34.5602

0.3833

#### Dollar, stocks lower in Tokyo

TOKYO, Aug 16: The US dollar remained lower against the Japanese yen in Tokyo Friday, while Tokyo Stock Ex change's benchmark index fell in the absence of incentives and participants, reports AP.

Trading was quiet and lacked direction in the absence of market-moving news during Japan's O-Bon Buddhist holiday this week, said a Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank trader.

Players also limited their activities ahead of the US Federal Open market Committee meeting next Tuesday, waiting for clues to future Federal Reserve interest rate policy, he

At late afternoon, the dollar was changing hands at 107.72 yen, down 0.38 yen from its late Thursday level in Tokyo and also below its late New York quote overnight of 108.10 yen. It ranged from 107.60 to

107.85 yen. The dollar's weakness against the yen was also associated with the German mark, which slipped against the Japanese currency as players placed stop-loss orders to sell the mark, other traders said.

On the stock market, index-linked selling sent the benchmark Nikkei index lower in the year's quietest trading.

Many investors were reluctant to take long positions ahead of the weekend, and others took profits from the market's recent gains, traders

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average fell 134.25 points, or 0.64 per cent, to end the week at 20,834.00. On Thursday, the average had slipped 12.86 points, or 0.06 per cent.

The Tokyo Stock prise Index of all issues listed on the first section was down 3.95 points, or 0.25 per cent, to 1,584.84. The TOPIX shed 0.94 points, insignificant in percentage terms, the day be-

Volume on the exchange's first section was estimated at 214 million shares, the lowest level of the year, down from Thursday's 246.3 million. However, advancing issues narrowly outnumbered losers 499 to 471, with 221 unchanged.

The benchmark No. 182 10-year Japanese government bond closed at 98.97 yen, up from Thursday's 98.87-yen finish. Its yield, which moves in the opposite direction, fell to 3.145 per cent from 3.160 per cent.

#### Poor management costs Hanoi \$100m in rice exports

HANOI, Aug 16: Poor quality processing and problems with shipping cost Vietnam about 100 million dollars a year in rice exports, a deputy minister of agriculture was quoted Wednesday as saying, reports

Nguyen Thien Luan said Vietnam lost about 100 million dollars on sales of between two million to three million tonnes of rice a year because it was priced 30-40 dollars below Thai rice, the Lao Dong newspaper said.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Finance announced it would cut a special export tax on rice to zero per cent for rice with 25 per cent broken grains and to one per cent for higher quality rice.

Taxes of up to three per cent on exports were introduced last year to stem overseas sales when domestic prices soared because of local shortages.

Rice earns Vietnam around 500 million dollars a year and in its most important agricultural export. Since 1989 it has risen from being a net im porter to the fourth-largest exporter behind the United States. Thailand and India.

But Vietnamese rice has a high quantity of broken grains and is poorly processed. Problems with defaults by state trading firms and slow trans port have also lowered the price on international markets.

#### Fired Argentine minister to advise Ecuador's president

QUITO. Aug 16: The fired Argentine economy minister who oversaw that country's painful economic reforms signed on Thursday as an adviser to Ecuador's new government, reports AP

Domingo Cavallo "will transmit the Argentine economic experience." President Abdala Bucaram told a news con

teren e. Bucaram — a populist leader six days into his presidential term - said Cavallo will tell the government about the economic measures he implemented in Argentina under

President Carlos Menem. Cavallo was the chief architect of reforms that slashed Argentina's hyperinflation and spurred record growth be-

tween 1991 and 1994, a major factor in Menem's landslide re-election victory last year. But the rebound came at a

heavy cost to Argentina's workers, who lost jobs to privatisation and layoffs.

After a series of disputes over policy. Menem dismissed Cavallo last month. Cavallo will have no formal job here. Bu-

caram said Cavallo did not say what advice he had for the young Ecuadorean government.

"There's no Cavallo recipe. he said. "One has to learn from success and from mistakes.

Malaysia reassures foreign exporters

# No cut back on imports to correct trade deficit

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 16: The Malaysian government has sought to reassure foreign exporters it has not been curbing imports to correct its trade deficit, merely reducing imports of goods that could be produced locally, says AFP.

Seeking to dismiss allegations Malaysia was moving away from a liberal market, Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim said late Thursday that the government had no intention of undertaking any policy to cut back on imports.

"Malaysia is still committed to GATT (General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade) and the WTO (World Trade Organisation)," Anwar was reported saying by Bernama news agency in Seremban, in southwestern Negeri Sembilan state. "In view of this, the question of restricting imports

does not arise," he said. Anwar's remarks came a week after Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad indicated a possible increase in States."

import duty to correct the country's burgeoning trade deficit, when he ruled out raising interest rates or reining in growth to address the shortfall

Mahathir, in his speech last Monday at a convention on the seventh Malaysia plan — a five year blueprint to guide socioeconomic development - had said imports should be reduced through close government monitoring and voluntary restraint.

"If this is not possible, restrictions on the import of certain non essential goods will be imposed through quotas and import permits." Mahathir had said.

Reacting to his remarks, US Ambassador John Malott said on Tuesday that US exporters were now nervous and "would not understand why they should pay the price of the trade deficit you (Malaysia) have with another country, which is not the United

The popular children's sucking sweet the lollypop is enjoying an unusual renaissance in

Germany thanks to an extra 'spicey' ingredient. A variety of exotic insect species, averaging

three centimetres in size, provide a unique addition to these translucent sweets currently on

sale in the Federal Republic despite protests from some consumer groups. Although

discarded by some as a Summer gimmick sales suggest they are here to stay. This photo,

The central bank had ear-

lier forecast that M2 plus CDS

would show a year-on-year rise

of three-to-four per cent in the

comparatively strong growth in

M2 plus CDS to the inflow of

funds into financial assets in-

cluded in the M2 plus CD mea-

sure compared with those out-

strength in government spen

ding on public works suppor

ted the rise in M2 plus CDS.

given the lack of strong

upward momentum in bank

mains neutral to the broader

economy as it is not accelerat

ing the recovery nor acting as

a drag on the recovery," he

Money (M2 plus CDS) re-

He said the continued

The official attributed the

third quarter

side of the data.

lending.

taken August 14 shows two samples of the lickable larva.

Japan's money supply

grows 3.7 pc in July

TOKYO. Aug 16: Japan's

money supply grew 3.7 per

cent from a year earlier in July

after rising a revised 3.8 per

cent in June, the Bank of

Initially, the June year-on-

The Japanese central bank

year rise was put at 3.9 per

measures the nation's money

supply as M2 — cash in circula-

tion, ordinary bank deposits

posits - plus Certificates of

Bank of Japan officials said

and non-negotiable time De-

M2 plus CDS retained a mod-

erate rising trend, in line with

the modest recovery of the

in line with our expectations

and is compatible with the

trend of the broader econ-

omy," a Bank of Japan official

"The growth rate is moving

Deposit (CDS)

broader economy

Japan said today, reports AFP.

The New Straits Times Friday quoted Anwar as saying in Seremban that imports were still required, adding that a clarification was needed to clear the confusion following the concern raised.

Anwar said the government's stand was to encourage the use of imported goods which could be produced locally.

He also said the government had implemented adequate measures to correct the trade deficit, among them cutting down on students going overseas, reducing outlflow of insurance and reinsurance premiums and setting up a shipping fund to reduce freight charges.

Imports registered a 24.6 per cent growth last year, which was 4.4 per cent higher than the growth in exports, Anwar said.

He said the government was concerned that if the trend continued, it could worsen the deficit.

- UNB/AFP photo

US jobless

claims up

WASHINGTON, Aug 16: Ini-

tial claims for regular state

unemployment benefits rose

5,000 to a seasonally adjusted

321,000 for the week ended

August 10 from a revised

316,000 the previous week,

the Labour Department said

for jobless claims to remain

ended August rose a revised

22,000 to 316,000, compared

with the initial estimate of an

increase of 24,000 to 318,000.

the four-week moving average

for initial claims fell 11,500 to

a seasonally adjusted 313,000

This is the lowest four-week

moving average since the week

ending May 20 1989

In the week ended, Aug 10

The consensus forecast was

Jobless claims for the week

Thursday, reports AFP.

unchanged.

### Dhaka Stock Prices Price-fluctuation of issues

By Staff Correspondent

Share trading at the Dhaka Stock Exchange was more or

Name of	Closin	Closing Price		
issue	Aug. 8 '96	Aug. 14 '96	Difference	
Islami Bank	Tk 4600	Tk 4800	Tk 200	
ILDC	Tk 2900	Tk 2974	Tk 74	
BD Zippers	Tk 136.75	Tk 139	Tk 3	
BD Lamps	Tk 3150	Tk 3160	Tk 10	
Eastern Cables	Tk 616	• Tk 599	(-) Tk 17	
Singer BD	Tk 10752	Tk 10523	(-) Tk 229	
M LC Pran	Tk 573	Tk 622	Tk 49	
Monno Fabrics	Tk 106 .	Tk 111	Tk 5	
Ambe Pharma	Tk 31	Tk 36	Tk 5	
Beximco Pharma	Tk 87	Tk 89	Tk 2	
ACI	Tk 163	Tk 127	(-) Tk 36	
BCIL	Tk 295	Tk 300	Tk 5	
Beximco Infusion	Tk 431	Tk 400	(-) Tk 31	
N Polymer	Tk 796	Tk 782	(-) Tk 14	
Square Pharma	Tk 670	Tk 669	(-) Tk 1	
S Pukur Holding	Tk 89	Tk 88	(-) Tk i	
Eastern Housing	Tk 116	Tk 107	(-) Tk 9	
Appex Tannery	Tk 664	Tk 656	(-) Tk 8	
QG Ball Pen	Tk 311	Tk 359	Tk 48	
Monno Ceremic	Tk 734	Tk 791	Tk 57	
Usmania Glass	Tk 829	Tk 817	(-) Tk 12	
Ctg Cement	Tk 3033	Tk 3097	Tk 64	
Apex Footwear	Tk 534	Tk 500	(-) Tk 34	
Confidence Cement	Tk 660	Tk 675	Tk 15	
Meghna Cement	Tk 555	Tk 535	(-) Tk 20	
Green Delta	Tk 825	Tk 870	Tk 45	
Peoples Insurance	Tk 750	Tk 700	(-) Tk 50	
Phoniex Insurance	TK 479	Tk 522	Tk 43	
Eastern Insurance	Tk 250	Tk 258		
Rupali Insurance	Tk 696	Tk 687	Tk 8	
Sandhani Insurance	Tk 323	Tk 403	(-) Tk 9	

### Stocks up in Frankfurt, London, Hong Kong

LONDON. Aug 16: The London Stock Exchange finished slightly up Thursday on the strength of British inflation figures for July which provided no surprises, the Footsie 100 index gaining 7.1 points to close at 3,837.4, up

0.2 per cent, says AFP. The market was relieved by annual inflation figures of 2.2 per cent for July, which confirmed government estimations that price rises have been kept in check, analyst

said Thursday. The benchmark treasury bond remained stable but other government stock showed slight gains of losses by the end of the day.

Entertainment giant Thorn Emi lost one point to close at 1789 pence following an article in the Financial Times which said that composes were threatening to take action against the group for the non-payment of royalties.

Mobile telecommunications group orange gained 7.5 pence to close at 187 pence. while the banking sector generally flourished: Barclays gained 14 pence to close at 908, while Natwest Wasa up seven pence at 683. In Paris, the market was

close for the assumption holi-In Frankfurt, the day index

was up 0.3 per cent closing at 2.546.33 points, driven by gains made by chemical group BASF following its announcement that it would move out of two non-strategic sectors. Shares in BASF jumped

three per cent on the Frank-

furt stock exchange on the news, before closing up 1.16 marks or 2.8 per cent at 42.49 marks. Another report adds : Share prices in Hong Kong elosed

trading Friday. The Hang Seng Index, the market's key indicator of blue chips, rose 17.59 points, or 0.2 per cent, closing at 11.175.98. On Thursday, the

index had slipped 8.38 points.

generally higher in lackluster

Turnover amounted to 4.326 billion Hong Kong dollars (US 554 million dollar), down from 4.547 billion Hong Kong dollars (583 million US dollar) the day before.

## 7 Indian Ocean states may form economic bloc

MUSCAT, Aug 16: Oman's commerce minister said in remarks published recently that Oman and six other countries bordering the Indian Ocean would meet in September to discuss final details to set up an economic bloc, re ports Reuter.

Commerce and Industry Minister Makboul Bin Ali Bin Sultan told the Oman newspaper Al-Watan that Oman. Kenya, Australia, Singapore, India. Mauritius and South

bloc which will be announced soon

He said the bloc could be extended to other countries including Yemen and Malaysia when the time was right.

Al-Watan said a recent visit to Mauritius and India by Oman minister of state for foreign affairs Youssef Bin Alawi Bin Adullah to discuss details for setting up the bloc would be followed soon by a visit to the other Indian Ocean countries.

cooperation between the seven states would be in stages, starting with tourism and trade and developing into "a full economic bloc" to include investment and joint projects.

Oman, a small oil producer, is trying to diversify its economy and encourage foreign and private investment.

### Iraqi oil pipeline thru' Turkey likely to resume operation soon

resume operation by mid-September, Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller said Thursday. Report AFP

tween Kirkuk (in Iraq) and Yumurtalik will be reopened by mid-September in line with the 'oil-for-food' deal". Ciller told reporters at this Mediter ranean oil terminal.

The pipeline is full with oil and ready to operate," said Mustata Murathan, General Manager of the State Pipeline

He said 6.6 million barrels of oil from the pipeline was currently stored at Yumurtalik facilities and could be immediately shipped to tankers after the United Nations gives the final order to start the oil-for-

According to a UN Security Council resolution accepted by Baghdad, Iraq will be able to sell oil worth two billion to buy medicine and food for its people suffering from the UN em-

At least half of this oil is to

Turkey closed the Kirkuk Yumurtalik pipeline on August 7, 1990, shortly after a UN sponsored economic embargo took effect against Iraq in retaliation for its invasion of

The double pipelines one 986 kilometres (611 miles) long and the other 890 kilometres (552 miles), together have an annual capacity of 70 million tonnes of oil They had been in service since 1974 and 1987 respectively.

Currently, there are 12 mil lion barrels of oil - 7.5 mil lions of barrels in Turkish territory and 4.5 million barrels inside Iraq — in the pipeline.

Botas had been collecting an annual transport fee of 250 million dollars for the Iraqi oil before the Gulf crisis. Turkey had been annually earning another 100 million dollars for shipment services at Yumurtalik port the end point of the traquoil pipeline

Turkey estimates that it has lost some 30 billion dollars due to the sanctions imposed on Iraq and has asked the UN for compensation. Before the gulf crisis Iraq

was Turkey's second-largest trading partner, with two-way annual trade of more than two billion dollars Turkey's Islamist Prime

Minster Necmettin Erbakan this week sent two of his ministers to Baghdad on the highest-level visit by Turkish officials to Iraq since 1990

Justice Minister Sevket Kazan, a close aide to Erbakan, and Education Minister Mehmet Saglam met Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and signed a memorandum of understanding with Iraqi officials on increasing trade after the embargo is lifted

Security Council

### **Exchange Rates**

#### Sonali Bank

	~~		Dan	•			
The following foreign currencies	g are the Sona with Banglade	li Bank's dea sh Taka as or	aling rates to	public for s	ome selected		
Selling			Buying				
	T.T. & OD	В. С.	T.T. (Clean)	O.D. Sight	O.D. Transfer		
USD 1.B.TK.	42.3115	42,3520	42.0150	41.8550	41.7605		
GBP.1.B.TK.	65.6874	65.7503	64.7182	64.4717	64.3262		
DM.1.B.TK.	28.7590	28.7865	28.2599	28.1523	28.0888		
FRF.1.B.TK.	8.4018	8.4098	8.2566	8.2252	8.2066		
CAD.1.B.TK.	30.9461	30.9757	30.4124	30.2966	30.2282		
Committee and the Committee of the Commi	71 HONE DO DO UT 700						

0.3857

0.3842

A) T.T. (DOC) spot buying Taka 41.9350

35.3828

0.3964

SFR.1.B.TK.

J.YEN.I.B.TK.

B) Usance export bill buying rates (B. Taka for one unit of US Dollar). 30 Days DA

35.4167

0.3968

60 Days DA 90 Days DA 120 Days DA 180 Days DA 41.5832 41.2331 40.8829 40.5328 39.8326 C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Same as O.D. sight export bill. Indicative rates (B. Taka for one unit of foreign currency). Currency Selling Buying T.T. & O.D. O.D. Transfer Saudi Riyal

11.2819 11.1338 **UAE Dirham** 11.5205 11.3690 Kuwaiti Dinner 141.4627 139.3875 D. Guilder 25.4965 25.1569 S. Krona 6.3847 6.2921 Malaysian Ringgit Tk 16.9606 16.7330 Singapore Dollar Tk 29.9593 29.5482

#### Janata Bank

The following are the dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies with Bangladesh Taka as on August 13, 96

(Figures in Taka)

Selling			Buying			
Name of Currency	T.T & O.D.	B.C	T. T. Clean	O D Sight Export Bills	O D Transfer	
JS Dollar	42,3120	42.3650	42,0160	41.8500	41.7392	
G.B. Pound	65.7001	65.7775	64.7344	64.4675	64.2984	
D.Mark	28.7492	28,7830	28.2634	28.1468	28.0730	
Franc	8.4007	8,4106	8.2571	8.2231	8.2015	
P. Yen	0.3969	0.3973	0.3876	0.3860	0.3849	
: Dollar	30.9439	30.9803	30.4161	30.2907	30.2113	
S. Franc	35.3891	35,4307	34.7692	34.6259	34.5351	

Janata Bank's selling and buying rates in cash currency for public

	US DLR	G.B.P	S.Riyal	UAE DH.	Kuw Dinar
Selling	42.9000	65.7001	11.3000	11.3500	138.8000
Buying	42.2000	63.4501	10.9000	10.9500	133.8000

### Shipping Intelligence

**CHITTAGONG PORT** 

Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L. Port	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving
J/2	Pecine	Rice (G)	Bank	Ancient	7/8	17/8
J/3	Saim Hero	GI	Sing	BBA	11/8	16/8
J/4	Captain Peter-V	Sugar(G)	Bomb	USTC	10/8	23/8
J/5	H-Star	M. Seed	Yang	Rainbow	5/8	14/8
J/7	Sun Richie Two	GI(Copra)	Sing	IPL	10/8	15/8
J/8	Tiger Sun	GI	Sing	Prog	9/8	15/8
J/9	lona Yakir	Wheat(P)	Col	Aass	10/8	22/8
J/10	Banglar Kiron ,	GI (BIT/G)	B. Albb	BEC	22/7	20/8
J/11	Meng Kiat	Cont	Sing	AJ AML	19/8.1	114/
J/12	Consistence	Cont	Sing	RSL	10/8	14/8
J/13	Sea Elegance	Cont	Sing	Pil (B)	10/8	* 16/8
CCT/1	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	12/8	15/8
CCT/2	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(B)	5/8	16/8
CCT/3	Fong Soon	Cont	Mong	BdShip	10/8	14/8
RM/14	Banglar Gourab	Repair	Mong	BSC	24/7	15/8
TSP	Vega-T	R.Phos	Anna	Litmond	13/8	21/8
RM/4	Panormos Bay	Cement	Lans	USTC	08/8	16/8
RM/6	Mun Su Bong	Cement	Sing	MSTPL	12/7	19/8
500	98754				18/7	729,02434
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	0.993	BSC	R/A	14/8
DD	Fong Shin (Cont)6/7	Repair	Sing	BdShip	30/6	11.000.000.00
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	ldle	Para	PSAL	7/6	30/8
DDJ/2	Banglar Asha	Repair		BSC	R/A	14/8
RM/8	Banglar Shobha	Repair	Mong	BSC	6/8	23/8
RM/9	Banglar Doot	Repair	Yang	BSC	13/8	20/8
Cuffi	Blue North(Attch 10.		Qing	PSAL	3/6	30/

Kafeo(U) An Shun Jiang

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE Name of vessels Date of Last Port Local Loading Cargo Arrival Tong Chuan 14/8 Prog Al Hamzeh 15/8 Latt Lentils On Tai 15/8 Yang Everett Scraping Orange Wave (Roro/24)3/8 17/8 P. Kel **BMA** 19/8 Sugar(G) Padma 10/8 17/8 RSL Cont Polar Bird 11/8 18/8 BdShip Cont Great Concert 20/8 ANCL GI Winner **PSAL** Cement Komsomolets Armenil PSAL Cement QC Teal 10/8 QCSL Cont Chekhov 11/8 18/8 AML Cont Fong Lee 8/8 19/8 BdShip Island Queen(48) 13/8 19/8 Sunshine Tug Singapore Eagle 20/8 Karna Breeze 12/8 20/8 Baridhi Cont Jiao Cheng Kota Bintang 10/8 20/8 Pil (B) Morning Cape(Roro/24)10/8 Oil Vehi Banglar Robi 11/8 BSC Cont Feng Yang SSST SSP L In Bag Shenton 12/8 SING APL(B) Cont Ganta (Roro/24)13/8 Vehi QC Pintail 13/8 23/8 QCSL Cont Robert e-lee Karna GI(Lash) BBA Pisces planter OWSL Wheat(G) TANKER DUE:

Al Dhabiyyah Ecsl Hsd-ip-1 Sun Marina Ctpl 18/8 Pasi Liq. custic Soda VESSELS AT KUTUBDIA Name of Vessels L Port Cargo Local Date of Arrival Call Agent 12/8 Jebe Shravan Cross CON Banglar Shourabh C OI BSC R/A Setia Abadi B.Bay Coral Reef Explorer B Bay Aman Abadi B. Bay Eastern Explorer

VESSELS AT OUTER ANCHORAGE

READY ON:						
Susak	Cont	Col	Baridhi	13/8		
Meng Yang	Cont	Sing	AML	12/8		
Xour Ina	Cont	Sing	RSL	13/8		

**PSAL** 12/8 Cement K. L. Borisenko R. Phos Nanj OLM R/A (13/8) VESSELS AWAITING INSTRUCTION: R/A (8/8) BSC

Banglar Banni Banglar Sampad R/A(9/8) Sea World Urea Litmond R/A(13/8) VESSELS NOT ENTERING: Arrow Niki UMTL Baha Scraping

MOVEMENT OF VESSELS FOR 15, 16, 8,96, & 17,8,96.

INCOMING

SHIFTING

DDJ/2 Fong Shin to J/13

15/8 J/7 Sing Riche Two DOJ B Jyoti J/12 Meng Kiat Susak CCT/I B Mont Xour Ina CCT/3 Fong Soon CCT/1 M Yang B Shourabh Tong Chun Kafco (U) An Shun Saim Hero B Shourabh DD Fong Shin To DDJ/2 B Shobha to DD Tiger Sun Sea Elegance Kota Berjaya

OUTGOING

B Jyoti

Pecine

B Shourabh Orange wave RM/6 Al Dhabtyya Sumak The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group Dhaka.

B. Jyoti

Kazan pledged Turkey's support in bringing about a lifting of the remaining sanctions imposed on Iraq by the UN

### Turkey's privatisation lagging behind for political obstacles ANKARA Aug 16 Turkey's vatisations such as oil refiner 11th head of the privatisation

decade-old privatisation programme has repeatedly run up against political obstacles. slowing a process that analysts consider vital to overhauling the country's ailing economy. reports Reuter

The programme initiated in 1986 by late Prime Minister Turgut Ozal took its lead from Britain's ex-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who pioneered a wave of privatisation issues internationally in the early 1980s.

As the process gained pace elsewhere in the world Turkey lagged behind, with successive governments lacking the political will to push through sell offs despite the urgent need of revenues to combat huge deficits, analysts

"I would have expected privatisation to have been further down the road by now, if Ozal had not become president." said Mehmet Kutman, the Chairman of Turkey's leading securities company. Global Se-

curities. "Since then Turkey has not had a leader with enough vision to activate the process. Kutman said. But he said time must now be given to the new Islamist led government to demonstrate its stated commitment to accelerate privati-

sation. The privatisation administration (OIB) in July announced that Turkey had raised only 292 million dollars so far in 1996 from sell-offs. compared with a target for the year of two billion dollar.

While there have been successes in cement firm sales this year, major planned pri-

Tupras, petroleum distributor Petrol Ofisi and petrochemicals firm Petkim remain on

Turkish state minister Ufuk Soylkernez said in early August the government aimed to privatise 10-15 per cent of the telecommunications giant Turk Telekom in the first half of 1997, reviving plans stalled by previous legal challenges.

Previous attempts to privatise Turk Telekom, the centrepiece of the government's stalled privatisation programme, have been hindered by constitutional challenges. spearheaded by left wing MPs but parliament last week approved an amended sell-off

The OIB said that since 1986 the privatisation programme as a whole has raised 3.1 billion dollars, compared with plans to rise five billion dollars in 1995 alone.

The lack of a regulatory framework and political concerns about the social cost of privatisation have prevented the programme from taking off in the 1980s.

The privatisation agency was split into two in the early 1990s to speed up sales, but the OIB lacked either the power or the expertise to accelerate the programme, analysts said. With the 1996 budget

deficit forecast to reach 1,300 trillion lira (15.7 billion dollars) an annual inflation currently around 83 per cent, the pressure on the government to raise revenues is greater than ever, they said. Public-sector banker Ismail Karakya last month became the

administration. But one analyst expressed concerned that as the fourth successive head to take on the role in an acting capacity, he lacked the necessary authority to kick start the programme.

"It is unfortunate that these appointments huge all been to the post of acting chairman, when what is needed is a permanent appointment," said Can Cangir, a privatisation consultant at Arge Consulting in Istanbul

Acting appointments — in part reflecting uncertainty about the future of the stalled privatisation process ... enable the government to maintain greater control over the administration of sell offs, analysts said. This lack of any real author-

ity within the OIB, combined with continued political instability, has held up the privatisation process, analysts Former Prime Minister Tansu Ciller had sought to revive the programme in 1994

but judicial rulings and oppo-

sition from social democrats

and unions concerned about

mass redundancies and foreign

ownership continued to hold up sales. Global's Kutman said the process has also been delayed by centralisation of the programme within the privatisa tion administration.

He said individual compa

nies should be allowed to play a greater role in managing their own privatisation, which he said in many cases could take the form of strategic alliances rather than block sales to foreign buyers.

#### Bin Sultan said economic Africa would meet in Mauritius soon and announce the formation of the bloc. The current era is an era of blocs, especially economic ones," Sultan said. "The sultanate and a number of coun tries on the Indian Ocean intend to set up a new economic

YUMURTALIK (Turkey) Aug 16: An Iraqi oil pipeline passing through Turkey, which was shut down as a result of the Gulf crisis, is expected to

"We believe the pipeline be-

Company Botas.

food process.

be exported through the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline in a six month process. The United States withdrew its objections regarding the deal early this month, practically lifting the last obstacle.

Kuwait