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or enter URL:
<https://www.ssm.gov.mo/PreventWuhaninfection/>
 Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre
 Enquiries: Centre for Disease Control and Prevention
 Tel: 28700839

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MACAU AUTHORITIES ARE FOLLOWING UP ON A CASE OF FROZEN DUMPLINGS THAT TESTED POSITIVE FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER P20

BORIS JOHNSON WALKS HUAWEI TIGHTROPE AS UK SETS UP CLASH WITH TRUMP P12

SINGAPORE'S PRIME MINISTER SAYS THAT 'ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS' WILL NOT LAST IN HK IF GOVERNMENT DOES NOT ACT P10

China demanded that a major Danish newspaper, which angered Muslims worldwide by publishing drawings of the Prophet Muhammad in 2006, apologizes for a cartoon on the new virus outbreak in China. Jyllands-Posten's chief editor, Jacob Nybroe, said the cartoon, which shows the Chinese flag with what resembles viruses instead of the normal stars, was not intended "to mock or ridicule China."



Australia A wildfire sparked by a military helicopter helping firefighting efforts was blazing out of control and threatening homes on the outskirts of Australia's capital yesterday as fire danger escalated across the country's southeast. The fire had spread over 8,000 hectares since it was started by a transport helicopter landing light that ignited grass in a national park south of Canberra on Monday afternoon.



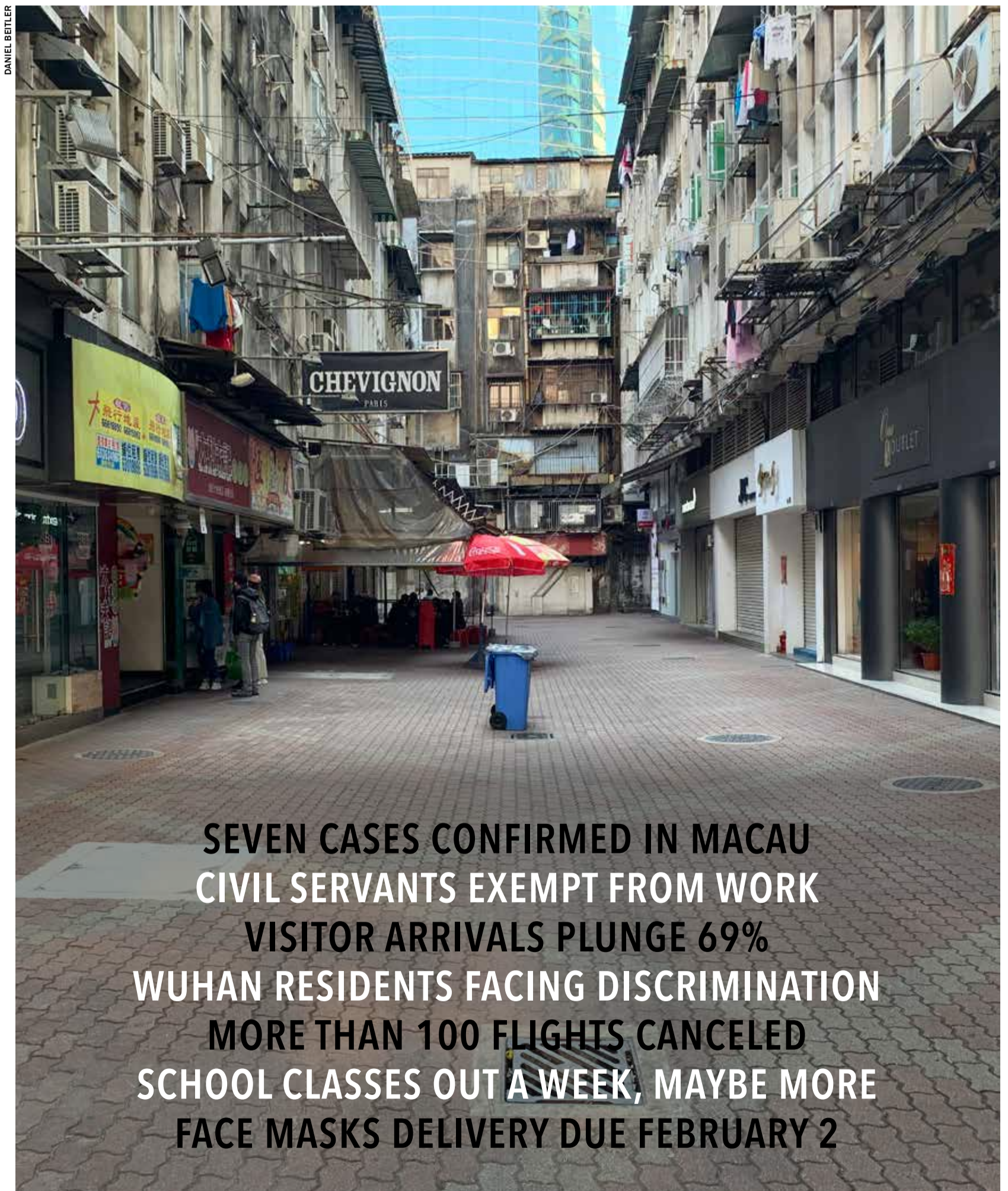
Pakistan A massive explosion and fire triggered by a gas cylinder explosion engulfed a small perfume factory in eastern Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 11 people, rescuer workers and police said. Two people were also injured in the blast, which caused the roof of the factory to collapse in flames.

Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he's withdrawn his bid to win immunity from prosecution on corruption charges, saving himself the embarrassment of a possible rejection by parliament as he tries to focus attention on an emerging U.S. peace plan for the Middle East expected to deliver Israel major triumphs.

More on backpage

EXCEPTIONAL TIMES

■ P2-5,9,11 2019-NCoV



**SEVEN CASES CONFIRMED IN MACAU
 CIVIL SERVANTS EXEMPT FROM WORK
 VISITOR ARRIVALS PLUNGE 69%
 WUHAN RESIDENTS FACING DISCRIMINATION
 MORE THAN 100 FLIGHTS CANCELED
 SCHOOL CLASSES OUT A WEEK, MAYBE MORE
 FACE MASKS DELIVERY DUE FEBRUARY 2**

Exceptional times

As a precautionary and exceptional measure, Macau Daily Times will not be published this week due to the daring times in the city posed by the coronavirus crisis in Wuhan and beyond.

However, we will be publishing regularly on our website, with news and updates on this health crisis and other Macau, China and world stories.

The print edition will be back on the stands on Monday, February 3.

Yesterday, the government announced the suspension of most of the public administration on Thursday and Friday, as did other institutions. Kindergartens and schools postponed the reopening of the academic year for at least a week.

MDT REPRINTED LAST FRIDAY

Due to a technical error in the printing process, Friday's newspaper was distributed without the last four pages of a 24-page edition.

On the same day, we reprinted the edition in its entirety and redistributed to stands, hotels, and subscribers. Any reader, subscriber or advertiser who wants to obtain the full copy of the Friday, January 24 edition, please contact our office by landline or email and provide us an address to receive the printed newspaper.

Although we are completely unaccountable for this mistake, Macau Daily Times regrets and apologizes for the inconvenience caused to our readers. PC

2019-nCoV

AGNES LAM CALLS FOR GENERAL HOLIDAY EXTENSION

IN a request to the Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, lawmaker Agnes Lam said that employees should be allowed to work from home for the time being, in addition to other measures which should be taken to confine the spread of the coronavirus.

The lawmaker's letter was published before the government announced special holidays for civil servants.

Citing the updated classification of the epidemic by the WHO, which raised the alert to high, the lawmaker requested the Chief Executive take further action.

She suggested the

government encourage employers to offer the extension of holidays, reasoned absence or the option to work from home.

The lawmaker additionally thinks all pregnant women should be entitled to special unpaid leave for the foreseeable period, noting that pregnant women are more vulnerable to infection.

Finally, Lam proposed that work hours be shortened or a flexible check-in time be in place to allow employees to have sufficient time to take care of family members who have been forced to stay home due to the disease. AL



2019-nCoV

Civil servants exempted from work Thursday, Friday

ANTHONY LAM

CIVIL servants who work in non-emergency services are exempted from work this Thursday and Friday as part of measures to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus, Secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong Weng Chon, announced yesterday at the government's daily press conference. The decision was made as Macau has seen seven cases of the infection since the start of the year.

The first confirmed case in Macau was on January 22 with a 52-year-old female patient from Wuhan, Hubei Province. The patient arrived in Macau on January 20 and stayed at the Landmark Hotel. She sought medical consultation at the S. Januário Hospital on the evening of January 21.

The patient had a fever upon her admittance into the hospital but her body temperature returned to normal levels after taking the prescribed medications. Before her medical consultation, she had been in close contact with two people who are still being monitored under quarantine.

January 23 saw the second case, which involves a 66-year-old Wuhan male

who entered Macau the previous day through the Border Gate. His high body temperature was recorded at the border checkpoint and he was sent to the S. Januário Hospital immediately. He has not developed a fever, or respiratory or digestive symptoms. He was travelling with four family members, who are now also in under quarantine for observation.

Three cases were confirmed on January 26, making it the day with the most confirmed cases so far. All of them were imported cases from Wuhan. The patients are all female and aged 58, 39 and 21.

The eldest of these three took the ferry to Macau from Hong Kong before taking a taxi to Kiang Wu Hospital because she was feeling ill. She was then sent to the government hospital by ambulance.

The 39-year-old patient entered Macau through the Lotus Border on January 22 and was sent to the government hospital, also by ambulance. The last patient confirmed on the day, aged 21, works as a teacher in Wuhan, and entered Macau through the Lotus Border January 23.

The sixth confirmed case involved a 15-year-old young man travelling from

Wuhan. He is a son of the aforementioned 39-year-old patient. On January 27, he was confirmed to have been infected after a positive test result, despite the fact that he had not developed a fever or respiratory symptoms. His father and younger brother had negative test results, but were also quarantined.

A 67-year-old female from Wuhan is the last confirmed case so far. She arrived in Macau through the Border Gate after travelling on the High Speed Rail and the Intercity Railway. She was admitted to the government hospital January 27.

To combat the situation, the government has issued a series of directives to help instruct members of the public on what should be done. Although civil servants have their Lunar New Year holidays extended, emergency services will not be affected, Cheong assured.

"Let's put it this way: procedures apply as if it is any other weekend or public holiday," the secretary explained. "There are stipulations as to what services will be provided and what will not."

For example, services will not be provided by the public registry on those days, Cheong explained, meaning that bookings and document pick-up should be postpo-

ned to the next working day.

It is not clear whether non-emergency but important services will continue to operate. The secretary did not expressly reply to questions regarding, for example, the expiration of foreign labor working permits.

The secretary reminds his colleagues to stay at home and avoid crowded areas during the extra two-day holiday "because it was decided in consideration of disease prevention and control."

Furthermore, the secretary, on behalf of the government, encourages private entities to follow suit "if the conditions allow."

During the daily press conference, Secretary Cheong was notified that the Central Government in Beijing had announced the suspension of new applications for the Individual Travel Permit, including those needed to travel to Macau. The suspension started from yesterday. Permits obtained prior to then can still be used to travel to Macau, provided that they are still valid.

Tourists from Hubei Province have been gradually leaving Macau. As of 5 p.m. yesterday, there were 276 still remaining in Macau on various visas, revealed Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U.

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Times

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DANIEL BEITLER



2019-nCoV

TOURIST ARRIVALS PLUNGE 69%

DANIEL BEITLER

THE collapse in visitor arrivals in the past week will be felt by a large portion of the local economy, from retailers and restaurants to the casino floor.

The latest data show that the visitor count has plummeted 69% in the first four days of the official Chinese Lunar New Year holiday period, with arrivals from the mainland down by more than 75%.

That's a blow for an eco-

nommy which is reliant on the gambling industry, and comes after casinos suffered their worst year since 2015. The outlook is unlikely to get any better as China limits travel for its citizens, including a suspension of individual travel visas for visits to Macau.

Streets in central Macau visited by the Times yesterday were exceptionally quiet. Most of the residents and visitors who did venture out wore disposable face masks, as did the majority of store workers, building security

guards and vehicle drivers.

One store attendant who works at a popular fast food chain said that his shop had been closed for the last few days and could not comment on whether business was down for the season. The attendant, who asked not to be identified because he is not authorized to speak to the media, said that he did not expect any pick-up in business activity yesterday. There were no customers in the store when the Times visited in the early afternoon.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng signaled last week that while the city would not turn away tourists this holiday season, he would not rule out closing all casinos if the circumstances required it.

The effect on Macau visitation is worse than many gaming analysts had predicted. In notes issued yesterday, analysts from Sanford C. Bernstein and Nomura concurred that the outlook was worsening, but did not issue projections for the month or quarter.

2019-nCoV

RESIDENTS FLOOD SUPERMARKETS FOR SUPPLIES

IN the past few days, supermarkets citywide were briefly filled with people trying to stock up food at home amid the intensifying threat of the novel coronavirus.

Photos posted on social media platforms and those taken by other media outlets showed empty shelves, fridges and freezers, alongside long queues of people at the cashier counters.

The phenomenon was prompted by rumors claiming that temporarily closing Macau borders would affect the food supply. In the past week, at least two lawmakers, Agnes Lam and Sulu Sou, have strongly requested the government to consider closing off borders. However, both noted that imports of goods use different channels and should not be affected.

In response to the situation, the Economic Bureau issued a statement which stressed that the supply of food and daily consumables were stable. Being one of the most popular foods in the city, rice is sufficiently stocked at warehouses of suppliers, a photo released by the Bureau showed. It also stressed that some suppliers even ended their holiday early to restock retailers.

Ip Sio Man, head of the Macau Union Suppliers Association, stressed that the supposed shortage of supplies was caused by the holidays. There is sufficient stock and he expects the conditions to ease when suppliers return to work. **AL**

AD

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OPINION

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



VALUES: THE WORLD WE WANT

Another show of superfluous consumption has given us the Wuhan coronavirus, threatening to knock on our doors and anything we contact. Sanitation of public facilities and directing citizens to take person responsibility for hygiene was the original level of what is now escalating caution in Macau.

On Wednesday, casino workers were directed to wear masks and the public was advised to don them where people might congregate. Group tours from Wuhan have been banned. The premonitions of the tourism authority cancelling Lunar New Year celebrations in Macau were laughable until they became reality yesterday. In China, Wuhan's public transport services went into lock-down Thursday morning and a quarantine placed over the city at a time of the year with the highest mobility in the country.

All this for what? The poor management of and desires for a civet cat or other exotic wild-life meal? Extending this form of uncontrolled avarice to a similar set of objectionable values and entirely poor taste, it would have been healthier, and less damaging and wasteful to import some roast koalas.

Having been informed by Wuhan City authorities on 31st December of a cluster of cases of pneumonia and receiving gene sequencing information, the World Health Organization lauded the speed with which the Chinese authorities were able to offer the global community preliminary identification of the new virus. Wednesday, at an emergency meeting, the WHO did not declare the novel coronavirus 2019-nCoV a global health emergency due to insufficient information and met again Thursday. So far animal-to-human cases have been identified and cases of human-to-human transmission, which were confirmed this week, appear to be between those in close contact, like family members and health providers.

After the first imported case of the virus to Macau was reported Wednesday, the response shifted dramatically yesterday as a second case was recorded. The original position of the government on Wednesday for a system to distribute masks to only local residents was rightly amended. Non-residents make up over 45% of the workforce, often in close proximity to employers in family homes, providing care to the young, elderly, and sick, living in tight living quarters and taking public transport. As such, the health of the entire population would have been compromised had this segment of the community been excluded from the program to curtail the spread of the disease. In such circumstances, the automatic response of prioritizing local residents backfires fabulously.

The mask distribution system was to partly alleviate any panic-buying by consumers and the predictable opportunism by retailers. In a show of greed in times of public need, sufficient numbers of pharmacies price-gouged on surgical masks and sanitizers to support such merchants' deservedly poor reputation: individual profit trumps community welfare. This poor show is only matched by enough individuals hoarding these items to create a supply deficit. This, again, only lowers access for other members of the community, thus undermining community-wide health outcomes: short-sighted individual self-interest - which also exacerbated the risk to the public as crowds lined up together grabbing their quotas.

Behaviours counter to the common good are easily attributed to ignorance. We have seen in discussions on how to quickly mobilize society to act for both mitigation and adaptation to the climate crisis and other environmental disasters, that those that are most immovable are often the better informed. Perspectives and behaviours are more about values, and less about facts and information as the IPCC has recognized. Professor Maisa Rojas, the COP25 Scientific Coordinator explains that after 30 years of naively assuming scientific facts will speak for themselves, scientists now realise that perceptions, values and storylines are crucial for behavioural change.

Social and political transformation towards mitigating crises rely on both facts and community values. Wuhan its causes and responses, Macau and her responses hold interest as case studies on how values drive action and community behaviours.

My prediction for the New Year: the Rat will nudge work on global community values.

Republished from Friday's edition

2019-NcOv

NETIZENS CRITICIZE POOR TREATMENT OF HUBEI RESIDENTS

JULIE ZHU

CHINESE netizens have accused provincial authorities across the greater China region of discriminating against residents of Hubei province.

Starting from this week, many mainland cities have restricted the number of hotels that will accept guests from Hubei province, home to Wuhan city where the novel coronavirus originated. As of Monday, over 28 mainland provinces have implemented similar measures, in addition to Hong Kong and Macau.

In Macau's neighboring city of Zhuhai, the local government has appointed five hotels to accept Hubei residents. According to a notice published by Gongbei police authority, any Hubei resident who needs to stay in Zhuhai can only check in to these assigned five hotels.

The measure has triggered resentment and disappointment expressed on mainland social media

site Weibo, among others, with netizens accusing their compatriots of "Sinophobia" against their own people. In comparison with the treatment received at home, some Chinese netizens are applauding the conduct of other countries, including the country's historical adversary, Japan.

"Outside of China, no places have sent Hubei residents to concentration camps," wrote one Weibo user who uses the alias JourneyCA.

"Taiwan refused to sell [surgical] masks to the mainland. Taiwan, Singapore, and Macau kicked out Hubei residents, Hong Kong people beat up Hubei people on the streets. These places are so-called Chinese places. Japan on the other hand, which is often accused [of Sinophobia], is extending the visa for Hubei residents," Weibo blogger Ge Xiaofei wrote.

Besides praise for the abovementioned measure, mainland netizens are also applauding Japan for

encouraging China to fight the virus.

While China's historical "enemy" has been given positive attention on mainland social networks, Macau has been criticized for being unkind.

Since Monday, the local government in Macau has implemented measures to eject Hubei residents. Hubei visitors were given the option to either leave Macau immediately or be quarantined.

"During a national calamity, who is on your side and who is not can be easily [ascertained]. Where is Macau exporting Hubei people to? To Zhuhai. Why does Zhuhai accept Hubei people, but Macau does not?" another Weibo user wrote, also contrasting the reactions in China with those in Japan.

While some Weibo users have criticized the actions of Macau, others are defending the territory. One Weibo user explained that Macau's preparations are vastly different to the measures

employed by other provinces. Macau has used the term "isolation camp" to describe the shelter for Hubei residents, a term with negative connotations.

On Weibo, the most searched topics relate to the epidemic. Distrust toward Hubei residents is rife on both the Weibo and WeChat networks. It was reported that Hubei residents have been refused by hotels, and the personal data of students from Wuhan have even been revealed publicly.

About 60 million people live in the landlocked central province of mainland China, with its provincial capital, Wuhan, home to 11 million.

Newspaper China Daily posted on social media that "Hubei people are compatriots and the virus is our common enemy."

Chinese propaganda media, including CCTV and the People's Daily, have also urged Chinese nationals not to discriminate against Hubei people.

2019-NcOv

Passengers allege no notifications about canceled flights

LYNZY VALLES

APPROXIMATELY 100 flights to and from mainland China, Taiwan and Macau have been canceled since yesterday, according to information issued by the Macau International Airport, in a bid to prevent and control the spread of 2019-nCoV, also known as the Wuhan coronavirus.

These airlines include local carrier Air Macau, which canceled the majority of its flights bound for the mainland including those to Shanghai, Beijing, Daxing and Xiamen.

Shenzhen Airlines also canceled its flight to Wuxi yesterday, while Chinese Eastern Airlines, Shanghai Airlines and Juneyao Airli-

nes are cancelling their flights to Nanjing and Shanghai today.

Shanghai Airlines' flights to Shanghai from tomorrow until February 2 are also canceled.

The local carrier advised that passengers booked on the relevant flights may re-book or receive a refund for the tickets. Air Macau will waive the re-booking and refund fees.

Flights to and from Wuhan and Macau have been suspended since January 23.

Some affected passengers expressed complaints about the canceled flights, noting that they were not advised of the cancellation through their personal emails or phones.

"I only received my noti-

fication when I was back in Taiwan," an affected passenger, who requested to remain unnamed, told the Times.

The passenger's flight was set to depart to Taipei yesterday morning.

The passenger did not receive any notification from Air Macau, even the night before her flight. Air Macau announced the cancellation on WeChat and Facebook.

Although the airline offered alternatives to affected passengers, the passenger said these were even more complicated.

"The website [Air Macau provided] was working, but it kept telling me that my flight was unaffected," the passenger said. "Even [when] I went straight to

the airport, my problem wasn't solved."

The airline's website shows no 24-hour hotline to handle such situations.

The passenger was then required to return to the airport yesterday morning, on the original flight day, to fight for a seat on the next flight alongside about 100 other affected passengers.

Local broadcaster TDM interviewed a Taiwanese tourist, who said she also received no notification about the cancellation from the local airline.

A Times reader received an email yesterday from the new Taiwanese airline, Starlux, about a flight change taking place in March to Taipei. The cause for the change was not immediately made clear.

RENATO MARQUES

2019-nCoV

School restart date to be determined next week

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong U, announced yesterday that the date for school institutions to resume teaching activities will only be known during the first week of February. Ao Ieong was speaking at the daily press conference organized by the health authorities to provide updates on the local situation of the Wuhan coronavirus, now referred to as "2019-nCoV".

Without giving many details, the Secretary hinted that the current postponement date of February 10 for the return to school for students of all levels announced last week by the government might be under reconsideration and a final decision will be only known during the first week of next month.

The postponement of classes was among the measures first announced by the government to respond to the outbreak of the coronavirus in Macau.

In a statement, the government announced that schools and other academic institutions would not resume their teaching activities at least until February 10. However, the statement alluded to the possibility that a further delay could be enforced at any moment depending on the local status of the disease.

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) issued a statement earlier in the week calling all students and teachers that have spent their Spring Festival holidays in the mainland to return to the region as soon as possible, "no later than February 2." The statement also requested that af-



Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Ao Ieong U (right)

ter students and teachers arrive in Macau they "stay at home and pay attention to [their] physical condition," and immediately seek out a doctor if they feel unwell.

Such measures have been enforced by the government as a way to contain the possible spread of the disease in Macau, especially among the student population.

The DSEJ also informed that it had notified schools to prepare study materials so students un-

der this form of quarantine could continue to study and engage in pedagogical activities from home via e-learning platforms and social media groups.

Similar measures were enforced by the Higher Education Bureau (DSES) that also suggested the possibility of the further postponement of classes, calling all students to stay alert and "pay close attention to the latest information and announcements from the SAR government."

Additionally, the Bureau informed that the Centre for Higher Education Students will be closed from January 30 until further notice, cancelling all the activities on program and venue reservations.

The DSES also noted that a series of five sessions of the "Seminar Series on Further Studies Outside Macau and Public Examinations" which were scheduled to be held in February will be only broadcast live on the "Student Blog Macao" Facebook fan page, as it

was no longer possible to attend them in person. In the meantime, several institutions that provide tutoring, support, and continuing education programs have also announced that they are following the government guidelines and suspending all the activities until further notice.

Ao Ieong also announced that the government has decided to suspend the activities of all nurseries subsidized by the government. This is a preventive measure which the secretary said was related to the acknowledgment of the infection of a nine-month-old child on the mainland.

Ao Ieong took the opportunity to call on all private nurseries that operate independently from government subsidies to also remain closed. "We understand that some parents have difficulties taking care of their children without the nurseries," she said, "but health should be the main priority."

A few days earlier, the Social Welfare Bureau decided to exempt nurseries from the forced closures but advised parents to avoid bringing their children to these institutions after the Lunar New Year holidays as much as possible.

In its statement, the bureau informed that these institutions would continue to operate but that parents were discouraged to make use of them. The bureau had also noted that special instructions were given to these institutions to avoid any disease transmissions, namely the separation of the area for picking up children, and stopping parents from entering the institution] to pick up children.

2019-nCoV

Face mask stocks sufficient, more arriving on February 2

RENATO MARQUES

THE local health authorities have informed that the current stock of surgical face masks acquired by the government is sufficient for the next 10 days and that a restock will be received from a delivery due on February 2.

This information was disseminated by the Health Bureau (SSM) director during the press conference held yesterday to provide an update on the status of the coronavirus locally and publicize new measures by the government in response to it.

The government has ordered 20 million face masks of which approximately 13 million have arrived in the past few days



and been distributed to the population through normal channels.

To help the distribution of masks during the first days of the new Lunar Year, the government also enforced a new measure

on January 24, lasting until today, that adds the sales of masks at seven public health care centres in addition to the 56 contracted pharmacies across Macau.

From January 30, face masks will continue to be

sold in batches of 10 to all people presenting a valid Macau ID card or a non-resident worker's card (commonly referred to as a blue card) at pharmacies for the price of 8 patacas.

According to SSM information, it is believed that the arrival of masks can alleviate the registered rise in market demand for masks which resulted in stock rupture and significant price hikes.

The bureau said, "residents do not need to panic or rush to pharmacies for purchasing," adding also that the quality of the masks being sold at the local pharmacies has been certified to "ensure that the masks available to the public meet the quality assurance standards."

Questioned by the media about complaints from residents regarding a lack of quality of some of the masks on sale, SSM Director Lei Chin Ion reaffirmed that the bureau can only be responsible for the products acquired by the government in a collaboration between the SSM, the Economic Bureau, and the Consumer Council which are being sold at approved pharmacies and health care centers. The official noted that there are many other products on sale in different establishments for which the SSM cannot guarantee the origin and quality standards.

The SSM also reminds residents to observe respiratory etiquette by avoi-

ding covering the nose and mouth with hands when coughing or sneezing, and to instead use their elbow or upper sleeve if no tissue is available.

Earlier in the week, the health authorities advised all people to use face masks when entering a place with a high concentration of people, especially when using public transportation.

Previously, the health authority said that that the public did not need to wear masks all the time. Rather, wearing a mask was recommended only when visiting medical facilities or institutions, and in circumstances where the mask-wearer has respiratory symptoms or a fever.



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Property Hotlist



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\$11,770,000
1,439 ft²
2 2



Wa Bao, Taipa
\$7,995,000
1,071 ft²
2 2



Manhattan High Floor, Taipa
\$26,800/mth
2,305 ft²
4 2



Taipa studio
\$9,500/mth
470 ft²
1



More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Nam Long 1 1 785 ft² **\$4,780,000** (ref: 20016009)
- [Macau] Loft apartment 2 2 2,220 ft² **\$9,990,000** (ref: 15115464)
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,349 ft² **\$14,839,000** (ref: 19096004)
- [Coloane] Large apartment 2 3 2,530 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096000)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096006)

For Rent

- [Macau] Renovated apartment 2 2 n/a **\$20,000/mth** (ref: 20011001)
- [Macau] Vai Fung Triplex 2 2 n/a **\$15,800/mth** (ref: 19121001)
- [Macau] Furnished 2 1 700 ft² **\$12,500/mth** (ref: 19101007)
- [Macau] Office space 1 1,043 ft² **\$26,000/mth** (ref: 19091008)
- [Taipa] One Grantai 1 n/a **\$2,500/mth** (ref: 19091005)

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PAULO FIGUEIREDO

THE acquisition of one of Portugal's biggest agricultural companies by Macau firm CESL Asia last year may yet be seen as a defining moment in the economic relationship between China, Portugal and the Macau SAR.

China's population is around 1.4 billion people. And that is a lot of mouths to feed. So when a Macau investment and services firm acquired one of Portugal's biggest agricultural companies a few months ago, the opportunities for the Middle Kingdom didn't go unnoticed.

In October, CESL Asia, a Macau firm which aims to 'foster a greener society' and works with clients and partners to introduce 'innovative and environmentally friendly solutions that help to minimize the environmental impacts arising from business activities', acquired Portuguese farming group Monte do Pasto, Portugal's largest beef producer, investing 40 million euros (MOP357 million) into 3,700 hectares of agricultural land in the south of the European country.

Monte do Pasto's land, which lies in the municipalities of Cuba and Alvito in the Alentejo region, is mainly used as pasture for cattle. It lies close to Alqueva Dam, which constitutes one of the largest dams and artificial lakes in Western Europe, giving the fields excellent access to water. The company, which was established in 1981, has traditionally exported most of its beef as its cattle are 'known for having very good genetics'. But now it's in CESL Asia's hands following the acquisition from Portuguese bank Novo Banco.

The investment, which was financially supported by Bank of China's Macau branch, made headlines in both Portugal and Macau – not only because of the size and importance of the land but also because this was a Macau company investing in Portugal's heartland for the benefit of Macau, Portugal and China. Apart from Quinta da Marmeleira – a winery near Carregado in the heart of Portugal which was bought by Macau businessman Wu Zhiwei in 2016 – there have not been many investments from Macau companies in this sector in Portugal up to now.

A GROWING INTEREST

The Portuguese ambassador to Beijing, José Augusto Duarte, also sees the great potential of the investment. He says he expects Macau and Hong Kong companies to maintain their 'agility to invest abroad' in the near future and identifies a 'growing interest' in China's decision-making bodies 'in the agricultural or agrifood sector abroad'. The CESL Asia farm at Monte do Pasto is a perfect example of this ambition.

Duarte, a former diplomatic

A MACAU COMPANY PLANTING THE SEEDS IN PORTUGAL

DANIEL BETTLER



CESL Asia CEO António Trindade

advisor to the President of Portugal, says that the Chinese government has recognized the importance of the food sector and recalls that the Middle Kingdom does not have the productive capacity to feed its growing population without relying on imports. The country is home to more than 18% of the world's population but, claims Duarte, it's home to only 9% of the globe's arable land and four per cent of its drinking water.

"It is imperative," he says, "to strongly increase [China's] investment in innovation in the agricultural sector in order to expand its productive capacity – and part of this focus is on co-operation between Chinese companies and their counterparts in other countries."

Portugal is keen on co-operating with China in the agricultural sector. Over the past few months, the European country has concluded negotiations to export Portuguese pork to China. "For 2020," says Duarte, "we will continue to negotiate with our Chinese counterparts to open doors to more Portuguese products, such as fruit, poultry and beef, which will surely create new opportunities in Portugal's agricultural and agrifood sector."

The Monte do Pasto investment, says Duarte, deviates from

the previously observed pattern of Chinese investments in the financial, insurance and energy sectors.

"Portugal has also sought to promote investments in the real economy," he says. "With the growing importance of the agricultural sector, the Portuguese countryside can see here a window of opportunity to combat desertification, which is a worldwide trend."

SOWING THE SEEDS

"Our goal is to build things that have never been built," says the head of CESL Asia, António Trindade, sitting in his office in Macau's AIA Tower. "Things that are highly productive, both economically and socially." He adds that CESL Asia, in the agricultural sphere, is looking to develop innovative methods of sustainable production – anything from wheat to beef – that can be replicated across the world.

"Our focus is not on herding cows," says Trindade. "It's always on the people involved and what they're doing. Know-how comes with people. We are a people's company. Our platform is intellectual. What makes sense to us is producing value, technology, knowledge and science." According to Trindade, all of

CESL Asia's expertise in working abroad can be shared with other Macau companies, thus strengthening the entire business 'platform' in the SAR.

An earlier project that saw CESL Asia join hands with Portugal took place in 2012, when the firm partnered up with Lisbon-based Magpower, which manufactures concentrator photovoltaic systems (CPV) solar modules and trackers. The two companies jointly invested around MOP200 million (about \$29 million) into three power plants in the south of Portugal and they have since collaborated on technical and scientific projects.

That partnership and this investment in Monte do Pasto show a strengthening of relations between CESL Asia and Portuguese businesses.

A statement from the Macau firm following the acquisition last year said that the deal aimed to continue the development of social and economic co-operation between Portugal, China, Macau and African Portuguese-speaking countries. According to Trindade, the key to economic diversification could be "a combination of both" the development of the platform with Portuguese-speaking countries and Macau's role in the Greater Bay Area.

CULTIVATING A PLATFORM

In acquiring Monte do Pasto, CESL Asia is establishing a platform in Portugal. The firm wants to increase exports from the European country to the Macau and China markets, taking advantage of Macau itself as a 'platform' for social and economic co-operation between China, Portugal and Portuguese-speaking countries. The company also sees Macau developing as an operational base for food and renewable energy businesses from Portugal, Macau, China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

According to Trindade, 'the potential of the Macau platform is bigger than that of its gaming industry'.

Trindade adds that it is important for the SAR to consider economic opportunities beyond gaming and he questions whether Macau's gaming money 'adds value' to the city in terms of knowledge. He admits that the gaming industry has been 'exceptional' when it comes to boosting the local economy in past years but he argues that Macau is now confronted with 'Dutch disease' – the economic term that describes the causal relationship between the increase in development of a specific sector and a decline in others. In Macau's case, this refers to the rapid economic increase in the gaming sector compared to all others.

But Trindade, who says that his company wants to 'replicate CESL Asia in Portugal', also notes that 'the China-Lusophone platform cannot go through Macau only because Macau by itself does not have the resources and capabilities to serve the whole Chinese economy'. He admits that there is an opportunity for Monte do Pasto to supply meat to China but he is also keen to look beyond the short term. "The platform is a commitment, not a business opportunity," he says, "to create a unique value chain. With this in mind, we are creating an economic infrastructure that has never been created before." **MDT/MACAUHUB**



ALL TAXI RECORDING DEVICES READY BEFORE DECEMBER 3

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) expects to finish the process of installing recording devices inside all taxis this year. Yesterday, during a TDM radio program, DSAT Director Lam Hin San said that the bureau expects to sign a contract with the device installation company after this Lunar New Year holiday. The DSAT will try to complete the installation before December 3, 2020. Lam also reported on infractions on app-based taxi services. In 2019, a total of over 110 complaints were recorded, of which three have already been escalated to follow-up procedures. Lam said that some of these cases are eligible to be punished while others are simply a misunderstanding.

LRT COMPANY DENIES BRIDGE CRACKS ACCUSATION

The Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation has denied an accusation that Macau's Light Rapid Transit (LRT) bridge is suffering from cracks. The accusation appeared online in pictures. The LRT company clarified that the picture showed one section of the elevated road bridge of the railway system near the Lotus Frontier. This part of the bridge was built with an on-site concreting method. Having confirmed the matter with the construction inspection authority, the LRT company said that the picture shows the connection between the two concreting segments but as what was displayed was not a structural crack, there is no quality problem with the bridge.

AS FANS PAY TRIBUTE, KOBE BRYANT RECALLED IN MACAU

AP PHOTO



GLOBAL fans of the NBA superstar Kobe Bryant have been paying tribute to him since his death in a helicopter crash earlier this week. (More on p19)

Having visited Macau at least twice in his career, Bryant had a local footprint that will also be missed.

Former president and CEO of Sands China Ltd., Edward Tracy, invited Bryant to Macau to make a special appearance at The Venetian Macao back in September 16, 2011.

Widely regarded as one of the greatest basketball players of all time, the all-star held a coaching session for the members of the Macau-China Basketball Association.

Bryant met with a total of 30 boys and girls from the association where they were given an opportunity to train with the former Los Angeles Lakers player for an hour.

"His performance – both on and off the court – provides inspiration to countless fans around the world. Bringing athletes and international superstars like Bryant to Macau, along with premium international sporting

events, is part of our commitment to providing the community with the very best variety of entertainment options," Tracy said at the time, as cited in World Gaming Magazine.

Bryant was also in Macau back in 2008 as part of a friendly basketball game against Lithuania, which was a part of their training for the Beijing Olympics, where he made his Olympic debut.

Also at The Venetian Macao, Bryant played together with former NBA basketball star LeBron James.

Bryant was an Olympic gold medalist at both London 2012 and Beijing 2008, a FIBA Americas Championship winner in 2007 and five-time NBA champion with the Los Angeles Lakers.

In late November 2015, the athlete announced his retirement, ending a landmark 20-year NBA career spent entirely with Los Angeles.

Bryant, together with his daughter, was among the nine people who were killed in a helicopter crash while on their way to Thousand Oaks, California, where Bryant was expected to coach a basketball team.

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2019-NcOv

Marathon scrapped as HK's virus response raised

HONG Kong canceled its largest marathon as Chief Executive Carrie Lam upgraded the government's response against the coronavirus to the highest level and said the outbreak could extend the city's recession into 2020.

The Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon, originally scheduled for Feb. 8 and 9, will be scrapped for the first time since the bank began sponsoring it in 1997. The event involves 70,000 people this year and the government "believes it has to be canceled," Lam said as she raised the response level to "emergency."

Hong Kong will face challenges on "multiple fronts" in 2020, Lam said, citing protests that have rocked the city since June and the spread of the coronavirus from China to at least 11 other countries.

"More protests and violence may come," she said.



"An economic recession may also be something we cannot avoid. The epidemic will make matters worse for many industries."

The government also extended school holidays for

non-tertiary students to Feb. 17, and will indefinitely halt flights and rail services to the Chinese city of Wuhan, where the coronavirus originated, she said.

Lam's comments came

hours after she returned to Hong Kong from the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. She said she was in touch with advisers while traveling and denied criticism that her trip led to a delay in taking action against the virus.

"The government will continue monitoring the situation and be open to suggestions from various sectors," Lam said. "The Chief Executive and Financial Secretary will roll out relief measures for industries when necessary."

Lam also said Hong Kong will source masks and seek help from China's State Council to increase the local supply, after pharmacies across the city sold out the stocks. In contrast, her government had enacted a rare emergency rule several months ago to impose a ban on face masks as part of a crackdown on protesters. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

2019-NcOv

HK TO REDUCE TRANSPORT SERVICES WITH MAINLAND

HONG Kong will significantly reduce transport services between Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland to contain the spread of new coronavirus.

Flights from the mainland to Hong Kong will be halved, and the high-speed railway will be suspended, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Carrie Lam said yesterday afternoon at a press conference.

Multiple ferry routes will be suspended and the number of cross-border buses will be reduced. Starting from tomorrow, several ports of entry will stop operation, including passenger services at Hong Kong West Kowloon Station, Hung Hom Station, Sha Tau Kok and Man Kam To.

Lam also said the central authorities have approved 49 mainland cities to stop issuing new endorsements under the Individual Visit Scheme. The number of visitors under the scheme accounted for about half of mainland visitors entering Hong Kong.

There have been eight confirmed cases of pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus reported in Hong Kong.

China is mobilizing a nationwide response to prevent and control the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). Many unprecedented moves, including extending the Spring Festival holiday, postponing the spring semesters of schools and universities, and adopting transport restrictions in various areas, have been taken. **MDT/XINHUA**

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WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

CARRIE LAM COURTS DAVOS ELITES WITH DIM SUM TO SELL HONG KONG

SHELLY BANJO & DANDAN LI

CARRIE Lam hosted 200 business and political leaders for dim sum and cocktails at a Swiss ski resort late last week to reassure them that Hong Kong's future is bright. It was a tough sell.

The city's leader told the crowd gathered at the World Economic Forum in Davos that Hong Kong was still open for business, despite paralyzing protests and an economy in recession. She also said that officials back home were working to contain the coronavirus that's killed more than two dozen people in China and infected hundreds of others. Hong Kong has identified two cases.

In a room decorated with gold candles and red Chinese lanterns for Lunar New Year, Lam said her government "will safeguard Hong Kong's fundamentals, including the rule of law." She was also "fully confident of the city's future," according to a readout from her office.

Joining about 30 government officials at the "Hong Kong Night" in Davos were heads of the city's stock exchange, airport and mass transit train operator. The chairmen of conglomerates Swire Pacific and Far East Consortium International also spoke at the event held in a restaurant



overlooking the Alps.

Lam's overseas charm offensive had already included a splashy marketing and ad campaign in global media outlets. At Davos, she gave a series of television interviews and also met the prime ministers of Luxembourg, Singapore and the Netherlands, as well as the heads of the International Monetary

Fund and Julius Baer Group.

"Ultimately to take Hong Kong out of the economic difficulties requires first of all stability," she told Bloomberg Television. "Secondly it's an early restoration of law and order, and thirdly it's continued government investment in important sectors - for example, innovation and technology."

Not everyone was buying what

Lam was selling. Yuan Ding, vice president of China Europe International Business School and a Davos delegate, said it was unclear what power Lam had to make critical decisions that could end the unrest that began last June.

"The effort made by Carrie Lam and the Hong Kong delegates here to assure the international business community will not

work - they are merely putting on a show," he said. "Foreign investors also don't buy this."

Moody's downgraded the credit rating of Hong Kong on Monday, citing the "absence of an effective response by Hong Kong's executive and legislative branches of government." The Hong Kong government rejected that assessment, saying the downgrade ignored the city's strong fundamentals. A lower rating could give lead to higher business and government borrowing costs, and follows a similar downgrade by Fitch Ratings.

Rumors have persisted for months that Beijing may replace Lam, whose approval rating is hovering near a record low of 14%, according to a Hong Kong Public Opinion Program survey. Lam told Bloomberg she would do her "utmost to stay in this position to help arrest the current situation."

Chinese President Xi Jinping has so far maintained his support for Lam, despite Beijing replacing its main representative in Hong Kong with an official who quickly called for enacting controversial national security legislation.

"When it comes to modern communications, whatever your product - a mobile, a dishwasher, a city and its governance -- the claims you're making about it have to be able to withstand scrutiny," said Marc Sparrow, general manager of Hoffman Agency, a global public relations firm, in Hong Kong. "It's open to question whether Carrie Lam's Davos comments pass this test." **BLOOMBERG**

Singapore's Lee says HK's leaders must act on grievances

IAIN MARLOW

SINGAPORE'S Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong says the "one country, two systems" principle that governs Hong Kong may not last unless the government makes progress on protester concerns over the lack of affordable housing in the Asian financial hub.

In an interview with Bloomberg's Editor-in-Chief John Micklethwait

on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Lee said he sympathizes with Hong Kong protesters, but doesn't see how their methods - which have included violent rallies, petrol bombs and vandalism - will resolve their problems. Hong Kong youth are frustrated by the world's most expensive housing market and the fact that Hong Kong has dwindled in importance to China as mainland cities have beco-

me richer, he said.

"I can understand the issues which lead people in Hong Kong to feel anxiety and frustration and disappointment at what the future holds for them," Lee said, noting the median price of a dwelling in Hong Kong now costs 21 times the annual salary. "But I can't see how this path is going to lead to improvements in all of these difficult problems."

Lee, who last year criticized Hong Kong's protesters

at a conference for making unrealistic demands and trying to "humiliate and bring down the government," said Hong Kong authorities nevertheless need to act on economic grievances that underpin the protests.

Although many demonstrators say they are fighting for greater democracy rather than for cheaper housing, some - including Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam - have pointed

to a lack of affordable housing and inequality as key factors in the city's unrest.

Singapore's leader said the lack of a house or even a space to call one's own was a "basic hygiene issue, it's not a higher-order one."

Lee said China's 50-year promise to guarantee Hong Kong separate freedoms under the "one country, two systems" principle after its return to Chinese rule in 1997 was at risk if the local government did not act.

"Ideally, at some point, as the temperature comes down and people cool down, it is possible for the Hong Kong government to make progress on some of the basic issues" that bug the protesters, he said.

"It's very hard - I mean they've tried to, but they haven't succeeded," Lee added. "But if they don't make some progress, it's hard to see how 'one country, two systems' can work for another" 27 years. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China holds ceremony to welcome Year of the Rat

Sands China Ltd. held traditional cultural ceremonies at its properties to welcome the Year of the Rat, with company executives participating in the annual tradition.

Worship rituals, eye-dotting ceremonies, and traditional lion dance per-

formances were held at Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao, Sands Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao on the second day of the Lunar New Year to attract good luck and blessings to the properties and to the city.

As cited in a statement

issued by the gaming operator, it is the company's hope that "Macau continues to grow and flourish as a world centre of tourism and leisure as it establishes its place as an important hub in the development of the Greater Bay Area."

Melco postpones activities amid 2019-nCoV outbreak

In light of the public health concerns associated with the coronavirus infection in Macau and globally, Melco Resorts & Entertainment are deferring all non-essential business travel until further notice.

The gaming operator announced in a statement that it would also postpone a number of events until it is clear that public health

concerns are restored to normal.

Changes to its events calendar include the postponement of Leon Metro Live 2.0 Concert on January 31 and February 1, 2020, whilst all performances of The House of Dancing Water have been suspended with immediate effect. Lawrence Ho, chairman and

CEO of Melco, said, "Melco has stringent operational protocols in place to safeguard the wellbeing of all visitors to our properties and our colleagues. In the current difficult times, we will continue to collaborate closely with the Macau government and adapt rigorous preventive measures across the properties."

Asian demand for face masks soars on fears of Chinese virus

HARUKA NUGA
& GRANT PECK, TOKYO

PANIC and pollution drive the market for protective face masks, so business is booming in Asia, where fear of the virus from China is straining supplies and helping make mask-wearing the new normal.

Demand for face masks and hand sanitizing liquid has soared, as both local residents and visitors from China stock up on such products as a reassuring precaution.

Factories are rushing to boost production as the number of infections and deaths from the new virus first found in the central Chinese city of Wuhan climbs. In some parts of Asia, wearing of surgical masks has become mandatory, for now.

"Sales of disinfectant products and hygiene masks have been rising since last week. First Chinese tourists came to our store to buy these products to bring back with them. They bought in bulk, like two or three boxes per person," said Varumporn Krataitohg, an employee of the NanBhesaj drugstore in central Bangkok.

The outbreak began before the Chinese Lunar New Year, when tens of thousands of Chinese tourists visit Thailand, Japan and other parts of Asia. Demand has risen by 80% starting with this past weekend's Chinese New Year,



said Varumporn.

"Now we are out of disinfectant gel for hands. The maker just sent just new lots this morning and by noon we were sold out," she said. "People keep coming and asking for these products."

Japanese often wear surgical masks to protect against colds, flu or hay fever. Shelves of some stores were scooped bare as Japanese health officials confirmed four confirmed cases of the virus.

Christine Yuuki, a 25-year-old tourist from Hefei, west of Nanjing, was shopping in Tokyo for masks for friends and family back in China.

"In China, masks are very expensive," she said, adding that

one little pack of masks costs more than 100 yuan (\$14). "They are cheaper here and easier to buy."

Iris Ohyama, a major maker of household goods and home appliances, said Monday its mask sales last week had tripled from week before. It has asked some workers at one of its two factories in China to cut short their 10-day Lunar New Year holiday and get back to work, it said.

Stocks of masks ran out quickly at outlets of South Korea's biggest 24-hour convenience store, CU, at airports, bus terminals and other transportation hubs.

Sales of soap, hand sanitizers and mouthwash more than dou-

bled, said CU's parent company, BGF Retail. Overall, though, there were no immediate signs of major shortages in South Korea, which has reported four cases of the illness.

In Taiwan, likewise, the government said that there were enough masks and that current daily production capacity of 1.88 million face masks could be boosted to 2.44 million to meet any spike in demand.

Authorities have announced seven confirmed cases of the virus on the island, which nonetheless has imposed a month-long ban on exports of two types of surgical masks to ensure the availability of domestic supplies.

Everyday use of surgical masks, once mainly confined to Japan and parts of China affected by major dust storms or smog, has expanded in recent years, largely in response to worsening air pollution. In the Philippines, which so far has reported no cases of the virus, the recent eruptions of the Taal volcano have prompted many to wear masks to protect against ash.

Cambodia, which registered its first new virus case on Monday, launched a campaign to give away 1 million masks to people entering the country at Poipet, on its border with Thailand.

In Bangkok, consumers are faced with choosing between N95 masks, which are best for filtering out tiny dust particles in smog, or plain surgical masks that can help block transmission of the virus and are more breathable.

Thailand, a favorite Chinese vacation destination, has 14 confirmed cases of the illness, the highest national total outside China.

While some stores were temporarily sold out, especially in places frequented by Chinese tourists, there's no absolute shortage of masks, said Prayote Pensut, the deputy director general of the Thai Commerce Ministry's Internal Trade Department.

Whether or not masks do much to prevent the virus from spreading, they seem to reassure many.

Wuhan is "pretty much contained," said Ian Zhao, a 30-year-old engineer from Shenzhen who was visiting Bangkok's ornate Grand Palace. So, "you just don't worry about it too much, wash your hands, put on masks, just keep your personal hygiene every day. And it's mostly fine." AP

Countries evaluate evacuation of citizens in virus epicenter

COUNTRIES with citizens in the central Chinese city that's the epicenter of a viral outbreak are planning evacuations as the number of illnesses grow and China takes drastic measures to try to stop the spread of the virus.

A look at steps being taken:

JAPAN

Chief government spokesman Yoshihide Suga said Japan was negotiating with the Chinese government on evacuating Japanese from the Wuhan area. He declined to go into details on the timing. Japan also officially designated the virus as an infectious disease, meaning people can be quarantined and hospitalized to try to prevent the spread of the virus.

UNITED STATES

The U.S. Consulate in Wuhan plans a charter flight to Southern California to for its personnel and some other Americans. The State Department said the flight will leave this morning for Ontario, California. The plane will refuel in Anchorage, Alaska, where the passengers will be rescreened, according to the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services.

FRANCE

Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said French citizens who want to leave Wuhan will be taken on a direct flight to France in the middle of the week, and then held in quarantine for 14 days. France has some 800 citizens in Wuhan. French automaker PSA, which pro-

duces Peugeot and Citroen cars, said it was evacuating its expatriate employees and their families from Wuhan and quarantining them in another city. It didn't elaborate.

SRI LANKA

The embassy in Beijing has applied for a Sri Lankan Airlines plane to be allowed to land at the Wuhan airport to airlift home 32 Sri Lankan students and their family members. The foreign ministry also said it was working to bring back all other Sri Lankan students throughout China, who number about 860.

SOUTH KOREA

Deputy Prime Minister and Economic Minister Hong Nam-ki said the government is making full

preparations to send a chartered plane to bring South Koreans in Wuhan home as soon as a formal government decision to dispatch that aircraft is made. Hong also said the government has raised its infectious disease alert level and is taking preventive measures such as inspecting all people coming from Wuhan and strengthening quarantine.

GERMANY

Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said that his country is considering evacuating its citizens from Wuhan, with a government crisis response committee meeting soon with medical experts to evaluate the situation. He said the number of German citizens in Wuhan is in the double digits. The

foreign ministry currently advises Germans to refrain from or postpone "non-essential travel" to China.

PORTUGAL

Portugal says it has joined with other smaller European Union countries to organize a possible evacuation of their citizens from Wuhan. Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva said 14 Portuguese have asked to be taken out of the city. Santos Silva says other EU countries with low numbers of potential evacuees are considering a joint operation and have approached Chinese health authorities about gaining clearance for it. He did not identify the other countries. French health official Jerome Salomon says France may take non-French peo-

ple on the flight it's trying to arrange.

THAILAND

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said his country's Defense Ministry was ready to evacuate its citizens from affected areas in China, but hadn't yet received permission from the Chinese government. The Thai Foreign Ministry says there are 64 Thais in Wuhan and 18 elsewhere in Hubei province.

AUSTRALIA

Foreign Minister Marise Payne said her government is "exploring all opportunities" to help with evacuation of a number of Australians reportedly in Wuhan. She didn't elaborate. Australia doesn't have a consular presence in Wuhan.

AP PHOTO



BORIS JOHNSON WALKS HUAWEI TIGHTROPE AS UK SETS UP CLASH WITH TRUMP

ALEX MORALES & THOMAS SEAL

IT'S the kind of balancing act Britain may have to get used to as the country forges its way in the world after leaving the European Union.

Two days before Brexit becomes reality after years of infighting, the government in London is trying to reconcile an increasingly truculent U.S. with the demands of the domestic market in the debate over whether Huawei Technologies Co. should be involved in upgrading telecom networks. The U.S. has campaigned for a ban on the Chinese giant citing security concerns.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government is set to allow the company to build fifth-generation wireless networks. Huawei is certain to be banned from core parts of the network after Digital and Culture Secretary Nicky Morgan earlier this month vowed to keep the company out of "critical national infrastructure." The U.K. could also impose stricter rules to limit telecom companies' reliance on any one vendor to curb Huawei's market influence.

While the decision will end months of political wrangling, it remains fraught with peril for Johnson as he prepares to end 47 years of EU membership for the U.K. A key pillar of his vision for a future outside the world's richest single market is a trade deal with the U.S. and the Huawei license risks setting up a clash with President Donald Trump.

Johnson discussed Huawei in a phone call with Trump on Friday, though his remarks on Monday suggested he wasn't swayed by

the push for a total ban. The prime minister said the U.K. could have the best of both worlds: retaining access to the best technology while protecting the data of consumers. British security services deem the risks manageable.

"We are going to come up with a solution that enables us to achieve both those objectives and that's the way forward," Johnson said. "There's no reason why we shouldn't have technological progress here in the U.K. but also protect our security interests and protect our key partnerships with other security powers around the world."

DATA SOVEREIGNTY

Under the decision, due to be announced after a meeting of the National Security Council, British phone carriers like BT Group Plc are likely to be permitted to buy antennas for 5G networks from the Shenzhen-based vendor.

That would also appease the Chinese side. The equipment that Huawei would be allowed to supply are the most lucrative parts of the 5G roll-out. It would also mean the U.K. can avoid delaying the advent of ultra-fast internet that Johnson pledged in last month's general election.

Huawei has been a key supplier to the U.K. and many other European phone networks for over a decade. The decision by Johnson will be closely watched particularly in Germany and Scandinavia where governments are also weighing the pros and cons of giving the green light to the company.

In fact, many European nations and Canada are leaning in the same direction as the U.K. The EU will publish its own guidelines today, which give leeway to member states to restrict or ban Huawei without forcing them to do so. According to a draft of the document seen by Bloomberg, countries should consider banning suppliers based in countries with insufficient "democratic checks and balances" from core 5G components.

The EU will publish its own guidelines today, which give leeway to member states to restrict or ban Huawei without forcing them to do so

What that indicates is that despite intense U.S. lobbying, China has been effective in exercising its own leverage. It is the EU's second-biggest trading partner and had threatened countries with retaliation if a ban is imposed.

For the U.K. timing of its announcement is particularly sensitive because U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo is due to visit later this week. On Sunday, he re-tweeted an op-ed on Huawei by Tom Tugendhat, an influential Conservative backbench Member of Parliament who opposes the Chinese company's involvement in British networks.

"The U.K. has a momentous decision ahead on 5G," Pompeo tweeted. "British MP Tom Tugendhat

gets it right: 'The truth is that only nations able to protect their data will be sovereign.'"

BREXIT DIVIDEND

The U.K. is due to leave the EU on Friday and securing a trade deal with the U.S. has been hailed by Johnson as one of the great prizes of Brexit. But there's friction on several fronts between the two long-time allies. They've also clashed over British plans for a digital tax on U.S. technology giants and the U.S. refusal to extradite the wife of an American diplomat over her involvement in a fatal car crash in the U.K.

As well as trade, there's also the issue of sharing intelligence. American officials have said they may be wary of doing so with countries that use Huawei's equipment because the kit may be used to facilitate Chinese espionage. They argue 5G technology, which will enable automated cities, vehicles and factories, creates new vulnerabilities and the safest route is to ban the Chinese supplier completely.

Huawei has always denied it poses a security risk. Yet within the "Five Eyes" intelligence-sharing partnership, the U.S., Australia and New Zealand have effectively banned Huawei, while Canada has yet to make a decision.

Tugendhat, the British lawmaker, led domestic calls for the U.K. to shun Huawei after posing an "urgent question" to Digital Minister Matt Warman on Monday. "Any decision that is made will nest a dragon into our critical national infrastructure or

not," Tugendhat told the House of Commons. "This is a decision that we will live with for the next 10, 15 or 20 years."

He was backed by other members of Johnson's Conservatives. Former party leader Iain Duncan Smith, a prominent Brexit supporter, said the U.K. was in a cyber war with China and urging ministers to "reject Huawei immediately."

NO ALTERNATIVE

Huawei has roughly a third of the U.K. telecom equipment market. Across Europe, its key competitors are Ericsson AB and Nokia Oyj. Johnson suggested earlier this month that the U.S. had failed to indicate a credible alternative supplier that would allow Britain to access "the best possible technology."

Warman on Monday was keen to show that the government wants to reduce Britain's reliance on the Chinese company. "There are alternatives to Huawei, and we would of course seek to use them as much as possible," he told parliament.

Under Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, the National Security Council had concluded Huawei could be allowed to operate in parts of the nation's network. The finding was leaked in April, and an inquiry into the breach ended in the sacking of a cabinet minister.

That, along with a 2019 Conservative leadership contest after May resigned, last month's election and the endless pressure of Brexit negotiations, delayed the final decision. The consequences may yet still play out. **BLOOMBERG**

NORTH KOREA

Kim's aunt reemerges after years of speculation about fate

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un's aunt made her first public appearance in about six years, state media reported Sunday, quelling years of rumors that she was purged or executed by her nephew after helping him inherit power from his father.

According to a Korean Central News Agency dispatch, the name of Kim Kyong Hui was included in a list of top North Korean officials who watched a performance marking Lunar New Year's Day with Kim Jong Un at a Pyongyang theater on Saturday.

North Korea's main newspaper also released a photo showing Kim Kyong Hui sitting near Kim Jong Un and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, at the Samjiyon Theater.

Kim Kyong Hui, 73, was once an influential figure in North Korea as the only sister of late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, the father of Kim Jong Un. She had initially kept a low profile during the early part of her brother's rule, but Kim Kyong Hui later frequently accompanied him on his inspection trips after he suffered a stroke in 2008.

While taking up many top posts such as a four-star army gene-



Kim Kyong Hui (right)

ral and a member of the powerful Politburo, she was also believed to have played a key role in grooming Kim Jong Un as the next leader. Kim Jong Un eventually took power after his father died of a heart attack in late 2011, in the North's second father-to-son power transfer.

Kim Kyong Hui's fate had been

in doubt after Kim Jong Un had her husband and the North's No. 2 official, Jang Song Thaek, executed for treason and corruption in December 2013. His death was reported by the North and remains the most significant in a series of executions or purges that Kim Jong Un has engineered in what outside experts believe were attempts

to remove potential rivals and cement his grip on power.

Days after Jang's execution, Kim Kyong Hui's name was mentioned in a KCNA dispatch as a member of a funeral committee for another top official. But she missed a state ceremony commemorating the second anniversary of Kim Jong Il's death days

later. Her name had since never been mentioned in North Korean state media until Sunday's KCNA report.

Some North Korea monitoring groups in Seoul and foreign media outlets had speculated Kim Jong Un had his aunt executed or purged, or she died of health problems. Outside experts said Kim Kyong Hui had long suffered from liver and heart problems and high blood pressure.

It's extremely difficult to track developments in North Korea, the world's most closed country. Supposedly executed officials have later appeared on the North's state TV. Even South Korea's spy agency has had a mixed record on figuring out what's going across the border, but it previously dismissed speculation on Kim Kyong Hui's possible execution and said she was receiving medical treatment.

Analyst Cheong Seong-Chang at South Korea's private Sejong Institute said Kim Kyong Hui's reemergence suggested Kim Jong Un was attempting to strengthen the unity of his ruling family as he's pushing to harden his position toward the United States in stalled nuclear negotiations.

Cheong, however, predicted that Kim Kyong Hui won't likely regain her political influence as she now has no position in the Politburo, which has already been filled with new figures.

Since Kim Jong Un's grandfather Kim Il Sung established the North Korean government in 1948, his family has carried on the veneration of royal blood, making the Kims the subject of an intense personality cult. AP

NEW ZEALAND

Ardern seeking reelection in Sept. 19 vote

NICK PERRY,
WASHINGTON

PRIME Minister Jacinda Ardern may be lauded around the world as a liberal icon but whether she can translate that into a reelection victory in September remains uncertain.

Ardern yesterday announced the general elections would be held on Sept. 19. She is seeking a second term in office and is expected to face tough competition from conservative challenger Simon Bridges.

Voters will also decide on two contentious social issues in referendums on the same date: whether to legalize euthanasia, and whether to legalize recreational marijuana.

Ardern promised to run "a positive, a factual and a robust" election campaign.



"New Zealanders deserve freedom from misinformation and some of the negative style of campaigning that we have seen take place

overseas," she said.

She said her government was responsible for overseeing a strong economy and making crucial invest-

ments in health, education and reducing child poverty.

Ardern is seen by many of her supporters globally as the antithesis of Presi-

dent Donald Trump. She was widely lauded for her empathy after a white supremacist gunman attacked two mosques in March, killing 51 Muslim worshippers. She is also seen as a role model of a high-profile working mother after giving birth to a daughter while in office.

But her international acclaim has sometimes been regarded with suspicion at home, where she and her Labour Party remain locked in a tight struggle for support with Bridges' National Party. Polls indicate the election will be a close contest.

"Bring it on," Bridges said in a statement, saying that while Ardern and her Labour Party had promised much, they had delivered little.

"New Zealanders know

we will get things done, whether it's more money in your pocket, a stronger economy, less tax, building infrastructure and roads or keeping families safer from increasing gang violence," Bridges said.

Under New Zealand's proportional voting system, which is similar to the model used in Germany, political parties must generally form alliances to govern. That makes the votes won by smaller parties crucial to the outcome. That was the case in the last election, with mercurial politician Winston Peters and his small New Zealand First party choosing to side with Ardern, allowing her to govern.

The scramble for votes appears to be already underway, with Ardern due today to announce billions of dollars in extra infrastructure spending.

New Zealand holds its elections every three years, with the government deciding the exact date. AP



AP PHOTO

IS TRIES TO STAGE COMEBACK AMID RISING US-IRAN TENSIONS

BASSEM MROUE, BEIRUT

THE Islamic State group's self-styled "caliphate" across parts of Iraq and Syria seemed largely defeated last year, with the loss of its territory, the killing of its founder in a U.S. raid and an unprecedented crackdown on its social media propaganda machine.

But tensions between the United States and Iran and the resulting clash over the U.S. military presence in the region provide a comeback opportunity for the extremist group, whose remnants have been gradually building up a guerrilla campaign over the past year, experts say.

American troops in Iraq had to pause their operations against IS for nearly two weeks amid the tensions. From the other side, Iranian-backed Iraqi militiamen who once focused on fighting the militants have turned their attention to evicting U.S. troops from the Middle East.

In the meantime, Islamic State group sleeper cells intensified ambushes in Iraq and Syria in the past few weeks, killing and wounding dozens of their opponents in both countries. Activists and residents say the attacks have intensified since the U.S. killed top Ira-

nian general Qassem Soleimani in a Jan. 3 drone strike at Baghdad's airport.

It is not clear whether the uptick is related to the repercussions that followed from the strike, and it is possible some of the attacks had been planned before Soleimani's killing. U.S. officials deny seeing any particular increase in IS activities. "They haven't taken advantage of it, as far as we can see," said James Jeffrey, the State Department envoy to the international coalition fighting the Islamic State.

Mervan Qamishlo, a spokesman for Syria's U.S.-backed Kurdish-led force, said the intensification of IS attacks began even earlier, since October, when Turkey began a military operation against Kurdish fighters in northern Syria.

Still, the militants clearly gained at least temporary breathing room as the killing of Soleimani, along with a senior Iraqi militia leader, brought Iran and the U.S. to the brink of all-out war and outraged Iraqis, who considered the strike a fla-

grant breach of sovereignty.

On Jan. 5, Iraq's parliament called for the expulsion of the 5,200 U.S. troops from the country who have been there since 2014 on a mission to train Iraqi forces and assist in the fight against IS. The U.S.-led coalition then put the fight against IS on hold to focus on protecting its troops and bases. It said last week that it had resumed those operations after a 10-day halt.

IS members and supporters have [...] projected power with the grisly videos they released on social media showing beheadings, amputations and victims burned to death

"This tension will for sure help Daesh, as all forces fighting it become busy with other matters," warned Abdullah Suleiman Ali, a Syrian researcher who focuses on jihadi groups, using the Arabic acronym for IS.

Among other things, he said

Iran-U.S. tensions help give IS the opportunity to restructure as its new leader, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, strengthens his grip. Al-Qurayshi was announced in the post after long-time leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed by a U.S. raid in Syria in October.

"The day the American-Iranian clash began, Daesh started intensifying its attacks," said Rami Aburrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor.

On Jan. 14, IS launched a cross border attack from Syria into Iraq, killing an Iraqi officer. A day later, IS fighters attacked an Iraqi force in the central Salaheddine region, killing two soldiers and wounding five. Two days later, an Iraqi intelligence major was killed in a car bomb north of Baghdad.

One of the deadliest attacks occurred in Syria on Jan. 14, when IS fighters stole some 2,000 cattle from a village near the eastern town of Mayadeen. One of the four shepherds that own the ca-

ttle informed authorities, and a Syrian government military force was sent to the area, where they were met by IS fire.

As the forces returned to their base, IS gunmen laid an ambush, killing 11 troops and pro-government fighters as well as two shepherds.

IS published photos showing bodies of soldiers said to have been killed in the attack, along with a destroyed armored vehicle and an overturned truck.

On the same day, seven shepherds were found shot dead west of the eastern city of Deir el-Zour. On Jan. 4, 21 shepherds were found shot in the back of their heads, their hands were tied behind their backs.

Dozens of members of the U.S.-backed Kurdish-led Syrian democratic Forces have been killed over the past months in attacks claimed by IS as well.

With the painful strikes, IS is "taking advantage to boost its influence" and send a message to their supporters that they are still strong, said Omar Abu Laila, an activist from Deir el-Zour now based in Europe.

"Some civilians don't dare leave their homes after sunset because of fear of Daesh," Abu Laila said.

The group is also trying to restore its presence on social media and the Internet — a key component to its ability to raise financial support from abroad and recruit new fighters.

IS members and supporters have for years sown fear and projected power with the grisly videos they released on social media showing beheadings, amputations and victims burned to death or thrown from buildings.

In recent weeks, European authorities, coordinated by Europol, have shut down thousands of IS propaganda platforms and communication channels in an unprecedented crackdown. In particular, the crackdown forced IS's news agency and other channels off the Telegram text messaging system, the group's primary outlet since 2015.

"The Europol campaign of November had a massive impact on ISIS support networks on Telegram," said Amarnath Amarasingam, a terrorism researcher at Queen's University in Ontario, Canada.

Since then, the extremists have shifted to other messaging platforms including the Russia-based TamTam, Canada-based Hoop Messenger and BCM Messenger. They also tried to get back on Twitter using hacked accounts, Amarasingam said.

So far, those efforts have not been very successful as international authorities work to chase them down on those outlets as well.

"None of this is really matching the presence they had on Telegram from 2015 onwards," Amarasingam said. **AP**

Prince Andrew called uncooperative in Jeffrey Epstein probe

DEEPTI HAJELA, NEW YORK

B RITAIN'S Prince Andrew has provided "zero cooperation" to the American investigators who want to interview him as part of their sex trafficking probe into Jeffrey Epstein, a U.S. prosecutor said yesterday [Macau time].

Speaking at a news conference outside Epstein's New York mansion, U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said prosecutors and the FBI had contacted Andrew's lawyers and asked to interview him.

"To date, Prince Andrew has provided zero cooperation," said Berman, the top federal prosecutor in Manhattan.

Buckingham Palace declined to comment.

Andrew announced last year that he was withdrawing from his royal duties amid renewed public attention on a woman's claim that she had several sexual encounters with the prince at Epstein's behest, starting when she was 17.

Virginia Roberts Giuffre says that after meeting Epstein in Flo-



US Attorney Geoffrey Berman

rida in 2000, the millionaire flew her around the world and pressured her into having sex with numerous older men, including Andrew, two senior U.S. politicians, a noted academic, wealthy financiers and the attorney Alan Dershowitz, who is now part of President Donald Trump's impeachment defense team.

All of those men have denied the allegations. Epstein killed himself in his jail cell last summer

while he was awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges.

Giuffre has said she had sex with Andrew three times, including once in London in 2001 at the home of Epstein's girlfriend, Ghislaine Maxwell.

It isn't clear what legal exposure Andrew might have in the case, if any. The age of consent for sex is 16 in England and 17 in New York. However, Giuffre claims that she was paid by Epstein for her

sexual encounters with Andrew. That could constitute a violation of U.S. sex trafficking laws if she was under age 18 or was coerced into unwanted sex acts.

Andrew, who is eight in line for the British throne, and Maxwell have both denied any knowledge that Epstein was sexually abusing teenage girls. In a TV interview last fall, Andrew insisted he was out having pizza with his children on the night Giuffre says they were together in London.

U.S. Attorney General William Barr has vowed to aggressively investigate and bring charges against anyone who may have helped Epstein.

Andrew, in the statement he released in November announcing his intention to "step back from public duties," said he regretted his "ill-judged association with Jeffrey Epstein."

"Of course, I am willing to help any appropriate law enforcement agency with their investigations, if required," he wrote.

Berman made his remarks about the case during a joint

appearance with members of Safe Horizon, a nonprofit victim services agency, to discuss a new New York law that made it easier for people to sue over childhood sexual abuse.

He wouldn't discuss the Epstein investigation in detail but reiterated that the case didn't end with his death.

"Jeffrey Epstein couldn't have done what he did without the assistance of others, and I can assure you that the investigation is moving forward," Berman said.

Numerous women who said they were sexually abused by Epstein as teenagers have claimed in lawsuits and interviews that he got help recruiting young girls from both Maxwell and several assistants.

Giuffre's lawyers have, for months, been calling on Andrew to agree to be interviewed both by investigators and by the lawyers helping the women with those civil lawsuits.

To date, the only people besides Epstein who were charged in connection with the scandal are two jail guards who were supposed to be monitoring Epstein the night he was found dead. Both have been charged with falsifying the jail's log books to indicate they were performing checks on prisoners, when they were actually sleeping or browsing the internet. AP

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what's ON



EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY TAM CHECK WUN AND LAO CHON HONG, ARTISTS WINNING THE GRAND PRIZE OF THE JURY AWARD OF THE COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF MACAU ARTISTS 2017

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 1, 2020

VENUE: Exhibitions Gallery and the Nostalgic House of the Taipa Houses

ADMISSION: Free

EXHIBITION BY LIO MAN CHEONG

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: February 9, 2020

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM, No.8, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

MOVE! INTO THE WILDLIFE

TIME: 12PM-8PM

UNTIL: February 9, 2020

VENUE: 2/F, Broadway Macau

ADMISSION: MOP120

KONG SENG TICKETING SERVICE: 2855 5555

ART RESEARCH PROJECT: MACAU CANIDROME – POUCHING TSAI SOLO EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 11, 2020

VENUE: Post – Ox Warehouse Experimental Site, No.15, Rua do Volong, Macao (Map: E4)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

Offbeat

ANIMAL SHELTER SAYS 'WORLD'S WORST CAT' IS UP FOR ADOPTION

The "world's worst cat" is available for adoption — just ask the Mitchell County Animal Rescue organization in North Carolina.

The shelter about 55 miles (89 kilometers) northeast of Asheville is waiving adoption fees in the hope that someone will take the cat named Perdita off their hands.

The group says on its Facebook page, "We thought she was sick. Turns out she's just a jerk."

A tongue-in-cheek profile of the foul-tempered feline says her dislikes include "dogs, children, the Dixie Chicks, Disney movies, Christmas and last but NOT least ... HUGS." It says she likes lurking, pretending to be sick and "staring into your soul until you feel as if you may never be cheerful again ..."

It adds, "She's single and ready to be socially awkward with a socially awkward human who understands personal space."

Shelter Director Amber Lowery says 4-year-old Perdita came to the facility on Christmas Eve, The Charlotte Observer reported. Since then, the shelter has had to warn visitors that Perdita's attempts to draw passersby to her cage are actually a ruse that will not end well.

"I'm looking at her right now, and she's rolling around in her little bed, looking all sweet and cute, but the minute you try to rub her, she slaps you. We thought she was in pain and took her to the vet and he said: 'No, this cat is just a jerk,'" Lowery told the newspaper.

Her Facebook post has drawn thousands of "likes" — and a followup post says more than 50 applications to adopt her have been submitted.

One person wrote on the shelter's Facebook page that they hoped Perdita finds "the goth home of her dreams." The shelter replied, "Us too ... like soon."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	O Dador de Memórias
16:45	Glastonbury
18:05	Império (Repetição)
18:55	Linha da Frente
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Macau 20 Anos - A Casa Ganha Sempre: A Grande Aposta no Jogo
21:55	Dez Grandes Segredos e Mistérios
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Madre Paula
00:40	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:25	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

23 - 30 Jan



ENTER THE FAT DRAGON

ROOM 1

2:00, 6:05pm

Director: Kenji Tanigakari

Starring: Donnie Yen, Teresa Mo, Niki Chow

Language: Chinese (Chinese, English)

Duration: 123min

TO BE OR NOT TO BE

ROOM 1

3:50, 8:00, 10:15pm

Director: Dayo Wong

Starring: Dayo Wong, Annie Liu, Catherine Chau

Language: Chinese (Chinese, English)

Duration: 109min



DOLITTLE

ROOM 2

2:00, 5:50, 9:45pm

Director: Stephen Gaghan

Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Antonio Banderas

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 125min

ALLS WELL THAT ENDS WELL 2020

ROOM 2/3

2:55, 7:45, 9:30pm

Director: Raymond Wong

Starring: Julian Cheang, Louis Cheung, Raymond Wong

Language: Chinese (Chinese/English)

Duration: 101min

SPIES IN DISGUISE

ROOM 3

2:00, 3:55, 7:30pm

Director: Troy Quanc, Nick Bruno

Language: Chinese

Duration: 120min

this day in history



1987 AQUINO SUPPRESSES REBEL UPRISING

President of the Philippines Corazon Aquino has forced a group of heavily armed rebels occupying a television station to surrender.

Her troops fired tear gas into the Channel 7 building in Manila to try to flush out the group who have occupied the centre for the last two days.

A few minutes later they all surrendered.

Around 1,000 heavily armed troops wearing gas masks, surrounded the building just before the attack.

The rebels were warned that they had 15 seconds to surrender over a loud speaker but the army were forced to move in.

Following the stand off President Aquino said: "Here was a determined attempt to disrupt the affairs of government and those of the people at large.

"Here was a determined attempt to overthrow the first principle of democracy, which is civilian supremacy by those specially charged with its preservation."

Earlier, the rebel leader Colonel Oscar Canlas had hinted that they would surrender and follow orders from the Armed Forces, Chief General Fidel Ramos, who had repeatedly ordered the group to give themselves up.

But Colonel Canlas insisted that unspecified arrangements had to be made first and the armed forces refused.

Although the rebels had control of the building, loyal officials cut off their electricity supply to prevent them from broadcasting.

The take-over was part of a series of carefully orchestrated attacks on key military bases and broadcasting stations.

The rebels also attacked the Villamor air force base near Manila airport in the south of the city but armed forces prevented their assault after 10 minutes of heavy fighting.

Two rebels were killed and another 50 captured in the conflict.

General Ramos later said that government troops are now in control of all the areas targeted by the armed group."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following the uprising, Corazon Aquino ordered the arrest of a number of dissident high ranking army officers involved in the rebellion.

Despite re-election to power shortly after the coup, another attempt was made to topple her government in August 1987.

It was the fifth uprising following her controversial election victory in spring 1986.

Throughout her term in office the Philippines remained in deep political crisis primarily because she took over from a corrupt dictatorship and tried to install a democratic regime.

At the same time she inherited a Communist insurrection as well as a restless right-wing military regime who were used to serving under martial law.

She survived one more coup attempt before Fidel Ramos succeeded her as the next president in 1992.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
All of this luxury can be tempting, but it's not something you can comfortably afford right now. Step back and try and stay grounded. Remember that debt is neither a sign of success nor sexy.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Right now, being grounded is the only thing that will enable you to connect with other people. And that's what it will take to build that new relationship you want so badly.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Sometimes it's hard for you to hear the truth. Then again, sometimes (like today), it's even harder for you to tell someone else the truth! But honesty is essential, especially in this relationship.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
It's in your best interests to speak up and let them know that while you understand things might be hard for them right now, they can't expect you to suffer, too.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
No matter where you go or who you talk to today, you're sure to make a very good impression on all the right people. This is a great time to move your social life into more exotic and stimulating territory.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
The best thing for your ego right now is honest, old-fashioned hard work. Roll up your sleeves and get started doing something that enables you to see real progress by the end of the day.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Watch out for people who are trying to quiet you down. They're just afraid that you'll show them up. Don't let their insecurities stop you from making a major power play.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Despite all the hard work and sacrifice that you'll need to put into this thing, you should have confidence about what's in store. This will be a good thing for you and the people you love.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Don't try to slide by on the cheap. You'll only annoy others and deprive yourself of the whole experience. Go with an "in for a penny, in for a pound" attitude.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You won't be watching the clock and wondering when quitting time is. Consider yourself lucky that you'll be able to stay active and engaged. That's not the case for everyone.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Are you trying to make a decision? If it's taking too long for your liking, or if other people are pushing you to hurry up already, then you have to do what it takes to figure things out today.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
The only trouble is, you haven't asked any of them for their advice! Try to see their meddlesome ways as a sign that you matter in other people's lives. They want you to be happy, which is more flattering than annoying.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY					EASY+							
5			6	2	9	2	7					
			2	7	5		1		5			
9	8							7	1	2	5	
	1	3		7	4	3	6		4			
	7	2			3	4	1		2		7	
			6	3	8	1			3		8	6
					5	1	7	3	4	9		
	5	7	6					7		8		
7	3		1			4				7	9	

MEDIUM					HARD										
3	7		9					1	8	2				1	8
		6							2	6		2			5
9	2		8											4	3
				4	8	3	1	8							
			1				7								
	6	8	7					4	5	2				7	1
			9	7	4										
6				9					3						
	9			6	2	5									

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	7	smoggy
Harbin	-19	-8	clear
Tianjin	-1	5	smoggy
Urumqi	-9	-4	cloudy
Xi'an	-2	11	clear
Lhasa	-5	9	clear
Chengdu	4	12	overcast
Chongqing	7	15	cloudy
Kunming	1	11	cloudy
Nanjing	0	9	clear
Shanghai	3	8	cloudy
Wuhan	-1	12	clear
Hangzhou	3	10	clear
Taipei	10	13	overcast
Guangzhou	8	16	cloudy
Hong Kong	11	17	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	0	2	drizzle
Frankfurt	2	8	drizzle
Paris	5	8	drizzle
London	3	7	drizzle
New York	-7	3	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Petty quarrel, ejected saliva; 5- Watery animal fluid; 10- Zip; 14- Chantilly product; 15- Shut; 16- Self-images; 17- Weapons; 18- Senior; 19- Flying stinger; 20- False show; 22- Van Gogh masterpiece; 24- Greek nickname; 25- Lyric poems; 26- Kind of license or justice; 29- Soft metallic element; 33- Nahuatl speaker; 34- Moon of Jupiter; 36- Compass dir.; 37- Bud's bud; 38- Kind of kitchen; 39- French connections; 40- Denouement; 41- Immoral habit; 42- Seine spot; 44- Go in again; 47- In some degree; 48- Seemingly forever; 49- Leb. neighbor; 50- Squirts; 53- Arm of the sea?; 58- Knee-slapper; 59- ___ Mio; 61- Arrest; 62- Archipelago part; 63- Lowest point; 64- Elation; 65- Hammer head; 66- Viscid; 67- Differently;

DOWN: 1- Hit with an open hand; 2- Young salmon; 3- Peak; 4- Having a valid will; 5- Attractive route; 6- Building wings; 7- Got on; 8- Application; 9- Longitude; 10- Rather recent; 11- Turkish titles; 12- Prescribed amount; 13- Nile biters; 21- Actor Stoltz; 23- Not emp.; 25- Blast from the past; 26- More wan; 27- Form of oxygen; 28- Piece of music written for a solo instrument; 30- Like helium; 31- Pending; 32- Unordered; 34- Retreats; 35- List-ending abbr.; 38- Vesper; 42- Gone by; 43- Place in order; 45- Tidy up; 46- Plaything; 47- Certain forest; 50- Pack and send; 51- Prepare to be shot; 52- Portrayal by an actor; 53- Commotion; 54- Writer Wiesel; 55- Equal a bet; 56- Falsehoods; 57- Gen. Robert ___; 60- ___ Paulo;

Friday's solution

H	A	V	O	C	A	D	A	R	N	S	A	D
E	L	I	S	E	R	A	T	I	O	T	R	Y
R	E	P	E	L	T	I	B	E	A	M	A	R
L	E	S	S	I	L	I	A	D				
S	E	S	S	I	L	E	P	E	N	U	R	Y
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A	L	L	O	T								
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P	R	E	A	R								
D	R	E	A	R								
G	R	E	E	K								
T	O	C										
S	P	A										
T	S	P										

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AIRBNB LAUNCHES BAHAMAS SABBATICAL TO HELP AFTER DORIAN



AIRBNB is giving a few people a chance to spend a two-month sabbatical in the Bahamas in an attempt to boost the Caribbean island damaged last year by Hurricane Dorian.

At least 67 people were killed and more than \$3.4 billion in damage was caused when Hurricane Dorian swept through the country's hundreds of islands in October 2019.

Airbnb has offered other sabbaticals over the past year to promote the environment. For their latest offer, five people have a chance to visit the three islands wi-

thin the Bahamas that were not affected by the storm: Andros, Eleuthera and Exumas. There, those selected will work on projects for two months including coral reef restoration, pineapple farming, boating building and more, working with the Bahamas National Trust. The nonprofit manages the country's parks and works to preserve its natural habitat.

The trust's executive director, Eric Crey, says the country is "open for business" and the sabbatical is a way to "share our diverse country and the Bahamian way of life with the world."



HUGE, TROPICAL JACKFRUIT CATCHES ON AS A MEAT SUBSTITUTE

IF you've never heard of jackfruit, keep your eyes open: You'll start noticing it everywhere.

Jackfruit is a very large tropical fruit often used as a meat substitute. It packs some nutritional wallop, and the fact that you can cook, chunk or shred it like chicken or pork makes it a go-to main ingredient in many vegetarian and vegan dishes.

Its flavor is neutral, and it takes to all kinds of seasonings.

Jackfruit is native to India, and also grows in Southeast Asia, Mexico, the Caribbean and South America. It ranges from 15 pounds to a whopping 70.

For cooking, freshly picked, non-ripe jackfruit generally is used. Once ripe, jackfruit can be used in sweeter dessert preparations.

It's available whole or sliced into more manageable pieces. Unripe, it's green and unyielding; as it ripens, it softens, turns yellow, gets some brown spots and starts to smell fruity.

It's also sold canned, sometimes in brine or syrup, and you can find various types in specialty and Asian food stores and, increasingly, traditional supermarkets. Jackfruit is also popping up on menus at vegan and vegetarian restaurants across North America.

BERLIN ZOO PREPARES PANDA CUBS FOR THEIR BIG DAY OUT

TWO baby pandas born at Berlin's zoo have been chipped and checked in preparation for their first public outing in a few days, officials said Monday.

The zoo said the 5-month-old cubs, nicknamed Pit and Paulie, were injected with a tiny microchip that's standard for endangered species such as giant pandas.

Keepers also made

sure the panda enclosure is cub-proof by lowering some of the climbing stations designed for their mother, Meng Meng, and draining the water basin, then filling it with soft wood.

The cubs were born last August, the first panda births in Germany. Their parents, Meng Meng and father Jiao Qing, were loaned to the zoo by China in June 2017.



AD

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STEFANIE DAZIO, DAVID KOENIG & BERNARD CONDON

Kobe helicopter tried to climb to avoid clouds before crash

THE pilot of the helicopter that crashed near Los Angeles, killing former NBA superstar Kobe Bryant and eight others, told air traffic controllers in his last radio message that he was climbing to avoid a cloud layer before plunging more than 1,000 feet (305 meters) into a hillside, an accident investigator said.

Radar indicated the helicopter reached a height of 2,300 feet Sunday morning before descending, and the wreckage was found at 1,085 feet, Jennifer Homendy of the National Transportation Safety Board said during a news conference Monday afternoon.

NTSB investigators went to the crash site in Calabasas on Monday to collect evidence.

"The debris field is pretty extensive," Homendy said.

"A piece of the tail is down the hill," she said. "The fuselage is on the other side of that hill. And then the main rotor is about 100 yards [91 meters] beyond that."

Some experts suggested that the pilot might have gotten disoriented because of fog but Homendy said investigating teams would look at everything from the pilot's history to the engines.

"We look at man, machine and the environment," she said. "And weather is just a small portion of that."

The pilot had asked for and received special clearance to fly in heavy fog just minutes before the crash and was flying at 1,400 feet when he went south and then west, Homendy said.

The pilot then asked for air traffic controllers to provide "flight following" radar assistance but was told the craft was too low for that assistance, Homendy said.

About four minutes later, "the pilot advised they were climbing to avoid a cloud layer," she said. "When ATC asked what the pilot planned to do, there was no reply. Radar data indicates the helicopter climbed to 2,300 feet and then began a left descending turn. Last radar contact was around 9:45 a.m."

Two minutes later, someone on the ground called 911 to report the crash.

Randy Waldman, a helicopter flight instructor who teaches at the nearby Van Nuys airport, said a disoriented pilot might have only moments to avoid a fatal dive.

"If you're flying visually, if you get caught in a situation where you can't see out the windshield, the life expectancy of the pilot and the aircraft is maybe 10, 15 seconds, and it happens all the time, and it's really a shame," Waldman said.

Some experts raised questions of whether the helicopter should have even been flying. The weather was so foggy that the Los Angeles Police Department and the



In this April 2016 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant fist-bumps his daughter Gianna

county sheriff's department had grounded their own choppers.

The Sikorsky S-76 killed the retired athlete along with his 13-year-old daughter Gianna and everyone else aboard and scattering debris over an area the size of a football field.

Crews recovered three bodies on Sunday and resumed the effort on Monday amid an outpouring of grief and shock around the world over the loss of the basketball great who helped lead the Los Angeles Lakers to five NBA titles during his dazzling 20-year career.

The pilot was identified as Ara Zobayan. He was the chief pilot for Island Express Helicopters, the aircraft's owner, the company said in a statement.

"Ara has been with the company for over 10 years and has over 8,000 flight hours," the company said, adding that it was working closely with the NTSB to investigate the crash.

Zobayan was commercially certified as a pilot and certified as

a flight instructor, Homendy said.

Several aviation experts said it is not uncommon for helicopter pilots to be given such permission, though some thought it unusual that it would be granted in airspace as busy as that over Los Angeles.

But Kurt Deetz, who flew for Bryant dozens of times in the same chopper that went down, said permission is often granted in the area.

"It happened all the time in the winter months in LA," Deetz said. "You get fog."

The helicopter left Santa Ana in Orange County, south of Los Angeles, shortly after 9 a.m., heading north and then west. Bryant was believed to be headed for his youth sports academy in nearby Thousand Oaks, which was holding a basketball tournament Sunday in which Bryant's daughter, known as Gigi, was competing.

Air traffic controllers noted poor visibility around Burbank to the north and Van Nuys to the

northwest. At one point, the controllers instructed the chopper to circle because of other planes in the area before proceeding.

The aircraft crashed about 30 miles (48 kilometers) northwest of downtown Los Angeles. When it struck the ground, it was flying at about 184 mph (296 kph) and descending at a rate of more than 4,000 feet per minute, according to data from Flightradar24.

Waldman said the same thing happened to John F. Kennedy Jr. when his plane dropped out of the sky near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, in 1999.

"A lot of times somebody who's doing it for a living is pressured to get their client to where they have to go," Waldman said. "They take chances that maybe they shouldn't take."

Bryant had been known since his playing days for taking helicopters instead of braving the notoriously snarled Los Angeles traffic. "I'm not going into LA without the Mamba chopper," he joked on

"Jimmy Kimmel Live" in 2018, referring to his own nickname, Black Mamba.

David Hoepfner, an expert on helicopter design, said he won't fly on helicopters.

"Part of it is the way they certify and design these things," said Hoepfner, a retired engineering professor at the University of Utah. "But the other part is helicopter pilots often fly in conditions where they shouldn't be flying."

Jerry Kidrick, a retired Army colonel who flew helicopters in Iraq and now teaches at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, Arizona, said the helicopter's rapid climb and fast descent suggest the pilot was disoriented.

When that happens, he said, pilots must instantly switch from visual cues to flying the aircraft using only the machine's instruments.

"It's one of the most dangerous conditions you can be in," Kidrick said. "Oftentimes, your body is telling you something different than what the instruments are telling you. You can feel like you're leaning to the left or the right when you're not. If the pilot isn't trained well enough to believe the instruments, you get in a panic situation."

On Sunday, firefighters hiked in with medical equipment and hoses, and medical personnel rappelled to the site from a helicopter. About 20 investigators were on the site early Monday. The Los Angeles County medical examiner, Dr. Jonathan Lucas, said it could take at least a couple of days to recover the remains.

Among those killed in the crash were John Altobelli, 56, longtime head coach of Southern California's Orange Coast College baseball team; his wife, Keri; and daughter, Alyssa, who played on the same basketball team as Bryant's daughter; and Christina Mauer, a girls' basketball coach at a Southern California elementary school. AP



OPINION

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



SAFE CITIES

In August 2019, The Economist Intelligence Unit published its third Safe Cities Index (SCI), which ranks 60 cities across 57 indicators covering digital security, health security, infrastructure security and personal security. The research underpinning the report and its publication is sponsored by the NEC Corporation and is a good example of corporate social responsibility in action.

In the last 100 years, humanity has increasingly lived in cities and this urbanization process is continuing, especially in the developing world. Work and life opportunities and access to services are all improved and are more economically and environmentally sustainable when people live in cities. It is also very true that there is safety in numbers, so cities are generally safer living environments. But without proper precautions, cities can be very polluted and disease-ridden.

The SCI is a detailed benchmarking tool that cities can use to measure a wide range of security inputs and results. It reflects the multifaceted nature of urban safety, with indicators divided into four distinct pillars: digital, infrastructure, health and personal security. The 2019 edition of the SCI has been revised to weave measures of "urban resilience" within each of these four pillars. Urban resilience is defined as the ability of cities to absorb and bounce back from shocks and has become a key issue when thinking about urban safety in recent times, especially as policymakers worry about the implications of climate change.

In order, the top 10 cities analyzed are: Tokyo, Singapore, Osaka, Amsterdam, Sydney, Toronto, Washington DC, Seoul, Copenhagen and Melbourne. The results show that cities must first get the basics right in all areas and then focus on improvements that are tailored to specific local needs. Each of the four pillars require quite distinct interventions involving different agencies and other actors. Cities tend to perform equally well, or equally badly, for all four pillars, indicating that the different kinds of safety are intertwined and mutually supportive – they must be addressed consistently and in integrated ways.

Only 10 points separate the top 24 cities in the SCI, but 40 points separate the next 36 cities, indicating that the top cities are quite consistent while lower ranked cities are good and bad in many different ways. SCI scores are strongly correlated with average incomes – rich cities have the resources, expertise and community will to make themselves safe. The existence of expertise and community will seems to be especially important, because it was found that many lower ranked cities did not "harvest their low hanging fruit", i.e., they did not implement even simple and inexpensive measures to improve city safety, mostly because of ineffective planning and management. The level of transparency in city governance, as measured by the World Bank's Control of Corruption metric, is also strongly correlated with SCI scores, suggesting that local corruption can greatly hamper efforts to improve city safety – criminals want chaos and a lack of rules and enforcement to make their lives easier.

Generally, the SCI shows that excellent and resilient city safety in all its forms relies on focus and perseverance, along with well-resourced and integrated systems to transparently and equitably provide public services. It also requires joint planning by all the relevant stakeholders that builds on a good understanding of infrastructure that uses a city's natural assets as tools to enhance its ability to absorb shocks. Finally, it must promote social connectedness among citizens to create communities that work together.

I feel that it would be well worthwhile for Macau to be included in the next SCI study, even if the government has to pay for it. I am confident that Macau would rank well, but it is important for us to know where we stand relative to other cities and where we should focus our efforts to improve the safety of our city. I see no reason why we could not out-rank Tokyo in a few years if we put in some effort.

The European Union is dispatching two flights to evacuate at least 350 healthy European citizens from the Chinese city of Wuhan as a deadly new flu spreads in the region.

The 28-nation union activated a disaster-response mechanism to organize the flights at the request of France, which has a large number of citizens in the Wuhan region.

The initial flights will only carry healthy EU citizens or those without symptoms of the virus, the European Commission said in a statement late yesterday. It said the EU is ready to mobilize further flights in the coming days.

The first flight will carry about 250 French citizens. More than 100 other EU citizens will travel on the second flight. The EU will co-finance the flights.

France's government had already announced that it would organize return flights for both healthy citizens and those with virus symptoms, and that it would hold them in quarantine for 14 days after their arrival in France.

The United States and several other nations prepared to airlift citizens out of a Chinese city at the center of a virus outbreak that has killed more than 100 people.

HONG KONG FAMOUS
FROZEN DUMPLINGS
TESTED FOR SWINE FEVER

JULIE ZHU

THE Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) is following up on the detection of the virus that causes African swine fever in the products of a well-known frozen food brand from Hong Kong.

Recently, the relevant governmental department of the Philippines detected the African swine fever virus in one portion of celery and pork dumplings from Wanchai Ferry Dumplings.

Following the official report of the Philippine government, the IAM claimed to have immediately contacted the concerned government department in the Philippines to gather more information about the batch of the products.

The IAM also contacted Macau's local importers of the products to remind them to pay attention to the origin of the products. Local importers are required to keep the original receipt of the imported commodity.



The IAM warned Macau's traders to not sell any suspicious dumplings and to report such products to the IAM.

The IAM will continue to follow up on this case. The bureau also reassured the public that African swine fever is not a threat to human health as it is a non-zoonotic disease; an animal disease which does not infect humans.

African swine fever broke out on the mainland in August 2018 and quickly swept through the country. Due to the epidemic scale on which the disease was present,

mainland pig farms that supply Macau reduced their live pig supply to the territory, resulting in a substantial decrease in the daily number of live pigs imported from the mainland from over 300 heads to approximately 100 heads at present. Local prices of pork have adjusted to reflect the change in supply.

Yesterday, the IAM also reported that tomorrow, the mainland will supply Macau with 175 live pigs. The bureau believes that this supply is enough to meet Macau's current demand.

Lowest temperature of
this winter recorded

A temperature of 7.9 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday morning at 8 a.m. in Macau, according to the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG).

This marks the lowest temperature registered this winter. According to the SMG, the low temperatures are a result of an intense cold surge due to the winter's monsoons.

This winter's monsoons will bring cold and dry weather to southern China in the next couple of days, although it will be generally fine over the city. Temperatures in the morning and at night will remain relatively cold.

The temperature will rise in the next couple of days. the SMG urges the public to pay attention to weather changes and to keep warm.

At the SMG observatory on Sunday, the mercury dropped to 11.2 degrees, the lowest recorded to date.

Winter between December and February normally has an average temperature ranging between 15.4 degrees to 16.3 degrees. Last November 29, the SMG released a statement saying that normal to above-normal temperature in Macau is expected for this winter.

The annual mean tem-

perature of 2019 was 23.6 degrees, 1 degree higher than the normal between 1981 and 2010, making it the warmest year on record since 1952.

There are multiple new temperature records. The previous average temperature was recorded in 2015 (23.2 degrees), and it was 23.6 degrees in 2019. The previous highest average temperature was recorded in 1959 (26.6 degrees) until it was broken in 2019, with an average of 26.8 degrees. In 2015, the SMG recorded the lowest average temperature on record which was 21.1 degrees, 0.2 degrees lower than that of 2019. JZ



UK Britain has decided to allow Chinese tech giant Huawei to supply new high-speed network equipment, dealing a setback to the U.S. government and its global campaign to press allies into banning the company. The government's decision yesterday is the first by a major U.S. ally on the issue, which has seen intense lobbying from the Trump administration and China as the two vie for technological dominance.



France Airbus said yesterday it has reached potential settlement deals with authorities in the U.S., Britain and France investigating alleged fraud and bribery. If the plea deals are approved by courts in all three countries, that would end four years of investigations that have damaged the European plane maker's reputation and bottom line.

US President Donald Trump's legal team is raising a broad-based attack on the impeachment case against him even as it mostly brushes past allegations in a new book that could undercut a key defense argument at his Senate trial. Former national security adviser John Bolton writes in a manuscript that Trump wanted to withhold military aid from Ukraine until it committed to helping with investigations into Democratic rival Joe Biden. That assertion matters because Trump and his lawyers have repeatedly insisted that he never tied the suspension of security aid to political investigations.

US Google's efforts to allow rival search apps a foothold on its Android phones may fail to steer users to alternatives, warned U.S. upstart DuckDuckGo, the only competitor to win the right to appear as another search option on new handsets across Europe. Google has to prompt users to pick alternative search and web browser apps under the terms of a 2018 European Union antitrust ruling that found the company unfairly ties moneymaking services to the Android software it gives away.