

# OPEC flinches from being true cartel

VIENNA, Nov 26: An OPEC decision not to cut quotas this week threw doubt on its role as arbiter of the world price of oil, reports Reuters.

So far as the story could be pieced together from conference sources, ministers flinched in their Vienna talks on Wednesday from acting like a true cartel.

An output cut of 500,000 barrels per day (BPD), the sources said, was rejected because it wasn't thought big enough to deter new speculative raids on the oil price.

Then, however, the ideas of a cut of up to 1.5 million was aired. But, said one highly-placed source, the ministers "had difficulty contemplating a reduction of such magnitude."

They then opted not to change their October 1-March 31 quota pact at all, despite

downward revisions of demand, and signed a communique to that effect.

The communique further strengthened an impression that OPEC was abdicating its pricing role. It contained the sentence, "the conference does not consider that OPEC alone should continue to bear the burden of balancing supply and demand and believes that all producers should join in this effort."

OPEC subsequently made clear that its ire was directed at Britain and Norway. "There is something fishy going on in the North Sea," Ali Ahmed Al-Baghill of Kuwait told reporters.

Baghill, however, with others, sounded ambivalent when pressed by lobby reporters on whether OPEC had decided that defending market share once again mattered more than

prices. In his view the official reference price of 21 dollar was now "history". But when he was asked if OPEC was now going for market share or price, he replied, "it's both. But it's time that the others (non-OPEC) shoulder their responsibility."

One difference, analysts noted, between now and the 1986 pricing crash, was that OPEC at that time went flat out to rebuild market share.

It had now not abandoned quotas. It was simply taking the view that it had shut in enough of its own production and did not see why it needed to cede any more of the market.

OPEC also appeared to want to keep further cuts in reserve for the possibility that the United Nations might end the Gulf War embargo on Iraqi exports some time in mid-1994.

Beyond this, ministers took the view that the current OPEC accord would suffice to revive prices over its agreed term.

A full scale pricing collapse would — "it goes without saying" — result in emergency OPEC talks, Kuwait's Baghill said. But he went on, "why assume that worst? I am optimistic. Cold weather is coming. The market will adjust itself."

Venezuela's Alirio Parra said OPEC had factored in an initially bad market reaction to its decision to continue with the current quota accord until its intended expiry on March 31.

Parra said there had not been any real intention to make new quota cuts on top of what he still considers to be a sound accord. False expectations had been built in to the price ahead of the talks, he said.

# ROK opposition threatens campaign against opening rice market

SEOUL, Nov 26: The main opposition party vowed Friday to fight alleged government plans to open South Korea's rice market under proposals introduced in the Uruguay Round of international trade talks, reports AP.

A government official remarked on Thursday that South Korea would consider conditional liberalization of its rice market.

The comment sparked a furor among activists groups and farmers organizations, who demanded that the government renew a promise to protect the rice market.

Referring to a Dec. 15 deadline set for the conclusion of Uruguay Round trade talks,

Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry Minister Huh Shin-haeng said Thursday that South Korea may be forced to reconsider its ban on rice imports.

He later denied that this meant the government was changing its ban on rice imports. Opposition legislators accused him of lying.

Local newspapers, quoting government sources, said the Seoul government is reviewing the "Japan formula" for conditional opening of its rice market.

Earlier reports from Tokyo said: Japan, under pressure from the United States, has agreed to open its rice market on a gradual basis.



Hundreds of imported cars, lying under the open sky at the Chittagong Port, await customs clearance. — Star photo

## ADB ok. \$140m loan to China

MANILA, Nov 26: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Thursday approved a 140 million-dollar loan to China to help curb air pollution in the major cities of Tangshan and Chengde, reports AFP.

The Manila-based institution said air pollution was a leading cause of death in those cities.

The plan involves several sub-projects, mostly in Tangshan, one of the country's 13 largest industrial cities which relies heavily on coal.

It will aim to encourage a shift to coal-based energy alternatives, a bank statement said.

The ADB will cover the foreign exchange cost of the 237 million dollar project, the loan is payable over 25 years including a five-year grace, with interest to be determined according to the bank's pool-based variable lending rate system for US dollar loans.

The project will apply the polluter pays principle, with major polluters required to pay levies based on levels of discharge into the environment, it added.

# WGC launches campaign to boost gold trade in Gulf

ABU DHABI, Nov 26: The World Gold Council (WGC) has launched a campaign to boost trade of the yellow metal in the Gulf and local women are its main target, given their lavish spending on jewellery, reports AFP.

The campaign includes publication of a design book covering studies of local motifs, social systems, traditions, architecture and culture in the wealthy region, the WGC said in a statement sent to AFP.

The book, due for completion in March, suggests themes to inspire jewellery designers and create ornaments that will appeal to the Arab women as a familiar idea with an intriguing new twist.

"Design is becoming increasingly important to consumers in this part of the world," WGC Regional Chairman, Pedro Bertran, said in the statement from his headquarters in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) port of Dubai.

"And as local women are

moving away from traditional ideas, an important share of the jewellery is being imported only for its modern design," said Bertran, whose council is a non-profit body created by mining companies from around the world with the aim of promoting the use of gold in major markets.

"There is a large potential to further develop consumption in the Arab countries but it will very much depend on whether the industry can satisfy the demand for innovative designs."

The Gulf has become one of the world's biggest gold markets due to its large re-exports and high purchases by locals, notably women.

Dubai has emerged as the region's main market, with a local consumption of 37 tonnes in 1992 despite a small population of 500,000.

But the actual market is far bigger when re-exports are included. Dubai's imports of gold bullion surged by more than 4,000 tonnes over the last seven years to a record 284.4 tonnes in 1992, according to the WGC.

They stood at 171.4 tonnes in the first nine months of 1993 and are projected to reach the same level of 1992, it said.

Dealers expect the trade to steadily rise in the coming years following India's decision last year to ease gold imports. They noted that India has remained the biggest market for Dubai's gold exports.

"Future growth for the gold industry will also depend on the application of imagination to jewellery design," said Bertran, whose council is a non-profit body created by mining companies from around the world with the aim of promoting the use of gold in major markets.

"There is a large potential to further develop consumption in the Arab countries but it will very much depend on whether the industry can satisfy the demand for innovative designs."

Bertran's office in Dubai covers all Arab states, Iran, India and Turkey. It has selected Dubai as a major gold market and a main commercial centre in the region. Handling 20 per cent of the Gulf's non-oil trade.

## Dhaka Electric Supply Authority Tender Notice

Sealed tenders in Dhaka Electric Supply Authority Form No T-1 are invited from electrical contractor firms having pre-qualification of Dhaka Electric Supply Project, Phase-3 for extension & alteration of 11/0.4KV electric supply system in different parts of Dhaka Metropolitan area under Postagola 33/11KV-sub-station, estimated cost of which is Tk 18,45,162.50 (Taka eighteen lakh forty five thousand one hundred sixty-two and fifty paise) only. Detailed description of tender can be purchased at non-refundable Taka 1,000.00 (one thousand) only through Bank Draft in favour of Additional Director, Zonal Accounts Office, DESA from (1) Additional Chief Engineer (P&D), Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, Road 135, House 47, Gulshan, (2) Superintending Engineer (M&C), GDESP, DESA, Road 135, House 47, Gulshan and from Manager, Pubali Bank Ltd, Gulshan Mode Town branch, Dhaka-1212 on cash payment up to 20 December, 1993 banking hours. Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the offices stated at Sl No (1) & (2) above and office of the Director, Planning, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, Biddut Bhaban, Dhaka & Executive Engineer, Distribution Lines Division, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, Road 135, House 47, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212 up to 12.00 Noon on 21 December, 1993 and opened on the same day at 12-30 PM before the tenderers (if any) present. The tender authority reserves the right to accept or reject all or any tender without assigning any reason.

**Project Manager**  
Ubank Pris Ltd  
Gulshan, Dhaka

DPP (BA) 10533/20/1  
G-1623

## Bad loans make fall in Japanese banks' profits

TOKYO, Nov 26: Most major Japanese banks reported sharp declines in profits Thursday for the first half of fiscal 1993 as bad loans ballooned because of the nation's business slump, reports AP.

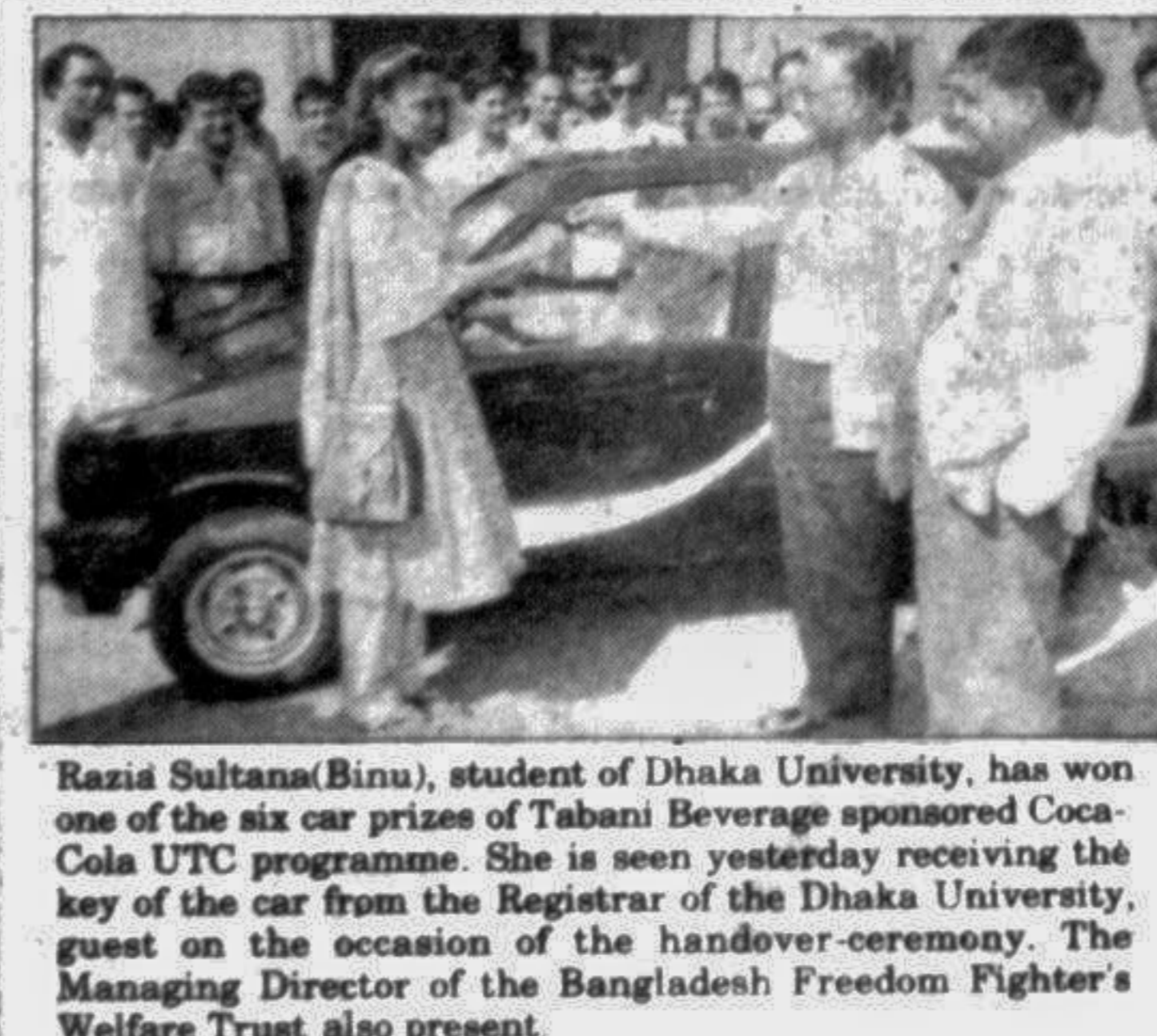
The reports represented another dose of bad news for Japan's economy in a week when the stock exchange has plummeted four per cent. And they signal that the banking industry, once thought to have passed the worst of a bad-loan crisis, may be heading back into trouble.

Bad loans by 11 major retail banks — loans to bankrupt debtors or those on which interest has not been paid for at least six months — totalled 9.25 trillion (85.6 billion dollar) as of

September 30, according to bank officials. That was up 813 billion yen (7.53 billion dollar) from six months earlier.

The 11 banks' pretax profits declined by 22.2 per cent from a year earlier to 393 billion yen (3.64 billion dollar) in the April-September period, the first half of Japan's fiscal year. Profits from core banking businesses fell by 10.6 per cent, with eight of the 11 showing drops in this category.

"The increases in bad debt were pretty horrific," said Alicia Ogawa, a banking analyst at Salomon Brothers Asia Ltd. The total of bad loans rose during the six months even though the 11 banks wrote off nearly one trillion yen (9.2 billion dollar) in bad debt in the same period.



Razia Sultana (Bina), student of Dhaka University, has won one of the six car prizes of Tabani Beverage sponsored Coca-Cola UTC programme. She is seen yesterday receiving the key of the car from the Registrar of the Dhaka University, guest on the occasion of the handover-ceremony. The Managing Director of the Bangladesh Freedom Fighter's Welfare Trust also present.

## Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on Nov 25, 26.

Currency	Selling		Buying		OD Transfer
	TT & OD	HC	TT Clean	OD SIGHT Ex. Bills	
US Dollar	39.9250	39.9500	39.7100	39.6125	39.4950
Pound Sterling	59.4004	59.4376	58.3107	58.1675	57.9950
DM	23.5542	23.5689	23.1875	23.1306	23.0619
F Franc	6.7939	6.7981	6.6866	6.6702	6.6505
S Dollar	30.2485	30.2674	29.7638	29.6907	29.6026
S Franc	26.8841	26.9010	26.4555	26.3907	26.3124
Jap Yen	0.3743	0.3745	0.3610	0.3601	0.3590
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2744	1.2773	1.2662	1.2537	
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3271	1.3301	1.3185	1.3054	
Iranian Ryal (AMU)	0.0232	0.0233	0.0230	0.0228	
A) T. T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk	39.6612				
B) Usance Rates:					
30 Days DA	80 Days DA	90 Days DA	120 Days DA	180 Days DA	
39.2631	38.9318	38.6005	38.2693	37.6567	
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk.	39.4625				
D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk.	40.2000				

### Indicative Rates

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	T.T. & O.D.	O. D. Transfer	O. D. Transfer	
S Ryal	10.6475	10.5300		
UAE Dirham	10.8699	10.7519		
Kuwaiti Dinar	133.8866	132.0020		
Singapore Dollar	25.0000	24.7153		
D Guilders	20.9185	20.6877		
S Kroner	4.7729	4.7158		

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

## Shipping Intelligence

### Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 25.11.93

Berth	Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/3	Vishva Karuna	R Seed	Chin	Litmond	30/8	30/11
J/6	Vishva Parag	GI/GL	Cal	SSL	25/11	
J/7	Jiang Cheng	GI	S Hai	BDShip	21/11	26/11
J/10	Rafah	Idle	Jybo	Dynamic	18/10	
J/12	Sea Muse	Wheat(P)	Sing	Seacoast	11/11	03/12
J/13	A Goncharov	Cont	Sing	CT	25/11	28/11
MPB/1	Imke Wehr	Cont	Sing	APL(B)	24/11	27/11
MPB/2	Ingeniuty	Cont	Sol	BTSA	24/11	26/11
Q/SJ	Dolores	Idle	Seacom	R/A	30/11	
TSP	Hua Quan	R Phos	Sing	RRSA	19/11	26/11
RM/5	Singa Willriver	HSD/SKO	Sing	H&H	23/11	
RM/6	Sea Nymph	Cement	Ind	USTC	30/10	30/11
DDJ	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	BSC	R/A	28/11	
DDJ/1	Banglar Doot	Repair	BSC	R/A	30/11	
DDJ/1	Banglar Shobha	Repair	BSC	05/11	28/11	
RM/9	Banglar Asha	Repair	BSC	R/A	30/11	
CUFJ	Silver Kris	Urea	P.Cla	Seacom	15/11	26/11
Rafco	Stellamare	K Equip	Cul	SMBH	24/11	26/11

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Banglar Monti	27/11	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Narica	27/11	Phil	H&Sons		
Pearl of Fujairah	27/11	Seacom	C Clinker		
Safar	28/11	ASL			
NOS Ranger	28/11	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Ocean Trader	28/11	Ilyc	Litmond	Bulk (P)	
Banglar Kallol	28/11	Busa	BSC	GI	
Artemis-SE	29/11	Vanc	Litmond	Wheat(P)	
Petr Starostin	28/11	Sing	Uha	Cont	Sing
Kota Buana	30/11	Sing	RSL	GI	
Shapaleverett	30/11	Sing	EBPL	GI	
Saadi	30/11	Sing	SSL	GL	B Abbas
Ocean Grace	30/11	Mong	OTL	GI	
Meng Lee	30/11	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
Ouaranta	30/11	Sing	Seabird	Cement	
I Yamurenko	02/12	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Lanka Mahapala	02/12	Sing	Baridhi	Cont	Sing
Fong Shin	03/12	Sing	BDSHIP	Cont	Sing
Eponyma	03/12	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Derin Narce	30/11	Vanc	Royal	M Seed	

### Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Date
Esso Bayonne	27/11	Sing	MSP/L	HSD/MP	(RM/5)
Asastima	29/11	Sing	BSL		
Antares	26/11	Bela	Royal	CPO	

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date arrival
Zara			CLA	R/A

### Vessels ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date arrival
Zara			CLA	R/A

### Vessels awaiting instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date arrival
Loyal Bird		Mong	Seacom	15/11
Banglar Shourabh			BSC	R/A

### Movement of vessels for 26/11/93 & 27/11/93

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/7	Jiang Cheng	Fong Yun
MPB	Ingeniuty	Ithenta
TSP	Hua Quan	FA
J/10	Rafah	Kafo Stellamare

### Outgoing

Name of vessels	Date of departure	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Date
MPM	Imke Wehr	Banglar Monti	J/11		
CUFJ	Silver Kris	Optima	MPB/1		
RM1	Singa Willriver	River Wehr	J/1		
		Zara	CUFJ		
		Antares	RMS		

The above were the Thursday's Shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

# Dhaka Stock Prices

Weekly comparison: At the close of tradings on November 18 and November 25, 1993

Company	FV/ML*	Nov. 18		Nov. 25	
		Taka	Taka	Taka	Taka
<b>BANKS (12)</b>					
Al Baraka Bank	1000/1	850.00	885.00	950.00	800.00
AB Bank	100/5	170.00	170.00	200.00	160.00
City Bank	100/5	290.00	290.00	355.00	268.00
Eastern Bank	100/20	110.00	110.00	110.00	105.00
IDLC Ltd	100/20	220.00	221.00	242.00	200.00
LFIC	100/5	154.00	154.00	198.00	150.00
Islamic Bank	1000/1	385.00	378.00	1750.00	1300.00
National Bank	100/5	113.49	125.99	125.00	85.00
Pubali Bank	100/5	100.00	100.00	100.00	85.00
Rupali Bank	100/10	74.00	84.70	84.00	65.00
U.C.B.L	100/5	105.00	100.00	120.00	80.00
Utara Bank	100/5	100.00	100.00	103.00	87.00
<b>INVESTMENT (08)</b>					
ICB	100/5	105.00	110.00	110.00	85.00
1st ICB MFund	100/5	415.00	405.00	415.00	340.00
2nd ICB Fund	100/5	169.00	174.00	186.00	160.00