



By staff Our Taiwan writers Annie Xu, Jenny Lin, Teresa Yu

A variety of transportation platforms have been launched in Taiwan, including busses, trains, high speed rail, and extensions of the world-renowned MRT. Nowadays, it is convenient for Taiwanese to travel everywhere in the island. The MRT is an easy way to commute, busses can also get you anywhere in and between cities, and trains can transport you all around Taiwan. MRT stations have been established in four major locations now, including Taipei city, Taoyuan, Taichung, and Kaohsiung. With all of this, we need to evaluate how transportation influences our lives.

travel passes, and electronic tickets. Tourists traveling around Taipei can choose a ticket that is suitable. MRT maps in stations and even outdoors make it easy for visitors to easily know where to go.

Although the Taichung MRT was planned early, it began to operate only one month ago. The Green Line of the system



began trial runs this year. After operating for a few days, the MRT had problems, and it was determined that a US-made coupling connecting two carriages had broken. According to the Taichung Mayor, the safety reports submitted by the company were not detailed enough and she has instructed the transportation company in charge to carry out more tests. It is hoped that the Green Line can be repaired as soon as possible so that everyone can begin using this convenient transportation.

The MRT systems create benefits for society. The benefits of the MRT system are that it boosts the nation's international economic status (not least by way of tour-

ism), transportation and technology, they improve air pollution problems and reduce global warming.

Wu Menggui (吴孟桂), one of the early deputy directors of the Taipei City MRT, once said that for her, the MRT is a city transformation project, indicating the rise in the city's technological level and social development. In other words, Taiwan hopes to use MRT systems as a means of progress and modernization in its cities. The existence of an MRT can develop the vision and technical applications of TOD (Transit-Oriented-Development) and green energy in cities. In this way, it not only changes people's behavior and transportation preferences, but also further defines the future appearance and pursuit of Taiwan's urban and transportation life.

The MRT transportation networks not only inculcate technological and social achievements, but further strengthen a free, democratic society, promote multiculturalism and diversity, implement green energy and environmental protection, and comprehensively enable Taiwanese society to have higher-quality public infrastructure and mass transportation.

Art: <https://news.openpoint.com.tw>, <https://newtalk.tw/news/view/2020>

NTU Bulletin

VOL 9 ISSUE 5
24 December, 2020

Christmas is here!



Christmas is coming, with friends, family and good cheer

By staff writers Jasmine Liu and Amy Hung

COVID-19...



...stay safe for Christmas!

Christmas is an important holiday commemorating the birth of Jesus. According to the Bible, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. When the Blessed Virgin Mary gave birth to Jesus in the manger, the three Magi followed a bright star in the sky to find Jesus and worship him. At that time, the news spread that Jesus was coming to be the king of the world.

Later, people spread the news everywhere, and Christmas Eve and Christmas became international holidays.

In western countries, Christmas is also a time of family reunion. To welcome the arrival of relatives and friends, there are usually Christmas decorations on and in homes to increase the festive atmosphere. People sing, dance, enjoy Christmas dinner, and exchange



Christmasland in Taipei Christmas gifts.

Christmas desserts such as cookies and cakes shaped like snowmen, polar bears, Christmas trees and Santa Claus not only add color to the table, but also bring sweet memories to Christmas. This is a time for people to show their love to relatives and friends, so do not forget to

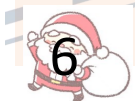
gather with your family and enjoy this warm Christmas atmosphere together.

Given that Taipei is the biggest and most populous city in Taiwan, an extremely popular Christmas event is Christmasland in the Banqiao District. This event is synonymous with Christmas in Taiwan, and is always packed with revelers. As well, shopping and cinema in the Xinyi District, and a walking tour of Ji-Qing Christmas Alley are high on everyone's list of Christmas activities. In Kaohsiung the famed German Kitchen in the Buoying District is a go-to place for traditional Christmas dinner and drinks, with turkey and stuffing, seasonal vegetables, and delicious deserts. Dinner is served most of December.

Art by www.bing.com.

INSIDE...

Christmas in Yangon	2
Editorial: CTi news closure creates complicated era for press	3
Foreign caregivers need assistance in Taiwan	4
Bluezone App breaks new ground in Vietnam fight against COVID-19	5
Our Taiwan: The MRT: A path to progress	6



Managing Editor: David Pendery

Design: David Pendery

Staff writers: Jasmine Liu, Amy Hung, Freddy Yang, Teresa Yu, Sophia Chen, Jolie Li

Staff editorial writers: Luke Yeh with David Pendery

Staff Our Taiwan writers: Jasmine Annie Xu, Jenny Lin, Teresa Yu

Christmas in Yangon

By staff writer **Freddy Yang**

Myanmar is a country in southeast Asia. It borders the Andaman Sea to the southwest, India and Bangladesh to the northwest, China to the northeast, and Thailand and Laos to the southeast. Myanmar was once known as Burma, and Yangon (Rangoon), the former capital, is still the busiest city in Myanmar.



A dog in a Christmas suit

Yangon is known as the "City of Peace" and is a must-see place for tourists. Myanmar is a country of various religions, but Buddhism accounts for the majority and Buddhist temples can be found everywhere. What is Christmas like in a Buddhist country? The photos below will show you.

Britain ruled Myanmar through the British East India Company from 1824–1948. The country achieved independence thereafter. Early Christianity spread with the British. At

that time, many Western missionary



In front of a church in Yangon, churches existed in major cities in Myanmar. Christmas developed with a carnival rhythm, and in turn became a musical festival. Many shopping malls host activities and promotions for Christmas, which is very lively.

In order to celebrate Christmas, various performances are performed. The stages are beautiful, and singing stars are invited to perform. It is good, and the locals regard the atmosphere for Christ-



People celebrating in Yangon

mas in Yangon as fascinating. And in addition to Christians, many Buddhists and other religions participate. Singers

perform, and people crowd the stages. As they interact, there is an illusion of a concert performance.

Traffic jams on Christmas day, and from time to time people open the window to take pictures of Christmas scenery. It is beautiful at night. People walk in the direction of and enter the churches on Christmas eve. Various songs celebrating Christmas float in the air, and walking on the street yields a strong Christmas atmosphere.



Christmas scenes in Yangon.

Judging from the decorative details on the street, Christmas is very important in Yangon. Christmas trees and Christmas themed decorations adorn the streets, and many people take pictures. It's true that in spite of the prevalence of Buddhism, the Christian Christmas atmosphere is alive in the air. Art by <https://kknews.cc/zh-tw/fo//24ve94.html>

News Feature

Bluezone App breaks new ground in Vietnam fight against COVID-19

By staff writers *Sophia Chen and Jolie Li*

Viet Nam's Ministry of Information and Communications, and Ministry of Health, under the direction of the Prime Minister, have deployed a mobile app called "Bluezone— Contact detection" for smartphones. The Department of Informatics, Ministry of Information and Communications said that the app will protect the community and help bring the life back to normal.

The app was officially launched on April 18, 2020. By August 14, the number of apps installed was 17.5 million. The app stores data on personal devices, not on centralized servers. The Ministry of Health has backed the development of Bluezone and encouraged people to use it to protect themselves. "Protect yourself, protect the community" is the app's slogan. So how does Bluezone work?

Every time users come close to someone using the Bluezone app, it will automatically save the contact history of those who have Bluezone installed. The app will notify users if they have come within two meters of a COVID-19 pa-

tients in the past 14 days. If a new case is contacted and the person has Bluezone installed, the health authority will import the Bluezone data (an ID code) into the system. The system sends data to all apps in the Bluezone community. The Bluezone app compares the person's contact history with the ID. If the data matches, the app will alert users that they may be at risk of infection and instruct them to contact the nearest health authorities.

Viet Nam's Ministry of Information and Communications and



With Bluezone installed, the system has tracked 1,891 contacts

Ministry of Health say that Bluezone alerts health authorities if you have close contact with people who have COVID-19, thereby minimizing the spread of the virus in the

community. When there is a new case of infection, you can learn whether you have had close contact with the case by accessing Bluezone.

The more people that install Bluezone, the more effective it is. The Ministry of Information and Communications and the Ministry of Health recommended that the whole country install Bluezone. The goal of the Ministry of Information and Communications was that localities reach a rate of 30-45% of the population installing the application in order to effectively trace COVID-19.

Vietnam is not the first country to use this solution, but Vietnamese believe the app will be effective in controlling the outbreak, minimizing the spread of the virus to the community, and helping people return to normal life soon.

The more people install Bluezone, there more effective it is. Let's challenge the virus with the strength of our community and technology. Art by <https://apps.apple.com/vn/app/bluezone>