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Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

Greater Bay Plan

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Data Increase Again

CTM

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Japan Two elderly passengers taken off the quarantined cruise ship Diamond Princess because they were infected with the new virus have died, Japan's Health Ministry said yesterday, becoming the first fatalities from the virus-stricken vessel. Japan now has three deaths linked to the COVID-19 illness.

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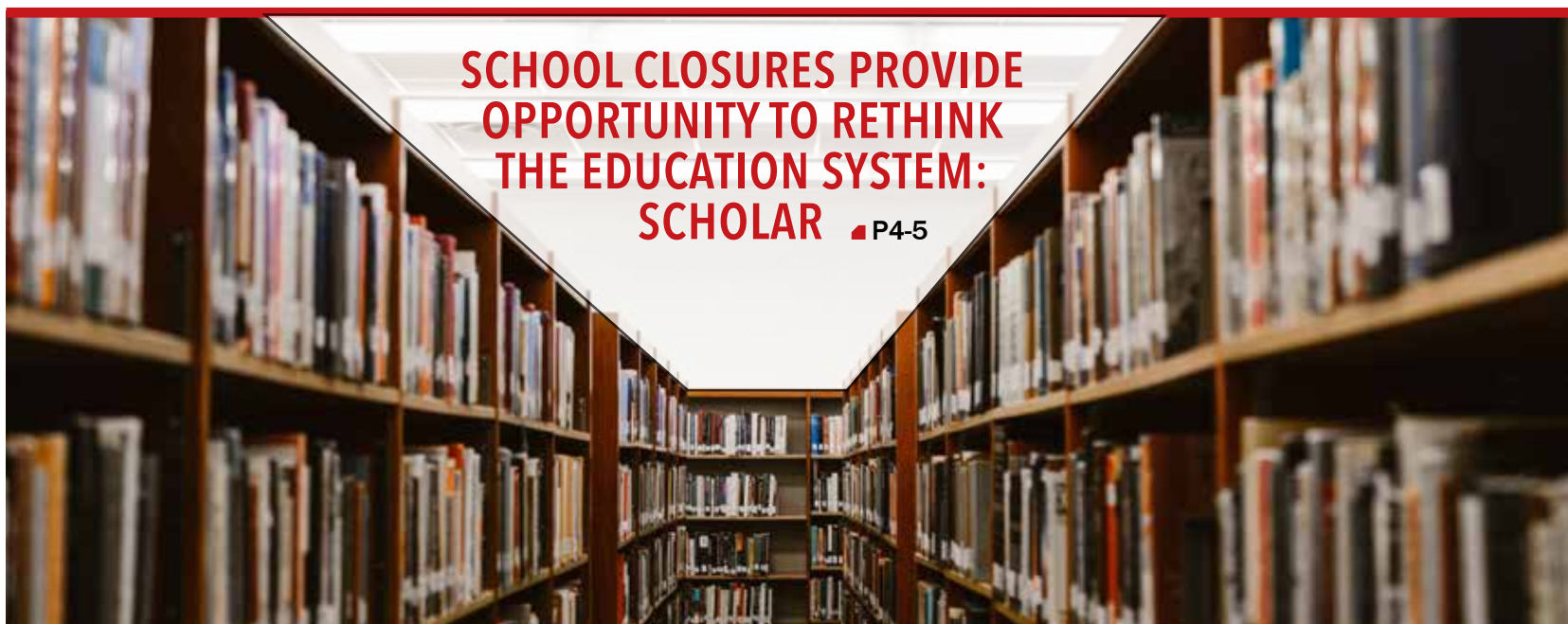
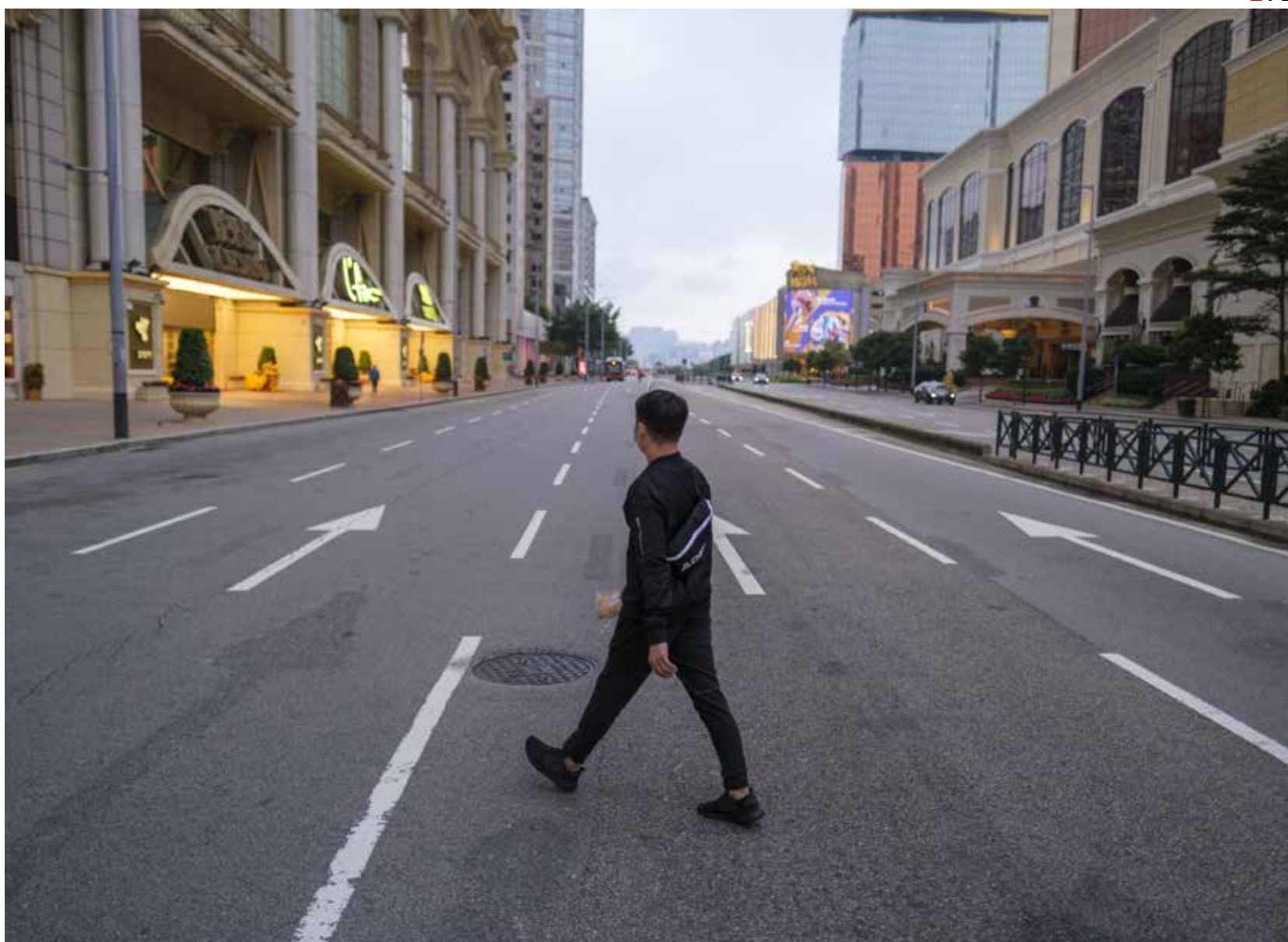


Australia Around 180 Australians evacuated from a virus-stricken cruise ship in Japan arrived in the city of Darwin to begin a second quarantine period. The former cruise ship passengers will spend the next two weeks in a camp facility near Darwin, health officials said. The new coronavirus that causes the COVID-19 illness has infected more than 620 people on the Diamond Princess. More on p3,7



Thailand's government is scrambling to cope with new travel restrictions after Israel banned the citizens of Thailand and three other Asian countries and territories from entering over concerns about a new virus. Israel this week announced it was refusing entry to all foreign nationals who traveled to Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong and Macau during the past 14 days. Israel has so far confirmed no cases of COVID-19 infections inside the country.

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SCHOOL CLOSURES PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY TO RETHINK THE EDUCATION SYSTEM: SCHOLAR

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PEOPLE WITH NO SYMPTOMS SHOULD NOT RUSH FOR COVID-19 TEST

People without respiratory symptoms need not seek medical testing and consultation at the Special Emergency Department of the Conde S. Januário Hospital, the Health Bureau has advised. The matter was raised by Dr Lo Iek Long of the hospital at the daily press briefing this Wednesday. He gave the reminder because some mainland people who work in Macau have approached the hospital and requested a Covid-19 test. In addition to that, they requested that the hospital issue them a medical certificate stating they are not infected with the virus. Following inquiries, those workers from the mainland told the hospital that they were instructed by their employers to do so, hinting that their employers wanted to ensure their health. As a result, the bureau considered it essential to remind members of the public once again that only people with mild fever or respiratory symptoms should approach the government hospital for a test, as set out in the bureau's guidelines. Moreover, the hospital will not issue any such medical certificate.

POLICE REPORT TWO ILLEGAL GAMBLING CASES

A group of six Macau locals have been charged with illegal gambling, according to the Public Security Police Force (PSP). The PSP recorded this case on Monday, when five men and one woman in the group were charged with illegal gambling. The PSP officers found the group gambling inside the leisure area in Travessa da Begónia. The officers found a game of poker and approximately 5,000 patacas among the players. The PSP believes that the money was used for the gambling. On the same day, the PSP found another eight people gambling inside a shop. The owner of the shop was charging 50 patacas per hour for each gambling table in addition to 10 patacas for every game from the winning gambler. The PSP charged the owner with illegal gambling as well.

90% OF FLIGHTS BEFORE END OF MARCH CANCELED

Approximately 90% of the flights scheduled to take place by the end of March have been or will be canceled, according to the Macau International Airport. The airport said that more than half of the airlines operating in Macau have notified the airport regarding flight suspensions scheduled before the end of March. These flights involve multiple countries, including Thailand, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea, among other regions. The airport is expected to operate 180 fewer flights per day. Airlines will continue to update flight schedules in accordance with current developments.



SEVEN HOTELS RESUME OPERATION AS CASINOS OPEN

ANTHONY LAM

SIXTEEN short-term accommodation providers, including seven star-rated hotels and nine providers of budget accommodation, resumed operation yesterday, along with the reopening of 29 casinos across the city, the Macao Government Tourism Office announced at the government's daily press conference.

The reopening of the seven hotels will release a total of 2,073 rooms to the city. The four star-rated hotels that will remain closed are the Rocks Hotel at the Fisherman's Wharf, The 13 in Coloane, as well as the Conrad and the St Regis, both at Sands Cotai Central. The casino at Sands Cotai Central also remains closed.

With the resumption of operation, there are 13 accommodation providers, equivalent to 1,543 rooms, still not in operation.

Today sees the end of the third phase of government-arranged mask sale. Yesterday, Director Lei Chin Ion of the Health Bureau (SSM) was asked whether the government has secured the supply of face masks for the fourth phase.

In response, the director

said the sale of face masks is running smoothly. Further details on the fourth phase of the mask distribution system will be announced within a day or two. The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has been helping to maintain order at selling points and said yesterday that queues at each selling point have recently shortened, compared with those at the start of the phase.

Three government bureaus, namely the SSM, the Labor Affairs Bureau and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, joined together yesterday to conduct inspections at the public and employee areas of the Venetian Macao and the City of Dreams properties.

The SSM explained that they were inspected to confirm whether the properties have abided with the bureau's guidelines. Results were satisfactory, according to the SSM.

Currently, the government is intercepting people for tests at Macau's border checkpoints. The SSM has been asked several times for the list of "severely infected" areas. The bureau's director disclosed part of the list for the first time.

"With more than 1,000 cases and [the] steady growth of

new cases, I assure you that Guangdong is on the list," Lei said. "Meanwhile, Henan and Zhejiang provinces are on the list too."

The director also disclosed that three of the four provincial-level municipalities on the mainland are also on the list. "Shanghai, Beijing and Chongqing are on the list," the health regulator said, adding once again that the list is not final and will change from time to time as per the development of the epidemic.

Tourists coming in from these places, or who have been there in the past 14 days, will be sent for medical tests that will last for eight hours at the longest. Macau residents, on the other hand, will need to make a self-declaration regarding their travel history.

"All arrivals by land will be medically checked," said the director, referring mostly to the borders with Guangdong province. However, arrivals from Hong Kong via the new bridge should not be affected, because Hong Kong is not on the list of severely affected areas.

Lei was also questioned whether his bureau will tighten checks on Macau residents too. The health regulator stressed that government measures are regularly fine-

-tuned to cope with the changing situation.

"As Secretary [for Social Affairs and Culture] Ao Ieong U has said, if the situation worsens, measures may be implemented on Macau residents," Lei recalled. "We can't rule out any measure, but logically speaking, if we don't allow parks to reopen with 15 days clean [of new cases], people will complain."

"We can't block everybody from coming in. For example, if we don't exempt cross-boundary drivers, we may not have sufficient food and consumable supplies," the director pointed out. Despite this, he reminded members of the public to remain vigilant.

With regards to the influx of foreign workers, mainly from the mainland, into local residential buildings, Lei said in the long term it will help Macau combat the epidemic. In accordance with current requirements, they have made health declarations and had their body temperature screened as they entered Macau.

"Their staying in Macau will stop them from regularly and frequently crossing the borders," Lei explained. "Currently, they are considered healthy and should not be discriminated against."

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LYNZY VALLES

A slight increase in the number of tourist arrivals to the Macau SAR was recorded in the few days prior to the casino openings, which opened their gates to the public at midnight Thursday.

Data announced yesterday by the Public Security Police Force shows that from January 27 to February 19, Macau received a total of 220,000 tourist arrivals, representing a 92% year-on-year decrease.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, there was a total of only 2,920 tourist arrivals going through the city's immigration checkpoints – a figure lower than yesterday.

On Wednesday, the SAR recorded a total of 5,800 incoming tourist arrivals, nearly double that of the day before.

However, numbers may not recover anytime soon, as visitors from Macau's top source market are still mostly blocked from traveling to the region due to the Chinese central government's suspension of the individual visit scheme.

The Chinese government is still banning overseas tou-

Visitor arrivals remain subdued, unlikely to face rapid recovery

ris and the purchase of flights and hotels abroad, calling on travel agencies to suspend package tours, which account for more than half of the country's outbound travel.

The city's tourism figures are therefore expected to be significantly down, at least in the first quarter or half of the year.

The tourism authority told the Times that it would need to revise a negative growth forecast for 2020 made last year.

"For the year of 2020, MGTO forecasted a decrease in visitor arrivals and will further revise the forecast in consideration of the coronavirus outbreak," said MGTO. "Support measures for affected sectors are being considered and may come in due course, nevertheless, at this stage the priority is to first and foremost contain the virus."

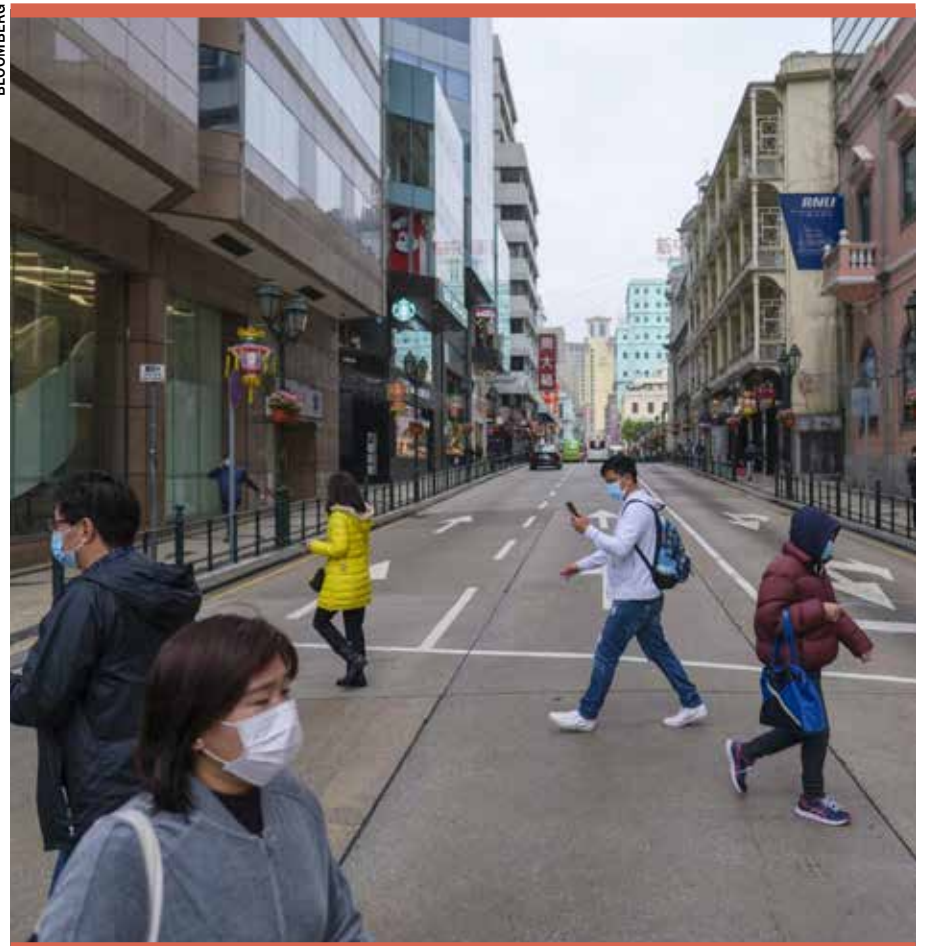
Since the Covid-19 outbreak, the SAR has turned into a ghost town, with usually

crowded places seen with almost no residents or tourists walking around.

The outbreak of Covid-19 has affected travel and led to a decrease of 78.3% in visitor arrivals during this year's Spring Festival, among which the major visitor source market – mainland China – dropped by more than 80%, while visitors from Hong Kong, Taiwan region and international markets have all reduced by half.

Around this time last year, the SAR was recording around 126,000 daily tourist arrivals, which means that arrivals for this month have fallen by about 96%.

Yesterday, Taiwanese budget airline Tigerair Taiwan said that it had extended its service cancellations for all its flights to and from Macau in April, while other flights to and from Southeast Asia have been cancelled until the end of March.



Over half of gaming workers concerned about jobs

JULIE ZHU

OVER half of the local gaming sector's employees have expressed concern about losing their jobs this year, according to a survey conducted by the Gaming Employees Home.

Between February 10 and 13, the association conducted an online questionnaire survey aimed at gaming sector's employees. A total of 1,694 employees completed the questionnaires. Some 63.7% and 20.6% of respondents are, respectively, casino dealers and pit bosses.

Faced with the impact of the epidemic outbreak on the tourism and gaming industry, 53.1% of respondents reported being worried about an eventual layoff this year, while only 15.6% said they were not worried.

On Wednesday, President of the New Macau Gaming Staff Rights Association Cloee Chao said that two of the city's six



People watch the reopening of the Grand Lisboa casino

gaming operators have already granted paid leave to workers who will not be resuming work for the time being. The remaining four gaming operators have requested that their casino workers take unpaid leave or annual leave in advance.

Workers from one of the gaming operators claimed that their employer even requested they take annual leave from the 2021 calendar year in addition to this year.

The survey results also showed that the majority of local gaming workers

worry about their remuneration. The majority of respondents (75.5%) are worried about salary and benefit cuts within this year, whereas only 8% said they do not have such concerns.

Between February 5 and 19, Macau's casinos were shutdown. During this period, 94.2% of casino workers were completely off duty. Of these off-duty respondents, 10% have not set foot outside their homes, whereas 72.1% left home one to three times each week. About 82.7% of respon-

dents went out to do grocery shopping.

The survey indicates a significant change in casino workers' mental attitude towards the epidemic before and after the casino shutdown. The number of people who worry about the epidemic significantly dropped after the casinos were closed.

Before the shutdown, 80.7% of respondents were worried or very worried about getting infected. After the shutdown, only 47.9% were worried about infection. Nearly half of the gaming workers continued to experience anxiety in the past week.

The city's casinos reopened at midnight on Thursday. Gaming Employees Home is urging the casinos to intensify the health inspection of their customers. The association also wants the gaming operators to reveal work schedule arrangements for workers and to make no-layoff promises.

MACAU RESIDENTS STILL ON QUARANTINED CRUISE SHIP

FIVE Macau residents on board a quarantined cruise ship in Japan were not able to fly back to Hong Kong yesterday on one of two chartered flights after some of them reported "close contact" with people infected with the Covid-19 coronavirus.

According to information disclosed by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), at least two of the five Macau residents on the Diamond Princess cruise ship had been scheduled to fly back yesterday, until it was realized that they had come into "close contact with certain patients on the ship."

Subsequently, the Japanese authorities decided to prevent the residents from leaving the cruise ship. According to the MGTO, all five Macau residents are still on board the quarantined cruise ship, but it is unclear when they will be allowed to disembark.

Hong Kong public broadcaster RTHK reported that a second chartered flight scheduled to leave Japan

yesterday afternoon had been delayed, "amid uncertainty about when Japanese officials will issue the papers people need to leave."

The first flight, carrying 106 people, arrived in Hong Kong early yesterday, with all passengers transported to a newly-built public housing estate to face a 14-day quarantine period. About 100 more Hong Kong residents remain on the Diamond Princess cruise ship.

The Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) confirmed yesterday that although the Macau residents did not return on the first flight chartered by the Hong Kong government, "there is no indication so far that they have been infected by the new coronavirus."

"Upon arrival in Macau, they will be placed under medical observation and isolation for a period of 14 days in a designated location according to the requirements of the Macau Health Bureau," said the GGCT in a written statement to the Times. **DB/AL**

Educators expect only minor impact from

RENATO MARQUES

THE temporary closure of schools and academic institutions in response to the Covid-19 outbreak will have only minor effects on local education, agree Macau schools, education scholars and government authorities.

Now wrapping up the third consecutive week of suspension, the government has not yet indicated when schools might reopen. Although many expected the impact to be minor, some also warn that the full effects are still difficult to predict as the duration of class suspensions is yet to be determined.

Closed until further notice since January 30, Macau's education sector has been trying to cope with the measures ordered by the governmental authorities.

Because of their young age and the high concentration of people, school populations are always among the most vulnerable groups when it comes to infections.

When will local schools resume their normal activities? It is a question that no one seems to be able to answer.

It is a situation that leads to other questions – How will this still-unknown suspension period affect the performance of students and teaching staff during this academic year? Will the schools and universities be able to enforce plans to make up for the lost time?

The Times learned from several sources within the education sector that the effects of the temporary closure due to Covid-19 are likely to be minor, although some also agreed that it is still too soon to know how schools can make up for the lost time and how the students will respond to such efforts.

The government's official line, stated at a recent press conference, is that the health of the population takes priority over all else. Besides, a representative of the government recently said, a few weeks of suspension is not a lot

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY VIA UNSPLASH



in the context of a 15-year education.

Questioned by the Times, the vice president of the board of the Macau Portuguese School (EPM), Zélia de Oliveira Baptista, said, "The extent of how much [lost time can be recovered] will depend on the number of [school] days that had to be closed. Only when we resume the classes, will we be about to evaluate this after the teachers of each subject assess all the data."

For EPM, the problem caused by the long interruption of the classes runs through all years and school levels to a similar extent, so plans to make up for the lost time will be enforced across all levels. That being said, the years that are subject to examinations

For education scholar Teresa Vong, the Covid-19-induced school closures provide a rare opportunity to rethink a few aspects of the Macau education system

at the end of the school year will be given further attention.

"We will try to do the same for all years and classes, but the subjects that are subject to [Portuguese national level] exams will be our priority in the measures we will take," Baptista said, adding that happens mostly with subjects from grade nine as well as eleventh and twelfth grades.

In the Portuguese education system, students must complete national level exams to access the tertiary education level.

In a comment to the Times, the head of school at The International School of Macao (TIS), Mark Lockwood highlighted the need to follow strict protocols and procedures to avoid any contamination with the virus, adding that the safety and health of everyone involved in the education community is the highest priority.

"To date, the impact on the students' studies has been minimal. When we return to regular classes, we will have strict protocols and procedures in place that will align with the government's requirements to protect students, staff, parents, and visitors," Lockwood said.

"At TIS, our teachers are working hard to promote and deliver the learning through online platforms. It is going very well, but as with all schools in Macau, we are looking forward to getting

back to working with our students in classrooms when it is safe to do so."

The head of school noted also that TIS is establishing plans and strategies according to the evolution of Covid-19 in the region and the neighboring areas, communicating with the community regularly.

Teresa Vong, an associate professor of the University of Macau's Faculty of Education, expressed the opinion that the suspension of formal learning, although it may carry some consequences, in general terms and as long as it is not too long, should not cause any significant difference in terms of the overall academic performance of students.

"Suspension of school, of course, has some effects on formal school learning because we are supposed to have students having all-rounded learning activities at school. However, I personally don't think this – hopefully – short suspension will bring many effects on the academic performance of the students," Vong said.

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has already said that it will not require schools and education centers to make up for lost time by, for example, cutting short the summer break period. Instead, it has recommended that schools make

TOP PEDIATRICIAN BACKS SCHOOL CLOSURES

THE Head of Pediatrics Service of the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center (CHCSJ), Jorge Sales Marques, supports the idea that keeping schools closed for the time being is a very important measure to contain the spread of Covid-19 in Macau.

The physician said in an interview with Lusa Agency that there are objective reasons why schools have not resumed classes since the Lunar New Year holidays.

"In schools, people are completely crowded in small spaces; the gap between desks is extremely small," the pediatrician said, advancing that such a fact significantly increases the risk of infection, es-

pecially when combined with long periods of time in the same classroom and lack of air circulation.

For the expert, who is part of the team of decision-makers in the government to determine the preventive measures to fight the virus outbreak, it is very difficult to forecast when schools will reopen, as currently, the health authorities still consider that Macau is in a critical period of the outbreak.

"If the classes are going to restart at the end of this month, or the beginning of the next month, this is a detail that for now is not under discussion, because we need more concrete data to conclude what will be the 'ideal timing'," he advised. **RM**

Covid-19 shutdown



use of the suspension to work on revision, mostly via e-learning and remote study.

"As far as I know, most of the schools have provided some

kind of e-learning and more importantly, if we consider the [15-year-long] curriculum in a broader sense, instead of [a single] academic year, then we have

more space both for teaching and learning," said Vong.

Building on this point, the DSEJ told the Times that the measures enforced, and guidelines

provided to the schools aimed to provide help and let students, parents, and schools rest assured that the temporary class suspension will not harm the students' education.

"The class suspension period caused by force majeure such as typhoons, rainstorms, epidemics, among others, can be included in the 195 school days that are stipulated in the 'Curriculum Framework,'" the DSEJ replied, reaffirming the non-necessity of schools to enforce extra classes or extra time in this academic year to compensate for lost time during this critical period.

Indeed, for Vong, the Covid-19-induced halt to education provides a rare opportunity to rethink a few aspects of the education system.

"This incident is a good chance for teachers, principals, and policy-makers to rethink how learning really takes place and in what ways students enjoy learning and benefit more from learning. During normal school days, students are scheduled to learn lesson-by-lesson; they don't have any choice or even space for further exploration."

"During this period, some schools only request that students study two subjects a day. In this way, students have more time to explore the learning content in-depth," she said.

Besides, she noted also that there has been a significant amount of money invested in the development of information technology resources that have not been fully put to use.

"There are two reasons [to justify why they are not being used]: firstly, e-classes are not fully used

at the school level; secondly, students who stay in the mainland can't access them," the scholar noted.

Vong also believes now is a good opportunity to develop a child-parent relationship, provided that the parents do not need to work. But, for children who have not yet developed self-regulated learning, in cases where their parents have not been exempted from work, "these children will [suffer] and fall back even more. We need to identify this 'disadvantaged' group and offer more support in the future."

On the use of e-learning and remote study, the DSEJ said yesterday that it "took into consideration students' abilities and their situation and equipment at home" when issuing instructions. "The learning content should focus on revision," the education authority said, and "students' learning performance (e.g. homework) during class suspension will not count toward their academic results."

"For the first two weeks after class resumption, [classes] will continue to focus on consolidating the knowledge learned previously," the DSEJ instructions continue. "New lessons should be taught and learning assessments should be made only after students have adapted to class again. Assessment of content [examinations] should only include the learning content taught in the classroom," and not during the self-learning period.

These instructions should be followed by all schools under the DSEJ's Schools Network, which comprises the majority of the schools in Macau.

Trial of former IPIM chief scheduled for April

THE trial of former President of the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) Jackson Chang is scheduled for April 27, seven months after he was placed on remand in July, TDM Radio Macau has reported.

Last month, Chang was officially charged by the Public Prosecution Office (MP) for several crimes including corruption, money laundering and breach of secrecy, together with his wife and daughter.

He was also charged for other offenses in the process of assessing applications for, and granting residence permits to, investors and professionals.

Chang is currently being held in a high security prison, where former Secretary for Transport and Public Works Ao Man Long and former top prosecutor Ho Chio Meng are also serving time.

The former high-ranking official has been under criminal investigation since October 2018 for alleged irregularities regarding the granting of residency status through investment schemes, uncovered by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC).

Three high-level public servants including Chang and Gloria Batalha Ung—a former member of IPIM's executive committee—were under investigation

owing to their alleged commission of duty-related crimes in the process of vetting and approving residency applications.

Ung, who returned to IPIM late last year, is also on trial on charges of abuse of power and breach of secrecy.

The CCAC discovered during the investigation that between 2010 and 2018, a local business couple colluded with some other individuals to provide "one-stop services" to apply for "major investment immigration" or "technical immigration" on behalf of others by making use of over 50 companies opened or controlled by them and fabricating investment

projects, professional experience and employment relationships in order to make illicit profits.

Using these methods, the syndicate collected large amounts of money as "agency fees" from those applicants, who did not actually meet immigration requirements, involving a sum of over 10 million patacas.

The CCAC also found that Chang colluded with the syndicate by providing illegal assistance to the latter when it made immigration applications for others and actively facilitated the approval of the fraudulent applications.

"It also came to light that the former president, through his wife, daughter and his mistress in the Chinese mainland, received illicit advantages from the syndicate for a long time," the CCAC previously said. **LV**

MACAU STUDENT ESCAPES HOME QUARANTINE IN TAIWAN

A Macau student who breached his 14-day home quarantine period in Taiwan has been reported to the police.

The student currently lives in Pingtung County in southern Taiwan. According to a news report by Taiwan media, the Macau student cut his quarantine short by one day. Having entered Taiwan on February 6, his 14-day home quarantine would have been complete yesterday.

On February 19, he left his home to buy food. The Taiwanese government tracked down his location using a mobile location system and reported the case to the government authority of Pingtung County.

In case the Macau student is found to have violated

Taiwan's regulation because of his behavior, he may be punished in accordance with Taiwan's law on such matters.

Starting from February 6, Macau and Hong Kong residents were mandated to quarantine themselves at home for 14 days after arriving in Taiwan. Leaving their quarantine premises may result in a penalty of between 10,000 and 15,000 New Taiwan Dollars.

As of yesterday, in Pingtung County, 448 people were under home quarantine.

As of February 12, nearly 1,200 Macau students are unable to return to Taiwan to resume their studies after the Taiwan government suspended Hong Kong and Macau residents' entry to the territory. **JZ**



A worker at HealthMap, a system using artificial intelligence to monitor global disease outbreaks

COVID-19

CAN AI FLAG DISEASE OUTBREAKS FASTER THAN HUMANS? NOT QUITE

MATT O'BRIEN & CHRISTINA LARSON, BOSTON

DID an artificial-intelligence system beat human doctors in warning the world of a severe coronavirus outbreak in China?

In a narrow sense, yes. But what the humans lacked in sheer speed, they more than made up in finesse.

Early warnings of disease outbreaks can help people and governments save lives. In the final days of 2019, an AI system in Boston sent out the first global alert about a new viral outbreak in China. But it took human intelligence to recognize the significance of the outbreak and then awaken response from the public health

community.

What's more, the mere mortals produced a similar alert only a half-hour behind the AI systems.

For now, AI-powered disease-alert systems can still resemble car alarms — easily triggered and sometimes ignored. A network of medical experts and sleuths must still do the hard work of sifting through rumors to piece together the fuller picture. It's difficult to say what future AI systems, powered by ever larger datasets on outbreaks, may be able to accomplish.

The first public alert outside China about the novel coronavirus came on Dec. 30 from the automated HealthMap system at Boston Children's Hospital. At

11:12 p.m. local time, HealthMap sent an alert about unidentified pneumonia cases in the Chinese city of Wuhan. The system, which scans online news and social media reports, ranked the alert's seriousness as only 3 out of 5. It took days for HealthMap researchers to recognize its importance.

Four hours before the HealthMap notice, New York epidemiologist Marjorie Pollack had already started working on her own public alert, spurred by a growing sense of dread after reading a personal email she received that evening.

"This is being passed around the internet here," wrote her contact, who linked to a post on the Chinese social media forum Pincong. The post discussed a Wuhan health agency notice and read in part: "Unexplained pneumonia???"

Pollack, deputy editor of the volunteer-led Program for Monitoring Emerging Diseases, known as ProMed, quickly mobilized a team to look into it. ProMed's more detailed report went out about 30 minutes after the terse HealthMap alert.

Early warning systems that scan social media, online news articles and government reports for signs of infectious disease outbreaks help inform global agencies such as the World Health Organization — giving international experts a head start when local bureaucratic hurdles and language barriers might otherwise get in

the way.

Some systems, including ProMed, rely on human expertise. Others are partly or completely automated.

"These tools can help hold feet to the fire for government agencies," said John Brownstein, who runs the HealthMap system as chief innovation officer at Boston Children's Hospital. "It forces people to be more open."

The last 48 hours of 2019 were a critical time for understanding the new virus and its significance. Earlier on Dec. 30, Wuhan Central Hospital doctor Li Wenliang warned his former classmates about the virus in a social media group — a move that led local authorities to summon him for questioning several hours later.

Li, who died Feb. 7 after contracting the virus, told The New York Times that it would have been better if officials had disclosed information about the epidemic earlier. "There should be more openness and transparency," he said.

ProMed reports are often incorporated into other outbreak warning systems, including those run by the World Health Organization, the Canadian government and the Toronto startup BlueDot. WHO also pools data from HealthMap and other sources.

Computer systems that scan online reports for information about disease outbreaks rely on natural language processing, the same branch of artificial intelli-

gence that helps answer questions posed to a search engine or digital voice assistant.

But the algorithms can only be as effective as the data they are scouring, said Nita Madhav, CEO of San Francisco-based disease monitoring firm Metabiot, which first notified its clients about the outbreak in early January.

Madhav said that inconsistency in how different agencies report medical data can stymie algorithms. The text-scanning programs extract keywords from online text, but may fumble when organizations variously report new virus cases, cumulative virus cases, or new cases in a given time interval. The potential for confusion means there's almost always still a person involved in reviewing the data.

"There's still a bit of human in the loop," Madhav said.

Andrew Beam, a Harvard University epidemiologist, said that scanning online reports for key words can help reveal trends, but the accuracy depends on the quality of the data. He also notes that these techniques aren't so novel.

"There is an art to intelligently scraping web sites," Beam said. "But it's also Google's core technology since the 1990s."

Google itself started its own Flu Trends service to detect outbreaks in 2008 by looking for patterns in search queries about flu symptoms. Experts criticized it for overestimating flu prevalence. Google shut down the website in 2015 and handed its technology to nonprofit organizations such as HealthMap to use Google data to build their own models.

Google is now working with Brownstein's team on a similar web-based approach for tracking the geographical spread of tick-borne Lyme disease.

Scientists are also using big data to model possible routes of early disease transmission.

In early January, Isaac Bogoch, an infectious disease physician and researcher at Toronto General Hospital, analyzed commercial flight data with BlueDot founder Kamran Khan to see which cities outside mainland China were most connected to Wuhan.

Wuhan stopped outbound commercial air travel in late January — but not before an estimated 5 million people had fled the city, as the Wuhan mayor later told reporters.

"We showed that the highest volume of flights from Wuhan were to Thailand, Japan, and Hong Kong," Bogoch said. "Lo and behold, a few days later we started to see cases pop up in these places."

Artificial intelligence systems depend on vast amounts of prior data to train computers how to interpret new facts. But there are no close parallels to the way China is enforcing quarantine zones that impact hundreds of millions of people. **AP**

NEW CHINESE VIRUS CASES DECLINE, BUT METHOD REVISED AGAIN

NEW virus cases in China have again declined, up just 394, after authorities yesterday again changed how they count new daily infections. They are now discounting cases that came back negative after laboratory tests. Another 114 people reportedly died from the new illness, Covid-19, as health inspectors went door-to-door to attempt to find every infected person in the worst-hit city of Wuhan. Mainland China has reported 2,118 deaths and 74,576 total cases. While the overall spread of the vi-

rus has been slowing, the situation remains severe in Hubei province and its capital, Wuhan, where the new coronavirus was first detected in December. More than 80% of the country's cases are in Hubei and 95% of the deaths, according to data from China's National Health Commission. The new daily figure is a notable drop from the 1,749 cases recorded the previous day. The commission said 279 cases were deducted from the daily report after nucleic acid tests showed negative results.

YONHAP news agency says South Korea has reported its first death from a new coronavirus.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention did not immediately provide details.

The report came as South Korea is struggling to cope with the outbreak and its economic fallout.

The mayor of the South Korean city of Daegu urged its 2.5 million people to refrain from going outside as cases of a new virus, linked to a church congregation, spiked and he pleaded for help from the central government.

Mayor Kwon Young-jin made the appeal in a nationally televised news conference after the southeastern city and its nearby towns reported 35 additional cases of infection with the new coronavirus.

Kwon also asked Daegu citizens to wear masks even indoors if possible. He expressed fears that the rising infections in the region will soon overwhelm the city's health infrastructure and called for urgent help from the central government in Seoul.

"National quarantine efforts that are currently focused on blocking the inflow of the virus (from China) and stemming its spread are inadequate for preventing the illness from circulating in local communities," Kwon said.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 28 of those 35 new patients went to church services attended by a previously confirmed virus patient or contacted her at other places inside a Daegu church. That patient is a South Korean woman in her early 60s who has no recent record of overseas travel, according to center officials. She tested positive for the virus on Tuesday, becoming the 31st case in South Korea.

On Wednesday morning, Daegu confirmed 13 cases and 11 of them either went to the same church with the woman patient or contacted her at a hospital, according to the disease control center.

The Shincheonji Church of Jesus, which claims it has about 200,000 followers in the country, said it has closed all of its 74 churches around the nation and told followers to instead watch its online worship services on YouTube. It said in a statement that health officials

COVID-19

South Korea reports first virus death as 2.5m urged to stay home



Workers wearing protective gear spray disinfectant against the new coronavirus in front of a church in Daegu yesterday

were disinfecting its church in Daegu, which the woman patient went to, while tracing her contacts. That Daegu church has about 8,000 followers.

According to the church statement, church officials had been advising followers since late January to stay at home if they had recently traveled overseas or were experiencing even mild cold-like symptoms. But the 31st patient assumed she was having a common cold and kept coming to her Daegu church because she didn't travel overseas, church officials said.

"We think it's deeply regrettable [...] for causing concerns to the local community," the statement said.

The explosion of infections in Daegu and the neighboring southeast region, as well as some new cases in the Seoul metropolitan area where the sources of infections were unclear, have raised concern that health authorities are losing track of the virus as it spreads more broadly in the country.

Kwon spoke shortly before South Korea's government for the first time acknowledged that the country was beginning to see a "community transmission" of the illness, albeit at a "limited range."

"We are seeing infections in some areas like Seoul and Daegu where

it's difficult to confirm the cause or routes of the infections," Kim Gang-lip, South Korea's vice health minister, said in a briefing.

"Our judgment is that (Covid-19) which has been introduced from abroad is beginning to spread through community transmissions in limited ranges," he said, adding that the government would need to change its quarantine strategy that has been focused on tracing contacts.

South Korea has reported a total of 82 cases of Covid-19, a disease first detected in Wuhan, China, in December.

In a telephone conversation with Kwon later yesterday, President Moon Jae-in said the central government will make all available assistance to help Daegu fight against the virus' further spread, according to the presidential Blue House.

TWO CRUISE PASSENGERS DIE

Two elderly passengers taken off the Diamond Princess cruise ship because they were infected with a new virus have died, Japan's Health Ministry said yesterday, becoming the first fatalities from the virus-stricken vessel.

Japan now has three deaths linked to the COVID-19 illness.

Japan's NHK public television said both were Japa-

nese in their 80s. A Health Ministry official only confirmed that they had been previously hospitalized in

serious condition and had existing chronic diseases. The official spoke to The Associated Press anonymously,

citing office protocol.

The Diamond Princess, docked in Yokohama port near Tokyo, started letting passengers who tested negative for the virus off the ship Wednesday, when the government-set 14-day quarantine ended. Yesterday, hundreds of other passengers were also expected to leave in a massive disembarkation process expected to last through Friday. Test results are still pending for some people on board.

Japan's government has been questioned over its decision to keep people on the ship, which some experts have called a perfect virus incubator. Some medical experts who observed the quarantine process on board also raised caution over lax protective measures on the ship. **MDT/AP**



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AP PHOTO



GERMANY

Nine killed in suspected far-right attack

MICHAEL PROBST
& FRANK JORDANS,
HANAU

A 43-year-old German man shot and killed nine people at several locations in a Frankfurt suburb overnight in attacks that appear to have been motivated by far-right beliefs, officials said yesterday.

The gunman first attacked a hookah bar in central Hanau at about 10 p.m. Wednesday, killing several people before heading about 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) west and opening fire again, claiming more victims.

Witnesses and surveillance videos of the suspect's getaway car led authorities quickly to his home, near the scene of the second attack, where he was found dead near his 72-year-old mother, said Peter Beuth, the interior minister for the state of Hesse.

A website believed to be the suspect's is being evaluated, Beuth said.

"Initial analysis of the webpage of the suspect indicate a xenophobic motivation," he said.

He said federal prose-

cutors have taken over the investigation of the crime and are treating it as an act of domestic terrorism.

"This is an attack on our free and peaceful society," he said.

Some of the victims are believed to be Turkish, and Turkey's Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the consulate in Frankfurt and the embassy in Berlin were trying to obtain information on the attack.

"According to the initial information, it was an attack with a racist motive, but we would need to wait for the (official) statement," he told state television TRT.

German news agency dpa reported that police are examining a video the suspect may have posted online several days earlier in which he details a conspiracy theory about child abuse in the United States. The authenticity of the video couldn't immediately be verified.

On a website registered by someone with the same name as the man in the video, Tobias R., the owner says he was born in Hanau in 1977 and grew up in the city, later

training with a bank and completing a business degree in 2007.

The attack comes amid growing concerns about far-right violence in Germany.

Chancellor Angela Merkel called off a planned visit to a university in Halle. Her spokesman, Steffen Seibert, said she was "being constantly kept abreast of the state of the investigations in Hanau."

Halle was the site of a deadly anti-Semitic attack last year. A man expressing anti-Jewish views tried to shoot his way into a synagogue, failed and killed two passers-by before being arrested.

The shooting in Halle came months after the killing of a regional politician from Merkel's party. The suspect had a long history of neo-Nazi activity and convictions for violent crime.

"Thoughts this morning are with the people of Hanau, in whose midst this terrible crime was committed," Seibert said on Twitter. "Deep sympathy for the affected families, who are grieving for their dead. We hope with those wounded that they

will soon recover."

In addition to those killed, Beuth said one person was seriously wounded and multiple other people suffered less serious injuries.

Police officers swarmed central Hanau, cordoning off the area of one of the shootings as a helicopter hovered overhead. A car covered in thermal foil also could be seen, with shattered glass next to it. Forensic experts in white overalls collected evidence.

Hookah lounges are places where people gather to smoke flavored tobacco from Middle Eastern water pipes.

"This was a terrible evening that will certainly occupy us for a long, long time and we will remember with sadness," Hanau Mayor Claus Kaminsky told the Bild newspaper. Lawmaker Katja Leikert, a member of Merkel's center-right party who represents Hanau in the German parliament, tweeted that it was "a real horror scenario for us all."

Hanau is about 20 kilometers east of Frankfurt. It has about 100,000 inhabitants and is in Hesse state. AP

this day in history



1972 NIXON MAKES HISTORIC VISIT TO CHINA

The American President Richard Nixon has arrived in China at the start of a week-long summit aimed at ending 20 years of frosty relations between the two countries.

His visit began with an unexpected audience with Chairman Mao Zedong at the leader's home. Few details have been released, but officials said the one-hour meeting involved a "serious and frank discussion".

After a modest reception at Peking airport, the president was formally welcomed at a lavish banquet held in the Great Hall of the People and hosted by Prime Minister Chou En-lai.

Mr Chou described Mr Nixon's long journey to China as a "positive move" responding to the wishes of the peoples of both countries.

He hinted at the years of tension between China and the United States - largely due to American support for nationalists in Taiwan - and credited both governments for "common efforts" to open the gate to better contacts at last.

The president responded positively. "There is no reason for us to be enemies," he said. "Neither of us seeks the territory of the other; neither of us seeks domination over the other; neither of us seeks to stretch out our hands and rule the world."

Using one of Mao's own quotations, Mr Nixon said it was time to seize the day and seize the hour "for our two peoples to rise to the heights of greatness which can build a new and better world".

There followed an elaborate round of toasts, in which the 800 guests at the banquet wandered from table to table clinking thimble-sized glasses containing Chinese firewater.

Commentators said the elaborate banquet was in marked contrast to the coolness of the president's reception at the airport.

This historic visit was engineered by the president's national security adviser, Dr Henry Kissinger, during two visits to China last year. It is part of a policy of rapprochement aimed at restoring diplomatic relations between the two sides.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The BBC carried extended news bulletins of President Nixon's ground-breaking visit to China - which included a walk along the Great Wall.

The Chinese people eagerly followed news of the visit and newspapers rapidly sold out.

The main diplomatic achievement of the visit was the Shanghai joint communiqué which declared Taiwan to be part of China.

Formal diplomatic relations were restored between the US and China in 1979 following a second communiqué which suggested a further weakening of US ties with Taiwan.

However, in the years since, Taiwan has remained a sticking point in relations. Different US administrations have chosen to maintain links with Taiwan by selling arms. President Bill Clinton attempted to persuade China to improve its human rights record by offering better trading conditions.

In February 2002, President George Bush visited China to mark the 30th anniversary of Nixon's historic trip. The two countries continue to disagree over Taiwan.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Don't be surprised if powerful people take notice and offer you the chance to display your abilities on a much larger stage. Let your ambition take over and lead you to the success you've deserved for a long time.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Exploration is the key to discovery. Do some digging on your latest prospect today, and you'll find excellent information that gives you the inspiration you need to turn someone's head.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You and the shopping mall aren't going to be a very healthy match today. From impractical shoes to high-calorie snacks, there are too many things calling your name that you don't need in your life right now.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

There is a lot of indecisive energy around you, and it could cause some scheduling delays. The good news is that whatever delays occur now could end up being for the best!



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Follow any urge you have to socialize today and it could take you to some very interesting places! Accept any invitation you get, and volunteer to help out in any way you can.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Cool, calm, and collected beats frantic, hyper, and bombastic any day of the week. Today, don't veer off on anything emotionally fueled when you communicate.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Prioritize your expenditures today. Are you putting all your resources in the right places? You don't have to cut back on all your spending. Letting go of your money isn't bad to do as such.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

What was the objective? What was the problem? Where did the fault lie? You'll find that the answers to these questions come quickly. Your next steps will be obvious and easy.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There is turmoil in one of your friendships, but don't worry too much about it. This person is going through a lot of uncertainty in their life, and there isn't anything you can do to help.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

They can provide all the stability or calming energy you may need. try not to isolate yourself too much today. Get together with people as often as you can, even if it's just to hang out and shoot the breeze.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If you just slow down and take advantage of the fact that you're getting along so well with other people, you'll be much happier. Surround yourself with as many people as you can all day long.

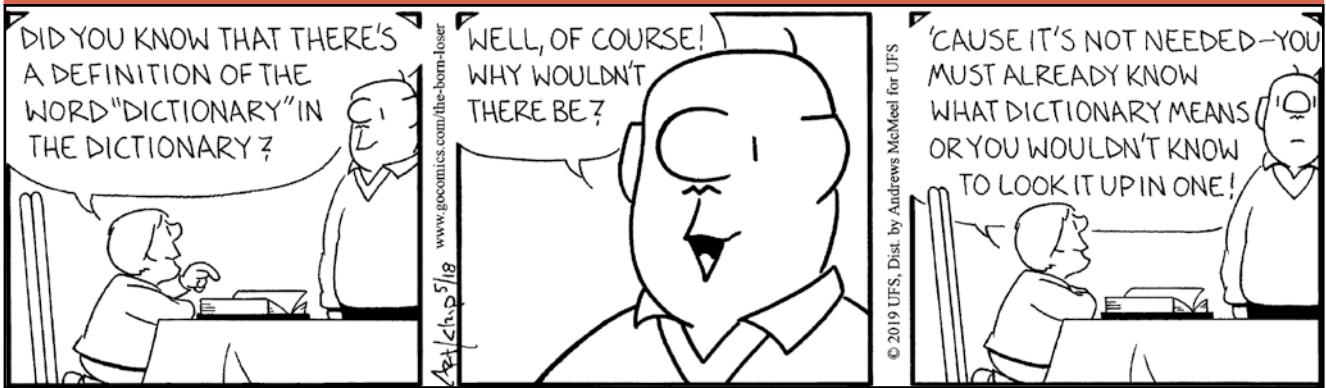


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

It's just another example of the "when you're right, you're right" principle! You could also get a glimpse of a future you thought you wanted today. Turns out, you're glad you took a different path.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-3	11	clear
Harbin	-12	0	heavy snow
Tianjin	1	10	overcast
Urumqi	-7	0	clear
Xi'an	-1	14	clear
Lhasa	-3	12	cloudy
Chengdu	7	16	cloudy
Chongqing	10	14	overcast
Kunming	5	21	clear
Nanjing	6	16	cloudy
Shanghai	8	18	cloudy
Wuhan	7	16	cloudy
Hangzhou	6	17	cloudy
Taipei	16	21	clear
Guangzhou	14	25	cloudy
Hong Kong	16	20	cloudy

WORLD

Moscow	-2	3	clear
Frankfurt	1	11	clear
Paris	4	11	clear
London	8	11	cloudy
New York	-10	6	clear

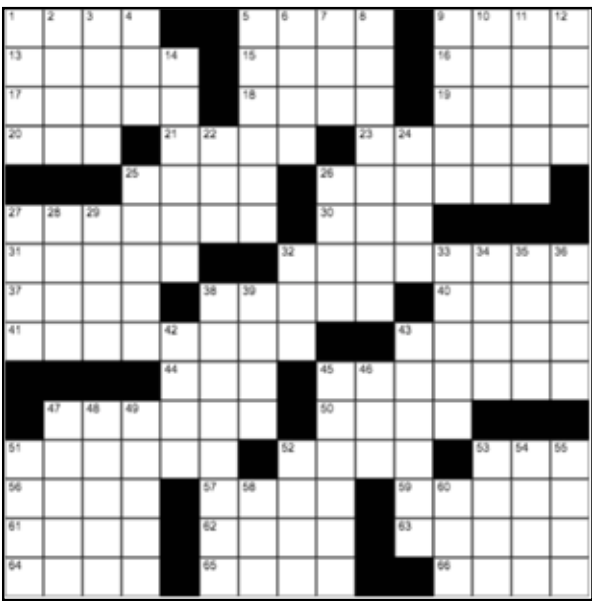
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- "_____ sprach Zarathustra"; 5- Roof overhang; 9- _____ forgive our debtors; 13- Hickory-nut; 15- Radiograph; 16- Of _____ I Sing; 17- Plumber's tool; 18- Quote; 19- Remove water from a boat; 20- Hall or Byrnes; 21- Not new; 23- Horse-drawn vehicle in India; 25- Discontinue; 26- Overjoyed; 27- Satisfied; 30- Gangster's gun; 31- Lend _____; 32- Large percussion instrument; 37- Capital of the Ukraine; 38- Merchandise; 40- Effortlessness; 41- Ingoing; 43- Lots of lots; 44- Period of human life; 45- Large ships; 47- Places of contest; 50- Finishes; 51- Dried grape; 52- Put on; 53- Mai _____; 56- Quod _____ demonstrandum; 57- Undecided; 59- Ruhr city; 61- Not one; 62- Large wading bird; 63- Pier; 64- Tolkien tree creatures; 65- Large town; 66- Buck follower;

DOWN: 1- Semicircular recess; 2- Give for a while; 3- Great quantity; 4- Cask wood; 5- Unless; 6- Dry and waterless; 7- Large container; 8- Monocle; 9- No longer on deck; 10- Apportion; 11- Off-the-wall; 12- Slippery; 14- Asexual; 22- Male offspring; 24- Panama and bowler; 25- Fend (off); 26- Mild oath; 27- Birthday treat; 28- Getting _____ years; 29- Nair rival; 32- Wet spongy ground; 33- Ship floors; 34- Steak order; 35- Manipulator; 36- Untidy condition; 38- Very large; 39- Change for a five; 42- Wife of a rajah; 43- One of the 12 apostles; 45- Microscopic; 46- "SNL" alum Gasteyer; 47- Biblical brother; 48- Cheerful; 49- Politico Kefauver; 51- Actor Auberjonois; 52- Habeas corpus, for one; 53- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; 54- Prefix with -drome; 55- Poop; 58- _____Wan Kenobi was a character in "Star Wars"; 60- Doo-wop syllable;

Yesterday's solution

L	A	D	E	N	R	I	S	E	S	A	C	E
A	D	E	L	E	E	N	T	R	E	L	O	A
C	A	N	O	E	S	O	A	R	S	T	R	S
D	Y	I	N	G	A	C	A	R	E			
N	A	N	K	E	E	N	A	M	O	R	A	L
A	G	E	N	D	A	A	C	M	E	S		
C	A	R	E	R	O	M	E	O				
H	I	V	E									
O	N	E	D									
H	E	R	E	I	N							
E	R	U	P	T								
I	A	N										
S	B	N										
T	E	Y										



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



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Large 3/4 Bedroom Apartment, Coloane
HK\$12,980,000 2,530 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

Renovated Luxury Unit, Central Macau
\$20,000/mth 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR SALE

[Taipa] 2 connected unit 4 1/2 2 1/2
1,404 ft² \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)

[Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,344 ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)

[Taipa] Nova City 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,515 ft² \$11,750,000 (ref: 19106001)

[Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,349 ft² \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Nam Long 2 1/2 1 1/2
645 ft² \$11,800/mth (ref: 19111001)

[Coloane] Hellene Garden 1 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2
1,663 ft² \$14,000/mth (ref: n/a)

[Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1/2 1 1/2
935 ft² \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091005)

[Cotal] One Grantai 3 1/2 3 1/2
2,122 ft² \$23,000/mth (ref: 19030001RT)

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AD

JOB OFFERS DELAYED IN ASIA'S FINANCIAL HUBS IN VIRUS FALLOUT

FINANCIAL firms operating in Singapore and Hong Kong are delaying hiring as the coronavirus outbreak disrupts their businesses.

Both domestic and foreign institutions have slowed recruitment, according to headhunters in the financial hubs. They've been impacted by quarantines, restrictions on travel to and from China, remote working arrangements and decisions not to conduct face-to-face interviews.

It's another aspect of the fallout from the virus, which has also caused factory closures, disrupted supply chains and initiated the world's largest work-from-home experiment. Recruiting has become less of a priority as firms including DBS Group Holdings Ltd. have highlighted the revenue impact of worsening business conditions.

"Everybody is distracted," said Gurj Sandhu, a managing director at Morgan McKinley Group Ltd. in Singapore. Hiring is falling down the "pecking order," he said, while adding that nobody is canceling roles yet.

Bloomberg spoke with six re-

BLOOMBERG



cruitment firms, all of which confirmed the slowdown. Hiring processes and relocation plans are taking longer at most companies because of logistical difficulties.

"Companies are not risking international travel, they are not risking client meetings unless it is critical," said Bethan Howell, a Hong Kong-based consultant at Selby Jennings Ltd.

While some financial firms are

conducting interviews by video conference or phone, closing the deal is more problematic, especially at investment banks and wealth-management units.

Bankers are "big-ticket items," said Hubert Tam, a managing partner at Sirius Partners Ltd. in Hong Kong. Private banks and investment banks are holding off on hiring until they can meet candidates in person, "even if

they performed well last year," he said.

What's more, many private bankers covering China would have to travel to the country to meet clients and "get their blessings" before they move banks, according to Amod Jain, a Morgan McKinley consultant in Singapore. "Not everything can be done by phone."

Some recruiters pointed to

early signs companies are re-considering their initial hiring plans for 2020 as the outbreak deals a deeper blow to their operations.

A few banks and asset managers are reviewing their hiring budgets for 2020, said Tam from Sirius Partners. Working from home has led to a decline in trading, impacting profits, he said.

Some lenders are considering whether to hold off on adding headcount for non-essential roles such as back-office functions, according to Mark Li, head of client solutions at Randstad Singapore.

The financial services industry in Asia's biggest hubs was facing economic headwinds even before the coronavirus outbreak because of U.S.-China trade tension, which was affecting recruiting at some firms, Li said. Hong Kong also had to grapple with its months-long protests.

The slowdown in hiring is also starting to weigh on recruitment firms. "Financially, we have been impacted because we can't close enough deals that make the revenues," Morgan McKinley's Sandhu said.

However, recruiters expressed optimism that new viral infections are slowing, with some lauding the Singapore government for its efforts to contain the outbreak. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD

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DANIELLA MATAR, MILAN

WITH roughly a third of the population of Bergamo packed into Milan's San Siro stadium, Atalanta made the journey well worth it for the club's travelling "home" fans.

Hans Hateboer scored twice as Atalanta beat Valencia 4-1 in the first leg of the Champions League's round of 16, putting the Italian team on the verge of a quarterfinal spot in its first season in the competition.

"It's a great result. We did well, the match could have finished with more goals for both teams," Atalanta coach Gian Piero Gasperini said. "A three-goal advantage is a nice haul but we should have been more concentrated on the chance for their goal, which could have been avoided."

Atalanta qualified for Europe's top competition for the first time after a surprise third-place finish in Serie A last season. And it progressed to the knockout stages despite losing its first three matches in the competition.

It is playing its home matches at San Siro as its own stadium didn't meet UEFA requirements. Bergamo has a population of approximately 122,000 and more than 40,000 had made the 60-kilometer journey.

Josip Ilić and Remo Freuler scored

AP PHOTO



FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Hateboer scores two as Atalanta routs Valencia 4-1

red Atalanta's other goals before substitute Denis Cheryshev netted a consolation goal for Valencia to give the Spanish team a glimmer of hope ahead of the second leg on March 10.

Valencia coach Albert Celades called it "a crushing result."

"It doesn't really reflect what you saw on the pitch," Celades said. "I think there is still a chance to fight back."

Valencia has only lost twice at

home this season in all competitions and beat Lille 4-1 at Mestalla in the Champions League group stage.

"When we play at home against them, we will go out like lions and go for them," Cheryshev said. "Us footballers live for nights like that. We have to have faith, believe in ourselves."

But Atalanta — with its free-flowing, attacking style — is also likely to score in Spain. It has netted

63 goals in Serie A this season.

Leipzig, another team playing in the knockout stages for the first time, won 1-0 at Tottenham in yesterday's other Champions League match.

Atalanta was forced into a late change as defender Berat Djimsiti picked up a knock during the warm-up and had to be replaced in the starting lineup by Mattia Caldara.

The home side started brightly and Alejandro "Papu" Gomez sent

a free kick narrowly over before Mario Pašalić forced a smart stop from Valencia goalkeeper Jaime Doménech.

Atalanta broke the deadlock in the 16th minute when Hateboer slid in at the back post to turn in Gomez's cross from the left.

Robin Gosens hit the side netting shortly afterward before Valencia got into the match and almost leveled on the half-hour mark following a quickly-taken free kick, but Ferrán Torres' effort crashed off the right post.

Valencia went close again when Gonçalo Guedes' cross-shot flew past Eliaquim Mangala sliding in at the far post.

But Atalanta doubled its lead three minutes from the break as Ilić held off two defenders before firing into the top left corner.

Atalanta dominated from the restart and Freuler extended his side's lead in the 57th, curling a spectacular effort into the top right corner.

The noise in the stadium was ramped up even more five minutes later when Hateboer ran almost half the length of the pitch before shooting past Doménech.

Cheryshev replaced Guedes in the 64th and pulled one back for Valencia two minutes later, drilling a low shot into the bottom corner to give the Spanish side a glimmer of hope. **AP**

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OPINION

World Views

Jonathan Bernstein, Bloomberg

GAMING OUT
A CONTESTED
CONVENTION

The final question at last night's Democratic debate in Nevada, as Dave Hopkins and Ed Kilgore pointed out, was about what should happen in a contested convention — and five of the six candidates on the stage disagreed with Bernie Sanders, who insisted that whoever gets a plurality of votes in the primaries should therefore be the nominee.

I've already written about how a contested convention is probably less likely than some believe. But it certainly is possible. So is Sanders right about what should happen, or are the other candidates?

It's a tricky question: No one is right about this kind of thing. Party conventions are just more of the nomination process. Their decisions are political, and, like the rest of the nomination process, decided along political and not ethical lines.

In other words, the answer is "It depends," and what it depends on is the political context.

Yes, the candidate who won the most votes would be able to argue based on that fact. But a situation where a candidate wins half of the votes but falls just shy of half of the delegates is very different from one in which several contenders each win a quarter of the voters or less. In that case, candidates would make claims based on their total votes won, their margin of plurality over the other candidates, the number of delegates they have, any national polls that show them as the favorite of party voters, and any polls that show them doing well in the general election. If a candidate didn't have the largest group of delegates but won more states at the end of the primaries, he or she would argue that the late ones are more important.

Not all arguments are equally valid. A candidate who wins primaries in general election swing states will claim electability, but there's no reason to believe that winning a state's primary is a meaningful predictor of general election success. Similarly, I'm sure candidates would tout their success with swing demographic groups in primaries, but again that might be meaningless for the general election.

Nevertheless, the delegates, and any party leaders they care to listen to, would be free to consider — or ignore — any of these arguments.

The real question isn't so much how the convention would weight various factors in reaching their decision. The real question is whether all the candidates would be willing to abide by that decision, and to do so with a sufficiently strong endorsement that their followers would choose to accept it and work for the ticket in the general election. If a contested convention does appear to be likely in the next few weeks, the best thing that party leaders could do would be to secure the strongest possible commitments from each of the contenders to do just that.

(Disclaimer: Michael Bloomberg is seeking the Democratic presidential nomination. He is the founder and majority owner of Bloomberg LP, the parent company of Bloomberg News.)

WEATHER AND PROTESTS HAMPER
UKRAINE QUARANTINE EFFORTS

THE
BUZZ

Ukraine's effort to evacuate more than 70 people from China over the outbreak of a new virus faced setbacks yesterday as weather conditions delayed the return of the evacuees and protests broke out near a hospital where they were to be quarantined.

Several hundred residents in Ukraine's Poltava region protested seeking to stop officials from quarantining the evacuees in their village because they feared becoming infected.

Demonstrators put up road blocks and burned tires, while Ukrainian media reported that there were clashes with police.

More than 10 people were detained, and Ukraine's Interior Minister Arsen Avakov personally visited the site of the protests to calm the crowd down.

Avakov urged the protesters "not to fall for provocations and be understanding of the necessity for these temporary measures."

"The situation is rather heated," a police spokesman said. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy tried to reassure people that the quarantined evacuees wouldn't pose any danger to residents of the village of Novi Sarzhany.



These pictures taken from the Jiangxi government website show printed entry and exit permits used by citizens in mainland China

MACAU'S FIGHT AGAINST
VIRUS EMBRACES TECH

STAFF REPORTER

THE Macau government and the central government in Beijing have relied on a variety of measures to halt the Covid-19 outbreak. But whereas the Macau authorities have embraced technology to battle the outbreak, the mainland has relied on traditional control measures that some netizens have described as belonging to another era.

This modern versus traditional approach highlights the fundamental differences in the two governments' philosophies to containing Covid-19. Which approach works better remains to be seen.

Today, the Macau public is mostly concerned with face masks, cash handouts and employment disputes. However, during the quietest period across town, which occurred around the casino shutdown, some members of the public noticed the use of "smart" technology deployed by the local government to help with the epidemic prevention.

One of the "smart" measures was the health declaration form, filled

in on the website of the Health Bureau (SSM). Members of the public can visit the website to fill in the form. Afterwards, the digital receipt of the health declaration form may be used in various places, including government departments.

In mainland China, the situation is different. Previously, the Times reported that mainland cities have been controlling human flow by directing the public to stay home. In most mainland China cities, without entry and exit permits, no one is allowed to enter or exit their own residential community. International media has remarked at the ability of the country to enforce stringent quarantine measures affecting hundreds of millions of people.

Many cities on the mainland have drawn up several documents for their own citizens to present to security guards whenever necessary. Unlike Macau's SSM digital health declaration form, many of these documents are printed on paper.

In Macau's neighboring city of Zhuhai, one resident posted on Wei-

bo that her community's paper entry and exit permit lasts until March 16. On the permit, it is clearly stated that each household can assign one person to go out every three days and that each household has one permit only. Each time the permit holder passes by the gate of the relevant residential community, he/she collects one stamp on the permit.

China News posted on its official Weibo account a showcase of nine residential community entry and exit permits, and questioned whether these permits will become memories of this era. However, there was backlash to the post by some netizens. "Is this an insult? What deserves to be celebrated when we need such historically-regressed items to enter and leave a house?" one user commented.

In a Weibo post, another user commented that some of the entry and exit permits are similar to food coupons used during the Great Chinese Famine between 1959 and 1961, when food could only be purchased with coupons issued by the government.



Laos Southeast Asia's top diplomats praised China's handling of the virus outbreak and pledged to help fight the disease that emerged in a central Chinese city and spread in the region and around the world. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi highlighted the unprecedented steps his country has taken to contain the two-month outbreak in an emergency meeting with his Southeast Asian counterparts.



Hong Kong Volunteers from a theater group are turning their backstage skills to helping fight the new virus, sewing reusable protective face masks for those who can't access or afford them. The group Nonsensemakers have turned a theater rehearsal room into a temporary handmade mask factory. With the help of friends they met online, they have been working to produce 400 fabric masks that can be reused by throwing away the inner lining.



India A bus collided at high speed with a truck on a highway in southern India yesterday, killing at least 19 people, police said. The bus driver was among the dead, but the truck driver survived the head-on collision, said police officer Sauranya, who uses one name. She said nine injured people were hospitalized and others were allowed to go home after treatment. The accident occurred near Avinashi, a town in Tamil Nadu state.

Germany A 43-year-old German man shot and killed nine people at several locations in a Frankfurt suburb overnight in attacks that appear to have been motivated by far-right beliefs. The gunman first attacked a hookah bar in central Hanau last night, killing several people before heading about 2.5 kilometers west and opening fire again, claiming more victims. More on p8