

## Deadly Outbreak at Polam Kopitiam

A tragic food poisoning outbreak at the Malaysian restaurant chain Polam Kopitiam in Taipei's Xinyi District has brought the dangers of Bongkrek acid into sharp focus. Health Minister Hsue revealed that, as of early April, there was a current total of 34 medical cases, including two deaths and 33 positive tests for Bongkrek acid. Found in rice products contaminated by a rare bacterium, Bongkrek acid is known for its lethal potency.

Investigations into how the food at Polam Kopitiam became contaminated are ongoing. Patrons who dined at the Xinyi branch between March 19 and 22 and consumed specific rice noodle dishes fell victim to this dangerous toxin. According to Deputy Health Minister Victor Wang, these diners suffered severe symptoms, including acute liver and subsequent organ failure.

Bongkrek acid, first identified in Indonesia, is known to fatally damage the mitochondria in human cells. Even a milligram of this toxin can be lethal, causing symptoms akin to acute gastroenteritis, followed by possible multiple organ failure within a day. Unfortunately, there is no antidote for Bongkrek



acid poisoning, with only supportive therapies available.

The ongoing investigation by the Taiwan Food and Drug Administration involves collecting patient specimens and food samples from the restaurant. Comprehensive testing for Bongkrek acid, as well as for other potential toxins like pesticides, is being conducted. This outbreak of Bongkrek acid poisoning is a first in Taiwan's history of collective food poisoning incidents. The Ministry of Health and Welfare has established a "Baolin Teahouse Food Poisoning Task Force." Those who visited Baolin Teahouse between 3/19 and 3/26 and experienced symptoms of diarrhea should report to the task force for immediate case tracking.

## Reading Comprehension

- ( ) 1. What's the second paragraph mainly about? (main idea)
- (A) The popularity of the rice noodle dishes.
  - (B) The history of Polam Kopitiam.
  - (C) The impact of the food poisoning incident.
  - (D) The manufacturing process of rice noodles.
- ( ) 2. What kind of dangerous substance was found in the contaminated food? (supporting details)
- (A) Pesticides.
  - (B) Bongkreik acid.
  - (C) Mitochondria.
  - (D) Preservative.
- ( ) 3. 請從下列 (A) 到 (E) 中，選出關於 Bongkreik acid 敘述正確的選項。(多選題) (supporting details)
- (A) There is currently no cure for Bongkreik acid poisoning.
  - (B) Taiwan has not experienced similar outbreaks in the past.
  - (C) The symptoms of Bongkreik acid poisoning are similar to food poisoning.
  - (D) Researchers are close to developing an antidote for Bongkreik acid poisoning.
  - (E) Bongkreik acid only causes slight stomach discomfort and is not deadly.
4. Which word in the third paragraph means "a sign that shows a person is sick or has a health problem"? (填空) (words in context)
- 

## Vocabulary and Phrases

- |                      |                                       |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. contaminate v. 汙染 | 4. acute adj. 急性的，劇烈的                 | 7. gastroenteritis n. 腸胃炎 |
| 2. toxin n. 毒素       | 5. be known to do something phr. 眾所周知 | 8. antidote n. 解毒劑        |
| 3. diner n. 用餐者      | 6. lethal adj. 致命的                    | 9. therapy n. 治療；療法       |
- 
-

# Teenage Heroes Emerge Amid Moscow Concert Tragedy

During the tragic events at Moscow's Crocus City Hall music venue, two teenage cloakroom workers, Islam Khalilov and Artyom Donskoy, displayed remarkable heroism. Despite the panic and chaos caused by a terror attack executed by four gunmen, these young boys, aged 15 and 14, 1 guided attendees towards exits and safety. This act during a time of crisis earned them official recognition and bravery awards from Russia's children's rights commissioner, despite her controversial standing with the International Criminal Court.

The attack, which led to the tragic death of at least 137 concertgoers, was reportedly carried out by four men who were later brought to court, showing clear signs of physical assault. The attackers, identified as Tajik nationals, have been charged with terrorism, with the Islamic State group (IS) claiming responsibility for the attack. The truthfulness of the video evidence 2 by IS, depicting the attack, has been recognized.

While investigating the unfolding events, Russian officials, including President Vladimir Putin, suggested a potential link to Ukrainian involvement,



a claim that has been strongly 3 by Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky. This incident has escalated tensions in Russia, 4 towards Central Asians, and has led to increased scrutiny of migrants from Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, who form a significant part of Russia's workforce.

The response to this crisis includes considerations by Russian authorities for stricter migrant controls. Meanwhile, the commendable actions of Islam and Artyom have 5 symbols of hope and courage, earning them the support and appreciation of influential figures like the Grand Mufti of Russia and rapper Morgenshtern. Investigations into this horrific terror attack continue, as the nation grapples with its aftermath and implications.

## Fill in the Blanks

(A) denied

(B) released

(C) bravely

(D) particularly

(E) become

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

## Vocabulary and Phrases

- |                                   |                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1. venue <i>n.</i> 場地             | 4. concertgoer <i>n.</i> 常去聽音樂會的人 | 7. escalate <i>v.</i> (使) 加劇               |
| 2. terror attack <i>phr.</i> 恐怖攻擊 | 5. assault <i>n.</i> 毆打；攻擊        | 8. grapple with something <i>phr.</i> 盡力解決 |
| 3. recognition <i>n.</i> 認可       | 6. unfold <i>v.</i> (形勢或事件) 發展    | 9. aftermath <i>n.</i> 後果                  |

### 譯

#### 寶林茶室爆發食物中毒案

位於臺北信義區的馬來西亞連鎖餐廳寶林茶室爆發了一起悲劇性的食物中毒事件，邦克列酸的危險成為人們極為關注的焦點。衛福部長薛瑞元透露，截至4月初，目前共有34例醫療病例，其中2例死亡，33例邦克列酸檢測呈陽性。邦克列酸存在於一種罕見細菌污染的米製品中，以其致命的效力而聞名。

寶林茶室食品如何受到污染的調查正在進行中。3月19日至22日期間在信義分店用餐並食用特定米線菜餚的顧客成為這種危險毒素的受害者。衛福部次長王必勝表示，這些食客出現了嚴重的症狀，包括急性肝炎和隨後的器官衰竭。

邦克列酸是在印尼首次被發現，已知會對人類細胞中的粒線體造成致命的損害。即使一毫克的此種毒素也可能致命，引起類似急性腸胃炎的症狀，接著可能在一天內導致多重器官衰竭。不幸的是，邦克列酸中毒沒有解毒劑，只能採用支持療法。

臺灣食品藥物管理署正在進行的調查包含了從餐廳收集病患標本和食物樣本。目前正在對邦克列酸以及農藥等其他潛在毒素進行全面測試。這次爆發的邦克列酸中毒事件，是臺灣史上首例集體食物中毒事件。衛福部成立了「寶林茶室食物中毒專案小組」。3月19日至3月26日曾到訪寶林茶室並出現腹瀉症狀的人士，應立即向專案小組通報，以便立即追蹤病例。

### 譯

#### 莫斯科音樂會悲劇中出現少年英雄

在莫斯科番紅花城市大廳發生的悲劇中，兩名青少年衣帽間員工 Islam Khalilov 和 Artyom Donskoy 展現了非凡的英勇行為。儘管四名槍手實施的恐怖攻擊造成了恐慌和混亂，這兩位年齡分別為15歲和14歲的小男孩仍然勇敢地引導參加者走向出口和安全的地方。在危機時刻的這種行為讓他們獲得了來自俄羅斯兒童權利專員的官方認可和勇氣獎，儘管該名權利專員在國際刑事法院的地位仍然存在著爭議。

據報導，這次攻擊是由四名男子實施，導致至少137名音樂會觀眾慘死，他們後來被帶上法庭，身上露出明顯的毆打痕跡。攻擊者為塔吉克國民，已被指控犯為恐怖主義，而伊斯蘭國(IS)聲稱對此攻擊負責。IS發布描述攻擊事件影片證據的真實性已被確認。

在調查正在發生的事件時，包括總統普丁在內的俄羅斯官員暗示，這可能與烏克蘭的參與有關，但烏克蘭總統 Volodymyr Zelensky 強烈否認了這一說法。這一事件加劇了俄羅斯的緊張局勢，特別是針對亞洲中部的緊張局勢，並導致對來自烏茲別克、塔吉克和吉爾吉斯的移民進行更嚴格的審查，這些移民構成了俄羅斯勞動力的重要組成部分。

應對這場危機的措施包括俄羅斯當局考慮採取更嚴格的移民控制措施。同時，Islam 和 Artyom 值得推崇的行動已成為希望和勇氣的象徵，為他們贏得了俄羅斯的大穆夫提和饒舌歌手 Morgenshtern 等有影響力人物的支持和讚賞。當俄羅斯正在努力應對其後果和影響時，對這起可怕恐怖攻擊的調查仍在繼續進行當中。

閱讀測驗解答：1. C 2. B 3. AB 4. symptoms

文意選填解答：1. C 2. B 3. A 4. D 5. E

### Acknowledgments

“Deadly Outbreak at Polam Kopitiam” by Steph Pai／審者：蘇文賢

“Teenage Heroes Emerge Amid Moscow Concert Tragedy” by Steph Pai

### Picture Credits

All pictures in this publication are authorized for use by Shutterstock.



三民新聞宅急通



三民東大英文  
LINE