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**TOURIST ARRIVALS DURING THE EASTER BREAK HIT A RECORD LOW AFTER THE CITY RECORDED JUST 810 VISITORS OVER THE WEEKEND** P3

AP PHOTO



**USA** Bernie Sanders (left) has endorsed Joe Biden's presidential campaign, encouraging his progressive supporters to rally behind the presumptive Democratic nominee in an urgent bid to defeat President Donald Trump. "I am asking every Democrat, I'm asking every independent, I'm asking a lot of Republicans, to come together in this campaign to support your candidacy, which I endorse," the Vermont senator said.

AP PHOTO



**South Korea** reported 27 new cases as infections continued to wane in the worst-hit city of Daegu and nearby towns. South Korea's totals are 10,564 infections and 222 virus-related deaths. China reported 89 new virus cases, 86 of them among travelers arriving from abroad, but no new deaths. It has confirmed 3,341 deaths out of 82,249 official cases of infections.

**India** The world's largest lockdown has been extended to May 3. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi said restrictions may be eased after one week to help daily wage earners and those working in agriculture. Modi said yesterday the lockdown will be eased only in areas where the virus situation doesn't deteriorate.

**Southeast Asian** leaders linked up by video to plot their moves against the virus that threatens their economies and binds millions of people to their homes under lockdowns. Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said in an opening speech that containment efforts were working but warned against complacency.

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# SMART SHOPS

RETAILERS TO END DISCOUNTS BEFORE E-VOUCHER CREDIT RELEASED P2

LYNZY VALLES



XINHUA

## CHINA VOWS EQUAL TREATMENT FOR AFRICANS AFTER REPORTS SHOW 111 TESTED POSITIVE





# RETAILERS TO END DISCOUNTS BEFORE E-VOUCHER CREDIT RELEASED

LYNZY VALLES

**A**PPAREL and sportswear across the city have been discounted for long stretches since the Chinese New Year. Up to now, several shops along Leal Senado up to Rua do Campo as well as stores inside integrated resorts have been running sales promotions.

However, it is not typical for these retail outlets to still have price markdowns during this season. The ongoing sale promotions may be a way to cope up with the sales downturn due to the pandemic outbreak. Several stores temporarily closed back in late January to early February during the first wave of the outbreak to deter the spread of Covid-19 and in response to the poor business conditions.

Visitor arrivals to Macau plunged 95% in February, the same month that Macau casinos faced an unprecedented 15-day shutdown amid an outbreak of



the novel coronavirus in mainland China. The plunge in visitor arrivals was not only a blow to the gaming industry but to the retail outlets as well, as they are also reliant on mainland Chinese consumers.

The Times learnt that many of these stores will end their promotions this weekend, prior to the launch period for the government-issued subsidy smartcard. The e-voucher is worth 3,000 patacas and will be made redeemable between May 1 to July 31.

At least four salespersons in different stores along Rua do Campo said that their promotional sales would end this weekend.

"We are not sure if we will have one in May," one replied when asked if another series of promotions would be offered next month. According to a salesperson at a retail store at an integrated resort, "The sale promotion will end before the e-vouchers come into effect."

"Most people will have to

spend the e-vouchers anyway so we would rather not have sales during that time," the salesperson told the Times.

At present, many of the stores are proving popular with residents. Last weekend a large number were seen perusing several popular shopping spots on the peninsula and inside the integrated resorts of the Cotai Strip.

Some shops are offering discounts of up to 90% on certain products. Some offer a "buy one,

get one free" promotion, while others offer discounts depending on the number of items the customer purchases.

These retail outlets may continue to rely on local residents for their revenue as Chinese consumers in the mainland are unlikely to return to Macau on a significant scale until border entry restrictions are eased. At present, many analysts do not think such measures will be lifted in time for the upcoming Labor Day break centered on May 1.

A recent survey conducted by a research unit of Morgan Stanley showed that only 7% of mainland respondents intended to attempt travel to Macau during the Labor Day break.

Under the e-voucher scheme, every Macau resident is entitled to receive 3,000 patacas in total, to be distributed via the e-voucher system managed by smartcard operator Macau Pass, according to a consumption subsidy plan. Yesterday was the first day of these e-voucher collections.

A second smartcard has been planned for later in the year with credit in the amount of 5,000 patacas.

JULIE ZHU

**T**HE local government has decided to extend the pick-up date for the e-vouchers until July 17, according to a statement released yesterday by the Macao Economic Bureau (DSE).

Originally, the collection period for the first round of the e-voucher scheme ended on April 30. With the newest extension, registered local residents are given two and half more months to collect their e-vouchers.

The decision to extend the deadline is an acknowledgment of the rapid changes

## E-voucher pick-up date extended until July 17

resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic situation. Some registered residents may not be able to collect their e-vouchers before the former April 30 deadline.

The extension does not affect the expiry date, meaning that the e-voucher from the first round will remain valid only between May 1 and July 31.

Before April 30, residents can visit their selected locations at the appointment time to pick up their vou-

cher. Those who do not to pick up their voucher from their selected locations before April 30 can visit one of four governmental offices during business hours to claim the voucher before July 17.

The four locations are the DSE office on the 7th floor of Banco Luso Internacional on Rua do Dr. Pedro José Lobo, the DSE service counter in the Government Service Building at Areia Preta, the monetary authority's

service center on Avenida de Sidónio Pais, Edifício Tong Hei Koc, No. 1A, Macau, and the Government Service Center of the islands.

During a visit to Areia Preta e-voucher distribution site, DSE director Tai Kin Ip told local media that an hourly average handout of 100 e-vouchers is expected. Within the first hour, over 90% of registered appointment at the Areia Preta site were completed.

From yesterday to this

Friday, approximately 30,000 people are expected to collect the e-voucher, according to government estimates. A projected 80,000 people will collect their e-voucher this weekend.

According to the economic head, since mid-February, 2,400 shops requested to install the Macau Pass terminal for the first time, over 800 of which were street market vendors. The terminal is required for consumers to redeem their credit

at establishments.

Last week, the local government announced the second round of e-vouchers, with a value of 5,000 patacas per resident. Tai said that the details concerning the next round will be announced later.

The e-voucher is applicable for both goods and services and is intended to help local businesses maintain normal operations and restart the city's sluggish economy.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### EXPIRED BIR: 'WE WERE NOT ENTITLED TO THE VARIOUS GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES GRANTED'

Dear Editor,

We are Macau non-permanent residents who submitted our application for extension in mid 2018, but have been unable to have our Macau ID cards

renewed as of today.

It usually takes less than six months for our Macau ID to be renewed but this time, after almost two years, we still could not obtain the renewal card despite approaching IPIM [Macao Trade and

Investment Promotion Institute] several times.

Due to the delay in getting the approval, we were not entitled for the various government subsidies granted to Macau permanent and non-

permanent residents such as:

- The annual government Wealth Partaking Scheme;
- The Continuing Education Development Plan;
- and the latest e-vouchers from the government's Economic Relief Fund

arising from the coronavirus outbreak.

Other than that, we have to pay school fees for our children as our Macau IDs had expired.

IPIM had issued us a Declaration Letter that states that our Macau IDs are in the process of being renewed, but the [Monetary Authority of Macau] is not accepting that

as valid identification.

We have been working and living in Macau for eight years and we have treated Macau as our home country. We hope the government can consider our plea and extend to us the various government subsidies that are granted to its residents and non-permanent residents.

**A Very Concerned Family**

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

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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



ANTHONY LAM

**A**S of yesterday, people attempting to fly to Macau must meet three new criteria in order to board their flight, Dr Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), has now confirmed.

The first criterion concerns the nationality of the passenger. Holders of passports issued by mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan will be able to board a flight bound for Macau as the city is barring entry of people holding passports issued from outside of the greater China region.

Secondly, travelers must present a medical certificate issued within the past seven days, certifying their Covid-19 negative result.

Thirdly, body temperature must be measured before boarding. Anyone with a temperature over the permitted threshold will not be allowed on the flight.

Leong stressed that airlines operating routes to Macau have been notified of the measures. The airlines will conduct the measures on the Health Bureau's (SSM) behalf.

The new measures are in place to ensure the health and safety of flight crews and passengers, Leong explained.

Following a previous question raised by the Times with respect to obtaining crucial medication not accessible in Macau, a journalist inquired during yesterday's press conference about who will have the final say in facilitating the mailing of medication from elsewhere, for instance, Hong Kong.

The journalist cited a member of the public who reported that they had been passed around several bureaus but was ultimately unable to obtain any information about how to legally send medication into the city.

Dr Lo Iek Long, medical director at the Conde São Januário



## Three new entry requirements adopted to protect flight crews

Hospital (CHCSJ), appeared to suggest the public seek help at hospitals wherever possible, because health professionals should be consulted when medication is used.

"Because health conditions vary from time to time, taking medicine in the absence of a clinical consultation may not be advisable," the medical director said.

Lo also said that the local health authority is fully prepared to address residents' medical needs.

As there was no representative from the Macao Customs Service, the Public Security Police Force tried to provide some informa-

tion, disclosing that discussions are in progress regarding the matter.

Speculation is spreading online that the city's schools will resume next month. As the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau did not send representatives to the daily press conference, the online speculation was not addressed. The CDC coordinator denied that the SSM has been meeting with the education bureau.

However, the CHCSJ medical director stressed that the government would not "hide any information." He estimated that the absence of information was due to the early stage of the planning

and need to develop contingencies.

"Usually when the government draws plans, it will have communications with external stakeholders and other concerned parties," the medical director explained. "It is very likely the speculation has come from these different sources."

He stressed that the government will take the whole picture into account when making any updates to policies in action. It will also make relevant announcements in due course.

Guangzhou has recently seen hundreds of asymptomatic Covid-19 cases. When questioned

whether Macau is facing similar risks, the CHCSJ medical director said the risk is not significant.

He explained that there are other measures in place in addition to testing to prevent the further spread of Covid-19. Lo added that no single measure can be said to work all of the time, but a combination of measures significantly reduced the chances of another outbreak.

On the other hand, he explained, it cannot be estimated when current measures, particularly those relating to border entry, can be lifted, because the global health condition is changing every day.

## City scores record low tourist arrivals during Easter break

LYNZY VALLES

**T**OURIST arrivals during the Easter break hit a record low after the city only recorded 810 arrivals over the weekend, plunging 99.8% compared to the same holiday period in 2019.

Last year, the SAR recorded some 556,200 tourist arrivals over the four-day break, or an average of 139,000 per day.

However, this year, due to global travel restrictions amid the pandemic outbreak, official data shows

that 260 visitors arrived in the SAR on Good Friday, followed by 280 on Saturday and 270 on Easter Sunday.

Macau continues to face a decline in its tourist arrivals as visitors from its number one source market are mostly prevented from traveling to the region due to the Central Government's suspension of the individual visit scheme and Guangdong's requirement that all arrivals, even its own residents, must undergo a 14-day quarantine.

Macau has not adop-

ted reciprocal restrictions for mainland residents wishing to travel to Macau and the city's Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, has been determined to keep the border with the mainland open since the start of the year.

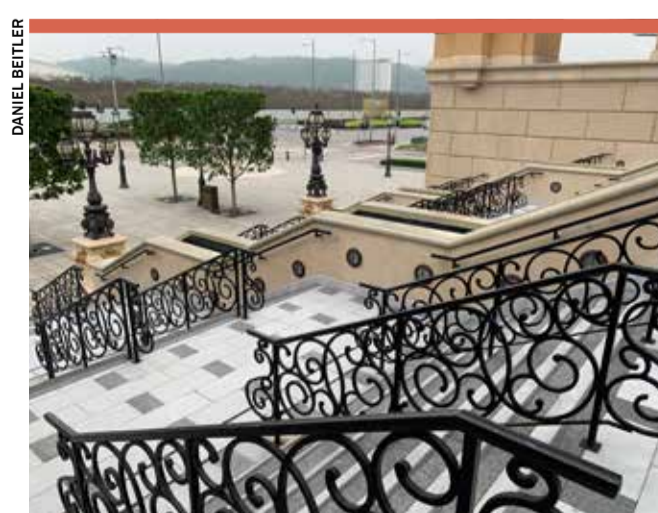
Meanwhile, the Chinese government is still banning overseas tours and the purchase of flights and hotels abroad, calling on travel agencies to suspend package tours, which account for more than half of the country's outbound travel.

The outbreak of Co-

vid-19 has affected travel and led to a notable decline in visitor arrivals.

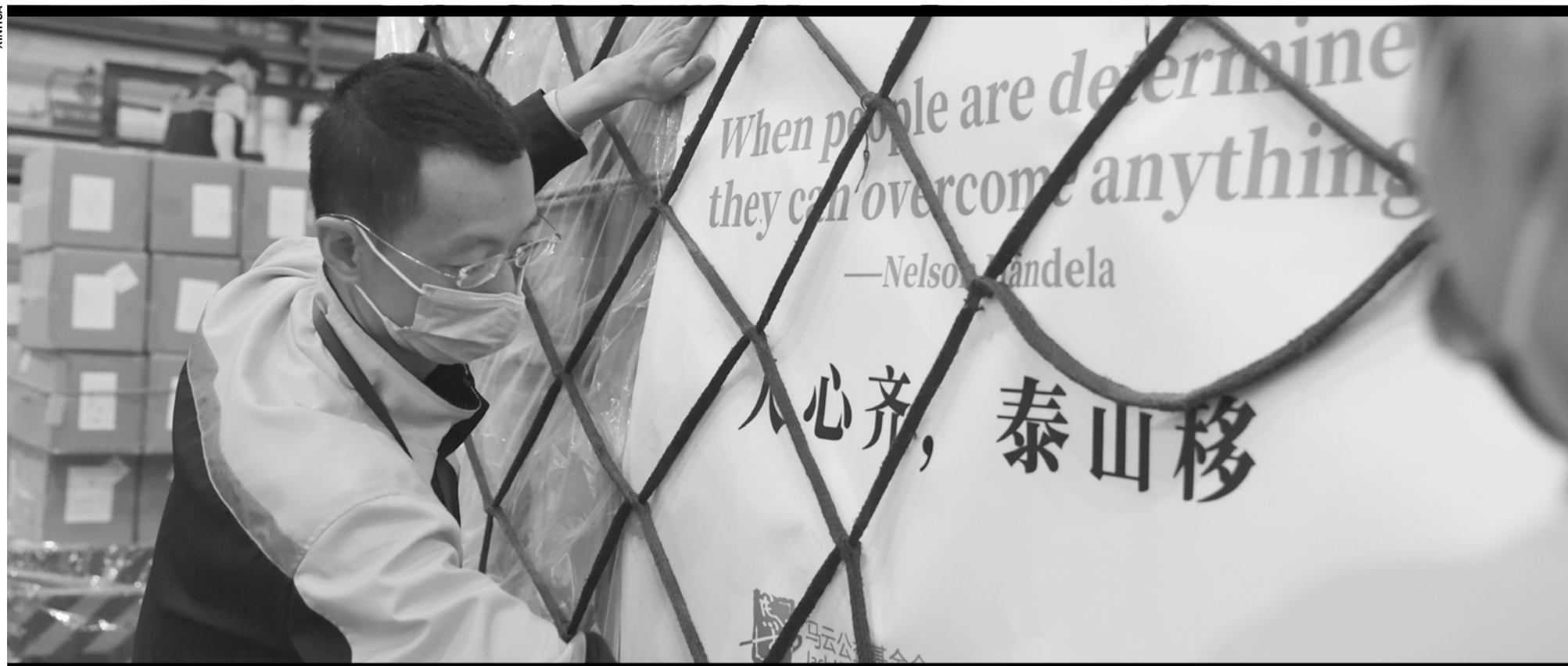
The drop was evident as early as during this year's Spring Festival, when visitors from Macau's major visitor source market – mainland China – dropped by more than 80%, while visitors from Hong Kong, Taiwan region and international markets all fell by about half.

Last year Macau received 39.4 million tourists, setting a new record for the small city of less than 700,000 people.



A staircase near the entrance of The Parisian Macao integrated resort in Cotai, a once popular area for tourists seen on Saturday devoid of visitors





GUANGZHOU

# CHINA VOWS EQUAL TREATMENT FOR AFRICANS AFTER REPORTS SHOW 111 TESTED POSITIVE

CHINA pledged to ease health measures on Africans in the southern city of Guangzhou, as the country sought to resolve a dispute that could set back Beijing's diplomatic outreach during the coronavirus pandemic.

The pledge came as Chinese media reported that a total of 111 African people in Guangzhou had been tested positive for Covid-19 as of Monday. More than 4,500 African people in the southern Chinese metropolis had undergone nucleic acid testing since April 4, according to official data.

The government has treated foreigners equally and attaches great importance to their life and health, Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesman Zhao Lijian said in a statement posted late Sunday. "We reject differential treatment, and we have zero tolerance for discrimination," Zhao said.

African leaders alleged discrimination against their citizens by city authorities in measures to stem the spread of imported co-

ronavirus cases, saying Africans were mistreated, evicted from hotels, and forcefully tested for the virus. Meanwhile, McDonalds China apologized Monday after one of the chain's Guangzhou restaurants refused to serve black customers.

African Union Commission Chairman Moussa Faki Mahamat expressed "extreme concern" to Chinese Ambassador Liu Yuxi about "allegations of maltreatment of Africans" in Guangzhou. In a tweet Saturday, he said the African Group in Beijing was engaging with the Chinese government.

South Africa, the current African Union chair, separately expressed concern about "alleged ill-treatment of African nationals in China, including the forceful testing, quarantining for COVID-19,

and other inhuman treatment." The country called for an investigation into the matter, according to a statement from the South African Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

**" Guangzhou is an open-minded metropolis. It's our consistent principle to have zero tolerance for discriminatory comments and behavior.**

MAYOR WEN GUOHUI

McDonald's China said that it had closed a restaurant in Guangzhou for a half day of diversity and inclusion training Sunday after an investigation confirmed social media reports that it was barring black customers. "We apologize unreservedly to the individual and

our customers. The restaurant has been ordered to stop immediately such actions," McDonald's China said Monday.

The episode underscores the complexity of Beijing's challenge to manage the fallout from a disease first discovered in December in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. China has dispatched medical supplies and shared expert advice to assist Africa, where Beijing's fiscal and infrastructure support has long been a source of both praise and criticism.

Assistant Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Xiaodong told more than 20 ambassadors from African countries Monday that authorities in Guangdong would ease "health management" measures - an apparent reference to quarantines - of Africans. The province planned to gradually

remove the restrictions, except for confirmed patients, suspected patients and others with close contacts, Chen said, according to a statement posted on the ministry's website late Monday.

Zhao, the foreign ministry spokesman, separately hit back Monday at the U.S. State Department for a statement Saturday saying that the incidents involving Africans in China were "a sad reminder of how hollow" Beijing's ties to the continent were. "The U.S. is immoral and irresponsible to sensationalize the situation and it won't succeed in sabotaging China-Africa relations," Zhao told a regular briefing in Beijing.

The city's mayor, Wen Guohui, said the Guangzhou government has treated all foreigners equally. "Guangzhou is an open-minded metropolis," he said. "It's our consistent principle to have zero tolerance for discriminatory comments and behavior." **MDT/AGENCIES**

## Three more Covid-19 patients recover in Macau

TWO more patients have been discharged from the Conde São Januário Hospital (CHCSJ), Lo Iek Long, medical director of the hospital announced at yesterday's daily press conference, while a third resident has also recovered but is not yet discharged from the hospital.

Similar to the patients who previously recovered,

the two local residents have been transferred to the Public Health Clinical Center on Coloane Alto for a recovery quarantine period of 14 days.

Both of them have been hospitalized for 18 days. They have so far had the shortest recovery time out of all Covid-19 cases in Macau.

One of the patients returned from studying in

Portugal. He set off from Lisbon on March 13, stopping in transit at Dubai and Hong Kong and arriving in Macau on March 15.

Two days later, he developed a fever and headache while self-isolating at home. For the next two consecutive days, he took two Covid-19 tests but received negative results. On his third test on March

28, he was confirmed to be positive. He was then admitted to hospital with pneumonia.

He was discharged from CHCSJ yesterday after three separate Covid-19 tests on April 7, 9 and 11.

The other recovered patient returned from studying in the U.K. Between March 2 and 13, he conducted an internship at

a hospital in London and stated to the Macau health authority that he had been in contact with a Covid-19 patient in the British capital.

He set off from London on March 26 and arrived in Macau on March 27. Upon entry to Macau, it was detected that he had a fever and he was sent to the government hospital. His infection was confir-

med the next day, with pneumonia in both of his lungs.

After three separate tests conducted on April 8, 10 and 13, his recovery was confirmed and he was discharged from the hospital.

The city's youngest Covid-19 patient, a 9-year-old girl, has also recovered from the disease. Due to her young age, she will not be discharged until her 43-year-old father, who is currently in treatment as the city's 34th case, also recovers. **AL**





# HIS not budging on universal suffrage, says New Macau

**C**HIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng is not budging on the issue of universal suffrage, according to lawmaker Sulu Sou, who met with Ho yesterday at the government headquarters.

Yesterday, a group of New Macau Association members, including Sou, met with Ho to discuss the Policy Address scheduled for the upcoming Monday.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Sou told the media that the Chief Executive made no comments on the topic of universal suffrage. The topic was brought to Ho during their meeting, along with the association's other democracy-related proposals.

Last August, Sou raised the topic of universal suffrage to Ho during an earlier meeting. Back in that meeting, Ho had explicitly not ruled out the adoption of universal suffrage.

Yesterday, Sou remarked that the Macau SAR government is taking the first steps to collect opinions from the Macau public

on universal suffrage.

"Within his term, the Chief Executive should commence political reform procedures for both the Chief Executive election and the upcoming Legislative Assembly (AL) election," said Sou.

Macau currently has 14 directly elected lawmakers, and 19 lawmakers who were appointed without a popular election. Sou pointed out that the AL elections of both 2013 and 2017 saw no increase in the number of directly elected lawmakers.

Sou proposed some changes to be made in 2020 to ensure that the 2021 AL election would have more directly elected lawmakers.

"Can we consider having more than half of the AL lawmakers directly elected for the 2021 election?" asked the lawmaker.

The group proposed that, within Ho's term, the government should outline a timetable for political reform, especially for universal suffrage in deciding

the Chief Executive.

"There is no need for a capable and reputable leader to worry about endorsement from the people," said Sou, adding that universal suffrage grants a leader the people's support.

Despite not commenting on the advancement of local democracy, Ho backed up a proposal suggesting that the government increase its working efficiency.

According to Sou, Ho's administration has proposed to rid government departments of overlapping functions. Some departments will merge to avoid repeating functions, while other relevant departments might manage some funds.

"Previously, because some individuals needed to retire, the government would specifically set up a new department to offer a position to these retired individuals. I think such situations should become history," Sou commented.

The association wants a comprehensive review on the structures and functions of public

funds and public departments.

The group also voiced the need for more direct communication between the people and the government, on not just livelihood, but other pressing issues.

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak, the current government under Ho's leadership has received praise from the Macau local community. Several surveys showed that the majority of the population is satisfied with Ho's performance in tackling the Covid-19 outbreak.

Sou hopes that the local government can continue its current direct conversation with the people and extend that direct communication to all departments.

"We will complement the government's good work, but we will not defy any leader or any government official," said Sou.

The group also made mention of the outstanding land issues, urban planning issues, youth housing policies, and employment security measures that require ongoing attention. **JZ**

## NG KUOK CHEONG URGES LIMITING APARTMENT PURCHASE TO LOCALS

In his latest written interpellation, lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong has urged the government to set rules to restrict the purchase of apartments built on Reclamation Area A to Macau residents. His interpellation is a response to an earlier comment by Mi Jian, director of the Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau, in which the bureau director said the proposal would violate the Basic Law's stipulation that land is national property. Ng pointed out that the arrangement concerns property ownership, not land ownership. He also reminded the government that it is the Central Government's initiative to reclaim "Area A" to meet local residents' housing needs, and that the arrangement will help separate property speculation from purchases for residential use.

## PEREIRA COUTINHO ASKS FOR MORE NURSING HOME BEDS

Citing media reports that a senior citizen had to wait 18 months for a bed space in one of Macau's 21 nursing homes, lawmaker Pereira Coutinho inquired about the government's plans to increase the number of nursing home beds in the city to shorten the waiting time of citizens in need. The lawmaker pointed out that the city's citizen-to-bed proportion is 2.8%, in contrast to world median of 4.4%. Meanwhile, the government's Statistics and Census Service estimated that in 2036, the number of senior citizens in Macau will rise to 157,000. The annual rate of increase is 4.7%. In addition, the lawmaker inquired about policies to ensure that a sufficient workforce will be available for nursing homes. The lawmaker also suggested the government raise the amount of the senior subsidy, which is now MOP3,740 per month, compared to the city's minimum subsistence index of MOP4,230 per month.

## MAK SOI KUN ASKS GOV'T TO DEFINE 'NON-GAMING ELEMENTS'

In his latest interpellation, lawmaker Mak Soi Kun asked the government to expressly define what constitutes "non-gaming elements." The focus of his interpellation is the requirement for "more non-gaming elements" when gaming concessions are updated in the future. The lawmaker stood with the government regarding the need for more of such elements. In his opinion, MICE events, world-class soccer games, concerts and boxing matches can be considered non-gaming elements. These elements can help attract more tourists to visit Macau. However, he disagreed with including food and beverage in the non-gaming category, because doing so will place pressure on traditional outlets.

# More recycling stations available across the city

**T**HE Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) is setting up three more recycling stations in the city, hoping to encourage more recycling across the city.

According to a statement released by the DSPA, the bureau

has begun operating three new recycling facilities. These stations are located at Parque Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção do NAPE, Praça da Amizade da Praia Grande, and Travessa de Martinho Montenegro do Bairro de San Kio.

The facility at Parque Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção do NAPE collects recyclables between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. every Wednesday.

The DSPA will collect recyclables at Praça da Amizade da Praia Grande every Thursday between 5 p.m. and 8

p.m., starting from tomorrow.

Members of the public can drop off recyclables at the third new recycling site, located on Travessa de Martinho Montenegro do Bairro de San Kio, every Sunday between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., star-

ting April 19.

The schedules have been settled out of consideration for the public's working hours.

The addition of these new recycling spots is part of the DSPA's Earth Day contribution. Earth Day takes place on April 22 annually. **JZ**



## China wet markets panned

**A**USTRALIA'S prime minister has described as "unfathomable" the World Health Organization's support for the reopening of markets where live animals are butchered in Wuhan, the Chinese city at the center of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We need to protect the world against potential sources of outbreaks of these types of viruses. It's happened too many times. I'm totally puzzled by this decision," Prime Minister Scott Morrison told Nine Network television yesterday. "I think that's unfathomable, frankly."

Health Minister Greg Hunt said he was unsettled by the reopening of the "wet markets" in Wuhan, which has been under a months-long lockdown.

Some scientists believe the virus came from wild animals at a wet market, where many kinds of live mammals, poultry, fish and reptiles are kept and then butchered when they are sold.

"There is a very real likelihood that this disease arose from a wet market in Wuhan - it's clear that these are dangerous vectors," Hunt told Australian Broadcasting Corp. "I would imagine that around the world, the vast majority of people would have a similar view."

WHO said in a statement that wet markets should not be allowed to sell illegal wildlife for food and authorities should enforce food safety and hygiene regulations. But it said "wet markets and other food markets do not need to be closed down."

China temporarily shut wet markets after the outbreak and suspended the sale of some kinds of wildlife. Local media say the markets are being reopened to alleviate the economic difficulties of shopkeepers. AP



# Libertarians debate: How to respond

HILLEL ITALIE, NEW YORK

**S**TEVE Baker, one of the British parliament's leading libertarians, was nearly in tears as he addressed the House of Commons in support of a bill that once seemed unthinkable: a massive economic aid package in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

"Libertarian though I may be, this is the right thing to do but, my goodness, we ought not to allow this situation to endure one moment longer than is absolutely necessary to save lives and preserve jobs," he said last month. "We are implementing tonight in this bill at least a dystopian society."

Libertarian principles of self-reliance and minimal government have been around for centuries. But they are being tested as never before in a time when much of the world, and many of their adherents, see a clear role for government restriction on basic liberties.

From trillions of dollars in government aid to the enforced closings of schools and businesses around the world, the spread of the coronavirus has renewed a long-running debate among libertarians over such core beliefs as private enterprise and individual autonomy.

In speeches, blogs and other online postings they ask whether it's appropriate — and in what ways — for the government to help those who have lost jobs and businesses. They wonder whether, and to what degree, government should regulate business and personal movement in the name of public health.

"Preventing the spread of infectious disease is within the legitimate functions of the minimal state, which most libertarians accept," says Michael Huemer, a professor of philosophy at the University of Colorado, in Boulder.

"The minimal state's functions include protecting people from physical threats posed by other people," Huemer says. "That includes not only behavior that definitely causes physical harm, but also behavior that creates an unreasonable risk of harm to others. Obviously, what is an unreasonable risk is a matter of judgment."

In Washington, David Boaz, executive vice president of the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, says, "I wouldn't say we have trouble holding on to libertarian principles. We believe in the presumption of liberty. But that presumption can be overcome in particular circumstances. And that's part of our understanding of liberty."

AP PHOTO



Members of the House of Representatives walk down the steps of Capitol

Limited government and personal freedom have long held deep appeal among Americans,

who in the name of libertarianism have embraced everything from the legalizing of drugs to

the withdrawal of U.S. troops from abroad to the abolition of the Internal Revenue Service.

## CUOMO SAYS TRUMP IS NOT A KING, CAN'T FORCE STATES TO REOPEN

**N**EW York Gov. Andrew Cuomo took to morning TV shows yesterday to push back against President Donald Trump's claim of "total" authority to reopen the nation's virus-stalled economy, noting that a president is not an absolute monarch.

"We don't have a king," Cuomo said on NBC's "Today." "We have a president. That was a big decision. We ran away from having a king, and George Washington was president, not King Washington. So the president doesn't have total authority."

The Democratic governor, whose state has become the epicenter of the coronavirus pandemic in the United States, was reacting to Trump's assertion Monday that "when somebody is president of the United States, the authority is total."

"Nope," Cuomo said.

When asked on CNN's "New Day" what he would do if the Republican president ordered him to reopen New York's economy, Cuomo said "If he ordered me to reopen in a

AP PHOTO



way that would endanger the public health of the people of my state, I wouldn't do it. And we would have a constitutional challenge between the state and the federal government and that would go into the courts and that would be the worst possible thing he could do at this moment."

Trump made his comments in reaction to moves by governors on both coasts to form multi-state compacts to coordinate reopening society amid the global pandemic.

More than 10,000 people in New York state have died from the coronavirus, Cuomo reported. AP



# to coronavirus pandemic?



Capitol Hill in Washington

Notable influences on libertarians have included such political figures as the late Arizona Republican Barry Goldwater and the author Ayn Rand, whose novels "The Fountainhead" and "Atlas Shrugged" have been standard reading for libertarians even as she dismissed the movement as "hippies of the right."

Former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson received more than 4 million votes as the Libertarian Party presidential candidate in 2016. Rep. Thomas Massie of Kentucky, a Republican with libertarian views, briefly delayed last month's stimulus bill on constitutional grounds by insisting on an in-person quorum even as his colleagues worried about catching the virus.

More recently, he tweeted: "When Pearl Harbor was attacked, did we pass a bailout or did we declare war on our enemy? Attack the virus not the taxpayers."

When libertarians weigh in on economic relief, their views are shaped in part by

skepticism the government can be relied upon to do anything effectively.

Chris Edwards, director of tax policy studies at the Cato Institute, thinks the direct payments that the U.S. will send to millions of adults are a "total waste of money." But he does find it "reasonable to try to keep companies afloat, especially small businesses with less resources." Dan Fishman, executive director of the Li-

**"The minimal state's functions include protecting people from physical threats posed by other people."**

MICHAEL HUEMER  
PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY

bertarian Party, believes the unemployed should not hesitate to collect benefits because that money had been taken out of their paychecks against their will.

Huemer predicts "The stimulus will fail," in part because he is "skeptical about fiscal stimulus in general."

But Dan Moller, an associate professor of philosophy at the University of Maryland, is more open to government aid.

"Bailouts and stimulus plans are controversial among libertarians both because they tend to be maladministered and for more principled reasons," he says. "But there's a case for them in extreme circumstances like these, when you face what is essentially a giant financial coordination problem."

If keeping people apart is essential during a pandemic, libertarians disagree on how and when to enforce it. Jim Babka, the libertarian commentator and editor-at-large for the Advocates for Self-Government, believes in and practices "voluntary physical distancing." But he objects to laws enforcing it, saying "it's impossible that a monolithic political response can be more resourceful than millions of people acting to protect their families and neighbors."

Boaz praises the NCAA, the NBA and other organizations for voluntarily cancelling events. He also says that a case can be made for emergency government actions such as shutting down bars and restricting restaurants to take out and delivery, as long as those laws are lifted after the pandemic subsides.

Fishman calls government "coercion" a "slippery slope" and prefers we "try to persuade the heck out of people to do what's right."

Moller says that libertarians believe in individual freedom but not at the expense of others, citing a tax on pollution as a legitimate government action. He has a similar defense for preventing carriers of the virus from infecting others.

"What's weird about a pandemic is that our everyday behavior suddenly puts others at risk — just showing up to work can have huge negative externalities," Moller says. "So libertarians see restrictions on individual liberty in a pandemic as akin to restrictions on pollution."

"But we don't want the government to go too far," Huemer says. "It's well-known that when the government gives itself new powers or passes new laws during a crisis, they often keep the new powers long after the crisis is over. So over the long run, the state's power grows and our freedom shrinks. So we have to continue to watch for that." AP



Laborers wearing face masks to protect against the spread of the new coronavirus at an office building being converted into a temporary hospital in Suifenhe in northeastern China's Heilongjiang Province

## China moves to block new virus flare-up on Russian border

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

CHINA is facing a new coronavirus flare-up along its remote northern border with Russia, far from the epicenter of Wuhan, where it has all but declared victory in the battle against the pandemic.

The frontier has been sealed and emergency medical units rushed to the area to prevent travelers from bringing the virus back from overseas. The virus originated in China, which is now striving to keep it virus out while the U.S. and other countries struggle to bring their own epidemics under control.

The long, porous border of sprawling Heilongjiang province and neighboring Inner Mongolia has much less travel than major cities like Beijing and Shanghai. But it is a popular alternative route into the country. Many Chinese live and work in Russia, where China has major investments encouraged by warm ties between Beijing and Moscow.

By Monday night, a field hospital was operating in the city of Suifenhe along the Russian border, equipped with a negative pressure lab to diagnose new cases. Staffed by 22 experts from the National Institute for Viral Disease Control and Prevention under the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention, it will conduct nucleic acid tests and other forms of research to aid in virus control and prevention, allowing the city to test up to 1,000 cases per day, according to the CDC.

Suifenhe, a city of just under 70,000 that is frozen-in for much of the year, has at least 243 imported COVID-19 cases out of nearly 1,000 confirmed and suspected cases. More than 100 people in the area have tested positive for the virus but showed no symptoms. Recent arrivals from Russia account for nearly half of China's imported cases.

"We are facing a truly grave situation in the northeast as represented by Suifenhe," National Health Commission expert Wang Bin said Monday at a news conference. "Up to now our medical resources in the area have just not been sufficient."

The CDC said the field hospital has been supplied with negative pressure tents, nucleic acid extractors, virus detection kits, throat swab sampling tubes and thermal cyclers used to enhance segments of DNA via the polymerase

chain reaction.

Roughly 1,300 kilometers (800 miles) northeast of Beijing, Suifenhe's markets selling warm clothing, cell phones and daily items usually do a thriving business with Russian visitors starved for choice on their side of the border. That trade has gone quiet in recent weeks, dimming prospects for a sparsely populated region whose residents have been migrating to major cities seeking jobs and better living standards.

Russia requires 14-day quarantines for all travelers arriving in Primorsky Krai and its regional capital Pogranichny, across the border. It has closed hotels to visitors and is requiring travelers to have a pass showing they are not carrying the virus. Russia closed its land border to travelers from China in January.

On the Chinese side, quarantines have been extended to a full month for people arriving by air in Suifenhe and in Heilongjiang's capital, Harbin. All land border crossings were halted last week.

"The Chinese consulate again strongly reminds Chinese citizens not to summarily make trips to the border region," the Chinese consulate in the nearby Russian city of Vladivostok said in a notice posted this week.

As Wuhan and other regions get back to business, Chinese authorities say they will remain vigilant against a second wave of infections, particularly from those arriving from outside the country.

New cases of local infection in China have fallen to near zero after more than two months of strict travel bans and social distancing measures. Of 89 cases reported yesterday, all but three were detected in people arriving from abroad. It wasn't immediately clear if any came from Russia.

No new deaths were reported in the country yesterday, suggesting the outbreak is running its course. Last week, authorities lifted a 76-day quarantine in Wuhan, where the virus was first detected late last year, an indication that the worst may have passed.

China had recorded 82,249 cases and 3,341 deaths as yesterday, while 1,077 people suspected of having the virus or testing positive without showing symptoms were under isolation and monitoring. AP



AP PHOTO



The buildings of the banking district are seen in Frankfurt, Germany

PAUL WISEMAN &  
MARTIN CRUTSINGER,  
WASHINGTON

## ANALYSIS

# IMF: Global economy will suffer worst year since Depression

**B**EATEN down by the coronavirus outbreak, the world economy in 2020 will suffer its worst year since the Great Depression of the 1930s, the International Monetary Fund says in its latest forecast.

The IMF said yesterday that it expects the global economy to shrink 3% this year — far worse than its 0.1% dip in the Great Recession year of 2009 — before rebounding in 2021 with 5.8% growth. It acknowledges, though, that prospects for a rebound next year are clouded by uncertainty.

The bleak assessment represents a breathtaking downgrade by the IMF. In its previous forecast in January, before COVID-19 emerged as a grave threat to public health and economic growth worldwide, the international lending organization had forecast moderate global growth of 3.3% this year. But far-reaching measures to contain the pandemic — lockdowns, business shutdowns, social distancing and travel restrictions — have suddenly brought economic activity to a near-standstill across much of the world.

The IMF's twice-yearly World Economic Outlook was prepared for this week's spring meetings of the 189-nation IMF and its sister lending organization, the World Bank. Those meetings, along with a gathering of finance ministers and central bankers of the world's 20 biggest economies, are being held virtually for the first time in light of the co-

ronavirus outbreak.

In its latest outlook, the IMF expects economic contractions this year of 5.9% in the United States, 7.5% in the 19 European countries that share the euro currency, 5.2% in Japan and 6.5% in the United Kingdom. China, where the pandemic originated, is expected to eke out 1.2% growth this year. The world's second-biggest economy, which had gone into lockdown, has begun to open up well before other countries.

Worldwide trade will plummet 11% this year, the IMF predicts, and then grow 8.4% in 2021.

Last week, the IMF's managing director, Kristalina Georgieva, warned that the world was facing "the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression." She said that emerging markets and low-income nations across Africa, Latin America and much of Asia were at especially high risk. And on Monday, the IMF approved \$500 million to cancel six months of debt payments for 25 impoverished countries so they can help confront the pandemic.

Just three months ago, the IMF had forecast that more than 160 countries would register income

growth on a per-capita basis. Now, it expects negative per-capita income growth this year in 170 countries.

The IMF cautioned that its latest forecast is shrouded by unknowns. They include the path that the virus will take; the effectiveness of policies meant to contain the outbreak and minimize the economic damage; and uncertainty over whether, even many months from now, people will continue to isolate themselves and depress spending as a precaution against a potential resurgence of the virus.

On a hopeful note, the IMF noted that economic policymakers in many countries have engineered what it calls a "swift and sizable" response to the economic crisis. The United States, for instance, has enacted three separate rescue measures, including a \$2.2 trillion aid package — the largest in history — that is meant to sustain households and businesses until the outbreak recedes and economic life begins to return to normal.

That package includes direct payments to individuals, business loans, grants to companies that agree not to lay off workers and expanded unemployment benefits. And Con-

gress is moving toward approving a possible fourth economic aid measure.

Meghan Clem, CEO of the wedding and party-planning company Intertwined Events, says she is hoping that some government loans come through so she can continue to pay her staff. The next two to three months will likely be the worst of the crisis for Intertwined Events.

"All events have been canceled or postponed to the fourth quarter, so we are seeing a full stop of revenue for May, June and likely July," said Clem, whose company is based in Irvine, California.

Some countries can't afford sufficiently aggressive rescue plans, the IMF said, and "may require external support." Georgieva has said that the IMF is prepared to commit its \$1 trillion in lending capacity to support nations that need help in dealing with the pandemic.

The IMF is also calling on countries to work cooperatively to fight the pandemic.

"Countries urgently need to work together to slow the spread of the virus and to develop a vaccine and therapies to counter the disease," the lending agency said. **AP**

## this day in history



### 1986 US LAUNCHES AIR STRIKES ON LIBYA

At least 100 people have died after USA planes bombed targets in the Libyan capital, Tripoli, and the Benghazi region.

Around 66 American jets, some of them flying from British bases launched an attack at around 0100hrs on Monday.

The White House spokesman, Larry Speakes, has said that the strike was directed at key military sites but reports suggest that missiles also hit Bin Ashur, a densely populated suburb in the capital.

Colonel Muamar Gaddafi residential compound took a direct hit that killed Hanna Gaddafi, the adopted baby daughter of the Libyan leader.

President Reagan has justified the attacks by accusing Libya of direct responsibility for terrorism aimed at America, such as the bombing of La Belle discoteque in West Berlin 10 days ago.

President Reagan made a TV address to the American people two hours after the attack.

In it he said: "When our citizens are attacked or abused anywhere in the world on the direct orders of hostile regimes, we will respond so long as I'm in this office."

He argued that America was exercising its right to self defence as defined by Article 51 of the UN charter.

The presidential spokesman, Larry Speakes, said, "US forces have executed a series of carefully planned air strikes against terrorist targets in Libya."

He added: "Every effort has been made to avoid hitting civilian targets."

The attacks began soon after an increase in coded radio traffic between US ships and planes off the Libyan coast had been noticed.

The fighter jets appear to have been both carrier based aircraft, operating in the Mediterranean and British based bombers which would have refuelled in mid air.

The Americans hit the harbour's naval academy, the capital's military airport and army barracks.

Tripoli's embassy area and residential districts also suffered extensive damage.

The Tripoli central hospital and two other medical centres say they have treated hundreds of injured people, including a number of Greeks, Italians and Yugoslavs.

Mobs of angry survivors have taken to the streets shouting: "Down, down USA. Death to all Americans."

There are also fears that Britain may be subject to terrorist attacks because some of its involvement in the raids.

The Syrian based terrorist group, Arab Revolutionary Cells, has announced on Lebanese radio that it will target both British and American interests.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

President Reagan said he had irrefutable evidence that Libya was responsible for the West Berlin night club bombing on 5 April 1986 which killed two American servicemen and a Turkish woman.

The British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, justified Britain's involvement in the campaign by supporting America's right to self-defence under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter.

The extremist group Arab Revolutionary Cells said it murdered two British and one American hostage in Lebanon on 17 April 1986, in retaliation for the US attack.

Fifteen years after the air raids, a German court ruled that the Libyan secret service was responsible for the West Berlin bomb attack. In September 2004, Libya agreed to pay \$35m to 150 non-US victims of the 1986 Berlin disco bomb.

Libya said it will not pay for US victims until Washington compensates it for the lives and property lost in the subsequent US air strikes on Libya.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Today's going to start off as a very calm day, with nary a ripple on the proverbial water's surface. But as the day goes on, there will be lots of activity right under that surface.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
Why pressure yourself into taking it all in when grabbing one small detail can be so rewarding? Right now, you need to focus on one aspect of your life. How can you improve it?

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
It's tough not to blame them for judging you, but they're just doing their best to understand you. Talk to them and explain that you're not doing what you're doing to hurt them. You're just trying to be happy.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You should think long and hard before you share any opinions today. There is a possibility that some tension could result from what you say. You might not realize who you're talking to...

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
The best lesson you learn today won't be found in the same old place. You're going to have to move as far outside your comfort zone as you can stand to go in order to get the nutritious input that your brain is hungry for.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
Getting sidetracked or lured away by promises of more time or more money is not a good option, so avoid veering off in any new direction. Your extra efforts will pay off handsomely today.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Don't let their status or powerful position intimidate you into adopting a style of living that isn't comfortable for you. You're doing just fine managing things the way you are managing things.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
If a blur of social obligations is working on your last nerve, get some alone time today. Treat yourself to a quiet dinner out, or rent your favorite movie and just chill. It's not selfish to want to be by yourself.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
A powerful person could come into your life bearing gifts today, and there may be some big strings attached, so don't let your gratitude fog your skepticism.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Try not to be nervous. These people want to get to know you better, and in order to portray yourself accurately, you need to feel relaxed and optimistic.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Your trademark modesty may prevent you from bragging to the world about your latest success, but it won't prevent friends and loved ones from singing your praises!

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Put social obligations and romantic endeavors on hold for a little while. They aren't going anywhere any time soon! Today, your brain is wired for wheeling and dealing!

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

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

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

## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	11	26	cloudy
Harbin	2	16	clear
Tianjin	13	25	overcast
Urumqi	11	18	drizzle
Xi'an	10	27	cloudy
Lhasa	2	16	clear
Chengdu	14	25	clear
Chongqing	15	28	cloudy
Kunming	9	26	clear
Nanjing	10	25	cloudy
Shanghai	14	23	cloudy
Wuhan	10	27	clear
Hangzhou	12	24	clear
Taipei	17	22	cloudy
Guangzhou	14	25	cloudy
Hong Kong	19	25	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	1	8	drizzle
Frankfurt	0	8	cloudy
Paris	2	10	clear
London	1	9	overcast
New York	5	14	drizzle

## CROSSWORDS

**ACROSS:** 1- Belgrade native; 5- Nile biters; 9- School orgs.; 13- Olive genus; 14- Cursed; 16- Type of tomato; 17- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 18- "Amadeus" director Forman; 19- The Emerald Isle; 20- Baby powder; 21- Mil. address; 22- Exam taker; 24- Shrek, e.g.; 26- "Star Trek" role; 27- Capital city of Yemen; 29- Unable to hear and speak; 33- Antiknock fluid; 34- Wedding cake feature; 35- Slips up; 36- Cleaning agent; 37- Dawdle; 38- Blast; 39- Woeful word; 41- Fixes illegally; 42- Glove material; 44- Tonic; 46- Swarm; 47- Final, ultimate; 48- Zingy taste; 49- Lying on the back; 52- Male cat; 53- This, in Tijuana; 57- Long poem, such as those attributed to Homer; 58- Reef material; 60- Dweeb; 61- \_\_\_ Bell; 62- That group; 63- Manitoba Indigenous People; 64- \_\_\_ impasse; 65- Mongrel dog; 66- Tibetan oxen;

**DOWN:** 1- Kind; 2- Charles Lamb's nom de plume; 3- Film spool; 4- Gallery in a theater; 5- Capital of Eritrea; 6- Steal; 7- Ralph Lauren brand; 8- Hit sign; 9- Be unwarrantably bold; 10- Legal wrong; 11- French friend; 12- All there; 15- Tidal river; 23- Pixie; 25- Guy's partner; 26- Prophets; 27- Elegance; 28- In the future; 29- Sad song; 30- Exhorted; 31- Commerce; 32- "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 33- Jack of "Rio Lobo"; 34- Spoil; 37- Divide into three parts; 40- Nonmetallic element; 42- Junior; 43- Insistence; 45- Metal container; 46- Small village; 48- Browned sliced bread; 49- Stiff bristle; 50- \_\_\_ the crack of dawn; 51- Size of type; 52- Drop \_\_\_ (moon); 54- Lab fluids; 55- Arduous journey; 56- Citrus drinks; 59- Bit of resistance;

**Yesterday's solution**

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

## 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><b>FOR SALE</b></p>  <p><b>The Entertainers Dream</b> Simplex Apartment w/ Outdoor Terraces <b>HK\$18,800,000</b> 4,080 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1/2 3</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p>  <p><b>Ocean Garden, Taipa- Sakura Court</b> <b>\$35,000/mth</b> 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 1/2 4</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Nam Long</i> 1 1/2 1 1/2 785 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$4,780,000</b> (ref: 20016009)</p> <p>[Coloane] <i>Beautiful apartment</i> 1 3 1/2 1 1/2 1,665 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$7,380,000</b> (ref: 19070001)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Taipa Village- two connected</i> 4 1/2 2 1/2 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$8,380,000</b> (ref: 19096006)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>Lakeview Tower</i> 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,344 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$11,000,000</b> (ref: 19126001)</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p>[Macau] <i>Vai Fung Triplex, Macau</i> 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,065 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$15,800/mth</b> (ref: 19121001)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Buckingham</i> 2 1/2 1 1/2 1,100 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$15,900/mth</b> (ref: 20031002)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Manhattan</i> 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,626 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$20,800/mth</b> (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Coloane] <i>Ocean Garden</i> 4 1/2 4 1/2 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$35,000/mth</b> (ref: 18040674)</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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MARK BERGEN

TECHNOLOGY

# YOUTUBERS ARE THE TEACHERS NOW

TYPICALLY, this time of year is slow for the “Amoeba Sisters.” The YouTube channel makes animated, intricate videos about biology for over half a million subscribers, and its audience usually fluctuates with the school year. “Kids don’t want to learn about mitosis over spring break,” Sarina Peterson, one of the channel’s creators, said.

But there was no spring break this year. Millions of school-age children are stuck at home, which has turned YouTubers into desperately needed entertainers, baby-sitters and—as parents scramble for homeschooling content—de facto educators. Viewership for the “Amoeba Sisters” was up almost 70% on the last Monday in March compared with earlier in the month, a period when traffic usually falls. Other channels popular with kids are seeing similar spikes. Daily views of YouTube clips with “home school” in the title more than doubled over the past month, according to the company.

Global pandemic lockdowns are reigniting an old Silicon Valley dream for schools run on big data and YouTube clips. Shoddy execution, privacy mishaps and reluctant parents kept that Renaissance from happening. But now, virtual education is reality—and e-learning pioneers are eager to seize this moment.

“I’ve reverted to myself 10 years

ago,” Sal Khan, head of Khan Academy, an early e-learning hub, told me between flurries of video meetings. Registrations from parents for Khan Academy’s online classes has grown twenty-fold in recent weeks and its YouTube traffic rose 80%. (Bandwidth costs for the nonprofit also shot up.)

Even online personalities not generally devoted to education have dipped a toe in the growing market. Mark Rober, a popular YouTuber known for his “glitter-bombing” clips, has started a regular “Science Class” series during quarantine. (Sample lesson: “Does farting make you weigh less?”)

For YouTube, which is part of Alphabet Inc.’s Google, the quarantine is a chance to rehabilitate its image for parents and teachers. Once blocked in classrooms, the company now has a shot at proving its educational mettle. In 2018, the company started a fund for “EduTubers” and introduced “Learning Playlists,” a curated collection of channels like Khan Academy and “Amoeba Sisters.” Now, it’s high-

lighting more of those videos on a website YouTube set up for parents last month, called “Learn@Home.” The company wouldn’t provide traffic numbers for Learn@Home, but Peterson said that this kind of list can provide a big boost in viewership.

Peterson and her sister and collaborator, Brianna Rapini, a former biology teacher, are unique among YouTubers—they post videos only once a month, follow science curriculum and sometimes make supplemental content at teachers’ request. They also work with several schools, but they still see hurdles for getting YouTube widely adopted inside classrooms, even virtual ones. YouTube isn’t integrated easily with most school software and some districts still block the site, citing concerns over roaming teenage eyes or bandwidth.

If the habits built up during Covid-19 endure, though, schools may be incorporating more YouTube into their routines. “They’re definitely not there yet,” Peterson said. “But it’s so exciting.” BLOOMBERG

PHARMACEUTICALS

# Sanofi, Glaxo join forces to develop coronavirus vaccine

JAMES PATON & SUZI RING

TWO of the world’s biggest vaccine makers are joining forces to tackle the coronavirus as the number of confirmed infections approaches 2 million worldwide.

Sanofi will combine its experimental coronavirus vaccine with GlaxoSmithKline Plc’s adjuvant technology, which may allow more doses of a shot to be produced, the companies said Tuesday. The drugmakers said they plan to start human trials in the second half of this year, with the goal of having a vaccine available by the second half of 2021 if the studies are successful.

The collaboration brings together a pair of pharmaceutical giants with manufacturing might in the race to deliver a Covid-19 vaccine. Dozens of companies from Moderna Inc. to Johnson & Johnson, along with universities, are pursuing a shot to halt the rapidly spreading pathogen. Even if developers can meet a target of having a vaccine available in 12 to 18 months, there are concerns about whether they will be able to make enough doses.

J&J said last month that it would begin a \$1 billion-plus effort with the U.S. government to develop

and produce a vaccine. The company said it plans to begin building manufacturing capacity for a billion doses and could have some ready for emergency use as soon as January.

Sanofi jumped into the fray in February, betting that earlier work in pursuit of a SARS vaccine could accelerate its effort. The Paris-based company joined with the U.S. Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority, or BARDA, a government agency that funds R&D efforts for health threats.

In a collaboration with the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, London-based Glaxo agreed the same month to share its know-how with other vaccine developers, starting with the University of Queensland in Australia.

Adjuvants are added to some vaccines to enhance the immune response and create stronger protection. They may reduce the amount of vaccine protein required per dose, raising the likelihood of having a shot that can be produced in large quantities, Sanofi and Glaxo said.

They also pledged in the statement to make any vaccine that is developed affordable and accessible worldwide. BLOOMBERG

## CORPORATE BITS

### European Chamber of Commerce donates to Italy and Spain relief efforts



The Macau European Chamber of Commerce (MECC) has donated MOP40,000 to both the Italian Red Cross (Associazione della Croce Rossa Italiana), and the Spanish Red Cross (Cruz Roja Española) to

support their efforts in the fight against Covid-19 pandemic.

The donations now made will be used to acquire equipment and suitable kits to ambulances that carry patients to the hospitals.

The funds were delivered directly to these entities as part of the support campaigns being run internationally. All organizations and individuals are welcome to make similar donations.

As the Covid-19 pandemic ravages through Europe, Italy and Spain are still considered to be the most affected countries on the continent. According to the MECC, “it is important to show, with concrete actions, the solidarity of Macau to these countries.”

The MECC was founded in 2013 by six European chambers of commerce in Macau, namely France, Germany, Ireland, Portugal, Romania and the United Kingdom, with the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute the Institute of European Studies of Macau as honorary members.

### Melco donates half a million more surgical masks to local government



Gaming operator Melco Resorts & Entertainment has announced another contribution in Macau’s fight against Covid-19.

In a statement issued yesterday, Melco said it has donated 500,000 surgical masks to the government and the local

community, with 200,000 such masks being donated directly to designated NGOs operating under the Social Welfare Bureau.

The masks will go to help vulnerable groups in the community, such as the elderly, single families, long-

-term patients, and medical patient support staff, according to Melco.

“We trust the combined efforts of the Macau SAR Government, businesses and members of the public will enable us to collectively overcome Covid-19 and become an ever-stronger and more united community,” said Lawrence Ho, Chairman & CEO of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, according to the company’s statement.

“We are grateful for the Government’s continued anti-epidemic efforts and hope the mask donation will support frontline medical workers in their daily fight against the spread of the virus. We also express gratitude to our community partners for joining us in distributing the 200,000 masks at this difficult time to persons in need.”



JAKE COYLE, AP FILM WRITER

DRIVE IN

**O**H, to be the other “Tiger” on Netflix. Alan Yang’s “Tigertail” is either blessed to arrive in the stormy wake of “Tiger King,” or doomed to be the other “Tiger” title Netflix users accidentally select when they’re looking for the tabloid story of a zoo owner, not a patient and personal immigrant tale.

Yang’s film, he has said, sprang from both the upbringing of his Taiwanese father and his own imagination. It’s a gentle and pensive intergenerational story about love and leaving home, about how an immigrant father’s experiences might not be as distant from his first-generation daughter’s as he imagines.

“Tigertail,” which debuts on Netflix on Friday, is the directorial debut of Yang, a writer-producer on “Parks & Recreation” and a co-creator of “Master of None.” On the latter, with Aziz Ansari, Yang often stretched sitcom-like comedy in unpredictable arthouse directions.

In “Tigertail,” he has dispensed with the comic set-up and gone straight for the arthouse, striving for the kind of lyricism of Wong Kar-wai or the elliptical beauty of Hou Hsiao-Hsien. Yang’s film, heartfelt but inert, only briefly touches on anything like the

# In ‘Tigertail,’ an intergenerational immigrant tale



Yo-Hsing Fang (left) and Hong Chi Lee appear in a scene from “Tigertail”

work of those filmmakers. But it’s an earnest stab at a drifting kind of memory piece that crosses generational divides, from Taiwan to New York.

The movie’s most vibrant images come early. It opens on a young boy running through shining

rice fields in rural Taiwan. The boy, Pin-Jui (Tzi Ma), grows up to be a factory worker. He reconnects with a girl he met in those fields, who becomes his first love. Their scenes together, dancing, are handsome. But when Pin-Jui is given the opportunity to go to

America, it comes with the bargain of an arranged marriage, to a woman named Zhenzhen (Fiona Fu).

These scenes are overlaid with contemporary ones of an older Pin-Jui and his grown daughter, Angela (Christine Ko). She is na-

vigating her own heartbreak but finds her stoic father indifferent to her pain. His reflections of his past play out as a withheld history that, if he relents, could bond them.

“Tigertail” comes off more as an idea of an arthouse movie than one propelled by its own volition. While the 1960s-set scenes have a warm glow, the modern-day ones are flat. We’ve been blessed lately with films that chronicle multi-generational tales, straddling Asia and America, like last year’s “The Farewell” (in which Ma also co-starred) and the upcoming Sundance winner “Minari.” “Tigertail” doesn’t rise to the level of those movies, but it contributes to a heartening trend.

**“Tigertail,” a Netflix release, is rated PG by the Motion Picture Association of America for some thematic elements, language, smoking and brief sensuality. Running time: 91 minutes. ★★☆☆**

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**OPINION**

**World Views**

Andrea Felsted, Bloomberg

**IN LOCKDOWN, PEOPLE DON'T REACH FOR PREMIUM BEERS**

**Lockdowns** around the world have stressed-out consumers reaching for their beer glasses. But a tippie after a hard day working from home isn't enough to preserve the world's big brewers from the ravages of the coronavirus. Social-distancing measures have decimated their most profitable market: selling beer in restaurants, pubs and clubs.

Anheuser-Busch InBev NV underlined the pressures yesterday when it halved its proposed final dividend from 1 euro to 50 cents per share, saving about \$1.1 billion. It's a sensible move, given that this crisis has hit the maker of Budweiser and Stella Artois particularly hard and at an especially difficult time. Its shares rose as much as 4.4%

The company is facing challenges on several fronts, all of which are compounded by the hit from Covid-19. For a start, the \$100 billion acquisition of SABMiller in 2016 left it with a mountain of debt. Before taking into account the dividend cut, Bernstein analyst Trevor Stirling estimates net debt of \$86 billion will be 5.7 times Ebitda at the end of this year. Second, the company is highly dependent on emerging markets, where it gets about 60% of its profit. And yet important currencies including the Brazilian real and Mexican peso have fallen against the dollar, putting more pressure on earnings.

This is the absolute worst time for any form of socializing to evaporate because it hurts sales of the more premium brands, such as AB InBev's Michelob Ultra.

It's unlikely an upswing in drinking at home can compensate for a decline in sales at pubs and restaurants for any brewer. Beer in supermarkets tends to be bought when it is on special offer. And even at home, beer and alcohol consumption can be driven by sporting events, so decisions to postpone the European Football Championships and Olympics will hurt.

Given this backdrop, AB InBev should have gone further and canceled its final dividend altogether. True, another \$1 billion wouldn't have made a huge difference, and may have irritated the group's big shareholders, tobacco giant Altria Group Inc. and Colombia's Santo Domingo family. But it should have erred on the side of caution anyway.

It's a choice the company has faced before, and now it's clear that AB InBev should have been more radical when it decided in October 2018 to halve its annual payout, from 3.6 euros to 1.8 euros, saving about \$4 billion. At the time, the company described this as steering a middle course between maintaining and shelving the dividend.

But Covid-19 makes the middle an even more painful place to be. AB InBev should not lose this latest opportunity, when it announces interim results in July, or sooner, to reset its dividend policy, and cancel the payout altogether.

While lockdowns should ease later in the year, there's no guarantee that the things that drive beer consumption, from big concerts and sporting events to local pub life, will come back quickly. And when they do, people around the world may still be reluctant to visit crowded venues. And that's before any impact from a broader economic downturn. Thrifty consumers may continue to trade down to cheaper brews.

It's this uncertain future that calls for caution. Yes, AB InBev is good at controlling spending. And things are looking up on its debt load. It recently raised about \$11 billion of bonds to bolster liquidity. Debt has an average maturity of 14 years, so there shouldn't be any immediate cash crunch. But the recent pressures on trading do raise questions about whether it should continue to have about \$128 billion of goodwill on its balance sheet.

When AB InBev bought SABMiller, rival brewers risked becoming Megbrew roadkill. Today, with stronger balance sheets, Heineken NV and Carlsberg A/S look better placed to weather the Covid-19 crisis. It's time for AB InBev to make some hard choices.

A French court has ordered Amazon to stop buying, storing or delivering non-essential goods for the next month to protect its employees from the virus.

The emergency ruling yesterday requires Amazon to evaluate health risks at all its facilities around France and negotiate new safety measures with worker representatives, according to lawyers for unions that launched the legal proceedings.

The court stopped short of halting all Amazon warehouse activity, which the unions had sought.

Lawyer Judith Krivine says Amazon must suspend its non-essential trade within 24 hours of yesterday's ruling or face 1 million euros in fines per day. Sales of food, medicine and hygiene supplies are still allowed.

Amazon did not immediately comment. The head of Amazon France, Frederic Duval, said last week the company was putting in place safety measures.

The new coronavirus causes mild or moderate symptoms for most people. For some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, it can cause more severe illness or death.

ONE GOOD THING

**DOCS, NURSES GIVE TAXI DRIVER RARE FARES DURING PANDEMIC**



**BRIAN MAHONEY, NEW YORK**

**N**ICOLAE Hent often would begin his day at JFK Airport, where he could clean his taxi while awaiting what might be a \$70 fare before driving into Manhattan.

No reason to go to the airport now.

Nor does he see any point in heading to Manhattan earlier, instead.

"No one wakes up before 12 in Manhattan anymore," Hent said.

The Associated Press followed 10 New York City residents on Monday, April 6, as they tried to survive another day in the city assailed by the new coronavirus.

A taxi driver's job has grown tougher in recent years with the arrival of ride companies such as Uber and Lyft, and the empty streets now have made things

even more difficult. Where Hent could once count on \$300 or more a day, somewhere around \$100 is the new norm.

He was driving for more than an hour Monday before finally getting his first fare of the day. The pickup was outside Mount Sinai Hospital, one of the few locations in New York where a taxi driver might get work.

"That's where the customers are now," Hent said. "Hospital workers, nurses, doctors, and where there are stores for food."

Not that those fares help much, because the passengers are often going just a few blocks. He picked up one on the Upper West Side whose route was only five blocks, a trip so short that Hent didn't even make the man pay.

Hent, 63, has been driving a cab since 1988. He's

three years from being able to retire with full benefits, so wants to stick it out through these tough times — especially because he knows the few passengers he's currently getting are often crucial ones.

"I feel like I have an obligation to take those hospital workers from point A to point B," Hent said.

There's no longer a rush-hour surge, when people leaving the office will flag down the closest cab to hurry to their next destination. Gone for now are the days of waiting for a crowd to exit a ballgame or concert, so Hent often calls it quits for the day earlier.

Once the medical workers who finished at 7 p.m. have gone home, Hent figures it's time to do the same.

"Then there's no reason to stay on the street, because there's nobody," he said. AP



**Japan's** health ministry reported 390 new cases of the virus for a domestic total of 7,645. The country was put under a state of emergency last week, but many people were still seen queuing up at grocery stores and crowded shopping arcades in parts of downtown Tokyo to stock up on necessities.



**Singapore** has reported its biggest daily jump in new coronavirus infections, most of them linked to foreign workers living in crowded dormitories. Foreigners account for over a third of Singapore's workforce, many of them people from poorer Asian countries working in construction, shipping and maintenance jobs. Over 200,000 Asian migrant workers live in 43 registered dormitories that house up to 20 men per room. The 386 newly confirmed cases raise Singapore's tally to 2,918.



**Indonesia** reported 60 more deaths, its largest number in one day, for a 459 total, the most in Asia after China. President Joko Widodo declared the outbreak in the world's fourth most populous country a "non-natural national disaster." The decree opens the door to international cooperation and assistance. Indonesia recorded 282 new cases, bringing its total to 4,839.

**New Zealand** The operators of New Zealand's Burger King restaurants entered bankruptcy proceedings and one of the country's largest media companies announced plans to shed 200 staff. New Zealand has been in a strict lockdown for nearly three weeks and all restaurants have been temporarily closed. NZME, which runs a number of radio stations and newspapers, said it is reducing its workforce by 15% through layoffs and by not filling vacant positions.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Darko Vojinovic



Mask diplomacy. A woman wearing a face mask walks by a Chinese flag placed on a street prior a curfew set up to limit the spread of the new coronavirus in Belgrade, Serbia.