

CoronaVac 'reduces mortality by 97pc'

AFP, Montevideo

The CoronaVac vaccine reduces coronavirus mortality by 97 percent, according to early results of the immunization campaign in Uruguay, which relies heavily on the Chinese jab.

In people who had received two doses, it reduced infection with the coronavirus by 57 percent and intensive care admissions by 95 percent, said a report by the health ministry of the South American nation.

Compared to other vaccines in use, there have been few scientific publications on the efficacy of CoronaVac, produced by Chinese firm Sinovac, and widely divergent reported results.

Coronavac is nevertheless widely used in China and in some two dozen other countries.

Chile reported last month that early results from its immunization campaign showed CoronaVac to be 67 percent effective at preventing symptomatic Covid-19 and 80 percent at preventing death.

Trial results with CoronaVac in Brazil showed efficacy of about 50 percent in preventing symptomatic infection, while Turkish data said it was more than 80 percent effective.

Uruguay, which started vaccinating on March 1, has used CoronaVac in more than 80 percent of cases.

It has reserved the Pfizer-BioNTech jab for older people, health workers, and people with other illnesses.

The Pfizer shot, the results showed, was 75 percent effective at preventing infection, 99 percent effective at preventing illness requiring ICU admission, and 80 percent effective at preventing death.

CoronaVac is a traditional type of vaccine, using inactivated virus to trigger immunity, while Pfizer uses RNA messenger technology.



A demonstrator gestures as motorcycles that are impounded for violating traffic regulations are seen on fire at the municipal yards, in Popayan, Colombia, on Friday. Colombia will begin "the maximum deployment" of military personnel in the western province of Valle del Cauca and its capital, Cali, President Ivan Duque said on Friday, after four people died in protests to mark a month of anti-government demonstrations. The protests started on April 28 to oppose tax reform but have since expanded to include wide-ranging demands.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Roadside bomb kills three Afghan university teachers

A roadside bomb hit a bus carrying university staff in northern Afghanistan yesterday, killing three teachers and wounding 15 others, police said on Saturday. The incident took place in Charikar, the provincial capital of Parwan. The bus was carrying teachers from Al-Biruni university, said a spokesman for the provincial police. Some of the wounded teachers were in critical condition, said an official. No group claimed responsibility for the incident.

Republicans block probe of US Capitol riot

Republicans in the US Senate on Friday derailed a bipartisan inquiry into the deadly assault on the Capitol by Donald Trump's supporters, despite a torrent of criticism the lawmakers were playing down the violence. Democrats and some moderate Republicans had called for a commission to probe the events up to and including Jan. 6, when hundreds of supporters of Trump stormed the Capitol, fighting with police, urging violence against lawmakers and delaying the formal certification of Biden's election victory. The violence left five dead including a cop. The measure mustered a 54-35 vote which fell short of the 60 votes needed to advance the legislation in the 100-member Senate. The 35 no votes were all Republicans. Six Republicans voted in favor of the commission.



Covid storm engulfs Everest

Mount Everest guide Buddhi Bahadur Lama has spent days isolated in a tent after testing positive for coronavirus, as an outbreak that climbers say is putting lives at risk sweeps base camp. He is one of four in his expedition team thought to have contracted Covid-19 at the foot of the world's highest mountain, along with a growing number of others. Dozens of suspected Covid cases have been flown out of the area and at least two companies have cancelled expeditions after team members tested positive. However authorities in Nepal have yet to acknowledge a single case at the mountain, with the stakes high for the country's tourism industry. The country is reporting an average of 8,000 cases a day and the health system has been overwhelmed.

Lanka faces marine disaster

Sri Lanka faces an unprecedented pollution crisis as waves of plastic waste from a burning container ship hit the coast and threaten to devastate the local environment, a top environment official warned yesterday. Thousands of navy ratings using mechanical diggers scooped tonnes of tiny plastic granules on the beaches that had come from the Singapore-registered MV X-Press Pearl that has been smouldering on the horizon for ten days. Sri Lanka's Marine Protection Authority (MEPA) said the microplastic pollution could cause years of ecological damage to the Indian Ocean island. The ship, said to be carrying 278 tonnes of bunker oil and 50 tonnes of gasoil, isn't leaking oil yet.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

POST-COUP CRISIS IN MYANMAR

NUG to 'demolish' junta

Signs agreement with Chin rebels, parades new armed force

AGENCIES

A shadow government in Myanmar seeking to reverse the February 1 coup has joined forces with a rebel group to "demolish" junta rule, it said Saturday.

Myanmar has been in turmoil since the military overthrew Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy government and launched a brutal crackdown on dissent.

A group of ousted lawmakers later set up a shadow "National Unity Government" which has sought to bring anti-coup dissidents together with Myanmar's myriad ethnic rebel fighters to form a federal army to challenge the junta.

On Saturday, the rebel Chin National Front signed an agreement to "demolish the dictatorship and to implement a federal democratic system" in Myanmar, the NUG said in a statement.

They pledged "mutual recognition" and to "partner equally" the statement added, without giving further details. A CNF spokesperson could not immediately be reached for comment.

The group -- which represents the mainly Christian Chin minority in western Myanmar -- signed a ceasefire

with the country's military, also known as Tatmadaw, in 2015.

In recent years its fighters have dwindled.

"The CNF has no real military strength, so this move is symbolic," Richard Horsey, senior advisor on Myanmar to the International Crisis Group, told AFP.



"But [it is] nevertheless significant as CNF has been quite prominent in the peace process, due to its well respected political leaders in exile."

Several of Myanmar's rebel armed groups have condemned the military coup and the use of violence against unarmed civilians.

Some are also providing shelter and even training to dissidents who flee into their territories.

But the more than 20 outfits have long distrusted the ethnic Bamar majority -- including lawmakers affiliated with Suu Kyi's government.

On Friday, the NUG released a video it said showed the first batch of fighters from its "People's Defence Force", formed to protect civilians, completing their training.

Around a hundred recruits were shown marching across flat ground surrounded by jungle. None appeared to be carrying weapons.

"Let all Burmese people be freed from military slavery," the recruits were heard shouting together.

More than 800 people have been killed by the military, according to a local monitoring group, though the coup leader has given a much lower civilian toll.

The junta has classified the NUG and the People's Defence Force as "terrorists", meaning anyone speaking to them -- including journalists -- can be subjected to charges under counter-terrorism laws.

Coup leader Min Aung Hlaing has justified his February 1 power grab by claiming electoral fraud in November elections won by Suu Kyi's NLD party.

US nuclear secrets exposed in Europe

AFP, Washington

US troops charged with guarding nuclear weapons in Europe used popular education websites to create flash cards, exposing their exact locations and top-secret security protocols, according to the investigative site Bellingcat Friday.

To familiarize themselves with things like which shelters in various locations had "hot" vaults with live nuclear bombs, with security patrol schedules, and with identification badge details, the soldiers created digital flash card sets on apps like Chegg Prep, Quizlet and Cram.

"By simply searching online for terms publicly known to be associated with nuclear weapons, Bellingcat was able to discover cards used by military personnel serving at all six European military bases reported to store nuclear devices," wrote Foeke Postma, the author of the Bellingcat article.

They found one set of 70 flashcards on Chegg, entitled "Study!", which noted the exact shelters containing nuclear weapons at Volkel Air Base in the Netherlands.

"How many WS3 vaults are there on Volkel ab," said the question side of one virtual flash card, referring to the military term for weapons storage and security systems. "eleven (11)" it read on the answer side.

Another card from the same set indicated that five of the eleven vaults were "hot" with nuclear bombs while the other 6 were "cold," and specified which vaults.

A set of 80 cards on the Cram flashcard site detailed hot and cold vaults at Aviano Air Base in Italy, and revealed how a soldier should respond in activating them based on the different level of alarms they receive.

Other cards exposed secrets at bases in Turkey, Belgium and Germany. Some detailed the location of security cameras; others gave the secret "duress words" that a soldier, perhaps seized by attackers, would say over a phone to indicate he had been taken prisoner.

The flashcards Bellingcat discovered were publicly available as far back as 2013, and some were being used as recently as April 2021.

Bellingcat said those it had viewed appeared to have been removed after it contacted NATO and the US military for comment before it published its article.

SEARCHING FOR LEADERS

Deputy Managing Director

Pubali Bank Limited is a leading largest private commercial bank with 482 online branches, 17 Islamic windows and 27 sub-branches with a diverse and motivated workforce is seeking highly qualified and experienced candidates for the following roles to guide the banks to its next phase of innovation and growth.

CHIEF MARKETING OFFICER

For planning, developing, implementing and monitoring the overall marketing strategy that includes market research, brand development, product development & marketing, overall marketing communications and advertising management.

CHIEF OF HUMAN RESOURCES

For developing and executing human resources strategy in support of the overall business plan and strategic direction of the organization, specifically in the areas of talent management including recruitment, retention and development and succession planning.

CHIEF TECHNOLOGY OFFICER

For updating, developing and establishing new technological vision to lead the bank to new heights and leading and overseeing all technical aspects and technical resources of the Bank.

These are high profile appointments to manage, develop and deliver bank's strategic goals and business that will make a tangible difference in achieving results and scope to lead from the front while broadening one's career horizons.

COMPETENCIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Creates an environment and culture that focuses on fulfilling the company's mission and vision, and creating brand values.
- Competency in planning, organizing and controlling day-to-day activities of the bank and coordinates inter-departmental functional activities.
- Strong technical background and sound knowledge for establishing operational excellence.
- Ability to develop and implement banking operations, risk/security management and governance strategies to meet organizational goals and establish a high quality performance standard and ensuring ROI.
- Excellent knowledge of regulatory requirements.
- Thorough knowledge about budgeting, planning and financial administration.
- High degree of leadership qualities and management skills to drive a cross functional team to deliver results.
- Must be well connected in the banking, technology and business sector.
- We are looking for candidates who have the ability to adopt and work in different culture and thrive in changing work environment.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum 20 years experience in banking or in large MNCs/Telecom Industries with minimum 03 years experience in the senior position as General Manager/Senior Executive Vice President / Director (MNCs/Telecom) or equivalent in the applied role.
- Masters degree. Preference will be given of having role related academic and professional degrees/certificates.
- Age not exceeding 55 years as on 30 June 2021.

Age limit / academic requirement may be relaxed for highly deserving candidate.

COMPENSATION PACKAGE: NEGOTIABLE

Interested candidates, who meet the requirements of the position, are encouraged to apply with their CV, clearly mentioning the role in cover letter and recent passport size photograph to the General Manager, Human Resources Division, Pubali Bank Limited, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka -1000. **The deadline for receiving applications is 30 June 2021.**

Only short-listed candidates will be called for the interview.

The Bank reserves the rights to accept/ reject any application(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

