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MEDICAL WORKERS IN HONG KONG VOTED IN FAVOR OF STRIKE ACTION AFTER THE LOCAL GOV'T REFUSED TO CLOSE THE BORDER WITH CHINA

P6

PHILIPPINES OKAYS TRAVEL BAN AFTER FIRST VIRUS DEATH OUTSIDE OF CHINA

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MORE BAD NEWS FOR CASINOS AS CORONAVIRUS FEARS DEAL BLOW TO GAMING REVENUE IN WORST START TO THE YEAR SINCE 2017

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AP PHOTO



Australia Dozens of homes were destroyed overnight in Australia's southeast but the wildfire threat had diminished by yesterday across New South Wales state and around the national capital Canberra, officials said. Bega Valley Mayor Kristy McBain said damage in her region 240 kilometers south of Canberra had yet to be assessed by the New South Wales Rural Fire Service.

AP PHOTO



Japan A Japanese warship departed yesterday for the Middle East to ensure the safety of the country's oil tankers in waters where tensions between the U.S. and Iran are high. The destroyer Takanami with some 200 sailors left Japan's main naval base in Yokosuka, near Tokyo. Its main task is primarily to gather intelligence in the Gulf of Oman and nearby waters.

Malaysia The anti-graft agency said it's already investigating corruption allegations surrounding AirAsia Group Bhd. as detailed in Airbus SE's record \$4 billion bribery settlement. The Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission is in touch with U.K. authorities on the matter. Documents filed in the Airbus case said the planemaker paid \$50 million in sponsorships to a sports team jointly owned by two AirAsia executives as a reward for an order for 180 aircraft, later amended to 135.

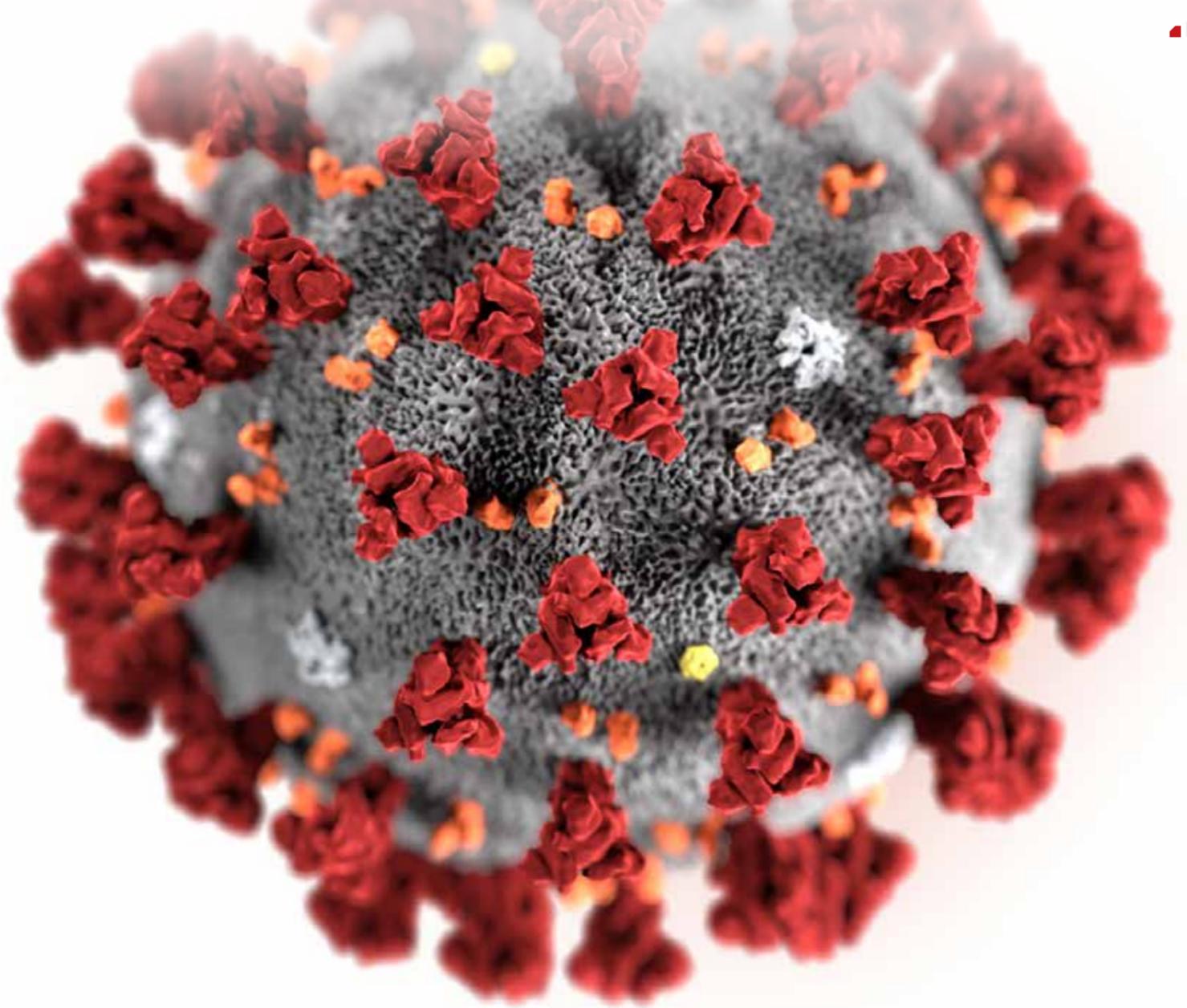
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IMAGE COURTESY CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

VIRUS HUNTER

UM RESEARCHERS DEVELOP GAME-CHANGING 30-MINUTE TESTS FOR CORONAVIRUS

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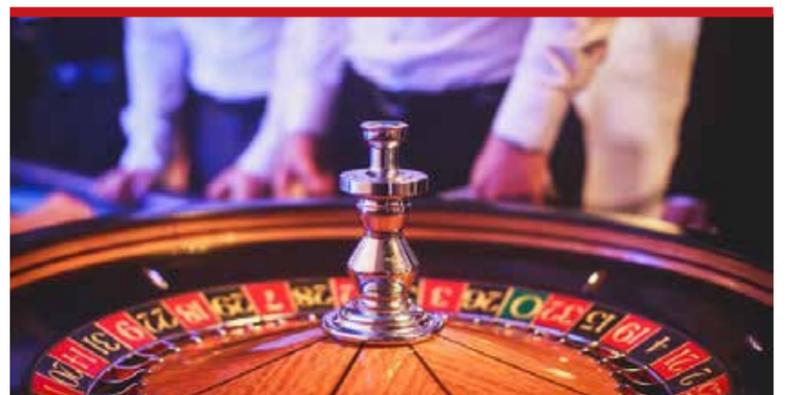


DANIEL BEITLER



GOV'T COUNTING CASE NUMBER EIGHT AS IMPORTED

P2



NO SIGNS OF FORCED LEAVE IN CASINOS SAYS REGULATOR

P4

BANKS TO PROVIDE LIMITED SERVICES STARTING TODAY

The financial sector is resuming services today, but only partially, according to the Monetary Authority of Macao. Starting from today, banks will resume operations, following a week-long suspension of services amid the 2019-nCoV situation. However, services will only be resumed at some, not all, bank branches. The bureau said that the banks will release information regarding their service arrangements on their websites and apps. Besides banks, insurance companies will also resume today, although some will arrange work in shifts or remote work to maintain services. The bureau is also providing basic services, including insurance agents license renewal.

INSURANCE AGENT USES CLIENT'S ID TO BUY MASKS

An insurance agent has been found using his client's ID card to buy masks. The Public Security Police Force (PSP) recently reported that one local insurance agent in his 30s has been forwarded to the prosecutor for using another person's ID card. The man claimed that he had helped over 10 relatives and friends to buy masks on January 26. He claimed to have accidentally used one of his client's ID card to buy masks. Only on January 29, when the client went out to buy masks from a pharmacy in Taipa, was he told that his ID card had been used already. Using another person's identity card, if proven to be identity fraud, is subject to a maximum of three years in prison or an equivalent fine.

14 DAYS OF ISOLATION REQUIRED FOR TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

The Higher Education Bureau (DSES) has required returning university teachers and students to undergo a 14-day period of mandatory isolation at home. These individuals are asked to visit a hospital immediately if they experience discomfort and to report their recent travel history truthfully to medical staff. Yesterday, the DSES urged university students and teachers who returned to Macau from mainland China to self-enforce the isolation measure. The bureau also urged mainland students who are currently in the mainland not to return to universities in Macau and to isolate themselves at home until further notification of the resumption of school activities. Students are also requested to stay home if they live in Macau and are told to avoid visiting crowded places in town.

AP PHOTO



EIGHTH INFECTION IS IMPORTED CASE, SAYS GOV'T

ANTHONY LAM

Eight people in Macau have now been confirmed with the novel coronavirus, information from the city's health authority shows. The latest case, a local retired woman, has been categorized by the government as the eighth imported case, although some doubts remain.

The Health Bureau (SSM) surmised yesterday that as the patient has been mostly at home during the coronavirus' incubation period, it is more likely that she contracted it while earlier visiting the mainland. Accordingly, the government is treating it as another imported case, rather than a local contraction.

The patient's husband and co-inhabitant is being monitored in the quarantine facility, the SSM revealed.

Signs of the infection were initially detected by Kiang Wu Hospital after staff at the medical institution used a computed tomography scan to learn the patient was suffering from pneumonia. She was then sent immediately to the S. Januário Hospital, the centralized facility for the novel coronavirus tes-

ting, for confirmation.

At yesterday's daily press briefing, the SSM revealed the patient's itinerary over the past two weeks. The 64-year-old was hospitalized in Zhuhai for another illness during the week between January 10 and 17.

She did not disclose this crucial piece of information, according to the SSM, to the two medical staff attending her during her three separate hospital consultations in Macau.

When she was discharged from the Zhuhai hospital, she returned to Macau through the Border Gate on the same day. She stayed home for the next few days.

On January 21, she took a coach back to Sanxiang, near Zhongshan, in Guangdong, and returned to Macau through the Border Gate the following day. Between January 23 and 26, she mainly stayed home, except for a brief visit to the Areia Preta Health Center.

On January 28, she went to the government hospital for a medical consultation for fever and coughing. On January 30 and 31, she visited Kiang Wu Hospital twice for her fever. On

both days, she took bus No.7 to and from the hospital.

On February 1, she was admitted to the private hospital and was hospitalized in a single room. On no occasion did she reveal to medical staff that she had been hospitalized in Zhuhai.

Regarding this, representatives from the SSM at yesterday's press briefing reiterated that patients should disclose their travel history truthfully. "It doesn't only affect yourself," said the bureau's director, Lei Chin Ion. "It can affect the entire community."

However, Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the SSM, reminded residents not to panic. "The patient wore a facemask almost the entire time, so her risk of spreading the virus is not extremely high."

The coordinator reminded passengers on bus No.7 that they should be mindful of their own health.

LODGING FOR FOREIGN WORKERS

Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, disclosed that he has met with the Macao

Chamber of Commerce and the General Chinese Foreign Worker Agency. He said that an average of 35,000 foreign workers cross Macau's borders each day, according to the official data.

Lei has encouraged the two organizations to provide accommodation in Macau for foreign workers living across the border, in this way reducing their need to continue with daily crossings. Meanwhile, the secretary has also encouraged the two bodies to allow non-essential staff to stay in their homes on the mainland.

"It is not personal," said the secretary echoing the SSM director. "We should make changes right away to leave no room for regret."

About 3,000 foreign workers from Hubei province are registered in Macau, with about 1,000 of them now back in the mainland and unable to return to Macau because of the requirement to provide medical certification showing they are free from infection.

Also announced at yesterday's briefing, most civil servants will remain exempt from work this week, but some services will resume. For example, the Financial Services Bureau will provide essential services by appointment only. The full list of available services can be viewed on the government's portal website.

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UM develops technology to detect coronavirus in 30 minutes

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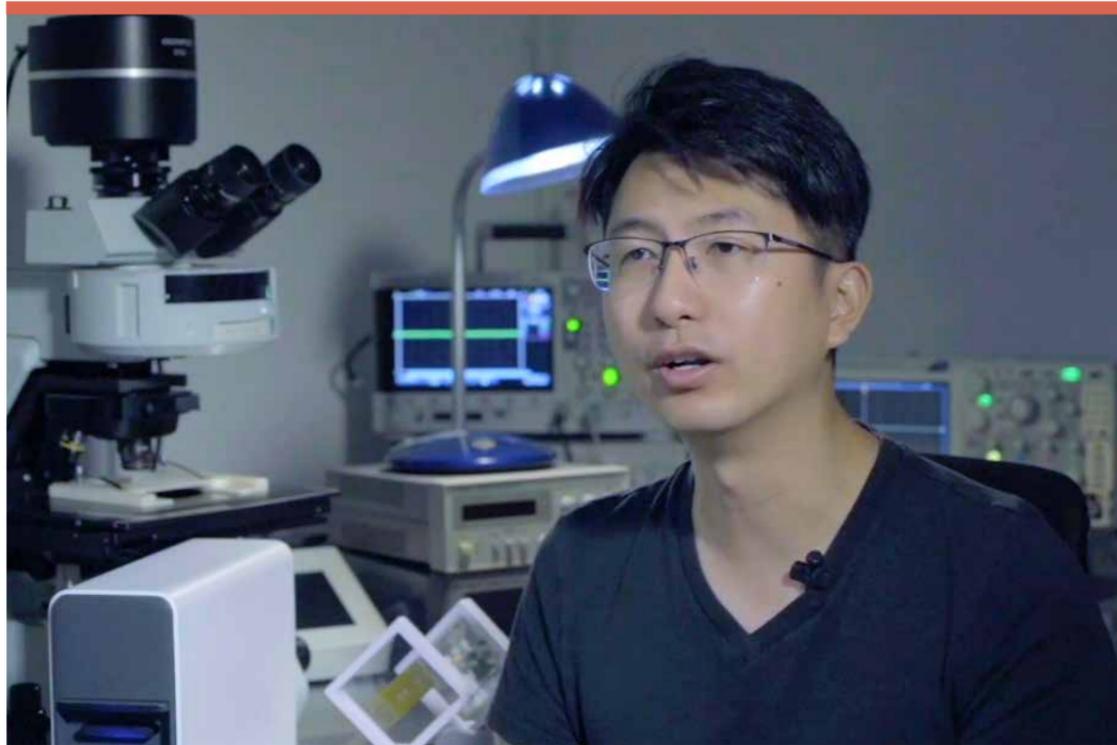
THE University of Macau (UM) has developed a technology which detects the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) in just 30 minutes, the institution advised in a statement.

The "Virus Hunter," a rapid test kit developed with UM patented technology, completes the whole virus detection process within 30 minutes, making it easier and simpler for healthcare professionals to ascertain a patient's condition. The study that led to the technology was conducted by a team of researchers from UM's State Key Laboratory of Analog and Mixed-Signal VLSI (AMS-VLSI), including PhD graduates. The research team has been in contact with medical units to finalize the verification tests which will make the technology ready for use.

The "Virus Hunter" is being developed by Digifluidic Biotech Ltd with the support of technology patented by UM. According to the university, the reagent test kits currently available for the novel coronavirus can only be used in a specific laboratory-controlled situations, making it impossible to use them for on-site tests.

This changes with the "Virus Hunter" test kit, where a nasopharyngeal swab detection chip containing reagent can be used to immediately collect information from the patient and run it through the equipment for rapid detection. The test kit allows frontline personnel to conduct rapid tests on suspected coronavirus patients onsite, helping to streamline the whole detection process.

Chen Tianlan, founder of Digifluidic Biotech Ltd, and a PhD graduate of UM's Faculty



Chen Tianlan, founder of Digifluidic Biotech Ltd and a PhD graduate of UM

of Science and Technology and the AMS-VLSI Lab conducted the research and in the process created this new technology. The company founded by several UM PhD students was officially established in 2018 to produce portable pathogen testing devices.

According to Chen, although some test kits currently on the market claim to take less than 30 minutes to complete the detection, "most of them are based on immunological tests and cannot detect viruses in the early stages of infection." In comparison, "Virus Hunter" uses digital microfluidic chips that replace the manual control part of traditional reagent-based tests, helping to increase the efficiency of detection and reduce the risk of virus transmission.

This is the second major breakthrough in scientific research on ways to tackle the vi-

rus which has infected around 15,000 and caused over 300 deaths in China.

Last week, scientists in Australia became the first to recreate the new coronavirus in a la-

boratory, calling it a "significant breakthrough."

The discovery is being shared among many teams of professionals working on ways to efficiently detect and treat patients to eliminate the virus.

Previously, a group of researchers in China also recreated the virus' genome sequence, but not the virus itself.

Doctors said the virus copy can be used as "control material" for testing, making it "a game-changer" for diagnosis. The scientists say these findings can lead to an early-diagnostic test which could detect the virus in people who have not displayed any symptoms, effectively preventing these people from spreading it to others as well as initiating the treatment at an early stage, considerably improving the chances of a faster recovery.

Australian research leader Dr Mike Catton of the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity said, "an antibody test will enable us to retrospectively test suspected patients so we can gather a more accurate picture of how widespread the virus is, and consequently, among other things, the true mortality rate," adding, "it will also assist in the assessment of effectiveness of trial vaccines."

UM STUDY HIGHLIGHTS MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS AMID EPIDEMIC

A study conducted by a research team from the University of Macau (UM) drew attention to public mental health issues amid the 2019-nCoV outbreak.

The study was conducted by a research team headed by Professor Xiang Yutao from UM Faculty of Health Sciences and was recognized by the international journal, *The Lancet Psychiatry*.

Titled 'Timely Mental Health Care for the 2019-nCoV Outbreak is Urgently Needed,' the paper draws experience from global epidemic outbreaks in the past and discusses the importance of initiating mental health assessment, treatment, and interventions as part of the anti-epidemic campaign against the novel coronavirus outbreak.

During the epidemic, confirmed patients and

suspected patients may experience a range of negative emotions such as feelings of helplessness, loneliness, and anger. In extreme cases, patients may even refuse treatment, become violent or commit suicide. The physical symptoms experienced by these patients can also aggravate mental health problems. In addition, those who have been quarantined, including family members of the patients and close contacts, may experience feelings of guilt.

Frontline medical personnel usually experience more psychological problems because they are at greater risk of catching the virus.

Worrying about catching the virus themselves and spreading it to their family members, friends, and colleagues can lead to severe anxiety and insomnia. **JZ**

AVIAN FLU STRIKES SOUTH OF PNEUMONIA EPICENTER

AVIAN influenza has been found in farmed chickens in Hunan Province, just south of the coronavirus-stricken Hubei Province, China's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs confirmed on its website.

The highly pathogenic H5N1 virus was found in Shaoyang City on Saturday, according to the Ministry.

The farm concerned had 7,850 chickens, of which 4,500 died from the flu. Due to the outbreak, about 18,000 poultry have been culled. Official information states the epidemic is under control.

It is currently unclear if Macau has imported any chicken or other breeds of poultry from the affected region or farm. The Municipality

has stressed that all imports of food and food by-products into Macau would undergo inspection to ensure that they meet food hygiene and safety standards.

To further ensure food hygiene and safety, the bureau has also reminded the general public to wash ingredients thoroughly before cooking. **AL**

POLICE: VIDEOS OF PEOPLE COLLAPSING UNRELATED TO CORONAVIRUS

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) has clarified, in a written reply to the Times, that the series of videos published on social media platforms showing people falling to the ground in Macau are unrelated to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

According to a PSP spokesperson, the videos

of a "man fallen on the street near the Vasco da Gama Garden and a woman who fell at the Border Gate, were both due to excessive drinking and not due to sickness."

The PSP also advises residents to follow the latest updates related on the disease through the official webpage created by the Health Bureau.

Over the past week, several videos and photos have surfaced on social media showing people suddenly collapsing on sidewalks or roads, appearing to lose consciousness. Netizens who shared the video clips said that they feared these incidents were related to untreated infections of the novel coronavirus. **RM**

OPPORTUNITY FOR WORKERS TO LEARN, SAYS EXCO MEMBER

Lee Chong Cheng, a member of the Executive Council, has suggested Macau's workers improve their skills during this period of low business activity amid the 2019-nCoV outbreak. During this morning's TDM radio program, Lee mentioned that under the current global economic environment, Macau's economy is steady but the numbers suggest greater pressure over all sectors and industries in the coming months. Lee pointed out that the construction, gaming and retail sectors represent a large portion of Macau's economy. Amid the economic slowdown, workers should take this "good opportunity" to pick up new skills and improve existing ones.

2020 CELEBRATION EVENT TO CENTER ON UNESCO RECOGNITION

This year, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will focus on the celebration of the 15th anniversary since the Historic Center of Macau was inscribed into the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list in 2005. IC director Mok Ian Ian said that the bureau will organize a series of events themed "Share with the World Heritage," hoping to raise public awareness of historical cultural relic protection. In addition, the IC will launch, in different stages, a world heritage monitoring center. This center is expected to monitor the surrounding environment of Macau's world heritage sites using sophisticated technologies. The center is to be established to improve Macau's protection of world cultural heritage.

IAM AFFIRMS THAT ALL IMPORTED FISH ARE SAFE

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has clarified that Macau has not imported any contaminated fish from mainland China. According to a statement released by the IAM, some members of the Macau public are worried that mainland China has fish culture zones which are contaminated. The IAM said that all fish imported to Macau from mainland China have been imported from legal fish culture zones and that these zones are being "strictly" monitored by the mainland's relevant departments. The IAM said that all imported fish meet Macau's food safety requirements from the perspective of production, hygienic packaging and transportation. The authority also stated that it carries out regular inspections at fish markets to ensure the products' quality and safety.

MJ HARU



GOV'T SAYS NO CASES OF FORCED LEAVE FOUND IN GAMING SECTOR

RENATO MARQUES

THE Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) said it has found no cases of gaming sector operators asking or compelling their staff to take unpaid leave.

After several reports of workplace coercion surfaced last week, the DSAL said in a statement that "no such cases were found," adding that the bureau has also not received any formal complaints from employees.

The situation had prompted the DSAL to contact the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau to investigate the situation, which resulted in a "lack of evidence" regarding operators requesting their staff to take non-paid leave.

Late last week, reports from staff at several companies in the gaming and hotel industry, public transportation, and food and beverage sectors were claiming

that large groups of employees were being invited by their employers to enjoy a period of unpaid leave that ranged from 10 days up to three months.

According to insider sources, some employees were advised to take leave immediately, while others were directed to take it no later than March this year.

In the most extreme cases, some employees were informed about their work being rescheduled and were told not to return to work until a specified date or one to be determined later.

Insider sources also told the Times that there was initially no significant difference in the treatment between resident employees and those holding non-resident work permits (blue cards).

At the same time, the managing director of bus operator Sociedade de Transportes Colectivos de Macau (TCM) acknowle-

dged to public broadcaster TDM that some of the company's drivers were taking annual leave to reflect "the reduction in bus frequency."

In the statement issued by the DSAL, which did not mention any of the other business sectors and focused exclusively on the gaming industry, the bureau pledged to continue to closely monitor the situation to protect employees' legal rights.

Meanwhile, the Times has learned of reports from the food and beverage sector, where several restaurants and similar establishments have announced indefinite closures.

The "Rio Grill & Seafood Capriccio" located at the Macau Fisherman's Wharf, said in an official statement that it "will be temporarily closed from February 3, 2020, until further notice."

In the statement, the com-

pany acknowledges that such a measure was taken, "in order to prevent and cooperate with government control of the new coronavirus pneumonia epidemic."

The Times learned that in the same industry, companies are announcing to their staff with contracts ending this month that they will not be renewed due to adjustments decided by the company in light of a significant drop in the number of customers. The lay-offs are understood to affect mostly non-resident workers.

The Times also learned from an employee of one Macau casino that his company has required staff to take one extra day off per week, a situation that the staff member considered normal given that - according to the employee - the same arrangement was put in place during the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) crisis back in 2003.

Carrier denies passenger boarding following Philippines' travel ban

AIRLINES flying to the Philippines are denying passengers traveling from China - including those from the special administrative regions of Macau and Hong Kong - from boarding flights, following the travel ban that its government issued yesterday.

The Philippine government expanded its

temporary travel ban on China to its territories including Hong Kong and Macau, following the travel ban imposed on tourists coming from Hubei province on January 31.

The Times is aware of a passenger that was supposed to fly from Macau to Manila yesterday via AirAsia but was denied boarding at the departu-

re gate due to the travel ban.

The passenger was issued an official statement which explained that he was denied flying due to the government's ban.

The ban covers all foreigners leaving from China, Hong Kong and Macau, including those who visited these areas within 14 days.

Although Filipino citizens are not subject to the new measure, they may be required to undergo a 14-day quarantine upon entering the country.

Travel from the Philippines to China and its territories will also be prohibited temporarily.

The strict measure was implemented after one of the two confirmed cases

with 2019-nCoV died yesterday (more on p10).

Airlines including Philippine Airlines (PAL), Cebu Pacific Air and AirAsia have announced cancellations of selected flights flying to and from Manila to Macau.

Cebu Pacific Air has extended its cancellation of selected flights until March 29 in light of the developments related to the 2019-nCoV, while PAL and AirAsia suspended several of its inbound and outbound flights until February 29 and March 1 respectively. LV

Gaming revenue drops 11.3% amid coronavirus travel curbs

DANIEL BEITLER

TRAVEL restrictions imposed by the mainland dealt a strong blow to gross gaming revenue in January, in what has become the latest setback for Macau after a dismal 2019 rocked by Hong Kong protests, the China-U.S. trade war and a crackdown on online gambling.

January revenue amounted to 22.12 billion patacas, according to data released by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau over the weekend, down 11.3% in the worst start to the year since 2017. Bloomberg reported the decline being worse than the median analyst estimate of a 9.7% fall.

Behind the sharp contraction is the plummeting number of visitor arrivals from the mainland, Macau's primary tourist source market, where a deadly coronavirus outbreak (2019-nCoV) has infected more than 14,000 and killed over 300 as of Sunday.

Visitor arrivals during the tradi-

BLOOMBERG



tionally busy period of the Lunar New Year plummeted 78% year-on-year between January 24 and 30. The number of mainland visitors dropped even faster at 83%, after China halted visitor visas to the gambling enclave and banned group tours. Macau has also initiated border restrictions.

The Lunar New Year holiday

typically gives about a 10% boost to average Macau casino revenue, according to Bloomberg Intelligence's analyst Margaret Huang.

Prior to the outbreak, market observers had pegged January as a possible rebound month on the basis of pent-up demand from poor visitation in the last quarter of 2019. Specifically, the Decem-

ber visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping was believed responsible for a 13.6% drop in visitor arrivals that month and a nearly proportionate 13.7% year-on-year fall in gross gaming revenue.

With travel restrictions and other precautionary measures likely to remain in effect this month, analysts expect February to

see further contraction as the coronavirus infection continues to spread globally. The high contagion rates imply the impact may last longer than SARS did in 2003, according to UOB Hay Kian's Robin Yuen, and will affect both VIP and casual gamblers.

The Bloomberg Intelligence index of Macau operators fell 10% in January, slipping sharply in the last 10 days as the infection spread rapidly across countries.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said last month he would not rule out the possibility of closing the city's casinos if the circumstances demand it. No such order had been given as of Sunday, but casino staff have been required to don face masks as a preventive measure.

Late last week, a report by credit rating agency Fitch Ratings suggested that the 2019-nCoV outbreak would have a negative impact on the cash flow of Macau casino operators. The report noted that while the casino operators will be able to rely on their strong credit backgrounds to escape the worst of the cash flow crisis in the short-term, there is a long-term risk to credit profiles if the epidemic lasts for more than two quarters.

The casino sector directly accounts for about half of the local economy, but is also a lifeline for many small and medium-sized businesses in the city.

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MEDICAL WORKERS VOTE TO STRIKE AS OUTBREAK WORSENS

ALFRED LIU

THOUSANDS of Hong Kong medical professionals voted to begin a five-day strike today after the government refused their demand to shut all entry points from China amid a deadly virus outbreak on the mainland.

The Hospital Authority Employees Alliance said there were about 99% of "Yes" votes cast by its members on Saturday. More than 9,000 members have pledged to take part, first in suspending non-emergency services offered by the city's Hospital Authority before extending it to providing only limited emergency needs, it said.

Hong Kong authorities have resisted pressure from some groups to shut all its borders with China, where the deadly outbreak has killed more than 300 people and infected more than 14,000 others. Hong Kong has at least 14 confirmed cases of the new strain of coronavirus. The government has extended school holidays and suspended residents of China's Hubei province, where the outbreak is centered, from entering the city.

Measures already announced by the government "are doomed to fail when the government is adamant in refusing to address the crux of the problem," the union said in a statement after the vote. "As country after country begins to announce the banning of foreigners' entry from China, the Hong Kong government chooses to keep its doors wide open.

Hours after Hong Kong medical workers voted, the government appeared to open the door for more controls on travel from the mainland.

"The government is examining the infection continuously and will explore further tightening of the management of control points," a spokesman said. The government appealed to workers "to reconsider their decision" and keep providing service, praising



A medical worker passes the infectious disease centre at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Hong Kong

them for "standing fast at their posts."

The Hospital Authority had a workforce of about 79,000 as of March 2019. The union, established late last year, said the decision to strike "is not an easy one." The group canceled planned negotiations with the Hospital Authority on Sunday because Chief Executive Lam wasn't attending, RTHK reported. It said Lam's refusal to attend means talks had already broken down, according to

Hours after medical workers voted, the government appeared to open the door for more controls on travel from the mainland

the report.

Separately, a Hong Kong Executive Council member said that residents should avoid traveling to the mainland or risk having difficulties returning to the city, Radio Television Hong Kong reported Sunday. Lam Ching-choi's

statement was a sign the government could ramp up border-control restrictions. Lam said possible measures include shortening opening times for ports, limiting transportation and introducing laws to curb cross-border traffic, the report said.

A complete closing of the border sought by the workers is "not the right answer" and is not in line with World Health Organization guidelines, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said at briefing on Friday.

Restrictions on travel to and from China have widened as rising fear of the Wuhan coronavirus prompted countries to bar flights, ignoring the guidance of the World Health Organization. Australia joined the U.S., the Philippines and New Zealand in denying entry to non-citizens traveling from China.

Vietnam halted air travel to China, Italy banned incoming flights, and Qatar Airways became the first Middle East carrier to suspend flights to China. Airli-

nes in Australia and the Philippines also announced similar plans on Saturday.

The union also said its members have flagged dangerous situations that have occurred due to a large number of suspected cases, including lack of personal protective equipment and designated quarters for staff handling isolated patients.

Efforts to fend off an outbreak of the novel coronavirus are posing a challenge to Hong Kong's authorities, notably a citywide shortage of surgical masks that has raised concerns about the government's preparedness to handle such a health crisis.

The fast-spreading virus has reminded many in Hong Kong of the SARS virus in 2003 that originated on the mainland and killed almost 300 people in the financial hub.

"The most feasible way to fight against the pandemic is to eliminate the sources and then allocate the resources and manpower," Winnie Yu, chairperson of the medical workers union, said at a briefing Saturday. "For Hong Kong's future, there is no alternative but to express ourselves through the strike." **BLOOMBERG**

AD

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

HK exports grow in December, ending 13-month decline

HONG Kong's exports rose in December, snapping a 13-month streak of declines that was the longest since 2016 as agreement on a U.S.-China trade deal helped stabilize trade across Asia to close out the year.

Exports expanded to HKD351.3 billion during the month, up 3.3% from a year ago, according to a government release. Imports fell 1.9% to HKD383.8 billion, and the trade deficit widened from the previous month to HKD32.5 billion. For the year, Hong Kong's exports fell 4.1% - their biggest annual decline since 2009 - while imports contracted 6.5%.

The U.S.-China trade war weighed on the territory's economy in the first half of the year, before political protests that began in June tipped the economy into recession. In October, exports plunged by the most since 2016.

"Looking ahead, Hong Kong's export performance is still subject to high uncertainties in the near term," a government spokesman said in the release. "While global

economic conditions showed some signs of stabilization in the latter part of last year, partly helped by reduced trade tensions between the U.S. and the mainland, external uncertainties are still high."

Optimism that an initial trade deal the U.S. and China, signed in mid-January, would spark a revival at the city's ports will likely be tempered by fallout from the ongoing coronavirus outbreak and containment efforts in both Hong Kong and the mainland.

The virus outbreak is of special concern, "as it may weigh on economic performance of some Asian economies and disrupt economic activities in Hong Kong," the spokesman said.

December's gain in exports was mainly due to an increase in shipments to mainland China compared to a low statistical base. Exports to the major advanced economies remained weak, and those to other major Asian markets were mixed, according to the release. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AP PHOTO



HK EXTENDS SCHOOL SUSPENSION AMID CORONAVIRUS THREAT

HONG Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced a string of measures on Friday to further contain the spread of the novel coronavirus, including extending the suspension of classes in schools for at least two more weeks.

Primary and secondary schools, kindergartens and special schools across Hong Kong will not resume class until March 2, Lam told a press conference, adding that the date may be further postponed pending the HKSAR government's future assessment of the development of the epidemic, the supply of anti-epidemic materials and the readiness of schools.

Macau's education authority has also suspended classes until

further notice for the same reasons.

In Hong Kong, the decision to further delay the resumption of school was aimed at keeping students at home and minimizing their social contact so as to reduce the spread of the virus in the community, Lam said at Friday's press conference.

Apart from the extension of school suspension, Lam also announced to extend the special work arrangement for government staff to work at home. The special work arrangement, originally planned to be implemented until Feb. 2, will last until Feb. 9 and may be further extended after reviews by the government on a weekly basis. **MDT/XINHUA**

ADVERTORIAL

Create A Better
TOMORROW TODAY
今天開創明天



MGM Offers Varied Study Tours to Expand Team Members' Horizons

In keeping with the Government's initiative of "Building Macao by Capable Talents", MGM offers a wide range of training opportunities for team members to enrich their professional knowledge and skills. To help employees expand their horizons and learn from best of the best, MGM has once again organized technical and educational tours for team members from different tracks, which are a real eye-opener that helps drive not only their personal growth, but also the Company's business development.

Lessons on Japan's Energy Conservation

Invited by the Macao Chapter of the American Society of Heating Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers, 11 members from MGM's Facility Management team joined the 7-day "Technical Visit - Energy Saving Related Production Line and Facilities" in Japan. They traveled to Tokyo, Osaka, Yokohama and Kobe, visiting production lines and factories of renowned brands, including Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Daikin and Otis.

With the aim of sourcing new technologies to optimize MGM's efforts in energy conservation, the group viewed the new generation of centrifugal chiller system using low global warming potential refrigerants, latest air-conditioning heat transfer technology and a system for producing biogas from food waste. They found the trip tremendously beneficial and inspiring.



In-depth Study of Mainland Market

In a similar vein, MGM's core learning development programs, including Management Associate Program (MAP) and PRIDE Program, organized educational trips to Shanghai and Zhuhai respectively at the end of 2019, allowing team members to understand the market trends in mainland China beyond their usual perspectives.

5 MAPPERS from Food and Beverage, Front Office and Facility Management teams embarked on a month-long training program at Bellagio Shanghai of Diaoyutai MGM. With a series of cross-departmental trainings and guidance from their management, the MAPPERS have gained a deeper understanding of business and operational conditions in the local market.



Exploring the GBA

Meanwhile, 26 supervisory track associates of PRIDE Program paid a visit to Zhuhai. They experienced the latest entertainment offerings at the Liongate Entertainment World, the new movie-themed interactive park in Hengqin. Later they moved to the Macau Brewery in Zhuhai, where they viewed the brewery's market strategies, production line and operation to understand how a Macau enterprise have been running successfully in the Greater Bay Area.



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Dealers call on Art Basel to cancel HK show over virus fears

KATYA KAZAKINA

THE spread of the deadly coronavirus may jeopardize Art Basel Hong Kong, one of Asia's most prestigious art fairs, with participating galleries asking organizers to cancel the event's eighth edition in March.

The death toll from the virus, which originated in the Chinese city of Wuhan, has risen to at least 170 while the number of cases has topped 8,000.

In Hong Kong, where 10 cases have been confirmed, museums and schools have been closed. The Hong Kong Marathon, which was set to take place early next

month, was canceled. Rail service from the mainland is suspended and flights are being reduced by half.

The World Health Organization last week declared the coronavirus outbreak a global health emergency.

"Hong Kong is not the place where anyone wants to go right now," said Janelle Reiring, co-founder of Metro Pictures Gallery in New York. "Because of the politics, the protests and now the virus. No one wants to send people to work there the way things are."

Art Basel Hong Kong, which drew 88,000 people last year, is scheduled to open to VIPs on March 17 at the Hong Kong Con-

vention and Exhibition Centre. UBS Group AG is the show's lead partner.

Exhibitors would include 241 galleries from 31 countries and territories, according to the website. The Art Basel franchise, which also includes fairs in Miami and Basel, Switzerland, is part of Switzerland's MCH Group AG. The parent company has been struggling financially, and any cancellation in Hong Kong may complicate things further.

"This is a challenging time for all of us," the fair's directors said in a letter to exhibitors on Thursday. "The contemplation of postponing or canceling an event of this scale - which takes a full year

to produce - is a complex process, with many factors and multiple stakeholders."

Even before the coronavirus, Hong Kong was rocked by months-long anti-government protests that turned parts of the city into battle zones on weekends, wreaking havoc on the tourism and retail sectors and plunging the economy into a recession.

While the demonstrations affected almost all industries, at the very top end, people were still spending. A five-day auction by Sotheby's in October set a new world record for Japanese artist Yoshitomo Nara, whose painting of a cute but menacing cartoon girl - "Knife Behind Back" - sold

for \$24.9 million.

Some dealers have asked for Art Basel Hong Kong to be canceled and a few have already dropped out. One group of gallery owners recently gathered in New York to address the situation.

Earlier this month, 24 galleries signed a letter to the fair organizers demanding concessions. But the outbreak of coronavirus was a game changer, dealers said. The anxiety among galleries is further augmented by approaching deadlines to make final payments for exhibiting and to book expensive shipments of art to Hong Kong.

Richard Nagy, the owner of a prominent London gallery, wrote to organizers Wednesday asking them to cancel the show. A copy of the email was seen by Bloomberg.

"Regretfully, we believe this situation needs decisive leadership and the fatally wounded Art Basel Hong Kong 2020 needs to be put out of its misery and quickly," Nagy's letter said. "Having taken soundings and we can tell you, not one of our foreign clients will be attending and they are surprised the fair is still on."

"There is absolutely no doubt in our minds that this art fair is now commercially on artificial life support," he wrote.

There is precedent for a canceled Art Basel. The first edition of Miami Basel was postponed in 2001 after the 9/11 attacks. In addition, the fair's contract with the galleries states that reasons for cancellation may include "economic or political situations that strongly compromise" the organization of the show, according to Nagy's letter.

"Surely this point is now passed," Nagy said. "Please tell us what and where the line has been drawn - at what point will Art Basel Hong Kong cancel the show? Is it 100 infected cases in Hong Kong? Is it a death in Hong Kong? Exactly where is your line in the sand drawn?" **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Meg-Star establishes special fund for Wuhan coronavirus



Meg-Star International Charity Association by Meg-Star Group has donated MOP10 million in the fight against the Wuhan coronavirus.

According to a state-

ment, the charity has taken the lead to establish the "Wuhan Coronavirus Special Fund" to step-up anti-epidemic measures for the epicenter of the contagion in Wuhan city and Hu-

bei province.

Part of the donation will focus on providing medical supplies to Hubei province.

Meanwhile, the charity is in discussion with several non-profit organizations to implement anti-coronavirus measures.

Meanwhile, Meg-Star Group also announced that the donation will be adjusted or increased based on the development of the coronavirus outbreak in China.

Meg-Star established "Meg-Star International Charity Association" in 2017, which focuses on supporting community charity, poverty, and disaster relief with significant donations.

CEM limits business hours amid 2019-nCoV outbreak



Electricity provider CEM is limiting its business hours in a bid to limit the outbreak of the 2019-nCoV, the firm announced in a statement.

Until further notice, its Taipa Customer Service Center will be closed, while its Macau Customer Service Center will resume

business today. However, in order to reduce the risk of virus transmission, thorough cleaning and disinfection will be performed at the Customer Service Center every two hours, during which its services will be suspended.

CEM will suspend its services from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Meanwhile, customers are required to have their temperature checked and to wear a mask when entering the premises.

The firm also encourages customers to pay electricity bills via electronic means such as MPay and online banking.

ADVERTORIAL

AP PHOTO



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (right) and Kazakh Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tleuberdi

In Kazakhstan, Pompeo warns of China's growing reach

MATTHEW LEE, NUR-SULTAN

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo yesterday pressed Kazakhstan to be wary of Chinese investment and influence, urging the Central Asian nation and others to join calls demanding an end to China's repression of minorities.

Bringing a message similar to the one he has delivered repeatedly to other countries, Pompeo told senior Kazakh officials that the attractiveness of Chinese investment comes with a cost to sovereignty and may hurt, instead of help, the country's long-term development.

"We fully support Kazakhstan's freedom to choose to do business with whichever country it wants, but I am confident that countries get the best outcomes when they partner with American companies," he said. "You get fair deals. You get job creation. You get transparency in contracts. You get companies that care about the environment and you get an unsurpassed commitment to quality work."

Pompeo began his brief visit to the country by meeting with ethnic Kazakhs whose families have gone missing or been detained in China's widespread crackdown on Muslims and other ethnic and religious minorities in its western Xinjiang region.

"The protection of basic human rights defines the soul of a nation," he said, thanking Kazakhstan for taking in those fleeing persecution. "The United States urges all countries to join us in pressing for immediate end to this repression. We ask simply for them to provide safe refuge and asylum for those seeking to

flee China. To protect dignity, just do what's right."

Pompeo also congratulated Kazakhstan on its repatriation of Islamic State fighters from Iraq and Syria. Kazakhstan has taken back nearly 600 fighters and family members detained in areas formerly controlled by the group.

"I have and will continue to commend the Kazakhstani government for its leadership in repatriating foreign terrorists fighters and their families from Iraq and Syria," he said. "I hope this commitment to justice will inspire other nations to do the same."

However, Kazakhstan has some under some criticism for pressuring an activist who had campaigned for the release of ethnic Kazakhs in China. Threatened with a long prison sentence, the man signed an admission of guilt for inciting ethnic tensions.

In addition, Pompeo was urging senior officials in the Central Asian nation to continue reforms that would allow greater U.S. investment in the country.

At a news conference with Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tleuberdi, Pompeo praised Kazakhstan for its efforts to counter the spread of a new virus from China. He said the United States is helping the country with expertise from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and providing laboratory equipment.

Kazakhstan's "quick action to stop the spread of the virus has been incredibly impressive," he said.

Kazakhstan is among the growing list of countries that have suspended travel links with China. AP

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands Dream Explorer Activity Celebrates SAR 20th Anniversary with Community

In celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Macao Special Administrative Region, Sands China Ltd. held a Sands Dream Explorer activity for 20 local underprivileged families to experience 20 activities, as part of the company's commitment to the local Macao community.



"As we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Macao SAR this year, Sands China is pleased to be able to take this opportunity to say thank you to the local Macao community, and celebrate the city's milestone together," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. "Through the Sands Dream Explorer event, we want to provide a memorable experience for underprivileged families in Macao, thereby promoting social integration and community inclusion. Our special thanks go to the Social Welfare Bureau for their continuous support and guidance."

Sands Dream Explorer invited 20 deserving Macao families to experience 20 activities during a two-day trip to Sands China's integrated resorts, making their wishes come true. Complimentary experiences included accommodation at The Venetian® Macao's suites, concerts, dining, visits to The Parisian Macao's Eiffel Tower observation decks, and access to Qube Kids' Zone, among others.



After a kick-off ceremony Saturday at the Le Buffet restaurant at The Parisian Macao, the 20 families – 60 people in total – enjoyed a welcome lunch together. That evening, they enjoyed a viewing of the 3D mapping light and sound show projected on the façade of The Venetian Macao – specially themed this year as a tribute to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR.

The invited families were accompanied by 50 Sands China's Sands Cares Ambassadors for most of their visit. It was the first time for many of them to experience Sands China's attractions and entertainment, such as memorable experiences like The Venetian Macao's famous indoor gondola rides.

Sands Dream Explorer was organised with the help of Macau Special Olympics, Fuhong Society of Macau, Macau IC2 Association and Macau In Volunteers.

Sands China's community efforts are part of Sands Cares, the global corporate citizenship programme of parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp.





PHILIPPINES REPORTS 1ST VIRUS DEATH OUTSIDE OF CHINA

The Philippines yesterday reported the first death from a new virus outside of China, where authorities delayed the opening of schools in the worst-hit province and tightened quarantine measures in a city that allow only one family member to venture out to buy supplies.

The Philippine Department of Health said a 44-year-old Chinese man from Wuhan was admitted on Jan. 25 after experiencing a fever, cough, and sore throat. He developed severe pneumonia, and in his last few days, "the patient was stable and showed signs of improvement, however, the condition of the patient deteriorated within his last 24 hours resulting in his demise."

The man's 38-year-old female companion, also from Wuhan, also tested positive for the virus and remains in hospital isolation in Manila.

President Rodrigo Duterte approved a temporary ban on all travelers, except Filipinos, from China and its autonomous regions. The U.S., Japan, Singapore and Australia have imposed similar restrictions despite criticism from China and an assessment from the World Health Organization that they were unnecessarily hurting trade and travel.

The death toll in China clim-

bed by 45 to 304 and the number of cases by 2,590 to 14,380, according to the National Health Commission, well above the number of those infected in the 2002-03 outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome, which broke out in southern China and spread worldwide.

Meanwhile, six officials in the city of Huanggang, neighboring the epicenter of Wuhan in Hubei province, have been fired over "poor performance" in handling the outbreak, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

It cited the mayor as saying the city's "capabilities to treat the patients remained inadequate and there is a severe shortage in medical supplies such as protective suits and medical masks."

After Huanggang, the trading center of Wenzhou in coastal Zhejiang province also confined people to homes, allowing only one family member to venture out every other day to buy necessary supplies.

With the outbreak showing little sign of abating, authorities in Hubei and elsewhere have extended the Lunar New Year holiday, due to end this week, well into February. The annual travel crunch of millions of people returning from their hometowns to the cities is thought to pose a major threat

of secondary infection at a time when authorities are encouraging people to avoid public gatherings.

All Hubei schools will postpone the opening of the new semester until further notice and students from elsewhere who visited over the holiday will also be excused from classes.

Far away on China's southeast coast, the manufacturing hub of Wenzhou put off the opening of government offices until Feb. 9, private businesses until Feb. 17 and schools until March 1.

With nearly 10 million people, Wenzhou has reported 241 confirmed cases of the virus, one of the highest levels outside Hubei. Similar measures have been announced in the provinces and cities of Heilongjiang, Shandong, Guizhou, Hebei and Hunan, while the major cities of Shanghai and Beijing were on indefinite leave pending developments.

Despite imposing drastic travel restrictions at home, China has chafed at those imposed by foreign governments, criticizing Washington's order barring entry to most non-citizens who visited China in the past two weeks. Apart from damaging China's international reputation, such steps could worsen a domestic economy already growing at its lowest rate in decades.

The crisis is the latest to confront Chinese leader Xi Jinping, who has been beset by months of anti-government protests in the semi-autonomous Chinese city of Hong Kong, the reelection of Taiwan's pro-independence president and criticism over human rights violations in the traditionally Muslim northwestern territory of Xinjiang. Economically, Xi faces lagging demand and dramatically slower growth at home while the tariff war with the U.S. remains largely unresolved.

Among a growing number of airlines suspending flights to mainland China was Qatar Airways. The Doha-based carrier said on its website that its flights would stop Monday. It blamed "significant operational challenges caused by entry restrictions imposed by a number of countries" for the suspension of flights.

Oman also halted flights to China, as did Saudi Arabia's flagship national carrier, Saudia.

Saudi Arabia's state-run TV reported that 10 Saudi students were evacuated from Wuhan on a special flight. It said the students would be screened upon arrival, but did not say whether they would be quarantined for 14 days.

This weekend, South Korea and India flew hundreds of their citizens out of Wuhan. They went

into a two-week quarantine.

Yesterday, South Korea reported three more cases for a total of 15. They include an evacuee, a Chinese relative of a man who tested positive and a man who returned from Wuhan. India reported a second case, also in southern Kerala state.

South Korea also barred foreigners who have stayed or traveled to Hubei province within the last 14 days from entering the country.

Indonesia flew back 241 nationals from Wuhan yesterday and quarantined them on the remote Natuna Islands for two weeks. Several hundred residents protested the move, with one saying, "This is not because we do not have a sense of solidarity with fellow nationals. But because we fear they could infect us with the deadly virus from China."

A Turkish military transport plane carrying 42 people arrived in Ankara from Wuhan Saturday night. The 32 Turkish, six Azerbaijani, three Georgian nationals and an Albanian will remain under observation for 14 days, together with 20 personnel who participated in the evacuation, Health Minister Fahrettin Koca said.

Vietnam counted its seventh case, a Vietnamese-American man who had a two-hour layover in Wuhan on his way from the U.S. to Ho Chi Minh City.

The virus' rapid spread in two months prompted the WHO on Thursday to declare it a global emergency.

That declaration "flipped the switch" from a cautious attitude to recommending governments prepare for the possibility the virus might spread, said the WHO representative in Beijing, Gauden Galea. Most cases reported so far have been people who visited China or their family members.

WHO said it was especially concerned that some cases abroad involved human-to-human transmission.

"Countries need to get ready for possible importation in order to identify cases as early as possible and in order to be ready for a domestic outbreak control, if that happens," Galea told The Associated Press.

Both the new virus and SARS are from the coronavirus family, which also includes those that cause the common cold.

The death rate in China is falling, but the number of confirmed cases will keep growing because thousands of specimens from suspected cases have yet to be tested, Galea said.

"The case fatality ratio is settling out at a much lower level than we were reporting three, now four, weeks ago," he said.

Although scientists expect to see limited transmission of the virus between people with family or other close contact, they are concerned about cases of infection spreading to people who might have less exposure. AP

Brexit no detour for migrants hoping to cross Channel to UK

MIGRANTS and refugees waiting by the French side of the English Channel say Brexit hasn't derailed their determination to cross over to pursue better lives in Britain.

Mingled alongside police officers in the French port of Calais, hundreds of people live in squalid conditions and watch for a boat or truck to carry them to their dreams as stowaways.

Many of them came to Calais from former French colonies such as Ivory Coast and Niger, only to have their asylum requests rejected by French authorities.

The northern French city, laced with high fences and a wall, is the place in France closest to Britain. There are two regular cross-Channel transportation routes from Calais that draw migrants, the Eurotunnel and ferries to Dover, England.

A desire to curtail immigration played a role in the U.K.'s 2016 vote to pull out of the European Union, which guarantees EU citizens the right to live and work in any of the member countries.



AP PHOTO

Brexit taking effect late Friday doesn't appear so far to have dented the will of the desperate people from outside Europe who made it to Calais to make an end run into Britain. They bide their time playing soccer and keep

warm by building small fires.

"For us, [Brexit] doesn't change anything," a man from Ivory Coast said. "We are still living this [dire situation] with the same desire to get to England because France does not want us. We are sick of that."

The man would not give his name because he feared it might hurt his chance to seek asylum.

A migrant from Gambia who would not give his name for the same reason expressed his anguish by singing a reggae song he

composed with the lyrics, "Living in this jungle, yeah, living in this jungle yeah, we don't have nowhere to go and nowhere to stay."

At one point, thousands of refugees and migrants congregated in Calais, assembling a huge makeshift camp dubbed "The Jungle." French authorities eventually cleared and closed it. Neither repeated sweeps nor increased security in the area has stopped the flow of people.

"The situation is pretty bad here. It always has been. I personally don't think anything will change," said Clare Moseley of the non-governmental organization Care 4 Calais.

"The things they are fleeing from are worse than anything that can happen here," Moseley added.

So Brexit or not, migrants still wait and hope that at some point they will ride a lucky opportunity across the expanse of water, although chances are slim.

French border police and maritime officials patrol northern France by land, sea and air, combing beaches, dunes and coastal waters to catch the increasing number of people attempting to get across the Channel in small boats.

Britain has pressured France to do more to stop those attempting the dangerous trip and financed a renewed deterrence operation over a year ago. AP

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what's ON



RED DECEMBER – EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 13, 2020

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, located at No. 95, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

MOVE! INTO THE WILDLIFE

TIME: 12pm-8pm

UNTIL: February 9, 2020

VENUE: 2/F, Broadway Macau

ADMISSION: MOP120

KONG SENG TICKETING SERVICE: 2855 5555

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (Closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

XIAN XINGHAI MEMORIAL MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Closed on Tuesdays)

VENUE: No. 151-153, Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2845 0062

Offbeat

FLORIDA MAN MISTAKENLY PUMPS GAS ONTO THE DECK OF HIS BOAT

Mistakenly inserting a fuel nozzle into a fishing pole slot, a Florida man pumped \$60 worth of gasoline onto the deck of his boat and the ground of a gas station, fire rescue officials said.

The incident happened Monday in the Orlando area, Orange County Fire Rescue spokesman Mike Jachles said on Twitter.

The gas flowed from the fishing pole hole and onto the deck of the 24-foot (7.3 meters) boat. The 31-year-old man realized his mistake and quit pumping.

As he tried to clean up the mess, the gasoline began leaking from the boat onto the ground at the 7-Eleven store. He told personnel and then called the fire department's non-emergency number, Jachles said.

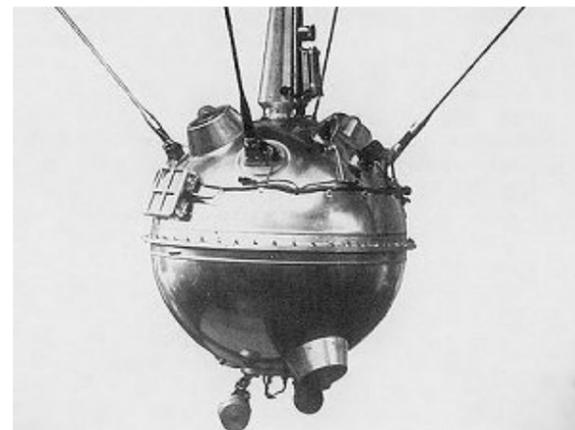
A technical rescue team siphoned the gas from the boat and cleaned up. The situation was described as a "level 3 hazmat," meaning the potential of hazard was high, Jachles said.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	Na Cozinha com Amor
16:00	Harry Potter - Uma História de Magia
17:00	Conferência de Imprensa Saúde (Directo)
17:55	Volta ao Mundo
18:15	Contraponto (Repetição)
19:15	Aqui Há História (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Macau 20 Anos - Visto de Lá: Macau em Portugal
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Mistérios de Lisboa - Fim
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	RTPi Directo

this day in history



1966 SOVIETS LAND PROBE ON MOON

The Russians have made the first controlled landing of a spacecraft on the Moon.

Luna 9 made its "soft" landing at 2145 Moscow time (1845 GMT).

The probe immediately began taking pictures of its surroundings.

It is the first time the Moon has been observed at surface level.

The area viewed was to the west of the craters of Reiner and Marius in the Ocean of Storms.

The Soviet Union has not so far released any of the photographs to the wider world.

The landing also confirms suggestions from photographs sent back by the American Ranger probes that the Moon's surface is firm, and not covered with a soft layer of dust as some astronomers had thought.

The proof that astronauts visiting the Moon will not sink into a dusty quicksand will give added impetus to the race to land the first man on the Moon.

The possibility of a Russian man on the moon by 1970 was mentioned by several commentators.

In a televised news conference, a Soviet scientist said the surface of the moon appeared to be stony where Luna 9 came down.

He said the ground was made of dark, chocolate-colored porous rock like volcanic rock or lava.

Sir Bernard Lovell, director of Jodrell Bank, the British radio telescope in Cheshire which has been tracking the Russian rocket, paid tribute to the achievement.

"It is an historic moment," he said. "It is the final achievement [...] necessary for a manned landing on the Moon."

The exact nature of the instruments on board Luna 9 remains secret, although it is thought they would have been able to record temperature, pressure and the nature of the lunar surface.

There would also have been radio equipment to send information back to Earth.

One of the things it will be measuring is the ability of the Moon's surface to support objects of heavy weight, such as manned spacecrafts.

The methods used to achieve the landing are also the subject of some speculation.

It is believed to have used an intricate coordination of retro-rockets to slow down the 3,000lb (1,360 kg) spacecraft from 6,000 mph (9,600 km/h) to six mph (9.65 km/h).

Courtesy BBC News

cinema



CINETEATRO

For the public health and safety, and to better cooperate with the government's anti-virus precaution, Cineteatro Macau has decided to suspend all movie screenings from January 27, 2020 until further notice.

IN CONTEXT

Luna 9 was the Soviet Union's first successful attempt to land an experimental station intact on the Moon after several which failed.

Over the next three days, the lander sent nine images back to Earth.

At first, the Soviet authorities delayed releasing the pictures. But when the Jodrell Bank telescope picked up the signals from Luna 9, they realised the signals were sent on equipment using the internationally-agreed system used by newspapers for transmitting pictures.

With the help of the Daily Express newspaper, which rushed the picture-receiving machine to Jodrell Bank, the pictures were easily picked up and published world-wide.

It is thought that Russian scientists had deliberately fitted the probe with the standard television equipment, either to ensure that they would get the higher-quality pictures from Jodrell Bank without having the political embarrassment of asking for them, or to prevent the Soviet authorities from making political capital out of the achievement.

The last of 24 Luna missions took off on Aug 9 1976.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 If you're asked to help out with a big group event, it would be in your best interests to lend a hand, even if you don't think you have the time to take on anything new.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 If you have problems you should be able to tell them to your friends. But you're totally wrong if you think that if you have problems you should give them to your friends to solve.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Your travel plans might be just about set in stone, but resist the urge today to finalize reservations and book tickets. There is a slight chance that things could change, and you need to stay flexible.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 More than ever, your visions of the future are important to foster, whether that happens through daydreaming, what-if conversations with friends, or just simple hoping.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Quite a few opinionated people are going to be in your day, and they aren't going to keep quiet about their opinions. The good news is that you know how to handle them with grace.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 One of your closest friends may be starting a new venture, and they might need your support more than ever. You're only too willing to give it, until you learn more about why they're doing it.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 You're doing an excellent job of not letting fear guide your life! You know how to act in a way that will get you closer to what you want. Keep that focus today when outside voices start telling you to beware.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 If you're in the midst of developing a new relationship, be very careful not to get too wrapped up in the other person's life right now. You don't want to negatively affect your sense of independence.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 An awful lot can be communicated nonverbally, so let your eyes and body do all the talking today. Instead of tossing off a flirty comment, why not just give 'em a wink?

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Everyone around you will be shocked by some unexpected news, but not you! You sensed it all along thanks to your extremely strong intuitive powers, which are stronger than ever right now.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 You'll probably spend most of today with adults, but it's going to feel like you're trapped inside of a day care center! You can expect a lot of petty behavior from surprising people.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 It's easy to make sure you have a fun day. All you have to do it start a new project! The universe is sending you strong, clear energy that will give you the spark you need to start a new fire.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-5	8	clear
Harbin	-22	-9	snow shower
Tianjin	-2	8	smoggy
Urumqi	-12	-3	clear
Xi'an	-1	8	overcast
Lhasa	-5	4	snow shower
Chengdu	7	12	overcast
Chongqing	10	12	overcast
Kunming	3	20	clear
Nanjing	7	10	drizzle
Shanghai	8	10	moderate rain
Wuhan	2	7	drizzle
Hangzhou	6	9	moderate rain
Taipei	17	21	cloudy
Guangzhou	18	26	cloudy
Hong Kong	19	24	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-6	-4	flurry
Frankfurt	0	5	overcast
Paris	0	4	clear
London	4	6	drizzle
New York	-7	1	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Woodstock singer Joan; 5- Gymnast Korbut; 9- Trading center; 13- Put ___ to (halt); 15- Get as a result; 16- To ___ (perfectly); 17- Pandemonium; 18- Clanton foe; 19- Hwys.; 20- Riled (up); 21- Quick sharp bark; 23- Edible root; 25- Plays are divided up into these; 26- Observe; 27- Excavating machine; 30- Absorb, as a cost; 31- Jibe; 32- Edible snail; 37- Winder for holding flexible material; 38- Disgusting dirt; 40- Enormous; 41- Pursuit of high principles; 43- Gal's guy; 44- Fashion designer's monogram; 45- Member of a touring company; 47- Few and far between; 50- Chamber; 51- Surroundings; 52- Big East team; 53- Medicinal amt.; 56- Summer coolers; 57- Classic autos; 59- Group character; 61- Authenticating mark; 62- Formerly, formerly; 63- Sketches; 64- Gorge; 65- Dagger of yore; 66- ___ She Sweet;

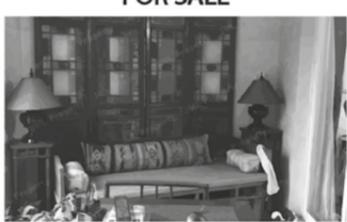
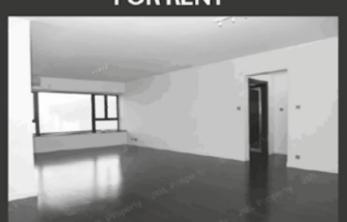
DOWN: 1- German composer; 2- Tennis great Arthur; 3- Coup d'___; 4- Animal park; 5- Ultimatum words; 6- Jump; 7- Needlefish; 8- To come nearer to; 9- ___ Gras; 10- Room at the top; 11- Actress Witherspoon; 12- New Ager John; 14- Human mind; 22- DDE's command; 24- Kofi ___ Annan; 25- Pack leader; 26- Resting place; 27- Adriatic port; 28- Got older; 29- Manitoba Indigenous People; 32- Spreading tree; 33- Head cold; 34- Big swallow; 35- Eyeball; 36- Eye drop; 38- Cracks; 39- Land in water; 42- Harp relative; 43- Having feet; 45- Sad; 46- Decay; 47- Cassette half; 48- Fold; 49- Grocery lane; 51- Aggregate; 52- Prepare to be shot; 53- Pad ___; 54- Planted; 55- Hey, over here!; 58- Directional ending; 60- ___-la-la;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>Jade Garden Spacious Family Home HK\$18,000,000 3,180 ft² 4 1/2 3 1/2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p>  <p>Manhattan High Floor, Taipa \$26,800/mth 2,305 ft² 4 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Taipa] Nam Long 1 1/2 1 1/2 785 ft² \$4,780,000 (ref: 20016009)</p> <p>[Macau] Loft apartment 2 1/2 2 1/2 2,220 ft² \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,349 ft² \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)</p> <p>[Coloane] Large apartment 2 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2 2,530 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096000)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Macau] Renovated apartment 2 1/2 2 1/2 n/a \$20,000/mth (ref: 20011001)</p> <p>[Macau] Vai Fung Triplex 2 1/2 2 1/2 n/a \$15,800/mth (ref: 19121001)</p> <p>[Macau] Furnished 2 1/2 1 1/2 700 ft² \$12,500/mth (ref: 19101007)</p> <p>[Macau] Office space 1 1/2 1,043 ft² \$26,000/mth (ref: 19091008)</p>
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Property of the Week




One Central, Lakeview High Floor, Macau
HK\$12,500,000 1,269 ft² 2 2


SCAN ME

High floor two bedroom apartment in One Central Residences. Overlooking Nam Van Lakes and the famous Praia Grande, the apartment has spectacular views over Macau and China. The development is one of the leading projects throughout Macau, One Central has full club facilities including a swimming pool, gym, function rooms etc, and 24/7 security and management of the complex. Central location and easy access to downtown Macau, must be seen to be appreciated.

Property Hotlist




Nova City Apartment
\$12,880,000
 1,494 ft²
 3 2


SCAN ME




2 Connected Apartment, Taipa
\$8,680,000
 1,404 ft²
 4 2


SCAN ME




Vai Fung Triplex, Macau
\$15,800/mth
 2 2


SCAN ME




Nam Long, Neat 2 Bed, Taipa
\$11,800/mth
 645 ft²
 2 1


SCAN ME

More Listings

For Sale		For Rent	
[Taipa] Jade Garden	4 3 3,180 ft ² \$18,000,000 (ref: 19126002)	[Macau] Furnished	2 1 700 ft ² \$12,500/mth (ref: 19101007)
[Macau] Lakeview Tower	3 2 1,344 ft ² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)	[Taipa] New studio	1 470 ft ² \$9,500/mth (ref: 19101002)
[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden	2 1 900 ft ² \$5,100,000 (ref: 19106003)	[Taipa] Nova Grand	2 1 935 ft ² \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091005)
[Taipa] Nova City	3 2 1,515 ft ² \$11,750,000 (ref: 19106001)	[Taipa] Manhattan high floor	4 2 2,305 ft ² \$26,800/mth (ref: 19091003)
[Macau] One Central	2 2 1,349 ft ² \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)	[Taipa] Ocean Garden	4 4 3,700 ft ² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)

Recent Movements

- Sold** Ocean Garden, Taipa, 3 beds
- Sold** Nova City, Taipa
4 beds, 3 bath
- Rented** Manhattan, Taipa,
3 beds




JML Events


Cradle of Hope


Caritas Macau


Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team


Macau Golf Masters

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FOOTBALL | LA LIGA

Madrid stays ahead in Spain with win over Atlético in derby

WITH Zinedine Zidane making all the right moves, Real Madrid added to its dominant run by defeating city rival Atlético Madrid and increasing its Spanish league lead on Saturday.

Zidane's changes at halftime proved crucial for Madrid as it defeated Atlético 1-0 in the capital derby for its eighth straight victory and a six-point lead over second-placed Barcelona, which hosts Levante on Sunday.

The loss virtually ended Atlético's title hopes, as it stayed 13 points off the lead and was in danger of dropping to seventh place by the end of the weekend.

It was a mostly even match in the first half and Atlético had some of the most significant chances, including a close-range shot by Ángel Correa that hit the post.

But Zidane changed the team's formation in the second half and the game quickly turned in Madrid's favor, with substitute Vinícius Júnior starting the play that



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema (center) celebrates after scoring his side's first goal

led to Benzema's winner from close range in the 56th minute.

Benzema hit a one-timer from just outside the six-yard box after a low cross from Ferland Mendy, whose run inside the area met a well-placed through ball by Vinícius Júnior.

Zidane started the match with five midfielders, with Benzema as the lone striker. The formation was first used in the Spanish Super Cup. But after the lackluster first half, he successfully changed it back to a 4-3-3 scheme with Lucas Vázquez and Vinícius Júnior co-

ming off the bench to flank Benzema up front.

They replaced midfielders Francisco "Isco" Alarcón and Toni Kroos, giving the team greater offensive depth and opening up the Atlético defense.

"I wasn't happy with what I was

seeing," Zidane said. "We had to make a change. We entered the second half playing differently and we showed better attitude. We were better in all areas and deserved the victory."

Madrid was unbeaten against Atlético in the league in seven consecutive matches, but it hadn't defeated its rival at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium in six straight games.

The win extended Madrid's unbeaten streak in all competitions to 21 matches. One of its victories came against Atlético in a penalty shootout in the Spanish Super Cup final this month in Saudi Arabia.

Atlético's winless streak has reached five matches in all competitions, one of its worst stints since coach Diego Simeone arrived nearly a decade ago. The latest defeat has limited its main challenge to trying to make it back to the Champions League.

"There is reason to be concerned, of course," Simeone said. "All we can do is keep working to try to get out of this uncomfortable situation."

Atlético loudly complained of a penalty not awarded for the team after a challenge by Madrid midfielder Casemiro on forward Álvaro Morata in the first half.

There was a moment of silence to honor Kobe Bryant before the match. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

Rear Window

Severo Portela



MACAU DELIVERS

Even though we cannot project the outcome of the global public health crisis developing by the minute, as we pen this column we may evaluate how the MSAR government has acted throughout the ongoing outbreak of the new strain of coronavirus in Wuhan, Hubei Province.

Allow us to brag: this has been a kind of vindication and virtual payback against our sister SAR of Hong Kong. Indeed, Macau has learnt the lessons taken from the idle local approach to the SARS, loosely, a bet on lady luck, and the mishandling of the consequences of the passage of Super Typhoon Hato.

Ho Iat Seng's executive acted swiftly to secure the first batch of 20 million face masks, and put in place a fair distribution criteria; acted swiftly to inform the public and provide recommendations related to the threat brought by the airborne coronavirus; and, we would underline, acted swiftly to curb the entrance of visitors from Hubei - perhaps as far as it could go regarding the ins and outs at the border gates to the mainland. More than this, the Macau government anticipated the need for additional quarantine facilities - Pousada Marina Infante could be used as an isolation center - and aligned the big employers from the gaming industry and the hospitality sector.

Finally, to summarize some of the steps H.I.S. took to mitigate the potential for a rapid spread of the coronavirus, the CNY break was extended, and the crucial education system is to be closed until... sine die.

Across the Pearl River Delta, the population already strained by the 6-month civic unrest, in the name of further autonomy and pro-democracy, had to resort to long queues in drugstores and pharmacies to grab scarce face masks and other protective gear, such as hand sanitizers or rubber gloves. Adding insult to injury, a pro-establishment lawmaker, Ann Chiang Lai-wan, dared to encourage Hong Kong residents to wash and reuse surgical masks...this way answering to the scarcity of shields. Democrat legislators went on to chastise the administration for the poor handling of the health menace.

Sitting duck Carrie Lam was hesitant to adopt decisive measures to calm the population, just as she was hesitant to establish some type of screening of visitors at the borders to avoid public displeasure. Even pro-Beijinger Alan Leong went astray to point to the Chief Executive's mishandling of everything.

Back to MSAR, the diligence with which the government, institutions and grassroots organizations are dealing with the public health crisis has not spread to local companies. MDT reported on how companies in the casino and hotel industry, public transportation and food and beverage sectors are trying to "invite" large groups of employees to go on unpaid leave for periods ranging from 10 days to 3 months. The "invitation" can turn into a fait accompli: employees are informed of work re-scheduling and to not return until they are told to come back to their positions. Had they to wonder about the legality of this "temporary lay-off"!

As we stated above, this is an ongoing situation we should address carefully. But when the situation deflates, the crisis of the 2019-nCoV will be the leitmotif for raising serious questions.

Writing in "Psychology Today," professor R. Bartholomew adamantly warned that it is time "to take a deep breath and dial down the hysteria." He's probably more than right when he says the "Chinese coronavirus is not the zombie apocalypse." But we do have to avow the sheer size of the Wuhan operation, and the global impact is more than enough to make us awe.

P.S. It seems that this coronavirus is milder than its cousins of SARS, which was traced to civet cats, and MERS, its transmission linked to camel meat. This CoV is related to bats or snakes. Anyway, it is a spooky landscape. Film fiction has already dealt with viruses: "Outbreak" with Dustin Hoffman; "Contagion" by Steven Soderbergh; and apocalyptic "World War Z".

Twenty people have died and a dozen others were injured in a stampede during a church meeting in the northern Tanzanian city of Moshi, the government said yesterday.

The stampede was caused by church faithful being ushered to pass through one exit at the meeting venue so they could walk on "anointed oil," according to a statement by a government spokesman.

Hundreds of worshippers attended the prayer meeting Saturday led by Boniface Mwamposa, a popular preacher who

heads the Arise and Shine Ministry Tanzania.

Tanzania's Interior Minister George Simbachawene said Mwamposa had been arrested. Simbachawene said the government will review the associations act, with the intention of strengthening the requirements to register as a church.

He accused the church of not taking enough precautions and violating the terms of its permit for the meeting, which ran two hours later than planned.



People wearing face masks walk down a deserted street in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province

PANIC TURNS MAINLAND CITIES INTO GHOST TOWNS

JULIE ZHU

THIS Spring Festival holiday, ghost towns have become the norm across the entire mainland, even in the most populous of provincial capitals.

Usually, during the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday, Chinese residents travel from major cities back to their hometown. This year, amid the outbreak of the 2019-nCoV, Chinese citizens have been turning their own hometowns into ghost towns, while also deserting the streets of the larger cities in which they reside.

As Hubei province announced the shutdown of the entire province's public transportation, leaving streets empty across all Hubei cities, other mainland cities also implemented measures which consequently created more ghost cities.

Similar to the Macau local government, which requested those who had returned from mainland China to isolate themselves for 14 days, mainland cities are also implementing that measure for mainland residents who have been in other cities and provinces, regardless of the place.

Small communities or residential buildings in mainland China have been also implementing "unique" measures, such as prohibiting "non-locals" from entering their villages, their communities and their buildings. Such measures do not exclude higher ranked politicians.

On January 30, Lou Qinjian, the Communist party secretary of the entire Jiangsu province, was banned

entry to a small village in Nanjing, the capital city of Jiangsu.

In a video posted on Weibo, a party "comrade" is seen blocking Lou's way at the entrance of the village to carry out an inspection, and saying "non-locals are not allowed." However, the video is suspected of having been staged as a means to encourage Chinese residents to prevent non-locals from entering.

According to posts on Weibo and information received by the Times, mainland residential communities are measuring the temperature of all residents and have already put out slogans to warn residents against gathering and instead to stay at home.

In Huanggang, Hubei's second most populous city, the local government only allows each household to send out one member every two days to buy food and supplies. Huanggang recently became the second city after Wuhan to be put on lockdown.

"My community's regulation only allows one person to go out to buy home essentials and the regulation suggests asking those who come in carrying luggage to write down their travel information," wrote one social media user claiming to be from the city.

These measures together with others have made mainland residents panic and stay home, turning mainland cities ghost towns.



New Zealand Mike Moore, who served as New Zealand's Prime Minister before leading the World Trade Organization during a tumultuous time when thousands protested in Seattle riots, died yesterday. He was 71. He died at his home in Auckland, his wife Yvonne Moore said. He'd suffered a number of health complications since having a stroke five years ago.



Iran The European Union's new foreign affairs chief [pictured] is traveling to Iran to meet with the country's leaders, the Iranian official news agency said yesterday, amid high regional tensions. The visit is seen as the latest move by the EU to save the 2015 nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers.



Eritrea The government yesterday expressed "dismay at this unfriendly act" after the Trump administration included it in the latest six countries to face U.S. visa restrictions. Eritrea's information ministry asserted the U.S. decision was made "without justification to send a negative signal" and runs counter to U.S. policy of constructive engagement.



Kenya As locusts by the billions — yes, billions — descend on parts of Kenya in the worst outbreak in 70 years, small planes are flying low over affected areas to spray pesticides in what experts call the only effective control.