

# Commodity prices spike to record peaks

AFP, London

OPEC's decision to leave output unchanged, they added.

New York's light sweet crude hit a record 106.54 dollars and London's Brent North Sea oil struck an historic 103.98 dollars on Friday.

The dollar slid to its lowest level against the euro after news that US employers slashed payrolls by 63,000 jobs in February, in a sign of more struggles for the world's biggest economy and number one energy consumer.

"The debate is over. The 63,000 decline in non-farm payrolls in February is near conclusive proof that the economy is now in recession," said Capital Economics analyst Paul Ashworth.

The weak US currency encourages demand for dollar-priced commodities like oil because it makes them cheaper for buyers using other currencies.

**GOLD AND SILVER:** The price of gold forged a record high 992.50 dollars per ounce on Thursday, partly because of

falling output from key producer South Africa.

"Gold continues to shine as output losses add to its positive outlook," said analysts at Barclays Capital.

"Alongside, external price drivers such as continued dollar weakness, inflationary and recessionary fears, Fed rate easing and geopolitical tensions, supply losses are likely to support the upward trend in prices and we expect our long-standing target of 1,000 dollars to be realised very soon."

Silver struck a fresh 27-year high in reaching 21.22 dollars per ounce.

The price of maize for May delivery gained to 5.52 dollars per bushel from 5.56 dollars a week earlier.

Sugar breached 400 pounds per tonne in London before tailing off.

By Friday on LIFFE, the price per tonne of white sugar for May delivery fell to 349 pounds from 386 pounds a week earlier.

**GRAINS AND SOYA:** Soya and maize prices hit all-time records on the back of rocketing crude oil prices, before profit-taking set in.

On NYBOT, the price of unrefined sugar for May delivery weakened to 13.25 US cents per pound from 14.35 cents.

Maize and soya won ground

because they are used to produce ethanol, a clean plant-based fuel, which is cheaper than oil.

"The oil market and a weak dollar pushed the prices higher this week," said AG Edwards analyst Bill Nelson.

By Friday on the Chicago Board of Trade, wheat for May delivery had risen to 10.95 dollars per bushel from 10.86 dollars the previous week.

May-dated soyabean meal -- used in animal feed -- fell to 14.09 dollars from 15.36 dollars.

The price of maize for May delivery gained to 5.52 dollars per bushel from 5.56 dollars a week earlier.

**SUGAR:** Sugar prices breached 400 pounds per tonne in London before tailing off.

By Friday on LIFFE, the price per tonne of white sugar for May delivery fell to 349 pounds from 386 pounds a week earlier.

**GRANITE AND SOYA:** Soya and maize prices hit all-time records on the back of rocketing crude oil prices, before profit-taking set in.

On NYBOT, the price of unrefined sugar for May delivery weakened to 13.25 US cents per pound from 14.35 cents.

Maize and soya won ground



Rangs Electronics Ltd launched its yearly campaign styled 'Free Service Clinic 2008' on Thursday. Under the campaign that began yesterday and will run until March 31 in different regions of the country, customers will get servicing and repair works for their Sony products free of cost after expiry of warranty of the appliances. General Manager (Service) of the company S Iqbal Khan inaugurated the campaign, while senior officials were present.



The Annual Conference 2008 of Metal (Pvt) Ltd, the sole distributor of Indian TAFE brand agriculture tractors in Bangladesh, was held recently in Dhaka. Chairman of the company Aminul Islam, Director Amena Farzana, Managing Director Sadid Jamil and other senior officials were present at the conference.



The annual review meeting of A Positive Advertising Ltd was held recently in India. Chairman of the advertising firm AM Khan, Chief Executive Officer Gautam Ghosh and Managing Director Mazharul H Chowdhury, among others, were present at the meeting.

## Weekly Currency Roundup

March 2-March 6, 2008

### Local FX Market

Local inter-bank FX market was mostly liquid throughout the week but tightened near the end; however the BDT remained almost unchanged against the USD.

### Money Market

Overnight money market remained slightly tight during the week with liquidity conditions deteriorating after Wednesday. Range moved from 8.50-9.50 to 15.00-20.00.

### International Markets:

The dollar plumbed to record lows against the euro and a basket of currencies in the beginning of this week, weighed down by various data raising concerns about US economic health. The dollar recovered slightly on Tuesday after euro zone officials expressed concerns about the sharp rise of the common currency. US policymakers continued painting a bearish picture on Tuesday, with Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke warning that mortgage delinquencies and foreclosures would likely rise as house prices fell. In contrast Euro zone data showing that annual inflation remained at a record high of 3.2 percent last month backed the argument that upwards price pressures could deter the ECB from cutting interest rates in the near term. The dollar resumed its slide to fall to record lows against euro as the demand for the currency fell further after data showed the US service sector contracted for a second straight month in February. The dollar sank to a new record low against the euro beyond \$1.53 on Thursday, with investors looking to the European Central Bank's interest rate decision and upcoming news conference for fresh signals on monetary policy.

Meanwhile, the Australian dollar fell more than 1 percent after the country's central bank lifted interest rates by 25 basis points to a 12-year high of 7.25 percent but acknowledged some signs that growth was cooling.

### Commodities

This week saw a huge price move to the upside for most commodities. Gold traded at a record high of \$995.20 on Wednesday as investors bought the precious metal as a weakening dollar and rising crude oil costs prompted inflation concerns. Silver also rallied to \$20.97 the highest since 1980 jumping 39% this year with a rise in appeal for these precious metals as a hedge against inflation.

Crude oil was on a rise this week reaching \$103.95 a barrel as the dollar slipped on Monday, with investors purchasing commodities to hedge against inflation. Crude oil traded near a record \$105.10 a barrel in New York after US fuel inventories dropped and Opec refrained from raising production.

On the other hand wheat fell on speculation that US growers in the southern part of the Great Plains will harvest more grain because fewer fields are being used to graze cattle.

— Standard Chartered Bank



Vikram Issar, head of Consumer Banking of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, hands over the banking arrangements of the first SME Loan Against Property (LAP) to Mahabubur Rahman, proprietor of RS Enterprise, at the launch of LAP programme. Hassan O Rashid, head of SME Banking of Standard Chartered Bangladesh, and other senior officials of the bank were also present.



## STOCK

### TRADED ISSUES of the WEEK March 02 - 06 , 2008

Company	FV/ML (Tk.No.)	Price Closing	Chg. (%)	Pre-Wk C Share	Turnover	Price Closing	Chg. (%)	Pre-Wk C Share	Turnover	Last EPS AGM (Tk.)	CDPS (%)	Company	FV/ML (Tk.No.)	Price Closing	Chg. (%)	Pre-Wk C Share	Turnover	Last EPS AGM (Tk.)	CDPS (%)	
		Chg.				Chg.								Chg.						
<b>DSE</b>																				
BANK	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	3440.75	-0.27	3164.72	95,956	7.18	—	DSE	54.00	19.00	-0.15	41.50	2,470	63.25	—	
IFC	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	2828.50	0.83	2788.00	51,00	1.15	—	COTTON	45.00	-1.15	-0.15	45.50	2,470	41.40	—	
Shahjalal BD	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	157,523	-0.27	157,185	31,05	0.07	150.0	RDG	30.00	19.27	19.00	32,000	2,470	30.00	—	
Publ Bank	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	829.12	-2.25	843.75	70,03	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—	
CEB	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	242.00	-2.25	242.00	50	70.00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—
DLC Finance	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	142.00	-2.25	142.00	50	16,00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—
Eastern Bank	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	142.00	-2.25	142.00	50	16,00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—
City Finance	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	142.00	-2.25	142.00	50	16,00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—
Asian Islamic Bank	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	142.00	-2.25	142.00	50	16,00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—
Bank Al Baraka	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	142.00	-2.25	142.00	50	16,00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—
Bank Al Rayan	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	142.00	-2.25	142.00	50	16,00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—
Bank Al Salam	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	142.00	-2.25	142.00	50	16,00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—
Bank Al Aman	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	142.00	-2.25	142.00	50	16,00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—
Bank Al Aman	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	142.00	-2.25	142.00	50	16,00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.00	130.00	2,470	130.00	—
Bank Al Aman	1,842.50	8.52	3.16	65,50	57,511	142.00	-2.25	142.00	50	16,00	31,05	0.07	RDG	130.00	50.00	0.0				