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People arriving in Beijing to be quarantined as China struggles to pick up economy



Inside C2

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Chinese woman who intruded at Mar-a-Lago sentenced to six months



FILE PHOTO: A sheriff's deputy stands at the entrance to U.S. President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, U.S., February 2, 2020. REUTERS/ Yuri Gripas

(Reuters) - A Chinese woman who was acquitted of trespassing at U.S. President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida was sentenced to six months in jail on Friday on a separate charge of resisting arrest.

FILE PHOTO: A sheriff's deputy stands at the entrance to U.S. President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Florida, U.S., February 2, 2020. REUTERS/ Yuri Gripas

Lu Jing, 56, was the second Chinese national to be arrested for trespassing last year at the resort where Trump often visits.

Her prosecution was left to local rather than federal authorities, as the president was not present on Dec. 18 when she entered the property and began taking pictures.

A jury on Wednesday cleared Lu of trespassing but convicted her of misdemeanor resisting arrest after police said she balled her hands into fists, crossed her arms and screamed "no, no, no" upon being arrested.

Palm Beach County Judge Mark Eissey imposed the six-month sentence despite defense claims that Lu was a merely a tourist who made an "an honest mistake" and was a casualty of the language barrier. Prosecutors contended Lu had made a "calculated decision."

"I'm a law-abiding citizen," Lu told the judge through a Mandarin interpreter at her sentencing hearing, according

to the South Florida Sun Sentinel. "I'm an ordinary Chinese woman. I never thought I would end up in jail."

In March of last year, another Chinese national, Yujing Zhang, passed an initial Secret Service checkpoint by passing herself off as a relative of a resort member.

Zhang, 33, was found guilty in U.S. district court of lying to a federal officer and trespassing and sentenced to eight months in prison.

That incident raised fears Zhang could have posed an intelligence threat, but U.S. experts told Reuters it was hard to believe she was a professional spy.

Lu, whose visa had expired, remained in custody pending trial and could be subject to deportation after leaving jail.

During the trial she testified that while on vacation she hired a private tour guide who showed her sites including the president's resort, the Palm Beach Post reported. She said she walked onto the property and began taking cellphone pictures.



A security guard told the jury he tried to tell her she was not allowed and resorted to hand signals upon realizing she did not speak English, the Post said.

She left but then came back onto the property through another entrance, he said.

Lu testified that after leaving she continued on her sightseeing tour. Town police officers later arrested her in the Palm Beach shopping district.

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People arriving in Beijing to be quarantined as China struggles to pick up

BEIJING (Reuters) - The Chinese capital Beijing on Friday imposed a 14-day self-quarantine on people returning to the city from holidays to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus, and threatened to punish those who failed to comply.

It was not immediately clear how the restriction, relayed by the official Beijing Daily newspaper, would be enforced, or whether it would apply to non-residents of Beijing or foreigners arriving from abroad.

China is struggling to get its economy going after the annual Lunar New Year holiday, which was extended for 10 days to help contain the outbreak of the new and highly contagious respiratory virus, officially called 2019-nCov.

Authorities reported 5,090 new cases in mainland China, including more than 120 deaths, taking the number of infected to 63,851, and the number of deaths to 1,380.

RELATED COVERAGE

IMF chief hopes for global policy response to mitigate coronavirus impact

Factbox: Latest on coronavirus spreading in China and beyond See more stories

The figures give no sign that the outbreak is nearing a peak, said Adam Kamradt-Scott, an infectious diseases expert at the Centre for International Security Studies at the University of Sydney.

But with 500 million people already affected by movement and travel restrictions, President Xi Jinping warned top officials last week that efforts to contain the virus had gone too far and were threatening the economy, sources said.

In cities such as Beijing and the business hub Shanghai, streets and subways remain largely deserted with many shops and restaurants empty or shut. For a full coverage of the coronavirus outbreak click, here

Government employee Jin Yang, 28, made it to his Beijing office but found it "anything but normal".



Customers are seen at the vegetable section of a supermarket in Wuhan, the epicentre of the novel coronavirus outbreak, in Hubei province, China February 14, 2020. REUTERS/Stringer

Canteen lunches are banned in favour of boxed meals eaten at desks. Meetings are held online, not in person. Employees must wear masks all day and report their temperature twice a day.

Outside mainland China, there have been nearly 450 cases in some 24 countries and territories, and three deaths. Japan confirmed its first

coronavirus death on Thursday. One person has died in Hong Kong and one in the Philippines.

WUHAN'S SELF-HELP

Wuhan, the central Chinese city of 11 million people where the outbreak began, has the most acute problem. Customers are seen at the vegetable section of a supermarket in Wuhan, the epicentre of the novel coronavirus outbreak, in Hubei province,

China February 14, 2020. REUTERS/Stringer

With all public transport, taxis and ride-hailing services shut down in the city, volunteer drivers are responding to requests on ad hoc messaging groups to ferry medical staff and others in vital jobs to and from work, risking their own health. Others work round the clock to find accommodation for medical workers in hotels that have volunteered rooms.



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Editor's Choice



Iranian women sit on a bench after buying Valentine gifts for their friends in Tehran



A young couple poses for a photo near Valentine gifts at a cafe in Tehran, Iran February 14, 2020. Nazanin Tabatabaee/WANA (West Asia News Agency) via REUTERS ATTENTION EDITORS - THIS IMAGE HAS BEEN SUPPLIED BY A THIRD PARTY.



Flowers and heart shaped balloons are seen on Valentine's day in Tehran



Activists and supporters of a National Corps political party hold a protest in Kiev



Visitors in themed costumes attend the Salvador Dali exhibition on Valentine's Day in Moscow



A visitor in a themed costume walks around the Salvador Dali exhibition on Valentine's Day in Moscow

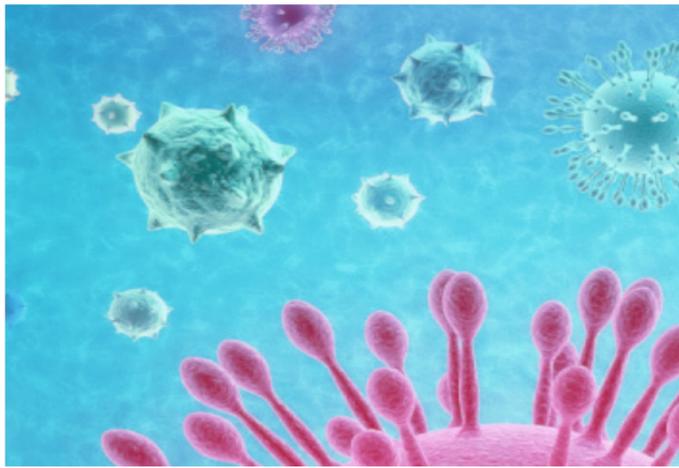


First lady Melania Trump makes a Valentine's day visit to the Children's Inn at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, MD.



Activists and supporters of a National Corps political party hold a protest in Kiev

Fall In New Cases Raises Hope In Virus Outbreak In China



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

BEIJING (AP) — The number of new cases of the coronavirus in China dropped for a second straight day, health officials said last Wednesday in a possible glimmer of hope amid the outbreak that has infected over 45,000 people worldwide and killed more than 1,100.



WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in Geneva that the numbers "must be interpreted with extreme caution," adding: "This outbreak could still go in any direction."

All but one of the deaths recorded so far have been in China, as have more than 99% of all reported infections in the world. "In principle at the moment, there's no evidence out there that this virus is out there causing efficient community transmission in other countries," Ryan said.



WHO said scientists had agreed upon a set of global research priorities but warned it could still take considerable time before any licensed products might be available. Chinese President Xi Jinping promised tax cuts and other aid to industry as the ruling Communist Party tries to limit the mounting damage to the economy.

to a department store, Chinese state media said. One-third of Tianjin's 104 confirmed cases are in Baodi district, where the store is situated, the Xinhua News Agency reported.



China president Xi Jinping makes public appearance with protective mask.

Meanwhile, organizers of the world's biggest mobile technology fair — the annual Mobile World Congress show, set for Feb. 24-27 in Barcelona, Spain — canceled the event because of worries about the viral outbreak. The decision came after dozens of tech companies and wireless carriers dropped out, including Nokia, Vodafone, Ericsson, Nokia, Sony, Amazon, Intel and LG.

Taiwan, Japan and Thailand, though its operator said no cases of the disease have been confirmed among the more than 2,200 passengers and crew.



Holland America Line's MS Westerdam.

And in Japan, 39 new cases were confirmed on a cruise ship quarantined at Yokohama, bringing the total to 174 aboard the Diamond Princess.

NO EVIDENCE YET OF MOTHER-TO-FETUS SPREAD

In a study published Wednesday in the journal Lancet, Chinese scientists reported there is no evidence so far to suggest the virus can be passed from mother to child in the womb. The study looked at nine women who all had the COVID-19 virus and gave birth via cesarean section in a hospital in Wuhan.



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Advertisement for Ocean Palace restaurant featuring the '珍寶' (Zhen Bao) logo, building photo, and menu highlights: '天天茶市 正宗粵菜 港式點心', '二樓大型豪華宴會廳', '大型舞台,可容納百餘席', '精心承辦婚禮/壽宴/社團等各類型宴會', '本海鮮酒樓常備各種生猛游水海鮮'.

The Novel Coronavirus – China 2020

A Photo Essay

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



Worker checks containers of medical waste.



People wearing protective masks fill the streets across China.



In this photo released Feb. 11, 2020 by China's Xinhua News Agency, a police officer operates a drone carrying a QR code placard near an expressway toll station in Shenzhen in southern China's Guangdong Province. To increase the efficiency, local police officers used drones to carry a QR code at the expressway exits for drivers to get registered with less contact with other people. (Lai Li/Xinhua via AP)



A doctor takes a swab from a woman to test for the COVID-19 virus at a fever clinic in Yinan county in eastern China's Shandong province on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020. China on Wednesday reported another drop in the number of new cases of a viral infection and 97 more deaths, pushing the total dead past 1,100 as postal services worldwide said delivery was being affected by the cancellation of many flights to China. (Chinatopix Via AP)



A doctor looks at a CT scan of lungs while making his rounds at a ward in a quarantine zone in Wuhan, the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in China, on Feb. 3, 2020. (Image: © STR/AFP via Getty Images)



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, a worker cleans the floor of a temporary hospital with 1,100 beds converted from the Wuhan Sports Center in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020. Without enough facilities to handle the number of cases of viral infection, Wuhan has been building prefabricated hospitals and converting a gym and other large spaces to house patients and try to isolate them from others. (Xiao Yijiu/Xinhua via AP)



Cruise ship Diamond Princess. Another 39 people have tested positive for the coronavirus on the Diamond Princess cruise ship docked in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Japan's health ministry reported last Wednesday. This brings the number of infections found on the ship to 174. At right, Passengers stand on the deck of the Diamond Princess cruise ship anchored at Yokohama Port in Yokohama, near Tokyo, Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020. Japan's health ministry said Wednesday that 39 new cases of a virus have been confirmed on the cruise ship quarantined at the Japanese port. (Yuta Omori/Kyodo News via AP)



China on Wednesday reported another drop in the number of new cases of a viral infection and 97 more deaths, pushing the total dead past 1,100 even as the country remains largely closed down to prevent the spread of the disease. (AP Photo/Kin Cheung)



Security guards hold the curtain for a cyclist to past through a disinfectant spray in order to return home at a residential complex in northern China's Tianjin Municipality Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020. China's president Xi Jinping visited a health center to rally public morale amid little sign the contagion is abating. (Chinatopix Via AP)



Customers at China market where foods supplies have been increased to stave off any worries by consumers of food shortages, CHINA OUT



In this photo released by Xinhua News

Agency technicians work on a second generation disinfection robot in a technological company in Qingdao, eastern China's Shandong Province on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2020. Qingdao has called on technological companies to research, develop and refit disinfection robots which can replace human in disinfection operations for possible use in isolation wards of hospitals. (Li Ziheng/Xinhua via AP)



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, workers produce face masks in the workshop of a textile company in Jimo District of Qingdao in eastern China's Shandong Province on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2020. Qingdao Municipal Bureau of Industry and Information Technology has mobilized two large textile companies to produce face masks to help the fight against the novel coronavirus epidemic. (Liang Xiaopeng/Xinhua via AP)



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, a medical worker waves near a propaganda poster as patients arrive at a temporary hospital with 1100 beds converted from the Wuhan Sports Center in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province, Feb. 12, 2020. Without enough facilities to handle the number of cases of viral infection, Wuhan has been building prefabricated hospitals and converting a gym and other large spaces to house patients and try to isolate them from others. (Xiao Yijiu/Xinhua via AP)

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