

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

Breakthrough close on antibody therapy

AGENCIES

Scientists working on coronavirus treatments may be close to a breakthrough on an antibody treatment that could save the lives of people who become infected, it has been reported.

An injection of cloned antibodies that counteract Covid-19 could prove significant for those in the early stages of infection, according to the British-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca.

Antibody therapy is more expensive than vaccine production, with Soriot saying the former would be prioritised for the elderly and vulnerable "who may not be able to develop a good response to a vaccine".

On Thursday, AstraZeneca signed a deal with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (Cepi) to help manufacture 300million globally accessible doses of the coronavirus vaccine candidate being developed by the Jenner Institute at the University of Oxford. Trials of the potential vaccine have started in Brazil.

Meanwhile in China, Shanghai Junshi Biosciences has started an early-stage study to test a potential antibody treatment against the coronavirus in uninfected people, official paper Liberation Daily said on its online channel yesterday.

The experimental drug, JS016, is also expected to begin human study in the United States in the second quarter of this year, through collaboration with Eli Lilly and Co.



(From left, clockwise) This handout satellite image taken on June 6 and released by Maxar Technologies shows a giant street lettering of "Black Lives Matter" at 16th street NW, near the White House, in Washington, DC; demonstrators react during a protest in central Brussels, Belgium; and protesters hold placards as they attend a demonstration in Edinburgh yesterday, organised to show solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in the wake of the killing of George Floyd, an unarmed black man who died after a police officer knelt on his neck in Minneapolis, US.



PHOTO: AFP

China upgrades protection to Pangolins to highest level

THE STATESMAN/ANN

China has upgraded the protection of the pangolin, believed to be the intermediate host of the coronavirus, to that of the first-class protected animals on par with the endangered species like giant pandas.



Pangolin meat is viewed as a delicacy in China and its scales are commonly used in traditional Chinese medicines to promote lactation and cure impotence resulting in the massive poaching of the mammal.

The pangolin is also believed to be the world's most trafficked mammal. About one million pangolins are estimated to have been poached in the last decade, and 20 tonnes of pangolins and their parts are trafficked internationally every year, according to the wildlife trade monitoring network TRAFFIC.

After initially suspecting the snake and the bat for the COVID-19, Chinese scientists believe that the pangolin may be an intermediate host of the novel coronavirus to humans.

This weekend, China announced to upgrade all species of the pangolin from second-class to first-class protected animals considering their rapidly decreasing numbers due to overhunting and habitat destruction, state-run Global Times reported on Saturday. Other first-class protected animals include giant pandas, Tibetan antelopes and red-crowned cranes.

At present, all the eight existing pangolin species in the world have been listed as endangered species in their respective countries and regions, Sun Quanhui, a scientist from the World Animal Protection, told Global Times.

NEWSIN brief

Mexico rehab center attack kills 10

AFP, Celaya

Ten people were killed in an attack Saturday on a drug rehabilitation center in the central Mexican state of Guanajuato, local authorities said. An armed group stormed the center in Irapuato in the afternoon and opened fire, killing nine people instantly, the municipal government said. A 10th person was wounded but later died in hospital.

Germany regrets US troops pullout

REUTERS, Berlin

Germany's relationship with the United States is "complicated", Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said in a newspaper interview, regretting the planned withdrawal of US soldiers from Germany. President Donald Trump has ordered the US military to remove 9,500 troops from Germany, a senior US official said on Friday. On Saturday, senior lawmakers from German Chancellor Angela Merkel's ruling conservative bloc criticised Trump's decision to order the US military to remove 9,500 troops from Germany.

5 terrorists killed in Indian Kashmir

NDTV ONLINE

Five terrorists have been killed in Jammu And Kashmir's Shopian district in an encounter with security forces during a joint operation, Indian media said. A police official said the security forces launched a cordon and search operation in Reban area of Shopian, in South Kashmir, yesterday morning after receiving specific information about the presence of the terrorists. The operation turned into an encounter when militants opened fire on forces who retaliated, he added.

INDIA-CHINA BORDER STANDOFF

Rivals agree to resolve disputes 'peacefully'

AFP, New Delhi

India and China have agreed to "peacefully resolve" a latest border flare-up that has heightened tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours, New Delhi said yesterday, after a high-level meeting between army commanders.

Tensions have flared in recent weeks between the two regional powers over their 3,500-kilometre (2,200-mile) frontier, which has never been properly demarcated.

Thousands of troops from both countries are involved in the face-off concentrated in India's Ladakh region, just opposite Tibet.

"Both sides agreed to peacefully resolve the situation in the border areas in accordance with various bilateral agreements," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

The ministry added that the commanders agreed an "early resolution" was "essential" for bilateral relations between the world's two most-populous nations. "Accordingly, the two sides will continue the military and diplomatic engagements to resolve the

situation and to ensure peace and tranquility in the border areas," the statement said.

There have been numerous face-offs and brawls between Chinese and Indian soldiers at the frontier, but they have become more frequent in recent years.

On May 9, several Indian and Chinese soldiers were injured in a high-altitude cross-border clash involving fists and stone-throwing in Sikkim state.

Indian officials said that within days, Chinese troops encroached over the demarcation line in the Ladakh region, further to the west.

India moved extra troops to positions opposite.

The talks, which took place in the Chushul-Moldo region between the two commanders, is believed to be the highest-level meeting since the Sikkim exchange.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping have sought to ease the tensions at summits over the past two years when they agreed to boost border communications between their militaries.



Hitler's birthplace to become police station

CNN ONLINE

Austria has unveiled plans to transform Adolf Hitler's birthplace into a police station, following years of debate and legal wrangling over the controversial site.

The three-story building in Braunau am Inn, near the German border, is set to undergo a substantial revamp that authorities hope will prevent it becoming a pilgrimage site for Nazi sympathizers.

Hitler was born in an apartment in the building on April 20, 1889, as his father worked as a customs official in the town. The family left Braunau am Inn, which was then part of Austria-Hungary, when Hitler was three years old.

Plans to turn the site into a police station were first announced last November, when Austria's Interior Ministry launched an EU-wide design competition for its renovation. The winning proposal, by Austrian firm Marte.Marte Architects, was unveiled at a press conference on Tuesday.

For decades, the controversial building belonged to Gerlinde Pommer, whose family owned the property before Hitler's birth. Austria's Interior Ministry began renting the site from her in 1972, subletting it to various charities. But the building has stood empty since the last occupant, a disability center, vacated in 2011.

Four years ago, the government announced that the structure would be demolished. Legal wrangling over the seizure and compensation followed, during which time plans to tear the building down were shelved.

At present, the only physical reminder of the building's past is a memorial stone commemorating the victims of fascism during World War II. Installed in 1989, shortly before the 100-year anniversary of Hitler's birth, the stone reads: "For Peace, Freedom and Democracy. Never again Fascism. In Memory of the Millions of Dead."



Israeli demonstrators protest under coronavirus restrictions against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's plan to annex parts of the Israeli-occupied West Bank, in Tel Aviv, on Saturday. Demonstrators, in thousands, waved Israeli and Palestinians flags and held placards against the move in a rally organised by leftwing NGOs and political parties. US President Donald Trump's controversial Middle East plan, unveiled early this year, gives Israel the green light to annex Jewish settlements and other strategic territory in the West Bank.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'Can't in any way support Trump'

Former top Republican backs Biden

REUTERS, Washington

Former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Colin Powell yesterday endorsed Democratic former US Vice President Joe Biden, becoming the first major Republican to publicly back Donald Trump's rival ahead of November's election.

Powell, who led the US military during the 1991 Gulf War in Iraq under Republican former President George HW Bush and later led the Department of State under President George W Bush, said Trump has "drifted away" from the US Constitution and posed a danger to the country and its democracy.

"I cannot in any way support President Trump this year," Powell, who did not vote for the Republican president in 2016, told CNN. Asked if he would vote for Biden, he added: "I will be voting for him."

Trump, who has been critical of the Iraq war, in a tweet called Powell "a real stiff."

Powell is the latest former top military officer to rebuke Trump in the wake of sweeping mass protests aimed at fighting racial injustice spurred by the May 25 death of an unarmed black man in Minnesota.

Former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and other retired officers have condemned Trump in recent days in a rare rebuke with few precedents in US history.

A few Republican lawmakers have also spoken out against Trump's handling of the outcry and have raised questions about their support for his re-election bid, though most have remained quiet or continued to voice support for the president.



Colin Powell

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
EDUCATION ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT
NOAKHALI DISTRICT.

Invitation for e-Tender

Tender Notice No: 56/e-GP/EED/NZ/non-govt/ver/2019-2020. Dt: 07/06/2020.

e-Tender are hereby invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works.

SL No	Package No	Tender ID No	Name of works	Reference memo No	Tender Document Last Selling/Downloading (Date & Time)	Tender Closing & Opening (Date & Time)
01	eed/nz/non-govt/ver/01	447663	Vertical Extension of Existing Academic building (2nd & 3rd floor) Building at Sonaimuri Model High School under Sonaimuri Upazila in Noakhali District.	37.07.0000.004.1 4.035.19.206, Dt.-10.12.2019	28-06-2020 16:00	29-06-2020 11:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

(Dipankar Khisa)
 Executive Engineer.
 Education Engineering Department
 Noakhali District.
ee_noa@edemoe.gov.bd

GD-959

OBITUARY

Mr. Lutfur Rahman Bhuiyan, Income Tax Adviser, of 25/A West Nakhhalpara, Tejgaon, Dhaka, breathed his last at 3:25pm on 3rd June 2020 at the age of 83 years. Inna Lillabe Wa Inna Baihe Rajjeun. He was buried at Azimpur graveyard. He left behind his wife, one son and 3 daughters. We request you to remember him in your prayers. - Family members.