

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE  
British farmers fear repeat  
of 2001 devastation

AFP, London

British farmers watched anxiously Sunday as experts scrambled to prevent a repeat a full-on foot and mouth epidemic six years ago which devastated their industry.

Tension was highest in the immediate vicinity of the farm southwest of London where the outbreak was confirmed on Friday, raising the spectre of the 2001 crisis in which up to 10 million animals were slaughtered.

It is an "extremely tense, incredibly anxious time," said farmer John Cross, recalling the huge pyres of burning animal carcasses as the industry went up in smoke.

"It's only six years ago the last episode we had, the horrors of that episode are still very fresh in people's minds. Farmers are well aware of what an opportunistic aggressive virus this is," he told BBC television.

Many farmers are only just recovering from the 2001 foot and mouth epidemic, which cost the British economy an estimated eight billion pounds (16.3 billion dollars, 11.9 billion euros).

And the prospect of another devastating epidemic would only add to a string of crises that have brought British rural communities to their knees.

Many farmers are struggling to get by in the face of falling prices and increasing competition from foreign rivals, who can for example provide whole chickens for sale in British supermarkets for a mere two pounds (three euros).

The recent floods have not helped. As well as wiping out huge swathes of crops, the wettest May, June and July since records began in 1766 has put off tourists from visiting the countryside.

And Britain is still feeling the backlash from the mad cow epidemic which gripped the country in the 1990s. British beef products are still banned in the United States.

The return of foot and mouth would for many be the final straw.

"Those who managed to survive the crushing hardship of the last outbreak, exacerbated by slow and inefficient government compensation, are in no financial or psychological shape to absorb another disaster,"

said the Sunday Telegraph.

Sussex farmer Jane Howard told the BBC she and her colleagues were facing nervous times once again. "As far as farmers are concerned we are all sitting here hoping," she said.

"Everyone feels absolutely sick." Sally Robinson, from Boyd's Farm, in Wiltshire, south-west England, recalled how her farm was shut down and she lost her job due to the 2001 epidemic.

She was "absolutely devastated, numb, in complete shock, just can't believe it can happen again."

Clive Aslet, the editor at large of the weekly Country Life magazine, wrote in The Observer newspaper Sunday that memories of the 2001 pyres of cattle carcasses still haunted him.

"The news that foot and mouth has reappeared in Britain after only six years will sink everyone who can remember the last outbreak into gloom," he wrote.

Tim Bonner, a spokesman for the Countryside Alliance, said Friday: "Farmers around the country will be hoping and praying this is an isolated incident.

African leaders  
in Malaysia to  
find way out  
of poverty

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe and other African and Southeast Asian leaders are meeting in Malaysia this week to draw up a plan to fight poverty and bolster economic ties.

Mugabe's presence at the gathering on the island resort of Langkawi is already causing some controversy.

But Malaysia's foreign minister said the meeting, which will be hosted by Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, was non-political.

"I have heard that there have been some rumblings, but we must remember that the Langkawi dialogue is to discuss development," Foreign Minister Malaysia Syed Hamid Albar told the New Straits Times.

"It's a non-political forum. We will not be discussing politics but socio-economic development.

"Whichever country is in need of development and can learn from the experience of others, they should be encouraged to participate," he said.

The gathering, dubbed the Langkawi International Dialogue, will bring together some 16 African and Southeast Asian leaders and more than 260 participants.

Foreign tourists  
to China up  
18.47pc

ANN/ CHINA DAILY

Nearly 12.12 million foreigners came to the Chinese mainland for sightseeing from January to June, up 18.47 percent year-on-year, according to the latest figures from the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA).

The growth rate more than tripled the 6.1-percent increase for all inbound tourists to the Chinese mainland, who added up to 63.37 million in the first half of the year.

It also overtook the 4.22-percent rise for tourists from Hong Kong, 0.56-percent rise for tourists from Macao and 8.84-percent rise for tourists from Taiwan.



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Prime Bank Ltd Managing Director Shahjahan Bhuiyan is seen at a daylong workshop on 'Time Management & Stress Management' organised by the bank's training institute in Dhaka recently. Deputy Managing Director Mahbubul Alam and North South University MBA Programme Director ANM Meshquat Uddin were also present.



PHOTO: JAMUNA BANK

Jamuna Bank Ltd has recently organised a training course on 'International Trade Finance and Foreign Exchange Operation'. Managing Director of the bank Mohammed Lakiotullah, among other senior officials, was present at the concluding ceremony.

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (August 5, 2007) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell		CURRENCY	Buy		
TT/OD	BC		TT CLEAN	OD SIGHT DOC	OD TRANSFER
68.6700	68.7000	USD	67.7000	67.6774	67.6323
96.2616	96.3037	EUR	91.7877	91.7571	91.6959
141.6387	141.7006	GBP	136.5238	136.4783	136.3873
59.8596	59.8858	AUD	56.8477	56.8287	56.7908
0.5938	0.5940	JPY	0.5691	0.5890	0.5686
58.1949	58.2203	CHF	56.3228	56.3040	56.2665
10.2040	10.2085	SEK	9.4623	9.4592	9.4528
65.6187	65.6474	CAD	63.3599	63.3387	63.2965
8.7818	8.7856	HKD	8.6364	8.6335	8.6278
45.7465	45.7664	SGD	44.3905	44.3757	44.3461
18.8498	18.8581	AED	18.2840	18.2779	18.2657
18.4572	18.4653	SAR	17.9091	17.9031	17.8912
13.3203	13.3261	DKK	11.9795	11.9756	11.9676
240.0749	240.1820	KWD	238.0580	238.0580	238.0580

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor. kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
40.25	60.41	111.9	29.700	5.7879	0.7604	3.46

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 5/8/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/5	Banglar Urmi	Gi(log)	Yang	Pml	2/8	10/8	1426
J/6	Martha Russ	Cont	Sing	Qcsl	4/8	7/8	343
J/7	An Tao Jiang	Gi	Para	Cosco	3/8	--	582
J/9	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Sing	Bdship	2/8	6/8	183
J/10	Apl Lilac	Cont	Sing	Apl	3/8	5/8	87
J/11	Banga Borti	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	3/8	6/8	114
J/12	Mir Damad	Cont	Para	Bsca	3/8	5/8	77
J/13	Xpress Manasu	Cont	Col	Seacon	4/8	7/8	415
CCT/1	Eagle Pioneer	Cont	P. Kel	Ct	2/8	5/8	--

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Banga Bijoy	2/8	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Mir Damad	2/8	Para	Bsca	Cont	Ljpara
Banga Borti	2/8	P.kel	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel
Pacific Express	5/8	Kol	Pil(bd)	Cont	Sing
Oel Singapore	6/8	P.kel	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Merkur Bridge	5/8	Sing	Apl	Cont	Sing
Pac Makassar	6/8	Sing	Cel	Cont	Sing
Taiyoung Rosa	8/8	Kol	Sunshine	Bunker	--
Hoang Son	5/8	Yang	Cla	--	--
Josco View	7/8	P.kel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Karana Sembilan	7/8	Yang	Everett	Gi	--
Csav California	6/8	Cbo	Pssl	Cont	Col
Golden Star	6/8	Mack	Uniglobal	R. Sugar	--
Energy Falcon	6/8	Krabi	Litmond	C. Clink	--
Tay Son-3	6/8	--	Everett	Urea	Kaj

Tanker due

Ska Whegan	6/8	Sing	Rainbow	Cdso/rm(3)16500 Wlt
Al Sabiyah	7/8	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/rms
Sc Tianjen	6/8	Indo	Rainbow	Cpo/rm(4)
Jo Lind	9/8	Durb	Esl	Cdso (rm/3)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Outside port limit

Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/a (20/7)
Afroditi	Crude Oil	Rast	Uniglobal	19/7
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	Bsc	R/a (4/8)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Eagle Progress	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	4/8
Eagle Pride	Cont	Sing	Qcsl	4/8
Cape Bonavista	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	4/8
Pac Aquila	Cont	Sing	Seacon	4/8

Vessels not ready

Concord-1	Cdso	Braz	Usl	3/8
Santa Suria	C. Clink	Krabi	Asll	5/8

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Dali	--	--	Seacon	R/a (19/7)
Banglar Robi	--	--	Uniglobal	R/a (4/8)
Borak	--	--	Fsa	R/a (4/8)

Vessels not entering

Discovery-II	R.phos	Kasa	Litmond	21/7
Santa Barbara	C. Clink	Krabi	Uniship	26/7
Asraar-e-mostafa	C. Clink	Kohsi	Sunmoon	31/7
Banglar Maya	Solt	Kand	Bsc	2/8

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Md Nasir Uddin, managing director of Sadma Group, a composite knitting company, and Khandaker Omar Farhan, deputy general manager (Commercial Division) of Grameenphone Ltd, among others, pose for photographs at a corporate agreement signing ceremony recently. As per the deal, the mobile phone operator will provide complete communication facilities under its 'Business Solutions' package for Sadma Group.

STOCK