

**12 YEARS
A-CHANGIN'**

Double Down!
ADVERTISING HERE
+853 287 160 81

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



N.º 3483

MONDAY
02 Mar 2020

T. 19°/ 23°

Air Quality Good

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

MOP 8.00
HKD 10.00



**'NO GOING OUT, NO CROWDING'
REMAINS THE KEY MESSAGE FROM
THE GOVERNMENT AS MORE OF
MACAU RETURNS TO LIFE TODAY**

P2

**LAWYERS SAY BUSINESS MAY
RELY ON 'FORCE MAJEURE'
CONTRACT CLAUSES**

P4

**HONG KONG MEDIA TYCOON AND
DEMOCRACY ADVOCATE JIMMY LAI
WAS AMONG ACTIVISTS SWEEPED UP
IN A FRESH WAVE OF ARRESTS**

P12

AP PHOTO



Japan The last group of about 130 crew members got off the Diamond Princess yesterday, vacating the contaminated cruise ship and ending Japan's much criticized quarantine that left more than one fifth of the ship's original population infected with the new virus. Japanese Health Minister Katsunobu Kato told a news conference that the ship is now empty and ready for sterilization and safety checks to prepare for its next voyage.

Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said his country's borders with Europe were open Saturday, making good on a longstanding threat to let refugees into the continent as thousands of migrants gathered at the frontier with Greece. More on p8

Turkey Russia's Foreign Ministry is protesting attacks on three journalists of the country's Sputnik news agency in Turkey and their subsequent detention. Government-owned Sputnik, which operates news websites in about 30 languages, said angry mobs tried to break into the apartments of three staffers in the Turkish capital Ankara on Saturday night, threatening physical violence and demanding they stop their work.

AP PHOTO



Yemen's Houthi rebels wrested control of a strategic city in the country's north, officials said yesterday, in a major blow to the internationally recognized government and the Saudi-led coalition that backs it. Yemen, the Arab world's poorest country, has been convulsed by civil war since 2014. The Saudi-led coalition intervened against the Houthis the following year.

More on backpage

HUBEI RESCUE MISSION

MACAU WILL ATTEMPT TO REPATRIATE 50 LOCAL RESIDENTS AS THE CITY PREPARES FOR THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO: A WAVE OF NEW INFECTIONS

P6

AP PHOTO



BLOOMBERG



**GOV'T RELIEF MEASURES MAY BE TOO
LITTLE, TOO LATE TO SAVE SMES**

P4-5



**GROSS GAMING REVENUE SUFFERS
RECORD 87% PLUNGE IN VIRUS BLOW**

P3

NO GOING OUT, NO CROWDING

GOVERNMENT URGES CAUTION AS BUSINESS, TOURISM SERVICES RESUME

ANTHONY LAM

TODAY sees the full resumption of government offices and entertainment venues across the city after a suspension in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, but the Health Bureau (SSM) maintains its recommendation of “no going out, no crowding.”

At yesterday's daily press briefing of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, SSM Director Lei Chin Ion was asked whether his team has contingency plans in connection to the resumption of a series of public services and facilities.

In response, the director first pointed out that all previous decisions, including this resumption, are the fruits of comprehensive considerations. “It is our 26th day without new infections,” the director said.

He thanked all Macau residents for working together and staying aligned to the government's policies and measures to have preliminarily cut off a possible community outbreak.

“We can say that the risk of a community outbreak in Macau is very low,” the SSM director continued. “Many experts have stated the importance of the prevention of the spread of Covid-19, but we can't paralyze the society extensively to achieve that.” He hinted that the disease may continue to exist with intermittent new infections.

He also pointed to the fact that besides government entities, there



are a lot of private entities in Macau, the employees of which need to be paid. “With sufficient preventive measures in place, I think [resumption] is feasible,” said Lei.

Masks should be worn at work and people should refrain from leaving home, the director suggested. He also emphasized that gathering poses significant risk. “We can see that many cases in other places were spread at gatherings,” the director said.

If returning back to an office environment is inevitable, the bureau director reminded workers to maintain a meter's distance from one another. Companies should also pay special attention to ventilation, which is essential to disease prevention.

With regards to quarantine measures, the SSM was asked whether it has plans to extend the quarantine period from the current 14 days, given examples

elsewhere showed incubation periods of up to a month or even longer.

Lei reminded the press briefing attendees of the importance of scientific data. He said there was a case in which the incubation period had gone up to 90 days. “However, [expert epidemiologist] Zhong Nanshan said it was an isolated case,” the director explained. “Scientifically, incubation periods mostly last for three to seven days. Quarantine

measures for 14 days should be sufficient.”

Without plans to extend the quarantine period, the SSM was then asked about the quarantine measures for cross-border students. Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the SSM's Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), said that those students with a home in Macau should return to the SAR as soon as possible. “Some of them have gone to the mainland to visit relatives,” she said. “But the government has been urging them to come back as soon as possible.”

Since school resumption is unlikely to occur this month - after a new case was confirmed recently in neighboring Guangdong province - students may be sent to tuition centers, resuming from today, for extracurricular lessons for the time being.

“Students returning from the mainland should quarantine themselves for 14 days,” said Leong. “It is a crucial measure if they want to resume their tuition plan.”

Since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak, the SSM has conducted nearly 3,000 Covid-19 tests on suspected and confirmed patients.

For the time being, the SSM has ordered 12,000 test kits from around the world, with a significant number of kits in reserve. Leong said the procurement of such test kits has not been particularly challenging to date.

The SSM director stressed that the Macau government is trying its best to source face-masks globally, excluding on the mainland, because it does not want to overburden the mainland's supply of masks. Updates on mask sales will be given in due course.

Parish churches to partially open with new guidelines

THE Macau Diocese will partially reopen parish churches starting Saturday, March 7, with followers instructed to adhere to a set of guidelines to limit the potential spread of the Covid-19 coronavirus.

According to a statement, Sunday masses will remain suspended until further notice, while parish churches will only be opened for liturgies with

a small number of participants.

Open on weekdays, these churches will only accommodate private prayers and small-scale religious activities, such as weekday masses, as reception of groups of pilgrims from abroad will remain temporarily suspended.

Devotees entering churches are required to comply with public epidemic prevention meas-

ures and instructions laid down by the parishes.

These include “wearing masks at all times, submitting to body temperature checks, use of liquid disinfectants, sitting at a considerable distance from others, complying with the instructions of staff regarding movement within the church premises, and observing the designated entry and exit,” the statement read.

Meanwhile, the Diocese encouraged the devotees to “live out the spirit of Sunday observance by continuing watching the live broadcast of masses at home, reading of scripture, spiritual communion, and other pious exercises such as the rosary.”

In response to the epidemic situation and in order to cooperate with the public protection and

disease prevention measures, Bishop Stephen Lee issued a directive earlier this month to suspend public masses in the Diocese from February 6 to February 19. However, it was decided to continually suspend public liturgical services until March 6.

The Diocese has continually provided broadcast of Sunday masses online in different time slots according to three

different languages.

Meanwhile, all scheduled public masses in the chapels of religious community centers and elderly homes remain suspended.

The Procession of the Passion of Our Lord, the God Jesus - one of the church's biggest annual religious celebration - was also canceled, but the mass and novena prayer were streamed online. **LV**

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+17,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Lynzy Valles, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR
Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Gross gaming revenue suffers record plunge from virus blow

GROSS gaming revenue reported a record drop in Macau last month, down 87.8% from a year earlier, according to data from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Macau revenue amounted to 3.1 billion patacas (\$386.5 million) in February, having fallen to levels not seen in more than 15 years. In a survey, analysts had predicted a median 90% slide, with most holding that the unprecedented decline will persist into March.

Year-to-date revenue sits at 25.2 billion patacas, down almost 50% compared to a year earlier.

The slump follows a decision by the government to suspend casino operations from February 5 for just over two weeks, dealing another blow to the gambling mecca that's already struggling to recover from a revenue decline in 2019. The closure was the longest on record and only the second such instance, after a typhoon in 2018 forced a 33-hour shutdown.

Even after the partial resumption of business from February 20, gaming floors have seen few footfalls as China continued to halt individual and group visas to Macau

BLOOMBERG



and restrict transportation in a prolonged fight against the spread of the virus.

The respiratory disease has killed more than 2,900 people, most of them in China, while the number of infections has topped 85,000 globally. Measures to control the epidemic and people's reluctance to visit crowded places have curtailed spending, weighing on

China's \$14 trillion economy, half of which has remained idle since late January.

Casinos are about to take "an extremely bumpy ride" in 2020, according to a Feb. 25 note by DS Kim, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co. in Hong Kong. He estimates gaming revenue will drop 24% and industry earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and

amortization will plummet 30% this year.

Galaxy Entertainment Group's Deputy Chairman Francis Lui said late last week that the impact of the virus "won't be small." He said he expects construction of the company's new casinos in Macau will be slowed by the virus outbreak.

Last year, gross gaming revenue dropped 3.4% in year-on-year terms to about 292 billion patacas. Macau casinos struggled to adjust to a perfect storm of economic headwinds, including fallout from the China-U.S. trade war, relentless protests in neighboring Hong Kong and a crackdown on online gambling in both Macau and the mainland. The year ended with a visit by President Xi Jinping in December, when gross gaming revenue tumbled 13.7%.

Prior to the coronavirus outbreak, analysts had expected a bounce on pent-up demand in the first few months of the year. That bounce may yet come with some analysts still predicting a recovery as early as the second half of this year.

DB/BLOOMBERG

FOURTH QUARTER DECLINE

Macau's economy contracted by the most in almost four years in the fourth quarter, even before the coronavirus outbreak forced its casinos to shut down for about two weeks. The city's gross domestic product fell 8.1% in the fourth quarter from a year earlier, the most since the first three months of 2016. That was almost double

the revised 4.4% decline in the previous three months, as revenue from casinos slumped 8.4%. The economy of Macau has experienced negative growth since the first quarter of 2019, owing to decreases in investment and exports of services, according to the local government. The city's economy shrank 4.7% in 2019.

Tourism, health chiefs inspect leisure venues about to reopen

DANIEL BEITLER,
JULIE ZHU

THE director of the Macao Government Tourism Office, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, and the director of the Health Bureau, Lei Chin Ion, inspected several entertainment venues on Saturday to ensure that the preventive measures designed to curb the spread of the Covid-19 are being implemented.

On Thursday, entertainment and leisure venues were told that they could reopen to the public from today. These premises, as well as casinos, were closed following an Executive Order on February 5, and had not been allowed to reopen when the 15-day gaming



suspension expired.

Earlier, representatives from the sector had called on the government to allow them to reopen, in some cases seeking assistance from Macau lawmakers.

On Friday, a group of six people representing the city's karaoke establishments, nightclubs, and bars submitted a petition to the government head-

quarters urging the refund of tourism tax paid by the industry last year.

The representatives want the local government to give them a one-off cash payment as direct financial help. Moreover, these industries want the local government to either extend the exemption of tourism tax or to suspend the tourism tax, together with a full return of that paid in 2019.

Paul M. L. Iec, one of the six representatives who sent a petition to the government headquarters, said that the majority of entertainment clubs spend between 200,000 patacas and 300,000 patacas for a month's operations. Iec said that Macau has over 100 entertainment clubs, further claiming that approximately 10% of these companies

have decided to close down their businesses.

Those entertainment venues that are reopening will have to abide by a set of new guidelines, as determined by the government. All patrons must wear face masks, while those with respiratory symptoms must not be allowed entry. Venues should only accommodate half of their usual maxi-

mum capacity and people – both staff and patrons – should stay one meter away from one another as much as possible.

Yesterday was the 26th day without a new coronavirus infection confirmed in Macau. The government has warned the public to continue following its recommendations and not to become complacent.

TRAVEL WARNINGS ISSUED FOR ITALY, SOUTH KOREA

The Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) has issued travel warnings for both Italy and South Korea amid notable outbreaks of Covid-19 in both countries. However, Japan and Iran, which are experiencing a similar situation, do not face the same travel warning, as issued by GGCT. Italy and South Korea are on GGCT's level 2 warning, which implies the avoidance of "non-essential travel". Countries on the same warning level include Turkey and Egypt, for reasons other than the coronavirus. As of yesterday afternoon, South Korea has more than 3,500 confirmed cases and 17 deaths. Italy has more than 1,100 cases with 29 deaths. Following them are Iran and Japan with nearly 600 and 250 cases respectively and 43 and six deaths respectively.

24 CARRIERS CONFIRM FLIGHTS CANCELED THROUGH MARCH

Flights in and out of Macau will remain largely suspended this month, with 24 carriers now announcing further cancellations. According to a note published on Saturday by the Macau International Airport (MIA), the 24 Asian airlines scrapping flights in March include local operator Air Macau, as well nine mainland carriers: China Eastern Airlines, China Southern Airlines, Juneyao Airlines, Shanghai Airlines, Zhejiang Loong Airlines, Hainan Airlines, Xiamen Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines and Spring Airlines. From Taiwan, Eva Airways, Tiger Air Taiwan and Starlux Airlines have announced cancellations. South Korea's Jejuair, Air Busan, Jin Air, Tway Air and Eastar Jet have also announced March cancellations, according to the MIA, as have Philippines Airlines and Cebu Pacific Air from the Philippines. The other airlines listed are Malaysia-based Air Asia, Singapore's Tiger Airways, and Vietnam Airlines and Bamboo Airways from Vietnam. The flight cancellations come as visitor arrivals to Macau sit at record-lows and after gross gambling revenue dropped 87.8% year-on-year last month.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUREAU TO REOPEN CERTAIN FACILITIES

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has announced that it will reopen some of its public venues, including public libraries and museums, in phases starting today. Twelve of the Bureau's 17 libraries will open today. Nine independently located libraries reopened yesterday afternoon. The Archives of Macao reopens today as well. However, the Macao Cultural Centre is opening its box office only. Shows at the Macao Cultural Centre have been canceled since the start of the Covid-19 outbreak in Macau. The Macao Museum and the Macao Museum of Art will resume operations on Wednesday. The Cinematheque Passion, a concession cinema, will resume with Swedish film "About Endlessness" on Friday.

SME relief measures described as

RENATO MARQUES

THE government's financial support measures directed at small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) have been dubbed inefficient and inconsistent for lacking the exceptionality that the current economic situation demands.

This is an opinion expressed by many among lawmakers, economists and SME administrators and owners, who have been calling on the government to amend the proposed measures as quickly as possible.

Lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho is just one voice who has openly criticizing the measures, first announced in mid-February by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong.

"[The government] should not come with the humbug that they are working to help companies," Coutinho said.

"[These measures] already existed in the past; they are insufficient responses to overcome the current difficulties. We need extraordinary measures to face this critical situation and the best way is to do it is to be enforcing new interest-free loans," the lawmaker was quoted as saying in *Hoje Macau*.

Coutinho has supported several sectors to deliver petition letters to the government asking for financial help amid the economic shutdown of the past month.

Coutinho explained to the Times that one petition, representing a total of 2,400 SMEs among beauty salons, gymnasiums, bars, and entertainment facilities, was delivered to the government last week. This week, another petition lists another 400 SMEs, including clothing stores, trinkets shops, butchers and other food products establishments, who will also call for help due to the lack of customers.

The lawmaker also said that he is aware of an upcoming "mass layoff" at renowned brand shops, as well as employees being forced to use not only their 2020 annual leave but also their paid vacation dates from 2021. In the meantime, others face unpaid leave until further notice and there is no indication of when they can go back to earning a wage.

RENTAL MARKET MADE OF PAST MISTAKES

Economist Albano Martins has warned about the worrying impacts of an economic crisis, during and after the Covid-19 outbreak. For the economist, more than the impact to gross domestic product, the government should focus on the economic matters that are more closely felt by society, such as the employment rate.

According to Martins, the major problems faced by companies and individuals today come from "mistakes made in the past."



Martins told the Times that although all measures designed to help people are positive, those announced by the government to help SMEs do not address the two biggest difficulties – the dif-

ficulty in paying the high rents of the city as well as the difficulty affording wages in a scenario of very low or near null economic activity.

Although a general advocate

Lawyers say 'force majeure' clauses may exempt businesses from honoring contracts

LYNZY VALLES

BUSINESS contracts signed prior to the coronavirus outbreak may not be fulfilled, according to two local lawyers, because of their inclusion of a 'force majeure' clause, designed to remove liability in the event of natural or unavoidable catastrophes.

In view of the consequences of the outbreak, including measures and restrictions introduced by the local government, Covid-19 could be considered a case of 'force majeure.'

On occasions when an unpredictable impediment beyond the control of the parties ren-

ders the performance of a given contract absolutely impossible, the parties may, according to Macau law, be exempted from honoring their business contracts.

In an article issued by Rato, Ling, Lei & Cortés Advogados, lawyers Pedro Cortés and José Filipe Salreta argue that recourse to a 'force majeure' clause can take place under only a specific contract. The contract depends on whether the parties have inserted a specific clause to that effect - or under the general stipulations of the law, such as Decree-Law 74/99/M (legal regime of public works contracts).

"The recourse to 'force majeure' is difficult to consider since it does not exist as an autonomous legal concept under Macau law – except in the referred regime of public works contracts – without prejudice of the definitions that might exist in a specific contract," said Cortés and Salreta.

"The mention of 'force majeure' in Macau law is manifold. However, and without prejudice to the specific case of the abovementioned Decree-Law 74/99/M, it does not exist as a general clause for termination under Macau law," wrote the lawyers.

They added that con-

tracts could be terminated based only on the law or by mutual agreement.

Meanwhile, Macau has another legal framework to cover cases when a contract cannot be fulfilled but its non-fulfillment cannot be attributed to the debtor. This allows the injured party to terminate the contract or modify it according to the actual situation.

However, this is only possible if the circumstances on which the parties based the decision to conclude a contract have undergone an abnormal change. As a general rule, when performance becomes

impossible for reasons not attributable to the debtor, the obligation will be extinguished.

The lawyers then suggested that another solution would be the termination or modification of a contract due to changing circumstances.

"However, the termination or modification of a contract due to changing circumstances is rarely applied by the Macau courts, since the obligations which ensue from a contract must gravely breach the principle of good faith and must not arise from the normal course of the business at hand," said the lawyers.

inefficient and lacking exceptionality



of the free market, Martins noted that there are exceptions. The current situation is very different, he said, and "exceptional times demand exceptional measures."

"What the government should have done in the past was not to allow rental increases above a defined ceiling, decided by the Chief Executive, to control the market speculation. This [mechanism] existed before the handover," he said to the Times, noting that the abandonment of this regulatory power only benefited the real estate industry.

"Now the only way to do this is to change the law and we know that with the current composition of the Legislative Assembly, that is unlikely to happen."

For Martins, the "instability created by the rental market led to the most vulnerable part of the population, including [parts of] the middle-class, heading to Zhuhai to flee from the 'rent casino,' a severe mistake and an attack on the competitiveness of Macau."

The economist warns that if the government does not resolve this imbalance, the oft-touted integration of Macau into the Greater Bay Area project will consist only of mass migration across the border in pursuit of cheaper housing. "We must put an end to the housing bubble," Martins declared.

Martins also said that the existing policies announced by

the government are somewhat confusing and are not sufficient to address the "emergency of an ecosystem where around 90% of the companies are SMEs."

As for the support for small businesses, Martins said that the government should offer to cover a percentage of wage costs. "The government should support in an interest-free manner, a percentage [of these wage costs]. The government knows exactly how much the companies spend on wages as they have the professional tax declarations every year," he said, adding that it is very easy for the Financial Services Bureau to access such data.

Jenny Lao-Phillips, dean of the School of Business and Law at the University of Saint Joseph also agrees with some of the ideas expressed by Martins and Coutinho. The scholar both noted the relevance of rent control as well as the difficulty of enforcing such a policy.

"Rent control can help SMEs a lot, but it may not be easy to change the law as it affects the whole real estate market," she said, adding that while it is true that many of the local SMEs are somewhat related to the hotel and casino industry as service providers and suppliers, it is also a fact that, depending on their locations, small shops located in residential areas can equally suffer due to the lack of consumption from local costumers.

OLD MEASURES DRESSED IN NEW CLOTHES

There is also some measure of debate about just how novel the raft of financial measures announced by the government actually are.

For example, one measure announced by the government is an interest-free loan of up to 600,000 patacas for SMEs, which is to be paid back within eight years. Such measure has been part of the SME Aid Scheme from the Economic Bureau since 2003, being consecutively continued in 2006, 2009, 2012 and most re-

cently 2017.

The newly-announced Credit Guarantee Plan is identical to a measure that came into force in 2014 under the name of the SME Credit Guarantee Scheme, while the percentages and total amounts of the plan and scheme are also identical.

The only novelties among the measures presented by Secretary Lei were those that aimed to support the economic situation of individuals, including a slight reduction in professional taxes, a measure that several local economists expect will have a low impact as it accounts for about 2,000 patacas for the average person on an average income.

In addition to the tax reduction, the secretary has also announced the creation of the Electronic Consumption Voucher in the amount of 3,000 patacas for every resident of the SAR. The measure has already proved popular with the public, but some economists warn that it may not produce immediate effects.

NO WAY BUT THE LAWMAKER WAY

Economics aside, one reason the spending boost to the economy might not produce immediate effects is because the policies will still require approval at Macau's Legislative Assembly. The implementation of the government's financial support measures might fall short in the people's expectations as the legal procedures for their approval and enforcement are inevitable, lawyer Sérgio de Almeida Correia explained to the Times.

Correia explained that by law, "all measures that involve the changing of the [annual] budget or the taxation regime into force need to be approved by the Legislative Assembly. There is no way to go around this."

More troublesome perhaps was the fact that Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng's government has only recently been has not yet been granted approval by the Legislative Assembly for this year's policies, creating even larger limitations for Macau's top official.

"The only actions that the Chief Executive can take [under the competencies given by the Basic Law] is to issue independent administrative regulations and executive orders. Even so, the issuing of administrative regulations needs to correspond with the implementation and execution of the government's policies previously approved [by the Legislative Assembly], and at this moment we still don't have the policy address [for 2020 approved] because it was only programmed to be presented in March or April."

In Correia's opinion, there is only one technical possibility to accelerate the process - aside from the normal and expected procedure of approving the measures via a bill at the AL. This would be an amendment to the annual budget already approved, justified by "extraordinary expenses that have not been considered or foreseeable."

However, the amendment would not be permitted to add to the budget, only to transfer funding from items already approved in the budget.

The legal expert told the Times he regards this solution as unfeasible because the measures the government needs to take "far exceed all that has been budgeted."

Instead, to accelerate the process at the Legislative Assembly, the government could present the measures as a matter of urgency and call on the legislative body to schedule its discussion and approval at the earliest possible date.

"We are in a situation of calamity and such requests by the government would be perfectly understandable," Correia said.

SME CREDIT LIMIT SHRINKS ONE-QUARTER AS RECESSION KICKS IN

DANIEL BEITLER

CREDIT limit extended to new small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) shrank by over a quarter during the second half of last year, as banks adjusted to the onset of a technical recession in the city.

In the second half of 2019, the credit limit for new SMEs dropped 26.8% from the same period a year earlier, and 41.1% from the first half of 2019, according to the Monetary Authority of Macao.

This comes as the city officially entered into recession in the second quarter after posting the second consecutive quarter of negative growth.

Also at the end of last year, the outstanding balance of total SME loans decreased by 0.5% from the end of June 2019, but rose by 4.2% from a year

earlier to 94.5 billion patacas (about \$11.8 billion). By the end of the year, the outstanding balance of delinquent SME loans dropped by 11.1% from six months ago or 7.9% from a year earlier to 424.8 million patacas.

As much as 90% of Macau's businesses are classified as SMEs. According to data provided last month by the Statistics and Census Service, more than 2,800 new companies were incorporated during the second half of last year and just 5% of them were registered with capital of 1 million patacas or more.

The data release comes as the government prepares a raft of economic policies designed to reduce the impact of the coronavirus-induced economic shutdown of the past month. Tax breaks and interest-free loans for SMEs are among the measures expected to be rolled out soon.

Macau to repatriate 50 residents from China's Hubei Province

ANTHONY LAM

THE Macau government will start the repatriation of Macau residents from Hubei Province this coming weekend, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced yesterday, alongside the details of the mission.

The Center has shortlisted the first batch of 65 Macau residents currently in the central Chinese province, 50 of whom are willing to return to the special administrative region. The other 15, meanwhile, have chosen to remain in Hubei out of personal consideration.

A charter flight operated by local flag carrier, Air Macau, will depart for Wuhan and repatriate the people this Saturday.

"The mission has a considerable risk," Lei Chin Ion, director of the Health Bureau (SSM) told yesterday's daily press briefing. "Earlier, dean Gabriel Leung of the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine of the University of Hong Kong also commented on the high risk of the Hong Kong government's mission to repatriate their residents from the province."

The bureau's director stressed



that as it has to be done, plans and contingencies must be secured to ensure safety of everyone taking part, including flight crew and other supporting staff from the government. "The risk will be taken by the entire society," the

director pointed out.

Strict measures will be levied on the group of people. They include submission of a health evaluation form distributed by the SSM as the first step. The form will ask whether they have been to a hospital,

were in contact with an infected patient, had any respiratory symptoms or chronic diseases.

Connecting transport to the airport will be their own arrangement as the SSM director reminded that this part of the operation

could be very risky.

The returnees are required to abide with the government's instructions. They will have to be fully dressed in protective wear and required to remain in their seats for the duration of the flight. As such, diapers will be distributed to them.

No hand luggage will be allowed, which means all luggage will be checked in. Upon arrival in Macau, all bags will be sanitized.

Lei said the government has prepared for the worst-case scenario, which is a wave of new infections of at most 15 people, considering the province's infection rate being between 3% to 10%. Currently there are 148 Macau ID holders in Hubei.

Nonetheless, the risk of their return leading to a community outbreak should be small, according to Lei. "Upon arrival in Macau, they will be quarantined for 14 days at our facility in Coloane."

Extra charter flights may be possible but the government is still evaluating that possibility.

The SSM director admitted the government has faced public pressure about the repatriation of the Macau residents.

"Of course, it is our responsibility to take care of Macau residents," the director said. "Furthermore, we have been receiving complaints from those stranded Macau residents and the media. Other countries' repatriations have given hope to these Macau residents."

Chinese economy seen headed for deeper contraction on factory drop

CHINA'S economy could be heading for a worse-than-expected first-quarter contraction after the country's manufacturing sector reported activity was at a record

low in February due to the coronavirus outbreak. The manufacturing purchasing managers' index plunged to 35.7 in February from 50 the previous month, according

to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics on Saturday. Even before that data, the median forecast was that the economy would shrink in the three months through

March from the last quarter of 2019, and the surprisingly weak data prompted further cuts to that view.

Gross domestic product may now shrink by 2.5% in the first quarter from the previous period, Nomura Holdings Inc. economists led by Lu Ting said in a report on Saturday after the data release. That was a cut from their previous forecast of -1.5% in a Bloomberg survey last week. Standard Chartered Plc already expected a -1.5% contraction before the data, while Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. is forecasting a 2% drop, according to reports after the release.

If the economy was to contract, it would be the first time that has happened in comparable data back to 2011.

Pacific Investment Management Co. is another which sees the effects of the deadly outbreak causing a contraction, forecasting a 6% annualized drop in China's first-quarter gross domestic product.

The impact of this will be felt around the globe as China accounts for a quarter of worldwide manufacturing activity, they said.

"The longer quarantines depress Chinese economic activity, the more economic costs will rise," added analysts at Pimco. "It's both a supply and demand shock. For most countries, there will be a direct hit as exports to China slow."

The biggest concern is the uncertainty still surrounding the outbreak, whose tail will first hit economies across Asia from Japan to Malaysia before impacting Europe. The energy, automotive and airline sectors are the areas most at risk.

Pimco's view gels with Goldman Sachs

Group Inc. economists who said in a report Friday that global GDP will shrink on a quarterly basis in the first two quarters of this year before rebounding in the second half.

"Strenuous containment measures were taken after the outbreak of COVID-19, which understandably dampened economic activities in the short term," they wrote. "With the outbreak gradually under control, government agencies have been clearing the unwanted obstacles for production resumption."

Nomura's Lu also expects the March PMIs to rebound, but says activity data will be zero or negative as businesses won't be 100% back.

On a year-on-year comparison, the median forecast for first-quarter GDP growth is 4.3%. That was before Saturday's data. Nomura and ANZ both now see it rising 2%, while Standard Chartered expects a 2.8% expansion. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD

Prevent Novel Coronavirus Infection

1. Personal hygiene

- When sneezing or coughing, cover nose and mouth with a tissue and dispose of it properly. If you do not have a tissue, use your elbow or the inside of your sleeve.
- Wash hands in all hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer, soap and water for 20 seconds.
- If you need to spit, use a tissue. Do not spit on the ground or in a receptacle.
- Hold close contact with persons who have symptoms of respiratory infection.
- Avoid touching eye, nose, mouth and other mucous membranes.
- If developing fever or respiratory symptoms, wear a mask and avoid contact with other people.

2. Environmental hygiene

- Always clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home or workplaces with 1:100 diluted bleach solution.
- Make sure the drains and pipes are free from blockage and leakage; once a week, pour one teaspoon of 1:100 diluted bleach solution into the drain outlet, leave it for 5 minutes and then pour half a litre of water to maintain the water column in the pipe.
- After using the toilet, flush it with the lid closed.
- 1:100 diluted bleach solution: 1 part of bleach mixed with 99 parts of water.

Scan the QR Code to have direct access to the Special Webpage against epidemics. Hotline: 29710900

Go under URL: <https://www.ssm.gov.mo/PreventNovelCoronavirus/> Stay tuned to the latest epidemic information from the MSAR Government.

The Macao SAR Government urges:
Let's all persist; Avoid crowd gathering; Wash hands frequently;
Wear a mask properly; Declare health conditions; Reduce leaving Macao.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL



Australia's first virus death was Diamond Princess passenger

A 78-year-old man with coronavirus died in a Perth hospital, marking Australia's first fatality, after returning from the Diamond Princess cruise ship off the coast of Japan last month.

The man was initially sent to the Howard Springs facility in northern Australia after becoming ill on the flight back from Japan and was then moved to the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital in Perth where he died yesterday. His 79-year-old wife, who also tested positive for the virus, remains isolated in the hospital in a stable condition and there is no risk to the community, said Andrew Robertson, Western Australia's chief health officer.

Elsewhere in the country, two new cases emerged in recent days in Sydney and the Gold Coast after a man and a woman returned from trips to Iran. Australia over the weekend banned incoming travel from Iran for non-nationals, and Health Minister Greg Hunt said he has asked the deputy chief medical officer, Paul Kelly, to consider the appropriate level of travel advice for Italy. Restrictions on travel from mainland China were extended last week.

"Right from the outset, we've made it clear that we will take strong action, but that Australia is not immune," Hunt said in Melbourne on Sunday. There are now 27

confirmed coronavirus cases in Australia, he said.

The death comes just days after the Australian government activated an emergency plan to deal with the outbreak, when Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the risk of a global pandemic is "very much upon us." Thailand also recorded its first death from the coronavirus outbreak over the weekend.

The 35-year-old retail worker had dengue fever and the new disease known as Covid-19, Suwannachai Wattanayingcharoenchai, director general of the Department of Disease Control, said in a briefing yesterday. The patient had been hospitalized for nearly a month and died on Feb. 29 after multiple organ failure.

The patient had tested negative for the virus since Feb. 16 but "the damage was already done to his body" from the infection, said Tawee Chotpitayasunondh, adviser to the Department of Disease Control. The health ministry is still looking into the case, Suwannachai said.

Almost 3,000 people have died from the infection, mostly in epicenter China. Thailand has reported 42 cases of infection, with 30 of those discharged.

The epidemic saw the U.S. record its first fatality from the virus on Saturday and cases increased in France, Italy and South Korea. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

Restrictions on travel from mainland China were extended last week

Create A Better
TOMORROW TODAY
今天開創明天



MGM Engages the Hearts of its Team Members during the Epidemic



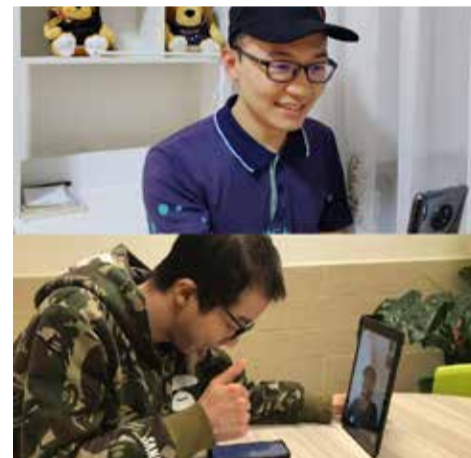
In the midst of the coronavirus epidemic, MGM has proactively supported anti-epidemic measures in collaboration with the Macau SAR government and the community, embracing its corporate social responsibility to the fullest. As a caring employer, MGM also stayed connected with team members during the epidemic, when a majority of them stayed off duty at home or worked from home as part of the government's measures to contain the spread of the virus. The Company effectively leveraged on its intranet and social media platforms to care for the community and share anti-epidemic tips along with heart-warming messages with team members during the period, generating a stronger sense of togetherness and helping them make good use of their time.

Volunteer Work Goes On

MGM attaches great importance to the health and safety of its team members. After the government announced a temporary closure of casinos, a majority of team members were either not required to be on duty and stayed at home or worked from home to protect themselves and their family.

While the epidemic makes us keep a distance from others, MGM still recognizes the importance of standing with the disabled members of the community during the city's fight against the epidemic. The Company organized volunteer team members who stayed at home to chat online with members of Long Cheng Center of the Fuhong Society of Macau, sending them care and sharing tips on epidemic prevention.

Mr. Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "Macau is a city of kindness. Under the leadership of the SAR government, we join hands with the community to fight against this epidemic. We have to thank our community partners, who have assisted us in sending warmth and supplies to the people in need, especially when we can't do that in person due to epidemic prevention reasons."



Cheering Up and Sharing Love

While MGM downsized its operations in response to the epidemic, some of its team members remained on the frontline to take good care of the property, serve our guests and, most importantly, maintain a high standard of hygiene. MGM sent thank-you messages to them through videos posted on its intranet and Facebook pages. To extend its care to all team members, the Company provided them with anti-epidemic messages and practical tips on personal hygiene through short but informative home-made videos. It also posted epidemic prevention guidelines by the government in its entire communication platform.

Boost Immunity with Home Workout

MGM persistently motivated employees to think positively, stay healthy and treasure their time with their family. Team members were also encouraged to boost their immunity with family members by working out together at home in the company of an MGM fitness instructor, who demonstrated a set of simple exercise in an engaging video clip. Besides, MGM also invited Chairman of Chinese Medicine Association of Macau, Paulo do Lago Comandante, to share tips with team members on a diet to boost wellness!



To view the series of home-made videos on cheering up MGM team members, free feel to visit MGMSHare at Facebook.

MGM
Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau
T 853 8802 2888 F 853 8802 3333
E sustainability@mgm-macau.com
W http://www.mgm.mo/



AP PHOTO



Turkish backed Syrian rebels enter the town of Saraqeb in Idlib province

Syria says two warplanes downed by Turkey as tensions soar

SYRIA'S official news agency said two of its warplane were shot down by Turkish forces inside northwest Syria, amid a military escalation there that's led to growing direct clashes between Turkish and Syrian forces.

SANA says the jets were targeted over the Idlib region, and that the four pilots ejected with parachutes and landed safely.

Turkey's Defense Ministry said it had shot down two SU-24 aircraft and destroyed air defense systems after one of its aerial drones was downed. Earlier, Syrian military-run media said it had downed a drone inside northwest Syria, and was closing its airspace for any flights or drones across the country's northwestern region. It said any aircraft that penetrates Syrian airspace will be treated as hostile and shot down.

The Syrian announcement came after two days of Turkish drone attacks in Idlib province that Syrian activists said caused heavy losses to Syrian government forces. These confrontations have added to soaring tensions between Turkey and Russia, which support opposing sides of the Syrian civil war.

Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had on Saturday announced his country opened its western borders to migrants and refugees hoping to head into the European Union. The United Nations said yesterday that at least 13,000 people were massed on Turkey's land border with Greece.

Erdogan did not explicitly link his decision to open the gates to Europe to the military escalation in Syria's northwestern Idlib province. However, he has warned that Turkey "can't handle a new wave of migration," an apparent reference to Idlib where hundreds of thousands of desperate Syrian civilians fleeing Syrian troop advances have moved toward the Turkish border.

Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar, speaking from military headquarters near the Syrian border, said Turkey aimed to confront Syrian government forces rather than Russian troops. He called on Moscow to persuade Syrian President Bashar Assad to withdraw to 2018 cease-fire lines on the edges of Idlib.

Referring to losses inflicted on Syria, he said Turkey had "neutralized" more than 2,200 Syrian troops, 103

tanks and eight helicopters.

"The Spring Shield operation, which was launched following the abominable attack in Idlib on Feb. 27, continues successfully," Akar said, referring to air strikes that killed 33 Turkish soldiers.

The operation is Turkey's fourth in the war-torn country since 2016.

The heavy fighting in northwest Syria has also triggered a humanitarian catastrophe and the single largest wave of displacement in the nine-year Syrian civil war.

Ankara is worried it might come under renewed international pressure to open its now sealed border with Syria and offer refuge to hundreds of thousands more Syrian civilians. Turkey already hosts 3.6 million Syrian refugees.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's decision to open his country's borders with Europe made good on a longstanding threat to let refugees into the continent. His announcement marked a dramatic departure from the current policy and an apparent attempt to pressure Europe into offering Turkey more support in dealing with the fallout from the Syrian war to its south.

The U.N.'s International Organization for Migration said Sunday that by the previous evening, its staff working along the Turkish-Greek land border "had observed at least 13,000 people gathered at the formal border crossing points at Pazarkule and Ipsala and multiple informal border crossings, in groups of between several dozen and more than 3,000."

Greek authorities fired tear gas and stun grenades through Saturday to prevent repeated attempts by a crowd of more than 4,000 people massed at the border crossing in Kastanies to cross.

Stavros Zamilides, president of the local community in Kastanies, said Turkish soldiers were actively helping people cross the Greek border clandestinely.

"Turkish soldiers with cutters in their hands were cutting the wires of the fence to lead the illegal migrants" into crossing the border, he said. "The attempt was thwarted by the intervention of our own patrol that happened to be passing that area on patrol at the time, and it repaired the damage in the fence," he added. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1956 KING OF JORDAN SACKS BRITISH GENERAL

King Hussein of Jordan has sacked the British commander of the Arab Legion in what is being seen as an effort to strengthen his own position within the Arab world.

Lieutenant General John Bagot Glubb, the British commander of the 20,000-strong Arab Legion, was ordered to leave Jordan within two hours - but the King relented and allowed him to remain overnight to pack his and his family's belongings.

He arrived at London airport this evening - 16 hours after his dismissal.

Eight other British officers holding key posts in the Legion have also been removed and replaced by Jordanians. Two Jordanian officers who had worked closely with General Glubb are being retired.

News of the General's departure was greeted with joyful demonstrations across the country.

Crowds gathered in the main streets and shouted slogans like, "Long live the King" and "Long live Arab co-operation and unity".

In dismissing General Glubb, the King has strengthened his own position by shedding the stigma of appearing to be a British puppet and by courting Arab nationalists.

Under General Glubb's command the Arab Legion has become one of the most efficient of the Arab armies. There are 67 British officers in the Legion. Arab nationalists say it represents British rather than Arab interests.

Under the terms of a 1948 treaty, the British government is allowed to retain airbases in Jordan and in return, it contributes a subsidy to the Legion. These funds are directly controlled by the General.

Speaking at London airport, General Glubb said Jordan and Britain had been friends for 35 years, "and the last thing I would like is for my personal affairs to cause any weakening of that friendship. I am neither shocked, dazed nor angry".

He added: "I have always been treated with the greatest kindness by the Hashemite Royal Family and have no complaints."

Tomorrow, General Glubb will report to the Foreign Office before going to Chequers for lunch with the Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Jordan emerged out of the post World War I division of the Middle East under British control.





It became independent in 1946. In 1948 a treaty of alliance allowed Britain to retain air bases and a small force in Jordan. In return, Britain continued to train and subsidise the Arab Legion which began as a security force and became the nucleus of the army.

King Hussein came to the throne in 1952 and ruled for 47 years until his death in 1999. He became a stabilising and moderating influence in a volatile Middle East.

After dismissing General Glubb, he issued a statement emphasising that Jordan would continue to respect the 1948 treaty. General Glubb returned to Britain as a private citizen. He became a writer, mostly on Arab affairs.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

 <p>ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19</p> <p>If your feet aren't planted firmly on the ground today, you're in danger of getting swept away in someone else's dreams! You can be supportive of your friends, without doing all the work for them.</p>	 <p>TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20</p> <p>If you're making any big decisions today, you need to be selfish with your time. Take all you need to learn what you need to know. You have to feel comfortable coming down on one side or another.</p>
 <p>GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21</p> <p>You won't have much patience for the folks who love to beat around the bush today. If someone can't just say what they mean and be clear about it, you won't be interested in them.</p>	 <p>CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22</p> <p>Your instincts are good, so why aren't you trusting them? Just because that one friend was right and you were wrong doesn't mean that they know better than you how you should run your life!</p>
 <p>LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22</p> <p>Today, your perception is starting to shift. You're suddenly much more willing to see the other side of someone's argument and see that, while this person might not agree with you, they do have a good point.</p>	 <p>VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22</p> <p>Respect other people's opinions and they'll respect yours. While it might take everything you've got to keep from screaming at someone who's saying totally nutty things, holding back is absolutely essential.</p>
 <p>LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22</p> <p>All of this running around could be distancing you from the real meaning behind what you're doing! You have to make more time, and you have to make it today.</p>	 <p>SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21</p> <p>The explorer deep inside you should call all the shots today. Let it lead you into investigating new kinds of art. You're ready to have your beliefs challenged and evolve into a new way of thinking.</p>
 <p>SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21</p> <p>It's not a day for feeling; it's a day for thinking! Your brain is set to think in a more analytical way, and your heart is letting it drive things for a while. You might start to seem a bit detached from friends.</p>	 <p>CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19</p> <p>Be mature today. Step up and accept the ramifications of your recent behavior. The good news is that when you face the music and dance, you'll end up getting in the groove in no time at all!</p>
 <p>AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18</p> <p>A little voice inside you is telling you to heed the warnings around you. "Keep your cards close to the chest," says that voice, and you should definitely obey it.</p>	 <p>PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20</p> <p>You've been almost like an action hero lately, swooping in and coming to the rescue of people in need! All of this helping others has been wonderful for your self-esteem. It can be exhausting work!</p>

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY					EASY+						
1	5	2	4			7			4		
4		6	8	3		8		1	3		
6	2			7	8	7	9	1	3		
	9	7	8	4		6			9		
3		1	2		5	5			8		
	7	9	3	2	1		3				
9	1			5	7			2	8	5	4
	4	8	6		3	8	2			9	
8		1	2	6	6			1			

MEDIUM					HARD					
	2	6	4		6			3		
1		5		9		4	5			
		8				7				
5	2			8	8		2	1		
6	7			2	4				5	4
3			5	9					9	
3		7					3	6	1	
		6		7	7	3				
	9		1	6	4					

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-3	9	cloudy
Harbin	-12	-2	moderate snow
Tianjin	1	9	overcast
Urumqi	-4	0	flurry
Xi'an	2	13	cloudy
Lhasa	-5	10	clear
Chengdu	12	20	cloudy
Chongqing	12	15	drizzle
Kunming	9	18	shower
Nanjing	8	11	drizzle
Shanghai	8	13	drizzle
Wuhan	8	10	drizzle
Hangzhou	8	20	overcast
Taipei	18	22	overcast
Guangzhou	17	26	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	22	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	3	drizzle
Frankfurt	3	9	drizzle
Paris	8	11	cloudy
London	7	9	cloudy
New York	-5	11	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Small amounts; 5- Rows; 10- Change for a five; 14- Hydrox rival; 15- Bandleader Shaw; 16- Ralph Lauren brand; 17- Rover's pal; 18- Short journey; 19- Hungarian sheepdog; 20- Observes Ramadan; 22- Equiangular; 24- "You are ___"; 27- Grandson of Adam; 28- Lycanthrope; 32- Part of LED; 36- Boxer Laila; 37- Silvery fish; 39- Square one; 40- Cheek; 42- Love, in Paris; 44- Coup d'___; 45- Had dinner at home; 47- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 49- Clean air org.; 50- Keyed up; 51- Announces formally; 53- Durable wood; 56- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 57- Submerged to the mid-leg; 61- Cursed; 65- Bakery worker; 66- Pave over; 69- Auction site; 70- Like some orders; 71- Bucky Beaver's toothpaste; 72- ___ dancing is popular with cowboys; 73- Like pie?; 74- Ruhr city; 75- Hula hoops?;

DOWN: 1- Tip, as a hat; 2- Operatic solo; 3- Places to sleep; 4- Assuage; 5- ___ Mahal; 6- 401(k) alternative; 7- Sewing case; 8- Wash cycle; 9- Attack; 10- Adverse; 11- Person, place, or thing; 12- Actress Raines; 13- Potting need; 21- Puts in stitches; 23- Olympus residents; 25- Type of tomato; 26- Varnish resin; 28- Attended; 29- Overjoy; 30- Up; 31- Deluge; 33- Western; 34- Hang with cloth; 35- Kett and James; 38- Melodies; 41- Sororal; 43- Wedding shower?; 46- Penury; 48- Sigher's word; 52- Also; 54- Eagle's home; 55- Hangs on to; 57- Bird of prey; 58- Final Four org.; 59- Electric fish; 60- School orgs.; 62- Theatrical award; 63- Wife of a rajah; 64- Sight organs; 67- Hydrocarbon suffix; 68- Campaigned;



Friday's solution


ALGA	DEEP	CART			
RINSE	APSO	AREA			
LEAPS	DOLL	ROLL			
OUT	TOGE	IRONIC			
FLIPPER	ITALIC				
OATHS	TACTLESS				
ALLI	ARDES	ASAP			
MAJESTIES	OUTRE				
ABOARD	BANDAID				
TRUSTS	ATAD	SAT			
AERI	IAGO	GROVE			
ISLE	OPEN	ELSIE			
LYR	NESS	SASS			

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IAM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	



<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>Nova City 3 bedroom, ready to move in HK\$11,750,000 1,515 ft² 3 2 2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p>  <p>Taipa Village one bed apartment \$10,900/mth 740 ft² 1 1 1</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Macau] Commercial Space in Barra n/a ft² \$42,000,000 (ref: 20016002)</p> <p>[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 2 2 1,420 ft² \$11,800,000 (ref: 20016004)</p> <p>[Macau] Waterfront Duet- New studio 1 1 469 ft² \$5,100,000 (ref: 20016001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Nam Long 1 1 1 785 ft² \$4,780,000 (ref: 20016009)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Taipa] Buckingham 2 2 2 1,439 ft² \$20,900/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Macau] Central Macau unit 2 2 2 n/a ft² \$20,000/mth (ref: 20011001)</p> <p>[Macau] Vai Fung Triplex 2 2 2 n/a ft² \$15,800/mth (ref: 19121001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Nam Long 2 1 1 645 ft² \$11,800/mth (ref: 1911 1001)</p>
--	--	--	--



(853) 2835 2699
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com
f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty



卓雅物業
since 1994

+853 2835 2699
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

Avenida da Praia Grande No.599, Edf. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 andar C, Macau
澳門南灣大馬路599號羅德禮商業大廈12樓C座


Juliet Risdon
 +853 6680 9804
 juliet@jmlproperty.com


Elda Lemos
 +853 6226 8566
 elda@jmlproperty.com


Sam Lee
 +853 6611 0975
 sam@jmlproperty.com


Kitty Lou
 +853 6630 0730
 kitty@jmlproperty.com

Property of the Week



FOR SALE

One Central High Floor, Macau

HK\$12,500,000 1,269 ft² 2 🛏️ 2 🚿


High floor two bedroom apartment in One Central Residences. Overlooking Nam Van Lakes and the famous Praia Grande, the apartment has spectacular views over Macau and China.

The development is one of the leading projects throughout Macau, One Central has full club facilities including a swimming pool, gym, function rooms etc, and 24/7 security and management of the complex. Central location and easy access to downtown Macau, must be seen to be appreciated.



SCAN ME


Property Hotlist




FOR SALE

Unique Loft, Central Macau

\$9,990,000
2,200 ft²
2 🛏️ 2 🚿



 SCAN ME




FOR SALE

Va Fat, Taipa

\$4,380,000
725 ft²
2 🛏️ 1 🚿



 SCAN ME




FOR RENT

Manhattan high floor

\$26,800/mth
2,305 ft²
4 🛏️ 2 🚿



 SCAN ME



FOR RENT

Vai Fung Triplex, Macau

\$15,800/mth
2 🛏️ 2 🚿


 SCAN ME

More Listings

For Sale				For Rent							
[Taipa]	Ocean Garden	1 🛏️	100 ft ²	\$1,190,000	(ref: n/a)	[Taipa]	Taipa Village	1 🛏️ 1 🚿	740 ft ²	\$10,900/mth	(ref: 19101006)
[Taipa]	Nova City	1 🛏️	100 ft ²	\$1,590,000	(ref: n/a)	[Coloane]	Hellene Garden	1 🛏️ 3 🚿 2 🚿	1,663 ft ²	\$14,000/mth	(ref: 19121001)
[Taipa]	Manhattan	1 🛏️	n/a ft ²	\$1,380,000	(ref: 18095560)	[Macau]	Luxury apartment	2 🛏️ 2 🚿	n/a ft ²	\$20,000/mth	(ref: 20011001)
[Taipa]	Historical Centre apartment	2 🛏️ 1 🚿	840 ft ²	\$4,580,000	(ref: 20016003)	[Taipa]	Buckingham	2 🛏️ 2 🚿	1,439 ft ²	\$20,900/mth	(ref: n/a)
[Taipa]	Taipa Village apartment	1 🛏️ 1 🚿	785 ft ²	\$4,780,000	(ref: 20016009)	[Taipa]	Ocean Garden	4 🛏️ 4 🚿	3,700 ft ²	\$35,000/mth	(ref: 18040674)

Recent Movements

- Sold** Hellene Garden, Carnation Court, Coloane, 3 beds
- Sold** Nova Taipa Gardens, 3 beds
- Rented** Coloane Village apartment, 1 bed




JML Events



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team



Macau Golf Masters

LET'S CONNECT

 **jmlmacau**
 **jmlproperty**
 hello@jmlproperty.com
 www.jmlproperty.com
+853 2835 2699

Beijing 2022 organizers say on-track despite virus outbreak

ORGANIZERS of the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympic Games say they are on track to complete all competition venues by year-end and have teams in place for test events, despite the devastating impact of the novel coronavirus outbreak that originated in the country late last year.

The pledge was made by Beijing Vice Mayor Zhang Jiandong to participants in last week's World Broadcaster Meeting for the games that was relocated to Madrid because of the outbreak. Zhang and other organizers participated online from committee headquarters in Beijing.

"We will try our best to push forward the preparations for Beijing 2022 amid the fight against the virus and make sure the preparations are done in time and up to standard," Zhang, who is also executive vice president of Beijing 2022, was quoted as saying in a news release from the Beijing committee.

Questions have arisen about



whether this year's Tokyo Olympic Games, set to open on July 24, can proceed, although Japan has taken extensive measures to curb the spread of the virus. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said at a news conference Saturday

that Japan is at critical juncture to determine whether the country can keep the outbreak under control ahead of the Tokyo summer Olympics.

With new virus cases falling to around 500 or less daily, China has

sought to slowly get its economy back on track by offering loans, tax breaks and other incentives. Strict travel restrictions remain, however, and a host of cultural and sports events have been cancelled, while school openings and

the holding of the ceremonial legislature's annual session have been postponed indefinitely. The outbreak is expected to further slow an economy already growing at its lowest level in three decades.

China has recorded almost 80,000 cases of the virus that causes the disease COVID-19, by far the most of any country.

Beijing won the right to host the 2022 amid light competition, despite questions about a lack of natural snow, pollution and scarce water resources. That came largely on the back of its successful track record of hosting the 2008 Summer Games and its ability to reuse many of the venues from that earlier event, pushing down the cost of the games.

Organizers told participants last week that the Genting Snow Park in the Zhangjiakou competition zone, where the snowboard parallel giant slalom, snowboard slopestyle and snowboard halfpipe events will be held, is already in use, while the National Alpine Ski Center in the suburban Yanqing competition zone is ready for test events. Yanqing will also host the sliding events and Zhangjiakou, in the neighboring province of Hebei, will host ski jumping and other outdoor events.

Indoor events such as, speed skating, curling and hockey, are to be held in downtown Beijing. AP

Enjoy learning during class suspension!

Revise and consolidate the knowledge learned:

No rush in catching up with the learning progress!

Learning performance at this period does not affect the academic results.

Hotline: 8397 2345

新 陽 光 清潔服務有限公司
NEW SUNSHINE CLEANING SERVICES LTD.

Portable Chemical Toilet Hiring

- Regular Units, Flush Units
- Units with Sanitizers, Sinks
- Deluxe Units
- Daily, Weekly or Monthly
- Deliver, Pick-Up & Pump Out of Portable Toilets

FREE DELIVERY

Call: 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

WELCOME TO Playmate's Club
花心公子俱樂部

WILD NIGHT OUT

Come and buy a Standard drink Mop45 only
You can see a European Striptease Show

Attention
No admission under 18

Business Hours: 8:00pm-4:00am

Address: Basement, Hotel Guia, Macau Tel: 28532081 www.macauplaymatesclub.com

OPINION

World Views

Karl W. Smith, Bloomberg

THE US FED'S RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS DOESN'T GO FAR ENOUGH

Both the Federal Reserve and the White House are considering emergency measures to combat the economic fallout from the coronavirus. These are the right responses, but they don't go far enough.

To be clear, the coronavirus is first and foremost a public-health threat. The full resources of the federal government should be marshaled against it. At the same time, the government shouldn't focus only on public health, and it's wrong to argue that efforts to address the economic effects of the virus are a distraction.

The underlying theory seems to be that there are only two possible outcomes of the coronavirus outbreak. Either the U.S. will adequately address the public health threat, in which case emergency economic measures will not be needed; or the U.S. will fail to prevent a pandemic, in which case they will be useless.

This thinking is mistaken. Yes, if there is a pandemic, the human toll will exceed the economic toll — but the economic toll cannot be ignored. The U.S. would be facing a severe recession, and efforts to mitigate it could help reduce the number of families faced with the double crisis of illness and unemployment.

Besides which, even if the government succeeds in stopping a pandemic, it does not follow that the economy will be fine. The very responses necessary to stem the crisis — quarantines, shutting down workplaces, avoiding crowds, and the like — will take a toll on the economy. There is also the possibility that, even if a pandemic is avoided, pockets of the virus will continue to emerge until an effective vaccine can be developed.

That scenario would create a constant level of fear that is itself depressing to economic growth. Another drag on growth would be the disruption to global trade as the coronavirus spreads to less prepared nations.

All these effects could be enough to push the U.S. into a recession. And once a recession hits, the Fed lacks the tools to easily pull the U.S. out.

The prudent course, then, is to take action now. In 2007, as the global financial crisis was unfolding, the Fed repeatedly relied on half measures until it became clear that the financial sector would fall apart. And the White House's response to the recession was a stimulus that was both inadequate and larded with political favors. Those mistakes should not be repeated.

The Fed should immediately cut interest rates by half a percentage point. It should then prepare both to cut interest rates all the way to zero at its March meeting and to outline the extraordinary measures, such as quantitative easing and yield-curve control, that it is prepared to employ if the crises worsens.

The White House should send an economic aid package to Congress that includes not only the type of payroll and investment tax relief that Republicans support, but also the social spending and state aid that Democrats support. Including spending provisions would serve two functions.

One, it would make the package larger and its impact stronger. Two, it would prevent the package from getting bogged down in partisanship. It would thus avoid a crucial defect of former President Barack Obama's stimulus, which sparked a conservative backlash by failing to include the type of tax cuts that could have earned it Republican support.

It's possible that these measures would be overkill. Even if so, the downside is small. At worst, aggressive aid would overstimulate the economy and produce a little inflation. But inflation has been below target for a decade. A tax cut and spending package would also add to the deficit. But it would create far less debt than a prolonged recession.

The public health response to the coronavirus has to be the government's top priority. Yet an economic response is also necessary. To be effective, it must be swift, sizable and bipartisan. Otherwise, the U.S. risks slipping into another long recession.

A driver who fatally stabbed two people guarding a virus-control roadblock in southwestern China was sentenced to death yesterday, a state news agency reported.

The report was a rare sign of public defiance of sweeping anti-disease controls that suspended access to several major cities and shut down much of China's economy starting in late January.

Ma Jianguo arrived at the roadblock in Honghe County in Yunnan province on Feb. 6, the Xinhua News Agency reported,

citing the Intermediate People's Court of Honghe Hani and Yi Autonomous Prefecture.

A passenger in Ma's minivan tried to remove the roadblock, Xinhua said. It said Ma stabbed a member of the checkpoint team who used a cellphone to film the incident and a second member who came to defend him.

The passenger was tried separately, Xinhua said.

Chinese authorities are trying to revive commercial activity but many controls on movement still are in effect.



AP PHOTO

HONG KONG TYCOON LAI ARRESTED IN FRESH CRACKDOWN ON ACTIVISTS

NATALIE LUNG & SHERIDAN PRASSO

HONG Kong media tycoon and a prominent democracy advocate Jimmy Lai, who has long denounced as a traitor by Chinese state media, was among activists swept up in a fresh wave of arrests in the Asian financial hub.

Lai, 72, was arrested Friday on suspicion of participating in an unlawful assembly last year and intimidating a reporter in 2017, Hong Kong Superintendent Wong Tung-kwong said. He was given police bail and TV footage showed him leaving the police station shortly after the briefing. He didn't answer questions from reporters as he approached his vehicle.

The move follows years of criticism against Lai in Chinese state media, which has often listed him among a "Gang of Four" democracy advocates fomenting unrest in the former British colony. While the media network Lai founded, Next Digital Ltd. and its Apple Daily newspaper, backs the protests, it's been years since he was seen as playing a central role in the city's democracy movement.

Still, elder Hong Kong democracy advocates like Lai are often sought out by American diplomats, officials and journalists for in-

sights into the city's politics. The Global Times, a nationalist newspaper under China's Communist Party, cited Lai's meeting with U.S. officials including Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Michael Pompeo in an editorial Friday praising his arrest.

"Many believed Lai is the 'chief traitor' who has brought chaos to the country and disorder to Hong Kong," the paper said.

The arrests come amid a lull in protest activity following more than six months of nearly non-stop demonstrations and as Hong Kong battles the outbreak of the deadly coronavirus. Earlier this year, Beijing also appointed new hard-line officials to lead the agencies that oversee the city, including the Liaison Office.

Next Digital Group Director Mark Simon said by phone that Lai's arrest probably stemmed from the Liaison Office's desire to show it was taking action. "This is ridiculous," Simon said.

The Hong Kong police have been going through footage and trying to track down around protesters and other suspects. Two former pro-democracy lawmakers and activists, Lee Cheuk-yan and Yeung Sum, were also arrested Friday.

Earlier this month, China tapped Xia Baolong,

an official best known for carrying out a campaign to remove crosses from churches in Zhejiang province, as director of the Hong Kong & Macau Affairs Office. In January, Beijing had appointed Luo Huining - a cadre known for executing President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign - as head of China's Liaison Office in Hong Kong.

On Aug. 31, the day Lai was accused of participating in an unlawful assembly, tens and thousands of people took to the streets in central Hong Kong to protest China's refusal to allow a direct vote for the city's leader. Demonstrators turned out despite a police ban and the arrests of several high-profile pro-democracy activists and lawmakers.

Hong Kong saw one of the most tense and violent clashes that weekend, featuring roadblocks set on fire outside the police headquarters in Wan Chai. The city descended into further chaos as riot police stormed into Prince Edward station in Kowloon to make arrests inside subway trains.

The allegation of intimidating a reporter stemmed from a 2017 exchange with a journalist from the Oriental Daily newspaper. The outlet had long sought to have Lai prosecuted over the 2017 incident, Simon said. **BLOOMBERG**



AP PHOTO

Venezuela Socialist hardliners in Venezuela opened fire during a march headed by Juan Guaidó, injuring a 16-year-old demonstrator and adding to tensions in the country as the opposition leader seeks to revive his campaign to oust Nicolás Maduro.



AP PHOTO

Ecuador Officials yesterday confirmed the first case of the new coronavirus in the South American nation, while Mexico reported two more cases and Brazil one more. Ecuador's Health Minister Catalina Andramuño Zeballos said a more-than-70-year-old Ecuadorian woman who lives in Spain arrived in the country on Feb. 14 showing no symptoms of illness.



AP PHOTO

Slovakia The center-right populist opposition claimed victory in the parliamentary election in Slovakia, ending the reign of the country's long dominant but scandal-tainted leftist party that governed on an anti-immigration platform.

South Africa is set to evacuate 151 citizens from the Chinese city of Wuhan as a new virus continues to spread across the globe, authorities said yesterday. The South Africans will be evacuated in a military operation that will see them quarantined for 21 days after they arrive in the country.

Vatican A coughing Pope Francis told pilgrims gathered for the traditional Sunday blessing that he is canceling his participation in a week-long spiritual retreat in the Roman countryside because of a cold.