#### Indians protest against American fast food shop

BANGALORE, Sept 2 Large quantities of a cancercausing chemical were found in fried chicken served by an American fast food chain health inspectors said Friday. reports AP.

For weeks, local farmers have picketed Kentucky Fried Chicken's outlet in Bangalore, saying it promotes unhealthy eating habits among Indians and uses chicken reared with chemi cals, under inhumane conditions

They want the government to shut down the restaurant if it does not change its policies.

KFC last month set up shop in this city of four mil lion, popularly known a India's Silicon Valley, after the federal government opened its doors to foreign investment.

In the last one year, several Western fast food chains have begun to do business in India, trying to change the way the 300 million middle class eat and drink

On Friday, food inspectors in Bangalore said KFC's fried chicken samples taken last week contained large quantities of monosodium glutamate, chemical banned in food preparations in India Some cooks use the chemical to make food crisp.

### David Frost to interview Nick Leeson

LONDON, Sept 2: Nick Leeson, the trader who broke Britain's oldest investment bank, will tell all for the first time next week, the British Broadcasting Corp said Friday, reports AP.

Veteran interviewer David Frost will tape the interview with Leeson sometime next week in Hoechst prison. Frankfurt, where Leeson has been held since March. fighting proceedings for his extradition to Singapore on fraud and forgery charges.

"It is an exclusive story, the interview that everyone wants to hear, so we are very pleased to have got it," said a BBC spokesman. The inter view, called "The Man Who Broke the Bank." will be broadcast on BBC television on September 11.

The spokesman, who spoke with customary anonymity, said Leeson would not be paid for the interview. Leeson has acknowledged accepting money for other deals, including a book and interviews with his wife, to pay for his defence.

Leeson, who was based in Singapore, broke Barings Bank in February when he dropped 860 million pounds (1.38 billion dollars) betting on the Tokyo markets, outstripping the bank's capital base of 440 million pounds (704 million dollars).

The 28-year-old trader was arrested March 2 in Frankfurt as he tried to fly home to Britain. He was iailed in Germany while fight ing extradition to Singapore on 12 charges of forgery and fraud.

He has said he would prefer to be imprisoned in Britain, saying he fears the hard conditions of a Singapore jail.

#### **US Export-Import** bank announces \$62.2m trade with Americas

WASHINGTON, Sept 1 The Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im Bank) announced 62.2 million dollars in guarantees Thursday for power and communications goods headed to Argentina, Colombia and Guatemala, says AFP.

"These transactions demonstrate Ex-Im Bank faith in Latin America." Division Vice President Charles

Leik said. They illustrate the importance of these emerging markets and the need for Ex-Im Bank support to help US exporters win these valuable

contracts. The guarantees included one for 20.7 million dollars to support the Missouri firm black and Veatch's sale to CBA of Buenos Aires of a heat recovery steam generator and

engineering services. Ex-Im Bank also delivered an 18.6 million dollar guarantee for Westinghouse elec tric's sale of gas turbine generator sets to the Las Flores

power project in Barranguilla. Colombia. A separate 15 million dol-

lar long-term guarantee backs the sale of Motorola of Illinois and Digital Microwave of California's sale of cellular telecommunications equipment to Guatemala's

Communications Celulares Sa. Ex-Im Bank, a US government agency, authorized 15 billion dollars in financing in fiscal year 1994.

## South Asian businessmen to set up regional bloc

COLOMBO: Sept Businessmen from seven impoverished South Asian nations Saturday decided to set up a regional bloc to promote trade in the region, reports AP.

Nearly 1.2 billion people live in South Asia but trade among them accounts for only three per cent of the region's 'commerce.

Adversary relationship between India and Pakistan, high tariffs and bureaucratic delays are the key bottlenecks for the business community.

On Saturday, a conference of private businessmen from India. Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal. Bhutan and the Maldives de-

LONDON, Sept 2: A

European Union retreat from

world wheat markets is help-

Third World importers but

could mean a windfall for the

North American farmers,

leading grain experts said

Chicago futures market on

Thursday after the European

Union, normally a huge ex-

porter, extended a two-

month freeze on export sub-

one place you can find wheat

and that is the United

States," a top European grain

ing the cost in their food

doubled in the past year after

bad weather sparked a run on

global grain reserves to 20-

Importers are already feel-

Real wheat prices have

Silos which once bulged

with unwanted wheat in the

European Union are nearly

empty, leaving less available

not so much where the wheat

is going but where is is com-

ing from," said Bill De Maria,

Assistant Director of the in-

ternational grains council. "It

puts increasing emphasis on

supplies from North America,

particularly the United

States. It is the only country

Grain traders said the EU

the world's third exporter

behind the United States and

Canada, could be forced to

suspend all but a limited

amount of unsubsidised sales

actively exporting."

until next year.

"The problem this year is

"Today there is really only

sidies until mid-October.

trader said.

vear lows.

for export.

Wheat soared in the

yesterday, reports Reuter.

ing to drive up prices for

Confederation of South Asian Rim Businesses, an official

The seven countries are members of the South Asian Association of Regional

## G7 ministers to meet in US in Dec

TOKYO, Sept 2: Trade ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) industrialised nations will hold a meeting on December 1 to 3 in the United States to discuss economic reforms in the former Soviet Union, reports AFP.

EU retreat spells higher wheat

prices for Third World importers

not been exempted from

higher wheat prices, putting

on to supplies.

from drought.

market.

pressure on Brussels to hold

supply are looking tight. Dry

weather delayed Argentina's

sowings and doubts have sur-

faced over the speed of re-

covery in Australia's crop

on several million tonnes of

wheat but faces dire logistical

bottlenecks in reaching the

to sell after its "green revo-

lution" but some buyers say

they are nervous about qual-

ground, one word is enough

to stoke fears of a new explo-

sion in prices, traders said —

Siberian wheat plains face

poor yields this year and

some officials fear the worst

Siberia today costs one mil-

lion roubles, equivalent to

225 US dollars per tonne

which is 20 per cent more

than the world price, one

peat its legendary raid on US

grain markets, carried out in

secrecy in the early 1970s

and which ignited fears of a

world food crisis and stagfla-

But political decisions

"The big factor is the par-

liamentary election in

about wheat imports are nec-

essary in the next few

months and may influence

prices, experts said.

European consumers have December. If he wants to

Few expect Russia to re-

crop in 30 years.

leading trader said.

India has plenty of wheat

Against that jittery back-

The country's vast

To buy a tonne of wheat in

Eastern Europe is sitting

Other leading sources of

Cooperation - a regional grouping that was launched

President Chandrika Kumartunga earlier in the week addressed the businessmen and said: "We must eliminate all barriers to the free flow of goods and services, and allow unimpeded access to our wide region market."

"We need to institutionalize dialogue among the South Asian business community." she said.

The seven nations have already decided to introduce in December the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement, which will lower tariffs to promote intra-region trade.

please his farmers,

(President) Yeltsin will not

import anything until after

January. If he wants to please

his consumers he will import

before December," a senior

Russia has said it will not

If it does do so, however,

traders said world wheat

prices of 185 US dollars per

tonne could jump by up to 50

US dollar in a matter of

has also upset markets in the

past but its needs are by now

mostly recognised, traders

is how much Beijing has al-

ready tapped from the

opaque world wheat market.

with one of its major suppli-

ers, Canada, rarely willing to

porters with dense popula-

tions, especially in North

Africa, have been wary as

prices rise but may be unable

to defer purchases indefi-

have much choice. They can-

not let their people starve,"

depend largely on how re-

sponsive farmers are to

higher prices by sowing

And with stocks near

"Weather will still domi-

rock-bottom, weather will

nate the market next year

because we still won't have

the cushion of stocks," De

said one grain marketer.

more, De Maria said.

remain king.

Maria said.

"Unfortunately, they don't

Longer-term prices will

Other steady food im-

disclose its activities.

nitely, traders said.

What is not clearly known

China, the top importer.

weeks.

need to import wheat this

## Sylhet chamber holds workshop on "Chamber management"

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Sept 2: A oneday workshop on 'Chamber management' was held at the Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) on Thursday.

The workshop was organised by SCCI in cooperation with German Federation of Small Business and Technonet, Asia ((ZDH/TA), Singapore.

M A Rajjaque Chowdhury, President, SCCI, presided over the inaugural function while the working session was held with Md Mohiuddin. Vice-President of the chamber in the chair.

The key-note paper was presented by M Jakir Hossain, Consultant, and M Azizur Rahman. Bangladesh Representative of the German Federation of Small Business and Technonet Asia, Singapore.

A good number of bankers, businessmen including Mosharraf Alam, President, Sunamgani Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Rashidul Hassan Chowdhury, President, Habiganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry took part in the programme.

#### Japan's forex reserves rise

TOKYO, Sept 2: Japan's foreign exchange reserves rose eight billion dollars to 166.39 billion dollars in August, rewriting the world record for the seventh straight month, the finance ministry said yesterday, reports AFP.

The August figure represented the 22nd consecutive monthly gain in foreign reserves, including convertible foreign currencies, gold and International Monetary Fund (IMF) special drawing rights. the ministry said.

As a custom, the ministry does not specify the reason for monthly gains, which has been widely seen as a result of dollar-buying support by the Bank of Japan in foreign exchange markets.

The central bank appeared to have bought 4.0 billion to 4.5 billion dollars during the month in its yenselling, dollars-buying intervention to curb the yen's rise, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said Friday.

It carried out two interventions in concert with other central bans on August 2 and August 15, the newspaper said. It also repeatedly bought dollars in solo efforts to prop up the US currency against the Japanese unit.

Leaded 95-octane petrol now costs about 50 US cents a barrel more than unleaded, and traders expect the gap to

Vietnam is one country that finds it hard to shift to unleaded petrol. Despite the government's recent attempts to ban leaded petrol. Vietnam will continue to import low-lead source with state-owned oil trading firm Petrolimex said.

Petrolimex bought 10,000 tonnes of 92-octane unleaded petrol from French oil firm Total SA for sale in Hanoi

early this month, he said. But vehicles that used it suffered mechanical problems. Petrolimex was forced to buy 5,000 tonnes of 95-octane unleaded gasoline at a high price for blending to improve the quality of the low octane cargo, hoping the higher quality could be sued on its roads.

- Star photo

Traders said India had started to import lower lead petrol as local refineries could not meet its shift to 0.15 grain lead petrol from the 0.5 gram grade.

## Asian countries may be forced to use unleaded petrol

Sylhet Chamber of Commerce and Industry organised a workshop on 'chamber

management' in cooperation with German Federation of Small Business and Technonet

Sept 2 SINGAPORE. Developing Asian nations are finding it difficult to shift to unleaded petrol but higher costs of leaded and environmental concerns will force them to make the switch, industry sources said on Tuesday, reports Reuter. Petrol consumption in the Asia-Pacific region is estimated to rise to 3.21 million barrels per day (BPD) in 1997 from 2.76 million BPD in 1994.

Asia. Singapore on Thursday.

The share of unleaded petrol is expected to grow to 76 per cent in 1997 and 82 per cent in 2000, compared with 64 per cent last year. the Hawaii-based East-West Center said.

While advanced nations consume more unleaded. high-octane petrol, emerging economies would make up the demand for leaded grades, traders said. Total leaded petrol demand in the region is therefore not expected to wane drastically. "While South Koera,

Taiwan and Thailand shift to unleaded gasoline, demand for leaded material will rise in Vietnam, Myanmar and other countries, as their economise grow", said a trader with a European trading firm.

But as unleaded petrol gets cheaper due to increased regional output, more countries would be encouraged to switch to this grade in the long run, traders said.

Cost will be a critical factors, as it gets more expensive to transport leaded petrol because shipowners prefer to load unleaded fuel Storage for leaded fuel is also getting limited.

## Shipping Intelligence

**Chittagong Port** 

Berth No	Name of Vessels	CargoLast Port call		Local agent	Date of Leavir arrival	
J/1	Feng Zhan	GI	Wang	BDship	28/.8	2/9
J/2	Ocean Envoy	Rice(P)	Kara	Kama	R/A	2/9
J/3	Victoria	Rice	(P)Cal	SBS	28/8	2/9
J/4	Continent-1	GI	KARA	CLA	21/8	1/9
J/5	Huang Yun	GI	SING	ANCL	21/8	1/9
J/6	Scantro	GI	Wall	MSA	23/8	7/9
J/7	Noble Star	Rice (P)	Kaka	PSAL	18/8	4/9
J/8	Song Lin	GI	Dali	Prog	22/8	8/9
J/9	Hang Shun	Cement	Hong	H & H	10/8	7/9
J/10	Harvest	Rice (P)	Hald	SBS	20/8	6/9
J/11	Yun Hua	Cement	Lans	RML	17/8	6/9
J/12	Aritstotelis	Cont	Sing	RSL	26/8	4/5
J/13	Srimanee	Cont	Sing	CTS	28/8	3/
MPB/1	Fong Yun	Cont	Sing	BDship	27/8	3/
MPB/2	Meng Yang	Cont	Sing	AML	28/8	2/
MPB/3-	Consistence - and	Cont	Sing	RSL	23/8	317
GSJ	Samuda	Cement	Chin	ASA	19/8	2/
RM/4	Anting	Cement	Rizhl	Delmure	22/8	7/
RM/5	Mun Su Bong	Cement	Long	SBS	27/8	2/
RM/6	Eleousa	Cement	Sing	PSAL	7/8	31/
DDI	Banglar Jyoti	C.Oil		BSC	R/A	31/
DOLLA	\ Goncharov	52	65	Litmond	R/A	
DIAL	hor Scan	GI	Pase	BBA	27/8	31/
	, a Hyundai-HT-	112 -	Chand	Benam	25/8	31/
RM =	anglar Maya	Repair	Male	BSC	18/8	5/
RM/9	Lanary Star	Rice (P)	Para	PSAL	7/6	2/

Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage Cargo Loading Local Name of Vessels Last Port Date of port arrival BSC Cont Banglar Moni Sing 31/8 **HSC** Ballast 31/8 Mong Banglar Asha BSC 1/9 Pena Banglar Gourab Banglar Urmi (cont) 24/8 Cont CTs Cont Sing Sintra (Cont) 22/8 Cont Dae Jin (Cont) 21/8 MMIGI (Copra) Sidi Bishr PSAL Cement Dimitrakis 1/9 Halez Lans Delmure Cement Maximo Gomez 3/9 Cont 3/9 Padma 3/9 Seacom Kulikovo Cont Sargodha ASLL Mikhail Stenkol Contl 28/8 Orange Moon (Roro) 19/8 Yang Meng Kiat (Cont) Cont Sing 16/8 Everett Panther 5/9 Cont Sing Irini (Cont) 29/8 (B)Cont SingAPL Eagle Breeze (Cont) 30/8 Neptune Iris Cont Meng Lee (Cont) 26/87/9 Robert-E-Lee Karna

BDship P.Cargo 15/9 Poolgracht Vessels at Kutubdia Date of Cargo Last Port Local Name of Vessels arrival Vessels at Kutubdia/Outside port limit 23/8 Kaptai C.Oil RAST Shrayan C.Otl Banglar Shourabh Vessels Ready: 28/8 Kmabalu Enabelas 28/8 Royal Kiso Maru 28/8 Baridhi Lanka Mahapola 30/8Gl Mong Banglar Doot 31/8 Kaus Liger Acc 31/8 C ClinkJian Mapicoula

MMI Putivi Litmond 18/8 Niko Ammonia **Vessels Awaiting Instruction:** R/A (10/6) MIRI I R/A (27/3) Litmond I Yamburenko R/A (13/8) Wheat(P) Loval Bird R/A (15/8 -AMBL Occurrent rest R/A (27/8) Seacoast Lok Kirti R/A (26/7) AMBL Pattu R/A(28/8 BSC Banglar Baani R/A (28/8) BSC Banglar Sampad

Movement of Vessels for 1/9,2/9, 3/9 & 4/9/1995 J/5 Feng Zeng J/3 Victoria J/3 Putivi J/5 Hang Yun K. Enambelas GSL Samuda DOJ B. Jyoti DOJ B. Shourabh J/4 Continent 1 RM-4 Four M-2 Meng Yang J/4 B. Gourab DOJ B. Jyoti N B Sintra J/13 Dae Jin J/5 Orange Moon M.12 B. Mont

M-1 Sintra

J/12 Padma

**GSJ Dimitris** 

J/13 Srimanee M.3 L. Mahapola J/5 Feng Zeng J/12 Aristotelis M/1 Fong Yun The above were the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC

Group, Dhaka.

cliners by about four to three on the New York Stock Exchange. Volume was light

## IMF cuts forecast for growth in G7 states

WASHINGTON, Sept 2 The IMF has cut its forecast for growth in major industrial nations for this year and next as the economies of the United States, Japan and Europe have lagged, international monetary sources said. reports Reuter.

The sources, who declined to be identified, said the International Monetary Fund now expects the Group of Seven (G7) industrial nations to record growth of about 2.4 per cent in 1995 and some 2.2 per cent in

In April, it forecast that the G7 economies — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy. Japan and the United States — would expand by 3.0 per cent this year and 2.6 per cent next.

The biggest disappointment has been Japan, where a long-simmering banking crisis and a super-strong yen earlier this year has threatened to drag the economy into recession.

In a draft of its semi-annual world economic outlook to be formally released in about a month's time, the IMF forecast that Japan's economy will grow by a mere 0.4 per cent this year and 1.5 per cent next.

But one source said that prediction may have to be updated to reflect the recent; steep drop of the Japanese

In the draft report, the IMF once again urged Tokyo to cut interest rates to help spur growth, the sources

The Bank of Japan's pacesetting discount rate that it charges commercial banks for loans already stands at a record low one per cent. But international monetary sources argued that real interest rates - after factoring out inflation - remain high in Japan because many prices there are falling.

The IMF has also lowered its forecast for US economic growth this year, to 2.8 per cent from the per cent

pace expected in April. But it raised its forecast for next year, to 2.1 per cent from 1.9, the sources said.

As previously reported. the fund praised the US Federal Reserve for cutting short-term interest rates last month for the first time in nearly three years. But it has counselled caution about further rate reductions as the US economy rebounds from a second quarter slump in growth.

"No more rate cuts are expected." one source said.

In the draft world economic outlook report, the IMF also cut economic growth forecasts for major European nations as the strong German mark and relatively high interest rates there have taken their toll on economies there.

## Stocks higher in New York

NEW YORK, Sept 2: Stocks followed bonds sharply higher Friday, as investors sifted through several economic reports and decided that an interest-rate cut was possible, reports AP.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 36.98 to 4.647.54. Long-term bonds closed up nearly five dollars per 1,000 dollars face value in a shortened pre-holiday trading session. The US financial markets will be closed on Monday for Labour

"There is a growing confi dence that the economy is holding together and that the Fed has done a good job of keeping inflation down, and that they will continue to do so even if they need to cut interest rates again," said Alfred Goldman, Vice President at A G Edwards and Sons Inc. Borkerage in St. Louis.

Advancing issues led deahead of the holiday.

Chase Manhattan's Thomas G Labrecque (L) and Chemical Bank's Walter V Shipley announce the merger of their two banks at a press conference August 28 in New York. The merger will create the largest bank in the United States with nearly 300 billion US - AFP/UNB photo dollars in assets.

# Japan sees Enron fate as bad for India investment

BOMBAY. Sept 2 : Politically-sensitive Japanese bu sinessmen are more cautious about investing in India after a giant power project by a US multinational was scrapped by a regional government, a senior Japanese official said. reports Reuter.

"The (Enron) issue is quite detrimental. It has given a negative signal to investors." said Shigenobu Suzuki. head of the Japanese consulate in Bombay, India's commercial capital.

He said in an interview on Tuesday that the scrapping of US multinational Enron Development Corp's power project by the government of Maharashtra state, whose capital is Bombay, could impede future Japanese investment in India.

"This move shows that state governments are unreliable and most businessmen would be cautious in their approach towards investments in India states." he

Construction of the 2.8 billion dollar plant was ordered shut down by the state government this month after an inquiry panel decided the project was too costly and had not followed any tender procedure.

The plant was commissioned under an agreement approved by the previous Maharashtra administration. headed by the Congress Party which is in power in New Delhi

The new Hindu Nationalist Shiv Sena Bharatiya Janata Party government had made scrapping of the Enron project an election promise.

Another Japanese expert. Masahisa Naitoh, also agreed that Japanese companies were apprehensive after the government's action.

More importantly the cancellation of the Enron deal has brought into focus the nature of centre-state relations," Naitoh, Senior

Advisor to Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry, said on Monday. He is part of a top energy delegation visiting India.

Also on Monday, a Toshiba Corporation official said negotiations on two 250 MW joint venture power plants in Maharashtra were at a standstill because of the decision to scrap the Enron project.

Hideo Godo, a director of Toshiba Corporation told a meeting of industrialists in New Delhi that Japanese consortia were awaiting a final decision on the Enron power project.

Suzuki said a slowdown in Japanese investment in India was also expected because of Indian general elections which must be held before June next year.

investors in India.

Last year, Japan was sixth - unchanged from 1943 - in the list of the top 10 foreign