

## US extends GSP facilities to 5,700 Afghan items

AFP, Kabul

Almost 6,000 Afghan export products will be awarded duty-free status in United States markets under a special trade privilege, Afghanistan's Commerce Minister Sayeed Mustafa Kazimi announced Wednesday.

Some 5,700 "products manufactured and originated in Afghanistan can enter US markets directly duty-free," Kazimi told a press conference.

The concessions, announced by

Washington Monday, are awarded under the generalised system of preferences (GSP), which grants duty-free treatment to specified products from more than 140 designated developing countries and territories.

"This GSP designation marks an important step in Afghanistan's return to the world trading system," White House spokesman Ari Fleischer announced in a statement.

"Increased opportunities for trade will help Afghanistan build an

economy that can offer its citizens a more prosperous future."

Afghan exports were close to disappearing over the past two decades of war and drought, Kazimi said.

"That was mainly due to the quantity of Afghanistan's merchandise and a lack of capability to compete in a global market on a global scale."

Kazimi predicted increased production, serious investment and economic expansion as a result of the US trade privileges.

## New ACI depot at Srimongal

ACI has opened its 19th depot at Srimongal recently, says a press release.

The depot was inaugurated by F H Ansarey, executive director, Agribusiness, and the inauguration ceremony was attended, among others, by Sheema Huq, general manager, Corporate Services of ACI Limited, Shafique Ahmed Chowdhury, chief executive officer, James Finlay, Mainuddin Ahmed and president of Bangladesh Chemist & Druggist Society, Srimongal.

## MIDAS training on 'fabric arts and craft' held

A three-day skill development training course on "Fabric arts and craft" organised by Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services (MIDAS) concluded recently in the city, says a press release.

The course was conducted in assistance with Pidlite Industries Ltd, India. The course aimed at familiarising the participants with colour application in fabric and glass, tie dye, block, boutique, spray, brush, marble painting, pottery painting, sticker, m-seal.

A total of 31 women participated in the training course.

Bazlur Rahman Khan, deputy managing director of MIDAS Financing Ltd, was present as chief guest in the closing session of the course on Monday.

Md Shafiqur Rahman, senior general manager (Programmes), and Mohammad Alauddin, assistant general manager of MIDAS, and Ayon Chatterjee, business executive of Pidlite Industries Ltd, India, were also present.

## Bankrupt Kmart to close 326 stores, lay off 37,000 staff

AFP, Detroit, Michigan

Bankrupt retail discounter Kmart Corp. said Tuesday it would close another 326 stores in 44 states, slashing 37,000 jobs as it struggles to cost-cut its way out of bankruptcy.

The struggling Troy, Michigan-based retailer said it hopes that the second round of store closings will save it 500 million dollars next year.

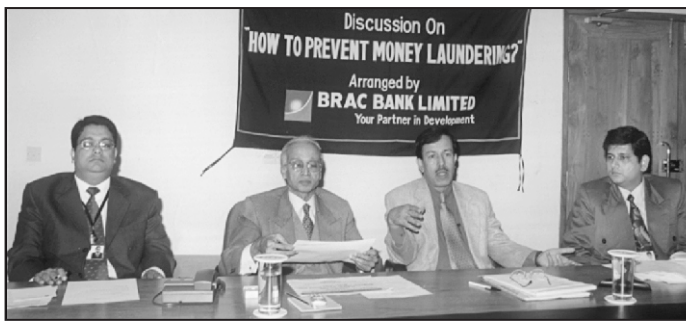


PHOTO: BRAC BANK

BRAC Bank Limited recently arranged a workshop on prevention of money laundering. M. Enamul Haq Chowdhury, managing director of the bank, presided over the workshop while Md. Harunur Rashid Chowdhury, general manager of Anti-money Laundering Department of Bangladesh Bank, was present as chief guest. All branch managers and senior officials were present.



PHOTO: ACI

F H Ansarey, executive director of Agribusinesses, inaugurates the ACI Sreemongal depot recently.

## CURRENCY

The following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling	Currency	Buying			
		TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer	
59.2500	BC	USD	58.3500	58.1786	58.1090
63.4686	63.5222	EUR	60.7248	60.5465	60.4740
95.9435	96.0245	GBP	93.0566	92.7832	92.6722
35.4019	35.4318	AUD	33.6680	33.5691	33.5289
0.5081	0.5085	JPY	0.4909	0.4895	0.4889
43.0565	43.0928	CHF	41.8100	41.6872	41.6373
6.8379	6.8436	SEK	6.7169	6.6972	6.6892
38.6775	38.7101	CAD	37.6112	37.5007	37.4558
7.6044	7.6109	HKD	7.4741	7.4521	7.4432
34.3399	34.3688	SGD	33.5268	33.4283	33.3883
16.2636	16.2773	AED	15.7588	15.7125	15.6937
15.9257	15.9391	SAR	15.4365	15.3912	15.3727

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
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## SHIPPING

Chittagong port  
Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 15.01.2003.

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import disc
J/1	Inwa	GI (Y Ma)	Myan	MTA	9/01	20/01	570
J/2	Amanat Shah	Sugar (P)	Mumb	CLA	4/01	20/1	854
J/3	Jon Jin	Sugar (P)	Kaki	SSTL	25/12	16/1	1407
J/4	Balabac Strait (72)GI (HR C)		Sing	H&S I	14/01	18/01	
J/5	Camerona	C Clink	Mala	NWSL	4/1	17/1	2520
J/6	Myeik	GI (Maize)	Yang	MTA	31/12	19/1	989
J/7	Diana	GI	Mum	RML	15/01	18/01	
J/8	Banglar Maya	GI	Yang	Royal	14/01	22/01	
J/11	Eagle Strength	Cont	Sing	Nol	13/01	17/01	347/312
J/12	Mardios (EBB)	Cont	P Kel	RSL	12/01	15/01	
J/13	Banga Bodor	Cont	Sing	BDship	14/01	18/01	
CCT/1	QC Teal (EBB)	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	13/01	17/01	296/103
CCT/2	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	12/1	16/1	187/X
CCT/3	Banga Barta	Cont	Sing	Baridhi	14/1	17/01	199/300

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
An Guang Jidang	15/1/2003	Yang	Bdship		GI
Kripa	15/1	P Kel	PSSL		Cont
Amalfi	15/1	-	ANCL		C Clink
Banglar Urmii	15/1	Mumb	Mutual		Sugar (P)
Xpress Manaslu	15/1	P Kel	RSL		Cont
Banga Borat	15/01	Sing	BDship		Cont
Vast Bangalore	15/01	Chen	Prog		GI (St C)
Kota Cahaya	16/1	Sing	Pil (BD)		Cont
Banga Bonik	16/1	Col	Baridhi		Cont
Orient Freedom	16/1	P Kel	PSSL		Cont
Dawe (Liner)	18/1	Yang	Everett		GI (St C)
Oceanic Pescadores	19/1	Yang	Everett		GI (St C)
Jaami	17/1	Col	Everest		Cont
Banga Birol	20/01	--	Bdship		Cont
Caravos Explorer	18/1	Ind	Ancient		Wheat (G)
Maersk Crest	18/1	Hald	JF		Vshi
QC Honour	19/1	P Kel	QCSL		Cont
Haneburg	18/1	Sing	Pil (BD)		Cont
Orange Breeze	19/1	Sing	Everett		Vehi
Banga Borti	20/1	-	Bdship		Cont
Banga Lanka	21/1	-	Baridhi		Cont
Jin Cheng	20/1	-	Bdship		GI
Asimont	20/1	-	Seaborne		Cont
Ana	20/1	-	PSSL		Cont
Dea Captain	-	-	-		Arafeen
Pearl of Baharain	C Clink	Kohsl	Uniship		10/1
Danat Qatar	C Oil	Rast	USS		11/1
Banglar Shourabnq	C Oil	--	BSC		R/A

Vessels at outer anchorage/Vessels ready

Dai Hong Dan	WT(P)/Rice	Vish	Uniship	13/1
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Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Banglar Doot	-	-	BSC	A/A
Ocean Pride	-	-	PSAL	R/A

Movement of vessels for 16.01.2003

Outgoing		Incoming		Shifting
J/3	Jon Jin	J/12	Kripa	
CCT/2	B Moni	O Freedom		
RM/4	T Bibi	Ex Manaslu		
DOJ	B Jyoti	Vast Bangalore		
		Dai Hong Dan		
		B Shourab		
		B Doot		
		RM/8	T Niaga-II	
			Corona	

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per



PHOTO: MIDAS

Picture shows a partial view of participants attended in a skill development training course on 'Fabric Arts and Crafts' organised by MIDAS in the city recently.

## STOCK