

'IEA move depressed oil price'

ALGIERS, Jan 27: OPEC President Sadok Doussena accused the IEA, the world energy watchdog, of helping to engineer a fall in world oil prices at the start of the Gulf War and expressed concern that there could be a future market glut, reports Reuters.

Boussena, the Algerian Mines and Industry Minister, said in an interview with the official APS news agency that the Paris-based International Energy Agency had caused the fall by releasing stocks to the market.

Boussena was sharply critical of an IEA announcement on January 17, the day the Gulf War started, that it would release 2.5 million barrels per day (BPD) of crude stocks to ensure supply.

"It has to be said that the IEA, which had until then refused to take any step to stabilise the market, resolutely took this action from the perspective of war," he said.



Beef on display at a city market on Saturday. The price range from Taka 50 to Taka 60 per kg this year compared to Taka 40 to Taka 45 last year. —Star Photo.

Trading thin, share prices fall at DSE

Star Economic Report

Shares went further down in prices at Dhaka Stock Exchange on Sunday. Trading was thin and lost the tempo it gained moderately on the previous day.

In all, 3038 shares and debentures changed hands compared with Saturday's 6785. Traded shares valued Taka 2,09,295.00 against Taka 2,39,490.00 on the previous day.

Eighteen listed were on trading. Of them, 14 fell in prices, two rose and two others remained unchanged.

With decliners dominating the transactions, the DSE All Share Price Index which is a broad indicator of market prices of the listed stocks with the bourse lost further ground. It fell to 340.1784 points from Saturday's 340.1784.

The major decliner was Bangladesh Lamps in Engineering sector. Its price fell Taka 10.00 to Taka 250.00 at closing. Dosh Garments and Saiham Textile in Textiles sector lost Taka two each and stood at Taka 89.00 and Taka 83.00 respectively at the close of trading.

The other declined issues were BGIC and United in Insurance sector, Bangladesh Autocars, Bangladesh Thai Aluminium and National Tubes in Engineering, Rupan Oil and Zeal Bangla in Food and Allied, Jute Spinners, Kohinor Chemicals in Pharma and Chemicals, and Bata Shoe and Beximco in Miscellaneous sectors. They declined within the range of Taka 0.05 and Taka 1.50.

The advancers were Rahman Chemicals in Pharma and Chemicals sector and Apex Tannery debentures. Rahman Chemicals advanced Taka 1.00 to Taka 61.00 and Beximco debentures, Taka six to Taka 961.00 at closing.

The unchanged traded issues included Al Baraka in Banking and Howlader PVC in Engineering sectors.

Quoted Prices of Traded Stocks

January 27

BANK	PI/ML	Closing	Change
Al Baraka Bank	1000.1	990.00	Unchanged
INSURANCE			
BGIC	100.10	100.00	(1.00)
United	100.10	100.00	(1.00)
ENGINEERING			
B. Autocars	100.5	118.00	(1.00)
B. Lamps	100.5	250.00	(10.00)
B. Thai Aluminium	100.10	77.00	(1.00)
Howlader PVC	100.10	103.00	Unchanged
National Tubes	100.10	113.00	(0.50)
FOOD & ALLIED			
Rupan Oil	10.10	7.00	(0.05)
Zeal Bangla Sugar	10.50	8.50	(0.50)
JUTE			
Jute Spinners	100.5	93.00	(1.00)
PHARMA & CHEM			
Kohinor Chemical	100.5	70.00	(1.50)
Rahman Chemicals	100.10	61.00	(1.00)
TEXTILE			
Dosh Garments	100.10	98.00	(2.00)
Saiham Textile	100.10	83.00	(1.00)
MISCELLANEOUS			
Bata Shoe	10.10	30.27	(0.23)
Beximco	100.5	84.00	(0.20)
DEBENTURE			
Apex Tannery	1000.1	961.00	(0.00)

PV = Face Value, ML = Market Lot.
 AL = Allotment Letter.
 Changes: Plus signs mean gain and (-) signs losses.

Dhaka Stock Exchange Market Profile

January 27

133 Listed stocks

2 Gains	14 Losers	117 Unchanged
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117 Unchanged stocks include two traded at the previous day's quoted prices.

DSE All Share Price Index = 340.1784. Issued capital Taka 4,602,377,190.00. Market capitalisation Taka 9,720,686,660.00. Turnover Taka 2,09,295.00 (Value), 3,038 (Volume).

Pak shipping cos. in private sector soon

ISLAMABAD, Jan 27: The Pakistan government, through an advertisement published Saturday, invited applications for setting up shipping companies in the private sector, reports AFP.

Selected parties would be permitted to operate passenger and dry cargo services, except tankers, on domestic and international routes, the Communications Ministry said.

Bids are to be made by February 15, the Ministry said. It described the plan as a step forward in the policy of self-reliance and privatisation espoused by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's Government.

Price Barometer: Essentials

January 27

Rice	(Taka per Kg)
Aman Very fine	17.00-18.00
Aman(fine)	14.00-15.00
Pajam	13.90-14.00
Ufshi	11.75-12.50
VEGETABLES (Taka per kg)	
Potato(White)	5.00-6.00
Batuli	6.00-8.00
Lady's finger	16.00-18.00
Cauliflower / piece	6.00-9.00
Karola	20.00-22.00
Lalshak	5.00-7.00
Green Beans (Four Pieces)	5.00-8.00
OTHER FOODGRAN (Taka per kg)	
Flour	12.00-14.00
Atta	11.00-12.00
Wheat	9.50-10.00
FISH (Taka per kg)	
Rubi(big)	120.00-130.00
Katla(big)	75.00-85.00
Hilsha	60.00-65.00
Shrimp(big)	80.00-100.00
Singi	50.00-60.00
Koi	60.00-75.00
PULSES (Taka per Kg)	
Mashur	335.00-38.00
Moogh	34.00-36.00
Chhola	26.00-28.00
Matar	27.00-28.00
Khasari	19.00-20.00
MEAT (Taka per Kg)	
Beef	50.00-55.00
Mutton	75.00-80.00
OIL (Taka per Litre)	
Mustard	48.00-56.00
Soyabean	33.00-33.50
Coconut (Colombo)	60.00-64.00
Vegetable Ghee	44.00-52.00
SPECIES (Taka Per kg)	
Onion (new)	17.00-18.00
Garlic	48.00-53.00
Chillies	60.00-65.00
Turmeric(Round)	42.00-46.00
" (Long)	48.00-52.00
Green chillies	18.00-20.00
Ginger	16.00-20.00
Cinnamon* (10gms)	3.00-3.50
Cardamom* (large)	8.00-10.00
Jhira (50gms)	6.00-7.00
MISCELLANEOUS (Taka)	
Ono	220.00-230.00
Sugar	32.00
Molasses	16.00-18.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing.

Gold & Silver

January 27

Gold	(Taka for 1.66 grams)
Tejahi	7200.00
Chitahi	7000.00
Silver	200.00

Source: Department of Agricultural Marketing.

Edible oil from seeds of some trees can be extracted

By Manzurul Haque Sohel

A huge amount of edible oil can be extracted from the seeds of some common trees in Bangladesh, a study on the unconventional sources of edible oil says.

The study launched by Prof. A.V. Mostafa and Dr. Altaf Hossain of the Department of Applied Chemistry of Dhaka University says, the seeds of shal, castor and nageshwar contain 14%, 42% and 55% of oil in it.

They estimated that if the seeds of shal could be collected properly 3 lakh 37 thousand and 543 tons of oil

and 13 lakh 99 thousand and 129 tons of oil seed cake would be produced each year.

The shal seed, had some more economic importance for its husk and some important amino acid it contains within it. The percentage of husk in the seed is 32 from which a high graded activated carbon may be produced.

A good quality non-edible oil may be produced from castor seed, which, after a chemical treatment become edible. Castor is locally known as

bherenda, an especial type of Bherenda, namely Bagh-bherenda is also available in our country, which has a potentiality as a substitute of diesel.

The study has been sponsored by the Renewable Energy Research Centre of Dhaka University.

Nageshwar is a fast growing and high yielding tree of our country. Flowering and seeding of the tree goes on throughout the year and the percentage of oil in its seed is rare. Dr. Mostafa says.

Govt expenditure rises in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Jan 27: Pakistan's total Government expenditure in 1989-90 amounted to 226.5 billion rupees (about 10.2 billion US dollars) representing an increase of 25.4 billion rupees or 12.5 percent over the previous fiscal year 1988-89, according to an official report available here yesterday, reports Xinhua.

The present currency exchange rate is one US dollar against 22.1578 rupees. Out of the total expenditure, the current expenditure was 171.5 billion rupees, representing an increase of 18.5 billion rupees or 12.1 percent over the previous year, and the

development expenditure was 55 billion rupees, 14.3 percent higher than the outlay of 48.1 billion rupees in 1988-89.

Earlier reports attributed the rise of expenditure mainly to the increase of oil prices the rise of military outlay and the growth of imports' prices.

Total revenue receipts in 1989-90 numbered 156.6 billion rupees (about 7.06 billion US dollars) showing a rise of 17.4 billion or 12.5 percent as compared to the fiscal year 1988-89.

Out of the total revenues, the tax revenue amounted to 122.7 billion rupees which increased by 12.3 billion rupees or 11.2 percent over the previous year, and the non-tax revenue was placed at 33.9 billion rupees which were higher by 5.1 billion rupees or 17.7 percent as against the year of 1988-89.

The report noted that the gap between the expenditure and revenue was 69.9 billion rupees (about 3.15 billion US dollars), which were met from domestic non-bank borrowings and external borrowings.

The external borrowing and domestic non-bank borrowing during 1989-90 increased by 3.7 percent and 7.1 percent respectively over 1988-89, the report added.

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The report of the State Statistics Committee Goskomstat, summarised by Tass News Agency, painted an almost unrevealed picture of decline five years after President Mikhail Gorbachev launched his Perestroika reforms.

National income, the Kremlin's main measure of economic performance, fell even further than GNP, by four per cent, and labour productivity by three per cent.

The trade deficit shot up to 10 billion roubles (18 billion dollars) in 1990 from 3.4 billion (six billion dollars) in 1989, and overall volume shrank by seven per cent to 131 billion roubles (235 billion dollars).

Even population, growth at 1.4 million was the smallest annual rise since the war, bringing the total to 290.1 million.

The report 'The economy

of the USSR in 1990," said this figure had been affected by a falling birth rate, a rising death rate and record emigration of some 400,000 people.

The gloomy figures came after decades in which official statistics showed steady, if sometimes modest, growth in all main indications. GNP had risen by three per cent in 1989.

Radical Soviet economists say Goskomstat statistics sometimes given an excessively positive picture of the economy.

But Tass began its report: "It seems that rose-tinted summaries of statistics about the socio-economic development of the country are a thing of the past."

The report was issued amid dire warnings of impending catastrophe from Gorbachev's former advisers as consumers, already fed up with empty food-shop shelves, reeled from his shock decree removing 50 and 100-rouble notes from circulation.

Conservatives who have won Gorbachev's year over the past few weeks have put the brakes on his plans to transform the

Sino-US deal to develop major oilfield

BEIJING, Jan 27: Amoco Orient Petroleum Co. of the United States and the China National Offshore Oil Corp. (CNOOC) have signed a 500 million dollar deal to jointly develop a major oilfield in the South China Sea, the China Daily reported Saturday, says AFP.

The Liuhua 11-1 oilfield located off the Pearl river Delta about 240 kms (150 miles) southeast of Hong Kong, is scheduled to go into operation by 1995 and turn out 2.5 million tons of crude oil a year, a CNOOC spokesman told the official English-language newspaper.

The spokesman said the agreement—supplemental to one reached between Amoco and CNOOC in November 1985—was signed Thursday in Houston, Texas by CNOOC President Zhong Yiming and Amoco Orient Chairman R.M. Morrow.

Under the 500 million dollar deal, the Chinese said is to invest 51 per cent of the money and Amoco Orient 49 per cent the spokesman said.

The oilfield was discovered in 1987 and contains reserves of 1.5 billion barrels, the spokesman added. China Daily said it was the largest offshore oilfield in the South China Sea.

Financial markets in US, UK worried about budget deficits

PARIS, Jan 27: Allied armies ranged against Iraq are using most sophisticated and expensive weapons that the world has ever known, and in unprecedented quantities, reports AFP.

Never before has so much been spent to conduct 10 days of hostilities so far and the cost is causing concern about the burden on those countries most heavily engaged in the fighting, the United States and Britain, economic analysis said.

Financial markets are worried that it will increase budget deficits, adding to inflationary pressure at a time when interest rates are expected to fall in the United States to counter the effects of recession.

On Wednesday, the US democratic leader Thomas Foley expressed growing unease about how the cost of the war will be financed.

The most precious single item in use is the US F117-A "Stealth" bomber which is reputedly invisible to radar detection. At least 40 of these aircraft have been used in night-time bombing attacks. The US magazine defense news has reported that they cost 100 million Dollars each.

The stealth bomber is a reusable item, whereas the Tomahawk Cruise missile, with a life of, one mission, costs 1.5 million Dollars. Already more than 300 of these highly-accurate missiles have been launched. They are being used in action for the first time.

The precise cost of a particular aeroplane or helicopter varies depending on the navigational, radar and armaments system installed.

The cost of an aeroplane, helicopter or missile battery also depends on the requirements for spare parts and

maintenance equipment. costs and prices vary also depending on the quantity produced and on the identity of the purchaser. Industrial sources are evasive when asked for details, and give orders of scale only.

The value of a French Jaguar fighter aircraft, which is considered now to be of basic design and is no longer in production, is estimated at about 16 million Dollars.

The Mirage 2000 aircraft, which is of more recent design and is packed with advanced avionics, is said to be worth between 44 million and 50 million Dollars, including the armaments system.

It is armed with the long-range interception missile matra Super 530 D which costs two million Dollars.

The most recent version of the F-15 aircraft, the F-15 c strike eagle, which is one of the stars of the US attack armory, can cost up to 50 million Dollars, defense news has said. A French expert has said that the cost can rise to 70 million Dollars when the weapons system is included.

The F-14 used by the US navy costs about 45 million Dollars, and the F-16, considered to be an excellent one-engine fighter, costs between 12 million and 19 million Dollars.

The price of the British Tornado GRL fighter-bomber varies between 40 million and 50 million Dollars, experts said. The medium-range Skyflash interception missile with which some Tornados are armed, costs nearly 600,000 Dollars.

The cost of a battery of US Patriot anti-missile missiles, including generators and radar, has not been released.

G-7 to write off loans to Poland, Egypt

LONDON, Jan 27: Western governments eager to reward allies in the Middle East and Eastern Europe are prepared to bend their strict debt repayment rules—but do not want to make a habit of it, reports Reuters.

The group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial countries is considering writing off one third of government loans to Poland and Egypt, French Finance Minister Pierre Berégovoy said this week.

The United States and Britain are among other group members indicating support for the plan.

Such generosity has rarely, if ever, been shown to third world debtors. But the Gulf war and the spectre of instability in Eastern Europe have revealed some urgent political priorities.

Egypt is a key Arab member of the US-led coalition fighting Iraq in the Gulf. Its continued participation is seen as crucial in attempts to isolate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein within the Arab world.

Poland, lumbered with a 46.1 billion Dollar foreign debt, is struggling to introduce Western-style market reforms after four decades of communism. Failure could damp hopes of bringing prosperity to all of

Eastern Europe's new democracies.

The US and Gulf states have already written off some 14 billion Dollars of Egypt's debt. About 20 billion Dollars are believed to be outstanding to the Paris Club of western government creditors.

The G-7 has been pondering for months how it can forgive a chunk of Poland's 35 billion Dollar debt to the Paris Club. Commercial banks owed about 10 billion Dollars are also considering cuts to ease Poland's path to prosperity.

"There's an understanding... that something significant has to be done for Poland" one British official said.

US President George Bush this week pledged in a letter to Poland's President Lech Walesa that Washington had taken the lead in addressing Warsaw's request for reduction of its debt.

The debt to forgive Poland's debt "is partly politically inspired, partly economic," said Martin McAuley, of the University of London's East European Studies Unit. If the Polish economy collapsed the situation would be catastrophic.

Germany is especially concerned that if Poland's economic reforms fail it will be inundated with Polish refugees.

Berégovoy said that Poland deserved special treatment because of the leading role it has taken in promoting democracy and free markets in Eastern Europe.

Exchange Rates

January 27

SELLING AND BUYING RATES, offered by Commercial Banks, for Bank Cheques, (BCs) and Overseas Drafts (ODs) One Unit of Foreign Currencies (FCs) for Taka	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	35.4432	35.9226
UK Pound Sterling	69.5123	70.3290
German Deutsche	23.8997	24.2393
French Franc	7.0289	7.1282
Saudi Riyal	9.4819	9.6101
Dutch Guilder	21.1981	21.4977
Pakistan Rupee	1.5986	1.6138
(AMU*)		
Singapore Dollar	20.4295	20.7052
UAE Dirham	9.6831	9.8141
Kuwait Dinar	Not available	
Indian Rupee	1.9342	1.9531
(AMU)		

*AMU-Asian Monetary Union

SECONDRY EXCHANGE MARKET
Wage Earners Fund/Export Performance Benefit (XPF) Fund

	Buying	Selling
US Dollar	36.48	36.53
UK Pound	71.46	71.51

*The rates of Pound Sterling are decided every day, based on the cross-rates of New York market.

Source: Sonali Bank

Snippets

China earns \$2b from silk exports

NANJING, Jan 27: China earned 1.95 billion US dollars from silk exports in 1990, 110 million dollars or 5.8 per cent more than in 1989, according to a national meeting here yesterday, reports Xinhua.

Managers of silk import and export companies to the meeting said more silk prints, silk garments and other ready-made products were exported last year than in previous years.

Tokyo's procedures for buying US computers

TOKYO, Jan 27: Japanese negotiators sought to reassure their US counterparts on Saturday that Tokyo's procedures for buying computers are fair and non-discriminatory.

Japanese Government officials said, reports Reuters. Washington expressed its desire to see an increase in sales of American computers to the Japanese Government and sought assurances that red-tape and other tactics would not get in the way.

Indian stock markets reports

BOMBAY, Jan 27: Indian stock markets reopened this week after an eight-day closure forced by the Gulf War, but investors shied away from trading because of the escalating conflict in the Middle East, reports AFP.