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Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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CORONAVIRUS: MOST RESIDENTS FROM MACAU AND HONG KONG ARE PROHIBITED FROM ENTERING TAIWAN FROM TODAY

XI JINPING MAKES PUBLIC APPEARANCE AFTER PROLONGED ABSENCE

ART MACAO 2020 WAS CANCELED DUE TO LIMITED TIME FOR PREPARATION, THE CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUREAU SAID

AP PHOTO



EU The European Union commissioner for crisis management says the new virus that emerged in China creates a "worrisome" situation that will be discussed during a special meeting of health ministers from the 27-member bloc. The meeting of health ministers will take place Thursday and will help coordinate the actions of member states.

AP PHOTO



Philippines The government's chief lawyer asked the Supreme Court to shut down ABS-CBN, the country's largest TV network, by revoking its operating franchises because of alleged constitutional violations, in a move critics called an attempt to muzzle the media. Duterte has repeatedly criticized the network, along with at least two other news agencies, for making critical reports about him.

AP PHOTO



Thailand Authorities began releasing bodies to relatives yesterday after security forces cornered and killed a soldier who carried out the country's worst mass shooting in an hourslong siege at a shopping mall. The soldier killed 29 people starting with his commanding officer in a stunning tragedy that began Saturday and ended Sunday morning when security forces shot dead the heavily armed attacker.

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KOREANS REJOICE OVER OSCARS WIN

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GLOBAL EMERGENCY AS VIRUS SPREADS

P8-9

SIX DAYS WITHOUT NEW CASES

GOV'T REMARKS ON QUARANTINE SUCCESS, BUT CONCERNED ABOUT HIDDEN INFECTIONS

RENATO MARQUES

ON the sixth day since the last confirmed case of novel coronavirus infection in Macau was reported, the health authorities remarked on the efficiency of the measures taken to contain the outbreak, but did not discount the possibility of asymptomatic cases of local infection.

"We have reached now the sixth day without any new case [of infection]. We can say that our measures were effective, but that doesn't mean that the situation has been tackled," said Lei Chin Ion, the director of Health Bureau (SSM), during yesterday's daily press conference organized by the New Coronavirus Contingency Coordination Center. "[The current situation] is still serious and we can't return yet to our normal life."

The director of SSM also said that the risk posed by the virus is still very high.

"There are many cases of confirmed infections by the

virus [outside Macau] of people who traveled in Macau and who have never been to Hubei province. There are a total of 29 cases like this."

According to the director, "this means that in Macau there are some hidden cases that we haven't found yet."

The head of the local health authority said that the main task of the SSM is to identify and treat these cases as soon as possible to prevent further transmission of the disease. The nine patients currently undergoing treatment and those under surveillance no longer require much assistance from health services.

Questioned by the media, the Coordinator of the New Coronavirus Contingency Coordination Center, Leong Iek Hou, explained that there are currently 29 reported cases that have a connection to Macau despite having been reported outside the special administrative region.

Of these, 22 have been reported in the city of Zhuhai,

three have been reported in Hong Kong, one case has been reported in Taiwan, and as of yesterday, there are three new cases; a Malaysian national who worked in Macau and two South Korean tourists. Local health authorities reported receiving information about the new cases only a couple of hours before the press conference and are still gathering information.

Regarding the patient detected in Malaysia, Leong said that he left Macau on February 1 and that he began showing symptoms of the disease two days later, leading local authorities to consider the potential risk of infection in Macau caused by this person as low.

Still, the government is in contact with its Malaysian counterpart to find out more about this patient, including details on where was he working while in Macau and which flight he took on his return to Malaysia.

At the same time, the SSM is trying to gather the list of

passengers on the Air Macau flight NX826 to Seoul Incheon from January 31, the flight taken by the two South Korean nationals who, after staying in Macau, tested positive for the 2019-nCoV back in their home country.

According to Leong, the SSM will contact all of the passengers on the list and will pay particular attention to those seated on the two rows of seats immediately in front and behind these passengers as they are considered to have had "close contact with the infected" and "need to be in isolation."

The same respondent said that since 10 days have passed since the potential infection moment, the rest of the passengers should just pay attention to their physical condition until the incubation period of the disease concludes.

Director Lei gave the example of a family of nine that became cross-infected in Hong Kong at a gathering for a hot pot dinner. He remarked that

concentrations of people in a small enclosed place heightens the risk of transmission. According the information disclosed yesterday, so far Macau health authorities have conducted a total of 691 tests for the virus. Some 111 tests were conducted within the past 24 hours, with about 60% of the subjects tested at the public hospital and the remainder at Kiang Wu Hospital.

In response to fears about concealed cases, Coordinator of the Emergency Division of the Public Hospital, Chang Tam Fei, stated that the authorities are now expanding the range of tests to other people suspected of being infected.

"Before we only tested people who had been in the places considered high risk. Now we will test everyone that has symptoms that match with this virus and we are also actively seeking hidden cases in the society of people that might have had close contact with the infected patients," said Chang.

New study findings will not change procedures for now

THE existing procedures in Macau for preventing the spread of the virus will not be immediately revised because of the recent findings of Chinese epidemiologist and pulmonologist Zhong Nanshan and his team indicating the incubation period of the novel coronavirus could last as long as 24 days.

So said the Coordinator of the New Coronavirus Contingency Coordination Center, Leong Iek Hou, who stressed during yesterday's daily press conference to update the public on the coronavirus that the existing procedures are working and here to stay for the time being.

Macau health authorities will continue to follow the diagnostic criteria for the virus issued by the National Health Commission of China.

"If we do a test to the nasal discharge and if two consecutive tests give negative results, the patient meets the conditions to be released from the hospital. If, at the country level, the health authorities decide on new instructions or guidelines, we will apply them according to Macau situation," said Leong said.

Leong added that the Center has been closely following international studies regarding the virus and

understands that the study findings noted a very specific and exceptional case in which the incubation time was unusually prolonged.

"At the moment, the information we have is that normally [the incubation period] is between three to seven days but can last as long as 14 days in some particular cases and that is why we have used this period of 14 days [for the quarantine] of the patients. We do know that there are some particular cases which can be longer, but this happens in very specific and exceptional cases; it does not apply to the generality of the patients." RM

BORDER TRAFFIC MINIMAL, EXPECTED TO DROP FURTHER

THE number of people crossing Macau's border continues to rest at the minimal level reported by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) during Sunday's press conference.

On Sunday, there were about 40,000 crossings in and out of Macau, a slight drop from the approximate 46,000 crossings a day earlier, according to information provided by the PSP.

A representative of the PSP said yesterday that the number of exits from Macau was higher than the number of entries on both weekend days, leading the force to conclude that even lower border traffic will be recorded in the upcoming days.

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), represented by Inês Chan, stated that another five-star hotel unit has informed the MGTO of its closure. Altira Macau, located in Taipa, has become the eighth top-ranked hotel unit in Macau to announce a full suspension of service.

The MGTO representative also informed that for the time being, there are still 144 residents of Macau in Hubei Province, including visitors, students and workers, noting that the 14 residents who have returned to the region and have completed their 14-day quarantine do not present a risk of contamination. RM

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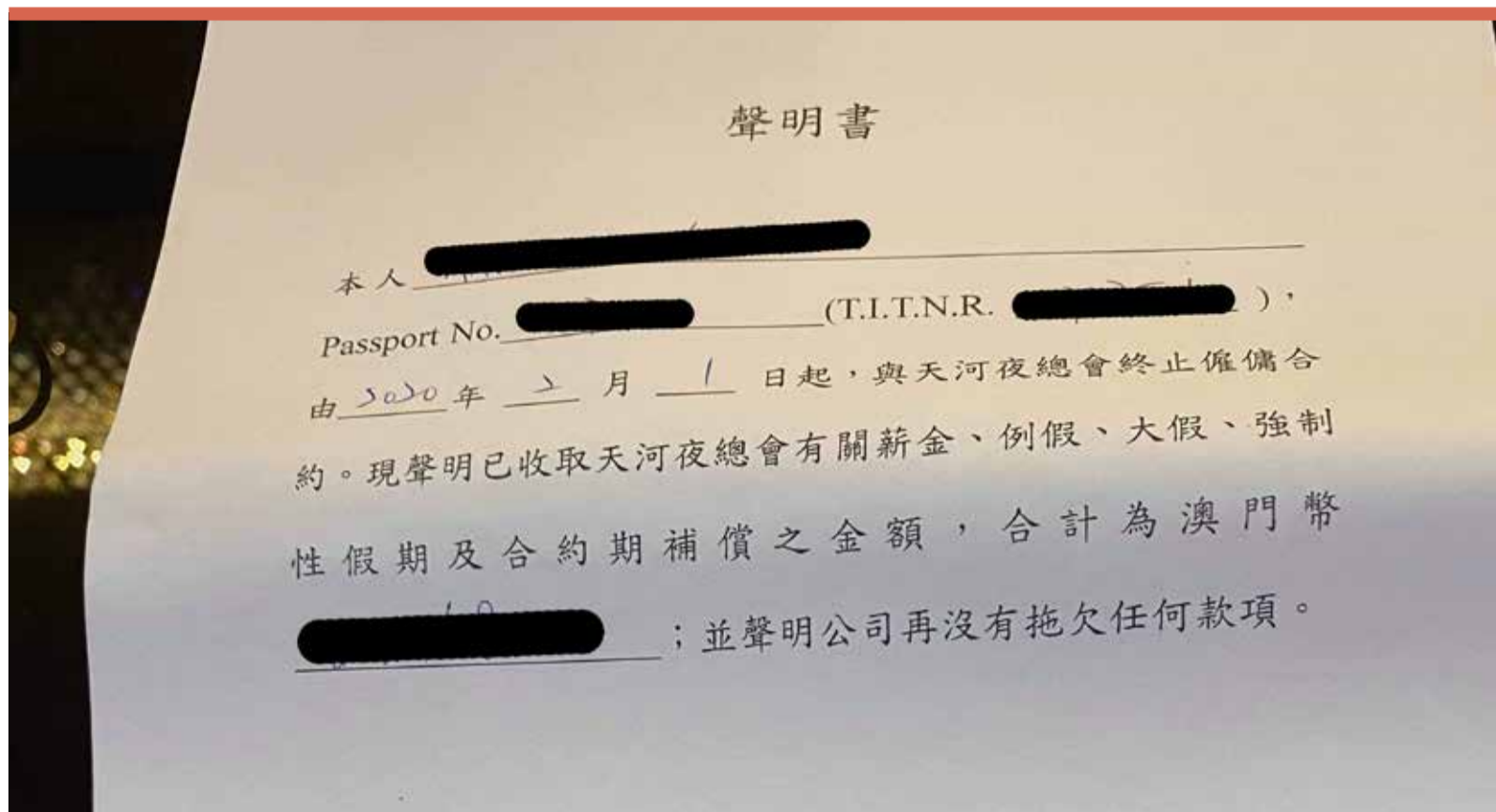
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A letter issued to a worker stating that the employment will be terminated

Group of terminated workers still waiting for DSAL outreach

LYNZY VALLES

A growing number of workers at a local nightclub and sauna are coming forward with consistent accounts of being made redundant, contrary to the insistence of the government last weekend that nobody is losing their job.

Eight more non-resident workers employed by the operator of a nightclub and sauna inside the Hotel Fortuna approached the Times yesterday to provide photographic and video evidence of attempts by their employer to dismiss them.

They say that, contrary to assurances made on Saturday by the government, only a selection of staff was contacted by the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and that no indication of continued employment was clarified.

The Times has learned that the nightclub and sauna operator had requested its workforce to attend a meeting on February 4 in two time slots; one at 4 p.m. and the other at 7 p.m.

During the said meeting, the employer instructed the first group to sign a letter – in a language they cannot read – informing them that it was only a statement to confirm that they had received their salary for the month of January.

They were also told that the letter stated they accepted the terms of the two-month leave of absence from work, due in part to the 15-day closure of gaming and

other entertainment activities mandated by the Chief Executive.

Reviewed by the Times, the letter in fact acknowledges the termination of the worker and states that they have already received all due compensation.

"We were shocked as to why they were paying us in cash but we also thought that it was maybe due to the closure of the banks," one worker recalled.

One of the workers from the first group realized the content of the letter, secretly took a photo of it and forwarded it to their other colleagues in the second group. Subsequently, the Times understands that the second group did not show up for the meeting.

Being from the first group, the eight workers that met with the Times yesterday said that they have not heard from their employer since the day they signed the letter.

On Saturday, the DSAL said that it had already contacted the workers and the employer representatives to follow up on the case.

"After the co-ordination, both parties have a clear knowledge that there are no dismissals. The employer representatives agree to protect the labor rights and interests of their workers according to the law, and coordinate with their workers about the work arrangements during the closure period," the DSAL said in a statement without elaborating.

However, yesterday's group claimed they have been unable to reach the DSAL despite repeated attempts to make contact. They

claimed that the DSAL has only been in contact with workers from the second group, who had not yet signed the letter.

The Times tried to reach representatives of the DSAL yesterday to request further clarification, but was unsuccessful. A call to the emergency hotline number yesterday went straight to the mailbox, which was full.

One of the workers who was supposed to sign the letter during the second time slot – was reportedly given the contact of the head of the DSAL's Labour Inspection Department, Kenny Lai, which is also the number publicized by the bureau as "enquiries or complaints on labor rights and interests."

"Kenny Lai contacted our manager and they made an agreement to set up a meeting between [the parties]," said one worker yesterday, without indicating when the meeting with the bureau was held.

It is unclear what was discussed in the meeting. The second group was allegedly informed by the DSAL to go back to their workplace sometime this week for a revised version of the letter that would be in English; a language that the workers can read.

This group said that they fear they may have their blue cards canceled once the immigration office resumes its services.

"It is very unclear because they said that if we want to continue with our jobs, then we'll have to

wait, but wait for how long? They also said that we are free to look for another job, and said that if we want to go back to our home country, we should leave our blue cards with them," said one of the workers.

In several videos covertly filmed by the workers of the February 4 meeting, and seen by the Times, people are hurrying the employees to sign the statement. One person in the video said, "You're done signing? Go, go, go."

The longest-serving of the workers had been with the company for 12 years, while the newest had joined the establishment just four months ago. According to the newest member of the group, he has not paid his agency fee yet amounting to 12,000 patacas. He now faces uncertainty as to whether or not he still has a job.

One of the workers tried to call the emergency hotline of the DSAL yesterday yet the automated response said that the hotline's mailbox has reached maximum capacity.

In response to a growing number of reports suggesting that Filipino migrant workers are being affected by the challenges brought by the coronavirus known as 2019-nCoV, the Philippine Consulate General said in a video statement that it has already requested a meeting with DSAL officials to discuss reports of unfair labor practices against workers.

The Times asked the consulate yesterday whether they would also bring up this particular case to the bureau. However, no reply was given by press time.

Jassy Santos, president of the Progressive Labor Union of Domestic Workers, said that the association has been advising its fellow workers not to sign anything in a language they cannot understand.

"The problem is that we have never encountered a scenario such as that case in which the DSAL actually did something," claimed Santos. "DSAL would always say that [the workers] are not kids who do not know what they are signing."

200 SICK AFTER NOROVIRUS OUTBREAK AT LOUISIANA CASINO

AN outbreak of norovirus at a southwestern Louisiana casino in the United States has left at least 200 people sick and has prompted an investigation by state health officials.

The U.S. Department of Health confirmed that the illnesses reported at L'Auberge Casino in Lake Charles last weekend were norovirus-related, news outlets reported. The highly contagious gastrointestinal illness that can cause vomiting, diarrhea and stomach pain.

The news comes as Macau's Chief Executive has ordered the closure of all casino and entertainment facilities for 15 days to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus that is believed to have originated in central China's Hubei province.

The U.S. Department of Health regional medical director Dr. Lacey Cavanaugh said there were seven

hundred people at the Louisiana casino's most recent events. She said the agency has received at least 200 surveys from people self-reporting virus symptoms.

Cavanaugh said people are contagious when they have symptoms and sometimes up to three weeks after the symptoms are gone. It's unclear how the virus initially spread, but Cavanaugh said that doesn't matter at this point.

"How it started at this point doesn't really matter anymore, because now we are getting transmission within the community," she said. "So, however people picked it up in that setting they are now taking it home and spreading it from one family member to another family member to another family member."

To stop the spread, officials said people should stay home and wash their hands thoroughly. **DB/AP**



In this October 2019 file photo, organizers of Art Macao and special guests preside over the closing ceremony

Mega-event Art Macao canceled this year

ANTHONY LAM

ART Macao is canceled this year, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has informed the Times.

The government-organized mega-event featuring artworks of various forms and spanning a six-month period, will not be returning this year due to limited time for preparation amid the coronavirus crisis.

The IC informed the Times that "the event will not be held this year" because of "the epidemic situation and time constraints". The bureau also said that further information on the event's cancellation would be announced in due course.

Dubbed by the government as the largest event of its kind in Macau's history, the Art Ma-

cao festival was inaugurated in May last year. It was held under the patronage of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, led by former Secretary Alexis Tam, with organizers saying at the time that the event would be held again in the future.

The festival spanned six months and staged more than 50 exhibitions, workshops and performances, counting the contributions of casino operators, private firms, local consulates and international artists.

It was also an example of interdepartmental cooperation. The 2019 Art Macao festival was co-organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office and the IC, with support from the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau and the Higher Education Bureau.

All six casino operators, in addition to the mainland-funded Nam Kwong (Group) Company Limited, assisted by staging their own exhibitions at their properties. In doing so, the festival has linked Macau with big names including Grace Kelly, KAWS, Paul Gauguin and the British Museum.

As the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong U, is preoccupied with handling work relating to coronavirus transmission prevention. She was appointed by the Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, as the vice president of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, a taskforce dedicated to fighting the novel coronavirus infections and working to confine its outbreak.

Work to contain the coro-

navirus is a priority for many other government departments, spanning the education authority to the tourism board, as well as the casino operators.

The 15-day suspension of gaming activity announced by Ho Iat Seng will dampen gaming revenues in the short-term, potentially making large-scale art projects and other non-core activities of less interest to the concessionaires.

Wynn Resorts CEO Matt Maddox recently disclosed that the company's Macau properties are losing as much as \$2.5 million per day during the suspension. According to some market analysts, Macau's gaming revenue for the quarter could be down by as much as 50% due to the closure and the subsequent weeks of recovery.

It is unclear for the time being, however, if other events such as the Macao Arts Festival in May, the Macao International Music Festival in October, and the Grand Prix in November will be affected.

In neighboring cities, events of various scales have also been postponed or canceled. One of the most popular art events in Hong Kong, Art Basel Hong Kong, which was set to be held near the end of March, will be canceled in 2020 "due to the severe outbreak and spread of the new coronavirus, which has recently been declared a global health emergency by the World Health Organization."

The Hong Kong Arts Festival, which will be held in February and March, has also been canceled for the same reason.

MACAU, HK RESIDENTS BARRED FROM ENTERING TAIWAN

WITH the exception of three types of Macau and Hong Kong residents, all other residents from the two SARs will be prohibited from entering Taiwan from today until further notice, Taiwan's Central Epidemic Command Center announced yesterday.

As per the announcement yesterday, nearly all Macau and Hong Kong residents will not be permitted to enter Taiwan unless they can demonstrate proof that they are fulfilling a business contract, an employee of an international enterprise under internal transfer, or the spouse or minor children of

a Taiwanese residence permit holder.

These groups of people will be required to undergo mandatory monitored home quarantine for 14 days before they can freely move around the island.

In other words, even if they have successfully obtained a visa, Macau and Hong Kong residents will not be allowed to even board their flights. The Taiwanese authority noted that the current ban will be applicable to Macau or Hong Kong residents studying in Taiwan.

Universities on the island have the liberty to amend

their teaching plans as required so that students who cannot return to Taiwan for school will have the flexibility to catch up with their study plans. Subsidies will be offered by the Ministry of Education should any extra costs be incurred, the Ministry's website explained.

The Taiwanese authority said the condition of the epidemic continues to intensify. It was unable to rule out the risk of community outbreak in Macau and Hong Kong. After evaluating the workload of Taiwan's medical institutions, it decided to impose the measure. **AL**

POLICE WARN ABOUT SURVEILLANCE CAMERA HACKING THREAT

A group of international hackers has threatened to attack Internet Protocol surveillance cameras across the People's Republic of China on February 13, the Judiciary Police (PJ) warned in a statement.

The PJ noted that it learned of the threat from intelligence shared by the mainland's Information Technology and Security Test and Evaluation Center.

Due to advancements in mobile technology, more people are choosing to set up surveillance cameras in their houses to

monitor their home security. This requires the cameras to be equipped with internet connectivity, which exposes them to potential cyberattacks.

For extra protection, the PJ recommends that users do not connect their cameras to the internet. Otherwise, firewalls or virtual private network technology should be used to better ensure cyber security.

Access or login by password should be activated. The password should be personalized and changed regularly. Predictable password combinations,

such as birthdate and names, should be avoided.

The PJ recommends that camera users regularly update operating systems and security software running behind the camera to better protect their privacy. Manufacturers normally issue regular updates to fix system loopholes or eliminate "bugs" as they are discovered.

Finally, it is recommended that a system diary or log be activated to maintain a digital footprint of any access, which will also record any suspicious access, if it occurs. **AL**

90% APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT EPIDEMIC PREVENTION MEASURES

JULIE ZHU

NINE out of 10 members of the public are satisfied with the local government's measures to prevent a further outbreak of the novel coronavirus known as 2019-nCoV. The finding comes from the latest online survey released by the Macao Polling Research Association and shows a strong degree of positive feedback from the public.

Conducted between February 6 and 8, the survey interviewed nearly 2,000 local residents asking for their opinion on the epidemic prevention behaviors adopted by the authorities, and their evaluations of the government's performance.

The respondents were generally optimistic about the future handling of the epidemic.

More than half of the respondents believe that the epidemic will ease after one month. More than 85% of respondents believe that Macau can effectively control the epidemic.



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng (right) meets with Chinese epidemiologist Zhong Nanshan (center)

Most of the residents who were interviewed are following the various epidemic prevention measures that the government has called for, including staying mostly indoors, wearing masks when leaving their homes and washing their hands thoroughly and frequently.

The survey results show that 97% of the respondents wear facemasks when they go outside; about 92% wash their

hands more than usual; and about 77% clean their homes and workplace more than usual.

About 62% of the interviewees said that, in addition to work suspension, they have stayed at home for most or much of the past two weeks.

The survey results show that most residents are worried about themselves, family members or other people becoming infected with

the virus.

Senior citizens proved to be the exception. Senior citizens were in general terms less worried about being infected and their rate of going outside as a result of personal choice was also higher than the average. The team behind the survey said it hopes that senior citizens can be informed of the need to implement appropriate epidemic prevention measures.

MUST SETS UP EPIDEMIC PREVENTION WORK TEAM

The Macao University of Science and Technology (MUST) has set up a work team to contribute to the fight against the spread of the novel coronavirus known as 2019-nCoV. The school's 2019-nCoV prevention taskforce decided to establish the work team on February 9 with the goal of closely monitoring the development of the epidemic, coordinating epidemic prevention measures with the local government, collecting information, and analyzing epidemic prevention measures and public concerns. The team will release proposals about science-backed epidemic prevention measures, disease prevention and medical research to the public. The team will be chaired by MUST President Liu Liang.

HK PHOTOJOURNALIST DENIED ENTRY TO MACAU

A freelance photojournalist was denied entry to Macau last week and was allegedly suggested by immigration authorities to declare that he had "decided not to enter as it will take too long", according to media reports. The photojournalist, May James, had recently taken photos at several protests in Hong Kong, with some photos having been published by the Hong Kong Free Press. The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has previously denied entry to people active in the social movement scene in Hong Kong. Those denied entry include university professors, lawyers and lawmakers. James was questioned by the PSP about his reasons for coming to Macau and asked to wait for about 30 minutes before it was suggested to him that he voluntarily decline to enter Macau. According to James, the police officer said that he would spend longer waiting if he insisted on entering.

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GUANGZHOU TO RESUME ROUTINE OPERATION OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Local authorities in Guangzhou announced that the city gradually resumed routine operation of public transport yesterday. Night buses and business lines resumed operation, with four water bus lines previously suspended gradually starting to operate, according to the Guangzhou headquarters against the novel coronavirus pneumonia. The city has also increased departure frequencies and shortened intervals of urban rail transit and buses. Guangzhou had extended the departure time intervals of buses and subways to 30-60 minutes and 10 minutes respectively due to epidemic prevention and control needs.

GUANGDONG SENDS 'HOSPITAL' TO EPICENTER OF OUTBREAK

After 12 hours of continuous driving, seven emergency medical vehicles arrived in Wuhan, along with 60 medical workers from Guangdong Province. After another six hours, a tent hospital was erected in the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak and began operation. The small-scale hospital equipped with portable medical devices can meet basic clinic requirements, and "can operate on its own for seven to 10 days without local support," said Zhang Gangqing, leader of the medical team. According to the provincial health commission, Guangdong has sent over 1,100 medical workers to Hubei since late January. As of Sunday, incomplete statistics showed that various sectors of Guangdong society have donated money and materials worth nearly 2.5 billion yuan (\$360 million), including 14 million masks.

HONG KONG

HSBC OFFERS \$3.9 BILLION IN LIQUIDITY RELIEF TO FIRMS

REBECCA CHOONG WILKINS

HSBC Holdings Plc is providing more than HKD30 billion (\$3.9 billion) in liquidity relief to its business customers in Hong Kong, joining other lenders that are easing borrowing terms to help companies battered by the coronavirus outbreak.

Measures include a principal repayment moratorium for borrowers with commercial loans secured by property, as well as those with taxi and public minibus loans, according to a statement from the London-based bank Sunday. Trade finance customers can also apply for access to an overdraft of as much as HKD10 million for six months to help with daily operational needs, such as employee payrolls and rent.

"We are committed to supporting our customers and will introduce more initiatives that will provide near-



Pedestrians wearing protective masks walk past the HSBC logo

-term relief," Diana Cesar, HSBC's local chief executive officer, said in the statement.

Banks across the city are considering loan relief to help struggling customers and businesses as the outbreak crimps spending and travel. BOC Hong Kong Holdings Ltd. and Bank of East Asia Ltd. announced similar measures last week, while the

city's finance chief has urged landlords to provide rental relief to struggling firms.

HSBC, Europe's biggest finance company by market value, is also giving employees on the "front-line" and in "critical operations" five extra days of leave until next year, a spokeswoman said last week. Staff are being offered free lunch at can-

teens until the middle of this month, or a HKD100 voucher for those who don't work at offices with eating facilities.

Hong Kong's retail sales tumbled for an 11th-straight month in December, capping a year of anguish for the self-governing territory torn by anti-government protests now morphing into turmoil due to the virus, which has killed more than 900 people, including one in Hong Kong.

The slowdown in HSBC's biggest market adds to pressure on Chairman Mark Tucker to deliver on a turnaround. The former insurance executive, who arrived in 2017 after making his mark in Asia, is set to roll out a top-to-bottom overhaul of the sprawling lender next week. The measures may include job losses, cuts to equities trading, and possibly combining the corporate and investment-banking units, people familiar with the matter have said. BLOOMBERG

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MACAUCLOSER



China outbreak to spur higher prices as farm links disrupted

CHINA'S consumer prices rose the fastest in more than eight years last month, with the outbreak of the coronavirus and subsequent shutdowns of transport links across the country making further gains in the coming months likely.

Consumer prices rose 5.4%, with food prices jumping the most since 2008 in January. Even before the coronavirus, prices were likely to have risen sharply due to the normal spike in demand around the Lunar New Year and the effects of the African Swine Fever outbreak which has killed millions of pigs and damaged pork supplies. Pork prices gained the most on record.

The dramatically worsening coronavirus situation in the last 10 days of the month exacerbated those factors and could prolong the high prices. That will not only hurt consumption domestically,

but could push up prices globally, with extended shutdowns in China hurting supplies of various industrial goods and exported foods.

"The virus outbreak has rewritten the supply and demand story in China, with supply staying at a relatively low level except for the medical sector and demand also falling," said Tommy Xie, an economist at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp in Singapore. "Prices will likely continue to rise due to weak supply."

The fallout will also impact foreign companies with production or sales in China, and may well lead to rising prices for consumer goods in the U.S. and elsewhere if factories can't restart soon.

Apple Inc.'s main iPhone production partner has told employees at its Shenzhen facility not to return to work Monday when the extended Lunar New Year break ends, and its produc-

tion resumption hinges on the government's guidance.

Other multinationals with footprints in China are already seeing disruptions. Nike Inc. closed about half of its company-owned stores in China and rival brand Adidas AG also said it has closed a significant number of stores in China, as a result of the outbreak, Bloomberg reported last week.

The rise in CPI was mainly due to the Lunar New Year and the coronavirus epidemic, and also due to a lower base last year as the holiday was in February 2019, the National Bureau of Statistics said in a statement.

Chinese farmers are feeling the pain as authorities have ordered shutdowns and road blockages in various cities and areas in an attempt to contain the spread of the illness. Roads to transport animal feed and farm products were blocked, leaving farmers to watch their poultry starve and farm pro-

ducts go bad.

Sun Dawu, founder of Hebei Dawu Agriculture and Livestock Group, wrote on Weibo on Jan. 30 that his company had to "dispose" of about 5,000 kilograms of fresh eggs and 40,000 baby chickens on a daily basis, because "we aren't able to sell these, and even if we managed to sell to merchants, they dare not trade livestock."

"The animal feed and animal farming industries are about to get burnt," he said in another post on Weibo, China's equivalent of Twitter, on Feb 4.

Right now the main problem his company is facing is road blockages, according to a company manager called Yang, who only gave his last name. "It has got better, but there are still some extreme cases where our trucks aren't allowed to exit highways or enter villages," he said yesterday via phone.

The issue was so bad the Minis-

try of Agriculture was forced to intervene, last week ordering people not to intercept vehicles transporting animal feed and live animals, not to close slaughterhouses, and not to block village roads.

Taobao, one of China's biggest e-commerce platforms owned by Alibaba Group, has launched a campaign called "Foodies Help Farmers" to promote the sale of products from kiwi fruits to asparagus which have been disrupted. "Don't let fruit and vegetables rot on the farms," is the slogan.

The faster inflation is benefiting some agricultural companies, at least in the short-term. The stock prices of Beijing Dabeinong Technology Group Co. and Heilongjiang Agriculture Co. both hit the 10% daily upside limit as of 11:14 a.m. local time, while Muyuan Foodstuff Co. jumped 8.2% and Wens Foodstuffs Group Co. climbed 5.5%.

"After the virus is contained and lockdown measures are lifted, demand will likely recover more quickly than supply, which may be more or less delayed by a potential disruption of supply chains, resulting in rising CPI inflation," Lu Ting, Nomura Holdings chief China economist, wrote in a report to clients last week. **BLOOMBERG**

Palm oil giant says blow to sales is 'temporary'

THE double-whammy to palm oil demand from a trade spat with India and the coronavirus in China is likely to prove only temporary, according to FGV Holdings Bhd., one of the world's largest producers.

That's because supplies are low this quarter, and food and fuel demand is set to stay robust over the long term, according to Chief Executive Officer Haris Fadzilah Hassan. India and China are the two

biggest importers of palm, the world's most consumed cooking oil.

"January to March will see low production, and it coincides with a period when the demand is stressed due to Wuhan and India," Haris said in his first foreign media interview from the company's headquarters in Kuala Lumpur. Demand will "correct itself" and prop up prices, he said.

A blistering price rally was shattered last month

by the outbreak of the coronavirus and a deepening trade spat with India. People in China are staying at home and avoiding restaurants and hotels, curbing demand, while India is restricting imports of refined oil, which is hurting Malaysia amid political tensions. Still, after their steepest monthly loss in seven years in January, prices rebounded this week on the back of a supply squeeze in Malaysia. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

HOT POT STOCKS SLIDE AFTER FAMILY GETS CORONAVIRUS IN HK

CHINESE hot pot stocks skidded in Hong Kong yesterday, after members of the same family who shared a large dinner in January were confirmed to have the coronavirus.

Xiabuxiabu Catering Management China Holdings Co., a major hot pot restaurant operator, fell as much as 8.3% before closing down 7.1%. Peer Haidilao International Holding Ltd. ended 4.8% lower

while Yihai International Holding Ltd., which makes seasonings and sauce products for hot pot, dropped 2.7%.

Nine of the 19 people who had joined a family gathering on Jan. 26 have been infected with the virus after sharing a hot pot and barbecue meal, said Hong Kong's department of health on Sunday night. Hot pot is a popular Chinese cuisine in which food is cooked in a com-

munal bowl.

The hot pot sector was a strong spot for Hong Kong's struggling stock market in 2019. Yihai was one of the best performing stocks on the Hang Seng Composite Index last year with a 139% surge, while Haidilao rose 82%. Both are near 2019's closing levels while Xiabuxiabu has skidded 22% this year, making it one of the index's biggest decliners. **BLOOMBERG**

NYC Lunar New Year parade showcases support for China, Wuhan

SIGNS of support for the Chinese city at the center of a global virus outbreak marked floats at the Lunar New Year parade in Manhattan's Chinatown on Sunday as brightly colored puppets made their way through the streets in front of crowds of onlookers.

A banner on one float read "Support Wuhan! Let's fight the virus together!" Another urged, "Wuhan stay strong."

Some of the parade-goers who filled the streets held signs expressing support for China, as well.

The coronavirus outbreak that started in China in December has killed more than 900 people and infected more than 40,000 people around the world, including 12 people in the U.S. No cases have been identified in New York City.

Those at the New York City parade largely weren't concerned.

"I'm not worried because there haven't been any confirmed cases in New York, as far as I know," said Diana Szeto, 24, in town to visit her mother and attending the parade for the first time. She considered wearing a mask, she said, but didn't care enough to go buy one.

David Youtz, 60, came from New Haven, Connecticut, to march in the parade along with four of his children, adopted from China.

"We want to have our kids involved in Chinese culture," he said. The virus wasn't getting in the way of that.

"In the U.S., there's very low reason for concern. ... We weren't worried at all."

This year marks the year of the rat, according to the Chinese zodiac, and some of the marchers in the parade dressed as rats to celebrate.



JOE MCDONALD

MAINLAND China has reported another rise in cases of the new virus after a sharp decline the previous day, while the number of deaths grow by 97 to 908, with at least two more outside the country.

Yesterday, China's health ministry said another 3,062 cases had been reported over the previous 24 hours, raising the Chinese mainland's total to 40,171.

Earlier, France closed two schools after five British visitors contracted the virus at a ski resort. Malaysia, South Korea and Vietnam reported one new case each.

Meanwhile, the mother of a physician who died last week in the hardest-hit city of Wuhan said she wants an explanation from authorities who reprimanded her son for warning about the virus.

Monday's rise was a turnaround from a significant reduction in new cases reported Sunday, 2,656, down by about 20% from the 3,399 new cases reported in the previous 24-hour period. That had prompted optimism that the "joint control mechanism of different regions and the strict prevention and control measures have worked," in the words of a spokesman for the National Health Commission, Mi Feng.

Also Sunday, new cases were reported in Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Malaysia, the U.K. and Spain. More than 360 cases have been confirmed outside mainland China.

"Dramatic reductions" in the pace of the disease's spread should begin this month if containment works, Dr. Ian Lipkin, director of Columbia University's Center for Infection and Immunity, said in an online news conference on Sunday. He assisted the World Health Organization and Chinese authorities during the outbreak of SARS, or severe acute respiratory syndrome.

Warmer weather will reduce the virus's ability to spread and bring people out of enclosed spaces where it is transmitted more easily, Lipkin said. However, he said, if new cases spike as people return to work after the Lunar New Year holiday, which was extended to reduce the risk of spreading the virus, then "we'll know we're in trouble."

The new U.K. case was the nation's fourth, while Spain reported its second, as European authorities sought to contain the spread of the virus by tracking down people who came into contact with those infected.

Both of the new cases were acquired during trips to France, officials said.

The new U.K. case is a known contact of a previously confirmed case there, the country's Chief Medical Officer Professor Chris Whitty said, adding that experts "continue to work hard tracing patient contacts."

In Spain, authorities were working to identify everyone who came into contact with a British man whose case was detected in Mallorca, a popular vacation island in the Mediterranean Sea, Spain's National Micro-

WUHAN CORONA VIRUS

Mainland China cases

biology Center said.

The fatality toll has passed the 774 people believed to have died of SARS, another viral outbreak that originated in China. The total of 37,198 confirmed cases of the new virus vastly exceeds the 8,098 sickened by SARS.

Japan reported six more cases among 3,700 passengers and crew aboard the quarantined cruise ship Diamond Princess, bringing the number of infections on the vessel to 69. The new cases are an American passenger in her 70s and five crew members — four Filipinos and a Ukrainian.

South Korea reported a new case in a 73-year-old woman whose relatives visited Guangdong province in southern China, raising its total to 27. The family members, a 51-year-old South Korean man and a 37-year-old Chinese woman, were confirmed infected later Sunday.

Vietnam reported its 14th case. The Health Ministry said she is a 55-year-old woman in Vinh Phuc province, northwest of Hanoi, where six earlier patients were found to be infected.

Malaysia reported its 17th case. The 65-year-old woman's son-in-law was diagnosed earlier with the virus.

Spain confirmed its second case in Mallorca, a popular vacation island in the Mediterranean. The first case was a German tourist diagnosed a week ago in the Canary Islands off northwest Africa.

The 1,800 passengers and 1,800 crew members of the cruise ship Dream World were released from quarantine after Hong Kong authorities said tests of the crew found no infections.

The ship was isolated after eight mainland Chinese passengers were diagnosed with the disease last month.

Port official Leung Yiu-hon said some passengers with symptoms tested negative but there was no need to test all of them because they had no contact with the infected Chinese passengers.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong began enforcing a 14-day quarantine for arrivals from mainland China. The territory's chief executive, Carrie Lam, has refused demands by some hospital workers and others to seal the border completely.

The mother of a physician who died last week in Wuhan said in a video released Sunday she wants an explanation from authorities who reprimanded him for warning about the virus in December.

The death of Li Wenliang, 34, prompted an outpouring of public



anger at Wuhan officials. Some postings left on his microblog account said officials should face consequences for mistreating Li.

"My child was summoned by the Wuhan Police Bureau at midnight. He was asked to sign an admonishment notice," Lu Shuyun said in the video distributed by Pear Video, an online broadcast platform. "We won't give up if they don't give us an explanation."

The video shows flowers in her home with a note that says, "Hero is immortal. Thank you."

'Dramatic reductions' in the pace of the disease's spread should begin this month if containment works

A 1,500-bed hospital built in two weeks in Wuhan, the city of 11 million people at the center of the outbreak, accepted its first patients on Saturday, the government announced.

Another 1,000-bed hospital built in 10 days opened last week.

The government of the surrounding province of Hubei it will pay subsidies to farmers, other food producers and supermarkets and give tax breaks to companies that donate to anti-virus work, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It said overtime for employees of companies making medical supplies will be subsidized.

China's leaders are trying to keep food flowing to crowded cities despite anti-disease controls and to quell fears of possible shortages and price spikes following panic buying after most access to Wuhan and nearby cities was cut off.

Two more flights from Wuhan carrying American citizens, permanent residents and close relatives landed in the United States, the State De-

rise again after earlier decline



partment said. A spokesman said more than 800 Americans have been evacuated from Wuhan.

A plane landed Sunday in Britain carrying 200 people from Wuhan. Officials said Britain's second evacuation flight carried

105 British nationals and 95 citizens of other European countries and family members. The passengers will be quarantined at a

hotel for 14 days. Dozens of repatriated Brazilians, some waving small Brazilian flags, landed Sunday mor-

ning at an airbase in the state of Goias, where they will spend the next 18 days in quarantine.

A charter flight carrying Filipinos from Wuhan arrived in the Philippines. The 29 adults and one infant will be quarantined for 14 days.

Elsewhere in China, the industrial metropolis of Chongqing in the southwest told residential communities to close their gates and check visitors for fever. The government said the spread of the virus through "family gatherings" had been reported in Chongqing but gave no details.

France closed two schools and tried to reassure vacationers in the Alps after five Britons contracted the virus at a ski resort.

France stepped up a travel alert, recommending against all visits to China except for "imperative reasons."

Italy recommended students returning from China stay home from school for two weeks after the government reported three cases.

The WHO director-general said it will send experts to China starting today.

Asked whether that will include members of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus replied, "We hope so." AP

AD



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The cast and crew of "Parasite" accept the award for best picture at the Oscars

OSCARS 2020

South Koreans explode with joy over 'Parasite' wins

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

SOUTH Koreans reacted with rare collective joy yesterday after director Bong Joon Ho's "Parasite" won the Oscar for best picture and three other awards, good news that came as their country struggles to guard against a new virus and counter North Korea's nuclear threat.

The movie's wins made history in both the Hollywood and South Korean film industries. The class satire is the first non-English-

-language film to win best picture in the 92-year history of the Academy Awards, and is the first South Korean movie to ever win an Oscar.

"Can you believe that 'Parasite' won the Academy best picture?" South Korea's biggest newspaper, Chosun Ilbo, said in a headline. "It rewrote the Academy's 92-year-old history."

South Korean social media were overwhelmed with congratulatory messages. Bong, "Parasite" and other Oscar-related news also dominated search terms through-

out Monday at major internet portal sites, which had been preoccupied with the outbreak of a virus in China that has killed more than 900 people and sickened tens of thousands of others, mainly in China.

Worries about the virus have been growing in South Korea, where 27 cases have been reported, though no deaths have occurred. Sales at tour agencies, restaurants, movie theaters and department stores have sharply declined, raising worries about the impact on South Korea's already-

lagging economy. Opposition parties are accusing the government of ineffectiveness in coping with the outbreak.

But the concerns about the virus and political warfare eased Monday to celebrate Bong's wins.

"It's happy news, like welcome rain, to the Republic of Korea, which is depressed, stagnant and thrown into despair due to Wuhan pneumonia," the main opposition Liberty Korea Party said in a statement. Wuhan is the Chinese city at the center of the outbreak.

President Moon Jae-in and his

advisers began a regularly scheduled meeting by clapping their hands to celebrate Bong's wins. Moon later tweeted that he is proud of Bong and his staff and "particularly grateful to them for giving courage and pride to our people who are overcoming difficulties."

"I think this was a great opportunity to let the world know the true value of Korean movies," said office worker Cho Sung-ho, 54. "I think it is very meaningful that the Academy Award this time has acknowledged the superior quality of Korean films."

U.S. Ambassador Harry Harris, who said he watched the Academy Awards ceremony with embassy staff, tweeted, "Wow! Congrats Director Bong, Team #Parasite & ROK cinema!"

At Bong's alma mater, Seoul's Yonsei University, students belonging to a school movie club watched the Academy Award ceremony together.

"It's deeply meaningful for Korean movies and this will open the path for further development. It's such a great honor. I'm speechless," said Kim Nam-hoon, 21.

Jeong Ho-cheol, a 26-year-old student, praised Bong for pleasing both movie critics and crowds. "His way of dealing with the underside of Korean society and problems such as rich-poor gaps and the way he expresses those issues are very expressive," he said.

Park Chan-wook, a prominent South Korean movie director who is regarded as Bong's main rival at home, joined the congratulations.

It is a "huge blessing to work in the same industry as a person as talented as Bong and being able to call him a friend," said Park, who won the Grand Prix at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival for "Oldboy," in an interview with the Munhwa Ilbo newspaper. AP

Indonesian president urges closer Australian partnership

INDONESIA'S president spoke to Australia's Parliament yesterday, urging a closer partnership between their nations as their shared democratic values are threatened by uncertain global economics.

President Joko Widodo was addressing a rare joint-sitting of the Australian Parliament during the first visit to the country by Indonesian leader since Susilo Bambang Yuhhoyono in 2010.

Indonesian and Australian officials had earlier signed documents supporting bilateral free trade that deepens wide-ranging links between the near-neighbors, as the Australian government attempts to reduce its

heavy economic reliance on China.

Widodo said his country of 270 million people was forecast to become the world's fourth-largest economy by 2050 with the world's third-largest middle class.

The world could also face more uncertainties by then with greater challenges to geopolitics and geoeconomics, Widodo said.

"Stagnation of economic growth and even the recession of the economy are looming large and it is feared that the values of democracy and diversity are becoming more marginalized," Widodo said through an interpreter.

"In the midst of the enormous challenges, Indonesia

and Australia must focus on strengthening the partnership," he added.

Indonesia is Australia's closest neighbor after Papua New Guinea. But the two countries rank as only each other's 13th most important partner in terms of bilateral trade.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who underscored the importance of the bilateral relationship by making Jakarta the destination of his first overseas trip as national leader in 2018, described Indonesia as "one of the star economies of the world over the next 10 to 20 years."

Morrison said the multi-faceted free trade deal which will take effect early this year would be mutually be-

neficial for both countries.

Monash University, Australia's largest, will open its first overseas campus in Indonesia under the agreement.

Widodo said he hoped Australia would become an important partner in infrastructure investment as well as education.

The Australian and Indonesian leaders emphasized the closeness of their relationship by sharing an informal dinner at the prime minister's residence on Saturday with their foreign ministers but no other officials.

Morrison said Governor-General David Hurley had taken the two leaders on a "roo tour" on Saturday -- a



Indonesia's President Joko Widodo (left) and Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison give a joint statement at Parliament House in Canberra, yesterday

golf buggy trip around the grounds of Government House to see the many kangaroos.

Morrison thanked Indonesia for sending army engineers and emergency crews to help rebuild after recent

wildfires. They are now responding to widespread flooding in southeast Australia.

Widodo only used English during his speech to Parliament to say: "A friend in need is a friend indeed" and: "Good day, mate." AP

OSCARs 2020

Obama-backed documentary on Ohio factory wins Academy Award

THE Oscar for best feature-length documentary has gone to "American Factory," the first documentary released by Barack and Michelle Obama's production company.

The Netflix film is about an Ohio auto glass factory that is run by a Chinese investor. It explores many issues, including the rights of workers, globalization and automation.

"American Factory" beat out "Honeyland," "The Cave," "The Edge of Democracy" and "For Sama." Steven Bognar and Julia Reichert, directors of "American Factory" acknowledged the work of their fellow nominees on Sunday. "We are inspired by you guys," said Reichert.

Barack Obama in a tweet Sunday congratulated the filmmakers "for telling such a complex, moving story about the very human consequences of wrenching economic change. Glad to see two talented and downright good people take home the Oscar for Higher Ground's first release."

AP PHOTO



A scene from 'American Factory'

The film is about the Fuyao plant, bought by Chinese industrialist Cao Dewang, which employs some 2,200 American and 200 Chinese workers. The film gives a close-up look at how the cultures adjust to one another. Tensions rise when the factory doesn't initially meet production goals, culminating in a bitter fight over the right to unionize.

Reichert noted that her film is about an Ohio plant but it could

be from anywhere "people put on a uniform, punch a clock, trying to make their families have a better life. Working people have it harder and harder these days. We believe that things will get better when workers of the world unite."

The name of the Obamas' company, Higher Ground, flashes by in the opening credits, but the Obamas themselves aren't mentioned anywhere. Neither is President Donald Trump. AP

USA

TRUMP HOSTS GOVERNORS, CLAIMS CREDIT FOR THEIR PERFORMANCE

PRESIDENT Donald Trump claimed some of the credit yesterday [Macau time] as he congratulated America's governors for what he said is the "tremendous" yet sometimes difficult job they're doing leading their states.

"Most of the states, almost everyone has set a record," Trump said at an annual black-tie event at the White House honoring the governors, who are in Washington for their annual winter meeting.

He attributed their performance to his leadership.

"The fact is you've all, I know you very well, you've done a tremendous job. It's not easy being governor," Trump said. "You just look at the way our country's doing. We've never done as well as we're doing right now."

Trump mentioned new trade deals with China and with Mexico and Canada, and earlier agreements with Japan and

South Korea, telling the governors their states would reap the benefits.

Trump said he knows just about all the governors who attended. They included Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat who won a second term last year despite Trump's efforts to engineer his defeat. Also present was Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a moderate Republican who considered challenging Trump for the party's presidential nomination. Trump is extremely popular with the GOP base. Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is close to Trump, scored a seat at the head table with the president and first lady Melania Trump.

"I know just about all of you and we argue a little bit, but 90% of the time we get along," Trump said.

The governors will return to the White House for another session with Trump today. AP

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what's ON



THE LONG JOURNEY: THE FORBIDDEN CITY AND MARITIME SILK ROAD

TIME: 10am-9pm (Last entry at 6:30pm; closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: April 13, 2020

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 87919814

A PANORAMA OF RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS 3.0

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

UNTIL: March 15, 2020

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ORGANIZERS: Cultural Affairs Bureau; Macau Museum of Art; Palace Museum

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE WORLD AT THEIR FINGERTIPS – EXHIBITION OF WEAVING, DYEING AND EMBROIDERY SKILL ART OF JIANGSU PROVINCE AND GUANGXI ZHUANG AUTONOMOUS REGION

TIME: 9am-7pm (Open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 16, 2020

VENUE: Chun Chou Tong Pavilion, Lou Lim Ioc Garden

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

BRITISH AIRWAYS FLIGHT CROSSES ATLANTIC IN LESS THAN FIVE HOURS

AP PHOTO



For the first time in years, a commercial passenger plane has flown across the Atlantic in less than five hours.

A British Airways flight landed early Sunday morning at Heathrow Airport in London after leaving John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York just four hours and 56 minutes earlier.

That set a new speed record for subsonic — or slower than the speed of sound — commercial aircraft to fly between the two cities, according to Flightradar24, which tracks global flights.

The previous record was held by a Norwegian Air flight, which flew between the two cities with a flight time of five hours and 13 minutes.

The flight had been expected to take 102 minutes longer. The recent average flight time between New York and London is 6 hours and 13 minutes, according to Flightradar24.

The wind and air currents were ideal for a fast flight, said Ian Petchenik, Flightradar24's director of communications. "In the winter, the jet stream dips down a bit," he said. "It's kind of in a perfect spot for flights across the North Atlantic to take advantage of it."

British Airways just narrowly beat out a Virgin Atlantic flight, which arrived in London at around the same time but one minute slower.

British Airways confirmed the flight time for the Boeing 747 plane, saying the company prioritizes safety over speed.

The supersonic Concorde flights used to fly across the Atlantic in just over three hours, but stopped flying in 2003.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	O Sábio
15:45	Beo and Peno Sr.1
15:55	Animaizinhos Selvagens Exploradores
15:40	Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.1o
16:10	Império (Repetição)
17:00	Conferência de Imprensa Saúde (Directo)
18:30	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:05	Volta ao Mundo Sr.2
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Entrevista
21:50	Índia Majestosa com Samira
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Motel Bates Sr.5
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo

this day in history



1990 FREEDOM FOR NELSON MANDELA

Leading anti-apartheid campaigner Nelson Mandela has been freed from prison in South Africa after 27 years.

His release follows the relaxation of apartheid laws - including lifting the ban on leading black rights party the African National Congress (ANC) - by South African President FW de Klerk.

Mr Mandela appeared at the gates of Victor-Verster Prison in Paarl at 1614 local time - an hour late - with his wife Winnie.

Holding her hand and dressed in a light brown suit and tie he smiled at the ecstatic crowds and punched the air in a victory salute before taking a silver BMW sedan to Cape Town, 40 miles away.

People danced in the streets across the country and thousands clamoured to see him at a rally in Cape Town.

Doctors treated over a hundred people as police clashed with youths looting shops in various cities and townships and several people were reported shot dead.

Mr Mandela, the deputy-president of the ANC, appeared on the balcony of Cape Town's City Hall to speak to the 50,000 people assembled outside at 2000 local time.

He acknowledged Mr de Klerk was a man of integrity, but said: "Our struggle has reached a decisive moment. Our march to freedom is irreversible."

"Now is the time to intensify the struggle on all fronts. To relax now would be a mistake which future generations would not forgive," he continued.

As he addressed the crowd South African state television broadcast a profile of Mr Mandela - including a BBC interview from 1961 - which was the first time he had been shown speaking on TV.

Now 71, the lawyer from the Transkei homeland was convicted of treason and sabotage in June 1964 and sentenced to life imprisonment.

He spent most of his sentence on Robben Island, off Cape Town, doing hard labour.

Since the 1980s he has refused numerous offers for early release from the government in Pretoria because of the conditions attached.

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

Nelson Mandela succeeded Oliver Tambo as president of the ANC later in 1991.

He divorced Winnie the next year following her convictions for kidnapping and being accessory to an assault.

Mr Mandela and FW de Klerk shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for their efforts to transform South African society.

In the first multi-racial elections in the country's history he was elected president and the ANC gained 252 of the 400 seats in the national assembly.

He was succeeded as ANC president by Thabo Mbeki in 1997 and stepped down in favour of Mr Mbeki as national president after the 1999 elections.

Mr Mandela re-married in 1998 and was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2001.

He died on 5 December 2013, aged 95.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Also, expect to have a very interesting conversation with a random person today, someone next to you in line, a fellow commuter, or just someone riding the elevator with you. Don't miss your chance to connect.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Maybe a long weekend road trip is required? Relive one of your greatest memories with them and plan some time to reminisce about how far you two have come.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

If you're feeling a bit down in the dumps, the best way to get yourself out of that mood is movement! Physical activity will help get the good endorphins rushing through your bloodstream.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If you agree on something over the phone, back it up with an e-mail that puts it all down in writing. This isn't the time to try to manipulate or fool anyone. It will backfire like it usually does.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You're feeling generous today, and you should spend your resources accordingly. Give freely of your time to friends who want to share their hopes and desires with you.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Even if it's just you and a friend arranging some fun weekend plans, you need to make sure that you both understand what each of you is sacrificing and what each of you is gaining.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Don't be afraid to ask for things to change in one of your relationships. You are well within your rights to want to make things more like how you want them to be.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Those emotional ties are great for solidifying a relationship based on love, but they can cloud your logic and keep you from making the tough decisions that need to be made in the financial arena.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You need to be very careful when you're dealing with other people today. Not everyone is up to speed on the latest goings-on, and you could be listening to people who don't really know what time it is.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Unfortunately, in that mix there will inevitably be some very flighty folks, the kind of people who always talk about getting together then back out of your plans at the last minute.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Surrounding yourself with too many like-minded people will only limit your creativity, so you'll be much more apt to go your own way today. Entertain yourself with solo pursuits.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

If you aren't getting as much as you're giving, or you aren't feeling supported by this other person in the manner that you require, then stop moving it forward.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY					EASY+				
3			2 5		3	4	6		
1		9 2		7	9			2	4
8		7 3		4	4				1
5			4 6		8	1	9		
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MEDIUM					HARD				
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	9	5		7	5				8
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WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-5	11	clear
Harbin	-15	3	cloudy
Tianjin	0	13	cloudy
Urumqi	-9	5	cloudy
Xi'an	-1	14	cloudy
Lhasa	-4	9	clear
Chengdu	7	16	cloudy
Chongqing	10	15	overcast
Kunming	6	16	cloudy
Nanjing	8	11	drizzle
Shanghai	10	12	drizzle
Wuhan	6	13	drizzle
Hangzhou	9	12	drizzle
Taipei	15	19	overcast
Guangzhou	14	21	drizzle
Hong Kong	17	20	drizzle
WORLD			
Moscow	1	3	drizzle
Frankfurt	1	13	drizzle
Paris	3	13	drizzle
London	2	12	drizzle
New York	-1	5	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Quick cut; 5- Wander about; 8- Hats; 12- Pick-me-up; 14- Different; 15- Settled down; 16- Soil; 17- Scottish loch, home to a monster; 18- Words of denial; 19- Fib; 21- Constrictor; 23- Far out; 24- Marker; 25- Film director Lee; 26- Jewish law; 30- Available; 32- Take ___ at (try); 33- Lacking intelligence; 37- Disencumbers; 38- Piece of French bread?; 39- To ___ (perfectly); 40- To keep company as a friend; 42- Nahuatl speaker; 43- Like Loki; 44- Show off; 45- Shoebox letters; 48- In medias ___; 49- Center of activity; 50- Interlocks; 52- Contribution; 57- Ingrid's "Casablanca" role; 58- The jig ___!; 60- ___ Dame; 61- Lecherous look; 62- Lucie's father; 63- New Mexico's state flower; 64- Sea eagle; 65- Cornerstone abbr.; 66- Yonder thing;

DOWN: 1- Do a slow burn; 2- Flood survivor; 3- Calvary letters; 4- Big East team; 5- Exultation; 6- Knucklehead; 7- Tyrannic; 8- Pious platitudes; 9- HI hi; 10- Metal spike used by mountaineers; 11- Sharp pain; 13- Winged child; 14- Geraint's lady; 20- Young fellow; 22- Monetary unit of China; 24- Silly; 26- Skater Lipinski; 27- Sale sign; 28- Old Fords; 29- Person who dresses stones; 30- Declaim; 31- Public square; 33- Copper and zinc alloy; 34- Famous last words; 35- Observed; 36- Faction of a group, often religious; 38- Type of FDR chat; 41- Heart; 42- Empire State capital; 44- Amusement; 45- "South Pacific" hero; 46- Conger catcher; 47- Ruhr city; 49- Snake dancers; 51- Fabled loser; 52- Finely powdered earth; 53- Advertise boastfully; 54- Hankering; 55- Killer whale; 56- Tidy, without fault; 59- Paris possessive;

Yesterday's solution

T	O	M	S	A	M	I	S	S	O	S	L	O
A	R	O	O	B	A	S	I	N	U	T	A	H
D	A	U	B	S	U	L	L	A	K	A	N	S
A	L	E	C	C	L	E	O	P	A	T	R	A
P	A	R	T	I	S	A	N	T	E	S	T	
J	A	K	E	O	S	C	A	R	R	E	B	
P	I	T	S	A	T	T	I	C	W	O	K	E
F	R	A	I	L	G	A	C	K	E	N	O	N
A	D	R	E	E	L	O	S	E	N	D		
P	I	L	L	E	R	E	R	S	F	L	O	E
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A	B	I	S	T	U	L	S	A	R	E	T	E
B	E	N	T	S	T	E	E	R	T	S	O	B

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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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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AP PHOTO



Bong Joon-ho: Parasite takes all



Brad Pitt: Prom King



Joaquin Phoenix: about second chances



Laura Dern and Renee Zellweger

OSCARS 2020

BIG WINS FOR 'PARASITE' GIVE AWARDS NIGHT AN EMOTIONAL HIGH

JOCELYN NOVECK,
LOS ANGELES

CALLED up to the stage again and again, Bong Joon Ho kept saying he was ready for a drink — “bloody ready.”

But the Oscars weren't bloody ready to stop giving him awards.

By the end, the South Korean director and his masterful social thriller “Parasite” had won best original screenplay, best international film, best director, and best picture, the latter a history-shattering win as the first non-English language film to win the top prize in the Oscars' 92-year history.

Bong's giddy, increasingly incredulous acceptance speeches — and the warmly raucous reception he received — were emblematic of an Oscar night that turned out to be much more inclusive and joyous than expected.

Indeed, when nominations were announced less than a month ago, the story was the depressing lack of diversity in the acting nominees, and the fact that no female directors were nominated. That obviously didn't change, but the show itself struck an inclusive note from the start, with a bold and rousing performance by Janelle Monae. The night also saw the first Maori to win an Oscar; a rare win by a woman in the best score category; and the

first actor with Down syndrome to present at the Oscars.

Some key moments of Oscars 2020, both serious and whimsical:

TIME TO COME ALIVE

As the very first person to take the stage, Monae set the tone when she plainly addressed the diversity issue in her opening number. “It's time to come alive, because the Oscars is so white, it's time to come alive!” she sang. Her performance directly referenced movies and actors who'd been snubbed in the nominations, and also the missing female directors.

“I'm so proud to stand here as a black, queer artist telling stories,” Monae said. “Happy Black History Month.”

MISSING: A CERTAIN REPRODUCTIVE ORGAN

Diversity — both racial and gender — was also a major topic of the “non-monologue” given by “non-hosts” Chris Rock and Steve Martin. (Like last year, the show famously went hostless.) Rock quipped pointedly that actor Mahershala Ali had two Oscars, but “you know what that means when the cops pull him over? Nothing.” Martin noted that among the directing nominees, something seemed to be missing. “Vaginas?” replied Rock.

A BIT O' POLITICS

Although politics wasn't a huge subject of the evening, Martin did manage to get off an effective one-liner about recent fumbles on the Democratic side, referring back to that time “La La Land” was mistakenly announced best picture — and then noting that wouldn't happen this year, “because the academy has switched to the new Iowa caucus app.” Ouch.

THE PROM KING GETS HIS CROWN

This we know to be true: If Hollywood is high school, the Oscars is prom night. And Brad Pitt has always been the prom king, missing only his actual crown.

The much-admired actor, finally winning his first acting Oscar for his sly, knowing performance in Quentin Tarantino's “Once Upon a Time ... in Hollywood,” grew emotional as he looked back at his fairytale rise to Hollywood stardom, beginning with a combustively sexy performance in “Thelma & Louise” nearly three decades ago. “Once upon a time in Hollywood. Ain't that the truth!” he said, misty-eyed.

He also got a little political. “They told me you only have 45 seconds up here, which is 45 seconds more than the Senate gave John Bolton this week,” he said in one of the few references to the recent impeachment hearings.

A FIRST FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE ...

An emotional highlight of the night was Taika Waititi's win for best adapted screenplay for the anti-hate themed “Jojo Rabbit.” Waititi, from New Zealand, became the first Oscar winner of Maori descent. He dedicated his victory “to all the indigenous kids of the world who want to do art and dance and write stories. We are the original storytellers, and we can make it here as well.”

Later, as a presenter, Waititi took the stage and noted the Academy was gathering “on the ancestral lands of the Tongva, Tataviam and the Chumash.”

... AND FOR DISABLED ACTORS

When “The Peanut Butter Falcon” star Zack Gottsagen appeared to present in the live-action short category, it was a first for both him and for the Oscars.

Gottsagen was the first presenter with Down syndrome, and he received a standing ovation after intoning the familiar line: “And the Oscar goes to ...”

A NEW FIGHT CLUB

Rarely has the best original score category become a vehicle for a presentation on women's empowerment, but that's what happened Sunday night as Sigourney Weaver, Brie Larson

and Gal Gadot — female action stars, past and present — took the stage.

After joking that they were forming a new fight club — “Men are all invited, but no shirts allowed,” Gadot said — they announced that for the first time, a female conductor (Eimear Noone) would lead the orchestra in performing nominated film scores.

Then Hildur Guðnadóttir won the award, for “Joker,” only one of three solo women to ever win best score.

“To the girls, to the women, to the mothers, to the daughters, who hear the music bubbling within, please speak up,” she said. “We need to hear your voices.”

AND SPEAKING OF VOICES

When Joaquin Phoenix won as expected, the “Joker” star spoke about “the opportunity to use our voice for the voiceless.” He added that he saw a commonality in the different causes people in the Hollywood community fight for.

“Whether we're talking about gender inequality or racism or queer rights or indigenous rights or animal rights, we're talking about the fight against the belief that one nation, one race, one gender or one species has the right to dominate, control and use and exploit another with impunity,” he said.

He also apologized for past behavior. “I've been a scoundrel in my life,” he said. “I've been selfish, I've been cruel at times, hard to work with. I'm grateful that so many of you in this room have given me a second chance.” AP

AP PHOTO



Wang Shanshan of China (left) goes up for a header against Taiwan's Wang Hsiang-Huei during their Olympic soccer qualifying match in Sydney yesterday

VIRUS IMPACTS OPENING ROUND OF AFC'S ASIAN CHAMPIONS

THE coronavirus will have an impact on the opening week of the Asian Champions League despite the absence of Chinese clubs.

The champions from South Korea and Japan meet in the opening round tomorrow, when extra precautions will mean that any fans wanting to watch Jeonbuk Motors against Yokohama F. Marinos will have to wear masks and have a temperature of under 37.5 Celsius to enter the Jeonju stadium.

Mainland China yesterday reported another rise in cases of the new virus.

The Asian Football Confederation announced after an emergency meeting last week that because of the spread of the virus, the first three games for three Chinese clubs -- Shanghai SIPG, Guangzhou Evergrande and Shanghai Shenhua -- will be postponed.

"We came together in difficult circumstances to find solutions to allow us to play football while ensuring we protect the safety and security of all players, officials, stakeholders and fans," AFC General Secretary Windsor John said. "We also accept that this coronavirus is a much bigger issue than just football and we wish all those who have been affected a speedy return to health." AP

FOOTBALL

Chinese women win again in Olympic qualifying tournament

THE Chinese women's soccer team has won back-to-back games in the Olympic qualifying tournament after spending almost two weeks quarantined in an Australian hotel because of concerns over the coronavirus outbreak.

China scored five first-half goals in a 5-0 win over Taiwan yesterday to follow up on a 6-1 win over Thailand last Friday in the Asian zonal qualifier for the Tokyo Olympics. China will next face Australia on Thursday in a game likely to decide top spot

in Group B. China is already assured of finishing in the top two in the group and advancing to home-and-away playoffs against the top two teams from Group A for two places at the Olympics.

Tang Jiali opened the scoring in the fifth minute against Taiwan before Wu Haiyan's goal in the 25th sparked a four-goal burst in 10 minutes, including a pair from Wang Shanshan, to take control of the game.

Jia Xiuquan, head coach of China's women's team, was impressed with the wins.

"We have faced some diffi-

culties since we arrived here in Australia," Koa was reported as saying by Australian Associated Press. "The team are not in the best shape but we are strong in mentality and we are strong in teamwork."

China had been scheduled to host the qualifiers in Wuhan, the epicenter of the deadly viral outbreak, and then in Nanjing before the tournament was re-located to Australia for health and safety reasons.

The squad and staff spent almost two weeks confined to a hotel in Brisbane, Queensland

state, before arriving in Sydney on the eve of their match against Thailand.

Four Chinese players stayed at home, including 2018 Asian Football Confederation player of the year, Wang Shuang.

The viral outbreak that began in China has infected more than 40,600 people globally. China reported 908 deaths among 40,171 confirmed cases on the mainland. More than 440 cases have been confirmed outside mainland China, including two deaths in Hong Kong and the Philippines. AP

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OPINION

World Views

Liz Weston, NerdWallet via AP

HOW TO NAVIGATE YOUR MOST DANGEROUS DECADE

Losing a job is almost always traumatic. In your 50s, job loss can be devastating — and devastatingly common.

More than half the workers who entered their 50s with stable, full-time jobs were laid off or pushed out at least once by age 65, according to an analysis of employment data from 1990 to 2016 by the nonprofit newsroom ProPublica and the Urban Institute, a nonprofit think tank. Only 10% of those who lost a job ever found another that paid as much, and most never recovered financially.

Such concerns may seem remote in a booming economy. But recessions are inevitable, and even in good times older workers can be more vulnerable to involuntary job loss because of age discrimination.

These realities make it important to have a plan for navigating what could be your most dangerous decade.

It can be tempting after decades of work to think you can coast to retirement. But older workers who aren't proactively adding skills are more likely to be laid off, says Susan Weinstock, vice president, financial resilience programming at AARP.

"If the economy tanks, they'll be the first to go," Weinstock says. "Staying current in your field is really important."

Weinstock recommends that older people take advantage of any training opportunities their employers offer, volunteer for new assignments and become both "a mentor and mentee." A younger co-worker could help you stay up-to-date with the latest technologies used by your office, for example.

And when it comes to relationships, more is better. Weinstock urges older workers to keep growing their networks, since most new jobs are found through someone you know.

"Catch up" provisions were created to help workers supercharge their savings in the years before retirement. In 2020, for example, employees 50 and older can contribute up to \$26,000 to workplace retirement plans such as 401(k)s, compared with the limit of \$19,500 for younger workers. If you can take advantage of these provisions, great, but it's risky to put off saving for retirement expecting to make up for it later. A better plan is to start saving as soon as possible and to increase your savings rate whenever you can.

You also probably need to beef up that emergency fund. The average length of unemployment for people 45 to 54 is a little over five months, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. For people 55 to 64, it's just shy of six months. In a recession, those durations likely will grow.

Many people find their ability to save is hampered by the amount of debt they have. Federal Reserve statistics show that households headed by people 45 to 54 years old owed more than twice as much in 2016 as similar households in 1989.

Limiting how much you owe as you age can give you more financial flexibility. If you're refinancing a mortgage, for example, consider choosing a loan term that allows you to be debt free by retirement, if not before. Be cautious about borrowing money for education, either for yourself or a child, since the loans typically can't be discharged in bankruptcy and could be tough to pay back if you lose your job.

Many parents provide their adult children with some financial support, and it's typically for household expenses rather than emergencies. But ongoing handouts could jeopardize your financial health and theirs. Setting clear financial boundaries can help you wean them off the family dole.

You may find another job quickly if you lose your current one, but it's best to act as if you won't by cutting nonessential spending, asking lenders about possible forbearance or hardship programs and staying in touch with your network.

"If you see this coming, start looking immediately," Weinstock says. "And actually I would say, always keep your eye out. There's no reason not to, because you never know what could happen."

Conservationists on a Sea Shepherd vessel out to protect the endangered vaquita porpoise came under gun fire in the upper Gulf of California over the weekend by men in small boats.

The confrontation took place Saturday in what is known as the "critical zone" of an area designated as a refuge for the vaquita because several of the porpoises have been sighted there.

Officials from the Mexican navy, federal police and Mexican environmental protection agency were also onboard the M/V

Sharpie.

According to Sea Shepherd, four skiffs known locally as pangas approached the Sharpie and began to chase the vessel at full speed, swerving in front and around the ship.

The captain carried out anti-piracy procedures, including the use of water cannons and other anti-boarding techniques. At least two shots fired from the skiffs landed in the water near the Sea Shepherd vessel, which was not hit during the incident.

Sea Shepherd said no injuries occurred.

AP PHOTO



Chinese President Xi Jinping (left) wears a protective face mask as he receives a temperature check

XI'S ABSENCE FROM WUHAN DRAWS PUBLIC ATTENTION

CHINESE President Xi Jinping visited the Chaoyang district in Beijing yesterday, according to state-run media Xinhua, which published photos of Xi wearing a mask and having his temperature taken. The public appearance has finally put to rest several online rumors that had been circulating on social media regarding the president's unusual absence from state media reports for one week prior.

The top leader of the Chinese Communist Party has not visited Wuhan since the outbreak of the epidemic. Xi's absence from the center of the epidemic has also drawn the public's interest.

As of today, the 2019-nCoV epidemic outbreak has been spreading for more than two months, considering that the actual first recorded case can be traced back to December 1 of last year. As of yesterday at least 40,241 infections have been confirmed, with at least 908 deaths and 3,396 recoveries on record.

Mainland cities have been implementing va-

rious transmission prevention measures, including shutting down businesses and closing communities.

Xi Jinping, has issued several directives to combat the epidemic, according to mainland Chinese state media, despite not having made appearances on state-owned propaganda media outlets as frequently as usual.

In mainland China, Chinese top leaders are featured almost daily on the 7 p.m. national news of CCTV, which airs on nearly all TV channels in mainland China.

However, for a consecutive period of seven days, top Chinese communist leader Xi Jinping has not appeared on the 7 p.m. daily CCTV news.

Before January 28, CCTV reported that Xi Jinping was still "personally directing" the fight against the epidemic. On February 3, a CCTV report announced that Xi was still personally in charge of handling the situation. However, no images of him were shown. Instead, the anchor read the news for 13 consecutive minutes without any images of

Xi or any other Chinese official.

Besides his disappearance from the mainland's top media propaganda machine, there is no public indication that Xi has visited the epicenter of the outbreak in Wuhan. The highest Chinese government official to have made a visit to Wuhan after the epidemic broke out is Prime Minister Li Keqiang, who went to the city on January 27.

His absence from Wuhan has drawn both domestic and international attention.

Whereas mainland leaders appear to have retreated from the media frontline when it comes to the epidemic, the leaders of the special administrative regions have made at least one appearance so far this month.

Macau's Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng held a press conference on February 4 to announce the unprecedented 15-day closure of Macau's casinos and reply to the media's questions regarding the coronavirus. In Hong Kong, leader Carrie Lam met the media as recently as February 8 to answer questions. MDT

Thailand Two Russian children died in a collision of two speedboats off a Thai resort island yesterday. The victims were a 12-year-old boy and a 6-year-old girl. Twenty other passengers from the boats that collided off Phuket were brought to hospitals to check their condition.

Indonesia A search plane spotted the wreckage of an Indonesian military helicopter that went missing with 12 people nearly eight months ago in the country's troubled easternmost province of Papua, military officials said yesterday. The Russian-made Mi-17 helicopter lost contact five minutes after taking off from Oksibil.

AP PHOTO



South Korea The highest-level North Korean diplomat to defect to South Korea will join its main opposition party and run in April parliamentary elections. Thae Yong Ho, a former minister at the North Korean Embassy in London (pictured), came to South Korea in 2016 with his family. He since has been highly critical of North Korea's authoritarian government.

AP PHOTO



Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel's heir apparent unexpectedly threw in the towel. Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer (pictured) told leading members of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) that she won't be seeking the chancellorship in next year's general election, upending Merkel's plans to hand her the reins after more than 15 years in power.

AP PHOTO



Ireland's political parties were scrambling to adjust to a new reality yesterday after an earth-shaking election that saw the left-wing nationalist party Sinn Fein win the biggest share of votes. Sinn Fein, the party historically linked to the IRA, received 24.5% of the first-preference votes in Saturday's election.