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Oil jumps above \$69

AFP, Singapore

Oil prices were higher in Asian trade Monday on continued worries over security and political tensions in key producers Nigeria and Iran, dealers said.

At 10:30 am (0230 GMT), New York's main contract, light sweet crude for March delivery, was up 70 cents to 69.18 dollars a barrel from its close of 68.48 dollars in the United States Friday.

Unrest in Nigeria has already disrupted production in Africa's biggest producer while simmering tensions between Iran and the West over Tehran's controversial nuclear programme were also at play, dealers said.

"In the short-term, it is all about geopolitical drama," said Victor Shum, an analyst with energy consultancy Purvin and Gertz in Singapore.

"The short-term issue is Nigeria and the long-term issue is Iran," he said.

Militants have threatened to fire rockets into Nigerian oil terminals amid confusion over talks aimed at securing the release of four foreign hostages taken by separatist rebels in the Niger delta region.

Violence against oil companies operating in the Niger delta and the federal government has claimed more than 20 lives while oil production has been slashed by 211,000 barrels per day in Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer.

New DMD of One Bank

Shamim Ahmed Chaudhury has taken over as the deputy managing director (DMD) of One Bank Limited.

After obtaining his MBA degree, Chaudhury started his banking career with the American Express Bank in 1980, says a press release.

He also held senior position in BASIC Bank Ltd.

He has a 25-year experience in banking and financial service sector in Asia, Africa and North America.

New DMD of City Bank

Dilwar H Choudhury has been appointed deputy managing director (DMD) of The City Bank Ltd.

Prior to this assignment, he was associated with the bank for the development of Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), says a press release.

He started his career with the UBL Karachi, Pakistan and worked in various assignments in Bangladesh including secretary to the Board of Directors of Rupali Bank.

11 PCBs reduce Tk 500cr classified loans

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Some 11 private commercial banks (PCBs) have been able to reduce their non-performing assets by cutting Tk 500 crore classified loans in a single year.

Classified amount of these PCBs was around Tk 2,900 crore in December 2004 but these banks were able to cut Tk 500 crore of the amount by December 2005, senior executives of these PCBs told Bangladesh Bank (BB) at a meeting yesterday.

Managing directors and senior executives of Pubali Bank Ltd, Uttara Bank Ltd, National Bank

Ltd, AB Bank Ltd, IFIC Bank Ltd, City Bank Ltd, Social Investment Bank Ltd, Al-Arafah Bank Ltd, Oriental Bank Ltd, First Security Bank Ltd and Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd were present at the meeting.

Banks eye to lower their average classified amount to 10 percent by December this year, which is now 13 percent.

Managing directors and senior executives of the PCBs attended the monitoring meeting with Mohammad A (Rumi) Ali, BB deputy governor, in the chair.

At the meeting the central bank also asked these PCBs to submit their loan status of the 2001-02

financial year within a month.

Classified loan of Oriental Bank has come down to 23 percent from 28 percent earlier, Social Investment Bank's 7.4 percent from 11 percent and First Security Bank's 15 percent from 19 percent earlier, meeting sources said.

Oriental Bank was given the problem bank status much earlier but the Social Investment Bank and First Security Bank were given the status in the recent years.

According to official statistics, performances of these banks are improving after bringing them under the problem bank unit of the BB.



Textiles and Jute Minister Shajahan Siraj, Commerce Ministry Adviser Barkat Ullah Bulu and Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Veena Sikri take a close look at a textile product at a stall after the inauguration of a two-day textile fair styled '3rd Indian Textile Exhibition-2006' in Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Saifur urges banks to practise CSR

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday urged private banks to spend a portion of their profits on social development as part of corporate social responsibility.

The minister said, "Most of the private banks are making huge profits. But unfortunately, they neither pay tax properly nor practise corporate social responsibility."

He urged the bankers to spend five to ten percent of their total profits on social welfare activities.

Saifur was speaking at the scholarship award-giving ceremony by Dutch-Bangla Bank Foundation in Dhaka. Salehuddin Ahmed, governor of Bangladesh Bank, Siddiqui Rahman Choudhury, secretary (Finance Division) of finance ministry, Kees Beemsterboer, ambassador of Netherlands in Dhaka, and Yeasin Ali, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd, were also present at the function.

The minister also urged the banks to come forward to do something for the society so that the government

responsibilities can be reduced. He also lauded the role of Dutch-Bangla Bank in practising CSR.

As part of corporate social responsibility, the bank's foundation handed over scholarships to some 159 students, who passed SSC examinations in 2005. Every year the bank gives 10 percent of its total profits to run the foundation's activities.

Under the bank's scholarship scheme, each student will receive a one-off payment of Tk 2,500 and Tk 1,000 a month for two years.

BAN ON DSE BROKER HC stays operation of SEC order

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The High Court (HC) yesterday stayed the operation for one month of an order of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) that had suspended the trading of M Abdul Rashid & Co, and fined it.

An HC Division bench comprising Justice Syed Md Dastagir Hussain and Md Ashraf Islam also issued a rule upon the SEC to show cause as to why the SEC's order to suspend trading of the company for one month and fining it Tk 1 lakh should not be declared illegal and without lawful authority.

The rule is returnable within four weeks.

"The stay order will be valid until February 22, 2006," Advocate Muhammad Mohsen Rashid, counsel of the petitioner, told the news agency, mentioning that he had officially informed the SEC and the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) about the HC directive.

The SEC, earlier, imposed the punishment on the Rashid & Co for 30 days for violating securities laws regarding the sale of Summit Power Ltd's shares.

Banglalink offers tailor-made solutions for Ctg business houses

Banglalink's tailor-made business solution will now be available for Chittagong business houses, said Mehboob Chowdhury, chief commercial officer of Banglalink, while talking to press during a corporate signing ceremony between Banglalink and Chittagong Club Ltd in Chittagong yesterday.

The corporate houses and the professionals in Chittagong will receive tailor-made offers such as special talk hour and reduced rate for SMS and news update under the Banglalink Professional package, says a press release.

Chowdhury also said his company will try to give the best possible solutions to the business community and the professionals.

At the corporate signing ceremony, Tanvir Ibrahim, manager (corporate sales) of Banglalink, and Ali Ahmed, chairman of Chittagong Club, were also present.

Vietnam, Chile to boost trade

AFP, Hanoi

Vietnam and Chile are committed to increasing their bilateral trade, Chilean foreign minister Ignacio Walker said Monday in Hanoi as he was ending a tour of the communist nation.

"Although there has been no bilateral free trade agreement yet, Vietnam and Chile will definitely seek a framework to consolidate bilateral trade," Walker told reporters.

UK investment to double if govt cuts graft

Says envoy

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

British investment in Bangladesh will double if the country cuts corruption and maintains political stability, British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury said yesterday.

He said UK companies have so far invested US\$ 2 billion in Bangladesh and another \$2 billion investment is in the pipeline mostly in energy and power sector.

But the investment depends on the government sincerity to cut graft and maintain political stability, Choudhury said at a press briefing

on the visit of a high-profile trade mission from London.

He also emphasised the need for infrastructure development for further business development.

Asif Ahmad, director for Asia Pacific region of the UK Trade and Investment, a government-run trade development organisation, and Clive Drinkwater, International Trade director of the North Staffordshire Chamber, also spoke at the briefing.

During the four-day stay in Bangladesh, the British trade mission, represented by seven leading companies, will also explore busi-

ness opportunities in ceramics sector.

The delegates have expressed interest to invest in the local ceramics sector as the country offers low-cost gas and skilled manpower.

"We want to develop design and standard of local products by sharing technology and expertise of British industries," Clive Drinkwater, leader of the UK trade mission, said.

He said British companies are intending to give raw materials, equipment and other services to the local companies to improve their standard.

Pak trade ministry for granting MFN status to India

PTI, Islamabad

Notwithstanding the Pakistan commerce ministry's objections to signing Safta, which would entail free trade with India, the Ministry of Industries has recommended granting of the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to New Delhi, saying liberalisation of trade would benefit Islamabad.

Pakistan's Ministry of Industries, Production and Special Initiatives has said in a report that liberalising trade with India will lower prices for domestic consumers and generate greater revenue for the government through taxes, Online news agency reported.

The move will also help reduce illegal trade between the two countries, give greater market access to Pakistani products and lower production costs due to availability of cheap imports, it said.

"Trade can be liberalised bilaterally through MFN-based trade or under the formation of South Asian Free Trade Area (Safta) and granting MFN status to India will place India at par with Pakistan's trading partner," the report said.

Pakistan's commerce ministry had said that signing Safta or granting MFN should be done only if there was progress on the Kashmir issue. The Commerce Ministry's stand reportedly made Pakistan

government put off the ratification of the Safta draft agreement.

"Safta would discriminate against the rest of the world in favour of India, leading to significant trade diversion. To gain the maximum benefit from trade liberalisation and to prepare for Safta, Pakistan should grant MFN status to India," the Industries Ministry said.

The Ministry also recommended that Pakistan negotiate strategic partnerships with Indian firms, lower barriers to investment by removing protection for local producers and develop capacity building to prevent dumping.

Dollar falls in Asia

AFP, Tokyo

The dollar fell against major currencies in Asian trade Monday after a sharp fall on Wall Street as the market holds its breath for US Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data out this week, dealers said.

The dollar fell to 114.80 yen in Tokyo morning trade from 115.20 yen in New York late Friday.

The euro firmed to 1.2225 dollars from 1.2141 dollars and to 140.29 yen from 140.14 yen.

China, Saudi Arabia set to discuss new energy tie-ups

PTI, Beijing

Ahead of his state visit to India, Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz, King of Saudi Arabia, arrived here on Sunday for a three-day trip to cement bilateral ties, including forging of long-term energy cooperation.

Abdullah, who arrived here on the first leg of his four-nation Asian tour, will hold talks with Chinese President Hu Jintao, Premier Wen Jiabao and other state leaders on such issues as the further expansion of bilateral cooperation in energy, economic and trade areas.

It will be the first ever visit of the Saudi Arabian king to China since the two countries established their diplomatic relations in 1990, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Kong Quan said.

"The Chinese side attaches much importance to this visit. President Hu will hold an important political meeting with him and will review the development of bilateral relations over the last 15 years and exchange views on further developing bilateral ties and expanding cooperation on all fronts," Kongsaid.

The visit to China is the first official visit that the King has ever made to another country since he ascended the throne.

The Saudi King will arrive in New Delhi on January 24 and will be the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations on January 26.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

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The envelope should be marked "IT Officer".

Directorate General Defence Purchase
Ministry of Defence
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

Tender Notice (Tender)

1. Sealed tenders in local/foreign currency are invited from bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/enlisted firms in DGDP for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Armed Forces:

Ser No	Nomenclature	Date of Selling		Date of Opening	Currency	Tender No
		From	To			
a.	Gram (Whole) 100 Metric Tons	30-01-2006	27-2-2006	28-2-2006	Local	837/P-8
b.	Tea (Black) 100 Metric Tons	30-01-2006	27-2-2006	28-2-2006	Local	842/P-8

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per IT selling rate (not refundable), between 0800 hours to 1200 hours at DGDP office on all working days. Sealed tenders shall have to be dropped in the tender box placed at DGDP's tender room latest by 1000 hours and will be opened at 1005 hours on the day specified in presence of the tenderers (if any).

ISPR/Misc/06/37
GD-114

Maj
For Director General

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
সিলেট বন বিভাগ
সিলেট

সিলেট বন বিভাগের ২০০৬ সালে বাঁশমহাল বিক্রয়ের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-০২/বাঁশ তারিখ ০৪/০১/০৬ইং

সিলেট বন বিভাগের ২০০৬ সালে নিম্নতফসীলে বর্ণিত বাঁশমহালসমূহ বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে নিম্নাধিকারকারী কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত ছকপত্রে সিলেট বন বিভাগের হালনাগাদ তালিকাভুক্ত মহালদারগণের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত বন্ধ খামে পুনঃ দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। নির্ধারিত ছকপত্র (সিডিউল) নগদ ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা (অফেরতযোগ্য) মূল্যে নিম্নাধিকারকারীর কার্যালয় বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, সিলেট বিভাগ এর কার্যালয়, জেলা প্রশাসক, সিলেট এর কার্যালয় এবং বন সন্ত্রাসক, কেন্দ্রীয় অফিস, বনভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয় হইতে আগামী ০৫/০২/০৬ তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় জমা করা যাইবে। দরপত্র আগামী ০৬/০২/০৬ তারিখ বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে উপস্থিত কার্যালয়সমূহে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে জমা দিতে হইবে। অগ্রাধী দরপত্রদাতাগণের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) ঐ দিন বেলা ১.৩০ ঘটিকার সময় দরপত্র খোলা হইবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল জরুর সময় হালনাগাদ মহালদারী তালিকাভুক্ত প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে। অনাধায় দরপত্র সিডিউল সরবরাহ করা হইবে না।

দরপত্রের শর্তাবলী ও অন্যান্য জাতব্য বিষয়াদি নিম্নাধিকারকারীর কার্যালয় ও অত্র সিলেট বন বিভাগের আওতাধীন বিভিন্ন রেঞ্জ কার্যালয় হইতে দেখিতে ও জানিতে পারা যাইবে।

ক্রম নং	মহাল নং সন	মহালের নাম	রেঞ্জের নাম	বিটের নাম	বাঁশের জাত	প্রাপ্তবা বাঁশের সংখ্যা
১।	রাজ/কামার/০২/বাঁশ-২০০৬	সুনছড়া বাঁশমহাল	রাজকান্দি রেঞ্জ	কামারছড়া	১। মুলী -----	১,০৮,৫৮১টি
				২। টেংরা মুলী -	২,২৪,৯১৯টি	
				৩। মিতিংগা ---	৩০,৫৫৭টি	
				৪। ডলু -----	৬১,৯৬৯টি	
						মোট = ৪,২৬,০২৬টি
২।	জুরী-১/সাগর/০১/বাঁশ-২০০৬	সাগরনাল (ডান ও বাম) বাঁশমহাল	জুরী রেঞ্জ-১ সাগরনাল	১। মুলী -----	৬২,৩৮,৬২৫টি	
				২। টেংরা মুলী -	৭,৯০,৮৯৪টি	
				৩। খাঁং -----	৫,১২,৮৩৫টি	
				৪। মাকাল ---	২,২৮,৫৪৬টি	
						মোট = ৭৭,৭০,৯০০টি

শুক্র মাকসুদুর রহমান
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
সিলেট বন বিভাগ
সিলেট

ক্রিডি-১০০

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়
সিলেট বন বিভাগ
সিলেট

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং- ৬১/রাজব তারিখঃ ২২/১২/২০০৫ইং

সিলেট বন বিভাগের হালনাগাদ তালিকাভুক্ত সকল মহালদারগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, চমকিত ২০০৫-২০০৬ আর্থিক সালে (২০০৪-২০০৫ সালে মার্কাকৃত) জুরী রেঞ্জ-১ এর লারিটিনা বিটের ১৮টি, সাগরনাল বিটের ৪টি ও বাগনা বিটের ৩টি বাড়ি গাছের কুপ মোহনে যে অবস্থায় আছে সে অবস্থায় বিক্রয়ের নিমিত্ত সীলমোহরকৃত বন্ধখামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র আগামী ১৫/০২/২০০৬ইং তারিখ বেলা ১.০০ ঘটিকার মধ্যে বিভাগীয় বন কার্যালয়, চাঁদনীঘাট, সিলেট, বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, সিলেট, জেলা প্রশাসক, সিলেট ও বন সন্ত্রাসক, কেন্দ্রীয় অফিস, বন ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-এর কার্যালয়ে রক্ষিত দরপত্র বাসে জমা দিতে হইবে। নির্ধারিত ছকপত্র (সিডিউল) বিভাগীয় বন কার্যালয়, সিলেট, বিভাগীয় কমিশনার, সিলেট, জেলা প্রশাসক, সিলেট ও বন সন্ত্রাসক, কেন্দ্রীয় অফিস, বন ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকা-এর কার্যালয়ে প্রতীতি কুপের জন্য নগদ ৭৫০/- (সাতশত পঞ্চাশ) টাকা মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) আগামী ১৪/০২/২০০৬ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে জমা করা যাইবে। দরপত্র সিডিউল জরুর সময় হালনাগাদ মহালদারী তালিকাভুক্ত প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে। অনাধায় দরপত্র সিডিউল সরবরাহ করা হইবে না।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী ও অন্যান্য জাতব্য বিষয়াদি দরপত্র দাবিলের পূর্বদিন পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (ছুটির দিন ব্যতীত) নিম্নাধিকারকারীর কার্যালয় বা অত্র বন বিভাগের যে কোন রেঞ্জ কার্যালয় হইতে দেখিতে, জানিতে ও সংগ্রহ করিতে পারিবেন।

শুক্র মাকসুদুর রহমান
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
সিলেট বন বিভাগ
সিলেট

ক্রিডি-১২০