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16 July 1984

WORLDWIDE REPORT
EPIDEMIOLOGY

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STUDY REVEALS 3 MILLION AFFECTED BY CHAGAS DISEASE

Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 5 Jun 84 p 39

[Text] There are 3 million Argentinians affected by Chagas disease with a percentage of them contracting the disease congenitally through the placenta. These data are part of the reports disseminated regarding investigation being carried out on this disease by the biology department of the medical school at the national university in Tucuman. Experimentation by the department chaired by Dr Rita Wasserman de Cunio has been concentrated on this latest aspect of the disturbing development about Chagas-Mazza disease, i.e., its passage from mother to child.

"Twenty-one percent of the women about to give birth who come into the local maternity hospital have Chagas disease, and 5 percent of them have children who may contract the disease through the placenta since the *Cruzi* tripanosome, the parasite producing it, is capable of passing through the placenta barrier and infecting the human embryo. But we must find out," said Dr Cunio, "what the defensive measures are, if they exist, which immunize most children of mothers who have the disease. We must find practical protective measures which may be applied to the large number of fertile women who are sick," she stated.

There are other provinces where the percentage of pregnant women with Chagas disease is larger: it is estimated that in Santiago de Estero it is about 32 percent; from 24 to 28 percent in Cordoba and from 9 to 11 percent in the nation's capital. If the child becomes infected in its mother's womb, its behavior will be one of an acutely ill person, it was pointed out, and can be saved only when the disease is detected and treated early.

Frightening Scene

The unattractive picture described by Dr Cunio is nothing new in this place on the continent. In late 1982 it was reported, with the eloquence of bloodcurdling data, that in the vast area between the southern regions of Argentina and the US there were more than 12 million people infected with Chagas disease, for which reason the problem was described as inter-American.

More recently, in March of this year to be exact, two senators from the province of El Chaco announced that they were drafting a bill so that the disease might be viewed from the same viewpoint as catastrophes from natural causes. "Out of a total of almost 3 million people infected by Chagas disease," the legislators pointed out at that time, "we estimate that half are parasite-caused."

The bill, which is apparently receiving final touches, consists of creating a system of worker insurance designed to improve conditions for those infected. "We are facing a dramatic problem and the most serious cause for concern for productivity in vast areas of the country," Senators Luis Agustín Leon and Deolindo Felipe Bittel stressed and reported that the province of El Chaco was one of the hardest hit by the disease, "since 39 percent of the male citizens called up for military service from the class of 1951 and 30 percent from the class of 1963 are infected."

Labor Problems

There can be no doubt that Chagas disease constitutes one of the most dramatic and serious health problems in the country. Already most of the companies located in areas where the disease has spread are refusing to give work to those who show up as infected through physical examinations. This involves workers who are sick as far as employers are concerned but clinically healthy, for which reason they are prevented from working and from turning to programs of retirement because of disabling disease.

Much has been said, done and made public about Chagas disease, a parasite-borne disease linked to poverty, hunger, shortages, lack of adequate housing and the long-standing absence of health infrastructures.

The revelations made by Dr Rita Wasserman de Cunio are nothing new but indeed must be taken into account on a priority basis in the fight for health which will have to be thoroughly examined and systematized as soon as possible in preventing the spread of a disease about which much has been found out but little progress made.

9436

CSO: 5400/2073

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS CHOLERA, DIARRHEA TOLLS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 11 May 84 p 2

[Text] JESSORE, May 10: Cholera and strong diarrhoea have so far claimed over 200 lives in five upazilas of Narail, Magura and Jessore districts according to informations available here till Sunday.

The worst affected upazilas were Mohammadpur, Lohagora Kalia, Narail and Sadar.

In Mohammadpur upazila at least 100 persons have died mostly children under 10 years. About 500 were affected by the epidemic. The Deputy Commissioner of Magura told newsmen that he has submitted a list to the Ministry of Health consisting the name of 63 dead and 332 affected persons. He asked for immediate supply of more medical teams, medicines including saline water, purifying tablets and necessary assistance.

The BRAC staff of Jessore were asked to move immediately to the affected areas to help local administration.

The Civil Surgeon of Magura informs that 7 medical teams are working in the affected areas but those are inadequate. He also admitted derth of medicines, saline and other necessary items.

Lohagora-Kalia

In Lohagora so far 46 persons have died while the number of the affected persons were 664 and in Narail sadar 32 persons have died while the numbers of affected persons here were 595.

Six persons have also died in Kalia upazila where 27 were attacked. The situation here, however, are improving.

The Civil Surgeon of Narail informs that outbreak of the epidemic were however controlled in the district. He said that most of the deaths were below 10 years of age.

Kotwali

According to latest information 11 persons have died of strong diarrhoea in Kotwali area. The worst affected areas were Shankarpur, Bejpara, Railgate, Barandipara and Mollahpara. About 50 persons were attacked sporadically in these areas.

Meanwhile the local Sanitary Department appears to be quite indifferent to the outbreak of epidemic. Exposed foodstuffs and rotten fishes were on sale at random in local markets. The authorities should take immediate preventive measures to stop the outbreak.

Pabana

Our Pabna Correspondent adds: At least 35 persons died of Cholera and about 1000 people were affected by it in five unions of Faridpur upazila and one union of Santhia upazila of Pabna district within last five days. It is learnt that the cholera broke out in those places in an epidemic form.

CSO: 5450/0036

BRIEFS

MADARIPUR, MANKGONJ CHOLERA REPORT--MADARIPUR, May 10--Cholera has Broken out in an epidemic form in Shibchchar upazila and it already claimed 40 lives and attacked another eight hundred persons during April. Official sources confirmed the deaths but termed disease as diarrhoea. Affected unions are Panchar, Bhaheratala, Shannashirchar, Madbarerchar, Kutubpur and Omedpur. Our Manikganj Correspondent writes: Cholera has so far claimed 26 persons in three upazilas of Manikganj district during last 15 days. The affected upazilas are Manikganj Sadar, Singair and Daulatpur. According to reports, 13 persons died in Manikganj, 8 in Daulatpur and remaining in Singair upazila. Cholera has turn into epidemic form in Manikganj upazilas and antiepidemic medicins are rarely available in the government hospitals. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 May 84 p 2]

BHAIRAB DIARRHEA DEATHS--BHAIRAB, May 12--Diarrhoeal disease claimed two lives at Bhairabpur (South) of the Pourashava area recently. Vaccination and other preventive measures had been ensured in the area to check further outbreak of this disease, according to a source of the Pourashava. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 84 p 4]

PATUAKHALI CHOLERA REPORT--PATUAKHALI, May 13--Cholera has again broken out in an epidimic from in different parts of Patuakhali and in the newly created district of Barguna As many as 119 people died of Cholera. To combat the disease 10 medical teams have been formed in Golachipa upazila 6 in Mirjaganj, 5 in Patharghata upazila The teams have also been supplied with sufficient quantity of medical - both - curative and perventive, alone with necessary appliannces. According to unofficial reports medicines supplied so far are not adequate to meet the situation. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 14 May 84 p 2]

DYSENTERY, CHOLERA IN DEBIDWAR--DEBIDWAR (Comilla), May 16--Cholera and dysentery have claimed 6 lives at Elahabad village of Debidwar upazila under Comilla district. It is learnt that cholera and dysentery have broken out in an epidemic form in the Elahabad village and 6 lives have fallen victims of these disease. It is alleged that despite the presence of a health centre in the said village, the members of the health centre are not taking any preventive measure to bring the diseases under control. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 18 May 84 p 2]

NETRAKONA CHOLERA DEATHS--NETRAKONA, May 19--One hundred persons died and about 400 were attacked with cholera when the disease broke out in epidemic form in Kendua, Khaliajuri and Madan upazilas under Netrakona district. The people, coming from different parts of the country for harvesting, were falling prey to the disease. But the Civil Surgeon of Netrakona confirmed the deaths of only 41 persons out of 100 admitted to the Sadar Hospital in last few days. He termed it as diarrhoeal cases when contacted by this correspondent. The immediate relief measures were ordered by the district administration and 20 medical teams were already working in the area, according to the sources. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 20 May 84 pp 1, 8]

CSO: 5450/0041

BRIEFS

SEWER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS--Sewerage systems will be established shortly on the south and west coasts of Barbados to control the problems posed by pollution in these areas. So said Minister of Information and Culture, Senator Nigel Barrow, at the opening of the 13th annual Careers Showcase at Queen's Park yesterday. He said that pollution on both of these coasts had created some concern for the existence of the coral reefs that were not only essential for the protection of the land mass from erosion, but was also an important factor in the fishing industry. Senator Barrow said that Barbados' main attraction lay in its coastal environment, but pollution and erosion were posing a serious threat to the coastline, the beaches and marine life. "Government has started the construction of sewerage systems around the coastal areas in an attempt to cut down the concentrated bacteria level which causes pollution," he said. According to Senator Barrow, the Coastal Conservation Project, under the Ministry of Housing and Lands, was set up in an effort to come to grips with the problem of beach erosion. He noted that this project was largely administered by non-Barbadians. That, he said, was a clear indication that Barbados was lacking in resource persons qualified in the areas of coastal engineering and management. However, he said that as a result of the project two Barbadians were leaving for Canada in September to pursue post-graduate studies in coastal engineering and management. [Text] [Bridgetown THE NATION in English 10 May 84 p 24]

CSO: 5400/007

INFANT MORTALITY RATE MAY REACH 308,000 BY END OF 1984

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 30 May 84 p 11

[Text] By the end of the year, about 308,000 children will have died in Brazil before completing 1 year of age. Of that total, 157,000 deaths will occur in the Northeast also among babies under 1 year of age. Those figures were reported yesterday by Health Minister Waldyr Arcoverde and reveal an even more alarming situation than the one described by him last week in Recife when he predicted that 43,000 children would die of diarrhea.

In fact, now with revised information, the estimates have increased and 61,000 victims of gastroenteritis are expected, that is, 18,000 more than the original prediction. According to Arcoverde, 51 percent of the children under 1 year of age who are going to die in Brazil this year are in the Northeast, where 31 percent of the babies expected in 1984 will be born.

The health minister listed the five main causes of infantile mortality (under 1 year of age) in the Northeast: 28 percent of the deaths will be caused by perinatal problems (43,900 children); 39 percent will die of diarrhea (61,000); while diseases of the respiratory system will account for 12 percent of the victims (18,800 children). Infectious and parasitic diseases will account for another 3 percent of the victims, or 12,500 babies. The Ministry of Health estimates that 7,000 or 5 percent of the total number of deaths of children under 1 year of age, will be due to hunger.

According to the figures of the Ministry of Health, malnutrition is responsible as an associated cause for approximately 60 percent of the infant deaths. According to the explanation of ministry experts, that means that if they were not undernourished, fewer children would die. Thus, in the Northeast hunger will be the associated cause of 94,200 deaths while also contributing to 184,800 infant deaths in all of Brazil.

The picture of the main causes of infant mortality in the country as predicted by the ministry is as follows: perinatal, 35 percent of the deaths of children under 1 year of age (107,800); diarrhea, 27 percent (83,000); diseases of the respiratory system, 15 percent (46,000); other infectious and parasitic diseases, 5 percent (15,400); and malnutrition as the basic cause, 3 percent (9,200 deaths).

Roberto Becker, director of the epidemiology division of the National Secretariat of Basic Health Action considers the infant mortality figures to be high, explaining that the Brazilian coefficient is between 7 and 8 times higher than the rate occurring in the United States. According to him, the figures also serve to indicate the social health conditions of a country and of each region. Thus, of the 308,000 deaths throughout Brazil, 157,000 will occur in the Northeast.

General Mortality

General mortality predicted this year in Brazil is 1,166,000 persons. In the meantime, it is expected that 3.9 million babies will be born. According to Becker also, the general mortality is not high if compared with the estimated population for this year: 132 million inhabitants.

8711

CSO: 5400/2070

NORTHEAST TO RECEIVE MAJOR PORTION OF HEALTH BUDGET FUNDS

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Jun 84 p 22

[Text] Brasilia--Adding together all the forms of transfer of funds, the Ministry of Health is going to apply 274.2 billion cruzeiros in the Northeast this year, which represents 53.8 percent of all investment that will be made in the various regions of the country. The foregoing is according to the schedule revealed by Minister Waldyr Arcoverde during a press conference at which he explained his sector's responsibilities in terms of the mortality rate predicted for 1984, when 308,000 children under 1 year of age are expected to die, 157,000 of them in the Northeast.

"The quality of life of a given population," said the minister, "is contained in a broader context, including economic and social factors and does not depend only on actions in the health area," education, housing and basic sanitation are important factors. The minister pointed out that some time ago it would have been true to say that the difficulty of access to health facilities contributed to the high mortality rate in the country, but that is not true now.

The minister believes that the Health and Sanitation Action Outreach Program (PIASS), basically in the Northeast, has shortened the distance between the community and health units, especially considering that between 1980 and 1983 more than 3,140 units were built in the basic care network which, added to the 2,457 already existing, total 5,597. At the present time, there are 12,782 units throughout the country comprising the basic network (centers, health stations, mixed units and polyclinics), distributed as follows: 8,098 in the Southeast, 1,924 in the South; 1,373 in the North; 790 in the Center-West; and 5,597 in the Northeast.

However, as the minister's aides admit, the truth is that the number of children's deaths predicted for 1984 points up certain facts. For example, they point out that every year the horrors of the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki are remembered while forgetting that in the Brazilian Northeast a bomb explodes all year over the defenseless bodies of children under 1 year. Comparing the list of victims of the Japanese cities (which totaled 105,000 killed), the ministry aides point out that in 1984 the Northeast will have 52,000 more deaths of children than the toll of the tragedy in Japan.

Food

Waldyr Arcoverde made it a point to say that the Northeast has always received the largest share of the funds of the Ministry of Health during his administration, as in the case of the food programs. According to his figures, this year the region is going to get 67 percent of the funds of the Nutrition in Health Program (PNS) conducted by the National Food and Nutrition Institute (INAN), which distributes baskets of food containing milk, rice, sugar, flour and beans among pregnant women, nursing mothers and children of up to 5 years of age, picked from the needy population. The PNS will have 4,393,125 beneficiaries in 1984, of which 2,924,688 will be in the Northeast. The program will have 168,305,192 cruzeiros, 112,393,688 cruzeiros of which will go to the region, according to the minister's information.

The program for supplying basic food items to low income areas (PROAB) carried out through a policy of subsidizing the prices of certain foods will also be channeled in large part to the Northeast, according to Waldyr Arcoverde. Up to the end of the year, PROAB should have total funds in the order of 45 billion cruzeiros, serving a population of 2.4 million people. The calculations of PROAB have not yet been completed but according to the information of INAN, the PNS covers only 38 percent of the target population of the program. In addition to that, the food basket distributed covers 50 percent of the protein needs of the recipient and 42 percent of his calorie needs.

Funds

According to the schedule of funds for the Northeast presented by the minister, Bahia is the state that will receive the greatest portion (22.6 percent), totaling 62.1 billion cruzeiros. After that comes Pernambuco with 45.6 billion cruzeiros, followed by Ceara with 34 billion cruzeiros, among the state which will receive the most, counting the investments made in money, vaccines, medicine, food and sanitation. According to Waldyr Arcoverde's aides, those investments in the Northeast are surely going to improve the quality of health services in the region. Furthermore, they will contribute to reducing the mortality rates. In the meantime, if the recessive policy still persists very long, the people may not die but what will certainly survive will be a generation that is the victim of hunger.

As the aides point out, the improvement of health conditions does not mean that a healthy population will survive. Reinforcing that position, they point out studies by Professors Nelson Chaves and Malaquis Batista of the University of Pernambuco indicating that the average body frame in the Northeast is now 2 centimeters below that of the pygmies.

8711

CSO: 5400/2070

COLOMBIA

BRIEFS

DIPHTHERIA EPIDEMIC--Pereira--San Jorge University Hospital officials have detected a diphtheria epidemic at a moment when it was believed that the disease has been eradicated from the region. A young girl has already died. [Summary] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Jun 84 p 16 PA]

CSO: 5400/2075

BRIEFS

CHOLERA OUTBREAK--THE people of Borada in the Buem district of the Volta Region have appealed to the Ministry of Health to come to their aid with anti-cholera vaccines to prevent the outbreak of cholera which has hit the town. Making the appeal through the "People's Daily Graphic", in Accra yesterday, Mr S. B. Yeboah, Zonal Co-ordinator of PDC's in the area said five people have so far died from the disease since its outbreak four days ago. Mr Yeboah said, several appeals to the Medical Field Unit (MFU) at Jasikan to immunize the people against the outbreak of cholera in the town have not been heeded on the excuse that the unit has no anti-cholera vaccines. Mr Yeboah expressed concern about the alarming situation and feared that if nothing is done immediately to bring the situation under control more lives might be claimed. [Text] [Accra PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC in English 4 Jun 84 p 4]

CSO: 5400/146

GUJARAT GOVERNMENT IN PANIC OVER JAUNDICE

Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 12 May 84 p 9

[Text] AHMEDABAD, May 11--CALLOUSNESS on the part of the bureaucracy has led to the spread of "killer jaundice" or hepatitis-B in Gujarat, which has claimed 415 lives in the last five months.

Typically, the bureaucracy first tried to underplay the gravity of the situation and then started work in panic. It took nearly 18 months for the health department to sense the danger which was knocking at its door.

While viral jaundice, known as hepatitis-B, began spreading at an alarming rate, the authorities kept mum. Its silence was broken only after the Junior Doctors' Association in the civil hospital here went on a lightning strike following the deaths of five doctors and a nurse from the killer disease.

Now, reports of the incident and deaths from hepatitis-B are pouring in from almost all the districts in the state-wise reports indicate that the disease is spreading rapidly despite preventive measures taken by the authorities.

In Sabarkantha, the collector has declared the entire district jaundice-affected. Nearly 115 cases of jaundice were reported from the district between January and May 8, this year. Junagadh and Baroda are now in the grip of the killer disease, with 80 to 100 cases reported from there in the last one month.

Spreading to Villages

Dr. Avinash Sahgal and Dr. Sanjay from the National Institute of Virology, Pune, visited Baroda last month to suggest remedial measures to check the rapidly spreading viral jaundice. Another team from the National Institute of Communicable Diseases had visited Ahmedabad, Baroda and Junagadh in February and investigated the cause of the high death rates.

The disease has already claimed four lives in Bulsar, while in Jamnagar the toll reached eight in the last one month. Despite elaborate precautions taken by the authorities, the killer disease has claimed at least 41 lives while 240 victims have been admitted to hospitals.

Reports from other parts of the state indicate that the disease is spreading from the urban to the rural areas.

In Ahmedabad, the latest figure of deaths since January this year is 371. There is no sign of any improvement in the situation in the city, with three to four deaths reported daily.

According to official information, the first meeting to identify the causes of the epidemic was held in the civil hospital here in the first week of March, exactly seven months after the first death of a class four employee of the hospital was reported. Two meetings were held thereafter to decide on steps against the spread of jaundice, but no worthwhile measures were adopted.

The hospital authorities shook off their lethargy only when the Junior Doctors' Association started an agitation in the wake of the deaths of five of their colleagues. The battle of hospital cross-infection began only against the hepatitis-B and the spread in April 23, when the authorities decided to launch a massive fumigation operation, probably first of its kind in the state, in all the 40 wards of the 1,800-bed hospital.

While the municipal hospitals struck a different note maintaining that such fumigation would not be effective in the long run, they changed their stand after having to shift 75 jaundice patients to the infectious diseases hospital on May 3.

Poor Hygiene

Most of the hepatitis victims were first treated in the municipal hospitals and later sent to the civil hospital only in the very advanced stages, which would account for the high rate of mortality at the civil hospital.

Even the opposition municipal councillors in Ahmedabad had complained about the very unhygienic conditions in municipal hospitals, the high risk of hospital cross-infection and inadequate facilities for treatment in the I D hospital.

A cross section of doctors in the city felt that the actual incidence of the disease in the state could not be precisely known as there could be hundreds of people in the countryside suffering from viral jaundice. They also said the fumigation operation would not help contain infection in the hospital, unless the present system was changed drastically.

For example, they maintained that the common practice of sterilisation was not properly followed in the hospitals. Syringes should be kept in a boiling pot for at least 15 minutes for disinfection, but the common practice among the nurses was to pick up a syringe from the boiling pot even before 15 minutes were up.

The incubation period of hepatitis-B being 45 to 150 days, an infected person can transmit the disease in some cases even after being cured.

BENGAL DRIVE AGAINST DYSENTERY CONTINUES

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 May 84 p 3

[Excerpts] REPORTS of another 24 deaths from bacillary dysentery were received at Writers' Buildings during the past 24 hours. The toll stood at 1,616 on Friday evening. The number of attacks also rose from 46,802 on Thursday to 48,076 on Friday.

Mr Ambarish Mukherjee, West Bengal's Minister of State for Health, said the Government had decided to continue the present drive against the disease, at least for the next three months.

The Government had learnt about the widespread outbreak of cholera in Bangladesh. Special preventive measures had been taken in border villages of the State. Every person in these villages would be inoculated, the Minister said.

So far, the State Government has spent about Rs 2 crores on medicine and Rs 10 lakhs for other purposes from the Health Department's contingency funds to control the spread of the disease. The Minister said there was no shortage of funds for carrying on the drive against bacillary dysentery.

Death Rate Down

The district-wise break-down of figures showed that the death rate was gradually falling. Though 69 new cases of bacillary dysentery were recorded in 24-Parganas during the past 24 hours, no deaths were reported. No one died in Malda district, though 227 more cases were reported since Thursday, Mr Mukherjee said.

The following is the district wise break-down of attacks and deaths from bacillary dysentery received at Writers' Buildings during the past 24 hours:

Howrah--67 attacks and 2 deaths; Hooghly--163 attacks and 2 deaths; Birbhum--22 attacks and one death; Midnapore--178 attacks and four deaths; Jalpaiguri--183 attacks and four deaths; Purulia--115 attacks and one death; and West Dinajpur--105 attacks and four deaths.

In Calcutta, 2,552 attacks and 93 deaths were reported.

Despite earlier claims that enteric diseases had been contained at Bagnan, in Howrah district, at least 41 more attacks were reported from different villages under Block II of Bagnan sub-division during the past 48 hours.

The number of people affected by the diseases has risen to 1,429 at Bagnan Block II. With the death of one more child on Friday at Rabibhag village the toll rose to 20 in this area.

Dr Saswata Chatterjee, medical officer of the Mugkalayan Primary Health Centre, said that though the disease had been controlled to "some extent" it might erupt again at any time. The common drugs being prescribed and distributed at present were no longer effective and he suggested that some other medicine be sent for treating the patients.

Our Hooghly Correspondent reports: Dysentery claimed 82 more lives in Hooghly district till Friday, against a total of 3,655 attacks, according to Mr Nikhilesh Das, District Magistrate.

Our Midnapore Correspondent adds: Four more deaths were reported in the district during the past 24 hours. This raises the death toll to 49. So far, 909 people had been attacked.

According to Our Correspondent in Krishnagar, Enteric diseases, which have so far claimed 99 lives and afflicted 3,957 people, were reported to have been controlled in Nadia district, according to Dr A. K. Basu, Chief Medical Officer. No deaths were reported for the past two days.

CSO: 5450/0029

BACILLARY DYSENTERY CONTINUES TO TAKE TOLL IN BENGAL

Countermeasures Reported

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 17 May 84 pp 1, 9

[Text] THE West Bengal Cabinet on Wednesday discussed the spread of bacillary dysentery in the State and directed some of the Ministers to visit the worst-affected districts. Mr Sunil Majumdar Minister of State for Panchayats, and Mr Abdul Bari, Minister of State for School Education, were asked to visit Murshidabad, while Mr Siben Chowdhury, Minister of State for Transport, was directed to visit North Bengal.

The Cabinet reportedly agreed on the point that "though the mortality rate had been partly contained", strict vigilance was still required. The Cabinet also planned to draw up a nutrition programme for the children who had recovered from the disease Mr Ambarish Mukherjee, Minister of State for Health, who placed a report at the Cabinet meeting, informed it that about 50% of the children in rural areas suffered from malnutrition, which aggravated the situation.

The Ministers who had been asked to visit the districts would also inquire whether medicines worth Rs 2 crores sent to the districts were being properly distributed. The Ministers visiting Murshidabad had also been asked to check reports of non-cooperation by the District Medical Officer with the Government's drive against dysentery. The DMO was reportedly not cooperating with the Chief Medical Officer of Health in the district.

According to Mr Mukherjee, there had been 26 more deaths in the State during the past 24 hours--eight in Calcutta, six each in Murshidabad and Jaipauri, four in Hooghly and two in Howrah. There were no reports of deaths from Cooch Behar, Nadia, Malda and West Dinajpur during the day. The toll from bacillary dysentery in West Bengal rose to 1,758 with 56,387 attacks.

Nineteen people died of gastroenteritis in Calcutta in 18 days ending on Wednesday, according to health officials of Calcutta Corporation. They claimed that 16 persons who died in the I.D. Hospital during the period had been residents of Dum Dum, Rajarhat, Barasat, Titagarh, Baruipur, Salt Lake, Baranagar, Belgharia, Uluberia and Nadia district. Last year, about 500 people had died of gastro-enteritis in the city. There was no death from cholera, the officials said.

Civic officials said that regular analysis of water samples was continuing. Of the 70 water samples collected recently from different parts of Calcutta, only two were found to be "unsatisfactory." One such sample had been collected from South Sealdah Road while the other had been taken from Rakhai Ghosh Lane.

Dr. S. C. Pal, Director of the National Institute of Cholera and Enteric Diseases, said in Calcutta on Wednesday that stool samples collected from blood dysentery patients were being sent to the Central Public Health Laboratory of the World Health Organization in London. There, further research would be done on the multiple drug resistance property of the Shigella Type I bacteria to find out if this property was genetically controlled.

With reports of an outbreak in the Kendrapara subdivision of Cuttack district in Orissa, a team of experts of the institute left for Cuttack during the day. Another team will be sent to Silchar on Thursday. This team will stop over at Agartala on its return.

Dr Pal maintained that the disease had assumed epidemic proportions. He said that between May 6 and May 12, 649 gastro-enteritis patients were admitted to the Infectious Diseases Hospital in Calcutta, whereas in the corresponding week in the previous year, the number of cases admitted to the hospital was 235. Similarly, between April 29 and May 5, the number of admissions was 695, compared to 212 during the same period last year.

Dr Pal said the Shigella bacteria had been found in 153 of the 304 samples received mainly from hospitals in the city. The harmful Shigella Type I had been identified in 103 of these samples. He said that the presence of the Shigella bacteria in these samples was 50.3%. He pointed out that in 1974, when the disease had reached its peak in Bangladesh, the occurrence of the Shigella bacteria was around 20%. The Government of Bangladesh had then declared an epidemic.

Recalling the earlier incidence of this disease in other countries, Dr Pal said that it lasted in Central America for three years during the late 60s and early 70s, in Bangladesh it raged between 1972 and 1978, and in Sri Lanka it continued from 1978 till 1982.

The institute was conducting tests to find out how much furoxone, the drug widely applied by the doctors throughout West Bengal to combat bacillary dysentery, was really successful. The report is expected to be ready by Thursday.

Dr Mujibur Rahman, the expert from Bangladesh, who had been to the city recently, had pointed out that only nalidixic acid was capable of fighting the bacteria.

Rise in Number of Cases

Madras THE HINDU in English 15 May 84 p 9

[Text] CALCUTTA, May 14--With 24 more deaths reported during the last 24 hours, the toll in bacillary dysentery and allied enteric diseases in West Bengal rose to 1,720 even as the authorities claimed that the "trend was declining."

The number of seizures since the outbreak of the disease in March stood at 52,934 with 1,328 persons affected on Sunday alone. The largest number of seizures of 367 in a single day was reported in Murshidabad district, where 10 persons died, official sources here said.

CSO: 5450/0035

BRIEFS

CHICKENPOX ON RISE--BOMBAY, May 4--There has been a marked rise in the number of chicken pox cases in the city in recent months though civic officials maintain that there is "no cause for alarm." According to the additional municipal commissioner, Mr. D. K. Afzulpurkar, chicken pox was fairly common in summer but this year the number of cases reported were "slightly more than usual." There were 537, 787 and 582 reported cases of the disease in February, March and April respectively this year, against 323, 575 and 484 reported in the corresponding periods last year, he said. The executive health officer, Dr. S. S. Sabnis, said the situation was under control and municipal hospitals and doctors had been instructed to refer all suspected cases to the Kasturba hospital immediately. The number of cases, however, is believed to be much higher than what is reported because several patients are treated at home. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 5 May 84 p 3]

AHMEDABAD HEPATITIS TOLL--AHMEDABAD, May 11--The viral hepatitis "B" claimed three more lives here yesterday taking the death toll in the city to 316, reports PTI. Of the 106 cases under treatment in five city hospitals, 16 persons were discharged while three others died, the Deputy Municipal Commissioner Mr P U. Asnani, who is also in charge of health told reporters. [Text] [Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 12 May 84 p 7]

ASSAM, GUJARAT OUTBREAKS--SURAT, May 13 (PTI)--After playing havoc in Saurashtra in central Gujarat, the killer jaundice is gradually raising its ugly head in parts of south Gujarat. Seven jaundice deaths here and six in Bulsar district had been reported during the last few days, it was officially stated today. A number of patients of different categories of jaundice, including hepatitis-B, were being treated in municipal, civil and private hospitals in both the districts. In Surat city alone, over 100 cases of jaundice, including the "B" category, were being treated. The municipal and civil hospital authorities were finding it difficult to cope with the rush of patients due to the rising number of jaundice cases. A senior doctor of the municipal hospital said none of the municipal hospitals had facilities for conducting the "austrial antigen test" for diagnosing the specific category of jaundice. All patients were being sent to the infectious disease (K.D.) hospitals run by the civic body. He said not a single vaccine imported from West Germany by the state government had been sent to any of the hospitals here. Assam has been declared an epidemic area after Cachar and Dhueri, following a virulent outbreak of enteric diseases which have so far claimed 33 lives in the district,

official reports said here today. With this, the toll in Assam due to dysentery and gastro-enteritis has shot up to 92. Meanwhile, the authorities have issued prohibitory orders banning the sale of fish and perishable food in Dibrugarh district of upper Assam, where 14 persons have died so far. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 14 May 84 p 9]

DYSENTERY, ENCEPHALITIS--BHUBANESWAR, May 14--Bacillary dysentery has so far claimed 20 lives in five districts in Orissa. Cuttack has been the worst-affected district, where the disease killed 11 people. The other affected districts are Keonjhar, Puri, Balasore and Mayurbhanj. Sources here said that despite the state government's urgent appeal on May 7 to the Union health ministry to rush medicines, no word had been received. They said the stocks of halogen tablets with the state government might at the most last for a day or two and if replenishments were not received, the situation would go out of control. PTI adds: Meanwhile, the government has launched a massive campaign to educate the public on preventive measures to stop spread into the state of bacillary dysentery now raging in virulent form in neighbouring West Bengal, according to an official press note. The state health department had already airlifted 10,000 vials of gentamycin for controlling virulence of the disease. One million halogen tablets were also expected from the Union health ministry soon, it said. Aurangabad (PTI): A total of 78 people, mostly children, have died of encephalitis, gastro and pneumonia in Parbhani district of Maharashtra in the past 40 days. While encephalitis claimed the life of one child during the last 24 hours, four more children have been admitted to the hospital's special ward, two of whom are stated to be in a serious condition, according to Dr. G.N. Borulkar, civil surgeon. This dreaded disease alone had accounted for 34 lives, he added. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 15 May 84 p 7]

CSO: 5450/0032

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

EAST JAVA TYPHOID OUTBREAK--Jakarta, 19 Jun (AFP)--A typhoid outbreak in East Java has claimed six lives and another 75 people have been infected, it was reported here today. The PIKIRAN RAKYAT newspaper reported that the outbreak--which started in March--hit three villages in the Lumajang area and quoted a local health department official as saying that two other hamlets might have been infected. The newspaper said 57 of the typhoid victims were being cared for at the local health center while the others were being looked after in a local elementary school. Unhygienic conditions were said to have caused the disease, the newspaper reported, adding that the health department had started an inoculation and hygiene-information campaign in the area.
[Text] [Hong Kong AFP in English 0442 GMT 19 Jun 84 BK]

CSO: 5400/4430

IRAN

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES KILL THOUSANDS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 June 84 p 3

[Article: "Minister of Health Announces Statistics on Deaths from Contagious Diseases"]

[Text] Eighty thousand children die annually from simple dysentery.

Every year we have 200,000 deaths due to black lung disease, diphtheria, tuberculosis, tetanus, and measles.

This year during the month of Mehr [21 Sep - 20 Oct 1984] two thousand health technicians are being accepted in the appropriate schools.

Shiraz - KEYHAN correspondent: Dr Manafi, Minister of Health, who has come to Shiraz to participate in the 6th session of the 4th round of physicians conferences of the Fars Health Organization, stressed the priority of treatment with regard to the issue of health. During an interview he said:

A staff for attending to tribal health and treatment needs has recently been formed, which is now involved with planning health programs and treatment services for the tribes in cooperation with the Ministry of the Interior.

The Minister of Health then discussed the importance and necessity for the greatest possible attention to be given to the expansion of health care. He said: The former regime, following the designs of the imperialist governments, was not interested in improving health care and generalizing it in the country, because the objective was to promote as much consumption of pharmaceuticals as possible among the people, which would result in the greatest possible income for the imperialists. Yet many illnesses may be avoided through the teaching of health care; this matter is now the focus of attention for the Ministry of Health.

He added: The primary cause of death in our country, especially among children, is simple dysentery. This illness claims the lives of around 80,000 children per year. We have 200,000 deaths annually resulting from black lung disease, diphtheria, tuberculosis, tetanus, and measles, and these diseases

may be prevented with vaccinations. A number of sick people also suffer from malnutrition and hunger, and all of these diseases may be dealt with and prevented.

It is also important to teach mothers to nurse instead of dried milk, which will improve the health of babies and improve their resistance to various diseases. In general, the matter of teaching health care has great importance, and this critical task must be accomplished with the cooperation of the media.

He discussed the country's need to train cadres of physicians and health care workers and described the inadequate conditions under the former regime. He said: During the time of the despicable Pahlavi regime, the country's university centers were only able to meet one-fourth of the country's need for physicians. That is, 800 physicians were trained annually, while our country needed 1,500 physicians, in view of the growth of population. Of this 800 physicians, however, at least 600 went abroad. Therefore, in our medical schools, specialists were trained through the use of money and manpower, and such people were taken from us by the imperialist countries. In reality, it seemed that we were training physicians for them.

At the present time, however, in view of the problems and expenses involved with training a physician, and also the lengthy training cycle, we must devote most of our attention to the generalization of health care and the prevention of disease. This matter is now being pursued with strenuous effort by the physicians in the country. May God increase their power so that they may serve the people of their country better and more than before.

The Minister of Health then explained the basic role of the Ministry of Health in the training of medical technicians, such as nurses, nurse's aides, physician's assistants, and specialist technicians in various health care and treatment fields. He expressed the hope that with the training of about 2,000 technicians, who are to be admitted during the month of Mehr [21 Sep - 20 Oct] of this year in the relevant schools, an effective step may be taken towards the prevention of disease and expanding health care in the country's deprived areas and village.

In conclusion, he referred to the crowded conditions in the hospitals of Shiraz, and expressed appreciation for the unstinting efforts of physicians in fulfilling their critical responsibilities. He noted the necessity for all to remain on the job and make sacrifices in order to overcome existing difficulties.

On the basis of the same report the Minister of Health left Shiraz for Tehran after inspecting several hospitals and several health care and health treatment plans now being implemented.

9310
CSO: 5400/5724

OVER 360 DEATHS IN GONGOLA FROM CONTAGIOUS DISEASES

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 11 Jun 84 p 9

[Article by Abu Tapidi]

[Text] THREE Hundred and sixty-one persons of the 79,180 persons affected by contagious diseases died in Gongola State in the first three months of this year.

A New Nigerian investigation in Yola, showed that, 180 persons were killed by malaria, 155 by measles, 19 by chicken pox, four by whooping cough, two by food poisoning and one person by hepatitis during the period.

Although, about 65 persons were affected by the deadly disease-Cerebro-Spinal-Meningitis (CSM) no death was recorded from the cases by the epidemic logical unit of the state health services management board.

The deadly disease which had killed hundreds of people in the northern parts of the country in the recent years, now appears to be on the decline.

According to the investigation, in January there were 24,307 cases of malaria with 36 deaths, in February 17,838 cases were recorded with 92 deaths, and in March 20, 463 cases with 52 deaths were recorded.

During the same period, 1,765 cases of measles with 22 deaths were recorded in January, 1,578 cases with 83 deaths were recorded in February and 5,295 cases with 50 deaths were recorded in March.

About 1,498 cases of chicken pox with 19 deaths were recorded in January and 1,473 cases and 4,292 cases were recorded in February and March, but no death was recorded.

On whooping cough, only four deaths were recorded out of 1,273 cases, 1,123 cases and 3,281 cases for January, February and March.

During the period, 180 cases of hepatitis with one death were recorded and 156 cases of food poisoning with two deaths were also recorded.

Although, 38 cases of poliomyetitis were recorded and 21 cases inf influenza were also recorded but there was reported case of death, during the period under review.

No cases of anthrax, rabies, diphtheria, yellow fever, cholera, typhoid and other contagious diseases were recorded by the epidemiological unit during the period.

The statistics of the contagious diseases were confirmed to the New Nigerian in Yola by officials of the state Health Service Management Board and the Principal Medical Doctor In-charge of the unit, Dr. D. D. Audu.

CSO: 5400/146

BRIEFS

INFANTS IMMUNIZED--FOUR hundred and six infants have been immunised against various diseases--whooping cough, diphtheria, tetanus, measles and poliomyelitis--from January to April this year by the Basic Health Centre, Agbaibeje in Igbo-Eze local government area. Disclosing this to the Press at Agbaibeje recently, the Health Sister in charge, Miss Elizabeth Offier, explained that as a result of these immunisations, the occurrence of the diseases among infants in the area, for the period, were drastically reduced. [Excerpt] [Enugu DAILY STAR in English 2 Jun 84 p 3]

CSO: 5400/146

STUDY POINTS TO HIGH INCIDENCE OF CHLAMYDIA AMONG WOMEN

Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 26 May 84 p 7

[Text] A new Stockholm study of young women between 16 and 18 years of age shows that perhaps one-fifth of them are infected with chlamydia.

Another new discovery is that the infected women do not differ from healthy women in their frequency of changing sexual partners or in their use of birth control methods.

Under the auspices of the National Association for Swedish Youth, 154 young women were observed for a 10-week period. The purpose of the study was to find out how common the incidence of uterine infection was among these women, who had all visited the National Association for Swedish Youth, for consultation on birth control methods, among other things.

There were no cases of gonorrhoea discovered. However, 31 of the women were found to have chlamydia, a venereal disease which is currently spreading in an alarming manner, particularly among young people. It was estimated that approximately 80,000 Swedes contracted chlamydia last year. This figure is half as high as the total number of gonorrhoea cases in the most hard-hit years, in the late sixties.

"The sex lives of the women who had contracted chlamydia did not differ in any way from the sex lives of the healthy women," National Association for Swedish Youth doctor Karin Edgardh told this reporter on Friday.

Most of the teenagers studied had had their first sexual relations more than six months previously, and now had a steady partner. Very few had had many partners in the course of the last three months. Sixteen percent had found a new boyfriend in the last three months.

Just under half of the young women used the pill as a birth control method. Approximately 30 percent relied on the man using condoms, but only occasionally and not carefully enough as would be necessary to prevent infection.

Resources Lacking

"There is no better alternative to the routine we use, of taking samples and testing them for chlamydia," said Karin Edgardh. "It is always part of the agenda in our routine examinations of young people--for instance, when we are counseling them on birth control methods. We also are hoping for resources to enable us to examine boys as well as girls for chlamydia.

"The effects of chlamydia on men are milder than they are on women, which means that many men do not seek medical care for it. Men do not have any obvious medical specialists to go to, either, nothing comparable to women's gynecologists," Edgardh continued. Eric Sandstrom, skin and venereal disease specialist at Soder Hospital, said on Friday that general practitioners will play a key role if we are to succeed in controlling chlamydia. A massive information campaign, according to Sandstrom, ought to help assure that testing for chlamydia be done more often than today.

Leads to Sterility

Chlamydia is easy to treat once it is discovered. The complications that doctors are worried about are ectopic pregnancy and sterility.

Ten percent of the young women who had chlamydia also showed evidence of tubal inflammation, which, in turn, can lead to permanent sterility.

Ectopic (tubal) pregnancies continue to be on the rise in Sweden, without researchers being aware of the cause. Chlamydia infections are thought to be a possible contributing cause.

The National Association for Swedish Youth is currently starting a campaign both in Sweden and Finland to disseminate information on venereal diseases such as chlamydia, herpes and gonorrhoea.

9584

CSO: 5400/2530

BRIEFS

TSETSE FLIES SPREAD--Researchers have detected the presence of tsetse flies beyond the current northern limit zone in Nabitende, Nawandala and Bulamogi subcountries in Iganga District. This was revealed by a team of scientists from the Uganda Trypanomiasis Research Organisation (UTRO), who recently conducted a three-week campaign to detect the flies and to treat sleeping sickness cases in Bulamogi. The team, lead by the UTRO Acting Director, Dr S. C. Masaba, included scientists from the veterinary, medical epidemiology and protozoology departments. Dr Masaba said that his multi disciplinary team had discovered that tsetse flies, the carriers of sleeping sickness were now present in areas further to the north of Iganga and that UTRO was all out to detect them and treat the victims. Tsetse flies, he explained, were formerly confined to shores of Lake Victoria. The dreadful flies had now extended to areas north of Iganga because of poor surveillance during the last decade. Dr Masaba said more survey teams would be deployed in Busoga to control the flies. [Text] [Kampala UGANDA TIMES in English 30 May 84 pp 1, 8]

CSO: 5400/146

BARBADOS

BRIEFS

PARASITIC BRONCHITIS REPORTED--Bridgetown, Barbados, 17 March (CANA)--Barbados has reported its first case of Parasitic Bronchitis among cattle. The animal disease was detected in a cow at a government abattoir, an official release said. The government said its veterinary diagnostic laboratory will test cattle in the area of origin of the affected animal and will closely monitor the situation. The Ministry of Agriculture explained that the parasite in question lives in the lung where it may produce a severe pneumonia mainly in calves 4 to 6 months old and adult cattle in the dairy. The affected animals cough, lose condition and show a drop in milk production. [Text] [FL171658 Bridgetown CANA in English 1549 GMT 17 Mar 84]

CSO: 5400/2074

BRIEFS

BLOOD DYSENTERY EPIDEMIC--One hundred and fifty buffaloes have died in the last few weeks at Kakrola and Nangli Sakrawati Dairy colonies in the Najafgarh block reportedly of blood dysentery. In a joint letter, the elected representatives from the area, Mr Sajjan Kumar, MP, Metropolitan Councillor Mukhtiar Singh and Corporator Ishwar Singh, have urged the authorities to take urgent steps to check the epidemic. They have also requested the Government to pay compensation to the people suffering the loss of cattle. Drawing the attention of the Government to the unhygienic and insanitary conditions prevailing in the dairy colonies, they have demanded ample well-equipped veterinary hospital and other amenities for the dairy colonies. The letter noted with regret that despite a similar epidemic which had spread in some trans-Yamuna areas, the Administration had undertaken no long-term measures to check the recurrence. Copies of the letter have been despatched to Agriculture Minister Rao Birender Singh, Lt Governor P. G. Gavai, and Chief Executive Councillor Jag Parvesh Chandra. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 16 May '84 p 3].

CSO: 5450/0033

BOVINE TB REMAINS MAJOR PROBLEM, SAPPING FUNDS

Dublin IRISH INDEPENDENT in English 8 Jun 84 p 3

[Text] Despite the estimated £600 million spent on the eradication scheme in the last 30 years, bovine TB is again a major problem, it was stressed yesterday, as the Government announced it is restoring artificial insemination subsidies, writes Chris Glennon.

Individual computer records of all animals in the bovine TB scheme were now essential to stamp out threats of costly new outbreaks of the disease, it was claimed last night by ICMSA economist Kieran Dolan.

Restoring the exchequer subsidy for the artificial insemination scheme will mean a reduction of £2.47 in the current cost of an A.I. service.

The cost of A.I. doubled from May 1 with abolition of a £4.94 subsidy jointly funded by the E.E.C. and the Exchequer. That subsidy "died in this year's E.E.C. Prices Package largely because Irish negotiators believed that it could upset negotiations on the superlevy if it were sought.

The Department of Agriculture is also negotiating with the E.E.C. Commission in an effort to have the E.E.C. subsidy restored. Any restoration would, however, have to get the sanction of the Council of Agriculture Ministers.

Since most E.E.C. Agriculture Ministers feel that Ireland did exceptionally well on the superlevy, they are unlikely to be willing to agree to yet another concession to Ireland.

CSO: 5440/011

NAMIBIA

BRIEFS

RABIES CASES IN OKAHANDJA--OKAHANDJA: Rabies has once again made an appearance in the Okahandja district, the local veterinary surgeon, Mr Archie Norval has said. He said three cases were reported during May on farms west of the tarred road, a kudu being the first of these. He said the disease is being spread by the increased jackal population and appealed to all farmers to wipe out these vermin from the area. [Text] [Windhoek THE WINDHOEK ADVERTISER in English 18 Jun 84 p 1]

CSO: 5400/148

BRIEFS

NATAL RABIES OUTBREAK--THE rabies epidemic in Natal is escalating to a dangerous level with 16 new cases in white areas alone in the past two months. With more than 80 rabid animals found in the province--60 in white areas--in the past 12 months, authorities are blaming careless owners for not having their pets vaccinated. And now, more human lives were at risk with the epidemic already worse than last year's severe outbreak, the head of veterinary services in Natal, Dr Bill Posthumus, warned today. Dr Posthumus said careless dog owners who did not take their dogs for vaccination were to blame for the epidemic. In May 10 cases were identified and in April six were found in "white" Natal. Another vet said a "horseshoe of infection" was enveloping in the black areas of Ndwedwe and Maphumulo. Since March last year more than 60 dogs, all unvaccinated and nearly all strays, were identified as rabid in "white" Natal. About 20 other rabid animals were also found. They were infected by dogs. Most of the rabid dogs came into "white" Natal from KwaZulu. A vet said that when a rabid animal was found in "white" Natal the veterinary department moved in and tried to inoculate all dogs, so that even young pets were protected. In KwaZulu, however, the "rounds were done once a year," so many young dogs were not protected. Four rabid dogs have been found recently at Assagay Road, Weenen, Cato Ridge and Greytown. [Text] [Durban THE DAILY NEWS in English 12 Jun 84 p 1]

CSO: 5400/148

ANTHRAX OUTBREAK IN MANYARA REPORTED

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 28 May 84 p 1

[Article by Muasho Kimaro]

[Text]

ABOUT 1,300 wild animals in Lake Manyara National Park, Arusha Region, have died since the outbreak of anthrax in the area in February, this year.

Confirming this at the weekend, an official of the Tanzania National Parks (Tanapa) said investigations were still continuing to ascertain whether all deaths were

caused by anthrax alone or there was another disease in the area.

He said the intensity and extent of the disease had been fluctuating, depending on weather changes. During the heavy rains, the disease subsided.

"Therefore, all I can say is that the disease is there and not there," he said, adding that laboratory tests were

being done and results being awaited.

According to the official, a team of experts had been formed to monitor the spread of the disease and take necessary measures to control it.

Among the measures is the burning of carcasses. Tanapa, he said, was getting help from regional authorities on this issue.

Anthrax has mainly hit the Lake Manyara National Park, killing many impalas, some 25 elephants so far and other ruminants.

Although it is not known whether the disease has broken out in other nearby parks, the Tarangire, Serengeti national parks and the Ngorongoro Crater, have all been designated problem areas.

The official said control of the disease was made more difficult by migrating animals. He refuted Western press reports that the Lake Manyara National Park had been closed and that no tourists were allowed in.

A Tanzania Tourist Corporation (TTC) official told the *Daily News* in Dar es Salaam that the outbreak of the disease in the national park did not affect the TTC operations there.

At no time had the Lake Manyara National Park been closed to tourists, he stressed, adding that the disease did not pose any threat to human beings.

ZIMBABWE

BRIEFS

NYANGA TSETSE THREAT--TSETSEFLY in areas of Nyanga North are posing a grave danger to both people and livestock and, as a result, many of the people in the area have lost their livestock. Villagers say the worst affected areas are Fombe, Kodzaimambo, Marowe, Manyika and Rwenya. One of the villagers said: "Most people who had 40 or more head of cattle in the past now have nothing. Cattle deaths have resulted in a lack of animals to pull ploughs and other implements." [Text] [Harare THE HERALD in English 7 Jun 84 p 3]

CSO: 5400/145

BRIEFS

MOKO IN CARRIACOU--St George's Grenada, Wednesday, (CANA)--Moko disease, which has been wreaking havoc on banana plantations mainly in northern Grenada, has been discovered in Carriacou, a Grenadine island administered by Grenada, an industry official said today. James Marrast, head of the government's Moko eradication team, said although Carriacou was not a banana growing region, the disease was there in at least 10 areas and with the rainy season approaching, it could spread throughout the 13 square mile island. Moko disease, discovered in Grenada in 1978, causes the leaves of banana trees to turn yellow. Plants then wither and die. The Moko eradication team had to destroy over 29 000 contaminated plants between November 1982 and this month. Marrast said the discovery of the disease in Carriacou could be linked to trade with Grenada. "We have the situation under very close observation and we are very anxious to know that we wipe out the disease in Carriacou," he said. Bananas are a major cash crop for Grenada. [Text] [Port-of-Spain EXPRESS in English 31 May 84 p 53]

CSO: 5440/008

HEALTH PROBLEMS PLAGUE SOUTH RUPUNUNI AREA

Georgetown MIRROR in English 3 Jun 84 p 4

[Text] Pests, worms, vermin and crop diseases are taking a tremendous toll in the South Rupununi. "We'll starve more" a representative of the mainly agricultural Amerindian community of Karaudarnaua, said in an appeal letter to Mirror.

The South Rupununi resident Eugene La Cruz stated that worms and plant diseases have been ravishing crops of cassava, corn and peanuts. "We have no cure for this problem," he distressed, pointing out that in one instance caterpillars completely destroyed a crop of one hundred pounds of peanuts which had grown to four inches high.

The Amerindian farmer noted that their problems have been compounded by the absence of adequate rainfall. "Up to today (May 22), we are not getting good rain," he said as he explained that the river and creek do not have adequate water both for farming and domestic purposes.

Mirror understands that the South Rupununi has been experiencing a near drought period over the past seven to eight months. Latest reports indicated that the rains have now started.

The drought condition and the farm diseases have turned the South Rupununi into a virtual distressed area where all-year-round food supplies have been short.

La Cruz appealed for large-scale supplies of rice, sugar and salt "because we are all starving."

The Opposition PPP, in and out of Parliament, has been exposing the terrible plight of the Amerindian communities. During the debate on the 1985 state budget the PPP stressed the need for emergency supplies of basic food items to be rushed to these communities. Obviously, the PNC regime did no such thing.

CSO: 5400/012

BRIEFS

HOPPER PEST IN GODAVARI--KAKINADA, May 7--Some 30 per cent of the standing dalwa paddy rabi crop in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh has been destroyed by the brown plant hopper pest and unfavourable weather. Between December last, when it was planted, and March end, the crop was exposed to severe cold and humidity. In the crucial grain-formation stage after January, the brown plant hopper attacked the plants on 70,000 of the 166,000 hectares under the crop. Its incidence was above the economic threshold level on about 35,000 hectares. Agricultural experts who surveyed the damage felt that excessively close planting and overdose of nitrogenous fertiliser, which led to dense plant growth, provided ideal conditions for the pest. They also said indiscriminate use of insecticides in the area created problems like pesticide-resistant pests and environmental pollution. A permanent machinery has now been set up to contain the pest. A total of 41 plant protection squads have been created, three or four to a block, while surveillance teams headed by block development officers concerned have each selected 10 to 15 villages to advise farmers on plant protection measures. [Text] [Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 8 May 84 p 19]

CSO: 5450/0027

BLACK BUGS DESTROY PALAWAN CROPS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 8 Jun 84 p 11

[Text] Black bugs that invade farms by the millions overnight have been destroying rice and corn crops in Southern Palawan towns for almost a year now.

Farmers in Palawan aired this lament Friday before Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile who made a stopover in Puerto Princesa City on the first leg of a seven-day post-election survey on the peace and order situation in Southern Philippines.

The farmers, in the company of Palawan Gov. Salvador Socrates and Assemblyman-elect Ramon Mitra who welcomed Enrile at the airport, sought Enrile's assistance in following up a year-long request for the Ministry of Agriculture to exterminate the black bugs.

Not only rice and corn plants are destroyed overnight by the invading black bugs, but also vegetable plants such as beans, camotes, fruit trees, and all other green plants, according to the farmers.

The farmers said that their usual palay harvest of 60 cavans per hectare has gone down to as low as 10 cavans per hectare since the black bug invasions.

The bug, which looks like a black beetle and about the size of an ordinary table fly, emits an obnoxious odor when disturbed.

Farmers told Enrile that in Brookes Point, the bug are caught by the sackful, only to be found in greater numbers again at the break of day.

In Buswanga, fishermen complained of rampant illegal fishing with the use of dynamite. They said that small fishermen are provided by bigtime Manila fishermen with dynamite and their catch are collected and brought to Manila.

CSO: 5400/4429

LOCUSTS STOPPED BY INTER-STATE COOPERATION

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 20 Jun 84 p 8

[Text]

ONE of the potentially most serious locust invasions in years has been averted, thanks to joint effort and co-operation between the South African and Swaziland Departments of Agriculture.

Millions of the dreaded red locusts have been destroyed in punitive poisoning action by the South African authorities on farms in the northeast lowveld of Swaziland.

Locust invasions have become a major fear of South African authorities in recent years because of the progressive breakdown of preventive measures in some neighbouring Black states.

Officials say that if locust swarms are allowed to remain uncontrolled in neighbouring countries they could easily invade the Transvaal, and create yet another threat to South Africa's already drought- and inflation-embattled agriculture.

The action in Swaziland was taken at the request

of the Swazi authorities, and the South African authorities can now report that it has been 100 percent effective.

A South African Department of Agriculture helicopter was used in the campaign--in a fight which was made more

complicated by the fact that the locusts were settled in fields of mature sugar cane nearly 3 m tall.

The South African spray team leader, Dr D Brown, said in Pretoria that two species of locust -- the red and the African migratory -- were found over about 60 ha and sprayed.

Because the locusts were hidden in the dense cane foliage, the spray was applied to the upper cane leaves and most of the locusts were killed within 48 hours.

He was confident that near-complete control had been achieved and only slight damage was caused by the locusts.