

Global growth prospects still encouraging: Central bankers

AFP, BASEL, Switzerland

Leading central bankers believe that global economic growth prospects remain encouraging but stress that the real estate market should be kept under watch, European Central Bank chief Jean-Claude Trichet said Monday.

Trichet, who had chaired a meeting of the G10 group of top central bank governors here, told

journalists afterwards that the upbeat forecast that the bankers had made in January still held.

"We have the same sentiment on global growth," Trichet said. "Global growth is there and it is encouraging."

Two months ago, at its last bi-monthly review meeting on the world economy, the G10 had said that global growth was "dynamic". It said that growth was likely to be

slightly higher in 2006 than the 4.0 percent target that the group had set out in 2005, and that the globe had weathered a sharp rise in oil prices to record levels last year.

Trichet said that the world's financial markets had "well absorbed" interest rate increases in the European Union, Japan and the United States.

The US Federal Reserve raised its interest rates in June 2004,

followed by the European Central Bank in December last year. The Bank of Japan last week decided to tighten its monetary policy for the first time since March 2001.

Rate increases do "not risk slowing growth, on the contrary they are paving the way for substantial growth," Trichet said.

However, he noted that overheating real estate markets could become a concern.

Daylong computer fair held in Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT, bogra

A huge number of school and collage going students along with their guardians thronged a daylong computer fair at Karatoa Auditorium in Bogra yesterday.

Shawan Ahmed, a class VIII student of a school in Bogra, said, "The fair gave students an opportunity to know about latest developments in IT."

Intel organised the fair with a view to introducing computers and accessories to the young people in the district town.

The organisers also arranged a computer game competition on the sidelines of the fair.

Private internet service provider Nahian Technology (Pvt) Limited offered free internet facilities to school and collage students in the fair.

Seiko to open center in S'pore

AFP, Singapore

Japanese electronics and watch maker Seiko Instruments will set up a research centre in Singapore, its first outside Japan, local press reports said Tuesday.

The facility will work with local research institutes in the field of micro and nano technology, The Business Times quoted Seiko Instruments president and chief executive officer Yukihiro Chayama as saying.



PHOTO: STAR

Children crowd a stall at a daylong computer fair at Karatoa Auditorium in Bogra yesterday. Intel organised the fair with a view to introducing computers and accessories to young people in the district town.



PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK BANGLADESH

Abdur Raquib, executive president of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, speaks at a clients' get-together organised by the bank in Mymensingh.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's (March 14, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

| Sell | | | | | | Buy | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|--------------|-------------|-----|--|--|
| TT/OD | BC | Currency | TT Clean | OD Sight Doc | OD Transfer | | | |
| 72.2200 | 72.2500 | USD | 71.1500 | 71.1263 | 71.0789 | | | |
| 87.3645 | 87.4008 | EUR | 84.0495 | 84.0215 | 83.9654 | | | |
| 126.1467 | 126.1991 | GBP | 122.1076 | 122.0869 | 121.9855 | | | |
| 54.0711 | 54.0936 | AUD | 51.3205 | 51.3034 | 51.2892 | | | |
| 0.6168 | 0.6170 | JPY | 0.5960 | 0.5958 | 0.5954 | | | |
| 55.7167 | 55.7399 | CHF | 53.7793 | 53.7614 | 53.7255 | | | |
| 9.5788 | 9.5827 | SEK | 8.7455 | 8.7426 | 8.7368 | | | |
| 63.0247 | 63.0509 | CAD | 60.8276 | 60.8073 | 60.7667 | | | |
| 9.3291 | 9.3329 | HKD | 9.1487 | 9.1456 | 9.1395 | | | |
| 45.3814 | 45.4003 | SGD | 43.6450 | 43.6304 | 43.6013 | | | |
| 19.8243 | 19.8326 | AED | 19.2162 | 19.2098 | 19.1970 | | | |
| 19.4114 | 19.4194 | SAR | 18.8223 | 18.8160 | 18.8034 | | | |
| 12.0628 | 12.0678 | DKK | 10.9733 | 10.9697 | 10.9624 | | | |
| 243.9572 | 244.0606 | KWD | 241.7875 | 241.7092 | 241.5527 | | | |

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

| Indian rupee | Pak rupee | Lankan rupee | Thai baht | Nor kroner | NZ dollar | Malaysian ringgit |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|-----------|------------|-----------|-------------------|
| 44.37 | 59.915 | 102.7 | 39.155 | 6.6566 | 0.6352 | 3.72 |

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SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 14/3/2006.

| Berth No. | Name of vessels | Cargo | L Port call | Local agent | Dt of arrival | Leaving | Import disch. |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| J/1 | Shan Hai Guan | Gl | Inch | Cosco | 9/3 | 14/3 | 2151 |
| J/2 | Tai Cang Hai | Gl(St. Bil) | Chenn | RSA | 10/3 | 16/3 | 4902 |
| J/3 | Carina-li | Sugar | Durb | Mutual | 23/2 | 23/3 | 654 |
| J/5 | Handy | Gl | Sing | Cosco | 12/3 | 19/3 | 1086 |
| J/6 | Ocean Park | Cont | Col | Seacon | 11/3 | 16/3 | 179 |
| J/7 | Xiang Jiang | Gl | Xian | Cosco | 11/3 | 17/3 | 1623 |
| J/8 | Coastal Express | Cont | Viza | BSC | 13/3 | 14/3 | 127 |
| J/9 | Qc Star | Cont | Sing | QCSL | 12/3 | 16/3 | 56 |
| J/10 | Kota Rukun | Cont | Sing | Pil(Bd) | 8/3 | 15/3 | 141 |
| J/11 | Banga Bijoy | Cont | Col | Baridhi | 10/3 | 15/3 | 178 |

Vessels due at outer anchorage

| Name of vessels | Date of arrival | L Port call | Local agent | Type of cargo | Loading ports |
|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Banglar Gourab | 16/3 | P. Ban | BSC | Gl(S. Ash) | -- |
| Cape Bonavista | 14/3 | P. Kel | Bdship | Cont | P. Kel |
| Marisa Green | 14/3 | P. Kel | Everbest | Cont | Sing |
| Oel Esteem | 14/3 | PKL | Everbest | Cont | Sing |
| Rss-1 | 20/3 | Indo | Pacific | C. Clink | Most |
| Silver Bin | 14/3 | Nant | USL | C. Clink | Uni/Scbl |
| Bang Long | 14/3 | Yang | Mutual | Gl(R. Log) | -- |
| New Hope-li | 15/3 | Viza | Move | Slag | Mos/Hak |
| Qc Teal | 15/3 | Ptp | QCSL | Cont | P. Kel |
| Eastern Star | 17/3 | Sing | PML | Cont | Sing |
| Maritime Songkhla | 15/3 | Indo | BSL | C. Clink | Hcbl |

Tanker due

| | | | | | |
|------------|------|-------|-------|-----------|----|
| Pakinee | 15/3 | Lumut | SSST | CPO | |
| Al Sabiyah | 17/3 | Kuwa | MSTPL | HSD/Jp-1 | -- |
| Harmony | 22/3 | Jebel | OWSL | Crude Oil | -- |

Vessels at Kutubdia

| Name of vessels | Cargo | Last Port call | Local agent | Date of arrival |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|

Outside Port Limit:

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----|------|-----------|
| Wira Kenis | -- | -- | IBSA | R/A(12/3) |
|------------|----|----|------|-----------|

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--------|--------|---------|------|
| Banga Borat | Cont | Sing | Bdship | 12/3 |
| Dawei | Cont | Sing | PML | 12/3 |
| Kota Cahaya | Cont | Sing | Pil(Bd) | 13/3 |
| Independent Spirit | Cont | Sing | APL | 13/3 |
| Banga Biraj | Cont | Sing | Bdship | 13/3 |
| Oel Wisdom | Cont | Col | PSSL | 14/3 |
| Banglar Jyoti | C. Oil | K. Dia | BSC | R/A |
| Al Badiyah | HSD/Ms | Kuwa | MSTPL | 12/3 |

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction:

| | | | | |
|----------------|---------|--------|--------|------------|
| Bumi-Jaya | -- | Visa | Unicom | 10/11/2004 |
| Xpress Manaslu | -- | P. Kel | Seacon | R/A(21/12) |
| Xpress Resolve | -- | Col | Seacon | R/A(21/12) |
| Salamat-2 | -- | -- | Nishat | R/A(20/2) |
| Salamat-3 | Ballast | Yang | Nishat | 4/3 |
| Taraman Bibi | Repair | -- | Nishat | R/A(10/3) |

Vessels not entering:

| | | | | |
|---------------|----------|---------|---------|------|
| Genesis | Ballast | Sing | QCGL | 5/2 |
| Ocean Heart | Salt | Kand | Sigma | 13/2 |
| Pavonis | Salt | Col | PML | 4/3 |
| Al Muztuba | Salt | Kand | Cla | 8/3 |
| Seaboss-1 | C. Clink | Kant | ASLL | 9/3 |
| Iran Sarbaz | C. Clink | S. Kore | Uniship | 10/3 |
| Santa Barbara | C. Clink | Thai | Uniship | 10/3 |
| Alison | C. Clink | Lumut | Move | 11/3 |
| K. S. Glory | C. Clink | Lumut | Litmond | 13/3 |
| Polydefkis | Wheat | Ukra | Mutual | 14/3 |

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

STOCK