

Argentina to pay one third of debt servicing in 2002

AFP, Buenos Aires

Argentina will meet about one third of its 11 billion dollar public debt servicing obligations this year, a leading lawmaker told AFP Wednesday.

comply with the terms of a debt swap that gave local creditors a seven per cent rate on a total of 15 billion dollars in debt.

1.5 per cent last year. He stressed this should be positive for Argentina if devaluation of the peso does not greatly exceed the government's expectations.

Pak privatisation process back on track: Minister

REUTERS, Karachi,

Pakistan said Tuesday its privatisation programme, stalled since the September 11 suicide plane attacks, was back on track and would not be hit by the current military standoff with nuclear rival India.

"We have established contacts with all the interested investors and they have reconfirmed their participation in the privatisation process," Saleem told Reuters in a telephone interview from Islamabad.



M Ahsanul Haque, Chairman of Agrani Bank, speaks at the inaugural function of a foundation course for the probationary officers of the bank held at Agrani Bank Training Institute on Sunday.

ECB allots \$35.6 b in addl liquidity for cash demand

AFP, Frankfurt

The European Central Bank awarded Thursday 40 billion euros (35.6 billion dollars) in additional liquidity to commercial euro-zone banks to meet high demand arising from the launch of euro banknotes and coins.

The ECB had already conducted a similar quick three-day refinancing operation last Friday in which it awarded 25 billion euros in additional liquidity.

sponding amount simply debited from a sort of current account they hold with the central bank. But in the so-called front-loading process, during which the ECB distributed the new euro cash to banks and firms in the months before the official launch, the amount of euros notes and coins made available to the commercial banks was not debited from their accounts until after January 1.

Afghan leader commits to free market economy

AFP, Kabul

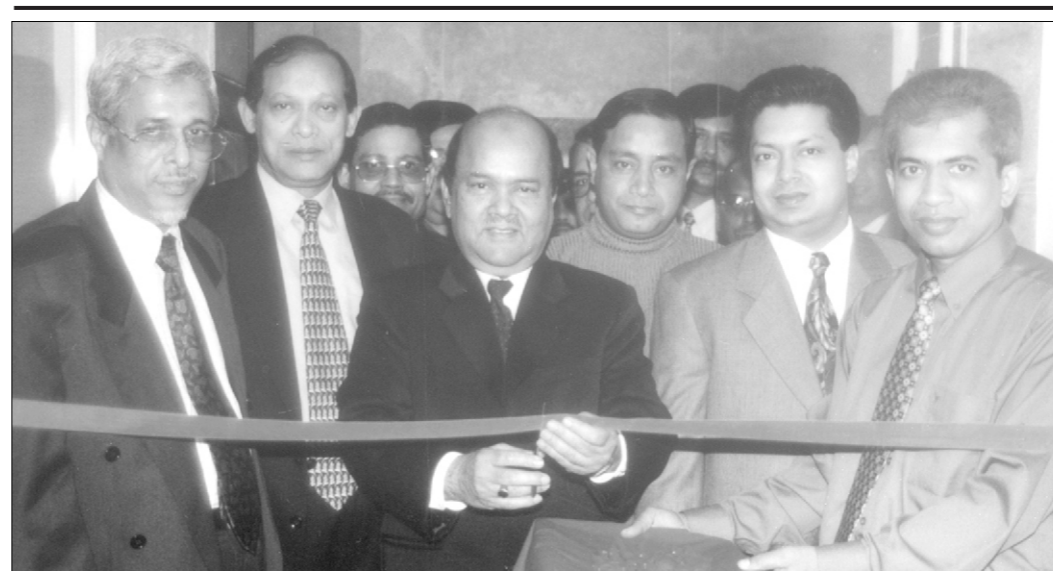
Afghanistan's interim leader, Hamid Karzai, Wednesday committed his interim administration to respecting a free market economy and freedom of speech and the press.

territorial independence." A government official told AFP earlier Wednesday that Interior Minister Yunus Qanooi had ordered the Afghan military to quit Kabul within three days and leave security duties in the capital to Afghan police and an international peacekeeping force.

CURRENCY

Table showing foreign trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank with columns for Selling, Currency, and Buying, including sub-tables for Usance bills and Sight bills.

The local interbank foreign exchange market was active. Demand for dollar was high. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was high and the call rate ranged between 9.5 and 10.5 per cent.



Deen Mohammad, Chairman of The City Bank Limited, opens the new premises of the bank's Zinzira branch on Saturday.

Commercial banks normally buy their notes and coins directly from the central bank, with the corresponding amount simply debited from a sort of current account they hold with the central bank.

SHIPPING

Chittagong port Berth position and performance of vessels as on 10.1.2002

Table listing shipping vessels with columns: Berth No., Name of vessels, Cargo, L Port call, Local agent, Date of arrival, Lea-ving, and Import Disch.

Table listing vessels due at outer anchorage with columns: Name of vessels, Date of arrival, L Port call, Local agent, Cargo, and Loading Port.

Table listing vessels at Kutubdia with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo, Last Port call, Local agent, and Date of arrival.

Table listing vessels at Kutubdia/outside port limit with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo, Local agent, and Date of arrival.

Table listing vessels not ready with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo, Local agent, and Date of arrival.

Table listing vessels awaiting instruction with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo, Local agent, and Date of arrival.

China, Japan to set up body to avoid trade disputes

AFP, Beijing

Officials from China and Japan have held talks in Beijing about setting up a consultative body to help avoid future trade disputes over farm products, state media said Thursday.

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The two countries agreed to establish the panel last month as part of an agreement to end a trade row over Chinese exports of farm products to Japan, the China Daily reported.

Enron shoots to top in just 16 yrs before crashing

AFP, New York

The bankrupt energy group Enron, now the target of a US Justice Department probe, soared from obscure origins to become the leading US energy broker in just 16 years, enjoying annual sales of 101 billion dollars.

billion dollars in 1996 to 101 billion dollars in 2000. By the end of 2001, however, the company was foundering under 13 billion dollars in balance-sheet debt. It owed billions more in loans, credit line repayments and payments on energy contracts.

poured millions of dollars into both Republican and Democratic political campaigns, it is especially close to Texas Republicans and, therefore, former Texas governor and current US President George W. Bush.

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