

World oil extends losses

AFP, London

World oil prices weakened on Wednesday as renewed worries about energy demand in the face of slowing global growth, dealers said.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for December delivery, fell 2.57 dollars to 69.61 dollars a barrel. The contract for November expired Tuesday, plunging 3.36 dollars to finish at 70.89 dollars.

London's Brent North Sea crude for December delivery dropped 2.31 dollars to 67.41 dollars a barrel, after shedding 2.31 dollars the previous day.

Crude futures have rallied in recent sessions amid growing signals that OPEC is likely to cut production when the oil producers' cartel meets in Vienna on Friday.

"Concerns over weakening oil demand have dampened the oil price, even though the OPEC meeting on 24 October is expected to lower production targets," said David Moore, a Sydney-based commodity strategist.

DSE bucks losing trend

UNB, Dhaka

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) witnessed steady growth yesterday after a five-day fall, as investors took position on profit expectations.

Stockbrokers said the DSE General Index dipped below the 2,800-mark in the morning session amid profit-taking from overpriced shares.

The benchmark index, however, bounced back after 11:05am as the investors took position in the falling market, pushing up the index as high as 2,834 points before closing little lower at 2,828. The DGEN moved up 3 points or 0.12 percent over 2,825 points on Tuesday.

"The investors may have considered that the shares have had enough correction by then," said a broker.

The All Shares Price Index (DSI) also increased marginally by 2 points or 0.10 percent to close at 2,341 points. The DSE-

20 index of selective shares rose 4 points or 0.17 percent to close at 2,363.

Of the total 240 issues traded on the day, 140 registered gains, while 93 incurred loss and seven remained unchanged.

The day's total turnover dropped to Tk 3.23 billion from Tk 4.05 billion on Tuesday while the Market Capitalisation rose marginally to Tk 996 billion from Tk 995 billion on Tuesday.

DESCO, Beximco Pharma, BEXIMCO, Titas Gas, ACI, ICB 2nd NRB, AIMS 1st Mutual Fund, Summit alliance, Golden Son and GrameenS2 were the day's turnover leaders in value.

The day's volume leaders were AIMS 1st Mutual Fund, GRAMEENS2, Golden Son, Beximco Pharma, Fuwangs Foods, Beximco Textiles, BEXIMCO, Grameen1, ICB 2nd NRB and Keya Cosmetics.

Euro, pound pummelled by recession fears

AFP, London

Fears of a European recession hammered the euro and the British pound on Wednesday as traders bet on further interest rate cuts in the region to try to stave off a prolonged downturn.

The euro fell to the lowest level for almost two years against the dollar, while the British pound plunged to a five-year trough after Bank of England governor Mervyn King warned that Britain was likely entering a recession.

Dealers said the currencies were being pressured by speculation that European central banks will slash interest rates to promote economic growth in the face of the worst financial crisis in decades.

At about 0420 GMT, the European single currency touched a low of 1.2743 dollars -- the weakest since November 7, 2006. In London morning trading, the euro stood at 1.2897 dollars.

Against the Japanese currency on Wednesday, the dollar fell to 99.24 yen from 100.31 yen late in New York on Tuesday.

"Players are still trying to test how much lower the euro can go after it broke through the 1.3 line so easily," said Yosuke Hosokawa, head of forex at Chuo Mitsui Trust Bank.

The dollar slid below the key 100-yen level as falling stock markets prompted renewed risk aversion among investors. The euro meanwhile sank as low as 128.10 yen, which was last seen April 2004.

"While the global trend is for interest rate cuts, Japanese rates are likely to stay on hold," added Hosokawa.

Major world central banks slashed interest rates in early October in a concerted effort to calm market turmoil. But the Bank of Japan did not participate, saying its benchmark rate was already low enough at 0.5 percent.



Peter Robertson, vice president of Chevron Corporation, receives a crest of honour from Md Belal Ahmed, general secretary of Sylhet Samaj Kalyan Sangstha (SSKS), at the launch of the two Chevron-funded permanent units of the Smiling Sun Clinic near the Bibiyana gas field in Habiganj. SSKS is the partner of Chevron in the project, which is providing essential health-care services for communities living near the gas fields.



National Credit and Commerce Bank Ltd Chairman Tofazzal Hossain inaugurates the bank's 55th branch at Keranihat of Sattania, Chittagong on Tuesday.

Currency

Following is Wednesday's (October 22, 2008) forex statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Table with 4 main sections: Major currency exchange rates, Exchange rate of some currencies, USD forward rate against BDT, and Local Market FX. It lists various currencies like US Dollar, Euro, Pound, Australian dollar, Japanese yen, Swiss franc, Swedish krona, Canadian dollar, Hong Kong dollar, Singapore dollar, UAE dirham, Saudi riyal, Danish kroner, and Kuwaiti dinar with their respective rates.

Business Conference 2008 Prime Bank Limited a bank with a difference. Includes a photo of Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank Ltd, attending a business conference.

Azam J Chowdhury, chairman of Prime Bank Ltd, attends a business conference of the bank, which was held at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Center yesterday. M Ehsanul Haque, managing director, presided over the event.

STOCK

Table with 10 columns: Company, FV/ML, Price, Turnover, Last AGM, EPS, DPS, Divs, and others. It lists various companies under categories like BANK, CSE, DSE, and others, along with their financial data.

TRADED ISSUES October 22, 2008

Table with 10 columns: Company, FV/ML, Price, Turnover, Last AGM, EPS, DPS, Divs, and others. It lists various companies under categories like BANK, CSE, DSE, and others, along with their financial data.

Market Highlights October 22, 2008

Table with 10 columns: Company, FV/ML, Price, Turnover, Last AGM, EPS, DPS, Divs, and others. It lists various companies under categories like BANK, CSE, DSE, and others, along with their financial data.

Turnover Leaders

Table with 10 columns: Company, FV/ML, Price, Turnover, Last AGM, EPS, DPS, Divs, and others. It lists various companies under categories like BANK, CSE, DSE, and others, along with their financial data.

Capital Gainers

Table with 10 columns: Company, FV/ML, Price, Turnover, Last AGM, EPS, DPS, Divs, and others. It lists various companies under categories like BANK, CSE, DSE, and others, along with their financial data.

News from Trade Servers

PRIME LIFE: The company will be placed in "A" category from existing "Z" category with effect from 23.10.08 as the company reported disbursement of stock dividend @ 20% for the year 2007.

Bonus shares of PHIL credited: Prime Life Insurance Co. Ltd. has informed that it has credited 1,250 shares of the company at prevailing market price through Stock Exchange within next 30 working days.

MEGHNA LIFE: Mr. Nasir Uddin Ahmed, one of the Sponsors/Directors of the company, has reported his intention to buy 3,000 shares of the company at prevailing market price through Stock Exchange within next 30 working days.