

Haryana bans sale of booze

NEW DELHI, July 1: After days of last-minute liquor buying by consumers, a northern state officially went dry Monday, becoming the third one in India to yield to prohibitionists, reports AP.

The move by Haryana's new government was seen as a victory by women's groups and religious organisations that had taken to the streets several years ago to close liquor stores and argue that alcoholism among men was tearing apart many families.

On Sunday, the last day of legal liquor sales, thousands of people rushed to buy booze being sold at up to one-fourth its original prices. The Haryana customers also included shoppers from New Delhi, the federal capital on the state's border.

Despite warnings that the ban could cost the state five billion rupees (143 million dollars) in annual tax losses, Chief Minister Bansi Lal, who was elected in April, made possession, consumption, manufacture and the sale of liquor a punishable offense.

Lal's new centrist party swept the state election, ousting the governing Congress Party, by pledging the booze ban to win over the votes of

the populist groups supporting it.

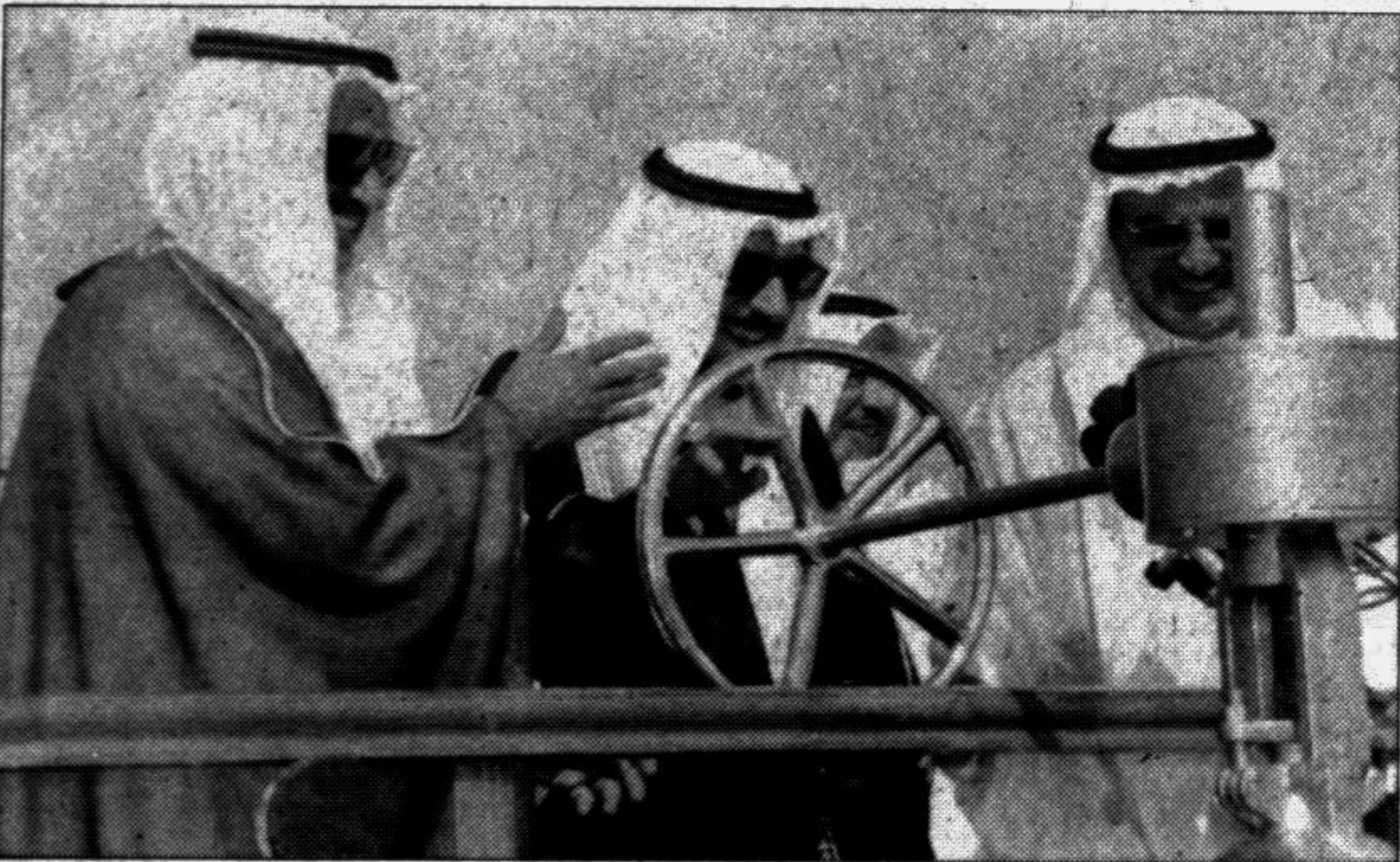
Haryana became the third of India's 26 states to impose a ban on liquor since it became independent in 1947.

Last year, southern Andhra Pradesh state, which served as a role model for Haryana, became prohibitionist at the insistence of women's groups that were smashing liquor stores and fining men who were caught intoxicated on the streets.

The prohibition in Andhra Pradesh and Haryana were a big move for women in India, who often have little freedom in this male-dominated nation, especially in its many villages.

Gujarat, a state on India's western coast, was the first state in India to ban liquor decades ago, following the lead of its most famous teetotaler, freedom fighter Mohandas Gandhi.

Although there are no reliable estimates of how widespread alcoholism is in rural India, where 70 per cent of its 920 million people live, social organizations say many poor men often spend a most of their daily earnings on booze, become alcoholic and often beat their wives and children when they come



Kuwait's Emir Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah (C) turns on a golden ceremonial oil valve with Kuwaiti Oil Minister Abdel-Mohsen al-Mudej (L) and Kuwait Oil Company Chairman Khaled al-Fulajj (R) to celebrate 50 years of oil exports from the Gulf state in Kuwait City on Sunday. — AFP/UNB photo

Smoking takes heavy toll in Romania

BUCHAREST, July 1: More and more Romanians are smoking themselves to death, and less and less are being born, according to medical and demographic experts, reports AP.

With 30 per cent of the population regular smokers, Romania burns its way through some 30 billion cigarettes a year.

Meanwhile, as potential parents increasingly resort to contraception and abortion, a diminishing birth rate has helped send the population diving from 22,810,035 in 1992 to 22,650,000 in 1996, according to figures provided by the Demographic Research Centre.

The number of deaths is exceeding the number of births, commented academic Vladimir Trebici, writing in the publication Economist.

In the first quarter of 1996, the number of deaths exceeded by a long way that of the same period in 1995, he added.

Part from the effect of the ageing population, the development is the result of more and more tobacco-related deaths, Trebici said.

Although no official statistics have been published, the country's health authorities, who began an information campaign in 1995, have confirmed the trend.

Romania's dwindling youth is most severely affected by the scourge of tobacco. The nation's youngsters are discovering the evil weed at every younger age, although a fine of 10,000 lei (3.5 dollar) has been introduced to punish those who smoke on school premises.

School are the only public buildings where consumption of tobacco is not authorised.

Kuwait celebrates 50 yrs of oil shipment

AHMADI, Kuwait, July 1: The Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, turned a gold-plated spigot Sunday, and thick black crude oil slowly filled a see-through pipe, marking the 50th anniversary of Kuwait's first oil shipment, reports AP.

The mood was festive in this oil town about 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of the capital. The celebration was attended by oil ministers from neighbouring Arab Gulf states who sat in air-conditioned tents.

But economists are alarmed the enormous wealth has not been used to equip Kuwait to deal sufficiently with a future when oil runs out in an estimated 50 years.

The small state, which has no other major natural resources, depends on oil for more than 90 per cent of its revenues. It pumps two million barrels a day, and its reserves rank third in the world at an estimated 96.5 billion barrels.

The government has been talking about alternative resources since the 1960s, since we were kids in school," Jasssem al-Saadoun, a respected independent economist, told The Associated Press.

He lamented that no action has been taken to bring these wishes to life.

The effects of sagging oil prices and the costs of the Gulf War that liberated Kuwait in February 1991 from a seven-month Iraqi occupation have started to leave their print on the affluent country.

In order to curb unprecedented deficits, the government has drafted a five-year

plan which if passed by Parliament, will introduce new taxes and make Kuwaitis, for the first time in decades, pay for services they have received free of charge.

A privatisation plan has been facing an unsurmountable hurdle: what to do with the civil servants who are paid the most money for the least amount of work.

Government jobs were seen as a way of distributing the oil wealth to the small population. Kuwaitis today account for just 42 per cent of the 1.57 million people living in the desert emirate.

We have reached a point where we cannot continue on the same path," al-Saadoun said. "We have put the country on the verge of an unemployment crisis."

He said it was necessary for the Kuwaiti public to understand that they need to worry about their future.

Kuwait has for decades been putting away 10 per cent of its income in a fund for futures generations. But this fund became part of the regular government coffers during the occupation and after liberation, and shrank from 100 billion dollars in the 1980s to around 30 billion dollars.

Our generation is only thinking about itself," said Ali al-Baghli, a lawmaker and a former oil minister.

What's after oil is a question that is always on our minds.

But Kuwaitis survived the tough pre-oil life of pearl-diving and trading with wooden boats, and will manage to find the answer to that question, he added.

'US firms should work to keep ASEAN market'

WASHINGTON, July 1: US firms should pay more attention to thriving ASEAN countries if they want to avoid losing out to Japanese and European competitors, US ambassadors to the region said, reports AP.

"It's a question of awareness," said US Ambassador to Malaysia John Malott, to countries in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) - Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam - are small in size but large in commercial power, Malott said.

"We need to make American business a lot more aware of the reality of growth, that they need to start paying more attention to Southeast Asia. We are losing a lot to the Europeans," he told reporters here.

US companies also need to learn how to do business in the region, Malott said, which means regular networking, frequent high-level visits, and long-term partnerships.

Both Malott and US Ambassador to Thailand William Itoh suggested that Washington would do well to stop cutting back its diplomatic postings in the region as part of US budget-cutting efforts.

"I'm afraid it creates a perception that the United States is disengaging," Itoh said, citing the recent closure of two US consultancies in Thailand.

US Ambassadors to the ASEAN countries have just completed an annual tour of meetings and speaking engagements in the United States, sponsored by the non-profit US-ASEAN Council.

Ernie Bower, President of the Washington-based US-ASEAN Council, said US businesses were also eager for the United States to negotiate tax treaties with Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Emirates enters Australia

Emirates, the latest international airline to enter Australia, celebrated its inaugural service at the Melbourne Tullamarine Airport on June 26, with a full contingent of VIPs from Dubai and Australia, says a press release of Emirates.

The ceremony, hosted by Emirates' Chairman Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, also markets Emirates as the first scheduled carrier to enter Australia with a Boeing 777 aircraft.

Sheikh Ahmed said: "Emirates would like to thank the Australian government and the federal government of the state of Victoria particularly Jeff Kennett - for their support, and the many officials and individuals who have paved the way for our entry into Australia."

Guest-of-honour, Phil Honeywood, Australia's Minister for Tertiary Education and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, congratulated Sheikh Ahmed.

Honeywood said: "The State Government pays tribute to the government of Dubai and Emirates Airline for their commitment to their original decision to develop Australian services, and to develop services with Melbourne as its primary port."

Thursday's reserve bank forecast putting inflation higher than had been expected led to higher interest rates.

Which took the Kiwi up on the US currency.

SINGAPORE DOLLAR: The



Emirates' Chairman Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum (2nd-L) with Phil Honeywood, Victoria's Minister for Tertiary Education and Training and Minister Assisting the Premier on Multicultural Affairs, pictured at Emirates' inaugural ceremony at the Tullamarine Airport, Melbourne.

240,000 child labourers engage in Rajasthan carpet industry

RAMGARH, India, July 1: Ten-year-old Chandni labours for 10 hours a day at a primitive loom, weaving intricate carpet designs to earn a measly two rupees (five cents) a day, reports AP.

The bright-eyed gamine is one of several thousand children illegally employed in carpet factories dotting the villages of the Indian desert state of Rajasthan, producing quality goods mainly for export to the West.

Child labour is illegal in India, but the country has the world's largest workforce of pre-teens because the laws remain largely on paper, particularly in socially backward states like Rajasthan.

Activists say some 500,000 people are employed in Rajasthan's carpet industry, which is growing by about 30 per cent every year due to the closure of many units in nearby Kashmir, a traditional carpet producer.

The number of children below 14 engaged in the carpet industry in Rajasthan is around 240,000," said Joseph

Ganthia, who works for a non-governmental group battling child slavery. Nearly 90 per cent of the workforce comprises young girls, who are forced by their families to earn money for their marriage dowry, Ganthia said.

Chandni's employer, Deen Dayal Meena, who oversees eight other girls at his two looms in a village near this small town, said he paid them up to 35 rupees (one dollar) a day.

Meena earns 2,000 to 3,500 rupees (57 to 100 dollars) per carpet, depending on the intricacy of their designs, which are dictated by a supervisor in a sing-song voice to the children as they weave.

But Chandni later told AFP away from Meena's promptings, that she received much less for her work, which she has been doing for more than a year.

"I want to study but I cannot because my father has no work," she said, adding that her greatest wish was to be able to spend a few rupees at the local village fair.

Despite the penury, Chandni says she is contented because her father does not beat her and she can play with friends after work.

One of Chandni's co-workers, a 13-year-old girl who shyly confessed to being married at 10, said her earnings over the years had gone towards the dowry for her groom's family, though she said she had a "little bit left over."

Rajasthan's feudal social structure continues to flourish in villages where the birth of a girl is a cause for sorrow - mainly because of the heavy dowry her marriage will involve. Female infanticide is common in remote areas.

Laws prohibiting child labour are flouted brazenly all over Rajasthan.

"The loom owners have no fear," said an activist, Ram Tiwari. "No one raids these places, there is no checking. Everything is done openly."

Ninety per cent of India's carpets are exported, mainly to the West and the Middle East.

Dollar, stocks lower in Tokyo

TOKYO, July 1: The US dollar slipped slightly against the Japanese yen Monday morning in Tokyo, while prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange were lower, reports AP.

The dollar weakened as it faced selling pressure at around 110 yen, traders said.

At late morning, the dollar was changing hands at 109.68 yen, down 0.20 yen from late Friday in Tokyo, and slightly below its New York level late Friday of 109.72 yen.

Players grew cautious ahead of central bank meetings in Japan and the United States this week, traders said.

Branch managers from the bank of Japan are scheduled to meet in Tokyo Monday and Tuesday to discuss the nation's economy, while a meeting of the US Federal Open Market Committee is scheduled for Tuesday.

On the stock market, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average slipped 41.90 points, or 0.19 per cent, to finish the morning at 22,488.85. On Friday, the index gained 29.14 points, or 0.13 per cent.

Most Asia-Pacific units ease against dollar

Hong Kong, July 1: Major currencies in the Asia-Pacific region eased against the dollar as the Group of Seven (G7) summit raised expectations of support for the greenback, reports AP.

JAPANESE YEN: The yen eased during the week as Japan and the United States agreed to support a stronger dollar.

The Japanese unit stood at 109.59 yen to the dollar in late afternoon Friday, down from 108.69 a few days earlier.

Japan's Finance Minister Wataru Kubo and US Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin met Thursday ahead of this year's G7 summit in Lyon, France, and agreed to back a stronger dollar.

AUSTRALIAN DOLLAR: The Australian dollar closed Friday unchanged from a week earlier as interest focused on a rally to a two-year high by the US dollar against the yen.

The Aussie closed at 78.93 US cents, the same as the previous week.

Confidence that world growth would accelerate pushed the Aussie up Tuesday to a high of 79.23 US cents. But before the close Wednesday it was at 79.21 US cents and drifted off to close at 78.80 US cents here on Thursday.

On the central Reserve Bank of Australia's trade weighted index, it ended unchanged from the previous week at 58.1 points.

NEW ZEALAND DOLLAR: The New Zealand dollar closed at a four-week high against the US dollar on Friday, worth 68.32 US cents compared with its close last Friday at 67.81.

Thursday's reserve bank forecast putting inflation higher than had been expected led to higher interest rates.

Which took the Kiwi up on the US currency.

SINGAPORE DOLLAR: The

Singapore dollar ended the week lower against the US dollar at 1.4100 from 1.4085 previously.

Dealers said the greenback's strength was buoyed by weaker-than-expected Japanese economic data and expectations of further G7 support.

HONG KONG DOLLAR: The Hong Kong dollar closed at 7.7405-7.7415.

INDONESIAN RUPIAH: The Indonesian rupiah closed on Friday at 2,347 rupiah to the dollar, or two rupiah weaker than at closing the previous week.

Malaysian Ringgit: The ringgit eased eight points against the dollar to close at 2.4950 from 2.4942 a week earlier.

The ringgit was actively traded due to offshore interest and speculative demand but succumbed to profit-taking later in the week. It was traded between 30 and 40 basis points against the greenback throughout the week.

PHILIPPINE PESO: The Philippine peso appreciated to 26.194 pesos to the dollar Friday from 26.198 pesos to the dollar on June 24.

SOUTH KOREAN WON: The South Korean won closed the week at 809.00 to the dollar, strengthening from the previous week's close of 812.60.

TAIWAN DOLLAR: The Taiwan currency advanced to close Friday at 71.51 Taiwan dollars against the US dollar, up 13.6 Taiwan cents from the previous week's finish of 27.646 Taiwan cents attributed the movement to an influx of foreign capital.

THAI BAHT: The Bank of Thailand Exchange Equalisation Fund Friday fixed the official mid-rate at 25.36 baht to the dollar compared with the previous week's close of 25.34 baht, a dealer from Bangkok Bank said.

Exchange Rates Janata Bank

The following are the dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies with Janata Bank Ltd. as on July 1, '96. (Figures in Taka)

Name of Currency	Selling		Buying			
	U.T. & O.D.	B.C.	T.T. Clean	O.D. Sight	Export Bills	O.D. Transfer
US Dollar	41.9120	41.9650	41.6160	41.4577		41.3416
G.B. Pound	65.2234	65.3011	64.2352	63.9698		63.8019
D.Mark	27.6378	27.6706	27.1630	27.0508		26.9798
F. Franc	8.1739	8.1836	8.0345	8.0013		7.9803
J.P. Yen	0.3864	0.3869	0.3771	0.3756		0.3746
C. Dollar	30.8888	30.9255	30.3459	30.2265		30.1412
S. Franc	33.6100	33.6499	33.0171	32.8806		32.7944

Janata Bank's selling and buying rates in cash currency for public

	US DLR	G.B.P.	S.Riyal	UAE Dlr	Kuwait Dinar
Selling	42.5000	65.2234	11.2000	11.2500	137.5000
Buying	41.8000	62.9734	10.8000	10.8500	132.5000

Shipping Intelligence

Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 1-7-96.

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L. Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/1	Sea Harvest	GI	Ciga	Oil	26/6	3/7
J/3	Feng Qing	GI	S.Hai	BDShip	23/6	2/7
J/5	Anisik	GI (Copro)	Sant	Royal	18/6	3/7
J/6	Ahmetbey	GI	Sing	Royal	29/6	2/7
J/7	Island					
J/8	Princess(24)	GI	Cal	Sunshing	29/6	1/7
J/9	Sea Tradition	GI	Sing	ANCL	25/6	5/7
J/10	Al Swamur	GI	P. Kel	ASL	21/6	1/7
J/11	Kapos	Idle	Mad	IBA	26/6	1/7
J/12	Hong Qi-206	C.Clink	Long	Cosmos	22/6	7/7
J/13	Pearl One	Sugar(GI)	Hald	Cross	19/6	4/7
J/14	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDShip	28/6	3/7
CCT/1	Ultima	Cont	Sing	Baridhi	28/6	2/7
RM/14	Banglar Asha	Repair	Mong	BSC	5/6	10/7
CCJ	Wan Ru	C.Clink	Dani	Seacom	28/6	9/7
CSJ	Sea Renown	Cement	Yang	RML	26/5	1/7
RM/4	Hang Shun	Cement	Rizh	RML	22/5	6/7
ID	Meng Kiat	Repair	Sing	AML	19/6	3/7
DDJ/1	Tannery Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	7/6	15/7
RM/8	Sea World	Repair		Litmond	R/A	5/7

Kaico (A) Out of Commission FM: 23-6-96

() Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	L. Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Consistence 23/6	1/7	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
QC Teal 19/6	1/7	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Thalis of Millos	1/7	Qing	OTBL		
Fong Soon 19/6	1/7	Cal	BDShip	E/L	Sing
Potaesun	2/7	Sing	Delmure	Cement	
Wang Ting	2/7	Sing	IDL	GI(Copro)	
An DA	2/7		MBL	C.Clinker	
Diasong	3/7		IBA	GI	
Banglar Robi	3/7	Sing	BSC	Cont	Mong
Meng Yang 23/6	4/7	Sing	AML	Cont	Sing
Banglar Shobha	4/7	Kara	BSC	GI(Cont)	
Bosco Snow	3/7	Jerd	Cross	Carass	
Sintra 23/6	5/7	Sing	Pil(B)	Cont	Sing
Padma 26/6	4/7	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Halez (E/L)11/6	4/7	Viza	SSL	E/L	B.Abbas
Aries 19/6	5/7	Mong	Baridhi	Cont	Sing
Susak 15/6	6/7	Col	Baridhi	Cont	CEO
Kota Berjaya 20/6	5/7	Sing	Pil(B)	Cont	Sing
Maerak wave					
(Roro)24/22/6	7/7		Oil	Vehicles	
QC Pintal 19/6	8/7	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Birtang 29/6	8/7	Sing	Pil(B)	Cont	Sing
Shenton 25/6	8/7	Sing	Apil(B)	Cont	Sing
H-Star	10/7		Rainbow	M.Secds	
Ocean 1	10/7	Yang	Cross	GI(Logs)	
Green Island	10/7		Karna	GI(Lash)	
Tia Estela	10/7		Oil	GI	
Banglar Moni 30/6	11/7	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Eurasian Challenger (Roro)24/27/6	12/7		Oil	Vehicles	
Gios	15/7	Mumb	Cross	GI	
Altair Ace	18/7		BFA	GI	
Joint Dorcas	20/7		BFA	GI	
Brighton	22/7		BFA	GI	

Tanker due				
Hestod	2/7	Hald	MBL	
Pacific Hunter	2/7	Sing	MSPL	
Regata-II	5/7		Rainbow	HSD

Vessels at Kutubdia				
Name of Vessels	Cargo	L. Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival

Vessels at outer Anchorage				
Ready on				
Angla (24)	SPL Cargo	Col	MALT	30/6
Fong Shin	Cont	Sing	Belpsh	30/6
Amrita Jaya-1	GI	P. Kel	BFA	1/7
Banglar Shourab	C. Oil		BSC	R/A

Vessels Awaiting Instruction				
Banglar Baani			BSC	R/A(1/6)
Banglar Sampad			BSC	R/A(22/6)
Banglar Joyti			BSC	R/A(30/6)
Zalco Sharif			Seacom	R/A(10/6)

Banglar Shourab	C. Oil	ESL	19/4
Vessels Awaiting Instruction			
Banglar Banni		ESL	19/4/1/63