

Oil prices may hit \$85

IEA urges Opec to 'respond to market signals'

AFP, Singapore

Oil prices could hit 85 dollars a barrel after establishing new record levels above 82 dollars following the Federal Reserve's move to boost the struggling US economy, analysts said Wednesday.

The market has been concerned that an economic slowdown in the United States, the world's biggest energy consumer, would dampen oil demand and lead to lower prices.

New York's main futures contract, light sweet crude for October delivery, was trading at 82.09 dollars a barrel, up 58 cents from its close of 81.51 dollars a barrel in late US trades Tuesday.

The price for the contract had earlier hit an all-time high of 82.38 dollars. Brent North Sea crude for November delivery was 63 cents higher at 78.22 dollars.

"We are in a new territory for oil pricing," said Victor Shum, a Singapore-based analyst with energy consul-

tancy Purvin and Gertz.

Meanwhile, the new head of the International Energy Agency urged Opec oil exporters on Tuesday to increase their production if oil prices remained at their current record levels above 80 dollars per barrel, according to another report from Paris.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) decided last week to increase its output by 500,000 barrels from November 1 to help ease prices and send a signal that the cartel cared about consumer countries.

"We appreciate Opec's decision because they responded to the signals of the market and we want to see Opec continuing this kind of judgement in the future," said new IEA boss Nobuo Tanaka in an interview with AFP.

"If the market continues to send market signals, we hope Opec will listen to the message."

Despite the action by Opec last week, the price of New York crude surged to a new record high of 81.80 dollars a barrel on Tuesday as traders fretted over tight energy supplies in the

United States ahead of the northern hemisphere winter.

"Opec is very much worried about demand situation which could be influenced by the subprime issue," he said.

"Crude oil prices... rose in the wake of the Fed's decision to cut rates by 50 basis points," Australia's Commonwealth Bank said in a market commentary.

"The rate cut is seen as reducing the risk of a severe slowing of the US economy which may also have impacted on oil demand."

Tony Nunan, manager for energy risk management at Mitsubishi Corp in Tokyo, said the 85 dollar mark was now within striking distance.

"Prices have broken through a lot of strong technical resistance already. I assume 85 dollars is a round number that the market is targeting," he said.

"It's a pretty big boost to the equity markets and it's calming the fears about a slowing economy. It's also providing more fuel to the fire in the oil markets," Nunan said.

The US rates reduction is

expected to cushion the impact on the general economy of a credit crunch sparked by the subprime crisis. The fear is that an economic slump in the United States, the world's biggest economy and a key global growth engine, will dent oil demand.

Nunan said concerns over falling US energy inventories ahead of the Northern Hemisphere winter season have also helped boost oil prices, highlighting tight supplies amid high demand.

"The key issue will be how much the inventory will continue to fall," he said.

The IEA is an energy watchdog for industrialised countries and has repeatedly urged Opec in recent months to increase production to help calm tense oil markets.

High oil prices have become an added burden for the world economy as it absorbs the financial market turbulence and the crisis in the US "subprime" -- or high-risk -- home loan market.



PHOTO: APOLLO HOSPITALS DHAKA

Apollo Hospitals Dhaka and American Alumni Association have recently entered into a corporate agreement under which members of the association will get medical services at special rates and other corporate benefits from the hospital. MK Aref, president of the association, and Shahjahan Majumder, director (Finance) of the hospital, signed the deal.



PHOTO: HOLCIM

The first dealers' conference of Holcim (Bangladesh) Ltd, a leading cement manufacturing company, was held recently in Assam, India. Senior officials of the company, among others, were present at the meeting.

CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (September 19, 2007) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buy		
				TT/CLEAN	OD SIGHT/DOC	OD TRANSFER
69.3200	69.3500	USD	68.3500	68.3272	68.2817	
98.2819	98.3244	EUR	94.0223	93.9909	93.9282	
140.9969	141.0579	GBP	135.9823	135.9370	135.8463	
60.4470	60.4732	AUD	56.8330	56.8141	56.7762	
0.6119	0.6122	JPY	0.5863	0.5861	0.5858	
59.6660	59.6919	CHF	56.4643	56.4454	56.4078	
11.1315	11.1363	SEK	9.8752	9.8719	9.8653	
69.9919	70.0222	CAD	66.8852	66.8629	66.8183	
8.9211	8.9250	HKD	8.7563	8.7534	8.7476	
47.0349	47.0552	SGD	45.1841	45.1690	45.1389	
19.0283	19.0365	AED	18.4595	18.4533	18.4410	
18.6314	18.6395	SAR	18.0806	18.0745	18.0625	
13.6398	13.6457	DKK	12.2498	12.2457	12.2375	
243.2097	243.3171	KWD	241.0112	240.9332	240.7772	
Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar						
Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor. kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringit
40.27	60.63	113.6	34.255	5.5648	0.7281	3.45



Toshiba to sell Tokyo property

AFP, Tokyo

International Leasing and Financial Services Ltd (ILFSL) and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Ltd entered into an agreement recently. Under the deal, share trading of ILFSL started on the DSE on Sunday. Nehal Ahmed, company secretary to ILFSL, and Shaikh Mohammadullah, DSE secretary, signed the deal, while Abdur Rashid Lali, senior vice president of DSE, and Mahibub Jamil, chairman of ILFSL, were also present.

Japan's Toshiba Corp. said Wednesday that it plans to sell one of its buildings in Tokyo's glitzy Ginza district for 161 billion yen (1.4 billion dollars) and use the proceeds to bolster its core businesses.

The nine-floor Ginza Toshiba Building, which sits atop some of the world's most expensive real estate sites, will be acquired by Tokyu Land Corp. by October this year, the electronics and energy giant said in a statement.

The deal is expected to boost Toshiba's pretax profit by about 130 billion yen in the second half of the current financial year to next March, it said.

STOCK



SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 19/9/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Blue Sky	Gi(hr.c)	Thai	Bawill	14/9	20/9	6085
J/3	Orientor-2	Wheat(p)	Sing	Mutual	9/9	28/9	2284
J/4	Id Commander(72)	Gi(st.c)	Sing	H&sl	17/9	20/9	827
J/6	Eid-a-mostafa	Rice(g)	Kaki	Cla	9/9	21/9	2430
J/7	Yong Jiang	Gi	Inch	Cosco	10/9	20/9	4087
J/8	Butet	Urea(bio)	Sing	Mhsn	R/a	21/9	1984
J/9	Xpress Mansasi	Cont	Col	Seacon	14/9	19/9	61
J/10	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Bandhi	17/9	21/9	250

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/a(17/9)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Titan-7	Gi(log)	Yang	Pml	15/9
Eagle Pioneer	Cont	P Kel	Ct	17/9
Sc Tianjin	Cpo	Dumai	Wth	18/9
Kota Raja	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	18/9
Banga Borti	Cont	P Kel	Baridhi	17/9
Cape Henry	Cont	Cgl	Apl	19/9

Vessels not ready

Sunny Falcon	Urea(bcic)	Sing	Litmond	7/9
Cleod Salemo	Cdso	P Luis	Usl	8/9
Steam Panther	Cdso	Braz	Rainbow	17/9
Ocean Asia	--	--	Qsl	R/a(17/9)
Tina	Urea(bcic)	Sing	Mhsn	19/9
Al Kuwaiti	Hsd/jp-1	Kuwa	Mstpl	19/9

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Borak	--	--	Fsa	R/a(4/8)
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	Bsc	R/a(13/9)

Vessels not entering

Ataduru	Wheat(p)	Novo	Angelic	23/8
Kryncakhar	Wheat(p)	Tuap	Unique	29/8
Asraar-e-mostafa	C. Clink	Kohsi	Pol	9/9
Santa Barbara	C. Clink	Krabi	Unish	