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ACCUSED OF BEING TOO DEFERENTIAL TO BEIJING, THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION SAID IT'S NOW WORKING WITH TAIWANESE HEALTH EXPERTS

IN SINGAPORE, HOTEL QUARANTINE COMES WITH SEA VIEW, ROOM SERVICE

SPAIN AND ITALY SAY THEY NEED MORE HELP TO COMBAT SURGING CORONAVIRUS CASES IN WHAT HAS BECOME EUROPE'S WORST CRISIS SINCE WORLD WAR II

AP PHOTO



North Korea yesterday fired two suspected ballistic missiles into the sea, South Korea and Japan said, continuing a streak of weapons launches that suggests leader Kim Jong Un is trying to strengthen domestic support amid worries about a possible coronavirus outbreak in the country.

Thailand Officials say a riot has broken out at a prison in the northeastern province of Buriram, and smoke can be seen coming from the facility. Provincial Deputy Governor Pratchaya Ounpetchvarakorn confirmed press reports that there had been gunfire at the prison yesterday but did not elaborate.

AP PHOTO



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi apologized to the public yesterday for imposing a three-week national lockdown, calling it harsh but "needed to win" the battle against the coronavirus pandemic.

AP PHOTO



Germany In her first address to the nation on the coronavirus pandemic, German Chancellor Angela Merkel calmly appealed to citizens' reason and discipline to slow the spread of the virus, acknowledging as a woman who grew up in communist East Germany how difficult it is to give up freedoms, yet as a trained scientist emphasizing that the facts don't lie.

Germany The state finance minister of the Hesse region, which includes Frankfurt, has been found dead. Authorities said he appears to have killed himself and the state's governor suggested yesterday that he was in despair over the fallout from the coronavirus crisis.

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LOCAL PATIENT IN SERIOUS CONDITION

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XINHUA

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY VIA UNSPLASH



10 BILLION PATACAS RESERVED FOR NEW RELIEF FUND AMID COVID-19 FALLOUT

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BLOOMBERG



MEDICAL RESCUE PLANE CATCHES FIRE ON RUNWAY KILLING EIGHT

P12 PHILIPPINES

SECURITY CHIEF WONG SIO CHAK SAYS GUANGDONG ENTRY POLICIES WERE RUSHED

JULIE ZHU

SECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak considers Guangdong's latest entry policies to have been "rushed", the official said on Friday during a press conference held at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

Last week, Guangdong suddenly announced that the province would implement new entry policies designed to reduce the potential for imported cases. The policies dictate that all arrivals must undergo 14 days of quarantine at a government facility. The measure applies to not only Macau residents, but also residents of all other jurisdictions, including Guangdong.

Under Guangdong's new measure, arrivals are to bear their own costs during the quarantine, whereas the Macau government is covering the expenses for its own residents.

The restriction came into effect on Friday morning, with few details disclosed to the public or to the Macau SAR government until Secretary Wong met with Guangdong government officials in the afternoon to better understand the measures.

Guangdong will give exemptions to people who belong to four categories.

The first category includes people travelling for urgent business purposes or governmental issues. The definition of urgent business and governmental issues is still unclear.

The second category includes drivers of double-plated cars or



Macau single-plated cars which have been allowed to enter Hengqin.

The third category includes workers in Guangdong and Macau cooperation industrial zone and workers in the Macau-Zhuhai cross-border industrial zone.

The last group includes individuals carrying out ordinary routines across Guangdong, Macau and Hong Kong. However, the definition of such individuals is "not too clear".

People aged above 70 years or under 14 years, pregnant women, and people with medical conditions who receive medical treatment in Zhuhai will also be exempted from the 14-day quarantine. Those travelling to Zhuhai hospital must return to Macau on the same day.

The individuals that are eligible for exemption must apply for such exemption at Zhuhai's border from the port's customs authority. A response will be given to the applicants immediately. Once

the applicant is approved to enter without the 14-day quarantine, they must sign a document declaring that they have not visited a foreign country, Hong Kong, or Taiwan in the past 14 days, as well as declaring their health condition.

Even though these parties can enter mainland China without undergoing a 14-day quarantine, their travel will still be limited within Guangdong province. In addition, quarantine-exempted individuals will still need to pass a

medical test for the coronavirus.

According to government statistics, currently, 6,600 Macau local residents are residing in Zhuhai, including students.

Even though the Guangdong government has already implemented this policy, according to Wong, the province is still waiting for approval from the Central Government. "The policy is still under revision by the Central Government and it is still unknown if and when all policies will be launched."

"The measures should have a transitional period," added Wong.

According to the available statistics, over 6,600 Macau residents currently live in Zhuhai, but work and study in Macau. About 5,000 more live in Zhuhai but are not regularly commuting to Macau for work or study purposes.

It is not known how long the restriction will be in place. Further changes will depend on the development of the Covid-19 situation, with Macau still waiting to have a discussion with the mainland regarding the restriction.

Earlier this week, the city's Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng announced that a possible entry policy relaxation could be announced in the beginning of April for mainland China workers to return to their post in Macau.

Guangdong is not the first province to implement quarantine restrictions upon entry. Previously, in other provinces in mainland China, a returnee or a visitor, regardless of nationality, was required to stay at home for 14 days with strict community inspection measures arranged.

Gov't to create 10 billion patacas fund to tackle Covid-19 fallout

RENATO MARQUES

THE government has decided to create a community relief fund worth 10 billion patacas, the Government Information Bureau informed in a statement.

The fund, which will be

managed and distributed via the Macao Foundation, aims to enhance the financial support to both Macau residents and local businesses affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. In the statement, the government said that the fund comes as an emer-

gency response in light of the enforcement of border restriction measures adopted by Hong Kong as well as Guangdong province.

For the time being, no details were disclosed on how the fund would operate and who would be eligible for this new support.

These details will be revealed by the government in a future announcement shortly after its establishment, the government said.

Advancing briefly on the justifications for the fund, the government said, "such steps are to provide timely support to those residen-

ts and businesses in need of urgent financial assistance, to stabilize the local economy and to ensure employment among local residents."

The new measure follows a raft of other measures announced previously with the purpose of propping up Macau's reeling economy. The aim is to ease the burden on both residents and small businesses.

According to the estimation made by the govern-

ment, the previous measures involve aggregate financial support of up to 40 billion patacas and include waivers or reductions of certain taxes, support for SMEs regarding certain types of loans, double payment of government subsidies and incentives for consumer consumption. The latter includes an electronic voucher scheme worth 3,000 patacas that will be distributed to all registered Macau residents from next month.

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Macau records first serious case of pneumonia caused by Covid-19

RENATO MARQUES

THE health authorities announced yesterday that Macau has recorded its first serious case of pneumonia caused by the Covid-19 disease.

Doctor Lo Iek Long, assistant to the Board of Directors of the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center disclosed the information during the daily press conference at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

According to Lo, the 18th Covid-19 patient in Macau, a 50-year-old woman who recently returned to Macau from the U.S., has seen her health worsen between March 24 and 29.

"On March 29, she started to have breathing difficulties and reported low blood oxygen levels [hypoxemia] and the new test that was done to her lungs (via a computed tomography) showed that there was an aggravation of pneumonia and the pulmonary infection had taken over more than half of her lungs," Lo explained. "This lady is considered the first serious case [of Covid-19-induced pneumonia] in Macau."

The director of the Health Bureau (SSM), Lei Chin Ion, noted that several factors have contributed to the severity of the case, including the age of the patient.

"This is a serious case. If the symptoms continue to aggra-



vate, her life might be at risk," Lei said, further adding that this case served as a warning for people in Macau not to lower their guard against the disease and to continue to cooperate with government and the health authorities to keep the region as safe as possible from contagion within society.

"The epidemic situation is now serious worldwide and I hope people continue to enforce the preventive measures and avoid gatherings, because I saw several news reports showing that in the last couple of days, several people were gathering

and carrying out celebrations and birthday parties or even gathering in the parks and gardens," Lei said. He added that it is still not the time to return to social gatherings and urged the public to assume responsibility. "We can't waste all the [prior] efforts made by everyone to keep Macau safe."

The 18th patient is now considered intermediate on the severity scale, which consists of three levels ranging from light to severe. She is the first patient out of the 38 cases so far reported in Macau to be in such a condition.

The patient arrived in Macau on March with her 19-year-old son (Covid-19 case 19) after having traveled from New York to Hong Kong via a Cathay Pacific flight. She and her son were transported in the special vehicle organized by the Tourism Crisis Management Office and arrived at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Port, where she showed symptoms such as fever and a dry cough. She was immediately transported to the public hospital where she tested positive for the Covid-19 and has been receiving treatment since.

NO PLANS TO EXTEND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH HK AIRPORT

A representative of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) confirmed yesterday that there are no plans to extend the operation of the special vehicle organized by the Tourism Crisis Management Office for Macau residents arriving at the Hong Kong Airport.

Questioned on the topic, Inês Chan reaffirmed that there are no plans to extend the operations beyond March 31, the date originally agreed upon with Hong Kong authorities and disclosed to the public and those Macau residents currently overseas.

As Chan explained, the special transportation requires a

great number of resources and logistics from both sides and was only agreed to as a short-term solution to face the need of those who had already planned to return to Macau and could not reach the region due to the entry restrictions imposed by Hong Kong.

According to the figures released by the same official, some 192 people arriving at Hong Kong airport yesterday had registered to return to Macau via this special vehicle. The large majority of these people continue to be local students arriving from abroad as well as other family members that accompany them. **RM**

38TH CONFIRMED CASE IS ANOTHER UK RETURNEE

A new case of Covid-19 has been detected in a Macau resident who has returned from the United Kingdom, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center has announced. This latest case disclosed in the early hours of this morning raises the total number of confirmed cases in the city to 38.

The patient is a male resident aged 44 and is currently in the public hospital where doctors report his condition is stable.

The patient traveled from the United Kingdom to Hong Kong by plane and entered the Macau SAR via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge on March 18.

On this date he was forwarded for medical observation at the Golden Crown China Hotel in accordance with the quarantine measures mandated by the Health Bureau.

According to the information disclosed by the health authorities, saliva samples were collected from the patient on March 21. On March 22, medical professionals took a nasopharyngeal swab sample, which tested negative for the coronavirus. Then, on March 29, new nasopharyngeal swab tests were performed and the results were positive for pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus.

More details about the case will be announced later. **DB**

EDUCATION REGULATORS RECOMMEND USE OF TELEGRAM APP

Macau students who are studying outside the city are encouraged to join the chat group administered by the Higher Education Bureau (DSES) on the instant messaging app, Telegram, which has been set up to make announcements with regards to Covid-19 control, prevention and other safety measures. It was originally for tertiary students, but now the DSES is expanding the coverage to non-tertiary students, under an agreement made with the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau. Parents of these students are also invited to join the chat group. Furthermore, both education entities urge students and parents residing outside Macau to be mindful of the changing situation and remain in their residences as a safety measure. If an urgency arises, they should contact the law enforcement authorities or the consulates of the People's Republic of China in their respective locations.

SOME MAIL MAY NOT REACH DESTINATION, POST BUREAU SAYS

Due to the uncertainty affecting the international aviation industry caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, mail delivery services are inevitably being impacted. For the time being, mail from Macau is restricted to a certain extent. The Post and Telecommunications Bureau announced that mail can reach certain destinations over Express Mail Service (EMS) and surface mail service. Meanwhile, mail to some other destinations can only be delivered by surface mail service. Currently, mail can be sent to Japan, South Korea, the U.K., Spain, Ireland, Canada, the U.S., Australia and New Zealand over surface mail. It will not be able to reach Spain, Ireland, Australia and New Zealand through EMS. Due to the disruption, delivery may be delayed.

MORE POLICIES OUT TO HELP CULTURAL INDUSTRY

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is working to support the cultural industry, including providing a one-year rent waiver for those using a venue at the Macao Cultural Center. The waiver will be effective for one calendar year, from April 1 this year through March 31, 2021. Rehearsal venues under the administration of the IC will also be reopened in mid-April in the form of a semi-open performance space. The bureau hopes it will allow subsidized local performances – including drama, dance, Cantonese opera and music – to stage live broadcast shows. Affected by the Covid-19 outbreak, the IC was forced to cancel or postpone several performances, with the latest being the annual beachside rock show "HUSH!!". This year's event will be postponed and broken down into several smaller shows to be performed elsewhere at other venues. Meanwhile, organizers whose shows were cancelled due to the shutdown of the Cultural Center earlier this year will have their deposits refunded.

QUARANTINE CAPACITY RISING AFTER SHERATON BECOMES FIRST COTAI PROPERTY TO VOLUNTEER

ANTHONY LAM

THE Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel has become the 12th hotel to be designated as a quarantine facility and the first property in Cotai. The addition of up to 2,000 rooms at the property will nearly double the capacity available to the Macau government.

The designation comes after Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng last week lambasted casino concessionaires for what he interpreted as their unwillingness to live up to corporate social responsibility obligations. Specifically, Macau's top official called on the concessionaires to offer their properties for use as quarantine facilities.

Following the inclusion of the large-scale Cotai property, the Macau government informed that for the time being, only part of the hotel would be repurposed as a quarantine facility. The hotel has two towers, officially known as the Sky Tower and the Earth Tower. It has not been announced which tower is now in use by the government.

The government announced that the hotel has agreed to offer 2,000 rooms from their entire premises. In the first phase, the government will only use a quarter of the rooms. The government has named this area the "Special Isolated Area". In accordance with changes in demand, subsequent adjustments to the number of rooms used for quarantine may be made.

With the amount of rooms and the facilities it offers, the Cotai hotel is described by the government as "a mega hotel complex". The resort at which it is located, Sands Cotai Central, has a shopping mall, restaurants and neighboring hotels.

The authorities have set out several criteria to determine whether a hotel is suitable for hosting people in quarantine. Among other criteria, the hotel would ideally be a standalone building, without a casino, and far from residential areas.



To ensure the hotel is eligible, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and Health Bureau have deployed teams of engineers to conduct on-site inspections of the hotel's ventilation and other crucial systems.

During the time that the hotel is being used as a quarantine facility, the casino, restaurants and cafes, shopping area and the spa will remain open. Therefore, all passageways that connect the Special Isolated Area to the shopping mall, restaurants, other hotels and facilities are completely blocked.

The MGTO has repeatedly stated that it takes a lot of negotiation to come to an agreement with a hotel regarding its use as a quarantine facility. A series of factors has to be considered as well.

So far, the government is using 12 hotels as quarantine facilities. They are Pousada Marina Infante Hotel, Golden Crown China Hotel, Regency Art Hotel, Grand Coloane

Resort, Metropole Hotel, Treasure Hotel, San Tung Fong Commercial Inn South Wing, Grand Lapa, Grand Harbour Hotel, Royal Dragon Hotel, Jai Alai Hotel and the Sheraton Grand Macao Hotel.

All these hotels are offering a temporary combined capacity of 3,034 rooms, with a potential to rise up to 4,534 rooms, if the government requires the entire properties. As of yesterday, there were 2,432 people under quarantine across the hotel venues.

The MGTO reiterates that these designated hotels are committed to social responsibility, providing support and coordination with the government for the implementation of medical observation and quarantine.

CONTAGION WITHIN HOTEL UNLIKELY, SAYS ENGINEER

Some members of the public have expressed concern about the concentration of people within

quarantine facilities, suggesting that a single confirmed infection could cause a mass breakout.

The fears stem from a case in 2003, when Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) struck Hong Kong. At that time, there was an incident of mass virus contagion within a residential building, where it was later discovered that the virus spread via the building's pipes.

Since the air-conditioning systems serving hotels are usually centralized, some members of the public have expressed concerns about the potential for the virus to spread within these properties.

When the government decided to use the first quarantine hotel, the Pousada Marina Infante, Lam Chong, head of the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, assured the public that a mass spread caused by the air-conditioning system is unlikely at that hotel.

Local Chinese newspaper Macao Daily News recently published an interview with Chan Kuai Son, a local electrical and mechanical engineer, who assuaged fears of the virus spreading within a hotel building.

The engineer explained that all ventilation and air-conditioning outlets are directed towards the roof. Even if there are germs or viruses in the air, they will only spread a distance of several meters and likely remain within the roof area.

Another concern is the vaporization effect, which mainland experts say is capable of spreading Covid-19. Chan admitted that toilet flushing may cause a vaporization effect in the sewage at lower floors, but he added that water flow in hotel sewage tends to be more frequent with a larger amount of water, making it less likely for vapors to be transmitted.

Health chief defends home quarantine method used by foreign workers

MACAU'S Health Bureau chief has defended the home quarantine method for foreign workers, saying he disagreed with the doubts expressed over it and the discrimination against home-quaranti-

ned individuals who have recently tested positive for Covid-19.

During Friday's press conference, Health Bureau Director Lei Chin Ion spoke about unfair suspicion experienced by a Filipino wo-

man who was confirmed to have been infected with Covid-19 during her home quarantine. This woman is the 31st confirmed case of the virus registered in Macau. She lives in an apartment with six roommates,

all of whom have tested negative for the virus.

Some of Macau's public commentary has suggested that home quarantine is ineffective to prevent the transmission of the virus, since four infections

have been confirmed from individuals under home quarantine, and this 31st patient has been living with six roommates.

As a medical professional and head of the health authority, Lei defended both home quarantine and the 31st patient.

"Some residents don't believe home quarantine [is effective] because this woman lives in an apartment with six people. However,

all these roommates have been tested negative," said Lei.

"If there is an opinion that home quarantine is not effective, or if there is a loophole in home-quarantine measures, I can say that a strict home quarantine is the same as a hotel quarantine," Lei noted.

The four patients were completely "locked up" during the quarantine period, Lei assured. JZ

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL



MGM doesn't plan to take US loans under coronavirus stimulus

CHRISTOPHER PALMERI

MGM Resorts International has no plans to take direct financial aid from the federal government, but may take advantage of loan guarantees only as a backstop if the coronavirus shutdown of the casino industry lasts too long.

MGM doesn't plan to borrow from the \$450 billion federal stimulus fund passed by Congress and signed by President Donald Trump on Friday, the company said. Federal loan guarantees, however, could be useful.

Jim Murren, who stepped down as the company's CEO on March 22 and is now heading a virus-relief task force in Nevada, met with Trump in the White House on March 17 to argue for casino-industry aid.

The \$2 trillion coronavirus relief bill offers a number of benefits, in addition to the loan program. It

extends workers' unemployment assistance by 13 weeks and increases their weekly compensation by \$600. It also allows companies to defer their payroll taxes, along with other tax incentives.

"This is an unprecedented crisis, and we appreciate the federal government taking decisive action to mitigate the impact and support Americans during this time of need," MGM said in the statement. "Our goal is to reopen our doors and get employees back to work as soon as public health and safety allow. These provisions help pave the way for that outcome."

MGM, the largest operator of resorts on the Las Vegas Strip, has closed all of its U.S. casinos to help prevent the spread of the virus. The company said earlier Friday it was cutting costs, laying off workers and delaying capital spending. MGM also said it had \$3.9 billion in cash on hand.

BLOOMBERG

LABOUR AFFAIRS BUREAU DUBS GALAXY CONSTRUCTION SITE 'UNSAFE AND HAZARDOUS'

THE Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has called the Galaxy Macau Phase 3 construction site unsafe and hazardous. The bureau came to the conclusion after it conducted a preliminary investigation of the site following an accident last week that claimed the lives of three workers and left another four injured.

A scaffolding collapse occurred around 4 p.m. on Tuesday when seven mainland workers were clearing an elevator shaft.

In a report issued by the bureau, DSAL inspectors wrote that "the conditions for working at height were unsafe and therefore hazardous."

The report also notes that following the review, an order was issued to stop all work at the construction site, including work done at height and involving scaffolding. Procedures to sanction

those responsible have also been started to ensure the safety on site according to existing laws.

According to the statement from the DSAL, the bureau will continue to oversee the implementation of added safety measures on the site, and will not allow work to resume until the contractors have fully implemented all the safety measures as instructed and provided a detailed report of the accident.

The DSAL urged the contractors to assist the injured workers' in their medical treatment, as well as their families' claims.

While work was interrupted, the DSAL also said it would provide safety training on-site with a special focus on work at height, as well as assist in the creation of safety briefings and discussions, aiming to raise awareness and improve working conditions. RM

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Sponsors SKH Parent-Child Picture Book Gift Kit Program

Part of company's MOP 5 million COVID-19 relief fund

Sands China Ltd. is sponsoring MOP 100,000 for the launch of the Sheng Kung Hui Social Service Coordination Office's Parent-Child Picture Book Gift Kit Program in response to the coronavirus pandemic, with a group of Sands Cares Ambassadors packing gift kits March 17 at the Sheng Kung Hui Gambling Counseling and Family Wellness Centre.

The Parent-Child Picture Book Gift Kit Program gives story books and educational parent-child game items to local families. Its goal is to enhance family interactions and parent-child relationships, while conveying values of mutual care and providing meaningful learning opportunities.

Lee Kwok Hoo, service director of the Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office, said: "Sands China has been committed to giving back to the Macao community. During the epidemic, the company not only sent epidemic prevention materials to various NGOs to address the needs of frontline operations, but also paid attention to the needs of families. Through this cooperation, parents and children are encouraged to read picture books at home and experience the fun of board games to facilitate continued learning despite the suspension of school. We look forward to continued cooperation with Sands China to launch more programmes to benefit local families."

Sheng Kung Hui's gift kits contain children's picture books, on topics such as advocating health, care, environmental protection, mutual help and love, colouring pens, as well as educational parent-child games. The kits – which will benefit around 250-300 local families – also include a Sands Cares colouring page with an encouraging message on coronavirus prevention, and epidemic prevention items like alcohol-based hand sanitiser.

Sands China's donation is part of Sands Cares, the global corporate citizenship program of parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp.



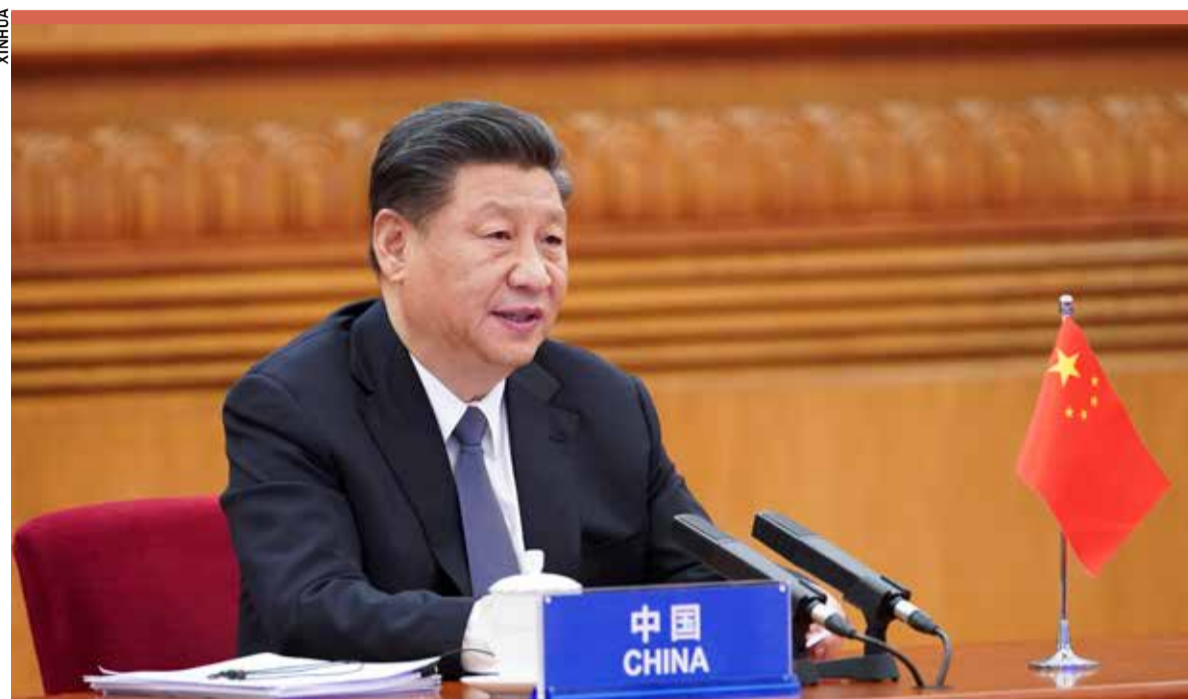
XI JINPING'S G20 SPEECH CHARTS COURSE FOR GLOBAL COVID-19 FIGHT

CHINESE President Xi Jinping's keynote speech at the Extraordinary G20 Leaders' Summit, which stressed a coordinated response to the common threat of Covid-19, has charted a course for the global fight against the pandemic, experts have said.

Xi put forth four proposals at the G20 summit via video, calling on G20 members to be resolute in fighting an all-out global war against the Covid-19 outbreak, make a collective response for control and treatment at the international level, support international organizations in playing their active roles and enhance international macro-economic policy coordination.

"This was an inspiring speech, concise and succinct, a leadership speech and call to collective action at a time of great stress and peril for the citizens of the world," said Cambridge University professor Alan Barrell.

Xi's proposal of a G20 health ministers' meeting to improve information sharing, strengthen cooperation on drugs, vaccines and epidemic control, and cut off cross-border infections would be "a good start to a different approach to health



Chinese President Xi Jinping attends the G20 Extraordinary Virtual Leaders' Summit on Covid-19 via video link

issues," Barrell said.

Echoing Barrell's remarks, William Jones, Washington bureau chief of the U.S. publication Executive Intelligence Review, said Xi's call for a meeting of the G20 health ministers is "a step in the right direction," creating a forum for a detailed discussion of measures in dealing with the crisis.

Xi's proposal of a high-level

meeting on international public health security will be "an urgent requirement in the post-Covid era in order to create a mechanism by which the world will next time have an early-warning system and a ready strategy to deal with any outbreak," he said.

Xi's speech inspires hope, said Rose Fumpa Makano, a Zambian peace and develop-

ment expert at the Copperbelt University, adding that China has demonstrated its commitment to implementing measures aimed at enhancing global trade.

While commending the China-proposed notion of a community with a shared future for mankind, Mohamed Faye Farahat, head of the Asian Studies Program at Cairo-based Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, said, "the world is now facing a common threat against humanity, which shows the necessity for global cooperation to tackle Covid-19."

"China's means and methods were impressive," said Nicholas Platt, a former U.S. diplomat, expressing his appreciation for China's efforts "to reach out to other parts of the world and to share equipment and to share knowledge."

"We all must face this challenge together," Platt added. XINHUA

WUHAN DROPS TO 'MEDIUM RISK'

WUHAN has had its coronavirus risk evaluation downgraded from "high risk" to "medium risk," a Chinese health official has informed. The coronavirus risk evaluation for five districts of Xinzhou, Huangpi, Jiangxia, Caidian and Dongxiu have been further lowered to "low risk," said Liu Dongru, deputy head of the provincial health commission, who declared the transmission of the

coronavirus epidemic in the main battlefield in Wuhan, the hardest-hit city by the virus, has been "basically blocked." Airline flights from Hubei province resumed yesterday after subway and bus service resumed Saturday in the province's hard-hit capital of Wuhan. The provincial capital only reported one newly confirmed case of the novel coronavirus disease since March 18.

WHO says it's working with Taiwan experts after video goes viral

THOMAS MULIER

THE World Health Organization said it's working with Taiwanese health experts after an interview went viral in which a senior official appeared to hang up on a reporter who asked about the island's membership status in light of the Covid-19 outbreak.

In the segment aired by Hong Kong broadcaster RTHK, a journalist asked Bruce Aylward, who helped lead a WHO mission to China's Wuhan, if the organization would consider giving Taiwan membership. The footage showed him saying he couldn't hear properly, and asking the reporter to skip to the next question. It then showed the

line disconnecting after the reporter said she'd like to hear more about Taiwan.

Later when the call was reconnected, the presenter asked him to comment on Taiwan's progress in containing the virus. Aylward replied that all areas of China have done well and wished Hong Kong luck in its efforts.

Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu tweeted that the WHO should set politics aside when dealing with a pandemic. Supporters of Taiwan say the WHO is too deferential to Beijing, which considers the self-governed democracy part of China.

"The question of Taiwanese membership in WHO is up to WHO

Member States, not WHO staff," spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said in an email. "WHO is taking lessons learned from all areas, including Taiwanese health authorities, to share best practices globally." Jasarevic did not respond to a question on whether Aylward had hung up on the reporter.

The WHO has a point of contact with Taiwan to receive information, and the country is involved in epidemiology training. Two Taiwanese public health experts took part in a research forum the WHO organized in February.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has repeatedly backed China, even as Beijing was criti-

cized by other countries and organizations for being slow to respond initially to the outbreak there, and for resisting cooperation with international disease-trackers. After weeks of wrangling, Aylward's WHO response team gained access to Hubei province, where the virus first erupted.

Beijing is a big financial supporter of countries across Africa, including Ethiopia, where Tedros also served as foreign minister and a high-ranking member of its former ruling coalition.

With about 300 cases and just two deaths, the Taiwanese caseload is low relative to population, according to the WHO. BLOOMBERG

HONG KONG

GATHERINGS LIMITED TO FOUR AFTER VIRUS SURGE

HONG Kong announced plans to ban gatherings of more than four people and close cinemas, gyms and arcades, after the Asian financial center recorded its largest one-day surge in coronavirus cases.

Among the measures that took effect yesterday, the city has asked restaurants to reduce their capacity by half. The measures at eateries also require them to keep tables at least 1.5 meters apart, limit seatings to four people per table and enact temperature checks for those entering.

The gyms, movie theaters and arcades were closed from 6 p.m. Saturday. Weddings and funerals will be exempted from the limits on gatherings for now.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam also reversed course on a controversial and confusing move to ban alcohol sales, saying she had only "suggested" such a move.

Lam said she understood that the measures would mean

another blow to local businesses. "But for the sake of public health and the fight against the virus, we must take this step," she said.

She added that Hong Kong's government would discuss further virus relief measures with businesses and ask employers to not cut staff.

In the last two weeks, hundreds have rushed back to Hong Kong in part to avoid a March 19 government deadline that subjected all international arrivals to a 14-day self-quarantine.

A spike in recent cases has alarmed the local government and residents after the spread of Covid-19 had largely been contained over the last two months, even as the pathogen spread rapidly in Europe and the U.S. Hong Kong, like other regional governments from Japan to New Zealand, has rushed to contain a fresh wave of cases from residents returning from abroad. MDT/BLOOMBERG



In Singapore, quarantine comes with sea view, room service

FARIS MOKHTAR
& ISHIKA MOOKERJEE

STUDENT Chelsie Lee landed in Singapore from the U.K. last week, prepared to spend 14 days of mandatory, coronavirus-related isolation at home. Instead, she was whisked away to a five-star hotel on a resort island.

For a fortnight, courtesy of the government, she'll wake up to a sea view in a room that would normally cost hundreds of dollars a night. Welcome to quarantine, Singapore-style.

The government said last week it's placing residents returning from the U.S. and the U.K. in hotels to prevent them from potentially spreading the virus to their families, a measure that's tighter than one that earlier allowed them to serve the period at home.

For Lee, that meant waking up on Friday to a room-service breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausages and hash browns served with croissant and toast as she enjoyed the view from the balcony of Shangri-La's Rasa Sentosa Resort and Spa.

"I have a king-sized bed to myself," said Lee, a 21-year-old law student at the University of Warwick. "And since my room is on level eight, I have a good sea view. I can see the beach, the swimming pool and cable cars. It's quite nice."

Singapore has seen a spike in infections, largely involving individuals with recent travel history, and those returning from the U.K. and the U.S. account for the largest number of cases. The country gets about 1,200 residents retur-

ning just from the U.K. and the U.S. every day, National Development Minister Lawrence Wong told parliament last week. On Saturday, confirmed infections climbed by another 70 to 802, with more than half classified as imported cases.

To prevent community spread, the government said on March 24 it's working with hotel operators to provide "dedicated facilities" for such returnees, while those currently serving their notices in their homes could also apply for those rooms. They are provided with meals and laundry too - and all on taxpayer dollars.

Singapore has booked more than 7,500 hotel rooms and serviced apartments to house returnees, according to property website 99.co. Some of the hotels enlisted include those belonging to international luxury chains such as Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc., InterContinental Hotels Group and Accor SA, it said.

Rasa Sentosa is providing, along with several other hotels in Singapore, a dedicated facility for returning residents to serve out their stay-home notice, a spokesperson said.

BATTERED INDUSTRY

The government measure will go some way in supporting Singapore's hospitality industry, which has been hammered by the pandemic, with flights and visitor arrivals grinding to a halt. Bracing for an economic contraction that could be the worst since independence, the administration unvei-

led a second stimulus package last week that boosted assistance to an equivalent of 11% of gross domestic product. Support includes scrapping property taxes in 2020 for hotels, shops and other commercial properties.

A few levels below Lee is Yongchang Chin, who was pleasantly surprised to be handed a form when he landed in Singapore last week, stating that he too will serve his 14-day quarantine at the hotel.

"I felt really lucky, it was unexpected," said the 25-year-old Singaporean, who is pursuing a Master's degree in demography at the University of Oxford.

The Singapore Hotel Association couldn't say how many hotels are involved in hosting overseas returnees. It had sent an invite to all members to participate in the initiative, a spokesperson said.

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"We do not have any indication of the response from hotels yet," the spokesperson said. "Hotels can choose to make this commercial decision at their discretion. This new measure will certainly help to alleviate the hotels' financial pressure now that tourism demand is non-existent."

Singapore earlier expected a 25% to 30% decline in tourist arrivals when the coronavirus hit China and its other major visitor markets. But as the city-state imposed tighter border controls, coupled with lockdowns in other nations, the outlook became darker. It stands in stark contrast to last year's record arrivals of 19.1 million people. Tourism receipts rose to SGD27.1 billion (\$19 billion) in 2019 based on preliminary estimates, from SGD26.9 billion the year before.

NO CHOICE

Lee said that upon landing in Singapore on Thursday evening, passengers had to fill up forms acknowledging they'll abide by quarantine rules. The form listed the hotels they will be put up in, but they didn't get to choose, she said.

"It's really good to be placed in a hotel as I had a lot of work to do," Lee said. "But I also didn't expect the government to place us in a nice hotel."

Checking in took all of five minutes. The travelers took their luggage from a coach chartered to transport them, queued up a meter apart as per social distancing guidelines, and received room

key cards. They were given welcome snacks - packets of biscuits - before they were shown to their rooms.

"When they serve the food, the hotel staff will place it outside and ring the door bell," Lee said. "When I opened the door, they're not there. I guess they're not su-

posed to come into contact with you."

Family members are allowed to leave things needed by the returnees at the concierge. For Lee, her parents brought her a yoga mat and some snacks.

CONSTANT MONITORING

Those quarantined are not allowed to leave their rooms during the entire 14-day period and can't use hotel facilities such as the gymnasium or swimming pool, Chin said.

Individuals under quarantine or issued stay-home notices in Singapore are monitored by video calls at least three times a day and officials conduct spot checks at their residences. For non-compliance, individuals face a maximum penalty of SGD10,000 fine and six months jail under the Infectious Diseases Act. A Singapore citizen had his passport canceled when he was found to have breached the requirements after returning from overseas.

Chin said the Immigration and Checkpoints Authority sends him text messages multiple times a day that "require you to click on a link and send your current location."

While Lee would have preferred to be at home, she was concerned about carrying the virus and passing it to her family members. She's been "impressed" by how the Singapore government treats its students returning from overseas, adding that friends from Hong Kong and China have had a tough time getting flights or must fork out extra fees to change flight timings.

"My friends said their governments are not really trying very hard to get them back home, but ours did and they put us up in hotels," she said.

Lee's biggest concern now: Motivating herself to be productive while staying in a five-star hotel because she has to complete "two essays due by the end of the month." **BLOOMBERG**

AP PHOTO



A priest and relatives pray as a person is buried at the Almudena cemetery in Madrid

Spain, Italy demand more European help with virus

SPAIN and Italy have demanded more European help as they fight still-surging coronavirus infections in the continent's worst crisis since World War II. In the U.S., authorities urged millions around New York City to stop traveling to keep the virus contained.

Around the world, doctors were forced to make tough choices about which patients to save with the limited breathing machines they have. The confirmed global death toll surpassed 31,000 and new virus epicenters emerged in U.S. cities like Detroit, New Orleans and Chicago. Even rural America has not been immune, as virus hotspots erupt in Midwestern towns and Rocky Mountain ski havens.

Spain and Italy alone account for more than half of the world's death toll, and are still seeing over 800 deaths a day each.

Experts say, however, that virus toll numbers across the world are being seriously under-represented because of limited testing and political decisions about which bodies to count. Unlike the U.S., France and Italy do not count deaths that take place at home or in nursing homes, even though nursing homes are known coronavirus incubators around the world.

"Europe must demonstrate that it is able to respond to this historic call," Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte said late Saturday. "I will fight until the last drop of sweat, until the last gram of energy, to obtain a strong, vigorous, cohesive European response."

President Donald Trump backtracked on a threat to quarantine New York and neighboring states amid criticism and questions about the legality of such a move. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a travel advisory urging all residents of New York City and others in New York state, New Jersey and Connecticut to avoid all non-essential travel for 14 days.

Shocking as that is for Americans, that stopped short of the restrictions imposed in Europe or elsewhere. Parisians are fined if they try to leave the city, South Africans can't even buy liquor, and Serbians are upset over a ban on walking their dog. In Italy, burials are being held with only one family member.

Spain moved to tighten its lockdown and ban all nonessential work Sunday as it hit another daily record of 838 dead. The country's overall official toll was more than 6,500.

Spain's health emergencies chief, Fernando Simón, said the country's infection rate fell Sunday to 9%, down

from 18% three days before. But he said the number of people in intensive care units keeps rising and hospitals are at their limits in several regions.

"That is why we have to strictly apply the control measures," he said.

The crisis is pummeling world economies and putting huge strains on national health care systems. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez called for a more vigorous response from the 27-nation European Union.

"It is the most difficult moment for the EU since its foundation and it has to be ready to rise to the challenge," he said.

Spain, Italy, France and six other EU members have asked the union to share the burden by issuing European debt, dubbed coronabonds, to help fight the virus. But the idea has met resistance from Germany and the Netherlands.

European countries have also resisted sharing masks with their neighbors for fear that they, too, will need them in mass quantities soon. Many countries have turned to China, where the outbreak is easing, flying in cargo planes to get protective medical equipment.

These tensions have raised new fears about whether the EU will survive this crisis.

"It's really, really impor-

tant that we achieve better coordination," German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said.

Worldwide infections surpassed 680,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University. The United States leads the world with about 125,000 reported cases, but five other countries have higher death tolls: Italy, Spain, China, Iran and France. Italy has more than 10,000 deaths, the most of any country.

Egypt shut its beaches as cases in the Mideast surpassed 50,000. Police in the Philippines stepped up arrests of quarantine violators, and more tourists were evacuated from Mount Everest and the Indonesian island of Bali.

Poland is considering delaying its May 10 presidential election, and Russia ordered borders to close starting today. A prominent French politician with the virus died, France's first death of a senior official.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who has the virus himself, warned: "Things will get worse before they get better."

Pope Francis called yesterday for a cease-fire in all conflicts around the globe "to focus together on the true fight of our lives." He also urged authorities to take special care of those in nursing homes, military barracks and jails. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1951 ROSENBERGS GUILTY OF ESPIONAGE

An American electrical engineer and his wife have been found guilty by New York's Federal Court of passing atomic secrets to the Russians.

Julius Rosenberg, 33, and his 35-year-old wife, Ethel, were accused of stealing technical information from the atom research centre in Los Alamos and turning it over to the KGB.

A radar expert, Morton Sobell, has also been found guilty of the same charges.

The court heard the Rosenbergs, who have two young sons, were involved in a complicated spy ring, which also included Mrs Rosenberg's brother, David Greenglass, former Soviet vice-consul Arkadi Yakovlev, and Philadelphia chemist, Harry Gold.

Greenglass, a machinist at the Los Alamos research centre during World War II, said he had been asked by the Rosenbergs, both committed Communists and members of the Young Communist League, to obtain information about the atomic bomb.

Greenglass told the court he was unaware he was working on the atomic bomb project until his brother-in-law, Julius Rosenberg, told him.

The court heard the information was passed to Harry Gold, who turned it over to the Russians.

Gold, who is now serving a 30-year jail sentence after pleading guilty to espionage, had also worked as a go-between for British scientist Klaus Fuchs, it was revealed.

Fuchs was jailed for 14 years in 1950 after admitting that he had been passing atomic secrets to the Russians for many years.

Arkadi Yakovlev, also allegedly involved in the spy ring, escaped trial after fleeing to Russia before the American authorities could catch up with him.

In pronouncing guilty verdicts, Judge Kaufman, presiding over the trial, said: "That citizens should lend themselves to the destruction of their own country by the most destructive weapon known is so shocking that I cannot find words to describe the loathsome offence."

The couple, who have consistently denied any involvement in the spy ring, will be sentenced on 5 April.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Rosenbergs were sentenced to death on 5 April 1951 and despite numerous appeals for clemency were executed by the electric chair at Sing-Sing Prison on 19 June 1953.

They were the only people in the United States ever executed for Cold War espionage, and their conviction fuelled US Senator Joseph McCarthy's anti-communist crusade against "anti-American activities" by US citizens.

The couple's two sons, Robert and Michael, who were six and 10 when their parents were executed, were adopted by friends of their parents, the Meeropols, under new names.

They only revealed their true identities in the 1970s when the Freedom of Information Act enabled them to gain documents which they believed could prove their parents' innocence.

David Greenglass escaped the death penalty, and gained immunity for his wife, after agreeing to give evidence against his sister and brother-in-law. He served 10 years in jail.

Years later he admitted he had fabricated his story to save his own skin but had no regrets about what he had done.

However, records and testimony from intelligence sources in the US and Russia, suggests Julius Rosenberg had been involved in giving some sensitive information to Soviet contacts in support of the war effort against Hitler.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Look before you leap. Resist the temptation to gamble. Risks will not be profitable. Be tolerant, but don't let any one take you for granted and don't show weakness.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 Don't be too quick to judge. Remain calm and you'll shine. Passion should be your goal. You will be uncertain of your feelings but don't be quick to give up.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 Later in the week your boss will pat you on the back for a job well done. Your stubborn nature will backfire if you give your mate an ultimatum. Your lover will be annoyed with your participation.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Opportunities to meet new lovers will come through pleasure trips or social events. It may be a disappointing day emotionally. Tempers could boil if someone you work with has not been pulling their weight.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 You can make new friends if you get involved in group activities. Quarrels will erupt if you get into philosophical debates with friends. Get out and rub shoulders with people in high positions if possible.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Your mind may not be on the job. Focus on using your creative abilities in other ways. Your mind will be on matters that deal with secret affairs.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Romantic relationships could be under pressure. Attend seminars that will bring you in contact with the right people. Dazzle them with your intellectual conversation.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Someone left a real mess for you to sift through. The key to feeling good about yourself will be to do something about it. Be sure to take care of the needs of your immediate loved ones first.

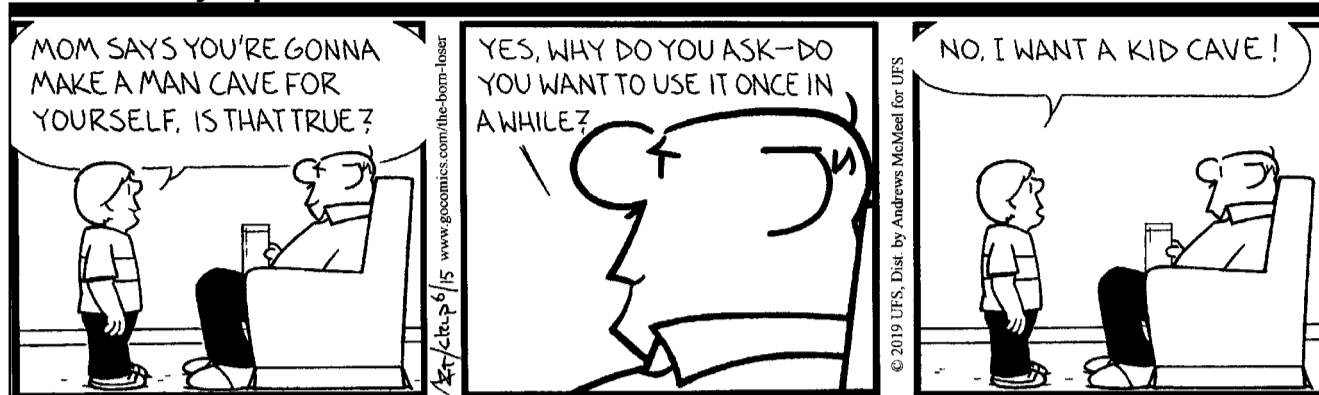
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Don't be too quick to judge partners or those you work with. It won't take much to upset your lover. You should get out and meet new people today.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Jealousy may be a contributing factor to your emotional ups and downs. Secret information will be eye opening. Your ideas can be put into action.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Your unique approach to life will interest others. Old friends may not like your choices. Be sure to double-check the house on your way out.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Don't be too quick to react. Be cautious handling tools, machinery, or dangerous objects. Talk to those in a position of power about your intentions.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	5	18	cloudy
Harbin	6	16	clear
Tianjin	8	20	cloudy
Urumqi	-3	7	clear
Xi'an	0	17	cloudy
Lhasa	3	16	clear
Chengdu	9	14	cloudy
Chongqing	12	19	overcast
Kunming	13	28	clear
Nanjing	4	12	overcast
Shanghai	8	13	drizzle
Wuhan	5	13	overcast
Hangzhou	5	12	overcast
Taipei	18	21	drizzle
Guangzhou	18	21	thundershower
Hong Kong	20	24	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-4	4	drizzle
Frankfurt	-2	6	clear
Paris	-1	8	clear
London	1	7	drizzle
New York	7	10	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Galoots; 5- Kit item; 9- Bingo call; 13- Push with the head; 14- Living in a city; 16- Rich deposit; 17- Ratio words; 18- Bring up; 19- The Emerald Isle; 20- Pad ___; 21- Hot time in Paris; 22- Light; 24- Manitoba Indigenous People; 26- Somewhat; 27- Killed; 29- Physically active; 33- Royal domain; 34- Kitchen addition; 35- Author Jaffe; 36- Globe; 37- Flight segment; 38- Kernel; 39- Ripened; 41- Bath powder; 42- Alamogordo's county; 44- Move; 46- Sidestep, circumvent; 47- X-ray units; 48- Minn. neighbor; 49- Reunion attendees; 52- She's a she; 53- Individually; 57- Poet Teasdale; 58- Anesthetized; 60- Look at lustfully; 61- Indication; 62- Decoration; 63- "Trinity" author; 64- Waste allowance; 65- Unit of computer memory; 66- Knocks lightly;

DOWN: 1- Slightly; 2- Thrust; 3- Blues singer James; 4- Impassive; 5- Large soup dish; 6- Declaim; 7- Village Voice award; 8- ___ Cruces, NM; 9- Electric appliance; 10- Actress Spelling; 11- Prepare for publication; 12- Branta sandvicensis; 15- Nor's partner; 23- Guy's counterpart; 25- Canyon edge; 26- Room at the top; 27- Twilled fabric; 28- Trademark; 29- ___ of Two Cities; 30- In shape; 31- Accustom; 32- Roman censor; 33- Laugh loudly; 34- Les ___-Unis; 37- Sports arena; 40- Inactive; 42- Female gametes; 43- Food ordered to go; 45- Metal container; 46- English Channel swimmer Gertrude; 48- Perspire; 49- Kind of prof.; 50- Den; 51- Prod.; 52- Whirlpool; 54- Mogul capital until 1658; 55- A good one gets you there in a hurry; 56- Shell competitor; 59- Kan. neighbor;

Friday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>Nova City Apartment, Taipa HK\$12,880,000 1,494 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p>  <p>Vai Fung Triplex, Macau \$15,800/mth 1,065 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Taipa] Va Fat Apartment 2 1/2 1 1/2 725 ft² \$4,380,000 (ref: 18115566)</p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa Village Apartment 1 1/2 1 1/2 785 ft² \$4,780,000 (ref: 20016009)</p> <p>[Coloane] Man Fai Apartment 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,390 ft² \$7,380,000 (ref: 190650105T)</p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa Village Apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2 1,404 ft² \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Taipa] Loft Style Unit 1 1/2 1 1/2 890 ft² \$12,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Coloane] Hellene Garden 1 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,663 ft² \$14,000/mth (ref: 20021003)</p> <p>[Taipa] Manhattan 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,626 ft² \$20,800/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Taipa] Manhattan 4 1/2 2 1/2 2,305 ft² \$22,000/mth (ref: 19091003)</p>	<p>jml 卓雅物業 property SINCE 1994</p> <p>(853) 2835 2699 hello@jmlproperty.com www.jmlproperty.com</p> <p>f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty</p>
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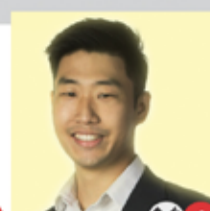
Avenida da Praia Grande No.599, Edf. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 andar C, Macau
澳門南灣大馬路599號羅德禮商業大廈12樓C座



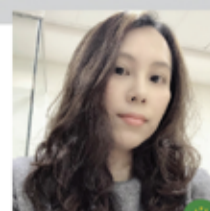
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Property of the Week



Nova City Apartment, Taipa

HK\$12,880,000 1,494 ft² 3 2



Spacious and in excellent condition. Stunning High floor apartment. Beautiful hard wood floors throughout. Three bedrooms and 2 bathrooms



Property Hotlist



Nova City Apartment, Taipa

\$11,750,000
1,515 ft²
3 2



Nova City Car Park, Taipa

\$1,600,000
1



Vai Fung Triplex, Macau

\$15,800/mth
1,065 ft²
2 2



Nam Long Neat Apartment, Taipa

\$11,800/mth
645 ft²
2 1



More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Va Fat Apartment 2 1 725 ft² **\$4,380,000** (ref: 18115566)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village Apartment 1 1 785 ft² **\$4,780,000** (ref: 20016009)
- [Coloane] Man Fai Apartment 3 2 1,390 ft² **\$7,380,000** (ref: 19065010ST)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village Apartment 4 2 1,404 ft² **\$8,380,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 2 1,344 ft² **\$11,000,000** (ref: 19126001)

For Rent

- [Taipa] Loft Style Unit 1 1 890 ft² **\$12,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Coloane] Hellene Garden 1 3 2 1,663 ft² **\$14,000/mth** (ref: 20021003)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,626 ft² **\$20,800/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 2,305 ft² **\$22,000/mth** (ref: 19091003)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 4 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)

Recent Movements

Sold Ocean Garden, 3 beds, Taipa

Rented Coloane Village Apartment, 1 bed

Rented Macau Luxury Apartment, 2 beds1



JML Events



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

IndyCar goes iRacing as latest series to offer fans content

JENNA FRYER

THE walk to the starting grid for Tony Kanaan began in his Indianapolis kitchen, through the foyer, past the trophy case, up the stairs, down the hall, through the master bedroom, master bathroom and finally into the closet.

That's where the former Indianapolis 500 winner tucked away Saturday to participate in a full day of iRacing on a simulator in the one place his wife will tolerate the rig. Kanaan participated in two virtual races, a legends event won by three-time Indianapolis 500 winner Dario Franchitti. Then he joined the first of a six-week series that launched Saturday to give IndyCar fans content during the coronavirus pandemic.

IndyCar followed the lead of NASCAR and other racing series in throwing together something - anything - to fill the void created when COVID-19 brought sports to a halt. IndyCar suspended the start of its season 48 hours before the March 15 opener in St. Petersburg, Florida, and on Thursday the Indianapolis 500 was postponed until August.

NASCAR had a successful launch of its iRacing series last week and it was the most-watched televised esports event ever with more than 900,000 viewers. IndyCar couldn't get a television deal so its inaugural race was streamed online from virtual Watkins Glen International Speedway, the venue decided by fan vote.

YouTube streams from IndyCar and iRacing combined for about 45,000 viewers to watch a virtual race called by NBC Sports' regular booth of Leigh Diffey, Townsend Bell and Paul Tracy. The invocation was done remotely, as was the National Anthem, sung by Chicago Blackhawks regular Jim



Cornelison.

The field included NASCAR's seven-time champion Jimmie Johnson, who made his iRacing debut last weekend in a stock car using SIM settings more suited for IndyCar or sports car. Johnson has been using his rig to prepare for potential races in other series upon his retirement from full-time racing at the end of the season. He was scheduled to test an IndyCar next month in Alabama but that's been canceled amid the pandemic.

He wore a T-shirt honoring late open-wheel driver Greg Moore for his virtual IndyCar debut, which he streamed live on his social media channels. Most drivers tried to give viewers an inside look of their experience, including James Hinchcliffe, the popular Canadian who played the part wearing a stereotypical flannel shirt and Team Canada red hat with ear flaps. But a technical glitch stopped his SIM before the green flag and Hinchcliffe didn't get to race, er, play, after all.

Hinchcliffe had to go to an Indianapolis-area friends' house to participate in the race because

he doesn't own a simulator, same with Robert Wickens, who hasn't raced since his spinal cord injury in a 2018 crash but hoped to be in the iRacing event.

Wickens struggled to find a simulator with a steering wheel equipped with hand controls so he could bypass pedals. The IndyCar community stepped in and Wickens was able to get a simulator from Cary and Todd Bettenhausen, the twin sons of former IndyCar racer Gary Bettenhausen. A steering wheel designed by IndyCar steward Max Papis' innovation company was shipped from North Carolina, but alas, did not arrive in Indianapolis in time for Wickens to participate.

Much like NASCAR's first event last week, the iRace had a wide range of talents because the younger drivers use iRacing as a training tool, while veterans are new to the gaming rage. Participating in the series requires having the technology - which can be difficult to not only secure in a hurry, but also have installed in a drivers' home during a lockdown - and the desire to be a good sport

for fans starving for entertainment.

Teams also viewed

it as an opportunity to showcase their sponsors at a time there's almost

no way for promotion or activation. It was important to many organizations to have their car and sponsor represented, which got Scott Speed a slot in Marco Andretti's place when Andretti declined to participate.

Australian V8 Supercars champion Scott McLaughlin entered the virtual event as one of four Team Penske drivers, but it is the closest he'll get to a race now that his IndyCar debut has been put on hold. He was scheduled to run May 9 on the road course at Indianapolis Motor Speedway but those plans were scrapped when the race was moved to July 4.

The race results were not surprising as the top iRacers led the way. Sage Karam, who turned 25 in March, won the race with no prior experience at Watkins Glen. Felix Rosenqvist, last year's IndyCar top rookie, was second.

The Penske crew of Will Power and McLaughlin were third and fourth, followed by Indy Lights champion Oliver Askew, who is 23. **AP**

AD



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OPINION

World Views

Noah Smith, Bloomberg

CORONAVIRUS MAKES AMERICA SEEM LIKE A CIVILIZATION IN DECLINE

Crises such as wars, depressions, natural disasters and pandemics can reveal differences in how effectively a society organizes itself. In the 1600s and 1700s, for example, Britain's more advanced tax system allowed it to outspend Spain and France, while Prussia's efficient army let it overcome larger opponents such as Austria. In the Civil War, the Union's industrial prowess allowed it to outlast and overwhelm the agrarian Confederacy.

Pandemics aren't quite the same as wars, but they can also illustrate startling differences in the effectiveness of different countries. China, the place where coronavirus first appeared, initially tried to hush up evidence of the outbreak before pivoting to a draconian crackdown that was crudely effective. South Korea and Taiwan, scarred by the SARS epidemic 17 years ago, were ready with effective response systems that tested large numbers of people and traced their contacts in order to isolate contagious individuals before they showed symptoms. European countries tended to respond less effectively, with Italy and Spain having two of the worst outbreaks and the U.K. dithering over its strategy while wasting crucial time.

But perhaps no advanced nation has responded as poorly as the U.S. Perverse regulation, a bungled government test and fragmented supply chains held back testing for crucial weeks, allowing the epidemic to spread undetected. Abdication of leadership by the federal government left the job of shutdowns to state and local governments. Meanwhile, the president has issued highly unrealistic predictions that lockdowns could end in as little as two weeks. As a result, the U.S. now leads the world in cases of the coronavirus.

It's possible that the U.S.'s scattershot, slow and ineffective response to this crisis is a result of leadership failures or the recent era of political division. President Donald Trump eliminated a pandemic response team at the National Security Council, his appointments to the Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration have been controversial, and his messaging has generally been unhelpful and conflicting.

But the widespread nature of the failures suggest that coronavirus has exposed a deeper decline in the U.S.'s general effectiveness as a civilization. How recent that decline is, what its causes are and whether it can be reversed are all difficult but important questions.

The U.S. made big moves toward centralization to deal with the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War II and the Cold War. Those successful responses show that the U.S. has been capable of adapting to the challenges of upheaval in the past. Recently, though, the U.S. has allowed its civil service to shrink and its salaries to become less competitive with the private sector, outsourcing many of the bureaucracy's functions:

It's tempting to blame this on small-government ideology, but the coronavirus failures also involved over-regulation by the FDA. In general, fans of more government and less government seem unable to prioritize high-quality, effective government — what my Bloomberg Opinion colleague Tyler Cowen and his fellow economist Mark Koyama call state capacity.

There may be deeper reasons why U.S. state capacity is decaying. One possibility is that declining U.S. effectiveness is the result of deepening racial and ethnic divisions. Economists have generally found that ethnic fragmentation — usually a legacy of colonialism — tends to make countries less willing to provide public goods. In the U.S., ethnic fragmentation is mainly a legacy of slavery, which resulted in lasting black-white tensions. The urge to slash and devalue government in the late 20th century almost certainly stemmed in part from many white Americans' fear that government would mostly benefit their poorer black countrymen.

The crucial question is whether and how the decline in U.S. effectiveness might be reversed. Restoring the prestige of the civil service, centralizing functions such as responding to pandemics and electing competent and focused leaders are certainly all important steps. But in the long term, doing this will probably require cultivating a sense of national solidarity that crosses ethnic and racial lines while rooting out the entrenched power of special interests. Restoring the greatness of American civilization is likely to be a long and difficult road. [Abridged]

The coronavirus outbreak could kill 100,000 to 200,000 Americans, the U.S. government's top infectious-disease expert warned yesterday as smoldering hotspots in nursing homes and a growing list of stricken cities heightened the sense of dread across the country.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, made the dire prediction of fatalities on CNN's "State of the Union," adding that millions in the U.S. could become infected.

By midday, the U.S. had about 125,000 infections and 2,200 dea-

ths, according to the running tally kept by Johns Hopkins University, though the true number of cases is thought to be considerably higher because of testing shortages and mild illnesses that have gone unrecognized or unreported.

Worldwide, the count approached 700,000 infections, and deaths topped 32,000. World Health Organization figures showed the daily increase in new infections was eclipsing 70,000, up from about 50,000 earlier in the week, and more than six times what it was two weeks ago.

PHILIPPINES

PLANE CATCHES FIRE AT MANILA AIRPORT, KILLING ALL 8 ABOARD



JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

A plane carrying eight people, including an American and a Canadian, burst into flames yesterday while attempting to take off from Manila's airport on a flight bound for Japan, killing all those on board, officials said.

The Westwind 24 plane, which was carrying six Filipino crew members and the American and Canadian passengers, was bound for Tokyo on a medical mission when it caught fire near the end of the main runway, Manila airport general manager Ed Monreal said.

Firetrucks and rescue personnel rushed and doused the twin-engine aircraft with foam to try to extinguish the flames, he said.

"Unfortunately, there were no survivors," Monreal told a late-night news conference.

He declined to identify the victims until their families were informed and said other details about the flight and the passengers were unclear.

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines said the aircraft apparently encountered an unspecified "problem which resulted in a fire"

as it rolled to take off, adding its chief investigator was on the way to the scene.

Video footage shows the aircraft engulfed in bright-orange flames in the darkness as firefighters scramble to put out the fire by spraying chemical foam while sirens blare.

The aircraft apparently encountered an unspecified 'problem which resulted in a fire' as it rolled to take off

Nearly three hours after the accident, the bodies of the victims were still inside the wreckage. Airport authorities were waiting for police investigators to examine the crash scene before retrieving the remains, Monreal said.

The airport's main runway was closed due to the accident. The airport had only minimal staff due to air travel restrictions that are part of a monthlong lockdown imposed by the government in the main northern Philippine region of Luzon, where Manila,

the capital, lies, to fight the coronavirus outbreak, officials said.

A Korean Airlines flight bound for Manila was diverted to Clark International Airport, north of Manila, due to the incident, Monreal said, adding that the main runway would be reopened as soon as the wreckage was removed.

Donaldo Mendoza, the deputy chief of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines, said the aircraft was deemed "airworthy" based on records and its pilots were properly certified to fly.

The plane had flown to central Iloilo province Saturday to deliver medical supplies without any incident, Mendoza said.

Mendoza said airport tower personnel were horrified to see the plane still rolling on the runway at a point when it should have already taken off, but added it remains unclear what trouble the plane encountered.

"They were really alarmed so they already picked up the hotline just in case, whatever happens, they can immediately call fire, crash and rescue," Mendoza said. AP

Indonesia A strong inland and shallow magnitude 5.8 earthquake hit parts of Indonesia's Sulawesi island late Saturday night, sending people fleeing despite appeals by officials to keep distance to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.



Russia's Rosneft has transferred its assets in Venezuela to a company fully owned by Vladimir Putin's government, a move apparently intended to shield Russia's largest oil producer from U.S. sanctions while Moscow continues showing support for Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro in the wake of a U.S. narcotics indictment.



Sweden After a long, dark Scandinavian winter, the coronavirus pandemic is not keeping Swedes at home. The streets of Stockholm are quiet but not deserted. People still sit at outdoor cafes in the center of the city. Vendors still sell flowers. Teenagers still chat in groups in parks. Some still greet each other with hugs and handshakes.



US-led coalition in Iraq withdrew yesterday from a military base in the country's north that nearly launched Washington into an open war with neighboring Iran. The K1 Air Base is the third site coalition forces to have left this month.

US The Rhode Island National Guard started going door to door on Saturday in coastal areas to inform any New Yorkers who may have come to the state that they must self-quarantine for 14 days while Gov. Gina Raimondo expanded the mandatory self-quarantine to anyone visiting the state.