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100, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka 1215
Telephone: 815306-09, 819625-29, Fax: 813062

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**HYUNDAI**

CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

DSE relaxes circuit breaker system

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday temporarily relaxed the circuit breaker system in trading of shares of certain categories of listed companies.

The decision was taken out on emergency meeting of the Council of the DSE under orders from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), said a DSE press release.

Under the relaxation programme, bid limits (+/- 10 per cent) will not be applicable to any security of a listed company for successive three market days if that company furnishes "price-sensitive information" to the DSE in writing in any day.

In case the security of a listed company is traded in the DSE for the first time, the bid limits will not be applicable for six market days, the press release said.

The term "price-sensitive information" means information about issuance of profit and Loss Account (audited or otherwise), decision on interim dividend by the Board of Directors, Recommendation as to bonus shares by the Board of Directors, decision about BMRE of the project (s) in the Directors Meeting under a specific agenda and declaration about signing of material contracts including foreign technical management or trade collaboration, with an internationally reputed company, the release said.

The DSE Council in its meeting to enlist for new issues. The newly enlisted companies are Wonderland Toys Limited and Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) 8th Mutual Fund.

Meanwhile, talking to The Daily Star, some highly placed sources in the SEC said that the circuit breaker system in the DSE will not be withdrawn soon.

Ruling out speculations about withdrawal of the system, the sources said that the decision to re-impose it was taken by the SEC in its board meeting and so there was hardly any chance of total withdrawal of the system shortly.

The circuit breaker system was re-imposed on share trading on October 12 to avert any sharp rise or fall in stock prices amid fears of a possible crash.

Under the system the DSE will cancel trading of any security if its price rises or falls by more than 10 per cent over that of the previous day.

"We examined the pros and cons before taking a final decision in this regard," a senior member of the SEC said on condition of anonymity.

It is a "common method" to keep the stock markets under control and the restriction has been imposed mainly to protect the interests of share traders who have come in to the business without knowing "anything" about the capital market, he said.

Similar restriction was imposed on stock markets in the United States to check a possible crash in 1987, another official of the SEC said. A system to control up to six per cent price fluctuation is now working in South Korea, he added.

The market had reacted sharply just after imposition of the system but it returned almost to its earlier position, the official noted.

JB to disburse Tk 65cr credit for rabi crops

Janata Bank has drawn a Credit Programme of Tk 65.00 crore for disbursement on current rabi crops, says a press release.

Loan will be disbursed to the small, marginal and tenant cultivators through pass books. No additional security is required for the loan.

In 1995-96 financial year, Janata Bank has disbursed a loan of Tk 62.00 crore on different crops among 40,000 loanes against a disbursement target of Tk 90.00 crore.

Besides, during this period, Janata Bank has disbursed a loan of Tk 45.00 crores on poverty alleviation and self-employment schemes among 59,000 destitute women, landless poor and unemployed youth. Sufficient fund for poverty alleviation credit has also been provided to branches.

Tk 954cr allocated for execution of 67 projects under BWDB

Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) has taken up 67 projects including 52 investment, 15 technical assistance projects for implementation under the current year's ADP, says a press release.

Out of these, 24 projects have been targeted for completion in the current financial year.

A total of Taka 954 crore has been allocated for implementation of these projects that includes a project aid of Taka 628 crore and local currency 326 crore.

The projects to be completed this year, include rehabilitation and reconstruction of coastal embankment project part "C", Singer Beel, Netrokona, Kumira-Fujderhat Protection and floating pump for GK project.

This was disclosed at a review meeting on current year's ADP of BWDB held at the board's conference room yesterday with Minister of Water Resources, Abdur Razzaq, in the chair.

The minister urged the officials of the board to work with sincerity, dedication and a sense of accountability.

He laid emphasis on wisdom in planning and efficiency in execution for optimum development of the country's water resources on which the overall development of the country depends.

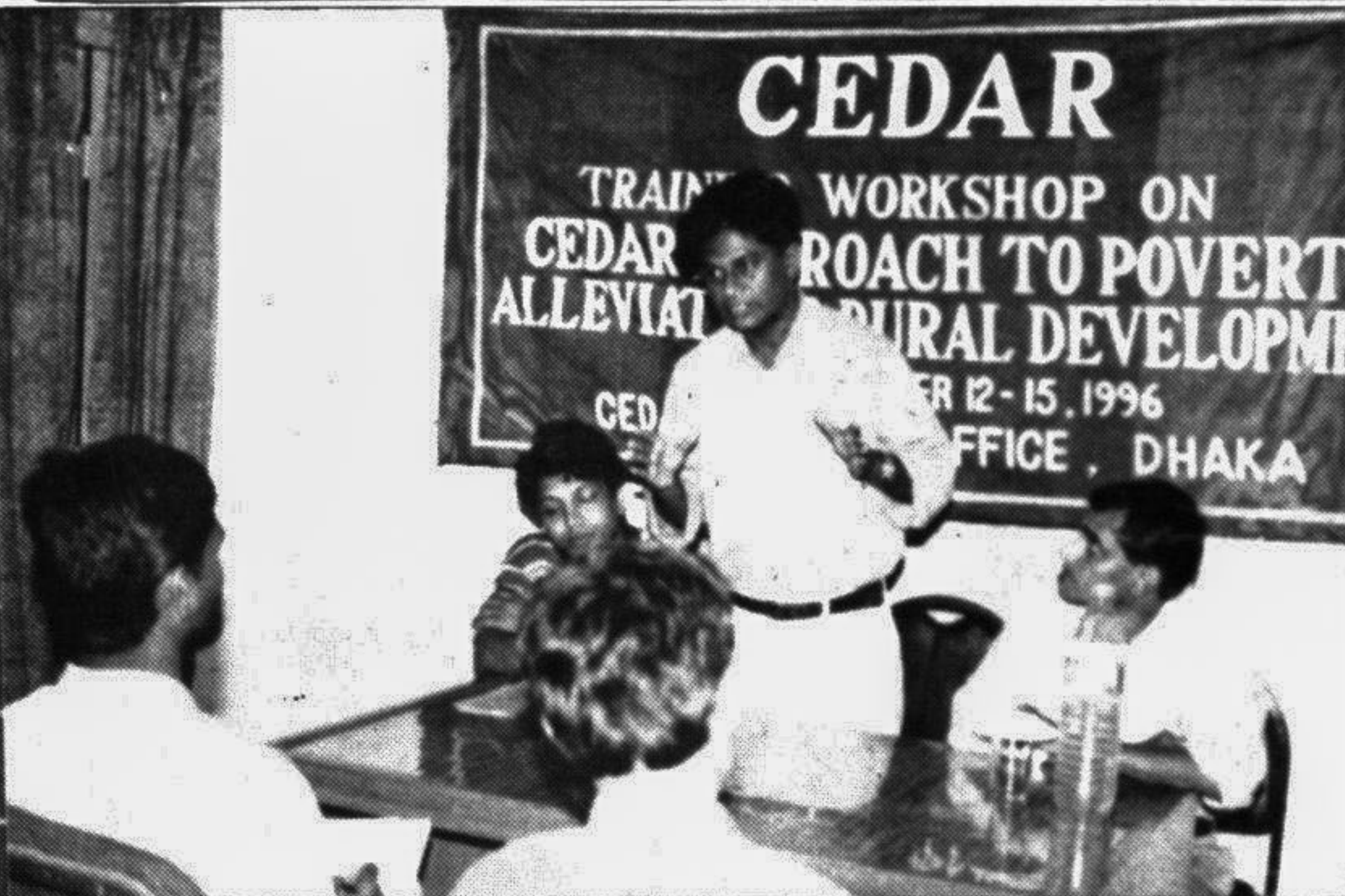
The minister said that all sorts of irregularities and lapses would be severely dealt with. He made a special plea for completion of all tenders and land acquisition on schedule and removal of bottlenecks in this regard.

He underscored the need for prompt disciplinary action against those found guilty of irregularities, corruption and poor quality of works during implementation.

Water Resource Secretary Dr A T M Shamsul Huda, Chairman of BWDB M A Salam and senior officials of the Water Resources Ministry and Water Development Board were also present at the meeting.



Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzaq presiding over a Review Meeting of Water Development Board held at the BWDB's conference room yesterday. Water Resources Secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda and Chairman, BWDB MA Salam are also seen in the picture.



CEDAR (Concern for Environmental Development and Research) arranged a four-day training programme on approach to poverty alleviation & rural development at its central office at Dhanmondi in the city from October 12. Shafiqul Alam, Executive Director, inaugurated the training programme. Project Coordinator (IGP) Shaheen conducted the programme. Project Coordinator (STDS HIV/AIDS) Tariqul Islam, Administrative Officer Shamsul Kabir also attended the programme.

Olympic ties up with Parle

Olympic Industries Limited Dhaka and Parle of India have signed an agreement for processing, packaging and marketing of 'fruit' brand of fruit juice drink in Bangladesh, says a press release.

The agreement was signed recently by the Managing Director of Olympic Industries Limited, Mubarak Ali and the Chairman of Parle, Prakash Chowdhary.

Under the accord, an ultra modern sophisticated plant will be set up as an unit of Olympic Industries Limited. The machinery is being supplied by M/s Alfa Laval/Sweden India. An agreement to this effect has also been signed with Tetra Pak India Limited.

The plant is likely to cost Taka 100 million. It is expected to go into production in about a year.

Build effective agricultural research system: Matia

Agriculture, Food, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Matia Chowdhury has called for building an effective and sustainable agricultural research system to face the challenges of the 21st century reports UNB.

She made the call while inaugurating a 2-day workshop yesterday on the occasion of launching the Taka 240 crore Agricultural Research Management Project (ARMP), aided by the World Bank.

In Dhaka Pierre Landell-Mills, Agriculture Secretary Dr A M M Shawkat Ali, and Fisheries and Livestock Secretary M Irshadul Haq addressed the inaugural function as special guests.

Speaking on the occasion,

the agriculture minister stressed the need for ensuring optimum utilisation of available domestic resources in agricultural research as "the hands of donor agencies have been gradually shrinking."

She said farmers are the users of agriculture technology and so it is necessary to innovate new agri-technologies suitable to the farmers' traditional farm atmosphere that could increase the acceptability of technologies.

The agriculture minister suggested that the country's agricultural research system should be reorganised to keep pace with the recent worldwide change in agricultural research and technology development.

During the last few years,

16 govt sugar mills may go for production soon

By Staff Correspondent

Country's 16 state-owned sugar mills are likely to go for production next week with a target of 215,000 metric tons of sugar this crushing season.

According to official sources, three sugar mills: Rajshahi, North Bengal and Natore sugar mills, will start crushing sugar cane on October 25.

An official of the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation has said other mills would go for production early next month.

Country's sugar mills produced 183,934 tons of sugar during 1995-96 crushing season against the set target of 218,000 tons.

"We failed to reach the target last time mainly due to sudden flash flood at the Northern zone, an intensive area for sugarcane production," said the official.

He said BSFIC has about 30,000 tons of sugar in its stock which, he expects is likely to meet the demand of the country for twenty more days. "We can

sell our fresh sugar by that time."

During the last crushing year sugar mills of Faridpur, Natore and Mobarakganj earned profits while Zeal Bangla and Shyampur Sugar mills incurred losses.

Japan gives \$ 1,390,000 to ICDDR,B

The government of Japan gave 1,390,000 US dollars to ICDDR,B, the Centre for Health and Population Research, to gear up its activities, reports UNB.

The Ambassador of Japan in Bangladesh Yoshikazu Kaneko handed over the cheque to the Director of ICDDR,B Prof Demissie Habte in a simple ceremony here yesterday, says a ICDDR,B press release.

This grant includes the 1996 annual contribution of 680,000 US dollars from the government of Japan and an additional 710,000 US dollars for the construction of physical facilities of the Matlab International Family Planning Training Centre.

ICDDR,B Director Habte thanked the Ambassador for the contribution which will be used to meet ICDDR,B's activities in the Clinical Science and the Laboratory Science Division during 1996.

In addition, the Japanese grant will be used for the centre's SAARC Fellowships and Training activities as well.

The Japanese Ambassador appreciated the role of ICDDR,B and said "Japan is pleased to continue its support for the centre."

Bangladesh to get Tk 73m as grant from Netherlands

Bangladesh will receive 3,014 million Dutch guilders, equivalent to Taka 73 million, as grant from the Netherlands government for the maintenance of food storage godowns in the country, reports UNB.

An agreement was signed here yesterday for financing the project, titled "Maintenance of Food Storage Godowns, 2nd Phase."

ERD joint secretary Abu Saleh and the Netherlands ambassador in Dhaka Robert A Vornis signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

The grant assistance, provided under this agreement, will be spent for the project to be implemented by the Directorate of Food under the Ministry of Food.

The main objective of the project are to institutionalise the Maintenance Unit within the Ministry of Food and to prepare a realistic policy for the repair and maintenance of food godowns.

CSE becomes FEAS member

Chittagong Stock Exchange has become a full member of the Federation of Euro-Asian Stock Exchanges (FEAS) based in Istanbul, Turkey, says a press release.

The membership was given on Thursday at the General Assembly Meeting of FEAS held on October 15-18 in Istanbul, Iran.

This is the first entry of CSE in an International Federation of Stock Exchanges as a full member. Earlier CSE was admitted as a Corresponding Member of Federation of International Stock Exchange (FIBV) based in France.

FEAS is an International Federation of Exchanges from Europe and Asia established to encourage cooperation among the member Exchanges, to promote and develop the securities market in the respective countries and also to develop an integrated international market.

A three-member delegation from CSE headed by its President Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP, participated in the Assembly. Other members of the delegation included

Syed Mahmudul Haq, Director and AGM Shamsul Kamal, Chief Executive Officer of CSE.

The membership aspirants

Emirates increases flights to Africa

Emirates will increase the frequency of flights between Dubai and its African destinations Johannesburg and Nairobi from the end of this month, says a press release.

Flights to Johannesburg increase from three to four each week from October 27.

Flights to Nairobi increase from two to three each week from October 29 and again from three to four each week on December 8.

Shoaib Khoory, Emirates' Senior General Manager Commercial Operations (Middle East, Africa and the CIS), said: "These increases are in response to market demand on two of our busiest routes. We are grateful to the governments of South Africa and Kenya for permission to increase capacity."

In this FEAS Annual Assembly were Tirana Stock Exchange, Chittagong Stock Exchange, Dhaka Stock Exchange and Cyprus Stock Exchange. It should be mentioned here that only one Stock Exchange in a country is given full membership in FEAS and the other aspirant Stock Exchanges may be given associate membership provided they fulfill the requirements set by FEAS.

The CSE delegation while in Tehran on 15th Oct 1996 was given an audience by the Hon'ble President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was also signed between Chittagong Stock Exchange and Tehran Stock Exchange on Saturday for mutual cooperations. Dr Shams Ardekani, Adviser to the Iranian President and Secretary General of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines and Syed Moazzem Ali, Bangladesh Ambassador in Iran witnessed the signing of the MOU.



Alhaj Md Abdul Maleque, Chairman of Central Insurance Company Ltd, addressing the eighth Annual General Meeting of the Company at Sonargaon hotel in the city on Saturday. On his right Md Hashmat Ali, Managing Director (incharge), Shah Alam Chowdhury, Ex-Chairman and Alhaj Md Shahjahan, Director and on his left Haji MA Malek, Ex-Chairman, MR Ali, AKM Azizur Rahman, Haji Md Amjad Hossain, Director of the company also seen in the picture.



Saudi Arabian Airlines distributed awards and certificates among top cargo and travel agents at Surma Room in Sonargaon Hotel in the city on Monday. Picture shows recipients of the awards and certificates along with Tariq A R Katoah (sitting 3rd from left), Manager of Saudi Arabian Airlines for Bangladesh and Nepal and other SV staff.

Commodity market: Prices of oil up, sugar, grains down over the week

LONDON, Oct 20: After months of feverish excitement, calm has returned to the world's cereal markets, with the prospect that the United States, the world's number one exporter, will produce bumper crops, maize (corn) and wheat says this week, reports AFP.

On the Chicago market, the Mecca for cereals traders the world over, price fell steadily this week, wheat prices fell to about four dollars per bushel (of 27.216 kilos each), compared with seven dollars in April, when excitement was at fever-pitch.

At that time, the market feared that the American great plains would produce a poor grains harvest because of harsh weather, which would have prevented warehouses from rebuilding low stock levels after a string of bad harvests.

To the relief of Chicago traders, the weather finally

turned better and prices eased back as warehouses began to stock up on grain once more.

In contrast, crude oil prices flared up again, ignited by rock bottom stock levels in consumer countries and a renewed outbreak of tension in Iraq.

GOLD: Calm. The price of gold remained at around 380 dollars per ounce, amid quiet trading: some nervous investors were encouraged to buy gold after Russian President Boris Yeltsin sacked his Security Adviser Alexander Lebed, the GNI trading house said.

SILVER: Drop. The price of silver, which last week shot up, suddenly dropped like a shot. The price fell by 15 cents to 4.90 dollars per ounce.

PLATINUM: Tarnished. The price of the precious metal has continued to plummet, weighed down by over-abundant supplies. It fell by four dollars this

week to 384 dollars per ounce.

COPPER: Tension. Tension is high on the copper market, as copper stocks stored in the warehouses of the London Metal Exchange (LME) continue to shrink mysteriously, with a plunge of 30,075 tonnes to 172,425 this week.

LEAD: Fall. The price of this metal fell under the effect of weak demand, losing 30 dollars to 735 dollars per tonne. The slight drop in LME stocks (down 725 tonnes to 116,250 tonnes) did not provide much cheer.

ZINC: Decline. Zinc prices lost around 15 dollars to 1,020 dollars per tonne, on a depressed market. The IISZ predicted that demand would rise by 2.8 per cent in 1997 to 7.77 million tonnes, exceeding output of 7.32 million tonnes.

ALUMINIUM: Higher. The price of aluminium rose by 30 dollars to 1,360 dollars per tonne, supported by copper's

gains and by fears of political unrest in Russia, which is one of the biggest aluminium exporters to the West.

NICKEL: Lower. The price of this metal fell by about 60 dollars to 7,070 dollars per tonne on a subdued market. A rise of 1,080 tonnes to 41,550 tonnes in LME reserves drove prices downwards.

TIN: Down. The price of tin fell by around 100 dollars to 5,970 dollars per tonne while LME stocks dropped by 190 tonnes to 9,785 tonnes.

OIL: Furnace. Crude prices hit a record high since January 1991 as stocks in consumer countries, and in particular the United States, hit rock bottom. Prices rose above 25 dollars per barrel, before slipping back to 24.40 dollars, which was nonetheless 70 cents higher than last week.

SUGAR: Melting. The price of sugar fell by five dollars to 315 dollars per tonne in London, weighed down by the prospect of plentiful harvests around the world, particularly

in Brazil.

VEGETABLE OILS: Sliding. The price of soya slipped on predictions of a strong harvest in the United States made by the US Department of Agriculture.

The 1996 harvest of the world's biggest producer is now expected to total 63.85 million tonnes, up from 61.77 forecast previously. This sparked a wave of speculative selling on the Chicago futures market. In Rotterdam, the price of soya oil plunged three guilders to 89 guilders per 100 kilograms.

PALM OIL: Prices were dragged down in soya's wake, and lost 25 dollars to 525 dollars per tonne.

GROUNDNUT OIL: fell by five dollars to 875 dollars per tonne.

SUNFLOWER OIL: fell by 25 dollars to 525 dollars per tonne.

RAPESEED OIL: fell by four guilders to 93 per 100 kilograms. However, experts from

the specialist publication, oil world predicted that world output would fall by 13 per cent this year after a mediocre harvest in many producer countries.

GRAINS: Fall. Grain prices in Chicago fell because of favourable weather conditions on the American great plains, which have helped the sowing of winter wheat in the world's most important exporter country.

WHEAT: prices on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) fell by 14 cents to 4.11 dollars per bushel (delivery in December).

MAIZE: prices fell by seven cents to 2.83 dollars per bushel (of 27.216 kilograms each).

COTTON: Shrunk. The

USDA spread panic among dealers by publishing a bigger-than-expected figure for this year's harvest in the United States, which is the world's leading producer country. Prices fell after the authorities said that the country had produced 18.19 million bales (of 217.7 kilograms each).

Washington predicted that the United States would see its export market shrink in the coming months and cotton stocks in the country would rise by 25 per cent.

The cotton outlook index, which covers the cash market, fell by one cent to 74.95 cents per pound.

WOOL: Warming increased demand lifted wool prices and the eastern index for Australian auction houses rose by 11 Australian cents to 564 cents per kilogram. The price of high grade fibres on the London market rose by 10 pence to 415 pence per kilo.