

### Mitsubishi Motors may sign deal with Hindustan

TOKYO, Sept 18: Japan's Mitsubishi Motors Corp plans to provide Hindustan Motors Ltd of India with technology to produce its slancer model, a local economic daily said yesterday, reports AFP.

The two companies are now in the final stage of the feasibility study for the plan, and expected to sign a deal by the end of this year, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

The plan will involve the production of 5,000 units of the 1500-CC model in 1997, the paper said, adding that output is likely to be boosted to 30,000 units in a few years.

Mitsubishi's move will follow a recent decision by Honda Motor Co, another Japanese carmaker, to set up a joint venture in India for car production.

Hindustan, the maker of Ambassador cars, has also decided to produce the 2000-CC astra car in a joint venture with Adam Opel AG, the European subsidiary of General Motors Corp of the United States.

### US dollar up in Tokyo

TOKYO, Sept 18: The US dollar traded higher against the Japanese yen Monday morning, reports AP.

The dollar's strength followed its surge to a 15-month high against the yen in New York on Friday in reaction to remarks by US German and Japanese officials, who expressed support for a strong dollar, traders said.

By late morning, the dollar was changing hands at 104.20 yen up 1.38 yen from late Thursday and also higher than its level late Friday in New York of 104.07 yen.

Japanese foreign exchange, stock and other financial markets were closed Friday for a national holiday.

The late morning level was lower than the 104.46 it had hit earlier in the morning, Traders attributed the slide to profit-taking, but said the dollar could continue rising.

They noted that US, German and Japanese officials in recent days have all expressed support for taking the dollar higher against the yen. They also noted that Japan's central bank, the Bank of Japan, bought dollars over the weekend.

## Move to cement trade ties EU-Mediterranean nations meet by November end

BRUSSELS, Sept 18: The European Union is casting its eyes towards most points of the compass as it tries to set itself a clear path into the coming century, reports Reuter.

Like a frenzied juggler trying to keep some 40 balls aloft at the same time, the EU is negotiating its future ties with the United States, Latin America and the countries on its eastern frontiers.

It is also about to embark on an ambitious attempt to cement relations with the countries ringing to the Mediterranean and has set its sights on building new links with Asia.

In all, the 15-nation EU is in various stages of talks covering trade and cooperation to defence with at least 40 countries at the same time.

Negotiations with potential EU members Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are advancing at a steady pace.

Russia has won a tariff-cutting deal with the EU after months of delay because of the fighting in Chechnya, and a broader partnership and cooperation deal should be ratified in the next few months.

To deal with a range of security and trade issues along its southern flank, the EU has convened a conference with 12 non-member

Mediterranean nations at the end of November.

This highly ambitious gambit, viewed with suspicion by some participants who see it as having more to do with serving EU security interests than the economic needs of the region, has the avowed aim of creating a Euro-Mediterranean free-trade area early next century.

Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, the Palestinian autonomous territories, Syria, Tunisia and Turkey will all take part.

The EU has offered 4.6 billion European currency units (6 billion dollars) in aid to the region over the next five years, but disgruntled diplomats point out that this is less than the total the countries already receive in bilateral accords.

They also fear that the EU, itself divided between north and south in its attitudes to both economic and security approaches to the Mediterranean, will blunder when it comes to dealing with intricate and nuanced relations in the Middle East—especially at such a crucial time in the peace process.

The bloc is also about to set about deepening its ties with South Africa.

At the same time as trying to branch out to its south, the EU is also taking a fresh look at its relations with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and

Uruguay which form the fledgling Mercosur trade bloc, and is about to embark on negotiations with Mexico.

Both of these series of talks have as their ultimate goal the creation of a free-trade area for the next century.

The EU is also reviewing its relations with Chile and Cuba. Turning east, the EU is adapting and developing its relations with Japan and has begun to make gentle overtures to China.

Next March, the EU will take part in its first summit with the members of the Association of Southeast Asia Nations.

As with its westward and southward gambits, the EU hope to enhance its trade, political and security links with the increasingly powerful Asian states and at the same time cement its own status in the world.

As if all these compass-point talks were not enough, they are taking part at the same time as the EU is starting to go through the process of reviewing its own internal relations.

This extended period of navel-gazing during the open-ended review of the Maastricht Treaty which formally starts next year is likely to make delaying with the EU over the next few years an even more existential experience than normal.

### Taiwan will send trade official to PECC meet

TAIPEI, Sept 18: Taiwan will send its top trade official to a meeting of the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) in Beijing next week, a trade official said Monday, reports AFP.

Lin Yi-Fu, Director General of the Board of Foreign Trade, said he will attend the PECC meeting from September 27 to 29.

He said his attendance was a routine activity required for a member of an international organisation and was not an issue in the current restrained relations between China and Taipei.

### Employees' strike in Lanka hits govt services

COLOMBO, Sept 18: A strike by more than 10,000 government employees Monday paralyzed many state services, including railroad trains, ports and telecommunications, officials said, reports AP.

"All trains stopped running at noon," said GB Wickrematilleke, a railroad official.

The three-day strike has been called by the Technical Services Trade Unions' Federation to press its demand for wage hike and a special status for technical services in the government.

The strike also hit work in weather forecasting, irrigation, agriculture and local government offices.

## Pak govt withdraws customs duty on newsprint import

ISLAMABAD, Sept 18: The Pakistani government announced concessions on newsprint import on Sunday in what appeared to be Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's bid to appease a protesting newspaper industry, reports Reuter.

"The government had decided to totally withdraw (10 per cent) customs duty on the import of newsprint as well as to reduce sales tax on newsprint to 12 per cent from 15 per cent," Information and Broadcasting Minister Khalid Ahmad Kharal said in a statement.

There was no immediate response from the newspaper industry, which had called for a planned strike on September 3 after Bhutto promised them tax relief on the imported newsprint.

Kharal said Bhutto had decided to withdraw the customs duty and reduce the sales tax "despite various pressures and economic hardships only out of her commitment to help develop a healthy and vibrant press in the country."

The newspapers had demanded a total withdrawal of the customs duty and sales tax to offset high newsprint prices.

Bhutto had first rejected the demand, but she told a deputation of newspaper owners on September 2 that her government would "help the newspaper industry as far as possible within the framework of its taxation reform package."

The call for a strike on September 3 was the latest in a series of developments of unease between Bhutto's government on the one side and the newspaper industry.

A similar one-day newspaper strike was called off in July after the government bowed to protests and lifted a six-day-old ban on six Urdu-language evening newspapers in the violence-plagued port city of Karachi.

The journalists held countrywide demonstrations on Sunday to protest at sackings and forced retirements of several journalists in the state-run news agency.

Last month, police in Karachi raided the office of the outspoken English-language monthly Newline and the home of its editor, provoking protests from journalists.

Kharal said on Sunday he hoped that after being "relieved of one major worry," Pakistani newspapers would "now concentrate more fully on promoting a democratic culture in the country through honest and responsible journalism."

Pakistan may produce 9.6 m bales of cotton this year

KARACHI, Sept 18: Pakistan, after three successive crop losses, expects to produce more than 9.6 million bales of cotton this year, Agriculture Minister Yousuf Talpur said here yesterday, reports AP.

Talpur told AFP that the crop area increased this year by 21 per cent and cotton was cultivated on a total of 6.5 million acres.

The increase will neutralise the "slight damage" caused by torrential rains and monsoon floods in the cotton growing regions of southern Sindh and central Punjab provinces this year, he added.

Talpur was confident that the government would produce 9.6 million bales against the target of 9.5 million bales

of 170 kilograms (374 pounds) each set this year. He said the cotton cultivating area shot up after the government allowed free import and export of cotton. This "encouraged" farmers to switch over to cotton from sugarcane, he added.

Pakistan, one of the world's largest cotton producers, faced shortages of cotton for the third consecutive year last year, because of pest and virus attacks.

It produced 8.6 million bales against the target of 11.5 million bales last year, forcing the country to import 700,000 bales of cotton from the United States, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan to meet the demand of its big textile industry.

## China gains from stronger dollar

BEIJING, Sept 18: The US dollar's rise is easing China's foreign-debt burden and increasing the value of its reserves and offers an opportunity to devalue China's currency, a senior Chinese banking official said, reports Reuter.

On Friday, the dollar reached a 15-month high of 104 yen in European markets after plunging below 80 yen in April.

Because the state, companies and individuals in China hold most of their foreign-exchange assets in US dollars, a firmer dollar increases their value, Sunday's China Daily quoted senior Bank of China official Tao Limin as saying.

A higher dollar also eases China's debt burden, which

rose with the yen's appreciation, said Tao, Vice-Director of the International Finance Research Institute at China's main trade finance bank.

Most of China's foreign-exchange income is in US dollars, which it must swap to repay foreign debts in other currencies, the state-run newspaper said in its business weekly edition.

Tao said the dollar's appreciation provided an opportunity for the devaluation of the renminbi yuan, China's currency.

He gave no details of the magnitude, timing or method for such a devaluation, which could make China's surging exports even more competitive and further swell its trade surplus.

The central bank quoted the yuan at 8.3194 to the dollar on Saturday, up from 8.7 on January 1, 1994, when dual exchange rates for the Chinese unit were unified.

Helped in part by the fall of the dollar, to which the yuan is loosely pegged, China's trade surplus has soared in 1995.

In the first eight months the surplus amounted to 15.28 billion dollars, up from just 100 million dollars in the same 1994 period.

The government, and major banks have been doing forward and spot trading of foreign exchange and trading currency options as a hedge against abrupt rate fluctuations but many domestic firms are not used to taking such measures, Tao said.

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The chairmen of Germany's biggest car manufacturers, Helmut Werner (Mercedes Benz), Bernd Pischetrieder (BMW) and Ferdinand Piech (Volkswagen AG) (L to R), join a press conference on September 13 at the IAA, one day before its official opening. — AFP/UNB photo

### Japan welcomes dollar's gain against yen

TOKYO, Sept 18: Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Koken Nosaka on Monday welcomed the dollar's recent gains against the yen but said the Japanese government would like to see the US currency appreciate further, reports AFP.

"I think 108 yen is a yardstick," the official government spokesman told a news conference. "The trade minister says '108 yen' is the break-even point for small and medium-sized companies."

The dollar has surged to its highest level in 15 months in recent weeks, and briefly touched 104.50 yen in morning trading to Tokyo Monday.

Tomio Tsutsumi, Vice Minister at the International Trade and Industry Ministry, later said the exchange rates will be still in the process of reversal.

"We have not set a target, but we can say that the yen is still in a turnaround against the dollar," he told a regular news conference, denying that Trade Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto wanted to see the dollar at 108 yen.

There have been reports earlier that Chief Cabinet Secretary Nosaka wants the dollar at 108 yen, but 108 yen was simply the break-even point for small and mid-sized companies according to our research," Tsutsumi said.

### Workers' strike to protest high food prices in Philippines

MANILA, Sept 18: Thousands of workers went on strike Monday in what was seen as a prelude to massive protests against high food prices and an impending increase in oil prices, says AP.

At 6 am (2200 GMT Sunday), stevedores stopped loading and unloading cargo at the Port of Manila.

Hours later, other workers, along with passenger jeep, truck and taxi drivers gathered in different points of the capital for protest marches despite rain.

At least 11 groups of workers and drivers calling themselves the Task Force National Protest were participating in the mass action, and similar strikes were planned in other cities.

The main group of protesters planned to march in Manila's busy financial district, and others were to picket the Supreme Court before converging near the presidential palace in the afternoon.

Angry protesters asked whether the current situation was the best," referring to President Fidel Ramos's oft-repeated promise to Filipinos that "the best is yet to come."

## Asian stock markets close mixed

HONG KONG, Sept 18: Asian stock markets closed mixed Monday, with share prices slumping in Tokyo because traders were disappointed with planned government measures to boost the Japanese economy, reports AP.

Tokyo's key 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average closed down 439.39 points, or 2.34 per cent, at 18,319.16. On Thursday, the average had gained 144.29 points, or 0.78 per cent.

Financial markets were closed in Japan on Friday for a national holiday.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section, which had gained 12.16 points Thursday, slipped 20.52 points, or 1.4 per cent, to 1,460.55.

Traders said the economic package, under which the government will reportedly authorize about 10 trillion yen (96 billion dollars) of spending, already had been taken into account in buying last week.

In Hong Kong, share prices closed mixed after three straight days of gains.

The Hong Kong Index, the Hong Kong market's key indicator of blue chips, fell 27.35 points, or 0.3 per cent, closing at 9,770.05. On Friday, the index had climbed 117 points.

Brokers said there was selective profit-taking in blue chips after recent sharp gains.

They said Sunday's legislative elections, the last to be held in Hong Kong before China takes over the territory in 1997, had no impact on the market.

China has said it will dissolve the legislature in 1997 because the elections were held despite Chinese objections over the pace of expanding democracy in Hong Kong.

WELLINGTON: New Zealand share prices closed higher in quiet trading, with brokers expecting the market to remain subdued as it has over recent days. The NZSE-40 Capital Index rose 6.18 points to 2,130.48.

TAIPEI: Share prices closed higher in light trading, boosted by buying in electronic issues. The market's Weighted Price Index rose 77.61 points to 5,040.15 after Saturday's 32-point loss.

MANILA: Share prices closed mixed as buying was focused on second-line issues. The Philippines' unified composite index of 41 selected issues fell 1.69 points to 2,775.74.

SEOUL: Share prices closed higher in brisk trading. The Korea Composite Stock Price Index rose 4.64 points to 1,000.21.

SYDNEY: Australian share prices closed almost flat, with investors seen cautious after a selloff in the Japanese market and a lack of fresh positive leads. The All Ordinaries Index rose 0.3 point to 2,166.0.

SINGAPORE: Share prices closed lower in thin, lackluster trading. The 30-share Straits Times Industrials Index fell 23.75 points to 2,115.92.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysian share prices closed mixed in thin trading. The KLS Composite Index rose 1.98 points to 995.51.

BANGKOK: Share prices closed generally lower, but a flurry of bargain hunting in blue chips helped the key index finish slightly higher. The Stock Exchange of Thailand Index rose 0.59 point to 1,338.21.

JAKARTA: The stock exchange's Composite Index fell 1.114 points, closing at 494.209.

**Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh**  
Kurmītola, Dhaka

### Corrigendum

The tender notice published in the Dainik Bangla dated 31/8/95 for the work "Construction of residential quarters (SH: Construction of Rickshaw Road from Askona Road to Housing approach Road at the East side of Railway line) at ZIA, Kurmitola, Dhaka. Due to unavoidable circumstance the date of receiving tender for the above mentioned work has been extended up to 27/9/95 instead of 17/9/95. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Executive Engineer  
Civil Division-II  
CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

DPP-22687-17/9  
G-1370

**Directorate General Defence Purchase**  
Ministry of Defence  
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215

### Tender Notice

- Sealed tenders are invited in local currency from bonafide Manufacturers/Suppliers/Dealers (Enlistment with DGDP is not necessary) for supply of Cover outer 1200x18 (12 PR) for 5 ton Trk dumper Qty:30.
- Tender schedule with detail specifications will be available on payment of Taka 50.00 (Not refundable) from 23-9-95 to 17-10-95 on any working day between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender will be opened on 18-10-95 at 1000 hours in presence of all tenderers (if any).

ISP/MS/95/1521  
DPP-22372-14/9  
G-1366

Lt Col  
For Director General

### Japan's Daiwa Bank to open office in Manila

MANILA, Sept 18: Japan's Daiwa Bank will open a representative office here following the approval of its application by the Philippine Monetary Board, the central bank said Monday, reports AFP.

Daiwa Bank, based in Osaka, Japan, has commercial relations with major Philippine companies, central bank governor Gabriel Singson said in a statement.

Daiwa is among eight Japanese banks which have set up branches, affiliates and representative offices in the Philippines, he said.

**Biman BANGLADESH AIRLINES**

ঢাকা/মুম্বাই/০২৯/৯৫/৭৮৫  
১৬ সেপ্টেম্বর, ১৯৯৫

### সংশোধনী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

৭তম ১৬ই আগস্ট '৯৫ তে বাংলাদেশের বিভিন্ন হাবের সবাবশেষে রক্তক্ষিত বিমানের একটি ভিডি-১০ উড্ডয়নযোগ্য ডি-১০ সড়কীয় আন্তর্জাতিক টেকার বিমান নং ডাকভিডি/১৬/৯৫ এক অনুচ্ছেদ (৩) এ টেকার প্রস্থানের শেষ তারিখ এবং টেকার বোমার তারিখ ও আকার '৯৫ লেবোরে হয়েছে। কিন্তু ওয়া আটোবর দুর্দৃষ্টতার জন্য সরকারী দুটি বাকার টেকার প্রস্থানের শেষ তারিখ এবং টেকার বোমার তারিখ ৩ অক্টোবরের পরিবর্তে ৪ অক্টোবর হবে। উল্লিখিত সমস্ত অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

বন্দোবস্ত ইকোভোর আহ্বান  
শ্রী ক্যান্টিন  
পরিচালক হাবোলা

D-900



Japan's Honda Motor Co Executive Vice President Y. Munekuni addresses journalists during a press conference in New Delhi on September 12 to announce the company's plan to build a new plant near New Delhi to manufacture its 1.3-1.5 litre engine Civic model. Commercial production is expected to begin by 1997 with an initial capacity of 10,000 cars yearly. — AFP/UNB photo