international price of crude oil.

This was how other Asian markets' indices fared, as they closed their respective doors, last Monday night:

The HKSAR	Plus 2.53 percent to 12,326.85
Indonesia	Plus 0.41 percent to 700.79
Japan	Plus 2.80 percent to 11,439.92
Malaysia	Plus 1.61 percent to 815.73
The Philippines	Minus 0.48 percent to 1,517.17
Singapore	Plus 1.47 percent to 1,818.00
South Korea	Plus 3.68 percent to 809.45
Taiwan	Plus 3.68 percent to 5,935.82
Thailand	Minus 0.10 percent to 625.83

Tuesday

The Chairman of the US Federal Reserve, Dr Alan Greenspan, made it abundantly clear, last Tuesday, that The Fed would take whatever action is required in order to combat inflation in the US.

Speaking to a group of bankers in London, England, via satellite, Dr Greenspan said The Fed was prepared to act smartly and aggressively, if needs be such.

The Fed will be holding its Open Market Committee Meeting on Tuesday, June 29: Stand by for an increase in The Fed Fund's Rate!

It is said that, if it is not one thing, then, it is something else.

While the price of oil on The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) continued to fall – \$US36.98 per barrel for July delivery and \$US37.13 per barrel for August delivery – from Nigeria, which is a member of The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), came news that the country's largest trade union, The Nigerian Labour Congress, had called for a general strike, effective Wednesday, June 9.

The general strike is over the high price of petrol in the country, with the government, refusing, or reluctant, to lower it.

If the strike is not called off, it could mean that some 2 million barrels of oil per day will not hit international markets.

That amount of oil represents about 2.70 percent of the world's daily consumption of oil.

On Wall Street, last Tuesday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 41.44 points, or about 0.40 percent, ending the day at 10,432.52 points.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index gained about 0.14 percent, running up to 2,023.53 points.

Wall Street had not heard of the situation in Nigeria, during trading hours.

Gainers and losers, on both equity markets, were pretty close.

In Europe, the utterances of Dr Greenspan appeared to mean a great deal to investors in that part of the world.

An interest-rate hike in the US had been well expected for some time, but confirmation, or just about, was still a bit of a shock to some people.

The Bank of England was due to hold a meeting on Friday, June 11, at which time, it was feared that there would be an interest-rate increase of another 25 basis points.

Airline stocks were hard hit on just about every European bourse, last Tuesday, due in large part to the month-long, record-high prices of jet fuel to feed commercial aeroplanes.

This was how the indices of major European equity markets closed, last Tuesday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	0.09 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	0.35 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus	0.03 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Plus	0.03 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus	0.19 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus	0.24 percent

In Asia, only 2 equity markets out of 9 equity markets were writing in red ink.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), things were relatively quiet, last Tuesday, compared with Monday.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Hang Seng Index gained just 0.14 percent, ending the day at 12,344.16 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK13.56 billion.

Gaining counters were not too far off the losing ones, by the ratio of 1.02:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Unchanged at \$HK118.50 per share
China Telecom Corporation Ltd (Code: 728)	Up 2.00 percent to \$HK2.55 per share
Denway Motors Ltd (Code: 203)	Down 6.62 percent to \$HK3.175 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.65 percent to \$HK23.15 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Unchanged at \$HK52.50 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Down 1.50 percent to \$HK65.50 per share
China Unicom Ltd (Code: 762)	Up 1.69 percent to \$HK6.00 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 0.54 percent to \$HK4.60 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 0.67 percent to \$HK3.70 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Up 0.74 percent to \$HK13.70 per share

The biggest movers of the Main Board included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
A-Max Holdings Ltd	959	21.57		0.31
Asia Logistics Technologies Ltd	862	10.00		0.022
Asia Resources Holdings Ltd	899		12.12	2.175

Beauforte Investors Corporation Ltd	21		10.42	4.30
Capital Strategic Investment Ltd	497		10.00	0.18
Century Legend (Holdings) Ltd	79		10.53	0.068
Cheung Tai Hong Holdings Ltd	199	10.00		0.275
China Eagle Group Company Ltd	493		12.70	0.275
China Elegance (Holdings) Ltd	476	10.96		0.081
China Nan Feng Group Ltd	979		21.13	0.056
Garron International Ltd	1226		17.42	0.109
Global Green Tech Group Ltd	274	10.29		0.75
Global Tech (Holdings) Ltd	143	12.12		0.074
Grandtop International Holdings Ltd	2309		10.00	1.08
Great China Holdings Ltd	141	10.53		0.42
HSBC China Fund Ltd, The	504	12.00		1.12
Joyce Boutique Holdings Ltd	647	12.00		0.28
Lai Sun Garment (International) Ltd	191		12.90	0.27
Premium Land Ltd	164	11.76		0.038
REXCAPITAL International Holdings Ltd	155		10.84	0.074
Same Time Holdings Ltd	451		18.13	1.31
Sunny Global Holdings Ltd	1094		15.33	0.116
Sunway International Holdings Ltd	58	14.81		0.31
UDL Holdings Ltd	620	17.65		0.04
Universe International Holdings Ltd	1046	10.34		0.064
Yardway Group Ltd	646	15.74		0.25

On The **Growth Enterprise Market** (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the situation mirrored, to a great extent, that which had taken place on the Main Board.

The Growth Enterprise Index gained exactly one third of a percentage point, ending the day at 1,130.57 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK58.49 million.

Losing counters, however, was ahead of gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.03:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

TOM Online Incorporated (Code: 8282)	Down 3 percent to \$HK1.29 per share
Kingdee International Software Group Company Ltd (Code: 8133)	Down 2 percent to \$HK2.75 per share
TOM Group Ltd (Code: 8001)	Down 1 percent to \$HK1.70 per share
Phoenix Satellite Television Holdings Ltd (Code: 8002)	Down 1 percent to \$HK1.48 per share
CK Life Sciences International (Holdings) Incorporated (Code: 8222)	Up 1 percent to \$HK1.52 per share

As for the biggest GEM movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Asian Information Resources (Holdings) Ltd	8025	11.11		0.08
Capital Publications Ltd	8155	10.00		0.088
Shenzhen EVOC Intelligent Technology Company Ltd	8285		10.45	0.60
Kinetana International Biotech Pharma Ltd	8031	11.67		0.067
M Channel Corporation Ltd	8036	14.29		0.024
SYSCAN Technology Holdings Ltd	8083	26.67		0.38
Techpacific Capital Ltd	8088	21.05		0.023
Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119		20.00	0.016

For the third consecutive day, gains were made on the 3 equity markets of Japan, with The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, a key index of The Tokyo Stock Exchange, putting on another 82.01 yen, or about 0.72 percent, running up to 11,521.93 yen.

Gaining counters outpaced losing ones by the ratio of 1.85:One, exactly.

During last Tuesday's trading session, the Japanese equity markets did not know about the statements of Dr Greenspan or about the threatened general strike in Nigeria.

Had they been apprised of these events, it could have changed the complexion of trading, no doubt.

- **Mitsubishi Motors Corporation** announced that an agreement had been reached with Mitsubishi Group and China Motor Corporation whereby the duo would inject 295 billion yen into ailing Mitsubishi Motors.

This was how indices of other Asian equity markets fared, last Tuesday:

The HKSAR	Plus 0.14 percent to 12,344.16
Indonesia	Plus 0.40 percent to 703.58
Japan	Plus 0.72 percent to 11,521.93
Malaysia	Plus 0.20 percent to 817.39
The Philippines	Plus 1.88 percent to 1,545.63
Singapore	Plus 0.12 percent to 1,820.14
South Korea	Minus 0.02 percent to 809.31
Taiwan	Plus 0.86 percent to 5,986.76
Thailand	Minus 2.30 percent to 611.46

Wednesday

Things came to an absolute standstill in Nigeria, last Wednesday, as the general strike took effect. (Please see Tuesday's report)

It was estimated that millions of workers walked off their jobs, as a protest to the high price of petrol in the country.

The strike is scheduled to last at least 3 weeks, unless the government takes definitive steps to bring down the price of petrol in the country.

Things were peaceful, however.

For decades, corruption and graft have robbed the people of Nigeria of the wealth, obtained by their government through oil exports – and, now, the chickens had come home to roost.

The Nigerian situation had not, as at last Wednesday, affected the price of oil on international exchanges, very much, but there were those who suggested that it must, eventually, have an impact.

Especially, if violence should erupt.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), last Wednesday, the price of light sweet crude for July delivery was being settled at \$US37.50 per barrel, with August delivery, being settled at \$US37.64 per barrel.

On Wall Street, share prices edged down, probably due in part to profit taking and partly due to uncertainty over the Nigerian situation.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost about 0.61 percent, ending the day at 10,368.44 points.

On the NASDAQ, its Composite Index surrendered about 1.63 percent of its value, falling below the 2,000-level to 1,990.61 points.

Trading was comparatively light and it was reported that many people were staying away from equity markets as a sign of respect at the death of President Ronald Reagan.

Last Friday, all equity markets were closed in the US in order to commemorate the passing of the 40th President of the United States of America.

The world mourned this man, dubbed, '*The Great Communicator*'.

- The US Commerce Department announced that **wholesale inventories** fell about 0.10 percent in April, after a 0.50-percent gain in March. This statistic could mean that wholesalers will have to replenish stocks – by placing more orders with US manufacturers.

Little in the way of direction, and the heavy selling of oil stocks, both conspired to bring down indices on major European bourses, last Wednesday.

The Nigerian general strike was not having much of an impact on equity markets, but the dearth of corporate news from the US was telling, since it told investors in Europe, exactly nothing.

When there is uncertainty in a market, it, normally, drifts.

This was how indices of major European bourses closed, last Wednesday:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.29 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.47 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.53 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Minus 0.65 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 0.32 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 0.17 percent

In Asia, markets were, generally, softer.

On the 2 equity markets of the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), trading was light.

The Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd saw its Hang Seng Index lose about 0.03 percent, edging down to 12,339.94 points.

The Total Turnover dipped to about \$HK9.94 billion.

In spite of the Hang Seng Index only moving a small fraction, the ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.59:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Unchanged at \$HK118.50 per share
China Telecom Corporation Ltd (Code: 728)	Up 2.94 percent to \$HK2.625 per share
Denway Motors Ltd (Code: 203)	Up 1.57 percent to \$HK3.225 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 0.22 percent to \$HK23.10 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Up 0.75 percent to \$HK3.35 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 0.48 percent to \$HK52.75 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Down 1.09 percent to \$HK13.55 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 1.35 percent to \$HK3.65 per share
Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 1)	Down 0.42 percent to \$HK59.25 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Unchanged at \$HK65.50 per share

The biggest Main Board movers were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
A-Max Holdings Ltd	959		11.29	0.275
Asia Commercial Holdings Ltd	104		23.53	0.39
Bossini International Holdings Ltd	592	13.27		1.28
Capital Strategic Investment Ltd	497	11.11		0.20
Century Legend (Holdings) Ltd	79	17.65		0.08
Earnest Investments Holdings Ltd	339		13.79	0.025
Global Tech (Holdings) Ltd	143	13.51		0.084
Jackin International Holdings Ltd	630		10.00	0.216
Pioneer Global Group Ltd	224		11.06	0.177
renren Holdings Ltd	59		13.33	0.013
Swank International Manufacturing Company Ltd	663		15.38	0.055

Tack Hsin Holdings Ltd	611		25.37	0.10
Tomorrow International Holdings Ltd	760		10.71	1.00
UDL Holdings Ltd	620		15.00	0.034
Wanji Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd	835	15.00		0.023

On The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Total Turnover rose to about \$HK77.53 million, but one counter, that of Nanjing Sample Technology Company Ltd (Code: 8287), was responsible for about 34.59 percent of The GEM's entire volume of activity.

It was the first day of trading for Nanjing Sample Technology, as investors traded some 5.49 million of its shares.

The Growth Enterprise Index fell about 0.19 percent to 1,128.41 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.30:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Nanjing Sample Technology Company Ltd (Code: 8287)	\$HK5.10 per share*
TOM Group Ltd (Code: 8001)	Down 1 percent to \$HK1.68 per share
Tong Ren Tang Technologies Company Ltd (Code: 8069)	Up 2 percent to \$HK16.85 per share
Tiger Tech Holdings Ltd (Code: 8046)	Down 12 percent to 7.60 cents per share
Panva Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 8132)	Unchanged at \$HK3.35 per share

* First day of trading

The GEM's double-digit movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
B M Intelligence International Ltd	8158	20.00		0.048
ePRO Ltd	8086		12.50	0.014
Linefan Technology Holdings Ltd	8166	12.68		0.08
Q9 Technology Holdings Ltd	8129	13.21		0.06
SYSCAN Technology Holdings Ltd	8083		10.53	0.34
Tiger Tech Holdings Ltd	8046		11.63	0.076

In Japan, the situation on the country's equity markets was, generally, bearish.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, the premier stock market of Japan, the Nikkei-225 Stock Average was off by about 72.11 yen, equivalent to about 0.63 percent, ending the quiet trading session at 11,449.74 yen.

Even so, there were more gaining counters than losing one, the ratio, being about 1.14:One.

It was the first session in 4 trading sessions that the equity markets of The Land of The Rising Sun had not risen.

And this was how indices on other equity markets, throughout Asia, fared, last Wednesday:

The HKSAR	Minus 0.03 percent to 12,339.94
Indonesia	Plus 0.88 percent to 709.75
Japan	Minus 0.63 percent to 11,449.74
Malaysia	Plus 0.12 percent to 818.40
The Philippines	Minus 0.14 percent to 1,543.40
Singapore	Minus 0.00 percent to 1,820.12
South Korea	Minus 1.83 percent to 794.53
Taiwan	Minus 0.35 percent to 5,965.70
Thailand	Plus 0.02 percent to 611.61

Thursday

The United States of America was closed for business, last Friday, as the nation remembered their late 40th President, who was lying in state at the nation's Capital.

Even so, last Thursday was taken as a day of solemn reflection of the life of a man, whose deeds had helped to change the history of the world.

On Wall Street, trading was exceptionally light, on both The New York Stock Exchange and The NASDAQ.

On the Big Board of The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up about 0.40 percent, to end the day at 10,410.40 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ rose a like amount, about 0.47 percent, rising to 1,999.87 points.

Many people, wanting to pay their respects to the late President Ronald Reagan, stayed away from equity markets.

In Europe, however, things were, clearly, business as usual.

The Bank of England, as had been widely expected, raised interest rates by 25 basis points, to 4.50 percent, the fourth such interest-rate increase since November 2003.

No great shakes.

The price of oil on Europe's markets tended downwards, putting smiles, back on many people's faces.

Again, no great shakes, here, also.

But, in Nigeria, where a general strike was into its second day, things were, clearly, turning ugly.

Security forces in the country's Capital City, Abuja, clashed with a convoy of hundreds of motorcycle riders, who were led by union leaders.

One of the riders was shot in the leg.

Since the general strike began on Wednesday, June 9, no oil has left the country.

That means that about 2 million barrels of crude oil have not hit international marketplaces.

Nigeria is a member of OPEC – The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

This was the way that Europeans saw the situation, as far as their equity markets were concerned, last Thursday night:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus 0.11 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.08 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Plus 0.60 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Plus 0.33 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 0.61 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Plus 0.53 percent

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the Main Board's key index of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd rose, fractionally, while, on The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong, its Growth Enterprise Index lost a fraction.

The Hang Seng Index of the Main Board ended the day at 12,422.87 points, up about 0.67 percent, on a Total Turnover of about \$HK13.69 billion.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was 1.19:One.

The Ten Most Actives were:

China Mengniu Dairy Company Ltd (Code: 2319)

Unchanged at \$HK4.875 per share

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Unchanged at \$HK118.50 per share
China Telecom Corporation Ltd (Code: 728)	Up 0.95 percent to \$HK2.65 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 2.40 percent to \$HK23.45 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Up 0.38 percent to \$HK65.75 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Up 0.95 percent to \$HK53.25 per share
PCCW Ltd (Code: 8)	Up 7.48 percent to \$HK5.75 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Up 1.37 percent to \$HK3.70 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Up 0.37 percent to \$HK13.60 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Down 0.75 percent to \$HK3.325 per share

As for the double-digit movers of the Main Board, they were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Benefun International Holdings Ltd	1130		19.30	0.046
Capital Prosper Ltd	1003	10.00		0.044
Central China Enterprises Ltd	2921		14.49	0.295
China Elegance (Holdings) Ltd	476	10.67		0.083
eForce Holdings Ltd	943		16.32	0.159
Greater China Holdings Ltd	431		11.11	0.32
Heritage International Holdings Ltd	412	13.16		0.043
Jackin International Holdings Ltd	630	11.11		0.24
Man Yue International Holdings Ltd	894	13.73		0.58
Pyxis Group Ltd	516		10.00	0.045
Tack Hsin Holdings Ltd	611	20.00		0.12
Technology Venture Holdings Ltd	61		14.35	0.197

Over on The GEM, its Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 0.36 percent, ending the trading day at 1,124.30 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK64.59 billion.

The ratio of losers to gainers was about 1.67:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Nanjing Sample Technology Company Ltd (Code: 8287)	Up 2 percent to \$HK5.20 per share
TOM Group Ltd (Code: 8001)	Up 1 percent to \$HK1.70 per share
Wumart Stores Incorporated (Code: 8277)	Down 2 percent to \$HK14.80 per share
Panva Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 8132)	Unchanged at \$HK3.35 per share
Tong Ren Tang Technologies Company Ltd (Code: 8069)	Unchanged at \$HK16.90 per share

As for the double-digit movers on this exchange, they were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
abc Multiactive Ltd	8131		10.00	0.09
AcrossAsia Multimedia Ltd	8061	11.11		0.20
Byford International Ltd	8272	10.77		0.36
Era Information and Entertainment Ltd	8043		31.43	0.048
FlexSystem Holdings Ltd	8050		10.83	0.14
Glory Future Group Ltd	8071	17.50		0.047
M Channel Corporation Ltd	8036		13.04	0.02
M21 Technology Ltd	8153		10.83	1.40
Shaanxi Northwest New Technology Industry Company Ltd	8258		11.97	0.103
Q9 Technology Holdings Ltd	8129	15.00		0.069
Stockmartnet Holdings Ltd	8123		15.38	0.033
Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119	18.75		0.019
Universal Technologies Holdings Ltd	8091		11.11	0.08

In Japan, the 3 equity markets of the country gained, materially.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, The Nikkei-225 Stock Average rose by 126.23 yen, to close the day at 11,575.97 yen, a one-day improvement of about 1.10 percent.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing counters was wide, at about 3.68:One.

News wise

- **Sales of second-hand motor vehicles** in Japan for the month of May dropped by about 14 percent, Year-on-Year, to about 379,706 units, The Japan Automobile Dealers Association reported;
- **Orders for private-sector machinery** rose a seasonally adjusted 11.80 percent in April, compared with the March statistic, to 1.02 trillion yen, The Cabinet Office of the Japanese Government announced;
- Japan's **current account surplus** was 1.58 trillion yen for the month of April, up 23.10 percent, Year-on-Year, The Finance Ministry reported. It was the 10th consecutive month of growth, The Ministry went to state; and,
- **Wholesale prices** in Japan rose about 1.10 percent in May, compared with May 2003, The Bank of Japan said.

And this was how things looked on other markets, last Thursday:

The HKSAR	Plus 0.672 percent to 12,422.87
Indonesia	Minus 0.41 percent to 706.84
Japan	Plus 1.10 percent to 11,575.97
Malaysia	Plus 0.67 percent to 823.91
The Philippines	Minus 0.63 percent to 1,533.73
Singapore	Plus 0.48 percent to 1,828.79
South Korea	Minus 1.54 percent to 782.30
Taiwan	Minus 1.65 percent to 5,867.51
Thailand	Plus 0.10 percent to 612.21

Friday

The general strike in Nigeria came to an abrupt halt, last Friday.

Sighs of relief!

The Nigerian Labour Congress said it was suspending the general strike in order to give the government time to rectify the situation, considering that a Nigerian court had ordered that petrol prices, throughout the country, should be reduced, immediately.

The United States was closed for the funeral of President Ronald Reagan.

In Europe, trading was subdued in view of the fact that Wall Street was closed.

However, some of the biggies of Europe were, clearly, under selling pressure.

The increase in the key interest rate in the United Kingdom (Please see Thursday's report) was having little effect on any of the European bourses because, by and large, it had been expected.

This was how indices of major European bourses closed the week of June 11, 2004:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus 0.22 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 0.05 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus 0.18 percent
France's CAC40 Index	Minus 0.32 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus 0.17 percent
Italy's MIBTEL Index	Minus 0.08 percent

The indices of the 2 biggest equity markets of Asia, those of Japan and the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), were both in negative territory by the close of the day.

On The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, the Main Board's Hang Seng Index shed about 0.21 percent, closing down the market for the week at 12,396.39 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK11.14 billion, the subdued HKSAR trading conditions, tending to follow the rest of the world due to the closure of Wall Street.

Gaining counters were ahead of losing ones by the ratio of about 1.09:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Down 0.42 percent to \$HK118.00 per share
China Mengniu Dairy Company Ltd (Code: 2319)	Down 4.10 percent to \$HK4.675 per share
China Telecom Corporation Ltd (Code: 728)	Up 2.83 percent to \$HK2.725 per share
China Mobile (Hongkong) Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.21 percent to \$HK23.50 per share
Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd (Code: 16)	Down 0.38 percent to \$HK65.50 per share
Yanzhou Coal Mining Company Ltd (Code: 1171)	Up 6.58 percent to \$HK8.10 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Unchanged at \$HK3.70 per share
PCCW Ltd (Code: 8)	Down 1.74 percent to \$HK5.65 per share
Hutchison Whampoa Ltd (Code: 13)	Unchanged at \$HK53.25 per share
BOC Hongkong (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 2388)	Down 1.10 percent to \$HK13.45 per share

As for the Main Board's double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
139 Holdings Ltd	139	12.00		0.028
Artel Solutions Group Holdings Ltd	931		18.52	0.22
Berjaya Holdings (Hongkong) Ltd	288	23.29		0.09
Central China Enterprises Ltd	2921	10.17		0.325
China Nan Feng Group Ltd	979	14.75		0.07
China Northern Enterprises Investment Fund Ltd	2324	12.12		0.37
Foundation Group Ltd	1182	24.69		0.101
Gay Giano International Group Ltd	686		13.04	0.20
Global Tech (Holdings) Ltd	143		17.86	0.069
Man Yue International Holdings Ltd	894	10.34		0.64
Paladin Ltd	495	11.48		0.34
Rontex International Holdings Ltd	1142		17.62	0.159
Ruili Holdings Ltd	491	20.00		0.012
Swank International Manufacturing Company Ltd	663	10.00		0.055
Technology Venture Holdings Ltd	61	15.74		0.228
UDL Holdings Ltd	620		11.76	0.03
Unity Investments Holdings Ltd	913		16.00	0.168

Over on The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, investors pushed up The Growth Enterprise Index by about one tenth of a percentage point, to 1,125.46 points.

The Total Turnover on this speculative market was about \$HK57.49 million.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 1.37:One.

The 5, most-active counters, in terms of their respective turnovers, only, were:

Nanjing Sample Technology Company Ltd (Code: 8287)	Unchanged at \$HK5.20 per share
Superdata Software Holdings Ltd (Code: 8263)	Up 4 percent to 50 cents per share
Tong Ren Tang Technologies Company Ltd (Code: 8069)	Up 1 percent to \$K17.00per share
TOM Group Ltd (Code: 8001)	Down 1 percent to \$HK1.69 per share
Panva Gas Holdings Ltd (Code: 8132)	Up 1 percent to \$HK3.375 per share

The biggest movers on this market were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
AcrossAsia Multimedia Ltd	8061		10.00	0.18
Byford International Ltd	8272	11.11		0.40
IIN International Ltd	8128	15.38		0.06
iSteelAsia Holdings Ltd	8080		22.97	0.057
Linefan Technology Holdings Ltd	8166	13.33		0.085
Rojam Entertainment Holdings Ltd	8075	10.00		0.11
Sino Stride Technology (Holdings) Ltd	8177	11.11		0.40
Universal Technologies Holdings Ltd	8091	10.00		0.088

The tally for the week for the 2 equity markets of the HKSAR was:

The Hang Seng Index Plus 3.11 percent
The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 1.14 percent

It was a very similar situation on Japan's equity markets to that of the HKSAR's.

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, the key index, The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, lost 49.15 yen, or about 0.42 percent, ending the week at 11,526.82 yen.

Losing counters beat off gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.02:One.

With no lead from Wall Street, investors in The Land of The Rising Sun determined to wait for the new week.

The tally for the week was:

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 3.58 percent

And, on other Asian equity markets, this was how they ended the week of June 11, 2004:

The HKSAR	Minus 0.21 percent to 12,396.39
Indonesia	Minus 0.38 percent to 704.13
Japan	Minus 0.42 percent to 11,526.82
Malaysia	Plus 0.05 percent to 824.32
The Philippines	Minus 1.02 percent to 1,518
Singapore	Minus 0.3 percent to 1,823.14
South Korea	Minus 3.93 percent to 751.53
Taiwan	Minus 2.25 percent to 5,735.07
Thailand	Plus 0.15 percent to 613.13

-- E N D --

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