THE WORLD WAITS AND PONDERS EVENTS IN NORTH KOREA AND IRAN: KEY EQUITY MARKET INDICES LOSE SUBSTANTIAL TRACTION

Equity markets hate uncertainty.

And last Monday, New York time, there was plenty of uncertainty in the world:

- 1. What action would the reclusive government of North Korea take in response to the sanctions, imposed by the United Nations, during the previous week?
- 2. Would there be continued demonstrations on the streets of Iran's major cities, following the disputed Presidential Elections which saw the re-election of hardliner, President Mahmoud Ahmadi-Nejad?
- 3. Is it likely that the global recession could continue into the middle of 2010?

Any one of the above could overturn investors' apple cart.

On Wall Street, share prices fell out of bed in direct response to the uncertainties, hanging over equity markets.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost 187.13 points, equivalent to about 2.13 percent, dropping back to 8,612.13 points.

Over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index shed 42.42 points, or about 2.28 percent, ending the relatively quiet trading day at 1,816.38 points.

Losing counters outran gaining ones by the ratio of about 5.68:One on The New York Stock Exchange and by about 3.85:One on The NASDAQ.

News Wise

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Three of the biggest issuers of credit cards in the US have admitted that US **credit-card defaults** are continuing to climb:

Name of Issuer	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>

Bank of America Corporation+10.47%+12.50% American Express Company +9.90%+10.40% Citigroup Incorporated +10.21%+10.50%

On European bourses, it was a similar story to that, being told on Wall Street.

Every key index of every major equity market was down very materially as the following **TARGET** () list illustrates:

Amsterdam's AEX Index Minus 2.71 percent

France's CAC 40 Index

Minus 3.20 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX IndexMinus 3.53 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus 2.61 percent
Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Minus 2.59 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus 2.20 percent

As with the concerns of investors on Wall Street, in Europe, its equity markets had the other '*cross*' to bear as the price of crude oil came off, big time.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in July came in at \$US70.62, representing a fall of about 1.97 percent on the final quote of Friday, June 12, 2009.

As for delivery in August, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US71.31, down about 1.98 percent, compared with the last settlement of the previous Friday.

The major equity markets of Asia saw their respective key indices drift to lower levels, also, last Monday.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the key indices lost traction, most decidedly.

The Hang Seng Index, which is the benchmark of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, shed about 2.07 percent, ending the moderately active trading day at 18,498.96 points.

The Total Turnover dipped back to about \$HK65.35 billion.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 2.81:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	
	Up 0.18 percent to \$HK5.63 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	
(2000) 1270)	Up 0.19 percent to \$HK5.23 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)) Down 2.65 percent to \$HK29.35 per share
Poly (Hongkong) Investments Ltd (Code: 119)	Down 8.87 percent to \$HK3.39 per share
Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China Ltd (Code: 2318)	Down 3.22 percent to \$HK57.15 per share
Poly (Hongkong) Investments Ltd (Code: 119) Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China	Down 2.65 percent to \$HK29.35 per sh Down 8.87 percent to \$HK3.39 per sha

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)

Down 0.81 percent to \$HK3.69 per share

Down 2.65 percent to \$HK68.00 per share

Down 2.09 percent to \$HK79.80 per share

Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)

Down 4.02 percent to \$HK124.30 per share

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Down 3.33 percent to \$HK8.99 per share

The Main Board's biggest movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
China Star Entertainment Ltd	326		15.20	0.335
Computime Group Ltd	320	22.80		0.70
Hua Han Bio-Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd	587	15.60		1.11
HyComm Wireless Ltd	499		15.10	0.90
Linmark Group Ltd	915	24.60		0.355
Long Far Pharmaceutical Holdings Ltd	2898	42.90		1.20
Magician Industries (Holdings) Ltd	526		21.60	0.20
Ming Fung Jewellery Group Ltd	860		15.90	0.58
Nam Fong International Holdings Ltd	1176	17.60		0.80
Ruyan Group (Holdings) Ltd	329	43.80		0.46
Strong Petrochemical Holdings Ltd	852	36.70		4.10
Tse Sui Luen Jewellery (International) Ltd	417	267.90		2.98
United Gene High-Tech Group Ltd	399	21.70		0.365
Vongroup Ltd	318	70.00		0.255

On The Growth Enterprise Market (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index gave up about 1.94 percent, ending the trading day at 585.93 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK430.14 million, while the ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 1.54:One.

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

Enviro Energy International Holdings Ltd (Code: 8182)	
0102)	Down 5.19 percent to \$HK0.73 per share
Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)	Unchanged at \$HK0.335 per share
Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd (Code: 8116)	Down 0.43 percent to \$HK0.233 per share
	Down 0.45 percent to \$11K0.255 per share
Shandong Weigao Group Medical Polymer Company Ltd (Code: 8199)	Down 4.85 percent to \$HK18.84 per share
Core Healthcare Investment Holdings Ltd (Code: 8250)	
5 ()	Unchanged at \$HK0.035 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
AcrossAsia Ltd	8061	41.00		0.117
Asian Capital Resources (Holdings) Ltd	8025	22.10		0.127
CCID Consulting Company Ltd	8235	15.30		0.173
ePRO Ltd	8086	72.70		0.19
First China Financial Holdings Ltd	8123	17.10		0.445
G.A. Holdings Ltd	8126		14.70	0.29
Hua Xia Healthcare Holdings Ltd	8143	19.00		0.075
ITE (Holdings) Ltd	8092	33.30		0.08
Soluteck Holdings Ltd	8111	22.00		0.61
Timeless Software Ltd	8028	14.30		0.096

WLS Holdings Ltd	8021	18.20	0.175
Xi'an Haitian Antenna Technologies Company Ltd	8227	42.90	0.29

On the equity markets of The Land of The Rising Sun, the key indices came off the boil, once again.

The TOPIX Index, which is the key index of The Tokyo Stock Exchange, gave up about 0.39 percent, dropping to 946.82 points.

Advancing counters outnumbered declining ones on this market by the ratio of about 1.74:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average, which is a much-narrower gauge to trading on select blue chips, listed on The First Section of The Tokyo Stock Exchange, than The TOPIX Index, lost \$96.15, or about 0.95 percent, ending the trading day at \$10,039.67.

This was how things looked on other Asian equity markets, last Monday night:

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The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 2.07 percent to 18,498.96 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 1.94 percent to 585.93		
Indonesia	Minus 1.01 percent to 2,069.88		
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 0.39 percent to 946.82 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 0.95 percent to 10,039.67		
Malaysia	Plus 0.09 percent to 1,091.17		
The Philippines	Plus 0.54 percent to 2,612.85		
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 1.67 percent to 2,789.55 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 1.41 percent to 916.50		
Singapore	Minus 2.55 percent to 2,316.56		
South Korea	Minus 1.13 percent to 1,412.42		
Taiwan	Minus 3.45 percent to 6,225.56		
Thailand	Minus 2.65 percent to 611.92		

Tuesday

Stock and share prices continued to retreat on the world's equity markets, last Tuesday, as the atmosphere of fear and distrust continued to take its toll of investors.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average lost another 1.25 percent, dropping back to 8,504.67 points.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index shed about 1.11 percent to 1,796.18 points.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 2.54:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 2.49:One on The NASDAQ.

What soured investors' appetite for stocks and shares was a report from the US Government to the effect that industrial production in the largest single economy of the world had fallen about 1.10 percent in May, Year-On-Year, and that capacity utilisation has dropped to its lowest levels of the past 42 years.

There was other disappointing news, also, but it was the US Government's official announcement that put the nail in the coffin of Wall Street, at least for last Tuesday.

In Iran, the situation continued to be tense with rioting, continuing in the major cities of the country over alleged fraud in the President Elections.

News Wise

• **News Corporation** announced that it would be sacking about 400 staff members of its social networking site, MySpace. The cuts represent about 33 percent of the entire Establishment. MySpace is known to have about 125 million users, but it is facing stiff competition from rival networking sites.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price of crude oil continued to drift to lower levels.

For delivery in July, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$U\$70.47, down about 0.21 percent on Monday's close.

As for delivery in August, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US71.16, off about 0.21 percent on Monday's last settlement.

The major European equity markets took their lead from Wall Street, with key indices, fractionally lower at the close of the day:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus	0.48 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Minus	0.17 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	rPlus	0.01 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	0.05 percent
Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Minus	0.77 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Minus 0.42 percent

Noting the US Government statistics in respect of industrial production and utilisation in The Land of The Free and The Home of The Brave, investors in Europe determined that the recession in the US was far from having reached its zenith.

In Asia, every key index of every major equity markets dropped, some precipitously.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), both equity markets suffered very similar fates.

The Hang Seng Index, which is the benchmark of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, lost about 1.80 percent, dropping back to 18,165.50 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK76.49 billion.

The ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 2.87:One.

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The Ten Most Actives were:

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Up 1.42 percent to \$HK5.71 per share
Down 0.38 percent to \$HK5.21 per share
own 2.06 percent to \$HK66.60 per share
own 2.51 percent to \$HK77.80 per share
Up 1.08 percent to \$HK3.73 per share
own 1.70 percent to \$HK28.85 per share
own 5.07 percent to \$HK54.25 per share
own 1.77 percent to \$HK122.10 per share
Down 5.53 percent to \$HK9.90 per share
Down 2.56 percent to \$HK8.76 per share

As for the biggest movers of the Main Board, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Arnhold Holdings Ltd	102		15.50	1.25

CEC International Holdings Ltd	759	24.40		0.219
Chinney Alliance Group Ltd	385	17.20		0.34
Far East Hotels and Entertainment Ltd	37		16.40	0.209
Hongkong Catering Management Ltd	668	24.80		1.56
JF Household Furnishings Ltd	776	16.70		0.91
K.P.I. Company Ltd	605	18.50		0.385
Kong Sun Holdings Ltd	295	46.90		0.094
Linmark Group Ltd	915	29.60		0.46
Magician Industries (Holdings) Ltd	526	40.00		0.28
Nam Fong International Holdings Ltd	1176	15.00		0.92
O2Micro International Ltd	457	81.80		1.00
RBI Holdings Ltd	566		17.50	0.66
Rising Development Holdings Ltd	1004		16.20	1.55
SIM Technology Group Ltd	2000	16.20		1.15
UDL Holdings Ltd	620	29.30		0.053

On The Growth Enterprise Market (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index shed about 1.89 percent, ending the trading day at 574.88 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK320.06 million, while declining counters, outpaced advancing counters by the ratio of about 2.96:One.

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

Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)	Up 4.48 percent to \$HK0.35 per share
Enviro Energy International Holdings Ltd (Code: 8182)	Up 6.85 percent to \$HK0.78 per share
Core Healthcare Investment Holdings Ltd (Code: 8250)	Unchanged at \$HK0.035 per share

Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd (Code: 8116)

Down 4.29 percent to \$HK0.223 per share

Intelli-Media Group (Holdings) Ltd (Code: 8173)

Down 6.94 percent to \$HK0.161 per share

As for The GEM's double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
AcrossAsia Ltd	8061		14.50	0.10
China Cyber Port (International) Company Ltd	8206		11.80	0.75
ePRO Ltd	8086		15.80	0.16
Excel Technology International Holdings Ltd	8048	13.60		0.075
Global Digital Creations Holdings Ltd	8271	16.90		0.345
HC International Incorporated	8292		10.00	0.405
Jian ePayment Systems Ltd	8165	11.50		0.29
North Asia Strategic Holdings Ltd	8080		10.00	0.72
Qianlong Technology International Holdings Ltd	8015	10.00		0.66
Rojam Entertainment Holdings Ltd	8075	12.80		0.159
Sino Haijing Holdings Ltd	8065	43.30		0.48
Universal Technologies Holdings Ltd	8091	15.90		0.168
UURG Corporation Ltd	8192	19.50		0.135
Vertex Group Ltd	8228		11.20	0.15

Losses in the market value of stocks and shares on The Tokyo Stock Exchange were the largest, by far, in Asia.

The TOPIX Index shed about 3.39 percent, ending the hectic trading day at 914.76 points.

Declining counters were ahead of advancing ones by the ratio of about 17.09:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average gave up about 2.86 percent of its value, ending the day at ¥9,752.88.

News Wise

• Japan has closed its trade doors to **North Korea**, banning any more trade with the reclusive, Communist state.

In other parts of Asia, this was how the key indices of those equity markets fared, last Tuesday:

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The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 1.80 percent to 18,165.50 The Growth Enterprise Index Minus 1.89 percent to 574.88
Indonesia	Minus 1.91 percent to 2,030.37
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 3.39 percent to 914.76 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 2.86 percent to 9,752.88
Malaysia	Minus 1.56 percent to 1,074.12
The Philippines	Minus 3.78 percent to 2,514.17
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Minus 0.48 percent to 2,776.02 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.01 percent to 916.55
Singapore	Minus 1.23 percent to 2,288.16
South Korea	Minus 0.94 percent to 1,399.15
Taiwan	Minus 0.08 percent to 6,220.81
Thailand	Minus 2.51 percent to 596.54

Wednesday

The Government of North Korea, once again, warned that it would not hesitate to wage war on the US and any and all of its allies in the event that it was provoked.

The warning came after US President Barack Hussein Obama said that a nuclear-armed North Korea posed a grave threat to the world.

South Korea's President, Mr Lee Myung Bak, supported the US President's remarks.

President Barack Hussein Obama went on record as stating that the US would vigorously pursue an end to North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

On June 12, 2009, the United Nations approved sanctions against North Korea, including inspections of its ships if they were suspected of carrying banned cargoes either to or from North Korea.

The United Nations, also, wants to starve North Korea, financially.

North Korea was reported to have started to withdraw its money from offshore banks, including its deposits in the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The jingoistic rhetoric from North Korea had little impact on the world's equity markets: Investors have heard it, all, before.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gave up another 0.09 percent, dropping to 8,497.18 points.

The Composite Index of The NASDAQ, however, went in the reverse direction of The Dow, putting on about 0.66 percent to 1,808.06 points.

Losing counters outran gaining ones by the ratio of about 1.37:One on The New York Stock Exchange, but, on The NASDAQ, advancing counters outran declining ones by the ratio of about 1.10:One.

News Wise

• Outdoor clothing retailer, **Eddie Bauer Holdings Incorporated**, has filed Chapter 11 of the US Bankruptcy Laws. The company has assets, valued at about \$US476 million, with liabilities of about \$US427 million. The company operates about 370 stores and employs upwards of 10,000 workers.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in July was \$US71.03, representing a one-day, price improvement of about 0.79 percent.

As for delivery in August, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$U\$71.70, up about 0.75 percent on Tuesday's close.

In Europe, there was blood on the trading floors of the largest bourses as TARGET's list illustrates:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Minus	2.24 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Minus	1.64 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Index	Minus	1.85 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Minus	1.15 percent
Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Minus	2.82 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Minus	1.39 percent

It was the fourth consecutive day of falling prices for investors, locked into stocks and shares in this part of

the world.

Serious doubts were being susurrated, not too quietly, too, as to the growth of European economies and the end to the global recession, contrary to the outpourings of those who claimed to see the light at the end of the economic tunnel, sometimes described as the first sightings of the green shoots of growth.

In Asia, the bearishness continued on the major equity markets.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the PRC, the benchmark of the premier equity market continued to drift to lower levels, but, on the speculative equity market, the lone index managed to record a fractional gain.

The Hang Seng Index, which is the benchmark of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, shed about 0.45 percent, ending the trading day at 18,084.60 points.

The Total Turnover was about \$HK74.48 billion, while the ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 1.46:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	
	Up 1.34 percent to \$HK5.69 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	
	Up 2.11 percent to \$HK5.32 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 0.52 percent to \$HK28.70 per share
Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)	Up 0.80 percent to \$HK3.76 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 0.77 percent to \$HK77.20 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Down 2.02 percent to \$HK9.70 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 0.23 percent to \$HK66.75 per share
Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China	
Ltd (Code: 2318)	Down 2.30 percent to \$HK53.00 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Down 1.26 percent to \$HK8.65 per share
Hongkong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd (Code: 388)	
·	Down 0.08 percent to \$HK122.00 per share

The biggest, Main Board movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Artel Solutions Group Holdings Ltd	931	18.20		0.65
China Pipe Group Ltd	380	32.00		0.066
Global Tech (Holdings) Ltd	143	36.50		0.071
Hongkong Catering Management Ltd	668	23.70		1.93
Kong Sun Holdings Ltd	295	26.60		0.119
Mei Ah Entertainment Group Ltd	391	18.60		0.51
Mobicon Group Ltd	1213	27.30		0.49
Superb Summit International Timber Company Ltd	1228	15.50		0.067
Vision Tech International Holdings Ltd	922	15.60		0.52

On The Growth Enterprise Market (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, investors pushed up its lone index to 577.07 points, The Growth Enterprise Index, being about 0.38 percent higher than Tuesday's close.

The ratio of gainers to losers on this market was about 1.44:One.

The Total Turnover fell back to about \$HK338.76 million.

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

Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)	Up 2.86 percent to \$HK0.36 per share
Enviro Energy International Holdings Ltd (Code: 8182)	Up 1.28 percent to \$HK0.79 per share
Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd (Code 8116)	:
8110)	Up 0.45 percent to \$HK0.224 per share
Wumart Stores Incorporated (Code: 8277)	Up 0.93 percent to \$HK8.71 per share
Shandong Weigao Group Medical Polymer Company	7
Ltd (Code: 8199)	Up 2.74 percent to \$HK19.50 per share

As for The GEM's double-digit movers of the day, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Argos Enterprise (Holdings) Ltd	8022	11.90		0.66
B.A.L. Holdings Ltd	8079	15.60		0.26
Emcom International Ltd	8220	10.20		0.054
Linefan Technology Holdings Ltd	8166		10.60	1.60
Long Success International (Holdings) Ltd	8017	13.30		0.051
Netel Technology (Holdings) Ltd	8256		11.00	0.089
Sing Lee Software (Group) Ltd	8076	20.00		0.18
Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119	20.00		0.12
Trasy Gold Ex Ltd	8063	13.60		0.92
WLS Holdings Ltd	8021	18.30		0.207
Xi'an Haitian Antenna Technologies Company Ltd	8227	25.90		0.34
Mobile Telecom Network (Holdings) Ltd	8266	29.30		0.194

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index moved up about 0.90 percent to 923.03 points.

Advancing counters were ahead of declining ones by the ratio of about 3.57:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average also rose 0.90 percent, ending the day at ¥9,840.85.

This was how the situation looked on other Asian equity markets, last Wednesday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Minus 0.45 percent to 18,084.60 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 0.38 percent to 577.07
Indonesia	Minus 0.27 percent to 2,024.96
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 0.90 percent to 923.03 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 0.90 percent to 9,840.85

Malaysia	Minus 0.30 percent to 1,070.90
The Philippines	Minus 2.88 percent to 2,441.75
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 1.23 percent to 2,810.12 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 1.80 percent to 933.02
Singapore	Minus 0.73 percent to 2,271.45
South Korea	Minus 0.57 percent to 1,391.17
Taiwan	Minus 0.40 percent to 6,195.91
Thailand	Minus 1.74 percent to 586.14

Thursday

The US Government stepped up pressure on North Korea, last Thursday, as the largest navy in the world tracked the The Kang Nam, a North Korean ship, sailing in international waters, lest it have banned cargo on board.

The Kang Nam left a North Korean port on Wednesday (June 18, 2009) and, as at last Thursday, it was considered by the US Government as 'a subject of interest'.

The Kang Nam is the first, North Korean vessel to be monitored under the sanctions, adopted by the United Nations.

Also, the US Government's Secretary of Defence, Mr Robert Gates, said that the US had 'some concerns' if the North Korean Government launched a missile in the direction of Hawaii.

In diplomatic language, this is an oblique threat.

The US is prepared to attack any North Korean missile if it is deemed to be potentially hostile, according to the missile's known or anticipated trajectory.

North Korea has gone on record as stating that it will launch at least one missile to the west of the Korean Peninsula.

On Wall Street, however, the North Korean situation was becoming a bit of yawn.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose about 0.69 percent to 8,555.60 points.

On The NASDAQ, its Composite Index fell by about 0.02 percent to 1,807.72 points.

Trading was described as light.

The ratio of gaining counters to losing ones was about 1.37:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.13:One on The NASDAQ.

On The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price of a barrel of light sweet crude oil for delivery in July came in at \$US71.37, up about 0.47 percent by the close of trading on Wednesday.

As for delivery in August, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$US71.91, representing an increase of about 0.29 percent on Wednesday's final quote.

Tracking Wall Street's gains, the key indices on major European equity markets rose, helped by the gains in the prices of strategic commodities, especially crude oil:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	0.91 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	1.04 percent
Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX Inde	xPlus	0.78 percent
Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	0.05 percent
Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share	Plus	0.95 percent
Switzerland's Swiss Market Index	Plus	1.40 percent

In Asia, the situation was very different from that of the North American equity markets and the European equity markets.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the key indices of both equity markets lost materially.

The Hang Seng Index, which is the benchmark of the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong, gave up about 1.70 percent to 17,776.66 points on a Total Turnover of about \$HK63.64 billion.

The ratio of declining counters to advancing ones was about 2.49:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Down 2.64 percent to \$HK5.54 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	
(Couc. 1376)	Down 3.57 percent to \$HK5.13 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Down 1.42 percent to \$HK76.10 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 1.39 percent to \$HK28.30 per share

Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)

HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)

CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)

PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)

Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China Ltd (Code: 2318)

Down 0.09 percent to \$HK52.95 per share

China Zhongwang Holdings Ltd (Code: 1333)

Up 8.59 percent to \$HK9.10 per share

As for the biggest movers of the Main Board, they included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
Chaoda Modern Agriculture (Holdings) Ltd	682		15.50	4.52
GST Holdings Ltd	416	16.30		3.29
Lijun International Pharmaceutical (Holding) Company Ltd	2005	20.00		0.90
Nam Fong International Holdings Ltd	1176		18.00	0.82
O2Micro International Ltd	457	16.10		1.01
Sun Innovation Holdings Ltd	547	224.40		0.133

On The Growth Enterprise Market (**The GEM**) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index shed about 1.84 percent, ending the trading day at 566.44 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK279.42 million, while the ratio of losing counters to gaining ones was about 2.29:One.

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

Emcom International Ltd (Code: 8220)	
	Up 20.37 percent to \$HK0.065 per share
Binhai Investment Company Ltd (Code: 8035)	Down 4.17 percent to \$HK0.345 per share
Shandong Weigao Group Medical	Down 4.62 percent to \$HK18.60 per share

Down 2.85 percent to \$HK3.51 per share

Down 1.27 percent to \$HK65.90 per share

Down 1.24 percent to \$HK9.58 per share

Down 2.31 percent to \$HK8.45 per share

Polymer Company Ltd (Code: 8199)

Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd (Code: 8116)

Unchanged at \$HK0.224 per share

Enviro Energy International Holdings Ltd (Code: 8182)

Down 1.27 percent to \$HK0.78 per share

The GEM's double-digit movers were:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
AcrossAsia Ltd	8061		20.00	0.08
Emcom International Ltd	8220	20.40		0.065
Excel Technology International Holdings Ltd	8048		12.20	0.065
G.A. Holdings Ltd	8126		13.00	0.235
Glory Mark Hi-Tech (Holdings) Ltd	8159		13.80	0.206
New Universe International Group Ltd	8068		12.20	0.108
Qianlong Technology International Holdings Ltd	8015		15.20	0.56
Sino Haijing Holdings Ltd	8065		16.70	0.40
Soluteck Holdings Ltd	8111		16.10	0.47
Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119	33.30		0.16
WLS Holdings Ltd	8021	10.10		0.228

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index lost about 1.28 percent, dropping back to 911.21 points. Declining counters outran advancing ones by the ratio of about 2.01:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average gave up about 1.39 percent, ending the day at ¥9,703.72.

This was how things looked on other Asian equity markets, last Thursday night:

Hang Seng IndexThe HKSARMinus 1.70 percent to 17,776.66The Growth Enterprise IndexMinus 1.84 percent to 566.44
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Indonesia	Minus 3.65 percent to 1,950.99
Japan	TOPIX Index Minus 1.28 percent to 911.21 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Minus 1.39 percent to 9,703.72
Malaysia	Minus 1.54 percent to 1,054.41
The Philippines	Minus 0.31 percent to 2,434.26
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 1.56 percent to 2,853.90 Shenzhen Composite Index Plus 0.84 percent to 940.85
Singapore	Minus 1.51 percent to 2,237.20
South Korea	Minus 1.11 percent to 1,375.76
Taiwan	Minus 0.83 percent to 6,144.53
Thailand	Minus 2.68 percent to 570.43

Friday

The USS John McCain, a US Navy destroyer, was reported to have taken up a position to intercept a North Korean vessel, thought to be carrying weapons, banned by United Nations sanctions.

Interception of The Kang Nam could have serious consequences.

The North Korean Government has repeatedly warned that it would launch a massive military strike should one of its vessels be interdicted by the US Government or any of its allies.

The world waited.

In Tehran, Iran, Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei warned that '*bloodshed*' could follow if street protests did not stop, forthwith.

The protests are over allegations that the Presidential Elections had been rigged and that President Mahmoud Ahmadi-Nejad did not win the popular vote.

The Supreme Leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei, claimed that theocratic republic does not cheat and that he supported the President and his policies.

The Supreme Leader blamed much of the country's civil unrest on the US, Great Britain, Israel and the

foreign media.

The concern of many political observers is that Ayatollah Ali Hoseini-Khamenei could call in the military in order to quash the beginnings of what appears to be an Iranian rebellion against lawful authority because tens of thousands of Iranians had taken to the streets in defiance of the Government.

Washington feared that the situation was completely out of hand and that it could lead to the Iranian equivalent of the Tiananmen Square Massacre of 1989.

Wall Street appeared to be completely unconcerned about the prospects of a US confrontation with North Korea or a bloody crackdown in Iran, however.

On The New York Stock Exchange, the Dow Jones Industrial Average fell about 0.19 percent to 8,539.73 points while, over on The NASDAQ, its Composite Index rose about 1.09 percent to 1,827.47 points.

The ratio of gainers to losers was about 1.67:One on The New York Stock Exchange and about 1.44:One on The NASDAQ.

Trading was relatively heavy.

There were no material shocks in the US financial arena as there had been in previous weeks.

The tally for the week for the largest and most-influential equity markets of the world was:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average Minus 2.95 percent The Composite Index of The NASDAQMinus 1.69 percent

On international commodity exchanges, the price of crude oil rose.

For delivery in July, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil came in at \$US69.55 on The New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), which is the largest commodity exchange in the world.

As for delivery in August, the last settlement for a barrel of light sweet crude oil was \$U\$70.02, down about 2.63 percent on the day.

In Europe, bullishness returned to equity markets with a loud bang.

Once again, the words of the old song could be heard: The recession is history.

Oh!

Banking counters were among the big gainers on European bourses in spite of bankers, themselves, making it known that it was quite unlikely that profits would be forthcoming from their institutions in 2009 ... or, even in 2010.

This was how the situation looked on major bourses in this region of the world, last Friday night:

Amsterdam's AEX Index	Plus	1.43 percent
France's CAC 40 Index	Plus	0.85 percent

Germany's Frankfurt XETRA DAX IndexPlus 0.04 percent

Great Britain's FTSE 100 Index	Plus	1.52 percent
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Italy's FTSE Italia All-Share Plus 0.70 percent

Switzerland's Swiss Market Index Plus 0.83 percent

The key indices of major equity markets of Asia were generally stronger, last Friday.

In the Hongkong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) of the People's Republic of China (PRC), the key indices of both equity markets made useful gains.

On the Main Board of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, The Hang Seng Index put on about 0.81 percent, rising to 17,920.93 points.

The Total Turnover dipped to about \$HK62.91 billion while the ratio of advancing counters to declining ones was about 1.29:One.

The Ten Most Active counters were:

China Construction Bank Corporation (Code: 939)	Up 3.79 percent to \$HK5.75 per share
Bank of China Ltd (Code: 3988)	Down 0.57 percent to \$HK3.49 per share
China Mobile Ltd (Code: 941)	Up 0.07 percent to \$HK76.15 per share
Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (Code: 1398)	Up 1.17 percent to \$HK5.19 per share
HSBC Holdings plc (Code: 5)	Up 1.06 percent to \$HK66.60 per share
China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Code: 386)	Up 2.54 percent to \$HK5.66 per share
China Life Insurance Company Ltd (Code: 2628)	Down 0.53 percent to \$HK28.15 per share
CNOOC Ltd (Code: 883)	Up 0.52 percent to \$HK9.63 per share
Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China Ltd (Code: 2318)	Down 1.79 percent to \$HK52.00 per share
PetroChina Company Ltd (Code: 857)	Up 0.36 percent to \$HK8.48 per share

The biggest Main Board movers of the day included:

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
APAC Resources Ltd	1104	19.40		0.74
China Infrastructure Investment Ltd	600	18.00		0.203
Continental Holdings Ltd	513	75.80		1.16
LeRoi Holdings Ltd	221	19.60		0.58
Mayer Holdings Ltd	1116		42.90	0.40
Nam Hing Holdings Ltd	986	25.00		0.60
O2Micro International Ltd	457		15.80	0.85
Opes Asia Development Ltd	810	20.80		0.32
Poly (Hongkong) Investments Ltd	119	20.20		4.87
S.A.S. Dragon Holdings Ltd	1184	17.90		0.79
Same Time Holdings Ltd	451	17.60		2.00
Sewco International Holdings Ltd	209	27.80		0.345
Sun Innovation Holdings Ltd	547	35.30		0.18
SunCorp Technologies Ltd	1063	67.80		0.255
Ta Yang Group Holdings Ltd	1991	20.60		0.82
Tianyi Fruit Holdings Ltd	756		15.80	0.80
Winbox International (Holdings) Ltd	474	15.30		0.83

Over on The Growth Enterprise Market (The GEM) of The Stock Exchange of Hongkong Ltd, its Growth Enterprise Index moved up about 1.65 percent to 575.76 points.

The Total Turnover on this market was about \$HK246.64 million.

Declining counters led advancing ones by the ratio of about 1.11:One.

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

Enviro Energy International Holdings Ltd (Code:

8182)

Global Resources Development (Holding) Ltd (Code: 8116)

Shandong Weigao Group Medical Polymer Company Ltd (Code: 8199)

Emcom International Ltd (Code: 8220)

Shenzhen Neptunus Interlong Biotechnique Company Ltd (Code: 8329) Down 0.45 percent to \$HK0.223 per share

Up 6.88 percent to \$HK19.88 per share

Unchanged at \$HK0.065 per share

Down 8.56 percent to \$HK1.71 per share

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

Name of Company	Code	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Closing Price (\$HK)
AcrossAsia Ltd	8061	12.50		0.09
China Metal Resources Holdings Ltd	8071	10.20		0.108
China Vanguard Group Ltd	8156	10.30		0.375
Dahe Media Company Ltd	8243	10.90		0.255
iMerchants Ltd	8009		14.90	0.74
ITE (Holdings) Ltd	8092		18.80	0.065
Jian ePayment Systems Ltd	8165		11.10	0.24
Mobile Telecom Network (Holdings) Ltd	8266		12.40	0.17
Powerleader Science and Technology Group Ltd	8236		10.00	0.18
Shaanxi Northwest New Technology Industry Company Ltd	8258	21.70		0.157
Sing Lee Software (Group) Ltd	8076	25.10		0.224
Sino Haijing Holdings Ltd	8065	11.20		0.445
Tai Shing International (Holdings) Ltd	8103	11.40		0.49

Thiz Technology Group Ltd	8119		13.70	0.138
WLS Holdings Ltd	8021	20.60		0.275
Zhongyu Gas Holdings Ltd	8070	17.50		0.47
Zmay Holdings Ltd	8085		10.80	0.33

For the week, the tally for the second, most-important equity market of Asia was:

The Hang Seng Index	Minus 5.13
The Hang Seng Index	percent
The Growth Enterprise	Minus 3.64
Index	percent

On The Tokyo Stock Exchange, its TOPIX Index rose about 0.85 percent to 918.97 points.

The ratio of falling counters to rising ones was about 1.75:One.

The Nikkei-225 Stock Average advanced 0.85 percent, exactly.

The tally for the most-important equity market of Asia for the week, ended June 19, 2009, was:

The TOPIX Index	Minus 3.32
	percent
The Nikkei-225 Stock	Minus 3.35
Average	percent

And this was how things looked on other Asian stock markets, last Friday night:

The HKSAR	Hang Seng Index Plus 0.81 percent to 17,880.79 The Growth Enterprise Index Plus 1.65 percent to 575.76
Indonesia	Plus 2.02 percent to 1,990.47
Japan	TOPIX Index Plus 0.85 percent to 918.97 Nikkei-225 Stock Average Plus 0.85 percent to 9,786.26
Malaysia	Plus 0.48 percent to 1,059.50
The Philippines	Minus 1.48 percent to 2,398.30
The PRC	Shanghai Composite Index Plus 0.93 percent to 2,880.49 henzhen Composite Index Plus 0.32 percent to 943.87

Singapore	Plus 1.61 percent to 2,273.18
South Korea	Plus 0.55 percent to 1,383.34
Taiwan	Plus 1.41 percent to 6,231.15
Thailand	Plus 3.25 percent to 588.98

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