DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

HD **USD/JPY Likely to Move in 103.60-104.50 Range**

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2317 GMT [Dow Jones] -- The USD/JPY likely will be stuck in the 103.60-104.50 range in Asia trade, with investors unable to move ahead of a slew of events later this week such as the European Central Bank's policy meeting and U.S. jobs data, says IG Securities market analyst Junichi Ishikawa. **China** PMI data are in focus, especially on how the AUD/USD will affect the USD/JPY. But "That will be short-lived," if any, he says. The pair is at 104.13 against 104.08 in New York late Friday. Mr. Ishikawa also says investors need to be cautious about downside risk of the EUR/USD to break below 1.3100, but the pair may be vulnerable to short-covering due to a lack of fresh cues during Asia trade. The pair is tipped in a 1.3100-1.3200 range and is now at 1.3134. (hiroyuki.kachi@wsj.com)

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2320 GMT [Dow Jones] J.P. Morgan initiates Nine Entertainment (NEC.AU) at Overweight with a A$2.42 target price. The broker favors Nine's strong FY15 TV revenue share growth outlook, forecasting a 0.8% increase to 39.5%, assisted by the **acquisition** of the Perth/Adelaide Metro TV stations and the positive effect of the Cricket World Cup. It also expects the **company** to be well placed in any future media consolidation. NEC last A$2.06. (david.rogers@wsj.com; Twitter: @DavidRogersWSJ)

2313 GMT [Dow Jones] -- Although Virgin Australia's (VAH.AU) financial position gradually should improve, and it could reach break-even by FY17, its share price is being kept artificially high by its three big airline backers, says J.P. Morgan, which keeps an underperform recommendation on the stock. State-backed Air New Zealand, Singapore Airlines and Etihad own around 70% of the Australian carrier. Its moves to snatch market share from Qantas (QAN.AU) are working, but expensive. "While we believe that the transformation of Virgin Australia into a full service domestic carrier and its low-cost carrier in Tigerair will pay off in the medium term, we believe it may end up costing more to do so," the broker says. It lifts its share-price target to A$0.35 from A$0.30 vs. the shares' last trade of A$0.415. (Ross.Kelly@wsj.com)

2302 GMT [Dow Jones] -- Credit Suisse lowers its forecast for Sandfire Resources' (SFR.AU) FY15 net profit by 13 **million** Australian dollars (US$12.1 **million**) after the Australian **copper** miner outlines higher exploration and corporate expenses. It adds that the profit reduction would have been A$9 **million** deeper were it not for a concentrate shipment that took place a few days after FY14 ended, even though production had occurred earlier. Credit Suisse expects Sandfire to report net income of A$76.5 **million** in FY15, with a full-year dividend of 16.28 cents a share. That came after Sandfire unveiled a maiden dividend of 10 cents/share alongside its FY14 results. The broker rates Sandfire at underperform with a A$5.72 price target. SFR last traded at A$6.34. (david.winning@wsj.com; @dwinningWSJ)

2245 GMT [Dow Jones] -- National Australia Bank's (NAB.AU) exit from Great Western Bank is clearly capital positive over time, but capital won't be released ahead of expected substantial charges likely to be booked with the bank's fiscal 2014 results, says Credit Suisse. The brokerage anticipates a **sale** price for Great Western of 1.5 **billion**-2 **billion** Australian dollars (US$1.4 **billion** to US$1.9 **billion**), based on current valuations for U.S. regional banks, which isn't material for NAB beyond its significance as part of NAB's restructuring story. "This transaction will--perhaps prematurely--bring forward expectations as to what might be achievable in the U.K. with Clydesdale Bank." Credit Suisse has an outperform recommendation and A$38/share target. NAB last traded at A$35.20. (robb.stewart@wsj.com; Twitter: @RobbMStewart)

2238 GMT [Dow Jones] -- The latest corporate earnings season in New Zealand "has been broadly consistent with our expectations," says Chris Green, director, Economics and Strategy at First NZ

Capital. Of the 33 companies monitored, 39% posted double-digit earnings-per-share growth. In the other direction, 30% of the 33 companies reviewed showed a contraction in EPS of more than 3% "with these companies showing the negative impacts of an exposure to a subdued Australian economy (or more broadly soft global markets), competitive domestic market conditions and/or the adverse effects of an elevated NZD." Overall, outlook comments continued "to have a generally positive tone, with most companies expecting NZ trading conditions to remain supportive over the year ahead," Mr. Green says. The key risk seemed to center around external economic developments (particularly the prospects for the Australian economy), although the political uncertainty surrounding the upcoming general election was also of some concern, he says. (rebecca.howard@wsj.com; Twitter: @FarroHoward)

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