

Oil loses ground on Saudi output hike idea

LONDON, June 9: Oil prices lost ground yesterday as leading OPEC producer Saudi Arabia prepared the ground for a larger-than-expected increase in cartel supply when the group meets later this month, says Reuters.

London Brent oil futures shed early gains and finished trade at \$29.07 per barrel — a decline of 15 cents. US light crude closed down 25 cents at \$29.70.

Traders had been waiting for more news from OPEC on whether the group would act to trigger a release of 500,000 barrels a day of extra oil under price stability mechanism agreed informally by OPEC at its last meeting.

But instead an OPEC delegate told Reuters: "Saudi Arabia wants to skip the idea of adding 500,000 bpd. It is considering a proposal for OPEC to add up to one million barrels per day at the June meeting."

Oil prices have been volatile all week during a series of policy twists as OPEC agonises over its next output move.

Conflict hits Filipino business confidence

MANILA, June 9: A military offensive against Muslim rebels and bomb attacks in the capital have hit business confidence in the Philippines, a survey showed today, reports AFP.

More than 54 per cent of corporate executives said business conditions were "bad," compared to only 35.8 per cent who felt that way in January, said the respected Business World newspaper.

The government also came under fire in the survey, with 47 per cent of executive saying they felt it was doing "a worse job than a year ago," compared to 23.2 per cent in January.

Only 13.5 per cent said the government was doing better.

The survey was conducted for BusinessWorld by the local office of the New York-based Audits and Surveys Worldwide.

Microsoft starts fight to stay intact

Filing for stay on order; strong appeal to follow soon

WASHINGTON, June 9: Microsoft began its fight to remain intact yesterday, one day after a federal judge sharply rebuked the company for its business conduct and ordered its sliced in two as a remedy for antitrust violations, says AFP.

Stung by the ruling and the harshness of US District Court Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson's commentary, Microsoft officials struck back, filing late Thursday for an immediate stay of the order and pledging to follow up with a vigorous appeal.

"There is no claim of urgency requiring that the final judgment become effective immediately, particularly in light of the irreparable harm the judgment will inflict on Microsoft," lawyers for the company said in the filing.

The lawyers asked that the breakup ruling not take effect until after the company's appeal.

"The idea that they are trying to come in here, regulate this business, break up this company, take our intellectual property and eliminate our incentive for doing the work by giving that away — that's really unprecedented," Microsoft chairman Bill Gates told CBS television.

Jackson on Wednesday ruled that in order to curb Microsoft's capacity to cripple competition, the company should be split into two entities, one to develop the Windows operating platform and another specialising in software applications.

But he also imposed limits, to take effect in 90 days, on Microsoft's dealings with computer manufacturers aimed at giving them greater flexibility in choosing software for their machines from Microsoft.

The lawyers asked that the breakup ruling not take effect

scathing in his comments on Microsoft, describing the company as "untrustworthy" and "disingenuous."

Jackson on April 3 upheld government charges that Microsoft had abused the monopoly position in operating systems it enjoys tanks to the immensely popular Windows platform to harm potential rivals.

The company has 60 days to file an appeal, after which the Justice Department — exercising a special provision of US antitrust law — intends to ask the judge to send the case directly to the high court.

Jackson has told journalists he plans to grant the government's request for a "fast-track" appeal.

But legal analysts cautioned that it was unlikely the Supreme Court, which is

scheduled to begin its summer break at the end of the month, would agree to hear the case.

In a memorandum accompanying his remedy order Wednesday, Jackson was

national Data Corporation.

But according to Robert Young of Red Hat, producer of the Linux operating system, the government's campaign against Microsoft is already bearing fruit.

"Microsoft could not squeeze us out of the market as they would have without the cop on the block," he told The Washington Post.

Software industry analysts said Thursday that in light of a lengthy appeals process — which according to some experts could drag on to 2003 — the effect of the district court ruling will not be felt any time soon.

"Separating those two businesses at this point won't change anything, until at least 15 to 18 months after all litigation is over because it takes a long to bring out new software," said Daniel Kusnetzky of Inter-

national Data Corporation.

"In effect, the government is overruling consumers in their role as final judge and jury in the marketplace."

"Government bureaucrats, lawyers and judges quite frankly do not possess the proper knowledge or incentives to make those decisions."

Weekly Currency Roundup

(June 4 — 8, 2000)

Local Market

During the week, the local foreign exchange and money market was active. Demand for US Dollar was high, but remained comparatively lower than the previous week. Some of the nationalised banks sold dollar funds, which helped resolve the dollar liquidity crisis to a limited extent.

In the interbank market, dollar traded between BDT 51.1775 and BDT 51.26. According to Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealers' Association (BAFEDA), the daily average USD/BDT turnover was estimated at USD 12.32 million at spot and USD 1.02 million at forward. In the kerb market, USD demand was also high and traded between BDT 55.40 and 55.60.

Bangladesh Bank held its weekly treasury bill auction on Sunday. The total bid offered for treasury bills was BDT 913.50 crore. Out of this bid for BDT 901.50 crore was accepted.

Higher interest rate pushed the premium for USD/BDT forward higher, but the rise in USD/BDT forward premium was limited due to drop in USD/BDT spot rate compared to the previous week.

International Market

On June 8, the European Central Bank (ECB) surprised the market by raising its refinancing rate by 50 basis points to 4.25 per cent against 25 basis points expected by the market players. The ECB has narrowed the rate differential between euro and dollar. Euro interest rate hike pushed the single currency higher by 97.01 per cent. Some market analysts termed the sharp interest rate hike by ECB as "too aggressive" and argued in favour of slow interest rate hike which dented euro's sharp rise against USD. On the other hand, the Bank of England at its monthly Monetary Policy Committee meeting held the GBP rates unchanged, against market expectations of 25 basis points rise in interest rates. Bank of England's steady interest rate policy pushed pound sterling lower from USD 1.53 level to 1.51. Expectations are also running high in the market for dollar interest rate hike, though economists argue that dollar interest would remain steady for a while as the US economy is showing signs of stabilising. — Standard Chartered Bank

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 8.6.2000.

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
J/1	Lady Hind	Wheat (P)	Gang	Angelic	5/5 9/6
J/2	Al Shams	C Clink	Pada	NWSL	4/6 13/6
J/3	Salung	Sugar (G)	Kosh	Fortune	22/5 15/6
J/4	Handy Humanity	Wheat (P)	Darb	Total	28/1 10/6
J/5	Larak	Sugar (G)	Bang	SBS	2/6 13/6
J/6	Arktis Crystal	Gl (Copra)	Sing	Litmond	29/5 10/6
J/7	AA Venture	Gl (Log)	Yang	CLA	25/3 9/6
J/8	Jin Hong Hal	Wheat (P)	P Said	OWSL	7/5 16/6
J/9	Yong Jiang	Cont	C	SHAI	1/6 12/6
J/10	Banga Biraj	Cont	P Kel	BDShip	7/6 10/6
J/11	Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	31/5 9/6
J/12	Petrina	Wheat (P)	Alba	MSA	22/5 13/6
J/13	Green Island	Gl (Y Pe)	Sing	Royal	7/5 14/6
CCT/1	Achiever	Cont	Sing	RSL	1/6 11/6
CCT/2	Xpress Resolve	Cont	Sing	RSL	31/6 10/6
CCT/3	QC Teal	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	30/5 8/6
RM/14	Ocean Pride	Cement	Uzan	PSAL	12/5 11/6
RM/15	Ocean Prayer	C Clink	Pada	PSAL	12/5 -
OCJ	Allegro	C Clink	Krabi	RML	4/6 12/6
GSJ	Fortune Australia	Wheat (G)	Aust	SSST	29/5 9/6
TSP	Siam Ivory	R Phos	Sing	ASA	7/6 14/6
RM/3	Rosa-T	CDSO	Loren	Seafit	25/5 8/6
RM/5	Undok-1	Cement	Sing	SBS	22/5 13/6
RM/6	Zeal	Gl (SIC)	Sing	9/6 9/6	
DDJ	Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	-	BSCL	R/A 8/6
DDJ/1	Banglar Moni	Repair	-	BSCL	17/4 15/6
CUFLJ	Banglar Shikha	Repair	Sing	BSCL	17/4 15/6
Kato(U)	Torm Pacific	Cement	Lank	BSL	29/5 11/6
		Urea	Pena	Ou	R/A 7/6

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Shun An	9/6	Yang	RML	Gl	-
Apex	8/6	Hochi	Cindy	Rice	-
Norbulk Oak	8/6	Pada	C Clink	-	Sing
Kota Berjaya (Cont)	29/5	8/6	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont
New Mariner	9/6	S Pore	Everett	Urea	-
Ava	12/6	Yang	MTA	Maize	-
Pu Cheng	10/6	Prog	Gl (Maize)	-	Sing
Banglar Robi	10/6	ESC	Cont	Sing	-
Juthi Parichat (Cont)	24/5	S Pore	RSL	Cont	-
QC Pintail (Cont)	28/5	S Pore	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Orient Independence (Cont)	31/5	10/6	P Kel	BDShip	Cont
Jaami	11/6	Sing	Cross	Cont	Sing
Egasco Fortune	13/6	Const	BSL	Gl	-
Altair SS	12/6	Kohs	Litmond	Sugar	-
Banga Birul	12/6	P Kel	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Kapitan Petko Voiwoda	12/6	C BBA	Gl	-	Sing
Banga Bijoy	13/6	BDShip	Cont	Sing	-
Boxer Capt Cook	14/6	Gl	Cont	Sing	-
Sin Hai	13/6	Indo	HSL	Gl	-
Qing Ann	12/6	Pusa	Sinoben	-	Sing
VLadi	15/6	Gl	Cont	Sing	-
Kota Cahaya	15/6	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing	-
Actuaria	15/6	QCSL	Cont	Sing	-
Da Fa	17/6	RSL	BSCL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Maya	18/6	Gl	Gl	Cont	-
Asian Leader	22/6	JF	Vehi	-	-

Tanker Due

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Gazlion	9/6	Sing	MLB	-	-
Al Sabiyah	9/6	Kuwa	Atlantic	-	HSD

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	BBAL	5/4
Ismaya	-	-	BBAL	17/8
Barge Csk-6	-	-	BBAL	R/A (28/11)
Tug Magarita	-	-	BBAL	R/A (28/11)
Dea Champion	-	-	Arafeen	R/A (2/6)
Dea Conqueror	-	-	Arafeen	R/A (5/6)
Seabulk Command	-	-	IBS	R/A (29/4)
Spiros	C Oil	Jebe	BSL	2/6
Banglar Jyoth	C Oil	-	BSCL	R/A