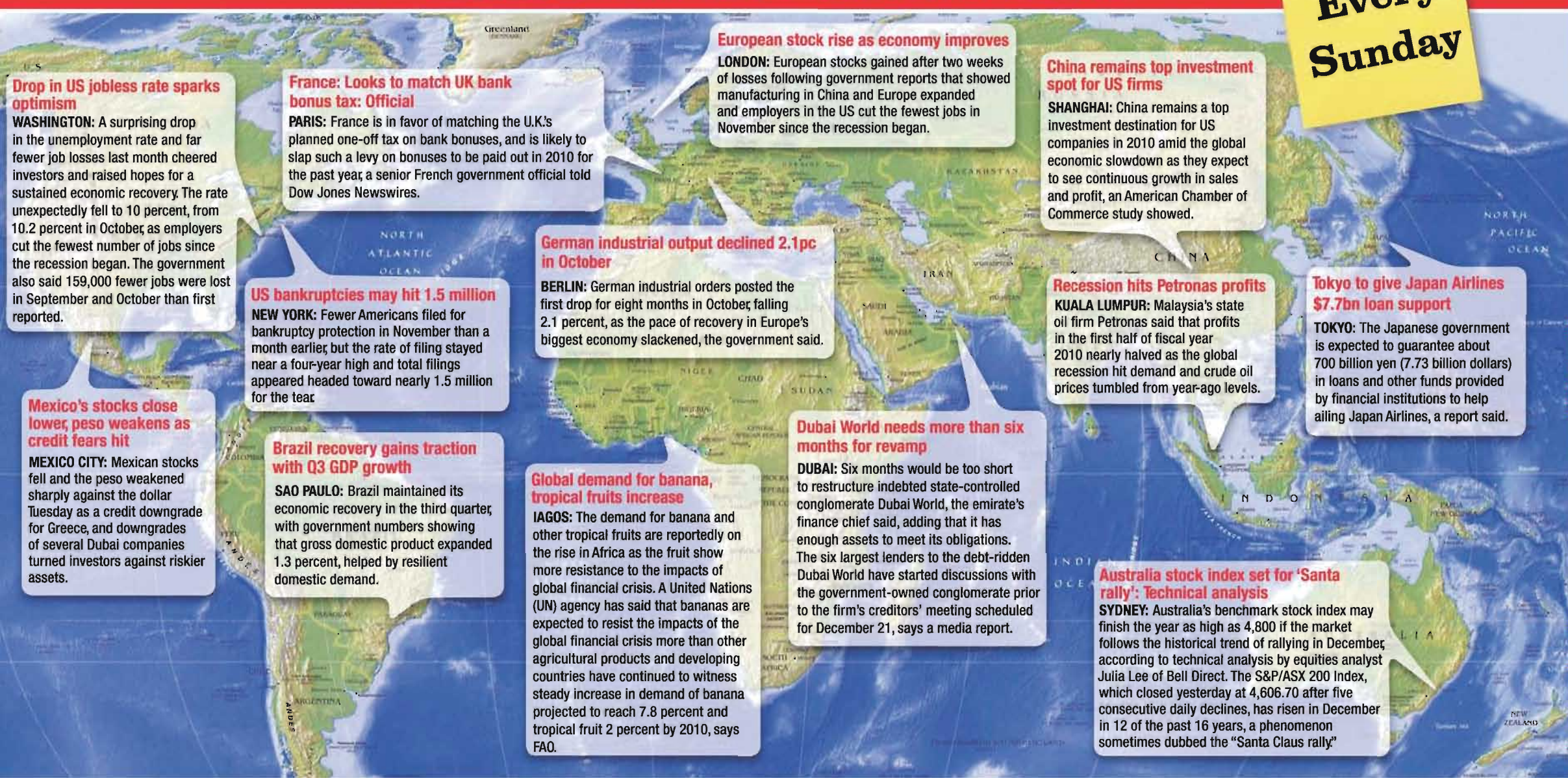


GLOBAL ECONOMIC CRISIS MAP (GECM)

Every Sunday



Drop in US jobless rate sparks optimism
WASHINGTON: A surprising drop in the unemployment rate and far fewer job losses last month cheered investors and raised hopes for a sustained economic recovery. The rate unexpectedly fell to 10 percent, from 10.2 percent in October, as employers cut the fewest number of jobs since the recession began. The government also said 159,000 fewer jobs were lost in September and October than first reported.

France: Looks to match UK bank bonus tax: Official
PARIS: France is in favor of matching the U.K.'s planned one-off tax on bank bonuses, and is likely to slap such a levy on bonuses to be paid out in 2010 for the past year, a senior French government official told Dow Jones Newswires.

European stock rise as economy improves
LONDON: European stocks gained after two weeks of losses following government reports that showed manufacturing in China and Europe expanded and employers in the US cut the fewest jobs in November since the recession began.

China remains top investment spot for US firms
SHANGHAI: China remains a top investment destination for US companies in 2010 amid the global economic slowdown as they expect to see continuous growth in sales and profit, an American Chamber of Commerce study showed.

US bankruptcies may hit 1.5 million
NEW YORK: Fewer Americans filed for bankruptcy protection in November than a month earlier, but the rate of filing stayed near a four-year high and total filings appeared headed toward nearly 1.5 million for the year.

German industrial output declined 2.1pc in October
BERLIN: German industrial orders posted the first drop for eight months in October, falling 2.1 percent, as the pace of recovery in Europe's biggest economy slackened, the government said.

Recession hits Petronas profits
KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia's state oil firm Petronas said that profits in the first half of fiscal year 2010 nearly halved as the global recession hit demand and crude oil prices tumbled from year-ago levels.

Tokyo to give Japan Airlines \$7.7bn loan support
TOKYO: The Japanese government is expected to guarantee about 700 billion yen (7.73 billion dollars) in loans and other funds provided by financial institutions to help ailing Japan Airlines, a report said.

Mexico's stocks close lower, peso weakens as credit fears hit
MEXICO CITY: Mexican stocks fell and the peso weakened sharply against the dollar Tuesday as a credit downgrade for Greece, and downgrades of several Dubai companies turned investors against riskier assets.

Brazil recovery gains traction with Q3 GDP growth
SAO PAULO: Brazil maintained its economic recovery in the third quarter, with government numbers showing that gross domestic product expanded 1.3 percent, helped by resilient domestic demand.

Dubai World needs more than six months for revamp
DUBAI: Six months would be too short to restructure indebted state-controlled conglomerate Dubai World, the emirate's finance chief said, adding that it has enough assets to meet its obligations. The six largest lenders to the debt-ridden Dubai World have started discussions with the government-owned conglomerate prior to the firm's creditors' meeting scheduled for December 21, says a media report.

Global demand for banana, tropical fruits increase
IAGOS: The demand for banana and other tropical fruits are reportedly on the rise in Africa as the fruit show more resistance to the impacts of global financial crisis. A United Nations (UN) agency has said that bananas are expected to resist the impacts of the global financial crisis more than other agricultural products and developing countries have continued to witness steady increase in demand of banana projected to reach 7.8 percent and tropical fruit 2 percent by 2010, says FAO.

Australia stock index set for 'Santa rally': Technical analysis
SYDNEY: Australia's benchmark stock index may finish the year as high as 4,800 if the market follows the historical trend of rallying in December, according to technical analysis by equities analyst Julia Lee of Bell Direct. The S&P/ASX 200 Index, which closed yesterday at 4,606.70 after five consecutive daily declines, has risen in December in 12 of the past 16 years, a phenomenon sometimes dubbed the "Santa Claus rally"