

## BCCI fraud case

Former executive  
found guilty

LONDON, July 31: A former executive of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) was convicted Saturday of a series of offences stemming from his role in the scandal surrounding the bank's collapse three years ago, reports Reuters.

Imran Imam, 42, who was the right hand man of BCCI President Agha Hasan Abedi and Chief Executive Swaleh Naqvi, will be sentenced next Wednesday.

He was found guilty on two charges of conspiracy to falsify records, of conspiracy to council documents and of furnishing false information after a three-month trial in London.

Prosecuting lawyer Anthony Evans said Imam played a "substantial and important role" in the multi-million pound fraud which led to the bank's crash.

Imam and other executives had misled BCCI's auditors Price Waterhouse, the Bank of England and others about BCCI's financial position, he said.

Billions of dollars were lost by creditors and depositors around the world, many of them small-time savers, when BCCI collapsed in 1991 amid allegations of massive fraud.

US plans centres  
to push small  
business exports

WASHINGTON, July 31: The Clinton Administration is proposing to set up a string of export assistance centres around the United States to help small and medium-sized businesses sell more U.S. products abroad, says a USIS press release.

Secretary of Commerce Ronald Brown told reporters recently that the proposal "is designed to provide easier access to export and trade finance information and services."

Brown said the proposed new centers are essentially a "redesign" that significantly changes how the U.S. federal government delivers export assistance specifically to small and medium-sized businesses.

He said the Department of Commerce expects to spend around two million dollars to redesign and to relocate employees to the 11 proposed regional centres in Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Seattle, and St. Louis. Fewer than 20 new personnel are to be added, a department official confirmed.

The 11 proposed centers are expected to be in full operation during calendar year 1995, Brown said. They will join the other four pilot centers in Baltimore, Miami, Long Beach and Chicago that were opened in January of this year.

Accord to develop Ctg  
Chemical Complex

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) and a Japanese Consortium signed a Letter of Contract for implementation of the development project of Chittagong Chemical Complex, says a press release.

The contract was signed by the Secretary BCIC Dr Shafiqur Rahman and K Mathsumo and Y Jakuchi, Japanese Representatives of Kanemasu Corporation and Aishi Glass Co. of Japanese Consortium at the BCIC Conference Room in the city yesterday.

Under the contract, the duration for implementation of the project is 25 months.

On implementation, the overall production capacity of

the project will increase by 40 per cent approximately.

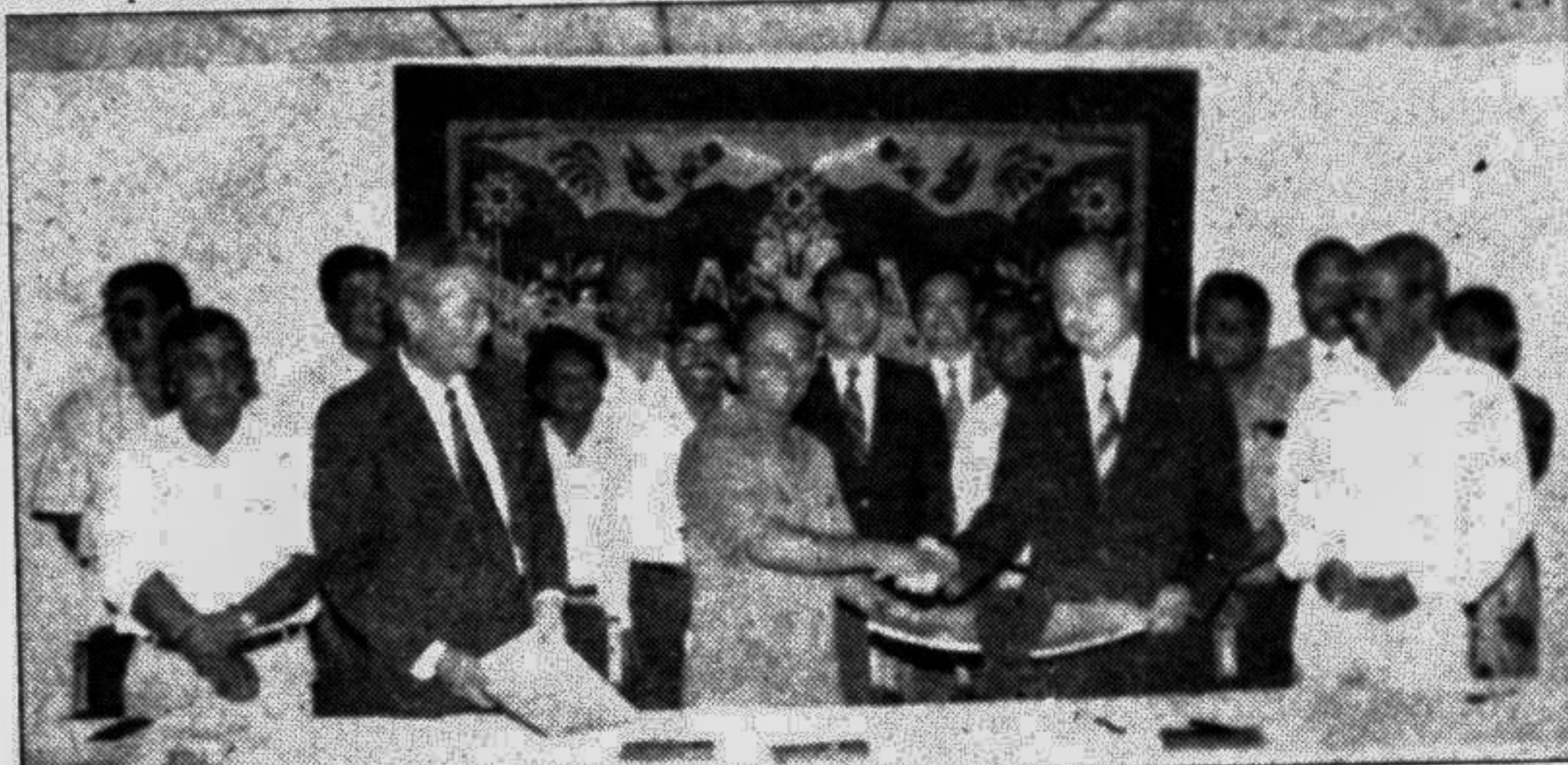
It may be mentioned that the development project of Chittagong Chemical Complex under OECF credit of 2076 million yen was approved by ECNEC on December 8, 1983.

The function was attended, among others, by the director (planning and implementation) Siddiqur Rahman, concerned senior officials of BCIC and Managing Director TIM Latiful Hossain of Chittagong Chemical Complex.

Environmental pollution by mercury process will be completely checked and environmental pollution by liquid gas will be minimised. The usage

ratio of basic raw material salt and power will decrease by 25 and 10 per cent respectively. Power will be supplied through 33 KVA at a lower tariff instead of Gas Turbine. Establishment of Chlorine-based new industrial units will be expedited due to production of more liquid Chlorine in the process of implementation of the project.

The chemical products like Caustic Soda, Liquid Chlorine, Hydro-Chloric Acid, Bleaching Powder etc. are used by all fertilizer factories and paper mills of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, sugar mills, refinery, WASA, steel mill, soap factories, dyeing units of the country.



Dr Shafiqur Rahman, Secretary, BCIC and K Mathsumo, Representative of Japanese Consortium shaking hands after signing an agreement in the city yesterday for development project of Chittagong Chemical Complex.

Shipping Ministry  
to implement 28  
ADP projects

The Ministry of Shipping will implement 28 projects at an estimated cost of Taka 87 crore 19 lakh under the annual development programme (ADP) during the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

This was stated at a review meeting on the ADP projects to be implemented during the current fiscal year and ADP projects implemented during the last fiscal year, yesterday at the Conference Room of Ministry of Shipping, Shipping Minister M K Anwar presided.

Of the total, BIWTA will implement 10 projects while BIWTC six, Department of Shipping four, Chittagong Port Authority three, Mongla Port Authority two, Marine Academy two and Ministry of Shipping itself will implement one project.

The meeting was also informed that the ministry has implemented 35 projects at a cost of Taka 101 crore during the last fiscal year achieving the yearly target by 91 per cent.

Addressing the meeting the shipping minister said, phase-wise, completion target of each project has to be fixed up for smooth and timely completion. He also emphasised the need for regular monitoring and supervision of the projects to achieve the target.

Secretary of Shipping Ministry Waliul Islam and concerned officials were also present at the meeting.

## 2nd coal-fired plant soon

POLAND, July 31: Bangladesh is planning to develop its second coal-fired power plant at Khalishpur in Rangpur district, reports UNB.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain disclosed this during his visit to the "Opole Power Plant", a coal-fire power generation plant in Poland on Friday, said a delayed message received here Saturday.

Barapukuria coal-fired power plant in Dinajpur, being implemented with the financial and technical assistance of

China is the first coal-based power plant in the country.

"We are seriously thinking to develop more coal mine for generation of power as the alternative source of natural gas", Dr Mosharraf Hossain said emphasising Khalishpur is another most prospective mine for coal-fired power plant.

The Minister said Khalishpur Coal Mine which was discovered by the geological survey of Bangladesh in 1989 has an estimated reserve of 635 metric tons of high quality coal at an average depth from

257 meter to 378 meter on an area of 12 square km.

The Opole Power Plant expected to produce 2200 megawatt electricity is fitted with latest equipment for control of pollution.

The Energy Minister who is leading a 4-member Bangladesh delegation also visited "Piast Coal Mine at Silasia, one of the largest coal mine in Poland."

The Minister was accompanied by Polish Deputy Minister for Industry and Trade H. Gabrya and Bangladesh Embassy to Poland Nazem Ahmed Chowdhury.

New ROK car with  
CNG fuel

SEOUL, July 31: South Korea's Daewoo Motor Company has succeeded in developing a car fuelled by Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) which meets the world's strictest regulations, a spokesman for the company said here today, reports Xinhua.

The development of the new car, named "Daewoo NGV (Natural Gas Vehicle II)", took 19 months to complete and cost 2.6 million US dollars, the spokesman said.

Of the development spending, 1.2 million US dollars was from the government which chose Daewoo as the main developer of motor vehicles run by natural gas in December 1992.

Daewoo NGV II is the second type of the company's natural gas-fuelled vehicles. "Dae-

woo NGV I" unveiled in October 1991 uses either CNG or Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as fuels.

The new model is installed with a new CNG fuel system that features a multi-point gas injector for greater fuel efficiency and lower emissions. Driven by a 1,598 cc engine, it can run 400 kilometers with one fuelling of its two 50 liter CNG tanks at the maximum speed of 170 kilometers per hour.

Compared with gasoline engines, the CNG system reduces emissions by over 50 per cent, the spokesman said.

Daewoo plans to display the NGV II at an international NGV show to be held in Toronto, Canada, in October this year, and begins to sell it overseas next year.

BIBM workshop  
on MIS ends

A four-day workshop on 'Management Information System (MIS) in Banks' concluded at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management in the city yesterday, says a press release.

The workshop was conducted by BIBM and its Director-General AHM Nurul Islam Choudhury presided over the concluding session.

The workshop was organised to grow awareness and make improvement in Management Information System (MIS) in banks. It highlighted problems, issues, implementation and maintenance of MIS in banks.

In his speech, Choudhury made a brief analytical discussion about the importance of MIS in banks.

Without MIS, he said, decision-making is delayed and hampered.

World Bank must be responsive  
to changing needs, Preston says

WASHINGTON, July 31: The World Bank has to change in order to respond to rapidly changing development needs in the post-Cold War era, according to its president, Lewis Preston, says a USIS press release.

Preston told reporters that the Bank must be "leaner, more agile and more responsive to changing client needs" to meet the challenges of economic reform, development of human resources, protection of the environment, support of the private sector, and change in government priorities.

Preston was introducing a report, "The World Bank Group: Learning from the Past, Embracing the Future," to mark the 50th anniversary of the Bretton Woods institutions — the Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

The report says the Bank — working with its partners and borrowing countries — will strengthen its efforts to meet

fundamental development objectives such as universal primary education, access to a minimum package of health care, and the elimination of malnutrition within the next generation.

"This report constitutes our vision of the Bank's future directions, based on a realistic appraisal of the needs, a critical self-examination, and a careful assessment of how we must change to best serve our member governments and their peoples," Preston said.

The report stresses that while external financial assistance remains vital to stimulate economic growth and reduce poverty, "political commitment to reform, and effective implementation by the developing countries themselves are even more important."

The report notes that in the past 50 years the Bank has supported more than 6,000 operations in some 140 countries with more than 300,000

million dollars. In the next 10 years the Bank expects to lend an additional 200,000 million dollars, the report says.

World Bank loans — at about 20,000 million dollars a year — are not only the largest single source of external finance for development but they also play a vital catalytic role by generating many times that amount from other sources, according to the Bank.

Preston said the Bank's need to change will be guided by six principles:

— Selectivity: identifying, at the country level, the strategic interventions through which the Bank can maximize its own impact and help catalyze the maximum potential of others;

— Partnership: seeking out alliances and effective relationships with other members of the international community — multilateral, bilateral, governmental, non-governmental and private;

— Client-orientation: responding more effectively to the needs of clients and facilitating their participation in the design and implementation of Bank-supported programmes;

— Results-orientation: looking beyond lending commitments and concentrating on maximizing development impact, better quality of service, greater efficiency and more accountability for performance;

— Cost-effectiveness: ensuring that scarce development resources are spent wisely and efficiently by streamlining bureaucratic processes and reducing paperwork;

— Financial integrity: giving the highest priority to financial prudence, because the institution's ability to provide both resources and the best possible service to its clients ultimately rests on its high standing in the financial markets.

Pakistan plans  
to export 6 lakh  
MT of rice in  
three months

KARACHI, July 31: Pakistan plans to export 600,000 metric tons of rice in the next three months, said Federal Commerce Minister Chaudhury Ahmed Mukhtar here today, reports Xinhua.

Talking to newsmen in the port city of Karachi, capital of southern Sindh province, the Commerce Minister said that in the previous five months, the country's rice export reached 400,000 metric tons.

Pakistan has recently abandoned calling tenders for its rice export and the practice has now been held in abeyance.

The minister also announced that Pakistan is not liberalizing its trade with India.

Pakistan only allowed the import of three items which include football bladders, raw dyeing material and spare parts for oil rigs from India under the new trade policy, he said.



US President Bill Clinton (R) delivers a speech on health care as First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (L) listens on Saturday under a statue of former US President Harry Truman in Independence, Missouri. Clinton compared his efforts to pass health care reform with similar initiatives of Truman.

## Commodity markets : Prices of oil, platinum surge while tea, coffee fall

LONDON, July 31: Platinum and palladium prices shot upwards this week because of labour unrest in South Africa, reports AFP.

The price of platinum rose to the highest point for three and a half years and the price of palladium was at the highest for five years.

Prices were driven by a strike in a South African mine and by the threat of general labour unrest organised by the Cosatu Union Federation.

And strikes in the Nigerian oil industry pushed up the price of oil to beyond 18 dollars per barrel on Thursday. On Friday the price was at the highest since June 1993 of 18.50 dollars per barrel.

Employees of the Nigerian oil industry were staging their 25th day of strike action on Friday in protest against the military authorities, and Shell, which is the main producer in Nigeria, said that its local output had fallen by one third.

Meanwhile, the price of rubber remained high but the prices of coffee and metals fell, cocoa and sugar were steady.

**Gold:** Rise before fall. Prices rose because the dollar was weak and investors were looking for a hedge. But when the dollar rallied suddenly the price fell sharply from 388 dollars an ounce on Wednesday to 384 dollars on Friday.

**Silver:** Firmer. Prices, which for several months had laboured up to 5.30 dollars an ounce, rose to nearly 5.40 dollars in ounce.

Experts said that the increase was more a response to firmness in other precious metals than strength in the silver market.

**Platinum:** Strongly higher. Prices seemed set on an ever upward path rising to the highest points for three and a half years on Wednesday of 427 dollars an ounce.

The same happened to palladium which rose to the highest point since July 1989 of 152 dollars and ounce.

The two metals rose on fears among dealers about production in South Africa which provides 70 per cent of world platinum supplies and 33 per cent of palladium supplies.

South Africa is experiencing its first serious social unrest since a multi-racial government was elected in the spring. The Cosatu Trade Union movement has threatened to call a strike while management and workers are in pay negotiations.

The 3,200 miners at the Eastern Platinum Mine owned by Lonrho of London went on strike on Thursday because three union miners had been laid off.

The prices of the two metals were also supported by imports by Japan which is by far the biggest user of them.

**Copper:** Falls. Prices, having risen on speculative pressure last week, fell by 100 dollars to 2,420 dollars per tonne.

Most analysts held that this was largely a reaction of profit taking, but the setback dragged down the prices of the five other metals traded on the London Metals Exchange (LME).

At GNI Brokers, experts said that the fall had been influenced by a reduction, judged to have been too small, of LME stocks by 950 tonnes during the week to 338,650 tonnes.

They said that the copper market remained on a firm trend despite sluggish demand which was normal during the summer and also despite an increase in world production from the end of 1994 or the beginning of next year.

**Lead:** Weaker. Prices fell by 20 dollars from the figures of last week because speculators were pulling out of the market.

The market continued to suffer from an increase in LME stocks by 325 tonnes to 356,925 tonnes.

The use of lead by Japanese battery manufacturers had fallen further in June and the market appeared to be somewhat while a recovery of demand in Europe was awaited.

**Zinc:** Easing. Prices fell by more than 30 dollars, having exceeded 1,000 dollars per tonne last week, because investors were losing interest.

A fall in stocks held by world producers of 4,811 tonnes in June from the figure in May was not enough to boost prices. LME stocks continued to rise by 2,500 tonnes to 1,214,075 tonnes.

**Aluminium:** Falls. Prices fell by about 60 dollars to about 1,460 dollars per tonne owing to withdrawal by investment funds.

But the market appeared to remain on a strong trend and a fall in world production showed through again in a

marked fall in market stocks by 25,200 tonnes to 2,523,950 tonnes.

The market was hit by bad news in the form of information from Alcan, the biggest producer in North America, that its plan to reduce output had been delayed. A planned reduction of 156,000 tonnes in its output had not taken real effect until the end of this month.

**Nickel:** Falls and rises. The price of nickel was affected least by the fall in the metals market. Nickel prices fell by 50 dollars during the middle of the week but rallied quickly on Friday to return 6,290 dollars per tonne as achieved last week.

This strong performance was the result of a brief halt by the Thompson Production Facilities in Manitoba, Canada, which belong to INCO, following an accident. The company might have to buy nickel on the LME to meet its commitments.

Stocks fell by 828 tonnes to 133,344 tonnes.

**Tin:** Falls. The price of tin fell by 100 dollars to end the week at about 5,300 dollars in line with the setback for other metals.

Stocks rose by 135 tonnes to 30,690 tonnes.

**Cocoa:** Small fall. Prices, which had risen strongly last week, fell slightly but remained high at about 1,080 pounds per tonne. Dealers remained anxious about the outcome of the forthcoming harvest in Ivory Coast which is the biggest cocoa producer in the world.

The possibility that produc-

tion might fall because of dry weather which had prevented the plants from flowering well and stunted development of the beans, was confirmed by reports from the plantations.

"Since the second half of June there has been no rain. This will endanger a big part of the crop," an official at the official Ivorian Stabilisation Fund said.

The International Cocoa Organisation reported that an estimated shortfall of world output in relations to consumption likely to grow to 7,000 tonnes this season to 102,000 tonnes.

**Coffee:** Price slide. Prices fell as speculators unwound positions and in calm summer trading following strong rises in response to frost in Brazil in June and July.

Prices rallied slightly on publication by the Brazilian government of first estimates for the 1995-96 frost-damaged harvest in May and April which were sharply lower than initial figures.

The harvest was estimated at 15.75 million bags of 60 kilograms. Before the frost it had been estimated at 26.5 million bags, experts at GNI said that such a fall was not a catastrophe if Brazil drew on stocks.

**Sugar:** Regular. Prices moved within a narrow range of 312-315 dollars per tonne in a dull market.

At Czarnikow specialist Chris Pack said that the Indian buying season appeared to be coming to an end and India could not be counted on to overturn the market as had happened in the spring. But imports by China, where pro-

duction had fallen heavily, might push prices up in the medium term.

Chinese production of cane and sugar beet was expected to fall by 1.80 million tonnes in 1993-94 from the figure for the previous year to 6.54 million tonnes owing to weak prices which had caused Chinese farmers to turn to more profitable crops.

The fall in production meant that China would have to import at least 600,000 tonnes to which 700,000 tonnes could be added if the state decided to increase its stocks to 1.5 million tonnes again, Pack said.

**Vegetable oils:** Rising. The price of soy oil in Rotterdam rose because of a speculative increase on the Chicago futures market.

The price of palm oil also rose, driven by weakness in Malaysian output. The price of sunflower oil was steady. The specialist Oil World Review forecast an increase of 8.7 per cent to 22.68 million tonnes in world production in 1994-95 from August to July.

**Oil:** Strong. The price of Brent North Sea oil rose to beyond 18 dollars a barrel at the end of the week mainly because a strike in the Nigerian oil industry was continuing.

Nigeria is the fifth biggest producer within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Prices had risen in a short, sharp speculative rally in reaction to a fire which had destroyed part of the biggest refinery in Britain. Analysts at brokers GNI said that the fire would strengthen prices of re-

finned products and would have little effect on the price of crude oil.

The strike in Nigeria was a more serious reason behind the continuing rise in prices, they said. Royal Dutch Shell, which produces and exports more than half of Nigerian oil, said on Wednesday that it would not be able to honour delivery contracts for four or five days.

After 25 days of strike action, Nigerian output was beginning to fall seriously. Shell announced that it was restricting its output by a third. Negotiations between the military authorities and trade unions democracy in the country, appeared to be deadlocked.

**Rubber:** High levels. Prices continued to advance to more than 950 pounds per tonne which was the highest quotation for 10 years, under the effect of speculative buying in Japan.

An announcement that the Indonesian harvest had fallen by four per cent in 1994 had also boosted prices. In the second half of the week the market appeared to calm down under the effect of profit taking in Tokyo.

**Grains:** Rising. Weakness of sterling against European currencies drove up prices on the British futures market. The price of wheat and barely rose by two pounds in a week to more than 105 pounds per tonne for wheat and 104 pounds for barley.

British cereals, which are used mainly in cattle feed, are expected to come under growing competition from French

grains which this year have a lower protein content and are, therefore, likely to be used more widely for feed and less for human consumption.

The US market rose quickly in the middle of the week on speculative buying driven by drought in the United States and by expectations that world output might fall.

A dispute between the United States and Canada about wheat imports remained unresolved and retaliatory measures might be taken from August 1 by Washington against Ottawa.

**Tea:** Falls. Auction activity in London weakened, particularly in respect of medium-quality teas from Sri Lanka. This was under competition from products of inferior quality.

On average the prices of teas of superior quality fell by 50 pence to 215 pence per kilo. Those of medium quality fell by four pence to 120 pence and those of poor quality by two pence to 80 pence.

**Cotton:** Rally. Prices, which had fallen steeply for several weeks, rallied owing to speculative pressure on the futures market in New York. This was caused by dry weather in Texas which was expected to reduce the US harvest.

Experts held that drought in the south of the United States had already destroyed crops on 400,000 hectares (960,000 acres) in Texas.

**Wool:** Steady. The guide price on the Bradford Wool Exchange remained steady at 425 pence per kilo. At the first auctions of the Australian market, prices were firm.