

Conference in Baghdad concludes

# Foreign cos on way to develop giant oilfields in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Mar 13: Foreign oil company executives leaving Baghdad after an oil conference are lining themselves up to develop giant oilfields once UN sanctions against Iraq are lifted, reports Reuters.

"As soon as the embargo is lifted we hope to be among the first possible partnerships in the development of Iraq's oil reserves," said Christophe de Margerie, Executive Vice President of French oil company Total SA.

The United Nations imposed trade sanctions against Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in August 1990. The UN Security Council was due to review the sanctions today, but no member was expected to make a formal move to ease the trade ban.

Iraq, which has the world's second largest oil reserves after Saudi Arabia, is discussing the development of 10 fields with foreign oil companies that could produce some three million barrels per day (BPD) of oil, oil ministry officials say.

No contracts have been signed because of sanctions but negotiations on the scope of future projects are well advanced. Iraqi officials and company delegates say.

France's Total is aiming to develop the Mahr Umar field in southern Iraq while another French firm, ELF Aquitaine, has been widely linked to the

neighbouring Majnoon field development.

The two fields could each produce at least 300,000 BPD when developed, according to Ibrahim Razzaq, a field manager with the state oil operator South Oil Company (SOC).

"With the quantity of reserves available and the fact that we have worked here in the past, there are many opportunities," ELF Vice-President Jean Alliot said.

Italy's AGIP says it has not

yet chosen a field but is understood to be in wide-ranging talks with Iraq's oil ministry about oilfields also in the southern Iraq.

The majority of companies here said the two-day conference was a useful fact-finding exercise but possible deals with Iraq, even when sanctions are lifted, were still distant.

"We're just sniffing around. Iraq has large-scale reserves but it's early days yet," said a manager with a Western oil

company who declined to be named.

A research paper compiled by Iraqi oil ministry officials and presented to the conference says the country would be able to export as much oil as it did before its 1990 invasion of Kuwait within two years of the removal of UN sanctions.

It projects that Iraq will export 2.6 million BPD of oil in the first year after the lifting of the ban and increasing to 2.97 million BPD a year later.



Iraqi Minister of Oil Safa Hadi Jawad signals with his fingers as he speaks on Saturday during a two-day conference in Baghdad on the oil and gas market future. — AFP/UNB photo

## OPEC, non-OPEC coordination to stabilise oil prices stressed

BAGHDAD, Mar 13: An Omani energy ministry official called Sunday for greater co-ordination between both OPEC and non-OPEC members to stabilise crude oil prices.

Rashid al-Barwani, the only Gulf Arab official to attend a two-day oil and gas conference in Baghdad, said non-OPEC Oman was willing to play a co-ordinating role between oil-producing countries.

"Oman has already played (last year) a role in bringing together the policies of producing countries. It is ready, if asked, to continue steps in this direction," Barwani told AFP.

He also said his participation in the Baghdad conference, which opened Saturday, had "no political significance."

Oman and Qatar have called for an end to UN sanctions imposed on Iraq when it invaded Kuwait in August 1990. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) groups the two countries with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates.

Oman is not a member of the 12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and produces around 800,000 barrels per day (BPD) of oil.

Non-OPEC countries have often been accused of flooding the international market by increasing their oil production.

OPEC rolled over its 1994 output ceiling of 24.52 million BPD for this year amid an oil glut and low crude prices.

# 'GATT deal to open market for Gulf petrochemicals'

ABU DHABI, Mar 13: The landmark GATT free trade deal will open new markets for Gulf petrochemicals and boost their oil exports although crude is not covered in the accord, according to local trade officials, says AFP.

The deal by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, signed by more than 120 countries in Morocco last year, is also expected to prompt the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) members to hasten plans to create a common market in line with their 1983 economic agreement, they said.

The GATT deal, which created the World Trade Organisation, covered most commodities and services while it excluded crude oil as this could result in dumping markets and such a wealth is concentrated in a few countries.

"But it will indirectly affect GCC oil exports because opening up of the world markets will lead to an economic growth, which in turn will lead to an increase in demand for crude and its products," said Aoun al-Junaibi, Head of the Economic Department at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The agreement will also create large scope for Gulf petrochemical exports, which reached around three billion dirhams (817 million dollars) in 1993," he told the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Al-Shurq weekly magazine in an interview obtained ahead of its publication on Monday.

GCC state — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the UAE — currently produce around 13 million barrels per day (BPD) and they have the capacity to raise output to nearly 15 million BPD.

The six members also account for most of the Arab petrochemical output of around 14 million tonne per year. They have sought to expand production but were discouraged by high customs tariffs imposed on their petrochemical and aluminium exports.

## Emma Bonino to Canada Release Spanish trawler unconditionally

BRUSSELS, Mar 13: The European Union Commissioner for Fishing, Emma Bonino, on Sunday called on Canada to "unconditionally" release a Spanish trawler, reports AFP.

"It is unacceptable that a community fishing boat and its crew are used to put pressure on the European Union," said Bonino, adding that the Estai, its captain, its crew and its cargo were "seized illegally" by armed Canadian coast guard officers Thursday.

The seizure of the Estai sparked an escalation in a dispute between Ottawa and the European Union over turbot fishing that began in February when the North Atlantic Fishery Organisation (NAFO) decided to drastically reduce the 1995 quota.

ports by the European Union, their main economic partner. The GATT accord stipulates the EU slashes such tariffs to around six per cent from between 13 and 15 per cent while similar reductions would be made in Japan; the United States and other industrial countries.

"The GATT agreement will prompt the GCC to accelerate plans for a common market and reach a free trade pact with the EU and other world economic groupings," said Abdul Rahman Al-Mutairi, Director of Dubai Chamber.

Four GCC states have joined GATT while Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, is awaiting a response to its application for membership. Oman is expected to apply this year.

Khalifa al-Jalaf, Secretary General of the Union of UAE Chambers, said the GATT pact also had negative effects on the GCC as it would result in dumping regional markets and threatening national industries.

The pact, he added, would also affect economic policies in member states and force them to abandon preferential treatment of national investors.

"The petrochemical sector will benefit most from the GATT agreement. But the problem is that European countries which produce oil could adopt an adamant attitude towards lifting subsidies on gas, which is used in producing petrochemicals," he told the magazine.

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

### Tender Notice

1. Sealed tender in Foreign currency is invited from bonafide Manufacturers/ Dealers/Indentors (Not necessarily enlisted with this Directorate General) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh Navy:

S No	Description of Stores	Tender selling date	Tender opening date
a.	Portable diesel engine driven pump. Qty-06 Nos.	14-3-95 to 24-4-95	25-4-95 (Foreign)
b.	Geared traction type Cargo elevator. Qty-01 No.		
c.	Stuart's distance meter. Qty-10 Nos.		
d.	Outboard drive engine.		
e.	Various types of Mine's battery Qty-3 L/1	14-3-95 to 10-4-95	11-4-95 (Foreign)
f.	ICABA set: MK-II (47 set). Qty-47 set.		
g.	Diesel engine and Generator. Qty-2 L/1		

2. The tender schedule with detailed specification will be available at given rate (Not refundable) on any working day between 0800 hours and 1200 hours. The tender will be opened at 1000 hours on the above mentioned date in presence of the tenderers.

ISPR/Misc/95/362  
DFP-5504-8/3  
G-377

Commander BN  
for Director General

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

### Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in Local/Foreign currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers/Indentors/Dealers (enlistment with this Directorate General is not necessary) for supply of following items for Bangladesh Army:

S No	Nomenclature	A/U	Qty	Selling	Opening Date	Currency
a.	Spares for Radio Set RT-100 MP	Nos	11 line items	21-3-95 to 18-5-95	22-5-95	Foreign
b.	Spares for 4510 Hand Held Radio Set Walkie Talkie (population)	Nos	44 line items	21-3-95 to 09-5-95	17-5-95	Foreign
c.	Spares for Magneto Switch Board (OB-10)	Nos	04 line items	21-3-95 to 23-4-95	26-4-95	Foreign/Local

2. Detail specifications, nomenclatures and quantity of items have been mentioned in the tender schedule. The tender schedule will be available on cash payment against the fixed amount (not refundable) mentioned above date on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender will be opened on aforesaid date at 1000 hrs in presence of all tenderers.

ISPR/Misc/95/359  
DFP-5507-8/3  
G-379

Major  
for Director General

**Dhaka City Corporation**  
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন  
আপনার শিককে ঠিকা দিন

### Invitation For Bid

The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Loan No. 1124 BAN(SF) from the Asian Development Bank towards the cost of Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (DIFFP). It is intended that part of proceeds of this loan shall be applied to eligible payment for procurement under this contract. Mode of purchase shall be International Shopping (IS).

The Dhaka City Corporation being an implementing agency of the Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (DIFFP) now invites sealed tenders from eligible bidders for the following:-

Sl. No	Name of Work/Supply	Quantity
1.	Supply of Mobile Toilet Van	5 Nos.

Bidding document for the above mentioned Mobile Toilet Van may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder from the undersigned and from all Zonal Offices as well as Accounts Section of Dhaka City Corporation on all working days during office hours on payment of Tk 1,000/- (Take one thousand only) through Challan of DCC up to 01-4-95. No tender document will be sold on the date fixed for the submission of the bid.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid money in the form of Pay Order or Bank Draft in favour of Mayor, Dhaka City Corporation for a sum of taka not less than 2 (two) per cent of total bid price to be delivered on or before 12.00 Noon on 02-4-95. The bids shall be received by the undersigned and in all Zonal Offices of Dhaka City Corporation and the same shall be publicly opened at 12.30 PM on the same day in presence of the bidders or their representative who choose to be present.

Dhaka City Corporation shall in no way be responsible for any costs incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of bids.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information on the bid for and inspect the bidding document from the office of the Project Director, Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project (DIFFP), Dhaka City Corporation, Dhaka.

The Authority is not bound to accept the lowest bid and reserves the right to reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason thereof.

DCC/PRD/419/94-95  
D-271

Executive Engineer  
Mechanical Division-I  
Dhaka City Corporation

### US dollar falls in Tokyo

TOKYO, Mar 13: The US dollar fell against the Japanese yen Monday, although central bank intervention slowed its decline, traders said, reports AP.

The dollar was trading at 90.19 yen at 5:00 pm (0800 GMT), down 0.94 yen from late Friday in Tokyo and also below 91.09 yen in late New York trading Friday.

Before 5:00 pm, the dollar ranged between 90.07 yen and 90.65 yen.

Hitomi Yokoyama, a dealer with Chemical Bank in Tokyo, said dollar selling accelerated in midday on reports that senior US Federal Reserve officials were showing little enthusiasm for additional interest rate increases. Higher interest rates tend to make a currency more attractive to investors.

But the dollar stayed above 90 yen, supported by sporadic dollar-buying intervention by the Bank of Japan, Yokoyama and other traders said.

The central bank does not customarily comment on its intervention activities.

### Euro trading

LONDON, Mar 13: The US dollar was lower against the German mark and the Japanese yen in European trading Monday morning. Gold prices rose, reports AP.

Dollar rates compared with late Friday: — 1.4055 German marks, down from 1.4115, — 90.15 Japanese yen, down from 91.20, — 1.1735 Swiss francs, down from 1.1785, — 5.0250 French francs, down from 5.0320, — 1.5720 Dutch guilders, down from 1.5835, — 1.693.50 Italian lire, up from 1.670.50, — 1.4095 Canadian dollars, up from 1.4089.

The British pound was quoted at 1.5825 dollars, up from 1.5805 dollars late Friday.

### Asian stock markets close higher

HONG KONG, Mar 13: Asian stock markets closed generally higher Monday, with share prices surging in Hong Kong in reaction to Friday's record rally on Wall Street, reports AP.

The Hang Seng Index, the Hong Kong market's key indicator of blue chips, rose 161.88 points, or 2.0 per cent, closing at 8,111.27. On Friday, the index had slumped 127 points.

Brokers said bargain hunters stepped into the market, spurred by Friday's sharp rally in share prices in New York.

The Dow Jones industrial average shot up more than 50 points on Friday, closing well above its record of 4,011.74 set last February 24, after a February employment report showed that the US economy was growing at a steady but not inflationary pace.

In Tokyo, share prices closed mixed, while the US dollar fell against the Japanese yen.

The 255-issue Nikkei Stock Average rose 119.26 points, or 0.73 per cent, closing at 16,477.64. On Friday, the key index had fallen 404.70 points, or 2.41 per cent, to 16,358.38, its lowest close this year.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index, an average of all first-section share prices, was down 2.79 points, or 0.21 per cent, to 1,320.17. It had lost 18.79 points, or 1.40 per cent, to 1,322.96 on Friday.

Afternoon short-covering in the Nikkei index futures market pushed the average higher, although other indices closed lower, dealers said.

The dollar was trading at 90.19 yen, down 0.94 yen from late Friday in Tokyo and also below 91.09 yen in late New York trading Friday.

WELLINGTON: New Zealand share prices closed higher in quiet trading, with

### China hopes to develop further bilateral trade ties with Britain

BEIJING, Mar 13: China said yesterday that it hoped to develop further bilateral trade ties with Britain despite London's "confrontational" stance on Hong Kong, denying any discrimination against British firms, reports AFP.

"The relationship is normal now and has indicated good development trend," Minister for Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Wu Yi told journalists, pointing to a 16.4 per cent rise in bilateral trade last year to 4.18 billion dollars.

However, she reiterated that China was now waiting for "actions" from Britain following recent expressions of its wish to improve bilateral ties, battered in recent years by disagreements over the reversion of Hong Kong to Chinese rule in 1997.

"Though the British government has adopted a non-cooperative and sometimes even confrontational attitude on the issue of Hong Kong, trade and economic cooperation between China and the UK have continued to develop normally," Wu said.

China, which has objected in particular to Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten's democratic reforms, "has never, because of that disputes, adopted some discriminatory policies towards British enterprises," she said.

Wu's comments come ahead of the May visit here by British Secretary for Trade and Industry Michael Heseltine, who will become the first cabinet-level official to travel to Beijing since Foreign Minister Douglas Hurd in July 1993.

Britain was China's third biggest European Union trade partner last year.

### ING setting up new futures company in Singapore

SINGAPORE, Mar 13: Dutch group Internationale Nederlanden Groep NV (ING), new owners of the failed Barings Bank, said Sunday it was setting up a new futures arm here, says AFP.

ING board member Cees Maas said that the new company, Barings Futures International Limited, would replace Barings Futures (Singapore) Pte Ltd, which incurred enormous losses in derivatives trading which caused Barings' collapse last month.

"We are going to set up this company as soon as possible. It will be capitalised adequately to meet local conditions," Maas said, after two days of talks here with top monetary officials.

Maas said Barings' total losses from the futures debacle were estimated at 840 million pounds (1.3 billion US).

The losses were mostly through trading Nikkei 225

### Most Asian currencies hit record highs over the week

HONG KONG, Mar 13: Most Asian currencies rose some hitting record highs, in a week which saw the US currency slide below the psychologically significant 90 yen mark, reports AFP.

**JAPANESE YEN:** The yen continued climbing this week, hitting a new global high of 88.75 yen to the dollar here despite sizeable market intervention by the Bank of Japan.

The Japanese currency was quoted at 91.50 yen on the Tokyo foreign exchange market on Friday, against 95.38-40 yen a week earlier.

The central bank, concerned over the recent sharp gains in the yen, had carried out considerable dollar-buying intervention, but the dollar marked the record low on Wednesday in Tokyo on uncertainties in global financial markets.

The Japanese unit fell back before ending the week on profit-taking, but dealers said the sentiment for the yen still remained strong against the dollar.

**AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR:** The Australian dollar closed the week Friday stronger against the greenback despite being hammered on the cross rates by the soaring yen.

on the ringgit, although it helped to push up the local unit slightly when offshore centres use it to hedge against other currencies," said a dealer.

Dealers said the central bank Negara was expected to support higher interest rates to buoy the ringgit amid the current global currency market volatility.

"We see the ringgit being supported within a band of 2.5350 to 2.5550 in the week ahead," a dealer said.

**NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR:** The New Zealand dollar closed on a quieter note Friday after rising to a six year high earlier in the week on the wake of the US dollar plunge.

It closed Friday worth 64.47 US cents, up from the 63.20 cents closing of a week earlier.

On Wednesday, the Kiwi rose to a six year high on thin trading of 64.96 cents but loss some value later in the week.

The Kiwi has been very quiet," a dealer said. "I think the market's just waiting to see what happens with US jobs data next week which will determine the immediate future of the US dollar and, in turn, the future of the Kiwi."

**PHILIPPINE PESO:** The

Philippine peso depreciated to 25.948 to the US dollar Friday from 25.789 last March 3.

Earlier this week, central bank's chief economist Diwa Gunigundo said the "direction of the rate reflects the fundamental need for more dollars," brought about by the phasing out of a forward cover on oil imports, but added that the movement would have been "less erratic" were it not for the speculation of some institutional investors.

**SOUTH KOREAN WON:** The greenback weakened against the won and was quoted Saturday at 783.90 from 789.50 a week ago.

**TAIWAN DOLLAR:** The US dollar dropped to close Friday at 26.1 Taiwan dollars, down 21.75 Taiwan cents from the previous week's finish of 26.3175 Taiwan dollars.

The greenback plunged to a 22-month low of 25.991 Taiwan dollars Wednesday.

**THAI BAHT:** The central bank on Friday fixed the official mid-rate at 24.77 baht to one dollar, compared to last week's close of 24.88 baht. The greenback fell to its lowest point here since 1984, in line with its plunge around the world, a Thai Military Bank official said.

He said higher interest rates would help prop up the dollar, which hit historical lows this week.

Rates provided by the Banque Nationale De Paris showed the US dollar falling to 1.3985 marks from 1.4070 marks a day earlier. The dollar opened at 1.4015 marks Friday.

The greenback was also lower at 4.9790 French franc and 90.90 yen but rose to 1.4160 Singapore dollars. The dollar was also firmer at 7.7305 Hong Kong dollars. The British pound was higher at 1.6090 US dollars.

**HONG KONG DOLLAR:** The territory's currency, pegged at 7.80 to the US dollar, closed at 7.7303-7.7313 to the US unit on Friday.

**INDONESIAN RUPIAH:** The Indonesian currency closed trading on Friday at 2,213 rupiah to the dollar, or one rupiah weaker than at the closing on Wednesday of the previous shortened trading week.

**MALAYSIAN RINGGIT:** A weak dollar helped the ringgit end this week 52 points higher at 2.5478 in volatile trading from 2.5530 a week earlier, dealers said.

"The greenback's slide overseas had very little impact