23 dead in karaoke bar fire
Authorities probing country’s deadliest blaze since 2018

**Vietnam**

A fire tore through a karaoke bar in southern Vietnam, killing 23 people and leaving 11 injured, a local official said.

The blaze engulfed the second and third floors of the building on Tuesday night, triggering panicky and stampedes, and fires broke out in the building. Many residents were able to escape, but others were trapped. Firefighters and police raced into the building to rescue those trapped.

Staffers said that the fire started in the kitchen area and quickly spread to the rest of the building. The fire was extinguished within an hour, but the damage was extensive. At least 23 people were killed and 11 were injured. No cause of the fire has been determined.

**Thailand**

An investigation into the fire at a karaoke bar in Nakhon Pathom province has revealed that there were no warning systems in place. The fire started in the kitchen area and quickly spread to the rest of the building, causing panic and stampedes.

Local police said that the karaoke bar had been operating for several years and had a license to operate. The cause of the fire is still under investigation. No casualties were reported.

**In and around CHINA**

**Beijing**

The death toll in this week’s earthquake in western China has jumped to 74 with another 28 people still missing. The government has reported 10 people missing and 53 injured in the earthquake. The earthquake is the worst to hit China in the past decade. The death toll is expected to rise as rescue efforts continue.

**In and around Thailand**

China has provided a $10 million emergency loan to help with the rescue efforts.

**In and around Singapore**

A 20-year-old man was arrested for setting fire to a karaoke bar in Singapore. The man allegedly set fire to the bar with a Molotov cocktail, causing widespread panic and resulting in the deaths of 23 people and injuries to 11 others. The investigation is ongoing.

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