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# The Baily Star DISINESS



#### **IDB** to create fund for rural development

Islami Development Bank is interested to strengthening the microcredit programme to alleviate poverty from the rural areas of Bangladesh, reports UNB.

With this end in view, the bank will create a fund for a new project to develop rural infrastructure and disburse small loans, side by side the government programme.

This was disclosed at a meeting held here between LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman and the visiting delegation of IDB mission yesterday. Vice President of the bank Inam Ahmed led the delegation.

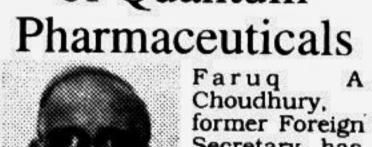
Welcoming the proposal, the minister hoped that the expanded cooperation from the bank would play a significant role in accelerating the country's poverty alleviation pro-

#### Editor summoned over cigarette advertisement

BOMBAY, Oct 26: The Chief Editor of Time Magazine based in Hong Kong has been summoned by authorities here for violating Indian laws on cigarette advertisements, a newspaper said here, reports

The Asian Age newspaper said the Maharashtra government's food and drug administration has asked Norman Pearlstine, to appear personally, to reply to the violation on November 10 or face legal ac-

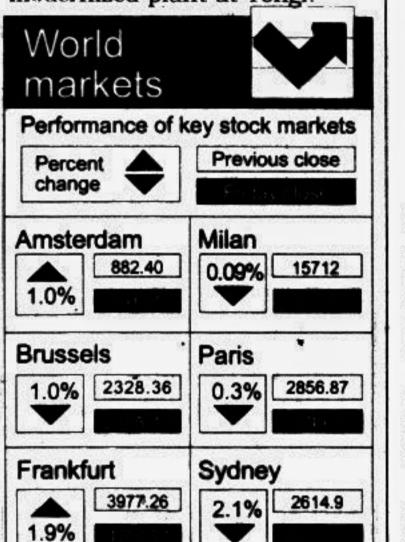
#### New Chairman of Quantum



Secretary, has been recently elected Chairman of Quantum Pharma ceuticals Ltd.

says a press release. Once Bristol Myers Squibb Company of USA owned 60 per cent share of the company while the rest was owned by BCIC of Bangladesh.

Following disinvestments by the previous shareholders, the company, now privately owned, has commenced commercial production at its fully modernized plant at Tongi.



Hong Kong Tokyo 17151.55 10426.30 London Zurich 4991.5 5651.8 0.4%

MARKETS Amsterdam: AEX, Brussels: Bel-20. Frankfurt: DAX. Hong Kong: Hang Seng. London: F1 100. Paris: CAC-40. Tokyo: Nikkei.Sydney: All Ordinaries. Zurich: Credit Suisse. Milan: MIB. na: not available, x-na: holiday

Stock broker Ajit Ambani said: "The worst seems to be over for the Indian share markets. I expect some improvement in share prices at least on technical grounds."

agers based in Hong Kong and

Singapore. Ambani said the Hong Kong

"This has not allowed the benefits of a central bank monetary policy to be manifested in share prices," he added, "I expect that to happen to some extent next week, even though the trading week is truncated.

#### WB, economists suggest Bangladesh diversify export products, markets Prof Rahman for the export secincreasing pressure on foreign

Warning against a narrow 3.5 per cent, reflecting to some extent the increasing producexport base, the World Bank has tion bottlenecks arising from suggested that Bangladesh worn plant and equipment in should diversify both export Bangladesh jute mills, the Bank products and markets and exploit fully the opportunity of exporting gas in the region, re-According to statistics by the ports UNB.

Economists also rang the

warning bell, saying that mar-

ket access problems and high

level of concentration, both

item and market-wise, may

lead to a sharp decline in export

nual Economic Update which

was released recently, identi-

fied that export growth in fiscal

1996-97 was led by raw jute.

knitwear and woven garments,

which showed a narrow export

remain vulnerable to shocks

and threats such as the ones

Bangladesh is currently facing

in the European, the United

States and Japanese markets, it

declined nearly eight per cent

due to a weakening in global

demand for leather products

and a continuing decline in the

supply of high grade hides in

Export of jute goods fell by

KHALISHPUR (Khulna). Oct

26: Power, Energy and Mineral

Resources Minister Mohammad

Nur Uddin Khan said addi-

tional 2000 megawatt power

will be produced in the country

by the year 2000 which will be

more than the present demand

gramme, 1,200 MW electricity

will be produced by private ini-

tiatives and 800 MW by the gov-

while visiting the site of the un-

der-construction 100-MW barge

mounted power plant here on

Saturday. Khulna Power Com-

pany is constructing the plant

on the bank of the river

He said under the pro-

The minister disclosed this

of 3,150 MW, reports UNB.

ernment.

Bhairab.

It noted that leather exports

pointed out.

Bangladesh.

The export base continues to

The World Bank, in its An-

earnings in the medium term.

Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), Bangladesh fetched export income of 4418.3 million (US dollars in fiscal 1996-97). which is 13.8 per cent higher than the previous year.

Of the amount, woven readymade garments earned more than half — 2237.9 million US dollars, followed by knitwear 763 million dollars, frozen foods 320.7 million dollars and jute goods 317.9 million do-

Shares of other exportables like raw jute, leather, tea. chemical products and other primary commodities in the export incomes remained very small compared to these four major products.

The World Bank predicted a fall in import demands of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POLs) and fertilizer due to the expanding domestic production of gas and power, giving some relief to the forex reserve situa-

But despite that, it said, Bangladesh would still face an

Minister visits power plant construction

Additional 2000 MW electricity

to be produced by 2000

Nur Uddin said the govern-

ment has been working hard for

establishing power plants un-

der public and private initia-

tives with a view to meeting the

mounted power plants along

with land-based power centres

within the shortest possible

time in private sector have also

been taken considering the

time-consuming and expensive

nature of the power production.

The minister also said final

agreements have been reached

with two companies and agree-

ments with two others are

afoot. He hoped that production

would begin within 10 months

Measures to set up barge

increasing demand.

he added.

of the agreement.

exchange reserves in the nearterm, which is already being felt with the recent decline in the levels of aid inflows.

"It would, therefore, be crucial to achieve export growth," the report said.

In this regard, it added, fostering diversification into new items and markets, and exploring fully any emerging opportunity for exporting gas and urea, especially in the region.

will be important. Prof Mustafizur Rahman, a fellow of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), noted that Bangladesh's export performed well in the last fiscal, but some major problems pose formidable challenges to the sector's continued robust performance in future.

Inspite of a relatively high rate of export growth of 13.8 per cent, he said, the export sector itself has encountered some major crises in 1996-97, which are expected to have serious implications for its future perfor-

Lack of export diversification and growing concentration, challenges to global market access and inadequacies in the incentive regime are the major problems identified by

Later, the minister visited

Mohershwarpasha in Khulna

and Noapara in Jessore to select

sites for construction of a land-

based and a barge mounted

ent units of Khulna power cen-

tre and asked the engineers and

labourers concerned to com-

plete the rehabilitation units of

the centre before schedule keep-

ing the increasing demand of

Among others, Managing Director of the Padma Oil Com-

pany M Anwarul Haq, Western

zone chief engineer of

Bangladesh Power Develop-

ment Board Tapan Kumar Das,

Golam Mostafa and Director AK

He also went around differ-

power centres.

electricity in mind

Azad were present.

He said market access problems may seriously jeopardise the country's future entry into major markets in America and Europe. Also the rising concentration in the export sector has added a high degree of vulnerability to Bangladesh's future export performance.

"Both these issues need urgent attention if the current robust performance of the sector is to be sustained and furthered in a global market where the rules of the game are fast changing," he said.

Rahman, presently a professor of Accounting at the Dhaka University, cited in favour of his arguments the recent market access problems for the country's two most important export items - knitwear and trozen foods.

"The problems were compounded because of the narrow base of Bangladesh's exports. both product-wise and marketwise," he said in a paper on Managing External Sector at a

CPD-sponsored dialogue. He pointed out that the European Union countries account for 40 per cent of Bangladesh's total export while the USA account for 35 per cent. Only six

products accounted for 90 per cent of the total export accruals in 1996-97, he said.

Mohammad Ali Rashid, a professor of Economics at the Dhaka University, also gave a similar view and observed that diversification of export would be the "only solution" to the problem.

In his paper on Governance and the External Sector, a part of the CPD's next volume on the state of economy, he argued that quota restriction have been largely responsible for the spectacular growth of the garment and knitwear

On the other hand, exports of frozen foods, leather and jute manufactures, being natural resource-intensive products, have been encouraged through direct export incentives rather than import liberalisation. Prof Rashid said.

"If phasing out of the MFA quota restrictions adversely affect export of garment and knitwear, if satisfaction of sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards restrain export of frozen food, and if meeting environmental standards reduces export of leather, then it is not unlikely that Bangladesh's export would drop sharply in the next 5-10 years time," he said.

## First non-branch ATM installed in city

Bangladesh entered into the era of worldclass banking service with the introduction of moneylink non-branch ATM by a multinational bank, reports UNB

Now clients of the Standard Chartered Bank will be able to carry out their basic banking transactions outside its branch. Banking Division Secretary Syed Amir-ul-Mulk inaugurated the non-branch ATM

(Automated Teller Machine) at the Twin Peaks Complex at Tejgaon in the capital yesterday. The newly-introduced system offers a 24-hour service of depositing cash, cheques and

accounts instructions throughed tion of the service. the ATM itself, in addition to other standard Moneylink features. This means the clients of

this multinational banking and financial services group no

longer need to go to a bank. They are being provided with

the luxury of conducting most of their banking transactions without having to visit a branch. The Stan-Chart has in-

stalled the NCR 5685 ATM, worth 60,000 US dollars, considered among the products that have been designed to take banking services to the 21st century.

"Bangladesh deserves such a worldclass banking service. said Geoff Williams, Chief Executive of Standard Chartered Bank in Bangladesh, at a press conference after the introduc-

Replying to a question, he said the bank was looking for suitable sites for setting up some other non-branch ATM in the capital and also the port city of Chittagong.

#### IN MOMEN ENTREPREDEURS OCTOBER 25:30, 1997 ided by "ondixied by Organ islance and Services MIDA vicro industrios Devi

Abdul Karim, Managing Director of MIDAS, addressing the inaugural session on the training course on 'Micro credit to women entrepreneurs'.

Company	Book Closure	AGM/EGM	Date	Vanue & Time	Dividend Proposed
Bexim Ltd (Deb) 29	109/97-10/10/97 Half Year	ty Interest		CONTRACTOR OF THE STATE OF THE	DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF
ICB	16/10/97-30/10/97	AGM	30/10/97	Hotel Purbani, 3pm	2
Bexi Pharma	10/11/97-30/11/97	AGM	30/11/97		30 1B:
Shine Pukur	- <b>0</b> 0-	-do-			10(F
Raspit	10,110	AGM			10(F 18:
Uttara Bank	20 10/97-18/11/97	AGM	18/11/97	Officers Club, Dhaka, 11am	9
Bex infu (Deb)	16 10 97-30/10/97	Half Yearly Int	terest		
Bernco Ltd	68 10/97-29/10/97	AGM	29/10/97	Factory Primises, Ctg. 3pm	

#### Shipping Intelligence

Berth	Name of	Cargo	L Port	Local	Date of	Leaving
No	Vessels		Call	Agent	Arrival	17
J/1	Mykola		RECEIPTION			
76.67	Movchang	Miseed	Ukra	Aass	12/10	28/10
J/2	Al Shams	CI	Sing	Prog	14/10	27/10
J/4	Shao Shan	Cement	151	Demure	14/8	29/10
J/6	Good Will	Ci	Yang	RSA	7/10	26/10
J/7	Albatross-III	Urea(G)	Ruwa	Cross	15/10	28/10
J/8	Xuan Cheng	CI .	Chin	Seaglory	22/10	30/10
J/9	Golden Ocean	Urea(G)		Ctpl	R/A	29/10
J/11	<b>Arktis Future</b>	GI(P	Germ	315-240 <del>11</del> -079	00507600000	52549-7678-75083
C.THEOLYS.		20.630.192 <u>7</u> 1.6	Germ	Sunshine	11/10	27/10
J/13	Hernes	Urea(G)	Indo	Seacom	21/10	27/10
CCT/1	Xpress Resolve	Cont	Sing	Rsi	23/10-	27/10
CCT/2	Lebrort	Cont	Sing	Rsl	25/10	29/10
CCI	Banglar		2522		(670)	345
	Shobha	C Clink	Sikka	BBC	14/10	31/10
TSP	Senicoli				NEOLATA GRAVES	755-Villa Table Ven
	Sierka	R Phos	Sing	Rml	23/9	28/10
RM/3	Mavra	Cdso	Tana	Seacom	25/10	27/10
RM/6	Great Best-1	Cement	P Kel	Ustc	( <del>)</del>	31/10
DD:	Banglar Kakoli	Repair	1985	BSC		15/11
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	ldle	Para	Psal	-	30/10/97
RM/8	Star Glory	Cement	Lans	Delmure	R/A	27/10
RM/9	Banglar Robi	Repair	STEET STEET	BSC	R/A	3/11
Cuflj	Kimberley	Idle	Dali	Msl	9/9	28/10
Kafco(U)	Tug Ocean				E2	W472-47-4-02/4
	Echo	P Mat	Sing	Mbl	30/9	30/10

Echo	P M	at Sing	МЫ	30/9	30/1
70	essels Du	e at Outer	Ancchorage	id II Komanistrasenwas	180.151400
Name of Vesels	Date of Arrival	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Cargo	Loadir Po
VIX	26/10	Fuja	Simni	Scraping	
Tug Veritas	26/10	- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1	Simni	-	
Banglar Kiron	26/10	3 <u>4</u> 4	Bec	( <b>2</b> )	
Sin Hai 12/10 Energetic	27/10 30/10	Sing	Qrsl Rsl	Cont	Sin
TM Resguihs	20/10		Bdship	Baliast	
Vaness 15/10	26/10	Sing	Rsl	Cont	Sin
Osprey-1	27/10	Sing	Ustc	Cement	
Astro Jyojin					
(Roro/24)30/9	26/10	Col	JF	Vehi	5
Sea Horse	27/10	- 1	Seacom	GI(Copra)	
Stella-F	27/10	Mad	Oil	CI	
Winner	29/10	Yan	Ustc	Cement -	
Pericles	27/10	7 ·	Rainbow	R Seeds	
Sarah-1	27/10	Bomb	Cross	GI(St cargo	o)
Voyager-15	27/10	35-2	Simni	10.00	
Rinos	28/10	7350	Sunshine	CII	
Jitima 19/10	30/10	Col	Baridhi	Cont	C
Song Lin	28/10	•	Prog	CII	8.778
lai Mao	28/10	Mong	Mbi	Scraping	
Alam Tenaga	29/10		Rainbow	CI .	
Qc Teal 19/10	29/10	Sing	Qcsl	Cont	Sir
Penguin	29/10	Yang	Cross	CI .	160
Dragon Sentosa4/9	31/10	Col	Baridhi	Cont	C
Da Fu 21/10	30/10	Sing	Apl(B)	Cont	Str
Able Lieutenant	965454F4556		17:00 to 10:00 to 10		1000000
(Roro/24)7/10	30/10	19 <b>4</b>	BBA	Vehi	
b Everett	30/10		Everett	CI .	
Sea Elegance 20/10	31/10	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Str
Banglar Moni 19/10	18/10/10/10/10/10/10/10/10/10/10/10/10/10/	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sir
M Regina 22/10	1/11	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Str
Qc Pintail 23/10	1/11	Sing	Qcsl	Cont	Sir
Feng Qunng	1/11		Bdship	a	SH
		Fanker Du	•		100000000000000000000000000000000000000
Sandgate Trent	27/10	Mina	Mtsp	Hsd	9

Trent	27/10 Mala	Ec		sd/Jet-1
30 100 PC 0	Vessels at	Kutubdh	100/5	and argravit
Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Por Call	t Local Agent	Date of Arrival
<b>Outside Port Limt:</b>				
Ismay	( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )	¥	B Bay	(9/1
Orizont	-	Sing	B Bay	(25/2
Salvana			B Bay	R/A(24/10)
Amit Leoyd-72		*	B Bay	R/A(23/10)
Spiros	COI	Jebe	BSL	(18/10
Banglar Shourabh	C Oil		BSC	R/A(25/10)
	Vessels at Ou	ter Ancho	rage:	The second second
Ready On		AND THE RESERVE		1
Ya Feng	Cement	Lans	Delmur	e 12/8
Saigon-4	91,000,000,000,000,000,000	Ruma	Rml	25/10
Lyong Gun Bong	GI (Copra)	Sing	Osa	25/10

Outside			CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	Chiffing.
Mov	ement of Ves	sels for 2	7-10-97	524
Panagia Spiliani	Cement	Lans	Ustc	24/10
Ruslan	Мор	Urea	Litmond	18/10
Grigoroussa	Cement	Yant	Rml	22/10
Ocean Crest	Scraping	•	Owsl	R/A(19/10)
Kommunist	Scraping	Sing	Simni	20/10
Cadmus	Scraping	Vize	Umtl	5/10
	Vessels No	t Enterin	g:	
Banglar Jyoti			BSC	R/A(26/10)
Tirgu Neamt	188	# <del>**</del> # 10	Aass	R/A(22/10)
Tug Tong Ah		-	Ila	R/A(19/10)
Vessels A	Awaiting Emp	ployment	/Instructin	8
Lyong Gun Bong	GI (Copra)		Osa	25/10
Saigon-4	91/00/40/2000/00/00/00/00	Ruma	Rml	25/10
Ya Feng	Cement	Lans	Delmure	12/8
Ready On				11

Outgoing Incoming Shifting J/2 Al Shams J/11 B Asha RM-6 Great Best-1 J/4 Shao Shan Doj-2 B Kiron J/6 Good Will Doj B Jyoti J/6 Alam Selaras J/12 M Movchan J/ Albatros-III J/4/13 Astro Jotin J/11 A Future J/2/4 Astalla J/13 Hernes CCT-1 X=Press Resolve RM-3 Mavra

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

# Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 26th Oct '97. Buying

	TT Clean	OD Sight Export Bills	OD Transfer
US Dlr	44.8300	44.6545	44.5580
GB Pound	72.7967	72.5118	72.3551
D Mark	25.1159	25.0176	24.9635
F Franc	7.4980	7.4687	7.4525
C.Dlr	32.2810	32.1546	32.0851
S Franc	30.4456	30.3264	30.2609
JP Yen	0.3639	0.3625	0.3617
	Sel	ling	
	SPACE CHARGE	CONTRACTOR SERVICE	

	Selling	
Name of Currency	T.T.& O.D.	B.C.
US Dollar	45.2105	45.2505
GB Pound	74.0133	74.0788
D.Mark	25.5908	25.6135
F. Franc	7.6402	7.6470
C.Dollar	32.8940	32.9232
S Franc	30.0338	31.0612
JP. Yen	0.3746	0.3749

Tk. 44.7422 B) Usance Rate

60 90 120 180 Days Days Days Days Days 43.9957 43.6221 43.2485 42.5013 C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Same as OD sight export Bill buying rate.

Indicative Rate					
Selling	Buyin				
11.9212	11.773				
12.1734	12.022				
146.9870	145.122				
	11.9212 12.1734				

#### Indian stock market may be skittish next week BOMBAY, Oct 26: Indian

share prices, which fell over two per cent over the last two days in line with the stock market turmoil in Hong Kong. are expected to strengthen next week, a stock broker forecast Saturday, says AFP.

The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) will trade only on Monday, and partially on Thursday following holidays to mark the Hindu new year. The barometer 30-share BSE

sensitive index fell 148.80 points, or 3.62 per cent, to 3,957.46 points Friday over the previous week's closing. The barometer 100 shares

national index was down 65.05 points or 3.67 per cent to 1,703. 43 point during the same pe-Stock brokers said most of

the fall in the index was "in reaction to the crash in Hong Kong share prices Thursday and market fears of an early general election due to political insta-

On Friday the BSE index fell 1.3 per cent, shedding 52.31 points to 3,957. 46 points due to selling by regional fund man-

stock market crash and domestic political concerns, with fear of general elections being sparked off by a crisis in India's political heartland of Uttar Pradesh, had an adverse effect on the BSE.

#### MIDAS training course opens A six-day training course on

micro credit to women entrepreneurs for Sonali Bank officials was inaugurated at the head office of Micro Industries Development Assistance and Services Saturday, says press release.

This training programme is a part of consultancy being carried out by MIDAS for Sonali

#### **BSCIC Officers** Association election held

Mosaddequr Rahman and Ahsan Hakim have been elected President and Secretary-General of the Executive Committee of the Officers Association of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) says a press release. Mosaddeque-Hakim pannel

has occupied 20 out of 25 posts. The election was held on the 23rd of this month.

### Commodity market: Base metals lose value; tea strong demand and in response to

LONDON, Oct 26: The base metals were swept up this week by the financial crisis in South-East Asia, nearly all losing value from fears that demand in Asia will drop as local economies weaken, reports

ket "had reason to be nervous" about the possible consequences of an economic slowdown in the region. "The Japanese situation is

the most worrying for the market, which was very concerned at the drop in new housing construction in Japan," he added.

To add to the nervousness, according to dealers, a number of investment funds, including George Sooros's Quantum, have abruptly withdrawn from the base metals market.

Elsewhere on the commodities markets, gold was tarnished by its inability to attract investors as a safe haven from the sharp slide on global stock markets.

GOLD: Tarnished. Gold prices continued to melt this week, as investors moved only half-heartedly into the precious metal after the financial upheaval in South-East Asia, which caused a slump on European and US stock markets. "Gold's disappointing per-

formance after the global stock

said Andy Smith, a gold analyst

market plunge hit sentiment.'

from Union Bank of Switzer-

land (UBS). The Swiss Finance Min-

istry's announcement that the Swiss national bank's gold reserves are 1.400 tonnes too high also weighed down on prices, the UBS analyst said. SILVER: Stable. Silver prices

An analyst from Australian held broadly stable, despite a bank MacQuarie said the mar-slight fall at the end of the week in the wake of the financial turmoil in South-East Asia. India is the world's largest importer of silver for investment purposes and Japan is a major buyer for manufacturing

> Silver prices lost one cent to 5.12 dollars per ounce. PLATINUM AND PALLA-DIUM: Retreat. Palladium prices fell sharply. Palladium prices shed 17.5 dollars to 204.5 dollars per

COOPER: Weak. Copper prices fell sharply this week, affected by the financial turmoil in South-East Asia. Three-month copper prices

dropped 34 dollars to 2,068 dollars per tonne, despite the continued decline in the worldwide stocks of the London Metal Exchange (LME). LEAD: Resistant. Lead proved resistant to the finan-

and the price of the metal gained 1.50 dollars to 611 dollars per tonne. It was the only base metal to advance this week. ZINC: Follower. Zinc prices

cial crisis in South-East Asia,

continued to fall, in the wake of the other metals, weighed down by the negative sentiment on the market because of the economic problems in South-East The price of this metal, used

ALUMINIUM: Weaker. Aluminium prices continued to lose ground this week, dealers

in anti-corrosive treatments. lost 27 dollars to 1,278 dollars

Three-month prices for the metal cost 26 dollars to 1,602 dollars per tonne.

NICKEL: Molten. Nickel prices plunged to a three-year low, after a wave of selling by investment funds, and ended the week 315 dollars down at 6,225 dollars per tonne.

TIN: Depressed. Tin prices continued to lose ground, falling 227.5 dollars to 5,415 dollars per tonne, in a depressed market. OIL: Recovery. Oil prices

flared up again after an unexpected drop in US petroleum stocks, ending the week above 20 dollars per barrel. The American petroleum institute and the US department of energy reported a surprise weekly drop in the country's oil

ter a hefty decline of 3.5 million barrels the previous week. The price of brent crude oil gained 50 cents over the week to 20.30 dollars per barrel.

reserves of 3,636 million bar-

rels to 301 million barrels, af-

Oil prices also were underpinned by market nervousness at the possibility of the United Nations imposing further sanctions against Iraq, dealers said. RUBBER: Sleepy. Rubber prices fell slightly, with the

pounds to 570 pounds per tonne over the week British trading house Lewis and Peat said the market was "hibernating" in the absence of any strong demand.

British rubber index losing 10

Supplies of latex remained plentiful and buyers were trading around the market, since manufacturers have big stocks of rubber, a Lewis and Peat analyst said.

The financial turmoil in South-East Asia. However, which has caused a massive plunge in the value of the region's currencies, and therefore made rubber produced there cheaper for foreign buyers. could revive the market in the next few weeks.

COCOA: Melting. Cocoa prices melted this week, losing 37 pounds to 1,090 pounds per tonne, amid prospects of a bumper harvest in the world's leading producer country, Ivory "Prices retreated heavily

this week. Investment funds and speculators were disappointed at the good signals for the Ivory Coast crop and sold their position," explained an analyst from research group Landell Mills.

COFFEE: Weaker. Fears caused by searing drought in Indonesia eased this week because of the prospects of a record harvest in Vietnam which could make up for the fall in Indonesian output.

This hit the coffee market as

speculators and investment funds launched a wave of selling, and roubusta prices fell by 120 dollars to 1,480 dollars per TEA: Boiling. The tea market benefited from good de-

mand, in particular for Assam leaves. A high grade Assam tea on the London tea auctions commanded a price of 200 pence per kg. The price of Kenyan and Bu-

rufdian brews increased, while other East African tea prices were stable. The price for medium-quality brews stood between 142 and

152 pence per kg. **SUGAR:** Stable. Sugar prices were stable this week. On the London futures market, the price of white sugar was unchanged at 307.5 dollars per tonne.

On the cash market, rumours that India, the world's biggest producer but also the hungries consumer of sugar, had bought up to 150,000 tonnes of sugar supported prices. But London-based trading

import sugar this next year, is

house GNI said that the rumours could be exaggerated, and that although India will need to

likely to do so in small quantities, when prices are falling. VEGETABLE OILS: Mixed.

Vegetable oil prices mainly

moved higher, except for soya

Sentiment on the soya market was depressed by weaker than expected exports this week by the United States, which produces more soya beans than any other country, and the cancellation of US export orders to-

talling 398,400 tonnes. In addition, Brazil predicted that its soya crop in 1997-98 will reach between 29.6 and 30.4 million tonnes, up 13 to 16 per cent from the previous year. Soya Oil prices on the Chicago Board of Trade (CBOT) fell by five cents to 6.95 dollars

per bushel (of 27.2 kg - for delivery in November). On the Rotterdam market, paim oil prices rose by 2.50 dollars to 552.50 dollars per tonne, the market was buoyed by the slump in the value of the Malaysian ringgit, which has made the commodity cheaper to coverseas buyers. Traders noted interest from European con-

Sunflower oil prices were unchanged at 585 dollars per tonne, while groundnut oil prices gained 10 dollars to 1.090 dollars per tonne and rapeseed oil gained ten guilders to 134 per 100 kg. GRAINS: Weaker. European

week, weighed down by a lack of

sumers.

wheat prices fell back this

British wool prices were unchanged at 428 pence per kilo. In contrast, the Australian Eastern Wool Index lost four cents to 6.92 Australian dollars

Traders were unmoved by healthy buying of US cotton. nor did they react to heavy rainfall in the vast southern cotton plantations of the United States, which could affect the quality and size of the next harvest. Cash prices covered by the

worries on the US market.

US traders were sceptical

that China would place big or-

ders for US wheat, despite the

dispatch of a four-billion-dol-

lar buying mission to the

United States to chip away at

ket ended just one cent higher at

3.80 dollars per bushel (of 27.2

kg — for delivery in December).

wheat prices lost one pound to

traders feared that the finan-

cial crisis in South-East Asia

might affect demand for US

prices remained placid, despite

some positive factors which

should have given the market a

85.25 pounds.

maize in that region.

Prices on the Chicago mar-

On the London market,

Maize prices lost ground, as

COTTON: Placid. Cotton

the massive US trade deficit.

cotton outlook index held at 77.5 cents per pound. WOOL: Statie. In Bradford,

per kg.