

5 August 2009

Chem-Bio News

- 1. HELTER-SKELTER APPROACH BLAMED AS ALLEGHENY LAB REMAINS IN LIMBO:** *"Eight years after Allegheny County officials agreed to build a sophisticated biosecurity lab, the tab has jumped from \$1.5 million to \$6.4 million, and still the lab has not opened."*
- 2. MUMBAI POLICE NEW BLUEPRINT FACTORS IN BIO, NUCLEAR ATTACK TOO:** *"Eight months after the 26/11 terror attack exposed the disarray in the Mumbai Police despite a clearly laid out Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), Maharashtra has revised the guidelines. The revision not only accounts for attacks such as the Lashkar-e-Toiba assault but charts the course of action even in the event of a nuclear, chemical or biological attack."*
- 3. RESIDENTS FLEE CHINA'S QUARANTINED PLAGUE TOWN:** *"Frightened residents of a Chinese town sealed off after an outbreak of pneumonic plague have begun to flee under cover of darkness, sneaking around checkpoints set up to stop the spread of one of the world's deadliest diseases."*
- 4. THE DIOXIN POISONING OF VICTOR YUSHCHENKO: NEED FOR METHODS IN ROUTINE ANALYSIS OF METABOLITES OF THE POISON TCDD:** *"Only TCDD levels were higher than those in the general population. This indicates a severe intoxication of pure TCDD."*
- 5. INDIAN DEFENCE MINISTER WARNS OF TERRORISTS LAYING HANDS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS:** *"The Indian Defence Minister has warned the country of chemical weapons finding their way into the hands of terrorists. Releasing a compendium here today on disaster management during a chemical weapons attack, AK Antony noted that the terrorists are getting more fanatic and are always on the look out to cause maximum casualties."*

CB Daily Report

Chem-Bio News

HELTER-SKELTER APPROACH BLAMED AS ALLEGHENY LAB REMAINS IN LIMBO

By Allison M. Heinrichs
Pittsburgh Tribune-Review
August 02, 2009

"Eight years after Allegheny County officials agreed to build a sophisticated biosecurity lab, the tab has jumped from \$1.5 million to \$6.4 million, and still the lab has not opened.

Despite the last red bricks being mortared into place two years ago in Lawrenceville, the county still must send specimens from potential food-borne illnesses, seasonal influenza and other infections across the state to Chester County for testing.

"We did some things on the back-end that probably should have been done on the front-end," County Manager Jim Flynn said in a recent interview. "We weren't sophisticated enough to know what we were getting into."

Across town in Oakland, the University of Pittsburgh spent \$205 million to build the 10-story Biomedical Science Tower 3 — which is 33 times larger — in half the time it took the county to complete its project.

The Pitt project began in May 2003 and opened in October 2005. It was completed by December 2007.

"The devil's in the details, and you've got to have those details worked out before you put a shovel in

the ground," said Ed Elinski, senior project manager for Mascaro Construction, which served as Pitt's construction manager.

"Every one of these labs is custom designed. They're all going to have their own little issues that have to be worked out. That's why you bring in a lab planner."

The full article can be found at:

http://www.pittsburghlive.com/x/pittsburghtrib/news/pittsburgh/s_636369.html

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MUMBAI POLICE NEW BLUEPRINT FACTORS IN BIO, NUCLEAR ATTACK TOO

By Swatee Kher , Smita Nair

IndianExpress.com

August 01, 2009

"Eight months after the 26/11 terror attack exposed the disarray in the Mumbai Police despite a clearly laid out Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), Maharashtra has revised the guidelines. The revision not only accounts for attacks such as the Lashkar-e-Toiba assault but charts the course of action even in the event of a nuclear, chemical or biological attack."

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"Separate SOPs have been made for commissionerates, Mumbai Police, district police, nuclear, chemical and biological warfare and the environment," Chandra Iyengar, Additional Chief Secretary, Home, told The Indian Express."

The full article can be found at: <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/Mumbai-police-new-blueprint-factors-in-bio--nuclear-attack-too/496825>

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RESIDENTS FLEE CHINA'S QUARANTINED PLAGUE TOWN

By Jane Macartney

TimesOnline.co.uk

August 04, 2009

"Frightened residents of a Chinese town sealed off after an outbreak of pneumonic plague have begun to flee under cover of darkness, sneaking around checkpoints set up to stop the spread of one of the world's deadliest diseases.

Residents said that the streets of Ziketan, a town in a mainly ethnically Tibetan region of western China, were deserted as medical staff raced to disinfect the area amid reports a third person had died of the highly contagious illness.

After the outbreak was detected last Thursday, police set up checkpoints in a 17-mile radius of the farming community of about 10,000 people. But Tibetan residents familiar with the rugged and wild terrain have begun to slip out of the town, evading the checkpoints.

One person had made his way to a neighbouring province but declined to give his exact location. Others, he believed, had made their way to the city of Xining, the capital of Qinghai province. Still others had taken refuge with friends or relatives still living a nomadic existence on the Tibetan plateau."

The full article can be found at:

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/asia/china/article6738264.ece>

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THE DIOXIN POISONING OF VICTOR YUSHCHENKO: NEED FOR METHODS IN ROUTINE ANALYSIS OF METABOLITES OF THE POISON TCDD

Medical News Today
August 05, 2009

“An article published Online First exposes the facts of the poisoning of Ukrainian President Victor Yushchenko in 2004. It is the work of Professor Jean Saurat, from the Swiss Centre for Human Applied Toxicology, and the University Hospital, in Geneva, Switzerland, and his collaborators. It establishes that there is a need for routine analytical techniques to test for metabolites of TCDD (2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin) which is a type of dioxin and the poison that was used. This will help to provide proper treatment.

Victor Yushchenko was poisoned with TCDD in late December of 2004. There was a high concentration of it in his blood which was more than 50,000 times that of the general population. The medical team identified TCDD and its metabolites. For three years they monitored levels using different chemical techniques. They analyzed samples of blood, fatty tissue, feces, skin, urine, and sweat.”

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“The study shows seventeen different types of dioxin were analyzed in Mr Yushchenko. Only TCDD levels were higher than those in the general population. This indicates a severe intoxication of pure TCDD.....”

The full article can be found at: <http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/159819.php>
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INDIAN DEFENCE MINISTER WARNS OF TERRORISTS LAYING HANDS ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS

FrontierIndia.net
August 04, 2009

“The Indian Defence Minister has warned the country of chemical weapons finding their way into the hands of terrorists. Releasing a compendium here today on disaster management during a chemical weapons attack, AK Antony noted that the terrorists are getting more fanatic and are always on the look out to cause maximum casualties.

“Terrorists are getting more and more aggressive in their activities the world over,” Antony said, releasing the national guidelines on ‘Management of Chemical Terrorism Disaster,’ compiled by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA). “They are adopting newer techniques and technology in their mode of operation,” he added.”

The full article can be found at: <http://frontierindia.net/wa/indian-defence-minister-warns-of-terrorists-laying-hands-on-chemical-weapons/402/>
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Steve Tesko: Steve.Tesko@anser.org

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