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China to test for mad cow disease

AP, Beijing

China will begin testing cattle for mad cow disease and public concerns that imported animals and feed could have infected domestic herds, the government-run China Daily newspaper said Friday.

While the disease has not been detected in China, inspectors will test hundreds of imported cows, their offspring and all cattle fed with foreign-made home or meat meal, the newspaper said.

The report didn't say how many cattle the examination will cover, but it said none of the 180,000 tons of ground meat and bone or the 500 cows that China imported in the first 10 months of last year came from Europe.

Still, it noted growing concerns that the disease, which scientists have linked to a fatal brain-wasting disease in humans, could turn up in Chinese beef.

Mad cow disease was first diagnosed in Britain in the mid-1980s. China responded in 1990 by banning imports of European cattle and most cattle products, the China Daily said.

On Jan 1, China stopped importing European-made meat and bone animal feed, which has been blamed for spreading the disease among cows.

Eating meat from infected animals is believed to cause Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease, which has killed more than 80 Europeans since the mid-1990s, mostly in Britain.

IBBL workshop on foreign exchange risk hedging held

A day-long workshop on 'Hedging of Foreign Exchange Risks' jointly organised by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited and Standard Chartered Bank was held at the conference room of IBBL recently, says a press release.

Abdur Raquib, Executive President (Acting), of the bank inaugurated the workshop.

Md Velayet Hussain, Executive Vice-president and Incharge, International Division of IBBL, and Mahmood Malik, Head of Institutional Banking and Ahmed Ali Shah, Head of Treasury of Standard Chartered Bank, also participated in the discussion.

Speaking on the occasion the Executive Vice-president (Acting) dwelt upon the risks associated with foreign exchange transactions.

It was attended by the executives and officers from the Head Office and 10 branches of Islamic Bank Bangladesh Limited.

Airbus asks Japan to join A380 production

AFP, Tokyo

Airbus Industrie said Friday it was continuing talks with Japanese heavy industry companies to take part in building the A380 super-jumbo.

"It is true we are having discussions with all the major manufacturers including MHI, Fuji Heavy, Kawasaki and others," said Takahiro Nosaka, a spokesman for the European company in Tokyo.

"They are very much interested in the project," he told AFP.

"Our objective is not to reduce costs but to have Japanese manufacturers on board because of our high respect for their technology and production capacities."

"If Japanese manufacturers join as risk-sharing partners, they could share development costs. But I'm not sure if they will participate as risk-sharing partners or subcontractors."

The Nihon Keizai Shimbun said that Airbus wanted Japanese companies to build the flaps and frame of the main wing, as well as cargo doors and panels, amounting to about eight per cent of the world's biggest passenger jet.

Airbus was in talks with Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. (MHI), Kawasaki Heavy Industries Ltd., Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd., Japan Aircraft Manufacturing Co. Ltd. and ShinMaywa Industries Ltd., the business newspaper said.

With the Japanese participation, Airbus could reduce its 10.7-billion-dollar development costs for the A380, it said.

The Japanese firms have already agreed to supply parts for Boeing's 747X super-jumbo, and would have to consider ways of working for Airbus without infringing their contracts with the US giant, the daily said.

Country suffers trade deficit with all SAARC members

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN, back from Kathmandu

Bangladesh is suffering trade deficits with all member countries of the South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC). According to officials of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), the country's trade deficit with the neighbouring nations amounted to US\$ 832.37 million during the 1999-2000 fiscal.

During the year, Bangladesh exported a total of only US\$ 102.44 million worth of goods to its six regional neighbours against a total import of US\$ 934.81 million.

The country enjoyed favourable trade with Sri Lanka and Nepal from 1990-1991 till 1995-1996. But from then onwards (from 1995-1996 till 1999-2000), the

trade surplus with these two countries also veered into deficits.

The biggest trade gap however continued to remain with India, in which case Bangladesh's export was just \$64.88 million against a huge import of \$ 836.13 million, resulting in a total trade imbalance of US\$ 771.25 million.

Just as Sri Lanka, Bangladesh's trade with Nepal from 1990-1991

till 1995-1996 also showed surplus, but it all started reversing since then. During the last fiscal year, Bangladesh suffered a total of 1.77 million dollar trade deficit with Nepal.

Bangladesh's major export item to Lanka was jute goods while its main import from the country was animal and vegetable fats, oils, wax and plastic articles.

The country's major export to Nepal included pharmaceuticals and other manufactured goods while vegetable products accounted for over 90 per cent of its imports.

With the other four countries save Sri Lanka and Nepal, Bangladesh has been suffering trade deficit since 1990-1991.

Bangladesh's trade position with other SAARC countries, 1999-2000 (Figures in million dollars)

Country	Export to Bangladesh	Import from Bangladesh	Trade balance
Sri Lanka	4.66	8.38	-3.72
Pakistan	31.75	84.17	-52.42
Nepal	0.37	2.14	-1.77
Maldives	-	-	-
India	64.88	836.13	-771.25
Bhutan	0.78	3.99	-3.21
Total	102.44	934.81	832.37



A day-long workshop on 'Hedging of Foreign Exchange Risks' jointly organised by Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited and Standard Chartered Bank was held at the conference room of Islami Bank Tower recently. Abdur Raquib, Executive President (Acting), Md. Velayet Hussain, Executive Vice-president and Incharge, International Division, M Tajul Islam, Executive Vice-president and Incharge, Investment Division of IBBL, and Mahmood Malik, Head of Institutional Banking and Ahmed Ali Shah of Standard Chartered Bank with executives and officers of the Head Office and 10 branches of Islami Bank are seen in the picture.

Canada hopes to further boost number of immigrants in 2 yrs

AFP, Toronto

Over the next two years, Canada hopes to continue boosting the number of immigrants, particularly skilled workers that it attracts, as figures released Thursday showed the majority of new immigrants in 2000 came from Asia.

Figures show that 226,837 immigrants and refugees arrived in Canada last year, exceeding the government's target of between 200,000 and 225,000.

Of the total, 26,708 were refugees, slightly lower than the refugee target limit of 29,300.

Citizenship and Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan, who outlined the figures in the House of Commons, said the government plans to accept in total up to 235,000 immigrants and refugees in 2002, a 4.4 per cent increase over 2001 target, which was the same as the 2000 level.

"A successful immigration program like ours is not just about numbers on a page, but rather about hardworking people and their families who come here from the world over to help build our economy, our society and our culture," Caplan said in a state-

ment.

Canada, which from its beginnings two centuries ago attracted many new immigrants with the promise of free land in its fertile western provinces, is one of the few countries that still actively seeks -- and advertises -- for immigrants.

The top five sources of Canadian immigrants of all categories in 2000 came from China (36,664), India (26,004), Pakistan (14,163), Philippines (10,063) and South Korea (7,602), government figures show.

China, India and Pakistan combined accounted for one-third of all immigrants coming to Canada last year.

Since 1979, when the government began presenting to Parliament yearly figures on immigrant numbers, some 3.6 million people have immigrated to Canada, with most of them settling in the major cities of Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal.

Canada's population currently stands at 30.7 million.

The largest block of immigrants in 2000 was skilled workers, who numbered 118,307, exceeding

2000 targets of between 100,500 and 113,300, and representing more than half of all immigrants and refugees arriving in Canada.

For this category of immigrants, Canada hopes to attract between 105,800 and 118,500 in 2002.

"Highly skilled temporary workers are now, more than ever before, helping Canadian businesses increase their productivity and enhance their competitiveness in the global marketplace," the agency said in its multi-year plan.

These workers, who are now being sought also by Germany, Japan and the United Kingdom -- countries not traditionally as open to immigration as Canada -- help attract foreign investment, fill labour shortages and allow for knowledge transfer of their skills to Canada's permanent labour force, it said.

The government, realising the increased competition to attract these workers as migrants, promised last month in the Speech from the Throne to "take steps to help Canada attract the skilled workers it needs."

Malaysia relaxes rules on foreign currency bonds

AP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia's finance industry watchdog Friday relaxed some rules on the issue of foreign currency bonds, saying certain investor-protection related requirements won't apply to bonds issued outside the country.

Those include investor protection-related requirements on rating, underwriting, minimum denomination and mode of issue, the Securities Commission said in a statement.

"It is presumed that these investors will be protected by the rules of their respective home jurisdictions," the commission said.

Further, any funds raised from such issues cannot be used to finance activities in Malaysia.

The easing of bond regulations for foreign issues comes on the heels of an Anti-Corruption Agency investigation into a government-linked trust fund which allegedly issued bonds abroad amounting to as much as US \$5 billion without approval by the central bank.

Toshiba, NEC to boost advanced DRAM output

AFP, Tokyo

Two Japanese electronics makers, Toshiba Corp. and NEC Corp., will increase production of advanced DRAMs (dynamic random access memory chips) to respond to changes in global demand, a daily said Friday.

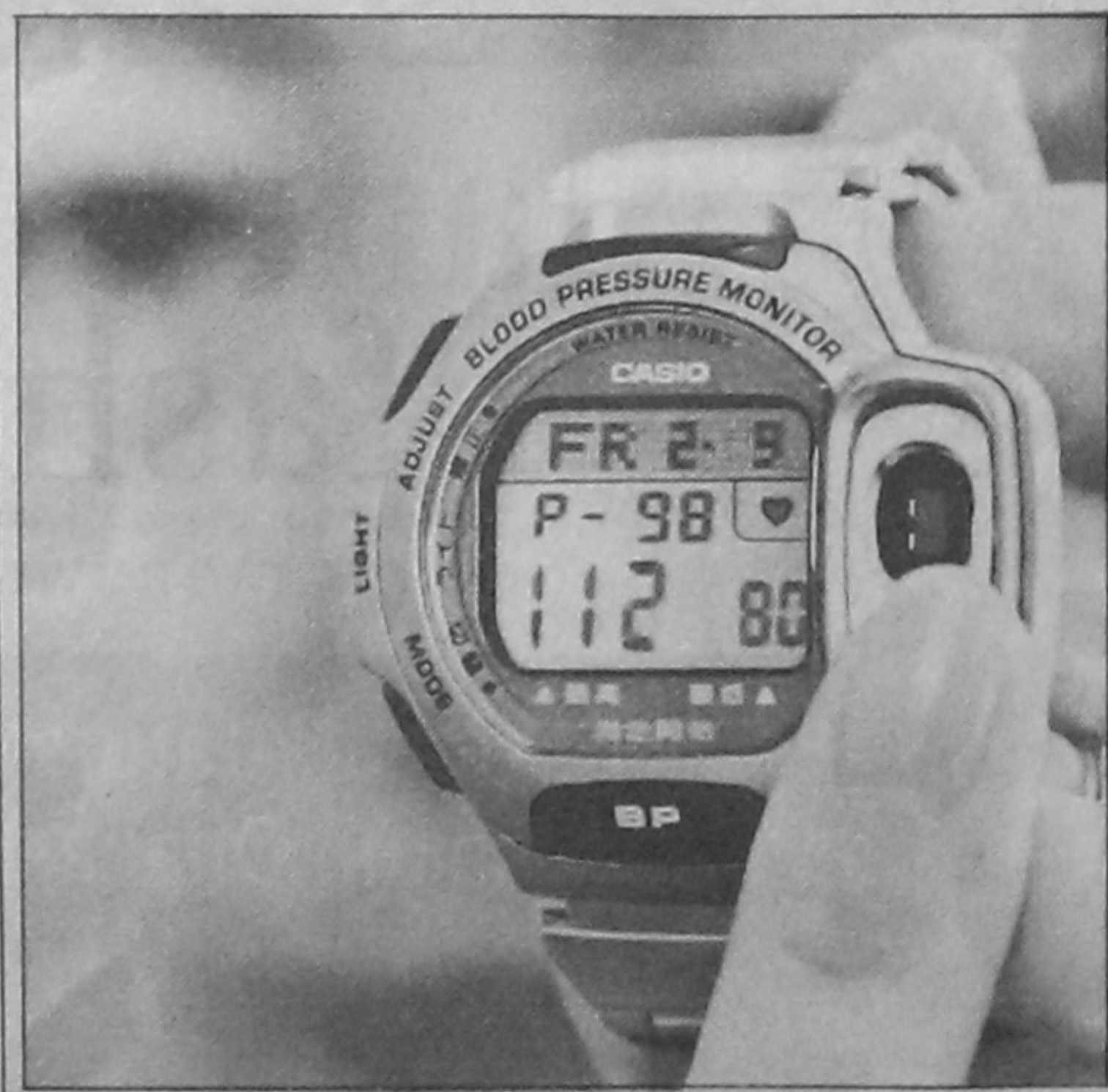
Toshiba currently produces 2.3 million units of high-speed Rambus DRAMs, which have a data transfer speed more than twice that of commodity-grade DRAMs.

The firm now plans to boost its monthly output of Rambus DRAMs to eight million units by September, which will account for about 60 per cent of its overall DRAM output, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun said.

Toshiba will also halve the monthly output of its commodity-grade DRAMs to 4.5-5.0 million units, the business daily said.

NEC will raise monthly production of its Rambus DRAMs supplied to Elpida Memory Inc, the joint DRAM sales venture set up with Hitachi Ltd. to five million units by September from two million currently, the daily said.

NEC will also reduce output of its commodity-grade DRAMs, the Nihon Keizai said, without giving details.



Japan's Casio Computer employee Kyoko Kato puts her finger on the blood pressure sensor of Casio's wristwatch-tonometer BP-1D1 at the company's headquarters in Tokyo yesterday. Casio unveiled a set of blood pressure monitor system including an upper arm unit for home use and a watch unit enables to take along anywhere to monitor blood pressures. Both units enable to transfer the data automatically with infrared data communication. Casio will put it on the domestic market February 24 with a price of 33,000 yen (285 USD) and will export abroad from this spring.



Nizam Uddin Ahmed, Chairman, Meghna Life Insurance Company Ltd, addresses the senior Executive Conference of Meghna Life Insurance recently. Director Mia Mohammed Abdul Hai, Managing Director Mujib-ud-daula and Adviser M A Majid FCA are also seen.

EU aims to open trade doors to world's poorest states

AFP, Brussels

The European Commission moved Wednesday to give the world's 48 poorest nations, mainly in Africa and the Asia-Pacific region, duty-free and quota-free access to EU markets.

Its "Everything but Arms" proposal will exclude weapons, but cover all other products except bananas, sugar and rice, for which transitional periods will be set up before EU access becomes totally

free.

"Our priority is to deliver on our proposal to be the first to open up our market fully to poor countries," said EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy, who negotiates trade pacts for the 15 EU member states.

The proposal is subject to approval by the European Parliament and the EU Council of Ministers, which brings together all EU governments. But Lamy said he was "confident" that the plan

would win their support.

Lamy's press statement said the "Everything but Arms" proposal "goes beyond all previous EU commitments," adding that weapons were being excluded "for obvious reasons."

The EU's roster of the world's least developed states includes -- in Asia-Pacific -- Afghanistan, Bangladesh, the Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, the Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Samoa.

In Africa, they include Sudan, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Cape Verde, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Togo, Benin, Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Angola, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Uganda, Tanzania, Mozambique, Madagascar, Comoros, Zambia, Malawi and Lesotho.

In the Americas, Haiti qualifies.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Works E/M Division-5
2nd 12-storied Government Office Building
Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Memo No-৯/1853 Date: 30-01-01/17-10-1407 Bang

Tender Invitation Notice No-95 (2000-2001)

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 in sealed envelopes are invited from special class/class I (combined) E/M/class II contractors enlisted with Public Works Department who have the valid ABC/BC categories of contractors and supervisory licences issued by the Bangladesh Electrical Licence Board (which are renewed up to date). Tenders will be received in the specific tender box kept at Public Works E/M Division-4/5/6 Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka on 20/2/01 till 12:00 noon and tenders will be opened the same day at 12:30 pm before the willing tenderers or their nominated representatives (if anyone remains present). No tender schedule rules and regulations etc will be procured on payment of Taka 425/- (four hundred twenty-five) in cash (non-refundable) from Public Works E/M Division-4/5/6 Public Works Eden Building Division, Dhaka. Earnest money at the rate of 2% (refundable) in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/CD/SDR from any scheduled bank approved by Bangladesh Bank in favour of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-5, Dhaka will have to be deposited with tender. Participants in the tender must submit certificate regarding TIN and original copy of money receipt for tender purchase with the tender. The authority reserves the power to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason. Contractor himself or his nominated representative bearing his authorisation letter can purchase tender by producing necessary papers including registration book. The last date of selling tender is 19/2/01.

Serial No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed
1	E repairing work including replacement of out of order, useless 20 Horse Power capacity meter set at pump houses and related work at Building No 9, 10 & 11 at Shahjahanpur at Khilgaon in Dhaka.	Tk 2,14,529/-	2% of the estimated cost	21 (twenty-one) days

Md Fazlul Haq
Executive Engineer
Public Works E/M Division-5
Dhaka
Phone No. 9348972

DFP-3073-4/2
G-303

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Public Works E/M Division-5
2nd 12-storied Government Office Bhaban
Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Memo No-৯/1852 Date: 30-01-01 Eng/17-10-1407 Bang

Tender Invitation Notice No-89 (2000-2001)

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 in sealed envelopes are hereby invited from Special Class/Class I (Combined) E/M/Class II contractors enlisted with Public Works Department who have the valid ABC/BC categories of contractors and supervisory licences issued by Bangladesh Electrical Licence Board (which are renewed up to date). Tenders will be received on 20/2/01 till 12:00 Noon in the specific tender box kept at the office of the Public Works E/M Division 4/5/6 Public Works Eden Building Division Dhaka and tenders will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM before the willing tenderers or their nominated representative (if anyone remains present) No schedule of tender/rules and regulations etc will be supplied on the day of opening tender. Schedule of rules and regulation, related papers, Taka 425/- (four hundred twenty-five) in cash (refundable) in the form of Bank Draft/Pay-Order/CD/SDR from any scheduled bank approved by Bangladesh Bank in favour of the Executive Engineer, Public Works E/M Division-5, Dhaka will have to be deposited with tender. Participants in tender must submit certificate regarding TIN and original money receipt of tender purchased with tender. The authority reserves the power to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason. Contractor himself or representative bearing an authorised letter can purchase tender by producing all necessary papers including registration book. The last date of selling tender is 19/02/01.

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed
1	Special repairing work of the existing old electrical work of paper godown (West Block) of Bangladesh Stationery office situated at Teigao Industrial Area in Dhaka.	Tk 2,14,021/-	2% of the estimated cost	21 (twenty one) days

Md Fazlul Haq
Executive Engineer
Public Works E/M Division-5
Dhaka. Phone No-9348972

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