

WTO sees global trade growth quickening in 2006

REUTERS, Geneva

Global trade may grow 7 percent in 2006, up from last year's revised 6 percent expansion, the World Trade Organisation (WTO) said on Tuesday in a forecast it warned was uncertain.

In its annual review of trade trends, the WTO said the outlook was based on expected world economic growth of 3.5 percent, slightly faster than the 3.3 percent rise in 2005.

"World trade is expected to benefit from this slightly stronger economic growth -- in particular in the European Union," the world trade body said in the report.

But it cited a number of downside

risks, including the possibility that U.S. economic growth could falter due to higher real interest rates and energy costs, and that the fledgling EU recovery would not gather momentum.

"The global economic situation at the beginning of 2006 remains full of uncertainties," the WTO warned. Improved corporate finances and stock market gains seemed to point to a long-awaited recovery in investment in Europe, but private consumption remained fragile, it said.

WTO Director-General Pascal Lamy said in the report that the global trading system was in a period of transition, and the best way to handle it would be to conclude the Doha round of free trade

negotiations by the end of the year. "In such a climate of uncertainty, (WTO) member governments must strengthen the global trading system by making it more equitable and relevant," he said.

World trade, as measured by merchandise exports, had grown by an exceptional 9 percent in 2004 but slowed to about 6 percent in real terms last year, reflecting weaker global economic growth in the period, the WTO said.

The final 2005 figure was slightly below the 6.5 percent predicted this time last year.

Fuelled by rising oil prices, Africa, the Middle East, Central and South America and the Commonwealth of Independent

States, which groups the former Soviet bloc minus the Baltic states, had recorded strong export growth in 2005.

The share of world trade of Africa and the Middle East rose to its highest level in two decades.

Fuels and other mining products accounted for 16 percent of global trade, the highest percentage since 1985, while agriculture slipped to a record low of less than 9 percent.

Exchange rate developments in 2005, including a slight appreciation of the Chinese yuan, appeared to have done little to reduce major current account imbalances, it said.

Germany remained the world's largest exporter, followed as in 2004 by the United States, China, Japan and France.

The United States, Germany and China again took the top three importer spots, but Japan and Britain overtook France to rank fourth and fifth, respectively.

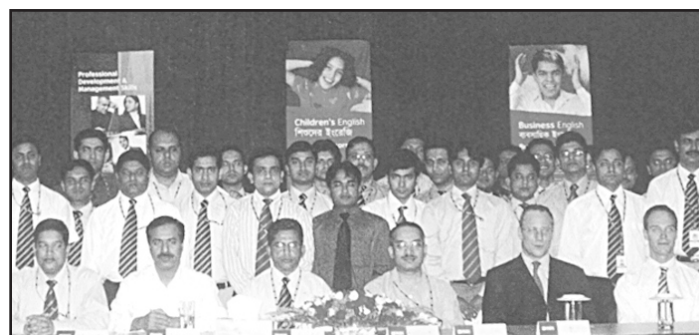


PHOTO: OPSONIN PHARMA

Opsonin Pharma Limited Chief Financial Officer M Shafiqul Alam, General Manager (sales) Md Ashraf Dawood, Human Resources Manager Dr Sayem Ahmed and Head of Marketing & Sales Operations Arshad-ul-Alam, British Council Deputy Director Simon Harris and Head of Corporate Services Ben Fisher are seen along with the participants of a professional development and language training, conducted by the British Council for Opsonin Pharma, in Dhaka recently.



PHOTO: MINDSHARE

Md Osman Gani, chief conservator of Forests, and Prof Z Karim, executive director of Arannayk Foundation, exchange documents after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on behalf of their organisations recently. Under the deal, the organisations will facilitate the conservation, protection, restoration and sustainable use and management of tropical forests in Bangladesh. Environment and Forests Secretary Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury was also present.

Emirates to launch Dubai-Nagoya route service

Emirates is building a firm foundation before launching its services to Nagoya on June 1 with a flurry of successful road shows, business network meetings and press briefings in the central province of Japan, says a press release.

The road shows -- a series of presentations to the travel trade -- two months prior to the commencement of the service ensured that the travel and cargo trade partners were kept abreast of the airline's plans for the Dubai-Nagoya route.

From June 1, Emirates' EK314 will fly on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from Dubai at 02:25 and arrive at Nagoya's Centrair Airport at 17:20 local hours. EK315 will return the same day at 23:30 to arrive in Dubai at 05:30 local hours. The service is scheduled to become a daily on July 1, the release added.



PHOTO: EMIRATES

Katsuyoshi Nakamura (L), Emirates country manager in Japan, Ghaith Al Ghaith (C), executive vice-president for commercial operations worldwide, and Richard Vaughan, senior vice president for commercial operations in East Asia and Australasia, are seen at a press briefing in Nagoya, the central province of Japan.



PHOTO: DELTA LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

Syed Moazzem Hussain, chairman of the board of directors of Delta Life Insurance Company Ltd, and Das Deba Prashad, managing director of the company, are seen at the company's 19th annual general meeting in Cox's Bazar recently.

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 12/4/2006.

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/1	Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	9/4	--	--
J/3	Hlone Ywa	GI(Y.Ma)	Yang	MTA	6/4	13/4	--
J/4	Kota Petari	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	8/4	13/4	247
J/6	Xuan Cheng	GI	Sing	Cosco	9/4	14/4	2069
J/7	Pu Trusty	Cont	Col	Seacon	7/4	12/4	142
J/9	Banglar Robi	Cont	Col	BSC	7/4	12/4	123
J/10	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	7/4	13/4	194
J/11	Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	7/4	13/4	200
J/13	Qc Dignity	Cont	Sing	OCSL	8/4	14/4	--
CCT/1	Yongxing	Cont	Sing	FSSL	8/4	14/4	--
CCT/2	Esham	Cont	F. Kel	Cel	8/4	12/4	59

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Ocean Park	12/4	Sing	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Sarim	12/4	Lumut	Litmond	C. Clink	--
Zebra	12/4	Mong	TMBL	J. Goods	L/Latakia
Osp Boeslec	15/4	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col
Banga Bortl	12/4	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Pontoklydon	12/4	Sing	Everett	GI(St. Scrap)	J/6
Banglar Moni	12/4	Col	BSC	Cont	Sin
Benny	12/4	Chin	Rsship	Scraping	--
Bibim	14/4	Chenn	RSA	GI(St. Bil)	--
Pagan	13/4	Yang	MTA	GI(Log)	--
Lady Kyniak	13/4	Sing	Barwil	GI(Hr. St)	--
Cape Bonavista	13/4	Pkl	Bdship	Cont	P. Kel

Tanker due

Borvoy-ili	12/4	Lumut	Rainbow	CPO(RM/3)
C.P. 33	12/4	Indo	USL	CPO(RM/4/3)
Al Barakat-1	13/4	Dumai	MTCL	CPO
Al Badiyah	13/4	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/JP-1
Gaz Millennium	13/4	Hald	MBL	Ammonia
Tcp	13/4	Dumai	Jnship	CPO(RM/3)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:

Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	9/4
Sea Master One	Cont	P. Kel	PML	10/4
New Blessing	Cont	P. Kel	Cel	10/4
Independent Spirit	Cont	Sing	APL	10/4
Oel Excellence	Cont	--	PSSL	RIA(10/4)
Atora	Fuel Oil	Sing	CTPL	11/4
Banga Borak	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	11/4
Bounty-7	GI(Log)	Yang	PML	11/4
Maritime Songkhla	C. Clink	Indo	BSL	12/4

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction:

Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicom	10/11/2004
Xpress Manaslu	--	P. Kel	Seacon	RIA(21/12)
Express Resolve	--	Col	Seacon	RIA(21/12)
Banga Barta	Ballast	Col	Baridhi	10/03
Power	--	--	Saraf	RIA(01/04)

Vessels not entering:

Ocean Heart	Salt	Kand	Sigma	13/02
Freedom	Raw Sugar	Sant	USL	2/4
Nancy	C. Clink	Nant	Move	2/4
Vorios Ipiros Hellas	R. Phos	Moro	Litmond	8/4
Ocean Hope	C. Clink	Keng	Bashun	9/4
Diamond	Scraping	Hoi	Cosco	31/3
West Minister	Scraping	Pira	Ahz	8/4

The above are the yesterday's shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.

CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (April 12, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Slight Doc	Buy	OD Transfer
69.9200	69.9500	USD	68.8500	68.8271	68.7812	
86.3232	86.3603	EUR	82.7095	82.6819	82.6268	
123.3039	123.3568	GBP	119.3171	119.2773	119.1977	
52.3561	52.3786	AUD	49.6615	49.6450	49.6118	
0.5997	0.6000	JPY	0.5793	0.5791	0.5787	
54.5824	54.6058	CHF	52.6457	52.6281	52.5930	
9.4861	9.4902	SEK	8.6404	8.6375	8.6317	
61.7068	61.7333	CAD	59.5279	59.5081	59.4684	
9.0341	9.0379	HKD	8.8553	8.8524	8.8465	
44.3767	44.3958	SGD	42.6289	42.6147	42.5863	
19.1977	19.2060	AED	18.6051	18.5989	18.5865	
18.1972	18.1992	SAR	18.2119	18.2058	18.1937	
11.8778	11.8829	DKK	10.7888	10.7852	10.7780	
236.0120	236.1154	KWD	234.1827	234.1070	233.9556	

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.53	59.965	102.55	38.055	6.4965	0.6095	3.67

STOCK