

# Industrial nations' trade barriers widening rich-poor gap

## WB sees global economy set for solid growth

WASHINGTON, Dec 6: The global economy looks set for solid growth in the coming years as technological advances and globalisation have helped boost growth prospects, the World Bank said in a report released yesterday, reports Reuters.

The bank said in its Global Economic Prospects report that while many developing countries could see the fastest growth in a decade, some of the world's poorest countries are hampered by industrial nations' trade barriers, further widening the gap between rich and poor.

The report forecasts world economic growth of 3.4 per cent in 2001, up from a March forecast of 3.1 per cent, and predicts growth of 3.2 per cent in 2002, up from an earlier 3.1 per cent prediction.

The report projects US economic growth of 3.2 per cent in 2001, down from a rapid 5.1 per cent in 2000, before slowing further to 2.9 per cent in 2002. In March, the bank forecast US growth of 2.7 per cent and 2.8

per cent for 2001 and 2002, respectively.

Growth is expected to be strongest in developing countries, where the bank sees economic expansions of 5.0 per cent in 2001, up from an earlier 4.8 per cent estimate, and 4.8 per cent in 2002.

The report also contained the following regional growth forecasts:

- East Asia and Pacific of 6.4 per cent in 2001 and 6.0 per cent in 2002.
- Europe and Central Asia of 4.3 per cent and 3.9 per cent in 2001 and 2002.
- Latin America and the Caribbean of 4.1 per cent and 4.3 per cent in 2001 and 2002.
- Middle East and North Africa of 3.8 per cent and 3.6 per cent in 2001 and 2002.
- South Asia of 5.5 per cent in both 2001 and 2002.
- Sub-Saharan Africa of 3.4 per cent and 3.7 per cent in 2001 and 2002.

The bank credited the positive prospects for developing countries to many nations' adoption of reforms to cut in-

flation, increase global integration and improve the health and education of their citizens. But, despite those improvements, further inroads into poverty reduction face significant risks.

"The prospect for growth in the next 10 years are better than they have been, in the developing world, than they have been over the past 30 years," World Bank Chief Economist Nick Stern told a news briefing.

But he warned developing countries still face significant risks, including the potential for further financial market volatility, an abrupt slowdown in US growth sharp changes in oil prices and a failure to deepen domestic reform.

While greater growth has helped many regions grow per capita incomes faster than in industrial countries, Stern said raising incomes in Africa remains a major challenge if poverty is to be significantly reduced in the years ahead.

The report suggested the world economy, forecast to grow 4.1 per cent this year, likely

approached a cyclical high in 2000, boosted by strong US growth, a recovery in Japan and Europe and a sharp rebound of emerging economies.

The report forecasts that global trade volumes will post a 12.5 per cent increase in 2000, the largest such jump since before the first oil shock of the 1970s. And while trade volumes are predicted to grow by 8.0 per cent in 2001 and 6.8 per cent in 2002, many of the world's poorest countries have not kept pace.

While most developing economies significantly liberalised their trade regimes during the 1990s, trade barriers among rich nations for agricultural products, textiles and other products remain high.

"These trade barriers act as a major roadblock for developing countries wanting to get greater quantities of their textiles and agricultural goods into the lucrative import markets of industrial countries," said Uri Dadush, director of the bank's Economic Policy and Prospects Group.

# Oil's 3-day slump ends 2-yr bull run

LONDON, Dec 6: Oil prices extended a heavy losing streak yesterday, prompting dealers to herald the end of the two-year-old bull run that has slowed world economic growth, reports Reuters.

London Brent blend closed a sharp \$1.50 weaker at \$27.84 a barrel and has fallen by \$4.04 a barrel in the last three trading days.

US light crude plummeted to near four-month lows, standing \$1.67 lower at the close at \$29.55 a barrel, a \$4.27 drop since Thursday.

It fell below \$30 a barrel for the first time since August 9.

Prices took steep falls in late trade after news that the United Nations had presented Iraq with a compromise proposal in a bid to end a dispute over pricing that has led to a halt in Baghdad's crude oil exports.

The United Nations oil overseers were waiting for a response from Baghdad, a UN source said.

The source had no details of the proposal by the overseers. But Western diplomats said the proposal showed the UN is making a move to try and solve the issue.

As traders waited for concrete signs of a breakthrough,

analysts noted that oil was finally losing steam after a sustained run.

"The great bull market is over," said US oil analyst Bill O'Grady of A.G. Edwards.

Brent had rocketed from the pits of less than \$9.55 in December 1998 to peak at \$35.30 in mid-October. Brent has averaged \$19.20 over the past 10 years.

Bizarrely, oil's headlong dive this week comes despite the suspension since Friday by Iraq of sales under its oil-for-food exchange with the United Nations.

"The market has become desensitised to Saddam's politicking," said Peter Gignoux, head of the energy desk at Schroder Salomon Smith Barney, of the Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein.

"The oil market at the best of times is a house of mirrors and this just goes to prove how quickly market psychology can turn."

Iraq on Tuesday appeared to backtrack in its standoff with the United Nations over December oil pricing that has deprived world markets of 2.3 million barrels daily, five per cent of global exports.

# Shipping Intelligence

The following are shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong port as per berthing sheet of supplies by HRC Group, Dhaka

**Chittagong port**  
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 6.12.2000.

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Date of Leaving
J/1	Spitjerm Qieem	GI	Sing	Aeka	28/11	-
J/4	Xing Jiang	GI	Busa	BDSHIP	01/12	8/12
J/5	Lady Aryettee	Fert	Sing	SBS	24/11	8/12
J/6	Banglar Maya	GI	Okha	BSC	19/11	7/12
J/7	Andhukana					
J/8	Adikara (48)	1 Pipe	Sing	ASA	4/12	7/12
J/9	Jin Cheng	GI	Qing	BDSHIP	29/11	10/12
J/10	Banglar Kakoli	C Clink	Sing	BSC	R/A	7/12
J/11	Oriental Queen	Cont	Krab	RML	23/11	9/12
J/12	Orient Independence	Cont	P Kel	BDSHIP	20/11	7/12
CCT/1	Qc Teal	Cont	Sing	QCSSL	3/12	6/12
CCT/2	Banglar Bonik	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	3/12	9/2
CCT/3	Os Argosy	Cont	Col	Everbest	30/11	7/12
RM/14	Banglar Urmi	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	10/12
RM/15	Princ	Sugar (TCB) Bang	-	CCNL	1/12	10/12
COJ	St. Anbin	C Clink	Karb	Everest	30/11	10/12
GS/1	Olympic Mentor	Wheat (G)	Sorel	Ancient	26/11	8/12
TSP	Iran Sokan	R Hoes	Hainr	Seacom	27/11	8/12
RM/5	Dailung	Sko/JP-1	Sing	MSTPL	1/12	7/12
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	-	BSC	R/A	9/12

**Vessels due at outer anchorage**

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
BBC Texas	6/12	Mong	H&H	Generating	Pack
B Robt (Cont) 26/11	7/12	Sing	BSC	Cont	L/Sing
Diana	6/12	Kant	NWSL	C Clink (Aramit)	GI
Elessos	8/12	-	Rainbow	GI	(Y Pe+M Sed)
Alam Gabah	7/12	Tull	Litmond	Sugar	GI
K Bunting	6/12	Sing	PH (BD)	Cont	L/Sing
Enos	10/12	Yang	SMSL	GI	L/Sing
B Mont (Cont)	7/12	Sing	BSC	Cont	L/Sing
T River (Cont)	8/12	Sing	Nol	Cont	L/Sing
Mary Nour	10/12	Slang	BSL	Cement (Scan)	GI
Le Ding	8/12	Cher	Litmond	Wheat (G)-GI	P Mat
Dea Captain	6/12	-	Areafeen	P Mat	-
Amarta Jaya-1/72/3/12	10/12	Kaoh	ASA	GI (St Coil)	-
Qena	10/12	-	SBS	Fert (Urea/Bag)	-
Xpres Resolve (Cont) 30/11	10/12	Sing	RSL	Cont	L/Sing
Ibn Battouta	10/12	Tampa	Litmond	TSP	L/Sing
Jaya Mars (Cont) 5/12	15/12	-	Everbest	Cont	L/Sing

**Tanker Due**

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo
Performance-8	6/12	Indo	Rainbow	CPO (RM/3)
Crysta Venture	7/12	Sing	Seacom	CDSO (RM/3)
Eminnence	7/12	Juba	ECSSL	HSD (RM/6)

**Vessels at Kutubdia**

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Arabella	Cont	P Kel	QCSSL	1/12
Kuo Hsiung	Cont	P Kel	QCSSL	1/12
Banga Birol	Cont	Sing	BDSHIP	2/12
Jurong Balsam	Cont	Sing	Nol	2/12
Banga Lanka	Cont	Col	BDSHIP	5/12
Amour-1	CDSO	Mumb	MTCL	27/11
Bege	GI	Sing	Everest	5/12
Gaz Kamla	Ammonia	Hald	MBL	5/12
Chief of Cherokee	Oil	Visa	ASA	6/12
X-Press Makalu	Cont	Col	Everbest	6/12
Ons Marsh	Cont	P Kel	RSL	6/12
Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	PH (BD)	6/12
Actunara	Cont	P Kel	QCSSL	6/12

**Vessels at Outer Anchorage**

**Vessels Ready**

# France hopeful of EU reforms deal at Nice

PARIS, Dec 6: French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine said today he was optimistic this week's summit of European Union leaders would end with a last-minute accord on EU institutional reforms, reports AFP.

"If we manage to snatch an accord in Nice, which I expect will be the case, then everyone will say that the French presidency (of the EU) handled all this very well," Vedrine told the French daily Le Figaro.

He played down dissent between France and Germany over the EU's voting system, saying he did not believe the issue would hinder the negotiations in Nice.

"Every time this question was raised at the highest level in France and Germany, it was agreed that it would not be a factor that would block" the negotiations, Vedrine said.

France, currently head of the EU's rotating presidency, is chairing the summit.

# UN offers compromise proposal on Iraq's Dec oil prices

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 6: The United Nations yesterday offered a compromise proposal on Iraq's December oil prices in an effort to end a row that has stopped Iraq's oil exports, a UN source said, reports Reuters.

The United Nations' in-house oil advisors, the so-called overseers, made a new proposal to Iraq's State Oil Marketing Organisation (SOMO) Tuesday afternoon, the source said.

"The overseers have a proposal," the source said. "Now they are waiting for SOMO to respond."

"They agreed to talk," Hasan said. "When they talk, today, tomorrow, I don't know."

As to whether SOMO has changed its initial proposal for December oil prices that were last week rejected by the UN Iraq sanctions committee, Hasan said, "Not so far."

A Western diplomat said that he expected more talks with SOMO after the agreement on a

new six-month phase of the UN oil for food sales. Talks on terms for a new phase are expected to conclude before the current eighth phase expires Tuesday night.

Oil industry sources have said the row is over a surcharge of 50 cents per barrel that Iraq wants to be paid into an account out of control of the UN, but Hasan said on Monday that no formal proposal has been made on the surcharge and it should not be included in the pricing discussions.

United Nations rules require Iraqi oil sales revenues to go into an escrow account in New York, where Iraqi purchases must be approved by a UN sanctions committee as part of the four year old oil-for-food programme.

The programme allows Iraq to sell crude on the open market.

urgent talks with the United Nations to resolve the halt to exports, the OPEC news agency reported earlier Tuesday.

Iraqi UN envoy Saad Hasan said Monday that SOMO and the overseers were discussing a possible compromise.

No details on the UN proposal were available but it showed that the United Nations is making a move to solve the issue, Western diplomats said.

Iraq's Hasan said SOMO is likely to respond, but he wasn't sure when.

# Exchange Rates

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank Central bank buying and selling band of USD: BDT 53.85/BDT 54.15

TT/OD	Selling		Currency	Buying		
	BC	OD		TT Clean	OD Sight	OD Transfer
54.2500	54.2800	USD	53.8150	53.6464	53.5779	
48.2134	48.3003	EUR	47.0319	46.8485	46.7719	
78.2977	78.3397	GBP	76.8388	76.5723	76.5177	
29.8749	29.8995	AUD	28.8160	28.7235	28.6434	
0.4938	0.4939	JPY	0.4808	0.4806	0.4796	
31.8151	31.8396	CHF	31.2852	31.1907	31.1062	
5.6119	5.6171	SEK	5.5184	5.5007	5.4848	
35.2988	35.3234	CAD	34.7395	34.6459	34.5627	
6.9595	6.9608	HKD	6.8981	6.8804	6.8630	
31.290	31.3115	SGD	30.8534	30.8096	30.6950	
14.8919	14.9095	AED	14.5023	14.5242	14.4838	
14.5795	14.9095	SAR	14.2399	14.2032	14.1850	

**Usance export bills**

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
53.7041	53.7272	52.9304	52.4217	51.8688	50.6303

**Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar**

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Thai baht	Lankan rupee	Indo rupiah	NZ dollar
46.65	57.30/57.60	43.54/43.57	81.00/81.10	9510/9520	0.4249/0.4256
46.85					

**US dollar**

	Buying		Selling	
	1	3	6	12
Cash notes	53.8150	54.2800	53.7675	54.125
TC	53.5650	54.2600	53.7484	54.0875

**Libor**

	1		3		6		9		12	
	Month	3	Month	3	Month	3	Month	3	Month	3
USD	6.76875	6.6775	6.58125	6.5225	6.49125	6.49125	6.49125	6.49125	6.49125	6.49125
GBP	5.97484	6.00875	6.01375	6.01125	6.01	6.01	6.01	6.01	6.01	6.01

The Daily Star **DHL** WORLDWIDE EXPRESS seek nominations for

# Bangladesh Business Awards 2000

to honour the highest achievers in this community ...



All are invited to send in your nominations by: 21 December 2000

### Criteria

**Business Person of the Year and Outstanding Woman in Business:**  
The nominee will be considered for his/her leadership, financial performance, personal qualities, managerial skills and contribution to Bangladesh's development. In financial performance, the nominee must have made outstanding contribution to his/her organisation. In case of a public company, he/she must have contributed to a substantial increase in the returns on shareholders' funds. In case of a private company or sole proprietorship, he/she must have contributed to an improvement in return on capital invested. Personal qualities will include integrity, entrepreneurial abilities and personal leadership. Managerial skills will depend on depth of management, adaptability, tenacity, innovation, productivity, creativity and good labour management.

**Enterprise of the Year:**  
Open to small and medium-sized companies, the nomination will be based on innovation, financial performance, productivity, company management and contribution to the community. Innovation will mean success of the company either in products, services or new markets. In financial performance/productivity, the enterprise must have made outstanding growth in profit. Company management will focus on creative management style in developing harmonious relations within the organisation.

**Rules of Eligibility:**  
The awardee should be involved in private business enterprise and must be a Bangladeshi citizen or ordinarily resident in Bangladesh. He/She must have clean banking and tax records. There is no restriction on age or race. In case of Enterprise Award, only Bangladeshi company will be considered.

**Selection Process:**  
An eleven-member jury panel comprising of leading intellectuals, business persons, academicians, lawyers, financial experts and eminent personalities with high social standing, credibility and prestige including the CEO's of the two sponsoring organisations shall select the winners. The decision of the jury shall be final and binding and cannot be contested.

Cast your vote now I hereby nominate

### BUSINESS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Nominee : \_\_\_\_\_  
Company : \_\_\_\_\_  
Why : (please use extra sheet)

### OUTSTANDING WOMAN IN BUSINESS

Nominee : \_\_\_\_\_  
Company : \_\_\_\_\_  
Why : (please use extra sheet)

### ENTERPRISE OF THE YEAR

Nominee : \_\_\_\_\_  
Why : (please use extra sheet)

Nominator : \_\_\_\_\_  
Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: (o) \_\_\_\_\_ (r) \_\_\_\_\_  
Fax : \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail : \_\_\_\_\_

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