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GOV'T HOSPITAL ASSURED PREGNANT RESIDENTS THAT SUFFICIENT MEASURES ARE IN PLACE TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY

NIGHTCLUB, SAUNA WORKERS FACE TERMINATION IN UNDERHANDED LETTER

RIPPLE EFFECT OF CORONAVIRUS WIDENS TO SHOWS AND GATHERINGS CANCELATIONS DURING USUALLY BUSY SPRING SEASON



Hong Kong Cathay Pacific Airways is asking its 27,000 employees to take turns in taking three weeks of unpaid leave while the Hong Kong carrier struggles with plunging revenue due to China's virus outbreak, SCMP reported yesterday. In a video message to employees, CEO Augustus Tang said the situation is as grave as the 2009 financial crisis. The company didn't immediately respond to a request for confirmation.
 More on p6



Indonesia A woman who doctors say should receive psychiatric treatment was acquitted yesterday of blasphemy charges for taking a dog into a mosque. Suzeth Margareth (pictured, center) was released after a panel of three judges at Cibinong District Court in West Java province absolved her of the charges because of her mental health.



New Zealand Hundreds of people evacuated their homes and farms to escape flooding in southern New Zealand as rivers continued to rise following heavy rainfall. Several hundred tourists were being evacuated from Milford Sound after getting stuck there earlier this week when flooding and mudslides cut off car access. Many of them were evacuated by helicopter.

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STORES CITYWIDE CLOSE FOLLOWING CASINO BAN



JAPAN QUARANTINES CRUISE SHIP, TWO MACAU RESIDENTS ON BOARD



P3,8

RESTAURANT FIGHT BETWEEN TWO GROUPS LEAVES FOUR INJURED

Four people have sustained injuries after being involved in a fight inside a restaurant. The incident was reported to the police authority early on Tuesday morning. Six people, four men and two women, had been dining in a restaurant at Van Sion Son Chun. During their meal, the six people got involved in a fight with another group sitting next to them. One man was hit with a glass bottle, while another three people sustained light injuries. When the police authority arrived at the scene, the assailants had already left. The victims claimed to have not fought back after the attack and just wanted the attackers to be held responsible. The police authority is investigating the whereabouts of the assailants.

NAM KWONG CONFIDENT IN SUPPLY OF FOOD PRODUCTS

Nam Kwong (Group) Company is confident that it can ensure the supply of fresh and frozen food products to Macau, according to a report by Macao Daily News. Nam Kwong said that the company's supply to Macau is stable and smooth, with sufficient inventory and stable prices. The company is confident that, under the overall planning of the SAR government, Nam Kwong is capable of meeting the supply needs of the city. Nam Kwong said it is currently enhancing communication with fresh and frozen commodity suppliers to ensure a stable supply of food products.

UROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION VISITS PORTUGUESE CONSULATE

The Urological and Reproductive Association of Macau has paid a visit to the Portuguese consulate in Macau. Recently, a delegation of the association met with the deputy consul. The group introduced the association, providing information on its background, and said that it has been dedicated to improving medical technologies in the urological and reproductive sector, and to building a platform in Macau of overseas connections. The association hopes to work with Portugal's urological and reproductive sector to explore healthcare development. The deputy consul endorsed the association's work and agreed that Macau can be a good platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, promoting diverse collaboration.

DOCTORS REASSURE PREGNANT RESIDENTS OF HOSPITAL CLEANLINESS

ANTHONY LAM

DOCTOR Lei Wai Seng, medical director at the Conde S. Januário Hospital, has assured pregnant residents that sufficient measures are in place at medical facilities to ensure their safety. Messages of anxiety from pregnant residents have been received by lawmaker Agnes Lam. They are worried that they may become infected when they receive medical check-ups at hospitals.

Work is being conducted to ensure the cleanliness of public areas at hospitals, according to Lei. Patients with chronic illnesses, such as cancer, are to be separated from other people while waiting at the hospital.

On their way to the hospital, the medical director recommends patients and pregnant residents use private transport or taxi, instead of taking buses, to lower the possibility of cross infection.

Additionally, Lei said obstetric services are also provided at the SSM's various Health Centers. Pregnant residents can approach these centers for medical assistance. He also believes that employers will allow pregnant employees to work from home or be exempted from work during this special period.

For the first time, Lei disclosed the therapy administered to patients in Macau. Thailand has successfully cured some patients using a "cocktail therapy", widely used in HIV treatment, which relies on a blend of va-



Senior government officials including the Chief Executive are briefed on medical prevention measures

rious medications.

The SSM is also using a similar strategy, but it has dropped Tamiflu, an antiviral medication used to treat and prevent influenza A and influenza B, as it has been found to be ineffective for the cases in Macau.

The SSM also announced yesterday that it will deploy vehicles to make announcements reminding people to stay home and avoid large crowds. Local news telecasts have shown that older residents are not aware of many pieces of government advice, because they do not watch TV.

Meanwhile, many local drivers are concerned about the issue of legal parking spaces during the special work-exemption period. There are several

types of parking meters across the city, programmed with different time intervals. It was raised at the press conference by a journalist that there might be a contradiction between the government's advice to stay home and going out to pay the parking fee.

Yesterday, the transport authority decided to waive parking fees for taxis that park at the public parking lot at the Macau border checkpoint for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

No representative from the transport authority was present at the press conference yesterday, but the Public Security Police Force (PSP) expressed its views from the perspective of a law-enforcement entity.

The PSP representative explained that, during the epidemic control period, the team's first and foremost mission will be to ensure public safety and order, as usual. On top of that, it is also important for the police to assist in emergency services, including the work of the Fire Service's team of paramedics.

The representative did not expressly say whether the police will ease control on illegal parking, but hinted that the PSP will impose "appropriate measures" while handling such matters.

He also reminded residents to follow the government's advice on epidemic control in general, and in particular on the matter of avoiding unnecessary time spent outside of their homes.

HEALTH AUTHORITIES CALL FOR THE SUSPENSION OF PRIVATE CLINICS

HEALTH authorities are calling on physicians working in private clinics to suspend all activities.

The call comes as a way to "minimize the risk of an outbreak of novel coronavirus in the community," as well as "to protect the health and life of the medical team and residents," the

New Coronavirus Contingency Coordination Center announced.

The health authorities explained that the measure aims to avoid the congregation of people seeking medical help for symptoms that might be related to the virus. The government department said that many private clinics are not

prepared to screen and diagnose the condition. Meanwhile, infected patients seeking help might put other patients, as well as medical staff, at risk.

The Health Bureau (SSM) said it has already sent a message to all registered physicians practicing in Macau, calling for the suspension of

their services "until the epidemic subsides."

The health authorities explained that the fact that most of these private offices and clinics operate in residential buildings has contributed to the fear that people carrying the virus could introduce it into the building by using common facilities such

as lifts and others. In these circumstances, "it is easy to cause a cross-infection and constitute a serious hidden danger to the community."

The SSM is appealing to all healthcare professionals and clinic owners to "understand that the suspension of work will have only a temporary impact, with the main mission being to work together to fight the epidemic and protect the health and lives of residents." RM

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Times

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LYNZY VALLES

MIGRANT groups are waiting for government measures designed to protect the city's domestic workers after the government called on the general populace to stay at home in a bid to contain the epidemic from spreading.

During Tuesday's press conference, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng called on the Macau SAR's different sectors to provide minimum services, as public services have already been reduced.

However, no measures were announced for domestic workers – suggesting, according to some, that this vulnerable group has been overlooked.

Jassy Santos, president of the Progressive Labor Union of Domestic Workers, said that most domestic workers are continuing their working routine, despite the fact that many of their employers have been at home for the past several days.

Several domestic workers who were on "stay out" contracts were also asked to live in with their employers for the time being, as some employers feared that they might contract the virus at home, given that many of them live in a boarding house with several compatriots.

"It looks like the government has again forgotten about us," Santos told the Times.

"In times of crisis, since there are no safety measures for us, it's either take it or leave it," she added, noting that a member of the association had her contract terminated after refusing to live with her employer temporarily.

The Times is aware that many of the employers who instructed their domestic workers to remain at their premises are families with young children.

Even before the Chinese New Year, there were already a few domestic workers who were

Migrant groups say gov't has again forgotten them



asked to just stay at their employer's home and were paid extra as compensation.

Meanwhile, Santos said that there are domestic workers whose salaries were already reduced by two weeks, as their employers had been given two weeks off from work and decided to undertake many of the household tasks themselves.

"Some of them were even terminated because their employers were also terminated from work," claimed Santos. "This then results in a six-month ban for the non-resident employee [from returning to Macau], which is stated in the law."

"I really hope the government will include domestic workers in its measures, because we also need to take precautionary measures for us not to be infected with the virus," she added.

Echoing these sentiments, Yosa Wariyanti, president of the

Indonesian Migrant Workers Union said, "They never talked about the condition of domes-

tic workers."

"I have members in the association that are taking their

annual leave now and for those that work in restaurants, one said that she could just get her salary for half a month, so she just decided to go back to Indonesia next week," she said.

Wariyanti said she is also aware that many of her compatriots were asked to temporarily live with their employers.

"It's unfair, but that always happens to domestic workers; they never get mentioned [in measures like these]," said Wariyanti.

Meanwhile, the Consulate General of the Philippines in Macau has launched an online form for non-resident Filipino workers who were forced to take annual or unpaid leave to register their case.

"The information that will be obtained through this form is needed in order to raise to the Labor Affairs Office your concerns," the consulate stated.

In the form, respondents can indicate how many days employers have given them as leave, as well as whether the annual leave that they have been asked to take is paid or not.

THOUSANDS OF MIGRANT WORKERS STILL STRANDED IN PHILIPPINES

THOUSANDS of Filipino migrant workers – including workers from Macau and Hong Kong – are still stranded in the archipelago nation following the recently imposed travel ban.

On Sunday, the government of the Philippines imposed a travel ban to and from China, Hong Kong and Macau to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

Among those affected are some 15,000 newly hired domestic workers who were supposed to fly to Hong Kong in two to three weeks, and some 10,000 that are currently vacationing.

There are also several migrant workers working in Macau that are stranded in the Philippines.

"I don't think I'm going to be paid for this extra leave that I'm taking because we have a no work, no pay policy in our workplace," said a worker who declined to be identified.

"My employer wanted me to take a flight to Singapore, then from Singapore to Macau," she added, but such a measure may not work as it could be seen in her record that she was in the SAR over the past 14 days.

The person works at a salon in the city and was supposed to fly back to Macau this week but due to the travel ban, she has been forced to remain in her hometown.

Meanwhile, the Philippines' Foreign Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr. has appealed to President Rodrigo Duterte to exclude domestic helpers and other Filipino workers working abroad from the travel ban.

However, it is unlikely that these overseas workers will be able to return to work in time, as Filipino carriers as well as AirAsia have cancelled their flights to and from the Philippines and Chinese cities. **LV**

Macau couple under medical observation in cruise ship saga

TWO Macau SAR passport holders are on board a cruise ship that has been left stranded at a Japanese port in Yokohama, the Health Bureau (SSM) confirmed yesterday at the daily press briefing.

The concerned cruise ship is now floating on the sea off the coast from the Japanese city, waiting for further instruction by the Japanese authorities (more on p8).

A patient in Hong Kong confirmed to be infected with novel coronavirus had been on board the ship. Later on, the ship's 3,000 crewmembers and passengers were tested for the vi-

rus. Ten of them have been infected, meaning the remaining passengers will need to be under medical observation.

According to Dr Lam Chong, director of the SSM's Centre for Disease Control (CDC), the two passengers currently show no symptoms that may indicate an infection. The couple are now in Hong Kong under medical observation. One of them is aged around 60 and the other 70.

Neither the Health Bureau nor the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), which also had a representative at the press briefing, explained fur-

ther as to how assistance will be provided to the couple.

Nonetheless, the MGTO revealed that it has received an assistance request from a resident currently in the U.S. The resident had their United Airlines flight cancelled and could not return to Macau. The airline has decided to suspend all flights to Hong Kong until February 20.

The MGTO recommended that the couple seek assistance from other airlines. For the time being, Taiwan's EVA Air is still running flights between Macau and the U.S., with a stopover in Taipei. **AL**

AP PHOTO





STORE SHUTTERS GO UP AS CASINO BAN ENTERS INTO FORCE

DANIEL BEITLER

TWENTY-four-hour stores in Macau's central ZAPE area have had their shutters up since midnight Wednesday, when a government suspension of casino and other entertainment facilities came into force.

Popular with tourists and gamblers from the mainland, the area is home to dozens of stores and markets open 24 hours a day.

With its rows of fruit vendors, jewelry stores, imitation luxury

brands and cash exchange desks, the ZAPE area is a relic of an older, shadier Macau and is particularly dependent on mainland gamblers patronizing the nearby casinos.

Several satellite casinos are located in the wedge-shaped area formed by Avenida do Doutor Rodrigo Rodrigues and Avenida da Amizade, including the Landmark Macau, President Casino & Hotel, Kampek Paradise Casino, and Hotel Fortuna. The area also draws guests from nearby properties such as Rio Hotel, StarWorld,

Wynn Macau, MGM Macau, the Lisboa and the Grand Lisboa.

As is the case across much of Macau, businesses in the ZAPE area have been hit hard by a 78% collapse in visitor arrivals over the traditionally busy Lunar New Year period. The number of mainland visitors reportedly dropped by 83% between January 24 and 30, after China halted visitor visas to the gambling enclave and banned group tours.

Shop shutters had gone up within hours of the government's

decision to order the 15-day closure of casinos and other entertainment facilities. Hotels, restaurants and retailers are not affected by the mandatory suspension, although some businesses are reportedly closing for the next two weeks regardless.

The decision, prompted by the discovery of two casino operator employees among the now 10 cases of coronavirus in Macau, 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 casino sector directly accounts for about half of the local economy, but is also a lifeline for many small and medium-sized businesses.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong warned on Tuesday that the casino shutdown would hurt Macau's economy, but insisted that the health of locals and tourists was the government's first priority.

The secretary also hinted that the government could intervene to shore up the economy, for example through public investment or tax cuts, but did not offer details.

Ripple effect of coronavirus widens to event cancellations

LYNZY VALLES

THE spreading coronavirus, officially referred to as 2019-nCoV, has disrupted industries in Macau and further abroad, with several annual traditional and non-traditional events hosted by private entities in the SAR canceled due to the outbreak.

This comes after government institutions canceled their annual festivities ahead of, and during, the Chinese Lunar New Year celebration.

Aside from the daily press briefings organized by the government, the last official social event was eventually the Chinese New Year (CNY) media gathering with the Chief Executive.

Up until now, even private entities have canceled media invitations to their events with almost all occasions canceled.

On January 23, the Macao Government Tourism Office canceled the traditional CNY parade and fireworks display, with the government also recommending that local companies and associations cancel any upcoming private functions.

Some gaming operators have complied with the recommendation, canceling their traditional Chinese New Year ceremonies and gala dinners.

Public courses and training events have also been canceled, including those by the Macau Ricci

Institute and the University of St. Joseph, as cited in an email the two institutions sent out.

The government has called on citizens to stay at home, even suspending non-emergency public services as a precaution to limit the spread of the virus.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) canceled all external activities scheduled for this month, and all its cultural venues will remain closed until further notice.

According to a statement, the IC will arrange refunds for those who have purchased tickets for some shows.

The open call for proposals from local bands and musicians, and cul-

tural and creative entities for this year's "HUSH!! Full Music" Beach Concert and "Local View Power" video collection will continue until February 21, however.

Meanwhile, popular Hong Kong singers Leon Lai and Miriam Yeung also postponed their February concerts in Macau and Singapore respectively.

Performances have also been called off or postponed in South Korea and Hong Kong.

It's unclear whether Lai will proceed with an April concert in Wuhan.

South Korean agencies have been cancelling K-pop events at home and abroad in response to requests from fans about ar-

tists' safety.

Popular K-pop artists such as Taeyeon and boybands WINNER and NCT Dream canceled shows in Singapore and Macau, according to their agency and concert organizer.

The Boston Symphony Orchestra called off its Asia tour, and the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra canceled five concerts. Cantopop veteran Andy Lau canceled long-awaited concerts in Hong Kong, with the organizer saying it's important to protect the health and safety of audiences.

Art Basel Hong Kong, one of Asia's most prestigious art fairs, is considering whether or not to pro-

ceed with the annual event in March.

The event, which drew 88,000 people last year, is scheduled to open to VIPs on March 17 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

"The contemplation of postponing or cancelling an event of this scale – which takes a full year to produce – is a complex process, with many factors and multiple stakeholders," the fair's directors said in a letter to exhibitors last week.

The organizer of Beijing InfoComm China 2020 canceled the show, which was set to take place March 26 to 28 in a bid to ensure the safety of exhibitors and attendees.



Visitors are seen next to the Hotel Fortuna building in ZAPE area on an uncharacteristically quiet day

Workers face termination in underhanded letter

RENATO MARQUES,
DANIEL BEITLER

THE operator of a nightclub and sauna inside a Macau casino has asked about 20 non-local workers of Vietnamese, Philippine and Indonesian nationality to sign a statement - in a language they cannot read - leading to their immediate dismissal.

The Times has learned that the Fortuna Night Club and Supreme Sauna, both located inside the Hotel Fortuna in Macau's ZAPE area,

started to terminate the employment of a group of non-resident workers yesterday.

As entertainment facilities, the nightclub and sauna are subject to the unprecedented 15-day suspension of activities that took effect at midnight Wednesday.

The company responsible for the two venues allegedly told the workers yesterday that they would be going on leave for two months because of the suspension and the expected disruption in the period following the two-week closure.

The workers were issued a le-

tter in Chinese - a language that they cannot read - and told it said that they accepted the terms of the two-month leave of absence from work.

However, contrary to what was stated by the company, the letter in fact acknowledges the termination of the worker and states that they have already received all due compensation.

"The undersigned declares that the employment has ended, with all remuneration received," reads one letter seen by the Times.

Non-locals in Macau must

obtain a work permit to take up employment in the city. When the work permit expires or is relinquished by their employer, the worker has just eight days to leave the city before they enter a state of illegal overstay.

According to a workers' representative, who has at this stage requested not to be named, nine of the staff members who were on-duty last night have already signed the letter, while the remainder have been instructed to do so before 6 p.m. today.

The Times understands that all of the affected staff are non-local workers. Some of them have been working for the company for 12 years.

One of the affected employees told the Times last night that the group had been tricked into signing the letter because they can't read Chinese characters. She said

that they were given the letter while receiving their salary for January and had been told that the leave would last two months, rather than two weeks as per the suspension.

Upon learning of the actual content of the letter, the worker and her colleagues approached the offices of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) only to learn it was closed along with most other non-essential departments of the government. She said that the group did not know how otherwise to report the case to the authorities.

According to the same employee, this type of situation has occurred before at the company. On those occasions, former employees had presented complaints to the DSAL and the bureau had helped them to obtain compensation and an airline ticket back to their home country.

TOP ECONOMY OFFICIAL ADVISES PATIENCE ON RELIEF MEASURES

MACAU'S top economy official will not immediately disclose a range of relief measures designed to shore up businesses across the city, his office told the Times yesterday.

On Tuesday, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong hinted that the government was prepared to intervene in the economy through public investment and tax cuts, but did not specify exact measures.

In response to a Times enquiry yesterday, Lei's office said that the details of the actual measures will be announced in due course.

During yesterday's press conference, the secretary acknowledged the possible effect on the economy caused by the widespread business suspension and the coronavirus outbreak. He said that the government would not shy away from increasing its public spending, even leading to a budget deficit if necessary.

"We will consider intervention in several areas, namely in terms of taxation [cuts]," said the secretary. "There are various types of tax, such as the Revenue Supplementary Tax, Tourism Tax and Income Tax. We are reviewing all of them

and expediting our work."

The tourism industry faces service charges of up to 10% rendered by establishments such as hotels, guesthouses, night clubs, and massage and sauna parlors, with the tax generally borne by consumers. Restaurants have been exempt from the tourism tax since 2002.

Apart from taxation measures, the secretary also foresees the need to increase public investment. "This implies the expansion of internal consumption," the secretary said. "By expanding investment, we can boost employment." **AL**

SUPERMARKET PRICING ERROR ALARMS NETIZENS

A photo depicting an 81-pataca price tag for a pack of three bok-choy at a local supermarket went viral on social media Tuesday evening alongside the citywide supermarket run.

The error occurred at a branch of Royal Supermarket. The company acted quickly by responding to social media alarm on the same evening, explaining the incident as an error.

"It was a careless mistake by an employee that has caused the confusion," the supermarket chain wrote in the so-

cial media post. The product description was also wrong, making the entire tag incorrect.

It remains unclear in which branch of the supermarket chain the incident occurred.

Royal stressed that it had no intention to inflate prices.

However, in the discussion chain, another photo posted by a user showed a discrepancy between the price tag and the actual price charged for a pork burger patty product. The company had not provided an explanation as of press time. **AL**

CATHAY ASKS STAFF TO TAKE UNPAID LEAVE AS VIRUS ADDS TO WOES

KYUNGHEE PARK

CATHAY Pacific Airways Ltd. asked employees to take three weeks of unpaid leave as the Hong Kong airline is cutting capacity because of the coronavirus outbreak.

The airline requested all employees to participate in a leave program taking place from March 1 to June 30, it said in an emailed statement yesterday. Cathay had about 26,700 workers in Hong Kong as of end-June.

"Preserving cash is the key to protecting our business," Chief Executive Officer Augustus Tang told employees, according to the statement. "We have already been taking multiple measures to achieve this."

The outbreak adds to the woes at Cathay, which already issued profit warnings last year as Hong Kong's protests steered people away from the Asian financial hub. The airline is slashing 90% of its



flights to China over the next two months after the virus killed almost 500 people and sickened more than 24,000 on the mainland.

Cathay already started to offer voluntary unpaid leave to pilots last month and has received a substantial number of applications for

the program. It also offered a similar option for cabin crew at both Cathay and its Cathay Dragon unit.

The China schedule reduction cuts about 30% of Cathay's total network, Tang said in a letter to staff Tuesday. He said the outbreak has had a "very significant im-

pact" on Cathay's business, causing a drop in customer demand.

Cathay is particularly exposed because almost half of its revenue comes from its base in Hong Kong and mainland China. It initially announced last week it would cut capacity by at least 50% on mainland routes. Cathay Dragon said Tuesday that it will suspend flights to Guangzhou and Chongqing from Wednesday until March 28. The carrier also halted services to Hangzhou, Ningbo, Wenzhou, Sanya and Haikou from Feb. 2 until March 28.

Cathay's passenger capacity will probably drop 7.5% this year, Andrew Lee, an analyst at Jefferies, said in a Feb. 4 report. That compares with the airline's forecast for a 1.4% decline. The carrier will probably report a loss for the second half of 2019 and first half of 2020, before rebounding to profit in the second half of this year, Lee said. **BLOOMBERG**

AMERICAN AIRLINES HALTS HK FLIGHTS, UNITED TO FOLLOW

AMERICAN Airlines said it has suspended flights to Hong Kong through Feb. 20 due to weak demand, and United Airlines will do the same next weekend.

Interest in travel to Hong Kong was already weakened by months of anti-government protests in the city, and has fallen off more recently as the coronavirus outbreak spreads in China.

On Tuesday, officials in Hong Kong reported the first death from the virus in the semi-autonomous territory, fanning fear that the virus is spreading locally. China reported 425 deaths and more than 20,000 confirmed cases, up sharply from figures the day before.

United, American and Delta Air Lines all announced they would suspend flights to mainland China shortly after the State Department issued an advisory last week telling Americans not to travel there.

However, American continued to fly to Hong Kong from Los Angeles and Dallas-Fort Worth, and United kept flights from San Francisco. Delta had not served Hong Kong.

Several hours after American's announcement on Tuesday, United said it too would suspend Hong Kong flights beginning Saturday and running through Feb. 20. It cited the continued drop in demand.

In another sign of fading interest in traveling to Hong Kong, Disney said Tuesday that attendance and hotel stays in Hong Kong were down because of "recent events." The company didn't elaborate. **AP**

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The Tesla company logo shines on the grille of an unsold 2020 Model X at a dealership

Tesla stock is soaring. Madness or visionary investing?

TOM KRISHER
& CATHY BUSSEWITZ

EIGHT months after it seemed headed for the corporate junkyard, Tesla is now worth more than General Motors, Ford and Fiat Chrysler combined, even though the Big Three together sell more cars and trucks in two weeks than Tesla does in a whole year.

In a reversal of fortune analysts find amazing if not nutty, the stock of the electric vehicle and solar panel maker has rocketed to nearly \$900, up over 30% in just the past two days. It is now worth five times what it was in June, when there were whispers of bankruptcy surrounding the company founded by the erratic visionary Elon Musk.

Among the world's auto-makers, Tesla, with a market value Tuesday just shy of \$160 billion, ranks behind only Toyota, at \$232 billion.

Many investors see it as justified for a company that is leading the world in electric vehicle sales amid an expected global transition from the internal combustion engine to batteries.

Others see the meteoric rise as just plain crazy for a company that's never turned a full-year profit.

"It doesn't seem to be closely attached to reality," said Gartner analyst Mike Ramsey.

Tesla sold only 367,500 vehicles last year, compared with millions at GM, Ford or Fiat Chrysler. GM alone sold 7.7 million, 21 times

more than Tesla.

While the spectacular run-up in the stock has been attributed in part to rising profits and other encouraging signs from Tesla, it has been amplified, paradoxically, by the many investors who have been "shorting" the stock — that is, betting it would drop. As the stock goes up, these investors are losing money, so they try to limit their losses by rushing in to buy, driving the price even higher.

Just last spring, Tesla seemed to be in trouble. Its stock had fallen 40% largely on concerns that it was running out of buyers for its high-priced vehicles, which start at nearly \$40,000 and can run well over \$100,000.

Big debt payments were loo-

ming, the company was burning cash and losses were growing. Its federal tax credit was being phased out by the end of the year, and competitors were about to launch their own electric vehicles.

But sales emerged stronger than many expected, production problems were vanquished, and while Tesla lost \$862 million in 2019, it turned a profit during the last two quarters of the year, including \$105 million in quarterly earnings posted last week.

Among the positive news coming from the automaker: Tesla said it expects to exceed production of 500,000 vehicles this year at its factories in Fremont, California, and Shanghai. It appears to have worked the kinks out of making the Model 3 small car, the

company's lowest-priced vehicle. And it announced it will start producing the Model Y, a small SUV with broad global appeal, sooner than expected.

"For Tesla worldwide, this will probably be their most important car," said Jessica Caldwell, executive director of insights at the Edmunds.com auto pricing site, which provides content for The Associated Press.

Tasha Keeney, an analyst at ARK Invest, one of the firms most bullish on Tesla, said investors have figured out that Tesla is ahead of competitors in such things as battery technology and software. Also, demand for electric vehicles over the next five years is probably underestimated, she said.

"We think an electric vehicle will be cost-competitive on a sticker price basis with a gas-powered car by 2022, and this is what's going to cause an inflection in demand," Keeney said.

The run-up in price is, like all stock investments, a bet on the future. Electric vehicles account for just 2% of global vehicle sales, and Tesla is up against well-established competitors such as GM, Ford, Audi and Porsche.

Musk has long railed against "short sellers," or investors who borrow stock in a company and then sell it in hopes of buying it back later at a lower price and pocketing the difference. Because of persistent doubts about Musk's ability to realize his big ambitions, Tesla is the most heavily shorted company on the U.S. stock market.

Now the short sellers are feeling the pain.

Still, the stock rise seems irrational to Gartner's Ramsey, who points out that Tesla is an auto company facing perpetually large capital expenditures on factories, vehicle development and raw materials.

"It doesn't make sense in a lot of ways," he said. **AP**

CORPORATE BITS

CEM makes service adjustments in response to virus outbreak



In response to an appeal from the Macau SAR government, and to ensure the safety of citizens and employees, between February 5 and February 14, some Companhia de Eletricidade de Macau (CEM) services will be suspended, in-

cluding its Customer Service Centres in Macau and Taipa, as well as meter reading. During the period of suspension of meter readings, bills will be calculated by estimation.

The company also noted that due to readjustments

of other services, such as the Macau postal services, many customers did not receive their January electricity bill in the mail.

In such cases, customers can access the website of CEM (www.cem-macau.com) and enter their contract number under "Quick Access" to check the bill and pay it through Mpay mobile application or online banking systems.

Nevertheless, if customers fail to make the payment due to an undelivered electricity bill in January, the company assures consumers that power will not be disconnected during the period and customers should expect that the electricity bill from January will be included in February's bill calculation.

IWC Schaffhausen unveils reworked Portugieser Chronograph



Luxury Swiss watch manufacturer IWC Schaffhausen has unveiled a reworked version of the Portugieser Chronograph. The new version of this watch features a new design, keeping the original clean and open dial, two recessed totalizers and a flange with a quarter-second scale, completely unchanged.

Inside the case, the IWC chronograph now uses a high-quality in-house movement from the 69000-caliber family, which can be seen through the transparent back.

Externally, the iconic design of the new models, which are grouped under Reference 3716, remains unchanged.

The decisive new feature of the new timepieces grouped under Reference 3716 is hidden away inside the watch, while the IWC-manufactured 69355 calibre ensures the precise display and measurement of time. The rugged, precision chronograph movement with the classic column-wheel design that can be seen through the transparent back has an automatic pawl-winding system that builds up a power reserve of 46 hours.

Six different versions are available in 18-carat 5N gold or stainless steel. The stainless-steel models are equipped with the newly developed butterfly folding clasp, which is particularly comfortable to wear.



WUHAN CORONAVIRUS

JAPAN QUARANTINES CRUISE SHIP AS TOLL OF NEW VIRUS GROWS

FOSTER KLUG
& MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

LARGE white sheets covering them head-to-knee, people infected with a new virus were led by gloved and masked officials yesterday off a Japanese cruise ship that's being quarantined amid growing worry about the spread of an outbreak.

The quarantine of 3,711 people aboard the Diamond Princess is part of a global health emergency that seems to worsen by the day. The little-understood new coronavirus has killed 490 people in mainland China, officials said. But it has also spread panic and discrimination around the world as the number of cases grow.

More than 1,800 people on another cruise ship were being screened in Hong Kong after three passengers on a previous voyage were diagnosed with the virus. Thousands of hospital workers in Hong Kong were striking to demand the border with mainland China be closed completely. And on the mainland, patients were being treated in newly built or converted hospitals while some at overcrowded facilities sat on the floor.

Tokyo Olympics organizers said they are increasingly worried about the disruption the virus is causing ahead of the games, which open in less than six months.

As examples of anti-Asian discrimination mount, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for "international solidarity" and support for China and other countries hurt by the virus. He urged a stop to any stigmatization of innocent people.

In the port city of Yokohama, just outside Tokyo, health workers, some in protective white jumpsuits,

transferred 10 patients from the Diamond Princess cruise ship to a Japanese coast guard boat next to it. The 10, covered in sheets to protect their identities from cameras, were taken to a dock and put on ambulances bound for hospitals for treatment in isolation.

Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said all the people on board will be quarantined on the ship for up to 14 days under Japanese law. The ship had 2,666 passengers and 1,045 crew members. Tests were pending on 273 people who had symptoms or had contact with a man who was diagnosed with the virus after leaving the ship in Hong Kong.

The latest mainland China figures showed an increase of 65 deaths from the previous day, all the new deaths from Wuhan. The number of new cases increased to 24,324, a rise of 3,887 from the previous day. Outside mainland China, at least

nasium, exhibition hall and cultural center.

Patients were being moved into a 1,000-bed hospital with prefabricated wards and isolation rooms in Wuhan. A 1,500-bed hospital also specially built for virus patients opens Thursday. The hospitals made from converted public spaces to treat patients with mild symptoms have a total of 3,400 beds, the simple cots placed in tight rows in cavernous rooms without any barriers between them.

One man, Fang Bin, said he saw wards so crowded during a visit to the city's No. 5 Hospital on Saturday that some patients were forced to sit on the ground.

With the epicenter of the outbreak, Wuhan, cut off by rail, air and road to try to contain the virus, the United States and other countries were organizing more evacuation flights for their citizens still in the central Chinese city. Two of the latest planes returned to Russia and New Zealand yesterday, with the returnees quarantined for the maximum incubation period of the virus.

Dr. David Heymann, who led the World Health Organization's response to the SARS outbreak, said it's too early to tell when the new coronavirus will peak, but that it appears to still be on the increase.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged countries outside China to share more data on infections, saying detailed information has been provided in only 38% of cases. "Without better data, it's very hard for us to assess how the outbreak is evolving or what impact it could have and to ensure we're providing the most appropriate recommendations." AP

Air China seeks to pare US routes due to virus outbreak

AIR China is seeking to reduce flights to the United States and offer unusual legs between U.S. cities because of a drop-off in travel and new restrictions on people entering the U.S. from China due to the coronavirus outbreak.

The state-owned Chinese airline wants to start flying a Beijing-Los Angeles-San Francisco route and the same cities in reverse order. It also wants to fly a Beijing-New York-Washington route and the reverse.

The route to and from the U.S. West Coast would start Feb. 11 and run four times a week. The East Coast route would launch the next day and fly three times a week.

The airline filed the emergency request to fly the routes for at least 180 days.

Significantly, Air China is not seeking authority to carry passengers just between Los Angeles and San Francisco or between New York's Kennedy Airport and Dulles Airport outside Washington, D.C.

Air China said it was not seeking to sell tickets for travel from one U.S. city to another. When a foreign airline does that, it is called cabotage, and would almost certainly draw protests from U.S. airlines.

The request would halt Air China's flights to Houston and Newark, New Jersey, and flights between

Los Angeles and Shenzhen, in southern China near Hong Kong.

Air China made the request in a filing to the U.S. Department of Transportation dated Sunday. It was first reported by aviation website PaxEx.aero.

The airline said its goal in overhauling its U.S. routes is "to maintain critical and essential air connectivity between China and the United States during this difficult time in the most economical way."

The Chinese airline said it notified 10 U.S. passenger and cargo airlines and the Federal Aviation Administration of its plans. None had commented to the Transportation Department by yesterday.

American Airlines said earlier it has suspended flights to Hong Kong through Feb. 20 due to weak demand, and United Airlines will do the same next weekend.

Interest in travel to Hong Kong was already weakened by months of anti-government protests in the city, and has fallen off more recently as the coronavirus outbreak spreads in China.

United, American and Delta Air Lines all announced they would suspend flights to mainland China shortly after the State Department issued an advisory last week telling Americans not to travel there.

MDT/AP

Antonio Guterres appealed for 'international solidarity' and support for China and other countries hurt by the virus

220 cases have been confirmed, including two fatalities, one in Hong Kong and another in the Philippines.

The infections on the cruise ship raised Japan's total to 33 cases. South Korea and Thailand reported recent cases among people who had not been to China, raising concerns about how easily the virus might be spreading in other places.

To treat the thousands of patients in its hard-hit central region, China built a new hospital in a matter of days and converted a gym-



Hong Kong's airport terminal

MIKE STOBBE, NEW YORK

2019-NCOV

WEST Nile virus, Lyme disease, Ebola virus. And now: 2019-nCoV?

"Just rolls off the tongue, doesn't it?" said Trevor Hoppe, a researcher at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, who has studied the history of disease names.

The name, which stands for 2019 novel coronavirus, has been assigned to the virus behind the outbreak of flu-like illnesses that started in China late last year.

Scientists are still learning about the new virus, so it's hard to come up with a good name, Hoppe said. The current one is likely temporary, said Dr. Nancy Messonnier of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

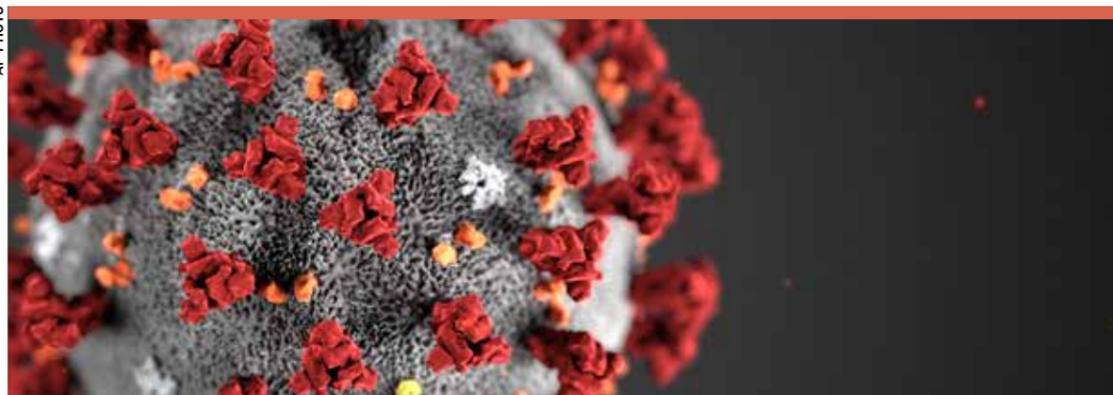
"Once people have a chance to catch their breath, it might be changed," Messonnier said.

Many media outlets have been skipping the clunky 2019-nCoV and just calling it the new virus or new coronavirus, which isn't very specific. Coronavirus is the umbrella term for a large group of viruses, including ones that can cause the common cold.

Since the outbreak is centered in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, others have been using Wuhan virus or Wuhan coronavirus or even

In virus outbreak, fretting over a name that might go viral

AP PHOTO



Wuhan flu — even though flu is an entirely different virus.

It's consistent with a centuries-old tradition of naming new ailments after cities, countries or regions of the world where they first popped up. West Nile was first detected in the West Nile district of Uganda; Lyme disease in Old Lyme, Connecticut, and Ebola in a village near Africa's Ebola River.

But that can sometimes be wrong or misleading. The 1918 pandemic was called Spanish flu,

though researchers don't think Spain is where it actually started.

"Now we have a much different sensibility and tolerance about how we refer to things," said Dr. Howard Markel, a medical historian at the University of Michigan.

In 2015, the World Health Organization issued guidelines that discouraged the use of geographic locations (like Zika virus), animals (swine flu) or groups of people (Legionnaires' disease).

Hoppe noted that AIDS, when

it first emerged in the early 1980s, was called "gay-related immune deficiency." That was dropped as it became clear that heterosexuals were also spreading the virus. AIDS stands for acquired immune deficiency syndrome.

With the guidelines, WHO was trying to bring an end to unnecessary stigma that could ostracize people and damage business. Demand for pork plunged in 2009 with so-called swine flu, first identified in a boy who lived on a pig

farm in Mexico — even though it wasn't spread through eating pork.

Markel said he liked when diseases were named after the scientists who first described them. (Think Alzheimer, Parkinson and Tourette.) That's problematic today with many scientists across the world working on a new ailment at the same time.

SARS was used for severe acute respiratory syndrome when another coronavirus caused a 2002-2003 outbreak. So maybe this one could be called CARS, Markel said.

"I can see why they want to name it something generic but it has to be something people use," he said. "Otherwise the easier name will take over, and it's naive to think otherwise."

In the end, the WHO may have little control over what it's called, he added.

"Wuhan virus is very catchy — no pun intended," Markel said. "It's a very contagious name." AP

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AFGHANISTAN

MEDIA OUTLETS PROTEST CURTAILED ACCESS TO INFORMATION

RAHIM FAIEZ, KABUL

AN Afghan media watchdog urged the government yesterday to heed a demand for more media freedoms after 30 local media outlets said in a joint statement that authorities were increasingly curtailing their access to information.

Sayed Ikram Afzali, the head of Integrity Watch Afghanistan, said there is a good law in place guaranteeing the media's ability to work and access information but that the government has failed to provide enough funding and institutional support to implement the law.

The joint media statement, un-

veiled at a protest rally in Kabul on Tuesday, comes against the backdrop of relentless violence across the country. Afghan forces, backed by U.S. allies, continue to fight the Taliban, who today control or hold sway over nearly half of Afghanistan.

The Taliban stage near-daily attacks targeting government forces and officials, as well as those seen loyal to the government, and scores of civilians get killed in the crossfire, as well as in anti-Taliban operations by the Afghan forces. The U.N. has called for all sides in the protracted conflict to take better care to avoid civilian casualties.

Meanwhile, the United States is engaged in on-again-off-again

talks with the Taliban, led by U.S. envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, to find a negotiated end to Afghanistan's 18-year war that would allow the U.S. to bring home about 13,000 American soldiers.

"Throughout my tenure as the chief information commissioner, I have witnessed the media's access to information being restricted by key government institutions," said Afzali. "Unfortunately, the trend continues."

Abdul Mujeeb Khalvatgar, head of the Nai Supporting Open Media group, said that access to information has been worst in the last five years and that the situation is now critical.

"If there is no access to informa-

tion, then the nature of the media as a tool of freedom of expression will vanish," he said.

Even as authorities concur that access to information remains a pervasive challenge for Afghanistan, they justify existing limitations by the persistent dangers and violence the country faces and warn that a return of the Taliban regime could do away with many hard-won freedoms.

Afghanistan is among the most dangerous countries in the world for reporters. In January, the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee reported that five journalists were killed in 2019 in the country. The year before, 17 journalist and media workers were killed in Afgha-

nistan, when a total of 121 cases of violence against journalists and media workers were reported.

"There will be no set-back in our freedom, our gains in freedoms and women's rights are irreversible. They have been our red-lines in our talks with the Taliban," Sediq Sediqqi, spokesman for Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, tweeted yesterday. He defended the government, saying also that a joint government-media commission and a trust fund for journalists have been created in the past years.

Tuesday's statement by the 30 media outlets said they were "deeply concerned about the deterioration in access to government-related information in Afghanistan," and called on the international community and the government to protect the free flow of information.

The media groups said all Kabul government institutions have shortcomings when it comes to providing access to information but they singled out the Supreme Court, the Attorney General's Office and the National Directorate of Security Directorate as the worst offenders. Also, the Ministry of Finance, the Central Bank and the Ministry of Defense were high on the same list.

The media protest took place in front of the Ministry of Information and Culture where the government had promised to build a monument to slain journalists three years ago. Work on the monument has yet to start.

U.S. Chargé d'Affaires Ross Wilson urged the Afghan government to "work with the press to make Afghan democracy stronger."

"Information is a vital resource of any free and open society," Wilson said.

During an attack in April 2018, nine journalists who rushed to the scene of an explosion in Kabul were killed by a second suicide bomber who waited. A tenth journalist was killed the same day, shot in eastern Khost province. **AP**

A former senior Australian intelligence official appeared in court yesterday charged with illegally taking secret documents from his Canberra office to his home two decades ago.

Roger Uren, 72, appeared in the Australian Capital Territory Magistrates Court where lawyers discussed how they would handle classified documents that could be tendered as evidence.

The charges laid four years after the documents were found in Uren's Canberra home and 14 years after they were removed from the Office of National Assessments - the prime minister's intelligen-

AUSTRALIA

Former official in court for taking secrets home

ce agency - are seen by critics as evidence of a growing government preoccupation with secrecy.

Attorney-General Christian Porter has launched a legal process to prevent information "likely to prejudice national security" from being made public in Uren's court hearing.

The documents date back to before Uren resigned as Office of National Assessments' assistant director in 2001.

He is the husband of U.S. citizen Sheri Yan, who

was sentenced in the U.S. District Court in New York in 2016 to 20 months in prison after she pleaded guilty to bribing the U.N. General Assembly's then-President John Ashe.

Australian Security Intelligence Organization agents investigating potential Chinese Communist Party links to Australian politics raided the Canberra home of Uren and his lobbyist wife in October 2015, and again in September the following year. The agents say they discovered

sensitive documents.

He was arrested at his home in October last year. Uren faces 32 charges of unauthorized dealing with records under the Intelligence Services Act and one charge of unauthorized dealing with records under the Australian Security Intelligence Organization Act. Each charge carries a potential maximum sentence of three years in prison.

Uren's lawyers argue he copied the documents so he could continue working

on them at home. No one else ever saw them, the lawyers say.

Uren's bail conditions were relaxed to allow him to visit his wife in China over Christmas. She is caring for her elderly parents in Beijing.

Magistrate Glenn Theaskston yesterday restored the bail conditions that prevent Uren leaving Australia. The magistrate also returned the title deeds to two houses that Uren had offered as surety while he was overseas.

Uren was continued bail until his next court appearance on April 1.

Prosecutor Daniel Johns and defense lawyer Noor Blumer will attempt to agree on draft court orders to restrict the disclosure and handling of sensitive documents in the case.

The magistrate will make those orders if he finds the agreed draft acceptable. If the lawyers can't agree, the magistrate will decide on what information can be made public. **AP**

JAMES BROOKS, BARCELONA

CLIMATE CHANGE

Scientists dive into 'Midnight Zone' to study dark ocean

A team of scientists is preparing to dive deep into the depths of the Indian Ocean — into a "Midnight Zone" where light barely reaches but life still thrives.

Scientists from the British-led Nekton Mission plan to survey wildlife and gauge the effects of climate change in the unexplored area. Working with the Seychelles and Maldives governments, the five-week expedition is targeting seamounts — vast underwater mountains that rise thousands of meters from the sea floor.

To explore such inhospitable depths, Nekton scientists will board one of the world's most advanced submersibles, called "Limiting Factor."

"What we do know is that beneath 1,000 meters, there's no light down there, but a lot of animals ... are bioluminescent. It's life that glows," says Nekton mission director Oliver Steeds.

"The area that we're going to be researching, it's one of the most bio-diverse parts of the world's oceans. So what we're going to find there is unknown," Steeds recently told The Associated Press in Barcelona, Spain, before sea trials for the submersible and its mother ship.

The AP will be covering the ex-

pedition exclusively from start to finish.

Last August, the "Limiting Factor" completed the Five Deeps Expedition, diving to the deepest point in each of the world's five oceans. The deepest was almost 11,000 meters down — deeper than Mount Everest is tall.

To withstand such crushing pressures, the sub's two-person crew compartment is wrapped in a nine-centimeter titanium cocoon. It also carries up to 96 hours' worth of emergency oxygen.

"There are only five vehicles in the world that can get below 6,000 meters, and only one that can get to the bottom half," said expedition leader Rob McCallum. "So everything we do is new. Everything we see is virtually a new discovery."

Using sampling, sensor and mapping technology, scientists expect to identify new species and towering seamounts, as well



Scientists launch the "Limiting Factor" submarine into the Mediterranean Sea, part of sea trials of the Nekton Mission begins in mid-March

"The area that we're going to be researching, it's one of the most bio-diverse parts of the world's oceans."

OLIVER STEEDS

as observe man-made impacts, such as climate change and plastic pollution.

Last May, when "Limiting Factor" descended to the bottom of the Pacific Ocean's Mariana Trench, the ocean's deepest point, its pilot spotted a plastic bag.

"When we actually think of the living space on the planet for species, over 90% of that living space is in the ocean and most of that ocean is unexplored," says Dan Laffoley, a marine expert for the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

"So it's absolutely critical, at this time when we see such large changes occurring, that we get people down there, we get eyes in the ocean and we see what's happening," he said.

Scientists will combine their observations with those conducted last year during a seven-week Indian Ocean mission. They plan to present their findings in 2022. AP

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what's ON



RED DECEMBER – EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 13, 2020

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

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

KONG SENG TICKETING SERVICE: 8988 4000

THE WORLD AS WILL AND IDEA – COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF EMERGING ARTISTS FROM MAINLAND CHINA

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 23, 2020

VENUE: Macau Contemporary Art Centre - Navy Yard No.1, located at Rua de S. Tiago Da Barra

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

PACKAGE LABELED 'BAG FULL OF DRUGS' LEADS TO FLORIDA ARRESTS



Two men charged with drug trafficking could have done a better job hiding their wares than using a package labeled "Bag Full of Drugs," Florida authorities said.

Ian Simmons and Joshua Reinhardt, both 34, were pulled over in Santa Rosa County on Saturday after a trooper clocked them going 95 mph on Interstate 10 on the state's Panhandle, according to a Florida Highway Patrol arrest report.

The trooper determined that Reinhardt was the subject of an active felony warrant for violation of probation in Orange County. He requested backup.

A Santa Rosa County Sheriff's deputy arrived to assist, and a K-9 alerted to the presence of contraband in the vehicle, the arrest report said. Authorities found approximately 75 grams of methamphetamine, 1.36 kilograms of the date-rape drug GHB, 1 gram of cocaine, 3.6 grams of fentanyl, 15 MDMA tablets and drug paraphernalia.

Both men were taken into custody and taken to jail. They are charged with trafficking in methamphetamine and GHB, three counts of possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

"Note to self- do not traffic your illegal narcotics in bags labeled 'Bag Full Of Drugs,'" deputies wrote on Facebook. "Our K-9's can read."

Jail records did not say whether the men had attorneys who could comment.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	O Sábio
15:45	Beo and Peno Sr.1
16:00	Animaizinhos Selvagens Exploradores
16:15	Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.1o
17:00	Conferência de Imprensa Saúde (Directo)
18:05	Império (Repetição)
18:55	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
21:55	Viagens Gastronómicas
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	5 Para a Meia Noite
01:30	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:15	RTPi Directo

this day in history



2001 SHARON SWEEPS TO POWER

The leader of the right-wing Likud party, Ariel Sharon, has won a landslide victory to become the new prime minister of Israel.

He called for a government of national unity to bring peace to the Middle East.

The outgoing prime minister, Ehud Barak, said he was resigning as Labour leader and leaving parliament.

Addressing jubilant supporters in Tel Aviv, Mr Sharon ruled out territorial concessions to the Palestinians over Jerusalem and urged them to "cast off the path of violence and return to the path of dialogue".

He said: "Today the state of Israel has taken a new road, the road of peace, security and unity."

Mr Barak ruled out his party's participation in a national unity government without agreement on a joint plan of action.

"Friends, we have lost a battle, but we will win the war," he told supporters. "Our path is the one and only path, the path that will lead Israel to peace and security."

Mr Sharon has a fearsome reputation as a ruthless and fearless soldier and politician. As defence minister he was the main architect of Israel's invasion of Lebanon in 1982.

He was removed from office in 1983 by an Israeli tribunal that found him indirectly responsible for the massacre of hundreds of Palestinians by Lebanese Christian militiamen in two Beirut refugee camps under Israeli control.

But he made his political comeback just one year later as trade and industry minister in a Likud-Labour national unity government.

Minutes after voting ended on Tuesday evening, exit polls gave Mr Sharon a lead of 19%. Partial results broadcast later on Israeli television suggested an even greater lead for the Likud leader.

Turnout, according to electoral officials, was about 60% - the lowest in Israeli history.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was conciliatory in his response to Mr Sharon's victory.

"We respect the decision of the Israeli people," Mr Arafat said. "We hope the peace process will continue."

But his comments came after Palestinians had held what they called a "day of rage" to coincide with the voting and Mr Sharon's expected victory.

Demonstrators chanting "Sharon is a butcher" clashed with Israeli soldiers in the West Bank towns of Ramallah and Hebron.

Mr Sharon will inherit the same fractured and fractious parliament which gave Mr Barak so much trouble.

Some Israeli commentators say there may have to be new parliamentary elections within six months.

In that event, his rival Binyamin Netanyahu could challenge him for leadership of the Likud Party and supplant him as prime minister.

The new Israeli prime minister may also find himself constrained by the realities on the ground.

If he tries, as his record suggests he may, to use the iron fist to curb Palestinian anger, analysts say he will find there are no purely military solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian problem.

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

In June 2002 following a series of suicide bombings, work began on building a security wall, 640 km (440 miles) long, between Israel and the West Bank.

An effort to revive the peace process resulted in the publication of a new roadmap for peace in April 2003.

Ariel Sharon's mission was to fight for Israel's security, in the belief that the end justifies the means.

But his plans for Israeli settlers to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank - completed in August 2005 - provoked ire from his staunchest supporters and were repeatedly voted down by his right-wing Likud Party.

He finally left Likud in November 2005 to found a new centrist party, Kadima (Forward).

On 4 January 2006, Mr Sharon suffered a major stroke and went into a coma.

Three months later, on 11 April, the Israeli cabinet declared him "permanently incapacitated".

Ehud Olmert was then promoted from acting PM to the full premiership having secured a victory for Kadima in elections held the previous month.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

It's a very good time for you to leap into the center of the action and grab your piece of the pie today. Nothing and no one can stop you, once you set your sights on something.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

New relationships are exciting, but right now you need to be careful not to get too swept up in the momentum of it all. You run the risk of losing your own identity in becoming half of a pair, and that's not good.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You could be privy to information today that spells trouble for one of your favorite people, and you could be stuck with the dilemma of whether to tell them what you know.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Today, if you have a question or concern about what you're working on, go to the source. Asking someone for answers directly is the best way to get the clear, credible information you need.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You'll meet up with someone from a drastically different background today, and they could have something serious to say that you should pay attention to, even if no one else wants to.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Good manners are always appropriate, but sharing is not. Know the difference today, because you have to be careful about giving away too much to other people just for the sake of being nice.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You need to grab this opportunity. In life, you have to run through any door that is opened to you. Worry about what you'll do on the other side of it later.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

If you're trying to get closer to someone right now, keep in mind that romance is supposed to be fun. Your heart may be pounding to a frightening extent every time you talk to them, but don't let that anxiety show!



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Right now, all you want is a good cup of coffee and a comfortable chair where you can sit and read a book. Or a smile from an attractive stranger as they walk by you on the sidewalk.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today is about exploring your creative side, and music can be a terrific catalyst. Strap on your party shoes and head out to that hot new club, or just turn on your favorite tunes and tap into your inner rock star.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your life is about way more than having a relationship or getting someone to notice you. Think more about pleasing yourself right now and less about pleasing others.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Just make sure you don't ask this intermediary to do any negotiating for you. You need to have your own relationship with the person who's confusing you.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

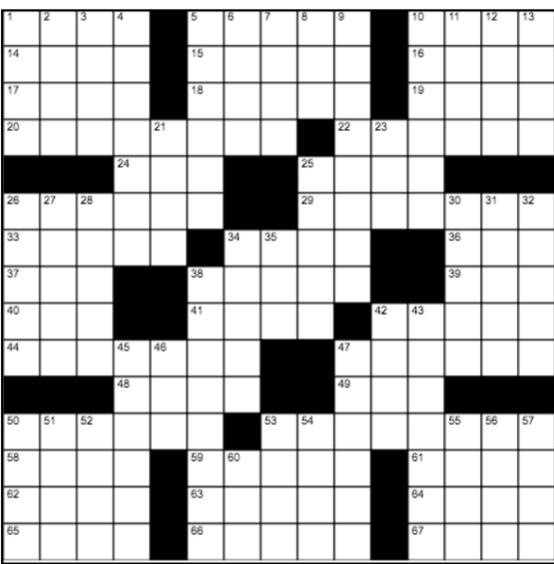
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Chilly powder?; 5- Stern with a bow; 10- Drinks slowly; 14- Rent-___; 15- Unit of magnetic induction; 16- Curriculum section; 17- Swiss river; 18- Evade; 19- Zilch; 20- Music symbol; 22- One of the 12 apostles; 24- Prefix with athlete; 25- Bhutan's continent; 26- Rhododendron relative; 29- Try; 33- Donybrook; 34- Roseanne, once; 36- Battery size; 37- Kimono accessory; 38- Lake in the Sierra Nevada; 39- ATM maker; 40- Heston's org.; 41- Neighbor of Turkey; 42- Doled (out); 44- Breathless; 47- English noblewoman; 48- Limerick language; 49- Took in; 50- Prize; 53- Gossip; 58- Capital of the Ukraine; 59- Bay; 61- Voluminous volume; 62- Della's creator; 63- Ornamental coronet; 64- Important times; 65- Bird feed; 66- Painter Rousseau; 67- Morse element;

DOWN: 1- Swedish auto; 2- Final Four org.; 3- Long objects used to row a boat; 4- Use a full nelson, say; 5- Roma's land; 6- Golf's Ballesteros; 7- From; 8- 2001 biopic; 9- Real estate register; 10- Ice cream topped with syrup; 11- Are you ___ out?; 12- Yearn deeply; 13- Bouillabaisse, e.g.; 21- Manitoba native; 23- It may be picked; 25- Biblical brother; 26- Encompassed about; 27- Horselike African mammal; 28- Rap sheet info; 30- Devilfish; 31- Walked back and forth; 32- Behind time; 34- Vessel; 35- Gotchal; 38- Manipulator of Sn; 42- Baseball glove; 43- Voted into a seat; 45- Annoyed; 46- High dudgeon; 47- Rum cocktail; 50- Supplements, with "out"; 51- Beget; 52- Prefix with conference; 53- Extended family unit; 54- German Mister; 55- Israeli round dance; 56- Latin lesson word; 57- New Ager John; 60- Never, in Nuremberg;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



AD

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MANAGEMENT OF ARETHA FRANKLIN'S ESTATE STILL UNSETTLED

A lawyer for a son of Aretha Franklin asked a judge to keep an eye on professional fees paid by the late singer's estate, the latest jab in a dispute over assets left by the Queen of Soul.

Separately, the judge set a March 3 hearing on a request by Franklin's niece to step aside as personal representative, or executor, of the estate.

Franklin died without a formal will in August 2018. Her estate was worth an estimated \$17 million last summer, although the family has been squabbling since last spring when handwritten wills were found in her home.

A 2014 document indicates that Franklin wanted Kecal Franklin (pictured) to run her estate. A niece, Sabrina Owens, now fills the role, but she wants to give up the job, citing a "rift" in the family.

Owens watched from the courtroom gallery as



Kecal Franklin's lawyer, Charlene Glover-Hogan, asked a judge to step in and approve any legal fees for the estate's attorneys before they're paid.

In response, David Bennett said Franklin's four sons or their lawyers had agreed that his firm would represent the estate, shortly after Aretha Franklin's death. He denied keeping the sons in the dark.

"This is not a cash-poor estate," Bennett said.

Judge Jennifer Calla-

ghan set that dispute for another day. She also ordered the parties into mediation.

Outside court, Glover-Hogan said a handwriting expert confirmed that the 2014 document, found under a living room cushion, was in Aretha Franklin's handwriting. The admissibility of the will, however, hasn't been determined.

"His mother knew what she was doing," Glover-Hogan said of Kecal Franklin's fitness for the job of managing the estate.

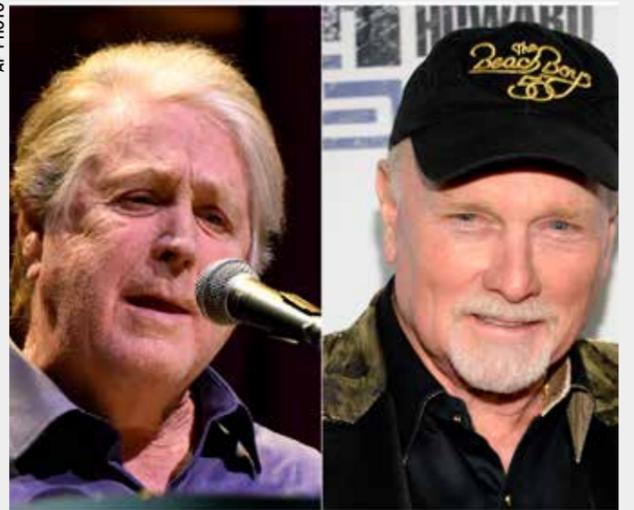
NO GOOD VIBRATIONS FOR BEACH BOYS, SPLIT BY HUNTING CONCERT

ONE of the co-founders of The Beach Boys has joined a boycott of his own music to protest it being used by another band member at an animal hunting convention.

Brian Wilson has denounced a performance of Beach Boys music today [Macau time] at the Safari Club International Convention in Reno, Nevada. The concert is being led by The Beach Boys' co-founder, lead singer and chief lyricist Mike Love.

In a tweet, Wilson said he and band member Al Jardine are "emphatically opposed" to trophy hunting. He then pointed to a Change.org petition that calls for a boycott of Beach Boys' music until the performance is canceled. The petition had garnered more than 100,000 signatures by Tuesday afternoon.

The annual Safari Club



convention has drawn protests by animal rights groups such as the Humane Society of the United States for profiting from the hunting of endangered animals and promoting unethical hunting practices. This year's keynote speaker is Donald Trump Jr.

In response, Love offered a statement to Pitchfork magazine: "We

look forward to a night of great music in Reno and, as always, support freedom of thought and expression as a fundamental tenet of our rights as Americans."

The Beach Boys are known for sunny harmonies in such songs as "California Girls," "I Get Around," "Fun Fun Fun," "Good Vibrations" and "Kokomo."

AD



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

COMPENSATION awarded to two South Korean fans for the cost of tickets and for so-called "mental anguish" because Cristiano Ronaldo didn't play in a pre-season exhibition in Seoul last July is just the beginning, a Seoul-based lawyer said yesterday.

The promoters of the exhibition between Italian giant Juventus and a K-League All Star team, advertised that Ronaldo would play for at least 45 minutes. But the Portuguese star stayed on the bench for the entire game, angering sections of the 65,000 crowd.

A court in Incheon, west of Seoul, on Tuesday ordered The Fasta to pay 371,000 won (\$465) each to the two fans.

Korean lawyer Kim Kwang-sam says the company will face more legal action from disgruntled fans. "There are 87 people who have filed a lawsuit in the Seoul Central District Court," Kim said, referencing soccer fans who are seeking 950,000 won (\$799) each. "The amount will be bigger this time."

The promoters did not respond to requests for comment.

Ronaldo's failure to play, explained by coach Mauricio Sarri

FOOTBALL

Koreans win compensation for Ronaldo no-show; more to come

after the game as muscle fatigue following an exhibition in China 48 hours earlier, led to a verbal clash between the South Korean K-League and Juventus. The Italian club also arrived at the stadium late for the match, causing the kick-off to be delayed by almost one hour.

"For fans in South Korea, Ronaldo's appearance isn't just about contract, but a trust in Juventus with 121 years of its rich history," the K-League said in a statement last year. "The fans expected Juventus to offer an explanation and a sincere apology for the reasons of discrediting the trust so easily, but the Juventus club even gave up its last hope."

"If Ronaldo was unable to play," the statement said, "it would be a blatant deception to include Ronaldo as a substitute on the start list." AP



AP PHOTO

FOOTBALL

Schalke looks into racist abuse at German Cup game



AP PHOTO

Berlin's Jordan Torunarigha (left) and Schalke's Ahmed Kutucu

SCHALKE is investigating racist abuse from fans aimed at Hertha Berlin player Jordan Torunarigha during a German Cup game, the club said yesterday.

Schalke said it would work with police to look into the situation.

The German defender, the son of former Nigerian player Ojokojo Torunarigha, was sent off when he picked up a second yellow card in extra time in Tuesday's

match after appearing increasingly upset as the game went on.

Hertha teammate Niklas Stark said he heard "monkey noises and racist insults" and called on German soccer to support Torunarigha.

"It was hard to miss, after the game and before extra time, how he looked and that he had been distressed by it," Stark said in comments on Hertha's website.

Schalke won 3-2 to reach the quarterfinals.

"There is no tolerance from the club for behavior like this. We will do everything to trace those responsible for this and to ensure they face the consequences," the Schalke board said in a statement. "Behavior like this does not just go against FC Schalke 04's stadium regulations, mission statement and statutes, but also contradicts all

of our values."

Hertha coach Jürgen Klinsmann said he felt abuse played a role in Torunarigha's red card and that the referee should have taken his emotional state into account when considering a second booking.

Schalke coach David Wagner said he didn't hear racist abuse but offered an apology on behalf of Schalke to Torunarigha and to Hertha. AP

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OPINION

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao Phillips



THE BRIGHT AND DARK SIDE OF MAHJONG

Facing the almost apocalyptic situation in China now, citizens are experiencing a state of isolation. The emptiness on the streets is one that has not been seen for over a decade, other than during the aftermath of the super typhoons of the last two years. And this state of affairs has brought back a sound I have not heard for some time: the “twittering of the sparrow,” the sound emitted by shuffling Mahjong tiles. Not that I am literally hearing Mahjong tiles all the time, but rather, seeing neighbors carrying Mahjong tables to their apartments, walking past small shops with four people around a Mahjong table, and seeing photos of the tiles on Facebook makes me hear Mahjong tiles, metaphorically speaking, all the time.

That got me thinking: why is it that often during crises such as typhoon and epidemics, people resort to playing Mahjong?

Well, Mahjong may have a bad connotation, given the gambling nature of the game. However, while people who love playing Mahjong may sometimes be considered gamblers, the game is more than just playing with luck and gaining fortune. Given there has already been medical research supporting the positive effect of playing mahjong in preventing dementia, it is believed to be a game that can improve memory, critical thinking, and relationships. It is a good pastime, a good study into Chinese culture, and a good way to get to know people better.

Mahjong is a good pastime because it is a game that requires thinking and strategizing, which keeps players focused and helps them to forget about other worries. The influential Chinese historian, philosopher, and politician, Liang Qichao, famously commented that “only reading can make one forget about Mahjong, and only Mahjong can make one forget about reading”. It is not surprising that Mahjong can keep our minds engaged if it did for one of the greatest minds in contemporary Chinese history.

Culturally speaking, unlike other board games or card games, Mahjong is not about racing to the finish line depending on the luck of throwing dice or having a good hand. Many a times, the game ends with no winner. To win, one has to collect a harmonious set of triples and a pair of tiles. Although luck has its hand in the game, it also depends a lot on what others discard.

It is a game of collectivity, and a game that one can hardly win if all other players are determined to sacrifice their game just to keep you from winning. To me, an unskilled player, I came to believe that it is a game more to do with interpersonal relations than luck or skill. A skilled player is not one who wins a lot, but one who takes calculated risks when they believe they have a chance to win, manages to keep their enemies from winning and helps their friends win if they do not have a chance themselves.

And that leads me to the final beauty of the game – it is one that lets us see the real face of others. Being a longitudinal game, Mahjong helps us see the best and the worst in people. There are players who play mainly for gatherings with friends, enjoying the game and conversations, and do not care much about losing. I am referring to a friendly game with low stakes, quite often amongst family and friends. And then, there are those who often seem amiable, but less than an hour into the game, start cursing and showing animosity towards other players.

Anyhow, Mahjong is a game of high cultural and social value, and one that may even be of advantage to the wellbeing of our minds and social connections in times of crisis. And that is the beauty of our national game.

A Chinese baby has been diagnosed with coronavirus just 30 hours after a woman who had tested positive for the deadly disease gave birth in Wuhan, state media has reported.

Doctors at the Wuhan Children’s Hospital yesterday cited the case as evidence that pregnant women infected with the virus may be able to pass it to their unborn children, according to state broadcaster CCTV.

The infant, who was born Sunday, is the youngest person re-

corded as being infected with the virus, according to Agence France-Presse.

On Monday, the official Xinhua news agency reported that a baby born last week to an infected mother had tested negative.

Experts quoted by CCTV said the infected baby may be a case of “vertical transmission,” referring to infections passed from mother to child during pregnancy, childbirth or right after.

TRUMP USES STATE OF UNION TO CAMPAIGN; PELOSI RIPS UP SPEECH

JONATHAN LEMIR, WASHINGTON

STANDING before a Congress and a nation sharply divided by impeachment, President Donald Trump used his State of the Union address to extol a “Great American Comeback” on his watch, just three years after he took office decrying a land of “American carnage” under his predecessor.

The partisan discord was on vivid display yesterday (Macau time) as the first president to campaign for reelection after being impeached made his case for another term: Republican legislators chanted “Four More Years.” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi ripped up her copy of Trump’s speech as he ended his address.

“America’s enemies are on the run, America’s fortunes are on the rise and America’s future is blazing bright,” Trump declared. “In just three short years, we have shattered the mentality of American decline and we have rejected the downsizing of America’s destiny. We are moving forward at a pace that was unimaginable just a short time ago, and we are never going back.”

Holding out the nation’s economic success as the chief rationale for a second term, Trump’s speech resembled a lower-volume version of his campaign rallies, providing something for every section of his political base.

But while he tweets daily assailing his impeachment, Trump never mentioned the “i-word” in his 78-minute speech. That followed the lead of Bill Clinton, who did not reference his recent impeachment when he delivered his State of the Union in 1999. Trump spoke from the House of Representatives, on the opposite side of the Capitol from where the Senate one day later was expected to acquit him largely along party lines.



Trump and Pelosi (right)

Pelosi, a frequent thorn in Trump’s side, created a viral image with her seemingly sarcastic applause of the president a year ago. This time, she was even more explicit with her very text-ripping rebuke.

While he tweets daily assailing his impeachment, Trump never mentioned the ‘i-word’ in his 78-minute speech

Trump appeared no more cordial. When he climbed to the House rostrum, he did not take her outstretched hand though it was not clear he had seen her gesture. Later, as Republicans often cheered, she remained in her seat, at times shaking her head at his remarks.

When Pelosi left, she told reporters that tearing up the speech was “the courteous thing to do considering the alternative.” Republicans denounced her action as disrespectful.

Trump, the former reality TV star, added a showbiz flavor to the staid event: He had wife Melania present the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor, to the divisive conservative radio host Rush Limbaugh, who

recently announced he has advanced lung cancer.

He stunned a young student in the gallery with a scholarship. And he orchestrated the surprise tearful reunion of a soldier from overseas with his family in the balcony.

Even for a Trump-era news cycle that seems permanently set to hyper-speed, the breakneck pace of events dominating the first week of February offered a singular backdrop for the president’s address.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts, who has presided in the Senate over only the third impeachment trial in the nation’s history, was on hand again last night — this time in his more customary seat in the audience. Trump stood before the very lawmakers who have voted to remove him from office — and those who are expected to acquit him when the Senate trial comes to a close.

The leading Senate Democrats hoping to unseat him in November were off campaigning in New Hampshire. In advance of his address, Trump tweeted that the chaos in Iowa’s Monday leadoff caucuses showed Democrats were incompetent and should not be trusted to run the government. AP



Australia’s deadly wildfires will have no impact on the nation’s economic growth this year but the impact of a new virus is still unknown. Reserve Bank of Australia Governor Philip Lowe (pictured) told the National Press Club yesterday. Lowe described the new virus as a “new uncertainty affecting the Australian economy.”



Syria Militants affiliated with groups such as al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are currently being sent by Turkey to fight on behalf of the U.N.-supported government in Libya, according to two Libyan militia leaders and a Syrian war monitor. Both sides in Libya’s civil war receive equipment and backing from foreign countries.

USA The U.S. administration is mulling a plan to withdraw from another pact. This time, it’s global, it’s worth \$1.7 trillion in government contracts, and it may anger close allies during a delicate moment for trade. Officials are circulating a draft executive order that would trigger a U.S. exit from the World Trade Organization’s Government Procurement Agreement, or GPA, if the pact isn’t reformed in line with American views, according to a person familiar with the matter.



Indian Ocean A team of scientists is preparing to dive deep into the depths of the Indian Ocean — into a “Midnight Zone” where light barely reaches but life still thrives. To explore such inhospitable depths, the scientists will board one of the world’s most advanced submersibles, called “Limiting Factor.”