

12 YEARS
A-CHANGIN'

Double Down!
ADVERTISING HERE
+853 287 160 81

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

Greater Bay Plan
\$158 / 6GB
Data Increase Again

CTM

WEDNESDAY T. 11°/ 18° Air Quality Good
19 Feb 2020

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MOP 8.00
HKD 10.00 2305 4271

THE GRAND PRIX, THE LARGEST ANNUAL EVENT IN MACAU, WILL GO AHEAD AS PLANNED, UNAFFECTED BY THE VIRUS OUTBREAK

MUST LAUNCHES REMOTE LEARNING PROGRAM, THE 'CLOUD CLASSROOM'

FILIPINO MIGRANT WORKERS CAN NOW RETURN TO MACAU, HK AFTER MANILA PARTIALLY LIFTED THE TEMPORARY TRAVEL BAN



Japan Health authorities said yesterday they have confirmed 88 more cases of the new virus on a quarantined cruise ship near Tokyo. The new cases bring the total on the Diamond Princess to 542. The number is by far the largest outside China. The Japanese government has repeatedly defended the effectiveness of the quarantine and bristled against criticism that the ship became a virus incubator instead of a quarantine facility. More on p2,7



Covid-19 The virus outbreak has put South Korea's economy into an "emergency situation," its president says. Japan is on the brink of recession and big manufacturers are forecasting a whole world of woe. As many Chinese finally go back to work after their longest Lunar New Year holiday ever, the economic fallout from the outbreak that began in the central city of Wuhan may be just beginning. Companies are warning their bottom lines will take a hit, and governments are ramping up stimulus measures.



Thailand Gun violence struck in a shopping mall for the third time in six weeks yesterday when a man fatally shot a woman working at a beauty clinic in a Bangkok mall and wounded another. The motive for the shooting was believed to be jealousy, and the shooter escaped and remained at large several hours later. The dead woman in the shooting at Century Plaza near Bangkok's Victory Monument was 28 years old.

More on backpage

STEP-BY-STEP

CASINO OPERATORS SAY THEY WILL OPEN THURSDAY, GRADUALLY, BASED ON DEMAND



WUHAN HOSPITAL DIRECTOR DIES OF VIRUS; 1,700 DOCTORS, NURSES SICK



P6

CASINOS CONFIRM PHASED OPENINGS

DANIEL BEITLER

MACAU casino operators plan to open in phases once the casino suspension order expires at midnight on Thursday, the Times has learned. It remains unclear whether any of the six operators intend to apply for inclusion in the government's 30-day grace period, during which time limited operating conditions will be tolerated.

Five local operators - Galaxy Entertainment Group, Wynn Macau, Sands China, MGM China and Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) - indicated today that they plan to return to full capacity only once the guest demand is sufficient.

The casino operators did not explicitly state whether they intended to apply for the extension period advertised by Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong.

On Monday, Secretary Lei said that some casino operators had expressed their intent to apply for the grace period during earlier meetings with the government. The top economy official added that no applications had been received at the time of his comments on Monday afternoon.

Yesterday, casino operator SJM told the Times that it will partially reopen its casinos at the stroke of midnight on Thursday, but that "full operation will be restored step by step upon reviewing the

BLOOMBERG



actual situation."

Galaxy Entertainment Group said it would "resume limited operation of its casinos and VIP rooms from midnight of February 20, and will gradually resume full service based on guest demand." Galaxy also said that it was pleased "to see that the city's prevention efforts, under the leadership of the Macau SAR government and with the full support from the community, have effectively contained the spread of the virus."

Wynn Macau is also opting for the phased approach. "Beginning Thursday, we will open our casinos in a phased approach that matches guest demand

and employee availability," the company confirmed in an emailed statement. "We look forward to welcoming our employees and guests back to our resorts and we will continue to be vigilant in our health and safety procedures."

Sands China said it welcomed the decision to reopen the city's casinos, adding that its operations would resume "in a phased approach, in line with our continued support of the anti-epidemic preventive measures announced by the Macau government."

"Sands China believes the reopening of the casinos will help spur Macau's business environment and boost confidence, especially for the city's local SMEs,"

added the company in a note to the Times this evening.

MGM China also said it would partially resume operations of its casinos at MGM Macau and MGM Cotai starting from midnight on February 20 and that "full operations will be resumed gradually according to business conditions. We will follow the epidemic prevention measures and related suggestions of the government, placing the health and safety of our team members, guests and all Macau citizens as our utmost priority."

Melco Resorts & Entertainment declined to comment when asked about its plans to reopen casinos.

FIVE MACAU RESIDENTS TO BE EVACUATED FROM CRUISE

A total of five Macau residents are expected to be evacuated from the Diamond Princess cruise ship stranded in Yokohama, Japan, with the assistance of the Hong Kong government, the Macau local government has confirmed.

The news was announced yesterday morning by the Macau SAR Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center on its social media page.

On Monday, the Hong Kong government decided to charter at least one flight to Japan to evacuate approximately 330 Hong Kong residents currently undergoing quarantine on the vessel.

However, the plan did not sit well with all cruise ship passengers. According to Hong Kong public broadcaster RTHK, the government in the neighboring SAR has admitted that some of the Hong Kongers aboard the ship have indicated that they do not wish to take the chartered flights back to Hong Kong.

Twenty-one out of the 330 Hong Kong residents have been confirmed to be infected by Covid-19. As for Macau residents, none of the five have been infected according to the latest announcement from the Center. It has not been disclosed whether infected Hong Kong residents will remain in Japan for treatment.

An earlier report said the cruise ship, which is anchored off the coast of Japan, was put on a two-week quarantine that is due to end on February 19. With that said, the first evacuation flight to Hong Kong should be expected to depart for Hong Kong this Wednesday.

Meanwhile, according to the Center, after achieving consensus with the five Macau residents, two male and three female of ages between 24 and 82, onboard the ship, it contacted the Hong Kong government for collaboration.

To conduct prior preparation, officers from the Health Bureau and the Tourism Crisis Management Office departed for Japan on Monday evening.

Two out of the five are residents of both SARs and decided to remain in Hong Kong when evacuated. The other three will return to Macau by vehicles arranged by the Hong Kong government. The three will undergo medical observation at a location designated by the Health Bureau.

Before boarding the flight, all will be tested for infection one final time.

The latest information showed that an additional 99 people on the Diamond Princess cruise ship have tested positive for the Covid-19, bringing the total of onboard infections to 454, according to reports from Japan's public broadcaster NHK. **AL**

Tourism bus drivers call on CE's intervention in labor dispute

RENATO MARQUES

A group of about 400 tourism bus drivers working for local travel agencies has delivered a letter to Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng, calling for his help with a labor-related problem that has caused the workers serious financial stress.

According to the letter, the drivers have a contract which states that they receive a base salary of only MOP2,000 per month, as well as commission that is calculated per person they

transport during agency-programmed tours.

With the coronavirus outbreak and measures taken by both the central and local governments to contain the virus, all tour groups from the mainland have been canceled, resulting in drivers going without work and therefore without the largest part of their monthly income.

The drivers expressed their discontentment with the situation, which they consider as unfair treatment imposed

by their employers, who have agreed to follow the same rules and standardized procedure as other companies.

The letter, delivered to the government's headquarters with the help of lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho, calls for the intervention by the government in the situation.

As an emergency measure aiming to tackle the situation of "extreme difficulty" faced by drivers and their families, the group is requesting the government to grant them a spe-

cial interest-free loan and an advance of payments from the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System.

The group also claims to have no entitlement to holidays, paid leave or health assistance, urging the government to urgently amend the labor law to address this problem.

Driving is one of Macau's protected professions, meaning that only local residents are allowed to be employed in this job role, similar to casino

croupiers. However, the group also claims that the profession has been suffering due to a growing number of illegal drivers from the mainland who have been successfully transporting tourists across the border and into Macau because of the lack of inspection by the authorities.

Flaws in the current labor laws have been addressed by several lawmakers in the past few weeks, and were highlighted by the temporary closure of a wide range of services and businesses as per the government's order or by the initiative of private management due to the economic shutdown caused by the coronavirus.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+14,500

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

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

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Police say Border Gate normal as thousands get ahead of quarantine enforcement

ANTHONY LAM

OPERATIONS at Border Gate yesterday were conducted normally and without overcrowding issues, according to the police, with slightly above 20,000 crossings by foreign workers recorded as of 4 p.m. There was no crowd gathered at the immigration hall, in contrast to a video that went viral online, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) clarified.

The video depicted thousands of people crowding at the entrance of the Gongbei Border Control Building, trying to rush into the building to enter Macau. It went viral a day after the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) government issued a new order to tighten controls on foreign workers entering from the mainland.

The PSP, which handles border control in Macau, expressly responded to the video clip at yesterday's daily press briefing held by the Novel Coronavirus Coordination and Response Center.

Ma Chio Hong, Chief of the PSP's Operation and Communication Division, told the press conference, "It is crucial for us to clarify that the flow at the Border Gate was smooth [yesterday]. No crowd packed the border control hall."

The police officer reminded the general public of the real-time video monitoring system available on the law enforcement authority's e-platforms. "Our real-time information platform, which is available on our website and mobile app, provides the general public with the latest conditions of our border control halls," Ma said.



A reader-submitted photo of workers arriving in Macau via the Border Gate

"The general public is also reminded not to believe unverified information," Ma added. He advised members of the public to rely on the government for reliable information. "Indeed, latest updates on epidemic control are announced on the Center's website from time to time," Ma said.

At the same time, other videos showed that a significant number of people were walking in the vic-

inity of the Border Gate, with suitcases in hand. Ma said the PSP was aware of the situation. He believed it was caused by the introduction of the new measure that requires foreign workers entering Macau from the mainland to undergo a 14-day quarantine. The measure takes effect from today.

When the government announced the new measure on Monday, it was also questioned about

the "window period" that may attract more foreign workers than normal.

Some 21,000 non-resident workers from mainland entered Macau on Monday, followed by about 20,000 in the first 16 hours of yesterday.

Commenting on the growth in hour-by-hour comparisons, Lei Wai Seng, Medical Director at the S. Januário Hospital, stressed that

in the long run the new measure will be beneficial to Macau's epidemic control.

"The foreign workers who came in before the new measure takes effect should be considered healthy population," Lei said. Currently, facilities are in place at the border checkpoint to monitor body temperature of incoming people, besides the requirement of the health declaration. "If they feel unwell when they're in Macau, they should visit either hospital for treatment," Lei added.

"The measure is in place to discourage foreign workers from frequently crossing the border," Lei explained to the media.

If concerned foreign workers cannot be quarantined in Zhuhai and thus need to do so in Macau, they will be housed by the Pousada Marina Infante, the Health Bureau designated quarantine facility. The foreign workers will have to bear their own costs, which is MOP8,750 to be paid directly to the hotel when they finish quarantine, according to Leong Iek Hou, a coordinator at the Health Bureau.

The panel at yesterday's press conference also disclosed the quantity of face masks sold during the first two sale phases of the government's controlled distribution program. Nearly 5 million and 5.66 million masks were sold respectively in the first two phases. The Health Bureau emphasized that sourcing masks has become increasingly difficult, and so residents should avoid complaining about the style of facemasks.

However, senior residents can approach health centers for an exchange if they were distributed masks with hand-tied straps, which may be difficult for them to reliably use.

Quarantine measures will not target tourists from mainland

LYNZY VALLES

THE 14-day quarantine measure set out by the government for foreign workers who have been to mainland China will not affect visitors from the region that want to enter the SAR.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng has long been adamant about not closing the city's borders with China, despite the growing number of cases of the novel coronavirus or Covid-19 in the mainland.

Ho argued that Macau had not banned any visitors from Hong Kong during the SARS outbreak in 2003.

Despite the continuous operation of the border checkpoints, the SAR still recorded an 80% slump in its mainland China tourist arrivals over the Chinese New Year as the Chinese central government suspended issuance of individual visit scheme for visitors to come to Macau. This month, visitor arrivals are understood to have fallen even further.

Although the new measure – which targets all foreign workers who have been to mainland China in the past 14 days – will not affect mainland Chinese tourists, it is still highly unlikely that a large number of visitors will come to Macau as the individual visit scheme is still suspended.

The Chinese government still bans overseas tours and the purchase of flights and hotels abroad, calling on travel agencies to suspend pa-

ckage tourists, which represent more than half of outbound travel.

This means that, aside from a few remaining channels, there are not many ways for mainland tourists to obtain entry permits to Macau.

Photos and videos circulated yesterday showed groups of Chinese residents – with suitcases and large-sized iconic red-white-blue bags – entering Macau from the Border Gate at Portas do Cerco, which implies that they opted to

enter the region immediately before the 14-day quarantine measure comes into effect.

Starting from tomorrow, non-resident workers coming from the mainland will be required to undergo a 14-day quarantine in Zhuhai.

When foreign workers try to enter Macau from elsewhere or are not able to obtain the medical certificate mentioned, they will either be sent back to the origin of their journey or undergo quarantine in

designated venues in Macau under the monitoring of the Health Bureau.

This measure is set to discourage foreign workers from regularly crossing the border as this undermines epidemic prevention and control efforts in the city.

Previously, the government encouraged local employers to find temporary lodging in the SAR for their workers from Zhuhai to reduce the risk of a further coronavirus outbreak among those commuting between the two cities.



MACAU GRAND PRIX WILL GO AHEAD AS PLANNED

RENATO MARQUES

The Times has learned that the Macau Grand Prix, the largest annual event organized in Macau, will go ahead as planned, unaffected by the outbreak of the coronavirus known as Covid-19.

According to information disclosed to the Times by the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC), the planning of the event has not been affected. "The organization of the 67th Macau Grand Prix, which is due to be held from 19 to 22 November 2020, is ongoing according to schedule," the MGPOC said.

The motorsport event held annually in November will be pro-

bably one of the few major events organized by the government this year, after the acknowledgment that several other sports, arts, and tourism-related events have announced their cancellation this year.

At the international level, several events have also been canceled or postponed, including the

The 2020 FIA Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix was initially scheduled to take place in Shanghai on the weekend of April 17 to 19. The event, now postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak, has not yet been ruled out of this year's F1 calendar, with the FIA and Formula 1 stating that they will "continue to work closely

with the teams, race promoter, Federation of Automobile and Motorcycle Sports of People's Republic of China and the local authorities to monitor the situation as it develops."

In the same joint statement, all parties also claimed to be taking "the appropriate amount of time to study the viability of potential alternative dates for the Grand Prix later in the year should the situation improve."

The organizers also reaffirmed, in accordance with the declaration by the World Health Organization of Covid-19 as a global health emergency, that measures are being taken "to ensure the health and safety of the traveling

staff, championship participants and fans, which remains a primary concern."

In the same statement, the FIA also said that it is monitoring the global situation "with regard to other motorsport events," hinting that other events might also be somewhat affected.

Among those rumored to be in high consideration of being canceled is also the debuting 2020 Vietnam Grand Prix scheduled to take place in Hanoi from April 3 to 5.

For the time being the FIA, the F1 and the promoters are continuing to work so that the event, happening for the first time, is held on the original date.

More directly related to the Macau Grand Prix is the 2020 FIA Formula 3 Championship which has no race scheduled to be held in China.

The F3 championship is scheduled to start on March 20 in

Bahrain followed by a total of eight other racing weekends all held on the European continent.

Also without any changes to the original program is the F3 Asian Championship, a regional event which started in Sepang, Malaysia, in December last year and will end this weekend in Thailand after visits to Dubai, Abu Dhabi and a second-round in Malaysia.

Meanwhile, the FIA World Touring Car Cup will also continue as planned with races scheduled to be held on the mainland - in the city of Chunxiao in Beilun's coastal development near Ningbo, Zhejiang province - prior to its Macau race.

The Ningbo race is scheduled to take place during the weekend of September 18 to 20, two months earlier than the Macau event and, for the time being, no postponement or cancellation is being considered.

Philippines lifts travel ban for its workers returning to Macau

FILIPINO migrant workers can now return to Hong Kong and Macau after the Philippines government partially lifted the temporary travel ban that aims to deter the spread of the novel coronavirus, officially known as Covid-19.

Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte implemented a temporary travel ban covering the entire greater China region earlier this month, affecting migrant workers from Hong Kong and Macau who were on vacation in the Philippines.

Yesterday, the government announced that these workers are officially exempted from the outbound travel ban but are still subjected to certain procedural formalities.

Filipino workers are required to make a "written declaration that they know the risks of going back."

The temporary travel ban has affected several hundred migrant workers employed in the SARs, as flights going to and from the regions were also canceled.

Meanwhile, the Macau government said

that it is paying close attention to the suspension - by certain overseas countries and places - of particular flights to and from Macau.

Since flights between Macau and the Philippines have been canceled until March by relevant airline operators, some 400 Filipino citizens - either working or travelling in Macau - had claimed they have consequently not been able to fly to their home country via Macau.

According to a statement issued by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination

Centre, it recommended that those affected by flight suspensions involving local routes could consider taking flights from Hong Kong.

There are three daily flights from Hong Kong to Manila, as well as flights every Friday from Hong Kong to Cebu City.

The three airlines that operate the Philippine-Macau route including Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific Airlines and Air Asia have yet to announce when they would resume flights following the lifting of the travel ban among migrant workers. LV

2 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE SEIZED FROM FLIGHT PASSENGERS

JULIE ZHU

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has seized over two kilograms of cocaine from two Guinea women, the PJ reported yesterday.

The two drug trafficking suspects arrived at the Macau International Airport on February 17, at midnight, from a flight that had departed from Bangkok. Upon inspecting the two women, the PJ found a large number of objects in the shape of goose eggs hidden in their stomachs.

After the PJ's questioning, the two women admitted that the objects were drugs. Within 18 hours, a total of 130 pieces of cocaine were cleared from their bodies.

In total, the cocaine weighs about 2.08 kilograms, with an

estimated market value of 6.8 million patacas.

According to the PJ, the bureau learned that international drug traffickers may be trying to smuggle drugs while all governments are busy fighting against the epidemic. The bureau is also aware of changes in drug trafficking routes and tactics.

The two Guinea citizens confessed they had accepted \$1,800 from a drug trafficking group to transport the cocaine. They flew from Ethiopia to Bangkok first and then flew to Macau, where they were told to await further instructions.

The two women were promised another \$4,000 once the drugs safely landed at the final destination.

MUST launches 'Cloud Classroom' so students can continue their studies at home

JULIE ZHU

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has launched a 'Cloud Classroom' program to help its students continue their studies remotely in order to reduce the impact of the Covid-19 epidemic on their education.

On February 17, MUST officially started an online interactive studying program dubbed the 'Cloud Classroom'. On the first day, the school provided 237 classes with the participation of 171 teachers and over 6,300 students.

MUST Rector Liu Liang voiced that the Cloud Classroom is a new studying experience that is designed to respond to the Macau Higher Education Bureau's (DSES) instructions for protecting university teaching staff and students from the coronavirus, while simultaneously ensuring the quality of students' education is not affected. Liu hopes that the students can cherish this online studying opportunity.

In setting up the online system, MUST has formed a special team and invested a large amount of resources, offering online teaching training to lecturers, who will use the program to ensure that the system runs smoothly. In order to facilitate the operations of the Cloud Classroom, MUST released information about the system across multiple platforms, including new media, phone calls and emails.

The Cloud Classroom, which utilizes MUST's smart campus management platform WeMust, is presented through the video conferencing platform Zoom.

Through the platform, MUST students are able to engage in real-time online teaching with lecturers, avoiding the need for congregation in a physical space.

The system fully covers a range of educational activities, including the holding of seminars and com-



Cloud Classroom, MUST teachers will provide teaching courses related to 178 subjects.

Due to the shortage of time, the MUST Cloud Classroom is currently only available in Chinese, but it is estimated that by the end of February, an English version will be ready.

The Cloud Classroom is accessible on mobile phones, tablets and the computer. The platform allows participants to use both text and audio functions to conduct class discussions.

MUST has set up a work team to contribute to the fight against the spread of the Covid-19. The school's Covid-19 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 prevention measures and public concerns.

pletion of study assignments in accordance with the learning plan. The system is also able to register students' attendance.

Through the platform, MUST students are able to engage in real-time online teaching with lecturers

At the end of each semester, students will be able to give a review on each lecturer on Cloud Classroom. Relevant fa-

culties will also sample classes to evaluate the lecturers' teaching ability, as a means to improve the school's lecturing quality.

Although the system covers a wide range of courses, it does not include all scheduled classes. The system only contains subjects which have been evaluated as suitable for online teaching. For other courses, the school will arrange compensation classes once it reopens.

In total, through the

MUST ALUMNI DONATE 30,000 MASKS

Alumni from the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) have donated some 30,000 surgical face masks to the university to help its lecturers and students be better prepared to resume studies. On February 14, the group of university alumni donated 30,000 face masks to the MUST. Separately, dona-

tions have been made to the mainland, the frontline of the coronavirus outbreak. On February 8, a batch of 3,000 medical gloves were delivered to Hubei province. On February 10, another 2,000 medical gloves were sent to Hubei. Recently, the MUST Alumni transported 20,000 surgical face masks to Hubei.

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

Gastroentero-Hepatology : Dr. Zhan De Juan

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

AD



Patients infected with the coronavirus take rest at a temporary hospital converted from Wuhan Sports Center

1,700 DOCTORS, NURSES SICK

VIRUS CLAIMS LIFE OF HOSPITAL DIRECTOR IN HARD-HIT WUHAN

YANAN WANG, BEIJING

As a mysterious new virus enveloped central China's Wuhan early this year, Liu Zhiming mobilized all the resources of his hospital in the city's Wuchang district to deal with the thousands of sick people arriving daily, threatening to overwhelm the local health care system.

That dedication appears to have cost him his life, with Wuhan's health bureau announcing yesterday that he became infected and died despite "all-out" attempts to save him.

Liu is at least the seventh health worker to die of the COVID-19 disease among the more than 1,700 doctors and nurses who have become sick. His death comes as authorities are cautiously cheering a reduction in the number of new daily cases and deaths, along with the results of a study showing most people who contracted the virus experienced only mild symptoms.

China yesterday reported 1,886 new cases and 98 more deaths. That raised the number of deaths in mainland China to 1,868 and the total number of confirmed cases to 72,436.

Japan, meanwhile, announced

that 88 more cases of the virus were confirmed aboard a quarantined cruise ship, the Diamond Princess, bringing the total to 542 among the 3,700 initially on board.

The outbreak has caused massive disruptions and China may postpone its biggest political meeting of the year to avoid having people travel to Beijing while the virus is still spreading. One of the automotive industry's biggest events, China's biannual auto show, also is being postponed, and many sports and entertainment events have been delayed or canceled.

Despite strict rules on use of masks and safety suits, medical workers have been prominent among the victims, particularly in the early stage of the outbreak.

In announcing Liu's death, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission said he had taken part in the battle against the virus from the start and had made "important contributions in the work of fighting and controlling" the virus.

During that process, "unfortunately he became infected and passed away at 10:54 yesterday morning at the age of 51 after all-out efforts to save him failed," the commission said.

The Hubei native had graduated from Wuhan University's School of Medicine in 1991 and went on to a career as a chief physician, neurosurgeon and administrator.

Earlier this month, public outrage was stirred by the death from the virus of Wuhan doctor Li Wenliang, who had been threatened by police after releasing word of an outbreak of an unusual respiratory illness in December before it had spread widely and the city was placed under quarantine.

Wuhan and its surrounding cities in Hubei province have accounted for the vast majority of infections and deaths, prompting the government to enforce a travel ban that has spread to other parts of the country and now includes a mandatory 14-day self-quarantine period for anyone traveling outside their home district. Two new prefabricated hospitals have been built to deal with the overflow in Wuhan and thousands of medical staff have been brought in from other parts of the country to help.

A study by the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention found more than 80% of the cases studied were mild and the number of new infections seemed to be falling since early this mon-

th. World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said it was too early to know if the reported decline would continue, however. "Every scenario is still on the table," he said at a news conference.

The seeming drop in the number of new cases follows a large spike last week after Hubei province began counting cases by doctors' diagnoses without waiting for laboratory test results. Health authorities there said the change was meant to get patients treated faster.

The Chinese study examined 44,672 cases of the disease that were confirmed in the mainland as of Feb. 11. Severe symptoms such as pneumonia occurred in 14% of them and critical illness in 5%. The fatality rate was 2.3% — 2.8% for males versus 1.7% for females.

The death rate is lower than for SARS and MERS, diseases caused by coronaviruses related to the one that causes COVID-19. But the new virus ultimately could prove more deadly if it spreads to far more people than the others did. The COVID-19 cases include relatively few children, and the risk of death rises with age or other health problems and was

higher in Hubei province versus elsewhere in China.

The study warned that while cases seem to have been declining since Feb. 1, that could change as people return to work and school after the Lunar New Year holidays, typically the biggest travel period for Chinese travelers. Beijing and other governments have sought to forestall that by extending the holiday break, encouraging telecommuting and self-quarantines and conducting health checks on travelers.

Travel to and from the worst-hit central China region was associated with the initial cases of COVID-19 confirmed abroad. But Japan, Singapore and South Korea have identified new cases without clear ties to China or previously known patients, raising concern of the virus spreading locally.

The largest number of cases outside China is the 542 among passengers and crew of the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined at a port near Tokyo. The infections have led to heavy criticism of the decision to quarantine passengers on the vessel.

The U.S. evacuated 328 American passengers, with most of them placed in a 14-day quarantine at military bases in California and Texas. Thirteen who tested positive for the virus were taken to a hospital in Omaha, Nebraska, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said any more passengers who show symptoms will be taken to hospitals. AP

MARIA CHENG
& MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

AN extraordinary two-week quarantine of the Diamond Princess cruise ship ends today, with thousands of passengers and crew set to disembark over the next several days in the port of Yokohama, near Tokyo.

A growing number of scientists, however, say the ship served as an incubator for a worrying new virus from China instead of a quarantine facility meant to prevent the worsening of an outbreak that has sickened tens of thousands.

As of yesterday, 542 cases of the virus have been identified among the 3,711 quarantined passengers and crew, making the ship the site of the most infections outside of China.

The question now is: Why?

The Japanese government has repeatedly defended the effectiveness of the quarantine. But some scientists suggest that it may have been less than rigorous.

In a possible sign of lax quarantine protocols, three Japanese health officials who helped in the quarantine checks on the ship were also infected.

"I suspect people were not as isolated from other people as we would have thought," said Dr. Paul Hunter, a professor of medicine at the University of East Anglia in England.

Japan's health minister, Katsunobu Kato, told reporters that all passengers who remained on the cruise ship have had their samples taken and that those who tested negative would start getting off the vessel beginning Wednesday, when their required 14-day quarantine is scheduled to end.

"They all want to go home as early as possible, and we hope to assist them so that everyone can get home smoothly," Kato said.

The process is expected to take until Friday because of the large number of people involved.

"Obviously the quarantine hasn't worked, and this ship has now become a source of infection," said Dr. Nathalie MacDermott, an outbreak expert at King's College London.

She said the exact mechanism of the virus' spread was unknown.

"We need to understand how the quarantine measures on board were implemented, what the air filtration on board is like, how the cabins are connected and how waste products are disposed of," MacDermott said.

"There could also be another mode of transmission we're not familiar with," she said, noting the possibility of environmental spread and the importance of "deep-cleaning" the entire ship to prevent people from touching contaminated surfaces.

During the 2002-2003 outbreak of SARS, a related virus, ex-

AP PHOTO



Quarantine on cruise ship in Japan comes under question

perts discovered that more than 300 people were infected through a defective sewage system in a Hong Kong housing estate. MacDermott said it was possible there was a similar issue aboard the Diamond Princess, but that a full investigation was needed.

"There's no reason this should not have worked if it had been done properly," she said.

Some passengers on the Diamond Princess described the ship as a "floating prison" but were allowed to walk on the decks every day while wearing a mask and were told to keep their distance from others.

Hunter, the medicine professor, said the continued spread of the virus could be due to compliance problems.

"It's difficult to enforce a quarantine in a ship environment and I'm absolutely sure there were some passengers who think they're not going to let anyone tell them what they can and cannot do," he said.

Hunter said it was "a huge disappointment" that the quarantine hadn't curbed the spread of the virus and that it was unfortunate some passengers returning to their home countries would now face a second period of isolation.

"Given how the virus has con-

tinued to spread, we have to presume everyone leaving the ship is potentially infected, and therefore they have to go through another two-week quarantine period," he said. "Not to do so would be reckless."

Japanese health officials say a 14-day quarantine on the ship is adequate, citing results that all but one of more than 500 Japanese returnees from Wuhan, the epicenter of the virus in China, who initially tested negative were also found to be virus-free at the end of their 14-day quarantine at government facilities.

Those officials also have defended precautions taken on the ship. About 1,000 crew members were told to wear surgical masks, wash their hands, use disinfectant sprays and stop operations at restaurants, bars and other entertainment areas after Feb. 5, when the first group of 10 infected people were reported and the official start of the 14-day quarantine was announced.

Dr. Michael Ryan, the chief of emergencies at the World Health Organization, said earlier this month that the agency was working with Japanese officials to help passengers get off the ship as soon as possible.

"It's really important that there's an appropriate risk man-

agement approach being taken here," he said last week. He reminded countries of their obligations to respect the human rights of travelers and said they were working to ensure that "we don't end up with an unfortunate consequence of people having to stay too long in that situation."

Passengers were instructed to stay in their cabins and not walk around or contact other passengers. Those in windowless cabins could go out on the deck to take a walk or exercise for about an hour each day.

The two-week quarantine was largely for the passengers, because crew members kept sharing double rooms with their colleagues, and they continued to serve the guests by delivering food, letters, towels and amenities, and entering passenger cabins for cleaning. Crew members also cooked their own food and ate in groups in a crew mess hall.

"Unlike passengers, crew members share their rooms, they share food, and that's why some of them are infected even after the quarantine started," Shigeru Omi, a former regional director for the World Health Organization, said at a recent news conference.

Omi said quarantine is one of the measures considered effec-

tive early on. But the virus has already made its way into local communities across Japan, where untraceable cases have been popping up already, he said.

At this stage, "the spreading of the virus will be inevitable, and that's why quarantine is out of the question," Omi said.

He said the focus now should shift from border control to preventing the spread in local communities.

Other scientists said that passengers should have been removed from the boat from the beginning.

"Boats are notorious places for being incubators for viruses," said Arthur Caplan, a professor of bioethics at the New York University School of Medicine. "It's only morally justified to keep people on the boat if there are no other options."

Caplan said that a second quarantine was justified, but that officials had done a poor job of explaining from the outset what would happen if their original plan failed.

"It's never good to lose your civil liberties and your rights of movement, but two more weeks of quarantine is not an undue burden if you're trying to protect spread of a disease," he said. AP

AP PHOTO



China's closed: Palestinian traders fear losing a good deal

JOSEPH KRAUSS
& MOHAMMED
DARAGHMEH, HEBRON

THE West Bank city of Hebron is separated from the epicenter of China's virus outbreak by more than 4,000 miles and a ring of Israeli checkpoints. But even here the economic symptoms of the outbreak are starting to appear.

Palestinian markets have long been flooded by low-cost Chinese goods. Traders in Hebron, the largest Palestinian city and a commercial hub for the territories, fear that if the outbreak and quarantine efforts continue they will have to switch to more expensive alternatives, passing higher prices on to consumers in an already weakened economy.

Their concerns point to the potential for wide-ranging ripple effects from the outbreak in China, the world's largest exporter. The health crisis has already thrown the global travel industry into chaos and threatened to disrupt supply chains around the world that depend on China. That a city deep inside the Israeli-occupied West Bank is so reliant on Chinese goods illustrates the perils of global economic integration.

The illness, recently named COVID-19, first emerged in December in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. Since then, the virus — a new type of corona-

virus — has spread to about two dozen countries and infected more than 73,000 people. It has caused more than 1,800 deaths, nearly all in China. No cases have yet been identified in Israel or the Palestinian territories, but merchants have felt the impact and fear the worst is yet to come.

Samer Abu Eisha, a children's clothes wholesaler in Hebron, has been importing from China for more than two decades. He has a permit from Israel that allows him to fly from Ben Gurion International Airport to China's Guangzhou province every two months so he can place orders with factories there and supervise output.

But business ground to a halt last month as the outbreak gathered pace. Israel and neighboring Jordan have suspended all flights to China, shipments have been put on hold, and Abu Eisha says his agent in China is confined to his home because of a local quarantine.

If the situation continues he'll have to explore other options. The effects will vary from business to business, with some already feeling the pinch and others preparing to switch up supply lines — and raise prices — in the coming months.

"There is an alternative in Turkey, but it's not the same. It's not the same quality or the same workmanship or the same price," he said. "It's hard because all the raw

materials also come from China, so things will be more expensive."

He estimates he'll have to raise prices by up to 30%, which could pose difficulties in the local market. Decades of Israeli restrictions have hindered economic development in the West Bank, leaving many Palestinians reliant on low-cost imports.

"The economy here is terrible. In Palestine it's zero, or less than zero," Abu Eisha said.

Bilal Dwaik, another Hebron merchant who imports women's clothing from China, was supposed to travel there later this month but had to cancel his trip because of the outbreak. He says if it continues the effects will be felt across the region.

"The economies of the whole Arab world are not productive, they aren't self-sufficient," he said. "It's all dependent on imported goods, on Chinese goods."

Palestinian traders began flocking to China in the 1990s after the Oslo accords with Israel allowed the newly created Palestinian Authority to pursue an independent trade policy.

More than \$33 million of Chinese goods were imported in 1998. A decade later that figure had quadrupled, and in 2018 total imports from China reached \$425 million, according to the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics.

The imports have taken a heavy toll on local ma-

nufacturers, especially Hebron's famous shoemaking industry, which even produced boots for the Israeli army until the military switched to a U.S. supplier a few years back.

Abdo Idrees, the head of Hebron's Chamber of Commerce, says the number of factory workers making shoes has plummeted from 35,000 in the mid-1990s to fewer than 8,000 today.

"The world is intertwined," Idrees said. "The entire world is relying on China and no alternative has emerged."

Shifa Abu Saadeh, the general director of the Palestinian Economy Ministry, says some 700 factories in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip were shuttered in the 1990s alone. The Palestinian Authority has tried to stem the tide by imposing tariffs of up to 35% on imported goods, but competitively priced Chinese imports still fill local shelves.

The penetration of Chinese goods can be seen in the bazaar in Hebron's Old City, where the narrow stone alleys are lined with shops selling ceramics, embroidery and other souvenirs, much of it imported.

Abdelkarim al-Karaki says about half the souvenirs in his shop come from China — even the keffiyehs, which are the traditional Palestinian checkered scarf that the late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat almost always wore and made famous. AP

this day in history



1997 CHINA'S REFORMIST DENG XIAOPING DIES

China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping has died at the age of 92.

He had been suffering from failing health for several years and was last seen in public three years ago.

The country's official news agency said his death was the result of advanced stages of Parkinson's Disease complicated by a lung infection and that he had failed to respond to emergency treatment.

Although he was officially retired, no important decision affecting China was made without Deng Xiaoping's approval.

He was known internationally as the leader who crushed the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989 but also as the man credited with opening up China to economic reform.

Chinese radio's shortwave English language service praised his "outstanding" leadership as a "great Marxist and the true architect of China's socialist reforms and modernisation".

A funeral committee has been announced, to be headed by Jiang Zemin, which regional experts say makes him the most likely candidate to gain the leadership.

Meanwhile Tiananmen Square the symbolic heart of China and the communist party is reported to be peaceful, with no sign of extra security.

The BBC's Beijing Correspondent Humphrey Hawksley said that given Deng Xiaoping's stated disregard for the "cult of the personality" it was unlikely there would be any grand state funerals.

Humphrey Hawksley said: "Deng wished to hand over rule to a collective leadership of modern thinking technocrats and not a god-king that China has traditionally been accustomed to."

International reaction to the news has been complimentary about the dead dictator and his contribution to the world economy.

US Secretary of State Madeline Albright said he was "an historic figure" and that the US would continue to pursue a "multi-faceted relationship with China", based on issues of trade, the environment and human rights.

The UK's Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind expressed his hope economic and political reforms would gather speed, not only for China but to protect Hong Kong's future.

The British colony is due to be handed back to the Chinese in June and the Chinese leadership has already said it intends to dismantle a recently-implemented democratic system.

But Hong Kong Democratic Party Chairman, Martin Lee, says if the Chinese leadership tries to control Hong Kong "freedoms will be eroded".

"The rule of law will be whittled down. And that cannot be good because Hong Kong's freedoms are a foundation for a bright future," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

When Deng took power in 1978 he announced a new era of reform.

He dismantled collective farming and allowed private enterprise including special free market zones.

Politically, Deng had a reputation as a hardliner, and repeatedly ordered crackdowns on dissidents.

He drew global condemnation when he used the army to crush student demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

China is a military superpower, the world's most populous country, and has a vast economy experiencing both growth and diversification.

But political freedom remains heavily suppressed, and even the Chinese Communist Party's guarantee of liberal freedoms in Hong Kong is becoming questionable.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Can you hear your inner engine revving up? You're raring to go, and today is the perfect time for you to take off! The runway is clear and the skies are cloudless. Head off into the wild, blue yonder!

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Your self-discipline is stronger than ever, so you're in the best frame of mind to start a new fitness routine, join a gym, or invest in some new exercise equipment.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Give things time to sink in, and you'll come to a conclusion about how you feel. They really care about your honesty, so be ready to deliver them the good or bad news with compassion.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
If your attention is being divided between your home life and your public life, the best choice is to focus more on the issues that are going on around your home. Why?

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
If you shop around a bit, you'll find some great bargains. Don't worry that you're wasting your money. From time to time, you have to invest in things now that will help you earn more tomorrow.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Don't focus on the fact that you don't know exactly what they're thinking now. Focus instead on the fact that they're integrating you into their everyday life.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
It's going to be a super day for you, so get ready to smile and enjoy yourself. You deserve some easygoing energy, and the universe is sending a whole lot of it your way!

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
If waiting for the other person to make the first move makes you feel too passive today, then grab the power back! If you want things to move forward, take the first step and see if they follow you.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
This is a great day for dreaming big, but you have to make a point of figuring out what it is that you really want. Don't forget to let the world know what your hopes and wishes are.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You can reach an important compromise with an authority figure. It's all about sharing the same goal. If you have a different way of reaching it than they do, just explain yourself.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Some people think that being an intellectual is the same as being a snob, but you aren't one of those. Your mind is hungry for input, and it's seeking stuff that it has never even considered before.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Your patience (not surprisingly) might be running awfully thin right now, so feel free to tell them that you need to see a little bit more progress in order to feel as though you've been adequately heard.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

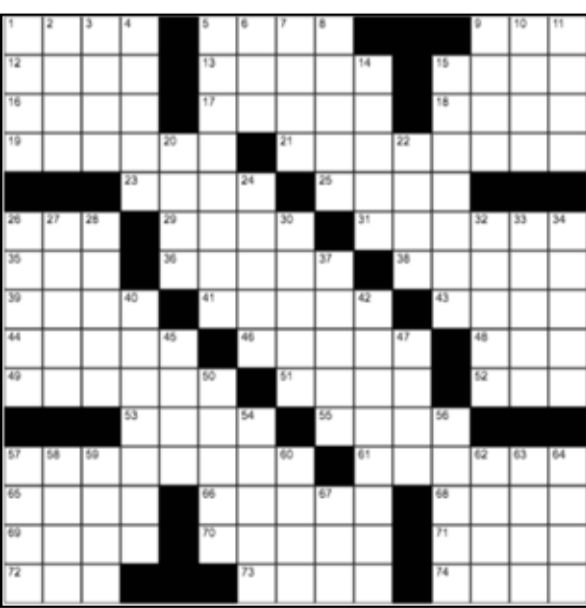
WEATHER

	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- Res ___ loquitur; 5- Where to wallow; 9- Anguish; 12- Charge per unit; 13- Zones; 15- James of "The Godfather"; 16- Potpourri; 17- Buy alternative; 18- Reflected sound; 19- Eye membrane; 21- Hazardous; 23- Terrier type; 25- Draw in; 26- Actress Zadora; 29- Biblical birthright seller; 31- Lose; 35- Part of ETA; 36- Same here; 38- Pad user; 39- Arrived; 41- Buddy; 43- Geraint's lady; 44- ___ Gay; 46- "Dallas" matriarch; 48- Had a bite; 49- Administer; 51- Hard to hold; 52- Gal of song; 53- Burn slightly; 55- Exceeded the limit; 57- In the middle; 61- Saws; 65- Cleveland's lake; 66- Razor sharpener; 68- Capital of Italy; 69- Give for a while; 70- Peace goddess; 71- Prepare a book or film for release; 72- Falsehood; 73- Redolence; 74- Fast fliers;

DOWN: 1- Camaro model; 2- ___ Alto; 3- Arouse; 4- Ages; 5- SE Asian country; 6- Indignation; 7- Harvest; 8- Backing for an exhibit; 9- Texas city; 10- Island of Hawaii; 11- Son of Seth; 14- Watery animal fluid; 15- Actress Holm; 20- ___ out a living (barely got by); 22- Coloured part of the eye; 24- Words on a Wonderland cake; 26- Walked back and forth; 27- Teheran native; 28- Defense covering; 30- Of some benefit; 32- Home and Olin; 33- Writer Loos; 34- Warble; 37- Leers at; 40- Voted into a seat; 42- Translucent, waterproof parchment; 45- Dull pain, often in the head or back; 47- Watched warily; 50- Foot bones; 54- Back in; 56- Challenges; 57- Prison room; 58- ... ___ saw Elba; 59- Mudville complement; 60- Historic Scott; 62- Deities; 63- Send forth; 64- Tennis matches are divided into these; 67- Lennon's love;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Large 3/4 Bedroom Apartment, Coloane HK\$12,980,000 2,530ft² 3bed 2bath 2park</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Renovated Luxury Unit, Central Macau \$20,000/mth 2bed 2bath</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Taipa] 2 connected unit 4bed 2bath 1,404 ft² \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)</p> <p>[Macau] Lakeview Tower 3bed 2bath 1,344 ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Nova City 3bed 2bath 1,515 ft² \$11,750,000 (ref: 19106001)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2bed 2bath 1,349 ft² \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Taipa] Nam Long 2bed 1bath 645 ft² \$11,800/mth (ref: 19111001)</p> <p>[Coloane] Hellene Garden 1bed 3bath 3park 1,663 ft² \$14,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Taipa] Nova Grand 2bed 1bath 935 ft² \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091005)</p> <p>[Cotai] One Grantai 3bed 3bath 2,122 ft² \$23,000/mth (ref: 19030001RT)</p>
---	---	---	--

(853) 2835 2699
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com
f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty

AP PHOTO



A man walks past a branch of HSBC bank in Hong Kong

HSBC CUTS HEADCOUNT BY 35,000 IN DEEP OVERHAUL

DANICA KIRKA
& ELAINE KURTENBACH

HSBC will shed some 35,000 jobs as part of a deep overhaul to focus on faster-growing markets in Asia and as it tries to cope with a slew of global uncertainties, from Brexit to the trade wars to the new coronavirus.

The interim chief executive, Noel Quinn, said yesterday the number of people employed by the bank would fall from 235,000 to 200,000 in the next three years. Some of the reductions would

come from attrition as opposed to outright cuts.

HSBC, which is based in London but does most of its business in Asia, is caught among myriad uncertainties. From Brexit uncertainties to the Hong Kong protests and trade disputes between the

United States and China. Now the new coronavirus is adding further uncertainty.

The bank's net profit fell 53% to \$6 billion in 2019 and, for this year, it warned of "significant disruption" to its business due to the outbreak of the virus in China.

The bank has been carrying out a corporate overhaul designed to boost profitability by focusing on high-growth markets in Asia

HSBC's operations in Europe are also under pressure. It must now also grapple with Britain's departure from the European Union and the uncertainty that will accompany negotiations future trade relations.

"No trade negotiation is ever straightforward," HSBC said in a statement. "It is essential that the eventual agreement protects and fosters the many benefits that financial services provide to both the U.K. and the EU."

The whopping headcount drop comes amid a downsizing in Europe. The restructure involves "consolidating" of some parts of the business and "reorganising the global functions and head office," Quinn said.

The bank has been carrying out a corporate overhaul designed to boost profitability by fo-

cusing on high-growth markets in Asia while shedding businesses and workers in other countries. It plans to revamp its U.S. and European business and shed \$100 billion in assets to improve profitability.

"Our immediate aims are to increase returns, create the capacity to invest in the future, and build a platform for sustainable growth," Quinn said in the statement.

The sharp drop in 2019 profit reflected slower economic activity but also a \$7.3 billion write-down for HSBC's Global Banking and Markets and Commercial Banking divisions in Europe. Revenue rose 5.9% in 2019 to \$55.4 billion.

The bank said it would shrink its sales and trading and equity research in Europe and shift resources to Asia. In the U.S., HSBC plans to grow its international-client corporate banking business.

The restructuring is expected to cost \$6 billion, with another \$1.2 billion for asset sales, mainly in 2020 and 2021, the bank said.

Richard Hunter, Head of Markets at interactive investor, said the toxic mix of pressures also comes at the same time that current net interest rate environment has dropped — to 1.58% from 1.66% — "with few if any signs on the horizon of an uplift." Banks tend to make less money when rates are low as it squeezes their lending business.

"There remain more questions than answers as HSBC looks to overhaul its business in radical fashion," Hunter wrote. "Quite apart from the economic challenges, there remains space at the top for a replacement chief executive, the search for whom is an additional distraction. The bank seems determined to target its unacceptably performing units but this will take time, courage and capital." AP

AD



anima
澳門愛護動物協會
SOCIEDADE PROTECTORA DOS ANIMAIS DE MACAU
SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS (MACAU)

Anima is recruiting an Assistant Veterinary

Job: Assistant Veterinary
Local: Anima's shelters
Experience: Experience with small animals like cats and dogs.
Requirements: Resident, well organized, dedicated and friend of animals, fluent in Portuguese or Chinese and English (written and orally)
Working Days: 5 (five) days per week, 8 hours per day
Annual leave: 15 calendar days or 11 working days
Salary: MOP14,000 to MOP22,000, net of taxes, according to experience, 13 salaries per year and housing allowance of three thousand patacas per month.

If you are interested, please send your CV in English to info@animamacau.org up to the end of March.



anima
澳門愛護動物協會
SOCIEDADE PROTECTORA DOS ANIMAIS DE MACAU
SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS (MACAU)

Anima is recruiting a CEO

Job: Executive management
Local: Anima office
Experience: At least ten years experience in management of shelters or Animal Welfare Associations.
Requirements: Lover or Activist for the rights of Animals, resident, well organized, dedicated and capable to plan, organize, leader and control. Good skills in computer and financial management.
Fluent in Portuguese or Chinese or English (written and orally).
Working Days: 5 (five) days per week, 8 hours per day.
Annual leave: 15 calendar days or 11 working days.
Salary: MOP40,000 to MOP50,000, net of taxes, according to experience, 13 salaries per year and housing allowance of five thousand patacas per month.

If you are interested, please send your CV in English to info@animamacau.org up to the end of March.

TALES AZZONI, MADRID

FOOTBALL

BRAZILIAN teenager Reinier couldn't hold back the tears when he was officially introduced by Real Madrid late yesterday.

The 18-year-old Reinier had to compose himself a few times while speaking about his family's sacrifice to help him make it to the Spanish club. He also cried when the club showed a video of his highlights with Brazil's youth squads and former club Flamengo.

"It's thanks to my family that I'm here," Reinier said, wiping away tears. "It was hard to leave everything behind when I was young just so I could play."

The sacrifice has been justified, for now. For a reported fee of more than 30 million euros (\$32.5 million), Reinier has signed with Madrid until 2026. He is expected to initially play for the B team.

"I'm available to do whatever the club wants me to do," he said. "I'll always be giving my best."

His parents and one of his sisters were at Santiago Bernabéu Stadium for the presentation. Reinier did a

few tricks on the field and kicked balls to the few hundred fans in attendance. His mother cried when Reinier entered the field, and his father shed tears when Reinier's highlights were shown.

Reinier is the third Brazilian teen signed by Madrid in recent seasons, following Vinícius Júnior and Rodrygo. Vinícius Júnior also played for Flamengo. The transfers for each of them reportedly reached nearly 45 million euros. Both also were initiated in the B team before making it to the main squad.

"They all welcomed me very well," Reinier said about his new Brazilian teammates, who also include Casemiro, Marcelo, and Eder Militão. "I was already at Vinícius' home yesterday."

Club president Florentino Pérez said they were wel-

coming a player who used to pick Madrid as his team in video games, and whose father used to show him videos of Madrid great Zinedine Zidane, the team coach.

Like Vinícius Júnior when he was signed, Reinier has played only a few matches as a professional, though enough to impress Madrid.

Reinier is a creative attacking midfielder who has been touted as one of the most promising youngsters in Brazilian soccer. He helped Flamengo last year win the Brazilian league and the Copa Libertadores.

This month, he helped Brazil Under-23s qualify for the Tokyo Olympics, wearing the No. 10 jersey.

Reinier said one of his idols was Kaká, the former Brazil and Real Madrid player. He also looked up to Zidane. Reinier won't need to watch videos anymore. AP

Tears of joy for Reinier as teen is presented by Real Madrid



WELCOME TO Playmate's Club
花心公子俱樂部

WILD NIGHT OUT

Come and buy a Standard drink Mop45 only
You can see a European Striptease Show

Business Hours: 8:00pm-4:00am
No admission under 18

Address: Basement, Hotel Guia, Macau Tel: 28532081 www.macauplaymatesclub.com

MACAUCLOSER
生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE

MACAUCLOSER
ANA MOURA

ON SALE
JAN/FEV Issue

OPINION

Animal Farm

Albano Martins



FOR US TO THINK ABOUT!

The Government has taken steps to address the current situation.

These are positive measures, but most will only start to apply when this outbreak passes.

And until then? What do we do? How are we to survive? Workers and Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs), in particular, will be in dire straits.

In the situation in which Macau is today, with an economy highly based on gambling heavily dependent on the masses that were considered to be the best option for the development of the casino industry and for the diversification of the rest of the economy, the spread of any highly contagious virus is made much easier in this small territory with roughly 33 km of area.

Of course, this opportunity of the masses in an ideal scenario - without viruses. It is of interest to almost everyone whose livelihood depends on high demand from abroad, even to the casinos, because it is a less costly market. It does not, however, interest the city and other people who feel constrained by local amenities that have not grown or adapted to cope, especially when there is strong growth in the visiting population.

Last year we had almost 40 million visitors! Such a huge number of visitors affects the quality of life of the population.

The city with high rent costs and lack of labor, which had been accustomed to feed and utilize so many people, sees from one day to the next a punishing drop in demand both from abroad and from its people.

It is therefore necessary for the Macau government to reconsider its measures and focus on the ones that can immediately help companies and workers.

The most difficult thing is not to know how to do it but to take the decision to intervene in this wild and overprotected market.

The real estate market, for example, is in a downturn so rent adjustments make perfect sense. For everybody.

The government itself has set an example!

The government has already realized that it is time to accept there will be costs. Closing the casinos for 15 days will cost something like MOP4.687 billion in lost government revenue due to economic inactivity and taxes on forgone casino revenue.

Note, all the other taxes added up brought something like MOP13.4 billion to the government in the whole year of 2018, equivalent to what was taxed on the casinos in just 1 month and 14 days approximately!

Macau will cope without this tax revenue!

A decision that is radical but one that must be considered.

However, with due consideration now that the coffers are full, Macau needs to be bold and efficient.

Probably, in an emergency, what will solve the problem of SMEs and workers is non-refundable support.

Many of the companies that currently have financial support from the government have not even finished paying down debt from the last typhoon.

Supporting the wages of SME workers for a certain period of time is an option. That is, this support would be assessable and controlled because these workers are registered with the DSF [Financial Services Bureau]. Increasing the interest-free loan amounts through the DSE [Economic Bureau] to two million patacas and/or guaranteeing an interest subsidy on bank loan applications for imported purchase orders with capital grace periods of one year is another example. But who is to guarantee the loans?

A further reduction of the complementary income tax (IC) and the professional tax (IP) can be done in a more efficient and less bureaucratic way than the current option.

But this is support for after the storm, not for during the storm.

All support should be guaranteed for a period longer than the end of the crisis in order to allow companies and the community to recover the losses or income forgone due to the epidemic before public intervention.

HUGE LOCUST OUTBREAK IN EAST AFRICA REACHES SOUTH SUDAN

THE BUZZ

The worst locust outbreak that parts of East Africa have seen in 70 years has reached South Sudan, a country where roughly half the population already faces hunger after years of civil war.

Around 2,000 locusts were spotted inside the country, Agriculture Ministry told reporters.

The locusts have been seen in Eastern Equatoria state near the borders with Ethiopia,



Kenya and Uganda. All have been affected by the outbreak that has been influenced by the changing climate in the region.

The situation in those three countries "remains extremely alarming," the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said in its latest Locust Watch update. Locusts also have reached Sudan, Eritrea, Tanzania and more recently Uganda.



INDIA HASTILY BUILDS WALL ALONG SLUM AHEAD OF TRUMP VISIT

AJIT SOLANKI, AHMEDABAD

A half-kilometer brick wall has been hastily erected in India's Gujarat state ahead of a visit by U.S. President Donald Trump, with critics saying it was built to block the view of a slum area inhabited by more than 2,000 people.

"Since they are spending so much money on this wall, why not use that to improve our slum and provide better facilities for us," said Keshi Saraniya, a resident. "Why are they hiding us poor people?"

Trump is visiting the city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat during a two-day trip to India next week to attend an event called "Namaste Trump," which translates to "Greetings, Trump," at a cricket stadium along the lines of a "Howdy Modi" rally attended by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Houston last September. Trump is to drive along a road next to the slum and will be accompanied by Modi, who is from Gujarat.

News reports said the wall was originally planned to be 1.8-2.1 meters high but was reduced to 1.2 meters after it received widespread

publicity.

Senior government official Bijal Patel said the wall was built "for security reasons" and not to conceal the slum.

"Apart from security reasons, the wall is also part of a beautification and cleanliness drive," she said.

Trump is visiting Ahmedabad during a two-day trip to India next week to attend an event called 'Namaste Trump,' which translates to 'Greetings, Trump'

Several political leaders were quick to criticize the wall's construction, questioning Modi's development work in his own state. Modi was chief minister of Gujarat for 12 years before becoming the country's prime minister in May 2014.

Authorities also served eviction notices to 45 families living in another slum area near the cricket stadium.

The residents said they were asked to leave because of the upcoming event, but the city's civic body denied it.

"We have been living here for the last 20 years and now we are suddenly being told to

vacate because some important leader is visiting this city for a day," said Sanjay Patani, a resident. "This is injustice."

Kishore Varna, a government official, said the land belongs to the civic body and evictions were done under the law. He didn't say why the eviction notices were sent just days ahead of Trump's visit.

Trump, who has pledged to build a wall along America's border with Mexico to stop people from entering the U.S., is visiting India on Feb. 24-25. His visit is aimed at smoothing ties strained by trade disputes and could

also allow him to woo tens of thousands of Indian-American voters ahead of the U.S. presidential election.

Trade tensions between the two countries have escalated since the Trump administration levied tariffs on steel and aluminium from India.

India responded with higher tariffs on agricultural goods and restrictions on U.S. medical devices, prompting the U.S. to retaliate by removing India from a decades-old preferential trade program. Associated Press writer Sheikh Saaliq in New Delhi contributed to this report. AP

Germany is sending a second shipment of medical aid to China to help the Asian giant fight the coronavirus epidemic that has infected over 73,000 people. German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said yesterday the government is sending 8.7 tons of aid supplies worth 150,000 euros, including protection gear and disinfectants.



Afghanistan Ashraf Ghani won a second term as president of Afghanistan, the country's independent election commission announced yesterday, more than four months after polls closed. The commission said Ghani garnered 923,592 votes, or 50.64%, in the election that took place last Sept. 28. His main challenger, the country's chief executive Abdullah Abdullah received 720,841 votes, or 39.52%.



Pakistan A gas leak in the southern port city of Karachi has killed 14 people and sickened hundreds more. The leak set off a panic in Karachi and raised concerns because city officials could not immediately identify the source and the type of gas involved. Officials said there was no suspicion of sabotage. The apparently odorless gas, which causes severe breathing problems, has sickened hundreds.



Syria The United Nations human rights chief urged Syrian government forces and their allies to allow safe corridors in conflict areas in northwestern Syria, where a military offensive has unleashed a massive wave of fleeing civilians in one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes in the long civil war. Michelle Bachelet told reporters in Geneva it was "cruel beyond belief" that civilians live under plastic sheeting in freezing conditions while getting bombed.