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FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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AP PHOTO



**Philippines** Thousands of police in the Philippines, backed by the army and coast guard, started sealing the densely populated capital from most domestic travelers yesterday in one of Southeast Asia's most drastic containment moves against the new coronavirus. Mayors also announced plans to impose a night curfew in Metropolitan Manila, home to more than 12 million people.

**Singapore** All arrivals to Singapore from the Asean group of nations as well as Japan, Switzerland and UK will have to self-isolate for two weeks in the city-state's latest measure to tackle the coronavirus pandemic. The only exception will be to Singapore's land and sea border crossings with Malaysia due to the special relationship between the two nations.

AP PHOTO



**Iran's** official leading its response to the new coronavirus acknowledged yesterday the pandemic could overwhelm health facilities in his country, which is battling the worst outbreak in the Mideast while under heavy U.S. sanctions. Iran also reported 113 new deaths from the virus, bringing its death toll to 724.

**Israel** A Jerusalem district court announced yesterday that it was postponing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's criminal trial for two months because of restrictions arising from the outbreak of the coronavirus. Netanyahu was scheduled to appear in court tomorrow to face charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in connection to a series of scandals.

More on backpage

# CORONAVIRUS RE-EMERGES

**MACAU RECORDS NEW CASE OF COVID-19 IMPORTED FROM PORTUGAL** P2



**ASIA RAISES ITS GUARD AGAINST THE WEST IN MAJOR ROLE REVERSAL**

AP PHOTO



P4,7,11

# Macau records new Covid-19 imported case

**M**ACAU has recorded an imported case of the Covid-19 coronavirus, ending a run of nearly 40 consecutive days without new infections.

The imported case of the virus was diagnosed in a 26-year-old, female non-resident worker of Korean nationality, who had recently visited the northern Portuguese city of Porto, according to information released late last night by Macau's Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

The patient left Macau with her boyfriend on January 30 to visit his relatives in Porto.

On March 13, the couple arrived in Hong Kong after flying from Porto with a stopover in Dubai. The patient flew on flight number

EK380 from Dubai to Hong Kong and occupied seat 31J. The patient arrived in Macau at 12:30 a.m. on March 14 having traveled via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

On the same day, the patient started to show a slight cough. In the afternoon, having a fever, she went to the Conde São Januário Hospital. After being subjected to the nucleic acid test, she was diagnosed with a Covid-19 infection, and was subsequently transferred to the isolation ward of the public hospital.

The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center affirmed her clinical situation is currently considered normal.

Her boyfriend, who is of Portuguese nationality, is classified as a case of close contact. No further

information of his status was provided yesterday.

The health authority said it is investigating other people with possible contact with the infected. It calls on all passengers who have traveled on the EK380 flight from Dubai to Hong Kong to contact the government by calling 2870 0800 for follow-up.

The patient is the 11th confirmed case of coronavirus that Macau has registered since the outbreak in mainland China began in December.

It is first new case in nearly 40 days, after preventative measures adopted by the local government had reduced the potential for the virus to spread. The territory had been briefly free of confirmed Covid-19 cases for a little over a week. **DB**



## Covid-19 hides itself better than SARS, MERS, says Health Bureau

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE inconsistent symptoms of Covid-19 have made the disease more difficult to detect and contain, Lo Iek Long, medical director of the Conde de São Januário Hospital, told yesterday's daily press conference.

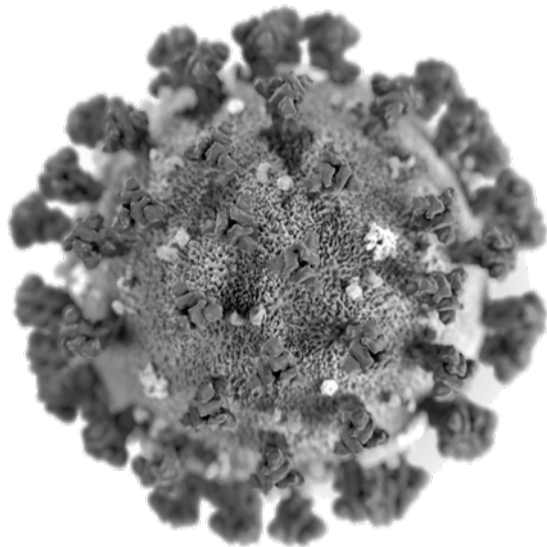
A journalist raised a question, seeking clarification as to why Covid-19 has developed into a pandemic. In contrast, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) and Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), as well as some types of swine flu and avian flu did not receive the same classification.

"Although they are all caused by coronavirus, SARS and MERS are different from Covid-19," Lo explained. The main difference, according to the medical director, lies in the severity of the symptoms.

"Talking about SARS, strong pneumonia symptoms were found in a majority of cases," Lo said. "It makes [patients] less able to walk around and spread the disease."

In many cases, Covid-19 hides itself very well.

"We have seen quite a number of asymptomatic cases or cases with mild symptoms in



Covid-19," Lo recalled, noting that some cases only developed coughs, sneezes and runny nose, which are symptoms of common cold and flu, causing many people to lower their guard on this matter. "These cases have posed a much larger threat to the community," Lo continued.

This is the reason the SSM has tested a large number of "low-risk populations".

"Due to the unobvious symptoms, we had to expand our sample," the medical director stated. The testing for the virus was conducted from a perspective of public health control.

Lo stated that the fatality rates of SARS and MERS are indeed

higher than Covid-19. "In the perspective of public health, the higher the fatality rate, the smaller the scope of the outbreak," Lo stated. "Patients suffering from severe diseases are normally hospitalized or grounded at an early stage, stopping them from causing a pandemic."

As the Macau government begins a new phase of quarantine measures, many local residents now abroad, including at least several hundred students, are trying to return to the city. The Higher Education Bureau (DSES) was asked how it would help these students with their studies.

Teng Sio Hong, head of the Department for Tertiary Educa-

tion Institution Coordination of the DSES, said that the bureau has inquired whether these students desire to return. If they choose to come back, the DSES will check if local institutions can provide any help.

"We will see if local institutions could extend online learning resources to these students," the department head explained. Teng added that if these students have other needs, the DSES will be willing to offer such assistance.

Prior to their return, these students should register with the DSES. At 9 a.m. today, the DSES will launch an online platform on its website for students to register their details.

The Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) reminded people who aim to return to Macau from the Schengen Area to contact the office as soon as possible. However, the GGCT stressed that they should have their flight details and ID number ready before calling.

Residents should try to form groups for their return trip, the GGCT advised. Residents should refrain from making repeated calls to the Office so as to avoid confusion.

Meanwhile, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) confirmed that, as a temporary measure, foreign workers will not be able to enter Macau from Zhuhai. Authorities in Zhuhai have notified the PSP that the quarantine hotel in Zhuhai is currently at full capacity and can take no extra people.

## AL EXPECTED TO DISCUSS TRADE UNION BILL AGAIN TODAY

**T**HE Legislative Assembly (AL) is today expected to deliberate on another trade union bill submitted this time by the lawmakers representing the Macao Federation of Trade Unions.

The latest proposal, brought to the AL by legislators Lam Lon Wai and Lei Chan U, is the 11th time the Special Administrative Region's parliament will hear the matter.

As the Times has previously reported, no other proposal generates as much fervent interest from Macau's rubber-stamp parliament than the trade union bill. It pits the workers representatives and the pro-democratic wing against the business interests of the AL.

The law proposal has been submitted 10 times to the AL and has been defeated on each occasion, though the margin of defeat is seen narrowing.

Lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho is a long-time advocate of the bill and has spearheaded seven personal attempts to see it through the AL. **DB**

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

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

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EDUCATION

# Gradual school resumption to begin March 30 on voluntary basis

**T**HE resumption of classes at Macau schools will go ahead in a phased approach, as earlier indicated by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), starting on a voluntary basis for Form 6 graduating students, who may return as early as March 30.

In announcement made over the weekend, the DESJ said that special education schools, as well as primary school and kindergarten classes were only to resume on May 4.

All resumption dates issued by the education regulator are still subject to change depending on developments in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the DSEJ announcement, graduating students require more academic support with regards to graduation and university entrance examinations. As a result, it is considered crucial that they return to



classes as soon as possible so that they are able to sufficiently prepare.

Form 6 or Senior Secondary 3 students have the liberty to choose to return to school at the end of March. The DSEJ stressed that the attendance at the tutorials provided by each school is voluntary. If parents or students feel that it's unsafe to return to school, students

can choose to stay home.

Resumption for other levels will follow gradually afterwards in a phased approach. School for all senior secondary levels will resume on April 13. One week later, on April 20, classes for junior secondary levels will resume.

Primary education will resume in two phases. The first phase will see Primary 2 to 6 classes resuming on April

27. The remaining primary school levels will resume on May 4. The education regulator, however, did not discuss arrangements for the resumption of kindergarten classes.

Nursery services, on the other hand, are under the authority of the Social Welfare Bureau, which has not yet made any announcements. **AL**

## USJ APPOINTS STEPHEN MORGAN AS NEW RECTOR

**T**HE University of Saint Joseph (USJ) has announced the appointment of Stephen Morgan, a Welsh deacon who has been a professor at the Catholic university since September 2018, as its next rector. The installation of the new rector is expected to take place in July.

The announcement came during a session of the General Council of the USJ held on Saturday, when Chancellor Stephen Lee Bun-sang announced that the University's titleholder, the Catholic Foundation for Higher Education, intended to appoint Morgan as the university's next rector. Morgan will take over from Professor Peter Stilwell, who has held the role since 2012.

During the General Council meeting, Stilwell presented data on the number of students and on the University's accounts since 2012. Important documents were approved on academic staff progression and on the award of honorary doctorates.

In selecting Stilwell's successor, the Catholic Foundation for Higher Education had consulted the members of the General Council and the deans of the academic units on the challenges that USJ faces and the desirable profile for its next rector. The answers were made available to the members of the Foundation.

According to a statement from the USJ, the criteria for Equivalence of Attendance in Online Modules were also reviewed and approved at the General Council meeting. Online learning has been implemented at the USJ since early February in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

In the statement, the USJ said it hoped "this challenging experience will eventually contribute to a lasting integration in Macau of novel and traditional [teaching] methods." **DB**

AD

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BLOOMBERG

# EURO TRAVELERS ADDED TO EXPANSIVE QUARANTINE LIST

**A**ll travelers who have been to Europe's Schengen Area in the past 14 days will be required to undergo monitored quarantine at Pousada Marina Infante starting this Tuesday, the Health Bureau has announced.

The Schengen Area is an area comprising 26 European states that have officially abolished all passport and all other types of border control at their mutual borders. The Area is slightly different from the European Union, with five members from the latter not part of the Schengen Agreement.

Countries within the area include some of the largest and most populous on the continent, such as the Germany, France, Italy and Spain. All four of these countries have reported a surge in Covid-19 cases in recent days.

The 26 Schengen Area countries are Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden

and Switzerland.

Although not part of the Schengen Area, Russia is also on the list. The eastern European country earlier barred mainland Chinese from entering. Visitors from the United Kingdom, also not a part of the Schengen Area, will also be required to face new quarantine measures when entering the Macau SAR.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the United States of America, Canada and Brazil are on the list of highly infected areas. Egypt is currently the only African coun-

try on the list. In addition, Australia is the only country from Oceania on the list.

The list of highly infected areas has expanded significantly over the weekend with the addition of all Schengen States. Before this update, Italy, Germany, France and Spain – all Schengen States – were already included in the list. In addition, South Korea, Japan and Iran are included.

All in all, people who have been to the aforementioned countries in the past 14 days will be required to undergo quarantine at their own cost upon entry into Macau.

Local residents have the option to undergo quarantine in their homes, if certain requirements regarding separation from other household inhabitants are met. If they are required to conduct quarantine at the Pousada, the government will bear the cost.

Neighboring Hong Kong is about to tighten its immigration rules on arrivals from the Schengen Area too. As many Macau residents use Hong Kong as a transfer point on their way back to the city, the Macau government has already made arrangements to fetch them directly from the Hong Kong airport using chartered vehicles.

The Macau government has previously conducted a similar operation to retrieve Macau residents returning from South Korea, who were banned from entering Hong Kong.

Macau students studying abroad have already been affected by the upcoming measures. The new quarantine measures were applied to students returning to Macau on Saturday. The Health Bureau explained that the student returnees have spent a longer time and met with more people in the affected areas, compared with tourists from Macau.

On the other hand, they should only make the trip back when they are certain about the safety of the trip, the Higher Education Bureau (DSES) has reiterated.

Upon arrival in Macau, they will need to be quarantined for 14 days, while medical examination may be carried out on them.

Once any respiratory symptom is detected following their arrival in Macau, they will be sent immediately to the Conde São Januário Hospital for medical consultation, regardless of their nationality.

The DSES estimates there may be about 1,000 Macau students currently at institutions within the Schengen Area. **AL**

## IN THE MOST POPULOUS EUROPEAN NATIONS

| Country | Covid-19 cases | Population   |
|---------|----------------|--------------|
| Italy   | 21,157         | 60.5 million |
| Spain   | 7,753          | 46.7 million |
| Germany | 5,426          | 83.8 million |
| France  | 4,499          | 65.2 million |
| UK *    | 1,140          | 67.8 million |

\* Not a part of the Schengen Area

## GOVERNMENT HINTS: TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON MAINLAND ARRIVALS TO EASE

**T**he Macau SAR government is considering easing travel restrictions for tourists coming from mainland China as the Covid-19 situation on both sides of the border is improving.

Recently, there has been a decline in coronavirus cases in mainland China – where the virus originated – while the number of cases outside of the country has surged.

In a press conference held by the Health Bureau (SSM) last week, authorities said that the situation in mainland China has improved.

“The current situation of Covid-19 in mainland China is easing, infection numbers in many pro-

vinces and cities have not increased for many days, so we are evaluating the current policies towards mainland China,” a representative of the local health authority said.

Since the start of the outbreak in Macau, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng has been adamant about not closing the city's borders with China, despite the growing number of Covid-19 cases in the mainland.

However, the government has introduced procedures such as quarantine measures and medical checks for those arriving from cities with high numbers of Covid-19 cases.

Meanwhile, the Chinese government has maintai-

ned its ban on the booking of overseas tours as well as the purchase of flights and hotels abroad, calling on travel agencies to suspend package tours, which represent more than half of outbound travel.

The absence of visitors arriving from mainland China and the 15-day closure of Macau's casinos were major factors in last month's gross gaming revenue collapse of 87.8%, recording only 3.1 billion patacas for the entire month.

Gaming analysts expect little improvement this month with brokerage JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) Ltd. forecasting that revenue may still plunge up to 80%. **LV**

## THAILAND MACAU VISITORS TO FACE SCRUTINY EVEN AFTER MANDATORY SELF-QUARANTINE

**T**hailand said it will classify all travelers into three groups under intensified surveillance for the new coronavirus as officials try to prevent a wider outbreak in the tourism-reliant nation.

People coming from China, Hong Kong, Macau, South Korea, Iran and Italy will be subject to mandatory 14-day self-quarantine, the Tourism Authority of Thailand said in a statement. They must apply for visas and present health forms at check-in certifying they are at no risk of developing the disease known as Covid-19, or they will be de-

nied boarding. These six jurisdictions are currently classified as danger zones for the virus but the list could change. For instance, officials have said China could be removed after a drop in infections there.

The guidance issued Saturday followed a series of government flip-flops that stoked confusion about the exact restrictions being imposed by Thailand, which has so far reported only 82 confirmed infections.

Arrivals from another group of 11 countries with ongoing local transmission have to report

symptoms to officials for at least 14 days as well as the places they visit. The nations are Japan, France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, the U.K. and the U.S.

Remaining visitors will be subject to usual airport checks but are advised to take precautions such as avoiding crowds and wearing masks.

Tourism accounts for about a fifth of the Thai economy but has collapsed as travel comes to a standstill to fight the spread of the virus, raising the risk of recession. **DB/BLOOMBERG**



# Sands China steps up relief measures amid global epidemic outbreak

**A**MIDST the novel coronavirus outbreak that was occurring in the SAR, Sands China Ltd. has taken initiative to assure its team members of relief measures, largely extending the support to the local community in a bid to assist the SAR government.

The company president Dr. Wilfred Wong and other senior executives visited staff at the back-of-house and public areas of the company's properties to acknowledge their contributions in 2019.

As the epidemic outbreak fueled fears among the public, the executives took the time to cheer, motivate and encourage people during this difficult time the Macao SAR is facing.

Dr. Wong, president of Sands China Ltd, remarked "We are extremely appreciative of team members for their continued dedication to serving our guests and vigilance in taking proactive measures to ensure the health and safety of all."

Although the properties have scaled down operations – heeding to the call of the government to minimize gatherings to combat the spread of the virus – the company still largely enforces existing preventive measures.

These measures include temperature detection for team members and guests and related standard operating procedures, conducted in a bid to safeguard the health of guests and team members.

These procedures are in accordance with guidelines from the Health Bureau and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, heeding the government's call to impose strict

measures for the public's safety.

As a socially responsible company rooted in Macao, the management has worked hard – and is continually doing so – along with all team members, and is always ready to help them solve problems encountered during this difficult time.

## WE COMMITTED & DELIVERED

The global epidemic outbreak has caused shortages of several essential items to combat the virus. As a large international scale company that looks out for the wellbeing of the local community, Sands China has pledged to donate MOP25 million to help contain the spread of the virus and to assist with relief efforts in mainland China and Macao on Feb 6.

To effectively address ongoing public health challenges surrounding the coronavirus outbreak, MOP20 million – made in coordination with the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macao – was to assist the mainland in its efforts to combat the virus.

The other MOP5 million was to support the local community in implementing preventive measures.

"Las Vegas Sands has always considered it an honor to do business in Macao, while at the same time recognizing and embracing our important role as a community partner, especially in challenging times such as these," remarked Mr. Sheldon Adelson, chairman and chief executive officer of Las Vegas Sands. Mr. Adelson added that Las Vegas Sands strongly supports Macao and mainland China in their efforts to contain the coronavirus and protect their citizens.

Meanwhile, Sands China is determined to continually support the SAR government in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak, working hand in hand with the government in providing for community needs.

Consequently in light of the current global shortage of facemasks in response to the coronavirus epidemic, the gaming operator responded swiftly to these needs, donating 500,000 medical facemasks to the government.

The company also donated nearly 35,000 bottles of alcohol-based hand sanitizer gel, 30,000 medical gloves and 2,000 shower caps to 11 local community organizations, benefitting over 5,000 people from the organizations, as part of the company's pledge to donate MOP5 million toward Macao's novel coronavirus relief efforts.

Since the company also acknowledges that community organizations are also playing their part in extending assistance to

vulnerable groups, the gaming operator donated MOP1 million to four local non-governmental organizations.

The four beneficiaries – Caritas Macau, Fuhong Society of Macau, Macau Special Olympics and the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau – have received MOP250,000 to help them provide economic support to more than 500 families who use their services.

"In providing this essential public service, they deserve our gratitude, and Sands China is pleased to be able to offer their service users our financial support during this critical time of addressing the challenges brought about by the novel coronavirus epidemic," said Dr. Wong.

Not only did the company donate to these NGOs but it also extended its financial support to aged care centers and rehabilitation centers.

Sands China donated MOP1.65

million to a total of 33 centers through the Macao Social Welfare Bureau to assist the centers and to safeguard the health of over 3,100 service users.

Each of the 33 beneficiaries – government-funded and private elderly homes and rehabilitation centers – received MOP50,000 that will be used for cleaning and sanitizing the centers and for purchasing hygiene products for additional preventive measures.

As the company is fully committed to fulfill its corporate social responsibility, Sands China pledges that it will do everything it can to help return things to normal as quickly as possible.

"We are determined to support the central government and the Macao SAR government in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak. Providing financial resources in support of this effort is a responsibility our company takes without hesitation," Dr. Wong stated.

## WHAT THEY SAY:

**Ng Siu Lai**, president of the board of directors of the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau:

"With Sands China providing hand sanitisers to the underprivileged, and supporting the anti-epidemic work of the association, it fully embodies the company's commitment to fulfilling corporate social responsibility and its determination to work with the community to fight the epidemic."

**Hetzer Siu Yu Hong**, chief executive officer of Macau Special Olympics:

"Our thanks go to Sands China for their ongoing support to the vulnerable members of the community. Their company has always provided proactive support to our service users during tough times. This donation will help alleviate imminent financial hardship for our members' households."

**Paul Pun Chi Meng**, secretary-general of Caritas Macau:

"Sands China knows that Caritas Macau is committed to fighting the epidemic by maintaining a 24-hour service for its service users, and is donating MOP250,000 for us to provide economic assistance to needy families during the hard time of the coronavirus. It demonstrates Sands China's care for the local community, and will in turn contribute to creating a brighter future for Macao."

**Wong Kam Fong**, chairlady of the executive board of the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau:

"This donation from Sands China is truly timely assistance to our families to help them address their urgent needs. It also allows our members to feel the love and care of society."

XINHUA



Macau-style Portuguese egg tarts, a popular snack for visitors to the city

## MACAU AMONG GUANGDONG'S TRAVEL WISH LIST FOR AFTER COVID-19

**M**ACAU ranks among the top five most anticipated tourism destinations for Guangdong residents for the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic, according to a survey by Chinese online tourism company Ctrip.

The company recently issued the 2020 Destination Wish List Report based on the travel plans and preferences of mainland residents for once the Co-

vid-19 pandemic is under control.

This report included a category for extra-short-haul trips, which are cities very close to the travelers' place of residence. Those living around Guangzhou ranked Macau, Huizhou, Zhuhai, Zhanjiang, and Guilin as their top five choices in this category.

Those living around Guangzhou also showed a strong preference for short-

distance travel over long-haul trips.

Beijing and Shanghai residents also seem to prefer extra-short-haul travel. According to the survey, Beijing residents would prefer to visit Tianjin, Qinhuangdao, Zhangjiakou, Baoding and Jinan. Meanwhile, Huzhou, Huangshan, Lishui, Suzhou and Hangzhou are the most popular among Shanghai's residents.

The most coveted cities

among the general public in China are Sanya, Chengdu and Guizhou, followed by Shanghai, Xi'an, Beijing, Xiamen, and Hangzhou.

For family tourism and shopping, travelers from the mainland selected the U.K., Germany, Dubai and Canada as their top picks. Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia are the most sought-after places to enjoy beach getaways while Morocco, Abu Dhabi, and Brazil are the most popular exotic holiday destinations.

Previously, the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau were often among the most popular overseas destinations for mainland China residents.

However, some Chinese and international travel companies have previously been criticized by Chinese-speaking netizens, who labelled these entities "separatist" after they failed to include Macau and Hong Kong under their China listing. In the aftermath of previous incidents, Ctrip made changes to its destination groupings.

In mainland China, the term "overseas" refers to anywhere outside of mainland China's territory, meaning that both Macau and Hong Kong used to be referred to as overseas places due to the fact that there are borders between the mainland and these two cities.

Previously, Hong Kong and Macau belonged to an overseas category on Ctrip but are now classified under the domestic category. It is not known whether the pressure from netizens led to the relocation of Hong Kong and Macau from the overseas destinations list. **JZ**

### MASSACHUSETTS

## GAMING COMMISSION SHUTS DOWN CASINOS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

**T**HE Massachusetts Gaming Commission voted unanimously Saturday to temporarily suspend operations at the state's three casino properties, in a move that closely resembles a decision in Macau last month.

Wynn Resorts Ltd.'s Encore Boston Harbor, MGM Springfield and Penn National Gaming's Plainridge Park Casino closed their doors yesterday evening (Macau time).

"As we all continue to navigate this unprecedented and rapidly evolving situation, our agency and our licensees will remain in close consultation with public health authorities and government officials to determine safe protocols for resuming operation," the Commission said in a statement.

Casino operators in Macau, where MGM and Wynn run gaming resorts, closed under a government order for 15 days last month. That was the longest-ever suspension of gambling activities since the liberalization of the sector at the start of the century and only the second such suspension after Typhoon Mangkhut forced a 33-hour shutdown in 2018.

The closure has led or coincided with a significant loss of business - all while companies have to keep paying staff and maintaining their properties.

Like all travel and leisure related businesses, casinos have been particularly hard hit by the virus and the precautions taken to prevent its spread. Las Vegas, where MGM Resorts International is the biggest operator, is taking a hit. Last month, MGM withdrew its earnings forecast for 2020, citing the impact of the virus on its casinos in Macau and Las Vegas.

Moody's revised its outlook on the U.S. gaming sector this week to negative from stable because of the outbreak. **DB/BLOOMBERG**

### SPORTS

## NATIONAL TEAM TABLE TENNIS PLAYERS TO TRAIN IN MACAU

**T**HE 47-member Chinese national table tennis delegation has arrived in Macau for 14-days of training prior to their next competition, the Sports Bureau (ID) announced in a statement.

The players are in Macau after training in Doha, Qatar, from March 3 to 8.

Hosted at the recently opened Athletic Training and Development Centre in Taipa, the trainings will be closed-door during the 14 days period. Members of the Chinese team will only travel between their dormitories on-site and the training pavilion.

According to the ID, the players are also required to wear masks and will be subjected to daily temperature checks in light of the Covid-19 outbreak. The delegation will not participate in any visits or activities with local residents in a bid to "fully concentrate on the training."

Meanwhile, the bureau pledged that it would pay close attention to the health status of the athletes while they are in Macau and reduce interactions with the public in order to conduct training in a safe environment.

The next competition for the team will be the Shenzhen Open in May, following the cancellation of the ITTF World Tour Japan games, scheduled to take place in April, due to the Covid-19 outbreak. **LV**

AD



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Contact: Ms. Amy Yang  
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo  
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 399, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR



# In role reversal, Asia seeks to stop virus from coming in

KEN MORITSUGU & KIM TONG-HYUNG, BEIJING

**F**ROM quarantining travelers from overseas to nabbing those sneaking in with fevers, China and other parts of Asia are scrambling to prevent the new coronavirus from coming back to where it first broke out.

Just as the spread of the disease is stabilizing in much of Asia, following a major outbreak in China and sizable ones in South Korea and Japan, it is popping up in new hot spots around the world.

Those three countries announced expanded border controls this week that mimic many of the bans and restrictions placed on China in the early days of the outbreak. China, which didn't have enough protective equipment for its medical workers a few weeks ago, is now donating supplies to Italy, Iran, South Korea and other affected places.

The outbreak is far from over in Asia and could well explode again when restrictions put in place to stymie it are lifted. But the panic that seized the region has shifted to the Mideast, Europe and the Americas as those areas deal with the rapid spread of the virus for the first time.

On Friday, China reported just eight new cases of the virus in the previous 24 hours, and three were imported from Italy, the United States and the United Kingdom.

The number has dropped sharply from a month ago, when the daily figure was in the thousands. Nearly 90 imported cases have been identified in recent weeks.

National Health Commission spokesman Mi Feng said that the peak of outbreak has passed in China, but that "the fast development of the epidemic overseas has introduced uncertainties."

Just a week ago, South Korea was complaining about a global scurry to block or restrict visitors coming from the country. Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha, in a rare moment of bluntness, called the moves an unsophisticated reaction by nations with inept quarantine abilities.

Now, as new infections have eased at home, South Korea is stepping up border controls to prevent the virus from being reintroduced by travelers from overseas. The country will extend special screening measures to passengers from France, Germany, Spain, Britain and the Netherlands, as well as those who have stopped in Dubai and Moscow in the previous two weeks.

Besides having their temperature checked and filling out health questionnaires, they will download a smartphone app to report their health status daily to authorities. The screening already applied to visitors from mainland

China, Hong Kong, Macao, Japan, Italy and Iran. South Korea also bans people coming from Hubei, the province in China with by far the most infections and deaths.

## China, which bristled at a blanket US ban imposed on non-citizens arriving from China, has chosen to quarantine people rather than ban anyone

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. Some, especially older adults and those with existing health problems, develop more severe illnesses such as pneumonia.

The vast majority of people recover from the new virus. According to the World Health Organization, people with mild illness recover in about two weeks, while those with more severe illness may take three to six weeks to recover.

Beijing, which has identified 18 imported cases in the past week, announced it would require anyone arriving from overseas to quarantine for 14 days. Previously, only those from places with serious outbreaks had to do so. Shanghai, with eight imported cases confir-

med so far, said late Thursday that people coming from Italy, France, Germany, Spain, Iran, South Korea, Japan and the U.S. would have to do the same.

Police in Beijing say they are investigating a family of eight that returned home from Italy, four of whom had contracted the virus. They allegedly took cold medicine to lower their fevers and falsified their health declaration forms, police said.

The case is one of at least three in China under investigation. South of Shanghai in Zhejiang province, six people who worked in a restaurant in Italy and developed coughs, headaches and fevers before returning are under investigation for failing to report their health condition when entering China, according to Chinese media reports.

## CATHAY ADDS LONDON FLIGHTS

**CATHAY** Pacific Airways Ltd. is reinstating some flights from U.S. cities and London and using bigger aircraft to cater to strong demand for travel to Hong Kong. "As the home carrier of Hong Kong, Cathay Pacific understands that many Hong Kong students and citizens in North America and London are eager to come home as soon as possible and in time for the Easter

In the north, the Epidemic Prevention and Control Center in Zhengzhou city said a 30-year-old construction worker who had traveled to Milan via Abu Dhabi falsely reported his foreign travels. It didn't specify how he did so. He has been put in isolation with a fever and police are investigating.

China has begun evacuating its citizens from one virus-hit country, Iran, echoing earlier flights organized by other nations to bring back their nationals from Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province, after China cut off commercial air and rail service in a lockdown of the region to restrict the spread of the virus.

A charter flight with 164 passengers arrived in the city of Chengdu this week, following two flights bringing back 311 Chinese citizens to the city of Lanzhou in Gansu province last week. The earlier flights led to a spike in new cases, with Gansu reporting 36 imported ones since they landed.

"We will ... take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and legitimate rights and interests of overseas Chinese citizens," Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said this week.

China has dispatched medical teams to Iran, Iraq and Italy and said it would contribute \$20 million to the World Health Organization in support of its efforts to combat the virus. A nine-person medical team with nine cargo pallets of equipment including lung ventilators arrived in Rome on Thursday night.

China, which bristled at a blanket U.S. ban imposed on non-citizens arriving from China, has chosen to quarantine people rather than ban anyone. President Donald Trump has expanded that ban to several European countries, drawing sharp criticism from the European Union.

Japan's moves to control the epidemic struck a raw nerve in South Korea, where resentment persists over Japan's colonization of the Korean Peninsula in the first half of the 20th century.

After Japan imposed a 14-day quarantine on visitors from South Korea and China, South Korea responded by ending visa-free entry for Japanese citizens and putting them under special screening measures at points of entry. AP

break," the company said in a statement yesterday. Cathay has slashed capacity by about 40% globally because demand has slumped during the coronavirus outbreak, which the airline last week said will drive it to a substantial loss in the first half of this year. Anti-government protests in Hong Kong have also weighed heavily on its business.

AP PHOTO



JOSEPH WILSON & GEIR MOULSON, BARCELONA

**A** new round of restrictions and border closures was announced yesterday as public life and travel increasingly ground to a halt and even worship was disrupted amid efforts to keep people apart and slow the spread of the new coronavirus.

Spain awoke to the first day of a nationwide quarantine. Austria's chancellor, Sebastian Kurz, said his government was limiting people's movement nationwide, shortly after the country's Tyrol province followed Italy and Spain in barring people from leaving their homes except for essential errands and work. Europe is currently the main front line of the fight against COVID-19.

Other than essential errands, people should go out "only alone or with the people with whom [they] live in their apartment," Kurz, whose country has confirmed 800 infections, told the Austria Press Agency. Neighboring Slovenia said it would shut down all public transport starting today and planned to shut all but food shops and pharmacies.

Estonia and Latvia said they would close their borders to foreign nationals, except residents, from tomorrow. Turkey put aside quaran-

# New curbs as virus weighs on public life, travel, worship

tine beds for more than 10,000 people returning from pilgrimage to Islam's holy sites in Saudi Arabia.

Italy, the worst-hit European country with more than 21,000 infections and 1,400 deaths, ratcheted its nearly week-old lockdown still tighter. The transport ministry banned passengers from taking ferries to the island of Sardinia, and also banned overnight train trips — which many in the worst-affected north had been taking to reach homes and families in the south.

Spain joined Italy on lockdown after the government declared a two-week state of emergency.

In Barcelona, people who ventured out on quiet streets to buy bread at one bakery formed long lines with a meter between each person as recommended by authorities to reduce the risk of contagion. Police patrolled parks and told people who were not taking their dog on a quick walk to go home.

A police patrol car cruised Barcelona's stree-

ts slowly a with loud-speaker blasting a recorded message that people should respect the restrictions on movement.

The state of emergency "is necessary to unify our efforts so we can all go in the same direction," Barcelona Mayor Ada Colau said yesterday. "If we show solidarity and think about one another we can get through this. Other countries have, and it is in our hands to give our best answer to this huge challenge."

Spain's government said late Saturday that Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez's wife had tested positive for the coronavirus. Begoña Gómez and the prime minister are in good health, the government said.

There were tough steps in Southeast Asia too: soldiers and police sealed the densely populated Philippine capital, Manila, from most domestic travellers in one of the region's most drastic containment measures. In Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, President Joko Widodo asked all people to work, study and wor-

ship from home.

Travellers scrambling to return to the U.S. after the Trump administration imposed a wide-ranging ban on people entering from Europe faced hours-long waits for required medical screenings.

Videos and photos posted on social media showed packed, winding lines of returning travellers. On Twitter, airports like Dallas/Fort Worth and Chicago O'Hare acknowledged the delays and asked for patience.

In China, where the virus was first detected in December, those arriving on overseas flights were routed to a converted exhibition center for initial checks before being shuttled off to their homes or other quarantine locations.

It was clear, however, that the center of gravity in the crisis had shifted toward Europe and North America. The virus has infected more than 156,000 people worldwide and killed over 5,800. China, Italy, Iran, South Korea and Spain are the countries with the most cases. AP

## this day in history



### 1988 THOUSANDS DIE IN HALABJA GAS ATTACK

Thousands of people are reported to have been killed and many others injured in a poison gas attack on a Kurdish city in northern Iraq.

Up to 20 aircraft, said to include Iraqi Migs and Mirages, were seen overhead at around 1100 local time in Halabja.

According to experts, the chemicals dropped by the planes may have included mustard gas, the nerve agents sarin, tabun and VX and possibly cyanide.

The attack on Halabja, which is about 150 miles (241km) north-east of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, is the latest in the Iran-Iraq war and follows its occupation by Iranian forces.

Iraq was said to be keen to avenge the fall of Halabja, which is seen as an important centre for Kurdish resistance in their struggle for autonomy.

The assault came after two days of conventional mortars, artillery and rockets from nearby mountains.

According to pro-Iranian Kurdish commanders in Halabja, there were up to 14 aircraft sorties, with seven to eight planes in each group.

The planes were believed to have concentrated their attacks on the city and all the roads leading out of it.

Eyewitnesses have told of clouds of smoke billowing upward "white, black and then yellow", rising as a column about 150 feet (46 metres) in the air.

Most of the wounded, who were taken to hospital in the Iranian capital Tehran, were suffering from mustard gas exposure.

Those who escaped death have developed respiratory or visual problems from the cocktail of chemicals dropped on the city.

According to some reports, up to 75% of the victims were women and children.

The injured survivors seen by reporters showed the classic symptoms of mustard gas poisoning - ugly skin lesions and breathing difficulties.

Some residents survived by covering their faces with damp cloths and taking to the mountains around Halabja.

One resident, Abdul Rahman, 60, an employee at the city's mosque, said: "I do not know where my children are."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Most of the details about the Halabja killings only emerged a few days later. Reports from the city suggested that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's forces had launched the chemical gas attack. Figures for the final total of dead range from 3,200 people to 5,000.

Between 7,000 and 10,000 are believed to have been injured in the massacre, which became known as "Bloody Friday". Initially, the US Defence Intelligence Agency blamed Iran for the attack. Halabja is around eight to 10 miles (14km to 16km) from the Iranian border.

However, the majority of evidence indicates that the gas attack was an Iraqi assault against Iranian forces, pro-Iranian Kurdish forces and Halabja's citizens during a major battle.

Although there is some evidence Saddam Hussein's forces had used chemical agents before this date, the attack on Halabja is thought to be the first documented assault using chemicals. Saddam Hussein's deputy - Ali Hassan al-Majid, or "Chemical Ali" - who is on trial charged with crimes against humanity over a campaign against Kurds in the 1980s.

He is one of six defendants facing charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity during the so-called Anfal campaign that killed an estimated 100,000 people.

The tribunal dropped charges against the seventh co-defendant, Saddam Hussein himself, when he was executed on 30 December 2006 after being convicted in a separate case.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 If you're tired by the middle of the day, another cup of coffee is not the answer. Today, start investigating new ways to take better care of your health.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 There is so much more to life than being attractive, so try not to get too caught up in the culture of beauty. You're already a beautiful person inside and out.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 Like it or not, you simply can't control how other people see you right now, although you might feel like you should at least try. Avoid this futile exercise today.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 You'll quickly catch all the subtleties of whatever people are saying today. For you, they're like giant neon signs that reveal the true meaning behind what people are verbalizing to you.

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 Coordinating an outing with one of your friends could require a lot of back and forth today. One of you may prefer that everything should be left up in the air.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 Intellectually challenging things will make a lot of sense to you today, so it's a good day to address a project or book that has been vexing you. You'll have a great aptitude for understanding complicated ideas.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 Someone who isn't exactly your favorite person could be heavily involved in your life today, and you need to make the best of it. It's too late to try to work around them.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 There is nothing quite like a secret to cause a whole lot of drama. If you don't think that you're up for it all, it would be best to disseminate the information to everyone all at once—or not at all.

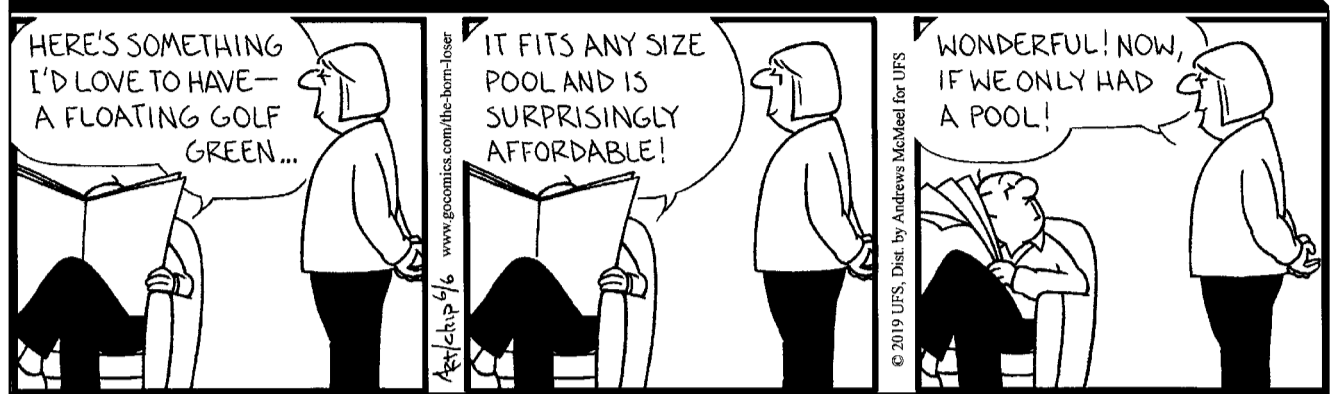
**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 It might be tempting to move through today quickly, but speed won't help you save time. It will only encourage you to make mistakes. Don't rush today.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 To get ahead on a new opportunity, you might have to do some research today. Whether it's a romantic, business, or educational endeavor that you're starting with, find out about this person's past.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 You're usually a big-picture thinker who leaves the details for other people to figure out. But you might be missing out on some intricacies that can give you a more thorough education.

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 Your creativity and energy will combine to make you look like one heck of a problem solver! From dealing with something as minor as a missing button all the way up to a missed deadline.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

|              | MIN | MAX | CONDITION     |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| <b>CHINA</b> |     |     |               |
| Beijing      | -2  | 11  | clear         |
| Harbin       | -16 | 0   | clear         |
| Tianjin      | 0   | 12  | cloudy        |
| Urumqi       | -2  | 7   | clear         |
| Xi'an        | 2   | 16  | cloudy        |
| Lhasa        | -2  | 11  | cloudy        |
| Chengdu      | 10  | 15  | overcast      |
| Chongqing    | 11  | 16  | overcast      |
| Kunming      | 8   | 20  | cloudy        |
| Nanjing      | 2   | 12  | clear         |
| Shanghai     | 5   | 10  | clear         |
| Wuhan        | 5   | 16  | clear         |
| Hangzhou     | 4   | 12  | cloudy        |
| Taipei       | 15  | 16  | drizzle       |
| Guangzhou    | 13  | 18  | overcast      |
| Hong Kong    | 16  | 19  | cloudy        |
| <b>WORLD</b> |     |     |               |
| Moscow       | 2   | 6   | cloudy        |
| Frankfurt    | 2   | 10  | moderate rain |
| Paris        | 6   | 9   | moderate rain |
| London       | 2   | 10  | drizzle       |
| New York     | 0   | 9   | drizzle       |

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Gator's cousin; 5- Arafat's org.; 8- Push with the head; 12- Italian resort; 13- Animal life; 15- Slaughter of baseball; 16- From; 17- Arm bones; 18- Diamond cover; 19- Accomplishment; 22- Brillo rival; 23- Electrically charged atom; 24- Lubricates; 26- Japanese battle cry; 29- Skylighted lobby; 31- Animal pouch; 32- Dazzling display; 34- Playwright Rice; 36- On a single occasion; 38- Duck with soft down; 40- Make weary; 41- Anatomical passages; 43- Hardy equestrian creatures; 45- Vietnam's \_\_\_ Dinh Diem; 46- Unstated; 48- Sharp pain; 50- Small gull; 51- \_\_\_ Dawn Chong; 52- "Aladdin" monkey; 54- Incalculable; 61- Afternoon affairs; 63- Marner's creator; 64- Corner piece; 65- Takes home; 66- Wash cycle; 67- Differently; 68- Candid; 69- DDE's rival; 70- Oboe, e.g.;

**DOWN:** 1- Thunder sound; 2- Stand; 3- Smell or fragrance; 4- Casket; 5- Conceal, as a card; 6- Roman moon goddess; 7- Son of Judah; 8- Wager; 9- Modest; 10- Mower brand; 11- Cookbook amts.; 13- Kiln; 14- Horse race venue in England; 20- Exude; 21- Land of shamrocks; 25- Rhythmic swing; 26- African language group; 27- Give emphasis to; 28- Greek epic poem; 29- Bikini blast; 30- Unite; 31- \_\_\_disant (self-styled); 33- Super Bowl highlights?; 35- Stutz contemporary; 37- Limerick language; 39- Editor's request; 42- Delhi wrap; 44- Former name of Thailand; 47- Type of sanctuary; 49- Closer; 52- \_\_\_ extra cost; 53- High-pitched tone; 55- "East of Eden" director Kazan; 56- Coscant's reciprocal; 57- Throw; 58- Tree trunk; 59- Get rid of; 60- \_\_\_ out a living (barely got by); 62- Nine-digit ID;

**Friday's solution**

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | R | E | E | S |   | Q | U | A |   | T | H | A | W | S |
| L | E | A | K | Y |   | U | R | N |   | H | O | R | A | E |
| U | T | T | E | R |   | M | O | S | T |   | E | N | O | L |
| R | E | S |   |   |   | K | I | T | A | S |   | R | E | S |
|   |   | A | P | S |   | E | I | D | E | R |   |   |   |   |
| A | R | E | N | A | S |   | A | R | E | A |   |   |   |   |
| C | H | O | O | S |   | R | A | L | C | O | N | E | R |   |
| T | E | N | D |   |   | W | A | X |   | R | E | U | P |   |
| A | S | E | P | T | I | C |   | S | T | E | R | R | A |   |
|   |   | L | O | O |   | L | O | G |   | L | E | A | D | I |
| T | A | B | O | O |   | F | O | R | D |   |   |   |   |   |
| R | E | B | U | T |   | A | V | O |   | S | A | T |   |   |
| T | N | E | R | T |   | F | A | C | S | I | M | I | L | E |
| S | T | A | K | E |   | A | S | A |   | S | A | L | E | S |
| E | S | T | E | R |   | R | E | L |   | A | L | O | E | S |

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



|  |   |   |  |   |
|--|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>Pearl on the Lough Duplex, Taipa</b><br/>                 HK\$34,000,000 4,000 ft<sup>2</sup> 5 1/2 3 1/2</p> | <p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>One Grantai Spacious Apartment, Cotai</b><br/>                 \$23,000/mth 2,122 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 1/2 3 1/2</p> | <p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>[Macau] <b>Jade Garden</b> 4 1/2 3 1/2<br/>                 3,180 ft<sup>2</sup> \$18,000,000 (ref: 19126002)</p> <p>[Macau] <b>Seaview Garden</b> 3 1/2 2 1/2<br/>                 1,420 ft<sup>2</sup> \$11,800,000 (ref: 20016004)</p> <p>[Macau] <b>Waterfront Duet Studio</b> 1 1/2<br/>                 469 ft<sup>2</sup> \$5,100,000 (ref: 20016001)</p> <p>[Taipa] <b>Nam Long</b> 1 1/2 1 1/2<br/>                 785 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,780,000 (ref: 20016009)</p> | <p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p>[Coloane] <b>Grand Coloane Resort</b> 1 1/2 1 1/2<br/>                 710 ft<sup>2</sup> \$10,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Taipa] <b>Nam Long</b> 2 1/2 1 1/2<br/>                 645 ft<sup>2</sup> \$11,800/mth (ref: 19111001)</p> <p>[Macau] <b>Vai Fung Triplex</b> 2 1/2 2 1/2<br/>                 1,065 ft<sup>2</sup> \$15,800/mth (ref: 19121001)</p> <p>[Taipa] <b>Manhattan</b> 4 1/2 2 1/2<br/>                 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> \$26,800/mth (ref: 19091003)</p> | <p><b>jml</b> 卓雅物業<br/>                 property Since 1994</p> <p><b>(853) 2835 2699</b><br/>                 hello@jmlproperty.com<br/>                 www.jmlproperty.com</p> <p>f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty</p> |
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**+853 2835 2699**  
hello@jmlproperty.com  
www.jmlproperty.com

Avenida da Praia Grande No.599, Edf. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 andar C, Macau  
澳門南灣大馬路599號羅德禮商業大廈12樓C座



**Juliet Risdon**  
+853 6680 9804  
juliet@jmlproperty.com



**Elda Lemos**  
+853 6226 8566  
elda@jmlproperty.com



**Sam Lee**  
+853 6611 0975  
sam@jmlproperty.com



**Kitty Lou**  
+853 6630 0730  
kitty@jmlproperty.com

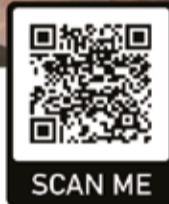
Property of the Week



**Pearl on the Lough Duplex, Taipa**

**HK\$34,000,000** 4,000 ft<sup>2</sup> 5 🛏 3 🚿 1 🚗

Rare ground floor duplex apartment with villa design, have private entrance, private car park entrance and private garden. Fabulous Sea Views across Macau. 3 bedrooms + 1 function room including maid's bedroom and big storage room. Well designed kitchen with well fitted appliances. Clubhouse facilities include swimming pool etc.



Property Hotlist



**Simplex Apartment w/ Outdoor Terraces, Taipa**

**\$18,800,000**  
4,080 ft<sup>2</sup>  
2 🛏 3 🚿



**One Central Lakeview apartment, Taipa**

**\$12,000,000**  
1,269 ft<sup>2</sup>  
2 🛏 2 🚿



**One Grantai Spacious Apartment, Cotal**

**\$23,000/mth**  
2,122 ft<sup>2</sup>  
3 🛏 3 🚿



**Hellene Garden Furnished, Coloane**

**\$14,000/mth**  
1,663 ft<sup>2</sup>  
3 🛏 2 🚿 1 🚗



More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Jade Garden 4 🛏 3 🚿 3,180 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$18,000,000** (ref: 19126002)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 🛏 2 🚿 1,420 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,800,000** (ref: 20016004)
- [Macau] Waterfront Duet Studio 1 🚿 469 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$5,100,000** (ref: 20016001)
- [Taipa] Nam Long 1 🛏 1 🚿 785 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$4,780,000** (ref: 20016009)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village- with balcony 2 🛏 1 🚿 787 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$4,950,000** (ref: 19096008)

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- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 🛏 1 🚿 710 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$10,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
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# Wuhan soccer team leaving Spain to escape virus

TALES AZZONI, MADRID

**T**HE Chinese soccer team that was originally stuck in Spain because of the coronavirus outbreak is going back home to try to avoid its rapid spread in Europe.

Wuhan Zall was expected to return to China on Saturday, nearly 1 1/2 months after it arrived in Spain for preseason training. The team had not been able to leave because of the restrictions in China, but expedited its departure because of the worsening situation in Spain.

The team initially planned to leave Spain mid-February but had extended its stay in the southern region of the country until at least the end of March. That plan changed this week because of the sharp spike in the number of cases in Spain and Europe generally.

"Things are well over there (in China) now," José González, the team's Spanish coach, told The Associated Press on Saturday. "The Chinese league will likely start at the beginning of May. We will have to enter quarantine when we arrive, so the sooner



we leave, the better."

The team will first go to the city of Shenzhen, where it is expected to finish its preseason training for the Chinese Super League, the country's main first-division soccer competition. The league was supposed to start on Feb. 22 but

was suspended because of the virus.

The city of Wuhan was the epicenter of the outbreak that rapidly spread to other countries and infected more than 145,000 people worldwide, with 5,400 deaths.

Spain was set to follow Italy

on Saturday in declaring a nationwide lockdown as European countries took ever more sweeping measures to reduce contact among people and slow the accelerating spread of the coronavirus. Health authorities in Spain said more than 5,700 people were in-

ected and the number of cases could reach 10,000 in the coming days.

For most people, the new coronavirus causes only mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness, including pneumonia. The vast majority of people recover.

The number of new cases have dwindled in China, where more than 65,000 people recovered from the virus. The nation has been easing up on lockdown measures in its hardest-hit region that included the city of Wuhan.

None of the Wuhan Zall players were infected when the team arrived in Spain, but the grandmother of one player was among the coronavirus-linked deaths back home.

Players have been away from home for several months because the team began its preseason in the Chinese city of Guangzhou, nearly 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) away from Wuhan.

Although the team was far away from the initial outbreak, Spanish health authorities had to come out publicly to say there was no reason for local citizens to be concerned about the squad's arrival in January. Three players arrived from China later and had to stay in quarantine and be tested for the virus before joining the rest of the group. **AP**

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OPINION

World Views

Francis Wilkinson, Bloomberg

**THE COVID-19 CLASS OF 2020**

The Class of 2020 has been doubly cursed. They entered college in the late summer of 2016. A few months later their elders ushered Donald Trump into the presidency. Now their final weeks at school are a sad, sputtering fiasco of remote learning, social distancing and mounting dread.

My own offspring, a senior, has generally made the best of her college experience, collecting friends and acquiring the kind of knowledge that you can pluck off the shelf at reputable institutions of higher learning. Lately, however, she has taken to messaging me with eminently sensible queries about whether her initiation into adulthood is inconveniently shadowed by apocalypse.

My answers lack conviction. I keep saying things will get better — provided she and her young friends vote in November and don't fall into the generational trap of "Bernie or Bust." But my encouragement must sound increasingly hollow. Cities and states are shutting down as a dangerously unprepared nation braces for viral outbreak. The financial markets, where avarice once again has routed foresight, are indulging their gyrating talent for panic.

It's difficult to argue, under present circumstances, that the world is not speeding to hell in a designer handbasket. The crook and liar who entered the White House shortly after my daughter and her classmates entered college is presiding over a national disaster that highlights the blatant pathologies that made him unfit for the office in the first place. Given the opportunity to remove him, Republican senators instead protected him, preserving his capacity to mismanage and exacerbate a crisis that could lead to hundreds (thousands?) of deaths.

How does a parent explain that with an air of reassurance?

On campus orientation day four years ago, the U.S. was governed by an informed, rational and ethical president. Yes, all the familiar fault lines were evident, and there was a creeping sense of unease along with a partisan clown show in Congress. But executive branch competency was high, and ethical standards were generally viewed to be as well.

As these same students prepare for graduations that may not take place at all, the executive branch is in shambles. The president's incapacity is magnified by his faltering staff. No one can succeed in this perpetually broken administration, or ever will, because of the malignancy at its center.

Meanwhile, the texts from my daughter keep coming. She is unnerved by the reckless malice displayed by her parents' generation, which bears the greatest responsibility for foisting this grotesque on the world. And she is concerned about those younger than herself. What happens to kids enrolled in school-lunch programs when their schools are shut down? How will they be fed? She suggests that we focus locally, where there are plenty of needy kids and we have a better chance of having a positive impact.

It's smart advice. The thought — and the impending need — hadn't occurred to me. I have been wallowing too much in outrage. Though I'm heartened by her capacity to think positively and pragmatically at such a time, I can't quite bring myself to tell her that things will turn out OK. The Class of 2020 is graduating into an epidemic, in a nation governed by a conservative political party that is itself deeply sick.

Meantime, in exchange for useless advice from her parent, my soon-to-be-graduate has provided me with marching orders. Don't provide food, she says. Money is what social-service organizations need to feed the hungry. I appreciate the guidance. In times of widespread institutional failure, individual instances of leadership are especially welcome.

The World Health Organization's chief has launched a global fund to raise money to help the world's nations respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, saying "every dollar donated is a dollar towards saving lives."

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said: "Funds raised will be used to coordinate the response, to buy masks, gloves, gowns and goggles for health workers, to buy diagnostic tests, to improve surveillance, and to invest in research and development."

He said WHO is partnering with the U.N. Foundation and the

Swiss Philanthropy Foundation, which will host the COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund.

The fund will be raising money from companies, foundations and individuals and said it already has lined up major support, including Facebook and Google, which have instituted matching schemes for donations through their platforms. Individuals can also support the fund through [www.COVID19ResponseFund.org](http://www.COVID19ResponseFund.org)

The WHO director-general also thanked the countries that have supported WHO's Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan, including Japan, which this week contributed \$155 million.

**MEXICO HOLDS BIG MUSIC FESTIVAL DESPITE CORONAVIRUS CONCERNS**



BERENICE BAUTISTA, MEXICO CITY

WHILE the coronavirus pandemic has led authorities around the globe to cancel concerts and sporting events, and even shut down daily activities in some places, Mexico City is going ahead with Vive Latino — one of the most important music festivals in the country.

Some acts backed out, but tens of thousands of music fans flocked on Saturday to the first day of the festival, which still expected Guns N' Roses, Carlos Vives and Zoe to be among its headliners. Organizers said more than 70,000 tickets had been sold for each of the festival's two days.

Concerns about the new COVID-19 illness were evident, though. At the entrance, the usual security checks for such events had a new filter: Each person entering was checked for fever and a strong smell of antibacterial gel permeated in the air.

But once past that, the dynamics of the festival were not much changed. People walked excitedly toward the various stages and crowded together for the performances.

Alan Miranda, who was making his first visit to Vive Latino and especially wanted to see The Warning, said he felt many people

are overreacting to the potential danger of contagion at large gatherings.

"Because I consider it is more a collective hysteria than any other thing. In Mexico we have a culture of a little bit more of hygiene that helps us to limit this kind of transmissions," he said.

Santiago Ayala was accompanied by his wife and his 9-year-old daughter, Regina, who wore a Guns N' Roses T-shirt to her first Vive Latino.

"In the end we thought that at any moment we could catch it here, in the pharmacy in the tortilla line. We decided to take the risk and come," Ayala said, adding that they brought along antibacterial gel and tissues and didn't plan to push into crowds.

Only a few people showed up wearing masks, such as Daniel Ramirez, who covered his face with a mask decorated with a picture of a fox. He said he suffers from asthma and needs to be more cautious. He was also using antibacterial gel.

He said he trusted the Mexican officials' decision to let the festival go ahead.

"We have to be informed and before panicking you have to read some texts and know that it is serious but we are still in a passable stage," Ramirez said of the outbreak.

Hugo López-Gatell, de-

puty director of the Health Department, said Friday night that Mexico is still in what is considered phase one of a pandemic, with isolated cases of infections in people who had traveled abroad or in a few cases infected others. Authorities have reported 41 cases across the country.

Almost everyone recovers from the new virus, which often causes only mild symptoms, such as fever and cough. But for some people, particularly older adults and people with pre-existing health problems, it can cause more serious illnesses such as pneumonia.

Karina and Saúl, who did not give their last name, were at Vive Latino, but they were not convinced about the wisdom of doing so.

They said they came only because there were no refunds for the tickets that cost them 5,000 pesos (\$228) for the two days of the festival. They tried to sell their tickets but weren't offered enough.

In addition, they bought the tickets at the beginning of the year because they wanted to see the Japanese singer Kyary Pamyu Pamyu, and was one of the artists who didn't come.

"It was disrespectful to the public that they didn't cancel (the festival), and put everyone at risk," said Saúl. AP



**New Zealand** People in the city of Christchurch honored the 51 worshipers who were killed in a mass shooting a year ago in small but poignant ways yesterday, after a planned national memorial event was canceled due to fears it might spread the new coronavirus.



**USA** After days of resisting screening for the coronavirus, President Donald Trump tested negative for the virus, officials said. Meanwhile, the White House began checking the temperature of anyone coming into close contact with the president and other officials. Prior to his testing, Trump said his personal physician told him he didn't show symptoms and didn't need to take the test.

**USA** Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said it would be "inappropriate" to comment on President Donald Trump's characterization of the U.S. Federal Reserve and its chairman, Jerome Powell. On ABC's "This Week," Mnuchin was asked if he shared Trump's recent assessment of the Fed as "pathetic," "slow-moving," and putting the U.S. "at a disadvantage" to other countries.



**Vatican City** The Vatican's Holy Week ceremonies will go ahead but without public attendance as Italy tries to contain the coronavirus outbreak, the Holy See said yesterday. Vatican spokesman Matteo Brunetti said in a statement that "as far as Holy Week liturgical celebrations are concerned, I can specify that all are confirmed."