

# First coronavirus death outside China

The Philippines reported that a 44-year-old man from Wuhan developed severe pneumonia and died

REUTERS  
BEIJING/MANILA

China ramped up measures to contain the coronavirus epidemic and shore up an economy hit by travel curbs and business shut-downs on Sunday as the first death from the illness was reported outside the country.

The Philippine Health Department said a 44-year-old Chinese man from Wuhan, the city at the center of the crisis, was hospitalised on January 25 with a fever, cough and sore throat and died after developing severe pneumonia.

The virus outbreak is still "severe and complicated", Hubei Vice-Governor Xiao Juhua told reporters.

A total of 304 people have died in China, the country's National Health Commission said on Sunday. Infections in China jumped to 14,380 as of Saturday, after their biggest daily rise, it added.

## Mounting isolation

At least another 171 cases have been reported in more than two dozen other countries and regions, including the U.S., Japan, Thailand, Hong Kong and Britain.



**Miraculous effort:** An aerial view of Huoshenshan hospital in Wuhan on Sunday as it nears completion 10 days after its construction began. The facility is set to open on Monday. **AP**

Beijing is facing mounting isolation as countries introduce travel restrictions, airlines suspend flights and governments evacuate their citizens, risking worsening a slowdown in the world's second-largest economy.

China's central bank said it would inject a hefty 1.2 trillion yuan (\$173.8 billion) worth of liquidity into the markets via reverse repo operations as the country prepares to reopen its stock markets after an extended Lunar New Year holiday. The government also said

it will help firms that produce vital goods resume work as soon as possible, state broadcaster CCTV reported, citing a meeting chaired by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

In Beijing, some malls stayed open during the extended holiday, but staff wearing surgical masks stood outside shops offering to take customers' temperatures. Many other stores and cafes remained shut.

We can't work and have no income. I would rather work than stay at home and

do nothing," said 32-year-old restaurant worker Wu Caixia in Beijing.

Authorities have effectively quarantined Wuhan, sealing off roads and shutting down public transport.

A plane repatriating 250 French and European nationals from Wuhan landed at a military airbase in Istres, southern France, on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Russia introduced visa restrictions and said it will evacuate its citizens on Monday and Tuesday.

## 'Drug cocktail shows promise against virus'

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BANGKOK

A Chinese woman infected with the new coronavirus showed a dramatic improvement after she was treated with a cocktail of anti-virals used to treat flu and HIV, Thailand's Health Ministry said on Sunday.

The patient, 71, tested negative for the virus 48 hours after she was administered the combination, doctor Kriengsak Attipornwanich said.

"The lab result of positive on the coronavirus turned negative in 48 hours," Dr. Kriengsak said. "From being exhausted before, she could sit up in bed 12 hours later."

The doctors combined the anti-flu drug oseltamivir with lopinavir and ritonavir, anti-virals used to treat HIV, Dr. Kriengsak said, adding the Ministry was awaiting research results to prove the findings.

# A crowded ballot in Iowa with Sanders and Biden in the lead

The State provides early momentum to leading candidates

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN  
WASHINGTON DC

More than a handful of Democrats will compete with each other and indirectly against a highly controversial President Donald Trump, riding high on his imminent acquittal by the Senate, as the U.S. election season kicks off on Monday night with the Iowa Caucuses.

Senators Bernie Sanders, Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar who had been in Washington for Mr. Trump's Senate trial dashed to Iowa for a hectic weekend of campaigning. Together with former Vice-President Joe Biden and former Southend, Indiana, Mayor Pete Buttigieg, the five candidates top the long list of Democratic hopefuls.

## Setting the trend

While Iowa, a mostly white and demographically non-representative state, just sends 41 delegates to the nominating convention later this year (1,991 are required to win), it provides crucial early momentum to the leading candidates. Since Al Gore in 2000, every Democratic candidate who has won Iowa has gone on to win the party's nomination.

While Mr. Biden leads in national polls, in the countdown to Monday night, an average of Iowa polls from January 20-27 compiled by Real Clear Politics (RCP), shows Mr. Sanders in first place (23.8%) followed by Mr. Biden (20.2%), who is followed by Mr. Buttigieg (15.8%) and Ms. Warren (14.6%).

A crucial and closely followed (including by candidates) final poll on Saturday night from CNN/Des Moines Register/Mediacom, which might have lent more clarity to this crowded race, was



Joe Biden, left, and Bernie Sanders after a debate in Los Angeles. **REUTERS/FILE**

your TV - Bernie won," Mr. Sanders' spokesperson Mike Casa said, as per Politico.

Nevertheless, if the higher voter turnout is comprised of more moderate, older voters and independents, they're more likely to choose Mr. Biden, Mr. Buttigieg or Ms. Klobuchar (and that could, in turn, benefit Mr. Biden). The Senator from Minnesota is betting on her organization across the state and making sure she hits counties that flipped from Mr Obama to Mr Trump.

Regardless of differences in their tactics in Iowa, Democrats' strategy is the same in one respect at least: sending out a strong message that Mr. Trump needs to be defeated and that each of them is the best person to do so. They are also being careful not to push away any potential Democrat voter with intra-party mudslinging.

There is a Democrat conspicuous by his absence from Iowa. Michael Bloomberg, who has already spent more than \$200 million on his campaign, will enter the fray straight on March 3 or 'Super Tuesday' where a large number of states vote.

After Iowa, candidates will face off in New Hampshire, then Nevada and South Carolina. In New Hampshire, Mr. Sanders leads Mr. Biden by a solid margin (close to 10 points in RCP polling averages). Mr. Biden has a 17 point lead over Mr. Sanders in South Carolina - where he has the support of a large number of African American voters.

No matter who wins the Iowa Caucuses to contend for the Democratic nomination, they will also have to compete against Mr. Trump who has time, money - and now an acquittal - on his side.

## NEWS ANALYSIS

# U.K. to seek Canada-style free trade deal with EU

'Such a pact viable only if Britain brings its rules in line with EU regulations'

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
LONDON

Two days after Brexit, British officials pushed the European Union on Sunday for a Canada-style free trade arrangement as British Prime Minister Boris Johnson geared up for a key speech to spell out his government's negotiating stance.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told Sky News that Britain will seek a deal that imposes very few tariffs even

though he said Britain will not seek to align its regulations with the EU.

"We are taking back control of our laws, so we are not going to have high alignment with the EU and legislative alignment with their rules," Mr. Raab said. "We will want to cooperate and we expect the EU to follow through on their commitments to a Canada-style free trade agreement. That's what we are pursuing. There

is a great opportunity here for win-win."

EU officials, despite offering friendly words to the British public over the weekend after the divorce that took effect on Friday night, warn that Canada only achieved largely tariff-free trade status by bringing many of its rules in line with EU regulations. EU officials fear that the U.K. could water down its environment or health and safety precautions, undermining EU businesses.

The trade talks are vital because now that Britain has

officially left the bloc - the first nation ever to do so - Mr. Johnson hopes to have a wide-ranging new deal in place by the end of the year.

## Johnson's speech

After celebrating Brexit by banging on a gong in the final seconds before it took effect, Mr. Johnson plans to detail Britain's trade stance in a speech Monday.

European leaders have said that Britain will not be able to get a deal like Canada's if it breaks significantly with EU rules on food safety, environmental standards,

worker's rights and other matters impacting on public well-being.

Irish PM Leo Varadkar on Sunday urged Mr. Johnson's Conservative government not to follow the mistakes of his predecessor by establishing "rigid red lines" that make it much more difficult to reach an agreement.

Mr. Varadkar did say he believes Mr. Johnson's reassurances that Britain "will not seek to undercut" the EU when it comes to labour standards, environmental standards and health and safety.

## ELSEWHERE



## Driver rams truck into children in Sydney, kills 4

An allegedly drunken driver has been charged with 20 offences, including manslaughter, after his SUV struck seven children on a Sydney sidewalk, killing four and injuring a fifth. **AP**

## 20 killed in Tanzanian church stampede: official

Twenty people were killed in a stampede at a church in Tanzania as faithful rushed to walk through a particular exit so they could touch "anointed oil" poured on the ground. **AP**

# Iraqi cleric asks followers to stop stir, clear the roads

New PM was appointed to end unrest

REUTERS  
BAGHDAD

Iraqi cleric Moqtada al-Sadr urged his followers on Sunday to help security forces clear roads blocked during months of sit-in protests, calling for a return to normal life after the designation of a new Prime Minister.

Mr. Sadr, who had alternately sided with the anti-government protesters and the Iran-backed political groups they reject, urged his unarmed supporters known as "blue hats" to work with authorities to ensure schools and businesses can operate normally again.

Protests broke out immediately in Baghdad and several southern cities on Saturday night after President Barham Salih named Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi as Prime Minister in an effort to end the political unrest.

On Sunday, thousands gathered in Baghdad's Tahrir square in protest.

In a message issued on Twitter, Mr. Sadr said "I advise the security forces to stop anyone from cutting off roads and the Ministry of education should punish those who obstruct regular working hours, be they students, teachers or others".

# Republicans prepare to defend Trump's expected acquittal

Officials cite presidential privilege to redact 24 emails

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
WASHINGTON

Republicans prepared to defend their expected acquittal of President Donald Trump, on Sunday's TV talk shows, after their Senate votes to reject witness testimony at his impeachment trial sparked criticism they were aiding a cover-up and abdicating their duties.

Criticism only intensified late Saturday after U.S. media reported that U.S. officials cited presidential privilege in redacting 24 emails related to Mr. Trump's hold



Donald Trump

on military assistance to Ukraine, an issue at the heart of his impeachment trial for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress.

Mr. Trump is all but as-

sured of being acquitted by the Senate, where Republicans hold 53 seats to 47 for the Democrats. A two-thirds majority, or 67 senators, is needed to remove a president from office.

On Friday, just two Republican senators - Mitt Romney of Utah and Susan Collins of Maine - joined Democrats in voting to introduce witnesses into the impeachment trial.

But they failed to muster the four Republican votes needed to allow testimony from key witnesses.

# Police kill man in London after 'terror' stabbings

People warned to avoid the area

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

British police on Sunday shot dead a man in south London, after at least two people were stabbed in a "terrorist-related" incident.

An eye-witness described seeing a man "with a machete and silver canisters on his chest" fleeing from police before they opened fire.

The shooting, on a busy street packed with Sunday shoppers, came just over two months after a convicted terrorist was shot dead by police on London Bridge, after he killed two people.

The Metropolitan Police

said the man died at around 2:00 pm (1400 GMT) on Streatham High Road, a busy thoroughfare lined with shops in a residential neighbourhood.

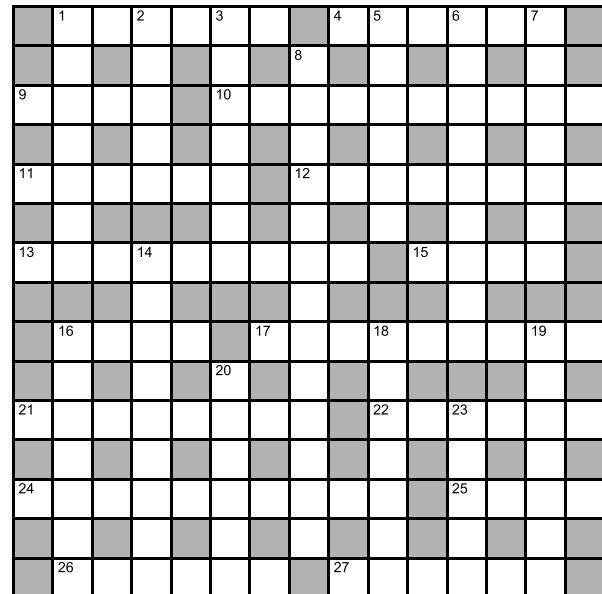
Prime Minister Boris Johnson thanked the emergency services for their response. "My thoughts are with the injured and all those affected," he said.

Interior Minister Priti Patel paid tribute to the bravery of police and emergency services and said she was being kept updated.

Police said there were two victims injured in the incident.

## THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12848

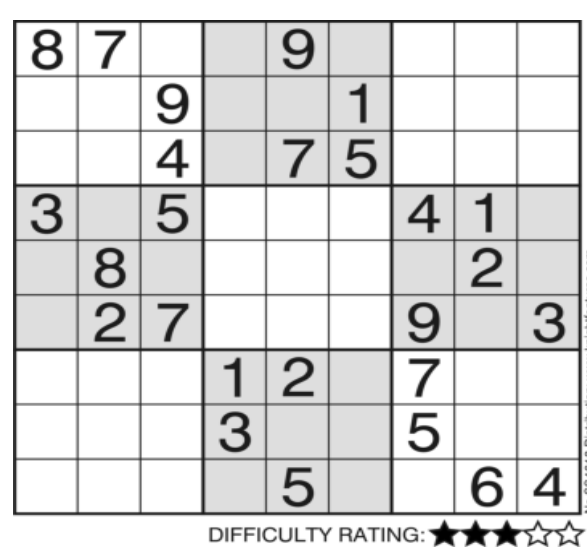
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(set by Hypatia)

- 12 Like those who raise sheep aren't alongside wolves (8)
- 13 Ravage Indra's gallery (9)
- 15 Nerf set to shoot (4)
- 16 Hits bugs (4)
- 17 According to Spooner, married gambler who is incontinent (9)
- 21 Terribly sinful woman contracts base disease (5,3)
- 22 Radio broadcast about new advance (6)
- 24 We hear country backed secure gadgets for lubrication (6,4)
- 25 Hop into Oriental tour? Quite the contrary (4)
- 26 Upset student switching from American to European currency (6)
- 27 Start to suddenly turn direction and veer (6)
- 2 Plastic Barbie's toe scratched minister (5)
- 3 Budding players carrying a book after Church (7)
- 5 Main road had railway line right inside (6)
- 6 Live amidst winding gentle river in protected land (9)
- 7 Avoid repeating lines (7)
- 8 PR does this, we hear - doesn't wait for one's turn? (5,3,5)
- 14 Supplement article complete in two pages (9)
- 16 Almost starts to take other rooms (7)
- 18 Western proverb about fashionable tool (7)
- 19 Marine animal turning cartwheels in spring (7)
- 20 Exhausted by a remarkable performance on air (6)
- 23 One assists to straighten a Sultana, perhaps (5)

## SUDOKU



Solution to puzzle 12847

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

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

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



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