

**A BULLETIN FROM**  
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**Deadly Virus Spawns Near Bay Of Bengal,  
Spreading Incredibly Fast — Scientists Rush  
To Produce Vaccine For Ultra-Lethal  
“PolluPlague”**

By TOM BROWN

No one really knows how it came into existence, but the “working theory” is that a lethal combination of pollutants — sewage, scraps, industrial spillage, and medical waste — collected in a small bay near the Mouths of the Ayeyarwady at the southern tip of Myanmar (once known as Burma). Apparently fueled by unusually hot weather, it is believed that the mixture spontaneously transformed into an airborne virus that — over the past month — has already felled thousands of people for hundreds of kilometers in all directions. A vaccine is reported to be nearly in-hand, but the ability to produce it — and then vaccinate the huge populations

**imminently threatened — has created an unusual alliance of governments, civic agencies, and pharmaceutical companies.**

“This is a world crisis,” said Dr. Roddi Netashka, an M.D. working for the Red Cross who was rushed to Myanmar two weeks ago from his post in Bombay, India. Dr. Netashka appears to be the informal spokesperson for all involved in trying to quell and quash what’s rapidly becoming known as “PolluPlague.” He spoke with reporters at a hastily arranged “news conference” outside a tent in Yangon.

“Short of a world war, nothing has threatened so many people so quickly,” he said. “Nothing! Even the influenza epidemic of 1917-18 didn’t spread this fast.”

According to reports which are being collected from hospitals in six countries, PolluPlague starts as fierce pain in the base of the chest. PolluPlague appears to rapidly shut down the lungs’ ability to provide oxygen to the body, which all humans and animals need to survive. There are other symptoms, Dr. Netashka said, but the choking action of PolluPlague almost immediately incapacitates otherwise healthy people.

“This is suffocation from the inside out. Once PolluPlague strikes, the patient is immobilized. The development of an intense fever, total loss of appetite, and searing muscle pains occur within 24 hours,” he added, noting that no one afflicted with PolluPlague seems able to survive more than a few days.

However, Dr. Natashka stressed that hospital and other medical records connected to the PolluPlague epidemic are sketchy and are just beginning to be analyzed by a team of top doctors and scientists now assembling in an undisclosed location, believed to be somewhere in India.

Therefore no one appears to have answers to the most critical questions:

How many people have already died from PolluPlague?

How many others are infected today?

Who else is threatened?

Is there a vaccine?

Although Dr. Natashka was peppered with these questions (and many others), he would only say that the threat from PolluPlague is real and extremely serious. “This has planetary implications,” he said. As he spoke to the press, Dr. Natashka was surrounded by military guards who were all around the medical compound.

High-level sources at the United Nations in New York, who would not speak publicly, have hinted that the U.N. Secretary General has secretly assembled a 15-nation taskforce consisting of top-flight experts in immunology.

Reportedly, more than 300 other people are being headquartered in India to spearhead the effort to contain PolluPlague before it spreads to a wider region of the planet. This effort could not be confirmed by any official.

However, the Secretary General has scheduled what is being called a “critical” news conference at midnight tonight. It has been hinted that “an alliance” of major pharmaceutical companies based in Japan, England, and the United States has developed a vaccine which minimizes the life-threatening effects of PolluPlague.

If true, that might be the subject of the Secretary General’s news conference tonight. Even if true, however, the vaccine would have to be produced in bulk and administered to hundreds of thousands of people within a very short time. Such a multi-national effort has never before been achieved, except in times of war.

“Make no mistake about this PolluPlague,” Dr. Natashka said at the end of his impromptu news conference. “We are all under attack. The Planet. Now!” |<

*digital art by dave pierson*

