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THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROSECUTE CITIZENS IF THEY CONCEAL INFORMATION IN CASES RELATED TO NOVEL CORONAVIRUS INFECTIONS

LATEST TWO CORONAVIRUS CASES ARE LOCAL CASINO WORKERS

PUBLIC IGNORE GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES OF FOOD ABUNDANCE IN THE CITY AND RUN TO SUPERMARKETS



China Global business is catching a chill from China's virus outbreak. Airlines have canceled 25,000 flights to and within China after ticket sales collapsed, according to travel data provider OAG. General Motors Co. and other automakers are telling employees to limit travel to China, their biggest market. *More on p8*

Japan Electronics and entertainment company Sony Corp. warned yesterday that forecasts and results were at risk because of the new virus in China, as it reported a drop in fiscal third quarter on stumbling video game, networking and film businesses. Tokyo-based Sony, which makes PlayStation video-game consoles, Bravia TVs and Spider-Man films, said the impact of the virus was unclear, but production and sales of its image sensor division were at risk.

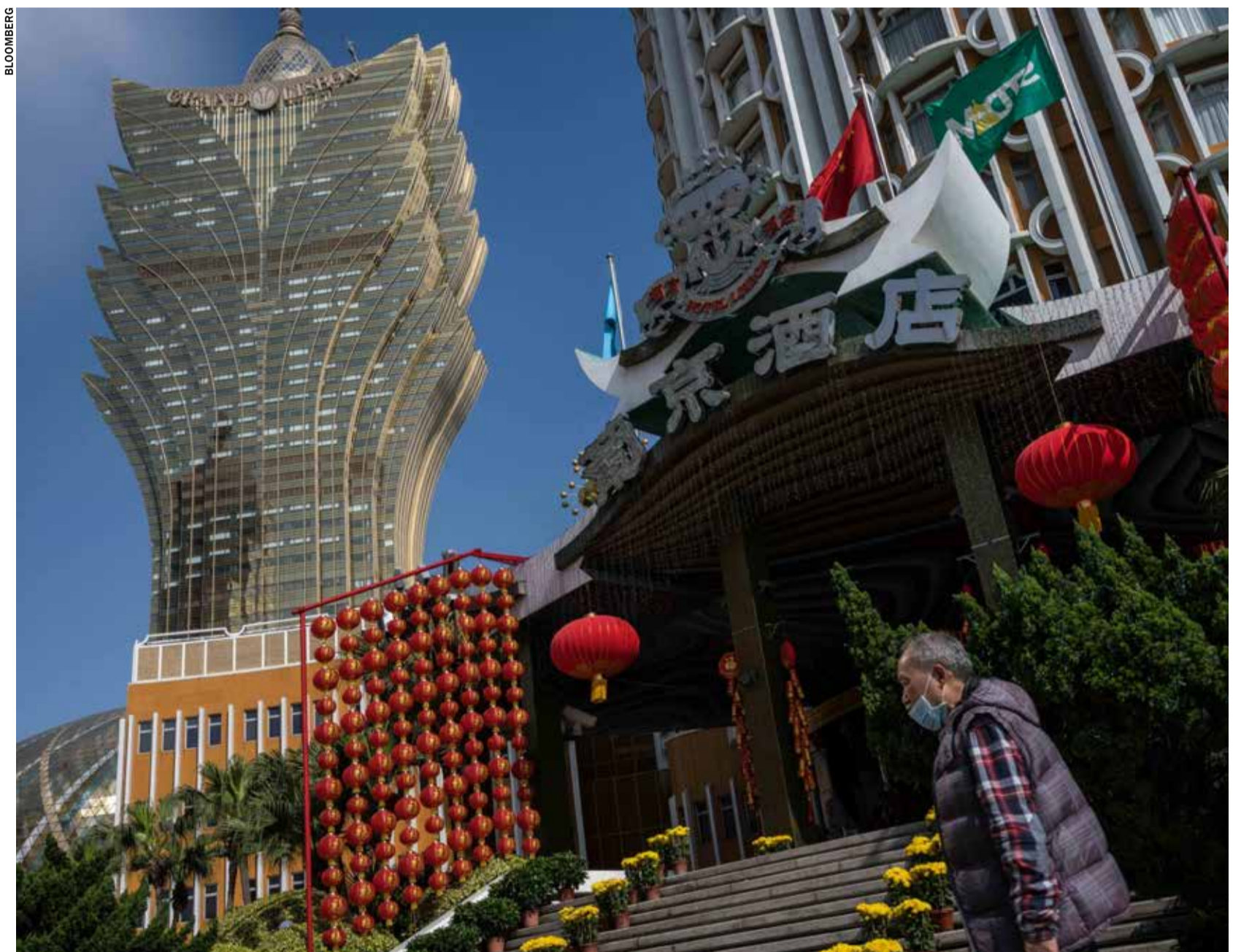
Bangladesh Investigators from the International Criminal Court have begun collecting evidence for a case involving alleged crimes against humanity by Myanmar against Rohingya Muslims causing them to flee to neighboring Bangladesh, a court official said yesterday.



South Korea A K-pop star charged with violating South Korea's anti-prostitution law may have to join the country's army and face trial in a military court. Last week, prosecutors indicted former Big Bang member Seungri, whose real name is Lee Seung-hyun, on charges of violating laws on prostitution, illegal gambling and foreign currency trading.

More on backpage

VIRUS FORCES UNPRECEDENTED CASINOS SHUTDOWN



FIRST DEAD FROM CORONAVIRUS IN HONG KONG AS MEDICAL WORKERS WENT ON STRIKE



FOUR HOSPITALIZED FOR CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

Four people were sent to hospital due to carbon monoxide poisoning, according to the Health Bureau (SSM). The four were found in a residential unit located on Av. Do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado in Areia Preta. The SSM reported that the four are aged between 12 and 57. One of them felt dizzy and had a rapid heartbeat after taking a bath for about eight minutes on February 2. After that, her symptoms worsened, her limbs weakened, she vomited and fell. Her carbon monoxide concentration was 21.4%. Her three family members denied feeling ill, but their blood carbon monoxide concentrations were found to be slightly elevated. All four were all taken to Kiang Wu Hospital and recovered after treatment.

HOTEL VIP GUEST CHARGED WITH FRAUD OVER 1.28 MILLION DEBT

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has handed a Korean man over to the prosecution authority. On February 1, the PSP arrested the man from a hotel located on R. das Árvores do Pagode. The PSP reported that the man was a VIP guest of the hotel. He had been living in the hotel since December 31, 2019 until January 31, 2020. During his stay, he repeatedly signed accounts requesting the provision of hotel services, such as the spa and food. However, he was eventually found to be unable to pay for all the expenses. In total, the man owed expenses of over 1.28 million patacas. He was arrested on February 1 when he admitted the incidents. The PSP handed him over to the prosecution authority under the charges of fraud.

CUSTOMS AUTHORITY TO ENHANCE INSPECTIONS OVER PARALLEL TRADING

The Macao Customs Service has enhanced inspections over parallel trading in the vicinity of the Border Gate. In view of the severe coronavirus outbreak, the customs authority has increased its manpower at the Border Gate to crack down parallel trading activities, and will crack down on non-quarantine food and illegal items entering Macau in order to maintain the city's food safety and to protect people's health. The customs authority also stated that epidemic prevention work is their top priority, and that the bureau is fully implementing the SAR government's epidemic prevention policy. The customs authority will not condone any smuggling or illegal acts.

CORONAVIRUS CASES INCREASE TO 10 IN LATEST GOV'T UPDATE



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng (center) speaks during a special press conference, flanked by Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong (left) and Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U

ANTHONY LAM

The number of confirmed coronavirus patients has increased to 10 after two more were reported in the latest government update. Leong Iek Hou, a coordinator at the Health Bureau (SSM), publicized the itineraries of the two most recent cases during yesterday's press briefing.

The ninth patient is a 29-year-old local woman, who works in the floristry department of the Galaxy Macau property.

She went to Zhuhai for hotpot and an orchestra concert on January 19 and returned to Macau the same day. She worked between January 20 and 22, commuting on employee shuttle buses.

On January 23, she spent an hour at the house of the eighth patient, who is her aunt. She then had dinner at the house the next day, but not with the eighth patient.

She developed a fever on January 25 but later recovered. On February 3, she approached the Conde S. Januário Hospital seeking medical assistance because of a mild runny nose. She was later diagnosed with the coronavirus.

The tenth case involves a 56-year-old casino shuttle bus driver who works with casino operator Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM). He visited Guang-

zhou briefly on January 25 with his family, in a group of seven people, in a chartered car.

He gradually developed various symptoms and visited several medical facilities for consultation, one of which was a private doctor. However, he was not tested and confirmed as the tenth patient in Macau until yesterday morning.

Both patients reside in the Areia Preta District, one near the power plant in Macau and the other near Baptist Secondary School. The Municipal Affairs Bureau has already sanitized the area around the two buildings.

During her incubation period, the ninth patient dined twice with three colleagues at the canteen in her workplace, in

addition to taking employee shuttle buses to and from work. This may pose a great risk to workers within the complex, but the SSM ascertained that infection control measures have been taken.

"We quarantined the three colleagues having been in close contact with the patient," explained Leong, noting that one of the three colleagues has returned to their residence in Zhuhai. As such, the quarantine measures will be handled by the authorities there.

"Furthermore, the casino operator has been notified. It is instructed to ask its team members to conduct self-monitor[ing]," Leong added.

On measures to assist small and medium-sized enterprises in

crossing this hurdle, Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, reiterated the importance of fighting the outbreak.

"Our first priority is to handle the epidemic well," said Lei. "This crisis is not only affecting the tourism or the gambling industries. It is now affecting all walks of life."

Being the policymaker for economic and financial matters, the secretary made it very clear: "Our responsibility to support the local economy is unquestionable. We will expand investment and lower taxation."

The secretary did not go into detail regarding his proposals, saying only that it was still too early to talk about recovery measures. "Faith will make everything possible," he said.

In order to calm students, parents and teachers, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has launched a new website which is dedicated to providing mental health support if any problems have arisen during the holiday extension period or the epidemic.

It is also working with associations to provide hotlines facilitating phone counseling services. Nonetheless, only six inquiries have been received so far.

Kong Ngai, head of the Bureau's education department told the press conference specifically that his bureau "hereby strongly reminds students [living on the mainland] should stay in their homes in Zhuhai," in response to parents of these students calling to ask if their children should return to Macau.

MAN UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR SPITTING ON MASK STOCKS

A man is under police investigation for spitting on a pile of more than 300 masks at the Seac Pai Van Health Center after refusing to queue and remain orderly while requesting to get his masks exchanged, Lei Chin Ion, director of the Health Bureau (SSM) revealed yesterday at the government's daily press briefing on novel coronavirus measures.

The health authority head, however, did not disclose whether the individual concerned was a local resident or a foreign worker.

A spokesperson for the Public Security Police Force (PSP) told the press conference that an in-

vestigation is now underway. If sufficient proof is gathered, the suspect will be charged and passed on to the Public Prosecutions Office.

On Monday, the suspect bought his share of masks at an office of the Women's Federation. He was not satisfied with the quality of the masks, so he approached the Health Center for an exchange.

However, he refused to line up and had a brief altercation with the officers working there. Then, he yelled "Let's die together!" in Chinese and spat on a pile of masks. As a result, the SSM had to void the pile of masks. Lei strongly condemned any such acts. **AL**

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Lynzy Valles, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
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Macau orders unprecedented 15-day casino shutdown

DANIEL BEITLER

THE Macau government has ordered a 15-day closure of all casinos and gambling operations in the city in order to contain a further outbreak of the novel coronavirus.

The decision, which took effect from midnight, is the longest-ever suspension of gambling activities since the liberalization of the sector at the start of the century. It is only the second such suspension after Typhoon Mangkhut forced a 33-hour shutdown in 2018.

The announcement was made during a special press conference convened yesterday by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng. The city's leader said that the discovery of two casino operator employees among the now 10 cases of coronavirus in Macau had inspired the decision.

"I remember I was asked earlier by a journalist if the casinos would close should the situation worsen," the Chief Executive recalled at a special press conference held yesterday. At the time, Ho had refused to rule out the possibility.

"Today, we see the risks heightened, as one of the new cases works in a casino complex," continued Ho. "It's too early to determine when the situation will get better, so we have decided to suspend casinos and [gambling]-related activities for half a month preliminarily."

The 15-day suspension will affect the gaming areas of integrated resorts and other casino establishments, but hotels are understood to remain open.

The closure also covers other entertainment facilities including cinemas, theatres, indoor playgrounds, internet cafes, billiard rooms, bowling alleys, steam rooms, massage parlors, beauty salons, fitness centres, health clubs, karaoke premises, bars, nightclubs, discotheques and dance halls, according to the Executive Order published by the government.

Asked about the economic impact of the half-month closure, Ho said that the city is prepared to "bear that cost," adding that there may never be a better time to tap into the government's fiscal reserves. Gaming taxes, which account for about 80% of local government revenue, have allowed the special administrative region to maintain one of the world's healthiest fiscal and foreign currency reserves per capita.

The Chief Executive and Macau's Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, later met with representatives of casino operators and other betting companies, all of whom agreed to cooperate with the

EVA BUCHO



suspension, according to the government.

The top economy official said that casino operators had promised to uphold their corporate social responsibility commitments by not making staff redundant or asking them to take unpaid leave. He said that the casino operators had assured that their employees would have their salaries paid as normal.

"We should not be overly pessimistic" about the economy, said Lei. "Gross gaming revenue will drop to zero [during this period], but we need to ensure the health of locals and tourists as our first priority. We can make the money back in the future."

Gross gaming revenue dropped 11.3% in January to 22.12 billion patacas, according to official data released over the weekend by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Behind January's contraction is the plummeting number of visitor arrivals from the mainland, Macau's primary tourist source market, where the deadly coronavirus outbreak has infected more

than 20,500 and killed over 420 as of Tuesday. Visitor arrivals dropped by about 80% during the Chinese Lunar New Year period according to preliminary data provided by government. The festive period, when millions of Chinese travel and shop, typically gives casino revenue a big boost due to the influx of tourists.

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.

Market analysts agree that casino operators will likely bear the brunt of any short-term pain to the local economy caused by this "extreme measure."

"This is indeed an extreme measure. It is unlikely for casino operators to pass all this burden to staff, so they may bear all the fixed costs and expenses," Angela Han Lee, equity analyst with China Renaissance Securities HK, told Bloomberg. "Near-term profit might fall into the negative territory."

"Due to the travel restrictions in place, virus concerns and no more visas issued under the individual

visitation scheme, we expect the gross gaming revenue to likely stay weak near term," said analysts at Credit Suisse led by Kenneth Wong. "The suspension will drag the sector performance for a longer period, in our view."

Analysts at Sanford C. Bernstein predicted that even a two-week shutdown could cause gross gaming revenue to slump by as much as 50% in the first quarter.

"Whatever the details of the temporary shutdown are, the first quarter is obviously going to show awful results," noted a memo from Sanford Bernstein, as cited by GGRAsia. "Assuming only a two-week shutdown followed by some soft business resuming in late February and March, the first quarter could show [gross gaming revenue] year-on-year decline of 50 percent," the analysts said.

The Bloomberg Intelligence index of Macau operators fell as much as 3.7% on Tuesday on the news, with every stock in the gauge declining. MGM China Holdings Ltd. and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. were the worst performers

among the six concessionaires.

Casino operators contacted by the Times expressed support for the measure and said that they would cooperate to prevent the coronavirus from spreading in Macau.

"In light of the pneumonia outbreak caused by novel coronavirus, Galaxy Entertainment Group has been working closely with the relevant [government] departments, and adopted and supported all protective measures laid out by the Macau SAR Government," said Buddy Lam, senior vice president of public relations at Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), in an emailed statement to the Times.

"Despite that the closure of gaming premises may bring challenges to the industry and Macau's economy, GEG fully supports the government's decision and believes that the most important thing is for society to unite and work together to contain the spread of the virus."

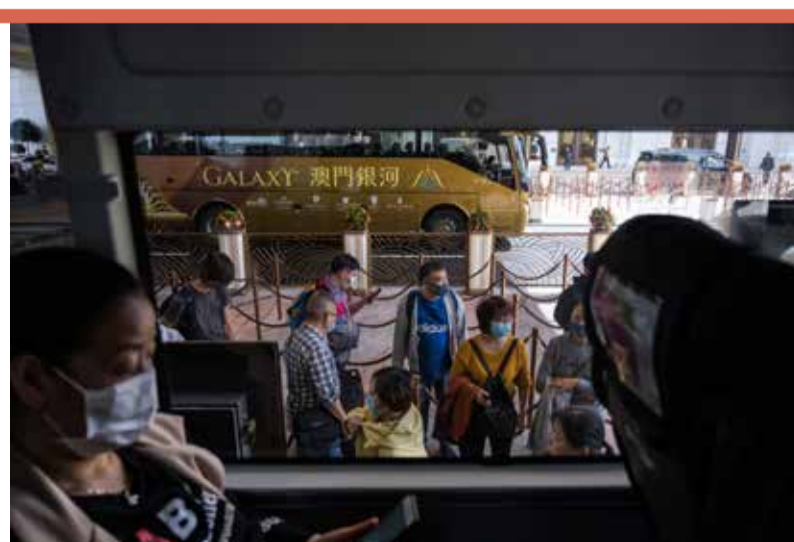
A representative for Melco Resorts & Entertainment said that "the health and safety of guests and colleagues is a top priority, and we have put in place stringent measures to best safeguard their well-being. We continue to work closely with the government and are supportive of their initiatives to prevent the spread of the new strain of coronavirus."

Katharine Liu, senior vice president for communications at Wynn Macau, said that the company's "greatest concern and our top priority is the health and safety of our employees, their families and the citizens of Macau."

"We support the Government's decision to prioritize public safety and temporarily suspend the operations of all of Macau's gaming areas, which we believe is in the best long-term interests of everyone concerned. We will fully cooperate and comply with all government directives and recommendations," added Liu.

A representative for MGM said, "the health and safety of our employees, guests and all Macau citizens are of paramount importance and the control of the virus outbreak is our current topmost priority. As a responsible corporate citizen, MGM will follow the government's direction and fight the epidemic in spirit of solidarity and cooperation."

BLOOMBERG



HO IAT SENG

Macau will not close its borders with China like neighbor HK

RENATO MARQUES

THE border control measures currently being enforced by the Macau government in the face of the novel coronavirus outbreak are sufficient and adequate, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said yesterday during a special press conference.

Speaking to the media at the government's headquarters, the Chief Executive said, "We are not closing our borders to anyone, we are not banning anyone, not even the people from Wuhan or Hubei province."

Instead, the Chief Executive said the government is ascertaining that people entering Macau are not infected with the virus and they have the right documents to certify that they are not infected.

Ho also noted that the complete closure of the Macau borders would severely damage local society.

"We need the borders open for our food supply. All our essential supplies come through there," he said adding that working staff, such as cleaning and security staff, also need that border open



so they can provide essential services in Macau.

When asked by the media whether the decision to stop the circulation of ferry services between Macau and Hong Kong was

agreed upon between both sides or was a unilateral decision taken by Hong Kong authorities, Ho admitted that there was no prior negotiation or agreement reached between both sides.

"Honestly, Hong Kong did not discuss with us. We only learned from the news that they decided to close the ferry terminal. We had to discuss it immediately with the ferry operators. They

[Hong Kong] do not [usually] discuss with us about anything. Similarly, when we take measures, such as closing the casinos, we also won't let them know in advance or ask them to tell their people not to come. We can only rely on each other's news releases," Ho said.

The Chief Executive reiterated that Macau would not close its borders and so citizens should be calm and confident, reassured that there would be no lack of food or any other essential products.

"I need to reiterate that we will not close the borders. Please do not rush for food and other resources," added Ho.

The insistence comes as neighboring Hong Kong sealed off most checkpoints with the mainland this week in order to contain the spread of the virus. The new measure leaves only three border checkpoints in operation: Shenzhen Bay port, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and the airport.

Previously several sectors of society, including lawmakers and political and social affairs commentators, had expressed opinions that to effectively contain the spread of the virus in Macau, the government should adopt stringent border control measures that could include a complete ban on all Chinese nationals entering Macau or, at least, the enforcement of a ban on all people arriving from the most affected mainland provinces.

Supermarket rush as residents ignore government appeals

RENATO MARQUES

THE appeals of Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng and later Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, were ignored by a large number of residents who rushed to the markets and supermarkets of the region to stock up on food products yesterday.

The government has guaranteed that there was no shortage in the supply of food products of any kind to Macau and that the supply was guaranteed to hold stable in the near future.

Nevertheless, people rushed to the markets and supermarkets across the SAR yesterday to stock themselves and their families in the event of any pos-

sible shortage.

Rice, oil, noodles, vegetables, fruits and canned food were among the most wanted with people, in some cases, stocking more than they could even carry in their hands.

According to people heard by the Times, the rush was more evident yesterday afternoon after the announcement of the two-week closure of casinos and suspension of most public services.

However, in some areas of the city such as the Areia Preta district, there were reports of empty shelves in supermarkets starting in the early morning.

The situation was aggravated during the afternoon and ear-

ly evening when long queues started to form at supermarkets and aisles were becoming emptied.

By 5 p.m. most of the fresh produce at one supermarket in central Macau was depleted and people queuing for the cashier were busy on their phones trying to understand the stock levels in other nearby stores.

Images shared on social media showed people stocking large quantities of groceries and other products. In at least one post, vehicles were seen heavily loaded with boxes of fruits and vegetables.

Contacted by the Times, the general manager of one supermarket admitted that the rush was apparent

yesterday but affirmed - as the Chief Executive had also insisted - that there is no shortage of food products in Macau and that supply chain is stable. During the daily press conference organized by the government, Secretary Lei repeated the appeal of the Chief Executive not to rush to the supermarket and stock personal supplies. Lei noted that the rush to buy an exaggerated quantity of products can harm the normal operation of the markets.

However, many residents seemed to ignore the government's suggestions, preferring to take the matter of supplies for the coming two weeks into their own hands.

MOST GOV'T SERVICES TO REMAIN SUSPENDED INTO NEXT WEEK

JULIE ZHU

THE Macau SAR government will continue the suspension of non-emergency public services, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced yesterday.

Ho said that the local government will continue the suspension of all basic public services enforced since the Chinese Lunar New Year, with only emergency services to continue. The government's decision came after a tenth case of novel coronavirus, known as 2019-nCoV, was reported in the territory.

Last week, the government had already waived the need for "non-essential" civil servants to work on Thursday and Friday. Last Friday, the government then extended the suspension of work period to February 7.

According to the dispatch published previously in the government's Official Gazette,

both basic and emergency services were to be maintained from February 7.

"However, due to the current situation, we think that basic services will be suspended [further]," said Ho, who additionally urged civil servants to stay at home and avoid being outside their premises.

The Chief Executive has also urged members of the public, including individuals and businesses, to tackle this epidemic together by preventing opportunities for it to spread.

"I urge the public to not go out to the streets. Staying at home is the safest measure," Ho said.

On January 5, the SAR government established a cross-departmental team to tackle the expected emergence of the coronavirus in Macau. On January 21, the government set up a coordination center to fight the epidemic, which remains active to this day.

THOSE FOUND LYING ABOUT TRAVEL HISTORY TO BE PROSECUTED

RENATO MARQUES

CHIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng warned yesterday that the government will prosecute citizens if they conceal information which is important to processing their diagnosis in cases related to novel coronavirus infections.

Ho was replying to a question from the media on whether Macau needs to amend or create any laws to prevent people from lying or concealing key information, such as their travel history.

"We don't need to produce any laws, we have them already," he said. "If [people] hide medical information, we have a penalty according to our law on the Prevention and Treatment of Infectious Diseases [...] that

can result in imprisonment of up to two years."

"I hope we don't need to take such measures as we don't want to prosecute patients. But if it causes great problems in society, we must do that," Ho affirmed.

Ho was referring to the patient diagnosed as the eighth case of Wuhan pneumonia in Macau who, according to authorities, was found to have concealed from the medical team that first attended her at Kiang Wu Hospital that she had traveled to the mainland for a medical appointment.

According to the Chief Executive, the 64-year-old Macau woman caused a potentially serious situation which resulted in the necessary isolation of around 20 me-

dical staff at Kiang Wu Hospital, and was also responsible for infecting a ninth person with the coronavirus in Macau.

According to the details disclosed, the eighth case went to China for a surgery appointment and did not protect herself. When she first started noticing symptoms, she went to Kiang Wu Hospital and did not immediately disclose the information.

"The ninth [case] was then contaminated because she was visiting the house of the eighth case," said Ho.

"Patients cannot conceal the information because medical staff need to protect themselves too," added the official, making a public appeal to all not to hide information.

GOV'T SEEKING EXTRA QUARANTINE FACILITIES TO COPE WITH GROWING CASES

ANTHONY LAM

FOLLOWING the announcement of the two new novel coronavirus cases in Macau, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng has disclosed that his team is conducting negotiations with hotel operators to search for extra quarantine facilities. The work is being done to prepare for a possible worsening of the situation.

The number of people in quarantine is expected to rise, said Dr. Lei Wai Seng, medical director at S. Januário Hospital, given the two new novel coronavirus infections confirmed yesterday morning.

Currently, there are 18 people in quarantine at the government's facility in Coloane. As for Pousada Marina Infante, which is being used to quarantine

tourists from Hubei province, there are 70 people there now.

During a special press conference yesterday, Ho noted that contingency plans have been made for other properties.

The government is considering several hotels as potential quarantine facilities. However, Macau's top official declined to make any premature disclosures and stressed that a timely announcement would be made when necessary. In Ho's words, a "premature disclosure may cause confusion among the public."

The government has currently leased hotel Pousada Marina Infante to quarantine tourists from Hubei province, the origin area most affected by the epidemic. The government

stressed that they are not patients, meaning the quarantine is a preventive measure. The hotel has a total of 186 rooms.

On the other hand, people in Macau who have had close contact with a confirmed case are being quarantined at a government medical facility in Coloane.

Meanwhile, the government disclosed that yesterday it received calls from three Macau residents currently in Jiangxi province. They called for help as all the roads were closed and they were unable to return to Macau.

The government did not explain how it would help the three residents, but recommended that they stay in the territory and postpone any unnecessary travel.



AD



HONG KONG

STRIKING HEALTH WORKERS POSE NEW THREAT TO BEIJING

JOSIE WONG, LULU YILUN
CHEN & SHAWNA KWAN

THOUSANDS of Hong Kong medical workers went on strike for a second day yesterday to demand that leader Carrie Lam immediately close the city's border with the mainland to prevent the spread of a deadly coronavirus.

Yet the strike also revealed a longer term threat to her administration, as well as to her bosses in Beijing: It shows the growing strength of pro-democracy unions formed in recent months by protesters who want to curb China's influence on the financial hub. The strategy aims to allow pro-democracy groups to quickly organize mass actions and, ultimately, transform a political system designed to favor Beijing loyalists.

"Government opponents are going through strenuous efforts to form new trade unions, hoping this could increase their chances of winning more seats in the legislative council," said Lau Siu-kai, the former head of a Hong Kong government think tank and an emeritus professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "These efforts will go hand-in-hand with the protests, bolstering the political movement in Hong Kong to seek more detachment from mainland China."

The Hospital Authority Employees Alliance, which was formed in December, says it's already attracted more than 18,000

members - nearly a quarter of the staff at the Hong Kong Hospital Authority, the city's second biggest employer. The group said about half of them planned to strike this week in a bid for stronger measures to stop a coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than 420 people including one in Hong Kong.

The union is among dozens that were formed recently by participants in pro-democracy protests that have rocked the city since last June. In the second half of 2019, the city's labor department received 135 applications for new trade unions, spanning industries from finance to education and bartenders. That compares with only 10 during same period the previous year.

The rise of pro-democracy unions threatens the monopoly of pro-government unions that have an outsized influence on labor policy, and in elections for the city's Legislative Council and chief executive. They could also potentially add to disruptions to the economy, which has slid into recession as protesters shut down transport networks, vandalized China-linked businesses and deterred tourists from visiting Hong Kong.

'HAMSTRING SOME BUSINESSES'

"Hong Kong traditionally has not been a unionized place - if the unions were to get individuals together for collective demands it could hamstring some businesses," said Benjamin

Quinlan, chief executive officer and managing partner of Quinlan & Associates, a strategy consultancy based in Hong Kong. Hospitality, food and beverage, and medical businesses could be the first to suffer the impact, he said.

Hong Kong's labor rules are a big attraction for foreign companies: The World Economic Forum's competitiveness rankings last year put the city as the number one location for its hiring and firing practices among 141 economies. Yet in the category of "workers rights," it came in at 114 on the list.

This week's strike among medical workers, which was opposed by the government and drew criticism in some local newspapers, will test the ability of protesters to turn their street numbers into organized collective action.

"People are genuinely worried and even more reluctant to go outside now that they know there's a risk of medical workers being on strike," Quinlan said.

NOT CLOSING BORDER

Lam, the city's leader, said Monday it wasn't acceptable that medical workers went on strike and most of those infected in Hong Kong were local residents. Hong Kongers now accounted for 90% of people passing through the border, she said, adding that banning mainland visitors wasn't in line with the World Health Organization guidance.

"We must not encourage

any discrimination so we have to exercise caution here," Lam said.

The medical union is embarking on the second stage of its strike after talks with the government failed. It hopes to rally 9,000 members to take action and also protest in front of the city's Hospital Authority.

Among 3,164 union members who took part in a vote on Saturday, nearly 99% of people favored going on strike unless the Hong Kong government barred all visitors entering from mainland and ensured an ample supply of masks. The city's infected patients have risen to 15 as of Tuesday, while in China the number of confirmed cases jumped to more than 20,470.

PET STORES, ACCOUNTANTS

"Our members have spiked because of the pneumonia outbreak," Ivan Law, a registered nurse of more than three years and vice chairman of the Hospital Authority Employees Alliance, said in an interview. "On top of workspace issues, we hope the union can be a representative to speak out on political issues."

The medical workers aren't alone. Pet store workers, tech staff and accountants are also weighing measures to deal with the pneumonia outbreak.

The Hong Kong Alliance of Accounting Professionals is asking companies to halt business trips to China, according to an executive with the group who asked to be identified only

by his last name Chan for fear of retribution by his employer. He appeared at a press briefing on Friday wearing a face mask and hat to avoid being recognized.

The formation of unions is also another step for Hong Kong protesters to have more say in the city's carefully managed elections. They are seeking to erode the influence of pro-Beijing unions, including the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, which command five seats on the Legislative Council.

ELECTION IMPACT

Hong Kong's legislature comprises 70 members, half of whom are elected through five geographical districts under a proportional representation system, and the other half indirectly through 29 functional constituencies such as accountancy and textile. That means a small clutch of companies and industry professionals that tend to vote in favor of the pro-Beijing camp have just as much say as all the city's 4.1 million registered voters.

The newly formed unions can apply to receive one vote for each union after being registered for a year. If enough unions are formed, they can potentially win more lawmaker seats for the pro-democracy camp, shifting the power dynamics in the city's main lawmaking body.

"The government needs the functional constituencies because it would lose majority otherwise," said Ma Ngok, associate professor at the Department of Government and Public Administration at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. "It has a large impact on the LegCo's legitimacy and has prompted citizens to think that the council cannot effectively represent public opinion." **BLOOMBERG**

China cuts rates, injects liquidity as mainland markets sink

TIAN CHEN, YINAN ZHAO & MIAO HAN

CHINA'S central bank took its first concrete steps to cushion the economy and plunging markets from the blow of a spreading new virus, providing short-term funding to banks and cutting the interest rate it charges for the money.

The People's Bank of China added a net 150 billion yuan (\$21.4 billion) of funds on Monday using 7-day and 14-day reverse repurchase agreements. The rate for both was cut by 10 basis points, driving down the cost of the money to "ensure ample liquidity during the special period of virus control," it said in a statement. PBOC adviser Ma Jun indicated he expects further rate cuts later in the month.

The cash injection was part of a raft of supportive measures announced over the weekend to soften a market sell-off and help firms affected by the disease outbreak and extended holiday. While the government said Monday that it's confident it can minimize the economic impact of the coronavirus, the central bank and regulators may well continue to step up support as the effects of the epidemic become clearer.

"It's a tricky moment, and the central bank needs to wait to see how it plays out," said Nie Wen, an economist at Huabao Trust Co. in Shanghai. "It has to make sure the economy can grow steadily while leaving policy room for the future - the next week or two will be crucial for them to decide whether the economic shocks would be temporary or extend over the mid-term."



A senior Chinese official on Monday acknowledged the impact on the economy, especially on tourism, transportation, hotels, catering, movies and entertainment, adding those difficulties are "temporary."

"Many people tend to use SARS in 2003 as a reference to gauge the economic impact. But China's economic strength, material foundation and ability to respond to emergencies are significantly stronger than in 2003," Lian Weiliang, deputy head of the National Development and Reform Com-

mission said at a press conference on Monday. "We are fully capable and confident to minimize the impact of the epidemic on the economy."

Lian also said that while the government would work to ensure the coronavirus didn't spread further, it would encourage major projects and enterprises in good condition to resume work and production. Policy makers will also roll out measures to soften the impact of the epidemic on a case-by-case basis, especially to try to help industries that have been hit hard,

Lian said.

Vice Commerce Minister Wang Bingnan said at the same press conference that many exporters in China have been resuming production, and local governments have been issuing policies to help small and medium-sized companies.

Authorities have pledged to provide abundant liquidity and there seems to be more easing measures in the pipeline. In an interview with the PBOC's Financial News newspaper, central bank adviser Ma Jun said he expects the

PBOC to push the interest rate for new loans lower and to also cut the rate for medium-term funding in February if it uses that facility mid-month, as it usually does.

If that were to happen, it would be a change to a "rather strong" easing bias for the central bank, according to Peiqian Liu, China economist at Natwest Markets Plc in Singapore.

Having moved away from its historic one-year lending rate, China's central bank now conducts policy with a range of instruments that add short and mid-term funds to the market and banks at varying interest rates. The new loan prime rate - which is based on the interest rate for one-year loans that 18 banks offer their best customers - is set to be announced on Feb. 20.

Chinese stocks, the yuan and commodity futures sank Monday as trading restarted following the holiday break. The onshore bond and currency markets also opened Monday for the first time since Jan. 23, with the yuan weakening through 7 per dollar. The yield on China's most actively traded 10-year government bonds dropped the most since 2014.

After markets closed, the central bank affiliated Financial News published a commentary saying "the sell-off in the stock markets is caused by many irrational factors, or even a panic triggered by 'herd effects.'" The impact from the epidemic is "temporary" and "limited" and the first quarter's contribution to full-year growth is normally small, according to the article.

"The swift response by the PBOC suggests it is very keen to support the economy by lowering the overall cost of funding," said Becky Liu, head of China macro strategy at Standard Chartered Plc. "Cash bonds will likely continue to outperform in the near term," with the 10-year government yield likely to drop to 2.6%, she said after the bank's actions in the morning. That level would be the lowest yield since 2002. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

AirAsia cancels all flights between Philippines and China



In compliance with the Philippine government's directive imposing travel restrictions on the People's Republic of China, AirAsia is cancelling all its flights between the Philippines and mainland

China, Hong Kong and Macau until further notice from the Philippine government. The budget airline said in a statement that it is extending provisions to move flights, obtain a credit ac-

count or full refunds for guests with flight bookings to and from all destinations in mainland China, Hong Kong and Macau.

All flights to and from Wuhan will remain suspended until February 29.

Apart from the Philippines, certain destinations within AirAsia's flight network have imposed travel bans on visitors based on their nationality, city of origin, travel history or purpose of travel. The airline has advised guests check with their respective governments or embassies prior to travelling.

FMCC's charity gala themed 'A Night at the Museum'



The France Macau Chamber of Commerce (FMCC) is set to host its annual FMCC Charity Gala Dinner themed "A Night at the Mu-

seum" on March 6 at MGM Macau's Grand Ballroom. "The 2020 FMCC Charity Gala Dinner will take you into the world of the most

famous temples of art. Celebrate with us iconic museums such as [the] Louvre, le Musee d'Orsay and the Centre Pompidou," the chamber noted in a statement.

The event will also celebrate masterpieces such as Leonardo Da Vinci's Mona Lisa and the Venus de Milo, and allow guests to feel artistic French culture in an imaginative night!

According to the statement, guests are entitled to an early bird discount until February 14.

AP PHOTO



CLOCK IS TICKING FOR COMPANIES THAT DEPEND ON CHINA IMPORTS

PAUL WISEMAN & ANNE D'INNOCENZIO, WASHINGTON

FOR companies bracing for losses from China's viral outbreak, the damage has so far been delayed, thanks to a stroke of timing: The outbreak hit just when Chinese factories and many businesses were closed anyway to let workers travel home for the week-long Lunar New Year holiday.

But the respite won't last.

If much of industrial China remains on lockdown for the next few weeks — a very real possibility — Western retailers, auto companies and manufacturers that depend on Chinese imports will start to run out of the goods they depend on.

In order to meet deadlines for summer goods, retail experts say that Chinese factories would need to start ramping up production by March 15. If Chinese factories were instead to remain idle through May 1, it would likely cripple retailers' crucial back-to-school and fall seasons.

"There's complete uncertainty," said Steve Pasierb, CEO of the Toy Industry Association. "This could be huge if it goes on for months."

Wuhan, the Chinese city where the outbreak hit hardest, is a

center of automotive production. It's been closed off, along with neighboring cities, isolating more than 50 million people and bringing factories to a standstill.

So far, U.S. automakers haven't had to curb production for want of Chinese parts. But David Closs, professor emeritus at Michigan State University's Department of Supply Chain Management, said the clock is ticking.

"I would say it's weeks at the most," Closs said. "One to two to three weeks."

The partial shutdown of Wuhan has already harmed the production of TV display panels and raised prices, according to a report by research group IHS Markit. The city has five factories making liquid crystal displays, known as LCDs, and organic light-emitting diodes, known as OLEDs, both of which are used for television and laptop monitors. China accounts for more than half of the global production of these display panels.

David Hsieh, an analyst at IHS Markit, said in a report that "these factories are facing shortages of both labor and key components as a result of mandates designed to limit the contagion's spread," leading suppliers to raise panel

prices more aggressively.

Phone-maker Motorola, which has a facility in Wuhan, said that so far, it expects little impact because it has a flexible global supply chain and multiple factories around the world. Its priority has been the welfare of local employees, Motorola, which is owned by the Chinese electronics giant Lenovo, said in a statement.

Wuhan, the Chinese city where the outbreak hit hardest, is a center of automotive production

Apple CEO Tim Cook told analysts last week that the company's contractors in China had been forced to delay reopening factories that closed for the Lunar New Year holiday. Cook said the company is seeking ways to minimize supply disruptions. Some of its suppliers are in Hubei, the Chinese province at the center of the outbreak. Most of Apple's iPhones and other devices are made in China.

In the meantime, economists are sharply downgrading the outlook for China's economy, the world's second-biggest. Tommy Wu and Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics have slashed their forecast for Chinese economic growth this year from 6% to 5.4%. They expect most of the damage to be inflicted in the first three months of 2020.

"But a more serious and long-lasting impact cannot be ruled out," they wrote this week.

Forecasters are contending with unknowns. No one knows how long the outbreak will last, how much damage it will cause or how policymakers will respond to the threat.

"We're grasping for precedents," said Phil Levy, chief economist at the freight company Flexport who was an economic adviser in the administration of President George W. Bush.

Some look back to the SARS outbreak, which paralyzed the Chinese economy for the first few months of 2003. But the damage from SARS faded quickly: China was booming again by year's end. And the world economy emerged mostly unscathed.

But times have changed in

ways that are not favorable to containing the economic damage. Back then, China was the world's workshop for cheap goods — toys and sneakers, for instance. Now, China has moved up to sophisticated machine parts and electronics like LCDs. And it accounts for about 16% of global economic output, up significantly from just 4% in 2003.

Levy said he was struck by how U.S. airlines reacted to the coronavirus: They suspended flights between the United States and mainland China for weeks — American airlines through March 27, United through March 28 and Delta until April 30.

The move doesn't just affect tourists, students and business travelers. Passenger planes also carry a lot of freight.

"When you see them loading those big 747s, that's not just your luggage," Levy said. "That can be pallets full of electronics and other things."

The health crisis coincides with an especially difficult time for China's factories. A 19-month trade war with the United States — in which the Trump administration imposed tariffs on \$360 billion of Chinese imports — has already led U.S.-based multinational corporations to look for alternatives to Chinese suppliers. Many are moving to Vietnam or other low-wage countries to dodge President Donald Trump's taxes on Chinese-made goods.

The coronavirus, along with fears that U.S.-China tensions over trade and geopolitics will persist, gives them one more reason to reduce their reliance on China. Among multinational firms, there is "increasing unease that China is starting to become quite risky," said Johan Gott, an independent consultant who specializes in political risks for businesses.

But it isn't easy to completely abandon China, where specialized suppliers cluster in manufacturing centers and make it convenient for factories to obtain parts when they need them.

Basic Fun, a toy company based in Boca Raton, Florida, has sought suppliers in Vietnam and India with no luck yet. Its CEO, Jay Foreman, said he is hoping that the factories in China will resume production by early April, which he considers the best-case scenario. But he fears that any more delays could mean that the factories don't start to ramp up production until after May 1.

The stakes are high. Basic Fun gets about 90% of its toys from China. And Foreman has been contending with the trade war and disruptive protests in Hong Kong.

The coronavirus, he said, is "just a continuation of sitting on the knife's edge ... sleeping on the bed of nails from tariffs to the riots in Hong Kong and the virus. We just can't get a break." AP



Medical workers in protective suits help transfer the first group of patients into the newly-completed Huoshenshan temporary field hospital in Wuhan

WUHAN CORONAVIRUS

Over 20,000 infected, China more isolated from world

WITH more than 20,000 cases reported, China has begun moving patients suffering from a new virus into rapidly built or adapted facilities, although the degree of medical isolation among them appears to vary widely.

The first 50 patients were moved yesterday into Huoshenshan Hospital, a prefabricated structure on the outskirts of the city of Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak. Earlier footage appeared to show the 1,000-bed facility equipped with state-of-the-art medical equipment, including negative-pressure isolation wards to prevent the virus from breaking the air seal. A second hospital, Leishenshan, is due to be ready soon and will add another 1,600 beds.

Elsewhere in Wuhan, authorities are converting a gymnasium, exhibition hall and cultural center into hospitals with a total of 3,400 beds to treat patients with mild symptoms of the virus. Television footage of those facilities showed beds placed in tight rows in large rooms without dividers between them.

Here's an update of the world reaction to the health crisis:

SINGAPORE

The city-state has reported six more cases of the new virus, raising its number of confirmed infections to 24. The health ministry said four cases involved human-to-human transmission

and the other two were Singaporeans who were evacuated from Wuhan, the Chinese city at the center of the outbreak. It said there is no evidence of widespread sustained community contagion in Singapore.

It said two of the Singaporean women worked in a health product shop patronized by Chinese tourists, while another woman was a tour guide who brought tour groups to the shop. The fourth woman was the Indonesian maid of one of the Singaporean women working in the health shop.

The ministry said the tour guide and the two women working at the shop had prolonged interaction with Chinese travelers, including at least two from Guangxi who were confirmed to have the virus. It said the tour guide showed no symptoms when she went to the National Center for Infectious Disease on Monday but tests confirmed yesterday she has the virus.

Similarly, it said the two Singaporeans who returned from Wuhan showed no symptoms when they tested positive Monday.

It said all Singaporeans returning from Wuhan have been tested for the virus.

INDONESIA

Authorities in Indonesia's tourist island of Bali have rejected East Timor's request to quarantine its 17 citizens due to be evacuated from Wuhan following the

deadly virus outbreak in China.

Ketut Suarjaya, who heads Bali's Health Provincial Office, says an official response was sent to East Timor's government on Tuesday through the Indonesian embassy in Dili.

Bali Vice Gov. Tjokorda Oka Artha Ardhana Sukawati told reporters earlier that East Timor's government had asked for Indonesia's assistance in quarantining its 17 nationals, all students, in Bali for up to three weeks when they land on the resort island.

Sukawati says that "tourism stockholders in Bali did not agree because we would maintain Bali as a safe place for tourism."

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said Sunday that the government would temporarily suspend all flights to and from the Chinese mainland as of Wednesday.

She also said the country has officially suspended the visa-free and on-arrival visa policy for all Chinese citizens after the outbreak of the coronavirus. The ban also applies to foreign nationals who have traveled to China in the past 14 days.

The government decision to quarantine Indonesian nationals evacuated from Wuhan on a remote Natuna island has sparked anger among residents. Hundreds of people burned tires during weekend protests near the naval base where some 238 evacuees were brought Sunday and are being isolated for 14 days.

MALAYSIA

More than 100 Malaysians have been quarantined after being evacuated from the Chinese city at the center of a viral outbreak.

An AirAsia plane carrying 107 Malaysians and their non-Malaysians spouses and children from Wuhan landed at the Kuala Lumpur airport early yesterday.

They immediately underwent medical screenings, and the National Disaster Management Agency said two people who didn't pass the screenings were immediately taken to the hospital.

Its statement said the others were sent to a surveillance center in southern Negeri Sembilan state to be quarantined for 14 days.

Malaysia has recorded eight cases of the new type of coronavirus, all involving Chinese travelers.

JAPAN

Japan Airlines says it is canceling some flights to and from China and reducing seats on other flights because of a virus outbreak that has led to a sharp decline in travel demand and growing global travel restrictions.

JAL says in a statement that flights to China will be reduced from 98 to 43 flights per week between Feb. 17 and March 28, and some flights prior to Feb. 16 may also be affected.

The flights connect Tokyo with Beijing and Shanghai, as well as other cities such as Guangzhou, Dalian and Tianjin.

Separately, All Nippon Airways said that it will temporarily de-

crease or suspend flights to and from Chinese cities.

ANA says that the seven round-trip flights a week connecting Narita and Beijing will be canceled from Feb. 10 through March 29

The 14 weekly round-trip flights connecting Haneda and Beijing will be reduced to seven a week over the same period.

CAMBODIA

Prime Minister Hun Sen said he will visit Wuhan, the Chinese city at the center of a new virus outbreak, to meet with students from his country studying there.

Hun Sen said on his Facebook page that he would fly today to Wuhan from South Korea's capital, Seoul.

He initially said Chinese authorities had agreed to the trip but later updated his posting to say he was awaiting permission.

There are no commercial flights currently operating from Seoul to Wuhan, and Hun Sen didn't explain how he would get there. He is in Seoul for a conference organized by a private group.

Hun Sen said he plans to give moral support to the students in Wuhan and tell them not to fear the virus. A number of other countries have evacuated their citizens from the city.

He told Cambodians in a television broadcast last week that the virus does not threaten them, and he would not ban flights from China.

The virus has sickened more than 20,600 people worldwide, most of them in China. More than 420 have died.

UK

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has urged all British citizens in China to leave because of the outbreak of the new virus.

The Foreign Office said in an updated travel advisory yesterday that it advises against "all but essential" travel to mainland China.

Raab said the government now advises British citizens in China "to leave the country if they can, to minimize their risk of exposure to the virus."

The Foreign Office said it is continuing to work to evacuate British citizens from the epicenter of the virus outbreak, Hubei province.

BELGIUM

Authorities have reported its first case of a new virus in a person who was repatriated from the Chinese epicenter of the outbreak.

The health ministry said yesterday the person was in good health and does not show any symptoms of the disease. The individual was among nine Belgians repatriated from Wuhan, China, over the weekend.

The infected person was taken to a special hospital for further care while the other returnees remain under observation. MDT/AP

POMPEO MESSAGE IN EUROPE, CENTRAL ASIA TRIP: BEWARE OF CHINA

MATTHEW LEE, TASHKENT

The countries Secretary of State Mike Pompeo visited on a five nation-tour over the last week varied from longtime ally Britain to ex-Soviet republics in Central Asia. But the message he conveyed to his hosts stayed the same: Beware of China.

In his trip to Europe and Central Asia, Pompeo denounced China's human rights record, criticized its aggressive trade practices and urged his hosts to be wary of Chinese investment and influence. He warned that China poses a risk as countries develop next-generation, high-speed wireless networks.

His language was blunt. "The Chinese Communist Party presents the central threat of our times," Pompeo said last week in London, just days after the European Union unveiled security guidelines for 5G wireless networks that stop short of a ban on Huawei in the latest setback for the U.S. campaign against the Chinese tech company.

Pompeo's tough rhetoric, on a trip coinciding with the rapid spread of a new virus that originated in China and threatens global growth, underscores his preoccupation with the country and its recent diplomatic and trade victories.

His comments contrast with President Donald Trump's more conciliatory language on China. That's partly because Trump is working to complete a trade deal with President Xi Jinping. When



U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo (right) after holding a joint news conference with Kazakh Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tleuberdi

he signed the first phase of the agreement last month, Trump called Xi a "very, very good friend of mine" and said he planned to visit China in the not-too-distant future.

Trump said then that he and Xi have "developed an incredible relationship."

Pompeo's comments in London, however, maintain the tough approach that he and Vice President Mike Pence have espoused about China, driven mainly by the country's repression of Muslims and ethnic minorities in its western Xinjiang Province, but also by what they say are Beijing's predatory trade practices and development projects that they say put small and poor countries at great risk.

Pompeo's visit to Britain came just 48 hours after the country, which is eagerly hoping to secure a massive post-Brexit trade deal with the U.S., ignored American threats and allowed Huawei to have a role in its 5G network.

The decision highlighted the limits of the Trump administration's ability to lobby for its policies as it defied a U.S. threat to sever intelligence sharing if Huawei had any presence. U.S. officials believe that the security of information on a network that uses Huawei technology or equipment could be compromised.

The U.S. has been lobbying European allies to ban Huawei over concerns it could be compelled to help with the Chinese

government with electronic eavesdropping. U.S. officials also worry that 5G networks would rely heavily on software, leaving them open to vulnerabilities, and have repeatedly warned they would have to reconsider intelligence sharing with allies that use Huawei. The company has denied the allegations.

Stung by the British move but still hoping to retain and boost the U.S.-Britain "special relationship," Pompeo appeared to step back from the threat on intelligence sharing, saying that he was certain a way could be found to avoid it.

Yet, he made clear that the Trump administration would continue to confront China on

multiple fronts, including commerce, infrastructure and technology, militarily and diplomatically, even as the administration pursues a second phase of a massive deal to end a current trade war with Beijing.

"We have to collectively – the West – ensure that the next century is governed by Western democratic principles," he said. "And that will take a concerted effort not just by the United States but by all of those who love freedom and cherish democracy and the rule of law to ensure that that remains the predominant model for the world for the next century."

In Central Asia, where three of the five nations share borders with western China, Pompeo denounced Chinese human rights abuses.

"The United States urges all countries to join us in pressing for an immediate end to this repression," he said on Sunday in Kazakhstan. "We ask simply for them to provide safe refuge and asylum to those seeking to flee China; protect human dignity; just do what's right."

In Uzbekistan yesterday, Pompeo played up the benefits of Central Asia doing business with the U.S. rather than China.

"They have long borders, they sit in a region where both China and Russia are present," he said. "What we want them to do and what America is here to do is to support their capacity to make good decisions, to have transparent rule of law investments be present."

"We remind them constantly" of the benefits of American investment and warn them against "state-sponsored, politically driven transactions" of the kind favored by China, Pompeo said. AP

North Korea making 'all-out efforts' to guard against virus

North Korea said yesterday it was mobilizing 30,000 health workers everyday in its "all-out efforts" to guard against the spread of a virus from neighboring China.

North Korea hasn't reported any case of the new coronavirus, but some experts say an epidemic in North Korea could be dire because of its chronic lack of medical supplies and poor health care infrastructure.

Authorities were redoubling border inspections and conducting screenings and medical surveillance on those who return from overseas business trips, the North's main Rodong Sinmun newspaper said.

It said the 30,000 workers are examining and moni-

ring residents and trying to inform North Korean people about how dangerous the virus is, how it spreads and what precautionary steps they should take.

The virus has killed 425 people in China and one each in Hong Kong and the Philippines. More than 20,000 cases have been confirmed, with at least 180 beyond mainland China.

North Korea shares a long, porous border with China, its last major diplomatic ally and aid benefactor. Tens of thousands of North Korean workers were believed to be working in China before a U.N. order for Beijing to send them back home expired in December. It was unknown how many of them have returned home.

The newspaper said research centers and pharmaceutical factories were working to develop and produce drugs, test kits, disinfectants and other medical supplies and government ministries were prioritizing quarantine efforts.

North Korea has also banned foreign tourists, reduced flights and suspended operations at a liaison office it has jointly run with South Korea located just north of the inter-Korean border. South Korea on Tuesday reported its 16th case of the virus.

North Korea took similar tough quarantine measures during the 2002-03 spread of SARS, which also began in China. North Korea didn't report any SARS case there, according to the South Korean government. AP



State Commission of Quality Management staff member in protective gear disinfects a ground transportation area at the Pyongyang Airport

BRAZIL

Government blasts Oscar-nominated documentary-maker

BRAZIL'S government criticized Oscar-nominated filmmaker Petra Costa yesterday (Macau time) after she once more labeled far-right President Jair Bolsonaro a risk to the country's democracy.

Costa's documentary about the 2016 impeachment of former President Dilma Rousseff, "The Edge of Democracy," has been praised by leftists and loathed by conservatives in the politically divided nation.

Ahead of the competition for the best documentary Oscar on Feb. 9, Costa spoke on PBS and once more accused Bolsonaro of stimulating "farmers and loggers to invade indigenous reserves, burn and deforest the Amazon, which is already at a tipping point in which it could become a savanna."

She also repeated her accusation that the Brazilian president has attacked the rights of mino-



rities. Costa made similar statements before she was nominated, but this time Brazil's government chose to answer through an official social media channel. "Filmmaker Petra Costa

played the role of an anti-Brazil activist and tarnished the country's image abroad with a series of fake news in an interview on American television," the communication secretariat for Bra-

zil's presidency said in a string of posts on Twitter, in both English and in Portuguese.

"Without the slightest sense of respect for her homeland and for the Brazilian people, Petra said in an unreasonable script that the Amazon will become a savanna soon and that President Bolsonaro orders the murder of both African-Americans and homosexuals," it added.

Bolsonaro has also criticized the 36-year-old Costa's documentary. As fringe lawmaker, he was a staunch advocate of Rousseff's removal and famously celebrated the man who tortured her during the country's military dictatorship during his vote in favor of her ouster.

Costa did not immediately respond a request for comment from The Associated Press.

In the documentary, the Brazilian director uses her personal story to suggest the abrupt end to 13 years of Workers' Party rule

came along with a desire for an autocracy similar to the 1964-1985 dictatorship.

Rousseff was removed for manipulating government finances to conceal a widening deficit, which she argued was not an impeachable offense. Right-wingers insist it was impeachable, and some have also said her administration was wreaking too much havoc on the economy to be allowed to continue.

With Rousseff's removal in 2016, her conservative vice president, Michel Temer, took office. Temer remained deeply unpopular until his term ended in 2018, when Bolsonaro defeated the Workers' Party candidate to win the presidency.

The other films nominated for best documentary are "American Factory," "The Cave," "For Sama" and "Honeyland." The winning film will be announced at a ceremony in Los Angeles. AP

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what's ON



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

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

UNTIL: March 1, 2020

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

ADMISSION: Free

EXHIBITION BY LIO MAN CHEONG

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: February 9, 2020

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

MOVE! INTO THE WILDLIFE

TIME: 12pm-8pm

UNTIL: February 9, 2020

VENUE: 2/F, Broadway Macau

ADMISSION: MOP120

KONG SENG TICKETING SERVICE: 2855 5555

ART RESEARCH PROJECT: MACAU CANIDROME – POUCHING TSAI SOLO EXHIBITION

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

UNTIL: February 11, 2020

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

Offbeat

WOMAN SEES MISSING DOG ON BEER CANS PROMOTING SHELTER DOGS

A Florida brewery that recently began placing shelter dogs' faces on beer cans helped reunite a Minnesota woman with her dog, Hazel, who went missing three years ago.

Earlier this month, Motorworks Brewing in Bradenton teamed up with the Manatee County Animal Shelter to turn beer cans into adoption flyers for shelter dogs. Monica Mathis of St. Paul, Minnesota, told KSTP that she couldn't believe it when she spotted Hazel's face on a beer can that had been photographed and posted on social media.

Hazel, a terrier mix, was among the dogs featured on beer cans called "The Four Packs."

Mathis saw the post and something about one dog's eyes caught her attention.

"Oh my gosh that looks like my dog, I think that's my dog," Mathis said. But the featured dog's name was Day Day.

Mathis contacted the shelter, which needed proof that Day Day was in fact Hazel.

"I sent everything I could find — all the pictures so I could stop an adoption process from happening because I could've lost her again," Mathis said.

Mathis said she was living in Iowa when Hazel disappeared in 2017.

"She was on a leash outside and I went to get her and she was gone from our yard," Mathis said. She searched, called shelters, but never found the dog.

She said she has no idea how the dog got to Florida.

Then, a new job took her to Minnesota. Several years went by until she saw the beer can campaign on Jan. 24.

The shelter confirmed that Day Day is Hazel.

"I was amazed, I was crying. An emotional wreck," Mathis said.

Mathis said animal services couldn't immediately find her because the contact information on Hazel's microchip was out of date.

"Keep track of exactly what company you use, make sure your stuff gets updated, especially if your pet goes missing and don't ever give up," Mathis said.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	O Sábio
15:45	Bing - Fim
16:00	Animaizinhos Selvagens Exploradores
16:15	Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.1
17:00	Conferência de Imprensa Saúde (Directo)
18:05	Império (Repetição)
18:55	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Linha da Frente
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Madre Paula
00:40	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:25	RTPi Directo

this day in history



1974 NEWSPAPER HEIRESS KIDNAPPED

The daughter of the millionaire American publisher, Randolph Hearst, has been kidnapped.

Patty Hearst, aged 19, was with her fiancé, Steven Weed, in her flat in Berkeley, California, at 2100 local time yesterday (0500 GMT) when there was a knock on the door.

When Miss Hearst answered it, two men and a woman burst in to the room.

In a violent exchange, Mr Weed was forced to lie on the floor, and then hit on the head repeatedly with a wine bottle and tied up.

A neighbour who heard the commotion and tried to help was also tied up and beaten.

The kidnapers carried Miss Hearst off, kicking and screaming, and put her in the boot of a white car.

Another car was also used, and as they sped off down the street they fired several shots at people in the street, although nobody was injured.

Police said no ransom demand had yet been made, although this is thought the most likely motive for the kidnapping.

Miss Hearst is an heiress to the multi-million dollar Hearst publishing empire, founded by her grandfather, William Randolph Hearst.

Mr Hearst senior was a flamboyant newspaper proprietor whose career inspired Orson Welles in making his film, Citizen Kane.

He built the spectacular and whimsical castle on the 127-acre family estate in San Simeon, California, from the proceeds of his empire, which includes popular magazines such as Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping and Harper's Bazaar.

The company also publishes newspapers in a number of major American cities, including the San Francisco Examiner. Its president is Patty Hearst's father, Randolph Hearst.

Mr Hearst was in Washington when the kidnap took place, but left immediately for California on hearing the news.

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 kidnap was carried out by a little-known revolutionary group, the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). Over the following weeks, they apparently brainwashed Patty Hearst into accepting their ideas, until in April 1974 she was caught on closed circuit television helping them to rob a bank.

She went on the run, but was caught by the FBI. After a sensational trial, she was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, but was released, in 1979, after three years. She was pardoned in January 2001 by President Clinton.

Hearst married her police bodyguard, Bernard Shaw, shortly after her release, and now lives in Connecticut with two daughters.

The SLA is thought to have only ever had about 12 members. Six, including the group's leader, Donald DeFreeze, were killed in a police shootout later in 1974.

The remaining five members lived quietly under assumed names for over 20 years, until the FBI tracked them down. The last SLA fugitive, James Kilgore, was arrested in Cape Town in South Africa in 2002. All are now in jail.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Do you have a bucket list? You know, a list of all the things you want to do at some point during your time on the planet? Today, sit down and either start a list or review your progress on your existing list.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20

You'll have a nourishing effect on anything you come into contact with today. Your words and actions can help things grow a lot more quickly. Speak the truth in every situation and good things will result.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21

Another thing you should listen to is that little voice inside your head that's telling you to review your budget and watch what you spend. There's no need to worry. You just need to assess your accounts.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If you're in any type of competitive environment today, you can expect to show very well, if not will the entire competition. All the different elements of your life are coming together.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You've got to dive right in and let the messy events of life dictate your day for once. Surprises are often pleasant if you're waiting for them with open arms!

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Getting away from the hustle and bustle of life should still be a top priority, so put off doing anything new unless doing so requires you to give up a life-changing opportunity.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22

This isn't a question of compromising who you are. You should never do that. But you might need to temper your passion with a veneer of etiquette and tact.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You'll get so much further by keeping things light and breezy. This same strategy applies to any aspect of life. So, if you're about to have any kind of difficult conversation, don't get too heavy.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There are some issues developing within your family or inner circle, and you may be able to help. One of the people you care about needs some words of wisdom that only you can supply.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your career is about to undergo a very exciting growth spurt, which could put a time crunch on some family plans. It's important to get ahead of this problem and head it off at the pass.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Being connected to other people, even strangers, is important right now. Volunteering is a great option to explore today. Think of what you like most in your life and try to give someone else the same thing.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20

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. You do have some power in this situation. Use it.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

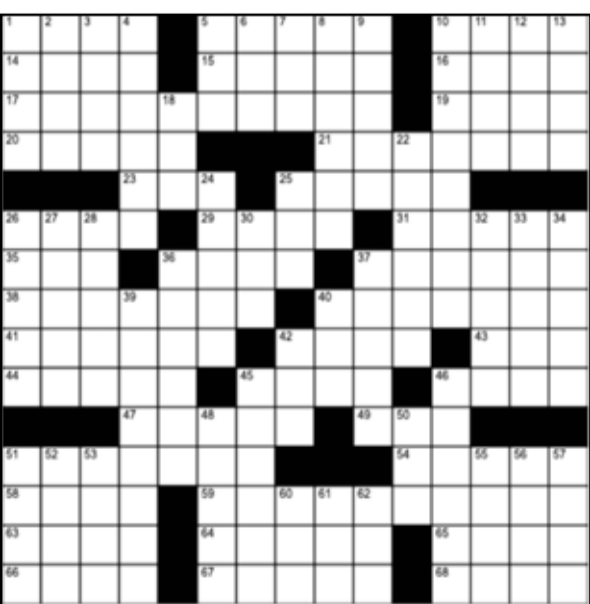
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-8	-1	cloudy
Harbin	-29	-18	clear
Tianjin	-5	0	overcast
Urumqi	-14	-5	clear
Xi'an	-1	8	cloudy
Lhasa	-5	8	clear
Chengdu	7	9	drizzle
Chongqing	8	11	drizzle
Kunming	3	18	clear
Nanjing	2	12	cloudy
Shanghai	4	10	cloudy
Wuhan	3	15	clear
Hangzhou	4	12	cloudy
Taipei	14	16	drizzle
Guangzhou	13	17	overcast
Hong Kong	15	18	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-9	-5	clear
Frankfurt	0	8	clear
Paris	2	8	cloudy
London	2	8	overcast
New York	-1	7	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Bustles; 5- City near Kobe; 10- Final Four org.; 14- Han ___ was a "Star Wars" character; 15- External; 16- Melodies; 17- Abductors; 19- Annapolis inst.; 20- Concerning; 21- Without interruption; 23- Zeta follower; 25- Locale; 26- Helper; Abbr.; 29- Carbonized fuel; 31- Biblical brother; 35- Explosive stuff; 36- Keep away from; 37- Complete; 38- Home broker; 40- Official permit; 41- Conductor Toscanini; 42- Assistant; 43- Nursery offering; 44- Shorthand taker; 45- Manitoba native; 46- Contact, e.g.; 47- Flash of light; 49- Aussie hopper; 51- Thief; 54- Tore; 58- Horrors!; 59- Place to research; 63- Regan's dad; 64- Violinist Zimbalist; 65- Sharpen; 66- "Critique of Pure Reason" author; 67- Brings up; 68- Supplements, with "out";

DOWN: 1- ___ silly question...; 2- Slay; 3- Shoppe sign word; 4- Poem of 14 lines; 5- Alley-___; 6- Eat dinner; 7- Had a little lamb; 8- Core; 9- Burning desire?; 10- Sicken; 11- Prehistoric sepulchral tomb; 12- Florence's river; 13- PDQ; 18- ABA member; 22- Subtlety; 24- Blessed sound?; 25- Covered vehicle; 26- Gillette razors; 27- Hagar the Horrible's dog; 28- Condition; 30- ___ Town; 32- Washer cycle; 33- Director Welles; 34- Food and water; 36- Ramble; 37- Duck with soft down; 39- Pulmonaria; 40- Fail to tell the truth; 42- Branch; 45- Wide-mouthed bottle; 46- Feel intense aversion; 48- Conger catcher; 50- ... ___ mouse?; 51- Tyler's successor; 52- Earthbound bird; 53- ___ even keel; 55- Prepare food; 56- Sea-going eagle; 57- Stains; 60- Bikini top; 61- ___ the land of the free...; 62- Apt. divisions;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
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[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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OLYMPICS

Sumo coming to Tokyo Games

SUMO is coming — well, almost coming — to the Tokyo Olympics.

Knowing it may have the world's attention, the Japan Sumo Association and local Olympic organizers are planning a sumo tournament on Aug. 12-13, just days after the Olympics end.

The event was announced yesterday and is designed to bring more attention to the Japanese sport. It will be part of a local cultural festival and will take place at the Ryogoku Kokugikan arena, sumo's spiritual home in east Tokyo.

Event organizers say the tournament will give visitors from overseas an opportunity to watch the sport. The venue is the same one in Tokyo attended by U.S. President Donald Trump last year.

The roots of sumo can be traced back to the Shinto ritual for a good harvest in the 8th century. It later



was used as martial arts training for samurais before becoming entertainment for ordinary people during the Edo period, 1603 to 1868.

The Edo period brought the introduction of stylized rules including the art of entering the ring, the use of loin cloths, topknots and kimonos, as well as

fighting regulations.

Sumo rituals are some of the most traditional in Japan, and the sport is highly cloistered and mostly closed to outsiders.

The yokozuna — the grand champion rank of rikishi, or wrestler — has a special place in the customs.

Unlike other athletes,

rikishi are considered living performers of a cultural tradition and are expected to be role models. This is especially true of the yokozuna.

Only men can become professional rikishi. Under sumo's Shinto tradition, women are considered unclean and are not allowed to enter the elevated dirt ring, or dohyo.

In 2018, a sumo referee blocked women who went up to the dohyo to provide first aid for a mayor who collapsed in the ring while making a speech at a sumo event in Kyoto. It triggered criticism that sumo officials were prioritizing their gender-biased tradition over someone's life.

Based on Shinto belief, the dohyo is considered sacred. Before every tournament, Shinto priests perform rituals to pacify the gods by pouring rice, sake and other offerings into a little hole in the center of the ring. AP

FOOTBALL

ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GAMES WITH CHINESE CLUBS POSTPONED

ASIAN Champions League soccer games involving Chinese clubs were postponed yesterday because of the spread of a virus in the country.

The Asian Football Confederation announced the changes after hosting an emergency meeting of six national soccer bodies affected by the games involving four teams from China — Beijing, Guangzhou Evergrande, Shanghai SIPG and Shanghai Shenhua.

The first three rounds of group games in February and March were moved to April and May. The first knockout stage is also expected to be delayed, with last 16 games in June instead of May.

The one exemption is a Group E game on Feb. 18 in Thailand when Chiangrai United hosts Beijing. The Chinese team is in a training camp in South Korea "and may not need quarantine measures," the AFC said.

"Chiangrai United have stressed that they will continue to work closely with the Thai government and medical officials to monitor the on-going and fast-moving situation," the AFC said.

Health concerns already forced the AFC to move a women's Olympic qualifying group from China to Australia, and postpone a men's indoor soccer tournament in Turkmenistan. AP

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OPINION

World Views

Tyler Cowen, Bloomberg

HOW THE CORONAVIRUS COULD HELP TRUMP

There has been plenty of talk about how the coronavirus might affect politics in China, for example by eroding trust between the Chinese public and its leadership. In the U.S., however, the coronavirus is likely to have the opposite effect: Namely, to make the incumbent more popular and to increase the re-election chances of President Donald Trump.

How the coronavirus will develop is not yet apparent, but the public-health and economic risks are significant, and thus it stands a good chance of being a front-page story for several months. Even if the coronavirus does not lead to many deaths in the U.S., that risk will continue for some time, and various quarantines and travel bans will continue to be in the news and on social media.

The first and perhaps most important effect will be to make Trump's nationalism seem ordinary, even understated. Hundreds of flights to China have already been canceled, countries are refusing to receive (or deciding to quarantine) Chinese nationals or visitors from China, and China itself is severely limiting travel within the country. Whether or not these prove effective measures, the idea of travel bans and restrictions no longer seems extreme or unconstitutional. Even if voters are confusing normal times with times of pandemic, on this issue Trump's instincts now seem almost prescient.

When the flight of Americans returning from Wuhan was sent to Alaska last week instead of San Francisco, and subject to quarantine, very few political complaints were heard, including from leading Democrats. There might still be arguments about whether that was a justified violation of civil liberties, but the notion that a pandemic requires the federal government to take such measures, without a congressional vote, is not seriously contested.

That is going to help any incumbent president who believes in the strong exercise of executive power, as does Trump.

Likewise, Trump's call to build a wall, which has created enormous opposition, could be neutered as a campaign issue if countries around the world are erecting barriers to entry. There are even saw reports of Chinese villages building walls or otherwise restricting migrants from Wuhan.

Trump's suspicions about China also now seem to be more justified. Of course, they have been more about trade and foreign policy than public-health policy. Still, the general feeling being conveyed by the news — "Bad Things Are Coming Out of China" — makes Trump seem ahead of the curve, regardless of whether his views are justified. Voters are more likely to support a nationalistic American stance toward China.

If the coronavirus continues to be an issue through the general election, it might even discourage large public gatherings and thus make it more difficult for the challenger to campaign and attract attention. The incumbent, in contrast, can generate publicity more easily from the Oval Office. It is easier to appear presidential when decisive actions need to be taken, even if they are policies — such as increased support for vaccine production — that virtually any president would implement.

The big question is how voter attitudes will change if there are pandemic casualties in the U.S. In general, a noticeable number of domestic deaths that can be attributed to an unexpected "foreign agent" tends to create a rally-around-the-flag effect. Such a sentiment tends to be good for the incumbent.

As it currently stands, Trump has electoral vulnerabilities on a number of issues, including health-care policy. The pandemic could cause those issues to fade from the headlines, and if Trump is seen as taking decisive action to save lives, his weakness on health-care policy may diminish as well.

Finally, Trump's rhetorical skills are well-suited to scapegoating, should he find the scapegoating of foreigners or Chinese to be a useful political tactic. It is hard to see how a challenger could do the same with equivalent impact.

The effects of the coronavirus are just beginning. But it is already clear that they will influence many features of American life — politics included.

[Abridged]

Police cordoned off one of the busiest areas of central London on Monday after what's thought to be an unexploded World War II bomb was dug up at a construction site.

The Metropolitan Police force said "suspected World War II ordnance" was uncovered in Dean Street in Soho, an area packed with shops, restaurants, bars and offices.

An area covering several blocks of the tightly packed neighborhood was cordoned off while police assessed the device.

The German air force dropped thousands of bombs on the British capital during the war, killing tens of thousands of people. Bombs left over from the conflict are still occasionally uncovered during construction work.



MAINLAND SLOGANS INVOKE CLASS STRUGGLE IN VIRUS WARNINGS

JULIE ZHU

MACAU is closing its casinos, Hong Kong is closing its borders, and mainlanders are calling upon their compatriots to report "enemies" of the communist "class struggle."

"People with fever who do not confess are enemies of the class struggle lurking among the people," reads a slogan which has been printed on banners and spread all over mainland China.

The 2019-nCoV epidemic has led many mainland Chinese nationals to live in fear and with constant vigilance, worried that any one of them may be infected with the virus.

For the first time in over a decade, the mainland Chinese government has shut down the public transportation network of an entire province, central China's Hubei. All other provinces are beginning to implement similar measures.

The mainland's government authorities have postponed the re-opening of schools and return to work after the 2020 Lunar New Year holiday. Business

are closing earlier in almost every mainland city due to fears of the virus. Public transportation is either shut down or partially suspended. Residents can only board public transportation if they are wearing a mask.

Since all media channels in mainland China, including social networks, are part of the Chinese communist government's propaganda machine, as of today, these channels are reminding Chinese citizens to stay at home and protect themselves, and to not travel, gather, throw parties or play mahjong.

Driven by this singular public voice, mainland Chinese citizens have also begun their longstanding historical tradition of displaying red banners with slogans urging the people what to do. These slogans are not a beacon of morality; they serve only to remind people to care about their health and to not travel or gather in one place.

"Today you go outside, tomorrow pneumonia will visit you," one slogan reads.

"To not throw a party is to think of future parties, to not visit family is to

think of having families in the future," reads another.

Slogans for masks are also common throughout China. "Mask or ventilator: choose one of them," one slogan reads. "Wearing a mask is better than wearing a ventilator, laying at home is better than laying in the ICU," another reads, referring to intensive care units at hospitals. A third mask-related slogan states, "Through saving some money by not wearing masks, you will spend lots of money laying on a bed and paying for doctors."

Besides these slogans, which mostly concern the individuals themselves, there are also slogans instilling hatred and hostility towards others.

"Sons returning to their hometown with diseases are not filial, they don't regret having infected their parents," one slogan says.

"We'd prefer to be rotting at home rather than occupying a space in a hospital," another village slogan urges. "Discover early, report early, prosecute early, control early," reads a slogan issued by a village communist party calling on people to report others.



India's ruling Hindu nationalist-led government said it was still weighing whether to roll out a nationwide citizenship registry, an exercise it says would weed out illegal foreign nationals, amid ongoing protests against a citizenship law that fast-tracks naturalization for some religious minorities from three neighboring countries but not Muslims.



Sri Lanka's new government declined to sing the national anthem in Tamil, the country's second national language, during the island's Independence Day celebrations yesterday, a departure from the previous government which sang the anthem in the country's two primary languages to promote ethnic harmony in the aftermath of a decades-long civil war.

USA A new mobile app was supposed to help Democratic officials quickly gather information from some 1,700 caucus sites throughout Iowa. Instead, a "coding issue" within the app is being blamed for delays that left the results unknown the morning after the first-in-the-nation presidential nominating contest. Glitches with a new mobile app caused confusion, and some caucus organizers were forced to call in results for the state party to record manually, introducing delays and the possibility of human error.



USA On the brink of his Senate acquittal, President Donald Trump will be unleashing "relentless optimism" during his third State of the Union address, a speech designed to pivot from his impeachment to his drive for reelection. Trump is speaking from a position of strength, with nearly complete control of the Republican Party. The theme of his speech: «The Great American Comeback.» It'll be a different experience for Democrats, nearly all of whom voted for Trump's impeachment in the House.