

# Oil inches towards \$57

REUTERS, Melbourne

Oil prices edged towards \$57 a barrel on Monday as the IMF forecast high energy costs to stay for the next two years on worries that robust demand would strain global supplies despite moves by Opec producers to raise output.

US light crude for April delivery traded up 5 cents to \$56.77 a barrel, less than \$1 under the all-time peak at \$57.60 struck last Thursday.

The April contract is due to expire at the close of business on Monday and May crude futures on the New York Mercantile Exchange rose 4 cents to \$57.28 a barrel.

International Monetary Fund chief Rodrigo Rato warned on Saturday that the world would have to live with lofty oil prices for at least the next two years because of strong demand and constraints in supply.

He said world economic growth was expected to be more than 4 percent this year but could come in lower if oil stayed at current levels or climbed higher.

"We have to be aware that probably oil prices will stay high, although probably not at this level, in the next two years at least because of demand pressures -- there is certainly very strong

demand in the world for oil -- and also because of certain supply constraints," Rato told reporters in New Delhi.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed on Wednesday to raise production by 500,000 barrels per day (bpd) with immediate effect.

The producers' cartel may begin talks as early as this week to consider a second 500,000-bpd increase if prices fail to fall below \$55.

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little leeway in the supply chain for any output glitch.

"The problem for Opec members and their ability to control prices is that they are now at a stage where the market is aware of how much spare capacity they have, and it is not a lot," said Mark Pervan, a Melbourne-based analyst at Daiwa Securities.

"So pledging more production just means less available supply from them."

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## AIRBUS-BOEING TALKS

### EU tells US to clarify its stance

AFP, Brussels

The European Union called on Monday for the United States to clarify its position after talks to resolve a dispute over subsidies for European aircraft maker Airbus and US rival Boeing on Friday evening.

A US official said the transatlantic row flared after EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson had abruptly ended a telephone call with outgoing US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick on Friday evening. But Mandelson's spokeswoman Claude Veron-Reville contested that version of events.

"It is not our view that we put an end to this conversation," she told a press conference on Monday.

"The ball is in the Americans' court and we are waiting for them to clarify their position."

The EU and Washington agreed in January to negotiate a phasing-out of subsidies to develop commercial aircraft, thus avoiding taking the issue to the World Trade Organization.

Both sides set a 90-day deadline to hammer out a deal, but with three weeks left there is little sign of agreement.

"The Europeans are clearly unwilling to eliminate the subsidies," Zoellick's spokesman Richard Mills told AFP at the weekend, declining to rule out a return to litigation at the WTO if necessary.



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

SM Mahfuzul Haque, executive director of HRC, and Tanvir Ibrahim, head of sales of GrameenPhone Ltd, sign an agreement on behalf of their companies in Dhaka yesterday. Under the deal, HRC has become a corporate client of GrameenPhone.



PHOTO: JANATA BANK

A meeting of Janata Bank officials was on Saturday in Dhaka to discuss recovery performances of classified loans. Managing Director of the bank SM Aminur Rahman presided over the meeting, which was also attended by Deputy Managing Director Md Ashraf Ali and general managers.



PHOTO: HOLCIM  
A retailers' meet of cement company Holcim was held at Mirpur in Dhaka recently. PN Iyer, vice president (Customer Care) of Holcim (Bangladesh), and a number of dealers, retailers and consumers were present in the meeting.

## CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (March 21, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell		Buy		
TT/ID	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc
63.9000	63.9500	USD	62.7550	62.7132
85.4726	85.5395	EUR	82.4287	82.3737
123.0267	123.1229	GBP	119.2847	119.2052
51.3756	51.4158	AUD	48.9175	48.8849
0.6170	0.6175	JPY	0.5930	0.5926
55.3870	55.4304	CHF	53.1732	53.1377
9.7098	9.7174	SEK	8.6205	8.6148
53.5131	53.5550	CAD	51.5399	51.5056
8.2016	8.2080	HKD	8.0387	8.0334
39.5739	39.6049	SGD	38.3424	38.3168
17.8400	17.5537	AED	16.9484	16.9371
17.1751	17.1885	SAR	16.8010	16.5899
11.8939	11.9032	DKK	10.6977	10.6906
214.2335	214.4051	KWD	213.8596	213.7217
213.6528				

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
43.57	59.38	99.37	38.575	6.1364	0.7908	3.80

## Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Monday. Dollar ended almost unchanged against Bangladeshi taka.

## Local Money Market

Money market was active on Monday. Call money rates were almost unchanged from Sunday.

## International Market

The dollar hit a two-week high against the euro on Monday, gaining ground on talk that the US Federal Reserve may signal a quicker pace of interest

rate rises at its meeting later this week. Markets already expect the Fed to raise the fed funds rate a quarter of a point to 2.75 percent on Tuesday, but the wording of the statement that will be released following the policy meeting will be the key. Some analysts expect the Fed to signal it would be more aggressive with monetary policy in coming months by no longer describing the likely pace of future rate increases as "measured". Euro lost 0.8 percent against the US dollar. The greenback also rose 0.4 percent against the yen.

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## STOCK

## SHIPPING

## Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 21/3/2005

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/5	Pha She Gyawya	Gl	Yang	MTA	19/3	23/3	--
J/8	Marisa Green	Cont	P Kel	Everbest	19/3	23/3	389
J/9	Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Everbest	19/3	23/3	338
J/10	Blue Link	Cont	Sing	Nol	20/3	--	--
J/11	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	19/3	23/3	376
J/12	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	19/3	22/3	265
J/13	Oei Freedom	Cont	P Kel	PSSL	19/3	23/3	287
CCT/1	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	19/3	22/3	18
CCT/3	Bangler Shikha	Cont	P Kel	BSC	18/3	21/3	03
NCT	Tug Tropical Regal	Icp Piles	Lumut	Oil	20/3	--	--
CCJ	Banga Bonik	Repair	Col	Bardhi	28/2	--	--
GSJ	Saloso	Wheat(G)	Col	ASCL	14/3	26/8	--

## Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Banga Bijoy	21/3	Col	Bardhi	Cont	Col
Xpress Manasu	21/3	P Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Yasmine	21/3	Pipa	PML	GI (Ash)	--
Bangler Gourab	23/3	Santo	USL	Sugar (P)	--
Holy Light	22/3	Sentos	Rainbow	Sugar	--
Nan Haik Gyi	22/3	Yang	MTA	GI (Y Ma)	--
Banga Biraj	22/3	--	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Elizaveta	22/3	Chin	Litmond	Urea	Col
Taraman Bibi	22/3	Mumb	Nishat	GI (Ash)	--
Eser Kaptangul	22/3	Indo	Litmond	Clink	Shah
Chin Shwe Haw	23/3	Yang	MTA	GI (Y Ma)	--
Oel Excellence	23/3	Hald	PSSL	Cont	Col

## Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Adventure	22/3	--	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/SKO
Ebuna	23/3	Durb	MTC	CDSU(RM/4/03)	
Salamat-1	24/3	--	OLM	Bitumen(RM/3)	
Acoaxel Lady	24/3	--	CTPL	Fuel Oil(RM/3)	
Gudermes	22/3	--	Rainbow	CDSO(RM/4/03)	

## Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Rig Ocean Sovereign	--	Sing	Beeline	18/11
Guldrill-9	Pr Equip	Sing	Ibsa	27/11
Dea Captain	--	--	Ibsa	R/A(19/2)
Wira Keris	Dr Equip	Sing	Ibsa	R/A(22/2)
Soleau Tide	Dr Equip	--	Ibsa	