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Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINED STABLE AT 1.7% LAST QUARTER, THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED YESTERDAY

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GOVERNMENT'S PREPARED FOR 'WORST-CASE SCENARIO'

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EPIDEMIOLOGY EXPERT WHO COORDINATED SARS RESPONSE RECKONS PEAK CRISIS TO PASS WITHIN TWO WEEKS

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China Scientists found more evidence that the new coronavirus likely originated in bats. In two papers published yesterday in the journal Nature, scientists report that genome sequences from several patients in Wuhan show the virus is closely related to the viruses that cause Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS. In one study, the Wuhan Institute of Virology reported that genome sequences from seven patients were 96% identical to a bat coronavirus.

Indonesia With Indonesia suspending visas to Chinese citizens in the wake of the outbreak of the deadly novel coronavirus, the country risks missing its target to lure a record number of tourists this year. Foreign tourist arrivals into Indonesia climbed 2% to 16.1 million last year. Chinese visitors at 2.1 million, were the second largest group of tourists after Malaysians. *More on p7*



Australia Greens leader Richard Di Natale (pictured) announced he is quitting politics to give a new leader of his environmentally focused minority party an opportunity to expose government failings during the nation's wildfire crisis. Di Natale's surprise resignation means that both the Greens and the government's junior coalition party, the Nationals, will elect new leaders when Parliament resumes for the first time this year today.

US For the past four days, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has been calling for authoritarian governments in eastern Europe and Central Asia to ease restrictions on press freedom despite criticism for his own treatment of journalists at home. In Belarus, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Pompeo raised human rights issues, including freedom of the press, with his interlocutors and denied any double-standard was at play.

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DELTA BRIDGE

THE LAST LINK TO HONG KONG

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XINHUA



AP PHOTO

BUILT IN 10 DAYS, CHINA'S VIRUS HOSPITAL TAKES FIRST PATIENTS

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CHINESE, THAI AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCE BREAKTHROUGH TREATMENTS

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CUSTOMS RECORDS 12% INCREASE IN PROSECUTIONS AGAINST SMUGGLING

The Macao Customs Service prosecuted more smuggling cases in 2019 than in 2018. According to official data, approximately 190 million crossings were registered in 2019 across all immigration checkpoints in Macau, representing an 8.8% increase year-on-year. The customs authority seized 74,500 kilograms of smuggled food. Of this, the amount of smuggled meat increased 3.8% year-on-year, while that of vegetables decreased 16.2%. The number of prosecutions against smuggling cases increased by 12% to 4,482 cases. On February 1, customs officers found one man at the border gate carrying 18 kilograms of unquarantined bird meat. During its most recent inspections, the customs authority has not identified any violations by restaurants.

LAWMAKER EXPRESSES CONCERNS OVER PARALLEL TRADING ACTIVITIES

Lawmaker Ho Ion Sang has urged the local government not to overlook the problems posed by the occurrence of parallel trading during the coronavirus epidemic. As the epidemic continues to worsen, some parallel traders have still not ceased their businesses, continuing to shop for goods near the Border Gate and transporting them to mainland China. Lawmaker Ho recommends that parallel traders apply to the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS) for financial help or to seek help from social services organizations. At the same time, Ho suggested that the local government enhance its promotional campaign at the various borders to warn people to cease parallel trading. In addition, the lawmaker hopes that the customs authority will carry out more frequent inspections in relevant areas to crack down on this type of business.

VISITORS ON PACKAGE TOURS TO MACAU DROPPED LAST YEAR

Visitors on package tours to Macau decreased by 8.7% year-on-year to 8.33 million last year, the Statistics and Census Service disclosed yesterday. Data released by the government department indicated that visitors from the Chinese mainland (6.44 million) and South Korea (584,000) fell 9.8% and 5.4% respectively last year, whereas those from Hong Kong (148,000) and Taiwan (710,000) grew 4% and 2% respectively. Visitors on package tours to Macau tumbled by 41.8% year-on-year to 543,000 in December 2019, with those coming from the Chinese mainland (416,000) and South Korea (38,000) declining by 44.4% and 39.1% respectively. Meanwhile, outbound residents using the services of travel agencies totaled 149,000 in December, a decrease of 10.1% year-on-year. Residents traveling under their own arrangements (92,000) dropped 20.7% while those on package tours (57,000) rose 14.6%.



WUHAN CORONAVIRUS

GOVERNMENT SAYS IT IS PREPARED FOR WORST-CASE SCENARIO

ANTHONY LAM

The government admitted yesterday it has already considered and prepared for a 'worst-case scenario' amid the coronavirus outbreak on the mainland, though it would not disclose what such a scenario would look like nor what measures could be taken.

Elsie Ao Ieong U, vice president of the government's epidemic task force, hinted at the preparations during yesterday's daily press briefing. The secretary said she did not consider it the appropriate time to disclose the preparations or any potential responsive measures currently being considered.

Over the past couple of weeks, the government has been adjusting its measures from time to time, from barring tourists from Hubei to encouraging the offering of lodgings for foreign workers who live across the border in Zhuhai and further north. The journalist was hence curious to know what the ultimate measures are under a presumed worst-case scenario.

The vice president elaborated on her response by saying, "Measures on epidemic control

will be updated from time to time, but it will be conducted according to the development of the situation."

For the time being, regular and thorough hand washing is one of the few ways to help epidemic control, says the health authority.

There are currently eight confirmed cases of the novel coronavirus in Macau, with no further cases reported yesterday. The latest case involves a local woman, however the government said on Sunday that it would treat the patient as an imported case because health authorities suspect she contracted the coronavirus while visiting the mainland.

After the first infection was confirmed in Macau, local people rushed to the streets to source sanitizing materials and facemasks. The government has centralized the supply of facemasks, but stock of sanitizing materials is reportedly running low across the city.

The Health Bureau (SSM) was asked whether they have plans to also centralize the supply of such materials.

In response, Dr Lam Chong, head of the SSM's Centre for Disease Control (CDC), remin-

ded, "Soap [either in liquid or solid form] and water are also good sanitizing agents that are widely accessible." On the Bureau's website, there is a video instructing people how to wash their hands correctly.

"Alcohol sanitizer is not a must in sanitation. It can be used when there is no hand washing facilities nearby," the doctor added.

Amid neighboring Hong Kong's announcement that it would close its four border control points, the Macau government said yesterday that it has no plan to close the city's border due to the significant amount of foreign workers crossing it daily to travel between home and work (more on p4).

According to the Public Security Police Force, which oversees immigration matters in Macau, an average of 35,000 foreign workers need to cross the border to commute between their workplace in Macau and home in Zhuhai.

Nonetheless, the government has been in constant discussion with the private sector, which was encouraged to provide temporary housing for their foreign workers who live on the north side of Macau.

"This measure is introduced to lower [the number of] border crossings," explained Ao Ieong, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture and vice president of the government's epidemic control work group.

Several days ago, the vice president cited the Basic Law, the so-called mini-constitution of the special administrative region, to highlight the lack of legal grounds for a border closure. The law stipulates Macau residents' rights to travel freely. Ao Ieong further noted border closure was not feasible due to Macau's reliance on foreign workers living in the mainland.

The SSM revealed that it now has about 2,700 sets of coronavirus test kits. In the foreseeable future, there is more stock coming in. It is believed there will not be a shortage of kits.

The novel coronavirus outbreak has infected more than 17,300 people globally, among which there are 17,205 cases in the mainland and 14 in Hong Kong. Most of the 361 deaths have been in central Hubei province, where illnesses from the new type of coronavirus were first detected in December.

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Questions raised over temporary lodging plan for Zhuhai workers

LYNZY VALLES, JULIE ZHU

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, has encouraged local employers to find temporary lodging in the SAR for their workers from Zhuhai, following the discovery over the weekend of Macau's eighth case of coronavirus.

The measure, designed to reduce the risk of a further coronavirus outbreak among those commuting between the two cities, is currently being studied by the government as well as association and private entities.

However, it is still unclear how and where these employers might find the lodging capacity.

Over the weekend, Secretary Lei urged local firms with employees from Zhuhai to provide them with temporary accommodation in the city until the outbreak subsides, while non-resident workers whose work is not currently essential are advised to remain in Zhuhai for the time being.

Lei has already encouraged the Macao Chamber of Commerce and the General Chinese Foreign Worker Agency to provide their foreign workers with accommodation in the city.

At yesterday's press conference, some journalists were concerned about the effectiveness of this recommendation. Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U addressed the

RENATO MARQUES



matter, adding that the government "would set a deadline [to solve the lodging issue] when necessary."

Currently, there are more than 30,000 hotel rooms in Macau. Ao Ieong acknowledged that her colleague Lei has been in close discussion with the private sector, including hotel operators, regarding the matter. However, she did not expressly mention whether hotel rooms will be used to house affected foreign workers.

Many of the affected firms during this time are in the food catering, construction, cleaning and security business, which employ a significant number of non-local workers from mainland China.

Lei said last week that there are about 35,000 non-resident workers who travel frequently between Zhuhai and Macau.

On Sunday, the top economy official announced that a Chinese employment agency is responsible for coordinating some 120,000 non-resident Chinese employees, and that the agency had already negotiated with employers to arrange appropriate measures.

Since the construction industry is most affected by this directive, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário is set to extend construction period deadlines accordingly.

The lodging suggestion was echoed by Kou Ngon Fong, a member of the advisory council of the northern district, who urged local families to provide accommodation for their domestic helpers in case of a community outbreak of the coronavirus.

According to a report by public broadcaster TDM, Kou hopes that local families who employ domestic helpers will take them in to help prevent an outbreak of the virus within the community.

Kou explained that, in Macau, the majority of domestic helpers are living in small spaces with other roommates who are also domestic helpers. In some cases, under one roof, there can be over ten domestic helpers who work for different families living together. They travel to and from their employers' house on a daily basis. These domestic helpers may work for different employers who could be working in casinos or other densely populated places.

In Kou's opinion, domestic helpers face a high risk of infection. If one person becomes infected, the virus could be passed to their roommates, who in turn could pass the virus to their employers, who could then infect their coworkers, thus creating a serious community outbreak.

Kou suggested families with domestic helpers and the ability to allow them to stay with them do so, or to at least provide domestic helpers with better living conditions elsewhere.

Kou also urged the local government to create other types of publicity materials to assist senior citizens to better understand the current situation of 2019-nCoV.



FACE MASKS REQUIRED FOR BUS, TAXI EMBARKATION

IN response to the outbreak of 2019-nCoV, the novel coronavirus believed to have originated in Wuhan city, public transportation drivers and passengers are required to wear surgical face masks while on the vehicles, the Macau Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced in a statement yesterday.

If any passenger refuses to wear a mask, the driver has the right to bar the passenger from stepping aboard.

The DSAT guaranteed that all entities and companies under its supervision have been required to reinforce cleaning, hygiene and sterilization work both inside buses and at bus stops. These companies are also monitoring the health of their workers.

Although the requirement to wear face masks was only set yesterday, the Times is aware that several bus drivers were refusing entry to passengers who are not wearing face masks on the weekend.

Macau's banks will also require all customers entering their premises to undergo body temperature checks.

The same requirements have been extended to casinos, giving gaming operators the right to ban clients from entering if they refuse to wear face masks.

The Gaming Inspection and Co-ordination Bureau (DICJ) said that local casinos have been requiring patrons to wear face masks upon entry since Saturday night at 11 p.m.

Since last Wednesday, casino workers have been wearing wear respiratory face masks during work hours under the directive of the Health Bureau, while security guards have been the checking identification cards of those that enter the casino premises, ensuring that they are not from Hubei province.

During the Chinese New Year, DICJ inspectors were stationed at the casinos to monitor the admission and operation of the casinos for 24 hours. The DICJ said that it would continue to review various epidemic prevention measures employed by casino operators. LV

Unemployment rate holds stable ahead of virus-stricken January

DANIEL BEITLER

THE unemployment rate mostly held stable in the final quarter of last year, the government announced yesterday.

Data released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) showed that during the three-month period between October and December 2019, the general unemployment rate was 1.7% and the unemployment rate of local residents stood at 2.3%.

According to DSEC, both indicators remained

unchanged from the previous three-month period between September and November 2019, and unchanged from the full-year data.

"Mostly stable" has been the story of local employment for the past eight years, but could change as early as next month when the January figures are expected to show how businesses in the Macau SAR have coped with the arrival of the Wuhan coronavirus.

Since last week, the Times has reported on numerous cases of staff being asked to take leave

across the gaming, retail and food and beverage sectors. In some cases, staff are understood to have been coerced into taking leave. In other cases, workers have already been made redundant in anticipation of a prolonged down period for local businesses.

Hit hard by a 78% drop in visitor arrivals this Chinese Lunar New Year, some businesses in the restaurant and retail sectors have already announced redundancies. Initial reports suggest the redundancies are target-

ing non-local workers.

On Friday, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau met with local casinos operators, finding no cases of employees being forced to take unpaid leave. The DSAL said it would continue to pay close attention to the situation.

The fundamental change to the business environment in Macau alludes to a likely drop in the employment rate in the coming months. If confirmed, this would present a challenge

for economic planners, unseen in the casino enclave in nearly a decade. Official data shows that the general unemployment rate in Macau has held at 2% or below since 2012.

The data released by DSEC yesterday shows that for the whole year of 2019, the general unemployment rate was also 1.7% and the unemployment rate of local residents was 2.3%. Both indicators were down by 0.1 percentage points year-on-year, the statistical authority reported.

The median monthly employment earnings of the employed (MOP17,000) increased by MOP1,000, while those of employed residents (MOP20,000) stayed flat year-on-year.

SOCIETY GRAPPLES WITH QUESTION: SHOULD MACAU CLOSE ITS BORDERS?

RENATO MARQUES

BORDER control measures have been a topic of heated discussion since the outbreak of the novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) on the mainland.

While several sectors of civil society have started to demand action from the local government, especially concrete measures to stop those arriving from the most affected areas in the mainland from entering the Macau SAR, the government has refused a complete ban on Chinese residents. Instead, it has presented measures designed to reduce the risk of disease spread, enforced according to the guidelines of the central government.

Now that may be changing as Hong Kong last night announced a near complete shutdown of entry and exit ports with the mainland.

In Macau, leading the call for a complete closure of the border to mainland residents, especially those arriving from Hubei, are lawmakers Sulu Sou and Agnes Lam. Both lawmakers handed petition letters to the government calling for added measures on border control to effectively prevent further propagation of the virus within Macau.

Social affairs commentator Larry So told the Times that he agrees with the appeal coming from civil society and its representatives.

"I think the border should be more restricted in the sense that when we have a lot of people going out or coming in, this contributes to a [possible] continuous flow of the virus in and out of Macau. This is not contributing to the control of the virus spread," So said.

So shares the opinion that the need for non-resident workers (TNR) who live in the mainland but cross the border daily is one of the bigger obstacles to enforcing added restrictions, but he also believes that this could simply be sol-



Lawmaker Sulu Sou (third left) and members of the New Macau Association deliver a petition to a representative of the government

ved by allowing TNR to still use the border as an exception.

Asked whether such a decision would require a nod from the central government in Beijing, So said, "I think more than an approval, this is more a case of coordination."

"I think if the local government discusses this [matter] with central government authorities, they would give their blessing to implement this easily," the local commentator said. However, he noted that if there was any objection from the central government, the local government would still be in a position to negotiate.

So also thinks that the central authorities would be unlikely to object because "the mainland has been the most actively concerned in installing controls and bans for the protection of the health of the people either in mainland China or in Macau and Hong Kong. These are the main objectives established and I don't think they will object."

So said a blanket ban would be simpler and more agreeable as a border control measure – even if it only targeted certain Chinese provinces or regions – than the existing measures, which change from day to day and are complex to enforce. One such example is the requirement for medical certi-

ficates and proof of quarantine or travel history.

An online petition headed by Lam calls for a complete ban on entry to all Chinese citizens. It gathered a total of 20,000 signatures of local people in just one hour, according to its organizer.

Lam also informed that the pe-

tion asked respondents if they agreed with closing the borders to all people for a period of two weeks, with the only exceptions being granted to Macau residents and non-resident workers that live in Zhuhai and cross the border on a daily basis.

Speaking to the media at the time of the petition's delivery to the government's headquarters on January 26, Lam expressed the feeling that the number of infections in Macau could have been reduced or even stopped right from the start if the government had implemented border control measures faster when the outbreak became known.

"[If the government] had adopted more stringent control at an earlier stage, we could have had the opportunity to prevent cases of local infection," she said.

In yesterday's government daily press conference to present updates on the coronavirus status, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong U, said in reply to a question from the media, "We have other measures already planned [for border control] but we will announce them in due time and only if the situation justifies it."

Regarding the possibility of closing the border crossing to the TNR living in the mainland, Ao Ieong said, "All companies should assume their own responsibilities to fight the coronavirus. The government-taken measures alone are insufficient."

HONG KONG SEALS OFF FERRY TERMINAL CONNECTING MACAU

HONG Kong is sealing off more checkpoints with China in order to contain the spread of the deadly virus that's claimed more than 360 lives in the mainland, as medical workers in the city began a strike aimed at forcing the closure of the border.

The city has closed more of its ports of entry effective today, including Lo Wu, Lok Ma Chau, Huan-gang, and the Hong Kong-Macau Ferry Pier, Chief Executive Carrie Lam said at a briefing yesterday, adding that China had already stopped issuing visas to Hong Kong as part of the containment effort.

The new measure would leave only three border

checkpoints in operation: Shenzhen Bay port, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge and the airport, Lam said. Passenger traffic at those ports of entry accounted for 63% of all visitor arrivals Sunday, according to statistics on the Immigration Department's website.

Lam said the total number of people coming from mainland China and Macau, excluding those arriving from the airport, had dropped 57% to 73,019 yesterday, versus 170,991 on Jan. 29, the first day the city's border control measures came into effect. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

Macau bishop calls on Catholics to follow preventive measures

THE Bishop of Macau, Stephen Lee Bun-sang, has called on local Catholics to actively carry out the preventive measures prescribed by the Macau government to fight the coronavirus epidemic in the territory.

In a pastoral letter to more than 30,000 Catholics in Macau, Bishop Stephen Lee Bun-sang said that residents "should support all our government

departments and voluntary agencies, especially the medical staff and personnel working on the frontline to contain the spread of the epidemic and express our gratitude, appreciation, and encouragement towards the medical professionals for their spirit of sacrifice by whatever means we are able."

"As the current epidemic is still developing, the-

re seems to be a shortage of day-to-day medical and sanitizing supplies in the market, and we have also heard of some instances where people have become aggressive and agitated when buying masks, sanitizers, and even food. There can be an atmosphere of conflict, impatience, discontent, and frustration. I totally understand these feelings, but at the same time I urge people

to remain calm and be patient," he said in the letter.

Bishop Lee said that Catholics "know that all the government departments have sought to respond promptly to the epidemic, working tirelessly throughout the Lunar New Year holidays. Nevertheless, as the virus outbreak spread at such a rapid rate, there are bound to be some aspects of the response that fall short of the ideal when

it comes to handling the crisis, and we strongly believe that things are on the mend."

"We should support all our government departments and voluntary agencies, especially the medical staff and personnel working on the frontline to contain the spread of the epidemic," continued the religious leader. "I would also ask you not to pass around counter-produc-

tive or downright baseless messages about the epidemic so as to avoid unnecessary panic among our fellow citizens."

Bishop Stephen Lee ends the message inviting all Catholics to pray to St. Roque (St. Roch), a Catholic saint specially invoked against the plague, to help Macau and the local community to be spared from sickness and contagion. **MDT/MACAUNews**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL

XINHUA



Chinese respiratory scientist Zhong Nanshan

Expert reckons peak epidemic to pass within two weeks

ANTHONY LAM

MAINLAND epidemiology expert, 83-year-old Zhong Nanshan, has recently amended his prediction regarding the peak of the current coronavirus outbreak, stating that he believes it will take place within the next 14 days at most, Chinese state media reported.

"We believe the epidemic will peak in the next 10 to 14 days, but we still need to enhance preventive measures and not lower our guard," he said.

Back in 2003, Zhong was the official appointee in the mainland to oversee the response to the epidemic of the severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), which infected 29 territories across the world and killed 774 patients from a total of 8,096 infected.

"We have learned from the successful therapy of SARS and established a set of effective treatment plans," he said, as cited by China Daily. "And with the help of various life-support measures we have ensured the recovery success rate of patients."

Similar to SARS in the early stage of its outbreak, the novel coronavirus has no effective cure yet, but Zhong pointed out that there are at least seven drugs targeting the virus' genetic material going through various stages of clinical trials. A vaccine is also in the works, although it requires more time to reach clinical application.

Several news reports have pointed out that a vaccine for the new virus has been separately invented in several places, including Hong Kong. However, the vaccine must pass animal testing before being approved for administration to people.

The incubation period of the virus ranges from five to 14 days, but the expert noted that the average incubation period is around five days, with fever being the most common symptom.

Nonetheless, positive cases have been found to be infectious even without the patient presenting symptoms. Zhong added that these cases are the minority and that preventive efforts should be undertaken in full by all.

The Macau government has, from day one, reminded residents about the importance of avoiding crowded places, because it can be the main channel of contagion. Zhong visited Macau during the very early period of the local epidemic.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng earlier said he and Zhong maintained daily phone conversations to consult about the situation. Zhong stressed that the most effective preventive measures are early detection and quarantine.

Zhong reminded the public of two issues in the global fight against the outbreak. Firstly, differentiation between patients with the common flu and those infected with coronavirus can be a tricky task since both illnesses share symptoms. The eighth case in Macau had been to hospital at least three times for a prolonged fever before being diagnosed with the 2019-nCoV.

Secondly, Zhong advocated for optimizing the management and allocation of resources to better protect hospitals and medical staff working on the frontline from infections.

The Health Bureau of Macau has conducted measures accordingly, such as shortening the work time of frontline medical staff in the isolation ward.

Sands WEEKEND



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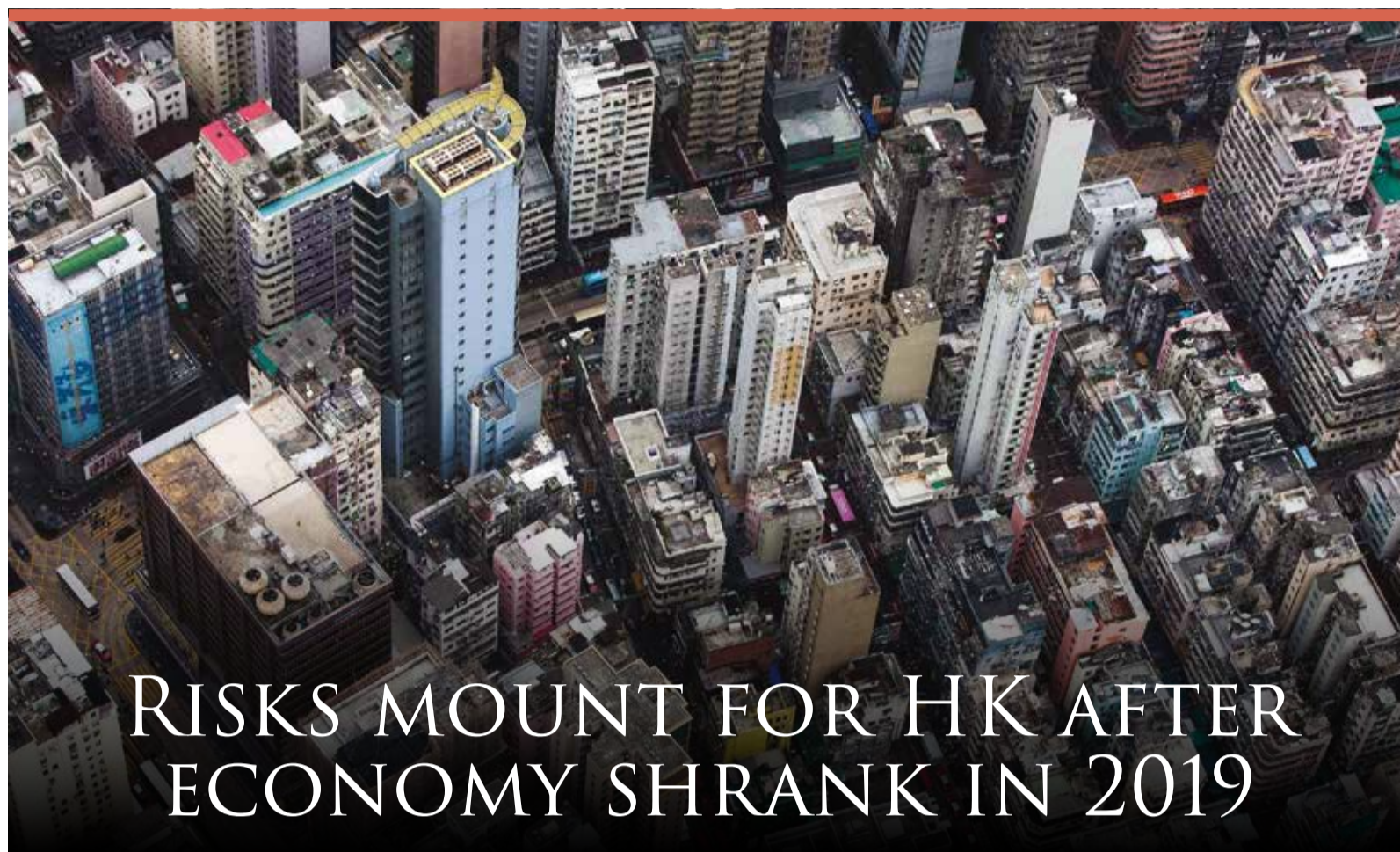
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RISKS MOUNT FOR HK AFTER ECONOMY SHRANK IN 2019

ERIC LAM

THE hits just keep coming for Hong Kong.

In 2019, there was the escalating U.S.-China trade war, which squeezed exports. Then came violent protests beginning mid-year, with street-fighting between police and protesters driving away tourists and shoppers, hurting the services industries, and tipping the economy into its first contraction in a decade.

Now, with advance figures yesterday confirming an annual economic contraction for the first time in a decade at -1.2%, China's deadly virus outbreak threatens to extend that losing streak into 2020. The economy was already in recession in 2019, shrinking in the second and third quarters, and that continued in the final three months of the year with a 0.4% decline from the previous quarter. Compared to the last three months of 2018, the economy was 2.9% smaller.

"Local social incidents with

violence during the quarter took a further heavy toll on economic sentiment as well as consumption and tourism-related activities," a government spokesman said in the release. The outlook for the Hong Kong economy in 2020 is "subject to high uncertainties" including the global economic recovery, U.S.-China trade relations, the ongoing protests and the progression of the viral outbreak, the spokesman said.

GDP growth forecasts for 2020 as well as revised figures will be released with the upcoming budget on Feb. 26, the release said.

"This is really the last nail in the coffin of the Hong Kong economy," Alicia Garcia Herrero, chief Asia Pacific economist at Natix SA, said about the virus before the data was released. "This time around even the financial sector may be affected, and I doubt protests will calm down."

THE CORONAVIRUS

Given the developing nature of the coronavirus outbreak in

mainland China and elsewhere, forecasting the impact on Hong Kong is especially difficult. But combining that with longstanding issues such as the expensive property market produces one of the more difficult outlooks for Hong Kong since the 1997 handover.

Drawing on experience from the 2003 SARS epidemic in the city, Aries Wong, lecturer at Hong Kong Baptist University's School of Business, estimates visitor arrivals from mainland China could drop by an additional 10 to 20 percentage points, and annual economic growth could be cut by 0.5 percentage point if the outbreak subsides by July - increasing to 1 percentage point if it continues for the whole year.

"Surely the virus is going to add a bit more pressure on tourism and retail," Wong said.

The negative effects may be limited as the key affected sectors were already hit hard last year, according to Iris Pang, an economist with ING Bank NV, although that

may not be much comfort to shopkeepers or restaurant owners.

"The impacts are negative on retailers, restaurants, gyms, swimming pools, mass transportation and inbound and outbound tourism activities," she said. "But as retailers have been hit by the violent protests, the marginal impact from the coronavirus should be moderate."

ANTI-GOVERNMENT PROTESTS

Hong Kong's biggest crisis of 2019 hasn't gone away. The impasse between protesters and the government remains unresolved, and the virus from the mainland will add to that mistrust and create new avenues for conflict, Wong said.

The government halted plans to use a housing estate as a possible coronavirus quarantine facility after violent protests at the site. Demonstrators blocked roads, damaged traffic lights and set fire to a building lobby - actions similar to those during the protests last year.

"The downside risk from the political unrest will likely persist for a while," said Tommy Wu, senior economist with Oxford Economics. "More protests could happen again after the virus outbreak fades, maybe later in the second quarter."

TRADE TENSIONS

While phase one of the U.S.-China trade deal brings some clarity to business on both sides, the deal also increased uncertainty for Hong Kong, which snapped a 13-month streak of export declines in December.

Even if there's an uptick in trade between the U.S. and China, Hong Kong might not benefit as it has in the past, with reports from late last year that China was considering re-routing trade that currently passes through Hong Kong to mainland ports to help meet its obligations under the deal.

Any upside to be gained from a rebound in trade will be tempered by the damage wrought to China by the virus, especially if the disruption to industrial output and trade from efforts to contain the virus continue or worsen.

"The virus outbreak is a significant downside risk to China's growth, and that will feed through to Hong Kong as well - whether it is through trade, financial markets, or retail and tourism," Wu said.

WILD CARDS

Hong Kong's property and financial markets have stayed resilient through the recession and ongoing protests. A pronounced downturn in either of these areas may hint at a further loss of confidence in the wider economy.

The city's longstanding currency peg is also often the subject of speculation. However, it's unlikely the Hong Kong Monetary Authority will tinker with its existing policy as it would create uncertainty outweighing "any positive effect of a devaluation" Wong said.

"During bad times, we don't expect the HKMA to experiment with anything about the currency peg," said ING's Pang. "Who dares to take this risk?" **BLOOMBERG**

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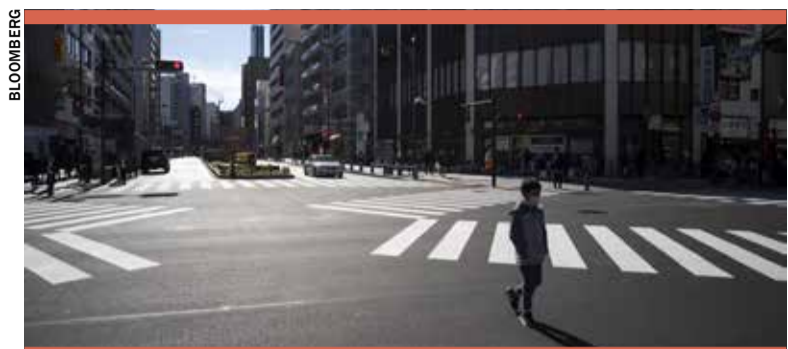
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



JAPAN LUNAR NEW YEAR DEPARTMENT STORE SALES PLUMMET

JAPANESE department store operators saw duty free sales slump during the key Lunar New Year holiday, one of the first indications of how hard the nation's retail sector will be hit by the novel coronavirus outbreak in China.

Takashimaya Co. duty-free sales during the seven days of the lunar holiday plunged almost 15% compared with the holiday period last year (the dates of the Lunar New Year change each year). Isetan Mitsukoshi Holdings cited concerns over the virus as a reason its duty free sales slumped 10% during the period.

Sales at Sogo & Seibu Co., a division of Seven & I Holdings Co., dropped 15%, while J Front Retailing Co., which operates the

flagship Ginza Six complex, saw revenue decline 5%.

Chinese visitors have become a key source of income for upmarket retailers in Japan as the nation's tourism industry has flourished, helping to make up for a declining population and an increasingly spendthrift younger population.

The drop in tourists from China, who make up almost one-third of arrivals and more than that in spending, could hardly have come at a worse time. Retailers are already dealing with headwinds of a sales tax increase last year, as well as an unseasonably warm winter. Cosmetics maker Kose Corp. last week slashed its full-year profit outlook 19% due to a decline in tourists amid the outbreak. **BLOOMBERG**

INDONESIA

Chinese abandon Bali beaches leaving tourism sector bruised

HARRY SUHARTONO

WITH Indonesia suspending visas to Chinese citizens in the wake of the outbreak of the deadly novel coronavirus, the country risks missing its target to lure a record number of tourists this year.

Foreign tourist arrivals into Indonesia climbed 2% to 16.1 million last year, the country's statistics bureau said Monday. Chinese visitors at 2.1 million, were the second largest group of tourists after Malaysians last year, data from the agency showed.

"The number of Chinese visitors has dropped significantly since the imposition of travel restrictions," said Ngurah Wijaya, an adviser to Bali Tourism Board and Bali Promotion Board. "And we have no clarity as well on how soon they can or will return."

That was before the government announced further restrictions. President Joko Widodo has also ordered the temporary



suspension of direct flights to and from mainland China and halted access to visas on arrival for Chinese citizens to prevent the spread of the Wuhan coronavirus.

Revenue from tourism and related industries contributes about 5% to Indonesia's gross domestic product and much of it's generated on the resort island of Bali. Now, the absence of Chinese visitors around the archipelago's beaches and temples and even the many active

volcanoes that attract hordes of sightseers, risks the government missing its target to boost foreign tourist arrivals to 17.3 million this year.

A lot will depend on how long the outbreak lasts and how badly it impacts China's economy, said Harry Su, head of equity capital markets at Samuel International. "Right now, there seems to be more downside risks on Indonesia's tourism industry rather than upside risks," Su said. **BLOOMBERG**

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A doctor working inside an isolation ward at a hospital in Wuhan

DRUG TO UNDERGO HUMAN TRIALS IN BEIJING FOR CORONAVIRUS

CHINA has kick-started a clinical trial to speedily test a drug for the novel coronavirus infection as the nation rushes therapies for those afflicted and scours for vaccines to protect the rest. Remdesivir, a new antiviral drug by Gilead Sciences Inc. aimed at infectious diseases such as Ebola and SARS, will be tested by a medical team from Beijing-based China-Japan Friendship Hospital for efficacy in treating the deadly new strain of coronavirus, a hospital spokeswoman told Bloomberg News yesterday.

Trial for the drug will be conducted in the central Chinese city of Wuhan – ground zero of the viral outbreak that has so far killed more than 360 people, sickened over 17,000 in China and spread to more than a dozen nations. As many as 270 patients with mild and moderate pneumonia caused by the virus will be recruited in a randomized, double-blinded and placebo-controlled study, Chinese news outlet The Paper reported on Sunday.

Drugmakers such as GlaxoSmithKline Plc. as well as Chinese authorities are racing to crash develop vaccines and therapies to combat the new virus that's more contagious than SARS and could cost the global economy four times more than the \$40 billion sapped by the 2003 SARS outbreak. The decision to hold human trials for remdesivir shows it's among the most promising therapies against the virus that so far has no specific treatments or vaccines.

The experimental drug has not yet been approved for use by any drug regulator in the world but is being used on patients battling the

new virus in the absence of approved treatment options, Gilead said in a statement last week. Gilead is working with health authorities in China to set up the trial to determine whether remdesivir can safely and effectively be used for this infection, it said.

China's health regulator has also recommended AbbVie Inc's HIV medicine Kaletra as an ad-hoc antiviral drug for coronavirus. Kaletra is also set to undergo human trials, according to The Paper. Meanwhile, a global search continues for therapies to contain

the infection that can spread undetected.

Johnson & Johnson has initiated work on a preventive coronavirus vaccine and has "dozens of scientists" working on it, its Chief Scientific Officer Paul Stoffels said last month. GlaxoSmithKline and

the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations said Monday they will work to accelerate the creation of a vaccine and then provide the doses rapidly.

The Coalition, set up in 2017 to spur the development of shots for known diseases and to respond to new viruses, has also signed contracts with drugmakers including Moderna Inc. and Inovio Pharmaceuticals Inc. as early as Jan. 22 to expedite work on vaccines. Novavax Inc. was among the first ones to announce it was working on a candidate too.

Health officials, however, say a vaccine version may take three months to be available for the first stages of human testing while developing an effective vaccine generally takes years.

That puts remdesivir on the front lines of combating the infection.

The first patient in the U.S. infected with the virus, a 35-year-old man, has seen his pneumonia improve after he was given remdesivir, doctors treating him said in a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine last week.

The trial in China could lead to a fast-track approval of remdesivir by the Chinese drug regulator, which in some cases has been the fastest in the world. China's drug law now allows conditional approval for drugs with clinical data demonstrating efficacy against ailments that are life-threatening and have no existing therapies. **BLOOMBERG**

THAILAND SEES GOOD RESULT FROM USING DRUG MIXTURE ON SERIOUSLY ILL PATIENT

A cocktail of antiviral drugs appeared effective in treating a seriously ill coronavirus patient, a Thai health official said.

The HIV medicines lopinavir and ritonavir, which are sold by AbbVie Inc. as the product Kaletra, was used on three patients in conjunction with the anti-flu medication oseltamivir, sold by Roche Holding AG and Chugai Pharmaceutical Co. as Tamiflu, Somkiat Lalitwongsa, director of the Rajavithi Hospital in Bangkok told reporters yesterday.

Kaletra is already being studied in a randomized, controlled trial - the gold standard for testing new medical products - in novel coronavirus patients in Wuhan, China. The decision by Thai doctors to give the flu drug was based on research that indicated it helped some patients afflicted with the more-deadly coronavirus that causes Middle East respiratory syndrome. A study by researchers in France recommended it be used in these so-called MERS patients, but discontinued if tests show they don't have the flu.

"There's not enough evidence to support the effectiveness just yet," Somkiat said. "But we report to contribute to the medical community globally. The results look good so far."

Of three patients in Thailand on whom the unique three-drug therapy was initiated, two are continuing to receive the medications, Somkiat said. Treatment was discontinued in one patient who developed a rash. One of the

AP PHOTO



two continuing to receive the medicines has tested negative to the 2019-nCoV virus, he said.

"Because there's no standard procedure yet, we're trying new combinations of drugs," Somkiat said.

Thailand has 19 confirmed cases of the so-called 2019-nCoV virus. Eleven are hospitalized and the rest have returned home. The nation is also monitoring 311 people for possible

infections in hospitals as of Sunday, according to a health ministry statement.

Thailand will repatriate more than 100 people from Wuhan today after they pass medical screening in China, Deputy Prime Minister and Public Health Minister Anutin Chanvirakul said last weekend. They will then be quarantined for 14 days after returning to Thailand. **BLOOMBERG**

JOE McDONALD, BEIJING

Built in 10 days, virus hospital takes first patients

THE first patients arrived yesterday at a 1,000-bed hospital built in 10 days as part of China's sweeping efforts to fight a new virus that is causing global alarm.

Huoshenshan Hospital and a second 1,500-bed facility due to open this week were built by construction crews who are working around the clock in Wuhan, the central city where the outbreak was first detected in December. Some 50 million people are barred from leaving Wuhan and surrounding cities.

The Wuhan treatment centers mark the second time Chinese leaders have responded to a new disease by building specialized hospitals almost overnight. As severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, spread in 2003, a facility in Beijing for patients with that viral disease was constructed in a week.

The first patients arrived at Huoshenshan Hospital at 10 a.m. yesterday, according to state media. They gave no details of the patients' identities or conditions.

The ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, sent 1,400 doctors, nurses and other personnel to staff the Wuhan hospital, the official Xinhua News Agency said.



AP PHOTO

The government said earlier that some have experience fighting SARS and other outbreaks.

The state newspaper Beijing Daily applauded construction workers and suppliers who cut short their Lunar New Year holiday. It hailed the rapid construction as a political triumph, despite complaints leaders in Wuhan endangered the public by failing to respond fast enough to reports of a dangerous new disease.

"Today's Chinese people are more deeply aware: where I stand is my China," the newspaper said. "When this national sense of ownership is awakened, our mentality in the face of disasters becomes more mature."

Authorities have cut most road, rail and air access to Wuhan and surrounding cities, isolating some 50 million people, in efforts to contain the viral outbreak that has sickened more than 17,000 people and

killed more than 360.

Before this week's addition of 2,500 new beds, Wuhan had 6,754 in hospitals designated for virus patients, according to the website TMTpost.com. It said authorities were considering assigning another 2,183 beds to virus cases at the city's other hospitals.

The Huoshenshan Hospital was built by a 7,000-member crew of carpenters, plumbers, electricians and other specialists, according to Xinhua.

About half of the two-story, 60,000-square meter building is isolation wards, according to the government newspaper Yangtze Daily. It has 30 intensive care units.

The name Huoshenshan means God of Fire Mountain. The second hospital, Leishenshan, means God of Thunder Mountain.

Newspapers published day-by-day accounts of crews clearing a riverside plot, laying the foundation, installing sewage

and electrical equipment and assembling prefabricated rooms that were shipped to the site.

Photos in state media showed workers in winter clothing, safety helmets and the surgical-style masks worn by millions of Chinese in an attempt to avoid contracting the virus. Trucks were shown arriving in the middle of the night carrying rolls of insulation and other materials.

Doctors can talk with outside experts over a video system that links them to Beijing's PLA General Hospital, according to the Yangtze Daily. It said the system was installed in less than 12 hours by a 20-member "commando team" from Wuhan Telecom Ltd.

The building has specialized ventilation systems and double-sided cabinets that connect patient rooms to hallways and allow hospital staff to deliver supplies without entering the rooms. It is equipped with infrared scanners to warn if any employees show signs of the disease's distinctive fever. AP



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ANALYSIS

FEARS OF NEW VIRUS TRIGGER ANTI-CHINA SENTIMENT IN ASIA PACIFIC

A scary new virus from China has spread around the world. So has rising anti-Chinese sentiment, calls for a full travel ban on Chinese visitors and indignities for Chinese and other Asians.

Restaurants in South Korea, Japan, Hong Kong and Vietnam have refused to accept Chinese customers. Indonesians marched near a hotel and called on Chinese guests there to leave. French and Australian newspapers face criticism for racist headlines. Chinese and other Asians in Europe, the United States, Asia and the Pacific complain of racism.

Two dozen countries outside of China have reported cases of the new coronavirus, which has killed more than 360 people and sickened thousands of others in China. Many countries have sent planes to the Chinese city of Wuhan to evacuate their nationals.

The anti-China sentiments come as a powerful Beijing bolsters its global influence, and China's rise has caused trade, political and diplomatic disputes with many countries.

But with rising fear of the mysterious disease has come a more acute anti-Chinese and, in some cases, anti-Asian backlash.

SOUTH KOREA

South Korean websites have been flooded with commen-

ts calling on the government to block or expel Chinese and racist remarks about Chinese eating habits and hygiene. A popular Seoul seafood restaurant frequented by Chinese tourists posted a sign saying "No entry for Chinese" before taking it down Wednesday after an online backlash.

More than 650,000 South Koreans have signed an online petition filed with the presidential Blue House calling for a temporary ban on Chinese visitors. Some conservative opposition lawmakers publicly back these steps, and about 30 people rallied near the Blue House on Wednesday demanding the government immediately ban Chinese tourists.

"Unconditional xenophobia against the Chinese is intensifying" in South Korea, the mass-circulation JoongAng Ilbo newspaper said in an editorial Thursday. "Infectious diseases are a matter of science, not an issue that can be resolved through an emotional outpouring."

HONG KONG

The virus has deepened anti-Chinese sentiment in Hong Kong, where months of street protests against Beijing's influence have roiled the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Last week, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam suspended ferry and high-speed train services to the mainland and reduced flights between Hong Kong and Chinese cities.

Tenno Ramen, a Japanese noodle restaurant in Hong Kong, is refusing to serve mainland customers.

"We want to live longer. We want to safeguard local customers. Please excuse us," the restaurant said on Facebook.

Yesterday, Lam closed most of the borders with the mainland, under public pressure.

AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND

More than 51,000 signatures have appeared on an online petition demanding apologies from Australia's two biggest-circulation newspapers over their headlines.

The petition condemned Melbourne's Herald Sun headline Wednesday that read, "Chinese virus pandemonium," a misspelling that plays on China's native pandas, and Sydney's The Daily Telegraph headline on the same day that read, "China kids stay home."

Singaporean Kiwi Dollice Chua told the New Zealand Herald that when she went to an Auckland mall last week to buy

a wedding card a woman gave her a dirty look and told her "You Asians are the ones who brought this virus." Chua has lived in New Zealand for 21 years. "It's racist and beyond rude," she said.

JAPAN

Many Japanese have taken to social media to call for a travel ban for the Chinese visitors amid worries they'll come to Japan for virus-related treatments. One tweet said, "Please ban Chinese tourists immediately," while another said, "I'm so worried that my child may catch the virus."

A candy store in Hakone, a hot springs town west of Tokyo, recently made headlines after it posted a note saying, "Chinese people's entry into the store is prohibited." On Wednesday, Menya Hareruya, a popular ramen chain in Sapporo on Japan's northern island of Hokkaido, posted a sign saying "No entry for Chinese tourists."

Zhang Jiaqi, a Chinese student in Tokyo, said he has not faced any unpleasant response from his Japanese classmates and friends, but, he added, "I noticed that some people have turned around or watched me with angry looks on their face when I was talking to my friends in Chinese."

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Last weekend, several hundred residents in the Indonesian tourist city of Bukittinggi marched to the Novotel Hotel, where some 170 Chinese tourists were staying, to protest their entrance into Indonesia.

They blocked roads near the hotel to prevent the Chinese, who'd arrived a day earlier, from getting out of the hotel. Local authorities decided to send the visitors back to China later in the day.

More than 400,000 Malaysians have signed an online petition calling for a ban on Chinese travelers and urging the government to "save our family and our children."

A hotel in Danang, Vietnam, a popular beach destination, has been refusing to accept Chinese tourists.

A former police officer and town mayor, Abner Afuang, said he burned a Chinese flag on Friday in front of the National Press Club in Manila to protest the problems China has brought to the Philippines and other Southeast Asian countries, including the virus and Beijing's claim to disputed islands in the South China Sea.

The Philippine president's office said in a statement: "Let us not engage in discriminatory behavior, nor act with any bias towards our fellowmen. The reality is everyone is susceptible to the virus."

THE UNITED STATES

After news broke that someone attending Arizona State University has the virus, Ari Deng, who is Chinese American, said she sat down at a study table on the Tempe, Arizona, campus near five other students.

Deng, who was the only Asian, said the other students began whispering. "They got really tense and they quickly gathered their stuff and just left at the same time."

In a recent business class a non-Asian student "said 'Not to be racist, but there's a lot of international students that live in my apartment complex. I try my best to keep my distance but I think it's a good precaution for all of us to wash our hands,'" Deng said.

"It stings but I don't let it take up room in my mind or weigh on my conscience," she said.

Meanwhile, the University of California, Berkeley's health services center removed an Instagram post Thursday that said "fears about interacting with those who might be from Asia and guilt about these feelings" were a normal reaction to the coronavirus outbreak.

"No matter how much time we spend in this country, at times we are almost immediately viewed as a foreigner," Gregg Orton, the national director of the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, said. "It's a pretty frustrating reality for many of us." **MDT/AP**

GREGORY KATZ, LONDON

UK

Man wearing fake bomb stabs two in London and is shot to death

A man recently released from prison after serving time for terrorism-related offenses strapped on a fake bomb and stabbed two people on a busy London street Sunday before being shot to death by police, officials said.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Lucy D'Orsi said police identified the attacker as 20-year-old Sudesh Amman. He had been convicted for publishing graphic terrorist videos online and had stockpiled instructions on bomb making and knife attacks, according to police.

Officers had been trailing Amman at the time of Sunday's attack, D'Orsi said, but were unable to head off the bloodshed in the commercial and residential south London neighborhood of Streatham, where Amman struck outside a major pharmacy on a busy shopping afternoon.

The incident in London recalled a November stabbing attack carried out by another man who had served prison time for terrorism offense. Two were killed in that attack.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said measures will be introduced today to bring "fundamental" change to the way people convicted of terrorism offenses are handled in prison and afterward.

"The suspect had been recently released from prison where he had

AP PHOTO



Undated handout photo issued by the Metropolitan Police of Sudesh Amman

been serving a sentence for Islamist-related terrorism offences," D'Orsi said of Sunday's attacker.

It seems likely the victims will survive Sunday's attack. D'Orsi said a stabbing victim in his 40s thought to be in life-threatening condition has improved. She said the victim

is no longer in danger and that a woman who had been hospitalized has been released.

One other female victim is still in the hospital with lesser injuries police believe were caused by flying glass after the attacker was shot dead.

D'Orsi said the incident started at 2 p.m. "Armed officers, who were part of a proactive counterterrorism operation and were following the suspect on foot, were in immediate attendance and shot a male suspect dead at the scene," she said.

She said police saw a device strapped to the attacker's body and called in specialist officers who quickly determined the purported explosive device was a hoax.

Officials praised the police action but questions are likely to be raised about why the officers trailing Amman could not prevent his attack.

Video from the scene appeared to show three undercover police officers in an unmarked car making a quick stop just after the attack.

Bell Reberio-Addy, a member of Parliament who represents Streatham, said the attacker had been under surveillance "for some time."

D'Orsi said there was no "continuing danger" to the public, but the area remained cordoned off as

the investigation continued. The usually busy area was deserted as the public heeded police requests to stay away.

The drama about 5 miles (8 kilometers) south of central London marked a departure from recent terror attacks in the British capital that took place near landmarks such as London Bridge and the Houses of Parliament.

The attack caused chaos and panic on what had been a typical Sunday afternoon, with the streets filled with shoppers.

Karker Tahir said he was at work when he saw police chasing a man down Streatham High Road, the area's main shopping district.

"They kept telling him, 'Stop! Stop!'" Tahir said. "But he didn't stop, and then I saw that they shot him three times. It was horrible seeing it. The man was on the floor and it looked like he had something, which police said may be a device. Police came to us and said, 'You have to leave the shop because he has a bomb in his bag.'" AP

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Offbeat

MATHEMATICIANS, GEEKS CELEBRATE RARE PALINDROME DAY

Mathematicians and geeks everywhere celebrated a rare occurrence Sunday, 02/02/2020, a kind of 8-digit palindrome that hasn't happened for more than 900 years.

A palindrome is any sequence, phrase or word that reads the same backward as forward. And 02/02/2020 is considered a "universal palindrome" because it reads the same whether written as "Month/Day/Year" as the United States does, or "Day/Month/Year" as many other countries do.

The last universal palindrome occurred on 11/11/1111. The next one won't come until 12/12/2121.

"It's possible to live your entire life without ever having gone through a universal palindrome, so it's pretty cool to have one in your lifetime," said Heather Pierce, a mathematics lecturer at Emmanuel College in Boston.

The date was cause for celebration on Twitter, where even those who don't specialize in math got a kick out of the rare global palindrome.

"Another one won't happen for 101 years, so make the most of this one!" tweeted actor Mark Hamill of "Star Wars" fame.

"Are you guys pumped? The big day is finally here!!" tweeted musical comedian "Weird Al" Yankovic.

"Right now people all across the country are getting together with friends and loved ones to celebrate - so exciting. Anyway, from my house to yours. Happy Palindrome Day!"

The Royal Wedding Chapel in Las Vegas was hoping the date would have special meaning for many couples. The chapel noted in its advertising that couples who marry on 02/02/2020 would have their two-year anniversaries on 02/02/2022. "Two being the ultimate symbolic number representing you and your spouse to be."

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| 16:00 | Harry Potter - Uma História de Magia |
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| 17:55 | Volta ao Mundo |
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| 21:15 | Macau 20 Anos - Visto de Lá: Macau em Portugal |
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| 00:45 | Telejornal (Repetição) |
| 01:30 | RTPi Directo |

this day in history



1968 MORE KENYAN ASIANS FLEE TO BRITAIN

Another 96 Indians and Pakistanis from Kenya have arrived in Britain today, the latest in a growing exodus of Kenyan Asians fleeing from laws which prevent them making a living.

The party included nine children under two, and all flew in on cut-price one-way tickets costing about £60 - less than half the normal single fare.

Omar Sharmar, an Indian who was forced to close his haulage business in Mombasa when the government refused to grant him a licence, estimates he has lost £2,000.

"Only Kenyan citizens are being allowed work permits," he said. "I was forced to sell my fleet of lorries and come to Britain to look for a new life."

An airline official in Nairobi estimated that the charter flights had taken between 1,200 and 1,500 Kenyan Asians in to Britain.

"We did find some difficulty filling the planes until last week," he said.

"But in the last two or three days that attitude has changed, and there doesn't seem to be any difficulty at all now. At the present rate I think this will continue for at least a year, if not more."

Immigration laws in Kenya are becoming increasingly draconian. Foreigners can only hold a job until a Kenyan national can be found to replace them: and more and more cities, including Nairobi, are demanding that the government bans non-Kenyans from owning a shop or trading in municipal markets.

If the Kenyan government caves in to such demands, the result is likely to be chaos, as most shops are owned by foreigners, and not enough citizens have the capital or knowledge to run small businesses.

Already, the tens of thousands of Asians, who have until now dominated commerce, industry and most key jobs in the country, are finding their lives made impossible.

Although most turned down the chance to take Kenyan nationality when it was offered to them, more than 100,000 did take up the chance to get British passports.

They are now arriving at the rate of more than 1,000 a month to start a new life in the UK, a country which most have never seen.

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

The mass immigration of thousands of Kenyan Asians caused a major crisis for the UK government of Prime Minister Harold Wilson.

The Home Secretary, James Callaghan, rushed through new legislation aimed specifically at curbing the flow of immigrants from East Africa.

The 1968 Commonwealth Immigration Act introduced a requirement to demonstrate a "close connection" with the UK. There were deep cabinet splits over the legislation: cabinet papers have since quoted the then Commonwealth Secretary, George Thomson, saying that "to pass such legislation would be wrong in principle, clearly discrimination on the grounds of colour, and contrary to everything we stand for."

The criticisms, as well as growing tension on the issue provoked by Conservative MP Enoch Powell's infamous "Rivers of Blood" speech in April 1968, brought the issue of immigration to the fore, and ultimately led to the Race Relations Act of 1976.

There are currently about 70,000 Indians in Kenya - about 0.25% of the population. Many have been there for four generations, yet they remain politically powerless, and there is still pressure in some quarters to expel them from the country altogether.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 The time for exploring new locations has come and gone, but it will come around again soon enough. You have to put a cap on your wanderlust and stick close to home for now.

TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20
 There's a lot of power in groups, so you might find yourself wanting to be a part of a greater group in order to feel more powerful right now. But mob mentality is never a good thing.

GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21
 Gratitude gives people a good memory about you, and if you continue coming to people's aid today, you'll be reaping some huge rewards for a long time to come.

CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Why not get a group together to clean up the block, work for a charity one afternoon, do some yardwork for a disabled neighbor, or hold a charity carwash?

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
 A stranger's smile, a little kid's giggle, or even just the beautiful clouds in the sky all deserve your notice. You run the risk of taking things for granted if you don't appreciate them more consciously.

SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 You'll have a hard choice to make today between feeding your mind and feeding your heart. Try to go for the option that feeds your intellect rather than your emotions.

SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Regardless of whether or not you're looking for a new romance right now, you'll have lots of fun meeting new people and flirting up a storm today. People will be flirting right back, too.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Moving things around on your calendar is necessary to keep them viable. If they need to reschedule, try to work with them. Being too rigid about things could scare them off.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 The cynical side of you comes out in full force today when someone's altruism sets off alarm bells in your mind. Before you cause a racket claiming that this person is full of ulterior motives, hold back.

PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Something may happen that you can't influence. Instead of feeling powerless or frustrated, take advantage of the situation and steer it in a direction that's better for you and your people.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

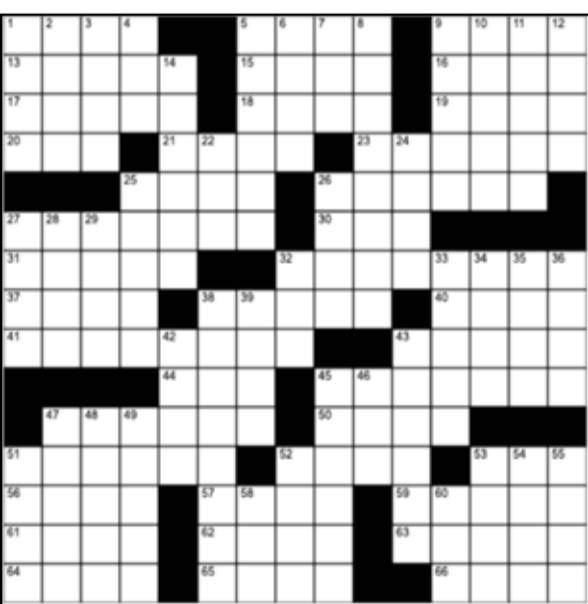
WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | -6 | 2 | clear |
| Harbin | -27 | -19 | cloudy |
| Tianjin | -3 | 2 | clear |
| Urumqi | -12 | -4 | clear |
| Xi'an | -2 | 13 | clear |
| Lhasa | -7 | 6 | clear |
| Chengdu | 6 | 11 | cloudy |
| Chongqing | 7 | 15 | cloudy |
| Kunming | 3 | 19 | clear |
| Nanjing | 2 | 12 | clear |
| Shanghai | 6 | 11 | cloudy |
| Wuhan | 1 | 14 | clear |
| Hangzhou | 6 | 11 | overcast |
| Taipei | 15 | 17 | drizzle |
| Guangzhou | 11 | 15 | drizzle |
| Hong Kong | 16 | 19 | cloudy |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | -6 | 2 | drizzle |
| Frankfurt | 1 | 12 | drizzle |
| Paris | 3 | 13 | drizzle |
| London | -2 | 12 | drizzle |
| New York | -1 | 4 | overcast |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Does some tailoring; 5- Motion picture; 9- Italian wine city; 13- Crazy as ___; 15- "A Jug of Wine..." poet; 16- Will of "The Waltons"; 17- In agreement; 18- Graf ___; 19- Editor Wintour; 20- Needlefish; 21- Precious stones; 23- Truman of literature; 25- Timbuktu's land; 26- Furry swimmers; 27- Sarcastic; 30- It may be picked; 31- Multitude; 32- Pertaining to the management of public wealth; 37- Not ___ many words; 38- Seductively beautiful woman; 40- Small mountain; 41- Chef's measure; 43- Sri ___; 44- Credit-tracking corp.; 45- Hawaii's largest industry; 47- Lama pacos; 50- Lacoste of tennis; 51- Threat finale; 52- Pervasive quality; 53- HBO alternative; 56- Bausch & Lomb brand; 57- Holds up; 59- Spud; 61- Tease; 62- Prepare a book or film for release; 63- Movie critic Roger; 64- Vintner's prefix; 65- Phooey!; 66- JFK postings;

DOWN: 1- Dutch name of The Hague; 2- Lohengrin's bride; 3- Heath; 4- Mama's boy; 5- Vast; 6- Little devils; 7- Dundee denial; 8- Building; 9- Godly love; 10- Spanish Mister; 11- Camp sights; 12- Dies ___; 14- Undo; 22- Quarterback Manning; 24- Env. notation; 25- Windows predecessor; 26- On a single occasion; 27- Voucher; 28- Bang-up; 29- Bear up there; 32- Ocean flier; 33- Chicago's airport; 34- Start of something small?; 35- Kinds; 36- A type of bake; 38- Magician; 39- Hawkeye's home; 42- School orgs.; 43- Crescent-shaped; 45- Expects confidently; 46- Done, to Donne; 47- ___ having fun yet?; 48- Russian revolutionary leader; 49- Disney dog; 51- ___ take arms against...; 52- Slightly; 53- Editor's note; 54- Mother of Ares; 55- Scraps; 58- Name of a feudal Japanese clan; 60- Actor Vigoda;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



FOR SALE

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

FOR RENT

Vai Fung Triplex, Macau
 \$15,800/mth 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR SALE

- [Taipa] Jade Garden 4 1/2 3 1/2
 3,180 ft² \$18,000,000 (ref: 19126002)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 1/2 2 1/2
 1,344 ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)
- [Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1/2 1 1/2
 900 ft² \$5,100,000 (ref: 19106003)
- [Taipa] Nova City 3 1/2 2 1/2
 1,515 ft² \$11,750,000 (ref: 19106001)

FOR RENT

- [Macau] Furnished 2 1/2 1 1/2
 700 ft² \$12,500/mth (ref: 19101007)
- [Taipa] New studio 1 1/2
 470 ft² \$9,500/mth (ref: 19101002)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1/2 1 1/2
 935 ft² \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091005)
- [Taipa] Manhattan high floor 4 1/2 2 1/2
 2,305 ft² \$26,800/mth (ref: 19091003)

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AD

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

RUGBY ACADEMY

HAPPY COMEBACK FOR BATS

DONALD SHAW, HONG KONG
SPECIAL TO MDT

THE first rugby festival of 2020 was held at King's Park, Hong Kong in mid-January. The festival, hosted by Tai Po Rugby Club, saw the Macau Bats field six teams across the age groups including the first appearance of the season by the U6s.

The young Bats immediately got down to business against Tin Shui Wai Eagles, edging an entertaining game by 4 tries to 3, an encouraging start to their tournament. The team continued to score on a regular basis across their next two games - high scoring draws against Valley Fort (4-4) and Sai Kung Stingrays (3-3). The final game also finished in deadlock, another 4-4 try-fest against Hong Kong Football Club (HKFC).

The U7s continued with the high scoring approach getting off to a fine start with a 6-3 win over Aberdeen before also drawing their next three games, 4-4 against Shatin Sha Pei; 1-1 with Tsuen Wan Rhinos and a further 4-4 draw with Causeway Bay Monkeys.

The U8s edged Shatin Sha Pei 4-3 and followed that up with a further two wins against HKFC (4-2) and Sandy Bay (3-1) before finishing with a 2-2 draw against Aberdeen.

The U9s had a tough run, going down 3-5 to USRC Tigers and 2-4 against Sandy Bay. Recovering to register a 4-1 win over Shatin Sha Pei but ending with a 0-5 loss to a strong HKFC.

The U10s had been promoted to the first division in their age group and encountered a tough set of games. First up was a very creditable 2-2 draw with Sandy Bay followed by a narrow 2-3 reverse against Valley Fort. The difficult games continued but the team gave their all before succumbing 3-5 against Sai Kung Stingrays and 3-4 to HKFC.

U11s got off to a slow start in their game against hosts Tai Po, however they stormed back to win 7-2 in an exciting game. The tries kept flowing in their game against Sai Kung Stingrays, finishing 5-5. Final game against strong Discovery Bay Pirates saw the Bats lose 2-5 but having acquitted themselves well.

Meanwhile over at Happy Valley the U12s were playing in the 3rd division in a combined team with East Kowloon and USRC Tigers. The team got off to a flying start with a 3-2 win over HKFC, followed by a 1-1 draw against Valley Fort and a convincing 4-1 win over Discovery Bay Pirates. This then left the Bats players in with a chance of winning this round of the league which they duly achieved by beating Flying Kukris 5-1 in their final game. Promotion to the second division for the Bats meant it was a happy boat ride back to Macau.



ANDREW DAMPF, ROME

FOOTBALL

CR9: Ronaldo scores in 9th straight game to match Juve mark

CRISTIANO Ronaldo converted two penalties to tie a club record by scoring for a ninth straight game as Serie A leader Juventus bounced back from a rare loss with a 3-0 victory over Fiorentina yesterday [Macau time].

The penalties came toward the end of each half as Ronaldo — who appeared bothered by a bloody cut to his ankle during the pre-match warmup — matched David Trezeguet's streak from 2005.

Ronaldo now has 19 goals in the 19 matches he has played in this season's Italian league — only two fewer than he scored in all of last season. In 50 Serie A matches since joining Juventus from Real Madrid before last season, he has been involved in 50 goals — 40 goals and 10 assists.

Matthijs de Ligt added another for hosts Juventus in added time by heading in a corner.

Juventus remained three points ahead of Inter Milan, which won 2-0 at Udinese. Lazio is two points further back in third — but with a game in hand — following a 5-1 rout of Spal.

Last weekend at Napoli, Juventus lost only its second match in the Italian league.

Fiorentina, which lost its first match since Giuseppe Iachini re-

AP PHOTO



placed Vincenzo Montella as coach last month, remained 14th.

The Viola have not picked up a single point at the Allianz Stadium since the facility opened in 2011.

The first penalty was awarded after a shot from Miralem Pjanic hit the hand of Fiorentina defender Germán Pezzella. After the penalty was confirmed by VAR,

Ronaldo coolly slotted a low shot inside the left post before goalkeeper Bartłomiej Drgowski could get there.

The second penalty came after Federico Ceccherini got in the way of Rodrigo Betancur, who was making his way through the Fiorentina defense. Ronaldo again sent his spot kick inside the left

post while Drgowski this time leaped in the other direction.

Rocco Comisso, the Italian-American cable TV magnate who bought Fiorentina last year, took issue with the penalties.

"I've been here for six months and I've never criticized the referees, but I'm now saying that referees cannot decide the games,"

Comisso said. "I am disgusted. Maybe the first one was a penalty, but the second one certainly was not. The referees cannot decide the games. They need to let the players do their work on the field.

"Juventus pays huge salaries. They don't need extra help," Comisso added. "I am disgusted by what I saw today, but also last week with Genoa and then against Inter."

Juventus vice chairman Pavel Nedved responded by saying "we are seeing too much of this narrative against Juventus, suggesting that Juventus does not deserve its victories.

"We are fed up with this sort of thing," Nedved added. "It's time for people to stop relying on alibis when they play against Juve. We win games because we play well."

Juventus goalkeeper Wojciech Szczęsny was exceptional early on to deny Fiorentina as the visitors threatened with several chances against their hated rival. **AP**

AD

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OPINION

Our Desk

Lynzy Valles



ON THE IRRESPONSIBLE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The epidemic outbreak has caused a lot of unnecessary racism - at least on social media - as it has created jokes and memes about how people are scared of just being next to a Chinese person, perceiving them as infected with the novel coronavirus.

Recently, as seen on social media posts, some users fail to be responsible, sharing videos of people collapsing tagging it as #wuhancorona or #ncov2019. However, some of these videos have been circulating around the internet for quite some time.

The novel coronavirus has been the subject of significant fears, and social media and internet users play a big part in exacerbating this fear as fake news has been spreading on different platforms - particularly on Facebook.

The most popular fake news include a series of videos that show people fainting on the streets, while others have shared photos of a person already lying on the streets.

As reported by the Times yesterday, the Public Security Police Force has clarified that a 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, and that the instances were "due to excessive drinking and not due to sickness."

Fake news has been fueling panic - which is so obvious in the supermarkets, especially last week, as residents lined up in long queues, stocking up basic necessities including rice and noodles.

While scrolling on social media the other day, I found on my news feed a post sarcastically thanking China for being the reason why Macau is experiencing layoffs and why employees are being forced to take annual leave.

"Thanks to the people of China. Many have been affected and have lost their jobs," the user said in a post.

Obviously, the post was sarcastic but was it necessary?

I think in the time of this crisis and the subsequent issues that the city is experiencing - people being forced to take annual (and even unpaid) leave, non-resident workers being fired due to a downturn in business - we should be more mindful of sharing and commenting on the effect of 2019-nCoV. Obviously, there isn't really anyone to blame.

These people - particularly those from Hubei - are just victims of this unwanted epidemic.

Many blame Hubei residents for eating weird and live animals but it really gives no one permission to discriminate against them, which in the end fuels hostility.

On another interesting note, several residents were giddy about the government's announcement that the annual cash handouts will be given three months earlier - in April rather than July - to help ease the impact of the pneumonia outbreak.

Social media users - at least on my news feed - were thanking the government for "taking care" of them amid the virus outbreak, many of them ironically. These were the same people ranting on social media platforms about how the local government should just place a complete ban on any Chinese visitors.

The city's annual wealth partaking scheme - which kicked off in 2008 - was implemented when Macau was experiencing an economic boom particularly due to the impact of the wealthy and affluent Chinese gamblers from mainland China.

The rapid rise of mainland Chinese travelers has played such a significant part in the city's economy - becoming Macau's top visitor source.

Do we just want the 10,000 patacas and to go on criticizing a group that played a huge part in the city's economic development?

The head of the World Health Organization says it's working with Google to ensure that searches about the new virus from China turn up information from the United Nations health agency first, part of efforts to fight "rumors and misinformation" about the outbreak.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told the opening of WHO's executive board meeting on Monday that social media platforms

such as Twitter, Facebook, Tencent and TikTok "have also taken steps to limit the spread of misinformation" about the virus and outbreak that first emerged in the Chinese city of Wuhan in late December and has now spread to 23 other countries.

The number of people infected by the virus globally has topped 17,000. It has killed more than 360 people, all but one in China.

AP PHOTO



ONE METER AWAY FROM EACH OTHER, MAINLAND PHYSICIANS SUGGEST

JULIE ZHU

A trusted online community of mainland healthcare professionals, Ding Xiang Doctor (DXY), has suggested that mainland residents stay at least one meter away from each other. This is one among many other suggestions made to Chinese residents as a means to tackle the epidemic of the novel coronavirus known as 2019-nCoV.

On Sunday, the community made a post on its official WeChat account containing 20 suggestions for mainland residents.

The first suggestion asks mainland residents to stay in their current location and postpone travel to any of outbound planned destinations. The website proposes that Chinese residents carry alcohol disinfectants and keep their hands clean.

Approximately half of the 20 suggestions educate mainlanders on how to avoid contact with other people.

On Sunday afternoon, the Chinese national health authority recommended that mainland residents try their best to not sit next to anyone while traveling on public trans-

portation and leave one seat between one another.

"When talking to others, please keep a distance of at least one meter. Two meters will be safe," DXY advised, following the country's national health authority's recommendation.

Another suggestion to mainland travelers recommends that, when one person is continually coughing or sneezing inside a train car, others keep a distance from that person and give them a mask. Upon giving the mask, commuters should create a temporary environment of isolation around this person.

Ding Xiang Doctor is one of mainland China's most followed healthcare accounts on Weibo, with five million followers. On WeChat, it has over 10 million followers, ranking first among healthcare accounts.

The website has reportedly gathered the input more than 70% of mainland China's medical professionals. It has over 2.3 million followers on Zhihu, the mainland version of Quora, making it the most followed account on Zhihu. In 2019, it recorded over 3.2

billion readings.

This influential healthcare account is telling mainland residents to carry "at least three masks" every day in case of any emergency or long-distance travel. At the same time, the online doctor community hopes that mainland residents will have plenty of trash bags readily available so that contaminated items may be safely contained.

Ding Xiang Doctor urged mainland residents "Do not eat" while traveling and to resolve food demands before and after travelling. If mainland residents want to eat during their travel, they should finish eating "as fast as they can" and should always keep a distance from coughing people.

"Timely, effective, and simple to understand," one WeChat user commented below the post.

"I hope middle-aged or seniors can enhance their awareness and wear masks when going out," another user commented.

In addition to the above, Ding Xiang Doctor also reminded mainland residents to leave their shoes outside their houses, and to leave their clothes hanging outside.

AP PHOTO



Pakistan The government postponed its decision on whether to lift a ban on a movie that had offended hard-line Islamists in this Muslim-majority country, after asking a high council of clerics to weigh in on the film. The Islamists had raised allegations of blasphemy over the film, "Zindagi Tamasha," or "Circus of Life," by Pakistani director Sarmad Khosat, which was to be released in late January. Its debut was scrapped.

AP PHOTO



UK The British government plans to announce new rules for the imprisonment of convicted terrorists after an Islamic militant who was recently released from prison stabbed two people in south London, the second such attack in less than three months.

More on p11

AP PHOTO



Brexit British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and European Union negotiator Michel Barnier set out tough opening gambits yesterday in negotiating a future trade deal, making it clear that each side is willing to walk away without an agreement rather than compromise on key issues. Johnson is digging in his heels about future relations with the EU three days after Britain left the bloc, the first country ever to do so.

AP PHOTO



Turkey hit targets in northern Syria, responding to shelling by Syrian government forces that killed at least six Turkish military personnel. A Syrian war monitor said 13 Syrian troops were also killed. Also, Syrian activists said airstrikes in the country's northern, rebel-held region killed at least nine civilians yesterday.