

Southeast Asian stocks mostly up as Ukraine worries ease
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Shares in Malaysia climbed up 0.2% due to the easing of fears by investors of a military conflict in Ukraine, said Reuters. – The Malaysian Insider pic, March 5, 2014. Southeast Asian markets ended firmer today as fears of an imminent military conflict in Ukraine eased after Russian President Vladimir Putin's remarks, and investors bought into the region's risky assets, led by Indonesia.

The Jakarta Composite Index ended up 1.3% to its highest since September 19, led by financials recording foreign inflows of \$70.38 million (RM230 million) for the day.

Indonesia's biggest lender, Bank Central Asia, gained 0.7% after posting a 21.6% rise in its net profit for financial year 2013.

Philippine shares rose 1% to a near four-month closing high with a \$29.85 million net foreign inflow, while Malaysia edged up 0.2%.

The Thai SET index added 0.4%, gaining for a seventh straight session as foreign interest helped boost sentiment for a third day on easing political unrest in Bangkok as well as in Ukraine, analysts said.

Foreigners bought a net \$68.8 million worth of Thai shares, extending inflows to \$144 million in the first three sessions of this week, after having offloaded stocks worth a net \$3.9 billion since November through Friday, according to data from Thomson Reuters.

Singapore ended 0.4% firmer while Vietnam's benchmark VN Index gained 0.9% from a three-week low touched in the previous session. – Reuters, March 5, 2014.

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