

## Oil prices must be dictated by market mechanisms: US, Russia

AFP, Moscow

Russian Energy Minister Igor Yusufov and his US counterpart Spencer Abraham agreed on Wednesday that global oil prices "must be just" and strictly dictated by market mechanisms.

Yusufov and Abraham met behind closed doors to discuss the turbulence in global energy prices and the potential for future US investment in the Russian oil and gas sector.

The Russian energy ministry disclosed few details of the talks, noting in part that the Yusufov and Abraham had agreed to set up a new working group to help correlate the two nations' energy policies.

"Yusufov told his counterpart that the price of crude oil must be just, that is taking in mind the interests of both the producers and consumers," the energy ministry said in a statement.

"Abraham supported this position, for his part noting that the price of oil should be dictated by market mechanisms," the statement concluded.

Russia, which is not a member of OPEC, has resisted pressure from the oil cartel to slash its production in a bid to support the weakened energy prices on international markets.

The United States meanwhile has hinted that it supports the stance of Russia, which is the world's number two oil exporter, because low oil prices could help revitalize the slowing global economic growth.

Russia has agreed to cut its production by only 50,000 barrel per day through the end of the year, about one-fifth of the reduction sought by OPEC and just seven per cent of its total exports.

However senior officials hinted this week that a further Russian cutback could be expected early next year, although no formal decision on the subject has yet been reached.

Abraham's visit to Moscow coincided with the formal opening of a major new Eurasian pipeline, amid growing signs that energy interests of the two

global rivals were aligning at last.

Oil analysts said the launch of the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) signaled that Russia and the United States no longer view each other as serious rivals in a "great game" power struggle over control of oil prices in the isolated but energy-rich Central Asian region.

The CPC, which stretches 1,510 kilometers (905 miles) from Kazakhstan's giant Tengiz oil field to the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiisk, will deliver nearly 70 million tonnes of crude to world markets when fully operational.

Officials stressed that the CPC's formal launch did not mean that either Russia's or Kazakhstan's oil exports were on the rise, although analysts said the new pipeline meant that Russia was now free to increase exports through existing links that had been previously filled with Tengiz oil.

On Thursday, Abraham is also due to meet Russian Atomic Energy Minister Alexander Rumyanstev for talks focusing on the security of nuclear material being stored in both countries, reports said.

The talks would be conducted "in light of the anti-terrorist operation in Afghanistan," ITAR-TASS quoted an atomic energy spokesman as saying. They would also discuss the export of "sensitive" technologies abroad.

Washington has repeatedly advised Moscow to end its atomic energy cooperation with Iran, where Russia is now construction a nuclear power reactor, the main component of which was shipped to Bushehr earlier this month.

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier this month vehemently denied charges that Moscow might violate its obligations on nuclear non-proliferation.

Most of the material to be used in the first tranche of the nuclear project at Bushehr, in western Iran, will be delivered at the start of 2002, the Russian atomic energy ministry announced last month.

## OPEC has no intention of boosting output

AFP, Vienna

OPEC has no intention of boosting its oil production in an attempt to bring non-OPEC producers into line with its price stabilisation measures, cartel chief Ali Rodriguez said here Tuesday.

He refuted reports that OPEC President Chakib Khelil had said OPEC would take such an action to pressure non-OPEC producers into cutting their output, the OPEC News Agency OPECNA reported.

Khelil, who is the current head of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and Algerian Energy Minister, was quoted as saying that the action was needed to pressure rival exporters if they failed to agree joint action to reduce the oversupply in world markets, according to OPECNA.

"OPEC is an organisation that has always sought cooperation, not confrontation, which such an irresponsible action would bring," said Rodriguez, who is general secretary of the 15-member cartel.

At its recent conference in

Vienna, OPEC agreed to reduce its output by 1.5 million barrels a day from January 1, as long as non-OPEC producers also cut production by 500,000 barrels a day.

Norway has said it is ready to slash output by 100,000 to 200,000 barrels a day if other producers agree to output curbs, while Mexico has committed itself to a reduction of 100,000 barrels a day.

Russia, the world's second largest oil exporter, said Friday it would cut production by 50,000 barrels a day in the fourth quarter, a 20,000 barrel increase from its last proposed cut of 30,000.

But Russia's pledge has been dismissed by OPEC and traders alike as merely symbolic.

Rodriguez said OPEC would continue to seek the cooperation of producers outside the organisation, but would not take any decisions that could further depress oil prices.

"Today, more than at any other time, we need to approach the uncertainty that surrounds the global economy with a concerted effort, and collectively," he said.

## CURRENCY

Following is the yesterday's foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling	Currency		Buying		
	TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
57.6500	57.6800	USD	56.5000	56.3314	56.2629
51.3777	51.4044	EUR	49.3923	49.2449	49.1851
82.0360	82.0786	GBP	79.4673	79.2301	79.1338
30.5891	30.6050	AUD	29.0467	28.9600	28.9248
0.4681	0.4684	JPY	0.4531	0.4517	0.4512
34.9330	34.9512	CHF	33.9237	33.8225	33.7814
5.4795	5.4824	SEK	5.2909	5.2751	5.2687
36.3860	36.4049	CAD	35.2816	35.1763	35.1336
7.3993	7.4031	HKD	7.2377	7.2161	7.2074
31.5769	31.6934	SGD	30.6848	30.6032	30.5661
15.8253	15.8335	AED	15.2595	15.2140	15.1955
15.4936	15.5016	SAR	14.9471	14.9025	14.8844

### Usance bills

	TT Doc	30 days	60 days	90 days	120 days	180 days
USD	56.3835	56.0356	55.5712	55.0372	54.4567	53.1564
EUR	49.2905	48.9863	48.5804	48.1135	47.6061	46.4694
GBP	79.3034	78.8141	78.1609	77.4098	76.5934	74.7645

The local foreign exchange market was active Wednesday. Demand for dollar was high. Demand for overnight borrowing at call was on the rise and the call rate ranged between 6.5 and 7 per cent.

In the international market, dollar lost some of its earlier gains against the majors as a barrage of news left the international currency market numb. Soft US economic data along with revived speculation of a rate cut by the Federal Reserve affected the dollar. The new subdued threat of downgrading credit rating of Japan and a large buy order for Swiss Franc all played its part in the dollar's decline.

At 1430 hours local time, euro traded at 0.8845/50 against dollar, pound sterling at 1.4181/86 and USD traded at 123.33/38 against yen.

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## SHIPPING

### Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 28.11. 2001.

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	IMPORT Disch
J/1	Busan	Visit	Sing	MAS	27/11	30/11	
	Uch Imconduk	Visit	Sing	MAS	27/11	30/11	
J/2	Hwachon	Visit	Sing	MAS	27/11	30/11	
J/3	Ice Flake	Onion (P)	Turk	MSA	17/11	30/11	272
J/4	Eideweiss	GI(Y/Pa/C)PE	Sing	Diamond	13/11	27/11	1584
J/5	Corall Liner	GI	Oaaka	Prog	23/11	30/11	2240
J/6	Hanjin Penac	GI(SL/C)	Tib	RSK	6/11	30/11	10501
J/7	Dandelion	Wheat(P)	Sing	Litmond	18/11	8/12	2184
J/8	Inami	GI(SL/C)	Sing	Everett	22/11	28/11	2595
J/9	Hyok Sin	Fert(P)	Sing	Unique	22/11	29/11	2383
J/10	Banga Bijoy (Flag)	Cont	Col	Baridhi	24/11	30/11	
J/12	Kuo Hsiung	Cont	-	QCSL	R/A	29/11	
J/13	Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	PHIBD)	23/11	28/11	874
CCT/1	Jaami (Flag)	Cont	Col	Everbest	24/11	30/11	156/18
CCT/2	B.Shikha (Flag)	Cont	Sing	BSC	22/11	28/11	240/363/60
CCT/3	Qc Teal	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	24/11	30/11	293x
RM/15	A.A Venture	Repair	Yang	CLA	3/11	2/12	
CCJ	Togo Charm	C.Clink	T.Pak	Seacom	3/11	2/12	
GSJ	Ocean Pride	Wheat(G)	OWSL	23/11	28/11	1173	
RM/3	Zhong Hua-6	P.Oil	Sing	MTCL	26/11	29/11	3200
RM/4	Merion Star	CDSO	Darb	Seacom	9/11	30/11	30/17
RM/6	Saucon	Hsd/MS	Sing	MSTPL	27/11	30/11	29/11
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	K.Dia	BSC	R/A	28/11	
DD	Banga Birol	Repair	-	Bdship	R/A	30/11	
RM/8	Tirta Niaga-1	CPCL	Duma	Seacom	25/11	30/11	
RM/9	Banglar Gourab	Repair	Viza	BSC	2/11	30/11	

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Eastern Hero (48)	19/11	28/11	Cal	H&S	P.Mat
B. Moni (Cont)	22/11	29/11	Sing	Bsc	Cont
Balikesir	30/11	-	Atlantic	-	Rp.phos
Star Glory	28/11	Sing	Rkship	For Demolition	-
T T Britoil-9	28/11	Sing	Rkship	In Ballast	-
Athenian Theodore	28/11	Dubai	OTBL	For Demolition	-
Celine	28/11	Sing	OTBL	For Scraping	-
Greenville-126	28/11	Sing	OTBL	Towing	D/M Celine
Tug Kandari-10	30/11	Suez Cpa	-	-	-
Supreme	29/11	Yang	SBS	GI(R Log)	-
Fu Yu Shan	29/11	Niko	Litmond	Mop(P)	-
Mergui	30/11	Yang	Bnship	GI	-
Da Cheng(Liner)	5/12	S.Hai	Bdship	GI	-
Qc Lark (cont)	12/11	29/11	T.Para	QCSL	Cont
Alam Sentosa	30/11	Kosh	ASLL	C.Clink	-
Radiant Star	30/11	-	RCL	C.Clink (S. Cir/S.oe)	-
Jaya Mars (Cont)	22/11	30/11	Col	Everbest	Cont
B Lanka(Cont)	4/11	30/11	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont
Hai Ziong (cont)	20/13	30/11	Sing	Pil (bd)	Cont
Diana	1/12	Krari	OLM	C.Clink+8400	GYP
Alam Teladan	1/12	Dani	Sunshine	GI(Maize)	-
Xpress Padma(Cont)	6/11	1/12	Sing	RSL	Cont
Triumph Kaoshiung (24)	27/11	01/12	Sing	RML	P.Mat
Kota Naga (Cont)	22/11	2/12	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont
Uni Wealth (Cont)	22/11	2/12	Sing	RSL	Cont
B.Robi (Cont)	24/11	3/12	Sing	BSC	Cont
Artemis (Cont)	24/11	3/12	Sing	RSmlSL	Cont
QC Pintail (Cont)	17/11	4/12	Sing	QCSL	Cont
QC Dignity (Cont)	22/11	4/12	-	QCSL	Cont
Banglar Mookh	4/12	Pipa	Bsc	GI (S. Ash)	-
B. Bonik(Cont)	25/11	4/12	Col	Baridhi	Cont
Gihock (cont)	26/11	4/12	Sing	RSL	Cont
B.Biraj (cont)	26/11	5/12	Sing	Bdship	Cont
Bright Hope (Liner)	5/12	-	Prog	GI	-
QC Honour(Cont)	25/11	6/12	-	QCSL	Cont
B. Barta (Cont)	27/11	6/12	Col	Baridhi	Cont
Kota Berjaya (Cont)	27/11	7/12	Sing	Pil (Bd)	Cont

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
<b>Vessels at outer anchorage</b>				
<b>Vessels ready</b>				
Jurong Balsam(Cont)	Cont	Sing	Nol	25/11
Boxer Capt Cook(Cont)	Cont	P.Kel	PSSL	25/11
Xpress Resolve(Cont)	Cont	P.Kel	RSL	25/11
Agios Nikolas	Wheat(G)	K.Dia	OWSL	R/A(26/11)
Gaz Hudson	Ammonia	Hald	MBL	28/11
<b>Vessels not ready</b>				
Iron-B	WT(P)/Copra	Sing	MSA	19/11
Horizon-A	Jet/Sko	Sing	ECSL	27/11
<b>Vessels awaiting instruction</b>				
Sonali	Ballast	Yang	Angelic	31/10
Banglar Shourabh	-	-	BSC	R/A(22/11)
<b>Vessels not entering</b>				
Weddel Sea	C.Clink	T.Prk	RGL	20/11
Pearl of Bahrain	C.Clink	Koshi	SBS	21/11
Dirya Shubh	C.Clink	Sing	PSAL	23/11
Matrix	Gtsp(P)	Tuni	SSST	21/11
Alina	Scraping	Fuza	Rkship	22/11
Bella	Scraping	-	Seacom	R/A(26/11)
Kapitan Ivanchuk	Scraping	Mong	Ahz	17/11
Riza	Scraping	Fuji	Rsship	26/11
Pira	Idle	Tamp	Litmond	3/11
Haci Resit Kalkavan	Idle	Saudi	SSST	14/9
Accord	Cement	Sing	Viking	5/4

### Movement of vessels for: 29.11.2001

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/5 Corall	BC Cook	J/122 RM-8 Tirta Niaga RM-3
J/12 Kuo Hsiung	Eastern Hero	J/4
RM-3 Zhone Kua	Iron-B	J/5
RM-6 Saucon	Suprine	J/8
K(A) Gaz Hudson	O. Marine	RM/6

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.



C M Koyes Sami, President and Managing Director of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd, receives the second prize of ICAB National Awards-2000 for best published accounts and reports in the financial sector from Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman at a function held at Sonargaon Hotel on Monday.

## Vietnam MPs endorse trade deal with US

AFP, Hanoi

Vietnam's communist-dominated parliament overwhelmingly endorsed a landmark trade deal with the United States Wednesday, finally clearing the way for normal trade relations between the former foes after nearly four decades of US sanctions.

MPs voted to support the deal by 278 votes to 85 with 17 abstentions, paving the way for President Tran Duc Luong to ratify an agreement which was originally signed more than 16 months ago under former US president Bill Clinton.

Luong is expected to sign the deal into law within 15 days.

## Indonesia considering hedging oil selling price

AFP, Jakarta

Indonesia's state energy company Pertamina is considering two offers to hedge its crude oil selling prices to safeguard oil revenue in the 2002 state budget, a report said Wednesday.

Pertamina president Baihaki Hakim said the offers had come from Bank of America and Credit Suisse, the Jakarta Post reported. "We have to proceed carefully with the plan since Indonesia has never entered the hedging market," Hakim said.

The two financial institutions, which he called respected hedging agencies, had offered to hedge Pertamina's crude selling price at

22 dollars per barrel but the premium has yet to be discussed, Hakim said.

"The fee could range between 10 cents and one dollar a barrel," he said.

World crude oil prices have slumped to below 20 dollars per barrel amid low demand and a sagging world economy. Analysts have predicted prices will remain low until the first half of 2002.

A barrel of benchmark Brent North Sea crude for January delivery cost 19.08 dollars in late trade Tuesday in New York.

The government assumed prices would average 22 dollars per barrel when drawing up its budget for next year.