

## 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 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 a 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 executives 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 ri-

vals. The company has rejected what it sees as unwarranted government interference in how it designs Windows and the software features to be included on the platform.

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

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

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

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 that long to bring out new software," said Daniel Kusnitsky of Inter-

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.

Raymond Keating, chief economist at the Small Business Survival Committee, denounced Jackson's order as "simply ridiculous."

"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."

## Japanese economy rebounds smartly in 1st quarter

TOKYO, June 9: Japan's economy bounced back smartly in the first three months of 2000 with the strongest growth in four years, helping it to break a two-year losing streak with a sliver of growth for the full fiscal year, says Reuters.

The quarterly rise of 2.4 per cent in gross domestic product is good news for beleaguered Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, whose ruling coalition faces a general election on June 25.

But it brought GDP growth to the world's second-biggest economy for the fiscal year to March to just 0.5 per cent, a whisker shy of the government's target of 0.6 per cent.

The figure for the January-March quarter wasn't great but it was "quite good enough," said Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa.

Officials were quick to declare that the data showed Japan recovering from its worst postwar skid, although it was too early to give the economy a clean bill of health.

Japan has been crawling out of its worst postwar tailspin on export and information technology demand and rising profits squeezed out from firms taking painful cost-cutting measures.

A government spokesman said: "We have achieved our goal of putting the economy back on a clear positive growth path. 0.5 per cent is within the range of our target."

## IBM launches DB2 with Dot Dash

IBM, in collaboration with its software business partner, Dot Dash, organised a seminar on "IBM DB2: Universal Database Solutions" at Sheraton Hotel, Thursday, says a press release.

The keynote paper of the seminar was presented by Anthony J W Kwang, Manager, IBM Software Solutions Centre, ASEAN/South Asia.

Kwang explained in detail that DB2 Universal Database System operates on any platform — Palm OS, Windows CE, Win NT, Solaris, HP-UX, IBM AIX, OS/400, OS Windows NT. DB2 is the only database system, which has the highest TPC benchmark in database size of 1 Terabyte and above, unmatched to either of SQL server or Oracle.

Another exceptional feature of DB2 is that it supports full clustering in windows NT environment. Feroz Mahmud of IBM World Trade Corporation gave the welcome address and introduced Engr Ifkhar Kaja, Managing Director of Dot Dash, as their software business partner in Bangladesh. Ifkhar Kaja informed that Dot Dash had already built a team of technical experts on IBM software solutions to support its customers.

Nazirul Islam, Marketing Manager of IBM, assured continued and all-out support of IBM to Dot Dash to serve IBM software solutions customers.

# Will breakup make computing tougher?

TOKYO, June 9: Hitoshi Sato is a Microsoft fan. The company's trademark bundling of operating system and Internet software makes computing quick and hassle-free, he says, reports AP.

Now Sato is wondering if that convenience is in jeopardy after a US court decision splitting Microsoft into two companies, one for operating systems and the other for other software and Internet properties.

"It's easier to use if it's all bundled," the 25-year-old said as he sat in a downtown Tokyo Internet cafe, using an IBM Think Pad — fitted with Windows 95. "I have mixed feelings about the ruling."

The ruling by US District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson on Wednesday gave Microsoft four months to devise a plan to divide itself into two parts, declaring the software giant had violated US antitrust laws.

The ruling was a top story in many parts of Asia. "Microsoft cut off at the waist into two pieces," said a headline on the front page of the Beijing Morning Post, a paper that markets itself to younger, more Internet-savvy Chinese.

An ensuing legal battle will most likely mean the effects of the decision will not be felt immediately. The decision was barely felt on Asian stock markets, and analysts played down the impact on the region's companies.

But the ruling could mean changes for consumers down the road.

The differences could start with the desktops. Microsoft can no longer control what icons are on the screen when a user buys a computer, and companies that build or sell computers could offer computers with desktops that look very different from Windows.

Microsoft software might disappear from some places because of the elimination of Microsoft's exclusive dealing with companies. Apple, for example, will no longer be required to use Microsoft's Internet Explorer as the default Web browser for the Macintosh operating system.

In Japan, where large monopolistic companies are the norm, consumers are accustomed to paying a little more for the convenience of getting everything they need for a particular product from one source.

But the Microsoft decision did not spur much worry in Japan — or the rest of Asia. Microsoft's Windows operating system is as widely used in some Asian countries as it is in the United States.

The ruling came after Jackson concluded Microsoft had violated antitrust laws by using illegal methods to protect its

monopoly in computer operating systems, and tried illegally to expand its dominance into the market for Internet browsers.

Businesses around the region saw the potential for lower prices and a proliferation of services and products if the decision loosens up the market and brings in more competitors.

"It wouldn't be a bad thing if it's going to make prices more competitive and give consumers more choices," said Amen Tsang, a marketing manager at Digitel Group, a Hong Kong Internet company.

"It's no inconvenience, I don't do the installation. I am just the user," Tsang said.

Some users of Microsoft did not expect the ruling to result in much of a change for consumers, since Microsoft applications will still be available and they are unlikely to change dramatically in appearance.



Anthony J W Kwang, Manager-IBM Software Solutions Centre, ASEAN/South Asia, delivers the keynote speech at a seminar to mark IBM's launching of DB2 with Dot Dash, its software business partner, in the city Thursday. — Dot Dash photo

# UN extends Iraqi oil sale for 6 months

UNITED NATIONS, June 9: The UN Security Council extended for six months on Thursday the Iraq oil-for-food programme, the humanitarian lifeline for 2.5 million Iraqis living under the 10-year-old sanctions, reports Reuters.

The 15-member body voted unanimously minutes before midnight, the last possible moment when the previous six-month phase expired for the programme that allows Iraq to sell unlimited quantities of oil, under UN supervision, to buy food, medicine and other humanitarian supplies.

The resolution co-sponsored by Britain and France was delayed because of haggling between China and the United States on a UN review of the humanitarian situation in Iraq.

China wants to refer to the sanctions as responsible for the suffering of the Iraqi people.

But Britain, the United States and others kept the language as neutral as possible.

Baghdad, which recently exported an average of 2.5 million barrels per day of crude, has signalled that it will accept the renewal of the programme, which began in December 1996.

One new measure in the resolution is an expending of equipment for water and sanitation projects.

The council has drawn up a list of badly needed supplies that can be approved by UN officials rather than by the entire council membership. The resolution adds equipment for water and sanitation systems to the list.

The United States has blocked more than 1.5 billion dollars in supplies to Iraq, mainly all types of equipment, while it reviews whether they could be used for military purposes.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Local Govt. Engineering Department  
Office of the Upazila Engineer  
Chhatak, Sunamganj

Memo No. UJ/PROKOW/CHHATAK/220

Dated: 06.06.2000

## Notice Inviting Tender

Tender Notice No: 09/99-2000

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association herein after too as the IDA. Towards the cost of second Rural Roads and Markets Improvement and Maintenance Project (RRMIMP) and intends to apply of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the works listed below.
- The Local Govt. Engineering Department (LGED) of the People's Republic of Bangladesh represented by the Upazila Engineer, LGED, Chhatak Upazila invited sealed tenders from eligible contractors and furnishing the necessary labour, materials, equipments and service for the construction and completion of the work described below.
- Interested tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the documents at the office of Upazila Engineer, LGED, Chhatak, Dowarabazar Upazila or the office of the Executive Engineer, LGED, Dist: Sunamganj.
- A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by any interested tenderer on the submission of a writing application to on the abovementioned office and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk 300/-. The tender documents will be available during office hours up to 25.06.2000.
- All tender must be accompanied by earnest money in the pay of Bank Draft, Pay Order, Call Deposit, Demand Draft of Bank Guarantee in taka in favour of the Upazila Engineer, LGED, Chhatak.
- All tender must be delivered to the office as mentioned above up to 2.00 PM on 26.06.2000.
- Tenders will be opened in the presence of those tenderers representative who choose to attend 2.30 PM on 26.06.2000 at the office mentioned above.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or object any or all tender without assigning any reason.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Contract No.	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion	Eligible contractor
1	Constn. of 3x4x4m box culvert on Gobindaganj-Basantapur road at ch. 12600m under Dularbazar Up.	9978020505	2.50%	90 days	All classes of contractor under LGED & prequalified contractor
2	Constn. of box culvert on Moinpur-Aliganj bazar road at ch. 2400m under Dulabazar Up. (1x3.50x3m)	9978020502	2.5%	90 days	-Do-
3	Constn. of box culvert 1x3.50x3.50m on Moinpur-Aliganj bazar road at ch. 3100m under Dulabazar Up	9978020503	2.5%	90 days	-Do-
4	Constn. of 1x3.50x3.50m box culvert on Moinpur-Aliganj bazar road at ch. 3600m under Dulabazar Up.	9978020504	2.50%	90 days	-Do-
5	Constn. of 2x4x4m box culvert on RHD-Khairgan road at ch. 800m under Kalarukha Up.	9978020809	2.50%	90 Days	-Do-
6	Constn. of 2x4x5.50m box culvert on RHD-Raysantoshpur road at ch. 420m on Kalarukha Up.	9978020808	2.50%	90 Days	-Do-
7	Constn. of 2x4x4m box culvert on Burairganj-Pirpur road at ch. 2800m under Saidergaon Lp.	9978020604	2.50%	90 Days	-Do-
8	Constn. of 3x4x4.50m box culvert on Peerpur-Noagaon road at ch. 3260m under Saidergaon Up.	9978020605	2.50%	90 days	-Do-
9	Constn. of 3x4x4.50m box culvert on Gobindaganj-Basantapur road at ch. 4080m under Saila Afjalabad Up.	9978061307	2.50%	90 days	-Do-

Upazila Engineer  
LGED  
Chhatak, Sunamganj.

GD-558



## Directorate General Defence Purchase

Ministry of Defence

New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

## Tender/Re-Tender Notice

1. Sealed tenders in local currency are invited from bonafide Manufacturers/Dealers/Suppliers /Indentors (enlisted firms in DGDP) for supply following items for Bangladesh Navy.

Sl No	Name of items & quantity	Selling date	Opening date	Currency	Tender No	Tender value
		From To				
1.	Foam type fire extinguisher Qty=150 Nos.	8-6-2000 19-6-2000	20-6-2000	L/C	6113	Tk. 25.00
2.	Various size of MS Angle & Chequered Plate Qty=05 L/1	" " "	" " "	"	6124	Tk. 100.00
3.	Electric Horn & Air Horn Qty=16 Sets	" " "	" " "	"	6314	Tk. 200.00
4.	Shoes Moccasin Officer Qty=1000 Pcs	" " "	" " "	"	6457	Tk. 150.00

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (not refundable) during office hours between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hrs on the specified date of opening in the presence of tenderers (if any).

ISPR/Misc/2000/497  
DFF-14107-5/6  
G-1108

Commander BN  
For Director General

## 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 kurb 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. 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 rate 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 economist 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	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Date of Leaving
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	Sai Kung	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	GI (Copro)	Sing	Litmond	29/5	10/6
J/7	AA Venture	GI (Log)	Yang	CLA	25/3	9/6
J/8	Jin Hong Hai	Wheat (P)	P Said	OWSL	7/5	16/6
J/9	Yong Jiang	GI	S Hai	BDShip	1/6	12/6
J/10	Banga Biraj	Cont	P Kel	BDShip	7/6	10/6
J/11	Kota Sanga	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	31/5	9/6
J/12	Petrina	Wheat (P)	Alba	MSA	22/5	13/6
J/13	Green Island	GI (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	-
CCJ	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	Sealift	25/5	8/6
RM/5	Undok-1	Cement	Sing	SBS	22/5	13/6
RM/6	Zeal	GI (St C)	Sing	SBS	3/6	9/6
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	-	BSC	R/A	8/6
DD	Banglar Moni	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	8/6
DDJ/1	Banglar Shikha	Repair	Sing	BSC	17/4	15/6
CULFJ	Mary Nour	Cement	Lank	BSL	29/5	11/6
Kato(U)	Torn Pacific	Urea	Pena	OIL	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	GI	
Apex	8/6	Hochi	Cindy	Rice	
Norbuk Oak	8/6	Pada	NWSL	C Clink	
Kota Berjaya (Cont) 28/5	8/6	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
New Mariner	9/6	S Pore	Everett	Urea	
Ava	12/6	Yang	MTA	Maize	
Pu Cheng	10/6	-	Prog	GI (Maize)	
Banglar Robi	10/6	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Julia Parichart (Cont) 24/5	10/6	S Pore	RSL	Cont	
QC Pintail (Cont) 28/5	10/6	S Pore	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Orient Independence (Cont) 31/5	10/6	P Kel	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Jaani	11/6	Sing	Cross	Cont	Sing
Edgaso Fortune	13/6	Const	BSL	GI	
Altair SS	12/6	Kohs	Litmont	Sugar	
Banga Biraj	12/6	P Kel	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Kapitan Petko Volvoda	12/6	Col	BBA	GI	
Banga Bloy	13/6	-	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Boxer Capt Cook	14/6	-	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Sin Hai	13/6	-	RSL	Cont	Sing
Qing Ann	12/6	Indo	HSL	GI	
Vladi	15/6	Pusa	Sinoben		
Kota Cahaya	15/6	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Actuaria	15/6	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Da Fa	17/6	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Maya	18/6	-	BSC	GI	
Asian Leader	22/6	-	JF	Vehi	