Stay united, stay indoors, 'add oil'

Wuhan residents tell the world

Reuters, *Wuhan*

Life in the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the coronavirus first emerged, is slowly returning to normal as the government relaxes a more than two-month-old lockdown that cut the city off from the world and kept most of its 11 million residents at home.

Wuhan, capital of Hubei province, was once the epicentre of the now global pandemic and was subjected to the strictest curbs on movement and business.

Reuters asked several Wuhan residents to share their experiences with the millions of people across the globe now in some form of lockdown or isolation.

Their advice? Stay united, stay indoors and "add oil", a Chinese saying that means stay strong.

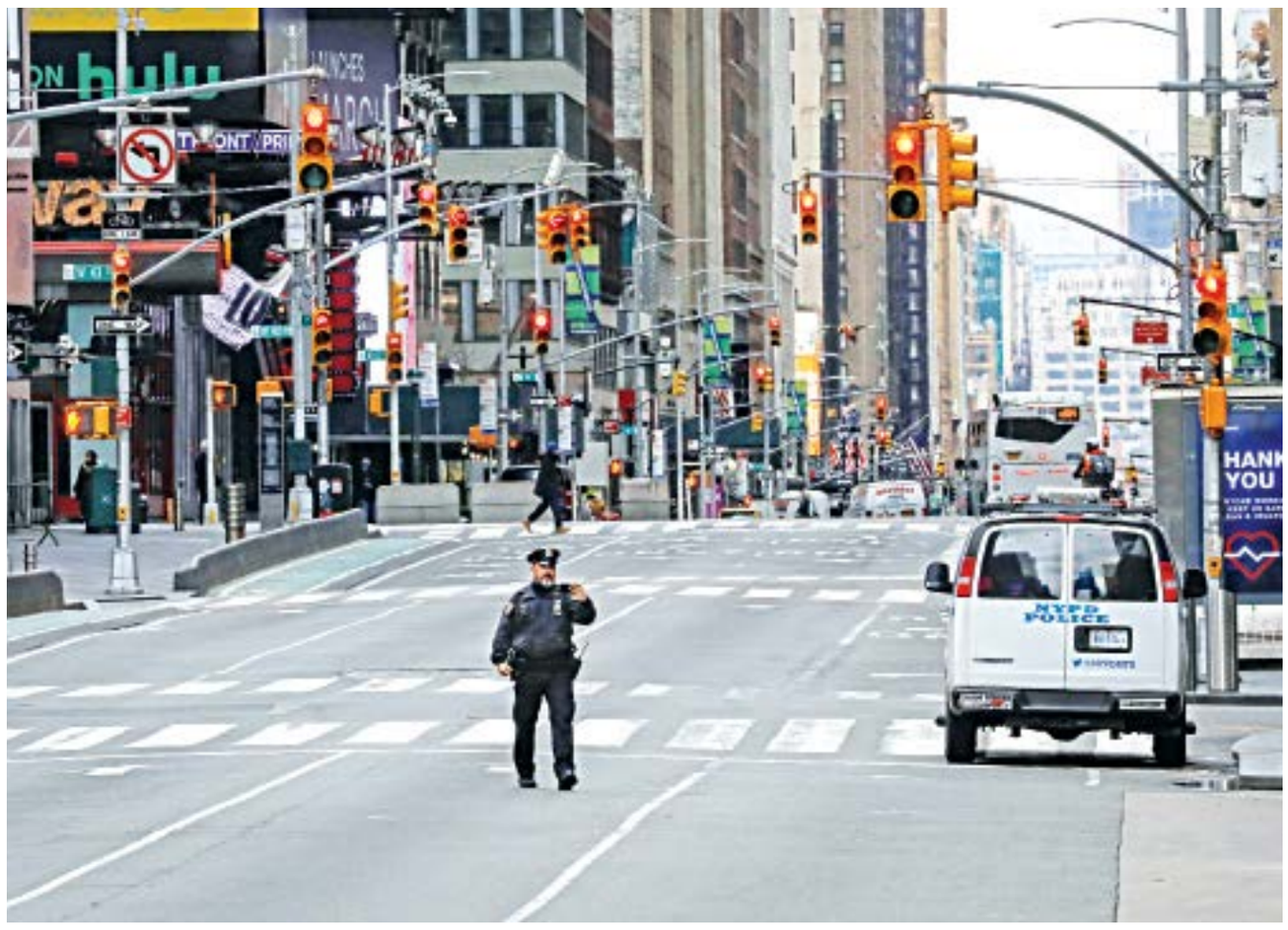
"In the beginning, I was quite scared because my job involves meeting lots of people, so I went home and quarantined myself," says Mu Zi, a taxi driver.

"After the government measures to control the epidemic started to work in February, I became more relaxed and in a better mood. And since my housing compound has had no cases, they've started allowing us to go out.

"The situation overseas, especially in Italy, really makes my heart ache. I hope that overseas coronavirus patients will be able to overcome this."

Ding fan, 27, said, "In the beginning I was pretty scared, because the week after the lockdown was when the infections in Wuhan peaked, and the numbers published every day made me very sad.

"We live in the same world, and we need to work hard together to defeat this illness. Everyone should go out less, stay at home to read books, watch television and play games with the family."



A New York City Police officer (NYPD) takes a selfie while in the middle of the street in an almost empty Times Square, during the coronavirus disease outbreak, in New York City, on Tuesday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Europe toll tops 30,000

UN chief says world faces 'worst crisis' since WW2

Afp, *Madrid*

The coronavirus pandemic has claimed more than 30,000 lives in Europe alone, a global tally showed yesterday, in what the head of the United Nations has described as humanity's worst crisis since World War II.

Italy and Spain bore the brunt of the crisis, accounting for three in every four deaths on the continent, as the grim tally hit another milestone even though half of the planet's population is already under some form of lockdown in a battle to halt contagion.

Spain reported a record 864 deaths in 24 hours, pushing the country's number of fatalities past 9,000.

The toll is only dwarfed by Italy's, where the virus has killed nearly 12,500 people. Italy yesterday reported 727 fresh deaths.

Britain reported 563 daily coronavirus deaths yesterday, the first time the national toll has exceeded 500, bringing the total fatalities to 2,352, according to official figures.

"As of 5pm (1600 GMT) on 31 March, of those hospitalised in the UK who tested positive for coronavirus, 2,352 have sadly died," the health ministry said on its official Twitter page.

Since emerging in China in December, Covid-19 has spread across the globe, claiming over 43,000 lives and infecting more than 860,000 people, according to an AFP tally.

President Donald Trump has warned of a "very, very painful two weeks" as the United States registered its deadliest 24 hours of what he called a "plague".

In a scramble to halt the contagion, governments have shut schools, most shops, and ordered millions of people to work from home.

For UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the extraordinary upheaval spurred by the virus presents a real danger to the relative peace the world has seen over the last few decades.

The disease "represents a threat to everybody in the world and... an economic impact that will bring a recession that probably has no parallel in the recent past," he said.

"The combination of the two facts and the risk that it contributes to enhanced instability, enhanced unrest, and enhanced conflict are things that make us believe that this is the most challenging crisis we have faced since the Second World War."

In Italy, queues were lengthening at soup kitchens while some supermarkets were reportedly pillaged.

Half a million more people now need help to afford meals, Italy's biggest union for the agriculture sector Coldiretti said, adding to the 2.7 million already in need last year.

Spain reports a record 864 deaths in 24 hours

Britain records over 500 daily deaths for first time

Use malaria drugs only for emergencies

Warns EU agency

Afp, *Paris*

Anti-malarial drugs chloroquine and hydroxychloroquine should only be used to treat Covid-19 in clinical trials or in case of "national emergency", the European Medicine Agency (EMA) warned yesterday.

Around the world, countries are expanding access to the two compounds, which are used to treat malaria and are known to have anti-viral properties.

The medicines have shown early promise against the Covid-19 illness in early studies in France and China.

But the EMA cautioned that the drugs should not be used to treat Covid-19 cases unless absolutely necessary.

Both drugs have a number of potentially serious side effects, especially when taken in high doses or administered in tandem with other medications.

TACKLING LOCKDOWN REBELS

Indian police play good cop, bad cop

Afp, *New Delhi*

One minute they're dancing in the street in comical coronavirus helmets, the next they're seen beating people for flouting a nationwide lockdown -- Indian police have played good cop, bad cop in a bid to halt the spread of coronavirus.

The streets of India's cities have been largely deserted for more than a week of the government's 21-day lockdown -- no mean feat in a country of 1.3 billion people famed for their flexible attitude towards authority.

Police admit it has been hard work to keep citizens in their homes, while one analyst said some degree of coercion was needed to enforce government orders.

India yesterday reported 376 fresh cases and three new deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the total number of confirmed cases to 1,637 and 38 deaths.

In Bangalore, traffic police are using humour to discourage drivers from venturing out.

Two officers wearing red and green coronavirus helmets regularly dance around miscreant road users after pulling them over.

Vijay Hadagil, inspector of police at the traffic department said the tableau aimed to raise awareness that "the notorious coronavirus is spreading like anything".

Despite the good cop routine, authorities have also been embarrassed by videos on social media from the early lockdown days showing Delhi police beating vegetable traders at a market that remained open after the shutdown was ordered.

CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

LATEST UPDATES

MORE THAN 8,65,970 CASES

The worldwide number of officially confirmed fatalities from the novel coronavirus rose to 43,082 yesterday, according to a tally compiled by AFP from official sources. More than 865,970 declared cases have been registered in 186 countries and territories. Italy has recorded 105,792 infections, while Spain 9,053 fatalities and 102,136 infections. China -- excluding Hong Kong and Macau -- has to date declared 3,312 deaths and 81,554 cases.

JAPAN'S FUJIFILM STARTS AVIGAN TRIAL TO TREAT VIRUS

Japan's Fujifilm has begun clinical trials to test the effectiveness of its anti-flu drug Avigan in treating patients with the new coronavirus, after reports of promising results in China. Trials in China have suggested Avigan could play a role in shortening the recovery time for patients infected with coronavirus. "The trial will be conducted on 100 patients," a company spokesman said yesterday.

AUSSIE PAPERS STOP PRINTING

Rupert Murdoch's Australian flagship media group News Corp announced yesterday it will stop printing around 60 regional newspapers, as the troubled sector received a fresh blow from a Covid-19 advertising downturn. News Corp said papers in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia would cease printing and move online.

30 SCIENTISTS FIND A HOME IN DEEP SEA

Nearly 100 crew members, including 30 scientists, who have been on scientific missions on board ocean research vessels have decided to stay put till the 21-day lockdown in India ends. They are on board four ships belonging to the Chennai-based National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) which set sail more than three weeks ago to map the seabed on the east and west coasts.

PUTIN WORKING REMOTELY

Russian leader Vladimir Putin has decided to handle his duties remotely, the Kremlin said yesterday, after the head of the country's main coronavirus hospital tested positive following a meeting with the president. Denis Protsenko, who met with Putin last week as the Russian leader visited the Kommunarka hospital in Moscow, said Tuesday he had been infected with the coronavirus but was feeling well.

WORLD FACES FOOD CRISIS: UN, WTO

The heads of three global agencies yesterday warned of the risk of a worldwide "food shortage" if authorities fail to manage the ongoing coronavirus crisis properly. Many governments around the world have put their populations on lockdown causing severe slow-downs in international trade and food supply chains.

VIRUS COULD SPREAD FASTER IN CAMPS THAN ON SHIPS: NGO

The coronavirus could spread faster in overcrowded refugee and displaced persons camps than it has anywhere else so far, including on cruise ships, an aid group warned yesterday. The International Rescue Committee said its analysis showed that transmission rates in some of the worst camps on the globes could outpace that witnessed during the quarantine of the Diamond Princess cruise ship off Japan.

SOURCE: **AFP, TOI, REUTERS**

Mass disinfections pose health hazard: experts

Reuters, *Surabaya*

A drone dispersed clouds of disinfectant in the sky above Indonesia's second-largest city Surabaya on Tuesday, a response to the coronavirus pandemic which is catching on around the world despite warnings from health experts.

Mass disinfections, often by workers in protective gear resembling characters from the comedy film Ghostbusters, have become a common sight -- from Turkey's Grand Bazaar to bridges in Mexico and migrant workers in India.

But the visually impressive measures taken to contain the fast-spreading virus which has killed over 42,000 people globally, have been criticised by disease specialists as a health hazard as well as a waste of time and resources.

"It's a ridiculous image seen in many countries," said Dale Fisher, an infectious diseases expert in Singapore who chairs the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network coordinated by the World Health Organization.

"I don't believe it adds anything to the response and could be toxic on people. The virus does not survive for long in the environment and people do not generally touch the ground."

A spokesman for Surabaya's mayor said the use of drones for disinfection was necessary in areas with confirmed cases because the virus "can be anywhere".

Virus having little impact on climate

Says UN climate agency

Afp, *Geneva*

Though factories have shut, planes have been grounded and cars left in the garage, the coronavirus pandemic is having very little impact on climate change, the World Meteorological Organization said yesterday.

Any reductions in pollution and carbon dioxide emissions are likely to be temporary, said Lars Peter Riishojgaard, from the infrastructure department of the WMO, a United Nations agency based in Geneva.

"It does not mean much for climate," he told a virtual press conference. Riishojgaard said there was a lot of media speculation about what impact the global pandemic might have on the climate, greenhouse gas emissions and longer-term global warming.

Talk to people

FROM PAGE 12

World Health Organisation Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus asked people to take care of their mental health during the lockdown.

"It's normal to feel stressed, confused and scared during a crisis. Talking to people you know and trust can help. Supporting other people in your community can help you as much as it does them," he said.

Eminent psychologist in the country Farida Akhtar told The Daily Star that people may face palpitation, breathing difficulties and an increase of blood pressure due to anxiety and stress.

She said what is most dangerous is that the anxiety can pass on to children from their parents and the situation can turn worse if it is not addressed immediately.

Getting involved in creative activities can be an effective means to manage stress, she said.

"Family members can cook together and can discuss the taste of the food in the dining table."

She said those who have a reading habit can read books. "People can listen to music. Music therapy is very good to overcome stress."

Farida Akhtar, chief executive of Inner force, a centre for psychological counselling, said people can perform religious rituals in the house as it cool peoples mind and bring peace in the mind.

"This is a good opportunity to spend some quality time with the kids and partners. In a busy life, we get a little time for them. So, we can utilise this properly to reduce the gaps."

She said, "Autosuggestion, meditation, relaxation and visualisation are the scientific methods to manage stress."

As to autosuggestion, she said one might counsel himself or herself by thinking that everyone else is going through the same crisis.

For meditation, one can exercise deep breathing to get relief from the anxiety and stress, she said.

The noted psychologist said when people suffer from anxiety and stress, their cognition does not function properly, and as a result, they make mistakes.

"So, stress management is very crucial in this crisis period," she said.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Belaichari, Rangamati
www.lged.gov.bd

শেখ হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি

Memo No. 46.02.8421.000.14.001.65.20-63 Dated: 25.04.2020

e-Tender Notice No. 02/2019-2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of:

Sl No.	Package No. & name of scheme	Tender ID	Last selling date & time	Closing/opening date & time	Tender method
1	2	4	6	7	8
1	INF-2018-19-(208429-01) INF-2018-19 Construction of water supply line in Tangkhoilang village under Farua union upazila Belaichari district Rangamati	451311	Date: 21/04/2020 Time: 11:30am	Date: 21/04/2020 Time: 14:30pm	OTM
2	INF-2018-19-(208429-02) INF-2018-19 A. Replacement and extension of GI pipe line from Kalangchara Goicharipara under Farua union. B. Installation of deep tube-well in three GPS & C. Construction of wash block in Gaskatachara Non GPS under Belaichari upazila district Rangamati	451316	Date: 21/04/2020 Time: 11:30am	Date: 21/04/2020 Time: 14:30pm	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required. The e-Tender security submitted date & time from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches **21 April 2020** respectively. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (e-GP helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd) also from e-mail: ue-belaichari@lged.gov.bd.
Interested persons can communicate with the undersigned during office hours.

S. M. Anwar Hossain
Upazila Engineer
Belaichari, Rangamati
ue.belaichari@lged.gov.bd

GD-715

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Capacity Development and Strengthening Project

e-Tender Notice

শেখ হাসিনার নির্দেশ
জলবায়ু সহিষ্ণু বাংলাদেশ

e-Tender is hereby invited in the National e-GP Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for procurement of goods stated below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID	Name of work
1	448196	Procurement of Furniture & Office equipment

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted in the e-GP Portal, no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) is required.
The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP Portal have to be deposited online through any branches of registered bank. Tender documents will be available on 08/04/2020 at e-GP Portal.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP Portal and from e-GP help desk (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd). The tender notice will be available on the website: www.moef.gov.bd.

Md. A. Razzaque Sarker
Deputy Secretary
& Project Director
Phone: 9540214

GD-706

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
College Education Development Project (CEDP)
Government B M College
Barishal

Corrigendum of Invitation for Tender

Reference No. bmc/cedp/otm/w-01/c-01 Date: 02-04-2020

The undersigned has to inform that due to unavoidable circumstances tender last selling, closing and opening dates & time of Package No. W-01 (Package Name: Renovation of Lab & Classrooms) are revised as follows:

Sl. No. in published IFT	Description	Original date & time	Revised date & time
17	Tender last selling date	April 1, 2020, Time: 5pm	April 12, 2020,Time: 5pm
18	Tender closing date and time	April 2, 2020, Time: 2pm	April 13, 2020, Time:2pm
19	Tender opening date and time	April 2, 2020, Time: 2.30pm	April 13, 2020, Time: 2.30pm

Note: It is mentioned that if the tender closing and opening date is holiday in that case tenders will be closed and opened in next available working day at same place and same time.

All other things of published IFT (Reference No. bmc/cedp/otm/w-01, date: 16-03-2020) will remain unchanged.

Prof. Md. Shafiqur Rahman Sikder
Principal
Govt. B M College, Barishal

GD-714