

### Warns scientist Lifting of EU ban on export of British beef to be a grave mistake

PARIS, June 21: Removal of the EU ban on export of British beef would be a "very grave mistake" and the entire British herd of 4.5 million head of cattle should be destroyed, a British scientist warned on Thursday, reports AFP.

So-called "mad cow" disease "requires more draconian solutions" than those included in an eradication plan which was approved on Wednesday by the Veterinary Committee of the European Union (EU), the scientist, Richard Lacey, told a French newspaper.

Lacey, a researcher into micro biology and an expert on Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), or mad cow disease, said that removal of the BNA "would be a very grave mistake."

He told the La Tribune newspaper from London, the slaughter of 150,000 head of cattle instead of 80,000 would not make any difference to the underlying problem which is the high risk that each of the British herd has been contaminated.

He said: "as a minimum solution, all herds where a case of the disease has been detected should be destroyed under the supervision of experts approved by the EU," he suggested, adding: "Without doubt all 4.5 million British cows should be slaughtered."

### FKI invites business leaders to 1996 IMEX workshop

The Federation of Korean Industries (FKI), the representative body for the major business groups in Korea, would like to take the initiative in promoting Asian co-prosperity by inviting economic leaders of the developing regions of Asia to the 1996 IMEX workshop, says a Korean Embassy press release.

Launched in 1995, IMEX is a forum for the exchange of economic experience between the Asian nations. Through seminars given by world-renowned speakers, along with industrial observation tours, the workshop will provide an insight on economic management through exposure to the Korean model of development. Previous workshops have resulted in the creation of business and personal relationships among all the participating members and organizations. This time there will be two workshops held in Seoul, Korea. The first session will be held from September 9-18 and the second session will be held from November 4-13.

countries of the Asian region must foster cooperative relationships among themselves to keep pace with the changing world economy, the participants will be selected from Asian nations. In selecting participants priority will also be given to those who hold upper-level managerial positions in major business group of economic organization (public or private), and economists who are interested in the Korean economy. Travel arrangements and accommodations for the participants are to be provided by FKI.

The application deadline is July 8. After July 8, applications will be accepted subject to availability of seats. To obtain an application, please contact the Korean Embassy in Dhaka (Tel: 872041, 872088, 872089, 872090). Please address any specific inquiries to FKI, Won-Mo Lee (Tel: 822-3771-0373) or Colleen Chon (Tel: 822-3771-0391). The fax number of FKI is 822-3771-0141/2.

The conference room in Shanghai's Equatorial Hotel is packed with Chinese businessmen, scientists and officials from environmental protection agencies. They are listening to executives from a foreign multinational company spreading the gospel of "sustainable development of industrial process."

Today, it is a Dutch eco-business delegation, explains Gu Yuzhi, Deputy Director of the Shanghai Academy of Environmental Sciences. "But next week we have a delegation from Sweden to talk about the same subject."

"Sustainable development in China is a very popular subject among foreign companies." These former enemies of the environment are now eager to share their new found knowledge with their Chinese hosts and to make money at the same time.

"In the Seventies and Eighties, the environment had a bad name in our company," says Henk de Bruin from the corporate environmental and energy office of the Dutch electrical giant Philips. "Our plant managers associated the environment with problems - angry neighbours, bad publicity, difficulties with authorities."

"It was very confrontational for them, and some of them still see environmental issues as a threat. Our office wants to change this attitude - we now see the environment as an opportunity."

Philips is active in 60 countries, has 265,800 employees and an annual revenue of 39 billion dollars. It has 15 factories in China.

Like many European companies in the past 20 years, it has learned that environmentally sound thinking can be profitable and has developed technology to tackle some of its pollution problems. Now the companies are trying to sell their knowledge in China.

Environmental care and buzzwords such as "sustainable development" may be little more than self-serving fashions for some, but there is no denying China's needs in this area.

In June, the Beijing-based National Environmental Protection Agency published disturbing details about China's deteriorating environment and its impact on health, including serious increases in the incidence of malignant tumours and respiratory diseases, widely seen as environment-related.

The government has vowed that pollution in the year 2000 will be at the 1995 level. Even today's levels are causing serious damage to people, property and resources, and simply ensuring no further deterioration will be a major task.

Updating China's environmental technology is one approach. In the Shanghai hotel room, Dutch engineer Carl Runge explains that his company, Stork, tackled emissions by preventing pollutants at source rather than cleaning up waste water. He says that Shanghai's highly polluting textile factories would find it profitable to buy its systems.

## Major brings 'mad cow' fight' to EU summit

FLORENCE, Italy, June 21: British Prime Minister John Major, faced with angry partners in the European Union and under a storm of criticism at home, brings his mad cow fight to the EU summit Friday, reports AP.

Britain wants other member nations to lift the three-month-old EU ban on British beef, imposed over fears about the spread of mad cow disease, which has been linked to a similar disease in humans.

"We consider the world ban the EU has put on British beef is without foundation," Major wrote Thursday in the Paris daily Le Figaro. "The confidence of consumers doesn't constitute a valid reason to ban trade."

To press the issue over the past several weeks, Major has ordered his diplomats to derail EU work by blocking all decisions requiring unanimity.

The more than 100 votes cast so far have angered many European partners.

Meanwhile, Major's critics at home say Britain would give up too much under a plan to be referred to the member nations Friday which would commit Britain to safety steps in exchange for a staggered lifting of the ban.

Under the plan, drafted by Britain and revised by the EU's executive branch, Britain would be on the hook to slaughter at least 100,000 animals, several times the number Britain initially was ready to sacrifice, and institute several other safety measures.

In return, the EU gradually will lift the ban on beef embryos, cattle from herds with no history of the disease, young cattle with little risk of the disease, and, eventually, other cattle.

EU leaders hope they can come to a quick agreement based on this plan, and then be able to move on to important issues such as employment, an EU-wide currency and reform of EU institutions.

"I am very confident the worst is over," said Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, host of the summit. "I can't tell you if the agreement will come tomorrow or the day after. But we are going in the right direction."

He called Major's policy of obstruction EU business "silly." In Britain, the prime minister was under heavy fire from opposition politicians over the ban-lifting plan.

"There is humiliation in this deal, there is ignominy in this deal, in fact it is not a deal at all," Labour leader Tony Blair said. "It is a rout."

Even newspapers which normally support the Conservatives were dismayed at the deal put forward by the European Commission, the EU's executive body.

"Beef: Britain in retreat," the Daily Mail said. "Farmers devastated by beef war retreat," said the Daily Express.

Also at the Florence summit, EU Commission President Jacques Santer would like to kick off a plan to fight the 11 per cent unemployment across the 15 member nations.

"Employment is our first priority," he said.

Santer's plan includes allowing more flexible work hours, increased cooperation among business, government and labour, and increased spending on major public works projects.

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### French farmers battle police

LE MANS, France, June 21: Hundreds of French farmers battled police and prevented a cross-channel ferry from disembarking late Thursday in demonstrations against the effect of the "mad cow disease" scare reports AFP.

In Le Mans, west of Paris, six people were hurt, including five policemen after a two-hour confrontation with nearly 1,000 farmers. Police threw tear gas and made baton charges as the demonstrators hurled stones and burned tyres.

Signs, traffic lights and other street furniture was damaged in the protests against the fall in the price of beef since consumer confidence was shaken by the disclosure in Britain in March that a brain disease in cattle could have spread to humans.

At Orléans, on the Normandy coast some 400 farmers stopped a ferry from landing its passengers and vehicles by occupying the terminal, forcing the ship to return to Britain.

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## Arafat's aides launch new bid for foreign investors

PARIS, June 21: Top advisors to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat made a new bid yesterday for foreign investment, but acknowledged they themselves were uncertain of the future because of Israel's new rightist government, reports Reuter.

"Undoubtedly, the arrival in power of (new Israeli Premier) Benjamin Netanyahu will have economic as well as political consequences," said Ziad Abdel Fattah, visiting head of the Palestinian Wafa news agency.

"I must say Netanyahu's statements so far were a bad start as far as we are concerned. I am rather pessimistic," said Fattah, in Paris to launch the Palestinian Economic News Letter.

Arab leaders are meeting in Cairo at the weekend to discuss their fears that Netanyahu may halt the peace process.

The monthly, in English, Arabic and French editions, seeks to inform investors of possible opportunities in autonomous Palestinian areas.

It is jointly produced by Wafa and Paris-based Strategic Policies and Development Advisors (SPDA), an agency created by Arafat three years ago.

SPDA President Gabriel Banon was more cautious. "It's too early to say what Netanyahu's policies will be but I am sure the situation will clarify within days or weeks rather than years because the world wants movement and the success of Palestine's economy is a basic condition for peace."

Banon, hand-picked by Arafat to head SPDA, is a Casablanca born French-Jewish businessman and father-in-law of Pierre Leilouche, a French parliamentarian and strong backer of Israel who was a

Pakistan to scrap plan to buy French Mirages

ISLAMABAD, June 21: Pakistan has decided to scrap a plan to buy French Mirage 2000-5 fighters for its air force due to cost concerns, a Pakistani newspaper reported today, reports Reuter.

The English-language daily The Nation said the decision had been taken at a meeting between President Farooq Leghari and Army Chief General Jehangir Karamat on Wednesday.

The Newsletter's first issue contained a message from Arafat pledging the Palestinian economy would be based on free enterprise and ensuring he had taken "the necessary security measures and guarantees so that all economic investment operations be carried out within the most favourable context."

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long-time advisor to President Jacques Chirac the Newsletter's Co-editors are Palestinian journalist Hazza Taha and Stephane Trano, former political editor of the French Jewish Weekly Tribune Juive.

Banon, who heads companies in several countries including the United States, said investors in Gaza and the West Bank would find trained engineers, technicians and factory personnel who were qualified and adaptable.

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Salman F. Rahman, President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry with its Executive Committee members are seen in a group photograph with Sheikh Hasina, President of Bangladesh Awami League, when they called on her at the Dharmdini residence in the city on Thursday.

### Missile parts export to Iran 3 ex-Japanese firm executives fined

TOKYO, June 21: Three former executives of a leading Japanese aviation parts-maker have been ordered to pay 1.25 billion yen (11.57 million dollars) in fines for failing to stop illegal exports of missile parts to Iran in the 1980s, reports AP.

The ruling Thursday at Tokyo District Court stems from a five billion yen (46.3 million dollars) lawsuit filed by a shareholder of the manufacturer, Japan Aviation Electronics Industry Ltd.

The firm has also been charged in the United States with selling 300 US-designed aircraft gyroscopes and navigation equipment in 1984-1987 to Hong Kong and Singapore subsidiaries of a US firm, knowing that they would be

reshipped to Iran. The equipment is used to guide US-made F-4 Phantom jets, then Iran's mainstay jet fighter.

In March 1992, Japan Aviation Electronics pleaded guilty in the US case and paid 15 million dollars in criminal and civil fines. A US embargo on sales on weapons sales to Iran was in effect at the time.

Japan Aviation Electronics, owned 50.1 per cent by NEC Corp, a major Japanese electronics company, has licences from US companies to sell the equipment only to the Japanese military.

In a separate 1992 case, a Tokyo court found the company guilty of illegally exporting missile parts to Iran in 1988 and 1989.

### Beijing to bring 300 arid regions under irrigation

BEIJING, June 21: Chinese government engineers are to set up a nationwide irrigation system to boost land cultivation in 300 of the country's most arid countries, the China Daily said Thursday, reports AFP.

The Water Resources Ministry will replace old-style water trenches with drip spray and drip systems in at least 6,700 hectares (16,500 acres) in each province, boosting grain output by some 1.95 billion kilograms (4.29 billion pounds) in five years, the paper said.

Many of the affected provinces are in the north and northwest have been suffering from drought for decades, and water saved by the new techniques can reportedly be used to irrigate an additional 400,000 hectares of land.

spokesman said the North will respond with good will by conducting joint excavations for the remains of US soldiers missing from the 1950-53 Korean War.

The United States fought on behalf of South Korea during the war, while China sided with North Korea.

Last week, the Pentagon announced that the US team will begin work in July on recovering remains from North Korea. It would be the first time that the North Korean government has permitted US officials to search for wartime remains since the conflict ended.

Some 8,000 US soldiers still remain missing from the war.

Washington and Seoul proposed in April that they, along with North Korea and China, negotiate peace. With only an armistice, the two Koreas still remain technically at war.

North Korea has said it is considering the proposal. South Korea has said it will consider giving large-scale aid if the North agrees.

So far, the North has refused to allow South Korea into the peace process, calling it a US puppet.

Our labourers are the worst sufferers as they are deprived of needed legal support," he said, urging the lawyers to identify the causes of these sorts of injustice.

## DPRK thanks US for aid, but keeps mum on Japan, ROK

SEOUL, June 21: North Korea thanked the United States on Friday for promising food aid, while refusing to acknowledge similar pledges by rival South Korea and Japan, reports AP.

"We took note of the US government's decision on additional food assistance motivated by a humanitarian desire to help heal the flood damage, and we have decided to accept it with gratitude, regarding it as a measure of good will," the North's Foreign Ministry spokesman told its official Korea central news agency.

Washington has offered 6.2 million dollars worth of food aid to the North in response to the UN request for emergency aid. Much of North Korea's arable land was destroyed by last year's floods, and some half million people were left homeless.

Japan has pledged six million dollars and South Korea has promised three million dollars. Australia and New Zealand have also promised 396,825 dollars and 68,027 dollars respectively.

While North Korea has been eager to improve its ties with Washington, it has continued

to ignore South Korea. Washington, Seoul and Tokyo had hoped that giving aid would serve as an incentive for North Korea to agree to hold peace talks.

But instead, the North's Workshop on labourers begins in Khulna

KHULNA, June 21: A three-day workshop on identifying problems in achieving logistic support for the labourers began at the Caritas auditorium here today (Friday), reports UNB.

City Mayor Sheikh Taiyebur Rahman opened the workshop presided over by Dr Samshun Nahar, President of a local voluntary organization "Pradipan", the organiser of