

Marked improvement in financial conditions IMF projects 3.5 pc global economic growth in 2000

SINGAPORE, Nov 13: Global economic and financial conditions have improved markedly after the turbulence in emerging economies in 1997-98 and the global growth in 2000 is projected around 3.5 per cent, according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) latest World Economic Outlook (WEO), says Xinhua.

While introducing the IMF's bi-annual flagship publication to reporters here Friday, Deputy Director of the IMF's Research Department Fleming Jarson said the assessment and outlook is the product of a comprehensive inter-departmental review of world economic developments, which draws primarily on information the IMF staff gather through their consultations with member countries.

The WEO, which is prepared for the IMF/World Bank

Interim Committee and Annual Meetings, notes that growth projections for 1999 have been revised up significantly for all the Asian crisis economies and Japan as well, and the economic downturn in Brazil and Russia have been shallower than expected.

"A recovery in world oil prices and the arrest of declines in many other commodity prices have provided relief for some commodity-exporting countries, the projected strengthening of growth in Europe 'seems to be materialising' and 'growth remains impressive amid few signs to be emerging price or wage pressures' in the United States, WEO adds.

Listing economic growth forecasts on regional basis, WEO says Asia is seen advancing 3.1 per cent in 1999 and around 5 per cent in 2000,

Africa is now projected growing at 3.1 per cent rate in 1999 and at about 4.8 per cent in 2000, the Western hemisphere is projected to record 0.1 per cent growth in 1999 and around 3.9 per cent in 2000, and for Europe and the Middle East growth is projected around 1.8 per cent this year and 3.1 per cent next year.

WEO also underlines that many challenges remain to be addressed to ensure the recovery is sustainable and more balanced.

It states "there is particular reason for concern about the unbalanced pattern of growth observed recently among the major industrial countries and about the economic and financial consequences worldwide if the eventual demand in the United States turns out to be sharper than is generally expected at present."

"While the return to broad price stability remains an important policy achievement, macroeconomic instability has persisted in much of the world economy, continuing to pose challenges for, and in many ways making new demands on, economic policies," it adds.

WEO also warns that "if growth were to weaken significantly in the United States without offsets in Japan and Europe, there would also be reason for concern about the sustainability of the recoveries underway in the Asian economies recently in crisis, and much of Latin America would be particularly vulnerable under such a scenario."

It also notes that an added risk in the global economy relates to "potential financial market reactions to actual or perceived Y2K compliance problems in emerging markets."

Thailand forces 3000 Myanmar workers back home

MAE SOT, Thailand, Nov 13: About 3,000 Myanmar workers were forced back home across a border-marking river while about 100 others were rounded up for deportation in Bangkok as a sweep of illegal workers continued Saturday, police said, reports AFP.

In reaction to rising crime by foreigners, police in the Thai capital of Bangkok also began simultaneous raids on suspected criminals from abroad, said Police Maj Gen Wiboon-sakde Sithidecha, commissioner of the Bangkok Metropolitan Police.

In this border town, police said the repatriation was stepped up to ease the financial burden of having to feed arrested illegal workers. Police Lt Col Chatree Heepthong, an inspector at the Mae Sot immigration checkpoint, said a holding centre for the migrant workers had to be cleared to make way for those arrested in Bangkok and sent to the frontier.

The repatriation was proceeding at a smoother pace since Myanmar authorities were allowing the workers to return after initially refusing to grant them entry, Chatree said.

However, more than 100 Thai border patrol policemen were still stationed along the frontier near Mae Sot to ensure security, said Police Capt Noppakhun Bamrungratpa, a border Patrol Police officer.

While thousands of the illegal immigrants were being sent across the border every day, an unknown number of them have returned and were hiding in jungles and corn fields on Thai soil, he said.

"We are worried about the safety of Thai people as the returnees may commit crimes if they are cornered," Noppakhun said.

Myanmar's military government unilaterally closed the long frontier last month in retaliation for Thailand allowing five armed activists who seized the country's embassy in Bangkok to go free.

Notice

It is for the information of all ex-cadets of BNCC/BCC/JCC/UTC/UTOC that it has been decided to prepare a list of ex-cadets all over Bangladesh by HQ BNCC. In this regard, all ex-cadets are requested to fill up the form given below and send the same immediately to HQ BNCC, 32, Isa Khan Avenue, Sector No 6, Uttara Model Town, Dhaka.

- Name
- Father's Name
- Name of the Institution (School/College/University)
- Cadet No.....Rank
- Tenure as a Cadet From To.....
- Battalion No Company Platoon
- Address of present working place.....
- Designation at present working place
- Telephone no at present working place
- Age
- Permanent Address
- Telephone No (if any)

ISPR/Misc/99/775
DFP-25057-9/11
G-1968

Director
Bangladesh National Cadet Corps

Labour, environmental activists plan counter-conference Seattle WTO talks may spur anti-globalisation movement

WASHINGTON, Nov 13: Labour organisers, ecologists and consumer activists are expected to pour into Seattle later this month to confront world trade ministers with their militant rejection of economic globalisation, reports AFP.

The long-awaited World Trade Organisation (WTO) ministerial conference, opening November 30, will provide the body's critics with a high profile forum to challenge the notion that free trade creates jobs, promotes growth and raises living standards.

Delegates from 135 nations will debate the proposed launch of a new round of multilateral negotiations next year aimed at lowering tariffs and opening markets.

But outside the conference hall, thousands of activists plan to stage protests and counter-conferences to denounce what they say is a WTO heavily biased in favour of big business.

"The biggest story in Seattle may not be the WTO and its trade negotiations but the influence that citizen protests around the world, coordinated by thousands of non-government organisations, exercise over one of the most powerful yet least accountable transitional organisations," according to Curtis Rynyan of the Washington-based WorldWatch Institute.

The US labour confederation

AFL-CIO will take over a Seattle sports stadium on November 30 to give its members a chance to "come together... to make their voices heard for new rules to make the global economy work for working families."

Labour's complaint against free-flowing international trade and investment is that such policies allow multinational corporations to slash jobs at home when they find they can hire people more cheaply and with less regulatory hassle elsewhere.

"These companies — many of them American — search the globe for the lowest possible labour costs and weakest environmental safeguards," the AFL-CIO said in a recent statement.

"Often they get help from undemocratic governments that compete in the global marketplace by refusing to protect their citizens from environmental degradation and workplace abuse, ranging from below-survival wages to physical attack."

AFL-CIO militants will be joined in Seattle by Public Citizen, a watchdog group formed by consumer activist Ralph Nader, and the Sierra Club, an environmental group.

At the same time, the International Forum on Globalisation (IFG), another Washington think tank, is arranging a "teach in" in Seattle November 27 and 28 on the evils of un-

tered global trade.

The IFG faults globalisation on the following grounds:

- The globalised industrial model promotes export economies based on a single crop or commodity rather than production of food for hungry local communities.
- Globalisation creates wealth only for a relative few. The IFG cites research showing that the largest 200 companies control 28 per cent of global economic activity but employ less than half of one per cent of the world's workforce.
- It has harmed the interests of developing countries "because the rules of the global bureaucracy invariably favour northern corporate interests."
- The WTO in every trade dispute presented to it thus far has ruled in favour of challenges to environmental regulations.
- Prominent US ecologists for free trade and wide-open markets are well aware that international public enthusiasm for such positions is thin and getting thinner.
- "It's been a tough sell," Commerce Secretary William Daley has acknowledged.

And US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, who will host the Seattle talks, has bluntly warned that "the single greatest threat to the multilateral trading system is the absence of public support."

World's smallest nations join UN food battle

ROME, Nov 13: The United Nations agency set up to battle world hunger yesterday welcomed in one of the world's smallest countries which boasts "plentiful food all year round", says Reuters.

The Pacific coral island of Niue joined the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation three years after stealing the limelight at a global food summit with an appeal to feed earthlings instead of wasting money on space exploration.

The FAO said Niue had formally joined along with four other nations — San Marino, Palau, the Marshall Islands and Kiribati — to bring its total membership to 180 countries.

FAO members pledged at the 1996 World Food Summit in Rome to halve world hunger by 2015.

Sharing a stage with Cuba's Fidel Castro, Prime Minister Frank Lui broke with the general gloom of that summit to tell delegates how Niue had access to "some of nature's abundant bounties". He pledged the island's 2,500 people would not forget the plight of the world's 800 million hungry.

Lui also appealed to rich nations to stop spending billions on sending probes to Mars and pay attention to life on Earth. "Earthlings need nourishment more than any Martians," he said.

Niue, 480 km (300 miles) east of Tonga, is self-governing but has close ties with New Zealand which controls its defence. Despite the abundance of food, the relatively poor nation is seen at threat from rising seas due to suspected global warming.



Dr Han Duck-Soo, Minister for Trade of the Republic of Korea, was received by HM Hakim Ali, Chief Executive of Hotel Agrabad, Chittagong, upon his arrival at the Hotel recently. Jung Young-Jo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Bangladesh (2nd from left), and RHM Imran Chowdhury, Asst. Manager, Public Relation are also seen. —Hotel Agrabad photo

Metal: Weekly Roundup

Gold goes up while silver shrinks

LONDON, Nov 13: Gold prices turned up again this week but failed to break through the 300-dollars-an-ounce level in a volatile market still dominated by technical factors and all-but-unprecedented moratorium on gold sales announced by European central banks seven weeks ago, reports AFP.

An ounce of gold was fetching 293 dollars on the London Bullion Market from 292.12 last week, having spiked to 297 dollars in midweek on largely technical trades.

Silver prices fell back this week in calm trading with little in the way of market-moving developments.

The spot price on the London Bullion Market fell to 5.12 dollars an ounce from 5.22 dollars.

Base metals: Mixed. The base metals complex was mixed after further gains in nickel prices prompted by continued strike activity in Canada, while copper prices fell amid market fears of increased metal production.

Nickel continued to shine as the strike at the Thompson mine in Manitoba, central Canada, owned by the world's biggest producer, Inco, dragged on.

Analysts said that the strike might continue into the New Year.

Copper prices suffered from market fears of a dramatic in-

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Prime Minister's Office Old Sangsad Bhaban, Dhaka Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from bonafide Internet service provider/Authorised distributor/Agent for renting 300 megabyte space from Web-Server situated in America/Canada/Australia and Domain registration for introducing 1 single webpage of the government under the supervision of the Prime Minister's office. Schedule of tender will be obtainable from 16-11-1999 to 18-11-1999 during office hours from this office on payment of Taka 200.00 (two hundred) (non-refundable). Tenders will be opened on 25-11-1999 at 12:30 PM before the tenderers present (if anyone remains present).

- The authority reserves the right to reject any/all tenders without assigning any reason.
DFP-24888-8/11
G-1964

Md Rabul Islam
Systems Analyst

BETWEEN SIEMENS & LIPRO NOVEMBER 10, 1999

Anwar Hossain, Divisional Manager of Siemens Bangladesh Limited, and M Shakil Wahed, Managing Director of Lipro Communications Limited, sign a distributorship agreement for Siemens home appliances. —Siemens photo

Lipro to market Siemens home appliances

Siemens Bangladesh Limited has appointed Lipro Communications Limited as its sole distributor for Siemens home appliances in Bangladesh, says a press release.

The two companies reached a distributorship agreement at Siemens office in the city on Wednesday.

The agreement was signed by Anwar Hossain, Divisional Manager for Consumer Products Division of Siemens Bangladesh Limited, and M Shakil Wahed, Managing Director of Lipro Communications Limited, on behalf of their respective companies.

Directorate General Defence Purchase Ministry of Defence New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215 Re-Tender

1. Sealed tenders are invited in foreign currency from bonafide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers/indentors (enlisted firm and firm applied for enlistment) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh "Army":

Ser No	Nomenclature	Date of Selling		Date of Opening	Currency	Tender No
		From	To			
a.	Spare parts for Tractor Dozer Caterpillar D6D, D4E & D8N (Qty—27 line)	18-11-99	09-12-99	10-12-99	Foreign/Local	956/P-7

2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (Not refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenderers (if present).

ISPR/Misc/99/778
DFP-25054-9/11
G-1969

Major
For Director General

Talks into 4th day to tackle 'finite, limited issues' US, China make one more bid for WTO deal

BEIJING, Nov 13: Top US and Chinese negotiators sat down today to tackle "finite and limited" issues holding up a deal that would help Beijing into the WTO before the body launches a new round of global trade talks in three weeks, reports Reuters.

There was no immediate word on whom the American team led by Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky was meeting. On Saturday US officials would say only that she was meeting "senior Chinese leaders."

Over the previous three days, she held talks with a powerful Chinese team led by Shi Guangsheng at his Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation.

Barshefsky did not turn up at the ministry after leaving the US embassy, leaving open the possibility that he had gone to the central Beijing compound where Premier Zhu Rongji and others have their offices.

The fourth day of talks originally scheduled to last only two began with US President Bill Clinton suggesting the gap between the two sides was narrow.

"There is a finite and limited number of issues over which there are differences and we are working on them," he told reporters in Washington. "I have not given up."

Clinton, who dismayed the visiting Zhu and much of the US business community in April when he turned down what was widely regarded as a very generous Chinese offer, gave no indication of how serious the differences were.

Barshefsky, who said gloomily on Thursday there had been no progress in the first two days of talks, said only that "both sides thought it would be useful" to go into a fourth day.

From the Chinese side there was no comment at all.

Meanwhile, an AP report says: Talks had all but collapsed Friday, with US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky rejecting as insufficient a Chinese offer to open its relatively closed markets. A Barshefsky spokesman said there were no positive developments, and members of the dispirited US team made plans to leave Beijing Saturday morning.

But overnight, officials from both countries decided to try again, even though "the progress has been slow in the talks so far," Barshefsky spokesman Tom Tripp said.

"Because of the importance of the issues, both sides thought it would be useful to have an additional day of meetings," Tripp said.

The turnaround reflects the

pressures both governments are under to reach a market-access agreement. Having rejected generous concessions from Chinese premier Zhu Rongji in April, US President Bill Clinton is under pressure from American business to come to terms with Beijing.

The talks this week in Beijing are seen as China's best chance to boost its prospects for joining the World Trade Organisation, for months if not years to come. Officials from the WTO's 134 members meet in Seattle late this month to consider new global trade liberalisation, and without progress in its bid, Beijing would have no say over the new rules.

China must reach separate market-access agreements with its main trading partners, particularly the United States and the European Union, to join WTO. Beijing has tried fruitfully for 13 years to join WTO and its predecessor, seeking developing-country status that would allow it to protect key sectors.

As part of a deal, Washington hopes China will open its telecommunications and financial services sectors. In addition, Washington is demanding that China submit to quotas on textile shipments and antidumping measures to prevent surges in low-cost exports.

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Faridpur PWD Division

Memo No 1805 Dated: 28-10-99/13-7-1406B

Notice Inviting Tenders Tender No 60 of 1999-2000

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 from the approved special class-I/class-I bldg. contractors of PWD, class-II sanitary and plumbing contractors of PWD Zone, Khulna for "Construction of Staff Qtrs. within the compound of Alfadanga PS in the dist of Faridpur (S.H.: Sanitary and water supply arrangement to S.I's Qtrs (800.00 sft. 2 units) GF and FF" and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Divn., Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Narail and Rajbari in their respective offices up to 12.00 Noon of 23-11-99. The estimated cost of the work is Tk 2,12,286.00 & the earnest money is Tk 4246 in the form of PWD/Bond on any scheduled bank of Bangladesh Sanchayya Patra, 5-yrs BD Sanchayya Patra must accompany each tender duly endorsed to the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Faridpur. Otherwise his/her tenders shall be declared informal. No tender form, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. will be sold after 22-11-99. The tender paper, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. may be obtained from the office of the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Narail and Rajbari on all working days during office hours on payment of usual charge of Tk 400 (Taka four hundred) only per set of tender schedule and a sum of Tk 25 (Tk twenty-five) only per copy of Tender Form No 2911 (Both non-refundable).

Details may be seen from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Md. Syedur Rahman
Executive Engineer
Faridpur PWD Division
Phone No 3257

DFP-25034-9/11
G-1971

BJMC Advertisement International Tender

Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills Ltd., Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites sealed tenders from the overseas manufacturers/suppliers/agents under 22nd JDRG-I Phase for the following spares & accessories on C&F(C) Benapole/Mongla/Dhaka Airport basis:

- PJMM/PD/22nd JDRG-I/23, Tk. 370.00 per schedule, date of opening on 20-12-99 (Sewing Machines parts).
- PJMM/PD/22nd JDRG-I/24, Tk. 640.00 per schedule, date of opening on 20-12-99 (Ball Bearings).
- PJMM/PD/22nd JDRG-I/25, Tk. 100.00 per schedule, date of opening 20-12-99 (Chain).
- PJMM/PD/22nd JDRG-I/26, Tk. 190.00 per schedule, date of opening 20-12-99 (Rubber Apron Cot, Flyer & Flyer Fittings).
- PJMM/PD/22nd JDRG-I/27, Tk. 190.00 per schedule, date of opening 20-12-99 (Electrical Spares for Sub-Station).
- PJMM/PD/22nd JDRG-I/28, Tk. 220.00 per schedule, date of opening on 20-12-99 (Spares for Sizing Machine, Cutting Machine & ULRO Press, Pumps etc).
- PJMM/PD/22nd JDRG-I/29, Tk. 130.00 per schedule, date of opening on 20-12-99 (Spares for Dorman Engine & Crane Spares).

Tender will be received up to 12.00 Noon on the date mentioned above and will be opened in presence of bidder (if any) at 12:30 PM on the same day. Tender documents with detailed specifications, terms & conditions will be available on all working days, excepting on the date of opening from the office of (1) Accounts Division, BJMC, Adamjee Court, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka (2) Accounts Division, BJMC (CZ), Satter Chamber, 99, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong (3) Accounts Division, BJMC, Khulna Zone, Hafizuddin Road, Town Khalishpur, Khulna (4) Bills Section, Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills Ltd., Town Khalishpur, Khulna against payment of value of respective tender documents (non-refundable) during office hours.

The tender should accompany with earnest money against each tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order favouring Platinum Jubilee Jute Mills Ltd., Town Khalishpur, Khulna as per clause No. 5 of page No. 5 of the tender schedule. But no cheque/bank guarantee is acceptable.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

BJMC-699
Dt 8.11.99
DFP-25099-9/11
G-1970