

Gulf Arab economies start '94 with difficult road ahead

DUBAI, Jan 9: Gulf Arab economies start 1994 with a difficult road ahead and governments struggling with low oil prices and budget deficits, reports Reuters.

Economists say the 1993 collapse of oil prices to five year lows of just above 13 per barrel sent shock waves through the oil rich region and put pressure on governments to spend less.

"This shock will not be a short-term issue and its continuation will lead to big economic pressure," said leading Kuwaiti economist Jassem Al-Saadoun. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, and Oman have issued 1994 budgets with spending cuts.

Officials in the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait say they plan to do the same. Economists say Bahrain and Qatar are likely to follow.

Diplomats say the Gulf economies however remain strong.

"It is important to keep things in perspective, we are talking about extremely large figures in the Saudi budget and it is an extremely large market, so it is wrong to assume the good days are over," one diplomat said.

"They have been in a situation of low oil prices before and they have come through it," he added.

Some economists believe there could be lower growth and pressure on living standards. But the vast oil reserves will help cushion the pain.

Cuts in spending will also send a positive message to world markets that the governments are serious about dealing with their budget deficits, diplomats say.

Saudi Arabia issued a nearly balanced 1994 budget cutting spending by 20 per cent to 160 billion riyals from last year's budgeted 196.95 billion.

King Fahd ordered government departments not to forge any deals which would add costs to future budgets in the kingdom, which pumps about eight million barrels of oil a day.

Experts put Saudi's monthly oil revenue in December at around three billion, down from 3.5 billion in November. They estimate it has up to 10 billion non-oil revenue a year.

In Kuwait, where officials have said the 1994 budget would have spending cuts, economists estimate that if the oil prices keep falling the emirate could lose up to 200 million a month.

In the UAE, expected to issue its 1994 budget later this

month, economists say that the non-oil sector stands at about 60 per cent of total Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and that economic growth — which increased 20 per cent in 1991-92 and in 1992-93 — will expand but at a lower rate.

The impact of spending cuts on Gulf economies depends largely on which sectors the cuts include and diplomats say it is difficult to second guess in the case of Saudi Arabia, whose budget did not give any detail.

The Washington Post, which in the summer said Saudi Arabia was bankrupt, reported that the Kingdom has asked to stretch out payments for some 30 billion in US weapons it has ordered.

Diplomats say the Kingdom still has to finance large infrastructure projects for its 17 million population.

W African leaders to hold summit on currency today

DAKAR, Jan 9: West African leaders will gather here tomorrow for a special summit to solidify their resistance to a possible devaluation of their common currency, the CFA franc, reliable sources said, reports AFP.

African heads of state, they added, will stress the need for compensatory measures to offset the effects on their troubled economies of a move that would end parity between the French franc and the CFA unit.

The International Monetary Fund has been pressing for a devaluation in the CFA and suggestions that it may be realised have triggered capital flight.

In the seven members of the West African Monetary Union alone, Benin, Burkina-Faso, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo, capital flight in the first six months of 1993 amounted to one billion CFA, or about 3.5 million dollar.

As a result, central banks in the CFA franc zone have been forced to impose protectionist measures.

France has said it does not want to abandon its former colonies in West Africa but has nonetheless linked continuing aid to agreements that regional governments make with both the IMF and the World Bank.

Heads of state or government from Benin, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Senegal are expected to attend the Dakar summit.

Talks on the future of the CFA franc will be held around the edges of a meeting here on the re-capitalization of Air Afrique.

Indonesia will develop Madura as industrial centre

JAKARTA, Jan 9: Indonesia will develop Madura Island as an industrial centre to rival Batam, near Singapore, and link it by bridge with mainland Java, Research and Technology Minister Jusuf Habibie said in a Saturday report, says Reuters.

Habibie quoted by the official Antara news agency on Saturday, said Madura could become a larger industrial centre than Batam, whose duty free zone exports approached dollar 1.0 billion last year.

"Madura will enjoy giant development projects which will make it a bigger economic growth centre than Batam," he said.

Habibie said a five-km (three-mile) bridge would link Madura with Surabaya, Indonesia's second biggest city and main commercial port. He said 450 billion Rupiah had been set aside for the project.

"About 80 per cent of it is from a Japanese soft loan, while the rest is from Indonesia's central bank as well as Japanese and Indonesian private companies," Habibie added. He did not say when the bridge would be completed.

Madura, a fairly heavily populated island 720 km (450 miles) east of Jakarta, is 180 km (110 miles) across and 60 km (40 miles) wide — about three times the size of Batam, which is 20 km (12.5 miles) south of Singapore.

Companies on Batam make products ranging from circuit boards and modulators to cars and television sets.

A dollar 350-million Batam industrial park project, developed by Indonesia and Singapore, opened officially in 1991 as part of a planned "growth triangle" combining cheap labour and resources from Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia.

Despite his predictions, Habibie gave no firm plans for Madura's development.

India's financial scandal Advani slams govt for removing SEBI chief

NEW DELHI, Jan 9: Opposition leader LK Advani slammed the Indian government yesterday for removing the top stock market watchdog after the filing of a Parliamentary report on the country's worst financial scandal, reports Reuters.

Advani told a news conference that instead of taking action against those blamed in the report, the government had removed the head of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) G.V. Ramakrishna, who had not been involved in the scandal.

"Shifting Ramakrishna, one of the few officials who has emerged from this murky episode with kudos, seems to be the government's only action," said Advani, leader of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Ramakrishna, who tried to reform and regulate India's turbulent bourses, has been at loggerheads with the country's powerful broking community.

"It seems that what SEBI about goldstar has upset the government," Advani said, referring to a company involving Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's son that received loans from a broker accused in the scandal.

India's parliament held a two-day session to discuss the report last month and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh offered to resign after the report lambasted his ministry for having failed to stop the scandal.

Rao turned down Singh's offer.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on January 9. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling	Buying
TT & OD	HC	OD
	Clear	Ex. Sight
		Ex. Bills
US Dollar	40.1350	39.9175
Pound Sterling	59.9416	59.1301
DM	23.3559	22.9849
F Franc	6.8586	6.7496
C Dollar	30.5875	30.1076
S Franc	27.5235	27.0835
Jap Yen	0.3626	0.3531
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2825	1.2722
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3293	1.3186
Iranian Rial (AMU)	0.0230	0.0228

A) T. T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk 39.8725

B) Usance Rates:

30 Days DA 90 Days DA 120 Days DA 180 Days DA

39.5688 39.2860 39.0033 38.7205 38.1550

C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk 39.7275

D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk 40.5150

Indicative Rates

Singapore Dollar	24
D Guilders	20
S Kroner	4

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT
Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 9.1.94

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Date of Leaving
J/1	Flag Leader	Wheat (P)	Sing	Seacom	27/12	13/1
J/8	Samudra	—	—	—	—	—
	Rani	Fert	—	SSL	R/A	12/1
J/10	Dolores	Idle	—	Seacom	R/A	15/1
J/11	Paxi	TSP (P)	Saf	EOSL	26/12	15/1
MPB/1	Infinity	Cont	Sing	RSL	8/1	11/1
MPB/2	Banglar	Cont	Mong	BSC	9/1	11/1
	Monti	—	—	—	—	—
CCJ	Pearl of	C Clink	Vish	Seacom	30/12	11/1
RM/4	Fujairah	C Clink	Tuti	Litmond	1/1	15/1
DOJ	Banglar	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	13/1
	Jyoti	—	—	—	—	—
DD	Banglar	Repair	Kara	BSC	14/12	15/1
	Sampad	—	—	—	—	—
RM/9	Banglar Asha	Repair	—	BSC	R/A	16/1
CUFJ	Al Swamuz	Urea	Mong	ASL	4/1	11/1

VESSLS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading	Port
Fong Yun	9.1.94	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing	Sing
Karabieverett	9.1.94	Sing	EBPL	GI	Fe St	—
Vinta	11.1.94	Sing	OWSL	—	Rowanda	—
Dekhoda	10.1.94	Mong	SSL	GL	B Abbas	—
Banglar Robi	12.1.94	MGL	BSC	Cont	Sing	—
Banglar Maya	13.1.94	Male	BSC	GI	—	—
Murika Stravelakis	10.1.94	LASN	USTC	Cement	—	—
Aurania	11.1.04	—	Seabird	Ballast	—	—
Moan Bird	11.1.94	Sing	EBPL	P Mach	—	—
Kota Buana	11.1.94	Sing	RSL	Cont	Col	—
NGS Ranger	11.1.94	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing	—
American Heritage	11.1.94	—	BSL	Wheat (G)	—	—
Lanka Mahapala	12.1.94	Mong	Barthit	Cont	Col	—
I Yamburenko	13.1.94	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing	—
Fong Shin	14.1.94	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing	—
Eponyma	14.1.94	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing	—
Andrian Goncharov	15.1.94	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing	—
Hang Wan	15.1.94	S Hai	BDShip	Cement	GI	—
Sam Houston	15.1.94	—	Karna	GI	—	—
Gold Finch	16.1.94	—	MSA	MOP (P)	—	—
Ingenuity	19.1.94	Colin	BTSA	Cont	Col	—
San Pablo	20.1.94	Sing	JF	Vehicles	—	—
Jiang Cheng	22.1.94	S Hai	BDShip	GI	C Ports	—
Al Salma	22.1.94	—	ASL	GI	—	—
Kamaleverett	25.1.94	—	EBPL	GI	Japa Fe	—
APJ Angad	4.2.94	—	OWSL	Wheat (G)	—	—

TANKER DUE

Traveller	11.1.94	Sing	MSPL	HSD/JP-1	(RM/6)
Ararat	11.1.94	Sing	TSL	C.P.O	(RM/3-4)

VESSLS AT KUTUBDIA.

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival

VESSLS READY

NIL

VESSLS NOT READY

Sea Nymph	GI	V Pat	PSAL	2/1
Pavitra-1	C Clink	Visa	Seabird	3/1
Ronjay Victory	Cement	Viza	USTC	7/1

VESSLS AWAITING INSTRUCTION

Say Byol	—	—	Litmond	R/A
Vishva Madhuri	—	—	SSL	R/A
Banglar Shourabh	—	—	BSC	R/A
Loyal Bird	—	Mongla	Seacom	15/11
Al Tabith	—	VISA	BSL	1/1

VESSLS NOT ENTERING

Shota	Scrapping	Sing	Univartine	11/12
Buarque	Scrapping	—	AML	R/A
Akademik Semenov	HSD(P)	Sing	QCSL	27/12

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 10/01/94

OUTGOING	INCOMING	SHIPPING
J/13 Fong Yun (Cont)	J/8 Samudra Rani to J/12	
J/8 Karabieverett		

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

Dhaka Stock Prices

Bearish trend

A large number of issues, led by the Therapeutics (Bangladesh) Ltd, experienced losses in their share prices in a bearish mood of trading on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Sunday.

The price of the TBL's each share lost by 22.943 per cent, leading the losers numbering 18 out of 38 issues traded while the Eagle Box, with a rise of 19.047 per cent in its share price, topped the list of eight gainers. The number of the issues traded at previous rates was 11.

The Beximco Synthetic, a loss making issue, became the top contributor to the total volume of the day with 4840 shares.

The turnovers on the DSE declined slightly. The volume incurred a loss of 10.383 per cent and the value dropped by 9.997 per cent. A total of 17598 shares changed hands at Taka 2169261.00 as against Saturday's 19637 shares valued at Taka 2410216.50.

The DSE All Share Price Index showed a little fall of 0.1451 per cent, decreasing to 409.07016 from 409.66473.

Trading at a glance

DSE Share Price Index	409.07016
Market Capitalisation Tk	18609780649.80
Turnover in Volume	17598
Turnover in Value Tk	2169261.00

Company's name	Previous price Tk	Closing price Tk	Change (absolute) Tk	Change (% over price)	Number of shares traded
----------------	-------------------	------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	-------------------------

Issues (8) gained					
AB Bank	169.32	170.00	0.68	0.401	22
BGIC	196.66	197.23	0.57	0.290	410
B Thai Aluminium	85.00	85.25	0.25	0.294	40
Modern Industries	355.00	362.50	7.50	2.112	20
Beximco Infusion	486.00	489.92	3.92	0.806	240
Pfizer Lab	630.00	650.00	20.00	3.174	15
Eagle Box	12.60	15.00	2.40	19.047	200
BCIL (Deb)	2249.85	2250.00	0.15	0.006	15

Issues (19) lost					
2nd ICB M Fund	170.00	169.00	1.00	0.588	20
4th ICB M Fund	146.00	144.20	1.80	1.232	400
6th ICB M Fund	74.08	74.00	0.08	0.107	770
United Insurance	208.00	207.50	0.50	0.240	20
Aftab Automobiles	219.47	218.00	1.47	0.669	5
Howlader PVC	90.00	86.00	4.00	4.444	50
National Tubes	58.33	58.25	0.08	0.137	10
Bengal Food	116.00	114.00	2.00	1.724	29
Froglegs Exports	2.00	1.80	0.20	10.000	100
Padma Textile	190.50	187.57	2.93	1.538	140
Amber Pharma	9.98	9.64	0.34	3.406	450
Beximco Synthetic	144.60	143.08	1.52	1.051	4840
Rahman Chemicals	33.00	32.00	1.00	3.030	460
TBL	90.00	70.00	20.00	22.222	15
Apex Footwear	356.34	345.85	10.49	2.943	260
Beximco	44.60	41.43	3.17	7.107	2600
Cig Cement	285.20	281.35	3.85	1.349	600
GQ Ball Pen	95.00	94.00	1.00	1.052	500
Monno Ceramic	341.67	335.05	6.62	1.937	635

Issues (11) traded at previous rates					
Rupali Bank (10), 3rd ICB M Fund (100), Green Delta (10), Atlas Bangladesh (300), Dhaka Vegetables (300), Modern Dyeing (5), Pharma Aids (55), Wata Chemical (540), Bata Shoe (3340), Sonali Ansh (50), Beximco Synthetic Deb (2).					

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)	Specialised Jute	10/50	NT
Shine Pukur Jute	100/5	115.00			
Sonali Ansh	100/5	120.00			

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)	Specialised Jute	10/50	NT
Shine Pukur Jute	100/5	115.00			
Sonali Ansh	100/5	120.00			

Company	FV/ML (Taka)	Closing Rate (Taka)	Specialised Jute	10/50	NT
Shine Pukur Jute	100/5	115.00			
Sonali Ansh	100/5	120.00			

Aftab Automobiles	219.47	218.00	1.47	0.669
Howlader PVC	90.00	86.00	4.00	4.444
National Tubes	58.33	58.25	0.08	0.137