

Chinese PM for
Sino-Japanese
co-op boost

TOKYO, Oct 14: Visiting Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji on Saturday called for enhancement of Sino-Japanese economic and trade cooperation so as to further the development of bilateral friendly and cooperative relations, says Xinhua.

In a speech delivered at a reception hosted in his honour by Japan's business organisations, Zhu said China and Japan are meeting new opportunities for enhancing their mutually beneficial economic cooperation as economic growth in both countries is picking up speed.

After briefing Japanese guests on China's economic situation and future development strategy, Zhu said China is ready to cooperate with Japanese firms in areas such as the development of western China, high and new technology and environment protection.

As the most developed country in Asia, Japan's participation in the development of China's western areas will bring about a bright future for Sino-Japanese economic cooperation in the 21st century, Zhu said.

Noting that improving the environment is very important in the process of development in western China, Zhu expressed the hope that the Japanese side would take advantage of its advanced environment protection technologies and rich experience to contribute to the development of western China.

He said that China and Japan should cooperate in the development of technology, especially in such sectors as basic scientific research, high technology and manufacturing.

The Chinese premier said that the two countries should also enhance cooperation in the financial sector and Japan should increase its transfer of technology to China and invest more in China.

As major economies in East Asia, China and Japan should make contributions to the development of Asia by exploring new areas for regional economic cooperation, he said.

Zhu arrived here Thursday for a six-day official visit.

Cambodia may benefit from broader tax base: IMF

WASHINGTON, Oct 14: The International Monetary Fund yesterday praised economic progress in Cambodia and said the country could benefit from a broader tax base and reduced spending, says Reuters.

In its annual review of the Cambodian economy, the IMF improvements in macroeconomic performance and progress on structural reforms have boosted confidence considerably.

But the lending agency added: "Reform efforts need to be deepened in key areas for Cambodia to achieve sustainable economic growth and lasting reductions in poverty."

The fund said the government should strive for further advances in revenues through broadening the coverage of sales taxes, improving collection for the tourism sector and stepping up efforts to collect arrears on telecommunications services and leases of state assets.

Other ways to improve tax revenues include the avoidance of ad hoc tax exemptions and improvements on tax customs administration, including pre-shipment inspections of imports.

The IMF said it was vitally important for Cambodia to continue reducing military spending and to cut the overall wage bill of the civil service by creating a better paid but smaller civil service.

The Washington-based lender also encouraged Cambodia to revise forestry laws to strengthen operations and ensure sustainable logging.

DHL to build new IT centre in Malaysia

DHL Worldwide Express has announced a plan to construct a new IT centre at a prime location in Cyberjaya, one of the "cybercities" in Malaysia's Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC), says a press release.

DHL has commissioned Quill Property Group Sdn Bhd to design and construct the new IT centre. The build-and-lease agreement has also been inked in presence of Dato' Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia.

The agreement has an initial term of seven years, with a further three-year option. Under the agreement, Quill Property will design and construct the complex to serve the specific needs of the world's leading air express service.

On completion in September 2001, the four-storey building will provide a usable space of approximately 100,000 square feet. It will house a data centre, a training centre and software development facilities.

The new IT centre will replace the current DHL facility in Puchong, south of Kuala Lumpur, and will serve as one of the three IT nerve centres in the DHL global network along with London and San Francisco.

Nepal raising fuel prices by 100pc

in Nepal

However, the corporation said certain amount of kerosene would be made available to families at subsidized rates under coupons system.

NOC said each family would

allocated three litres of kerosene per month under this system and can buy kerosene at a subsidized price of Rs 15.50 per litre. However, if they wanted to buy more than that, they would have to buy it in open market at the cost of 26 rupees up by 85 rupees.

The increase in prices of petrol, diesel, kerosene and LPG brings the prices in line with India. In recent days, there have been reports of smuggling of petrol and diesel to India from Nepal because it was cheaper here.

The statement further said that despite increases in prices, NOC still had to bear huge losses on petrol and LPG. It said the depreciation in value of Nepalese rupees against the US dollar had also a role to play in the price hike.

Arrangements are also being made to make available the ration cards through District Administration Office and Area Administration offices throughout the country.

Previously, a litre of kerosene cost only 13 rupees.

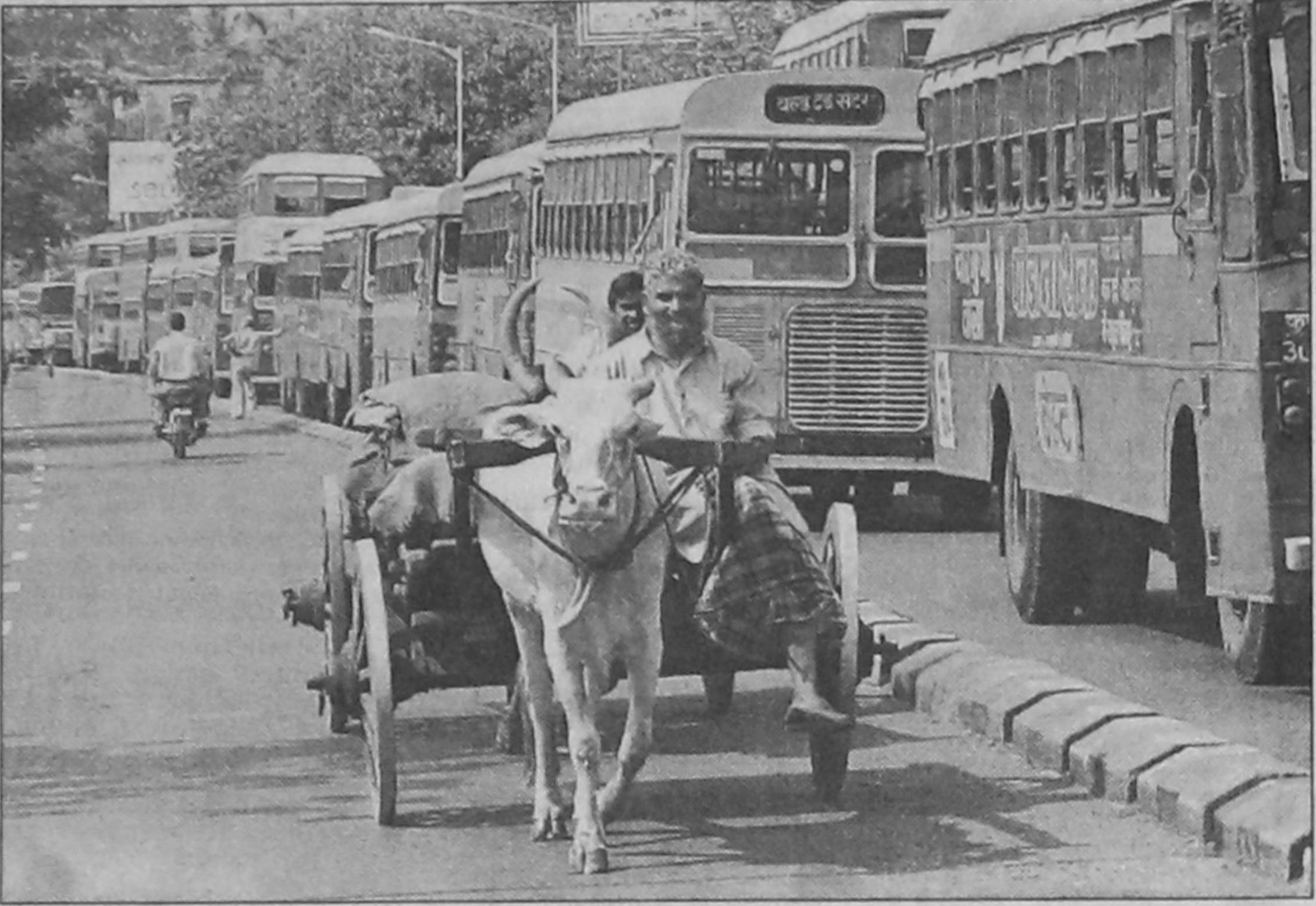
The corporation has also in-

creased prices on other petroleum products. Prices of petrol were fixed at 47 rupees (about \$0.63) per litre, up 7 rupees from 40 previously, diesel at 27.5 rupees, up from 23 rupees and LPG gas cylinder at 550 rupees up by 85 rupees.

The statement released by NOC that was read out over the state run Radio Nepal today morning said the corporation had been forced to increase oil prices because of the rise in oil prices in international markets and that the revised rates had been in effect since midnight Friday.

Under the new revised rates,

the price of kerosene has been raised by as much as 100 per cent. Kerosene is widely used for cooking in many households



A bullock cart rolls past a line of buses that came to a standstill due to road blocks erected by strike workers in south Bombay Friday as water supply to the entire city was cut off due to the ongoing strike by Bombay Municipal Corporation workers. The workers have been demanding a hike in their bonus.

- AFP photo

Metal: Weekly Roundup

Gold prices jump higher, silver slips slightly

year set in February, of 316 dollars an ounce.

Silver: Moon. Silver prices eased slightly on the London Bullion Market this week to 4.87 dollars an ounce from 4.88 dollars a week earlier.

Steady supply and thin liquidity have left the metal moving sideways in a lacklustre market.

"It often happens when you see general conflict or international destabilisation," said Paribas gold analyst Charles Kermot. "People are looking for a safe haven."

Investors were choosing gold ahead of the dollar because of concerns that the United States could be drawn into the Middle East imbroglio, particularly after a US warship was blasted in a suspected terrorist attack on Thursday.

Gold is looking better than the dollar because of fears, after the explosion on the US warship, that the US will have special implication in the conflict," said Kermot.

Some analysts predict that gold prices will top 280 dollars an ounce again soon. But the precious metal remains a long way short of its record for the

oil prices resulted in a generalised selling of commodities, with base metals particularly badly hit.

The complex usually does well in times of healthy economic growth because metals are in demand during physical expansion. Higher oil prices however could hit growth and upset economies around the world, pegging back demand for base metals, analysts said.

Three-month nickel prices on the London Metal Exchange fell to 7,480 dollars a tonne from 7,980 dollars.

Copper prices slipped to 1,928 dollars a tonne from 1,971 dollars.

Three-month aluminum dropped to 1,522 dollars a tonne from 1,548 dollars.

Zinc was no better off, with a 52-dollars slide to 1,103 dollars a tonne.

Lead ended the week flat at 492 dollars a tonne, while three-month tin prices slipped to 5,365 dollars a tonne from 5,395 dollars.

Looking ahead, nickel is seen rising because of strong demand, according to a study by Canaccord Capital.

Analysts noted that higher

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer

Public Works E/M Division-6

2nd 12-Storey Govt. Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Dated: 5-10-2000/20-6-1407 BS

Tender Invitation Notice

No 30 (2000-2001)

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No 2911 under sealed cover are invited from Public Works Directorate's special first class & E/M works enlisted first class/second class contractors for the undermentioned work. Tenders will be received in Tender Box kept at the office of Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/Public Works E/M Workshop Division, Public Works Timber Workshop Division & Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka during office hours up to 12:00 Noon of 30-10-2000 and the tenders will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their nominated representatives. Tender schedule form and terms & conditions etc. can be purchased on payment of usual price Tk 425/- (four hundred twenty-five) only (non-refundable) from the office of Public Works E/M Division-1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/Public Works E/M Workshop Division/Public Works Timber Workshop Division & Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka during office hours latest up to 29-10-2000. Earnest money at the rate 2% (two per cent) of the estimated cost must be submitted with each tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any bank in Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-6, Dhaka. This office authority reserves the right to reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. Tenderer himself or his attested letter bearer representative can purchase the tender form on production of registration form with requisite papers. Participants in the tender must submit TIN certificate & original money receipt of purchasing tender documents with the tender.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Approved time
1.	Construction of electrical overhead line for emergency electric supply from generator to cottage industry & poultry farm area at Shafipur Ansar Academy.	Tk 3,34,958/-	Tk 6,699/-	20 (Twenty) days

Kazi Abdul Malek

Executive Engineer

Public Works E/M Division-6

Dhaka. Phone No. 9351012

DFP-24369-9/10

G-1705

Oil rally slows as Arabs rule out export ban over ME tension

LONDON, Oct 14: Sharply higher oil prices shed a little ground yesterday amid signs that Middle East tension would not spark a retaliatory Arab export ban against Israel's Western supporters, says Reuters.

But dealers were not willing to sell decisively ahead of a weekend for fear that violence could boil over again in the heartland of world petroleum during the break in business.

Traders scrambling to lock in supplies of petroleum pushed Brent crude 48 cents higher to \$35.07 a barrel after a suspected bomb blast on Friday rocked the British embassy in Yemen.

That was just 23 cents off a fresh 10-year peak struck on Thursday amid fresh Israeli-Palestinian violence and a suicide bombing of a US warship in the southern Yemeni port of Aden.

Brent later eased to \$32.60

for a fall of \$1.99, on word that Saudi Arabia would not consider suspending oil exports to punish US support for Israel.

US light crudes were \$1.01 off at \$35.05 a barrel.

Market jitters eased after sources familiar with Saudi thinking said the world's biggest oil producer would not consider cutting oil exports to punish US support for Israel.

The sources said the kingdom had not raised the issue with the United States, which Arabs have long criticised for what they see as Washington's unquestioning backing of Israel.

"Nobody is talking about this at all. It is not an item on the agenda," one of the sources familiar with the thinking in Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states told Reuters.

In addition, an industry source said Iraq planned no change to its policy of maintaining oil exports.

The source had been asked

whether Middle East tension this month would result in Baghdad stopping its 2.2 million barrels per day (bpd) of exports worth some five per cent of internationally traded crude.

Dealers are frightened about the possible implications the Middle East turmoil holds for flows of petroleum to the world's economies from a region holding the bulk of crude oil reserves.

The word from Washington is containment. But containment is just not happening," said Peter Gignoux, head of the energy desk at Salomon Smith Barney.

"This is a terrible collection of circumstances."

Even before the latest unrest, energy markets had been rising amid worries that low US heating oil inventories may prove insufficient to keep American households warm this winter.

In the Middle East, violence rumbled on with Palestinians hurling stones at Israeli police after Muslim prayers in Jerusalem, while in Washington the White House played down the chances of a quick Middle East summit.

At a European summit in Biarritz French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin said overly high oil prices could curb global economic growth and added the European Union was calling for talks with oil producers to stabilise prices.

Yemen was the source of fresh market jitters when a blast hit the British embassy in the capital Sanaa, in what Yemen said was a power generator explosion and Britain said was a bomb.

Analysts say there appears little risk to exports as long as the conflict remains contained in Israel and Palestinian areas.

But wider regional conflict could send prices soaring.

Commodity: Weekly Roundup

Sugar, cotton up, soya falls

LONDON, Oct 14: Sugar prices continued to rise this week in New York and analysts said that they expected them to stabilise next year.

On the LIFFE market, the price for March delivery ended the week at 254.00 dollars per tonne from 257.3 dollars last week.

In New York a pound of white sugar for March delivery ended on Thursday at 10.86 cents from 10.03 cents a week earlier.

The Economist Intelligence Unit said that the rise of the price in the third quarter had exceeded expectations.

Prices were likely to settle in 2001 and would then fall by 6.7 per cent in 2002, it said.

This view was backed by the monthly report from the World Sugar Organisation on Wednesday which said that sugar prices would steady at current values owing to an estimated deficit of 3,148 tonnes in 2000-2001.

Grains: Budding. Cereal prices rose in Chicago. The price of wheat was boosted by concern over drought in Australia and heavy rainfall in the south west of the United States.

On the CBOT a bushel of 27.2 kilos of wheat for December delivery was being traded at 273.5 cents from 267.25 cents seven days earlier.

A bushel of maize of 25.4 kilos for November delivery was being traded at 204.00 cents from 199.50 cents.

Cotton: Cotton prices rose in the United States this week. On the NYCE in New York the December contract rose to 64.36 cents from 63.82 cents a pound last week.

The A index of physical cotton prices, the average of the

lowest world prices, was 60.75 cents from 60.35 cents a pound.

Rubber: Pneumatic. Rubber prices rose in London this week as the market anticipated a deal which leading producers are due to sign at the end of

October on a minimum price. The London rubber index for October delivery rose to 54.75 pence per kilo from 54.25 pence in the previous week.

Activity was dominated by clearing operations before publication on Thursday of forecasts by the US Department of Agriculture on the US harvest.

Most analysts expected to see production of 258.57 million tonnes of maize from 263.22 million tonnes harvested by the USDA in September an of 76.60 million tonnes of soya from 78.91 million tonnes.

The Economist Intelligence Unit said that grain prices were likely to rise by 1.1 per cent in 2001 and by 2.0 per cent in 2002 after four years of falls in a row, causing the prices of other agricultural products to rise by 4.2 per cent in 2001.

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