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**NEW ENTRY RESTRICTIONS THAT TOOK EFFECT AT MIDNIGHT TARGET CHINESE NATIONALS WHO HAVE SPENT TIME IN HK OR TAIWAN**

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**HO IAT SENG CRITICIZES CASINO OPERATORS FOR 'NOT OFFERING QUARANTINE FACILITIES'**

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**ASYMPTOMATIC CASES ARE TESTING POSITIVE IN WUHAN AFTER BEIJING ANNOUNCES LIFTING THE LOCKDOWN OF VIRUS EPICENTER FROM APRIL 8: CAIXIN**

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AP PHOTO



**Thailand's** government approved a one-month state of emergency allowing it to impose stricter measures to control the coronavirus that has infected hundreds of people in the Southeast Asian country. Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said his Cabinet decided that the state of emergency will take effect at midnight.  
More on p7

AP PHOTO



**India** will begin the world's largest lockdown today, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in a TV address, warning citizens to stay inside or risk inviting the pandemic into their homes, and pledging \$2 billion to bolster the country's beleaguered health care system. "To save India and every Indian, there will be a total ban on venturing out," Modi said.

**Japan** The IOC announced a first-of-its-kind postponement of the Summer Olympics yesterday, bowing to the realities of a coronavirus pandemic that is shutting down daily life around the globe and making planning for a massive worldwide gathering in July a virtual impossibility. More on p11

**Markets** Asian stock markets gained yesterday after the U.S. Federal Reserve promised support to the struggling economy as Congress delayed action on a \$2 trillion coronavirus aid package. Market benchmarks in Tokyo and South Korea rose nearly 7% while Shanghai, Hong Kong and Australian markets also gained. Traders were encouraged by the Fed's promise to buy as many Treasuries and other assets as needed to keep financial markets functioning.

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# ISOLATION

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**MACAU PEOPLE BARRED FROM HONG KONG AIRPORT DEPARTURES**



BLOOMBERG

**HK BOOZE BAN MAY WIPE OUT THOUSANDS OF BARS AND RESTAURANTS**

BLOOMBERG



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### NINTH QUARANTINE HOTEL TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON

During yesterday's press conference at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, the representative of the Macao Government Tourism Office, Inês Chan, informed that a ninth hotel facility to be used as a medical observation and quarantine venue will soon be announced. The official did not want to reveal the name of the hotel unit but disclosed that it is a hotel unit located on the Macau Peninsula. This would be the third hotel to be used by the government as a medical facility in the Peninsula after the Metropole Hotel, San Tung Fong Commercial Inn, South Wing and Grand Lapa Hotel. The eight hotels so far designated as quarantine facilities offer a combined supply of 2,182 rooms, according to the government.

### RELAXATION OF MAINLAND WORKER RESTRICTION SUGGESTED FOR APRIL

The Chief Executive has indicated the possibility of easing travel restrictions for non-resident workers in Macau who are from the mainland. Previously, the local government announced a possible policy relaxation for mainland blue-card holders to take place in April. Yesterday, the Chief Executive said that the SAR government has not given up on this plan. He thinks that since both Macau and Zhuhai have not recorded local infections recently, Macau can return to pre-Covid-19 mainland worker entry policies. The resumption of ordinary travel policies for mainland workers may happen at the beginning of next month. He further remarked that he will request the central government to reopen Macau travel permits for mainland residents.

### NO MORE SUBSIDIES CURRENTLY PLANNED FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The Chief Executive has made it clear that he has no intention to give more financial support to the city's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Ho Iat Seng said that the Macau government has been working in a variety of ways to support local SMEs. He added that the government has launched different schemes to help small businesses, hoping they can survive the pandemic period as well as keep Macau residents employed. Macau's top official said yesterday that at the current stage he is not considering additional support measures for such businesses. The local government has introduced e-vouchers worth 3,000 patacas to be distributed to all local residents. The idea, according to the government, is that they are spent buying the goods and services offered by local SMEs. He said that he does "not exclude nor promise" another round of e-vouchers.

# PEOPLE IN MACAU BARRED FROM HONG KONG AIRPORT DEPARTURES

RENATO MARQUES

**P**OPLE in Macau will not be able to travel via the Hong Kong International Airport as the new measures enforced by the neighboring authorities disallow the entry of people arriving from Macau without undergoing a 14-day quarantine period.

However, according to Macau Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, this ban will not be applied in the reverse direction. That is, Macau residents bound for Macau via the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) will still be able to return to the MSAR.

The confirmation of Hong Kong's restriction was made by the representative of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Inês Chan, during yesterday's daily press conference for the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

Questioned on the topic by the media, Chan said, "from March 25, Hong Kong [authorities] will disallow the entry of Macau residents [without passing through a medical observation period]. From 00:00 on March 25, people cannot enter the Hong Kong region [via the only access currently available, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau



Bridge] and so they would not be able to catch any flights in Hong Kong," Chan clarified.

After acknowledging this, Chan was questioned as to whether the local government was considering special transportation to allow people in Macau to access HKIA. "We do not have a special vehicle to transport them. There are a lot of formalities for the enforcement of such a procedure. At

the moment there is no consensus between Macau and Hong Kong on this," replied Chan.

The current consensus concerns one-way traffic only, according to Chan.

Under the consensus, special vehicles from Macau are able to access Hong Kong International Airport in order to bring all Macau residents arriving via the airport back to the

SAR. These residents would otherwise be stranded and not have a way to return home.

Air connections via the Macau International Airport do not have the intercontinental reach enjoyed by HKIA, meaning many local students currently in Europe or North America have flown or intend to fly first to Hong Kong.

Chan noted that of those that registered to return via this connection, about 800 people are due to arrive up until March 31, with a large majority (over 90%) being local students that are studying abroad.

Chan said that the special vehicle from MGTO has already transported over 100 passengers from HKIA into Macau. On Monday another 103 passengers were transported in the same way, requiring the deployment of over 10 vehicles and taking eight and a half hours to complete.

"Last night we departed to Hong Kong [International Airport] at 10 p.m. and the residents were only able to be all transported to Macau around 6:30 a.m. of today [yesterday]. So, we appeal to the residents that will be involved in this process to supply themselves with essentials, namely food and drink, and be prepared to wait patiently," Chan said.

# Three to face prosecution after breaching quarantine

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE representative of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, informed that the PSP has detected three cases of people under quarantine who have violated the quarantine rules, and thus breached the law.

The information was disclosed yesterday

during the daily press conference at the Center with the PSP official informing that of the three cases recorded, two are local residents who had been placed under "home quarantine" and the third is a non-resident worker from Indonesia who was quarantined inside a hotel.

According to the PSP, two of the cases were discovered during police inspections at the qua-

rantine venues and the third case resulted from a report made to the Center.

In all the cases, those involved have breached article 14 of the law of Prevention, Control and Treatment of Infectious Diseases.

The PSP noted that it has already forwarded the cases to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for additional investigation and then prosecution.

The representative of the PSP said yesterday that "these people violated the medical examination procedures since they have been informed that they need to be subjected to 14 days under medical observation. During those days they were not allowed to leave their houses or their hotel room, but they breached these rules."

The representative revealed that, in the ins-

tance of the two local residents, "when the officers arrived at their houses, they realized they were not home," and in the third case, the quarantine hotel reported to the authorities that the person had left his room for some time, "maybe to get food or other daily necessities."

The suspects face a penalty including a prison sentence of up to six months or a fine of up to 60 days according to the penal framework.

The PSP also took the opportunity to appeal to all citizens to collaborate with the authority's works and strictly observe the law.

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Macau Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, who made a rare address to the territory yesterday to announce the new border entry measures

# New entry restrictions single out mainland China as only safe place

JULIE ZHU

**N**EW entry restrictions that came into effect at midnight have set the bar higher for people wishing to enter the Macau Special Administrative Region.

According to an announcement yesterday by the Chief Executive, the new measures will mostly affect residents of Hong Kong and Taiwan who have not spent the 14 days prior to their Macau entry in mainland China.

The new measures build on an earlier restriction that took effect Thursday last week, barring any non-Chinese nationals from entering the city. A day earlier, Macau had barred entry to the city to all non-Chinese nationals except foreign nationals who were also considered non-resident workers of Macau.

As protected by the law, any Macau resident is able to return to Macau. However, they will be subject to varying quarantine measures.

For example, Macau residents that have traveled to anywhere other than mainland China in the 14 days prior to entry will need to undergo two weeks of medical observation at designated locations. However, Macau residents who have only visited mainland China in the past 14 days are still free to travel between Macau and the mainland wi-

thout undergoing any quarantine measures upon their return to Macau.

Chinese nationals from the rest of the greater China region (encompassing mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan) are allowed to enter Macau if they have only been traveling or residing in the mainland in the 14 days prior to their entry to Macau. They will be subject to initial testing and medical examination upon entry, which may take up to eight hours to clear.

This means that residents of Hong Kong and Taiwan will have no problem entering Macau, provided they do not have a travel record to anywhere other than mainland China within the past 14 days.

Residents of mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan with a travel history to Hong Kong or Taiwan within the past 14 days are allowed to enter Macau but must undergo a 14-day medical observation at appointed locations.

Those residents of the greater China region with travel history to foreign countries within the past 14 days are not allowed to enter Macau at all.

During yesterday's press conference, Macau's Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, warned travelers not to disclose their recent travel history.

Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan residents who plan to exploit the loophole in these policies by first

traveling to mainland China and then crossing the border to Macau will not succeed, according to Ho, because Macau and the mainland share information about the travel history of everybody who crosses the border. Anyone caught attempting to conceal their travel history will be reported to the relevant government's police authority immediately.

Meanwhile, the policy for foreign workers in Macau who are also residents of mainland China will remain the same.

Workers must have medical proof that they are not infected with Covid-19, otherwise they must complete a 14-day hotel quarantine in Zhuhai before they enter Macau. The same policy is applicable to mainland tourists with a travel history to Hubei province or other provinces with a high number of Covid-19 cases wi-

thin the past 14 days.

Non-Chinese nationals, both blue-card holders and foreign tourists are not allowed to enter Macau under the current restrictions.

aforementioned restrictions.

Also starting from midnight, no layovers will be allowed. This means nobody can enter Macau with a passport and a flight ticket to a third country.

At the same time, Hong Kong has issued a ban on the entry of all non-residents starting midnight and lasting at least until March 31. However, according to the Macau government's statistics, there are still approximately 680 Macau residents waiting to travel to Macau from foreign countries, and are expected to travel before March 31.

Ho explained that because these students will not set foot in Hong Kong territory, the Hong Kong government will help to transport them immediately to Macau.

Regarding any possible assistance requests from Macau residents

currently overseas and looking to return to the city after April 1, Ho said "I will not make any promises here."

## Coming to Macau? The latest on entry restrictions

- **Macau residents are entitled to return.** If they have visited any jurisdiction other than mainland China in the 14 days prior to their arrival, they will need to undergo a 14-day quarantine in Macau.
- **Residents of mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan that have visited Hong Kong or Taiwan 14 days prior to arriving Macau.** They will need to undergo a 14-day quarantine.
- **Residents of mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan who have only visited mainland China in the 14 days prior to arriving Macau.** They are subjected to six to eight hours of medical examination if they are traveling from regions where there is a high incidence of novel coronavirus cases.
- **Non-Chinese nationals are not allowed to enter Macau.**
- **Non-resident workers who are not also residents of mainland China are not allowed to enter Macau.**

According to these policies, only Macau residents moving between mainland China and Macau are not subject to the



# CE criticizes 'unreachable' casino operators for not offering quarantine facilities

JULIE ZHU

**C**HIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng has criticized Macau's six gaming concessionaires for their unwillingness to allow their integrated resorts to be used as quarantine hotels amid the Covid-19 pandemic. Ho made several comments to express his dissatisfaction during yesterday's press conference, and called on the casino operators to fulfill their corporate social responsibility obligations.

With the recent addition of Grand Lapa, the Macau government has confirmed eight hotels for quarantine, which are mostly occupied by local returnees.

However, as of today, none of the quarantine hotels are managed by the city's gaming concessionaires, a fact that the Chief Executive has interpreted as a lack of willingness of the behalf operators to meet their responsibilities to society.

In Ho's words, the gaming concessionaires "donated many facemasks to relevant organizations and to the government," for which the local government "is grateful." However, during the



process of finding more hotels for quarantine, Ho was met with disappointment.

"We could not reach [an agreement with] a single integrated resort," said Ho, indicating that none of the operators were prepared to lease their properties for the government's quarantine measures.

The Chief Executive explained that the local government does

not necessarily need to use integrated resorts for those who are under quarantine because integrated resorts have restaurants and casinos.

"But when we have to, we cannot find more places," said Ho.

The Chief Executive questioned if the gaming operators should do more to live up to their corporate social responsibility obligations.

"This is a test to the new SAR government and a big test to the six gaming operators. What social responsibilities should they bear? What is called corporate social responsibility? Social responsibilities are not just publicity in some newspaper or some donation," said Ho.

In the case of one integrated resort approached by the government, Ho said that the government had offered to "pay for all hotel rooms, but they were still unwilling" to lease the property for this purpose.

The Chief Executive said that the Macau's financial reserves meant the territory was able to cover the expenses incurred with repurposing hotels into quarantine facilities.

Although the city's infectious disease law gives the Macau government the power to seize hotels, Ho noted that the SAR government "does not want to use this article."

Nevertheless, despite the eight confirmed quarantine facilities, Macau's top official stressed that it has been "very difficult" for the SAR government to find another quarantine hotel.

Last month, the Macau government suspended casino operations for 15 consecutive days due to the registration of Covid-19 infections among local casino workers. However, despite 15 new imported cases this month, the local government said it has no intention to suspend casino operations a second time.

"We will not suspend restaurants nor will we suspend casinos. I don't want to instill panic and terror in the public, and I don't want to make it impossible for the city to recover" said Ho, claiming this is because the government was able to diagnose all these recent cases in a speedy manner and thereby monitor the extent of their contact with the public.

As of today, more than 600 people are still under home quarantine. All of these people under home quarantine returned to Macau before March 17. In Ho's opinion, the risk of a Covid-19 community outbreak still exists because of these people.

The policy was later changed to require those under quarantine to be medically observed at government-designated facilities.

## Social media users applaud quarantine hotel's gift-giving

**O**NE of the hotels designated by the Macau government to host local returnees under quarantine has been applauded by social media users for handing out little gifts to the returnees.

Earlier this week, the Times received a photo-

graph from a reader which showed a letter sent from the management of the Grand Coloane Resort to the Macau residents currently being accommodated.

The picture showed that the letter was signed by the hotel's general manager, Christian Buggel-

sheim. In the letter, the general manager avoided the use of the word quarantine, and referred to the period as a "retreat".

The Times received confirmation from the general manager about the authenticity of the letter.

"I hope you are doing well at your 14-day retreat

at Grand Coloane Resort," wrote the general manager in the letter.

"I understand that it may be nerve wrecking at times," said Buggel-sheim, adding that the hotel would help to ease the anxiety of those quarantined.

According to Buggel-

sheim, all individuals staying at the resort will be given a small gift every three days. The resort's marketing and communications manager, Vanessa Estorninho, said that the gifts could be chocolate, ice cream, a slice of cake, or hand sanitizer.

A social media user

surnamed Lei, revealed that her cousin was in quarantine at the resort. A picture posted by Lei showed that the cousin was given a can of potato chips.

According to Lei, her cousin expressed gratitude on receiving the letter and the small gift. **AL**

AD

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DANIEL BEITLER

## Social media clip shows police in routine traffic monitoring

A video clip circulated recently on social media showing an officer of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) filming nearby traffic, possibly with the purpose of detecting driving violations.

A voiceover belonging to a middle-aged woman on the video clip claimed that the officer had been filming passing traffic as part of his operation.

"Be cautious when you drive and stop at zebra crossings," the voice said. "There is surveillance in operation."

The woman's comment refers to a periodic operation by the PSP to catch drivers not stopping at zebra crossings.

According to the transport laws of Macau, drivers are res-

ponsible for slowing down their vehicles when nearing land-level crossing facilities. When pedestrians are near such crossings, drivers should stop their vehicles and let pedestrians cross the road.

To ensure compliance with the law, police officers periodically monitor some crossings in operations that often span various points across the city.

Teams of PSP officers have been spotted several times filming a zebra crossing near the Kun Iam Temple on Avenida do Colonel Mesquita.

The Times contacted the PSP for more information on the operation, but no reply was received as of press time. **AL**

### CRIME

## 2.5 MILLION PATACAS LOST IN A MONTH OF MASK SCAMS

ANTHONY LAM

**F**ROM February 18 to March 23, the Judiciary Police (PJ) received 41 cases of mask scams involving 55 victims, the law enforcement authority disclosed yesterday. These scams have reportedly caused the victims to lose a combined 2.53 million patacas.

Not all victims were Macau residents, who have enjoyed a regular and uninterrupted supply of masks in the previous two months or so, the PJ reported. Among the 55 victims, there was one Hong Kong resident, one mainland Chinese resident and a Singaporean.

The most serious of the cases allegedly involved a monetary loss of 1.21 million patacas.

At yesterday's police press briefing, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) unveiled the details of one such case unearthed on February 22.

The 30-year-old victim met the local suspect, aged 26 and surnamed Lei, over a mobile messaging app on February 5. The suspect, who told the police that he worked as a food delivery man, claimed to the victim that he had masks to be sold for

1,000 patacas per 80 pieces.

That night, the victim met Lei near the St Lawrence Church and paid him the amount he had asked for. Upon receiving the money, the suspect told the victim that the masks would be delivered on February 14.

On February 22, having still not received the masks, the victim reported the case to the PSP, who arrested Lei on March 20 at his residence on Rua do Barca.

The suspect later confessed to the police that he had scammed the victim with the proclaimed mask sale. He also said he had already spent all the money.

The PJ, meanwhile, reported a case officially categorized as abuse of trust, involving a building security guard appropriating a management fee collected on her employer's behalf.

Surnamed Kam, the 61-year-old local female guard worked at a residential building located in NAPE. Part of her job was to collect the management fee from residents of the building. She started working with the management company in September 2019.

The case was discovered by the accounting department of

the management company on March 21, 2020. The accounting clerks found out that the company has not received the management fee from the residential building, which should have been submitted by the suspect.

During the investigation, the suspect confessed to the PJ that she had appropriated the money, amounting to 75,830 patacas in total, before losing it all at the gambling tables.

Meanwhile, another fraud reported by the police yesterday concerned a 17-year-old local male student in a scam commonly known as "Loco London Gold" that took place in 2018.

In this case, the suspect managed to convince the victim into making investment with him worth a total of 103,000 patacas.

Later it turned out that the fund had all been lost and the victim reported the scam to the police.

The investigation uncovered that the suspect used to work with a company, which has now ceased operation. The PJ noted that the investigation will continue to try to discover if more victims exist.

## PREPAID CARDS WITHOUT REGISTRATION TO BE SUSPENDED BY APRIL 19

**T**HE Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau has reminded all prepaid card users to register at its telecom shops on or before April 19 to avoid a suspension of services.

In accordance with Article 24 of Law No. 13/2019, the Cyber Security Law which has been effective from December 22, 2019, customers should register using their real names.

Telecom operations should urge prepaid card users to register for their prepaid card activated before December 22, 2019, within the transitional period of 120 days in force under the law.

Mobile services for prepaid cards with no registration will be suspended on April 20, the end of the transitional period, according to a statement the bureau issued.

In order to cooperate with the pandemic prevention work, the public is encouraged to avoid congregating in telecom shops.

The bureau calls on prepaid card users to use online platforms provided by telecommunication operators in order to complete real name registration.

One of the most commonly used prepaid cards among city's the domestic helpers is CTM's 4G+ Social Unlimited. **LV**

## SCAFFOLDING COLLAPSE KILLS THREE PEOPLE AT CONSTRUCTION SITE

**A** scaffolding structure at the construction site of an integrated resort collapsed yesterday, claiming three lives and injured another four, public broadcaster Radio Macau reported.

The site concerned belongs to casino operator Galaxy Entertainment Group, which is developing a new hotel as well as convention and exhibition facilities on the site.

The authorities have ordered the construction company to suspend all works.

The incident happened around 4 p.m. when seven non-resident workers were clearing the elevator shaft. The shaft, structured with scaffoldings, collapsed suddenly and fell on the seven workers.

Four of the workers were rescued in an unconscious state. **AL**



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



The New York Times Beijing based correspondent Steven Lee Myers (left) chats with other foreign journalists after attending a daily briefing by Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing, earlier this month

## US newspapers urge China not to expel their journalists

**T**HE publishers of three major American newspapers have written an open letter asking China to reverse its recent decision to expel many of their correspondents working in the country.

The letter posted online yesterday referred to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, saying the expulsions threaten access to information at a time when it is needed most. It was signed by the publishers of The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal.

"This move — made in retaliation for recent expulsions by the United States government — is one that we would protest under any circumstances," they wrote. "But it is uniquely damaging and reckless as the world continues the struggle to control this disease, a struggle that will require the free flow of reliable news and information."

China said last week that most Americans working for the three publications would have to surrender their press cards within 10 days. The move followed a Trump administration decision to limit the number of visas for Chinese working for China's major state media in the U.S.

The U.S., in announcing the visa limit, cited increasingly harsh surveillance, harassment and intimidation of American and other foreign journalists working in China.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang called his country's actions "essential countermeasures against the unreasonable oppression of the Chinese media organizations in the U.S." He said the American newspapers should take their complaint to the U.S. government.

Chinese media including the official Xinhua News Agency and the international arm of state broadcaster CCTV are now restricted to a total of 100 visas. Collectively, they employed about 160 Chinese in the U.S., meaning about 60 would have had to leave.

The Chinese action applies to Americans whose credentials are due to expire by the end of the year. The Foreign Correspondents' Club of China said at least 13 journalists would be affected. They are effectively expelled because their visas are tied to their press cards.

"The media is collateral damage in a diplomatic dispute between the Chinese and U.S. governments, threatening to deprive the world of critical information at a perilous moment," the letter from the newspaper publishers said.

The coronavirus pandemic started in China and has spread to most of the rest of the world.

The publishers urged the Chinese government to reverse the expulsions and ease what they called a growing crackdown on independent news organizations in China. AP

### BACK TO WUHAN

# Asymptomatic cases are the problem Beijing announces lifting

**B**ACK in China's Wuhan, where the virus first appeared, asymptomatic people are still testing positive for it—four days after the country said there have been no new cases at the epicenter of its outbreak, according to an article in Caixin magazine.

That raises concerns that the virus could still be spreading in the city. Asymptomatic carriers appear to be able to transmit the virus to others, according to experts, complicating efforts to stop its spread.

Unlike other countries like South Korea, which counts everyone who's tested positive as a confirmed case, China does not include asymptomatic infections in its official count.

Across the world, scientists are calling for urgent studies to determine the proportion of people with coronavirus who show no, or delayed, symptoms amid similar concerns that the number of silent carriers may be greater than previously thought.

China's Hubei province said it will allow transportation to resume for the city of Wuhan on April 8, effectively lifting a mass quarantine over the city where the coronavirus first emerged last December.

People in Wuhan will be allowed to leave the city and Hubei province, according to a statement on the provincial government's website yesterday.

The easing of restrictions comes as Hubei reported that new infections dropped to zero on March 19, a dramatic plunge from the height



of an epidemic that's infected more than 80,000 Chinese and killed over 3,200.

President Xi Jinping has been projecting confidence that his government has stemmed the outbreak in China. On March 10, Xi visited Wuhan, the capital of Hubei, for the first time since the disease emerged. But with the virus is accelerating its spread globally and

Europe now reporting more cases than China, the world's second-largest economy will struggle to resume full activity.

China on Jan. 23 took unprecedented steps to lock down Wuhan and surrounding regions, effectively restricting the movements of 60 million people in Hubei province as infections spun out of control.

The measures stopped air and

### RESEARCH

## LOSS OF SMELL, TASTE, MIGHT SIGNAL PANDEMIC

**L**oss of smell or taste might be an early sign of infection with the pandemic virus, say medical experts who cite reports from several countries.

It might even serve as a useful screening tool, they say.

The idea of a virus infection reducing sense of smell is not new. Respiratory viral infection is a common cause of loss of smell, because inflammation can interfere with airflow and the ability to detect odors. The sense of smell usually returns when the infection resolves, but in a small percentage of cases, smell loss can per-

sist after other symptoms disappear. In some cases, it is permanent.

Now, there's "good evidence" from South Korea, China and Italy for loss or impairment of smell in infected people, says a joint statement from the presidents of the British Rhinological Society and of ENT UK, a British group that represents ear, nose and throat doctors. In South Korea, some 30% of people who tested positive for the virus have cited loss of smell as their major complaint in otherwise mild cases, they wrote.

So that might be useful as a way to spot infec-

ted people without other symptoms — fever, coughing and shortness of breath — of the new coronavirus, they wrote.

A similar proposal was published Sunday by the American Academy of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery. It noted "rapidly accumulating" anecdotal evidence from around the world that the pandemic virus can cause not only loss of smell but also a diminished sense of taste. So the appearance of those symptoms in people without another explanation should alert doctors to the possibility of a COVID-19 infection, the group said.

Maria Van Kerkhove, an outbreak expert at the World Health Organization, told reporters that the U.N. health agency is looking into the question of whether the loss of smell or taste are a defining feature of the disease.

Dr. Eric Holbrook, an expert on nasal and sinus disease at the Massachusetts Eye and Ear hospital in Boston, said the reports have been a hot topic among researchers and doctors. But "we don't have hard evidence right now" about how often smell loss occurs in people infected with the pandemic virus, he said in an interview yes-



# Testing positive after the lockdown



rail travel and restricted those who could leave by car, while harsher measures banned large gatherings and sought to keep residents in their homes. Some critics saw the quarantine as a heavy-handed approach following earlier failures to act quickly enough to stem the spread. As the virus spread globally, other countries including Italy, the Phi-

lippines and India have begun nationwide lockdowns.

Though Hubei's quarantine may have averted hundreds of thousands of cases, according to the World Health Organization, it put coronavirus patients in the province at a much higher mortality rate than other regions. As cases in Hubei multiplied, hospitals were overwhelmed by pa-

tients and a dearth of supplies, forcing them to turn away people with other critical illness.

Chinese officials have been moving to ease the quarantine in steps as new cases dropped toward zero from a peak of 15,000 a month ago. Hubei last week started allowing some residents in lower-risk areas to leave the province for work. According to local media reports, people have to get a "green code" certification proving they are in good health in order to leave.

On the same day as Xi's visit earlier this month, all patients were discharged from the mobile hospitals in Wuhan, which the government built temporarily to quarantine and treat mild-symptom patients when the hospitals were overloaded with patients.

China still has a long road back to recovery, and there is a risk the highly-infectious pathogen could flare up again. Even as Hubei's numbers have dwindled to single digits, China is facing another concern as imported cases continue to add to the country's tally of infections.

China's economy has been hammered by the outbreak and the aggressive containment measures. Troubled companies like HNA Group Co. have required state rescue while China is loosening financing rules liberally to keep its millions of small businesses alive through the crisis. **MDT/AGENCIES**

## THAILAND IMPOSES STATE OF EMERGENCY TO CONTROL CORONAVIRUS



A hand sanitizer container is mounted on a store-shelf as staff with face masks place supplies in a supermarket in Bangkok

**T**HAILAND'S government approved on Tuesday a one-month state of emergency allowing it to impose stricter measures to control the coronavirus that has infected hundreds of people in the Southeast Asian country.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said his Cabinet decided that the state of emergency will take effect tomorrow.

The move gives the government additional powers to implement curfews, censor the media, disperse gatherings and deploy the military for enforcement. Details about what exact measures will be imposed are to be released later.

In a brief televised address, Prayuth assured the country that he is not instituting a lockdown yet. He said initial measures would focus on reducing transmission of the coronavirus in different areas.

"Some will involve requiring cooperation from the public, others will be orders," he said, explaining that a decision on whether to impose stricter measures such as a lockdown depends on whether people cooperate.

Prayuth urged the public to remain calm and warned against improper use of social media and hoarding, saying enforcement would now be stricter.

He also advised people to stay where they are and not to travel to rural areas, where many workers in the cities have their permanent homes and families.

He said screening and quarantine measures will be applied to those who do travel, and announced that the government is preparing isolation centers, field hospitals and additional medical supplies.

Thewan Liptapanlop, a minister from the Prime Minister's Office, said the Cabinet meeting did not discuss imposing a curfew, and government spokeswoman Naruemon Pinyosinwat

said there was no discussion of confining uninfected people to their homes.

Thailand confirmed 106 new cases of the virus on Tuesday, bringing its reported total to 827. The new cases include four medical staff. Three more deaths were reported, raising the country's total to four.

Prayuth's government has been criticized for failing to take strong action to fight the coronavirus as daily increases in cases jumped from single digits in February to hundreds during the past week.

Last week, the prime minister shut down all schools, postponed a major three-day holiday and allowed provincial governors to close any gathering spaces.

Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak said Tuesday's Cabinet meeting also approved financial aid to help businesses and people affected by restrictions to combat the coronavirus. Funds were earlier allocated for the banking sector.

The new measures will include monthly allowances of 5,000 baht (\$153) for three months for workers not covered by the social security system, and 10 billion baht (\$305 million) for small and medium enterprises, especially tourism-related businesses.

"The government's measures will inevitably affect to the economy in the short term, but we have to choose the life of the people first," Somkid said. "If we can stop the virus in the near future, economic recovery is not that difficult."

"However, if the outbreak goes on for the whole year, recovery will be near impossible," he said. "Therefore, Thai people should cooperate and stay at home. If you can do that, we will be able to see the recovery at the end of this year."

Somkid said the next financial aid package will target the agriculture sector. **AP**

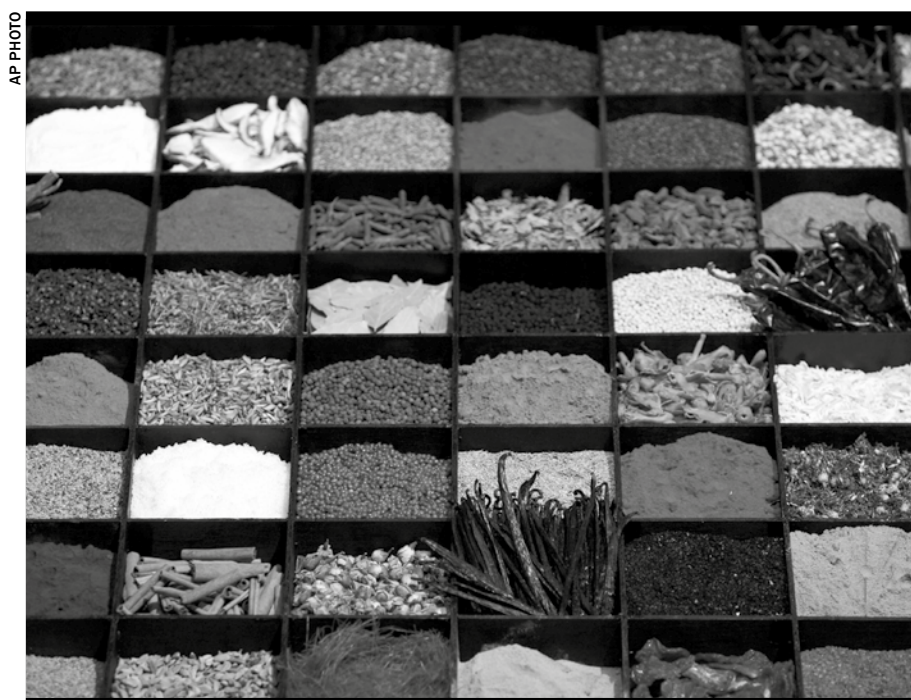
## VIRUS INFECTION

terday [Macau time].

Holbrook said the reports he has seen suggest the sense of smell returns within a couple weeks, but how long it lasts has yet to be firmly established.

He also said it's difficult to assess reports of a loss of taste because people with an impaired sense of smell often report a loss of flavor, which is technically different from an impairment in taste.

Holbrook said he is trying to set up a study of smell in people being tested for the coronavirus at Boston-area hospitals.





PANDEMIC

# UN: 85% of new infections, deaths coming from Europe and US

**I**NFECTIONS and deaths globally from the coronavirus are expected to increase "considerably" when global figures are published later yesterday, the World Health Organization said.

Overnight reporting showed 85% of the new cases are being reported in Europe and the United States, said Dr. Margaret Harris, a WHO spokeswoman.

On Monday, WHO counted more than 334,000 total cases globally. Harris said "but in fact the outbreak is accelerating very rapidly and the case numbers we received overnight will put that up considerably."

Spain began storing bodies in an ice rink converted into a makeshift morgue, as virus deaths rose in the country.

As virus deaths mounted and Americans hoped for some economic relief from their divided government, health officials and leaders warned that the world was entering a critical period that would determine just how deeply the pandemic slices through their nations.

While Chinese authorities said they would finally end a two-month lockdown in hard-hit Hubei province where the coronavirus outbreak first began, nations in Europe, North America and elsewhere pressed harder to enforce the stay-at-home restrictions placed on 1.5 billion people worldwide.

Those measures could significantly impact the trajectory that the virus will take as it spreads across the world.

"We are not helpless bystanders," said WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, noting that it took 67 days to reach 100,000 cases worldwide but just four days to go from 200,000 to 300,000. "We can change the trajectory of this pandemic."

One viral social media video showed Italian mayors, sometimes profanely, berating their fellow citizens for not staying inside.

On Capitol Hill, a nearly \$2 trillion plan that would prop up businesses and send checks to American households has stalled in



A man in a protective suit uses a thermometer on the Bridge of Friendship at the Polish-German border in Zgorzelec as he checks the temperature of a passerby

Washington for days, but officials said they expect to reach a deal today [Macau time]. Democrats have argued that it was tilted too much toward corporations rather than helping American workers and health care providers.

It appears that it will be soon that the U.S., which has more than 46,000 infections and 530 deaths, overtakes hard-hit Italy in the number of infections. Authorities say the U.S. is on track to eventually overtake China's nearly 82,000 infections and how soon that happens depends on how seriously Americans take the state-at-home restrictions.

In New York, now one of the world's biggest virus hot spots, authorities rushed to set up the thousands of hospital beds they will need in just weeks to protect the city's 8.4 million people. More than 12,000 people have tested positive in the city and 125 have died. A state-wide lockdown took effect Monday.

The mayor warned that the city's hospitals are just 10 days away from shortages in basic supplies, while the state's governor announced plans to convert a New York City convention center into a hospital.

"This is going to get much worse before it gets better," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said.

British Prime Minister

Boris Johnson tightened all travel restrictions, demanding that people do not visit family members or friends and stick with only the people they live with.

Nearly 384,000 people worldwide have been infected and more than 16,500 have died from the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University.

In Italy, Spain and France, the pandemic pushed national health systems to their breaking points.

The outbreak has killed more than 6,000 Italians, the highest death toll of any country. Officials said Monday the virus had claimed just over 600 more lives, down from 793 two days earlier, offering some glimmer of hope.

The risks remain for doctors, nurses and others on the front lines: Italy has seen at least 18 doctors with the coronavirus die. Spain says 12% of its cases — more than 3,900 health care workers — have become infected.

A Madrid ice rink is now being used as a makeshift morgue as the number of bodies of virus victims in the Spanish capital mounts. Overwhelmed by a virus hotspot in its eastern city of Mulhouse France was getting help from hospitals in neighboring Germany and Switzerland.

Confusion rippled through Britain on the first morning after Johnson ordered a

three-week halt to all non-essential activity. The government has told most stores to close, banned gatherings of three or more people and said everyone apart from essential workers should leave home only to buy food and medicines or to exercise. But photos showed crowded trains yesterday on some London subway lines.

"I cannot say this more strongly: we must stop all non-essential use of public transport now," London Mayor Sadiq Khan tweeted. "Ignoring these rules means more lives lost."

Asian stock markets reacted positively yesterday, markets in Japan and South Korea posting significant gains after the Federal Reserve said it will lend to small and large businesses and local governments to help them through the crisis.

In contrast to other European nations, German health authorities offered some hope that the country has flattened the exponential spread of the virus, which has already infected nearly 30,000. Chancellor Angela Merkel's government approved a massive new aid package to cushion the economic fallout of the outbreak, offering more than 1 trillion euros (\$1.1 trillion) to tide small companies and entrepreneurs through closures and to pump capital into bigger companies. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history



### 1980 BRITAIN WILL GO TO MOSCOW OLYMPICS

The British Olympic Association (BOA) has voted by a large majority to defy the government and send athletes to the Olympic Games in Moscow.

Fifteen sports voted to accept the invitation to participate in the Olympics in July.

Only hockey opposed travelling to Moscow, while fencing, equestrian, swimming and yachting deferred the decision.

The decision is a blow to the government which issued a statement claiming Downing Street "seriously regrets" the BOA decision.

Earlier this week the government placed pressure on the BOA not to attend the games after the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan last year.

Sir Denis Follows, the chairman, said the "rather heavy letter" received from Mrs Thatcher after a commons debate had been placed before the committee ahead of the meeting.

He added while he was sympathetic to the government's stance "we believe sport should be a bridge, and not a destroyer".

Earlier this week Michael Heseltine, secretary of state for the environment, outlined the government's hope of taking sporting sanctions against the Soviet Union in a parliamentary written answer in the House of Commons.

Mr Heseltine stressed there would be no government funding or attendance in support of the BOA's presence in the games in Moscow.

Monique Berlioux, the director of the international Olympic Committee, said earlier this week the IOC might provide funds for teams attending the games against their government's wishes.

It came as National Olympic committees from the United States and 15 Western European countries who met in Brussels earlier this week rejected calls for a boycott of the Moscow Olympics.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Many countries joined the US-led boycott of the summer games of the 22nd Olympics in 1980 because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979. Almost 6,000 competitors from 81 countries arrived to compete in 22 sports compared to the 10,000 athletes expected. The Soviet Union took home 197 medals, Britain took home 21. The International Olympics Committee condemned the boycott and said athletics should not be concerned with politics although sport had long been a tool in international affairs. At the time South Africa was banned from participating because of its policy of discriminating against blacks.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The future belongs to people who think for themselves, so where does that leave you? Being a part of the crowd is important, and you certainly don't want to create tension among your people.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You need to avoid getting involved in anything that looks remotely like a power struggle today. First, you don't need the drama in your life right now.



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Try to avoid preachy people today, especially the ones you don't agree with! They won't pay attention to a new point of view and will go to great lengths to mock it.



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If you can be flexible, you'll have a much better day than if you stick to your guns and close your mind to other ways of doing things. You don't know everything.



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Their ideas might not sound very earthshaking to you, but if you follow their advice, you could soon see that a small alteration in your daily routine has a ripple effect on the rest of your life.



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Find out how they keep variety in their life, and try to apply one or two of their tactics to your day. It might not feel comfortable at first, but at least it will be different, and that can be very interesting.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

There has been some distance growing between you and a friend, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. Don't worry that the relationship is coming to an end.



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Their insecurities are leading to conflict right now, so don't take them seriously. If you have faith in your strategy and ideas, you should stand behind them. There comes a time when you have to make a stand.



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you're not in a relationship, then you can work a little harder to connect to your latest crush. If they're not getting it, you need to be more obvious!



### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

It's always a good idea to plan ahead, but avoid being too specific about your vision for the future. It's important to continue to be as flexible as you can.



### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Someone is going to be inspired by you today. Your recent accomplishments are making them think twice about things, and now they might want to instigate a change or two in their life.

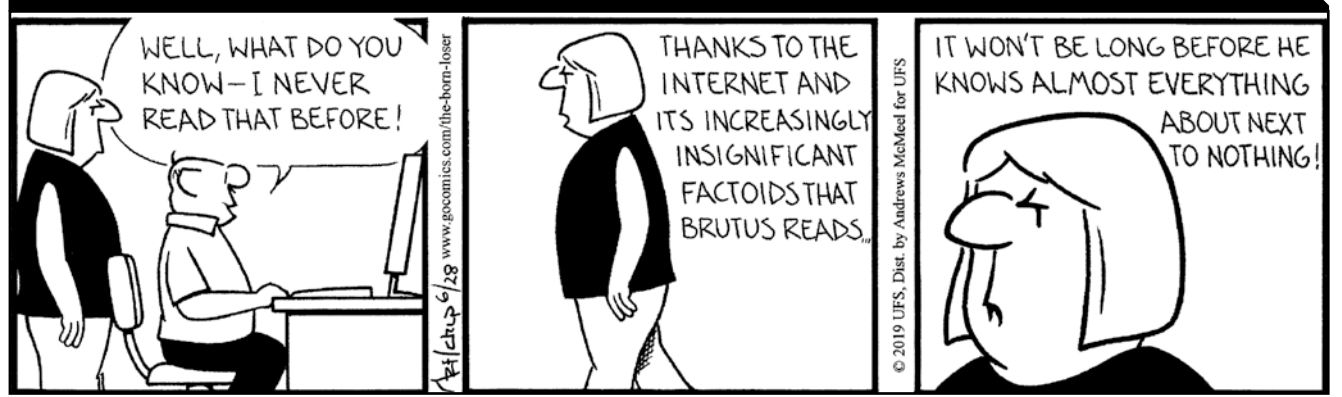


### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

It's a fine idea to plan ahead, but make sure you're doing it with facts and not just wishes and hopes. Daydreaming about your future is like playing pretend - it's lots of fun.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

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

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

## 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	-3	6	clear
Frankfurt	-1	8	clear
Paris	0	11	clear
London	1	13	clear
New York	2	12	clear

## CROSSWORDS

**ACROSS:** 1- Assignment; 5- Hick; 9- Grog ingredient; 12- Sewing case; 13- Rub out or remove from memory; 15- "The Farmer in the Dell" syllables; 16- \_\_\_ out a living (barely got by); 17- President Garfield's middle name; 18- Seth's son; 19- Cooking wine; 21- Tense; 23- Potter's oven; 24- Chang's twin; 25- Slovenly; 28- Terrain; 33- Profits; 34- Other name for taro; 35- Edible corn; 36- Container cover; 37- Chad neighbor; 38- Thrice, in prescriptions; 39- Lendl of tennis; 41- Ticks off; 42- Diamond corners; 44- Chosen; 46- Separable component; 47- Where It's at; 48- The last Mrs. Chaplin; 49- Pocketbook; 53- Devise beforehand; 57- Dies \_\_\_; 58- Get to the point?; 60- Author Morrison; 61- Rip apart; 62- Diciembre follower; 63- Bibliography abbr.; 64- Conductor \_\_\_-Pekka Salonen; 65- Chew on; 66- Confirmation, e.g.;

**DOWN:** 1- Abound; 2- Aleutian island; 3- Plaintiff; 4- Skin of a young goat; 5- 'It's true!'; 6- Living in a city; 7- Place for ordering alcoholic drinks; 8- Biblical birthright seller; 9- Circular band; 10- Oops!; 11- The majority of; 14- High ruler; 15- Stature; 20- Helps; 22- Explosive stuff; 25- Citrus hybrids; 26- Born yesterday, so to speak; 27- Wave-related; 28- Shoved aside; 29- Citrus drinks; 30- Island in the East China Sea; 31- Staggering; 32- Scandinavian; 34- Leprechaun land; 37- Potassium \_\_\_ (saltpeter); 40- Required; 42- Mother Hubbard's quest; 43- Power plug transformer; 45- Young bear; 46- Next day; 48- Musical drama; 49- Employ; 50- Bellucose deity; 51- "Peter Pan" dog; 52- Jets or Sharks; 54- Monetary unit of Lesotho; 55- Med school subj.; 56- The world's longest river; 59- Corral;

**Yesterday's solution**

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

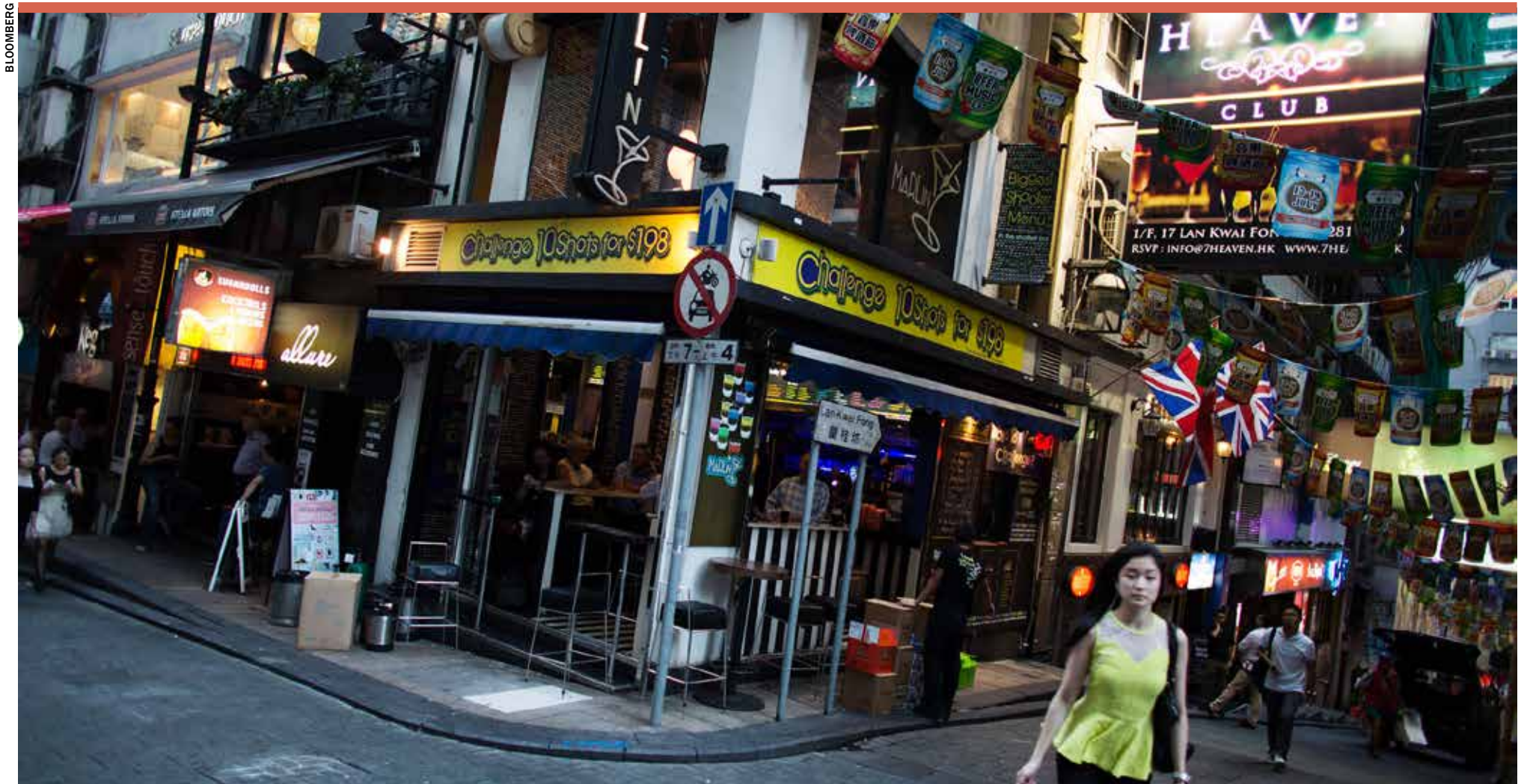
## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>Manhattan High Floor Apartment, Taipa</b> HK\$17,980,000 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>Vai Fung Triplex, Macau</b> \$15,800/mth 1,065 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>[Macau] Apartment in Historical Centre 2 1/2 1 1/2 840 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)</p> <p>[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1/2 1 1/2 900 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)</p> <p>[Coloane] Beautiful Apartment 1 1/2 2 1/2 1 1/2 1,665 ft<sup>2</sup> \$7,200,000 (ref: 19070001)</p> <p>[Macau] Unique G/F Loft 2 1/2 2 1/2 2,200 ft<sup>2</sup> \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p>[Taipa] One Grantal 1 1/2 n/a ft<sup>2</sup> \$2,500/mth (ref: 19091005)</p> <p>[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2 710 ft<sup>2</sup> \$10,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Taipa] Nam Long 2 1/2 1 1/2 645 ft<sup>2</sup> \$11,800/mth (ref: 19111001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Manhattan 4 1/2 2 1/2 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> \$22,000/mth (ref: 19091003)</p>	<p><b>jml</b> 卓雅物業 property SINCE 1994</p> <p><b>(853) 2835 2699</b> hello@jmlproperty.com www.jmlproperty.com</p> <p>f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty</p>
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The Lan Kwai Fong area in Hong Kong's Central district

# HONG KONG BOOZE BAN MAY WIPE OUT THOUSANDS OF BARS AND RESTAURANTS

KAREN LEIGH, RICHARD MACAULEY, BLAKE SCHMIDT & KARI LINDBERG

**T**he normally packed streets of Hong Kong's Lan Kwai Fong bar district were virtually empty on Monday night. So too was a popular Italian eatery in Wan Chai, a neighborhood known for some of the city's best restaurants and nightlife. In the SoHo area frequented by expat bankers and lawyers, the crowds were unusually thin.

Hong Kong's sprawling drinking and dining scene has long been a cornerstone of life in the financial hub, where apartments are so tiny that hosting friends at home is often unfeasible. But after nearly nine months of turmoil - first caused by anti-government protests and now by the coronavirus outbreak - concern is growing that thousands of bars, clubs and restaurants across the city will be forced to close as their losses mount.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam delivered the latest blow this week, saying she would ask bars and restaurants to stop selling alcohol in an attempt to dissuade residents from gathering in large groups. While the U.K. has taken more extreme steps - shutting down eateries and pubs entirely - Boris Johnson's government has

pledged to pay rent and 80% of staff salaries for the duration. Lam said Hong Kong would "certainly consider" measures to help the establishments affected, but she didn't elaborate.

"Last summer there were 15,000 restaurants in Hong Kong, and I anticipate that by this summer there will be less than 10,000," said Syed Asim Hussain, co-founder of hospitality group Black Sheep Restaurants, which operates Hong Kong eateries popular with expats, including two venues that have been temporarily closed in a building visited by an infected guest. "We and others are looking at three successive quarters of financial losses. So we squarely are between a rock and a hard place."

Lam's announcement followed a recent jump in the number of Hong Kong residents who've tested positive for the virus, several of whom had reportedly been out drinking in Lan Kwai Fong. Front-page photos of expats gathered at bars have featured prominently in local news outlets, alongside articles admonishing drinkers for potentially spreading the virus. Lam has indicated that she would prefer voluntary compliance with the alcohol ban, but would implement legislative measures if necessary.

Other major metro areas, including New York City and San Francisco, have effectively shut down restaurants and bars or limited establishments to takeout and delivery as the virus spreads globally. Italy, Spain and France have implemented blanket closures.

Some Hong Kong residents have questioned whether bars are truly the hot beds of transmission the government is making them out to be. "They are clearly making these decisions on the fly and with bad inputs - a few photos of people chatting in bars and a few cases from LKF, and suddenly alcohol is the cause because it lowers inhibitions," said David Webb, an investor and corporate governance activist who has lived in Hong Kong since 1991.

At the Italian restaurant in Wan Chai, the general manager said an alcohol ban could shrink his business to less than 10% of the level before protests kicked off last June.

"I can't count how much money we're losing," the manager said Monday night, identifying himself as Mr. Chan as he wasn't authorized to speak about the alcohol ban. The government's move "will kill our business a lot because our business is mainly connected to selling alcohol. We are an Italian restaurant and if you come

to an Italian restaurant and you don't drink wine or alcohol, it's really useless. Everyone in town is really worried about this."

Restaurant and bar receipts in Hong Kong totaled about HK\$26 billion (\$3.4 billion) in the fourth quarter of 2019, down 14% from a year earlier.

Some in the industry expressed frustration with a lack of information from the government, including when a ban might start.

"I think we have a responsibility to encourage people to enact social distancing - and since local media started pointing the finger at Lan Kwai Fong, customers aren't coming anyway," said Ravi Beryar, operations manager at Rula Live, a music and sports bar. "But my staff need to know how long it'll be until we reopen, and my landlord needs to know."

Allan Zeman, chairman of the Hong Kong real estate firm that developed the Lan Kwai Fong area, told Bloomberg TV that his company was appealing to Lam for government assistance for local bars and restaurants. As a landlord, he said, he could only help "up to a certain point."

"You still have payments to banks, and repayments and other things," Zeman said. "The operators themselves also need to be able to help them-

selves, but we'll do whatever we can to tide us through this difficult period.

"The problem that my tenants have, and many of the operators have, is that if you can't serve alcohol they'll go out of business because they're bars or clubs," he said. "That's the only thing they sell."

Some bar operators are hoping they can find ways to keep serving alcohol while complying with the government's calls to promote social distancing.

"We're famous for mixed drinks and draft beer, but if we have to stop that, I hope we can sell bottled beers to customers to take home," said Annie Lam, who runs The Beer Bay, a popular haunt for commuters transiting through Hong Kong's central ferry pier. On Monday night, just hours after the government announced plans to ban alcohol sales, clusters of patrons were gathered around Lam's waterfront stand.

Ronny Daswani, co-founder of carry-out craft beer shop Craftissimo in the trendy Sheung Wan neighborhood, said his store didn't appear to be immediately included in the government's ban and that he tentatively planned to remain open. But he added that Craftissimo sometimes attracts crowds outside, and that he was willing to shut down temporarily if it would help curb the outbreak.

"A ban would really impact Hong Kong Island," Daswani said. "Alcohol was one of the only resorts in these hard times." **BLOOMBERG**



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# Tokyo Olympics officially postponed until 2021

**T**HE Tokyo Olympics were postponed until 2021 yesterday, ending weeks of speculation that the games could not go ahead as scheduled because of the coronavirus pandemic.

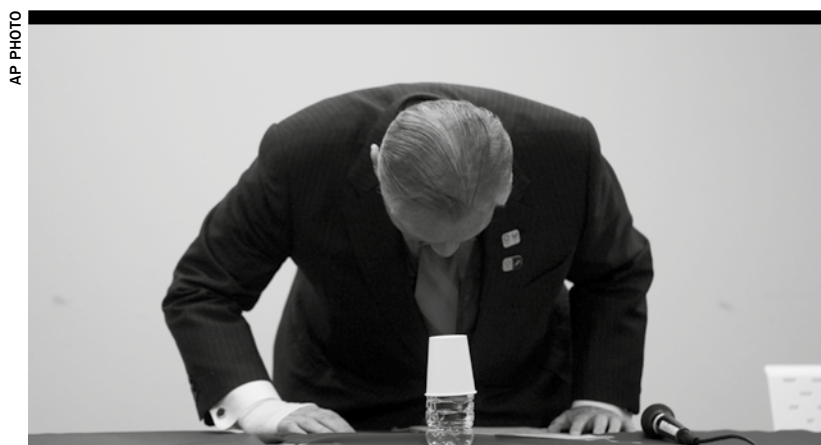
The International Olympic Committee made the decision after speaking with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and local organizers.

The IOC said the games will be held "not later than summer 2021" but they will still be called the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"In the present circumstances and based on the information provided by the WHO today [Tuesday], the IOC President and the Prime Minister of Japan have concluded that the Games of the XXXII Olympiad in Tokyo must be rescheduled to a date beyond 2020 but not later than summer 2021, to safeguard the health of the athletes, everybody involved in the Olympic Games and the international community," the IOC said in a statement.

Before the official announcement, Abe said Bach had agreed with his proposal for a one-year postponement.

"President Bach said he will agree '100%', and we agreed to hold



Tokyo 2020 Organizing Committee president Yoshiro Mori takes a seat at a news conference in Tokyo yesterday

the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics in the summer of 2021 at the latest," Abe said, saying holding the games next year would be "proof of a victory by human beings against the coronavirus infections."

The decision came only a few hours after local organizers said the torch relay would start as planned on Thursday. Those plans also changed.

"For the time being, the flame will be stored and displayed in Fukushima," organizing committee president Yoshiro Mori said.

The Olympics have never before been postponed, and have only ever previously been cancelled

led in wartime.

The IOC and Tokyo organizers said they hope the decision to postpone will help the world heal from the pandemic.

"The leaders agreed that the Olympic Games in Tokyo could stand as a beacon of hope to the world during these troubled times and that the Olympic flame could become the light at the end of the tunnel in which the world finds itself at present," the IOC statement said. "Therefore, it was agreed that the Olympic flame will stay in Japan. It was also agreed that the Games will keep the name Olympic and Paralympic Games Tokyo 2020." AP

## FOOTBALL

# UEFA FORMALLY POSTPONES CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINAL AMID SHUTDOWN

**U**EFEA formally postponed the Champions League final — an inevitable move with European soccer in total shutdown and four Round of 16 games yet to be completed.

The final was scheduled for May 30 in Istanbul before the spreading coronavirus pandemic forced the four remaining second-leg games on March 17-18 to be delayed indefinitely.

UEFA said no decision has yet been made on finding a new date.

The shutdown has no end in sight though UEFA and European soccer leaders said last week they hope to complete the club season by June 30.

The 2020 European Championship for national teams was postponed for one year to clear space in the fixture calendar for clubs to win titles in domestic leagues and cups, and UEFA's competitions.

UEFA said the Europa League final, due on May 27 in Gdansk, Poland, and the Women's Champions League final, scheduled for May 24 in Vienna, Austria, were also postponed.

The Europa League is also frozen at the Round of 16 stage, with six of the eight first-leg games played.

The Women's Champions League was about to start the quarterfinals stage. AP



UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin

AD

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**OPINION**

**World Views**

Nader Habibi, Brandeis University, The Conversation

**WHY DEFEATING CORONAVIRUS  
 IN ONE COUNTRY ISN'T  
 ENOUGH - THERE NEEDS TO BE A  
 COORDINATED GLOBAL STRATEGY**

**Policymakers** in countries where there are severe outbreaks of COVID-19 are doing what they can to slow the spread and "flatten the curve." But so far, there hasn't been much global coordination, raising the risk of a second wave of contamination even after individual countries halt the virus' advance.

That's the dilemma facing China and South Korea right now. Both countries appear to have halted or slowed the internal spread of the new coronavirus and are beginning to worry about contaminated travelers from abroad setting off a new outbreak - including by their own citizens returning home.

In other words, as long as the virus is present in any country, it can reenter those that have managed to slow it down - or even ones that eventually eradicate it.

As an economist, I worry that efforts to prevent a second wave of contagion will prompt countries to put up more borders to international travel and trade. This would compound and prolong the adverse economic impact.

That's why I believe the only effective long-term solution against the coronavirus is a global solution - which requires a coordinated response.

An uncoordinated mess

Dozens of countries are taking a variety of strong measures to fight the spread of the new coronavirus, from social distancing and mass quarantines to severe restrictions on the movement of people and goods.

But there's been little or no coordination. Even in the hunt for a vaccine there is a clear lack of international coordination.

While these efforts are slowing the spread of the coronavirus in some places, it continues to worsen in others such as the U.S., Europe and Iran, which demonstrate that they are not enough to eradicate the threat completely. And that means successful countries will have to impose or continue severe and costly constraints on international travel - and those that have managed to avoid an outbreak, such as Russia, must continue to keep their restrictions in place.

Right now, I believe the world needs to coordinate in three key ways:

- Agree on a two-week global lockdown across all countries, even those not severely affected by COVID-19. Several countries are currently imposing such mass quarantines, with mixed success. A global, synchronized lockdown would be more effective.

The World Health Organization should lead global efforts to find an effective vaccine and treatments for COVID-19, ensuring they are widely available. The group could help disseminate research findings quickly and coordinate activities to avoid duplication. Consequently this would reduce the amount of time it takes to find a pharmaceutical solution.

- Restrictions on international travel and trade should be implemented in cooperation with other countries. Rather than nationalistic restrictions that benefit one country at the expense of others, the cost of the needed restrictions could be distributed among all trade partners in a fair manner that motivates all governments to participate in these painful economic measures.

- Global coordination has worked well in past crises like this one. For example, in 2014, President Barack Obama took the lead in the global fight against the Ebola virus, which affected several countries in Africa. American leadership played a crucial role in mobilizing and coordinating the global fight that ultimately contained the epidemic.

That's the kind of leadership the world needs right now. Surprisingly, the strongest call for global coordination against COVID-19 has come from Saudi Arabia, which currently leads the Group of 20 largest economies, instead of the U.S., China or the European Union.

Although there's been no commitment so far to attend this virtual meeting, I hope the political leaders of the world's largest economies accept this invitation. A coordinated response to this pandemic cannot come too soon. [Abridged]

Macau has announced its 26th confirmed case of Covid-19. The latest case was detected in a 17-year-old female patient, who is a resident of Macau and a student in the United Kingdom.

On the evening of March 20, the patient took Emirates flight EK4 (seat 70D) from Heathrow Airport to Dubai and then on to Bangkok on flight EK372 (seat 27D). From Bangkok, the patient traveled to Macau on Air Macau flight NX881 (seat 10A).

Upon arrival in Macau on March 23, the patient notified the inspection team at the Health Services border post that in the past 14 days she had had a runny nose, headaches and other discomfort. She was

taken by ambulance to the public hospital for testing.

Her initial test for Covid-19 was negative, but as she had come from a place of high risk of contamination, she was isolated at the Coloane Public Health Clinical Center. After 48 hours of isolation, the patient was tested again and it was confirmed that she had the novel coronavirus.

According to information released by the government, the patient traveled to Macau in the company of her older brother. The brother is considered to have had close contact with the patient and has been sent to the Coloane Public Health Clinical Center for medical observation.

**'I CAN DO IT' COUPLE  
 BRAVES PANDEMIC TO  
 HELP NYC'S HOMELESS**



Felix Guzman (right) and his wife Virna

JOHN MINCHILLO

**F**EARFUL glances from masked faces. Shuttered storefronts and silent bars. As confirmed cases of coronavirus infections have risen over 11,000 in New York City and its suburbs, the city that never sleeps has taken on an eerie gloom.

Social distancing and government orders restricting mass gatherings to stem the spread of the aggressive respiratory disease have emptied major tourist attractions and left retail promenades dark, especially punishing retailers and business owners who rely on foot traffic to stay afloat.

Along those lonesome sidewalks homeless New Yorkers remain, unprotected from the elements and a disease that passes swiftly between people often without any sign or symptom.

In this vast sea of need, Felix and Virna Guzman insist on doing their part, one bag of hand sanitizing wipes and pair of gloves at a time.

"I'm working every

day in the city because I'm working in the elevator construction," said Guzman, 52, a native of Ecuador, on a cold Saturday morning in midtown. "I saw so many homeless. So that's why I came home to my house and I told my wife, 'Listen, why don't we do this? We have a lot of extra paper towels. We have extra gloves. We have extra wipers.'"

**In this vast sea  
 of need, the  
 couple insist  
 on doing their  
 part, one bag of  
 hand sanitizing  
 wipes and pair of  
 gloves at a time**

For nearly two weeks the couple has traveled an hour south from their home in Buchanan, New York, to deliver supplies to those in need. The couple sees the effort as honoring their good fortune in life.

"I always think about my kids," said Virna Mu-

noz-Guzman, 52, originally from Peru, who works in a supermarket upstate. "I think that maybe one day my kids might need something and somebody else will come and give it to them."

Despite requests that people remain at home, Guzman insists he and his wife take every precaution against contraction.

"Before we come into the house, we leave everything out, all clothes, shoes, and everything," said Guzman. "We almost come into the house naked. We go straight into the shower."

As a shutdown of all non-essential personnel looms over the city, the Guzman's wish to continue helping if the government would offer them a way.

"I've never volunteered, just in my church in Buchanan," Guzman said. "But before for the government, I don't do anything before. If they request me, if they want to me help them now, yes, I can do it." AP



**USA** Top congressional and White House officials negotiating the \$2 trillion coronavirus rescue package say they expect to reach a deal sometime today [Macau time]. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer say they spoke by phone with President Donald Trump as they met late into the night at the Capitol. While the sides have resolved many issues in the sweeping package, some disagreements remain.

**Covid-19** A loss of smell or taste might be an early sign of infection with the pandemic virus, say medical experts who cite reports from several countries. It might even serve as a useful screening tool, they say. The idea of a virus infection reducing sense of smell is not new.

More on p6

**Covid-19** Excitement about treating the new coronavirus with malaria drugs is raising hopes, including with President Donald Trump. But the evidence that they may help is thin, and a run on the drugs is complicating access for people who need them for rheumatoid arthritis or lupus. Chloroquine and a similar drug, hydroxychloroquine, showed encouraging signs in small, early tests against the coronavirus. But the drugs have major side effects.



**Spanish** army troops disinfecting nursing homes have found, to their horror, some residents living in squalor among the infectious bodies of people that authorities suspect have died from the new coronavirus. Prosecutors have launched a judicial probe. Defense Minister Margarita Robles said the elderly were "completely left to fend for themselves, or even dead, in their beds." She said the discovery included several nursing homes and several bodies.