Germany to peg govt

spending, interest rates

#### China negotiating with former Soviet

BEIJING, Sept 6: A Chinese company is negotiating with the former Soviet republics to buy passenger planes, cargo aircraft and helicopters, an official newspaper reported Saturday. The announcement is the latest sign of China's cagerness to make deals with the cash-strapped republics to shore up its air fleet, both for civilian and military purposes. The English-language China Daily said the aircraft models the China National Machinery Import and Export Corp hopes to obtain include Tu-154s, 11-76s, Yak-46s and MiG-17s, reports AP.

#### Oil consumption in India to double

NEW DELHI, Sept 6: India's oil consumption will al most double by the end of this century from the present 57 million tonnes per annum, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported yesterday. Consumption would go up to 78 million tonnes in 1997 and to 100 million tonnes in 2000 P Raghavendran, General Manager of the stateowned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), was quoted as saying in Calcutta, reports AFP.

#### Global loan rises to \$96.2b

NEW YORK, Sept 6: Global loan syndication volume rose in the second quarter to 96.2 billion dollar from 55.4 billion dollar in the first according to a Salomon Brothers Inc report. Salomon attributed the rise to "an active market for refinancing and 'reverse' leveraged buyouts and the banks' willingness to take more underwriting risk, while limiting asset holdings," reports Reuter.

#### Iraq to double public rations

BAGHDAD, Sept 6: As President Saddam Hussein tries to shore up public support in his latest confrontation with the West, his government says it will double the public's rations of flour, sugar, rice and other commodities this month. The move, announced this week, was said to be intended to make up for shortages in public markets. Saddam's government has been complaining bitterly about the ban on Iraqi warplanes in the south, imposed Aug 27 by Western governments trying to protect Shi'ite Muslim rebels, reports

#### Boeing to reduce production of 757

SEATTLE, Sept 6: Boeing Thursday announced plans to slow production of its 757 jumbo jet starting in September 1993 because of a drop in orders and said the move would cost an undisclosed number of jobs. Production of the 757 will surpass 8.5 units per month in September of this year. In January, production was increased from seven to 8.5 a month to meet higher demand, reports AFP.

#### Russian reforms on track

MOSCOW, Sept 6: Russian President Boris Yeltsin described his radical economic reforms as heroic and said the Russian people would stand by them. Now is the most difficult period in Russia's history, may be apart from the 1917 (Bolshevik) Revolution and World War Two, he said during a meeting with leaders of youth organization, reports Reuter.

### Colombo for

peace, progress COLOMBO, Sept 6: Srl Lankan President R Prehere Saturday, reports Xin-

#### Religious groups to mobilize aid

Rev John Roth slogged up the watery aisle of St Thomas By-the-Bay Lutheran Church with sneakers under his liturgicál robe the first Sunday after Hurricane Andrew barged through. Christmas candles glowed in place of electric lights. The 40 families able to make the service were on one side of the pulpit because the roof was missing on the other half of the church in southern Dade County, Fla. "Whatever they've lost, the church is still here.

# Tokyo will block aid if Russia fails to return four Kuril islands

TOKYO, Sept 6: Tokyo will block major economic aid to Moscow unless it is assured of regaining the four southern Kurtl tslands held by Russia. Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said today, reports AFP.

His remarks, reaffirming Japan's long standing policy. followed a satellite television debate in which Russian President Borts Yeltsin declared, "don't expect us to hand back the islands during my trip to

Yeltsin is due to visit here September 13-16.

But the economic newspaper Nihon Keizai reported the export-bank of Japan planned to extend 280 million yen (2.2

WASHINGTON, Sept 6:

From Havana to Oslo to Warsaw

to Tokyo to Los Angeles, the

complaint is the same: men

aren't doing enough house-

having to dress the kids, wash

the clothes, cook the meals,

make the beds and take out

the garbage - all before they

go to work to earn less than

men - is a worldwide inequity.

according to an International

Labour Organization report

requires men to help around

the home, 82 per cent of all

Havana women do all the do-

mestic chores, the report says.

cited in the report says that

when men's working hours

were reduced, they used the

extra time for leisure activities

rather than for housework or

youngest of married men do

not help with the housework,

while Japanese men spent only

15 minutes a day on chores

around the house," the report

"Couch potato" husbands,

who sit like vegetables and

watch television while wives

do chores, have been a long-

time source of jokes and femi-

nine anger in the United

world, women work harder

and earn less than men, and

the gap in many countries is

at the heart of much discrimi-

nation against women," said

Michel Hansenne, ILO direc-

tor-general in Geneva, Switzer-

land. "Women are expected to

stay at home to look after

CIENFUEGOS (Cuba), Sept

6: President Fidel Castro pre-

dieted more tough times for

his economically beset Com-

munist nation Saturday, and

said disagreements with Russia

over credit has halted work on

a nuclear power plant, says AP.

speech to the nation, Castro

also said the recently con-

cluded sugar harvest totalled a

healthy seven million tons,

higher than most experts ex-

pected. But he complained of

that key export's vastly re-

sure to move toward Western-

style democracy and institute

free-market reforms, insisted

there would be no softening of

Cuba's one-party, state-con-

Castro, who is under pres-

duced value.

In a state-of-socialism

widening, the report says.

Nearly everywhere in the

"Family responsibilities are

by the UN agency says.

"In Poland, even the

childcare.

In Nordic countries, a study

Even in Cuba, where a law

being released here Monday.

The problem of women

work, according to AP.

million dollar) to a Russo Japanese international communications joint venture in the Far East port of Vladivostok in late October.

Watanabe said in a separate television news show today. "what if we shelve the territorial question and help Russia with tax payers' money and go ahead with Russian development. The people can hardly accept it."

Yeltsin said in the debate \*broadcast today by Japan broadcasting corp that he had "14 proposals" to make on the island issue when he meets Japanese Prime Minister Ki-

ichi Miyazawa here. "It is difficult to decide which one to choose," he said

children and are then treated

as second-class workers

pay for men and women

widened in both developing

and industrialized countries,

despite decades of efforts to

push female equality on the

week, including housework,

than men in every part of the

world except North America

and Australia, the ILO report

Africa. The report estimates

that African women work 67

They work the hardest in

Women work more hours a

because of this."

job, the report says.

estimates.

Moscow's occupation of the southern Kurils since the end of World War II has prevented Japan from signing a peace treaty with the former socialist giant and extending major economic aid to it.

But the Japanese government had determined that the financing of a private joint venture as lateral support "won't be construed as fullscale financial assistance," the newspaper said.

The joint venture, capitalised at 1.26 billion yen, will be set up by the Russian telecommunications authority, IDT, Japan's trading house Nissho Iwai Corp and the Japanese overseas telecommunications giant KDD.

hours a week, compared to 53

for men. In Asta, women work

62 hours while men average

Australia, men work 49 hours a

week, while women work

47.5, the report says. In

Western Europe, women aver-

age 48 hours, men 43; Japan's

women work 56 hours and

men 54; in Latin America,

women work 60 hours to 54

top of the pay equality scale,

with salaries increasing from

86 per cent of men's in 1980

A view of the new fish market opened in Abu Dhabi recently. The market, built within the

Free Port Area, consists of 67 shops, 30 chillers and a workshop for the maintenance of the

lated commemorations of the

July 26, 1953, launching of the

revolution that brought him to

power. The event was post-

poned for the first time this

year when Castro decided to

was going through "the most

difficult July 26 in the history

bloc which once accounted for

90 per cent of Cuba's trade and

virtually of all its foreign aid,

"did us extraordinary damage,"

Castro said. "And it will keep

doing us extraordinary dam-

taken over the former Soviet

Union's former financial com-

mitments, refused to extend

He said Russia, which has

He conceded the country

The collapse of the Soviet

attend a summit in late July.

of the revolution."

boats owned by the Abu Dhabi Fishermen Cooperative Society.

Castro warns Cubans of hard time

They'll have Cuba revolu-

Despite a party congress in

tionaries to deal with for a long

time yet," he declared. "We

will not tire for one second.

May that left open the possi-

bility of some market reforms,

he did not signal a willingness

to launch any new experi-

ments. He repeatedly blamed

capitalism for a host of the

world's social ills, including

crime, poverty, drug use and

tens of thousands of people

gathered outdoors in Cienfue-

gos, an important industrial

and fishing center on the

The speech highlighted be-

southern central coast.

Castro spoke at night before

That is our commitment."

trolled system.

prostitution.

to nearly 88 per cent in 1988.

Australian women are at the

for men

in North America and

Women working more but earning less

The differences between 48 hours a week.

Nissho Iwai and KDD will each share 37.5 per cent of the capital while IDT will offer the remaining 25 per cent in kind, including communications circuits, Nihon Keizai

The ex-IM Bank will finance 60 per cent of Nissho Iwai's investment in the new firm. named Vostok Telecom, which will install telecommunications stations and networks in the Russian Far East and eastern Siberia.

The loan is expected to carry annual interest lower than 5.7 per cent, the standard rate for lending by official financial institutions, the

newspaper said. The government is also

the most recent year for which

creased from 60 per cent of

men's to 65 per cent over the

same period, and Canadian

women increased their salaries

with nearly the same percent

ages. The ILO says that women

are starting two-thirds of new

women made salary gains in-

clude Belgium, where their av-

erage income increased from

69.4 to 75.1 per cent of men's;

Britain, from 73.4 to 76.6 per

cent: Czechoslovakia, from

Other countries where

US women's salaries in-

figures are available.

businesses in Canada.

68.4 to 70.1 per cent

considering extending credit to a hotel renovation project being undertaken by Japan's Saison Group in the Russian Far East, Nihon-Keizai said.

Yeltsin said in the television debate with a group of Japanese citizens, including former inhabitants of the disputed islands, that he hoped to warm the chilly ties between Moscow and Tokyo when he holds talks with Miyazawa here September 14-15.

He added he would seek to expand bilateral relations in terms of "quantity and quality."

"A handful of people oppose the territorial dispute historically, but I have no intention of cancelling the trip," he said.

### Children stand by the royalty

LONDON, Sept 6: A children's charity Friday night rejected a donation of 50,000 pound (100,000 dollar) from the Sun newspaper, the profits of a telephone hotline which allowed readers to listen into a conversation allegedly between the Princess of Wales and her friends James Gilbey, re-

ports AFP. Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC), whose patrons include Queen Mother and whose president is Princess Margaret turned down the offer on porters might be deterred from making further donations to the charity if it "associated itself with an activity of which they dis-

The charity made the decision to refuse the money despite having a deficit of more than two million pound (four million dol-

The Sun was reported Friday night to be seeking another children's charity willing to accept its offer.

## EC firm to maintain

BATH (England), Sept 6: European Community countries are determined not to realign their currencies despite the current agitation in financial markets, British Chancellor of the Exchequer Norman Lamont said here Saturday, reports AFP.

Speaking on behalf of the British presidency of the EC, he said finance ministers and central banks were determined to intervene in money markets "using all the means and instruments available" to maintain currency exchange

Lamont statement came af-

Lamont said German Finance Minister Theo Waigel had assured the meeting that Germany had no intention in present circumstances of raising interest rates.

But there were no indications that Germany was ready

The National Society for the Elizabeth II and the Queen (the Queen's sister), the grounds that its supapproved."

# currency rates

ter a day-long meeting of EC finance ministers and central bank governors. Diplomats said the talks had been intense.

to lower its high interest rates,

#### terest rates at current levels, German Finance Minister Theo Waigel said in a vigorous defence of his country's economic policies here Saturday, reports AFP. He was reacting to strong

BATH, ENGLAND, Sept 6:

Germany plans to peg both its

government spending and in-

criticism of Germany's high interest rates during a meeting of European Community finance ministers.

Waigel said Germany's forth coming federal budget, to be debated next week, was "the strictest presented by any EC country."

Germany's EC partners have been forced to keep their interest rates high in order to protect their currencies against the dominant German mark.

The high German rates are designed to cub inflation following the high costs of German unification.

But they have been widely blamed for keeping other EC economics mired in poor economic growth.

Danish Finance Minister Anders Fogh-Rasmussen said there had been "enormous pressure" from all Germany's EC partners at Saturday's meeting to lower its interest

However, Waigel riposted: We see no room for manocuvre to cut interest rates, but we have no reason to go in the

other direction." British Chancellor of the **Exchequer Norman Lamont** said this was a "significant outcome" of the meeting, and could help to calm the current turmoil in the EC's financial

markets. Waigel said he would not allow Germany to be made the scapegoat of Europe's economic ills.

"We have no intention of putting anyone in the dock nor of being put there ourselves,"

The German Minister, asked to comment on rising unemployment in Germany,

said he did not believe the

country was moving into a re-

cession. He said countries complaining of high German interest rates arising from the costs of absorbing former east Germany should not forget how they themselves had profited from

This was a clear reference to the collapse of Soviet communist power, which started with the fall of the Berlin wall.

reunification.

Lamont acknowledged that several EC countries had expressed concern about Germany's current economic policy mix.

He said they wanted assurances that German government subsidies in eastern Germany did not push up interest rates.

Boutros-Ghali, in a clear re-

ferring to western nations

such as the United States,

which owes the UN 555 mil-

lion dollar said he hoped

other, richer countries would

follow Moscow's example.

# Moscow keen to help UN with money, action

MOSCOW, Sept 6: Russian President Boris Yeltsin told visiting UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali that Moscow was keen to support the world body with money and action, reports Reuter.

Presidential spokesman Vyacheslav Kostikov told reporters after the two men met in the Kremlin that Yeltsin had promised to pay the United Nations 80 million dollar this month and another 80 million dollar in the first quarter of next year.

Russia's outstanding dues to the UN up to July were 138 million dollar the UN Moscow office said.

Of course, this does not cover all our debts but it is a serious effort in our side, Kostikov quoted Yeltsin as

Yeltsin also proposed setting up a mechanism within the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) that could move to resolve inter-ethnic conflicts faster than existing UN proce-

We need to arrange for decisions to be taken quickly, for the intervention of peacekeeping forces to be quick, the Russian leader said, adding that the CSCE forces would not be rivals of UN blue helmets,

but should be linked to them.

## China takes up stake in Malay palm plant released in Kuala Lumpur.

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 6: China, a growing market for Kuala Lumpur's palm oil, has taken up a nine per cent stake in a palm oil refining plant in Malaysia's eastern Sabah state, a top official said, reports AFP.

Primary Industries Minister Lim Keng Yaik said the republic's participation would be made through the China's national vegetable oil corpora-

Such collaboration will be very useful in strengthening the trade and economic relations between the two countries, Lim said when opening the refining plant in Lahd Datu, Sabah, his speech was

He did not elaborate of the cost and capacity of the plant that would be jointly undertaken by the Sabah Land Development Board and Pasir Gudang Edible Oil Sdn Bhd, a company based in southern Johore State.

Lim said Chian had significantly increased her imports of oils and fats in recent years, with imports rising sharply by 230 per cent to 1.76 million tonnes last year from 531,700 tones in 1986.

China's palm oil imports also rose sharply to one million tonnes last year from 170,000 tonnes in 1984.

House also announced the re-

lease of a further 755 million

dollar in compensation for re-

limited by predictions of bet-

ter weather in the midwest

during September while the

market had been expecting a

cold spell. The US Agriculture De-

partment predicted a fall of 12

per cent in the German har-

vest in 1992 to 34.7 million

tonnes, affected both by the

Russian demand for Indian tea

again weakened the market

with figures showing that Rus-

sia bought 7.14 million kilos of

tea in the first half of the year

while the USSR had bought

42.09 million kilos in the first

half of 1991. The 83 per cent fall, caused

Tea: Down. The collapse of

dry spell and violent storms.

However, the gains were

cent bad weather losses.

# Worldwide depression continues to dampen commodity demands from the farmers, the White

the favourable terms under

which Cuba was building its

first nuclear power plant near

that started in April dragged

on for months, he said, Cuba

project, in which he said 1.1

billion dollar already had been

by the Russians, and what he

called their "failure to under-

stand the difficulties Cuba is

ers at the plant will be used to

build beachfront hotels and

other facilities for the tourist

industry - which Cuba is

quickly expanding to obtain

desperately needed hard cur-

He said construction work

He complained about delays

decided to halt the 14-year-old

Cienfuegos. After negotiations

LONDON, Sept 6 : Commodity prices remained generally depressed here this week as buyers stayed out of the office or out of the market, with the continuing worldwide economic recession dampening sentiment, reports AFP.

Precious metals briefly lifted, during a week shortened by a long weekend, on fears of a renewal of violence in South Africa, the world's leading producer of platinum and gold. Uncertainties over the

presence of United Nations forces in the former Yugoslavia after the loss of an Italian transport plane boosted their values as the "safe haven" commodities.

The absence of any real return on demand from industry or the jewellery sector put a cap on any real rise in prices.

The price of oil for this week forgot the tension in the Gulf and concentrated on the fall of American crude oil stocks after a slowdown in production linked to last week's Hurricane Andrew in

the US gulf. On the London Metal Exchange, the price of zinc was pushed to its highest level for two years, boosted by a rumoured options - related

technical squeeze rather than any sudden pick-up in demand Higher. The price of

gold was boosted again this week by investors seeking a "safe haven" from troubled stock markets and uncertainties over the United Nations role in the former Yugoslavia.

The loss of an Italian transport plane, taking part in the humanitarian airlift to Sarajevo, caused the suspension of the flights to the city while the cause of the accident is investigated.

Platinum: Firm. After a strong start on rears of renewed violence in South Africa, the world's leading gold and platinum producer, platinum fell back slightly over uncertainties in the world economies, including disappointing statistics from the United States confirming recession there.

The price was also helped by the strengthening Nikkei index in Japan, the world's main consumer of platinum.

Silver: Higher. The price of silver rose at the start of the week in the wake of other precious metals, losing a little later on because of the lack of genuine industrial and jewellery demand and because of higher stocks.

Copper: Slightly lower. The price of copper moved slightly lower this week on the London Metal Exchange (LME), dipping on Tuesday when the exchange opened after a local

three-day holiday weekend, then staying flat.

Interest in the metal was minimal this week with little real news emerging to move a market which remained moribund in the continued slowdown after the end of the main summer holiday season.

Stocks of copper on the LME rose 6,725 tonnes to 275,275 tonnes, a five month Lead: Slightly lower. Lead's

price slipped slightly, down on Tuesday when the market opened and then staying virtually flat in the generally quiet trading. Stocks of lead fell 175 to 154,650 tonnes.

Zine: Sharply higher. Zinc, meanwhile, moved to a twoyear high but some traders said this was because of a longrunning options-related technical squeeze rather than any sudden pick-up in demand.

The prices are being kept artificially high by groups of producers and merchants who are using a complex options strategy and not making material available to the market, the Aluminium: Lower. The

price of aluminium fell on the LME over the week, with traders blaming a "basic lack of industrial demand" for the fall. Trading in aluminium as in several other base metals, has still to take off again after the

holiday season and in the meantime, the tendency was for price to drift, dealers said. Meanwhile, Japanese trad-

ing house Sumitomo forecast that world demand for primary aluminum ingots to rise 4.3 per cent in 1993 compared to this year to stand at 15.8 mil-

lion tonnes. Supply will drop three per cent in 1993 producing a 290,000-tonnes shortfall, Sumitomo said On the LME, stocks of alu-

minium rose 5,625 tonnes to a record 1,356,225 tonnes. Nickel: Lower. Nicklel too fell, with the metal particularly affected by problems in the

dealers said. LME stocks of nickel jumped 780 to 44,082 tonnes, their highest level since February 1984.

world wide car industry as well

as in other industrial sectors,

Tin: Lower. The price of tin initially rose on the LME, as dealers continued the twoweek return to the metal after its recent falls but then it fell back again on Thursday as profit-taking undermined the

Stocks of tin on the exchange rose 390 to 15,085 Vegetable oils: Uncertain.

The price of soya oil weakened, unaffected by firmness on the American market which was buoyed by hopes of sales to

the former USSR and other

The Brazilian government raised its estimate of the soya bean harvest in 1991/92 to 19.127 million tonnes from 19.029 million tonnes previously. Brazilian production fell to 14.94 the year earlier after a severe drought. The price of palm olein

rose after India announced it was buying 150,000 tonnes of the oil from Indonesia.

Sugar: Lower. The price of

sugar fell after speculative sales following last week's rise linked to fears of damage caused to Louisiana plantation when Hurricane Andrew hit the United States. Prices were also affected by

fears of weak Russian buying on account of their own betterthan-expected harvests. According to German statisticians FO Licht, Russian

production will reach 3.77

million tonnes this year from 3.13 million tonnes in 1991. Rumours that China had cut its contract with Australia to buy 15,000 tonnes of sugar accentuated the market's losses.

Dealers were meanwhile awaiting a speech from Cuban President Fidel Castro, giving his estimates of the Cuban harvest in 1992. Analysts have given predictions of six to 7.6 million tonnes.

Oil: Firm. The price of North Sea Brent crude of

stayed above the 20 dollars a barrel level, helped by imminence of the OPEC meeting in Vienna on September 16 and the fall in US stocks.

Hurricane Andrew, which swept across the US gulf causing billions of pounds worth of damage, made refineries and platforms break production for several days.

According to the American Petroleum Institute, the stocks of American crude oil fell over the week by 6.624 million to 325.856 million barrels. Seventeen per cent of US oil production comes from the US

Rubber: Well down. The price of natural rubber fell below 500 dollar a tonne, its lowest level since the start of the year, affected by the failure of markets to recover after the end of the holiday period.

Grains: Steady. The price of wheat and barley was steady in London, unaffected by leaps on the Chicago Exchange after a US government decision to subside exports of a further 30 million tonnes of American wheat at a cost of over billion

The subsidised sales, aimed at helping out American farmers against their European counterparts, are the largest such sales ever made at one time under the US's Export Enhancement Programme. Looking to future support

by the major economic problems in the country, takes account of only Russia, only one of the former USSR's republics, but by far the largest. Cotton: Lower. The price of cotton at Liverpool was hit by the prediction from the inter-

national cotton advisory committee that 1992/93 would see a worldwide surplus in production for the third year running. The committee said world

production would be 20.27 million tonnes with consumption at 19.32 million giving stocks of 10.24 million tonnes.

madasa said Friday that his government is aimed at not only economic development, but also lasting peace and harmony of the island country. Speaking to villagers in the North-Western province, the Sri Lankan Leader said that his government has ensured that benefits of economic development reach all sections of the population without discrimination, according to reports reaching

# UNDATED, Sept 6: The

reports AP.