Reuter.

Political Affairs.

UN appeals for

\$400 m to aid

22 m Africans

United Nations appealed on Monday for 400 million Dollars

to expand and accelerate aid to

more than 22 million people

hit by drought and civilian war

in the horn of Africa, reports

recurring drought and severe

social and economic deterio-

ration have been catastrophic

for tens of millions of people

James Jonah, UN Under

Secretary-General for Special

quick and generous response

from the international com-

munity to enable implementa-

tion of the relief, greater suf-

fering and loss of life would

seded that made in Geneva in

July for 374 million Dollars to

million Ethiopians needed

essentials drugs, water sup-

plies and food while several

thousand Ethiopian refugee ex-

soldiers in Northern Sudan

lacked food, shelter and cloth-

lion people in Sudan required

emergency relief after an in-

crease in prices of basic food-

stuffs beyond the means of

young children in parts of

northerns Sudan have risen as

high as 40 per cent, " Jonah

told reporters, adding that 1.3

million people in southern

Sudan were living without

food, shelter, or access to wa-

not be given to people identi-

anybody starve, but aid will go

firstly to civilians who need it,"

Australia's wheat

crop to be lowest

in nine years

CANBERRA Sept 10 :

Australia's wheat crop for

1991-92 will be the lowest

Jonah said food aid would

"It is our policy not to let

ter and medical facilities.

fied as combatants.

Jonah said.

"Malnutrition rates amongst

most of the population."

He said a further eight mil-

help drought victims.

He said the appeal super-

Jonah said at least eight

the horn of Africa," said

Jonah said that without a

"The effects of civil war,

NAIROBI, Sept 10: The

4 Asian states violating export laws: US

WASHINGTON, Sept 10 India, Thailand, China and Taiwan have been violating antidumping and countervailing duty laws through their exports of steel wire rope to the United States, the Commerce Department said Monday, reports AFP.

Exports are receiving government subsidies, according to countervailing duty investigations from India and Thatland.

All four countries are selling the wire - which includes ropes, cables and cordage made of iron or steel - in the United States at unfair value, separate antidumping investigations showed.

Countervailing duties are placed on unfairly subsidized imports to offset their price advantage, and antidumping duties are assessed on imports with an unfair price advantage over comparable domestic products.

The Commerce Department's final determinations mean US customs must now require a cash deposit or bond on all imports of the product equal to the net subsidy rate for India and Thailand, and the estimated weighted-average dumping margins for the four countries.

The International Trade Commission must determine within 45 days whether the imports materially injure to the US wire rope industry.

EFTA to talk for free trade with Baltic states

HELSINKI, Sept 10 : The countries of the Free Trade European Association (EFTA) are to begin negotiations on a freetrade agreement with Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, Norwegian Trade Minister Eldrid Nordboe said Monday, reports AFP.

Finnish Foreign Trade Minister Pertti Salolainen is soon to visit the newly independent Baltic countries to explore the outlook for an agreement. Finland currently holds the Presidency of EFTA, he said.

Norbe said such an agreement would require the Baltic countries to restructure their economies, and that EFTA was ready to help them do so.

EFTA Trade Minister are meeting here to prepare for the next session of negotiations between EFTA and the European Community on the creation of a European eco-

EFTA comprises Austria, Finland, Iceland, Lichtenstein, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland.

Malaysian Co to explore oil in Vietnam

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 10: Malaysia's national oil company Petronas said today it had signed an agreement with its Vietnamese equivalent to explore for oil in two offshore areas off the southern coast of Vietnam, reports AFP.

The company said in a statement that Petro Vietnam's State Petroleum Company, and Petronas Carigali Overseas had signed the agreement Monday in Hanot.

Petronas Carigali Overseas is a wholly owned subsidiary of Petronas Carigalli.

The two offshore blocks cover an area of about 12.500 square kilometres (5,000 square miles) approximately 160 kilometers (100 miles) off the coastal town of Vung Tau. Petrons said the two areas

were considered to have good hydrocarbon potential because they were within the Mekong and South Conscon basins where major oil fields have been discovered.

Under the production-sharing contract, Petronas Carigali Overseas will undertake seismic surveys in the two blocks in early October and exploration drilling next year.

Petonas said that the agreement was in line with the Malaysian government's policy of fostering closer economic cooperation with neighbouring countries.

TOKYO, Sept 10: The rapid growth era of the 1960s and the early 1970s had a dramatic impact on the nutrition and the diet of the Japanese people. With the rise in income levels and a drop in food prices, the Japanese began to

eat more and better, reports Japanese news agency Kyodo. This findings were stated in a white paper, released recently by the Japanese

Ministry of Agriculture,

Forestry, and Fisheries. The report, the thirtieth to be issued since the enactment of the basic agricultural law of 1961, provides an over-view of the dramatic changes that have taken place in the agricultural sector over the past three decades and the impact this has had on the Japanese diet. The report specifically points

Next G-7 meet will not decide on aid to USSR

TOKYO, Sept 10: Japanese Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said today that major industrial countries would not decide on supplying financial assistance to the Soviet Union at an upcoming meeting, reports AFP.

There is no possibility that the meeting will decide anything," Hashimoto told reporters, referring to the gathering of deputy finance minister of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized countries in Dresden, Germany, on Sunday.

He said the meeting was aimed at exchanging information rather than ironing out differences among G-7 countries- - Japan, the United States, Britain, France,

Germany, Italy and Canada. Japan and the United

States, have differed from their European allies already providing large-scale financial aid to the Soviet Union.

Hashimoto also expressed reluctance about Japan extending direct assistance to the newly independent Baltic states of Latvia, Estonia and

Another report adds: Monetary authorities from the Groups of Seven (G-7) industrial countries are considering a meeting in Germany next week to discuss aid to Soviet Union, Japan's leading financial daily reported Monday.

The Nthon Keizai Shimbun quoted informed sources as saying that the proposed meeting of deputy finance ministers and deputy central bank governors from G-7 countries was ltkely to take place in Dresden on September 16.

The meeting is expected to discuss aid to the three Baltic republics and Soviet membership of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), it said.

Officials at Japan's Finance Ministry and the Bank of Japan could not confirm the report. But a central bank official noted that Deputy Governor Mikio Wakatsuki was scheduled to attend a monthly meeting of the Bank for International Settlement (BIS) in Switzerland next week.

Senior finance ministry of ficials expect aid to Soviet Union and the newly-independent Baltic states of dominate discussions at the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank in Bangkok next

Pawar asks for military exports to earn foreign currency

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Defence Minister Sharad Pawar said Monday that India's depleted foreign exchange reserve had hit its defences and urged state run industrial sector to earn hard currency through military exports, reports AFP.

The Minister's statement followed fears expressed by the government here that the fast developing situation in Moscow and the breakway republics could disrupt vital supplies of military items and spares from the Soviet Union

The government is finding it difficult to fund public sector units, specially those involved in defence production, because of the Foreign Exchange (FOREX) crunch, the Press Trust India (PTI) quoted Pawar

as saying in the southern city of Bangalore.

Indian foreign exchange reserves excluding gold and special drawing rights stood at 1,320 million Dollars in May after dropping sharply from 2,000 million Dollars one month earlier.

The FOREX crisis has impaired India's defence preparedness as it has forced the Ministry to slash imports Pawar said in the state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. Complex after inaugurating a new air routs surveillance radar system.

The minister did not specify in which areas the government had slashed military imports or give any other details. India's desence imports stood at 1.47 billion Dollars in 1990 next to its meagre military exports of 79 million

Moscow has been India's largest weapon supplier in a Rupee-Rouble trade, while France, Britain, Germany and Sweden are the country's main Western weapon exporters in a hard currency exchange.

Pawar said the Indian public sector would have to generate foreign exchange sources by entering global markets and added that the units should keep peace with the changing events in Eastern Europe and upgrade their technology.

The ministers said New Delhi would not bar the private sector from defence production as their products were superior and they maintained their deadlines PTI reported.



In Kronburg (near Frankfurt/Main), students and teachers built both a wind power and a solar energy facility on the school roof without outside help to supply their science tract with -Photo: IN-Press power.

BCCI-hit embassies in Japan appeal for Govt assistance

TOKYO, Sept 10: Foreign embassies, suffering from the closure of the Tokyo branch of Bank of Credit and Commerce International, have appealed to the Japanese government for aid, a Foreign Ministry officials said on Monday, reports Reuter.

Five embassies so far appealed for compensation after their deposits were frozen in BCCI's Tokyo branch two months ago, the official said.

The identities of the embassies must remain confidential but we can reveal that five missions have appealed for help," the official said.

"In most cases, though, the missions have opened new accounts in Tokyo and are now receiving money (from their home countries) to meet their costs," he said.

The Japanese government had no plans at present to respond to the appeals, he

BANGKOK, Sept 10:

Burma's ruling junta has ac-

cused traders of launching an

"economic offensive" against

the military regime, reports

basis of politics — is unstable

it can disrupt political stabil-

ity," Major General Myo Nyunt,

the Rangoon Military

Commander, said in a speech

broadcast on official Rangoon

Radio and monitored here on

Traders were not directly

involved in killing any one, he

said, but "they are indirectly

causing deaths because the

poor who cannot afford to buy

commodities, including rice

and cooking oil, have been

rising sharply in Burma, re-

cently causing shortages and

The prices of many basic

would rather die."

Monday.

"When the economy — the

BCCI, one of the world's largest private banks with operations in 69 countries, was closed down worldwide on July 5 in what US prosecutors called the biggest fraud in banking history. BCCI's Tokyo, branch,

which ceased operations three days later, had 53.7 billion Yen (398 million Dollars) from 250 depositors, most of them corporations, as of March this

The Foreign Ministry official said the five embassies asking for help "represent different regions of the world because of the nature of BCCI's operations.

AFP adds from Manama: Authorities of the United Arab Emirates have detained at least 20 top officials of the troubled BCCI at the company's Abu Dhabi office, Gulf Bank sources said Monday.

The officials, including the

Traders accused of economic

offensive in Burma

The military regime has

blamed "unscrupulous rumour-

mongers" for the price riscs,

and has made repeated calls

for people to ignore the ru-

Estonia seeks

IMF membership

The newly independent coun-

try of Estonia has filed for

membership in the

International Monetary Fund

(IMF), the fund said on

Moscow last Friday recog-

Lithuania and Latvia have

nised the three Baltic states -

not yet asked for IMF mem-

Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia.

Monday, reports Reuter.

WASHINGTON, Sept 10:

Bank's former chief executive officer Swalch Nazvi and heads of several departments, were taken from their offices on the sixth floor of BCCl central office late Sunday for questioning, said the sources, who spoke on conditions of

There has been no official confirmation of the arrests. Most of the officials are Pakistanis.

"All executives and joint executives were summoned to the sixth floor by mid-morning on Sunday," said an eyewitness. The group was taken away in the evening by plainclothesmen in three police vans."

Family sources of some executives, reached by phone at their homes in Abu Dhabi, said they had no knowledge of the dctainces' whereabouts on Monday morning.

Traders, "cheat on weights

used in selling goods, they lie

to sell goods, and they sell

drinks," Myo Nyunt said.

said.

narcotic drugs and alcoholic

engaging in politics, and the

army must make every possible

efforts to counter and over-

come the economic offensive

being launched by them," he

sures to boost the economy

which was in recession after

almost 30 years of the officials

"Burmese way to socialism."

But economic difficulties have

continued and are often

blamed on opponents of the

regime, foreign "dark influ-

preparations to take legal ac-

tions against these people,"

ences" and now traders.

Myo Nyunt warned.

The junta initiated mea-

"Traders are also prone to

tons of US corn WASHINGTON, Sept 10:

Soviets buy one lakh

Private exporters reported sales Monday of 1,00,000 mctric tons of corn to the Soviet Union. It was the first major purchase of US grain by Moscow since the failed coup last month, the US Agricultural Department said, reports AP.

The corn is being purchased under 1.5 billion Dollar in credit guarantees authorized by President Bush in June.

Agriculture The Department also reported export sales of 1,74,000 tons of wheat for delivery to Yemen during 1991-92.

Gorbachev sending envoys to Germany, ME for aid

MOSCOW, Sept 10 President Mikhail Gorbachev is sending two top envoys to Germany and the Middle East to seek economic help in a clear sign the Kremlin is increasingly worried about shortages this winter, reports Reuter.

Chief Foreign Ministry spokesman Vitaly Churkin told a briefing on Monday that Gorbachev would be sending Alexander Yakovlev to Germany and Yevgeny Primakov to six countries in the Middle East.

"The aim of the visits is to see what can be generated in terms of cooperation with these countries in order to alleviate the economic situation in the Soviet Union," Churkin told reporters afterwards.

"We'd like to ensure we have done all we could in order to alleviate possible hardships as we look (ahead) to the difficult and long winter," he said.

The disintegration of the Soviet Union has put further strains on the crumbling economy, and critical shortages of most goods and foodstuffs are predicted this winter.

Moscow on Saturday formed an emergency committee to "The state is also making | try to overcome a "catastrophic situation" and guarantee basic food supplies reached the Soviet capital.

'Soviet close to catastrophe of debt default'

BONN, Sept 10: The Soviet Union is close to the catastrophe of debt default, and the West must take the initiative in providing aid before it is too late, a top German banker said on Monday, reports AFP.

The Soviet Union has scarcely any banking arrangements capable of ensuring commercial relations, Georg Krupp, a member of the Deutsche Bank board responsible for relations with Eastern Europe told the daily newspaper Die Welt.

"The Vnescheconom Bank foreign trade branch has effectively lost all power at Union level," he said. "Bankers no longer know with whom they should deal, and no longer do anything at all."

There was a real danger that the Soviet Union would cease debt payments during the next few weeks,. "The cessation of payments would be a catastrophe which would have a long-lasting effect on the confidence of credit organisa-

It was no longer possible to obtain letters of exchange which were necessary for international trade and there was a danger that Soviet importing actively would come to a total halt.

Krupp estimated that at the end, of 190 the Soviet Union owned 51 billion Dollars net to western creditors, but believed that immediate help of between three billion and four billion Dollars would be enough to put the country on its feet.

The Deutsche Bank, the biggest bank in Germany, is one of western banks which has lent most to the Soviets

Gold closes higher

HONG KONG, Sept 10: The international gold price closed higher here at 350.01-350.06 US Dollars an ounce against Friday's finish of 347.10 34750 and an opening rate of 349.35 -349.85, reports AFP.

Iraq to boost oil exports in March

will boost exports of crude oil from 1.18 million barrels (MBD) per day to 1.6 MBD by the end of March 1992 following repairs to a pumping station that feeds a pipeline carrying oil through Turkey, a senior oil official said yesterday, reports AFP.

BAGHDAD, Sept 10: Iraq

Ghazi Saber, Manager of the Northern Petroleum firm, said the second phase of the repair work would be over during the first three months of 1992.

The Pipeline links Iraq's main oil center at Kirkuk in the north of the country to Yumurtalik on the southern coast of Turkey.

The Iraqi Oil Ministry recently indicated that Iraq's oil production capacity currently stood at 1.455 MBD, against 3.5 MBD before the Gulf war. Iraqi oil before the conflict was mainly exported through pipelines to Turkey and Saudi Arabia.

The pipelines were shut following Iraq's occupation of Kuwait in August 1990.

Last month the UN Security Council authorised Iraq to sel 1.6 billion Dollars of oil over a period of six months to finance the purchase of food and medicine.

UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar has recommended that Iraq be allowed to sell more of its oil to buy basic necessities, citing reports of a "critical" public health situation in the country.

since 1982-83 at an estimated 10.6 million tons, the Australian Wheat Board (AWD) said Monday, reports AFP. The AWB's first official fore-

cast of the crop size compared with an average of 15.5 million tons in the past decade and 15.7 million tons last year. An AWB spokesman said the lower crop was due to farmers

planting 20 per cent less because of low returns last year, and a disastrous drought in Queensland and northern New South Wales.

Wage freeze in Canada leads to nationwide strike

OTTAWA, Sept 10: Facing a government-imposed wage freeze, federal employees walked off the job early Monday in their first nationwide strike, reports AP.

About 110,000 government workers not deemed part of essential services could strike, raising the possibility Canada could face its biggest walkout in history.

Indian Rupee devalued

BOMBAY, Sept 10: The British currency has become costlier by another twenty five paise following a further downward revision of the Rupee by 0.56 per cent in relation to the Pound Sterling, as announced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) here today, reports PTI.

The new middle rate now works out to Rupees 44.85 per Sterling as against Rupées 44.60 previously.

The new buying and selling rates for spot delivery are 2.2353 and 2.2241 Sterling per Rupees 100, corresponding to Rupees 44.74 and Rupees 44.96 per Sterling respectively.

Yesterday the RBI depreciated the Rupce sharply by 1.57 per cent.

consume fewer calories than

Post-War growth era leads Japanese to eat more, better

out such trends as the risc in the volume of food imports, the lowering of the country's food self-sufficiency rate, and the exodus of agricultural workers to other sectors. It also emphasises that the time has come for Japan to review its farming systems and insti-

tutions. Specific factors behind the cheaper food prices were expanded production and the lower cost of livestock products and oil, made possible by increased imports of grain for

fodder and oil seeds. Between fiscal 1960 and 1975 the per capita caloric intake shot up from 2,291

KiloCalories to 2,517 KiloCalories, and the proportion of energy supplied by rice nd other starches fell from 70 per cent to 52 per cent. In place of rice, the Japanese began to eat more meat, dairy products, fruits, and sugar.

Consumption of meat climbed 4.8-fold and dairy products 2.4-fold. As a result, the ratio of proteins in the diet from animal sources soared from 31 per cent to 44 per cent.

During this period, the real increase in the nation's total food expenditures, including the amount spent on eating out, reached an average of 5.6

per cent a year. The percentage of the household budget spent on food, meanwhile, fell from 41 per cent to 32 per

After 1973, the year of the first oil crisis, the rate of growth of the Japanese economy slowed down, and the average annual rate of increase in food expenditures dropped to a modest 1.8 per cent between fiscal 1975 and fiscal 1985. Caloric intake peaked at 2,569 KiloCalories in fiscal 1973 and continued to hover around the 2,500 mark in the following

The 1970s were marked by a diversification for lifestyles the demand for food services and other such conveniences. The Japanese began to cat more processed foods, and to dine out with increasing frequency. The ratio of perishable food expenditures to total food spending, fell from a high of 41 per cent in 1960 to 32 per cent in 1975 and 24 per cent in 1987. In the later half of the

and concomitant increase in

1980s the Japanese economy shifted to one powered by domestic demand, and lifestyles and values diverged even further. The diversification of buying patterns during this period mirrored these trends.

processed and ready-made foods, while increasingly patronizing bigger stores that stocked most of the products they wanted, rather than neighbourhood mom-and-pop shops with a limited selection. They developed a taste for exotic fruits, top-grade rice and meat, and gourmet foods and increasingly demanded that their foods be fresh, healthful, and safe. Business at upscale restaurants soared during this period.

Despite the changes in food preferences, major differences remain in the diet of the

Japanese and that of Western The Japanese continued to nations. In 1960 the Japanese rely on restaurants and consumed between 1.7 and 2.2 times more cereal than Westerners, and today they are eating 1.2 to 1.6 times more. Japanese meat consumption, which in 1960 was only about a tenth that of Westerners, has shot up but is still only 30 per cent to 50 per cent that of Westerners. The traditional Japanese meal of rice and side dishes of vegetables and fish has been transformed and a typical meal now encompasses a range of dishes, from red meat to dairy products and fruits.

The Japanese continue to

Westerners, and the proportion of calories supplied by starches in still relatively high. Moreover, the source of proteins in the diet is split nearly evenly between animals and vegetables, and a large share of the animal proteins, comes from fish rather than meat. Overall the intake of proteins, fats, and carbohydrates in the Japanese diet is well balanced a fact that many people say is behind the better health and changing physique of the peo-Many people worry, how-

ever, that the growing taste of the Japanese, particularly young people, for meats and fatty foods threatens the maintenance of this nutritional bal-