

Business as usual in Gulf despite Iraqi troops build-up near Kuwait

ABU DHABI, Oct 9: Banking and stocks activity in the Gulf remained normal while ships continued to ply the waters despite the reports of Iraqi troop movements near the Kuwaiti border, dealers said here, reports AFP.

Unlike in Kuwait where people flooded supermarkets and huddled around television and radio sets, there was no unusual activity in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and other Gulf countries.

"What is happening between Kuwait and Iraq has had no impact on our business and dealings with other banks in the region. There was also no unusual withdrawal of money," a UAE bank manager told AFP.

"I don't see any justification for panic because the situation

now is quite different from that which occurred before the 1990 invasion."

Although oil prices shot up by more than one dollar on Friday on the US reports of Iraqi forces heading for the Kuwaiti border, they are unlikely to climb further unless Iraqi forces enter Kuwait, according to oil analysts.

They noted Iraq's military power had been largely weakened by the US-dominated international coalition during the 1991 Gulf War and the ensuing UN disarmament programme.

"The reason while oil prices increased yesterday is that they are generally very sensitive to any factor. The increase was quite natural," an expert said.

"Iraq's actions could have sent some shock waves across the region but I do not think Western powers will allow it to bully the region any more," a UAE-based Western diplomat said.

"Ironically, it is benefiting Gulf states. Imagine how much a one dollar rise in oil prices means for countries which produce nearly one fifth of the world's crude output."

Crude prices rocketed above 40 dollars just after Iraqi troops seized Kuwait on August 2, 1990 and threatened Saudi Arabia and other Gulf oil producers.

The invasion caused a market loss of around four million barrels per day due to a halt in Iraqi and Kuwaiti crude exports. But prices quickly fell

when Saudi Arabia and other producers maximised output.

A UAE stock broker also reported business as usual on Saturday. "There were several transactions in the stock market today. Investors appear not bothered by the developments in Iraq," he said.

"Many of them believe Iraq is just bluffing. They think it will not dare attack Kuwait because the emirate has defence pacts with several countries and an attack will only hinder the UN stance against lifting the embargo."

Shipping sources said there was no unusual activity in Gulf waters apart from intensified coast guard patrols in the UAE to intercept vessels coming from plague-hit India.

Dhaka to get Tk 29.3 cr assistance from Tokyo

Japan and Bangladesh yesterday signed in Dhaka an agreement concerning the Japanese grant assistance to Bangladesh amounting to 733 million Yen or 29.3 crore Taka approximately for the improvement of rural transportation networks through the provision of portable steel bridges. Shigeo Takenaka, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh and Dr. Saadat Husain, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance signed and exchanged notes on behalf of their respective governments, says a press release.

Under this Exchange of Notes, the Government of Japan will provide Bangladesh with a grant assistance of the said amount for the implementation of the Project for "Procurement of Portable Steel Bridges for Rural Roads." It will be executed by the Local Government Engineering Department under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives.

This project is aimed at rehabilitation and improvement of transportation networks in the rural areas of Bangladesh which were especially hit by the recent natural disasters such as the flood in 1988 and

the cyclone in 1991. It will enable the installation of portable steel bridges at the crucial locations of major rural roads (Feeder Road Type B) where the existing water channels are critically impeding the road traffic of goods and people.

Under the terms of the exchanged notes, the Government of Japan will provide the Government of Bangladesh with portable steel bridges which add up to a total length of 1,470 meters and are to be installed at 32 locations in 18 thanas of the country.

The actual installation work as well as the improvement of rural roads to be connected by the bridges will be carried out by the Government of Bangladesh with their own resources.

With the implementation of the project, core rural towns and villages with a total population of nearly 1 million will become directly connected to nearby rural economic centers and major cities with uninterrupted road links. It is expected that this will greatly contribute to the vitalization of the rural economies of the areas as well as the creation of much-needed employment opportunities for the rural poor.

Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on October 9, 1994

Mala Chemical enters market

Trading weakens

Trading on the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) weakened on Sunday.

The Turnover in volume fell by 15.662 per cent and the turnover in value showed a decline of 35.992 per cent.

A total of 1,02,786 shares worth Taka 1,55,78,004.50 changed hands as against Saturday's 1,21,875 shares valued at Taka 2,41,86,618.25.

The number of issues traded totalled 67, in which 35 gained, 21 incurred losses and the share prices of 11 issues remained unchanged.

Bengal Carbide incurred a loss of Taka 510.00 per share, leading the losers in terms of value.

Singer Bangladesh led the gainers with a rise of Taka 79.98 per share.

Eastern Housing was the top volume leader. Its 21340 shares were traded.

The DSE All Share Price Index dropped to 755.61053 from 756.61226, indicating a fall of 0.1324 per cent.

Mala Chemical and Pharma entered the market on the day.

Its 7500 shares were traded at the rate of Taka 169.21.

Trading at a glance

DSE All Price Index	755.61053
Market Capitalisation	Tk. 3,549,67,42,485.59
Turnover in Volume	1,02,786
Turnover in Value	Tk. 1,55,78,004.50
Total issues traded	67
Issues gained	35
Issues incurred losses	21
Issues unchanged	11

Company's name	Change (per share) Tk	Number of shares traded
IFIC	20.00 (L)	26
Islami Bank	4.78 (G)	2
National Bank	2.00 (G)	10
Al-Baraka Bank	0.00 (L)	1
IDLC	0.00 (L)	40
United Leasing Co	0.64 (L)	40
2nd ICB M Fund	0.00 (L)	30
3rd ICB M Fund	0.00 (L)	50
4th ICB M Fund	3.00 (G)	170
5th ICB M Fund	-3.00 (L)	410
6th ICB M Fund	-0.18 (L)	50
Bengal Carbide	-510.00 (L)	20
Eastern Housing	4.19 (G)	2505
Karim Pipe	0.50 (G)	16
Monno Jute	5.00 (G)	20
Singer Bangladesh	79.98 (G)	21340
Atlas Bangladesh	0.14 (G)	670
Bangladesh Autocars	-0.27 (L)	345
Quasem Drycells	0.05 (G)	1700
Renwick Jaineswar	2.00 (L)	10
National Tubes	1.00 (G)	500
B Tha Aluminium	1.00 (L)	80
Apex Foods Ltd	0.00 (L)	110
Bengal Food	3.16 (G)	88
NTC	0.00 (L)	90
Dhaka Vegetable	1.15 (G)	365
Zeal Bangla Sugar	-0.11 (L)	1800
Rupun Oil	0.10 (L)	360
Chittagong Vegetable	3.85 (G)	1640
Beximco Fisheries	0.89 (G)	2120
Bengal Biscuits	0.08 (G)	1280
Bangladesh Oxygen	1.01 (G)	20200
Northern Jute	4.27 (G)	1400
Shine Pukur Jute	4.78 (G)	10
Sonali Anandh	1.91 (G)	220
Sulham Textile	2.00 (G)	85
Modern Dyeing	0.00 (L)	40
Dulama Cotton	0.00 (L)	2720
Tailu Spinning	2.05 (G)	230
Apex Spinning	1.38 (G)	580
Beximco Knitting	5.62 (G)	4480
Dynama Textile	0.09 (L)	4920
Mithun Spinning	2.05 (L)	5280
Anjee Pharma	-0.08 (L)	4350
Beximco Pharma	-6.43 (L)	50
Kohinoor Chemical	3.98 (G)	615
In Sin Pharma	0.00 (L)	1000
Rahman Chemicals	4.46 (G)	440
Wala Chemical	0.00 (L)	1220
Beximco Synthetic	-1.43 (L)	1760
Mala Chemical	0.00 (L)	7500
Paper Converting	0.00 (L)	206
Sonali Paper	0.53 (G)	950
Bata Shoe	-1.28 (L)	360
QD Bata Pen	-2.00 (L)	120
Monno Ceramic	13.54 (G)	200
Ustmania Glass	1.67 (G)	215
Savar Refractories	2.48 (G)	470
Beximco Ltd	3.32 (L)	5800
Chittagong Cement	9.31 (G)	250
Apex Footwear	-0.09 (L)	60
Eastern Housing	4.19 (G)	21340
Peoples Insurance	1.00 (G)	90
Eastern Insurance	0.27 (L)	820
B Fisheries	2.11 (L)	31
B Kottun	1.63 (L)	120
ICI (Deb)	40.00 (G)	110

Pak overland trade route with Central Asia soon

ISLAMABAD, Oct 9: Pakistan to open an overland trade route with Central Asia via Afghanistan this month by sending commercial convoys to the region, a federal minister said here Saturday, reports AFP.

The convoys, starting from Quetta in southwestern Pakistan on October 15, will pass through Kandahar and Herat in Afghanistan on their way to Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, Interior Minister Nasrullah Babar said.

Babar, speaking to reporters after an overland tour of Afghanistan and Central Asia, said Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto would make an official visit to Turkmenistan on October 27.

He said the convoys would carry consumer goods and medicines, bringing cotton and cement to Pakistan.

Babar did not expect any safety problems in Afghanistan because he said the areas on the route were peaceful and he received assurances during talks with Afghan authorities.

Babar said the Pakistani Highway Department would carry out road repairs along the 800-kilometre (480 mile) war damaged road, but foreign aid of 300 million to 400 million would be needed for full repairs.

Vietnam expects record rice exports this yr

HANOI, Oct 9: New Market openings in the United States and the Asia are likely to boost Vietnamese rice export to a new record this year despite floods that look set to devastate the harvest in the Mekong Delta, a report said yesterday, according to AFP.

Vietnam exported 1.6 million tonnes in the first nine months, the Tuoi Tre newspaper quoted a report from the Ministry of Agriculture as saying. Exports last year were at 1.8 million tonnes.

Exporters were confident of selling another 600,000 tonnes before the end of the year.

Rice exports soared to two million tonnes in 1991 after economic reforms freed farmers from state restrictions and boosted production but sales fell over the next two years as credit shortages and transport problems emerged.

Sale of hard drugs through official shops proposed in Hague

AMSTERDAM, Oct 9: A panel of law enforcement and drug treatment experts has recommended that the Netherlands control hard-core drug addiction by licensing special shops to sell heroin and cocaine, reports AP.

The proposal to set up "heroin shops" to sell to holders of "drug passes" is the boldest plan yet in a nation where marijuana and hashish are sold openly in coffee shops and addiction is seen as an illness not a crime.

But the Justice Ministry is likely to oppose the plan. Ministry spokeswoman Jannie Pols said Saturday that it had no role in the report.

The plan is also likely to anger officials trying to counter the Netherlands' image as haven for addicts. Other European nations also say that Dutch tolerance of drugs fuels drug problems in their own countries.

The Netherlands is home to between 21,000 and 25,000 hard-core drug addicts out of a total population of 15.5 million.

Under the plan, a national agency would monitor 150 stores dispensing heroin and cocaine for 10 to 20 guilders (6 to 11 dollars) per daily dose, according to details published Saturday in the newspaper De Volkskrant.



The management of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel arranged a surprise birthday party for GS Chhugani, Manager Bangladesh of Air India recently. Officials of the hotel and Air India are seen in the picture.

KLM VP tells Daily Star

Bangladesh potentially good market

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, one of the largest European carriers which celebrated its 75th founding anniversary on October 7, will inaugurate its newest route — Bangladesh — on October 31. Dhaka will be the 155th destination of the carrier with the famous alphabets that flew its maiden flight, between Amsterdam and London, in 1919.

"We are not coming here for just a winter. Dhaka will be one of the major destinations of our expanded worldwide network," said Karel Bram F Steller, vice-president and area manager for Middle East and South Asia.

Talking to The Daily Star, Steller said, KLM is the second European airlines after British Airways to operate from Bangladesh.

"But we have made a mistake. We should have come here earlier," he said in reply to a question about the belated decision to open the Dhaka route.

He said surveys conducted by KLM projected Bangladesh as a potentially good market.

"Our surveys on various aspects of the market in Bangladesh would continue because we would like to maintain our high professionalism," the Dubai-based executive of the KLM told The Daily Star in an interview yesterday.

The new general manager in Bangladesh, Cees Ursem, and managing director of Traveltime Limited, Aminur Rahman, were present during the interview. Traveltime is the general sales agent for KLM in Bangladesh.

Steller said, KLM is an independent airlines operating without any subsidy from the Netherlands government. It maintains 155 destinations in 80 countries on its own and with its business partner, Northwest Airlines of the USA.

The number of destinations would amount to nearly 400.

Currently, KLM employs 24,000 staff worldwide with a large fleet of 90 aircraft, he said.

"We have the youngest fleet with an average aircraft age of four years each," Steller said, adding that the Airlines would procure 10 new generation

Boeing 767 aircraft for its operations next year, each with a capacity of 220 passengers.

KLM will operate twice-weekly by 747 jumbo jet flights from Dhaka. The jumbo has a capacity of 465 seats.

The new office of the Dutch airlines in Dhaka, equipped with all modern facilities, will open in a day or two.

"With the new office in Dhaka, we will set up a small training centre to improve the skills of our staff," the KLM vice-president said.

The Airlines has opened three offices in Chittagong, Sylhet and at the Zia International Airport with a staff of 60.

In keeping with its reputation for innovation, the airline plans to hire four university students who will be trained here and in the Netherlands to conduct market survey.

Steller said, his company always prefers native people as its office staff. There are only six expatriate executives in 20 countries in the Middle East and the South Asian region, he added.

He recalled that the first KLM flight landed in Dhaka way back in 1924 on a routine test flight to Indonesia, then a Dutch colony.

The inaugural flight from Amsterdam on October 31 will carry deputy president of the airline C Den Hartog, the head of air transport policy division, Directorate of Civil Aviation, C Den Braven; former ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh, Henricus Gajentaan; president, Amsterdam airport, Schiphol H N J Smits; head of the department of Asia and Oceania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, K Van Toorn and director general of Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Economic Affairs, F A Engering. A Dutch trade delegation will also travel on the inaugural flight.

The inaugural flight is expected to land at Zia at 8:10 am on October 31 and leave after a brief airport ceremony. The two weekly flights will be on Mondays and Thursdays with a stopover in Dubai.

About the recent plague situation in India, Steller said KLM undertook massive preventive measures for its passengers and aircraft.

"We did not suspend our flights from India. We checked every passenger three times and fumigated the aircraft and luggage," he added.

"Avoiding problems is not the solution. The KLM people are used to facing problems and tackling them," Steller said confidently.

The economy expanded by 13.4 per cent last year and 12.8 per cent in 1992, fuelling inflation. The government has set a target of nine per cent growth for this year.



Mirza Aboo Mansur, a presidential candidate in the ensuing FBCI election, is seen along with his EC members panel in a projection meeting held at Chittagong Club on Saturday.

Exchange Rates

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

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	HC	TT	OD
US Dollar	40.3830	40.4150	40.0950	40.0355
Pound Sterling	64.4083	64.4593	62.9548	62.8613
DM	26.3736	26.3945	25.8504	25.8124
F Franc	7.7189	7.7250	7.5079	7.4967
C Dollar	30.2798	30.3037	29.4575	29.4138
S Franc	31.8647	31.8900	30.9940	30.9480
Jap Yen	0.4075	0.4078	0.3925	0.3919
Indian Rupee	1.2939	1.3036	1.2722	1.2531
Pak Rupee	1.3210	1.3309	1.2988	1.2793
Iranian Ryal	0.0232	0.0235	0.0228	0.0225

A) T. T. (DCC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk. 40.0652
 B) Usance Rates:
 30 Days DA 60 Days 90 Days 120 Days 180 Days
 39.7447 39.4607 39.1767 38.8927 38.3247
 C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk. 40.0355
 D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk. 40.6450

Indicative Rates

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	T.T. & O.D.	HC	G. D. Transfer	Q. D. Transfer
S Ryal	10.7651	10.9951	10.8276	10.8553
UAE Dirham	135.8325	133.7779	133.7779	133.7779
Kuwaiti Dinar	23.3064	23.0051	23.0051	23.0051
D Guilders	5.4763	5.4041	5.4041	5.4041
S Krona	15.7439	15.5388	15.5388	15.5388
Malaysian Ringgit	27.3135	26.9500	26.9500	26.9500

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L-port	Local agent	Date of Leaving
J/1	Mar Courier	R.Seeds	Ghent	Royal	2/10/94
J/2	Anaencia	P.Iron	Selen	MEL	15/10
J/4	R-union	GI	Mal	IFI	6/10/12
J/7	Banglar Mont	Cont Mong	BSC	5/10/10/10	
J/12	Al Tajwar	Urea	Mong	Seacom	26/9/14/10
MPB/1	Kota Bintang	Cont Sing	CTS	8/10/12/10	
OSJ	Banglar Asha	Wheat(G)	—	HSC	R/A 11/10
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	Idle	—	HSC	R/A 10/10

Vessels due at outer anchorage:

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Fong Yun 27/9	9/10	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing.
Donetsky Metallurg	9/10	Ukra	MSA	M. Seeds	—
Kritika Naree	9/10	P. Kone	PSAL	C. Clinker	—
Sea Tradition	9/10	Sing	AML	Cement	—
Snagov 9/10	9/10	Sing	TSI	GI(Copra)	—
Pattu	13/10	Pena	OWSL	GI(Copra)	—
Princess Ariadne	11/10	Sing	H. RSL	Shipping	—
Nikolay Morozov	6/10	11/10	Sing	RSL	Cont.
An Long Jiang	11/10	Sing	Prog	R. Seeds	—
Kaplat	13/10	Kara	Karna	GI/Rice(P)	—
Couper	11/10	—	—	MOP	—
Banglar Shobha/10	12/10	Sing	HSC	Cont	Sing
Mowlavi 12/10	12/10	Mong	SSL	GL	B. Abbas
Optima 4/10	12/10	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Alyks River	12/10	Sing	—	GI (Copra)	—
Olympic Mentor	12/10	Col	—	Wheat (P)	—
Obesny 12/10	12/10	Col	—	—	—
Zang Su Bong	13/10	Yang	Steel Rainbow	Cement	—
Banglar Kakoti	14/10	Col	HSC	GI	—
offical Jiang 4/10	14/10	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Bug Ocean	14/10	Viza	Cross	GI	—
Feng Sheng	14/10	Sing	PSAL	Cement	—
Meng Kiaz 6/10	15/10	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
An Qing Jiang	14/10	Sing	Prog	GI	—
Andrian	17/10	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Goncharov 7/10	17/10	Col	Bardhi	Cont	COI
Ultima 6/10	17/10	Sing	—	Cont	Sing
Prattia (Cont) 8/10	17/10	Sing	—	Cont	Sing
Trans Auto (Roro)	20/10	—	HBA	Vehicles	—
Risavzhari	20/10	Botn	SSL	CL	UK Cont

Tanker due:

Arsenyer	11/10	—	CCNO	—
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Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Vessels at outer anchorage: