"But across-the-board anti-

corruption campaigns and compre-

hensive reform programmes have

yielded disappointing results when

they have not taken enough account

of the political circumstances,'

noted Monika Huppi, lead author of

where the bank can strengthen

effectiveness in helping countries

reduce poverty -- increased focus

on the nature of growth, setting

attainable objectives and a realistic

assessment of the political econ-

but there is a long way to go in reduc-

ing the number of people living in

poverty and the magnitude of their

deprivation," said Vinod Thomas

on actions to sustain growth, as well

through better service delivery and

more opportunities for the poor. The

challenge is to see far more num-

"Discernable progress depends

"Broad growth trends are positive.

omy of governance reforms.

IEG's director general.

IEG found three important areas

the report.



Dhaka int'l trade fair draws huge crowd

Show to gain momentum soon if political impasse ends: Participants

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Seven days into its inauguration, Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) 2006 yesterday experienced a huge number of visitors with participants expecting considerable turnout in the coming days.

The ongoing political impasse has cast a gloom over the largest trade extravaganza in the country, the participants said but hoped if the deadlock ends soon the DITF, which was inaugurated on December 2, will gain momentum in the next few days. "The number of visitors may

exceed one lakh today, which coincides with the weekend," said a busy Mohammad Saheed, a cashier of ticket counters. In the last few days the DITF saw nearly 10,000 visitors a day, Saheed added. The huge rush of people causes

traffic jam on Rokeya Sarani, leading to Sher-e-Bangla Nagar fair venue

Winter clothe, household appliance, jewellery and food item shops attract the visitors most yesterday.

An Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) official said people failed to visit the fair in the previous days due to political programmes. "As there is no political programme today (Friday) and it's weekend, thousands of people gathered at

the fair," he added. The main objective of the fair is to introduce the local products to foreign buyers. But the aim has been hampered seriously this year of the DITF 2006. Participants from due to the political instability, India, Iran, Pakistan, Singapore, another EPB official said.

Maruti launches new model car **ANN/ THE STATESMAN**

Maruti Udyog Limited launched Zen Estilo in Kolkata on Thursday. The car comes in three variants --Lx, Lxi and Vxi--and in eight colours. Maruti stopped production of first generation Zen eight months ago.

Wheat and corn prices have hit 10-Mayank Pareek, chief general manyear highs, the UN Food and ager (marketing) said more than



Visitors throng the venue of Dhaka International Trade Fair-2006 at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the capital yesterday.

The number of foreign buyers taking part in the fair. EPB, the organiser of the fair, this year will be the lowest since 2002, the officials said. has set up 10 premier pavilions, 14

A total of 418 local and foreign premier mini pavilions, 35 premier stalls, 46 pavilions, 240 general companies are participating in the fair, where 53 firms came from stalls and 10 restaurants. seven foreign countries.

"I have been participating in this Malaysia is the partner country fair for the last couple of years...but this year it is not encouraging as yet," an Indian stone and jewellery Thailand, and the USA are also businessman said.

countries and a fast-growing

demand for biofuel production

have driven up grain prices, while

supply constraints have also

volume of food imports".

high international prices.

the report warned.

5.3 percent from 2005.

to sustain their fossil fuel needs,"

Wheat, corn prices at

10-year highs: FAO

PHOTO: STAR

"Sales are not up to the mark until now." he added. Tickets are available at the

entrance at Tk 10 for an adult and Tk 5 for a child. The fair, which will conclude on

January 2, remains open to visitors from 10:00am to 9:00pm on weekdays and from 10:00am to 10:00pm on holidays.

Oil rises near \$63 AP, London

Oil prices rose Friday, supported by a possible production cut by OPEC countries and amid violence in Nigeria, Africa's largest oil producer

Light, sweet crude for January delivery gained 64 cents to \$63.13 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Europe. January Brent crude at London's

ICE Futures exchange rose 93 cents to \$63.50 a barrel following a report that the loading program for January was 4.3 million barrels compared to 8.3 million barrels in December Prices were also supported by

uncertainty ahead of a meeting next week of oil ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. Some officials have been pressing in recent days for a cut in output on top of a production cut of 1.2 million barrels a day, approved in October.

On Thursday, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the U.S., Prince Turki al-Faisal, said current crude oil prices were "acceptable and imminently fair.

The ambassador said oil prices are relatively cheap, noting that if adjusted for inflation, prices would be near \$150 a barrel now. He said a price of around \$60 a barrel is fair for producer and consumer countries. Higher prices would concern the kingdom, as they impact poorer countries more than rich countries

Airbus to up India to \$1b PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New

Lured by the long-term growth potential of India's burgeoning civil aviation sector and resultant business prospects, European aircraft maker Airbus has said it would

yesterday urged the government to double investment in this country to get cost and management accounat least one billion dollars over next tants (CMAs) involved in financial decade India, one of the world's fastest more transparency in public sector growing aviation markets, would

need 1,100 new passenger aircraft and freighters over the next 20 years to meet soaring air travel demand, Airbus India President Kiran Rao told reporters here on

HELPING POOR BENEFIT FROM GROWTH Projects need more attention: WB

UNB, Dhaka

A recent World Bank (WB) study has stressed the need for more attention to help the poor benefit from the accelerated growth over the last five years in the World Bank borrowing countries, including Bangladesh.

"World Bank support for boosting growth must capitalize on vital opportunities to increase employment and reduce the numbers of the poor," said the study made available yesterday

Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) of the World Bank conducted the study titled "Annual Review of Development Effectiveness 2006: Getting Results", released in Washington DC on Thursday.

The Review said: "Economic growth has improved over the last five years, but more attention is needed to help poor people benefit from growth.

In the countries reviewed in the report, including Bangladesh, poverty reduction differed widely, as a result of the striking variations in growth as well as in income distribution outcomes.

"Stronger results can be derived

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

finance and expenditure.

. ment," added Mahmud.

Economist Wahiduddin Mahmud

management system to bring about

The government should take the

services of CMAs to improve the

public sector financial manage

by capitalizing on the synergies across sectors," IEG said. "Achieving results in one sector - better health. for example - often requires actions in different but related sectors.'

In Bangladesh, it said, child mortality has been reduced - not just because of better health services but also for better secondary schooling of the girls and rural electrification, which the Bank had supported.

IEG said the World Bank has helped many countries to get onto a growth path through improved economic management, but the growth strategies have not always helped enough to improve job opportunities and living conditions of the poor.

"Of special concern is the weak impact on poverty in rural areas, where poverty is concentrated in most countries

In order to obtain better results, it as to improve income distribution said, there is the need to set more realistic and specific objectives in Bank assistance programmes.

Good development results also bers of poor benefit from broadbased growth," he added. require competent domestic institutions that are accountable to their citizens, the study added

IMPROVING FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Take services of cost and management accountants

Wahiduddin Mahmud urges govt

He also said the CMAs do not feel encouraged to work with the public sector due to poor pay structure.

Mahmud, also a professor of Economics at Dhaka University, was addressing 21st annual gathering programme of CMAs of Dhaka Branch Council (DBC) styled 'DBC Fellowship Night' at Bangladesh China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka.

DBC is one the three branches of the Institute of Cost and Management

> how important your profession is in keeping a company healthy," Anam told CMAs. He also urged them to uphold the ethical standards of their profession Earlier in a business session, a seminar styled 'Corporate Social Responsibility-A Prime Need for Business' was held with Ashfaque ur Rahman, managing director of Novartis Bangladesh, in the chair. Satipati Moitra, president of ICMAB, Mohammed Ishaque, founder chairman of DBC, Sanaul PHOTO: STAR Haque, chairman of DBC Seminar and Conference Committee 2006, among others, spoke at the seminar.

Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) which is the only national organisation under the Ministry of Commerce that offers CMA education and registra-

Now DBC has 569 members while the total number of member-

ship of ICMAB stands at 829. Speaking at the function, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam said CMAs are very crucial to ensure transparency and accountability in a

company. As a CEO of a newspaper, I feel

Thursday. He said the European plane manufacturer had originally pledged to invest \$500 million to \$600 million in India over the next decade as part of a \$2.5-billion deal to sell 43 aircraft to the state-owned carrier. Indian "That investment figure has gone up to around one billion dollars and it will be much more". Rao said adding "It's just the beginning" The commitment of the investment is for pilot training, subassembly and engineering services and other projects, he said. Of the new planes India would need. Airbus estimates 935 passenger carriers and 165 freighters, he added.

he said. investment in

7,60,000 units of Zen have been sold including 1,22,000 in foreign markets. The car has been designed for the Indian market and there is no proposal to launch a diesel variant. If the new model is a hit in the domestic market, the car can be considered for exports. Exshowroom prices for Estilo are Rs 3,20,222 for Lx, Rs 349,244 (Lxi) and Rs 374,521 (Vxi).

Agriculture Organization said Thursday, adding that global spending on foodstuffs could reach record levels this year. "Cereal prices, particularly for wheat and maize, have reached levels not seen for a decade." the

AFP, Rome

said.

on imported foodstuffs in 2006 could reach a historic high of 374 billion dollars (281 billion euros). over two percent more than the previous year's level." FAO's latest Food Outlook report In developing countries, import

"Poor harvests in key producing

dominated the rice economy. of 2.1 percent from 2005

In the rice sector, typhoons, As a result,"global expenditures flooding, diseases and insect attacks have affected rice output this year, with no growth in global production expected, according to the FAO.

improved growing conditions.

World production of coarse

grains is projected to come to 981

million tonnes this year, a decline

It said a rebound in global meat demand was now possible in bills are expected to rise by almost five percent from last year, "mainly response to renewed consumer confidence as outbreaks of aninal as a result of price increases rather than an increase in the actual disease have eased.

But it added that expectations The FAO said many countries of high feed costs could delay a rebound in livestock and meat would probably reduce the amount of food they bought, "not always in production.

In the dairy sector, the FAO response to improved domestic supplies but rather because of foresaw an end to softening prices on "negative expectations for milk "Moreover, higher energy costs production in Australia and the European Union, which together may force many of the poorer developing countries to curtail supply a third of world dairy exports." expenditures on imported staples

Unlike other sectors, world ouput in the sugar sector is seen as outpacing demand this year The agency's latest forecast for wheat production this year is after a three-year deficit.

Production is expected to roughly 592 million tonnes, down increase to 155.5 million tonnes in But it added that a "turnaround" 2006-2007, the FAO said, adding was likely in 2007 in light of that prices have now retreated from the 25-year highs of February 2006. increased winter plantings and

WB chief looks to China to help cut African poverty

AFP, Beijing

The World Bank hopes to work with China to bring development to Africa and other poverty-stricken regions, the World Bank's vice president for the Asia-Pacific said Thursday.

"China has a lot of lessons to offer for other developing countries," James Adams said, after nearly a week-long tour of China.

"China's poverty reduction has been a very big part of global poverty reduction in the last decade and I think it would be very good if that experience can be more widely shared," he said.

He said he had a "constructive dialogue" with a number of agencies on China's growing presence abroad, notably in Africa

He had proposed concrete steps to work together on overseas assistance, combining the strengths of China and the World Bank, he said. "The relationship with China is clearly evolving and is becoming a very productive two-way street of exchanges in ideas," he said.

China is emerging as a major debtor in Africa, but has come under criticism for not asking enough in return from the nations that receive its loans, such as increased transparency or democratic reforms.

Chinese companies have also been subject to criticism for not paying enough attention to environmental or labor standards of projects that it helps finance.

Global market forecast of Airbus said India would have an average annual passenger air traffic growth of 7.7 percent until 2025, well above the world average of 4.8 percent and China's 7.2 percent.

BEXIMCO MA

Economist Wahiduddin Mahmud speaks at the 21st annual gathering programme of cost and management accountants (CMAs) of Dhaka Branch Council in the capital vesterday

indicators point to growth: OECD

AFP. Paris

gest that growth is set to continue in the world's biggest economies, the OECD said on Friday.

indicator (CLI) increased by 0.2 percent to 109.7 in October from 109.5 in September, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said.

from a number of key short-term economic performance indicators and provides early signals of turning points between expansions and

US adds 132,000 jobs in Nov

AFP, Washington

US employers added 132,000 jobs in November, the government announced Friday in a report that suggests overall economic momentum remains healthy.

The unemployment rate edged up to 4.5 percent from 4.4 percent, remaining close to its lowest point since mid-2001, the Labor Department said in its monthly report.

Leading economic indicators sug-

The OECD composite leading

The CLI summarises information

slowdowns in activity.

Leading economic