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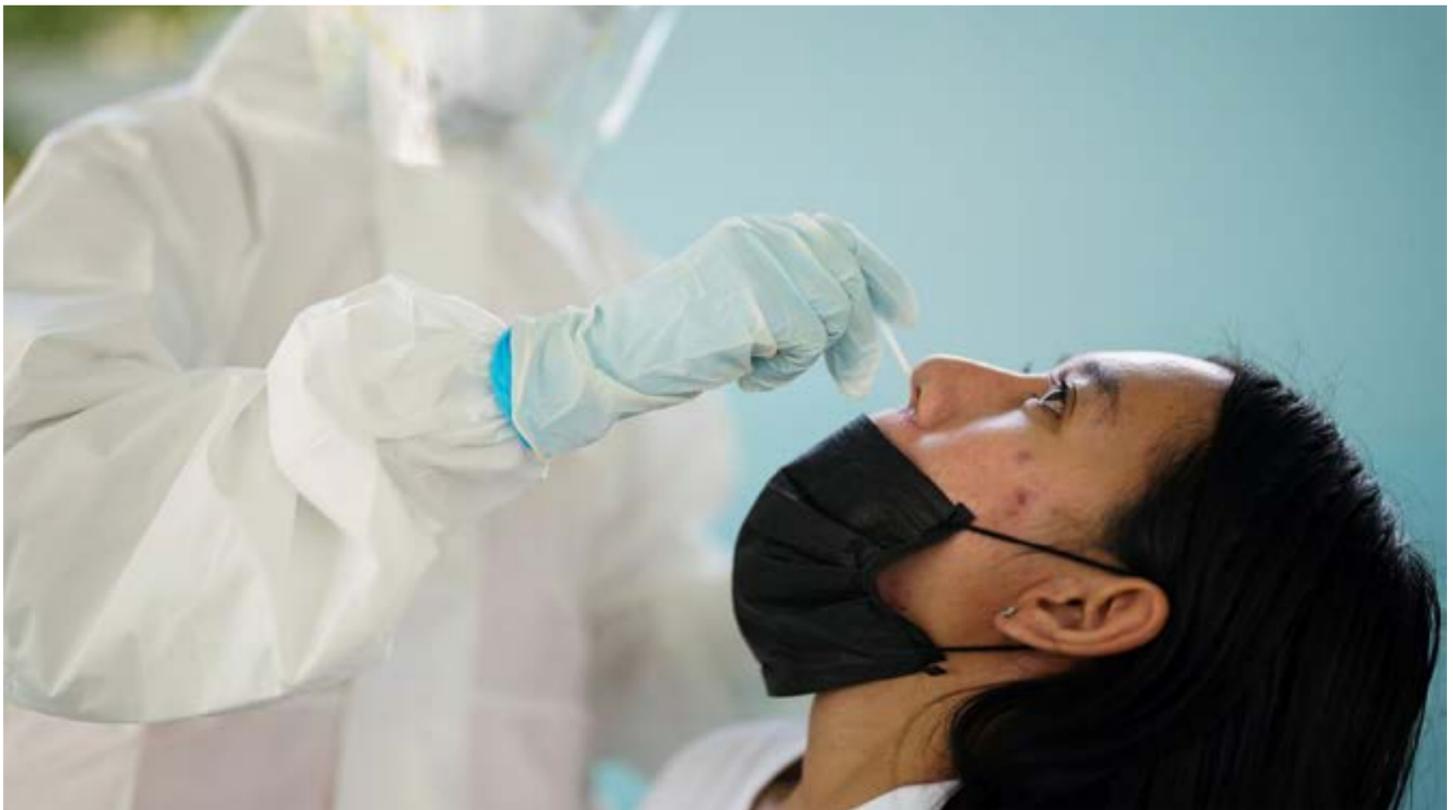
Southern Daily News is published by Southern News Group Daily

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Sunday, April 25 2021

Indian PM assures full support to states with high COVID-19 infections, gov't addresses oxygen supply issue



NEW DELHI, April 23 (Xinhua) -- Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday chaired a high-level meeting on COVID-19 situation with chief ministers of 10 states that have reported maximum numbers of cases, officials said.

Modi assured the government's full support to all the states in the fight against COVID-19.

Chief ministers of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Gujarat, Delhi, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu attended the virtual meet.

These states account for nearly 75 percent of the total new cases reported daily.

"Noting that the virus is affecting several states as well as Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities at once, PM Modi called for working together to fight the pandemic with collective power," a statement issued by Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

On the shortage of oxygen, Modi said there was a continuous effort to increase the supply in the states.

Officials on Friday morning said at least 25 critical patients admitted at Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in New Delhi had died in the last 24 hours, where authorities had flagged the shortage of oxygen and said the patients were reportedly on high-flow oxygen.

"PM Modi urged all states to work together and coordinate with one another to fulfill requirements relating to medicines and oxygen. He urged the states to check hoarding and black marketing of oxygen and medicines," the statement said.

"The PM said that every state should ensure that no oxygen tanker, whether it is meant for any state, is stopped or gets stranded."

Modi said the government was working on all possible options to

reduce the travel time and turnaround time of oxygen tankers.

"For this, railways has started oxygen express. Empty oxygen tankers are also being transported by the Air Force to reduce one-way travel time," the PMO said.

Modi noted that the ongoing vaccination program should not slow down in this situation.

During the meeting, he reiterated the need to scale up testing and creation of micro-containment zones for better management of the pandemic.

Home minister Amit Shah, health minister Harsh Vardhan, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal were also present at the meeting.

India is presently witnessing a resurgence in COVID-19 cases. It on Friday reported the world's biggest-ever daily surge with 332,730 new cases and 2,263 deaths in the past 24 hours

Overseas investors increase Chinese securities holdings in Q1

BEIJING, April 23 (Xinhua) -- Overseas investors stepped up their holdings of Chinese securities in the first quarter of this year.

In the first quarter, overseas investors' net purchases of Chinese stocks and bonds totaled 73.7 billion U.S. dollars, the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE) said at a press conference on Friday.

Mainland investors' net purchases of Hong Kong-listed shares through stock connect programs amounted to 311.1 billion yuan (about 47.91 billion U.S. dollars) during the same period, according to SAFE.

These figures show that

international payments and two-way cross-border investment are basically balanced, said SAFE spokesperson Wang Chunying.

The foundation for the stable operation of China's foreign exchange market will remain solid in the future, said Wang, adding that the country's new development paradigm is conducive to maintaining its balance of international payments.



美南報業電視傳媒集團
SOUTHERN NEWS GROUP

SOUTHERN CHINESE DAILY NEWS

報業 黃頁 電視
印刷設計 國際貿易中心

美南新聞



WWW.SCDAILY.COM 281-498-4310

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

CORONAVIRUS DIARY 04/24/2021



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100 Days Of President Biden

In his first one hundred days in office President Biden has focused on getting Americans relief by trying to stimulate the economy through the \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 aid package.

When Biden came into the White House the COVID-19 cases had risen to a record high, millions of people were out of work, cases of racial injustice were increasing across the country and there

was a climate crisis threatening the country.

The goal Biden set for his first 100 days of vaccinating 100 million people was reached and doubled. The figure for Biden's \$2.25 trillion infrastructure bill if passed in Congress will have the biggest economic impact in American history. As Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen



said, "We are succeeding in getting programs up and running. I feel that the administration has built up the momentum."

The Biden administration is facing a human rights crisis on the southern border where a surge of migrants has strained the entire immigration system.

Biden's early presidency will be largely judged against his COVID-19 campaign that he has approached like a war.

We are also so happy that the United States of America has come back onto the world stage. We have seen many issues around the world that should be discussed around the table. We all want peace.



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



ESA astronaut Thomas Pesquet OF France, NASA astronauts Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur, and JAXA astronaut Akihiko Hoshide of Japan await the launch of their NASA commercial crew mission to the International Space Station, within the Crew Dragon capsule of the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Florida. NASA TV via REUTERS



U.S. President Joe Biden puts his protective face mask on following his remarks in a virtual Climate Summit with world leaders in the East Room at the White House in Washington. REUTERS/Tom Brenner



Children's beds are seen in a kindergarten near the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant in the abandoned city of Pripjat, Ukraine. REUTERS/Gleb Garanich



Endangered Przewalski's horses graze on a meadow inside of a breeding enclosure in Prague, Czech Republic. REUTERS/David W Cerny



Service members of the Russian airborne forces line up before boarding Ilyushin Il-76 transport planes during drills at a military aerodrome in the Azov Sea port of Taganrog, Russia. REUTERS/Stringer



An activist from the Extinction Rebellion, a global environmental movement, smashes a window at HSBC headquarters during a protest in Canary Wharf, London, Britain. REUTERS/John Sibley

Movie Reveals Story Of Asian Survivors Of "Chinese Titanic"



泰坦尼克号有七百多名幸存者，几乎每个人的故事都被完整地记载了下来，唯独这些中国人无人知晓。

(Editor Note: At this time of social divide and unwarranted and unjust racial attacks on members of the Asian community, we believe that this story of Chinese survivors of the Titanic ship disaster of 1912 portrayed in a new movie by the original Titanic movie director will be: #1 a story most of us have never heard about, and #2 will open our eyes to the strength and bravery of our brothers from the past and leave us with so much pride and confidence to face our future.)

Key Points

Six of eight Chinese men who boarded the Titanic in 1912 survived the sinking

Five escaped on lifeboats and one was rescued while clinging to a wooden plank

Filmmakers Arthur Jones and Steven Schwankert explore their story in their movie, "The Six"

After they were discovered, the men were immediately sent away from the U.S. despite surviving

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

In the movie, "Titanic," the tale about Jack, Rose, and the Heart of the Ocean have become almost as well-known as the story of the Titanic itself. But there is one scene in James Cameron's iconic film that didn't make the final cut, of a boat rescuing a Chinese man still clinging to life on a wooden plank. While the scene was never seen in the Oscar winner, it depicted a real moment in history that few knew about. Filmmakers Arthur Jones and Steven Schwankert are hoping to correct that with The Six, a documentary about the Chinese men who survived the sinking of the Titanic. The story of the Titanic was legendary long before Cameron immortalized it in film form.

About 1,500 people were killed when the RMS Titanic - nicknamed "The Unsinkable Ship" - struck an iceberg in the Atlantic Ocean on April 14, 1912. Only around 700 people survived, most in lifeboats while a rare few managed to cling to the wreckage and wait for help to arrive in freezing waters. But almost nothing is known about the eight Chinese men who boarded the Titanic, and the six of them who survived. Their names can still be found on a single ticket for third-class passengers: Ah Lam, Fang Lang, Len Lam, Cheong Foo, Chang Chip, Ling Hee, Lee Bing and Lee Ling.



The Titanic leaves Southampton on her ill-fated maiden voyage on April 10, 1912. (Photo: AFP)

Jones and Schwankert determined that it was likely all eight men, who were professional sailors working in Britain, knew each other before boarding the Titanic.

They discovered that the men were on the Titanic en route to Cuba, scheduled to board a freighter boat known as The Annetta in New York.

"The reason they were traveling on Titanic in the first place is for work," Schwankert told The Washington Post.

"They were professional mariners, and they were being seconded from their company in the UK to go and work on the companies in North America."

The men were bunked up in the steerage, the lowest class of the cabins. Only 20 per cent of non-British men in the steerage survived the sinking.

Five of the eight men escaped the ship on lifeboats, and four of them were in "Collapsible C".

Collapsible C was a backup escape vessel and one of the last lifeboats to leave the ship. It was not full when it was found by rescuers.

Also inside the lifeboat was Joseph Bruce Ismay, the chairman of the company which owned the Titanic, as well as George T Rowe, the ship's quartermaster.



A still from "The Six," an upcoming documentary about the little-known Chinese survivors of the Titanic. (LP DOCS/Merryman Films)

Both men later testified to the presence of the four Chinese men in their lifeboat.

The sixth surviving man, as seen in Cameron's cut clip, was found in the sea by a lifeboat which had returned to the wreckage to search for survivors.

Jones and Schwankert then discovered that, despite surviving the horrific experience, none of the six men were permitted to enter the United States.

Just a day after arriving in New York, the men were forced to board the Annetta and head straight for the Caribbean to work on fruit ships.

This was due to the Chinese Exclusion Act, a law passed in 1882 by President Chester A Arthur that forbid all Chinese laborers from immigrating to the country.

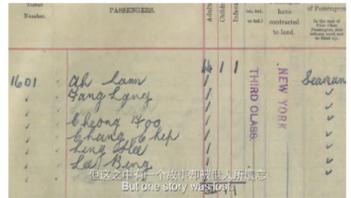
Unlike other survivors, the Chinese men were not allowed to bypass screening at Ellis Island and they received no medical aid.

"They were not treated humanely," Jones said. "We know they lost close friends on board. And yet they weren't given the option of staying."

"Not only did they have to leave in 24 hours, they were held overnight in custody. They were detained."

Even stranger is that, after the men boarded the Annetta, they seemed to completely vanish from history.

"It really started to bother me. Like, why don't we know?" Schwankert said.



A still from "The Six," an upcoming documentary about the little-known Chinese survivors of the Titanic. (LP DOCS/Merryman Films)

Jones and Schwankert have spent more than two years trying to find the answer, traveling everywhere from the US to the UK, Cuba to China, and the Caribbean as well. The filmmakers launched a website, whoarethesix.com, to try and find tips regarding the survivors for the documentary, which is still in production.

They have since found descendants of the six men, many of whom had no idea they had any connection to the Titanic.

And, as the film's trailer shows, there are reveals of 'family secrets' and people who 'carried to their grave the secret of their true identity'.

But for Jones and Schwankert, the documentary has not just been about solving a mystery.

"We're trying to give them that place in history," they said. "This is who they are." (Courtesy https://www.dailymail.co.uk/)

#

In the early hours of April 15, 1912, a lifeboat navigated the frigid waters of the North Atlantic Ocean, its skeleton crew scanning the dark, debris-littered surface for any sign of life. Hours earlier, the unthinkable had happened: The RMS Titanic, a majestic ocean liner deemed "unsinkable," had struck an iceberg and slowly disappeared into the sea on its maiden voyage.

Hundreds of passengers fled in lifeboats. Hundreds more perished, going down with the ship or freezing to death in the icy water. The only one of Titanic's lifeboats to

turn back to the wreckage found body after body — until it discovered a young Chinese man, still alive, clinging to a piece of wood.

That man would be one of six Chinese passengers who survived the Titanic, a little-known fact about the historic disaster that has largely remained untold or distorted, owing to a racially hostile environment toward Chinese people in the West at the turn of the 20th century.



Of the six survivors, five made it onto lifeboats and one man was rescued while clinging to a wooden plank out at sea.

Now, the lives of these men — who they were, how they survived that fateful night and why they were barred from entering the United States — are being examined in a new documentary, "The Six," by Arthur Jones and Steven Schwankert.

"There were something like 700 Titanic survivors. They've all been so 'claimed,' if all the claims to be believed," Jones, a Shanghai-based filmmaker, told The Washington Post. "These were the only guys amongst those 700 that no one had ever claimed. They just completely disappeared. Why did they get ignored?"

On April 10, 1912, the Titanic set off on her maiden voyage to the United States from Southampton, England, with 2,229 passengers and crew members. The ship was supposed to arrive a week later at its transatlantic destination: New York City.

Instead, around 11:30 p.m. on April 14, the Titanic struck an iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland and began to take on water. Within hours, the massive ocean liner had cleaved in two and — with hundreds still trapped on board — was swallowed by the frigid waters of what is now known as "Iceberg Alley."

About 1,500 people died in the tragedy. About 700 passengers survived and were plucked from their lifeboats by the RMS Carpathia the next morning.



(Article Continues Below)

(Article Continues From Above)

Movie Reveals Story Of Asian Survivors Of "Chinese Titanic"

The ill-fated voyage has been immortalized in countless documentaries, books and museums — and in the tin-whistled opening bars of a certain Celine Dion song now indelibly associated with the shipwreck, thanks to James Cameron's 1997 blockbuster film. Over the past century, volumes have been written about hundreds of the Titanic's victims and survivors, their life stories preserved in astonishing detail by history books and their descendants.



One of the young men who survived.

However, for six Chinese passengers who survived the sinking, their ties to the Titanic have all but vanished.

Schwankert first brought up the possibility of a Titanic project to Jones in 2014. Jones dismissed the idea at first. For starters, the longtime documentary partners were in the midst of another project.

But also: It was the Titanic, Schwankert recalled Jones saying.

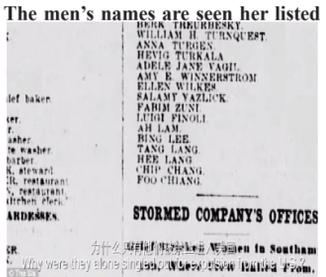
"Everything's been done," Schwankert said they thought. "There's nothing new to say about it. And this was not so long after the 100th anniversary" of the 1912 voyage.

Still, he pressed on. The New Jersey native, who has lived in China for 22 years, had recently researched the Titanic and come across a brief mention of six Chinese survivors. But the more he tried to find out about the six, the more dead ends he hit.

"It really started to bother me. Like, why don't we know?" Schwankert said. "Like any history project, you start pulling the threads, and it just seemed like the thread didn't lead anywhere."

Before long, he had persuaded Jones

to abandon their original project and launch "The Six."



in a newspaper report of who survived the wreckage

With little to go on at first but the passenger manifest and list of survivors, the team set up a simple website, whoarethesix.com, to crowdsourcing tips. The invisibility of the six Chinese survivors is such that, even in China, Jones and Schwankert find themselves telling people: Yes, there were, in fact, Chinese passengers on the Titanic.

Eight Chinese nationals boarded the ship at Southampton, to be exact. Their names appear in rigid cursive on a single ticket for third-class passengers: Ah Lam, Fang Lang, Len Lam, Cheong Foo, Chang Chip, Ling Hee, Lee Bing and Lee Ling.

Through two years of painstaking documentation, the filmmakers determined that the men in the group probably knew one another beforehand, having worked together as professional sailors on various ships in Britain. Because of an ongoing coal strike there, the men were being transferred by their company to a freighter docked in New York, the Annetta, which was to take them to Cuba.

"The reason they were traveling on Titanic in the first place is for work," Schwankert said. "They were professional mariners, and they were being seconded from their company in the U.K. to go and work on the companies in North America."

Their trip would not go as planned, of

course.

How the eight men responded as the Titanic began taking on water may never be known. They would have been traveling in steerage, the lowest class of cabins, where the survival rate for non-British men was only about 20 percent.



Five of the eight men escaped the ship on lifeboats, and four of them were in "Collapsible C", a backup escape vessel (depicted in The Six).

What was documented is that one of the Chinese men was later found clinging to a large piece of floating wood by the one main lifeboat that chose to return to the wreckage to search for signs of life. Five others escaped in lifeboats. Notably, four were in "Collapsible C," a backup escape vessel with canvas siding that was one of the last lifeboats to be lowered from the ship.

They happened to share the same lifeboat as Joseph Bruce Ismay, the chairman of the White Star Line, which owned the Titanic. Ismay, who was later pilloried for saving himself instead of going down with the ship despite being such a high-ranking official, testified in official inquiries that "four Chinamen were in the boat" in which he had escaped. The ship's quartermaster, George T. Rowe, was on "Collapsible C" as well and also testified to the presence of the Chinese passengers, though he suggested they had "found" the four men "between the seats" only at daybreak.

Schwankert noted that the official testimony was instrumental in getting their research started on the Chinese survivors.



Of the six survivors, five made it onto lifeboats and one man was rescued while clinging to a wooden plank out at sea.

More than a century after the Titanic sank in April 1912; few new stories surface from the wreck. When documentary filmmaker Arthur Jones and his team started work on "The Six" — their film about the ship's six Chinese survivors — in 2012, they kept expecting to find that someone else had already told the story. When RMS Titanic sank in April 1912, its 700 survivors were welcomed into New York with open arms...save for six Chinese men. This new documentary traces their remarkable untold story and the history of the anti-Chinese immigration laws which swept Europe and North America in the 20th century.

When documentary filmmaker Arthur Jones and his team started work on "The Six" — their film about the ship's six Chinese survivors — in 2012, they kept expecting to find that someone else had already told the story.

HISTORY FORGOTTEN

Yet the history of the Chinese passengers who escaped the Titanic has largely been forgotten, even in their homeland, as discriminatory U.S. immigration policies and a cultural imperative of self-effacement combined to obscure their tale.

A still from "The Six," an upcoming documentary about the little-known Chinese survivors of the Titanic. (LP DOCS/Merryman Films)

ODDS OF SURVIVING

The odds were stacked against them: The average survival rate for men in third class was just one in six. But when di-

aster struck, being a poor sailor with

limited English turned into an advantage for the eight Chinese men on board — and six of them survived.

All eight Chinese men hailed from southern China. They had previously worked on cargo ships traveling between China and Europe, and they likely intended to migrate to the U.S. to start a new life.

They boarded the Titanic in Southampton, England, on a single ticket listing eight names — a common practice for third-class passengers. Like other unmarried third-class men, they were housed in windowless cabins in the bow of the ship.

Their names vary on a number of manifests, but U.S. Immigration recorded them as Ah Lam (or Ali Lam), Len Lam, Bing Lee (or Lee Bing), Fang Lang, Chip Chang (or Chang Chip), Foo Cheang (or Choong Foo), and Ling Hee. They all traveled on a single ticket, number 1601 (£59, 9s, 11d).

Schwankert noted that the official testimony was instrumental in getting their research started on the Chinese survivors.



Photo provided by QC Media shows a scene from The Six.

(Courtesy www.washingtonpost.com, www.scmp.com, variety.com, www.maritime-executive.com, www.globaltimes.cn, www.xinhuanet.com/english)