

Japanese Stocks Post First Weekly Gain in Three on Trade Hopes  
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(Bloomberg) -- Japan's Topix index rose Friday, rounding off its first weekly gain in three, after the U.S. and China finished the first day of high-level trade talks that President Donald Trump said went "very well."

Shares of transportation manufacturers and electric appliance makers provided the biggest boosts to the benchmark gauge, as the U.S. and China appear to be working toward a partial deal. Trump said he plans to meet with Chinese vice premier Liu He on Friday.

"Seeing how the two countries split off back in July, markets may not have had high expectations for this round of talks," said Masahiro Ichikawa, a senior strategist at Sumitomo Mitsui DS Asset Management. "But a partial agreement now seems probable, with topics like subsidies being shelved for next year."

Investors are breathing a sigh of relief as they anticipate a partial deal to come after 18 months of negotiations. An earlier report said the White House was looking to implement a currency pact as part of a preliminary deal that could see the scheduled tariff increase next week suspended. China has also said the country was open to a partial deal with the U.S., with plans to offer non-core concessions like purchases of commodities.

"There was a risk that negotiations would be cut short," said Nobuhiko Kuramochi, the head of investment information at Mizuho Securities Co. in Tokyo. "But with both sides continuing the talks, there's an expectation that some sort of a mini-deal will come out in the end."

Summary:

- \* Topix +0.9% to 1,595.27 as of 3:00 p.m. in Tokyo; +1.4% for the week
- \* Nikkei 225 +1.2% to 21,798.87; +1.8% for the week
- \* Yen little changed at 108.00
- \* Transportation Equipment +2.2%, Electric Appliances +0.9%, Information and Communication -0.1%
- \* Round One Corp. -9.3% after Sept. same-store sales fell y/y,

Ryohin Keikaku +5.6% after 1H sales rose y/y

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