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Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

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VARIOUS ADVANCES IN PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES REPORTED

Services of Health Centers Reported

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 27 Jul 82 p 3

[Text]

According to the current year's expansion plan for the health services, the educational health affairs department will establish four new zonal health centres in different parts of the Kabul city and put them at the service of the patients.

The department presently has two major health centres in the area adjacent to the Public Health Ministry and one in the Karti Sai region and another in the Zarnigar Park. These health centres have health laboratories, X-ray units, dental clinics, anti-malaria laboratories, central ear and throat polyclinics and the central polyclinic pharmacy store.

"They are always at the active service of the male and female students of schools, lycees, dormitories and physical health institute and are making efforts to improve their fruitful service to the patients", an official of the department said in an interview to the

Kabul New Times recently.

The official recalled: Under the past regimes, while the Public Health Ministry had not been promoted to a ministry's level, the health affairs in the country were the jurisdiction of an independent directorate, and the health care of students was the job of foreign medical personnel. And, after the educational health programme of the Kabul faculty of medicine was completed and the faculty was established, Afghan physicians graduated from the faculty of medicine and undertook the medicare of the students gradually by forming a health unit of the Education Ministry at first."

In 1360 H.S. (1981), the unit was promoted to a department of educational health affairs of the Education Ministry. With 60 beds, this department was at the service of the students of the Kabul city. In the beginning of

the same year, the department was departed from the Education Ministry and it began to function as a wing of the Public Health Ministry.

It was decided that the department should be directly guided by the Child-Mother Care Institute. A decision was also taken that those patients of the department whose diseases are advanced and dangerous, shall be hospitalised in different hospitals of the ministry at the directions of the physicians of polyclinics of the department. They are hospitalised as soon as they are introduced to the hospitals in accordance with the instructions of the Public Health Ministry.

The department has now two major centres and six zonal health centres. They are the zonal health centre of the Aina Fedawi in the eastern part of the city, the Mehrabuddin zonal centre in the southern part, the Mariam zonal centre in the northern part, the Mastora Ghorri zonal centre in the old city, the Spin Kalai zonal centre in the Khoshhal Khan Mena in the western part, and the health centre of the Karti Parwan secondary school for the central part of the city.

In addition, a branch unit of the polyclinic is functioning in the dormitory of the Khoshhal Khan Lycee in the Bagh-i-Babour area.

Over 19,928 persons were

re treated in the internal health services section, 901 in surgical section, 3,876 in the ear and throat sections, and 3,788 in the skin diseases section, while 2,749 cases of bandaging were handled by the different sections of the department.

Similarly, according to the official, 28,609 persons were administered BCG and anti-typhus vaccines. Over 22,663 newly enrolled persons were also examined and treated during 1360 and 1361 H.S.. As many as 3,951 patients were treated in the dental clinics of the department.

The department has carried out over 15,301 laboratory tests for 5,090 patients and introduced 2,771 students to other institutions for further treatment. This way, the department examined and treated over 24,762 patients through its six zonal health centres in the city.

Another 460 persons were radio-graphed free of charge during the year.

Hospitalisation of patients forced the department to expand its activities. To provide facilities to the patients to report on time to the zonal health centres and through them to hospitals, the department urged all its zonal health centres to accelerate their activities in this regard.

All health services of the hospitals of the Public Health Ministry are at the disposal of the department. Therefore, the polyclinics of the department introduce those patients

to hospitals whose diseases need further treatment and who deserve to be hospitalised. And hospitals render effective and meritorious assistance in treatment of these ill students.

The patients, who are introduced to the hospitals through the polyclinics of the department, "enjoy all possibilities and facilities of treatment and examination in hospitals", the official said.

All the medicines needed for the department are mainly supplied by the Public Health Ministry. ten cartons of drugs were also donated by the UNICEF last year.

The medicines needed for the department will be supplied by the representation of the UNICEF in Kabul according to an agreement concluded with the representation regarding the continuation of its health services for the current Afghan year.

In addition, 11 kinds of drugs, at a cost of Afs 120,000 donated by the friendly German Democratic Republic, were put at the disposal of this department by the DRA Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation. These were distributed to patients free of charge.

Only newly enrolled persons are administered the BCG vaccine. Other vaccines, administered to children before their school age are available in all the child-mother care centres of the city", the official pointed out.

Talking of the current year's expansion plan of the department, the official said it has in view to establish four zonal centres in different parts of the city and "put them at the service of the compatriots."

Health Brigades Active in Provinces

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 5 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

The newly established health brigades, in addition to defending the revolution, actively participate in social work programmes including health services, providing first aid to the families, attending to the patients and disabled persons in the hospitals.

Organised by the provincial committees of the DYOA, with the help of the Directorates of Public Health throughout the provinces of the DRA, the health brigades are formed by the youth and school boys and other members of the DYOA who had earlier been working in the health centres. Many are the students of faculty of medicine, pharmacy, veterinary or other health establishments in the DRA.

These health brigades, after being organised, are

introduced to the Directorate of Public Health, where they are trained in special courses for 15 days to one month.

After graduation they receive certificates authorising them to work as health brigades.

The health brigades carry on their activities in the population centres, work places and reactivate the health centres destroyed by the counter-revolutionary elements and bandits.

They also participate in the operational programmes of the security organs in treating wounded people.

Working closely with the family planning centres and with the nurses of these centres, they also carry on extension work among the families and teach them how to better nutrition and the proper use of food-stuffs. (Bakhtar)

Campaign Against Malaria, Leishmania Launched

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 5 Aug 82 p 3

[Text]

The institute for campaign against malaria and leishmaniosis has taken a total of 49,967 blood samples from patients, tested them and has treated

96,705 patients afflicted with these diseases, free of charge during the past 16 months.

The activities of the in-

stitute covers mainly the complete eradication of malaria and leishmania bearing mosquitoes and decisive struggle to prevent these contagious diseases from spreading. "And, the department has persistently made serious efforts to achieve this end", an official of the institute told the Kabul New Times in an interview recently.

The official added: "At present, the institute carries out the campaign against malaria and leishmania only in six zones.

They are the north-eastern, the north-western, the central, the eastern, the south-western and the western zones of the country where 28 units of the institute in the centres, districts, villages and sub-districts of the provinces function. These units diligently carry out their duties and activities in the interest of the people of the country. Besides distributing anti-malaria drugs, they also examine blood samples of all people suspected of harbouring malaria parasites. These tests are carried out in the institute's laboratories in the hospitals, clinics, health centres and their branch laboratories in remote areas.

"The institute has succeeded in detecting so many cases of malaria only due to the technical superiority of its staff at the 24 units and has taken 413,732 blood samples in the last 16 months alone. Malaria parasites were observed in the blood of

77,381 of these cases. These patients not only received the basic curative treatment but they also received anti-malaria medicines from the department free of charge, as a preventive measure", he said.

The institute has also taken 82,235 samples from other people who are suspected to have malaria since the beginning of this year (March 21, 1982) up to the Saratan 22 (July 13, 82). Laboratory examination showed that out of these malaria parasites were present in the blood of 19,324 cases. They are all being treated by the institute.

The units of the institute sprayed 157 villages, 8,016 houses and 47,561 rooms with anti-malaria insecticides. Over 80,111 people were so protected from the disease during the last year.

In a similar manner the leishmania prevention section of the institute detected 11,696 cases in the country and brought them under control by treatments in the last 16 months. The section has also carried out survey work in Kabul schools in order to find new cases, assess the results of the drugs used, the extent of control and awareness of the conditions of the epidemic in Kabul city. It has also treated a large number of patients to lessen the spread of the disease in Kabul.

"The leishmaniosis section has also conducted studies on the endemic forms of the disease in the Kandahar, Herat, Parw-

an and Balkh provinces, and obtained sufficient information on the carrier gray mosquitoes and their ecology in Afghanistan", the official said.

The section has also performed studies on many animal diseases and surveyed the process of destroying mad dogs with the cooperation of the public health department of the Kabul municipal authorities.

In order to make the public aware and to absorb their cooperation in combating leishmaniosis, two TV programmes were telecast and one radio programme was also broadcast by the institute. The section also prepared hundreds of posters and pamphlets on the disease and distributed them to the people.

The section sprayed DDT (75 per cent dilution) in five villages, 10,309 residential areas and 70,427 rooms last year. Nearly 98,147 people were also provided preventive medicines for leishmaniosis.

"The institute has also taken effective measures to prevent the growth and reproduction of gray carrier mosquitoes and to eradicate these insects more or less in the Kabul, Kandahar, Herat, Balkh and Parwan provinces and the Ghorband district by utilizing its insecticide spraying teams equipped with DDT mixtures that are sprayed in the breeding areas and resting places of these mosquitoes. Results obtained from these me-

asures have been considered as "satisfactory", he said.

Answering a question, the official said: "The anti-larvae directorate of the institute has also succeeded in controlling the anophelus mosquitoes that lay their eggs on the surface of stagnant water bodies. These eggs hatch into larvae finally they become adult mosquitos who are carriers of malaria parasites and of leishmania. In order to control the anophelus and culex mosquitoes, beside the biological and physical methods, the directorate has used for the last 16 months larvaecide E-500, a drug that destroys the larvae.

The directorate sprays the larvaecide in the breeding and resting places of mosquitoes. A total area of 59,107,000 square metres of water surface was so sprayed in the Kabul and Jalalabad cities, by using 418 litres of larvaecide last year and in the first three months of this year.

Biological control was tried by using larvae-eating fishes. The institute distributed over 4,766,058 such fish to an area of 1,692,797 square metres of water, which are considered the reproduction, breeding and resting places of mosquitoes, during the last year and in the first four months of the current year.

The physical method of eliminating mosquitoes is to dry seasonal waters, dig canals, fill swam-

ps and the breeding and resting places of mosquitoes and a number of other measures. This was also done by the anti-larvae section. It was also able to fill 1,713 cubic metres of swamp areas during the last 16 months.

Success was achieved in cleaning 799,657 square metres of water surface for better reproduction of larvae-eating fishes.

The official stated that during the last 16 months, the institute distributed 135,410,221 of chloroquin, daraprime and primaquin tablets to the needy people and patients free of charge in order to protect and treat malaria.

While treating leishmaniosis, the institute has handed over drugs, antibiotics, vitamins and anti-septic agents, which include 40 kinds of medicine, at the cost of over Afs 2,165,985, to the patients free of charge during the same period.

Foreign sources that supply medicine and other needed materials to the institute are the UNDP, the WHO, and the Soviet Union. The institute attaches great value to their fruitful cooperation," the official said.

A new research department has been newly established under the framework of the institute and started functioning from the beginning of the current year.

"Scientific research on malaria and leishmaniosis and search for better me-

thods to fight these constitute the major and fundamental activities of this department", the official said. The WHO is rendering assistance to this department.

With the consultation of the WHO experts, the institute has undertaken an emergency plan in all sites of its working programme areas that aims mostly at curing malaria and leishmaniosis and distribution of medicines and anti-malaria treatment.

The institute has also decided to make untiring efforts in order to eradicate malaria and leishmaniosis-carrying mosquitoes, which exist in an endemic form in the Kabul, Kandahar and Herat provinces and Mazar city," the official stated.

New Clinic in Kabul

Kabul KABUL NEW TIMES in English 17 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

KABUL, August 17. (Bakhtar)— A new health clinic, under the Kabul municipality, was inaugurated in Shah Shahid, Kabul yesterday.

The new clinic has various sections of stomatology, surgery, internal diseases, laboratory, family planning, vaccination, dressing unit and a dispensary.

This is one of the many such clinics planned for different parts of the city, under the state plan for socio-economic development for the current year.

CSO: 5400/5331

FLU EPIDEMIC IN MELBOURNE PEAKS, STRAIN TERMED MILD

Melbourne THE AGE in English 17 Jul 82 p 3

[Article by Mark Metherell]

[Text]

The influenza epidemic in Melbourne is thought to be reaching its peak.

The epidemic has increased absences from work in some industries by 20 per cent and emptied classrooms of a third or more of their pupils.

The head of the virology department at Fairfield Hospital, Dr Ian Gust, said yesterday that two deaths had been linked with the flu virus. But he said the deaths should not cause public alarm. In both cases, the patients were aged or at risk.

"In general this is a mild strain. It has not produced very serious cases," Dr Gust said.

He said the epidemic seemed to be reaching its peak. "We have had 45 admissions to the hospital. We are much busier than we were this time last year . . . it is certainly the biggest outbreak since 1975," he said.

A national sales executive for the temporary employment agency, Drake Overload, Mr George Zammit, said yesterday that in recent weeks the company's illness-related staff placements had risen by 20 per cent compared with the same time last year.

Mr Zammit said that what was complicating matters for employers was that the epidemic had struck at one of the busiest times of the business calendar — the end of the financial year, when many companies are involved in stocktaking and balancing the books.

He said that apart from the 20 per cent increase in illness-related vacancies, there was a heavy demand for temporary office staff to handle end-of-year business.

"If you can envisage you are

a manufacturing company and you need to prepare reports for shareholders and directors, and not only your secretaries but also key people like accountants get ill, it makes things awfully difficult," Mr Zammit said.

The chilly economic climate has created further problems for many employers, according to the executive director of the Melbourne Chamber of Commerce, Mr Phillip Gude.

"A lot of businesses had tightened up on staff because of economic conditions and now did not have much fat to withstand absences," he said.

Dr Gust said that so far Melbourne seemed to have been worst hit of any city in the eastern States, though reports of respiratory ailments in Adelaide indicated that the influenza B virus might be on the march there.

"Sydney has had very little, but they tend to get their flu a little later than we do," he said.

Dr Gust said that the flu's attack rate had been high in schools and other institutions.

The headmaster of Southwood Primary School in Ringwood, Mr Alex Alexander, said that after two of his junior classes had been depleted by a third because of the flu, he had checked with neighboring schools and found they faced similar problems.

An official from the Education Department responsible for secondary school staffing said that the absences among teachers caused by the epidemic has been the worst he had seen.

He said the worst-hit school in his area had been Fawkner High, where on one day last week 21 out of the 57 teaching staff had been absent.

GASTROENTERITIS PERSISTS AMONG INFANTS, MINISTER NOTES

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

Health Minister Mr. Lloyd Brathwaite says the obstinacy with which gastro-enteritis persists among the infant population in the country, is an indication that much is still to be done in improving sanitary conditions here.

At the same time he warned that Government will shortly be amending the Health Services Regulations dealing with disposal of offensive matters in the island.

The Minister was speaking at the official opening yesterday of Government's multi-million dollar Bridgetown Sewage Treatment Plant.

Mr. Brathwaite said that medical records had revealed that in the past 10 years there had been a decline in the incidence of typhoid and paratyphoid, with only one case noticed during last year.

However, he said it should be noted that gastro enteritis was prevalent only in children under five years old although there could well be more cases among older children.

He pointed out that from a low level of 65 cases in 1971, the incidence rose to a peak of

194 in 1977, but had fallen to 147 last year.

"This is a situation in which we cannot afford to take comfort, and must acknowledge that the incidence of gastro enteritis in its scores and hundreds is an indictment on our wastes disposal practices and control," Mr. Brathwaite said.

He went on: "The presence of refuse, decaying food, dead animals and faecal matter, with their offensive odours, is a stark reminder that all is not well and action must be taken to improve environmental health conditions."

The Minister said that the sewage Treatment Plant was designed and constructed to remove the threat to the health of the community, which for many years existed around many large buildings, in the storm drains, or gutters within the City.

He stated that the treatment facilities will also be available for the treatment and disposal of wastes from septic tanks and sewage wells which are now taken to Cowell Street, Bridgetown, by cesspool emptiers and in drums.

The Minister charged that most of these vehicles operate in violation of the Health Services Regulations, and not only endanger health through callous disposal into the gutters adjacent to busy warehouses off Hincks Street, but have been largely responsible for serious pollution of the coastline adjacent to Hincks Street.

Mr. Brathwaite said that marine biologists had conducted studies of the seabed in that area, and reported that there was little marine life left in the seabed because of sewage pollution.

"Shortly action will be taken to amend the Health Services (Disposal of Offensive Matters) Regulations 1969 making it mandatory to bring cesspool wastes to this plant, and to prohibit dumping at Cowell Street," Mr. Brathwaite declared.

He said his Ministry had already initiated action to obtain assistance in carrying out a pilot study to re-use the clear effluent or treated waste water from the Treatment Plant for irrigation purposes.

SEWERAGE TREATMENT PLANT OPENED; SYSTEM TO BE EXPANDED

Bridgetown ADVOCATE-NEWS in English 7 Aug 82 p 1

[Text]

Prime Minister Mr. Tom Adams has hailed the country's modern sewerage system as a service designed to serve the country for several decades and yesterday said government did not intend to stop at Bridgetown in improving the island's sewerage programme.

Mr. Adams made the comments as he addressed the opening of the multi-million dollar Bridgetown Sewage Treatment Plant, and the inauguration of the system.

He said that within a matter of weeks, the Barbados Water Authority will take over the operation and maintenance of the system, construction of which lasted for three years.

Mr. Adams told the gathering, which included top Government officials and representatives of locally-based regional and international organisations, that the existence of the system was an asset to the entire country.

"But the Government does not intend to stop at

Bridgetown. Our conviction of the need for efficient, modern methods of sewage disposal has prompted investigation into the existing methods and needs of the heavily built up areas along the south and west coasts and in the greater Bridgetown areas," the Prime Minister said.

To date technical assistance has already been secured, Mr. Adams pointed out, from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to conduct feasibility studies of sewerage in those areas.

Mr. Adams also said that consideration is also being given to including the Zone One water protection area around the Belle, St. Michael, in any future sewerage system, to link up with the greater Bridgetown area at its closest point.

Mr. Adams said the rapid growth of the productive and distributive sectors over the recent past, had generated growing pressure on existing infrastructure, social facilities and measures of environmental sanitation.

According to the Prime Minister: "This system is therefore an integral part of such development and will be a major factor in preserving

the quality of life of all those who live and work in this area."

He appealed to residents of Emmerton Lane and Lake's Folly to treat the facility as their own show-piece, and avoid actions which will tend to spoil its appearance or cause damage to the costly structure and equipment.

He also made an appeal to the staff of the Water Authority, urging members to remember that the value of the Treatment Plant and its effectiveness for the environmental improvement for which it is designed and constructed will depend on the quality of operation and management you provide."

Work has already started on the vetting of applications for connections to the system, and permission has been given to applicants to make the link-up.

Mr. Adams reminded owners and occupiers within the area served by the sewerage system that connection was obligatory by law.

He added that the Water Authority will exercise its discretion in giving time to make the connections to the system, but that it was empowered to take enforcement action if necessary.

TUBERCULOSIS STILL DREADED DISEASE HERE

Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 3 Aug 82 p 1

[Article by Kebareng Solomon]

[Text]

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) is still a dreaded disease among Batswana despite the recent advances in its control, management and treatment, the Minister of Health, Mr Lemme Makgekgenene told the Medical and Dental Association of Botswana.

The Minister was officially opening the associations annual meeting at the National Museum and Art Gallery last week.

The Minister said however, that he understood that TB was more amenable to treatment than some of the conditions resulting from excessive smoking and alcoholism.

He also spoke on other topics which were being discussed at the congress, among them cardiac disease and hypertension.

He expressed concern about the increasing number of hypertension cases and cerebro-vascula accidents that occur in the country.

Another topic "Rational Use of Antibiotics" was to be discussed and Mr Makgekgenene said he was aware that specialists have found it necessary to enforce some rational use of antibiotics.

He warned that indiscriminate prescribing of antibiotics leads quite often to serious problems of drug resistance in some life threatening conditions, he added.

The Association, the Minister explained, has its aims and objectives; to promote the medical, dental and the allied

sciences and the highest standards, conduct and ethics of the Medical and Dental professions in Botswana.

The other aim was to arrange monthly meetings of the members of the Association and to act as a representative body of the medical and dental professions.

Turning to the congress which was attended by doctors, nurses and other health workers, the Minister said it was intended to provide some form of inservice refresher trainings for the participants.

About the Association itself, Mr Makgekgenene said it had come a long way since its inception and now had 120 doctors as members as opposed to 20 in the past ten years.

Talking about the problems faced by the Association, Mr Makgekgenene said he was aware that the serious constraint in the Association was the rapid turnover of expatriates members.

This, he explained, resulted in the change of the composition of the Association's membership every five years.

About salaries and allowances for doctors and allowances as recommended by the Deferred Recommendations Committee, Mr Makgekgenene said although most of the recommendations on overtime and incharge allowances were accepted by Government it had taken too long to resolve the final details for implementation of the recommendations.

BRIEFS

ANTI-TB CAMPAIGN--AN ANTI-TB campaign will be launched in Mogobane, South East District, before the end of this month. A health team from Gaborone will show slides and films on TB cases and the prevention of the disease. The planned campaign comes after 45 TB cases were treated at the Mogobane clinic during the past six months. Last week a 53-year old Mogobane man died of TB at the Bamalete Lutheran Hospital and another TB victim is reported to be critical at Mogobane clinic. According to Mrs Tshegofatso Legothwane, a staff nurse at the clinic, patients attended the clinic irregularly and were irregularly taking their medications as well. Mrs Legothwane also told BOPA that bilharzia was another disease that caused concern in Mogobane. She appealed to Mogobane residents to avoid swimming in or drinking unboiled water from Mogobane dam. She explained that the dam was infested with bilharzia snails and that the water was therefore contaminated. She said bilharzia parasites easily penetrated the skin causing the disease in a few days. She also noted that it took about a year to treat bilharzia. [Text] [Gaborone DAILY NEWS in English 28 Jul 82 p 3]

CSO: 5400/5726

BRIEFS

INCREASE IN MALARIA POSSIBLE--Dr Jose Luis Garces, director of the Department of Malaria of the Ministry of Health, declared yesterday that they fear an increase in the number of malaria cases due to the lack of sufficient funds for the programs which are being carried out to prevent the disease. He declared that up to 30 June, 59 cases in various places were detected, out of a total of 72,138 persons examined. Most of those affected came from Central American countries. Added to the 59 cases are five cases uncovered the week before in Limon and which, according to him, they already started to treat. On the possible increase of the disease, Dr Garces announced that budget cuts make us suppose that at any time the number of malaria cases will increase. He added that they operate on an annual budget of 18,000,000 colons, which, however, could be cut by 2,000,000 colons. Dr Garces said that of the 59 cases reported, it was determined that 20 are Nicaraguan immigrants, 8 Guatemalans, 11 Salvadorans and 1 Bolivian. [Text] [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 8 Jul 82 p 6A] 9678

CSO: 5400/2189

NEW RABIES OUTBREAK IN SAN MARCOS PROVINCE

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 4 Jul 82 p 2

[Article by Edgar Octavio Giron Castillo]

[Text] Coatepeque--The appearance of new cases of human rabies again worries health authorities, when in March and April of this year, this fatal disease--which has no cure whenever the virus attacks humans--, claimed five victims in the regional hospital of this city, who came from municipalities on the San Marcos coast and from this city.

Last Friday at 1400 one more patient with rabies was admitted: Florencio Vicente Cardona Ramos, 39 years of age, from the village of Palin, Nuevo Progreso, San Marcos. His condition is extremely critical, and it is feared that he will not recover, isolated in the regional hospital.

He Was Bitten By a Dog

Mrs Mercedes Ramos, mother of Cardona Ramos, said that about 2 months ago her son was bitten by a dog at their home, but she never thought that he had rabies and the preventive vaccination treatment was not taken.

Wednesday, Cardona Ramos started to feel sick and by Thursday he was worse, as a result of which he was brought to the regional hospital where, according to the symptoms which he described, his illness was diagnosed as rabies.

He Would Be the Sixth Victim of This Disease

Cardona Ramos would be the sixth human rabies victim since March, right after an epidemic outbreak which appeared on the coast of San Marcos and Quetzaltenango.

Between March and April of this year, Mardoqueo Lopez Morales, 4 years old and Carlos Humberto de Leon, 24 years old died of rabies in the regional hospital of this city.

Both were bitten by a rabid dog in the village of El Triunfo, Ayutla, San Marcos.

Likewise Humberto Enrique Sanchez Lopez, 32 years of age, of the village of

Pajapa, Pajapita, San Marcos, died of rabies. Also, Arcidio Lopez Huinil and Juana Martinez, both 45 years of age, from this city.

Prevention To Avoid More Cases in Tecun Uman.

Right after the rabies deaths in the village of El Triunfo, Ayutla, San Marcos, in the municipal district, Ciudad Tecun Uman, preventive treatment had to be applied to more than 50 neighboring inhabitants of that area in order to avoid further fatalities.

Anti-Rabies Vaccination Campaign was Undertaken

The Ministries of Public Health and Agriculture concerned over the magnitude which this epidemic outbreak of rabies was taking, decided to undertake a canine antirabies campaign in the coastal regions of San Marcos and Quetzaltenango with the object of forming a protective "barrier" at the altitude of Suchitepequez, and in this way to avoid the spread of the disease throughout the entire country.

That campaign resulted in the vaccination of more than 11,000 dogs. DIGESEPE and Public Health undertook the campaign.

9678

CSO: 5400/2194

BRIEFS

RABIES CASES INCREASING--According to reports from sanitary region Number 3, an average of 10 persons per day come to the health center of Puerto Cortes, bitten by rabid dogs. Health authorities are worried about the incidence of this disease among the canine population of that municipality, with consequent danger for human life, which has caused them to take strict measures to avoid the spread of the disease. They have started by eliminating all stray dogs which roam the streets in certain hamlets and villages, because it was discovered that in the hamlet of El Chile one dog bit 10 people, who were treated in the emergency room in the health center. After the first treatment the patients remain for observation. In San Pedro Sula there were various persons who died of this disease, after having been bitten by rabid dogs or rats, but the partial elimination of those animals has checked the spread of the disease. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 28 Jun 82 p 2] 9678

INFANT MORTALITY REPORT--The Ministry of Public Health will undertake various programs for the purpose of controlling respiratory diseases and diarrhea and to decrease the mortality of Honduran children under 5 years who live in rural areas. These tasks include assistance which will be offered to the mother and the child, for it has been proved in both cases, that death is frequently the result of malnutrition, according to Gustavo Corrales, director general of public health. The official said that out of 1,000 infants who are born, 17.6 percent die, which means that every day 45 infants between the ages of 1 and 5 cease to exist because of transmittable diseases and that 60 percent die because of diarrhea. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LE TRIBUNA in Spanish 28 Jun 82 p 2] 9678

DENGUE OUTBREAK FEARED--Despite the grave threat which is spreading throughout the country no effective action has been initiated by the authorities to prevent the transmission of hemorrhagic dengue, at least not in San Pedro Sula. It was discovered that in sanitary region Number 3 they lack the insecticide to destroy the mosquito *Aedes aegypti* in its larval state, which is the vector of the malignant disease which has played such havoc in various countries of the Caribbean and lately in Belize. What is indeed strange is that the authorities of that region have not promoted an intensive campaign, developing preventive measures against the disease, but as far as we know, they are having some chats on the subject in schools and with personnel in the mayors offices. Hemorrhagic dengue is already gaining ground in the country. In San

Pedro Sula and Puerto Cortes, two suspicious cases were discovered last week, creating justified worry among the people. Hemorrhagic dengue, after arriving in the country, will find fertile soil in San Pedro Sula, where there are breeding places for mosquitoes everywhere. [Text] [Tegucigalpa LA TRIBUNA in Spanish 8 Jul 82 p 2] 9678

CSO: 5400/2189

BRIEFS

RABIES IN WEST JAVA--In the past 3 months 71 persons in Tasikmalaya Regency were reported to have been bitten by mad dogs. Three of those bitten were positively identified as having rabies. They died shortly after being bitten. The Tasikmalaya Regency Rabies Control Team invited the public to actively participate in controlling rabies by, among other things, recommending that they report bites and bring persons bitten by dogs to the P3M [control, prevention, and eradication of communicable diseases] office headed by Dr Erwin. Both live and dead dogs who have bitten people should be turned over immediately to the Animal Husbandry Service. In addition it is recommended that caring dog owners register their animals with the Animal Husbandry Services or with the village or subdistrict office. To date the team has killed some 1,200 dogs as a preventive measure to control the spread of rabies. Dogs well cared for by their owners have been inoculated. Meanwhile areas with rabies to which attention should be given reportedly include Rajapolah, Kotip Tasikmalaya, Manonjaya, and Singaparna. [Text] [Jakarta HARIAN UMUM AB in Indonesian 9 Jul 82 p 2] 6804

RABIES IN CENTRAL KALIMANTAN--The Central Kalimantan Health Service, the Animal Husbandry Service, and the regional government are now inoculating residents along the Kapuas Murung River, in particular from Puron to Kuala Kurun, Tewah, and the Hanyu River in Hulu Kahayan, Kapuas Regency, according to DVM Rusli Harahap, chief of the Central Kalimantan Level I Region Animal Husbandry Service as told to newsmen in Palangkaraya on Monday [26 July]. The inoculations were given by two teams starting, respectively, in Kuala Kapuas and in Kuala Kurun. They gave 1,000 doses which provide immunity against rabies for 3 months. Rusli Harahap and Dr Mariadi, chief of the Central Kalimantan Provincial Health Department regional office, who visited the Kayu Bulan Village near Pujon City (Kapuos Hulu) came across a young woman who had been bitten by a dog that showed symptoms of rabies. This young woman is now being treated in Kuala Kapuas. Unfortunately, Rusli Harapan said, the dog involved had been killed by a local resident and thus its brain could not be examined in the laboratory in Bandung. According to information provided by a local resident, seven persons were bitten by dogs, one of whom died. [Text] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 29 Jul 82 p 8] 6804

GASTROENTERITIS IN CENTRAL JAVA--According to an official report gastroenteritis, known to have erupted on 8 June 1982, has spread throughout most subdistricts of Banyumas Regency. The spread of gastroenteritis coincided with the beginning of the dry season in May. Only four of the 24 subdistricts in Banyumas Regency are still free of the "people's" disease. Dr Kuntoro, chief of the Banyumas Regency Health Service (DINKES), refused to provide information on the eruption of gastroenteritis which has haunted the 1.3 million Banyumas residents for the past 2 months. Reportedly Lumbir and Ajibarang Subdistricts are the most severely hit by gastroenteritis of the 18 subdistricts [as published] stricken by the disease in the regency. There are 168 cases in Lumbir Subdistrict, 6 of whom died. At least 200 victims have been recorded in Ajibarang Subdistrict since 15 June. Thirty-one died including one who was under treatment at the public health center. According to an official report at least 150 residents were stricken by gastroenteritis in Lumbir, Ajibarang, and the Pakuncen Subdistricts during June and July. Nineteen of them were reported to have died, broken down into five in Lumbir, 10 in Ajibarang, and four in Pakuncen Subdistricts. An official source confirmed to KOMPAS that there had been some confusion regarding the number of gastroenteritis cases. Many villages had not reported these cases either to the subdistrict or to the public health center because most of the victims died before they were taken to the public health center. The source said if all villages had reported their gastroenteritis cases, it is estimated that more than 50 persons died of the disease in only the three subdistricts of Lumbir, Ajibarang, and Pakuncen. The president has offered the aid of four ambulance units to control the possible spread of various contagious diseases in the Banyumas area especially during this dry season. Soepardjo, governor of Central Java, offered the aid of a mobile water tank unit and 400,000 rupiah were offered by the Central Java PKK. As of last Tuesday [27 July] a number of gastroenteritis victims were carried in to the public health center on people's backs. The ambulances provided by the president have not been used. The waiting room of the public health center has become crowded with wooden beds. Dozens of victims with infusion tubes in their bodies are lying on beds which lack sheets. [Excerpts] [Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 31 Jul 82 pp 1, 12] 6804

GASTROENTERITIS IN ACEH--Gastroenteritis which is spreading in Pidie Regency, Aceh, has not yet reached the level of thousands of cases. According to data available in the regency health service, there were only 241 cases during the period January to July. Not all were tested positive for cholera (gastroenteritis). Dr Syarifuddin Anwar Skm, chief of the Pidie Regency Health Service, who was contacted by SINAR HARAPAN on Thursday morning [29 July] said only six of the 241 cases were recorded as having died. "I was surprised that the mass media reported there had been thousands of cases," he said. His side is now trying to find a solution to the spread of gastroenteritis by providing information to the public on how to handle it. Kaporit [chlorinated lime] is recommended for use in wells in areas believed to be stricken by gastroenteritis, and oralit is to be given to the area residents. He admitted that gastroenteritis occurs in Pidie Regency almost every July. He is not ignoring the possibility that the outbreak of the disease could reach epidemic proportions because of still poor environmental factors. "A team from Bangladesh is now conducting a survey to confirm this," he revealed. In 1978, the doctor said, 1,478 cases were recorded in Pidie Regency, 70 of whom died. In 1979 there were 879 cases and only 29 of these persons died. In 1980 1,017 persons

were recorded as having gastroenteritis, 22 of whom died, while in 1981 only 337 persons contracted the disease, two of whom died. From January to July 1982, only 241 persons were recorded as having the disease, only six of whom died, Dr Syarifuddin Anwar Skm said. [Text] [Jakarta SINAR HARAPAN in Indonesian 29 Jul 82 pp 1, 12] 6804

MEASLES IN TANGERANG--In the past 2 months "tampek" (measles), a contagious disease, struck 104 persons in Mauk Tangerang resulting in 30 deaths. Dr Kinar, chief of the Tangerang Regency Health Service, said in general the disease attacked children between the ages of 1 and 5. After it became known that the epidemic had spread in the subdistrict, health officials immediately were called out to combat the disease and to inoculate the public. MERDEKA was informed, in response to its question, that the deaths were caused by the delay in reporting the epidemic to the local public health center so that officials were late in providing assistance. [Excerpts] [Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 28 Jul 82 p 3] 6804

UNIDENTIFIED DISEASE IN JAMBI--Dr E. Oswari, chief of the regional office of the Jambi Provincial Health Service, appealed to the Jambi public not to be concerned about the spread of a disease whose symptoms are fever, rash covering the entire body as well as aching muscles and joints. The disease is not fatal, Dr Oswari assured them. He explained on Tuesday [27 July] in his office that what the disease is and its causative virus are still under investigation. The disease struck Tanjung Jabung Regency and several cases were encountered in the municipality of Jambi. Dr Oswari said smiling, "Because we still don't know the name of the disease, we have called it the "malvinas" disease. This is just a joke because the disease actually began to spread almost 2 months ago when the Malvinas war was heating up." The disease lasts from 5 to 7 days and is self-healing without the use of medication. If medication is prescribed, it is done so only to provide relief from pain. The muscles and joints are sore and the disease's victims hesitate to move their hands and feet. Dr Oswari noted that the type of virus which causes the spread of the disease is still being investigated by the Jambi Provincial Health Service. Blood and urine samples have been taken from the victims for examination. Dr Oswari explained that the disease primarily attacks adults. The symptoms may be similar to those of campak or dengue fever (5-day fever). "As far as I know this disease has appeared in Jambi for the first time," he disclosed. [Excerpts] [Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 29 Jul 82 p 9] 6804

CSO: 5400/8429

NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS

Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 20 Jul 82 p 6

[Article by Ma Teresa Garcia Guerra]

[Excerpt] Dr Carlos Pacheco, director general of Tuberculosis Control said that among the principal contagious diseases in our country, tuberculosis occupies second place and there are more than 25,000 people afflicted with tuberculosis registered in health institutions.

There are 33.8 per 100,000 inhabitants with tuberculosis and the mortality rate is 42.3 per 100,000, according to the doctor, who, in a press conference announced that an international conference commemorating the centenary of the discovery of the tuberculosis bacillus will take place in this capital 28, 29 and 30 July.

Dr Pacheco said that on a world basis, Mexico is considered among the countries where tuberculosis is an unresolved public health problem of the first priority. He pointed out that Veracruz and Tamaulipas is where there are more people suffering from Koch's disease.

He referred to prevention methods which are taken in our country and said that the most effective is vaccination with BCG whose use was instituted on a massive scale starting from 1968 for children up to 14 years of age. He mentioned that 90 percent of those minors are already immunized.

Promotion of the Vaccine

From 1977 on vaccination of recently born infants has been promoted, reaching a coverage in 1981 of 744,571 children less than a year old. In the last 5 years 1,339,343 vaccinations have been applied annually.

It is hoped that the safety results of the infantile vaccination have been evident and it is to be hoped that mortality data show an important drop in the frequency of the disease in children.

The perspectives of tuberculosis control in the next 10 years are vaccination with BCG for at least 90 percent of the newborn, timely diagnosis of the majority of cases and proper treatment for all, and, above all, obtaining success with more than 90 percent.

Dr Pacheco said that the Administration of Tuberculosis Control and Diseases of the Respiratory System--headed by him--the National Committee for the Battle Against Tuberculosis and the Mexican Society of Pneumonia and Thorax Surgery A.C. are all battling this disease.

9678

CSO: 5400/2197

HEALTH SERVICE PREPARES MEASLES VACCINATION CAMPAIGN

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 9 Jul 82 p 10

[Excerpts] An educational campaign on the absolute need to vaccinate 9-month-old children in the fight against measles will begin soon at doctors' offices, schools and neighborhoods of Maputo in an attempt to control the outbreak of measles whose proportions cause concern to the Ministry of Health.

The health offices in Maputo are concerned at the measles mortality indices. The outbreak began because children are not vaccinated at the proper time.

According to Dr Oscar Monteiro, director of the Prophylaxis and Medical Examination Center, in the past 6 months increased cases of measles have been reported.

Statistics indicate that about 60 cases of measles are detected each week by the Health Services, of them, between 8 and 11 are fatal. An average of 40 children die each month.

Dr Oscar Monteiro added that about 200 children per month go without vaccination; this greatly contributes to the increased number of cases.

"It is necessary for people to be aware of the seriousness of what is going on," said Dr Oscar Monteiro who made reference to the importance of vaccinating children as soon as they reach the age of 9 months.

"We have to vaccinate children when they reach the age of 9 months for which only one injection is necessary. Children under 9 months of age cannot be vaccinated against measles," reads a pamphlet from the Prophylaxis and Medical Examination Center prepared for the campaign that is to begin shortly.

The serious blame, because it is known, for not vaccinating the children at 9 months of age lies, in the first place, with the parents because the only way to prevent the disease is to vaccinate.

Measles Study

Dr Cristina Cans, epidemiologist at the Ministry of Health, made a study of measles in Maputo. Conducted between October 1981 and April 1982 in various neighborhoods of the city, the study concluded that an average of 4,000 cases

of measles per year were registered, of which 320 were fatal.

Every year, 3 percent of children under 5 contract measles; and of these, 5 percent die. Deaths from measles occur more frequently among children under 8 months and those between 18 and 23 months.

Under 9 months the child is very weak and cannot receive vaccination against measles because it is not effective. Between 18 and 23 months, after the child is weaned, there are problems of nutrition which make the bodies receptive to this type of disease.

Between October 1981 and April of this year there were some 2,500 cases of measles. The most affected neighborhoods in the city of Maputo were Alto, Mae, Mavalane, Matola 1, Catembe and Chemenac [part of word illegible].

On the other hand, in three areas of the city although few cases were registered, there were more fatalities due to the distance between the dwellings and the health centers. These areas are Machava 1, Machava 2 and Matola 2. Here the last resort when a child is at the point of death is to take it to the hospital when it is too late.

Every year an average of almost 34,000 children are born in Maputo. Close to 16 percent of children under 9 months of age are affected by measles. To prevent the spread of the outbreak in Maputo it is necessary to vaccinate 80 percent of the children. At present, the coverage is about 50 percent.

11634
CSO: 5400/5705

BRIEFS

ENCEPHALITIS CASES--Janakpurdham, August 8--Two boys of eight and twelve years of age are reported dead of encephalitis here yesterday, reports RSS. The deceased boys, one from the Mahendra Highway area and the other from the southern part of Dhanusha district, were undergoing treatment at a local clinic. Another two encephalitis patients are currently undergoing treatment at the Janakpur Zonal Hospital. [Text] [Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL in English 9 Aug 82 p 6]

CSO: 5400/5729

HOSPITAL ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION CONSTITUTED

Karachi DAWN in English 22 Aug 82 p 10

[Text]

The President has constituted a hospital administration commission which will visit various provinces to review the working of Government-run hospitals and suggest measures for further improvement, Federal Health Minister, Nasiruddin Gogezai told a radio news conference yesterday.

A formal announcement will be made by the President, adding that it would submit its report to the President after six months.

He said the committee, headed by the planning chief, Dr Mahboobul Haq, was going through the demands of the doctors. The Provincial Governments had submitted their recommendations in keeping with their available resources in the light of which a draft of recommendations was being prepared which after due discussion would be submitted to the President.

Dr Jogezeai said the Government, during negotiations with the doctors, had assured their representatives that whatever possible would be done for them.

He said the Provincial Governments had increased the number of house-jobs and upgraded the posts. The Provincial Governments of Sind and Punjab were providing 55

per cent house-jobs to fresh medical graduates while in Baluchistan and NWFP 100 per cent medical graduate were being absorbed in house-jobs.

He said the Provincial Governments of Sind and Punjab had given an assurance to absorb 100 medical graduates in house-jobs under a phased programme during which the number of bed would be increased to the required level. This would be done during 2-3 years, he added.

About the national health policy, Dr Jogezeai said this policy was nothing but the national 5-year health plan. The present 5-Year Plan would end in 1982-83 and all proposals suggested therein were under implementation.

The new 1983-88 health plan would cover new proposals and programmes, including the scales etc., he added.

He said emphasis was being given on providing increased health facilities in ward areas, mass vaccination, and on preventive aspects. Besides the number of staff and beds in the hospitals was also being increased.

CSO: 5400/5753

PANAMA

BRIEFS

AFRICAN BEES SIGHTED--The health authorities have announced that African bees have been sighted in several parts of the capital and the canal area.
[Text] [PA261840 Panama City TELEVISORA NACIONAL in Spanish 2300 GMT
24 Aug 82]

CSO: 5400/2209

DIARRHEA, PNEUMONIA CASES RISE

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 13 Aug 82 p 36

[Text]

The San Lazaro Hospital (SLH) has its hands full of patients suffering from preventable communicable diseases such as diarrhea and pneumonia.

The Disease Intelligence Center of the Ministry of Health reported 215 cases of diarrhea and 284 pneumonia cases last week.

The incidence of diarrhea reportedly rose from the previous week's 163 cases. A total of 195 cases came from Metro Manila.

Wire reports of diarrhea cases were received from Bacolod with 56 cases, Cagayan with 15, and Leyte with six cases.

The incidence of pneumonia, on the other hand, decreased by 17 cases but remained way above the five-year median of 154. All but 24 of the hospital admissions for pneumonia came from Metro Manila.

Other seasonal diseases likewise showed an upward trend with 24 cases of typhoid fever, 14 cases more than the previous week.

A total of 66 cases of measles were reported during the week, representing 13 cases higher than the previous week. Most of these patients reside in Metro Manila.

With the increase in morbidity, a usual occurrence during the rainy season, health authorities called on the public to avoid eating peddled and raw food, and boil water obtained from unsafe sources.

The Ministry of Health urged the public to have children between nine and 14 months immunized against measles in the nearest rural health unit (RHU) and to obtain packets of oral rehydration solution (Oresol) for diarrhea victims.

ANTI-MALARIA DRIVE BOOSTED

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 17 Aug 82 p 17

[Text] Zamboanga City--Village health workers are being appointed in every barangay in Southern Philippines by the regional health office in its anti-malaria campaign.

Health regional director Hilarion Ramiro, Jr., a TOYM and Lingkod Bayan awardee, said that the drive is supported with anti-malaria drugs supplied to barangay health stations by the Ministry of Health which is given to patients for free.

The health official, in compliance to the directive of Minister Jesus Azurin, is exerting efforts to maximize the utilization of health manpower in the fight against malaria in region 9.

He also clarified an early news report that it was not the Muslims being alluded to but other cultural minorities living in the hinterlands of Mindanao as the Muslims consider it against their traditional belief to use mosquito nets.

Director Ramiro said further there is a need for an information campaign to encourage both Christians and Muslims in some areas of Mindanao to develop the habit of using mosquito nets for their health protection.

CSO: 5400/5750

MOSQUITO NETS FOR MALARIA INFESTED AREAS

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 11 Aug 82 p 28

[Article by Romeo S. Movidol]

[Text]

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Mosquito nets for free, users wanted! Health Regional Director Hilarion Ramiro, Jr., plans to distribute some 70,000 mosquito nets to families in malaria-infested areas of Southern Mindanao, particularly, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Basilan.

The old antidote in fighting mosquitoes is being resorted to when it was found out by health researchers that some strains of mosquitoes in Mindanao are resistant to insecticide chemicals.

An information campaign is being launched by the regional office and local health units to teach cultural minorities' families how to use mosquito nets which practice is reportedly against their traditional beliefs.

Director Ramiro has implemented an all-out drive against

malaria in consonance with the directive of Health Minister Jesus Azurin. The campaign is being conducted as part of the primary health care program.

Provincial health officers, chief of hospitals, representatives from the private sector, military and other entities have pledged their commitment to

Ramiro to give full support in the region-wide anti-malaria drive during a conference held yesterday.

The regional official is seeking the aid of the Muslim affairs office, regional executive council and other agencies in the region to provide funds for the acquisition of the mosquito nets.

Director Ramiro who is also a TOYM and Lingkod Bayan awardee on community health, is tapping the support of civic and professional organizations like the Rotary clubs to donate the needed items.

NORTH-EASTERN TRANSVAAL PLAGUED BY DISEASE

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 5 Aug 82 pp 16-17

[Article by Pamela Kleinot: "Generation Raised on Disease and Hunger"]

[Excerpt] Polio is just one of the many diseases that ravage children daily in the rural areas of South Africa.

Less than 30 children have died since the polio epidemic broke out in the northeastern Transvaal 10 weeks ago compared to the 770 children who have died from measles in the same period.

Measles--the fourth biggest killer of children--is said to kill 11 children daily.

But the biggest killer is gastro-enteritis followed by pneumonia and malnutrition.

People tend to respond to "glamour" diseases like polio and cholera paying little attention to these much more dangerous and common conditions.

The Infantile Mortality Rate--the barometer of a population's health standards--is about 130 every 1000 in rural blacks compared to about 20 to every 1000 in whites.

Forty-eight percent of deaths in blacks occur in children under five years of age while only seven percent of deaths in whites occur in this age group.

The vast discrepancy in death rates reflects the different disease patterns among whites and blacks rooted in the different socio-economic status of the two groups.

Rural blacks suffer from diseases of deprivation. The people are poor and often live in overcrowded and unhygienic conditions which are conducive to the spread of diseases like TB which kills between 10 and 20 people daily. Malnutrition further favours the development and spread of these diseases.

The contaminated water supply and poor sanitation in poorly developed areas causes many other infectious diseases.

When it rains, human excreta scattered in the bush or overflowing from badly sited pit latrines may be washed downhill into the water source.

These conditions provide the ideal breeding grounds for the spread of cholera, typhoid, hepatitis and gastroenteritis.

Most children in Gazankulu have bilharzia and doctors say there is no point in treating them unless they have complications because they soon get reinfected.

Trachoma, an eye disease that can cause blindness if untreated, is extremely prevalent along the Limpopo Valley and surrounding areas, particularly rife in northern Lebowa and the Louis Trichardt area.

It is a disease of poor hygiene easily spread among family members using the same towels and face cloth. It is also spread by flies.

Most of these diseases are preventable. Many have been eradicated in Western countries because of improved living conditions.

While some are totally preventable through vaccine like polio, measles, whooping cough and diphtheria, others can only be contained by improving environmental conditions--a clean water supply and proper waste disposal facilities.

"I feel guilty when children I treat survive. Most of them are sickly and hungry. Some look as though they come out of concentration camps."

These are the words of a South African doctor trapped in the vicious cycle of diseases bred by poverty.

He is working at a hospital in the homelands where the wards are filled with children suffering from malnutrition, gastro-enteritis, pneumonia, measles and typhoid.

He also sees children suffering from whooping cough, TB, hepatitis, malaria, diphtheria and tetanus.

Those that die just add to the statistics. Many deaths go unrecorded as the children never reach hospital.

But it's the children who survive that worry the doctor. Because he knows they will return to a life of misery and despair always living in the shadow of hunger and disease.

An estimated 50 000 children die in South Africa each year from malnutrition and malnutrition-related diseases.

Minor illnesses like measles become serious in malnourished children whose bodies have little resistance.

About 11 children each die from this totally preventable disease and many others are left blinded for life.

Tuberculosis kills between 10 and 20 people daily and millions of others walk around spreading this highly contagious infection.

South Africa's major health problems are concentrated in the "homelands" where people have been resettled since 1960.

CSO: 5400/5752

TUBERCULOSIS DAILY DEATH RATE REPORTED

Johannesburg THE STAR in English 3 Aug 82 p 1

[Text] Cape Town--Ten million South Africans have latent tuberculosis and about 10 people die from the disease daily in South Africa, Professor E. Glatthaar, head of the department of community medicine at the Medical University of Southern Africa said in Cape Town yesterday.

He told delegates to a conference on tuberculosis the disease accounted for 83 percent of instances of notifiable diseases in South Africa.

Professor Glatthaar said the most important determinants of the prevalence of tuberculosis were socio-economic factors such as poor housing, overcrowding and malnutrition.

Socio-economic improvement was basic to eradicating the disease but specific health programmes could in themselves yield certain rapid benefits.

Only about 40 000 of 120 000 infectious cases were detected each year, he said.

Dr David Webseter, seminar lecturer in social anthropology at the University of the Witwatersrand blamed South Africa's "appalling" tuberculosis statistics on the discrimination and oppression to which the mass of the people were subject.

He said without fundamental social and economic change tuberculosis and other such diseases could not be successfully overcome.

"Medical and sociological studies have shown that fundamentals like food, housing, employment, political power and other non-medical factors play the decisive role in determining morbidity and mortality rates in the black population and especially in the working class," he said.

He said immigrants, including mineworkers brought the disease with them and the mines provided the social and physical environment for the spread of contagious diseases.

Miners found to be suffering from the disease were sent home and, by state legislation, were not permitted to seek employment in urban areas. The disease spread rapidly, reaching epidemic proportions when left untreated.

BRIEFS

MORE POLIO CASES--ANOTHER two cases of polio have been confirmed at Pietersburg Hospital, bringing the number of reported cases since the outbreak of the disease to 285. The Deputy Director-General of Health, Dr James Gilliland, said the epidemic was "decidedly tapering off". Dr Gilliland explained that, despite the massive immunisation campaign launched in South Africa and the national States, it took some time before immunisation became effective. [Text] [Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 26 Aug 82 p 1]

POLIO DEATH--Another polio death in the GaRankuwa Hospital, 30 km north of Pretoria, was reported in Pretoria yesterday by the deputy director-general of Health, Dr James Gilliland. Dr Gilliland said 43 children had died of the disease over the last four months. The epidemic has been confined mainly to the Gazankulu area and 270 children have received hospital treatment for the disease. Two children have been admitted this week.--SAPA [Text] [Johannesburg SOWETAN in English 20 Aug 82 p 4]

CSO: 5400/5730

TUBERCULOSIS INCREASE REPORTED

Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 10 Aug 82 p 6

[Text]

MT. LAVINIA.

The increasing incidence of TB in the age group 16—55 years was referred to by Dr. P. A. D. Perera, president of the Dehiwala-Mt. Lavinia branch of the CNAPT at the 31st anniversary meeting of the branch held recently.

Therefore, a survey was essential to detect potential patients and positive cases he said. BCG vaccine has been systematically used since 1948 in Sri Lanka. Even so there was an average of ten new patients every month, within the municipal area. This was not satisfactory.

Colombo South Magistrate, I. M. Liyanage was chief guest and Deputy Mayor of Dehiwala-Mt. Lavinia, G. D. Perera was guest speaker.

He also said the Association had helped to rehabilitate affected families and make them self-supporting with good results.

Mr. I. M. Liyanage, chief guest said there were still misconceptions in respect of that

disease for instance it was hereditary, caused by poverty, that it was incurable and so on. These erroneous ideas could be removed by health education. He commended the association for arranging this schools' poster competition and exhibition TB.

Mr. G. D. Perera, Deputy Mayor, said as far as the municipality was concerned, anti-tuberculosis work could not be considered in isolation but should be in the main health program which municipal health authorities were engaged in.

In that context, unsatisfactory health conditions due to environmental defects had to be given priority. Useful suggestions made by voluntary organisations such as the CNAPT were therefore welcome.

Dr. J. R. Wilson, Chairman, executive committee, CNAPT, Colombo, traced the history of tuberculosis and its successful control by western countries. Control and eventual eradication of the disease by improving social conditions.

In Sri Lanka state instituted plans and programs needed active support from voluntary organisations and participation by people, because over 6000 new patients were discovered yearly. For every such patient there would be at least five more potential patients.

He emphasised that chest clinics were expected to play a vital role in 'case' finding, give effective treatment and direct preventive methods.

It was regrettable that these centres were not functioning satisfactorily.

A large number of students participated in the schools' poster competition and exhibition. Prizes were donated to winners by Mrs. G. D. Perera.

1st Prize Miss B. Nilmini Lilanti Perera of Girls High School Mt. Lavinia; 2nd Prize Miss. Dhammika Ekanayake of St. Joseph, Girls School Nugegoda; 3rd Prize Miss Gayani Atapattu of Holy Family Convent Dehiwala.

SRI LANKA

BRIEFS

SHIGELLA DYSENTIATIAE VIRUS SPREADING--While the "El Tor" cholera epidemic has been contained, the deadly dysentery virus, shigella dysenteriae I has spread with about 295 positive being isolated in the past three weeks according to medical reports. The areas affected are Colombo, Kelaniya, Nugegoda, Ja-Ela, Homagama, Moratuwa, Dehiwela, Padukka and Negumbo. The virus shigella was confirmed to have been brought into the country from the Maldiva Islands. Medical sources said it was deadlier than the cholera virus and warned against the consumption of uncooked food and unboiled water. [Text] [Colombo SUN in English 31 Jul 82 p 1]

CSO: 5400/5729

MEASLES IMMUNIZATION CAMPAIGN FRUSTRATED

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 14 Aug 82 p 2

[Excerpt]

COPPERBELT provincial political secretary Mr Martin Mubanga said in Ndola on Thursday that Watchtower sect members in Chief Fungulwe's village, Ndola Rural, were frustrating efforts of medical authorities conducting an immunisation campaign.

Mr Mubanga, who has just returned from a tour of the district said the village had reported an outbreak of measles which has claimed two lives.

The immunisation team dispatched to the area could not contain the situation because the majority of villagers were watchtowers who did not bring their children for immunisation.

"Even the health education programme being undertaken by a member of the staff of the rural health centre is not being met with total success," he said.

Mr Mubanga said the Fungulwe rural health centre had been operating without some drugs for the past two months.

The centre caters for more

than 1,200 patients and runs an underfive and ante-natal clinics.

The refrigerator donated to the health centre by the United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF) for storing drugs had broken down.

But the Copperbelt provincial medical officer, Dr Vinayak Ganu said he had not received a report on the outbreak of the disease from his officers in the area.

He said it was difficult for his office to make on the spot checks in rural areas because of lack of transport.

"There are 31 health centres and 20 health assistants in the area and it is their responsibility to report such cases to us whenever they occur."

CSO: 5400/5732

BRIEFS

CHAMA MEASLES DEATHS, INCIDENCE--Four children have died of measles in Chama following an outbreak of the disease last June. The senior medical assistant at Chama Rural health centre Mr Windsor M'hango said six other children are still admitted at the health centre. Mr M'hango said quick action involving a vigorous door to door immunisation campaign by medical staff immediately the disease broke out had helped the situation. He said with the campaign still on it was hoped the disease would be completely eradicated soon. He appealed to parents in the district whose children have not been immunised to take them to the health centre immediately. ZANA/ZIS [Text] [Lusaka DAILY MAIL in English 10 Aug 82 p 3]

CSO: 5400/5731

LEBANON

BRIEFS

CATTLE PLAGUE--The Agriculture Ministry has recently supplied 10,000 doses of cattle-plague vaccine to the government veterinary service in southern Lebanon. Seven thousand of the 10,000 cattle in the area have already been vaccinated by the Lebanese. The vaccination programme follows rumours about the spread of cattle disease in Syria. The disease reportedly is also spreading in Iran, Saudi Arabia, the Gulf states and Egypt. Israeli cattle, and all cattle in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, have been vaccinated since the news about the disease in the area first reached Israel. Israel has been free of cattle-plague since 1927. [TA080740 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Aug 82 p 3 TA]

CSO: 5400/4742

SOUTH AFRICA

BRIEFS

FOOT-AND-MOUTH CONTROLLED--Messina--After a gap of three years, the Messina Agricultural Show has returned to the calendar and cattle which went on show yesterday were reported to be in peak condition despite a severe summer drought. The show was postponed mainly because of serious outbreaks of foot-and-mouth disease in the Messina district in recent years. A senior veterinarian said the disease was under control. [Text] [Johannesburg THE STAR in English 7 Aug 82 p 4]

CSO: 5400/5752

TSETSE FLY INFESTATION, FOOT-AND-MOUTH CONTROL

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 14 Aug 82 p 2

[Text]

SEVEN hundred thousand cattle in the country have been infested by tsetse fly, a veterinary and tsetse control department spokesman has said.

He said the areas in which cattle have been most affected are Eastern Province except Chadiza district, Kalamo district and Gwembe valley in Southern Province, Senanga and Sesheke in Western and Mumbwa and Kabwe Rural in Central Province.

The spokesman said only 1,000 square hectares in Eastern Province and 600 square hectares in Kabwe would be sprayed with insecticides this year because funds were not enough to cover all affected areas.

On the foot-and-mouth disease in the Southern Province, he said cattle would be allowed to move out of the province after an announcement through the Government Gazette by the Agriculture and Water Development ministry. But he did not say when.

Restriction of cattle movement was the best method of controlling the disease but because of other problems vaccines had to be used too.

Last month the Minister of State for Agriculture and Water Development Mr Noah Dilamonu said the disease had been brought under control, but cattle in Monze, Choma, Namwala and Mazabuka district were still to be vaccinated against the disease.

CSO: 5400/5732

SUGAR RUST DISCOVERED IN ALAJUELA, GRECIA

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 12 Jun 82 p 2A

[Text] Engineer Juan Jose May, vice director of plant health of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) announced yesterday the appearance of the disease known as sugar rust in Alajuela and Grecia.

He added that rust has attacked fields of sugar cane on the Pacific, principally in Guanacaste, but now it is nearing Valle Central and endanger sugar production in the area.

Engineer May said that the Agricultural and Industrial Sugar Cane League (LAICA) and MAG are trying to control the expansion of the disease, which was discovered toward the end of May. In total, there are 10 hectares affected.

Officials of LAICA advised that, on the other hand, floods in the Tempisque area, Guanacaste, inundated 1,000 hectares of recently planted sugar cane, which will mean a loss of 80,000 metric tons in the next harvest which begins in December.

Sugar Rust

Sugar rust the common name for "Ustilago scitaminea," is characterized by the production of whip-like forms, from the base of the plant, which impedes its growth and harbors the fungus causing the infection. These whips, which can be straight and small or irregularly curved, reach in some cases more than 90 centimeters in height.

It is the disease which plays the most havoc in sugar production. According to a report of the Regional International Organization for Plant Protection and Animal Health (OIRSA), within the whips are formed fungi in the form of spores, which on maturing open the sheath and are disseminated by the wind, infecting other plants.

The name "rust" comes from the black color which the mass formed by the spores of the infected whips acquires.

Methods

Engineer May said that once having penetrated an area, the total eradication

of sugar rust is impossible. The spread can be limited by thinning out the infected whips and burning the very damaged plants, but there is always dissemination due to climactic factors, primarily the wind, which diffuses the infected spores.

He stated that one of the most important methods which can be used is to sow varieties more tolerant of the disease in places which are free of rust.

He said finally that strict control is being enforced in the cane fields and in the transportation of cut cane, to avoid having some sick plants damage the plantations.

9678

CSO: 5400/2189

MALADY AFFECTING CANE CROP

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Jul 82 p 9

[Article by Husayn Shahbun: "'Smut'...The Most Serious Cane Disease Appears in Upper Egypt; Agriculture Minister Announces: 'Disease Under Control and Crops Healthy, Diversification into New Varieties, Complete Survey of Cultivated Areas']

[Text] In the past few months, some cane fields in the governorates of al-Minya, Qina and Aswan have been hit by smut, raising concern among cane growers since this disease is one of the most dangerous fungal diseases that affect cane. The disease endangers the entire crop in severe cases, particularly since the only remedy is to burn the stubble or the affected areas, and prevention is considered impossible...

To begin with, smut is a fungal disease that spreads rapidly, with the following symptoms: the pith of the plant becomes dry, black spores resembling coal dust appear, the pith turns into a black membranous sheet that resembles a whip (which growers actually call "whips"), and finally, the entire core and the affected areas dry out. Smut is transmitted by air, irrigation water, insects, birds and livestock, which makes the spread difficult to control, and has no treatment except burning the affected areas. However, burning affected areas itself requires precautions and special expertise.

The Question Now...

What are the facts and the extent of the effects of this disease, and does it represent an actual danger to Egypt's national cane crops? What efforts is the Ministry of Agriculture making to control it? Have these efforts succeeded in protecting Egypt's cane from this dangerous disease or is its specter still threatening to destroy the cane?

Dr Yusif Wali, Minister of Agriculture, says, "It is true that some cases of smut have appeared in the governorates of al-Minya, Qina and Aswan. It began with the discovery of a case in an area of one kerat in an experimental field belonging to the sugar company in Qina. The ministry has instructed agricultural directorates in cane-growing governorates to form committees composed of representatives of the technical agencies in the ministry of agriculture and the sugar company to survey and examine all cane areas. It has also assigned a group of cane researchers to follow up the examination and survey and to apply scientific solutions to immediately eradicate any appearance of the disease.

The results of the first survey confirmed that the disease had appeared in a very limited area, did not represent any danger and was in poorly-drained, wet areas. The incidence as shown by detailed investigation is as follows:

A "juvenile" case appeared in a 100-feddan area in Aswan with a "mature" case in only 3 feddans, where it was excised and burned completely. In the remainder of the areas, only the "whips" and the affected plants were burned.

The largest total area in Qina struck by the mature disease was 2 feddans, while the total area where a juvenile case appeared in Qina was only 80 feddans.

The total area in the governorate of al-Minya where the disease appeared was 150 feddans, with only 2 feddans of these mature cases, which were completely excised and burned.

Therefore, the total area affected by the disease in the three governorates was 330 feddans, with only 8 of these affected seriously, and these cases were completely excised. These areas do not represent the least danger, either to the growers or to the country, particularly since the total area of cane cultivation is about 200,000 feddans.

Dr Yusif Wali added, "The ministry has put 10,000 [Egyptian] pounds at the disposal of every governorate to help pay for resurveying and re-examining and as just compensation to growers whose farms were burned so that the growers will not be harmed.

Tests will be run continuously, and the Permanent Committee for Sugar Cane has decided to replace the variety in which the disease appeared, No 310 or Coimbatore, with another variety resistant to this disease. The committee has also drawn up a broad, comprehensive plan to boost cane yield.

Engineer Faruq 'Afifi, Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Sugar Cane, says, "The conclusions of the comprehensive survey of cane-growing areas in all producing governorates have confirmed that the disease had no economic effect, although a new series of surveys has been initiated to confirm that there are no other cases and to take every precaution to prevent any from appearing in the future. The Permanent Committee has also drawn up a plan to diversify by substituting variety S9, which is resistant to the disease, for the non-resistant Coimbatore variety, in which all cases of the disease occurred. The committee's plans also include cultivating 5000 feddans in Aswan Governorate during the Fall cane season in October with completely mechanized methods, from preparing the land for cultivation to loading the crops onto railroad cars or trucks to transport them to sugar refineries. The purpose of this plan is to increase production from 35 tons per feddan to 40 tons, which can be done easily. We hope to accomplish this within a 5 to 10-year period by gradually introducing complete mechanization in cane-growing areas in all producing governorates. The Aswan experiment this Fall will take place in model fields, with the committee providing 30 pounds per feddan as support. The only problem facing us was that of [acquiring] mechanical harvesters suited for local cane. By using a Japanese loan intended to increase cane production, we were able to obtain suitable machines from France. Their use will be expanded according to the plan to mechanize cane production over a 10-year period.

Engineer Faruq 'Afifi, Chairman of the Cane Committee, added, "Complete mechanization of cane production will save about 50 percent of the cuttings used, will save 10 to 15 percent of the average yield lost during harvesting and transporting the cane and will also increase production. We hope to achieve self-sufficiency in sugar production and operate sugar refineries at top capacity within only 7 years and to improve and modernize irrigation and drainage methods in cane-growing areas.

9882

CSO: 5400/5018

REACTION TO RAT ERADICATION PROGRAM

Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 13 Jul 82 p 9

[Article: "Will the Government Interfere Before the Problem Turns into a Catastrophe?"]

[Text] The severe shortage in agricultural production that the common citizen feels is no longer due to the creeping desert, soil erosion, encroaching buildings or even crop disease. There is now an impending danger that threatens agricultural production in Egyptian villages: Rats. They are new phenomenon that did not exist in agricultural lands before, and appeared only 3 years ago. Despite the warnings then addressed to the officials in charge, rats were neglected, with the result that now Egypt's agriculture is endangered.

AL-SHA'B today is sounding the alarm, as had done before Ahmad al-Faqi, the People's Council representative of Aja County in the Daqahliyah Province and a member of the Parliamentary body of the Socialist Labor Party. In February 1980 he raised his voice in the People's Council with warnings about rats. AL-SHA'B then went to al-Mahalla al-Kubra in the Gharbiya Province and Aja County in the Daqahliyah Province, and came out with this report that we now present to the minister of agriculture.

Our tour started in the Daqahliyah Province. There AL-SHA'B met with Ahmad al-Faqi, People's Council representative of Aja county. He told us he had warned about the danger of rats more than once, and that he has adopted this serious problem inside the People's Council.

He added that he wrote a memo to the minister of agriculture saying he wished the minister would see for himself the wheat fields laid to waste by rats, until the price of 5 qantars of what now reached 25 pounds. He invited the minister to see the cotton fields where cotton twigs were consumed by rats, orchards ruined by rats and barley fields that became the largest refuge for hundreds of thousands of rats. Al-Faqi emphasized that this is now a very serious phenomenon.

AL-SHA'B then met with a number of farmers. Wafiq Mitwali Tubar, member of the local council of Aja county, said that the rats did not leave anything, to such an extent that the wheat crop in Aja registered a loss of 70 percent this year. Same thing applies to rice which registered a drop of 60 percent, and vegetables which registered a loss of 50 percent.

He added that a qantar of fodder, which used to cost 2 pounds, reached 5 pounds this season and is still going up.

The minister of agriculture is required to form working corps of students during summer vacation to fight rats in return for certain prizes to be given away to students.

What is also wanted is religious conscientiousness in distributing pesticides and insecticides, instead of members of the agricultural cooperatives giving them away as gifts and bribes to some people.

Ahmad Hamad Hijazi of the Sahrajat al-Sughra village in Aja said that rats are the most serious threat ever to face agricultural lands and that it is being resisted by all available means. But this resistance has so far proved weak, because what is needed is a national campaign led by the government throughout the country. This had not happened, and the result was that rats have eaten everything, even animal fodder. There is even a trend now in the village to turn to breeding cats and letting them loose in the fields to counter rats.

Muhamad Ismail Shahawi, a farmer in the village of Dayr, says he has failed even in raising chicken, because the rats were not satisfied with attacking crops, they have even attacked the chicks and killed them. He was not successful in his attempts to prevent this.

Muhamad Abdul-Fatah Ahmad, a farmer in the village of Shannisah, says the farmers have invented some means to resist rats. An original method is to prepare 5 kilograms of fancy baqlavah, and mix it with Andrin, a poison used to kill rats. Other farmers prepared 20 kilograms of fish, treated with the same poison. But all these methods have proven only partially effective.

Mahfuz Hasan al-Ashmawi, member of the local council of Aja and member of the joint society there, reported that the director of agriculture in the county said they did not have rat poison, and that the poison they had was one for which the rats had developed an immunity. This was in a session of the local council of Aja on 20 June, 1980. But the director did not offer a solution: Do we leave the fields to the rats? The affliction with rats has caused estimated losses of an average of 40 percent in all crops.

Ibrahim Sa'd, member of the local council of Aja, said there was no alternative for government intervention to launch a campaign that would get rid of rats. Rats did not only attack crops, today they are attacking homes and threatening children in their sleep.

This was confirmed by Mr Muhamad Abdul-Nabi, member of the local council of the village of Shubra Wish.

Mahmud Abdul-'Aziz Azzam, manager of the Benzayon stores in Aja, maintained that the rats did not only attack agricultural lands, but invaded houses and stores as well. He said rats spoiled a large part of the goods he had in the

store, particularly clothes and fabrics. These losses, of course, were the loss of the public sector.

AL-SHA'B then went to the Gharbiya Province, namely the village of Hayatem in al-Mahalla al-Kubra, as well as some neighboring villages.

There Mrs Iffat 'Abdal-Hamid Sulaman told us that rats did not exist in the village 3 years ago, but now they constitute a dangerous phenomenon that really threatens agricultural production. The losses for this year alone exceeded 50 percent of the crops. Suffice it to say that the minimum yield of feddan last year was 15 ardab, despite the existence of rats, but this year it went down to 7 ardab. Within 2 days, the crop of melons registered a loss of 50 percent.

Now that all methods to fight rats have failed, children were brought in, 12 children that is, to fight rats manually. A child receives 3 piasters for every rat he catches. The result was astonishing. Children have been catching 800-900 rats daily.

Today, after the crop was lost, there is no more fear in that respect. The fear now is from epidemics that rats can carry. Plague is therefore an imminent threat. What is required is a firm intervention by the state to prevent that. There is a need for all the available experience in this field to protect human life and Egypt's agriculture.

Makhluf Ahmad Shahawi also planted 1 fedan of wheat, and did not get any yield. Same was the experience of Uways Muhammad Ahmad Shahawi, who planted 2 fedans, one with wheat and the other with corn, with no yield whatsoever. The latter added that he is now afraid of planting anything again, for fear his efforts would again be lost. He explained that all the investment the farmers put in the land was thus wasted.

In the agricultural society AL-SHA'B met with a number of agricultural engineers. 'Abdal-Hamid al-Sayid Salim, agricultural engineer in the Hayatem society, told us that losses varied from one type of crop to the other. In wheat losses were 85 percent, whereas in rice they were 50 percent, fodder 40 percent, cotton 40 percent and vegetables 80 percent.

The worst losses were registered in the Hayatem village, in Saft Turab, Abshish, Bulqinah and Manshiyat Shantat Ayash, all in al-Mahalla al-Kubra.

9945

CSO: 5400/5019

BACTERIA AFFECTING COLIMA CITRUS

Mexico City NOVEDADES in Spanish 27 Jul 82 p 6

[Article by Alberto Serrano]

[Text] An outbreak of canker bacteria has been discovered in Colima State; this infestation is affecting the production of citrus fruit for export, particularly oranges and lemons. Therefore, officials of the Plant Health Department [DSV], subordinate to the SARH [Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources], have taken immediate steps to quarantine a planted area of 7,000 hectares as an emergency measure to protect the country's citrus production.

This is a new pathogenic organism--never before found in Mexico--which first appeared in the orchards of Florida, in the United States; it shows up in the form of yellow spots on the leaves.

Engineer Jorge Gutierrez Samperio, general manager of the DSV, said that this type of bacteria is widespread and affects all types of citrus fruit.

He also revealed that, as soon as the presence of this bacterium was discovered in Colima, Francisco Merino Rabago, head of the SARH and highly specialized in plant pathology, gave instructions to determine how extensively the area was infected and take emergency measures to prevent the blight from spreading to other citrus producing areas.

Analyses were made by DSV specialists to determine the characteristics of this bacterium which has invaded Colima, the extent of its spread and whether it has reached other citrus producing areas.

"For the moment," he said, "laboratory experiments indicate that the bacteria which appeared in Mexico are the least virulent. They are causing the leaves to fall and, according to their intensity, may prevent the trees from bearing fruit."

In this connection, it was advised that, once the laboratory analyses are completed, it will be possible to determine precisely which strategy to use for combating and controlling the organism.

8568

CSO: 5400/2196

BRIEFS

INSECT PEST ATTACKS COCONUTS--Chetumal, Q.R., 13 August--One thousand three hundred and fifty hectares in production have been afflicted by an epidemic of worms known as the "Mayate Prieto" worm, a transmitter of the disease known as the "deadly yellowish disease" ["amarillento letal"] which attacks plants. The above was reported by the deputy commissioner of the Calderitas common public land, Evaristo Mendez Diaz, who added that almost 70 percent of the coconut trees have been attacked by the above mentioned epidemic. He added that the coconut grove is cared for by 108 public land workers engaged in the sale of copra and it is located at 6 kilometers north of this city. He explained that the "Mayate Prieto" destroys the top of the coconut tree, which causes the plant to be afflicted with the "lethal yellowish disease," a disease that has already destroyed plantations in the northern part of the area. Mendez Diaz specified that the public land workers have spent approximately half a million pesos to combat the epidemic and are worried because they have not been able to completely annihilate it. [Text of article by Carlos Colonia, EXCELSIOR correspondent] [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 14 Aug 82 p 30-A] 8255

CSO: 5400/2206

NEPAL

BRIEFS

PLANT HOPPERS RAVAGE PADDY CROP--Plant hopper is ravaging paddy crops in some panchayats of the capital, according to the Agriculture Information Branch. Insecticides are being sprayed under the joint auspices of the Entomology Section and District Agriculture Branch to control the insects. Meanwhile, the farmers have been alerted about the risk of feeding the cattle fodders collected from the area brought under spraying. RSS [Text] [Kathmandu THE MOTHERLAND in English 1 Aug 82 p 1]

CSO: 5400/5729

Briefs

LIAONING INSECT PESTS--Our reporters have learned from the provincial farm crops insect pests forecast station that since early August the snout moth's larva pest is spreading throughout most of Liaoning Province. This serious plague will hit Jianchang County in Chaoyang Prefecture; Heishan, Xingcheng and Suizhong Counties in Jinzhou Municipality. The plague is expected to expand into a number of areas. Localities in the province should vigilantly conduct examinations and prevention work in a timely manner. [Text] [SK090958 Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin 1100 GMT 8 Aug 82]

CSO: 5400/4014

BLACK RICE BUG SPREADING

Manila BULLETIN TODAY in English 13 Aug 82 p 15

[Text] Researchers at the Palawan National Agricultural College (PNAC) reported recently that the black rice bug (*Scotinophara lurida* Burm) is now damaging not only lowland rice but also corn and upland rice in Palawan. They noted that in one of the corn fields invaded by the bug, the number of the pest found per corn plant is 800. In infested upland rice, the mean population density of the pest is 30 per hill. In lowland fields, 115 bugs per square meter was noted.

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Palawan provincial government are carrying out massive bug control operations involving all government agencies in the province but PNAC researchers noted that while the operation is succeeding in reducing the bug population in infested areas, the pest continues to invade new places. Their findings showed that the bug is already present in farms about 250 kilometers away from the site in Palawan where it was first seen.

To serve as an immediate guide in checking the black bug problem the interim control measures wrapped-up by the researchers of PNAC are as follows: use of contact insecticide to supplement systematic insecticide at recommended rate and frequency of application; synchronized planting of wide areas and coordinated application of control measures by farmers, cleaning, flooding and draining alternately unplanted ricefields and eradication of the pest by chemicals and hand-picking as soon as they start to appear in an area.

Currently the PNAC researchers are conducting some studies designed to yield more efficient means to kill the pest.

CSO: 5400/5750

VIETNAM

BRIEFS

SPREAD, CONTROL OF PESTS--According to the Ministry of Agriculture's Vegetation Protection Department, harmful insects have appeared and developed in a number of localities. More than 180,000 hectares of 10th-month rice have been ravaged by harmful insects. This is 43,000 hectares more than in the previous 10 days. Brown leafhoppers are in their pupal stage and their density on ricefields is 100-300 per square meter. It is predicted that after 29 August the insect density may reach more than 300 per square meter over a vast area. Leaf rollers have also appeared in many localities with a density of 10-30 per square meter. These insects are scattering and will reach their pupal stage at the end of August. The Ministry of Agriculture has urged localities to follow the development of these insects closely in order to control them effectively. It also urged these localities to use all available facilities and equipment such as net and lantern traps and vegetal and chemical pesticides to eradicate these harmful insects promptly and prevent them from developing and spreading over a vast area.
[Text] [BK211010 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0400 GMT 21 Aug 82]

CSO: 5400/5751

END