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Expert answers questions on novel coronavirus

The head of the Biosecurity Program at the University of New South Wales shares with The StarTV on the best way to prevent and contain novel coronavirus.
<http://bit.ly/2ualQgU>



When a sitar ensemble ushers in CNY

A 10-piece sitar ensemble's rendition of a popular Chinese New Year tune
Malaysian sitar maestro, Samuel J. Dass, is wowing Malaysians on social media.
<http://bit.ly/37pEINx>



Retro Recipe: Kou shui ji

Drop over this white poached chicken drenched in a numbing sauce of Sichuan chilli oil.
<http://bit.ly/2RN8xbH>

City's climate change win

George Town bags award for its innovative solutions

By MENG YEW CHOONG
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PETALING JAYA: Penang's George Town was announced as the city winner at the inaugural Climathon Global Awards at the ChangeNOW summit.

Handed out at the sidelines of the summit that took place in Paris over the weekend, the Climathon Global Awards recognises creativity and solutions-thinking in response to local climate challenges.

George Town was among the five city finalists along with 10 citizens in the event organised by EIT Climate-KIC in partnership with the Crowther Lab, ETH Zurich.

EIT Climate-KIC is Europe's largest public-private partnership to address climate change through innovative measures to build a net-zero carbon economy.

With over 380 partners from 26 countries, the coalition aims to catalyse systemic change for climate action through innovation in activities that generate a significant amount of greenhouse gases, be they from cities, lands, materials and finance, while creating climate-resilient communities by fostering creative thinking among the grassroots.

Several projects proposed for George Town were collectively deemed able to improve social resilience, while several "nature-based solutions" were judged to be effective in reducing the heat island effect.

The solution for Penang in terms of its nature-based climate adaptation plan was co-presented by the Penang Island City Council (MBPP) and Think City, an urban regeneration outfit that is a subsidiary of Khazanah Nasional Berhad.

The team competed against solu-



View to making a difference: George Town is taking steps in meeting the challenges of climate change.

tions from Khartoum (Sudan), Salvador (Brazil), Dublin (Ireland) and Miami (United States) as they vied for the honour of demonstrating climate leadership.

The actual Global Climathon Day took place in October last year with a staggering 6,500 participants in 56 countries in 24-hour hackathons to find workable solutions to combat climate change.

This year's Climathon will be held in November during COP26, offering citizens from all over the world an avenue to channel their creative energies for a better world.

In an immediate response, Sofia Castelo, senior manager of Think City, said: "It's incredibly exciting and an honour for Penang to be the first city winner of the Global Climathon Awards."

"There are places in the world where the climate in 2050 will be vastly different from what it is today and George Town is one of these cities - this is the challenge."

"We believe that our nature-based approach can make a real difference to the lives of Penangites, who are already regularly suffering the impacts of extreme weather,

including flooding, heat stroke and heat stress.

"Our research will begin with climate-resilient species of trees that can help cool our communities and prevent flooding, and we also hope to raise awareness and increase understanding that climate change impacts have to be tackled in the hearts of our cities," she said.

Other than technical support from the Climate-KIC network, Think City and MBPP will receive a cash prize to invest in their projects.

More information can be found at climate-kic.org.

Saifuddin to attend OIC meet on US peace plan

KUALA LUMPUR: Foreign Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah will attend an emergency meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to discuss the proposed peace deal for Israel and Palestine announced by the United States President Donald Trump last week.

Wisma Putra in a statement said Saifuddin will deliver Malaysia's statement at the open-ended emergency meeting of the OIC Executive Committee at the level of Foreign Ministers today.

"Malaysia's participation at the meeting is a testament of its unwavering commitment to the Palestinian cause, and reaffirms the role of the OIC in efforts to end the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories since 1967," it said.

A Final Communiqué is expected to be adopted at the meeting.

On Jan 28, Trump announced that part of the Middle East peace plan, including recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, will recognise Israeli sovereignty over territory that Trump's plan envisages as being part of Israel.

Malaysia called upon the international community to give unwavering commitment to the struggle of the Palestinian people and to respect the sovereignty of the Palestinian State in accordance with the OIC, UN Resolutions and international law.

"Malaysia reiterates its position that a two-state solution is the only viable solution to the conflict, in which Palestinians and Israelis live side by side in peace, based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital," it said. — Bernama

Last farewell for 'remarkable figure' and women's advocate

By ILI AQLAH
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SUNGAI SIPUT: Toh Puan Uma Sambanthan, wife of the late Tun VT Sambanthan, was laid to rest as many came to pay their last respects.

More than 100 family members and friends, including notable political figures, attended the funeral rites which were held at the family home in Jalan Lintang here yesterday.

Her body was later cremated at the Sungai Siput Hindu crematorium.

Human Resources Minister M. Kulasegaran said Uma was someone he had looked upon dearly.

"Her husband was the first Labour Minister, and I have his photograph in my office.

"When I was appointed minister,

Toh Puan was among the first persons I met to seek advice and guidance.

"Among my favourite memories of her is when she came in her wheelchair to support our efforts to save the Vivekananda Ashram in Brickfields in 2015.

"We were shocked when she paid us a visit because we did not invite her," he recalled.

MIC president Tan Sri SA Vigneswaran, who was also among those present, said the country had lost a remarkable figure.

"Toh Puan had been such a strong force in the Indian community. I had the pleasure of meeting her several times and each time we met, she always expressed her desire to see the involvement of Indians, especially women, in the country's economic development.

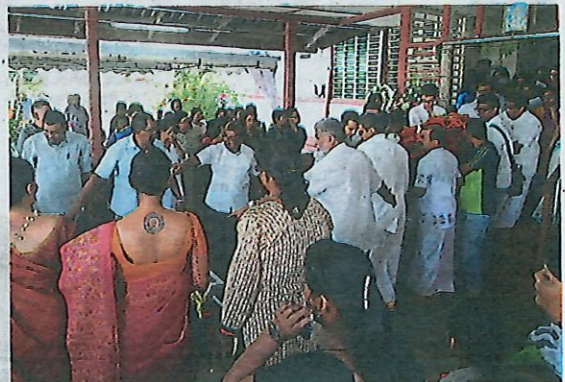
"We are considering several ideas

on ways to commemorate both Sambanthan and Uma's contributions, such as having their names at our institution, AIMST University," he told reporters.

Uma, one of the founders of the National Council of Women's Organisation (NCWO) and its president at one time, died last Friday at the age of 90.

She was chairman and director of the National Land Finance Cooperative Society (NLFC) from 1980 to 1995, and was NLFC president from 1995 to 1996.

She was known as a strong advocate of women's issues and also her charity work.



Heartfelt loss: The funeral cortege leaving the late Uma's home for the crematorium and final rites.

Watch the video thestartv.com