Food-borne parasites infect 40m people worldwide

MANILA, Oct 27: Foodborne parasites infect 40 million people worldwide and are causing millions of dollars in economic losses, health experts said Tuesday, reports AP.

The World Health Organisation, which sponsored a conference on parasitic infestation, said food-borne parasites have become a serious public health problem "from which no region in the world is

A WHO report said direct or indirect losses due to medical expenses, loss of income and productivity "run into millions of dollars."

One study put annual losses in the Russia at 770 million

Parasitologists, food safety and fish inspection experts from the United States, Ger-

Egypt, Iran, China, Thailand and Japan participated in the nine-day meeting in Manila,

which ended Tuesday. They called for stricter food safety measures, reltable food processing techniques and proper education on preparing food, particularly freshwater fish, crabs and shrimps.

Dr Kenneth Mott, chief of the WHO's Schistosomiasis Control Unit, said lung and liver flukes and intestinal parasites, which infect both humans and animals, are acquired by eating raw or improperly cooked food.

Many infections are caused by eating raw freshwater fish and shellfish, he said.

Dr Sang Tae Han, head of the Western Pacific region of the WHO, acknowledged that

freshwater aquaculture will continue to grow in the region as foreign markets expand.

"You have rightly concluded that preparation for the future must begin now by establishing high food and fish safety standards," Han said.

Eggs and larvae of liver and lung flukes are passed on to people who eat infected cattle, sheep, goats and buffaloes or vegetables.

The adult worms can grow as long as 75 millimeters (30 inches). They burrow in the liver and lungs and sometimes reach the brain, causing convulsions that could be fatal.

Mott said persons with lung flukes cough blood, lose weight and experience general body weakness. The symptoms are similar to tuberculosis and a careful examination is neces-

treatment. Those suffering from liver fluke infestation could develop stones in the liver. One variety of this fluke can also cause cancer of the liver, Mott said.

sary for accurate diagnosis and

The WHO report said at least five million people from the most densely populated provinces of China are infected with several Oriental varieties of liver flukes.

These varieties also have infected Koreans, Vietnamese, Japanese and overseas Chinese. More than seven million Thais are estimated to be infected with one variety, the report said.

Lung flukes are endemic in most Asian countries, especially in China, Japan, Korea and Thatland, and in West

WB okays \$228m loans to Hanoi

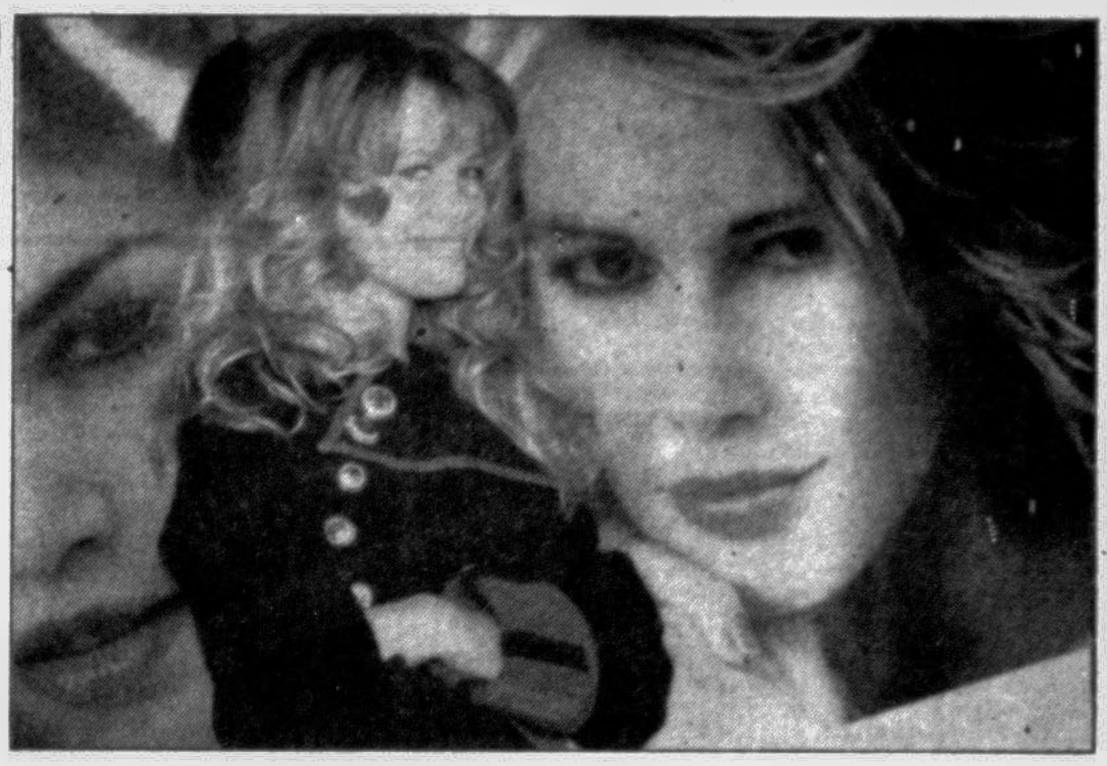
WASHINGTON, Oct 27: The World Bank on Tuesday approved two loans to Vietnam totalling 228 million dollar to improve the country's schools and roads, the bank announced, reports AP.

The loans are the first by the World Bank to Vietnam since 1978.

One loan, for 70 million dollar will be spent to upgrade management and education in elementary schools. The other, for 158 million dollar is for repairs to highways.

Gautam S. Kaji, the bank's Vice President for East Asia, said the loans 'should be seen as a strong vote of confidence by the international community in Vietnam's economic reform programme and also as a sign of willingness to help Vietnam attain its development goals."

The bank statement said the resumption of loans to Vietnam was permitted by the country's recent clearing of its arrears with the International Monetary Fund



German top-model Claudia Schiffer poses on Tuesday in front of her picture at the Revlon stand whose cosmetics she represents during the "Tax Free Salon" trade show in the southern French town of Cannes. - AFP photo

WHO consultant on AIDS E Jesuthassan addressing a seminar on "AIDS and Tourism Industry" organised by Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation in observance of Tourism Month-93 at the National Museum auditorium yesterday. Sitting from left: M. R. Talukder, former chairman, Parjatan Corporation, Spophie de Caen, UNDP representative and Prof Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury of Sociology Deptt of Dhaka University.

Urban poor worst affected by pollution in Asia

BANGKOK, Oct 27: Poverty is forcing increasing more Asians into urban slums, where the poor are the worst affected by the growing pollution crisis in many Asian countries, said a United Nations study released Wednesday, reports AP.

Government officials from the region on Thursday began consultations in Bangkok on the urban crisis. The talks were organised by the U.N Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, which produced the study.

In South Asia, the study said, the impoverished - many with no shelter at all - make up three-fourths of the urban population. Unless drastic reforms are taken, 60 per cent of the urban population in all of Asia will be living in slums by

the turn of the century, it said. "Environmentally sensitive areas such as steep hillsides. floodplains, drylands or the most polluted land sites near solid wasterdumps and next to

The poor thus suffer most from landslides, floods and other disasters.

fear of eviction," it said.

Nearly all urban poor settlements share two features: the presence of disease-causing germs and crowded living conditions. Inadequate diets lower resistance to disease.

In Kabul, Afghanistan, the infant mortality rate in the slums is 1.5 times that of the rest of the city, the study said.

of the city. And slum dwellers, particuopen drains and sewers are often the only places where lowincome groups can live without

larly women and children, suffer most from air, solid waste and water pollution. Pollution hits hardest at the poor who live in the urban periphery, where industrial plants are located and where environmental protection is often the weakest. In Seoul, South Korea, air

In Manila, the Philippines,

diarrhea among the poor is

twice as common as in the rest

pollution is four times worse around poor communities than in higher-income areas, the study said.

In Bangkok, a third of the population lives in slums that suffer from rain-fed floods and have no sewerage or garbage collection services.

The study said it was estimated that at least 25 per cent of garbage is disposed of improperly in the Bangkok metropolis and up to 100 tons of garbage are dumped daily into the city's rivers and canals. This is happening even in a country that the U.N study says appears to be making the transition from a growth-only focus to one with greater concern for the urban environment.

Therstudy criticised the notion that developing countries mast sacrifice the environment for economic growth.

TOKYO, Oct 27: Japanese

companies have long been ac-

'Dreamlover' tops the charts

Here are the weekly Top Ten charts for best-selling recorded music in the United States as they appear in this week's issue of Billboard magazine. Last week's positions are in brackets. Reprinted with permission.

Top Singles: (Copyright 1993, Billboard-Soundscan Inc-Broadcast Data Systems):

1. (1) "Dreamlover," Mariah Carey (Columbia) 2. (3) "I'd Do Anything for

Love," Meat Loaf (MCA) 3. (4) "All that She Wants, Ace of Base (Arista). 4. (2) "Just Kickin' It," Xs-

cape (So So Def) 5. (5) "The River of Dreams, Billy Joel (Columbia) 6. (8) "Hey Mr D J," Zhane

(Flavour Unit) 7. (7) "Whoomp! There It Is, Tag Team (Life) (Platinum) 8. (7) "Right Here (Human Nature)—Downtown," SWV

9. (15) "Again," Janet Jackson (Virgin) 10. (10) "Anniversary," Tonyl Tonil Tonel (Wing)

(RCA) (Gold)

Country Singles: (Copyright 1993, Billboard-Broadcast Data Systems): 1. (1) "Easy Come, Easy Go,

George Strait (MCA) 2. (6) "Does He Love You. Reba McEntire with Linda Davis (MCA).

3. (4) "No Time to Kill," Clint Black (RCA) 4. (9) "She Used to be Mine,

Brooks & Dunn (Arista) 5. (10) "Almost Goodbye," Mark Chesnutt (MCA) 6. (8) "Just Like the

Weather," Suzy Bogguss (Lib-

7. (3) "One More Last Chance," Vince Gill (MCA) 8. (5) "He Ain't Worth Missing," Toby Keith (Mercury)

9. (11) "Reckless," Alabama

(RCA) 10. (12) "Trashy Women, Confederation Railroad (Atlantic)

Indo-Israel trade may increase to \$330m in '93

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Indo-Israel trade is expected to inerease to 330 million US dollar in 1993 from 220 million US dollar in the previous year, reports Xinhua.

Israel exports to India grew by 61 per cent while Indian export to Israel went up by 72 per cent this year as compared to the corresponding period in 1992, according to an Israel diplomat in New Delhi.

The trade between the two countries has grown rapidly since early 1992 when the diplomatic ties were established between the two countries.

An Israel business delegation, organised by the Israel export institute and composed of 40 Israel companies, is scheduled to visit India in the last week of January 1994.

China-Taiwan trade to total \$9.3b this yr

BEIJING, Oct 27: China's indirect trade with Taiwan is expected to total 9.3 billion dollar this year a 25 per cent increase over 1992, an official newspaper said Wednesday, reports AP.

The forecast, published in the China Daily falls short of previous estimate made by the Taiwan government of 10 billion

The newspaper quoted Zheng Hongy, chairman of the Ghina Council for the Promotion of International Trade, as saying more than 10,000 Taiwan companies currently invest in the mainland, with a total capital valued at 10 billion dol-

Taiwan is an island province of China that has been separated politically for the mainland since 1949.

Khorshed Alam, Governor, Bangladesh Bank peaking on Convertibility of Taka at a

luncheon meeting of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday

at a city hotel. Mahbub Jamil, President of the Chamber is on his left.

Japanese companies crying foul against

Japanese business, political corruption scandal deepens Kiyoyama's arrest came only

TOKYO, Oct 27: Japan's business and political corruption scandal deepened Tuesday with the arrest of Shinji Kiyoyama, Vice-President of top construction company Kajima Corp, for allegedly bribing the former Governor of Ibraki Prefecute, reports AFP.

The 67-year-old executive incharge of Kajima's civil engineering operations is suspected of giving 20 million yen (184,000 dollar) in questionable political donations to Ibaraki governor Fujio Takeuchi.

The donations, allegedly made last December, may amount to bribery as Kajima was seeking to win public works projects in the prefecture north of Tokyo at the time, prosecu-

five days after the arrest of two other Kajima executives, the Deputy Manager of the company's regional headquarters for northeast Japan and the manager of its branch office in Sendai. Both are accused of extend-

ing 10 million yen (92,000 dollar) in bribes to Toru Ishii, the Mayor of Sendal who was arrested in June.

Ishti was arrested with six executives from Hamaza Coup, Shimizu Corp, Nishimatsu Construction Co Ltd and Mitsui Construction Co Ltd suspected of extending a 100 million yen bride to the mayor.

The Kajima Vice-President, who assumed his post in 1985, is said to be the right-hand man of the company's Chairman Rokuro Ishikawa who resigned as head of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in

The 75-year-old Takeuchi, who gutt as Governor of Ibaraki after his arrest, was charged in August with receiving 55 million yen in bribes from Hazama. Two weeks ago he was charged with receiving a further 10 million yen in bribes from Shimizu and

is still under arrest.
Asked to comment on the latest arrest by prosecutors Tuesday, Prime Minister Morthiro Hosokawa, the leader of the new seven-party coalition government who has staked his political life on achieving political reform, said: "We must have them squeeze out the pus thor-

China goes ahead with move for unified yuan

HONG KONG, Oct 27: China's state-run export firms will be allowed to keep their foreign currency earnings as part of a move for the untiled yuan to be floated against a basket of currencies, a report said today, reports APP. " III II

Quoting sources in southern Chinese city of Guanghzhou, the Beijing run When Wei Po said the new proposals to exempt state-run foreign trade enterprises from remitting most of their foreign currency earnings to the state would be introduced early next year.

The new measure is aimed at speeding up the unification of China's dual currency and allow a single unit to be floated against a basket of currencies, while ending unequal conditions between state-run and

non-state export firms sources said.

The sources did not say when the unified yuan would be introduced, but Chinese officials have indicated if would be some time next year.

Since 1991, state-run enterprises in China must remit more than half their foreign currency earnings to the local and central' governments, keeping the rest for them-

The newspaper said the new step would help close the gap between the official exchange rate and the rate of-fered on swap markets, leading eventually to the abolition of the dual-rate system.

If implements, the government will have to buy foreign currency directly from the moncy market, it said.

GATT senior envoys to meet soon

GENEVA, Oct 27: Senior envoys from the 116 states in the Uruguay Round trade talks will meet next week to discuss progress in the negotiations, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) said yesterday, reports Reuter. Tate ve

GATT said in a statement that Director-General Peter Sutherland had summoned a meeting of the Trade Negotiations Committee (TNC), which overseas the round.

"The purpose of the meeting is to review the state of play in the negotiations," it said.

Trade sources said the TNC which has had regular meetings ahead of a December 15 deadline for the rounds' completion, would probably focus on market access negotiations, seen as one of the major stumbling blicks to an accord.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates (Bangladesh Taka for one unit of foreign currency) to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on Oct 27. (Figures in Taka)

Currency	Selling B. C.	T. T. (C)	Buying OD Transfer
US Dollar	39.9500	39.7100	39.4900
Pound Sterling	59.2059	58.0754	57.7536
DM	23.9300	23.5355	23,4051
F	6.8687	6.7560	6.7186
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2768	1.2665	1.2508
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3296	1.3187	1.3024
Indicative Rates	Selling		Buying
	T.T. & O.D		O. D Transfer
S Riyal	10.6500		10.5200
D Guilders	22.1600		21.9000
S Kroner	5.0500		4.9800
Singapore Dollar	25.5200		25.2100
UAE Dirham	10.8800		10.7500
Kuwait Dinar	134.1100	une or lawyers on the	132.2000

Note: AMU-Asian Monetary Union.



Bangladesh Railway (East Zone) Chittagong

Corrigendum to Tender Notice

No 166-S/152/SLPR/TSO/TEND/FLOOD/93 Dated: 22/10/93

Following corrigendum to the tender notices invited vide No 166-S/152/SLPR/TSO/TEND/Flood/93 dated 11.10.93 and 166-S/152/SLPR/TSO/TEND/93 dated 12.10.93 for supply of wooden sleepers, is hereby issued due to unavoidable circumstances.

Selling date of tender documents of all tender is extended up to 8.11.93 during office hours. Tenders are to be dropped by 12.00 Noon of 9.11.93 which will be opened at 12.30 hours on the same date in the offices as mentioned in the previous notices. Sleepers are to be supplied as per delivery schedule as mentioned in the tender documents. All other conditions will remain unchanged.

Chief Engineer/East Rail/B/187 Bangladesh Railway Chittagong D-777

cused of unfair trade practices, but now they themselves are crying foul against cheaper Asian imports, reports IPS. And while the loudest wails have come mostly from the textile manufacturing sector, some

industry experts warn that others may soon follow suit. "With the high yen, we will

see more and more Japanese companies fighting against dumping by Asian companies like what's happening in the texfile industry right now," says fair trade association official Takeshi Kurdo. "A similar situation will (occur) in the electronic sector soon."

In August, the exchange rate almost reached 100 yen to a dollar, up 20 per cent from the start of the year.

Although the rate now hovers between 103 and 106 yen to one dollar, many Japanese businessmen fear the country's strong currency will make their goods more expensive abroad, while the domestic markets will be flooded by cheaper imports. Nomura Research analyst

Teruko Hippo says the high yen has already forced many electrical appliance companies to seriously consider increasing their investments in Asia, but are concerned that they may face dumping charges in Japan when they re-import the finished goods. "These companies are wor-

ried about upsetting domestic Japanese manufacturers," she explains. Electronic goods imports ranging from colour television

sets to computers are on the increase. The products are mostly from Japanese joint-ventures in Singapore, Malaysia and Thai-The Japan spinners association meanwhile says "import dumping" is already happening. It reports local textile compa-

nies have been complaining as

early as last year about the re-

lentless tide of cheap but highquality fabrics from other Asian countries. Imports of spun cotton from mainly Chinese and South-East Asian cotton fabric exporters reached some 310 million bales in 1992, out of the total 447

million bales in the Japanese

market. According to the association's head, Minoru Shibata, a recent anti-dumping investigation revealed that Pakistani cotton yarn was sold in Japan at prices about 30 per cent lower than in the source country in January.

The Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) is now investigation the is no longer possible." charge. It will decide whether to impose any sanctions against

Pakistani imports within the

While industry analysts say the government is reluctant to pursue such charges given Japan's hefty trade surplus, they point out that the woes of the textile manufacturers can hardly be taken lightly.

The textile industry employs

some 2.8 million people, or 10 per cent of all workers in the Japanese manufacturing sector. Many of the companies are now closing down their plants or reducing their workforce to sur-One of the major firms, Fuji Spinning Co, has already sto-

pped its Sunday shifts is four of its five factories, and its evening production in all plants. Toyobo Co, which was established in 1914, is set to close two of its 12 plants by next march. "We survived the yen appreciation in the 1980s, which was about 40 per cent, by turning

our attention to high-class

products," says Toyobo official

Eisuke Shimizu. "But this time

the situation has gotten too critical to bear." Toyobo is fighting the increase in the import of middlecount thread used for highclass products. Says Shimizu: *Other countries are developing their quality fast. Co-existence

The Japanese chemical fibres association has asked the

cheaper Asian imports government for import restrictions under the 41-nation multi-fibre arrangement.

The arrangement gives member countries the right to restrict imports that could disrupt the process of reform of their domestic textile industries, regardless of whether or not the imports are "unfair".

MITI has promised to take up the issue under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). But it has stressed the need to thoroughly investigate the damage caused to domestic consumers aside from that suffered by local manufacturers.

Import restrictions should be considered the last resort, said one MITI official who declined to be named. In the past, dumping

charges against South Korcan cotton thread and knit sweaters were voluntarily settled. Says Kuroda: "The Japanese

government is gearing up for more dumping suits against Asia, but I doubt the situation will reach the proportions of what is happening between the United States and Japan" He says that aside from the

exorbitant legal fees involved. Tokyo will also take time in conducting investigations, making sure the case is airtight because of international criticism against Japan's low import

Notice Inviting Tenders (2nd Call) Tender No-13 of 1993-94

Sealed tenders in BD Form No 2911 are hereby invited from enlisted Special Class, Class I building contractors, Class I Sanitary & Plumbing contractors of PWD and Class II enlisted building contractor of PWD Chittagong Zone, Chittagong (previous similar nature of work done experienced certificate duly certified by an officer not below the rank of Executive Engineer) for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Executive Engineer, Eden Building PWD Division, Dhaka/Comilla PWD Division/PWD Division 1, Chittagong/ Rangamati PWD Division/Khagrachhari PWD Division up to 12-00 Noon of 3-11-93 and will be opened on the same day at 12-15 PM in presence of the tenderers who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.

Name of Work : Establishment of Government Diary & Cattle Development farm at Hathazari, Chittagong (Sub-Head: Installation of 200mm dia deep tubewell including external water pipe line and construction of pump house).

Estimated : Taka 13,94,000/-.

Cost (Revised) Earnest Money : Taka 27,880/-

DFP(G)-17339-23/10

G-1451

Time allowed for completion of the work from the

date of issue of work order is 90 (ninety) days. Contract documents consisting of BD Form No 2911, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and offices of the Executive Engineer, Eden Building PWD Division, Dhaka/Comilla PWD Division/PWD Division I, Chittagong/Rangamati PWD Division/ Khagrachhari PWD Division/Sub-Divisional Engineer, PWD Sub-Division No III/IV/Hathazari, Chittagong under this Division on all working days during office hours up to 2-11-93 on payment of usual charges. (All non-refundable)

> **Executive Engineer** PWD Division No II

Chittagong.