

Business

Food-borne parasites infect 40m people worldwide

MANILA, Oct 27: Food-borne 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 spared."

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 dollar.

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

many, South Korea, Russia, Egypt, Iran, China, Thailand and Japan participated in the nine-day meeting in Manila, which ended Tuesday.

They called for stricter food safety measures, reliable 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-

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, Spophee de Caen, UNDP representative and Prof Masuda M Rashid Chowdhury of Sociology Dept of Dhaka University. — Star photo

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 waste dumps and next to open drains and sewers are often the only places where low-income groups can live without fear of eviction," it said.

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

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.

In Manila, the Philippines, diarrhea among the poor is twice as common as in the rest of the city.

And slum dwellers, particularly 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 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.

The study criticised the notion that developing countries must sacrifice the environment for economic growth.

'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) "Dreamlover," Mariah Carey (Columbia)
- (2) "I'd Do Anything for Love," Meat Loaf (MCA)
- (3) "All That She Wants," Ace of Base (Arista)
- (2) "Just Kickin' It," Xscape (So So Def)
- (5) "The River of Dreams," Billy Joel (Columbia)
- (8) "Hey Mr D J," Zhane (Flavour Unit)
- (7) "Whoopi There It Is," Tag Team (Life) (Platinum)
- (7) "Right Here (Human Nature)—Downtown," SWV (RCA) (Gold)
- (15) "Again," Janet Jackson (Virgin)
- (10) "Anniversary," Tony! Toni! Toné! (Wing)

Country Singles:

(Copyright 1993, Billboard-Broadcast Data Systems):

- (1) "Easy Come, Easy Go," George Strait (MCA)
- (2) "Does He Love You," Reba McEntire with Linda Davis (MCA)
- (4) "No Time to Kill," Clint Black (RCA)
- (9) "She Used to Be Mine," Brooks & Dunn (Arista)
- (10) "Almost Goodbye," Mark Chesnut (MCA)
- (8) "Just Like the Weather," Suzy Bogguss (Liberty)
- (3) "One More Last Chance," Vince Gill (MCA)
- (5) "He Ain't Worth Missing," Toby Keith (Mercury)
- (11) "Reckless," Alabama (RCA)
- (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 increase 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 dollar.

The newspaper quoted Zheng Hongyi, chairman of the China 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 dollar.

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

Japanese business, political corruption scandal deepens

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 Ibaraki Prefecture, reports AFP.

The 67-year-old executive in-charge 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, prosecutors said.

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 July.

The 75-year-old Takeuchi, who quit 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 Morihiro 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 thoroughly."

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		Buying
	B.C.	T.T.(C)	
US Dollar	39.9500	39.7100	39.4900
Pound Sterling	59.2059	58.0754	57.7536
DM	23.9300	23.5355	23.4051
FF	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		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 Bangladesh Railway Chittagong
Rail/B/187 D-777

Japanese companies crying foul against cheaper Asian imports

TOKYO, Oct 27: Japanese companies have long been accused 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 textile 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 worried 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 Thailand.

The Japan spinners association meanwhile says "import dumping" is already happening. It reports local textile companies have been complaining as early as last year about the relentless tide of cheap but high-quality 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 investigating the charge. It will decide whether to impose any sanctions against



Khorshed Alam, Governor, Bangladesh Bank speaking at a luncheon meeting of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry on Tuesday at a city hotel. Mahubul Jamil, President of the Chamber is on his left.

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 Dairy & 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 Cost (Revised) : Taka 13,94,000/-
- Earnest Money : Taka 27,880/-
- 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 1, 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.

DFP(G)-17339-23/10 G-1451