DThe Daily Star DUSINESS

DHAKA SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1998

Domestic flights of Biman

Biman Bangladesh Airlines Barisal-Dhaka domestic fli-

The rescheduled flights, twice a week, will start operawill operate on Sunday and Thursday, said a Biman press

On Thursday, BG 471 will depart Dhaka at 1:45 pm and arrive Barisal at 2:15 pm while BG 472 will depart Barisal at 2:45 pm arrive Dhaka at 3:15

On Sunday, BG 471 will arparting Dhaka at 8:45 am and BG 472 will depart Barisal at 9:45 am and arrive Dhaka at 10:15 am.

begins today

State Minister for Science

SIR laboratories will remain open for the people from 10 am to 5 pm, said a press release.

BANGKOK, May 8: Thai-

"Consumers' demand hits high and rice exporters in other countries, like India, Pakistan and Vietnam, have less stock.' said the official in the grain di-

same period last year, the official said.

Thailand, the world's largest exporter of rice, has forecast exports between 400,000 tonnes and 500,000 tonnes in May and June, he said.

cent in US dollar terms at 750 million dollars, the department

The Thai baht has lost more

department said demand for rice was stronger from Indonesia, Philippines, Malaysia and

over the four months year on year, but was unable to provide figures.

to review spending

governor said on Thursday.

nations have blamed currency "When the income is lower, traders seeking to reap large the need is there to review spending and tighten, keep profits for some of recent eco within your original objecnomic instability in Asia. tives," Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) Governor day discussed the summit agenda and a draft of the sum-

He was speaking on the sidelines of a meeting of Arab fi nancial institutions in Beirut.

TOKYO, May 8: The Tokyo tion for policy purposes in the Stock Exchange's main index past. gained slightly Friday after three trading days of losses, possibly supported by buying largest oil producer and exfrom public pension funds. The

mit's final communique.

porter, is especially sensitive to dollar edged lower against the yen, reports AP. The benchmark 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average gained 5.97 points, or 0.04 per cent, closing the week at 15,149,00. The rise came after the index had shed a total of 497.68 Bankers have estimated the points over the previous three trading days, including a drop

of 110.8 points, or 0.66 per cent, on Thursday. The index moved into positive territory Friday morning after having hit its lowest point since January 14 in intraday

trading the previous day. Masaru Arai, a general

manager at Ryoko Securities Co, said the bounce higher early Friday may have signaled buying from public pension funds on the orders of the Japanese Finance Ministry.

The ministry does not comment on public pension trading. But the government has used pension money under its discre-

National Telecom Policy '98 Govt anticipates 2-phase restructuring of BTTB

The government has anticipated a two-phase restructuring programme for Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) to make it at first a limited company and finally a private one, reports UNB.

According to newly adopted National Telecommunications Policy, 1998, the phase-1 will be a corporatisation process in which BTTB becomes a limited company (e.g. Bangladesh Telecommunications Company Ltd) instead of being a department of the government.

In this mode, it will have full responsibility for managing its assets and operations and being fully accountable for its own profitability. At this point, government will continue to own between 51 per cent and 100 per cent of the total shares.

The second phase will be the full privatisation of the company when the government will sell all of its outstanding shares

an internationally reputed foreign telephone company as strategic or management partner of the BTTB will also be explored, said the National Pol-

It said throughout the corporate restructuring period, the BTTB, with the approval of the government, will be authorised to raise necessary capital for expansion of the existing and introduction of new services.

The capital raising programme will be done through bank loans, issuance of telecommunications bonds share floatation, suppliers credits, BOO (Build, Operate and Own). BLT (Build, Lease and Transfer) and BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) schemes.

According to the National

- Star photo

Businessmen from the 15

The G-15 was formed in 1989

nations opened a second meet-

ing Thursday that aims to set up

a federation to group chambers

of commerce in their countries.

to promote economic coopera-

tion between Egypt, Argentina,

Algeria, Brazil, Chile, Kenya,

Jamaica, Nigeria, Zimbabwe,

Senegal, India, Indonesia,

Malaysia, Mexico and

Jakarta's forex

reserves fall

a's net international reserves

totalled 14.309 billion US dol-

lars on May 1, slightly lower

than the previous week's 14.312

According to a press release

billion dollars, reports Xinhua

issued on Tuesday by Bank In-

donesia, the central bank, the

drop was closely linked to an

increase in the number of

commercial banks' credit

transfers in foreign currency

which reduced the country's

country's gross foreign assets

stood at 17.76 billion dollars on

May 1 while net domestic assets

were valued at 37.7 trillion ru-

thorities are anxious to keep

the benchmark index above the

psychologically important

15,000 level, even though the

outlook for Japan's economy

sions of earnings forecasts, for

example, has weighed on the

market, said Hirobumi Ino-

mata, a branch manager at

Economic Planning Agency,

said in a parliamentary session

on Friday that the condition of

the nation's economy continues

shares changed hands on the

first section, much of which

was boosted by a special quota-

tion for settling May options in

the morning. Turnover totalled

362 million shares on Thurs-

treaters 635 to 447, with 181 is-

Price Index of all issues listed

on the first section edged lower

Advancers outnumbered re-

The broader Tokyo Stock

An estimated 440 million

Koji Omi, Chief of Japan's

A series of downward revi-

remains bleak.

Izumi Securities Co.

to be very severe.

sues unchanged.

The release also said the

foreign exchange reserves.

piah (4.71 billion dollars).

JAKARTA, May 8: Indonesi-

Venezuela.

Policy, the BTTB will be vested in the Telecommunications Regulatory Commission, to be formed by an Act at the parlia-

It will continue for the time being to remain a governmentowned telecommunications service provider.

function effectively and commercially in competition with other private sector operators in the liberalised environment, the requisite administrative and adequate financial and commercial authorities will be delegated to it.

In this regard, the National Policy said, the BTTB Ordinance of 1979 is to be amended and such other directives, as may necessary, from time to time, within the purview of maximum autonomy, will be

JAL to cut US-Japan

will temporarily cut autores up to nearly 50 per cent between the United States and Japan this month to compete with discounts offered by three US air lines, says AP.

The discounted fares will be applied to round trip flights between 32 US cities, including New York and Los Angeles, and eight Japanese cities, including Tokyo and Osaka, spokesman Akihiko Sato said.

airtues introduced by North west Airlines, American Air lines and Delta Air lines.

The discount fares are avail able only for flights originating in the United States from may 22 through July 25 To kets must be bought by May 22.

Further cut in

ready low official discount rate would better help the ailing economy, reports AFP.

"An interest rate cut will have benefits to some extent. Yamaguchi told the lower house audit and oversight committee.

Japans' official interest rate has remained at an all-time low of 0.5 per cent since September

He said the rate cut would also have a negative "side-elfect" on the economy and those living on savings, but it would be "more positive on balance." Yamaguchi told the commit-

tee the central bank would consider various options after monitoring the impact of the government's record spending programme worth 76.7 trillion yen (125 billion yen) unveiled last month.

Masaru Hayami said in April the economic package would keep Japan out of a deflationary spiral and the interest rate should be left at the current

We have no choice but to keep the interest rate where it is

for a while," Hayami said. "I have heard voices calling for an interest rate cut to zero

than done," he said. There was speculation that the central bank would lower its rate to 0.25 per cent due to prolonged economic slump.

Stocks, yen gain in Tokyo

1.69 points, or 0.14 per cent, to 1,188.18. The TOPIX closed

Traders said financial au- down 10.79 points, or 0.90 per cent on Thursday. Many investors refrained from buying ahead of the release of US non-farm payroll

> The data may provide some hints as to whether the Federal Reserve will move soon to raise interest rates, traders said.

> In later afternoon, the dollar bought 132.86 yen, down 0.30 year from late Tokyo trading on Thursday and also lower then its late New York rate of 133.24 yen overnight. It ranged between 132.77 yen and 133.50 yen in Friday's trading.

Profit-taking in the early afternoon pushed the dollar lower, but trading was for the most part lackluster for a lack of market-moving news.

traders said. benchmark No 182 10-year Japanese government bond fell to 1.335 per cent from Thursday's finish of 1.360 per cent. driving its price up to 11.15 yen from 110.97 yen.

Fall in production

Brick prices in 10 south-western dists go up

From Our Correspondent MAGURA, May 8: Prices of bricks have gone up in 10 southwestern districts due to fall in production, market sources

Frequent rainfall is causing the decline in brick production during the current season, leading to the price hike.

At present, one thousand medium quality bricks are selling for Tk 2400 to 2600 as against Tk 1700 to 1900 during the last season. There are hundreds of brick-

fields in the 10 south-western districts - Magura, Jhenidah, Narail, Jessore, Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Kushtia, Chaudanga and Meherpur.

According to the brick-field owners, a huge quantity of raw bricks have been damaged by rain waters which have cost them a large amount of money.

Due to low production of bricks, the construction work in both private and public sectors in the region would be seriously hampered, it is observed.

China to cut oil import BEIJING, May 8: China will

order import curbs on oil to prop up domestic producers hurt by low world market prices, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday, says

Price pressures have "seriously affected China's oil market" since the world market began tumbling last October, Xinhua said

To protect its domestic producers. China will reduce imports of crude oil and oil products and introduce measures to combat smuggling. Xinhua said. citing an unnamed official from the state-run China National Petroleum Corp.

Foreign-funded enterprises will be told to import less oil. Xinhua said. The news agency did not provide details on the

Chinese refiners have dropped prices by 300 yuan (36 dollars) per ton (12 cents a galion), stockpiles of crude oil have swelled and domestic oil fields have dropped production. Xinhua said. Some 1,000 onshore wells have been capped and domestic output has fallen this year by 700,000 tons (4.9 million barrels.)

Gasoline is now 500 yuan (dlrs 60) a ton (20 cents a gallon) more expensive than on world markets, Xinhua said.

China has in many cases kept prices for oil and petroleum products high in order to maintain energy security by keeping its domestic producers financially sound. China became a net importer of oil in 1993 and says it expects imports to quadruple within the next decade

Russia to tighten belt to combat downward drag

economic meltdown if spiralling debt is not reined in. Russia's new government outlined a three-year budget blueprint yesterday in response to Kremlin calls for resolute fi-

other linancial crisis.

"If we cannot solve the problem of government debt servicing within the next two to three years, it will be a major blow to the defence capabilities and economic security of the country." Kiriyenko told the cabinet.

Dubinin said the debt problem could led the country into a downward spiral culminating in the type of hyperinflation which wasted the economy in 1992 and 1993 Russia's ballooning debt

which includes restricted Soviet debt. Eurobonds, domestic treasury bills and Paris Club obligations, has mortgaged the country's future up to the hilt. Finance Ministry figures issued yesterday indicated that

lion dollars in 1998, Kiriyenko said last month that foreign debt stood at 120 billion dol-The need to borrow so heavily has been necessitated by feeble revenue collection and sometimes profligate federal

earlier this week for fiscal rigour to break the vicious circle of budget shortfalls, spiralling debt and slow growth. Yeltsin added a postscript Thursday, saying on Russian television that as there was "a hole in the budget" the government should come clean with

the public to "realistically de-

termine ... what we will not be

able to manage, so that the peo-

ple will not be deceived."

US expert tells seminar in Ctg Bangladesh may exceed ROK-China's growth

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 8: Dr John Adams, an American expert on economic infrastructures of developing countries, observed that Bangladesh within the next few years might exceed the growth rates of China and Korea.

"Bangladesh is no more a bottomless basket," Adams

He was addressing a seminar on "international competitiveness: The urgency for developing countries to engage in long term planning" held under the joint auspices of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry and USIS at the chamber on Wednesday.

Bangladesh has the prospects of exporting more readymade garments, textile,

seafood and leather products,

overall economic development Bangladesh should concentrate on infrastructural development, utilization of natural resources, reforms in finance. banking and administration

He also observed that for

and improvement of law and order situation.

Inaugurated by the president of Chittagong chamber, Kamal Uddin Ahmed, the seminar was addressed, among others, by Prof Mahbubullah, former Pro-VC of National University. Salman Ispahani, Vice President of Chittagong Stock Exchange, Prof Hayat Hossain, Anis A Khan of Grindlays Bank, and Salauddin Kasem Khan honorary consul of Turkey in Chittagong.

Japan's six credit banks to close down

TOKYO, May 8: Six debtplagued Japanese credit unions announced Friday that they will close their doors and hand over their remaining assets and deposits to bigger banks, says

Nanto Bank Ltd, a regional bank based in Nara Prefecture of western Japan, said it agreed to take over operations of troubled Nara Credit Cooperative.

The local government in Nara, 378 kilometers (234 miles) west of Tokyo, asked the bank to take over the cooperative's business and guarantee deposits because it believed the cooperative would not be able to recover on its own. Many banks and credit

unions are struggling with bad loans left by the collapse of Japan's real estate market in the early 1990s. The nation's

slow economic growth since then has made it difficult for many to recover financial

Also Friday, in Kanagawa prefecture south of Tokyo, three credit unions announced plans to shut by the end of March, Kyodo news reported. Sagamihara Credit Union

Kanagawa Shoko Credit Union, and Shonan Credit Union will close and turn over their operations to separate Tokyo-area banks, Kyodo said.

Two credit unions in western Japan - Yamaguchi Shogin in Yamaguchi Prefecture, 782 kilometres (489 miles) southwest of Tokyo, and Shimane Shogin in Shimane Prefecture, 609 kilometers (381 miles) west of Tokyo - also said they will



Md Atiqul Islam, Director of Islam Garments Ltd., is seen with Best Vendor from Bangladesh award received from Wal-Mart Stores Inc and its agent Pacific Resources Export Ltd at a ceremony held in Hong Kong recently. He is flanked by Dennis Reaves, Senior Vice President and PC Shain, Senior Vice President, Pacific Resources Export Ltd. Vamessa Castagna, Senior Vice president of Wal-Mart Stores is also seen in the picture.

Exchange Rates

Following is the forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka. Central Bank USD/BDT Rate: Buying-BDT46.15/ Selling-BDT 46.45

Selling		Buying			
TT/OD	BC	Currency	y TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
46.5100	46.5500	USD	46.1150	45.9600	45.8400
76.6020	76.6679	GBP	75.2597	75.0067	74.8109
26.4111	26.4338	DEM	25.8782	25.7912	25.6807
0.3537	0.3540	JPY	0.3452	0.3440	0.3431
31.6826	31.7098	CHF	30.9704	30.8664	30.7239
23.4248	23.4450	NLG	22.9828	22.9056	22.8116
28.8882	28.9130	SGD	28.2567	28.1618	28.0367
7.8577	7.8645	FRF	7.7361	7.7101	7,6861
32.6386	32.6667	CAD	31.8914	31.7842	31.6356
6.1278	6.1331	SEK	6.0202	6.0000	5.9820
29.9990	30.0248	AUD	28.8680	28.7710	28.5583
12.5364	12.5472	MYR	11.7640	11.7245	11.7028
6.0098	6.0150	HKD	5.9427	5.9227	5.9095
12.4692	12.4799	SAR	12.2289	12.1877	12.1656
Usance F	Export Bil	ls			5g
TT DOC	30 Days	60 Days 9	90 Days 12	20 Days	180 Days

46.015 | 45.731 | 45.352 | 44.9162 | 44.4425 | 43.3183 Exchange Rates of Some Asian Currencies Against US Dollar Pak Thai | Malaysian | Indonesia | Korear Indian Ringgit Rupee Rupee Baht n Rupiah 39.76/77 44.05/10 38.50/70 3.7902/3.8002 9000/9250 1385/89 US Dollar Libor Buying Selling 1 Month 3 Months 6 Months 12 Months Cash | 46.05 | 46.6 | USD | 5.65234 | 5.69141 | 5.78125 5.90625 Notes

TC 45.9 46.5 GBP 7.4375 7.44922 7.4375 7.41406 Indicative forward cover selling rates against Taka Month: Month Months Months Months USD/BDT 46.67 47.09 47.51 47.72 46.88 47.30 GBP/BDT 77.50 77.75 77.98 78.23 78.49 78.74 DEM/BDT 26.42 26.59 27.08 27.25 26 76 26.96 CHF/BDT 31.66 31.92 32.18 32.4332.69 32.94 Market Commentary

The local foreign exchange and money market was closed on weekend and will resume operation on Sunday. Last week demand for the US dollar remained high due to import payments and it traded between Taka 46.45 and 46.4750 in the interbank market. Call money rate was more or less steady and reported to have ranged between 7 and 9 per cent. On Friday, in the international foreign exchange markets

the major events were expectations of interest rate hike of European currencies, US payroll data and Group of Seven finance ministers' meeting scheduled to begin this weekend. Dollar was bearish against the major currencies on expectations of interest rate hike by Germany and permanent income tax cuts by the Japanese government. Pound Sterling dropped significantly as hopes for UK interest rate hike faded and investors fled from GBP investments to European currencies which are viewed as safe heaven currencies amidst EMU implementation. At 1720 hours local time US dollar traded at 1.7715/20 DEM, 132.57/63 yen and GBP at 1.6414/24 against USD.

US goes to WTO to challenge income tax subsidies by 5 Euro countries

WASHINGTON, May 8: The United States has gone to the World Trade Organization to challenge income tax subsidies offered by Belgium, France, Greece, Ireland and the Netherlands, the office of the US trade representative announced, reports AFP.

"These practices constitute prohibited subsidies under the WTO subsidies agreement and are in clear violation of WTO rules," said US trade represen-

tative Charlene Barshefsky. The United States has asked the Geneva-based WTO to arrange consultations among the parties on the complaint. If the issues remains unresolved after such a procedure, Washington could ask for a ruling from a three-member dispute settlement panel.

The alleged practices targeted by the US complaint are: - A French law allowing income tax deductions for startup expanses incurred by the foreign operations of a French

- A Dutch special "export reserve" fund for small and medium sized businesses. - An annual tax deduction

for Greek exporters. - Tax breaks for special Irish trading houses that serve as an access mechanism for Irish-manufactured products in foreign markets, and

 A special tax exemption for Belgian corporate taxpayers who recruit personnel with export-related functions.

Germany's jobless number stands at 4 million

BONN, May 8: Germany's jobless number stood at 4.422 million at the end of April, a fall of 201,000 from March, German News Agency DPA reported yesterday without citing sources, reports AFP.

On a year-on-year basis, however, the April number increased by some 75,000, the report said.

The federal labour office is scheduled to publish its official jobless figures for April on Fri-In March the jobless total stood at 4.623 millions on a non-seasonally adjusted basis,

that represents a jobless rate of

12.1 per cent for the whole of

Germany. Saudi Arabia set to launch world's biggest waterfront tourism project

DUBAI, May 8: Saudi Arabia, bursting on to the leisure tourism scene, is set to launch "the world's biggest waterfront project" aiming to steam the outflow of billions of dollars spent by Gulf tourists in the West each year, says AFP.

For between one million and 10 million dollars, nationals of the oil-rich Gulf Arab monarchies can buy their own luxury villa on the Red Sea, each with private mooring facilities for vachts.

With an overall price tag of 1.5 billion dollars Al-Buhairat city project covers 400 hectares (990 acres) just north of Jeddah and plans to be as exclusive as they come, said marketing Manager Marwan Al-Mohtadi. A one-million-dollar villa

comes with four bedrooms, two

salons, a big kitchen and, of

course, rooms for the maid, guard and driver, as well as its own swimming pool, he said. For a 10-million dollar investment in Al-Bhuairat (meaning lakes in Arabic), a city on a network of waterways, you get a villa with 60 rooms, facing the sea on three sides. and built on a 5,000 square me-

tre (53,800 square foot) plot. Other sources close to the project said the restrictions of conservative Saudi Arabia, where alcohol is banned under Islamic law, would be "relaxed" and its private beaches would allow for mixed bathing and women clad in bikinis.

Behind the walls of the compounds where most western expatriates live in Saudi Arabia, the privacy of one's home is considered as almost sacrosanct in the kingdom. The same principle is to apply for the villas of Al-Buhairat.

The city will contain a marina, harbour, traditional Arab town, water and other amusement parks, an aquarium, a central mosque, luxury hotel. shopping malls, a golf range, and even a three-dimensional

virtual, reality cinema. Elsewhere, cinemas are banned in Saudi Arabia.

The first residents are set to move into the villas at the end of 1998 and the entire project. including royal villas, is to be completed by 2000, said Mohtadi, exhibiting at a travel fair in Dubai this week.

The developers, Al-Afandi, said the privately-funded project was made possible by special government approval to cut through the edge of a coral reef and excavate a network of internal waterworks in the desert.

The project is one of several Saudi ventures into tourism. encouraged by the government as it aims to diversify its sources of revenue rather than depend on volatile oil prices.

rescheduled has rescheduled its Dhaka-

ghts, reports UNB. tion from May 14. The flights release here yesterday.

rive Barisal at 9:15 am after de-

BCSIR exhibition

Bangladesh Council of Sci entific and Industrial Research (BCSIR), will organise a two-day exhibition, beginning today, reports UNB.

and Technology and Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir will inaugurate the exhibition at 10 am. On the occasion, all the BC-

Thai rice exports soar in Jan-Apr

land's rice exports soared in January-April as world demand increased and competitors reaped poorer harvests, a foreign trade department official said on Thursday, reports

Export volume in the first four months of 1998 was up 55 per cent at 2.28 million tonnes from 1.47 million tonnes in the

Value increased 243 per cent in local currency terms at 33.6 billion baht, but was up 26.7 per

than 50 per cent of its value against the dollar over the past year since being floated on July 2 under the pressure of specula tive attacks, it now trades at around 40 to the greenback. A statement released by the

Bangladesh as well as from Brazil and other countries in Africa and the Middle East. The official said rice production was a "little higher"

He added, however, that Thailand expected total exports this year would match last year's at around 5.4 million

Weak oil prices forcing Riyadh

BEIRUT. May 8: Weak oil prices are forcing Saudi Arabia to review 1998 spending plans, the kingdom's central bank

Hamad Saud al-Sayyari told Reuters

Sayyari would not elaborate on which areas of spending might be hit by low oil prices. Crude oil prices began tumbling globally late last year and are still within sight of nineyear lows touched in March. Saudi Arabia, the world's

fluctuations in oil prices. Oil accounts for three-quarters of its state income and ever dollar below the price forecast in the budget means some 2.5 billion dollars forfeited by the kingbudget was based on the equivalent of a North Sea Brent crude

Thursday brent for June delivery was trading around 14.50 dollars a barrel in London. Spending is projected at 196 billion riyals (52 billion dollars) in Saudi Arabia's 1998

price of dollars 15.50-16.00 a

barrel, which would earn the

kingdom approximately 36 bil-

lion dollars from oil. On

budget Half the budget is assigned to civil servants' salaries and another 12 per cent is set aside for vital operations and maintenance, so room for spending cuts is limited.

to the private sector. The possibility of engaging

Tim Forsyth, Economic and Commerce Officer of the US

Embassy in Dhaka opening as chief guest the ceremony of

launching the American brand computer Gateway 2000 in

Bangladesh at a city hotel yesterday. IMART Computer

Technology Ltd is marketing the product. The Managing

G-15 experts start

summit preparation

By Salah Nasrawi, AP writer

CAIRO, May 8: Experts from

15 developing countries met

Thursday to work out the

agenda for a summit that will

focus on fallout from the cur-

rency and market turmoil in

developing countries opens

Monday. The three days of talks

will discuss a plan to boost

business cooperation between

and economic repercussions for

the crisis in the exchange mar-

ket and our nations should

(work to) avoid them," said Mu-

nir Zahran, Egypt's representa-

developing nations to adopt a

unified position ahead of the

World Trade Organisation

"We need a formula that revi

Officials in some developing

The experts who met Thurs-

meeting that begins on May 18.

talises economic and political

cooperation among our coun-

tries, that balances the inter-

ests of both developed and de-

veloping countries," he said.

He said it was imperative for

"There are negative social

the developing countries.

tive to the talks.

The summit of 15 leaders of

Director of the company is seen in the picture

In order to make the BTTB

fares by 50pc

TOKYO May 8: Japan Air-ines Co announced Friday it

JAL, Japan's largest airliner said the measure will be taken to counter the same discount

Japan's interest

rate suggested TOKYO. May 8: Bank of Japan Deputy Governor Yutaka Yamaguchi yesterday suggested a further cut in the country's al-

Bank of Japan Governor

per cent but it is easier said

economic data for April, due out later Friday in Washington.

Meanwhile, the yield on the

of debt MOSCOW, May 8: Warning of

nancial belt-tightening, reports
AFP.
As the finance ministry out-
ined its plans to run a tight
ship into the next century,
Prime Minister Sergei
Kiriyenko and Central Bank
Chairman Sergei Dubinin
warned that failure to control
he crucial debt part of the eco-
nomic equation would risk an-

according to Itar-Tass.

debt servicing commitments had risen tenfold from 700 million dollars in 1993 to 6.85 bil-

and regional spending, and President Boris Yeltsin called