

## India needs serious fiscal adjustment to spur growth

AFP, New Delhi

India has made "impressive progress" in increasing incomes and living standards but needs economic reforms including "serious fiscal adjustment" to stay on the growth path, the World Bank said.

The Bank's first India development policy review, entitled "India: sustaining reforms, reducing poverty," was posted on the World Bank's Indian website on Monday.

"India has continued to make impressive progress in increasing incomes and improving standards

of living in the past decade but it will be difficult to sustain this trend unless there is an acceleration of reforms including serious fiscal adjustment," the report said.

"To achieve its planned growth target of five per cent India will need to impart a fresh impetus to reform. Fiscal adjustment, along with other reforms to improve the investment climate, will be essential to accelerate growth."

The World Bank said it was important for India to stay on the high growth path as it had helped deal with poverty dogging many of

the country's one billion people.

"Economic growth has been the key driver of poverty reduction in the country and its recent slowdown is a cause for concern. Continued strong growth in the services sector has been offset by a slowdown in agriculture performance," it said.

"This deceleration has been accompanied by a slowdown in investment and a deterioration in the fiscal position of both the central and state government."

A withering drought hit India's economic growth in the year to

March 2003, bringing it down to 4.3 per cent from 5.6 per cent the previous year.

However, industry experts have forecast that the economy is likely to grow at 5.5 to 6.0 per cent in the fiscal year 2003-2004 because of normal monsoon rains coupled with sustained industrial growth.

The Indian government claims it is on track to achieving a target of eight per cent economic growth over the next five years but economists say this rate of growth is unachievable given the high fiscal deficit.



CM Koyes Sami, managing director of Oriental Bank Limited, formally inaugurates a textile factory of Givency Group financed by the bank recently.



Md Yeasin Ali, managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, speaks at the inauguration of a 5-day training programme on 'Asset and Liability Management' at the bank's training centre in Dhaka on Sunday. Abul Hashem Khan, deputy managing director, and Ziegfried Vermaak, chief executive officer of Simulation Architects International of Belgium, are also seen in the picture.



Mosharraf Hossain, managing director of the Mutual Trust Bank Limited, speaks as chief guest at the inauguration of an 'Orientation Course on Banking' for newly recruited assistant officers and tellers of the bank in Dhaka on Sunday.



M Yunus (sitting middle), former president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Shamsul Alam (sitting-L-2), senior executive vice-president of Bank Asia, and Mustafizur Khan (sitting-R-2), DCCI secretary, pose for a photograph with the participants of a training course on shipping procedures for export and import organised by the DCCI Business Institute (DBI) in Dhaka on Saturday.

## Russian minister calls for quick end to Yukos crisis

AFP, Moscow

A Russian economic minister called in an interview published Monday for a rapid resolution to the crisis surrounding oil giant Yukos that has stunned foreign investors here and deeply unsettled the political climate on the eve of parliamentary elections.

"I hope the situation with Yukos is temporary," Economic Trade and Development Minister German Gref told Monday's edition of Profil magazine.

"In order for the market to settle and return to its initial state the situation has to be resolved as soon as possible," he said.

He also urged prosecution officials who opened a series of murder probes linked to the company and its chief Mikhail Khodorkovsky -- Russia's richest man -- to rethink what their action may do to the country's fragile economy.

"I think prosecutors understand the economic component of their law enforcement activities and will complete the inspections quickly," he said.

## CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling		Currency		Buying	
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer	
58.7500	58.8000	USD	57.8200	57.6502	57.5812
67.0220	67.0790	EUR	64.5445	64.3549	64.2779
93.6358	93.7154	GBP	90.7369	90.4704	90.3621
38.7633	38.7962	AUD	36.7330	36.6252	36.5813
0.5017	0.5021	JPY	0.4857	0.4843	0.4837
43.5411	43.5782	CHF	42.2414	42.1173	42.0669
7.1481	7.1542	SEK	6.8813	6.8617	6.8537
42.0153	42.0511	CAD	41.7959	40.6761	40.6274
7.5403	7.5467	HKD	7.4060	7.3842	7.3754
33.5849	33.6134	SGD	32.7722	32.6759	32.6368
16.1255	16.1392	AED	15.6148	15.5689	15.5503
15.7909	15.8043	SAR	15.2959	15.2510	15.2327

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringit
46.262	57.67	97.135	41.675	7.3990	0.6225	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading  
The local interbank foreign exchange market was active. Dollar remained slightly stronger against the Bangladesh taka.

Local Money Market  
Call money market was stable. Call money rate ranged unchanged between 4.00 and 5.00 per cent.

International Market  
Sterling slid to a three-month low versus the dollar and six week low against the euro on Monday, hurt by a political row between the UK government and the BBC which led to the suicide of a British weapons expert.

## SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 21/07/2003

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Bosowa Delapan	Wheat(P)	Viza	Total	18/6	23/7	1073
J/3	Induruwa Valley	Rice(P)	Kaki	Able	14/7	21/7	450
J/4	Pathain	Rice(P)	Yang	Total	7/7	23/7	974
J/5	Sagaing (Liner)	GI	Yang	Everett	16/7	24/7	1511
J/8	Al Muztuba	Wheat(P)	Kaki	CLA	14/7	23/7	1054
J/11	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pii(BD)	19/7	22/7	40600
J/12	QC Lark	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	20/7	24/7	302608
J/13	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Everbest	19/7	24/7	262643
CCT/1	Orient Grace	Cont	P Kel	PSSL	18/7	22/7	378x
CCT/2	Banga Bodor	Cont	--	Bdship	R/A	26/7	200/276
CCT/3	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pii(BD)	18/7	21/7	200x
RM/14	Banglar Kallol	Repair	--	BSC	R/A	25/7	
RM/15	Helin	Idle	P Kel	TMML	17/6	26/7	

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Banga Birol	21/7	Sing	Bdship	Wheat	Sing
Sea Ballo	21/7	--	Rainbow	Wheat	Cont
Wind-II	21/7	Sing	OTBL	For Demolition	Cont
Sea Elegance	21/7	Sing	Pii(BD)	Cont	Sing
Pac Rose	22/7	Cal	MBL	W/LC	Urea(Thai)
Sea Phoenix	22/7	St Peat	Angelic	Mop(P)	CTG
Thor Falcon	23/7	Sing	Allseas	GI	Cont
Nepoleon	22/7	Tuba	Litmond	C Clink	Cont
Banglar Urmi	23/7	Okha	Royal	GI(Soda+Steel)	Cont
Banga orak	23/7	P Kel	Bdship	Cont	CBO
Banga Bonik	23/7	Ghettm	Baridih	Cont	Col
Xpress Resolve	24/7	P Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Orient Excellence	23/7	P Kel	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Barrier	24/7	--	Everbest	Cont	Col
Banga Barta	26/7	Hald	Baridih	Cont	Col
Banga Biraj	25/7	--	Bdship	Cont	Sing
QC Dignity	26/7	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	--	BSC	R/A
Great Peace	Wheat(G)	Sing	Lams	19/7
Banglar Robi	Wheat(G)	--	Lams	R/A(19/7)

Outside port limit:

Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	--	BSC	R/A
Great Peace	Wheat(G)	Sing	Lams	19/7
Banglar Robi	Wheat(G)	--	Lams	R/A(19/7)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:

Ruhunupura	Cont	Hald	PSST	20/7
Budi Teguh	Cont	Sing	Pii(BD)	20/7
Mardios	Cont	P Kel	RSL	20/7

Vessels not ready:

Server	W(P)+Lent	Vanc	Litmond	17/7
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Vessels not entering:

Dolly	Mop(P)	Niko	Litmond	1/7
Sea Cross	Slag(P)	Fuyu	SSST	7/7
Filma	RBD	Yang	Seacom	10/7
Blue Sea	Slag	Visa	Move	12/7
KS Glory	Clink	Krabi	ASLL	21/7
Bosowa Sembilan	--	--	Pana	R/A(17/0)
Mitiadis-I	Scraping	Fuja	OTBL	6/7
Cekim	Scraping	Sing	OTBL	16/7
Accord	--	Sing	Viking	5/4

The above is yesterday's shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

## STOCK