

## Crack opens in support for Argentine economic plan

AFP, Buenos Aires

President Adolfo Rodríguez Saa's radical plan to print a new currency for a desperate, near-bankrupt Argentina took a severe blow Tuesday from his party chief.

Carlos Menem, president of Argentina for a decade to 1999 and still leader of the Peronist party, declared his opposition, shattering earlier assertions of united party support for the plan.

"There is no way to create a new currency," Menem told the Chilean evening paper La Segunda.

Rodríguez Saa returned to Buenos Aires, meanwhile, after being mobbed by supporters during a Christmas visit to his interior province of San Luis, where he was governor for 18 years.

The savvy 54-year-old die-hard Peronist was voted into power by Congress to fill a power vacuum after the previous president, Fernando de la Rúa, resigned during a bloody, popular

uprising.

Angry people, reacting to austerity measures that clamped down on their bank withdrawals, had exploded in nationwide protests and looting that killed 30.

With one-third of the country's 36 million people in poverty and an unemployment rate of 18.3 percent, Christmas was especially tough for Latin America's third-biggest economy.

Julio Fernandez, 38, resident in a slum area south of Buenos Aires, said he had nothing to give his four children's ages, six, eight, 14 and 15 for Christmas.

"We had to tell them that because of the problems, Father Christmas was too scared to come," he said.

Argentine Archbishop Estanislao Karlic urged people to keep hope.

"Happy Christmas for all, especially for those who feel saddest, most alone, most in need," he said in a Christmas message.

Immediately after taking power, Rodríguez Saa announced the country would default on its 132-billion-dollar public debt and issue a new currency, the Argentino, to help create a million jobs.

The Argentino would circulate alongside the dollar and peso but it would not be convertible, the administration said after a cabinet meeting on Monday.

The new quasi-currency would be used possibly as soon as January to pay government salaries, pensions, debts and buy state supplies, a spokesman for the cabinet meeting said.

It is expected to replace 12 bonds - 11 issued by provincial governments and one by the central government - which now circulate as a form of currency.

In a suburban town south of Buenos Aires, 81-year-old pensioner Esther Alvarez, who fretted about the new government's plans to start paying pensioners with the new quasi-currency.

## Taiwanese economy set to recover

AFP, Taipei

Taiwan is likely to start recovering from the current recession early next year with leading economic indicators in November seen rising for the second consecutive month, a report said yesterday.

The index of leading indicators, which gauges economic activity for the next three to six months, is expected to be higher than the 95 points recorded in October, the island's top economic planners were quoted by the Economic Daily News on Tuesday.

The November composite indicator index measuring economic conditions during the month is expected to rise one point to 10 points from a month earlier, said officials from the Council for Economic Planning and Development (CEPD).

However, the index is expected

to remain at recessionary levels during the month.

"The economy will begin to recover slowly from the first quarter next year and the pace will accelerate in the second-half," the CEPD said.

It had earlier predicted the island's recovery would be pushed back to the third quarter of 2002, due to the effects of the September 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Despite the brighter outlook, the officials warned if the Japanese yen continued to fall sharply against the US dollar, the Taiwanese recovery could be further delayed.

The Taiwan dollar fell to a six-month low of 35.021 against the greenback on Tuesday due to the yen's recent weakness.

The CEPD is due to release the November leading indicators on Thursday.

## CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling	Currency		Buying		
	TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
57.6500	57.6800	USD	56.5000	56.3314	56.2629
51.1125	51.1391	EUR	49.1776	49.0308	48.9713
83.7309	83.7744	GBP	81.1114	80.8693	80.7711
29.7878	29.8033	AUD	28.2613	28.1769	28.1427
0.4436	0.4438	JPY	0.4295	0.4282	0.4277
34.3175	34.3354	CHF	33.3353	33.2358	33.1954
5.3823	5.3851	SEK	5.2021	5.1866	5.1803
36.3356	36.3545	CAD	35.2332	35.1281	35.0854
7.4010	7.4048	HKD	7.2422	7.2206	7.2118
31.4083	31.4247	SGD	30.5405	30.4494	30.4124
15.8253	15.8335	AED	15.2595	15.2140	15.1955
15.4948	15.5029	SAR	14.9475	14.9029	14.8848

USD	EUR	GBP	Usance bills											
			TT Doc	30 days	60 days	90 days	120 days	180 days						
56.3835	49.7062	80.9442	56.0356	48.7734	80.4447	55.5712	48.3692	79.7781	55.0372	47.9044	54.4567	47.3991	46.2874	76.3114

The local interbank foreign exchange market was moderately active Wednesday. Demand for dollar was steady. Demand for taka for overnight borrowing at call was steady and the call rate ranged between 8 and 9 per cent.

In the international markets, dollar's three-week rally was brought to a halt due to complaints from Japan's Asian trading partners - China, South Korea - over the plunging yen. The market lacked a solid direction in want of comments or fresh factors from Japanese officials to support yen to a higher level. Rather, recent comments from senior Japanese officials reiterated and emphasized the belief that more fall in yen beyond this level is undesirable and the ministry stands ready to act whenever it is necessary. Meanwhile, euro continued in its slide against dollar more prompted by massive liquidation in euro by traders. Traders used Argentina's debt default as an excuse to sell euro since both Germany and Spain have huge exposure in Argentina.

At 1400 hrs on Wednesday, euro traded at 0.8812/16 against dollar, pound sterling at 1.4440/45 and yen traded at 130.70/76 against US dollar.

\*This memorandum is issued by Standard Chartered Bank and is based on or derived from information generally available to the public from sources believed to be reliable.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 26.12.2001

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Lea-Import	ving Disch
J/4	Dolisie	Wheat(G)	P Said	ASCL	18/12	29/12	-
J/8	Banglar Umi	GI(Y/MA)	Yang	Royal	8/12	29/12	572
J/9	Rurha	Urea(Bag)	Sing	Litmond	14/12	28/12	1052
J/10	Ava	GI(Y/MA)	Yang	BNSSHIP	12/12	27/12	741
J/11	Banga Bonik	Cont	P Kel	Bdship	20/12	26/12	-
J/12	QC Honour	Cont	P Kel	Qcsl	23/12	27/12	134/x
J/13	Artemis	Cont	P Kel	PSSL	20/12	26/12	204
CCT/3	Banga Biraj	Cont	P Kel	Bdship	23/12	27/12	373/x
CCJ	Togo Charm	C Clink	Lank	Seacom	15/12	30/12	7287
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	K, dia	BSC	R/A	26/12	-
DD	Sonali	Repair	Yang	Angelic	31/10	28/12	-
RM/9	Banglar Kallol	Repair	Vabn	BSC	15/12	28/12	-
J/Jetty:	Tug Sbm-1	Ballast	Sing	Otbl	9/12	-	-
	Jug Jubilee Dua	Ballast	Sing	Otbl	9/12	-	-

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Asean Energy	26/12	-	Rainbow	GI(WI.Cement)	-
AGNT	26/12	-	SSA	Gypsum(Scan)	-
B. Shikha (Cont)19/12	27/12	Sing	BSC	Cont	L/Sing
Ist	26/12	-	Psl	Mop(p)	-
B Lanka (Cont)5/12	27/12	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	L/Sing
B Bijoy (Cont)19/12	27/12	Sin	Baridhi	Cont	L/Col
B Barta (Cont)15/12	30/12	Sing	Bdship	Cont	L/Sing
QC Pintail (Cont)	27/12	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/Mong
Altair Ss	28/12	-	Ambi	GI (S.Ash)	-
Sagaing	28/12	Young	Everett	GI (St.c)	-
Gangga Nagura	28/12	Sing	Multiport	gi(St.Pipe)	-
Rubin Hawk	28/12	Sing	Everett	GI	-
IRO	28/12	Kosh	Jaycee	C.Clink	-
Sun Dance	29/12	-	Everett	GI(St.C)	-
Florealis	29/12	Basu	Uniship	Urea (BCIC)	-
Xpress Padma (Cont)19/12	31/12	Pkl	RSL	Cont	L/Sing
Xpress Resolve(Cont)23/12	29/12	-	Everbest	Cont	L/Col
Chang Ping	29/12	-	Psal	Urea(Baic)	-
K.Singa (Cont)19/12	30/12	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	L/Sing
Qc Teal (Cont) 20/12	31/12	Pkl	Qcsl	Cont	L
BC Cook (Cont) 22/12	31-12	-	Pssl	Cont	L/Sing
K.Agung(Cont)22/12	01/01	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	L/Sing
QC Lark (Cont)	01/01	-	QCSL	Cont	L/P.Kel
Wilhelmine Oldendorff	03/01	-	Oil	GI(Coil)	-
Uni Wealth (cont) 24/12	02/01	-	Rsl	Cont	L/Sing
K. Naga (Cont) 24/12	03/01	sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	L/Sing
J. Mars (Cont)22-12	04/12	-	Rsl	Cont	-
San Pablo (Roro)24/23/12	12/01	-	JF	Vehi	-
San Mateo(Roro)24/23/12	12/01	-	JF	Vehi	-
Iran Borhan	16/12	-	FF	-	-

### Tanker due

Koo Yong	27/12	Sing	MSTPL	HSD/MS(RM/ )
Suzanne	28/12	Saudi	ECSL	Lube Oil (RM/5/ )
Chembulk Trader	15/01	-	Bdship	Cdso (RM/4)

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
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### Vessels at Outer Anchorage

Vessels Ready				
Diana	C Clink	Kant	NWSL	17/12
Banglar Mookh	Wheat(G)	-	BSC	R/A(18/12)
Pacific Emerald	Copra/Log	Kara	Lithond	23/12
Horizon-A	Naptha	-	ECSL	R/A(18/12)
Jaami (Cont)	Cont	Col	Everbest	24/12
Kuo Hsiung (Cont0	cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	25/12
Al Fios	Hsd	Sing	Mstpl	25/1
Jurong Balsam (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Nol	25/12
Kota Berjaya (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	25/12
JA Gang	GTSP(P)	Sing	PSAL	25/12
Silver Wing	Wheat(G)	Sing	Ascl	25/12
Gihock (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Rsl	26/12

### Vessels not ready

Atlantic Spirit	GI	Sing	ASA	20/12
Angelina The Great-N	GI(Y.PE)	Sing	Rainbow	18/12
New Concord	Wheat(G)	Sing	ASCL	22/12
Bangla Robi	Wheat(G)	-	BSC	R/A(22/12)
Rak Won	Gtsp(p)	Sing	Uniship	25/12

### Vessels awaiting instruction

Banglar Jyoti	-	-	BSC	R/A(23/12)
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### Vessels not entering

Matrix	GTSP(P)	Tuni	SSST	21/11
Gospic	Mop(P)	V Patt	Litmond	13/12
Argentina	C Clink	Kosh	ASLL	18/12
Weddell Sea	C Clink	Tanj	Uniship	22/12
Marblue	C.Clink	Cila	Jaycee	22/12
Jubilee	-	-	Rkship	R/A(16/12)
Pira	Idle	Tamp	Litmond	3/11
Crete	Scraping	Bulem	JF	23/12
Accord	Cement	Sing	Viking	5/4

### Movement of vessels for 27.12.2001

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/10	Ava	Kota Barjaya
J/12	Qc Honour	CCT/3
CCT-3	B.Biraj	P. Emarald
		J/1
		New Concord
		Atlantic Spirit
		J/2

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



Shah Abdul Hannan, Chairman of Board of Directors Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, addresses the inaugural function of the 121st branch of the bank at Kakrail in the city yesterday.

## 121st branch of IBL opens

The 121st branch of Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited was opened at Kakrail in the city yesterday, says a press release.

Shah Abdul Hannan, Chairman of Board of Directors of the bank, was present in the function as the chief guest.

Presided over by Abdur Raquib, Executive President, the function was addressed, among others, by A.T.M. Saleh Senior Vice President and Head of Dhaka South Zone, Mohammad Mohon Mia, Assistant Vice President of VIP Road Branch.

## Australia to export rice to South Korea

AP, Seoul

Australia will join the United States and other countries exporting rice to South Korea in January, South Korea's Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry said Wednesday.

Since South Korea opened its rice market in 1995 as part of a world free trade accord, it has bought rice mostly from Thailand, China and the United States.

In the latest South Korean bidding, Australia, for the first time, won a dirrs 5.6 million contract to ship 22,520 tons of rice to South Korea. The shipment is scheduled to be completed by mid-January.

Under a 1994 global trade agreement, South Korea ended its decades-old ban on rice imports and agreed to increase them to 4 per cent of its domestic consumption by 2004. New global trade talks will discuss a further opening of farm markets after 2004.

## Daewoo Motor creditors seek to complete deal with GM by Jan 20

AFP, Seoul

Creditors of South Korea's Daewoo Motor Co. are seeking to complete a final deal to sell the ailing automaker to General Motors Corp. by January 20, one of the main creditor banks said Wednesday.

"It is technically impossible to sign the final contract within this year," Korea Development Bank president Chung Kun-Yong told journalists.

"We will do our best to sign the deal at the earliest possible date because the deadline for ex 15five

negotiations with GM falls on January 20," Chung said.

Following more than a year of tough negotiations, GM and Daewoo Motor creditors signed a two billion-dollar agreement in September to take over Daewoo's three plants in South Korea and two of its 12 overseas factories, in Vietnam and Egypt.

The deal includes a GM cash commitment worth 400 million dollars.

Creditor banks had said they hoped the final deal would be signed before the end of this year.

But Chung said the deal was being delayed because of differences in 4 Tluating debts and assets of Daewoo Motor's as well as the thorny issue of revising the collective bargaining agreement with the labor union.

## Japan urged to act on sliding currency

REUTERS, Beijing

Japan should act responsibly and do something about the sliding yen, the official China Securities newspaper said yesterday, joining a chorus of state media critical of Tokyo for allowing the currency to weaken.

The yen was trading near three-year lows against the US dollar on Wednesday after Japanese officials appeared to signal approval for the currency's recent decline by fanning speculation that the only way out of recession may be a weaker yen.

But the China Securities, the country's main financial newspaper, warned the results could be damaging to the rest of Asia.

"Asian countries have universally expressed worry over this method of shifting one's troubles onto others," the newspaper said in

a commentary, quoting a Chinese expression meaning to use a neighbour's field as a drainage ditch.

"South Korea, Southeast Asia and other countries think this irresponsible depreciation in the yen could have a serious impact on the Asian economy. Japan ought to bear the responsibility for this," it said.

China's central bank and State Administration of Foreign Exchange declined to comment yesterday.

South Korea's top foreign exchange official said today that the country was concerned about the Japanese yen's steep fall against the dollar.

If a weak Japanese yen sparks currency devaluations in other Asian countries, it would make it more difficult for Chinese exporters to compete, analysts say.



The 6th annual general meeting of Bangladesh Luggage Industries Limited was held at Savar in Dhaka with Deokinandan Kejriwal, Managing Director of the company, in the chair.

## Tunisian minister in Iraq to promote trade links

AFP, Baghdad

Tunisian External Trade Minister Tahar Siud began a visit to Baghdad Tuesday aimed at boosting commercial links between Tunisia and Iraq, which signed a free trade agreement early this year.

"We want to further strengthen economic ties," Siud told reporters after