

Study offers dengue treatment hope

AFP, Tokyo

Dengue affects tens of millions each year, producing brutal symptoms that have earned it the moniker "breakbone fever," but new research may have found the first-ever treatment for the virus.

Tests in cell cultures and mice found that a newly identified compound can effectively disarm dengue, stopping it from replicating and preventing disease, according to a study published Wednesday in the journal Nature.

And it appears to be effective whether taken protectively before infection or as a treatment after the virus is contracted.

There is no proven treatment for the mosquito-borne dengue virus, which is estimated to infect at least 98 million people a year and is endemic in 128 countries worldwide.

It can cause intense flu-like symptoms, and sometimes develops into severe dengue which can be fatal. And because there are four different strains, infection with one does not protect against another, and catching dengue a second time is often more serious.

JNJ-A07, the compound found by screening thousands of potential candidates, works by targeting the interaction between two proteins in the dengue virus that are key to its replication, and it worked effectively against all four strains.

Dengue can evolve quickly, but the team found JNJ-A07 was unlikely to face significant challenges from drug resistance.

Intriguingly, the mutations that caused resistance also appeared to make the virus incapable of replicating in mosquito cells.

That could suggest that even if the virus develops resistance to JNJ-A07, it would no longer be transmissible via mosquitoes, effectively reaching a dead end in its host.



A man carries a boy who was injured, following an earthquake in Harnai, Balochistan, outside a hospital in Quetta, Pakistan yesterday. The tremor of magnitude 5.7 hit southern Pakistan in the early hours of yesterday, killing at least 20 people, most of them women and children, and injuring about 300, at a time when many victims were asleep, authorities said. PHOTO: REUTERS

MORE NEWS

Militants kill 2 J&K teachers

Suspected militants shot and killed two teachers in a government school in Indian Kashmir's main city of Srinagar yesterday, the latest in a spate of targeted killings in the heavily militarised Himalayan region.

Gunmen stormed into the Government Boys Higher Secondary School in Srinagar's Eidgah area and shot two teachers at close range, a government official said. The victims were members of the region's minority Sikh and Hindu communities. The killings come as suspected militants on Tuesday killed a respected Kashmiri Hindu pharmacist and a non-Kashmiri street vendor in Srinagar, and shot dead another civilian in the northern district of Bandipora.

Kremlin fumes after Nato expels Russian diplomats

The Kremlin yesterday said Nato's move to cut the size of Russia's diplomatic mission almost completely undermined its hopes that relations could be normalised and dialogue resumed with the US-led alliance.

Nato expelled eight members of Russia's mission to the alliance who were "undeclared Russian intelligence officers", a Nato official said on Wednesday, the latest blow to East-West ties that are already at post-Cold War lows. A pro-Kremlin lawmaker promised that Moscow would retaliate, though not necessarily in kind.



Mamata takes oath

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was sworn in yesterday as a member of the state legislative assembly, a week after she won a bypoll in Bhabanipur constituency in south Kolkata by a record margin. Mamata was sworn in as chief minister on May 5 for a third consecutive tenure after leading her party to a landslide victory in the assembly poll earlier this year. But she needed to win the bypoll to retain the chief minister's chair after her defeat at the hands of protegee-turned-rival Suwendu Adhikari of Bharatiya Janata Party in Nandigram by 1,956 votes in the March-April assembly elections.

Ex-Nazi guard, 100, refuses to discuss atrocities at trial

A 100-year-old former concentration camp guard who became the oldest person to be tried for Nazi-era crimes in Germany will not speak about his time at the site, his lawyer said at the trial opening yesterday. Josef Schuetz is accused of "knowingly and willingly" assisting in the murder of 3,518 prisoners at the Sachsenhausen camp in Oranienburg, north of Berlin, between 1942 and 1945. Allegations include aiding and abetting the "execution by firing squad of Soviet prisoners of war in 1942" and the murder of prisoners "using the poisonous gas Zyklon B".

French ambassador to return to Australia after subs row

Australia's Foreign Minister Marise Payne yesterday said the return of France's ambassador to Canberra will help repair relations between the two countries which were damaged when Australia cancelled a \$40 billion submarine contract. Australia last month walked away from a deal with France's Naval Group to build a fleet of conventional submarines and will instead build at least eight nuclear-powered submarines with US and British technology after striking a trilateral security partnership with those two countries. The cancellation angered France and Paris recalled its ambassadors from Canberra and Washington. France said on Wednesday that Jean-Pierre Thebaud would return to Canberra but did not set a date.

SOURCE: AFP, REUTERS

IEP REPORT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Resource degradation, conflicts to escalate



REUTERS, Madrid

A vicious cycle linking the depletion of natural resources with violent conflict may have gone past the point of no return in parts of the world and is likely to be exacerbated by climate change, a report said yesterday.

Food insecurity, lack of water and the impact of natural disasters, combined with high population growth, are stoking conflict and displacing people in vulnerable areas, the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) think-tank said.

IEP uses data from the United Nations and other sources to predict the countries and regions most at risk in its "Ecological Threat Register".

Serge Strobants, IEP director for Europe, the Middle East and North Africa said the report identified 30 "hotspot" countries - home to 1.26 billion people - as facing most risks.

This is based on three criteria relating to scarcity of resources, and five focusing on disasters including floods, droughts and rising temperatures.

"We don't even need climate change to see potential system collapse, just the impact of those eight ecological threats can lead to this - of course climate change is reinforcing it," Strobants said.

Afghanistan gets the worst score on the report, which says its ongoing conflict has damaged its ability to cope with risks to water and food supplies, climate change, and alternating floods and droughts.

Conflict in turn leads to further resource degradation, according to the findings.

Six seminars including governments, military institutions and development groups last year returned the message that "it is unlikely that the international community will reverse the vicious cycles in some parts of the world", IEP said.

This is particularly the case in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa, which has seen more and worsening conflicts over the last decade, it said.

"With tensions already escalating, it can only be expected that climate change will have an amplifying effect on many of these issues," the report said.

Biden, Xi plan virtual summit by year's end

REUTERS, Washington

The United States and China have agreed in principle for their presidents to hold a virtual meeting before year's end, a senior US administration official said on Wednesday, after high-level talks meant to improve communication between the two big powers.

The closed-door meeting at an airport hotel in the Swiss city of Zurich between US national security adviser Jake Sullivan and China's top diplomat, Yang Jiechi, was their first face-to-face encounter since an unusually public and acrid airing of grievances in Alaska in March.

Both sides had described the meeting as a follow-on from President Joe Biden's early September call with Chinese President Xi Jinping, prior to which the world's top two economies appeared to have been locked in a stalemate.

The White House said Sullivan raised concerns about contentious issues such as Chinese actions in the South China Sea, as well as on human rights and Beijing's stances on Hong Kong, Xinjiang and Taiwan.

At the end of the day, however, both Beijing and Washington said the talks, which lasted six hours, were constructive and candid. The US side said the tone was very different from Alaska.

Facebook may have hit a red line this time

Experts say reports of adverse effects of social media apps on children might be a turning point in regulation fight

AFP, Washington

Facebook's previous major scandals barely dented its global dominance, but experts said the tech giant may have hit a red line this time: evidence that it knew children using its apps were at risk of being harmed.

A day after damning testimony to US lawmakers from Facebook whistleblower Frances Haugen, the long-established barriers to regulation -- stalled legislation, free speech protections and tech's rapid advances -- were still in place.

But an insider with the company's own documents, showing that Facebook knew its tools risked worsening young people's eating disorders or suicidal thoughts, may have been a turning point.

"The topic of kids being affected negatively by using Instagram or other social media apps is something Republicans and Democrats can agree upon," said Paul Barrett, deputy director of New York University's Stern Center for Business and Human Rights.

He said the level of cross-party civility in Tuesday's hearing was something he'd not seen in years, showing some of the impact of the drubbing Facebook has taken because of Haugen's leaks.

She exposed reams of internal research to authorities and The Wall Street Journal in an exposure that has fueled one of the social network's most serious crises yet.

The company has bounced back from other scandals like the one involving Cambridge Analytica, a British consulting

firm that used the personal data of millions of Facebook users to target political ads.

In that case, Facebook's CEO Mark Zuckerberg went to Washington to apologize and the company agreed to a \$5 billion settlement with US regulators.

American lawmakers have not passed any laws targeting the company, despite the outrage over the hijacking of personal data of millions of users ahead of the 2016 US presidential election.

However, this new revelation about Facebook's behavior has seemingly hit a raw nerve.

"There are certain political issues that tend to be galvanizing for folks and child protection is a key one," said Allie Funk, senior research analyst in technology and democracy at Freedom House, a US think tank.

It's clear also that Facebook would not submit without a fight, if lawmakers in the hyper-polarized US Congress manage to move forward with any of the several already existing proposals.

Zuckerberg said in a post on his account that Haugen's assertion that his company prioritizes profit over safety was "just not true."

For her part, Nora Benavidez, a Facebook accountability expert, said she saw in the hearing a catalyzing moment that was broader than the impact on children.

"I think it's now more that there are tens of thousands of pages of documents... that clearly Congress has access to," she said. "The phrase is 'Too big to ignore.'"



Frances Haugen



OCTOBER 08

1912 - Montenegro declared war on Turkey, beginning the First Balkan War.

1998 - Japan formally apologized to South Korea for 35 years of harsh colonial rule.

2001 - US President George W Bush announces the establishment of the Office of Homeland Security.

2005 - More than 73,000 people were killed and about 3 million became homeless when an earthquake hit Pakistani Kashmir and neighbouring North West Frontier Province. Another 1,300 died in Indian Kashmir.

SOURCE: REUTERS



Toddlers on ventilators as Covid takes toll on US children

REUTERS, St Louis

When her 2-year-old started feeling sick early last week, Tiffany Jackson didn't think it might be Covid-19.

No one else in the family was sick. Adrian James just had a bit of a cough. She gave him cough syrup and put a humidifier in his room.

But by Friday he was sweaty and his breathing was labored. Jackson took him to an emergency room in her small town of Mount Vernon, Illinois. Doctors and nurses there did a chest X-ray and swabbed him for Covid and then airlifted the child to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis, about 129 km away.

Her son is one of more than 840,000 children under the age of four to contract Covid-19 in the United States since the beginning of the pandemic. Hospitalizations like Adrian's remain rare: less than 1 percent of children with


reported cases of Covid-19 are hospitalized and children account for 2.5 percent of all Covid-19 related hospitalizations, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Adrian, who will be 3 years old next month, had developed pneumonia in his left lung. He was breathing fast, trying to gulp air with 76 respirations per minute, nearly twice the normal 40, Jackson said.

By late Tuesday night, he was intubated and heavily sedated. However, over the past couple of days, his lungs have been able to do more of the work of breathing, and it is possible that he may be removed from the ventilator soon.

Jackson hopes that Adrian's story will help people understand what it could mean to pass the virus to young children and to people with vulnerable immune systems.

"I just want people to realize it is serious," she said.



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তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি।

ব্র্যাক ইউনিভার্সিটি-তে সরবরাহকারী তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য নিম্নোক্ত গ্রুপে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

যে আইটেম/গ্রুপের জন্য তালিকাভুক্ত করা হবে তার নাম	<p>গ্রুপ-এ : কম্পিউটার, ল্যাপটপ কম্পিউটার, সার্ভার, প্রিন্টার, স্ক্যানার।</p> <p>গ্রুপ-বি : নেটওয়ার্কিং ইকুইপমেন্ট-এক্সেসরিজ এন্ড ল্যান (LAN) ইকুইপমেন্ট।</p> <p>গ্রুপ-সি : ফটোকপিয়ার মেশিন, ফ্যাক্স মেশিন, পেপার মেশিন।</p> <p>গ্রুপ-ডি : ইউপিএস, আইপিএস, ভোল্টেজ স্ট্যাбиলাইজার।</p> <p>গ্রুপ-ই : মাল্টিমিডিয়া প্রজেক্টর, মাল্টিমিডিয়া স্ক্রীন ও সাউন্ড সিস্টেম।</p> <p>গ্রুপ-এফ : এয়ার কন্ডিশনার এবং রেফ্রিজারেটর, মাইক্রোওভেন ও গডেন।</p> <p>গ্রুপ-জি : অফিস ও ট্রান্সপোর্ট স্টেশনারী।</p> <p>গ্রুপ-এইচ : স্ক্রু অব ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং এন্ড কম্পিউটার সায়েন্স-এর ল্যাব কম্পোনেন্ট ও ইকুইপমেন্ট: EEE/CSE.</p> <p>গ্রুপ-আই : মাথমেট্রিস এন্ড ন্যাচারাল সায়েন্স (এমএনএস), মাইক্রোবায়োলজী, বায়োটেকনোলজী, এপ্লাইড ফিজিক্স এন্ড কেমিস্ট্রি, ফার্মেসী ডিপার্টমেন্ট-এর ল্যাব রাসায়নিক প্রদ্রা/পদার্থ, গ্রাসওয়ার ও ইকুইপমেন্ট।</p>
গ্রুপ-জে	বিজ্ঞান এজেন্ট।
গ্রুপ-কে	প্রায়ত অফিস ফার্নিচার (উপেন ও স্টীল)।
গ্রুপ-এল	নন-প্রায়ত অফিস ফার্নিচার, রিপেয়ার ও রেনোভেশন (কার্পেট্রি)।
গ্রুপ-এম	এয়ার কন্ডিশনার এক্সেসরিজ (কন্ডেশনার/গ্যাস ইত্যাদি)।
গ্রুপ-এন	ইলেকট্রিক এবং ইলেক্ট্রনিক্স আইটেম।
গ্রুপ-ও	কম্পিউটার/আইটি এক্সেসরিজ।
গ্রুপ-পি	সিসিটিভি, মোটর ডিস্টেন্স/সিকিউরিটি ইকুইপমেন্ট।
গ্রুপ-কিউ	ফ্যাবর এন্ড টাইংইয়ার এন্ড ইকুইপমেন্ট।
গ্রুপ-আর	ইন্ডেন্ট ম্যানোজমেন্ট ও প্রডাকসিং এন্ড প্রোডাকশন।
গ্রুপ-এস	কম্পিউটার/আইটি এন্ড অফিস ইকুইপমেন্ট সার্ভিস ও রিপেয়ার।
গ্রুপ-টি	ট্রাভেল এজেন্ট।
গ্রুপ-ইউ	পিএফ এন্ড মার্কেটাইজিং আইটেম।
গ্রুপ-ভি	ওয়েবসাইট ডিজাইন ও ডেভেলপমেন্ট।
গ্রুপ-ডব্লিউ	ডিজিটাল প্রিন্টিং (পরিষ্কার ব্যানার, ফেস্টুন ইত্যাদি)।
গ্রুপ-এক্স	অফিস ইন্টেরিয়ার।

তালিকাভুক্তির সমন্বয়সীমা : ০২ (দুই) বছরের জন্য।

সিডিউল সহজেরে স্থান সমন্বয়সীমা এবং মূল্য : উপরোক্ত সাফটওয়্যার গ্রুপে যে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠানের উক্ত কাজে কমপক্ষে ০৪ (চার) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা আছে শুধুমাত্র সে সকল প্রতিষ্ঠান আশাশী ১০.১০.২০২১ থেকে ২৪.১০.২০২১ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস লসকালে (সকাল ৯:০০ থেকে বিকেল ৩:০০ টা পর্যন্ত) প্রতি সেট সিডিউল ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (অনেকেরতবেগ্যে) নগদে জমা দিয়ে হিসাব বিভাগ, ব্র্যাক ইউনিভার্সিটি, ভবন নং: ০৬, লেভেল: ০৬, ৪৯ মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২ থেকে সন্মুখ করতে পারবে বা যাবে। একটি প্রতিষ্ঠান সর্বোচ্চ ০৪ (চার) টি গ্রুপের জন্য তালিকাভুক্ত হতে পারবে।

নিরাপত্তা জামানত : তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য চুক্তিবন্ধনে নিরাপত্তি প্রতিষ্ঠানকে সিডিউলে উল্লেখিত পরিমাণ নিরাপত্তা জামানত পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে ব্র্যাক ইউনিভার্সিটি-র অনুমোদন জমা দিতে হবে যা তালিকাভুক্তির মেয়াদ শেষ হলে আবেদনকার প্রকল্পে ফেরত প্রদান কর হবে।

আবেদনপত্র দাখিলের স্থান ও তারিখ : বামের উপর "গ্রুপের নাম" লিখে নিম্নোক্ত ঠিকানায় লিখিত ভাবে জমা দিতে হবে: প্রকিউরমেন্ট ডিপার্টমেন্ট, ব্র্যাক ইউনিভার্সিটি, ব্র্যাক ইউ ভবন নং: ০৬, লেভেল: ০৬, ৪৯ মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২।
অক্টোবর ১০, ২০২১ হতে অক্টোবর ২৭, ২০২১।
সকাল ৯:০০ টা হতে বিকাল ৪:০০ টার মধ্যে।