Researchers develop new methods of fighting infection

WASHINGTON, 2 Nov — Pitting one germ against the other, researchers said on Monday they had developed at least two new methods of fighting infection without the use of antibiotics.

One method uses a deadly enzyme made by viruses called bacteriophages that precisely execute bacteria, and the other uses compounds made by one bacteria to shut down another without actually killing it. Each illustrates potential new ways to fight the growing problem of superbugs — bacteria that have mutated the ability to resist most or even all of the antibiotics used against them.

They might also work against biological agents such as anthrax, the researchers told a meeting sponsored by the American Society for Microbiology.

A single quip of the bacteriophage-killing enzyme may keep an infected person from sneezing out bacteria for up to a week, said Dr. Vincent Fischetti of Rockefeller University in New York. “These are enzymes that, basically, punch a hole in the bacteria and cause them to explode,” Fischetti told a news conference.

They have used them to decontaminate animals of pesky bacteria such as Group A streptococci and staphylococci.

“We can eliminate these organisms from the noses of these animals,” Fischetti said. “They tried it intravenously against the anthrax bacillus. ‘We could save 90 per cent of the animals with a single dose of the enzyme,’ said Fischetti, whose work is funded by the Department of Defense’s Advanced Research Projects Agency or DARPA.

They are planning tests in mice, monkeys and perhaps rabbits and will use the results to seek permission to test the enzyme for safety in human volunteers. New Food and Drug Administration rules allow researchers to test drugs against potential biological agents in two animal species, as there is no ethical way to test them in people.

“These enzymes work instantly,” Fischetti said. They could be sprayed into the nose in a saline buffer, he said. And there is no evidence, yet, that bacteria can develop mutations that will allow them to evade these enzymes, he said.

MNA/Reuters

ASEAN states to set up network to standardize blood products

BANGKOK, 3 Nov — Member countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) have agreed to establish a medical network to standardize blood products throughout the region.

The plan was developed during the meeting of ASEAN specialists in Bangkok between 31 October and 2 November, the Thai News Agency reported. The seminar entitled the “Development of Harmonization of QA system for Blood Products in Asian Countries” was sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO).

Several dozen blood experts from the United States, Japan, South Korea, India, Germany, Malaysia, Thailand and Nepal, which is home to the vast Himalayan range with eight of the 14 peaks that are over 8,000 metres in the world, Ang Tshering said.

Since its establishment on 1 November, 1973, the non-governmental and non-profit organization has maintained the foremost objective of not only promoting mountaineering but also working for the conservation of the fragile mountain and Himalayan ecology, he noted.

“Our association has 1,200 formal members nationwide up to now,” he said, adding “Of the tens of thousands of tourists visiting Nepal every year, around 30 per cent come here for mountaineering.”

MNA/Xinhua

Nepal Mountaineering Association marks 31st anniversary

KATHMANDU, 3 Nov — Nepal Mountaineering Association, a prime institution for mountain tourism promotion and mountain environment protection in Nepal, celebrated its 31st anniversary here Monday.

The Nepali Government has authorized the association for mountain tourism promotion and mountain environment protection since 1978, Ang Tshering Sherpa, president of the association, told Xinhua.

The association has always been active in promoting and developing mountaineering in Nepal, where for thousands of tourists and 1,200 formal members every year, around 30 per cent come here for mountaineering.

MNA/Xinhua

China has shut 1,600 Internet cafes between February, August

BEIJING, 2 Nov — China has shut 1,600 Internet cafes between February and August and imposed 100 million yuan (12.1 million dollars) worth of fines for allowing children to play violent or adult-only games and other violations, state media said.

Of 1.8 million Internet bars inspected, 18,000 were ordered “to stop operation for rectification”, Xinhua news agency quoted Zhang Xinjian, deputy director of the Culture Ministry’s market department, as saying. “Porn, gambling, violence and similar problems have adversely affected the healthy development of the Internet in China,” Zhang was quoted as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Professional Santa Claus performers attend a training day at the ‘Ministry of Fun’s Santa School’ at Southwark Cathedral in London, on 1 Nov, 2004. The ‘Ministry of Fun,’ which provides Santa Claus performers for Christmas grottos, hosted the event for 35 Santas on Monday, with the aim of highlighting the importance of training for a buzz — this is anti-social, criminal behavior and a scourge on society,” she said.

MNA/Reuters

Britain starts on-the-spot fines for shoplifters, litter droppers

LONDON, 2 Nov — The British Home Office said it started on-the-spot penalties from Monday on shoplifters, underage drinkers, vandals and litter droppers to crack down on anti-social behaviours.

Fines of 80 pounds (147 US dollars) can be given to first-time shoplifters where the value of the goods taken is less than 100 pounds, and anyone caught drinking underage, buying alcohol for a minor or causing minor criminal damage. Thefts of goods worth more than 100 pounds will be dealt with by the courts.

MNA/Xinhua
Arsenal held 1-1 draw by Panathinaikos

LONDON, 3 Nov—Arsenal missed a chance to virtually guarentee themselves a place in the knockout stage of the Champions League when they were held 1-1 by Panathinaikos at Highbury on Tuesday.

A Thierry Henry penalty was cancelled out when Arsenal defender Pascal Cygan diverted a shot past his own goalkeeper with 15 minutes to go and Panathinaikos held out against some frenetic Arse nal attacking to secure a point.

It was hardly the result Arsenal wanted after a couple of difficult weeks and it could have been worse had Angelos Basinas not missed a penalty for the Greek champions in the 62nd minute.

Arsenal, who needed a late goal on Saturday to avoid a second straight league defeat a week after Manchester United had ended their record unbeaten run at 49 games, remained second in Group E three points behind PSV Eindhoven with Panathinaikos still just a point behind.

The home side made a stuttering start and looked out of sorts before referee Luis Medina Cantele adjudged that Sofitis Kirgiakos had bundled Arsenal skipper Patrick Vieira over in the box as they com peted for a 16th minute Dennis Bergkamp freekick.

Henry, who missed a penalty against Southamp ton on Saturday, made no mistake this time and after a stutter-step the French striker sent Kostas Chalkias the wrong way.

But the goal failed to fire Arsenal and for the rest of the half they continued to scrap it out in a con gested midfield while failing to find their teammates with the usual incisive passing.

Henry had a goal disallowed for offside early in the second half after a fine run by Robert Pires but just after the half hour mark Panathinaikos looked to set to get back on level terms when Ashley Cole upended Dimitris Papadopoulos in the box.

Celtic keep hope of reaching knockout phase

GLASGOW, 3 Nov—Scottish champions Celtic kept alive their slim hopes of reaching the Champions League knockout phase with a 1-0 win against nine man Shakhtar Donetsk on Tuesday.

Alan Thompson crashed home a 25th minute free kick awarded after visiting goalkeeper Jan Lastuvka was penalised for holding the ball too long.

Shakhtar captain Anatoly Tymoshchyuk was shown a red card shortly before halftime when he brought down a surging Henri Camara and Donetsk on goal difference after their 3-0 loss in the Ukraine last month.

The Glasgow side had conceded six goals in losing at AC Milan and Shakhtar, but they continue to be tough opponents at Celtic Park where their 3-1 reverse to Barcelona in September remains their only home defeat in their last 21 Euro pean games.

They could have been two goals up early on when Camara slipped an effort wide after speeding away and Joos Valgaeren headed straight at Lastuvka moments later.

Shakhtar also threatened on the counter attack and Brazilian Matuzalem thrashed a ferocious shot that was bulletliantly tipped away by David Marshall after 10 minutes.

Stilian Petrov went close with a vol ley and John Hartson almost connected with Didier Agathe’s shot before the home side made the breakthrough.

After French referee Eric Poulat penalised Lastuvka for holding the ball too long Petrov rolled a short free kick to Thompson who hammered the ball into the net.

Celtic’s night got better on 41 minutes when Tymoshchyuk was sent off for a cynical foul on Camara as he sped towards goal.

Hartson and Petrov both went close to extending Celtic’s lead before Donetsk were further handicapped by the sending off of Barcauan.

Porto face struggle to qualify for knockout phase

PORTO (Portugal), 3 Nov—Champions League title holders Porto face a struggle to qualify for the knockout phase after Paris St Germain held them to an uninspired 0-0 draw on Tuesday.

The 2004 winners remain rooted to the bottom of Group H with two points from four games after a scrappy, rain soaked match where they enjoyed most of the pos session but failed to capitalise on their chances.

Brazilians Derlei and Diego and Portuguese midfielder Maniche all squandered opportunities while PSG, apart from some spirited moments in the last 10 minutes, looked happy with a draw.

Poor passing and finishing let down Vitor Fernandez’s Porto, who have struggled with their form after losing coach Jose Mourinho to Chelsea at the end of last season.

Maniche put a volley wide in the 19th minute and broke though at the end of the half but he shot high under pressure.

Diego produced the only shot on target in the first half but he scuffled the ball straight at PSG goalkeeper Lionel Letizi.

Brazilian playmaker Derlei then missed a sitter from a pinpoint Maniche cross in first-half injury time, heading wide with the goal at his mercy.

Benni McCarthy also put a driving header wide early in the second half. PSG relied on the counter attack but Porto proved expert at catching Paulota offside.

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FC Porto’s Brazilian Diego Ribas (R) is tackled by Paris St Germain’s Modeste M’Bami (L) during their European Champions League clash in Porto.—INTERNET

Chelsea become first club through to knockout stage

LONDON, 3 Nov—Chelsea became the first club through to the knockout stage of the Champions League on Tuesday when they won 1-0 at CSKA Moscow whose Brazilian Vagner Love conjured up the worst penalty miss of the season early in the second half.

The result gave the multi-national London side, owned by Russian billionaire Roman Abramovich, a maximum haul of 12 points from four matches with two games still to play in Group H and they cannot finish outside the top two places. Arjen Robben and Damien Duff traded passes for the well-struck goal which broke the deadlock in the 24th minute.

Robben, who missed the first two months of the season with a foot injury, accelerated down the right and tapped the ball outside to Duff, who back-heeled it back into the Dutchman’s path.

Robben dummied past a defender and made room for himself before coolly slotting the ball into the bottom left corner of Igor Akinfeev’s net for his first Chelsea goal.

His new side could have had a second after another Robben break eight minutes later but Sergei Semak just got a leg in the way of Eidur Gudjohnsen’s cross to a goal-hanging Duff.

Much as at Stamford Bridge two weeks ago where Chelsea soaked up pressure before emerging comfortable 2-0 winners, CSKA’s energetic runs down both flanks were let down by poor finishing.

They produced a good chance in the 32nd minute when Love wrong-footed midfielder Scott Parker and defender Ricardo Carvalho. —MNA/Reuters

Werder thrash Anderlecht 5-1

BREMEN (Germany), 3 Nov—Werder Bremen moved a step closer to the knockout stage of the Champions League with a 5-1 thrashing of Anderlecht on Tuesday, scoring a hat-trick against the young Belgian side.

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A third consecutive win consolidates Werder’s second position in Group G, with nine points, one behind Inter Milan, who are guaranteed qualification.

Crucially, they are five ahead of Valencia, whom they visit in the last round of fixtures next month.

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China slams America’s “irrational” foreign policies

By 49, 3 Nov - China has fired yet another salvo at the United States, criticizing the Bush Administration’s “outdated” and “irrational” foreign policies and urged Washington to undertake a profound self-examination to win the hearts and minds of the international community.

If the United States wants to regain respect from the world people, it must make profound self-examination, abandon the long outdated diplomacy characterized by power politics and hegemony, the only way for a solution to the problem is for it to implement a more democratic foreign policy that conforms to the international tide, a stingy article in the People’s Daily said.

Otherwise, it would lead to a solution to the international problems and the world’s leading helicopter might be futile as catching fish in a tree — doing the impossible," the article in the ruling Communist Party’s mouthpiece said.

The highly critical article is the second to appear on the eve of the US presidential polls. Former Chinese vice-premier and foreign minister Qian Qichen had penned an article on Monday lambasting the Bush Administration’s quest to rule the world, drawing sharp reactions from US officials.

The People’s Daily article points out that Washington’s attempts to change its international image since the September 11 attacks has “completely failed.”

Listing out a slew of diplomatic and public relations activities undertaken by the US Government since September 11 attacks, the article says that America’s attempt to reverse its image has not yielded the anticipated results. —MNA/PTI

NANCHANG, 3 Nov — China will produce the world’s fastest light double-engine helicopters, according to an agreement signed on Tuesday between China and Italy in Zhubai, a coastal city in south China’s Guangdong Province.

The A109E helicopter is also reportedly the most powerful double-engine helicopter in resisting wind.

Under the accord between Jiangxi Changhe Aviation Industry Co Ltd based in this capital city of east China’s Jiangxi Province and the AGUSTA from Italy, the world’s leading helicopter supplier pledged to transfer all of the production activities for A109E to China eventually.

The cooperation between the two will have two modes, outsourcing and joint-venture operation, according to an official with the Jiangxi company.

After the planned joint-venture company is established, it will take over all of the marketing of its choppers in China, the official said.

The joint venture is expected to start delivering A109E helicopters to the Chinese market in 2005, the official added.

The coming joint venture will also act as a service centre for A109E choppers, and all of the other products of AGUSTA in China, the official said.

Prior to the agreement inked on Tuesday, the Jiangxi company clinched a contract with the AGUSTA in July this year and vowed to supply body parts of 290 A109E choppers for the Italian firm.

Put on the market in 1997, A109E is one of the state-of-the-art light double-engine helicopters in the world. With a remarkable performance, particularly against high temperature and high altitude conditions, the helicopter will be suitable to fly most parts of China, experts said.

China, Italy to join hands in producing fastest light helicopters

Jakarta to host Asian cities meeting

JAKARTA, 3 Nov — Top officials from the biggest cities of Asia will meet later this month in Jakarta for the fourth Asian Network of Major Cities 21 (ANMC 21) annual meeting.

The meeting, scheduled to run from November 21 to November 24, will be attended by the governors or mayors of Tokyo, Beijing, New Delhi, Seoul, Bangkok, Hanoi, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Manila, Yangon and Taibei.

Jakarta’s intercity cooperation bureau chief Herman Siregar was quoted on Tuesday by The Jakarta Post as saying that the meeting would discuss issues including joint projects between member countries, special reports on contagious diseases in the region and human resources, culture and technology policies.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is expected to open the meeting.

WEATHER

Wednesday, 3 November, 2004

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Shan State and Tanintharyi Division, weather has been generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Taunggyi (0.27 inch). Night temperatures were (3°C) above normal in Kachin State and Taninthary Division, (3°C) below normal in Kayin State, Magway and Yangon Divisions and about normal in the remaining States and Divisions.

Maximum temperature on 2-11-2004 was 96°F. Minimum temperature on 3-11-2004 was 68°F. Relative humidity at 9:30 hrs MST on 3-11-2004 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 2-11-2004 was (6.5) hours approx. Rainfall on 3-11-2004 was nil at Yangon Airport, Kaba-Aye and central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2004 was (112.24 inches) at Yangon Airport, (106.77 inches) at Kaba-Aye and (109.64 inches) at central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was 10 mph from North at (11.55) hours MST on 2-11-2004.

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Bay influence: Weather is cloudy in the South and Central Bay and party cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 4-11-2004: Possibility of isolated rain in Kachin State and Taninthary Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Continuation of rain in extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-11-2004: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-11-2004: Fair weather.
Prize presentation ceremony of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions held

The prize presentation ceremony of the 12th Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions was held at National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street, Dagon Township this afternoon. Member of the Panel of Patrons for Organizing the Competitions Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein attended the ceremony and made a speech on the occasion and presented prizes to the winners.

Present on the occasion were widow of Lt-Gen Tin Oo, Daw Khin Than Nwe, wife of Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein, Daw Khin Khin Win, Members Panel of Patrons for Organizing the Competitions, Chairman of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the Mayor, senior military officers, deputy ministers, members of CSSTB, members of Leading Committee for Organizing the Competitions, Chairmen of Work Committee and Sub-committees and members, foreign ambassadors, charge d’ affaires and military attaches’, resident representatives of UN organizations, officials of State Peace and Development Council Office, heads of departments, members of social organizations, judges, managers of states and divisions and participants of the competitions, Chairman of the Panel of Patron’s for Organizing the Competitions, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thein Sein made a speech on the occasion.

Next, prize presentation followed. Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thein Sein presented first prize for the professional level Maha Gita song contest to U Kyaw Kyaw of Yangon Division; second to Bo Htu of Mandalay Division and third to U Myo Win of Mon State; first prize for the amateur level Maha Gita song contest to Daw Mu Mu Swe of Yangon Division; second to U Tin Win of Shan State and third to U Saw Aung Kyaw of Mon State; first prize for the education level (men’s) to U Kyaw Phyo of Yangon Division; second to Maung Kyaw Zin of Kayin State and third to Maung Kyaw Kyaw Phyo of Yangon Division and first prize for the basic education level (boy’s, aged 5-10) Maha Gita song contest to Maung Zayar Pyai of Mon State and Maung Aung Kyi of Rakhine State.

Producing more and more well-qualified citizens (page 2)

Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Rules issued


Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Four perspectives
- Produce more and more well-qualified citizens (page 2)