

Global economic growth fails to dent unemployment: ILO

AFP, Geneva

The number of people out of work worldwide climbed to new heights in 2005, as economic growth failed to offset a rise in the total seeking jobs, the International Labour Organisation said Tuesday.

The global figure for jobless workers reached 191.8 million by the end of last year, an increase of 2.2 million in 2004.

That represented an unemployment rate of 6.3 percent, unchanged from the previous year and marking the end of a two-year decline, said the ILO in its annual study of international job trends.

While the total number of people in work reached a high of 2.85 billion, global economic growth of 4.3 percent did little to dent the jobless total.

The UN agency said that only around 10 million jobs are currently created per percentage point of economic growth, and that the prospects for this year appear little better.

"If we see a weak 2006, this will have a negative impact on employment growth," said the ILO's chief analyst Jeff Johnson.

"As the population grows, we're not creating enough jobs as it is to keep up with the levels we have. What we need is stronger growth

that is more employment-creative, or employment-intensive," Johnson told reporters.

Almost half the world's unemployed are aged 15-24, the ILO said. It added that this was "troublesome," because young people make up only a quarter of the working-age population.

The ILO also highlighted regional variations. Latin America and the Caribbean saw a rise in unemployment, with the jobless rate increasing from 7.7 percent from 7.4 percent in 2004.

In the former Soviet Union and other ex-communist nations — except those which joined the

European Union in 2004 — it rose to 9.7 percent from 9.5 percent.

Developed economies, including the EU, saw rates drop from 6.7 percent from 7.1 percent.

There was little change in Asia, the ILO said.

East Asia's rate of 3.8 percent remained the lowest in the world, while South Asia's stood at 4.7 percent and Southeast Asia and the Pacific at 6.1 percent.

The Middle East and North Africa remained the world's unemployment hotspot, at 13.2 percent. Second was Sub-Saharan Africa, at 9.7 percent.

The ILO also pointed to concerns for those who do have jobs.



Khondoker Monir Uddin, managing director of STS Holdings Limited, and Anis A Khan, CEO and managing director of Industrial Development Leasing Company (IDLC) of Bangladesh Limited, exchange documents on behalf of their companies after signing an issue management agreement in Dhaka Monday.



Selim Chowdhury, managing director of Group 4 Securitas Bangladesh (P) Ltd, and Intekhab Mahmud, chief commercial officer of CityCell, exchange documents on behalf of their organisations after signing a corporate agreement in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Group 4 will get some exclusive services from CityCell.

Malaysia launches billion dollar debt plan

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's Bank Pembangunan Tuesday launched the largest ever debt securities programme in the country worth about seven billion ringgit (1.87 billion dollars).

"This landmark programme is indeed significant as it is the largest debt programme ever arranged by a financial institution, and is the largest programme ever established by any issuer in the (private debt securities) market," it said.

Bank Pembangunan Malaysia said the securities would take the form of conventional or Islamic medium term notes, which would allow it greater flexibility.

The transaction allows the bank "to meet the funding requirements of both its Islamic and conventional banking activities, as and when the need arises," it said in a statement.

Proceeds from the sale of the securities over 30 years, starting in 2006, will fund the bank and its subsidiaries' lending activities and capital requirements.



Farhana Huq, UNICEF procurement officer, receives a consignment of measles vaccine from Qazi Javed Karim, Emirates cargo controller, at Zia International Airport in Dhaka recently. Emirates carried the shipment of medicine for the Bangladesh government's Expanded Programme for Immunisation.



Mominul Islam Patwary, chairman of executive committee of Bangladesh Bank, addresses the inaugural session of a conference on "Foreign Exchange Business" organised by International Banking Wing of the bank held in Dhaka Saturday.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday (Jan 24, 2006) forex rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy
TT/OD	OD/Transf.
68.8200	68.8500
85.4538	85.4910
123.5525	123.6064
52.7712	52.7942
0.6077	0.6079
55.3127	55.3368
9.5222	9.5264
60.4745	60.5009
8.8945	8.8985
43.3266	43.3455
18.8955	18.8977
18.4970	18.5051
11.8180	11.8232
232.2204	232.3238

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor/kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.05	59.82	102.135	39.960	6.6030	0.6841	3.75

Local Interbank FX Trading compared with 9.00 and 10.00 percent previously. International Market The dollar clawed back some lost ground on Tuesday, having hit four-month lows against the euro and the Swiss franc, as market participants said the greenback many have been oversold on Monday.

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Company	FV/ML (Tk/Ns)	DSE				CSE				Financial Performance			
		Price	Change (%)	Turnover	Share	Price	Change (%)	Turnover	Share	AGM	EPS	DP	Div (%)
AB Bank Ltd.	1005	385.00	0.39	383.50	8655	385.50	0.33	384.25	1075	30/11/05	17.3	---	---
City Bank Ltd.	1005	715.75	-1.38	725.75	6155	715.50	-1.58	727.00	1735	14/07/05	52.8	---	---
IFIC Bank Ltd.	1005	530.00	-2.15	545.75	1700	537.50	-1.38	545.00	220	07/12/04	15.8	---	---
Islami Bank BD Ltd.	10001	4505.75	-0.34	4521.00	300	4523.00	-0.09	4527.00	61	06/09/05	36.6	---	---
National Bank Ltd.	10020	695.50	-1.49	706.00	1791	710.00	Not Traded	---	---	07/09/05	27.4	---	---
Public Bank Ltd.	1005	2122.25	-2.30	2172.25	5620	2105.25	-2.67	2163.00	845	17/04/05	33.6	---	---
Rupali Bank Ltd.	10010	549.00	-0.90	554.00	1560	548.50	-1.08	554.50	3420	---	---	---	---
UCBL**	1005	446.00	-1.75	451.75	1855	449.00	-0.39	450.75	2407	11/04/05	29.1	10.0	---
United Bank Ltd.	1005	2746.25	-1.17	2784.00	445	2728.50	-2.55	2800.00	20	03/10/05	38.5	---	---
IDLC Ltd.	10020	1090.25	-2.23	1074.25	6005	1140.00	Not Traded	---	---	17/05/05	85.8	35.0	---
Eastern Bank Ltd.	10020	1115.50	-1.93	1137.50	320	1100.00	1.85	1080.00	40	19/07/05	58.3	45.0	---
United Leasing Co. Ltd.	10020	446.25	-1.27	453.00	6170	449.00	-0.39	450.75	2407	11/04/05	29.1	10.0	---
United Finance and Inv*	10050	707.50	0.71	702.00	1820	682.75	Not Traded	---	---	18/05/05	11.8	13.0	---
Al Arfa Islami Bank	10005	293.00	-1.17	294.75	163	299.50	Not Traded	---	---	25/05/05	22.8	---	---
Prime Bank Ltd.	10050	666.75	-0.98	663.25	7335	669.25	-0.79	664.50	3550	16/05/04	25.8	20.0	---
Southeast Bank Ltd.	10050	565.25	-0.53	568.25	6005	567.75	-0.74	572.00	2844	01/09/05	33.4	---	---
Mercantile Bank**	10050	499.75	-0.91	503.25	8610	495.25	-0.80	498.50	1450	15/05/05	28.6	---	---
NCC Bank Ltd.	10050	292.50	-1.27	296.25	4560	295.75	-1.61	295.50	2826	23/05/05	36.0	---	---
Standard Investment Bank	10005	1815.00	-1.41	1841.50	56	1900.00	Not Traded	---	---	28/06/05	13.0	---	---
Dutch Bangla Bank**	10050	2000.00	0.00	2000.00	1	1900.00	Not Traded	---	---	15/03/05	11.4	22.5	---
Midas Finance Ltd.	10050	299.00	2.37	253.00	3250	253.00	Not Traded	---	---	21/12/05	16.4	---	---
Manul Trust Bank**	10050	499.75	-0.91	503.25	8610	495.25	-0.80	498.50	1450	15/05/05	28.6	---	---
First Leasing Ltd.	10050	362.50	-0.90	362.50	1700	380.00	2.15	372.00	50	21/04/05	37.0	---	---
Standard Bank Ltd.	10050	314.25	-1.80	320.00	5620	317.50	-1.01	323.75	3750	16/05/05	26.6	---	---
One Bank Ltd.	10050	288.25	-0.43	289.50	6950	286.75	-0.78	289.00	10700	07/06/04	11.2	---	---
Bank Asja Ltd.	10050	472.25	-0.38	476.25	2100	475.00	Not Traded	---	---	11/05/05	31.5	---	---
Mercantile Bank**	10050	376.25	-1.05	380.25	2351	380.50	0.13	380.00	1450	14/05/05	31.2	---	---
Export Import Bank**	10050	492.75	-0.35	494.50	6650	499.00	-0.91	494.00	981	14/05/05	31.5	---	---
Prime's Leasing**	10050	462.00	-2.01	471.50	750	448.25	-2.18	458.25	50	---	---	---	---
Prime Finance**	10050	390.75	-1.20	395.00	4100	383.25	-0.97	395.00	150	---	---	---	---
Premier Leasing**	10050	259.75	-1.61	264.00	2700	257.00	-2.34	264.00	2800	---	---	---	---
Islamic Finance and Investment	10050	450.20	-0.22	452.50	14250	458.50	-1.84	468.00	4350	---	---	---	---
ICB	1005	151.25	-1.00	149.75	150	150.00	Not Traded	---	---	31/10/04	33.3	10.0	---
1st ICB Mutual Fund	10050	2600.00	-1.39	2650.00	5	2900.00	Not Traded	---	---	31/10/04	19.0	20.0	---
4th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	51.00	-0.39	51.00	20	50.00	Not Traded	---	---	31/10/04	69.9	45.0	---
6th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	188.00	-2.08	192.00	170	200.00	Not Traded	---	---	31/10/04	15.8	17.5	---
7th ICB Mutual Fund	10010	198.00	-1.09	200.00	100	200.00	Not Traded	---	---	31/10/04	16.7	15.0	---
8th ICB Mutual Fund	10050	180.00	-4.76	189.00	200	177.00	Not Traded	---	---	31/10/04	17.0	14.0	---
1st BSR Mutual Fund	10050	85.50	-0.90	85.50	50	80.00	Not Traded	---	---	---	7.52	7.00	---
AJMS FID**	12/050	11.50	0.00	11.50	112500	11.50	-0.86	11.60	302500	07/10/04	0.12	12.0	---
ICB AMCL First Mutual Fund	10050	50240.50	-0.41	241.50	450	235.50	Not Traded	---	---	---	14.1	12.0	---
ICB AMCL Islamic MF**	10050	1116.00	-0.64	1170.00	100	1158.00	-1.22	1175.00	400	---	---	---	---
Greenview MF One**	10050	14.90	-1.97	15.30	113500	11.50	-1.31	11.50	103522	---	---	---	---
ENGINEERING													
Azab Automobiles**	1005	317.00	-0.39	318.25	540	310.00	-0.96	313.00	10	21/12/05	85.7	20.0	---
Azi Pipos Ltd.	1005	49.00	1.03	48.00	820	53.00	Not Traded	---	---	29/06/05	26.2	---	---
Olympic Industries**	10050	118.50	-0.85	119.25	250	130.00	Not Traded	---	---	22/12/05	7.34	11.0	---
Bangladesh Lamps**	1005	69.50	-0.12	69.25	180	68.50	Not Traded	---	---	26/06/04	11.1	10.0	---
Eastern Cables Ltd.	1005	189.00	-0.13	189.25	1970	188.25	-1.05	190.25	1100	---	---	---	---
Singer Bangladesh**	1005	986.00	-0.90	986.50	95	980.25	-1.98	1000.00	35	09/05/05	41.3	80.0	---
Asia Bangladesh Ltd.	10050	230.00	-2.46	235.80	2800	---	Not Traded	---	---	27/12/05	11.5	10.0	---
Quason Drycells Ltd.**	10050	119.50	-1.00	113.00	6000	113.00	-0.88	114.00	8500	21/12/05	0.55	10.0	---
National Tubes Ltd.**	10050	101.00	-1.94	103.25	180	68.50	Not Traded	---	---	23/12/04	14.0	---	---
Quason Tubes Ltd.**	10050	119.50	-1.53	147.50	2200	---	Not Traded	---	---	22/12/05	16.4	40.0	---
Wander Lung Toys Ltd.	10050	17.25	-1.47	17.00	350	15.00	Not Traded	---	---	22/12/05	9.3	---	---
Rupali Foundry Ltd.**	10050	19.90	-0.50	20.00	3000	20.00	Not Traded	---	---	15/06/05	1.36	15.0	---
TRIP & ALLIED													
Ages Foods Ltd.	1005	241.00	-0.66	243.25	42	250.00	Not Traded	---	---	22/09/05	22.7	15.0	---
Food Industries Ltd.	10050	35.00	-2.91	25.75	1650	27.50	Not Traded	---	---	22/12/05	13.0	---	---
Bangas**	1005	236.00	-1.46	239.50	25	234.75	Not Traded	---	---	27/12/05	7.07	12.5	---
BATBC**	10050	90.00	-0.55	90.50	1651	92.00	Not Traded	---	---	18/05/05	10.2	10.0	---
Zeal Bangla Sugar Mills	10050	3.70	0.00	3.70</									