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Soldier kills 20 in shooting rampage in Thailand's northeast



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

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## American dies of coronavirus in China; five Britons infected in French Alps



A worker takes body temperature measurement of a passenger inside a vehicle following an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in Wuhan, Hubei province, China February 7, 2020. Picture taken February 7, 2020. China Daily via REUTERS

BEIJING (Reuters) - A 60-year-old American has died of the new coronavirus, the first confirmed non-Chinese death of the illness, U.S. officials said, as millions of Chinese began returning home after a Lunar New Year break that was extended to try to contain the outbreak.

While the vast majority of cases have been in China, the virus has spread to some two dozen countries abroad, including five British nationals infected in a French mountain resort.

The American man died on Thursday in Wuhan, epicenter of the virus outbreak in the central Chinese province of Hubei, a U.S. embassy spokesman said in Beijing on Saturday. He did not elaborate.

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Five Britons contract coronavirus in French ski resort  
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A Japanese man in his sixties and hospitalized with pneumonia in Wuhan, capital of Hubei, also died after suffering symptoms consistent with the new coronavirus, Japan's foreign ministry said.

The virus has been a blow to China's already-slowing economy, with Goldman Sachs cutting its first-quarter GDP growth target to 4% from 5.6% previously and say-

ing a deeper hit is possible.

"It's certainly not going to be a return to normal next week," said Julian Evans-Pritchard, senior China economist at Capital Economics in Singapore. The death toll in mainland China rose to 723 on Saturday, the World Health Organization (WHO) said, looking likely to pass the 774 deaths recorded globally during the 2002-2003 outbreak of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Most of the deaths in China have occurred in and around Wuhan. Across mainland China, the number of cases stood at 34,598, the WHO said.

The virus has spread to 27 countries and regions, according to a Reuters count based on official reports, infecting more than 330 people. Two deaths have been reported outside mainland China - in Hong Kong and the Philippines. Both victims were Chinese nationals.

WHO expert Mike Ryan told a news conference in Geneva that the number of new cases in Hubei had stabilized over the last four days, "which may reflect the impact of control measures put in place".

A worker takes body temperature measurement of a passenger inside a vehicle following an outbreak of the novel coronavirus in Wuhan, Hubei province, China February 7, 2020. Picture taken February 7, 2020. China Daily via REUTERS

Speaking later to Reuters he cautioned, however, that "it's not a decline. That can just mean four days of relative calm before it accelerates."

The latest patients outside China include five British nationals staying in the same chalet at a ski village in Haute-Savoie in the Alps, French health officials said, raising fears of further infections at a busy period in the ski season.

The five, including a child, had been lodged in the same chalet with a British man believed to have contracted the virus in Singapore. They were not in a serious condition, the officials said.

France issued a new travel advisory for its citizens, saying it did not recommend traveling to China unless there was an "imperative" reason. Italy asked children traveling from China to stay away from school for two weeks voluntarily. 'STAY STRONG'

Hidden among the statistics are poignant tales of grief and frustration. Canadian mother Amelia Pan is at home while her two-year-old daughter, Cerena, is running a fever and stranded in Hubei where her father has contracted the virus.

"I am just hanging in there," Pan said in a Skype interview. "I need to stay strong so I can fight for my family." China's Communist Party rulers have sealed off cities, canceled flights and closed factories, a response that has dented the world's second-biggest economy and had ripple effects globally for financial markets and businesses dependent on China.

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## Soldier kills 20 in shooting rampage in Thailand's northeast

AKHON RATCHASIMA, Thailand (Reuters) - A Thai soldier shot dead at least 20 people Saturday, posting messages on Facebook as he went on the rampage in a northeastern city where he was still holed up in a mall well over 12 hours after he first struck, authorities said.

Thai security forces stormed the Terminal 21 mall in the city of Nakhon Ratchasima and helped hundreds of people to escape. Looking dazed and exhausted, shoppers and storeworkers came out in small groups into the early hours of Sunday as police and soldiers worked through the mall floor by floor.

"It was frightening because I could hear the occasional gunshot ... we waited a long time for the police to come and help us, many hours," said Suvanarat Jirattanasakul, 27, her voice trembling after she emerged.

Several bursts of automatic gunfire could be heard from inside the mall just after 2.40 a.m. (1940 GMT) and Reuters photographer Athit Perawongmetha saw two wounded members of the security forces being brought out.

The suspected shooter was identified by police as 32-year-old Jakrapanth Thomma. During the attack he posted "Death is inevitable for everyone" on his Facebook page and later asked "Should I give up?"

The attack began at around 3 p.m. local time, when the suspect opened fire at a house. He then moved to an army base, before heading to the shopping mall in Nakhon Ratchasima, which is about 250 km (155 miles) from the capital Bangkok, police said.

Local media showed footage of the soldier getting out of a car in front of the mall and firing off a series of shots as people fled for cover.

"We don't know why he did this. It appears he went mad," Defence Ministry spokesman Kongcheep Tantrawanit told Reuters.



Thailand security forces evacuated people from a shopping mall as they chase a shooter hidden in after a mass shooting in front of the Terminal 21, in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand February 9, 2020. REUTERS/Athit Perawongmetha

Thailand security forces evacuated people from a shopping mall as they chase a shooter hidden in after a mass shooting in front of the Terminal 21, in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand February 9, 2020. REUTERS/Athit Perawongmetha  
One video from a bystander showed a man slumped at the wheel of a car in a pool of blood. It was unclear if he was among the dead. Another video showed at least four people who had

clearly been shot and showed no sign of movement.

CCTV footage from inside the mall posted on social media showed the gunman dressed in black and wearing a mask, his gun slung over his shoulder with no sign of other people around.

Kongcheep said at least 20 people had been killed and it was not clear whether the gunman had taken hos-

tages in the mall. "It's not known how many are still inside," he said. The health ministry said 31 people had been wounded and 10 were in a critical condition. Thai media said the suspected shooter had worked at an army base close to Nakhon Ratchasima. Before the attack, Jakrapanth had posted on his Facebook account that he was out for vengeance — but he did not say for what.



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# Editor's Choice



A woman holds a chihuahua named April Moon at the 17th annual New York Pet Fashion Show



Passengers enter a cargo plane, chartered by the U.S. State Department to evacuate Americans and Canadians from China due to the outbreak of novel Coronavirus, during the boarding process at Wuhan Tianhe International Airport in Wuhan, China February 7, 2020. Courtesy of Edward Wang via REUTERS. THIS IMAGE HAS BEEN SUPPLIED BY A THIRD PARTY. MANDATORY CREDIT TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



Colleagues of Palestinian police officer Tareq Badwan, who was killed in an Israeli raid in Jenin, fire weapons in the air during his funeral near Qalqilya in the Israeli-occupied West Bank



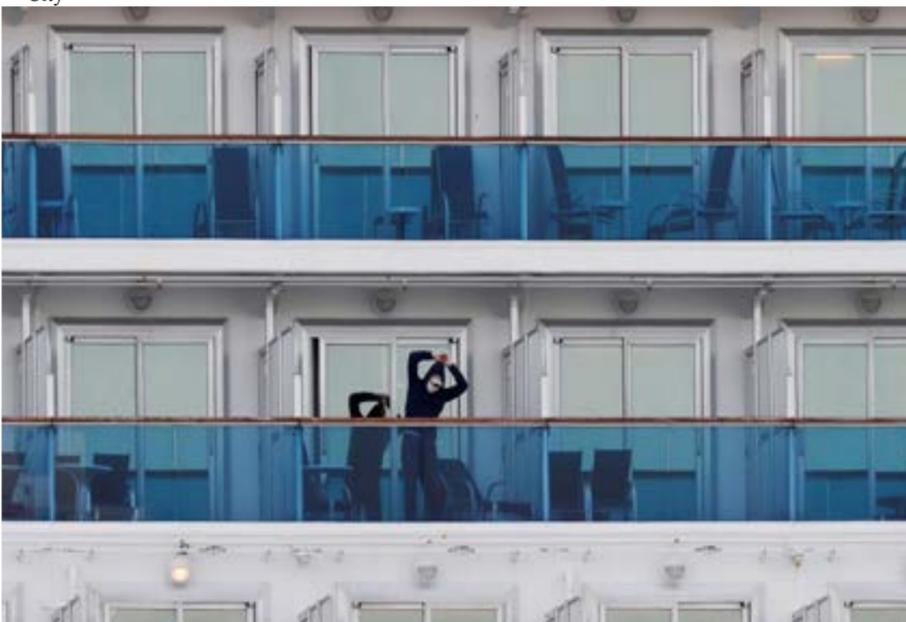
A bride wearing a mask for protection from the new coronavirus, attends a mass wedding ceremony of the Unification Church at Cheongshim Peace World Centre in Gapyeong, South Korea, February 7, 2020. REUTERS/Heo Ran TPX IMAGES OF THE DAY



A woman holding an umbrella walks in front of the Dome of the Rock in the compound known to Muslims as Noble Sanctuary and to Jews as Temple Mount, in Jerusalem's Old City



Hindu devotee wears a mask as she rests at a shrine in Batu Caves during Thaipusam, following the outbreak of a new coronavirus in China, in Kuala Lumpur



Cruise ship Diamond Princess anchored at Daikoku Pier Cruise Terminal in Yokohama



Cruise ship Diamond Princess arrives at Daikoku Pier Cruise Terminal in Yokohama

China Sacrifices A Province To Save the World From Coronavirus



OVERVIEW

Hubei province has seen 97% of all deaths from the virus. Quarantine lockdown delayed key supplies from getting in.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

Scenes of chaos and despair are emerging daily from China's Hubei province, the landlocked region of 60 million people where the new coronavirus dubbed 2019-nCoV was first identified in December, and where it has since cut a wide, deadly swathe.

0.16% for the rest of China.

"If the province was not sealed off, some people would have gone all around the country to try to get medical help, and would have turned the whole nation into an epidemic-stricken area," said Yang Gonghuan, former deputy director general of China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

ready been filled many times over when China announced on Jan. 23 that it would take the unprecedented step of sealing off Wuhan, preventing possible pathogen carriers from traveling out, but also preventing most people from coming in.



Medical staff take samples from a person at a quarantine zone in Wuhan, Feb. 4.

(Photo/AFP via Getty Images)

In the chaotic, confused days that followed, which coincided with China's week-long national holiday, the quarantine restrictions coupled with an already overwhelmed city infrastructure meant that supplies of essential medical equipment including masks, protective suits and high-grade disinfectant were slow to get to Wuhan's hospitals.



Cleaners wash the street with a high-pressure water gun in Wuhan Feb. 3.

(Photo/Getty Images)

While virus cases within Hubei province are still growing by the thousands every day, infections are slowing in the rest of China -- an early sign that the aggressive containment may have worked to limit the coronavirus' spread nationally and globally.

The quarantine in Hubei dwarfs previous efforts in other parts of the world. In Liberia in 2014, an impoverished neighborhood of about 70,000 people was shut off during an Ebola outbreak, triggering violent riots.

Top Priority Reports of potentially preventable deaths in Hubei exacerbated by the quarantine restrictions have been coursing through China, said Yanzhong Huang, director of the Center for Global Health Studies at Seton Hall University in New Jersey, and a senior fellow for global health at the Council on Foreign Relations.



Workers set up beds at an exhibition center that was converted into a hospital in Wuhan, Feb. 4.

(Photo/AFP via Getty Images)

Comparing the "draconian measures" in Hubei to the mass surveillance prevalent in China that would seem intolerable to many in the west, he said: "If you ask Chinese people, 8 out of 9 will say they can live with that."

Another 1/3 are in the rest of China and less than 1% are elsewhere.

Things are improving, but we are really overloaded and running diagnostic tests 24-7, and still struggle to complete them," the doctor said on Tuesday. "I think we have not reached the peak of infections yet."

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Will China's Massive Coronavirus Quarantine Start To Backfire?



With 45 million Chinese already cordoned off, public health expert Lawrence Gostin says it's too late for a quarantine to stop the spread of coronavirus—and it could be a huge mistake.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

China's decision to try to stem the spread of the coronavirus outbreak by quarantining major cities in the province of Hubei is raising logistical, medical and ethical concerns. Some public health experts — including Lawrence Gostin, in a video interview with Changing America — make the case that massive quarantines could actually worsen the crisis. In theory, preventing people from traveling in and out of affected areas could isolate a viral outbreak. But the undertaking in China may be too massive — involving 45 million people at the latest count — and come too late. An estimated 5 million people had already left Hubei Province by the time the travel bans were put into place. Others question the ability of China to police an estimated 56 million people in the quarantined area — people who are likely frightened and undoubtedly desperate to protect themselves and their families. A quarantine of this magnitude has never been attempted before. In recent epidemics, infected individuals have been quarantined to their homes or in hospital wards.



In the United States the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has launched into emergency response mode. It is screening passengers arriving from affected areas at international airports and providing assistance and information to travelers departing to Asia. The CDC quickly created a protocol to test for the virus with almost-instant results and is growing the culture in the lab in the hopes of creating a vaccine — although that may take months to develop. For Gostin, educating people about the spread of the virus and preventative measures is crucial. Watch the video for his candid thoughts on the crisis response in China and the US. (Courtesy thehill.com)

Related As coronavirus spreads, a pandemic is likely, experts warn

# Experts say the Wuhan coronavirus is very transmissible, increasing the likelihood of global spread.

As the deadly Wuhan coronavirus outbreak spreads in China and other areas around the world, some health experts worry the virus appears increasingly likely to become a pandemic. A pandemic, which is when epidemics break out on two or more continents, is looking more probable as the coronavirus has killed at least 361 people in China and infected more than 17,000 worldwide. The World Health Organization (WHO) reported there are now 146 cases in at least 23 countries outside China, including the U.S., where a total of 11 cases have been confirmed.



"It's very, very transmissible, and it almost certainly is going to be a pandemic," Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, director of the U.S. National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told The New York Times. "But will it be catastrophic? I don't know."

Fauci noted that the number of cases has "steeply inclined with every day." As three more U.S. cases of coronavirus were reported in California on Sunday, the Associated Press reported that a couple in San Benito County was the second instance of person-to-person transmission in the U.S. But there is still much uncertainty among scientists about how much damage a pandemic would cause. "If we take strong measures now, we may be able to blunt the impact of the virus on

the United States," Dr. Nancy Messonnier, director of the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases, said during a media briefing Friday. "We are preparing as if this were the next pandemic, but we are hopeful still that this is not and will not be the case," Messonnier said.



In a matter of weeks, the number of Wuhan coronavirus deaths in mainland China has surpassed the 2003 SARS epidemic in the country. Since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak in December, more than 360 people have died, compared to the 349 deaths from severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) over a nine-month period.

The World Health Organization last week declared the coronavirus an international public health emergency, and the U.S. began to bar entry to any foreigners who have recently traveled to China. Meanwhile, U.S. citizens who have recently traveled to the Hubei province of China, where the virus originated, will be asked to self-quarantine for up to 14 days. (Courtesy thehill.com)

12 cases of coronavirus confirmed in US

A case of coronavirus has been confirmed in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Department of Health Services made the announcement during a conference call Wednesday. Health officials say the patient recently had contact with someone with the virus while traveling in China before return-

ing to Wisconsin. The patient reportedly walked into an emergency room on Jan. 30 at the University of Wisconsin Hospital in Madison after experiencing symptoms.



Health officials are confirming a case of coronavirus in Wisconsin, bringing the total of confirmed cases in the U.S. to 12.

The patient has not been hospitalized and was described as being in good condition and is self-quarantined at home. Health officials did not give details about the patient's age or identity. "At this time, the risk of getting sick from 2019 novel coronavirus is very low," Jeanne Ayers, administrator for the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, said during a conference call. So far, 10 people in Wisconsin have been tested for exposure to the coronavirus. Of those, seven have tested negative, while results for the other two are still pending. There have been 11 other cases of the coronavirus in the U.S., with at least six cases in California alone. Worldwide, there have been more than 24,300 cases confirmed, with at least 490 dead in China, one dead in the Philippines and one dead in Hong Kong. (Courtesy thehill.com)

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