

Summary of the pandemic situation in Thailand, Brazil, Belarus and Iran from the last 2 weeks.

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The outbreak of novel coronavirus (COVID-19) was first reported on 31 December 2019 from Wuhan in China, and since then, the virus has spread all over the world, with over 3 million people infected. So far, the countries mentioned below has imposed a tons of restriction to fight against the spread of the virus. Below follows the news related to each country in the past weeks.

Thailand

The first confirmed case of this virus in Thailand was the first registered case outside of China on 13 January 2020. As the number of domestic coronavirus cases continues to rise, WHO Thailand is working closely with the Thai Ministry of Public Health and other national partners, and in convergence with WHO's South-East Asia regional office and WHO headquarters, to rapidly expand scientific knowledge on this virus, to track its virulence and spread, and to provide advice to Thai authorities and citizens on measures to protect health and prevent the spread of the outbreak.

Social distancing is an issue which needs to be emphasized during this period; since the Thai government decided to use an emergency decree to control the spread of COVID-19 in Thailand on 26 March 2020, a mass assembly of any types must be avoided. Private sector corporations must take into account working from home measures and for those under self-quarantine, they must strictly shield themselves from others and avoid any unnecessary public exposure. In addition, security checkpoints are set up at various areas and stricter regulations are in place. Each measure will take place according to a step-by-step process and officials are given more power to investigate the social activities including in social media.

Even the initial deadline of the emergency decree will be on 30 April 2020 but cabinet ministers consider to extend at least 30 days longer especially Bangkok metropolitan region. Although fewer infections are reported nationally, the government cannot start

to relax the measures that have been used to control the Covid-19 virus as it could lead to another spike of Covid-19 infections and all the effort to date would go to waste.

After the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19 has risen in the beginning of April from some dozen people to over 2,000 people, all Thai people and foreigner who come and stay in Thailand during this time have faced the same problems as Thai government impose an indefinite restriction of curfew and city lockdown to slow down the number of new cases. In the following week, all incoming flights also has banned for few days by the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand. In an amid of pandemic response, the social isolation measures have been promoted by local authorities based on a nationwide state of emergency, regardless of level of risk. Even though the process of the coronavirus prevention seems to be working well in Thailand, the number of new deaths not stop.

There are new confirmed cases almost everyday, especially in the province that border to neighbours countries. The movement of migrant workers has identified as the group of high level of assessed risk. According to the rising number of new case in these day, most of them are migrant workers in Thailand. Similarly, Thai workers who have a low income rate are counting on the high level of infection group, because they have limited access to protective equipment, including masks or sanitizer, and up-to-date prevention information because of language barriers and isolation.

According to the government's center for Covid-19 situation administration, the number was the highest since 9 April when there were 54 new cases. There are 2,922 confirmed cases in total and 51 in deaths as of 25 April 2020.

Iran

Iran reported its first confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 infections on 19 February 2020 in Qom, a city near Tehran (Capital City). The virus may have been brought to the country by a merchant from Qom who had travelled to China. Iran has the eighth-highest number of coronavirus cases in the world. Iran has the eighth-highest number of coronavirus cases in the world.

Nowruz peak (20 March – 3 April)

On 20 March, 1,237 new infections and 149 deaths were reported.[citation needed] On 24 March, a new peak of 1,762 new cases was announced with 122 deaths. Rouhani said that the number of patients admitted to hospitals in different provinces as well as deaths due to the virus had decreased, which he took to be promising . On 25 March, with new cases surpassing 2,000 for the first time, the government warned of a "second wave" of infection. On 26 March, the MOHME (Ministry of Health and Medical Education) announced that 2,389 more people had become infected, with 157 new deaths. On 27 March, daily new cases had increased to 2,926 with 144 deaths. Iranian media reported that nearly 300 people had died and over a thousand became ill due to methanol poisoning in the belief that drinking the alcohol could kill the virus. The Associated Press estimated there were 480 deaths and 2,850 others affected.

After Nowruz (4 April – present)

On 7 April, MOHME spokesman Kianush Jahanpur stated that the intensification of the social distancing policy had led to fewer new cases in recent days. Rouhani again asked people "to stay at home" and obey guidelines. The Islamic Republic News Agency reported that "low-risk" business activities restarted in most of the country on 11 April, except for in Tehran, where they would restart on April 18. Rouhani said, "Easing restrictions does not mean ignoring health protocols... Social distancing and other health protocols should be respected seriously by people." To follow the social distancing, "many government offices also re-opened, with two-thirds of their staff" on 11 April. Theatres, swimming pools, saunas, beauty salons, schools, universities, shopping centers, and restaurants, as high-risk businesses, did not resume, and cultural, religious, and sports gatherings were banned. According to health authorities, "many Iranians have ignored appeals to stay at home", which could lead to a second wave of illnesses.

It is important to mention that on 22th April, the Social Security Organization's deputy director announced that Iranian benefactors and charity organizations have contributed 3.5 trillion rials (around \$83 million at an official rate of 42,000 rials) since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak until March 29.

More than 1.7 trillion rials (about \$40 million) has been provided by the national association of healthy donors and over 210 billion rials (nearly \$5 million) has been donated by charities affiliated to the country's hospitals, IRNA quoted Zahra Abedini as saying.

Also, more than 410 billion rials (nearly \$9.7 million) has been provided by non-governmental organizations and charities, 250 billion rials (nearly \$6 million) by public volunteer groups and 870 billion rials (nearly \$20 million) by private companies and enterprises within the framework of social responsibility, he explained.

As a result of problems in the health sector to provide equipment and supplies for the coronavirus curf, 350 national, provincial, and international non-governmental organizations have called for the lifting of sanctions in a spontaneous move, in a statement, she stated. The statement was sent to the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and was well received around the world, and some other countries took action and protested to the world, she concluded

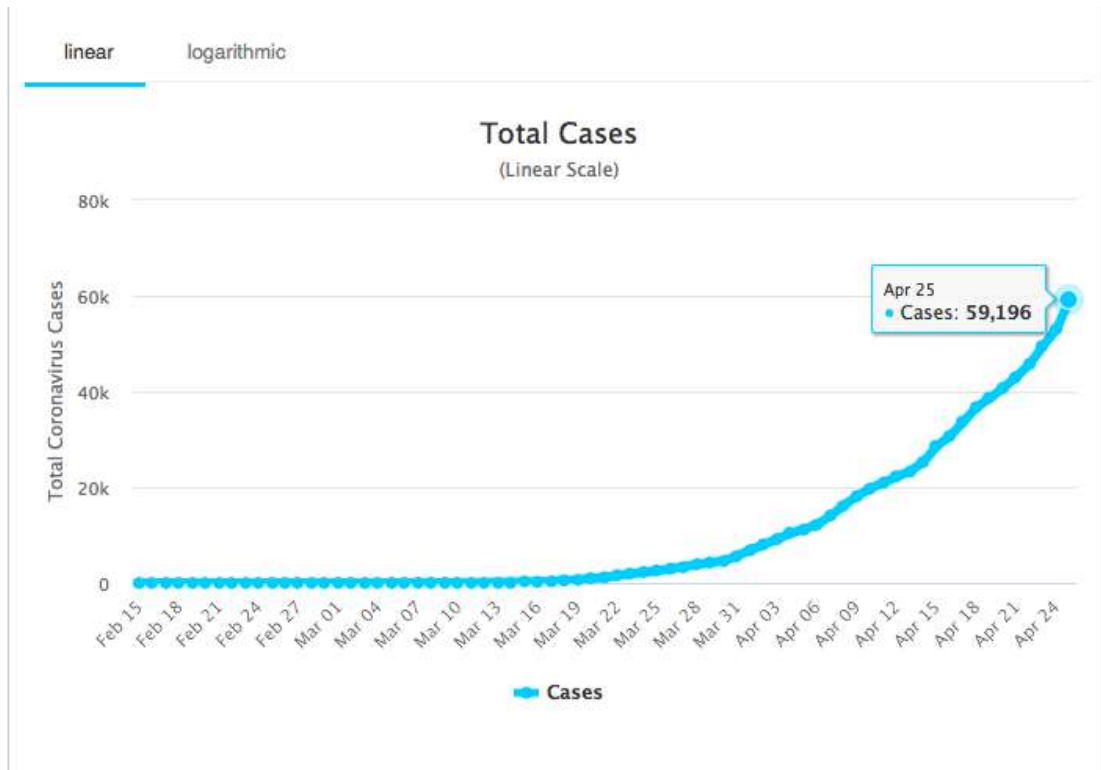
Belarus

On April 27, 2020, the Belarus Ministry of Health reported there are 11,289 registered cases of COVID-19 in Belarus; 1,740 patients have recovered, and 75 individuals have died. The Ministry has not provided a cumulative total of recovered patients, so the total number of COVID-19 infections in Belarus to date is unknown. According to the Ministry of Health, Belarus has conducted over 153,000 tests since January 23.

As of April 7, 2020, the Government of Belarus has implemented social distancing measures in Minsk.

Since the neighboring countries (Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Russia) have closed their land borders to foreigners with limited exceptions for cargo transport and diplomatic travelers, the president didn't announced yet no plans for border closures, but all travelers should be prepared for travel restrictions to be put into effect with little or no advance notice.

Brazil

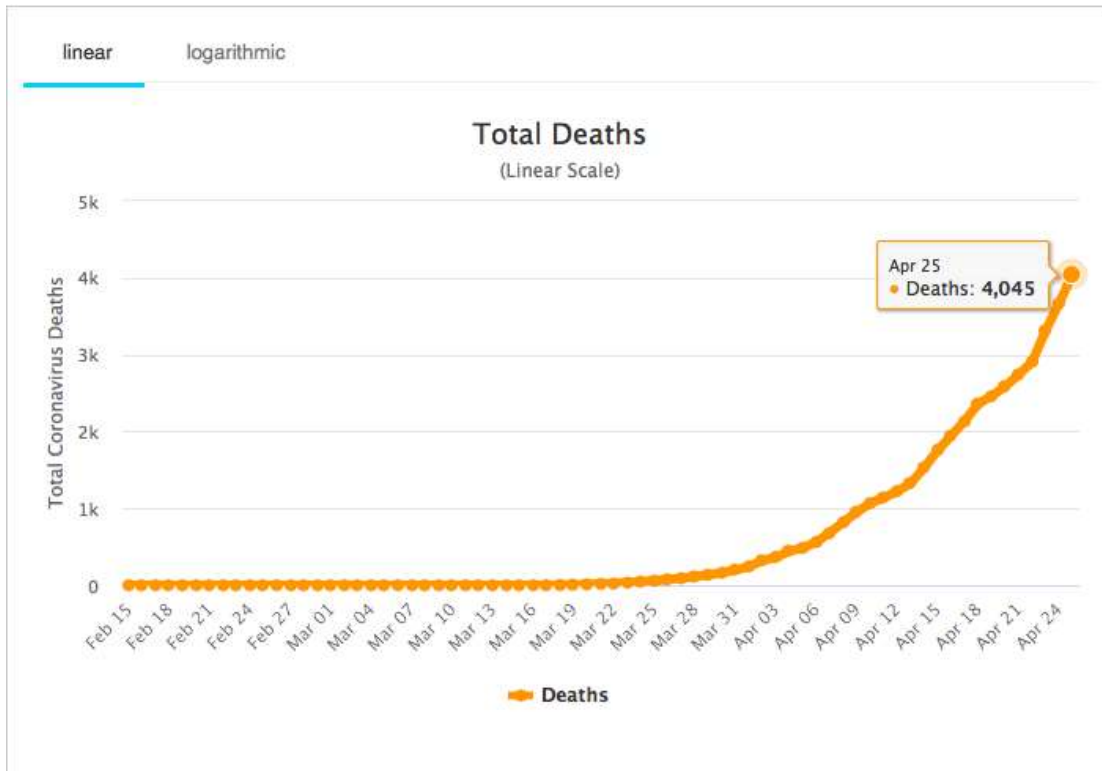


With the projection that the country will peak in the number of people infected with covid-19 between the months of May and June, a period in which more than 100,000 people are expected to be infected with the virus, in this last week 19 / 04 - 25 / 04, it was noticed that the pandemic started to advance faster in the national territory, as well as the number of deaths.

According to data from the Ministry of Health, only on Friday (24 / 04), 3,503 people were infected, with an increase of (7.1%) compared to the previous day, and 357 confirmed deaths, with an increase of (10,8%), totaling 59,196 confirmed cases and 4,045 confirmed deaths

Total Coronavirus Cases in Brazil

Source: worldometers.info



Total Coronavirus Deaths in Brazil
Source: worldometers.info

It is important to note that this past two weeks, the country has been experiencing an institutional crisis in which it has divided different sectors of society that share different opinions regarding quarantine measures, leading the population to organize protests in several cities in Brazil, and generating a crisis between the central government and local governments.

In addition to the protests organized by the population that are against the quarantine measure, this past week President Jair Bolsonaro fired the popular health minister Luiz Mandetta after dispute over coronavirus response, in which he contradicted President Bolsonaro's public appeal to Brazil to return to work and not to follow the isolation organized by the regional governments, and advised Brazilians to follow local government's recommendations about the isolation measurements

Last Friday 24/04, one of the most popular and powerful figures of the Jair Bolsonaro government - the Minister of Justice, Sérgio Moro, resigned, creating an important political conflict as Brazil struggles to contain the coronavirus pandemic in the period when it tends to worsen the number of infected people in the country, also leading part of the population to demand that the president resign.