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Cocoa Rises in London as Companies Evacuate Ivory Coast Workers  
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By Stephen Morris

Dec. 21 (Bloomberg) -- Cocoa rose in New York and London as some companies evacuated personnel after Ivory Coast's disputed presidential election sparked violence, threatening to disrupt exports from the world's top producer.

Grain distributor Cargill Inc. said it removed its "small number" of expatriate employees for their safety. Newcrest Mining Ltd., Australia's largest gold mining company, evacuated executives at its Bonikro mine to Ghana.

"Cocoa is reacting to the fact that the political situation is still unresolved," Kona Haque, a London-based analyst at Macquarie Bank Ltd., said by phone today. "Non-essential staff are being removed from the country. It's difficult to see how they'll maintain full operations."

Cocoa for March delivery added 10 pounds, or 0.5 percent, to 1,997 pounds (\$3,087) a metric ton at 12:45 p.m. on NYSE Liffe in London, extending its gain since the Nov. 28 run-off election to 6.6 percent. Cocoa for March delivery gained \$5, or 0.2 percent, to \$2,963 a ton on ICE Futures U.S. in New York.

The United Nations Security Council voted 15-0 yesterday to extend the mandate of the world body's peacekeeping mission in Ivory Coast for six months in defiance of President Laurent Gbagbo's call for the withdrawal of the 9,000 troops.

The UN doesn't accept Gbagbo as the legitimate leader of the West African nation and has provided security for challenger Alassane Ouattara since the Independent Electoral Commission declared him the winner of the election.

India, the second-biggest producer of sugar, will produce 24.5 million metric tons in the year from Oct. 1, a food ministry official today told reporters in New Delhi, maintaining a previous estimate.

Raw sugar for March delivery was little changed at 32.95 cents a pound in New York. Yesterday it jumped as much as 3.1 percent to 33.5 cents, the highest level since January 1981. White sugar for March delivery added \$1.20, or 0.2 percent, to climb to \$799.30 a ton on NYSE Liffe.

Arabica coffee for March delivery gained 0.5 percent to \$2.2565 a pound on ICE. Robusta coffee for March delivery lost \$7, or 0.4 percent, to \$1,983 a ton on NYSE Liffe.

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