Coronavirus deaths surge past 13,000

ROME: Nearly one billion people were confined to their homes yesterday, as the coronavirus death toll crossed 13,000 and factories were shut in west-of-Pacific after another single-day surge in fatalities. The raging pandemic has forced lockdowns in 35 countries, druging live, travel and businesses. Governments scramble to shut borders and unleash hundreds of billions in emergency funds to avoid a widespread coronavirus depression.

New York: The first wave of the coronavirus outbreak is over, but the second wave is coming, US President Donald Trump said on Saturday. The US has become the world’s first country to hit 100,000 deaths, and Trump warned that it could surpass the first wave of deaths.

India one-day curfew to test virus defenses

NEW DELHI: Millions of Indians went into lock-down yesterday as the country brought most of its vast railway network to a halt to slow the spread of the deadly coronavirus. Most domestic flights were grounded and shops shut their doors for the 14-hour curfew that is designed to test the country’s ability to fight the pandemic.

Religion in the Mideast adapts to coronavirus

JERUSALEM: In the Middle East, where the three main monotheist faiths share deep ties, the coronavirus pandemic has cast religious leaders support constraints unprecedented in the region. In its majority Muslim North Africa, has ordered the closure of mosques to avoid large gatherings - where the risk of contamination could be high.

Kuwait imposes partial curfew amid 12 new coronavirus cases

KUWAIT: Kuwait imposed a nationwide curfew starting yesterday from 5 pm until 4 am to fight the spread of the coronavirus pandemic, state news agency KUNA said. By Saturday, the Cabinet approved a one-day curfew that will begin from 5 pm local time (1200 GMT) and run until 4 am the following morning.

Coronavirus challenges US military machine

WASHINGTON: More than 300,000 infections have emerged in central China late last year - often with no symptoms. The country is now planning to test 500 million people in the coming months. The coronavirus pandemic has seen religious leaders support constraints unthinkable just a few weeks ago. Top Islamic clerics in the region and its majority-Muslim North Africa have ordered the closure of mosques to avoid large gatherings - where the risk of contamination could be high.

Crude reality: Price crash means oil firms must slash spending

DUBAI: A photo taken early yesterday shows a deserted street in Kuwait City. — AFP

Uncertainty abounds as football’s transfer window controls grind to a halt

BAGHDAD: A volunteer disinfects a shop in the Iraqi capital’s Bayaa neighborhood on Saturday. — AFP

KUWAIT: The Department of Health and Community Services (DHCS) on Saturday announced an extension of the KUNA agreement with the World Health Organization (WHO) for the period of the coronavirus crisis. The agreement with precautionary measures, "some manifestations of non-compliance in preventive measures," Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Anwar al-Saleh said according to KUNA. The Cabinet also decided to extend a suspension of government meetings and economic conferences for two weeks. It had already extended it until May 3, and it is now expected to be extended to a suspension of schools and examinations until Aug 4, the first among Asia's countries to impose such lengthy education decisions in light of the sometimes deadly disease.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 16

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The First Daily in the Arabian Gulf

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Min 12º
Max 26º
Kuwait Cabinet warns anew of gatherings over COVID-19

Kuwait extends obligatory work suspension by further two weeks

Kuwait: The Kuwaiti Cabinet on Saturday called on all citizens and residents to stay away from gatherings to stem all coronavirus outbreaks. It also urged everyone to follow all guidelines and decisions issued by concerned state agencies in order to prevent violent reactions. The cabinet, during an extraordinary cabinet meeting held at the Al-Sabah palace under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Mohammad Al-Sabah and his Deputy Khaled Al-Jarallah, met Friday with members of the ministry’s emergency committee to discuss conditions of Kuwaiti citizens abroad. The meeting, held at Sheikh Salem Al-Dabbous Diplomatic Institute, touched upon hosting and extending diplomatic missions’ regulations, which aimed at curbing the spread of coronavirus. The ambassador also called on citizens in Austria to comply with Austrian authorities’ regulations that aim at curbing the spread of COVID-19. In his remarks, the ambassador said that since the beginning of its readiness to provide all means of communication and to follow up conditions of Kuwaiti citizens to the 4:00 am until further notice.

The cabinet decided to shut down all shops and markets. — KUNA

Work suspension

The Kuwaiti cabinet decided to extend the suspension of work in ministries and state agencies by two additional weeks; and Government Spokesman Yang Al-Moammar Saturday. The decision means that all civil servants, who have been on mandatory holiday from March 12, to be back to work on April 12, the spokesman told a press conference, said the curfew would mean all civil servants, who have been on mandatory holiday from March 12, to be back to work on April 12, the spokesman told a press conference.

Curfew from 5:00 pm to 4:00 am

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Kuwait Foreign Minister meets emergency committee

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Kuwait confirms 12 new coronavirus cases, total number rises to 188

Three patients recovered, total recovery 30 cases: Health Minister

KUWAIT: Kuwait yesterday confirmed 12 new coronavirus cases bringing the total to 188 said Sheikh Dr Basal Al-Salahl said that 11 patients were in close contact with persons who had traveled to the UK, two Kuwaitis and two Pilipino residents, one was in contact with a patient who recently arrived from Egypt. He added that the tenth case was revealed later.

Meanwhile, Health Minister Dr Sheikh Al-Salahl said that three coronavirus cases have recovered, two of them to belong to Kuwaiti females, and the remaining one to a Spanish resident, bringing the number of those recovered in the country to 30 cases.

Abdullah Al-Sanad, the ministry's spokesperson, said the three cases were cured from the virus. He added that laboratory and radiological tests showed that these cases were cured from the virus.

The minister stated that the three patients to be transferred to rehabilitation wards in the main hospital in preparation for discharge within the next two days.

In other news, the Ministry of Health has received medical equipment and supplies that would boost medical capabilities in the current hard time to increase the chances of success in fighting the coronavirus.

Mr. Abdullah Al-Bader, the Ministry of Health's undersecretary for medical supplies said the Ministry's pharmaceutical supplies arrived in Kuwait yesterday while entities providing vital services will remain open. The government also allowed restaurants to host a maximum of five people at a time and in case there are lines, the distance must be at least one meter between people.

Visa suspension

Kuwaiti government has suspended entry permits and visas unless those in hand through diplomatic missions. Previously, authorities have stopped issuing all kinds of visas, travel, work, etc for Egyptian nationals, while allowing those who already have a visa to enter only after they take tests in Cairo before coming to Kuwait. In the meantime, King has suspended flights from the three countries: South Africa, the United States and England, stopping issuing visas for all nationalities as a precautionary measure.

The Civil Service Commission directed all government agencies not to hire employees under any form of quarantine from resuming work. The ban is applicable to Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employees. Salary payments will continue for Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti employees under all kinds of compulsory quarantine.

Types of quarantine

All arrivals to Kuwait from Egypt, China, Hong Kong, South Korea, Italy, Iran, France, Spain, and the United Kingdom are to be placed under quarantine for 14 days. Meanwhile, all arrivals to Kuwait International Airport coming from other countries must enter 14-days mandatory home self-quarantine.

Healthline

The Ministry of Health has set the following helplines to receive inquiries about the coronavirus:
- 99797067 (Capital Educational Zone)
- 99797059 (Farwaniya Educational Zone)
- 99797055 (Hawally Educational Zone)
- 99797055 (Ahmadi Educational Zone)
- 99797056 (Al-Khabour Educational Zone)
- 99797057 (Religious Studies Department)
- 99797056 (Private Education Department)
- 99797056 (Public Relations Department)

Medical supplies arrive in Kuwait

Kuwait’s government has announced today the arrival of medical supplies that would boost medical capabilities in the current hard time to increase the chances of success in fighting the coronavirus.
Curfew-breakers to be jailed, fined, Interior Ministry warns

Curfew due to non-compliance with instructions to stay indoors

KUWAIT: Anyone caught breaching the curfew decided earlier evening will be jailed for up to three years and fined KD 10,000 pursuant to Civil Defense Law, warned the interior minister. The warning was given by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister and Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Anas Al-Saleh during a press conference held following an extraordinary cabinet meeting earlier Saturday.

He added that the military is on standby to help security forces in putting the curfew in place, quoting the cabinet as having tasked the National Guard with aiding the Ministry of Interior in this regard. He stated that the curfew was decided as a result of non-compliance with health guidelines and instructions aimed at averting gatherings. The minister noted that he would relieve violators of residency law of any fine so that they could leave the country immediately.

The cabinet had decided Saturday to impose an 11-hour curfew due to non-compliance with Ministry of Health’s instructions to stay indoors, Deputy Premier and Interior Minister Anas Al-Saleh announced Saturday. Saleh, addressing a news conference after the cabinet meeting, said the curfew would be imposed from 5:00 pm until 4:00 am. He meanwhile said a public holiday, due to end on March 26, would be extended for two weeks.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister Sheikh Dr Ahmad Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Sabah said a strengthened health system would undoubtedly make it easier for overseas citizens to return home at an early date. Speaking at the press conference following the cabinet meeting on response to the novel coronavirus, the minister reassured that his ministry had worked out a blueprint to evacuate citizens abroad. Urging everyone to take the matter seriously, the minister said the evacuation plan would give top priority to patients in critical situations, old people, minors and people with disabilities. — KUNA

By Hanan Al-Saadoun

KUWAIT: A fire was reported in a 10-story Hawally building Saturday night. Firemen from the Hawally, Salmiya, Ardhiya and Qurain fire stations responded to an emergency call. They put out the fire after evacuating the building. A child sustained slight burns and was taken to hospital. Kuwaiti Fire Service Directorate (KFSD) Deputy Director General for Fighting Sector Major General Jamal Albulaihees was on hand.

Child hurt in 10-story Hawally building blaze
Public urge curfew important to protect people’s lives

Housemaids wary of extra work pressure during 5:00 pm to 4:00 am curfew

By Joe Garcia

KUWAIT: Because of the sudden curfew imposed by the Kuwaiti government, people came to work early yesterday and adjusted the schedule accordingly to ensure they are home by 5:00 pm to comply with government directives. The curfew remains in force until 4:00 am.

In Saad Al-Abdullah’s case, he comes home at 4:00 am and is then forced to work until 8:00 am.

“This is the right thing to do. I know it will be imposed in other countries too that have a high mortality rate of coronavirus. They should be very strict about the matter because we should stay at home for the protection of people,” said Al-Abdullah, 45, a Pakistani working in Shakbeh Industrial Area.

“I have lived all my life here in Kuwait and love this country. I have never returned to my home and will not think of returning. I will obey the government and leave as I have accumulated leave for the last three years,” he added.

“Why did you need to reach this stage? If I had followed the regulations earlier, probably we would not have been placed in this situation. People are still gathering outside their homes,” said Sultan, 57, a seaman working at the airport.

“My deepest concern is about the workers. Many will be the ones to feel the fate of this curfew and will struggle with their families while they are at home. It is better to handle this matter in a way that can last for a month or two months,” he added.

KUWAIT: Forced leave is one of the decisions issued by the government to protect the health sector from a potential new wave of the coronavirus. Ooredoo Kuwait is continuing its support to make sure they all comply with municipal regulations and the precautionary measures taken to curb the spread of COVID-19. In this regard, the emergency team leader Ahmad Ramadan said 90 stores were inspected in the last 10 days, including 36 mobile stores, 16 retail stores, 2 convenience stores, 14 restaurants, 4 liquor stores, 4 pharmacies and 11 food stores.

“The additional curfew will not affect our stores. Certain stores that are closed during the regular working hours will be open during the curfew,” said Ramadan.

Partial curfew

By Muna Al-Fuzai

KUWAIT imposed a partial curfew starting Sunday that will last from 8:00 am until 4:00 am, a local official said. The new curfew is in line with government directives in order to prevent bankruptcy. This will be to your benefit as well, as you have a stable job when all of it is over.

This expression

Question: My employee is taking on my paid leave for three weeks; should I authorize it?

Answer: Yes absolutely, an employer can ask for your paid leave to be used if it is needed.

This expression

Question: My employee is taking on short-term leave for three years and I have not taken leave, can I do it?

Answer: For four years, the employee must be on leave. The employee may vacate the work area and take full-time leave according to the contract.

Pervasive

Question: My employee is taking on my paid leave for three years and I have not taken leave, can I do it?

Answer: Yes absolutely, an employer can ask for your leave to be used if it is needed. The employee must be on leave for four years.

The government's type of leave is 30 days. In this case, the employee will take his leave and the employer will benefit from it.

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**Thailand virus cases rocket to 600**

**Fear of a full-blown crisis amid pandemic**

**Bangkok**: Thailand's confirmed coronavirus cases rose by the country.

Bangkok not to leave and risk spreading the virus around spared until now. Thailand's health ministry announced the Southeast Asia has so far been spared the worst of the pan-

**Bars closed? House parties and happy hours move online**

**Los Angeles**: Coronavirus lockdown or fêtes Lebanon mothers

towards a balcony on Saturday to deliver a red

**Flying roses; Drone fetes Lebanon mothers despite coronavirus**

**Jounieh**: In a quiet Lebanon town under lockdown over the novel coronavirus, a droneterraform towards a balcony on Saturday to deliver a red rose to a mother grieving in solitude. The COVID-19 pandemic may have put a damper on Mother's Day in Lebanon this year, but these droneffee with a new service to celebrate the occasion without violating social distancing restrictions. Dronesthe in the coastal town of Jounieh, the northwestern Christian town near Beirut, delivered a red rose to a mother, asking him to bring the family onto the balcony.

He drops a simple rose in a ring hanging under the蕭森 and all of his life, life at the flower to its intended recipient. "It’s the Day and events in Jounieh have been lenses, including the replacement of the entire

**Up next?**

As well as a meal of pickled and blue off some street vendors, the app is good for three meal deliveries in this astonishingly

**China scrambling to curb rise in imported coronavirus cases**

**MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020**

**Crisis-hit Venezuelans turn to homemade remedies to fight virus**

**Page 8**
**Remark plays into centuries-old stereotypes**

WASHINGTON: President Donald Trump’s moves to drop plans to send a high-level US delegation to the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York last week could have a ‘serious challenge’ to the country’s national interests, according to a recent analysis by the New York Times.

In his decision to cancel the trip, which had been scheduled for September 21, the Trump administration cited concerns over the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has claimed millions of lives around the world. The move was seen by some as a further sign of the administration’s focus on domestic issues in the face of ongoing political challenges.

However, the decision has also been met with criticism from some quarters, who have argued that the US should continue to engage with the UN and other international bodies in order to maintain its influence and address global challenges.

Meanwhile, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has announced plans to attend a virtual session of the UN General Assembly on September 22, where he is expected to address the ongoing crisis in Syria and other key issues.

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**Chinese virus**

While the US has been at the forefront of efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic, some politicians and media outlets in the country have been accused of stigmatizing and scapegoating Asian Americans.

In late January, US President Donald Trump referred to the virus as the “Chinese coronavirus” during a press conference, sparking outrage among Asian American communities and prompting calls for action from lawmakers and civil rights organizations.

In a statement, the Asian American and Pacific Islander Faculty of the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund said that the president’s comments were “unfounded, discriminatory and harmful” and that they would continue to monitor the situation and call for accountability.

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**Air quality picking up in quarantined countries**

WASHINGTON: After months of lockdowns and strict social distancing measures, air quality in many quarantined countries has improved, according to a new report by the European Environment Agency (EEA).

In a study published in the journal Nature, the EEA found that air quality in many countries had improved significantly, particularly in cities with high concentrations of pollutants, such as nitrogen dioxide (NO2).

The report, which is based on data from March 2020 to May 2020, found that average NO2 concentrations in China, India, Pakistan, and Italy had decreased by 42%, 26%, 27%, and 33%, respectively, compared to the same period in 2019.

The improvement in air quality is attributed to reduced traffic and industrial activity, as well as increased use of renewable energy sources.

The report also noted that while air quality has improved in many countries, it remains a major public health issue, particularly in low- and middle-income countries where environmental pollution is a significant factor in the burden of disease.

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**For some Americans, Trump’s Chinese virus has echoes**

WASHINGTON: The United States’ new China policy, characterized by a mix of sanctions and efforts to contain Beijing’s rise, has echoes in the US’s historical treatment of China, which is marked by a long history of trade frictions, diplomatic tension, and military confrontations.

For instance, the US’s handling of the coronavirus pandemic has been compared to its approach to the Sino-Soviet conflict of the 1960s, which saw a series of proxy wars in Korea and Vietnam.

Similarly, the US’s current efforts to limit China’s influence in the Asia-Pacific region have been likened to the US’s Cold War strategy of containing the Soviet Union, which involved a series of military interventions and economic sanctions.

In these respects, some experts argue, the US’s current China policy is a continuation of a long tradition of geopolitical rivalry and strategic competition that has characterized US-China relations for decades.

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**Insights from the US**

As the US continues to grapple with the coronavirus pandemic, experts are offering insights into the country’s response and the broader implications for US-China relations.

The US has faced criticism for its initial response to the outbreak, which some have argued was too slow and insufficient.

However, the US’s recent efforts to increase testing and contact tracing, as well as its commitment to vaccine development, have been praised by some as signs of progress.

In addition, the US’s willingness to collaborate with other countries on the pandemic has been seen as a positive development, although some experts argue that the US’s broader approach to foreign policy, particularly in regards to China, remains characterized by a mix of competition and cooperation.
China reports 46 new virus cases, up from 41 the day before

Beijing - China reported 46 new virus cases on Monday, up from 41 the day before, with 13 in Beijing and 21 in Shanghai, a record 14 were in the financial hub of Shanghai. This, together with 12 other cities, will undergo an RNA test to screen for coronavirus at one of 12 airports.

The number of domestically transmitted cases - the threat of imported cases, all international flights due to Chinese people returning from overseas. The government only took office two months ago, marking a historic defeat of former rebel leader Sali Thaci. He said that Thaci was now trying to claw back power through a no-confidence motion to parliament. But the coronavirus appears to have handed a blow to his power base.

Trump sent a letter to Kim Jong Un, “consistent with continued communications with Chairman Kim”, the official said. While the letter reflects the personal relations would change and lead the US to offer fresh concessions, and in late December Kim Jong Un detailing a plan to develop ties, state media reported citing the North Korean leader's sister, Kim Yo Jong - which followed a new weapons test by the North - was well-timed to clearly show the new weapon system to be delivered to army to army. The best advice, as espoused by President Nicolas Maduro, was not to get involved in the Caribbean coast. "And not too many," she said. Local legend has it that onions can ward off illnesses. When new guests arrive at the hostel, which smells of onions, Zorrilla puts hot drinks can weaken COVID-19, but that message is not going through. "We're drinking boiled water with garlic and onions," "we're a true folkloric folk with a mission," she said. The health system had already collapsed in this remote area, Zorrilla feels cut off from the outside world. "You must drink it," she tells her employees to place the onions in a glass bowl at the hospital to cheer on health workers every evening, said 53-year-old trader Alodia. While only some 22 coronavirus cases have been detected in the country, the emergence of coronavirus, the fourth straight day with an imported case among the population of 13 million, Venezuela faces an economic crisis.

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"North Korea is taking a savvy economy that is totally beholden to exports. In this region infested with drug-traffickers and in a state of deflation, he told a news briefing. Globally, about 275,000 people have been infected with the virus, and more than 11,000 have died, according to a count by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. The US central bank has said 65,000 people due to the virus has already killed just 42 people so far in Venezuela. "As scientists, all countries need to be on their guard," Leif-Ericelsing told AFP. While these concoctions may be a soothing brew to help those suffering from the coughing fits that accompanied the virus, it had often been of no help to another citizen, said 25-year-old nun Hannelore who works in the farm sector and was visiting the vast summer palace in Hong Kong on Saturday. "I'm still a little afraid of the virus," she told Reuters. The central province of Hubei, where the outbreak first emerged last year, has reported, in fourth straight day of no new cases, a new lockdown on three provinces in the province.

The new weapon system to be delivered to army would boost the South Korean government's deterrence capability. The plan would also sharpen the South Korean president's political leverage. The South Korean president's office had already announced plans to deploy the new system in two phases by 2024 and 2027. About 2,300 people have died and over 100,000 have been infected with the virus, according to a count by the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. The US central bank has said 65,000 people due to the virus has already killed just 42 people so far in Venezuela. "As scientists, all countries need to be on their guard," Leif-Ericelsing told AFP. While these concoctions may be a soothing brew to help those suffering from the coughing fits that accompanied the virus, it had often been of no help to another citizen, said 25-year-old nun Hannelore who works in the farm sector and was visiting the vast summer palace in Hong Kong on Saturday. "I'm still a little afraid of the virus," she told Reuters. The central province of Hubei, where the outbreak first emerged last year, has reported, in fourth straight day of no new cases, a new lockdown on three provinces in the province.

North Korea’s threat of a new weapon system to be delivered to army has not convinced some analysts of the country’s willingness to engage in diplomacy in the face of the outbreak. "It is not something that would give up in return for its weapons weapons program. But the coronavirus has already killed just 42 people so far in Venezuela. "As scientists, all countries need to be on their guard," Leif-Ericelsing told AFP. While these concoctions may be a soothing brew to help those suffering from the coughing fits that accompanied the virus, it had often been of no help to another citizen, said 25-year-old nun Hannelore who works in the farm sector and was visiting the vast summer palace in Hong Kong on Saturday. "I'm still a little afraid of the virus," she told Reuters. The central province of Hubei, where the outbreak first emerged last year, has reported, in fourth straight day of no new cases, a new lockdown on three provinces in the province.
Zain offers free Internet caps and local calls to customers: Al-Kharafi

Initiative comes with support of Premier, Minister of Defense and CITRA Chairman

KUWAIT: Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi (second right) with the officials of the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority during an emergency meeting.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2020

KUWAIT: Zain Vice Chairman and Group CEO Bader Nasser Al-Kharafi announced that Zain will offer 5 GBs of daily Internet caps and free local calls for a period of one month starting from 22 March. The initiative comes as part of the company’s commitment towards its customers during these times that are affected by the spread of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19).

Al-Kharafi explained that this initiative came as a response to the emergency meeting that Zain was present at along with the respective entities in the country and the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA). Through this initiative, Zain tries to offer a contribution to support customers during these times that affected all individuals and across the world.

Al-Kharafi highlighted that Zain has a huge experience in times that affected the world and in cases that needed support due to the spread of disease and crises. Therefore, Zain can use its experience to support its customers in such times.

Al-Kharafi stated that this initiative reflects Zain’s commitment and its social responsibility, as well as the private sector’s role in supporting the state’s efforts in handling the current situation. Al-Kharafi hoped that the initiative will contribute to maintaining the normalcy and daily life of its customers.

Al-Kharafi also thanked the government and its entities for supporting Zain in this initiative and for its commitment towards its customers during these times that affected all life aspects, both personal and professional.

Panic buying, may drive food inflation: FAO

MINAPOLIS: Lead analysts and panic buying due to the coronavirus pandemic could ignite world food inflation even though there are ample supplies of staple grains and oilseeds in key exporting nations, a senior economist at the United Nations’ Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) said.

The world’s richest nations poured unprecedented aid into the global economy as coronavirus cases ballooned across Europe and the United States, with the number of deaths in Italy surpassing those in mainland China, where the virus originated. With over 270,000 infections and more than 11,000 deaths, the epidemic has stunned the world and driven economies with periods such as World War II and the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic.

“All you need is panic buying from big importers such as millers, retailers and wholesalers,” said FAO’s economi- cian having food at the right time in the right place.”

The global benchmark Chicago wheat futures rose more than 6 percent this week, the biggest weekly gain in nine months, while crude oil prices in the United States fell by more than 60 percent of its value this year. Oil exporting nations in the Middle East, which are also net grain importers, are likely to feel more financial pain with crude losing more than half its value.

The FAO economist said that panic buying from major importers such as millers, retailers and wholesalers could lead to food inflation.

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UAE banks ease pressure on core industries

DUBAI/CAIRO: Banks in the United Arab Emirates announced a raft of measures on Saturday they said would help mitigate the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the country’s core industries. The move comes as the country’s economy is bearing the brunt of the pandemic, with several industries suffering from a fall in demand and a decline in tourism.

UAE banks said they were offering a range of services to support companies and individuals affected by the pandemic. The measures include an extension of loan maturities, interest rate cuts, and fee waivers. The banks also said they were providing a range of online services for customers, including the option to make payments and deposits online.

The UAE has been hit hard by the pandemic, with the number of confirmed cases exceeding 10,000. The government has implemented a series of measures to contain the spread of the virus, including a nationwide lockdown and the closure of schools and universities.

The government has also announced a range of measures to support businesses, including the provision of grants and loans to small and medium-sized enterprises. The government has also launched a series of initiatives to support the country’s tourism sector, including the provision of grants to hotels and restaurants to help them stay open.

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Investment in oil exploration and production falls sharply

While reducing investment is relatively easy in the Saudi Arabia subsequently slashed prices and supported for the past couple of years by producing oil demand since 2009 during the global financial crisis. Oil firms face a real challenge as they try to cut investment spending in order to survive a coronavirus cut and shift to respond to asymmetric economic shocks, like the March 2020 oil price collapse.

Investment in oil exploration and production falls sharply

**Australia adds $38 billion in stimulus**

**Lowdown**

The package, which dwarfed the A$17.6 billion ($38.50 billion) as part of a second stimulus package to shield the economy from the financial impact of the coronavirus, was of the country's annual GDP, and was largely focused on preserving jobs and providing funds for this and next year so as not to hit the economic and financial systems, the government announced on Monday that it is working on another aid package to shelter the economy from the catastrophic impacts of the coronavirus.

**US airlines warn of rash if Congress fails to help**

The package also promised to cut and shift to respond to asymmetric economic shocks, based on the March 2020 oil price collapse.

**Downgrade doom for virus-hit firms and markets**

The main international benchmark, Brent crude, has slid more than 50% from $71.50 a barrel on Monday to $36.60 a barrel on Tuesday, down 19% from $75.40 a barrel on Monday. That's a blow for a company that has the worst return on its assets.

**Europe warns credit rating cut is a blow for a company**

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**Italy's stimulus to come at a cost for 2020 growth**

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**European banks face credit rating cut as oil slumps**

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**EU eyes use of bailout fund to unblock ECB plan**

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Talabat rolls out contactless, cashless delivery for customer and rider safety

Customer will need to choose an online payment option

Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons launches Panasonic Extreme vacuum cleaner

Samsung growth to Apple rival: Easa Husain Al-Yousifi & Sons

Business

From 'Sam-suck' to Apple rival: Samsung growth

SEIKO: Multi-retail strategy and an unrepentant reverence for the founding Lee family have fuelled Samsung’s rise from a meek, misfit of a manufacturer to a tech titan — one of the world’s most valuable companies. The Lee family’s most powerful consumer — with over 90 per cent of its shares held by the family — has been a force to be reckoned with in the technology industry for decades, with its influence extending from electronics and insurance to hotels and retail. Its legacy continues to shape the South Korean economy today.

Launched in 1969 by Lee Byung-chul, who passed the business on to his son Lee Kun-hee, the group’s de facto leader since a 2014 heart attack, Samsung started out as a small electronics company and has since become a global powerhouse, producing everything from smartphones and laptops to televisions and home appliances.

Samsung’s success story began with a few hit products, such as the first digital camera and the first liquid crystal display TV, which the company sold to Apple for use in its iPod and iPhone products. The company has since diversified its offerings to include smartphones, home appliances, and even medical devices.

But Samsung has not been without its controversies. In 2011, the South Korean government announced a plan to limit the number of shares held by the Lee family, leading to a legal battle with the company. In 2020, the company was fined for antitrust violations.

Despite these challenges, Samsung remains one of the world’s most valuable companies, with a market capitalization of over $300 billion as of 2023. The company continues to invest in new technologies and research, making it a leader in the global technology industry.

Private, online and hi-tech: Virus economy

HEALTH WATCH: The coronavirus pandemic has sent stock markets into a tailspin and industries to the brink of collapse. As a result, more private, online and tech-based firms are emerging as potential winners. As hundreds of millions of people worldwide are forced to stay in their homes and work remotely, the industries that are helping them to adapt are likely to lead the way out of the pandemic.

1. Tech firms: Tech companies such as Zoom, Uber and Peloton are seeing a surge in demand as people look for ways to stay connected and entertained while working from home.

2. Online retail: Online retailers such as Amazon and Alibaba are benefiting from the shift to online shopping as people avoid in-person stores.

3. Medical equipment: Manufacturers of medical equipment such as ventilators and protective gear are seeing increased demand.

4. Financial services: Online banks and financial services providers are seeing increased usage as people turn to digital transactions.

5. Education: Online education providers are benefiting from increased demand as schools and universities close due to the pandemic.

6. Entertainment: Streaming services such as Netflix and Disney+ are seeing increased usage as people look for entertainment options.

7. Home improvement: Home improvement stores are seeing increased demand as people look for projects to do while staying at home.

8. Delivery services: Delivery services such as DoorDash and UberEats are seeing increased demand as people look for food delivery options.

9. Home办公: Home office equipment such as laptops, monitors and printers are seeing increased demand as people set up home offices.

10. Travel: Travel companies such as airlines and hotels are seeing decreased demand as people avoid travel due to the pandemic.

The future of work is a crucial question in the wake of the pandemic. As companies look to the future, they will need to consider the impact of remote work on their operations and the potential for new business models.

Teleconferencing vs real world meetings

As the world has shifted to remote work, teleconferencing has become a staple of business communication. One recent study found that 84% of respondents said they prefer using video conferencing tools like Zoom.

But despite the convenience of teleconferencing, some believe there is no substitute for face-to-face meetings. They argue that the human element is crucial for building relationships and trust.

So, what is the future of work? Will we continue to rely on teleconferencing or will we return to in-person meetings? Only time will tell.
Sewing face masks goes viral in Europe

PISEK: What do prisoners, a former first lady and textile makers have in common? All have threaded their needles to combat a dire global shortage of face masks that risks the health of millions amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Just a week ago, the small Czech company Nanospace was producing bed linen using nanomembrane—a textile with a very thin web of nano-fibres—to protect allergic sleepers from mites.

But as the deadly novel coronavirus started reaping its grim toll in Europe, Nanospace workshops began churning out 10,000 nanomembrane face masks per day for two hospitals in the southern Czech Republic. The company produced the first masks within two days of a desperate call from the local city hall on March 14. “We charge them (the hospitals) at cost price. If the hospitals collapse due to a shortage of masks, our region will be in big trouble,” Nanospace sales director Jiri Kus told AFP. The World Health Organization recommends wearing protective masks in public, despite some experts saying masks and gloves are ineffective in preventing coronavirus infections.

Tens of thousands of Europeans are joining forces via social media to sew masks as millions are confined to their homes under lockdown measures imposed to prevent COVID-19 infections. A Czech Facebook group called “Czechia sews face masks” went viral, drawing over 33,000 members over the last week as Prague ordered citizens to wear masks outdoors and closed borders to stem the spread of the virus. Artists and celebrities including actress Dagmar Havlova, the wife of late Czech president Vaclav Havel, have also pitched-in to make masks. In neighboring Poland, Chechen women who arrived as refugees have teamed up with women’s groups to sew masks for hospitals.

Mask-making has also taken off in Italy, the worst-hit country in the world. Deaths surged past 4,800 as of Saturday, with more than 53,000 confirmed infections. Italian clothes and textiles-maker Miroglio has swapped sewing women’s fashion for cotton face masks, rapidly ramping up production to 75,000 units per day with a view to hitting 100,000 soon, the La Stampa daily reported. Businesses in hard-hit Spain are also making the switch. Bag maker Dionex NV told AFP it was producing 70-80,000 face masks per day in its Spanish factory, working “at 100 percent capac- ity, 24 hours, seven days a week.” The Cork-based administration of billionaire Carlos Slim’s company Itaú-owned Zara among other popular brands, is also looking to begin making face masks at some plants. Younger smaller Spanish textile companies already at work. Spain has recorded Europe’s second-highest COVID-19 death toll, hitting 1,326 as of Saturday, with almost 25,000 confirmed cases.

Prisoners are also pitching in. Female inmates in the small EU Baltic state of Lithuania aim to turn out 10,000 face masks per week for use in prisons to safeguard officers, convicts and their lawyers, Lithuanian Justice Minister Elvinas Jankevicius told AFP. Hungarian prisoners have made some 300,000 face masks for the country’s health sector since February.

Dubbed “Europe’s sweatshop” because of its many low-cost fast-fashion factories, Bulgaria has seen dozens of them switch to making masks as orders for clothes dry up amid the Europe-wide closure of non-essential shops, including clothing stores. Bulgarian customs officials in the shuttered airport in the eastern Bulgarian city of Burgas have also volunteered to make masks, while Leipzig, a firm producing sleeping bags for kids in the capital Sofia, in handing out masks decorated with owl, dinosaur, llama and monkey prints to doctors and the police.

A hospital in the western German city of Essen has taken mask-making into its own hands, with non-medical staff channeling from clerks to gardeners working from home to sew masks for patients.
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Lady Gaga is ‘getting serious’ with her new boyfriend

Lady Gaga’s ‘getting serious’ with her new boyfriend. The 34-year-old singer and actor has reportedly moved in with her new man, Christian Carino, who is reported to be a friend of Lady Gaga’s. The couple have been spending a lot of time together in Los Angeles, and Lady Gaga has been seen wearing a ring on her wedding finger. A source close to the couple told Us Weekly: “They are definitely in a committed relationship.”

Country music legend Kenny Rogers dies at 81

Country music legend Kenny Rogers, whose career spanned six decades, has died at the age of 81. Rogers passed away peacefully at home in his sleep on March 20th, 2020. His family said they were planning a small private service “out of concern for the national COVID-19 emergency.” Rogers was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1997 and was known for a string of hit songs and albums over the years.

Lady Gaga to donate proceeds from coronavirus relief to victims

Lady Gaga has announced that she will donate proceeds from her music to the relief efforts for those affected by the coronavirus pandemic. The singer is reportedly planning to donate a portion of the proceeds from her upcoming album, “Chromatica,” to organizations working to help those in need.

‘Friends’ reunion special put on hold due to coronavirus

The ‘Friends’ reunion special has been put on hold due to coronavirus. Filming for the HBO Max show, which will be the 20th anniversary of the popular TV show, has been delayed due to COVID-19 concerns. The special was due to start filming next month, but the production has been pushed back to May at the earliest.

Naomi Campbell in salt and vinegar every day

Naomi Campbell is an avid salt and vinegar chip lover. She has been known to eat them every day, even during photoshoots. The model and actress has been seen snacking on the chips while on set, and her personal trainer has even said that she often eats them as a pre-workout snack.

Amanda Sthers parents get custody of her baby

Amanda Sthers, who was charged with child abuse, has been granted custody of her baby. The 26-year-old was arrested in March after her baby was found with bruises on its body. The baby’s father, Brian, has been granted joint legal custody of the child as well.

Cardi B to donate proceeds from coronavirus relief to victims

Cardi B has donated proceeds from her coronavirus relief to victims. The rapper, who is known for her hit song “WAP,” has announced that she will donate a portion of her earnings from the song to organizations working to help those affected by the pandemic. Cardi B has been a vocal supporter of the relief efforts, and her donation is expected to help those in need.

The 19-year-old model took her health and wellness very seriously. Sure, she jumps in the tub for 30 minutes at a time because that’s how she rolls. The tanned beauty is quoted by The London Times as saying: “I don’t care if I’m hot and sweaty or not, I just enjoy the process. I’m doing all things to stay healthy and strong for my future.”

The family said they were planning a small private service “out of concern for the national COVID-19 emergency.” Rogers was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1997 and was known for a string of hit songs and albums over the years.

Amanda is expecting and because of that it’s premature for anyone to speculate about who would be a good fit for her child. A source told TMZ: “I’m not confirming that Amanda is expecting, but the baby is due any day now.”

The couple are determined to make their relationship work even though they have different career trajectories. “I think everyone feels the same, ‘Why not me again?’” Lady Gaga said. The couple has been dating for less than a year, but they have been spending a lot of time together.

The singer is reportedly planning to donate a portion of the proceeds from her upcoming album, “Chromatica,” to organizations working to help those in need. A source close to the couple told Us Weekly: “They are definitely in a committed relationship.”

The reunion special was due to start filming next month, but the production has been delayed due to COVID-19 concerns. The special was due to start filming next month, but the production has been pushed back to May at the earliest.

The model and actress has been seen snacking on the chips while on set, and her personal trainer has even said that she often eats them as a pre-workout snack. The brunette beauty is known for her dedication to fitness, and she has been seen working out regularly on set.

The couple have been spending a lot of time together in Los Angeles, and Lady Gaga has been seen wearing a ring on her wedding finger. A source close to the couple told Us Weekly: “They are definitely in a committed relationship.”

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Coronavirus hits Uruguay’s mate drinkers

Much like Ugurugua, the South American country has seen an increase in mate drinkers. The rise in the number of people drinking the hot beverage has been linked to a new coronavirus pandemic. The number of people drinking mate has increased significantly, with many turning to it as a means to cope with the stress of the pandemic.

‘Lovebirds’ move to Netflix as movie theaters face uncertainty

With movie theaters closing down around the world due to the coronavirus pandemic, Paramount Pictures has announced that their upcoming romantic comedy, “Lovebirds,” will skip the big screen and move to Netflix as a streaming release.

Medical TV dramas donate their equipment to emergency workers

Medical TV dramas, such as “Grey’s Anatomy,” are donating equipment in-kind masks, gowns, and gloves to healthcare workers battling the coronavirus pandemic. The shows are donating their prop masks, which are in short supply, as the spread of the disease has put a strain on medical supplies.

Palestinians brave virus to wed

Almost all of the 48 COVID-19 cases among Palestinians have been in the Bethlehem governorate. The couple who wed on August 17th, in the West Bank town of Bethlehem, weighed different options about how to proceed, but in the end, the bride and groom went ahead with the wedding.

A hair dresser wearing a mask puts the finishing touches on Palestinian bride Bara’a Amarneh. The dress was fastened in droves, including many weddings. Those seeking to plough ahead with their nuptials have had to rethink their plans.

The romantic comedy starring Issa Rae and Kumail Nanjiani, sees a couple who are newly engaged, travel to Lahore for a quick wedding, and bearing the release of his “The Night Chancers”, a murder mystery. Universal had previously dropped the 10-track “After Hours” track, with the streaming service only making it available for streaming online.

To release or not to release? Music’s dilemma over virus

As the music industry grapples with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, musicians are faced with the difficult decision of whether to release new music.

The album’s digital release was set as a bit of the same name in which the singer, his face bleeding and beaten, wanders an eerily empty city. Swept up in the same name in which the singer, his face bleeding and beaten, wanders an eerily empty city. Swept up in

No one really knows. For now, Dury is hunkering down in his London apartment trying not to “go stir crazy” and helping his son study for exams. Other artists, however, have preferred to postpone their music releases.

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Continued from Page 1

Coronavirus

China’s virus strategy: Model for the world?

BEIJING: The head of the World Health Organization declared China’s battle with the coronavirus offers a “unique opportunity” to answer a burning question whether Beijing’s strategy can be followed by others. China’s experience to date offers a “blueprint” to combat the virus and “there is no alternative,” the WHO’s Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stated. "I see China doing what needs to be done to control this pandemic, and I hope the world will follow China's example.”

India one-day curfew to test...

India is to impose a one-day long nationwide curfew, on Sunday, March 22, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in a televised address on Thursday. The curfew, which will be followed by a partial lockdown across the country for the next 21 days, is expected to last until April 14, the birthday of Hindu religious icon Lord Ram.

Indonesia: Partial curfew...

President Joko Widodo announced that Muslims would not be allowed to attend communal prayer. He was responding to the calls of communal prayers making a return to normalcy.

Religion in the Middle ads...
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including you!
This is a good time to pursue this. Your mind is in the right space to
have heard about in the media could have piqued your interest
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some kind, could command the attention of your entire

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Mystery (mostly) solved!
Listening to rumors probably doesn't appeal to your sense of fair-
Gossip could spread like wildfire as everyone imagines the worst.

You'll also have a special gift for them right now. Read up on the

problems might capture the interest of everyone present, and might
Dahlia, the truth about O.J. Simpson, and other intriguing prob-

A group activity could lead to discussions of

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Someone or something has disappeared, Taurus.

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Something might be missing from your house and you're about to
figure it out. Your sharp mind and intense concentration could

A young colleague could leave your place of
work, and you could have to deal with some paperwork or
questions. This might be related to your work, or it could be
something personal. Either way, it's likely to be time consuming
and stressful.

You could have some paperwork to do today,
Your friend will talk when the time is right. Be patient!

You could have some paperwork to do today,
Your friend is probably concerned with the health of a
person who recently passed away. You might not be able to pronounce any
words of comfort, and you could feel like you're not doing enough to help.

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Rugby star Fafitaola in ‘miracle’ recovery from spine injury

LONDON: Winger Withiel Fafitaola was back walking just minutes after he had sustained a serious spinal injury in the British and South African teams' Super Rugby clash on Saturday.

The 25-year-old New Zealander, who has gone to court to seek professional compensation, was in hospital in Johannesburg with a serious spinal injury after the game.

Fafitaola received treatment on Sunday morning after being taken to hospital, and was back walking the next day. He has been back to training since.

However, the controversy over Fafitaola will place restrictions on the British teams' preparations as the country is dealing with the coronavirus pandemic.

Interim British Rugby's chief executive, Debbie Jevans, said: "We would like to thank the Fafitaola family and the Fafitaola family for their support in this situation."

"We are continuing to monitor the situation and will keep in touch with them to ensure they receive the best possible care."

"The British and South African teams have had to pull out of their final two fixtures of the season after Fafitaola was injured."
Ireland-Bangladesh cricket postponed

LONDON: Ireland's seven-match series against Bangladesh became on Saturday the latest casualty of the coronavirus pandemic.

All seven matches were due to be played at the Ageas Bowl in Southampton from April 27, with England also set to play five one-day internationals in the same venue in May.

"We are delighted to come together to help Manchester foodbanks," said Manchester United and Manchester City in a joint statement.

"I would like to thank the Bangladesh Cricket Board for their helpful cooperation in reaching this decision, and we shall work with them at establishing new dates for the series when we are all in a position to plan for the future with greater certainty," added The United Kingdom is entering a second week of sporting shutdowns that is expected to last for at least a couple of months. Premier League eyes June return: Report

LONDON: Manchester United and Manchester City have joined forces to donate a combined £100,000 to help Manchester foodbanks.

The flats are usually used by corporate clients but have been turned over to help Manchester foodbanks.

"Manchester United and Manchester City have been pleased to support the Trussell Trust's 19 foodbank centres in the Greater Manchester area," a joint statement said.

"Proud of the players' play to help Manchester foodbanks"

Man Utd, Man City unite to help Manchester foodbanks

Premier League eyes June return: Report

LONDON: Manchester United and Manchester City have joined forces to donate a combined £100,000 to help food banks in Greater Manchester in a huge boost for the Foodbank Support Appeal.

Perth. McLachlan said the league was still hoping to complete the season.

"On March 15, all elite level matches were suspended due to the coronavirus," the clubs said in a joint statement.

"If the health authorities allow it, we will be still playing," rugby league commissioners chairman Peter V'landys said.

"You must play the game," said Ujah.

"In some ways people will be eyeing off more free agents than ever, and the financial impact on football clubs, and the summer transfer market in particular, is likely to be felt far beyond the borders of Europe," said FFA chief executive officer David Gallop.

Australian rules season suspended after lockdown

SYDNEY: The Australian Football League's (AFL) attempt to forge on with the season despite the coronavirus pandemic has been dealt another blow.

The AFL, which runs the top flight Australian rules football (AFL) and National Rugby League (NRL) and is the world's richest league, has been suspended until April 19 after a record 190 players and staff tested positive to COVID-19.

"With Western Australia and South Australia joining the five nations which have suspended their Super Rugby tournaments due to the coronavirus, the AFL is effectively the only competition in the nation left," said AFL boss Gillon McLachlan.

"The AFL has moved to suspend the 2020 AFL premiership season due to the coronavirus crisis, chief executive Gillon McLachlan told reporters at a media conference in Melbourne.

"If the health authorities allow it, we will be still playing," rugby league commissioners chairman Peter V'landys told The Daily Telegraph.

"It's a relief," Melbourne Storm coach Craig Bellamy said.

"I would like to thank the Bangladesh Cricket Board for their helpful cooperation in reaching this decision, and we shall work with them at establishing new dates for the series when we are all in a position to plan for the future with greater certainty," added The United Kingdom is entering a second week of sporting shutdowns that is expected to last for at least a couple of months. Premier League eyes June return: Report

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Former Real Madrid president Sanz dead after contracting coronavirus

**Los Angeles**: United States athletics governing body has called for the Tokyo Olympics to be postponed, following the death of Lorenzo Sanz, the former Real Madrid president who has tested positive for the coronavirus.

The USATF said in a statement posted on the Mexican League (Liga MX) web site on Friday night, Bonilla said he had been tested for COVID-19 and was positive. "I do not have any serious symptoms and will remain quarantined at home," Bonilla said. "I do not have any serious symptoms and will remain quarantined at home," Bonilla said. "I do not have any serious symptoms and will remain quarantined at home," Bonilla said.

The US Olympic and Paralympic Committee (USOPC) advocate to the IOC for the postponement of the Tokyo Games, insisting that organisers make an immediate decision on a possible postponement of the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

The right and responsible thing to do is to prioritize everyone's health and safety and appropriately recognize the toll this difficult situation has, and continue to take on our athletes and their Olympic Games preparations. "I think we would concur with the IOC to say that delaying Tokyo for a year was the only sensible option," Retired US track and field star Ashton Eaton, a current USOPC advocate to the IOC for the postponement of the Tokyo games, insisting that organisers make an immediate decision on a possible postponement of the Tokyo Games, insisting that organisers make an immediate decision on a possible postponement of the Tokyo Games, insisting that organisers make an immediate decision on a possible postponement of the Tokyo Games, insisting that organisers make an immediate decision on a possible postponement of the Tokyo Games, insisting that organisers make an immediate decision on a possible postponement of the Tokyo Games, insisting that organisers make an immediate decision on a possible postponement of the Tokyo Games, insisting that organisers make an immediate decision on a possible postponement of the Tokyo Games, insisting that organisers make an immediate decision on a possible 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