

In article <C5Kys1.C6r@panix.com> dannyb@panix.com (Daniel Burstein) writes:

>A short story in the newspaper a few days ago made some sort of mention  
>about how the Japanese, using what sounded like a gravity assist, had just  
>managed to crash (or crash-land) a package on the moon.

Their Hiten engineering-test mission spent a while in a highly eccentric  
Earth orbit doing lunar flybys, and then was inserted into lunar orbit  
using some very tricky gravity-assist-like maneuvering. This meant that  
it would crash on the Moon eventually, since there is no such thing as  
a stable lunar orbit (as far as anyone knows), and I believe I recall  
hearing recently that it was about to happen.

All work is one man's work. | Henry Spencer @ U of Toronto Zoology

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