THE faces of a crisis

Media could not hide the fact that grippedSingapore when SARS first hit in 2003. But behind many masks were also more women who stepped forward to serve as caregivers and committed to fighting the disease.

What is severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)?
SARS is a viral-dependent respiratory illness. It was first identified as a new disease in China in 2002 and later spread to 37 countries. The disease is transmitted through close contact with an infected person, usually through respiratory droplets. The incubation period for SARS is typically 2 to 10 days. The disease is caused by the SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV), which is a type of coronavirus.

Prevention and management of SARS
Prevention of SARS involves measures such as isolation and quarantine of infected individuals, contact tracing, and public health education. Early diagnosis and treatment of infected individuals is crucial to preventing the spread of the disease. Treatment involves supportive care, such as fluid and oxygen therapy, and antiviral drugs.

Impact of SARS on Singapore
Singapore was one of the countries most affected by SARS in 2003. The country experienced a significant outbreak, with a peak of 299 cases in March. The outbreak had a significant impact on the economy, with an estimated 10% drop in GDP in the first quarter of 2003. The SARS outbreak also led to a decline in international tourism and a decrease in business and travel activities.

The SARS outbreak in Singapore
Singapore experienced its first case of SARS on February 4, 2003. The first case was a 52-year-old Chinese man who had traveled to Hong Kong and returned to Singapore with respiratory symptoms. He was admitted to Tan Tock Seng Hospital (TTSH), where he was diagnosed with SARS.

Response to the SARS outbreak
Singapore's government immediately took action to control the spread of the disease. The Ministry of Health (MOH) established a SARS task force and a SARS hotline for the public to report suspected cases. The MOH also issued hospital guidelines to all hospitals in the country, and all schools were closed for three days. The government also banned all non-residents from entering the country.

Impact on daily life
Singapore was gripped by the fear of SARS, with people wearing masks and practicing social distancing. The government also took action to control the spread of the disease, with all schools and businesses closed for weeks. The outbreak had a significant impact on the country's economy, with an estimated 10% drop in GDP in the first quarter of 2003.

The SARS outbreak's aftermath
The SARS outbreak had a significant impact on the country's economy, with an estimated 10% drop in GDP in the first quarter of 2003. The government also took action to control the spread of the disease, with all schools and businesses closed for weeks. The outbreak had a significant impact on the country's economy, with an estimated 10% drop in GDP in the first quarter of 2003.