

CURRENCY

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

Table with columns: Selling, Currency, TT Clean, OD Sight/Doc, OD Transfer, Buying. Lists rates for various currencies like USD, EUR, GBP, etc.

Table with columns: Usance bills, TT Doc, 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, 120 days, 180 days. Lists rates for USD, EUR, GBP.

The local interbank foreign exchange market was moderately active Thursday. Demand for dollar was steady. Demand for taka for overnight borrowing at call was slightly sluggish...

Argentina puts all state assets behind new currency

Argentine President Adolfo Rodriguez Saa offered up the pink presidential palace and all state assets Wednesday to support a new currency, the Argentine.

leagues by vowing to halt payments on Argentina's 132-billion-dollar public debt, the biggest default ever, and to use the proceeds to create one million jobs.

"Some people believe that we are going to do something irresponsible with this but they are wrong," Rodriguez Saa said.



The 11th annual general meeting of Samata Leather Complex Ltd was held yesterday in the city with Md Munsur Ahmed, Chairman of the company, in the chair.

British housing market faces slowdown in '02

British house prices are set for sluggish growth in 2002 after double-digit growth this year, property market lenders and experts said Thursday.

"At that same time, it is likely that interest rates will rise, providing a restraining effect on housing demands and housing prices inflation," he said.

GCC states inch towards economic integration

Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) heads of state, meeting in Muscat next Sunday and Monday, are expected to endorse plans to "bring forward" by two years a customs union that is already 15 years late.

economic agreement" signed in 1981 that calls for economic integration between members of the six-nation alliance, he said.

They also set 2010 as a target date for monetary union and a single currency.

Samata Leather declares 7pc cash dividend

Samata Leather Complex Ltd has declared a seven per cent cash dividend for its shareholders for the year 2000-2001, says a press release.

AFP, London

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Table with columns: Berth No., Name of vessels, Cargo, L. Port call, Local agent, Date of arrival, Lea-Import, Disch. Lists ship arrivals and departures.

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Table with columns: Name of vessels, Date of arrival, L Port call, Local agent, Cargo, Loading Port. Lists ships at anchorage.

Tanker due

Small table listing tanker ships and their agents.

Vessels at Kutubdia

Table listing vessels at Kutubdia port.

Vessels at outer anchorage

Large table listing various vessels at anchorage with details on cargo and agents.

Movement of vessels for 28, 29, 12.2001

Table with columns: Outgoing, Incoming, Shifting. Lists ship movements for Dec 28 and 29.

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

Merrill Lynch plans job cut in Japan

US investment bank Merrill Lynch on Thursday flagged plans to shed jobs in Japan, saying it would offer voluntary redundancy packages to 1,700 workers at its retail brokerage branches.

"This is a part of our restructuring plan for our retail brokerage branches," said Merrill Lynch spokesman Takayuki Inoue, adding details of the program would be made clear next year.

"We are considering all our options, including downsizing, but whether we will merge branches or cut staff, no formal decision has been made," Inoue said.

They also set 2010 as a target date for monetary union and a single currency.



Mudassar Moin, Chief Operating Officer of Rahimafrooz Distribution Limited, hands over a colour TV to an IPS customer Zakir Hossain, who won the prize under a winter promotion for Black Cat IPS, recently in the city.

Merrill Lynch plans job cut in Japan

AFP, Tokyo

Taiwan central bank cuts interest rates

Taiwan's central bank announced Thursday a cut in key interest rates to stimulate the island's frail economy.

Govt plans euro 'big bang', Germans plan to keep using mark

Germany has announced a monetary "big bang" for January 1, when the euro is launched and the mark will no longer be legal tender.

Commercial banks are also expected to change marks for euros until the end of February, and the central bank has set no time limit for turning in marks.

Experts also recommend that changeover periods be curtailed so that people quickly establish new value references for goods and services instead of converting prices into those of the legacy currency.

HK exports fall 11.3pc in Nov

Hong Kong's total exports in November fell 11.3 percent year-on-year to 120.2 billion dollars (15.43 billion US) as the fallout of the terror attacks in the US continued to affect the territory, the Census and Statistics Department said Thursday.