

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

# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

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TUESDAY  
24 Mar 2020

T. 20°/25°

Air Quality Good

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MOP 8.00  
HKD 10.00



**MGM RESORTS INTERNATIONAL HAS NAMED BILL HORNBUCKLE AS ITS ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY**

P4

**HEALTH AUTHORITY EXPLAINS CHINA'S 'IMPORTED-BUT-NOT-IMPORTED' TERMINOLOGY**

P2

**AN UNUSUAL PUBLIC SPAT AMONG CHINESE DIPLOMATS INDICATES BEIJING IS UNSURE HOW TO HANDLE RISING TENSIONS WITH TRUMP**

P6-7

## HK ENFORCES TOTAL VISITOR BAN

P3,12

**China** The city of Wuhan, where the virus outbreak emerged, is now allowing for limited movement within and outward as its months-long lockdown gradually eases. The municipal government said in a notice that residents whose health is classified as "green" on an electronic database will be allowed to leave their residential neighborhoods if they have proof that they are returning to work.

More on p7

AP PHOTO



**South Korea** says it tested more than 1,440 passengers arriving from Europe for the coronavirus as the country tightens border controls to prevent the illness from re-entering from the West. The office of Prime Minister Chung Se-kyun yesterday said 152 of the passengers who arrived on Sunday were tested at airport isolation facilities after exhibiting fever or respiratory symptoms.

AP PHOTO



**Sri Lanka** police said that they have detained 1,589 people and seized hundreds of vehicles for breaching a three-day curfew which has been imposed as part of strict measures designed to contain the spreading of the coronavirus. Law enforcement agencies have been strictly implementing the curfew as the Indian Ocean island nation is struggling to prevent further spreading of the virus which has so far infected 82 people.

**Dubai** The United Arab Emirates is suspending passenger transits through Dubai, the world's busiest international airport, for two weeks to help stop the spread of the coronavirus. Suspending transit through Dubai, which connects Europe with Asia and Australia, will affect travelers around the world.

More on backpage

航班	啟航地	大堂	現況	時間	航班	啟航地	大堂	現況	時間	航班	啟航地	大堂	現況	時間	航班	啟航地	大堂	現況									
AF 8405	阿姆斯特丹	A	到開口	11:30	8:50	KA 213	香港	A	到開口	18:23	18:15	TG 635	曼谷	B	預計	17:52	21:20	CX 734	吉隆坡	預計	21:10	22:25	KA 983	台北	預計		
CX 250	倫敦/希斯路	A	到開口	13:08	16:55	BA 027	倫敦/希斯路	A	到開口	16:39	18:30	HO 1305	上海/滬東	B	預計	18:00	21:20	UO 559	峇港	預計		22:40	NH 811	東京	預計		
SQ 856	新加坡	A	到開口	13:32	16:55	VS 208	倫敦/希斯路	A	到開口	16:39	16:55	HX 776	曼谷	B	預計		21:20	CX 507	大阪/關西	預計	22:10	22:55	ISA 7139	上海	預計		
NK 8204	東京/成田	B	到開口	13:50	17:05	JAC 007	溫哥華	B	預計	19:06	19:10	ITK 9220	溫哥華	A	預計	19:11	21:45	QF 5839	墨爾本	預計	02:05	23:00	CX 5897	台北	預計		
NH 1929	東京/成田	A	到開口	15:01	17:05	ITG 5867	溫哥華	A	預計	19:06	19:15	CX 837	曼谷/廊曼	取消		19:15	21:45	CX 104	墨爾本	預計		23:00	CX 702	台北	預計		
HX 1825	台北	A	到開口	15:01	17:05	KA 821	成都	B	預計	19:06	17:05	KA 821	成都	B	預計	19:06	21:45	AY 5834	墨爾本	預計		23:00	AY 5858	台北	預計		
CX 922	宿霧	A	到開口	15:06	17:05	ICA 6501	台北	A	預計	17:44	17:30	AK 136	吉隆坡	A	到開口	17:03	21:50	KA 734	吉隆坡	預計	21:43	23:05	CX 764	台北	預計		
KA 5922	台北	A	到開口	15:06	17:30	CX 6630	蘇黎世	B	預計	17:18	17:35	KA 732	吉隆坡	B	到開口	16:52	19:30	KA 381	福岡	B	預計	18:35	21:50	KA 734	吉隆坡	預計	21:43
					17:35	ICX 5732	台北	A	預計	17:19	19:35	PX 008	萬爾茲比港	A	預計	19:38	21:55	CX 100	悉尼	預計	21:24	23:10	UO 703	台北	預計		
					17:55	KA 5443	台北	A	預計	17:19	20:25	CX 712	曼谷	B	預計	20:08	22:20	KA 5840	馬尼拉	預計	21:51	23:20	KA 903	台北	預計		
					18:00	NZ 1061	奧克蘭	A	預計	17:51	20:55	HX 239	上海/虹橋	A	預計	20:08	22:25	KA 5902	馬尼拉	預計	21:51	23:30	CX 5483	台北	預計		
					18:00	CX 716	新加坡	A	預計	17:44	21:05	TP 6360	杜拜	預計	20:23	21:05	TP 6360	杜拜	預計	20:23	22:08	23:50	MH 078	台北	預計		
					18:17	IAA 8903	台北	A	預計	17:44																	



**MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS BUREAU UNDER FIRE FOR UNREASONABLE PROGRESS ON PUBLIC PROJECTS**

P5

**MACAU COURTS WARN OF LEGAL PRECEDENTS ON MANDATORY ISOLATION**

P3



# HEALTH AUTHORITY EXPLAINS 'IMPORTED CONNECTIVE CASES'

ANTHONY LAM

**P**EOPLÉ who are infected by an imported Covid-19 patient, in other words someone who contracted the infection abroad, are categorized as "imported connective cases", the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) explained yesterday in response to a media enquiry.

Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the CDC, was asked to explain the concept, as within the past few days there were cases described as such in neighboring Guangdong Province. The mainland has seen more than 300 imported cases of the Co-

vid-19 coronavirus, even as efforts to suppress the spread of the virus had proved effective at home.

There is no indication as yet that local authorities plan to adopt the same terminology in Macau.

Also at yesterday's press conference, Lo Iek Long, medical director of the Conde São Januário Hospital (CHCSJ), assured the public that there are 232 beds in negative pressure isolation wards across the city. Previously, the medical director has reported the number to be 180.

He explained that alterations have been made to existing

wards to expand the number of such beds. The health authority has included the number of beds installed in qualifying wards, such as the Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

In addition, the Public Health Clinical Center located on Coloane Hilltop, currently used for quarantine purposes, is also certified to handle Covid-19 patients when necessary. There are 120 beds at the clinical center.

Lo stressed that for confirmed cases, it makes no difference whether they stay in a single or shared ward, as long as the roommate is also a Covid-19 patient.

Although most of the newly-confirmed cases in the city were returnees from the U.K., Lei Chin Ion, director of the Health Bureau (SSM) disagrees with the comment that it reflects the intensity of the disease in the European country.

The phenomenon is merely a coincidence, said Lei. It may not be a reflection of the severity of the outbreak in the U.K., but instead because the European country is a popular university option for Macau residents, the official added.

Lei referred to statistics that showed the outbreak has been more intense in Italy, Spain and Switzerland.

Moreover, it is difficult, according to the health authority head, to determine whether these new cases were infected at the origin of their journey or during transportation, and the Macau health authority has not conducted epidemiological analyses to determine this.

Lei reiterated that there is an incubation period, making infection during transportation less likely. These cases were intercepted or tested positive within days of their arrival in Macau.

"If they have contracted the virus on their flights, there should be large-scale infections on these flights," said Lei, but this was not found to be the case.

The CHCSJ medical director pointed out that such returnees are required to undergo a quarantine period of 14 days before they can move freely around. The two-week period is to ensure that even if the returnees fall ill, the chain of contagion will be cut off, as they will be unable to unknowingly infect other people.

During the two weeks of quarantine, at least two pathological tests will be conducted: once at the beginning and another nearing the end. Such measures are effective in detecting asymptomatic cases that may pose significant risks to the community.

As such, the medical director said enforcing stricter measures on students returning from the U.K. or Europe may not be very meaningful.

# 25th case of coronavirus confirmed in Macau

**M**ACAU has announced the 25th confirmed case of coronavirus in an Indonesian national, non-resident worker who recently returned to the city.

The 41-year-old male is the husband of the 14th case and the father of the 17th confirmed case in Macau.

On March 17, he took Cathay Pacific flight CX718 (seat 47D) with his wife and son, departing from Jakarta, Indonesia and heading to Hong Kong. He was tes-

ted for nucleic acid because he was classified as a "close contact". The first two tests were negative, but a third test yesterday showed he had been infected with the novel coronavirus.

Earlier two new Covid-19 cases - both Macau students studying in the U.K. - were announced by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

The first case is a male resident aged 12 who left the U.K. on March 19 via Cathay Pacific flight 254, which arrived in Hong Kong the next day.

Upon arrival in Hong Kong, the boy took a charter vehicle arranged by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) over the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, before being taken directly to the Grand Coloane Resort for a monitored quarantine period.

He developed a fever, but no other symptoms, on Sunday, and later tested positive for Covid-19 at the government hospital.

At about 10:30 a.m. yesterday, the Center issued another statement to an-

nounce the city's 24th Covid-19 case, which involves a man - who had also been studying in the U.K. - aged 21.

On March 21, he boarded Cathay Pacific flight 256 in London, where he sat in seat 63K, and arrived in Hong Kong the next day.

He was then taken by MGTO charter vehicle to Macau. When he arrived at the border control, he declared that he had developed a fever in the past 14 days. The authorities took him to the government hospital, where he later tested positive for the disease.

The two new cases come after three reported within a few hours of one another between Sunday evening and the early hours of Monday morning. **AL**

# GRAND LAPA HOTEL DESIGNATED EIGHTH MEDICAL OBSERVATION VENUE

**T**HE Macau government has announced it will temporarily utilize the Grand Lapa Hotel as the eighth property designated for medical observation. The Grand Lapa Hotel is situated on Avenida da Amizade on the Macau peninsula and has a total supply of 435 rooms.

The addition of the latest property raises the total supply of hotel rooms available for medical ob-

servation to 2,182.

The Government will continue to look for more hotels that can be converted into venues of medical observation, according to a statement issued yesterday by the Macao Government Tourism Office.

Before designating a hotel for this purpose, the health authorities carry out a strict evaluation of the venue, including an on-site inspection of its ventilation system. **DB**

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**Times**

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# Hong Kong to bar all visitors, even those from within China

ANTHONY LAM & LYNZY VALLES

**H**ONG Kong is set to bar the entry of all visitors to the territory for 14 days starting from tomorrow. Even travelers from mainland China, Macau and Taiwan are included under the policy change, which comes as the number of Covid-19 cases seen in the territory continues to rise.

However, the existing "consensus" between the two special administrative regions regarding air passengers arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport will continue until at least March 31, according to the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

Announced by Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam yesterday, the new measure in Hong Kong will also halt all airport transit services.

"From midnight of March 25, all non-Hong Kong residents flying in from overseas will not be allowed into the city," Lam announced.

According to reports, Lam clarified that in addition to banning travelers from mainland China, Macau and Taiwan, residents of the Hong Kong SAR will not be allowed enter the city if they have been to foreign countries in



Inside the Hong Kong International Airport

the past 14 days.

Hong Kong residents arriving from Macau and Taiwan who have not been to a foreign country in the past two weeks will be allowed to enter, but will be subject to a mandatory 14-day quarantine measure.

Inês Chan, an official from the MGTO, reassured at the daily press briefing yesterday that the current special arrangement for returning Macau residents will be

effective until at least March 31.

The Macau government has reached consensus with the Hong Kong government to allow Macau residents entry if they are on their way back home through the Hong Kong International Airport.

Chan stressed that the arrangement will be effective until March 31, as agreed between the two SARs. As for the arrangements after that date, the official

said negotiations are to be conducted to determine whether an extension is possible.

Chan also reminded overseas Macau residents who have already registered with the Macau authorities about their return trip through Hong Kong to be cautious, as airline companies may be confused about the updated policies.

"If they face difficulty upon check-in at the airport, they

should contact the Tourism Crisis Management Office immediately," the official said.

Since March 17, the neighboring region has implemented a 14-day mandatory quarantine to individuals coming from other countries, except for individuals coming from Taiwan and Macau.

As of yesterday, Hong Kong had recorded a total of 356 Covid-19 cases, of which 252 are considered active cases.

Meanwhile, Taiwan has raised its travel notice for 97 countries and regions, including Hong Kong and Macau, to Level 3 due to the continuous outbreak of the Covid-19 infection.

The region's Central Epidemic Command Center encourages Taiwanese nationals to avoid non-essential travel to these countries and cities.

Individuals arriving in the region will be required to follow a 14-day period of home quarantine after returning from Level 3 countries and regions.

As of yesterday, Taiwan has a total of 195 Covid-19 cases.

According to its new measure, the government announced that all travelers who entered Taiwan on or before March 21 on a visitor visa, a landing visa, or through a visa-waiver program and who have not overstayed their legal stay period will be granted an automatic 30-day extension.

The move is a response to border control measures and flight bans implemented around the world to deter the spread of the virus.

Taiwan has four travel advisory alerts, with the fourth level being the highest, which strongly discourages its citizens to travel.

## Courts warn of precedents on mandatory isolation

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Office of the President of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) issued a statement yesterday warning citizens about existing legal precedents on previous cases regarding appeals against mandatory isolation measures enforced by the local health authorities.

In the statement, the court noted that they have ruled in the past few years on at least four cases regarding the legality of the health authorities enforcing mandatory isolation measures on people in Macau, and all cases resulted in decisions in favor of the government.

From the mentioned four cases, three of them go back to 2014 and 2016 and relate to the outbreak of the Asian

lineage of avian influenza A (H7N9) with the fourth being a recent case on January 24 relating to the current outbreak of the Covid-19.

In all the cases mentioned, the decision from the Court of First Instance (TJB) was favorable to the government authorities, and the Office noted that in the third case, which occurred in 2016, there was also an appeal filed to the Court of Second Instance (TSI).

In this case, the TSI upheld the ruling of the TJB, claiming that the health authority adopted an isolation period that had been established and adopted by internal or international health organizations. Thus, the decision to isolate was made, taking into account epidemiological studies, the uncertainties re-

garding the virus incubation period and eventual lethality and danger to the general population.

The judges of the TSI noted that the interests of public health, society, and the economy are more important than the interests of one person.

The courts also noted that, according to the laws currently in force in Macau, "whoever does not comply with the measure of medical observation or medical examination on the date and place indicated, is punished with a prison sentence of up to six months or a fine of up to 60 days; those who do not comply with the mandatory isolation measure are punished with imprisonment for up to 1 year or with a fine of up to 120 days."

## COVID-19 CENTER RECEIVES OVER 300 INQUIRIES WITHIN 24 HOURS

**T**HE Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center received more than 300 inquiries within the 24-hour period starting 8 a.m. on March 22, relating to a wide variety of issues facing those currently under quarantine.

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) said it had managed to follow up on 29 of these cases.

Among these 29 cases, some questions related to the hygiene of quarantine hotels, while others indicated that some people are unhappy with the hotel's facilities and requested a relocation to better hotels.

Other requests among the 29 cases involved those calling on the government to extend drop-off hours for supplies, which are currently between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. every day, as well as some local residents aged above 18 years requesting the government allow their non-quarantined parents to visit them at their hotel during the quarantine period.

Other complaints which the MGTO has looked into include several Macau residents who were unable to board a flight overseas to return to Macau because their Macau ID card had expired.

Of the more than 300 inquiries, 221 were made to the Health Bureau (SSM) regarding suspected Covid-19 cases, medical observation or medical isolation, supply and quality of facemasks, certification from medical facilities and the latest updates on Covid-19.

After the SSM, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) recorded the second-highest number of complaints with 45 inquiries. These calls included topics related to medical examination upon arrival in Macau, and overseas Macau students not possessing a valid Macau ID required to return to the city. **JZ**

### ELLA LEI PROPOSES VIRTUAL MUSEUM VISITS

Lawmaker Ella Lei has proposed that the local government make use of new technologies to allow members of the public to virtually visit museums and other historical sites. In her interpellation to the local government, Lei used mainland China as an example. She asked the local government to introduce a cloud system equipped with a video and audio function. This system should cover the city's world heritage historical city, architectures classified as cultural relics, and museums. Lei thinks that the "cloud" system would benefit both local residents and tourists, allowing them to experience these facilities online. Aside from this, Lei suggested that the local government should prioritize carrying out maintenance on the city's cultural relics and cultural facilities during the Covid-19 period.

### SULU SOU URGES SUPPORT FOR ART AND CULTURAL SECTOR

Lawmaker Sulu Sou has requested the local government give more attention and protection to the city's art and cultural sector. In his interpellation to the SAR government, Sou asked whether the authorities have considered launching specific financial support for local groups and individuals involved in the art sector, for instance, subsidies directly given to the personnel or to launch paid training programs. Sou also wondered whether the local government would expand art-related public investment, such as organizing art activities to boost creative designs, cultural performances and the digital media sector. He also asked whether the local government would increase the budget for public art or procure more local artistic products. The lawmaker also wanted answers about preparing more public spaces for future artistic and cultural activities.

### NG KUOK CHEONG ASKS ABOUT DELTA BRIDGE FACILITIES

Lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong has urged the local government to advance the development of facilities planned for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Macau port. Previously, the Macau SAR government announced the building of three large-scale public projects on the location: a logistical facility on the HKZMB artificial island, the Ilha Verde temporary fuel storage facility relocation, and a hazardous substances storage facility. As of today, the SAR government has only said that these projects are still waiting for the public works department to draft the relevant land plans. Ng noted that he has not heard about any progress regarding these projects. He urged the SAR government to advance the land plan in a short time and to decide on a timetable for the completion of the logistical facility.

# MGM NAMES CASINO VETERAN BILL HORNBUCKLE AS ITS ACTING CEO

**M**GM Resorts International named Bill Hornbuckle as its acting chief executive officer effective immediately, tapping the casino giant's top lieutenant to take the reins during a time of crisis.

The move accelerates the succession for longtime CEO Jim Murren, who had said in February he would step down when a replacement was found. The company decided to speed up the process in light of the impact of the coronavirus on the industry.

Hornbuckle, 62, is a four-decade veteran of the casino business and one-time protege of Steve Wynn. He opened the Mirage resort in Las Vegas for Wynn in 1989. The company also elevated board member Paul Salem to the chairman role. He's senior managing director emeritus of private equity firm Providence Equity Partners and already chairs MGM's real estate committee.

"We believe continued steady, skilled leadership is needed in this time of great upheaval and uncertainty," Salem said in a statement.

MGM, the largest casino operator on the Las Vegas Strip,



Bill Hornbuckle, acting chief executive officer of MGM Resorts

has closed all its U.S. casinos to help prevent the spread of the virus, which has infected casino workers and guests.

Last week, Murren attended a White House meeting of travel-industry leaders asking President Donald Trump for aid for their businesses and employees, many of whom find themselves out of work.

Casinos are asking for grants, loan guarantees or tax credits. The administration is considering an array of responses for the country, including giving every U.S. citizen \$1,000 to help weather the virus storm.

For MGM and its staff, the cost of the early days of the pandemic has been stark: The company furloughed 70,000 workers

when it closed its resorts this week.

"Las Vegas, as you know, will come back rapidly once you give us the green light," Murren said at a press conference after the meeting with Trump. "But it's very important that we keep these people on our payrolls as soon as possible."

MDT/BLOOMBERG

## AUSTRALIAN CASINOS CLOSE AMID SURGE IN COVID-19 CASES

**T**HE casino industry in Australia is the latest sector to be hit by the novel coronavirus outbreak, after the government ordered a closure due to the sharp rise in the number of Covid-19 cases.

As of last night, Australia has recorded a total of 1,709 cases.

Starting from yesterday, the Australian federal government ordered a shutdown of casinos, bars and clubs as part of its measure to deter the spread of the pandemic outbreak. Restaurants and cafes will be able to serve take-away and home-delivered food only.

Cinemas, indoor sporting venues as well as places of worship were also ordered to be closed.

According to reports, Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said that Australians should expect the closures to last for at least six months.

Crown Resorts made a statement to the Australian Stock Exchange on Sunday, noting that its hotels in Melbourne and Perth will remain open. However, its

gaming tables and restaurants will shut down in line with the government's requirements.

Last week, Wynn Resorts Ltd.'s Encore Boston Harbor, MGM Springfield and Penn National Gaming's Plainridge Park Casino closed their doors to the public. Las Vegas Sands has also closed its Venetian and Palazzo resorts in Las Vegas until at least April 1.

In Macau, casino operators underwent an unprecedented closure for 15 days from February 5 – recording the longest closure on record and only the second such instance, after a typhoon in 2018 forced a 33-hour shutdown.

The closure has led to or coincided with a significant loss of business – all while companies have had to keep paying staff and maintaining their properties.

The 15-day closure of the casinos in the Macau SAR has led to a gross gaming revenue plunge of 87.8% from a year earlier in February. Macau revenue amounted to 3.1 billion patacas in February, having fallen to levels not seen in more than 15 years. LV

## CONFERENCE TO BE HELD ONLINE TO REDUCE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

**T**HE 11th International Development Informatics Association conference (IDIA2020) that will take place for three days from tomorrow in the Macau SAR will be moved to a virtual format to limit health risks to participants.

Organized by the United Nations University Institute on Computing and Society under the theme "The more things change...", all sessions of the conference will be hosted via online video conferencing application, Zoom.

According to the organizing committee, the keynote speech of the event by Payal Arora is titled "Privacy by Design for the Next Billion" and will be held on Thursday. Payal Arora is a digital anthropologist and author, consultant, founder, editor, and professor at Erasmus University Rotterdam.

The program of the IDIA2020 will include workshops and sessions that include topics on the effect of a digital community-based tourism platform on hosts' livelihoods, along with series of case studies. Participation in all the IDIA2020 virtual sessions is free.

The IDIA is an association serving as a forum for international cooperation between individuals and organizations focusing on research in the use of information and communications technology (ICT) for developing economies and societies.

Established in 2006, IDIA aims to provide opportunities for scholars and technical specialists alike to exchange knowledge on the modes and principles of applying ICT to such contexts and regions. LV

# Gov't auditor criticizes IAM's unreasonable progress on tree management system

RENATO MARQUES

A follow-up report from the Commission of Audit (CA) to monitor the Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IAM) management of Macau's trees and green areas, found that the measures enforced in the near-decade since the first CA report in November 2010, are still insufficient and inadequate to deal with the problem.

The new report, dated February 2020 and made public yesterday, still notes the lack of implementation of the programs by the IAM, especially regarding tree management, one of the severe flaws detected in the first CA report.

According to the new report, "the audit results show that the improvement measures adopted to follow up on the [problems initially encountered] are still insufficient," adding that most of the problems persist and "have not been improved, even though several years have passed."

The new report also found that the tree management system – which consists of an individual record of all the existing trees as well their characteristics and would be used to define policies and strategies for conservation of green areas – has only registered 24,000 entries out of an estimated number of nearly 650,000 existing trees in Macau. According to the auditor, this is an amount of work considered to be unreasonable.

On this topic, the CA noted that from the total number of possible trees, nearly 80,000 trees are planted on slopes next to the roads where there is a large circulation

JOAO SILAS



of people and, for that reason, easily accessible by IAM staff.

This led the CA to conclude that this "demonstrates, once again, that the IAM did not achieve the objective initially set for having data on all trees existing in Macau and having a mechanism that contributes to the definition of daily procedures and future strategies for the conservation of the grove."

Severe flaws were also found in the assessment of trees, with the audit report released in 2010 stating, "the front line staff responsible for the conservation of the IAM grove do not have professional training." This meant that the tree assessment work "did not comply with the established rules, resulting in inspections carried out did not prevent trees from

falling due to disease."

The CA says that current situation persists at present, with the Committee finding that "inspections were neither defined nor executed properly." Besides creating risk for public security, this situation does not prevent trees falling due to diseases.

In conclusion, the CA criticized the IAM for always prioritizing the easy jobs and systematically neglecting the difficult ones. It is "an attitude that did not allow [the Bureau] to fulfill its objectives," the report concluded.

In another report published yesterday, the CA expressed concerns over the lack of supervision on the enforcement of rules regarding the many financial support measures and plans under the Macao Foundation (FM).

The Commission analyzed the procedures of the FM relating to the granting and supervision of some 2.2 billion patacas in funding in 2018. The CA concluded that flaws and procedure errors already reported on previous occasions persist unresolved.

The report analyzed the financial support measures granted by the FM between 2012 and 2018 and concluded that although some improvements have been implemented and better systems were put in place after the report from the CA back in 2012, many flaws still carry potential risks for the public purse.

One of the aspects that saw improvement was the timely receipt of the mandatory reports by the fund beneficiaries.

However, other flaws continue

to be clear to the CA, namely regarding the audits of the beneficiaries' accounts, which, according to data cited in the report, accounted only for 1.6% of the financial reports presented to the FM.

The Commission also found that the FM department responsible for monitoring the most expensive fund projects had "carried out few inspections to the income and expenses and, those that were carried out, were not done in a very comprehensive manner, being very far from being considered a rigorous audit."

The FM already replied to the report from the CA, acknowledging the flaws, promising to "verify, analyze, and correct in due time the existing problems."

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

# Penalties for unlicensed school operators unfair, according to lawmakers

LAWMAKERS and legal advisors at the Legislative Assembly (AL) have voiced the opinion that some interim measures proposed under the non-tertiary private education bill are unfair, especially for property owners.

Yesterday, the Second Standing Committee of the AL discussed the bill. Lawmakers mostly raised questions concerning the interim measures related to

unlicensed educational activities and asset-transferring policies once a school is closed.

In the third chapter of the bill, it was proposed that when the local governmental authority discovers unlicensed school operations, the government can not only suspend and stop the activities but can also impose interim measures on the school campus.

However, lawmakers

and legal advisors expressed doubt over the fairness of the interim measures for property owners. The concern was that in specific situations, the unlicensed operators do not own the properties in which the activities are being carried out. It may be possible that the organizers rented the properties. In such cases, imposing interim measures to suspend the relevant properties from engaging

in further activities will be unfair for the actual property owners, according to Chan Chak Mo, chairman of the AL Second Standing Committee.

Chan said that when the government closes a property, such as one used by tenants as an illegal guesthouse, the owners need to go through a complicated procedure to have it reopened.

According to the bill,

the government has suggested imposing a fine on private education institutions when they fail to fill vacancies on the school board within 30 days. The fine will range from MOP10,000 to MOP30,000. The latest change will reduce the maximum fine of 1.5 million patacas to a maximum of 1 million patacas.

The penalties for other violations have also been

proposed to be reduced from MOP500,000 to between MOP10,000 and MOP100,000, depending on the type of violation.

Lawmakers continued asking the government for further explanation regarding an article that says a non-profitable school can only transfer its assets, both immovable and movable property, after the school is closed.

Lawmakers asked, when a school legally suspends operations, how the relevant school operators may transfer the remaining assets. "Regarding how to calculate the assets, this bill does not include any measures," said Chan. JZ

## OPINION

China Daily editorial

### STIGMATIZING OF CHINA IS JUST SAME OLD VINEGAR BEING SOLD AS WINE

The novel coronavirus pandemic has become a sort of reagent test kit showing whether a government has been infected by stigmatism that makes them put their own political interests above the well-being of their countries and peoples.

That's why we have seen two distinctively different approaches to address the global public health challenge, with some calling for international solidarity and focusing on offering what help they can to affected countries, while others, the United States being the prime example, have been trying to make China a scapegoat, so as to cover up their belated and ineffective responses to the emergency.

It is obvious that some diehard veteran China-bashers, like those US politicians who coined the term "Chinese virus", are taking advantage of the pandemic to stoke public panic and peddle their tired China threat. The pandemic is a new bottle for their old wine. Unfortunately, it is these people who are gaining a higher stage than scientists and medical professionals as their conspiracy theory directly serves the hidden agenda of their leaders, who desperately need a scapegoat for the public to vent their anger on.

By scratching each other's back, these two parties have reached a tacit understanding to let the political interests of a small group kidnap the public's interests.

It is the countries where such stigmatism has taken hold that have paid the price for this, 14 out of the 16 countries that have been worst-hit outside of China are Western countries where such views have been evident.

The bid to stigmatize China as the cause of their countries' woes has not only led to the governments of these countries wasting the time China has earned for them at tremendous cost to itself — but also, as its instigators expect, given rise to populism and racism, both destabilizing forces whose spillover effects on their societies will be hard to predict.

And, by openly labeling the virus as the "Chinese virus", the first leader of a major power to openly do so, US President Donald Trump has given official endorsement to the widespread discrimination that had been building up against Asians in the US and some European countries, which has encouraged some to verbally, even physically, attack Asians.

The first country to identify the outbreak of a virus is not necessarily the source of the virus. And China has done its utmost to contain the virus at home and to communicate and cooperate with countries and international organizations. It is because few countries heeded China's warnings, and even fewer responded with due resoluteness to prepare for the challenge that the virus has spread.

The attempts to stigmatize China should be rejected. Were it not for what the country has done — it has dramatically increased its funds, material and personnel assistance to the hard hit countries in Europe and Asia once its domestic situation showed signs of improvement — the situation the world faces today would have been much worse, or at least come much earlier.

Its contribution and sacrifice have been recognized by the majority of the international community, those trying to use the virus as another means to bash China will find few coverts to their cause.

BLOOMBERG



China's ambassador to U.S. Cui Tiankai

## ANALYSIS

# Spat between China diplomats signals internal split over Trump

**A**N unusual public spat between two top Chinese diplomats points to an internal split in Beijing over how to handle rising tensions with a combative U.S. president.

The differences spilled into public view yesterday after China's ambassador to the U.S. reaffirmed his opposition to promoting theories that the virus that causes Covid-19 originated in an American military lab. Ambassador Cui Tiankai said in an interview with "Axios on HBO" that he stood by his Feb. 9 statement that it would be "crazy" to spread such theories, even though a foreign ministry spokes-

man has repeatedly floated the idea on Twitter in recent weeks.

"Such speculation will help nobody. It's very harmful," Cui told Axios. "Eventually, we must have an answer to where the virus originally came from. But this is the job for the scientists to do, not for diplomats."

Cui's comments represent a sharp public rebuke to foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, who has publicly questioned whether the virus originated in China and even touted the idea that it may have been introduced by U.S. Army athletes. Such public differences are rare among Chinese officials who are famous for their ability to

stick closely to the Communist Party's official line.

The developments suggest that China's foreign ministry may be having second thoughts about taking a more confrontational approach toward President Donald Trump. The foreign ministry later Monday posted a Chinese-language transcript of Cui's remarks on its website and another spokesman, Geng Shuang, told reporters "the virus should not be linked to a specific country or region to avoid stigmatization."

"Ambassador Cui is a professional and an adult. His Axios comments should be taken as authoritative," said James Green, a senior adviser

for geopolitical consulting firm McLarty Associates who was previously a U.S. trade official in Beijing. "Having an MFA spokesman engage in such rumor-mongering is a new low for Chinese foreign policy, and I suspect for now such behavior will be curbed."

## 'DANGEROUS' REMARKS

Trump's blunt, Twitter-focused communication style has posed a diplomatic challenge for President Xi Jinping since he began attacking China on the U.S. campaign trail four years ago. While Xi's government initially embraced a strategy of "strategic composure" that sought to avoid escalating disputes with



Trump, Chinese diplomats such as Zhao began taking a more combative tone during the trade war -- often on Twitter -- and later got promoted.

While serving as deputy chief of mission at China's Islamabad embassy last year, Zhao criticized U.S. racial divides in a string of tweets, prompting former U.S. National Security Adviser Susan Rice to call him a "racist disgrace." In recent weeks, Zhao has promoted theories that the coronavirus roiling the world was present in the U.S. before the outbreak in China, a narrative that also circulated on state media.

Such rhetoric has prompted a debate among Chinese diplomats. One official said that Zhao's approach had been vocally welcomed by many inside the foreign ministry. Another expressed relief that Cui had disowned Zhao's "dangerous" remarks.

The comments have also stirred anger in Washington, with U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo urging China's top diplomat, Yang Jiechi, in a phone

call earlier this month to stop trying to "shift blame." Trump has taken to calling the pathogen the "Chinese virus" and has blamed the U.S.'s outbreak on China's early failures to control the disease.

"As you know China tried to say at one point -- maybe they stopped now -- that it was caused by American soldiers," Trump told reporters March 18. "That can't happen. It's not going to happen, not as long as I'm president. It comes from China."

#### TAMPING DOWN

Zhao continued to perpetuate the theory Sunday, retweeting speculation from a Twitter user who goes by the name "the lizard king" that Covid-19 has been around in America "for a while." The user is described as a "fl transplant to the desert," a "mama" and "not an expert."

Asked by Axios about Zhao's comments, Cui referred the question back to the spokesman. Cui is appointed directly by Xi and holds a vice-ministerial rank in China's political hierar-

chy, two levels senior to Zhao.

"Maybe you could go and ask him," Cui said. "I'm here representing my head of the state and my government."

China's foreign ministry has long faced accusations of weakness during periods of heightened nationalism. In the 1990s and 2000s, Chinese diplomats regularly received calcium tablets in the mail from citizens who wanted them to strengthen their backbones, according to people familiar with the matter. Others nicknamed the agency Maiguobu, or "ministry of traitors."

Yesterday, the foreign ministry sought to tamp down the controversy.

"The origin of the coronavirus is a matter of science that requires scientific and professional assessment," said Geng, the other spokesman. "All countries need to work together to fight the disease. Trying to shift the blame at this particular time will not help in combating the epidemic at home or help the international response." **BLOOMBERG**

## PEOPLE IN CHINA NEED A GREEN LIGHT FROM ALIBABA APP TO MOVE AROUND COUNTRY

KARI LINDBERG  
& JINSHAN HONG

To get permission to leave China's coronavirus epicenter and return to his job in Hong Kong, a Chinese banker needed two things: a letter from his company and a green health code from Alipay.

The man, who gave his name only as Clarence because of privacy concerns, secured the necessary permission last week and boarded a high-speed train to the border city of Shenzhen. "It was like the drama Prison Break. There are so many levels to go through and so many barriers to overcome," he said of the challenges of leaving Hubei province.

Alipay by Ant Financial, the finance affiliate controlled by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. co-founder Jack Ma, and Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s WeChat are credited with helping curb Covid-19 since it erupted in Wuhan in January. Because they're the primary payments channels for everything from ride-hailing to e-commerce, they already tracked the consumer activity of hundreds of millions of users.

During the outbreak,

both companies released QR code systems that can be read by smartphones and determine which individuals pose health risks and need to be quarantined or could be allowed to use public spaces and transportation. Now this technology is proving instrumental in policing the country as it tries to get back on its feet.

Alipay, the payment method of choice on Alibaba's e-commerce platforms from Taobao to Tmall, was among the first to introduce the technology. Ant's QR-based health code system assigns each user one of three colors -- green, yellow or red -- based on their location, basic health information and travel history. Green allows freedom of movement, while yellow and red indicate that one needs to self-quarantine or enter a supervised quarantine facility, respectively.

The colored QR code, which is already deployed in over 200 cities, is obtained by entering information that includes name, national identity number, current location, recent travel history and ticking a box asking if the person has been in contact with an outpatient or anyone

hospitalized in the last 14 days. Once everything is complete, a code is automatically generated. Each code is refreshed at midnight.

Cafes, restaurants and shopping malls throughout China also request to see the green QR code before granting permission to enter. Since these health codes were first rolled out by Alipay on Feb. 11 in Hangzhou, adoption by merchants and businesses has been swift across the country with plans for wider deployment, according to Ant Financial.

Rival Tencent worked with a unit of China's top economic planning body to design a similar program accessible through WeChat mini programs.

A lack of transparency on how colors are generated has led to confusion and frustration with some people taking to social media to complain. Others note technical glitches that have turned into effective travel bans. "These big data platforms have made me really mad," wrote Weibo user Miuyekanshijie on March 23. "My health code error remains unresolved ... it's seriously affecting my ability to travel." **BLOOMBERG**



ELAINE GANLEY, PARIS

PANDEMIC

**Y**OUNG German adults hold "corona parties" and cough toward older people. A Spanish man leashes a goat to go for a walk to skirt confinement orders. From France to Florida to Australia, kitesurfers, college students and others crowd the beaches.

Their defiance of lockdown mandates and scientific advice to fight the coronavirus pandemic has prompted crackdowns by authorities on people trying to escape cabin fever brought on by virus restrictions. In some cases, the virus rebels resist — threatening police as officials express outrage over public gatherings that could spread the virus.

"Some consider they're little heroes when they break the rules," French Interior Minister Christophe Castaner said. "Well, no. You're an imbecile, and especially a threat to yourself."

After days of noncompliance by people refusing to stay home and venture out only for essential tasks, France on Friday sent security forces into train stations to prevent people from traveling to their vacation homes, potentially carrying the virus to the countryside or beaches where medical facilities are less robust. The popular Paris walkway along the Seine River was closed and a nightly curfew was imposed in the French Mediterranean city of Nice by Mayor Christian Estrosi, who is infected with the virus.

Florida officials closed some of the state's most popular beaches after images of rowdy spring break college crowds appeared on TV for days amid the rising global death toll, which surpassed 13,000 yesterday. Australia closed Sydney's famous Bondi Beach after police were outraged at pictures of the crowds.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said Saturday that people from 18-to-49 account for more than half of the state's coronavirus cases, warning them "you're not Superman, and you're not Superwoman."

Many people were not complying with social distancing recommendations to stay away from each other in New York City's vast city park network ahead of a ban on congregating in groups that went into effect yesterday, Cuomo said.

"You can wind up hur-

# Virus rebels from France to Florida flout lockdown practices



Spring break revelers look on during a game of chicken fight on a Florida beach: 'little heroes'

ting someone who you love, or hurting someone wholly inadvertently. Social distancing works, and you need social distancing everywhere," Cuomo warned.

As new coronavirus cases in China dropped to zero several days in a row, the chief medical officer for the International Clinic of Wuhan was alarmed at those elsewhere refusing to follow rules to contain the virus. Dr. Philippe Klein said people should look to China's confinement of tens of millions as an example to emulate "with courage, with patience, with solidarity."

"I exhort you, the French, to apply the rules in our way," said Klein, who is French.

The virus rebels tend to range from restless teens to wealthy adults who can travel to their getaway homes. Even in Italy, where the virus death toll soared beyond China's last week, authorities are still trying to rein in people from going outside for fresh air, sun and visits with friends to escape walled-in lives.

French farmers' markets where people congregate to shop for food have posed a special challenge for police trying to keep people apart from each other at the recommended 2 meters, along with neglected urban housing projects where distrust and disobedience of authorities runs deep.

In Clichy-Sous-Bois, a Paris suburb where nationwide riots triggered by

police harassment allegations erupted in 2005, a person bit a police officer trying to enforce confinement rules, said Linda Kebbab, a police union spokesperson. And a large crowd threatened to spit on officers who had planned to disperse them in the southeastern city of Lyon but left instead, she said.

In the southern German state of Bavaria, Gov. Markus Soeder lamented that "there are still corona parties, there are young people who cough at older people and shout corona for fun and, above all, there are an incredible number of groups being formed."

National police in Spain, which has the second-highest number of coronavirus infections in Europe after Italy, are using helicopters to spot groups of people meeting up outdoors. Then agents are sent in to break up the gatherings.

Spanish police have also taken to highlighting examples on social media of what people should not do in public during the country's state of emergency. In the southeastern Murcia region, they posted video of police stopping a person waddling outside in a full-body dinosaur costume and tweeted that pets can be taken for brief walks by owners but that "having a Tyrannosaurus Rex complex is not" allowed.

And in Spain's northeastern region of Catalonia, police posted a picture of a man walking a goat on a

leash, apparently trying to take advantage of the pet walking exception.

France now has 100,000 security personnel on the streets who are issuing fines amid a new national "Stay Home" mantra and warnings by officials that the country's two-week lockdown could be extended if the country's infection rate keeps rising. More than 1.7 million checks were carried out in the last five days and more than 22,500 people fined, the Interior Ministry said. By Sunday, France counted more than 16,000 confirmed infections and 674 deaths.

In Greece, the prime minister tried to convince people to say home, warning citizens that future virus prevention measures depend "on our behavior."

But after Florida's officials shut down some of the state's famed beaches, some businesses were still trying to draw in tourists, including Clearwater Mega Bite Shark Boat, a 40-foot (12-meter) vessel with a bow shaped like a shark's snout that cruises the Gulf of Mexico off Florida's western coast.

The boat can carry 50 passengers but the owner was limiting trips to 10 to comply with federal advice. Only four people signed up for a Saturday trip, said an employee named Chase who answered the phone but declined to give his last name.

"Normally we'd be packed this weekend," he said. AP

## this day in history



### 1992 PUNCH ENDS 150 YEARS OF SATIRE

Punch, Britain's oldest satirical magazine, is to close after suffering crippling losses of £1.5m a year.

The decision ends a publishing tradition dating back almost 151 years.

It is expected to publish its final issue on 8 April after circulation plummeted from highs of 175,000 sales in the 1940s to 33,000 in the present day.

Publisher United Newspapers Group, which also owns the Daily Express, made the announcement today and said it was beyond recovery unless another buyer is found.

UNG managing director Graham Wilson said he would continue searching for a buyer but would not reveal any likely candidates.

There have been many rumours in recent years Punch would fold.

A £700,000 campaign to promote the magazine during its 150th anniversary last year did little to boost flagging sales.

"We needed sales to go up by thousands but they only went up by hundreds," David Thomas, the editor, said. "We did our best but it just wasn't enough."

Losses have been blamed partly on advertisers shifting to the rising number of colour supplements in weekend newspapers.

But its main failure is seen as not having kept up with the competition.

The magazine which once set the pace of political satire was outwitted in the circulation department by the racier Private Eye and the schoolboyish Viz magazine.

Ironically, its bid to keep up with these competitors also alienated traditional readers.

The magazine, which became a British institution, has carried articles by William Makepeace Thackeray and A. A. Milne as well as cartoons by the likes of Sir John Tenniel, the illustrator of "Alice in Wonderland".

It was founded in 1841 in the back room of a pub in the Strand.

Mark Lemon, a brewery manager who wanted to become a writer, Henry Mayhew, a lawyer-turned-journalist and the noted engraver Ebenezer Landells decided to publish a new magazine.

It would combine humour, stylish illustrations, political debate and a social conscience with a fresh audacity which became its hallmark.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The old joke, "Punch is not as funny as it used to be - but then again it never was", drew little laughs as it folded. Four years later the Egyptian businessman Mohamed al Fayed brought it back to life. He funded new exposés on the likes of Peter Mandelson, the architect of New Labour, and the media mogul Rupert Murdoch. But eventually it was costing £40,000 per issue to produce with subscriptions at only 6,000 and Mr Al Fayed closed the title again in 2002. A website still exists for the magazine, reported to have at one time refused articles by Charles Dickens, with many hoping it could make a comeback and regain its cutting-edge image.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 The future belongs to people who think for themselves, so where does that leave you? Being a part of the crowd is important, and you certainly don't want to create tension among your people.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 You need to be mindful of your role in every conversation you have today. People are going to be saying very important things and you need to catch every detail. Taking notes wouldn't be a bad idea.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 A foreign accent could be like music to your ears today, evoking exotic locales and reminding you that you need to plan a vacation! Whenever you get a taste of wanderlust, you should act on it!

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 Let your people know that you're pinching pennies, and they'll be happy to adjust their proposed plans to be a little bit more modest. Plus, they'll probably appreciate the chance to spend less themselves.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 The person you could be spending a lot of time with today might not be patient enough to listen to every word you say, so try not to make this the day you confess anything major or bring up a delicate topic.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 Life isn't always black and white, although some people you could be dealing with today think that way. You can ask another person to be open-minded, but you can't force them to be.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 Find out about their scariest moment. Ask them what they want for their future. Switch topics toward philosophies and fears and you'll make some significant headway.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 Today, your focus could be on your own problems and whatever is going on at home with an older relative. If they need any attention from you, you should do whatever it takes to give it to them.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 There's just something about ignorance that gets under your skin, and it's going to be next to impossible for you not to try to get them to open their mind a little bit.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 Watch out for impulse buying now. You might think you can't live one more minute without a certain item, but you're wrong, and if you think about it for a few minutes, you'll realize that for yourself.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 It's important to realize that your powers of positive thinking are just as strong as your powers of negative thinking, so try to switch your thinking around.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 Today, stop picturing what your life will be like in a decade and just focus on making it better now. Try to live in the moment. In order to create a better life down the road, you have to improve the foundation today.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

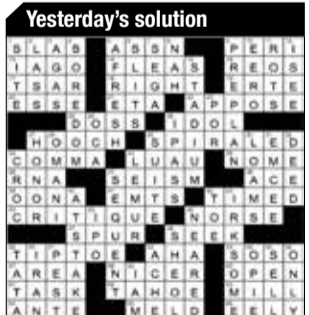
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	6	17	cloudy
Harbin	-4	12	clear
Tianjin	9	19	overcast
Urumqi	0	12	cloudy
Xi'an	11	25	cloudy
Lhasa	-2	12	cloudy
Chengdu	16	23	drizzle
Chongqing	18	27	cloudy
Kunming	9	22	thundershower
Nanjing	10	22	cloudy
Shanghai	11	19	overcast
Wuhan	14	23	cloudy
Hangzhou	11	21	cloudy
Taipei	19	23	overcast
Guangzhou	21	29	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	24	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-4	3	clear
Frankfurt	-2	7	clear
Paris	-1	10	clear
London	3	11	clear
New York	1	6	drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS: 1- Chemical used on trees; 5- DEA agent; 9- Players; 13- Band's sample tapes; 15- Word that can precede hygiene, tradition and agreement; 16- Prefix with plasm; 17- Thaw before takeoff; 18- It parallels a radius; 19- Examine, search; 20- Jamaican popular music; 21- Cogito, \_\_\_ sum; 23- On an annual basis; 25- Greek portico; 26- Pacific Surfline operator; 27- Tomahawk; 30- Bygone bird; 31- Lofty nest; 32- Upright; 37- Dixie Chicks, e.g.; 38- Suppose; 40- Back of the neck; 41- Soporific; 43- Occupied; 44- Fore's partner; 45- Solidarity; 47- Cease to remember; 50- Actress Russo; 51- Shooting star; 52- Like the White Rabbit; 53- Georgia, once; Abbr.; 56- K-12; 57- Monogram ltr.; 59- Hackneyed; 61- Designer Cassini; 62- Specify; 63- Cobb, e.g.; 64- Give notice; 65- Old Pontiacs; 66- Monopolizes;

DOWN: 1- Contributes; 2- Vichyssoise veggie; 3- What \_\_\_ mind reader?; 4- Mythical bird; 5- Candy bar filling; 6- He sang about Alice; 7- Operated; 8- Scottish broadsword; 9- French film award; 10- Ghana's capital; 11- Stem; 12- Swank; 14- Do a slow burn; 22- School of the future?; 24- Coup d'\_\_\_; 25- Descendant; 26- Mass utterance; 27- Panama and bower; 28- Dynamic beginning; 29- Barbershop request; 32- Singer Damone; 33- Silly; 34- Birthday treat; 35- Gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans; 36- Optical device; 38- Part of a church service; 39- Big East team; 42- Emilia's husband; 43- Principles; 45- Speaks publicly; 46- Open mesh fabric; 47- Gal's guy; 48- Alternative; 49- Monarch's rule; 51- Feline line; 52- Prom wheels; 53- Silage storage tower; 54- All-male; 55- Beatty Oscar film; 58- Rebellious Turner; 60- College cheer;



**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- 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
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



**FOR SALE**

**Manhattan High Floor Apartment, Taipa**  
 HK\$17,980,000 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 1/2 2 1/2

**FOR RENT**

**Vai Fung Triplex, Macau**  
 \$15,800/mth 1,065 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1/2 2 1/2

**FOR SALE**

[Macau] Apartment in Historical Centre 2 1/2 1 1/2  
 840 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)

[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1/2 1 1/2  
 900 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)

[Coloane] Beautiful Apartment 1 1/2 2 1/2 1 1/2  
 1,665 ft<sup>2</sup> \$7,200,000 (ref: 19070001)

[Macau] Unique G/F Loft 2 1/2 2 1/2  
 2,200 ft<sup>2</sup> \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)

**FOR RENT**

[Taipa] One Grantal 1 1/2  
 n/a ft<sup>2</sup> \$2,500/mth (ref: 19091005)

[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2  
 710 ft<sup>2</sup> \$10,000/mth (ref: n/a)

[Taipa] Nam Long 2 1/2 1 1/2  
 645 ft<sup>2</sup> \$11,800/mth (ref: 19111001)

[Taipa] Manhattan 4 1/2 2 1/2  
 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> \$22,000/mth (ref: 19091003)

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AD

# CORONAVIRUS REKINDLES OIL SPILL MEMORIES ALONG GULF COAST

JAY REEVES

**T**HE spring of the coronavirus feels a lot like the summer of oil to residents along the Gulf Coast.

Bars and restaurants are empty in Florida because of an invisible threat nearly a decade after the BP oil spill ravaged the region from the ocean floor up, and condominium reservations have taken a nosedive in Alabama. There's no crude on the sand, just fear and uncertainty over COVID-19, the disease caused by the new threat. Some beaches are closed to limit crowds.

No one is rolling dice or playing the slots in Mississippi's casinos, which are closed to slow the viral spread, and other businesses are seeing a slowdown. The party has all but stopped in New Orleans, where Bourbon Street is eerily quiet, its bars and nightclubs shuttered for who knows how long.

"The parallels with 2010 are .... I don't even know if I have the words," said Tony Kennon, mayor of the tourist-dependent town of Orange Beach, Alabama.

Visitors fled the coast and the seafood industry all but closed temporarily after a BP well blew out and began spewing oil in April 2010, killing 11 rig workers. The sight of oily pelicans, tar-covered beaches and the stench of petroleum in the water gave the coast an apocalyptic feel.

Days of uncertainty turned into months of worry and red ink for businesses and residents.



AP PHOTO

It was only late last year that Bobby Williams, who runs a 46-foot-long (14-meter-long) charter fishing boat in Gulfport, Mississippi, received his final payment from a BP oil spill claim. He was hoping for a good 2020 until the coronavirus upended everything last week.

Now, with health officials and government leaders telling people to stay home and avoid groups to prevent catching or spreading the virus, it seems the only time the phone rings is when

someone else is calling to cancel a fishing trip.

"You know we went through Katrina, we went through BP. Now this. We don't know what it's going to do," said Williams. "Our business has gone to zero."

In the French Quarter, New Orleans streets that were full of people for Mardi Gras late last month are now mostly empty. Some hotels are closed and tourist favorites like Preservation Hall are closed, their employees sent home for the duration. Cafe du Monde

is still open around the clock, but only for takeout orders.

Just like a decade ago, Bill Brett is concerned about paying hundreds of employees after reservations for the spring plummeted starting last week at his real estate company Brett/Robinson, which manages 3,500 coastal condominiums in Alabama.

"The oil spill was just the Gulf Coast, right? This is the whole country. It will be a long time before this shakes out," Brett said.

Adrian Holland, who owns a

formal wear and bridal shop in Mississippi, said she experienced a downturn in business during the oil spill because of canceled coastal weddings, and she's already seeing less business after high schools called off their spring proms because of the coronavirus.

Still, Holland is hoping for the best.

"Of course we're seeing impact revenue-wise," said Holland, who operates House of Tux in Gulfport. "But I'm optimistic that it's going to not be too bad because I am seeing postponements rather than cancellations."

Some places have faced another problem: Larger-than-normal spring break crowds on beaches despite guidelines to limit gatherings due to the virus. As many as 1,000 young people gathered on a small beach in recent days in Orange Beach, dancing, hoisting drinks and slamming into each other in videos posted to social media.

Shutdowns of bars and nightclubs in Florida helped drive large numbers of young people to Alabama, where only some places closed. Gulf Shores Mayor Robert Craft closed all the city's public beaches until April 6 to ward off the throngs; the state followed through by shutting down all beaches, public and private.

Many of Gulf Shores' roughly 12,500 residents are older and more susceptible to illness, Craft said, and they are worried about encountering students who've not been practicing social distancing in stores and gas stations. Also, he said, city workers shouldn't have to deal with the parties and risk infection.

"This will be a threat to our livelihood, but it's also a threat to lives," Craft said. AP

## CORPORATE BITS

### MGM Cotai awarded energy management certification



MGM Cotai has recently attained the ISO 50001:2018 certification for effective energy management systems, making the company's two properties ISO 50001 certified, the gaming operator announced in a statement. MGM Macau received the first ISO 50001 certification in 2016.

With the goal of reducing its annual total normalized energy consumption against

the baseline by 13% by 2025, MGM Cotai had a normalized energy saving of 4.7% in 2019 compared to 2018.

ISO 50001 is the international standard for energy management systems created by the International Organization for Standardization, which is considered the ideal energy management standard across the world.

Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "MGM believes an environmentally-responsible business is always a better business, and we also recognize the importance of ensuring the long-term sustainable development in the Macau community."

"While our Facility Management team strives to reduce energy consumption of our properties with intelligent solutions, this achievement is also the result of all of our team members who contribute by making small green changes one at a time," he added.

Last year, MGM Cotai obtained the ISO14001:2015 Environmental Management System Certification through proactive environmental management and by adhering to the international standard.

### Wynn to donate anti-epidemic supplies worth MOP2 million to SMEs



Casino operator Wynn Macau has announced that it will donate MOP2 million to purchase anti-epidemic supplies for local small and medium-sized enterprises in order to help alleviate the economic hardship caused by the Covid-19 coronavirus.

In a statement issued yesterday, Wynn said it was joining

hands with the Macao Chamber of Commerce to distribute the supplies to local enterprises in need, in the hopes of combating the epidemic with the community.

Wynn has ordered over MOP2 million worth of hand sanitizers from local suppliers. With support from the Macao Chamber of Commerce,

these supplies are expected to reach members of the Macao Chamber of Commerce and local SMEs in stages from March 23 to April 17. This initiative is expected to benefit over 13,000 SMEs.

The idea came about after Linda Chen, Vice Chairman and Executive Director of Wynn Macau, recently visited the Macao Chamber of Commerce and was warmly welcomed by the Vice Presidents of the Board of Directors, including Chui Yuk Lum, Vong Kok Seng, U Kin Cho and Choi Tat Meng. Both parties exchanged views and expressed concern over the operating pressures faced by local SMEs amid the epidemic.

Chen suggested distributing anti-epidemic supplies via the Macao Chamber of Commerce to its members as well as local enterprises in need. This effort will also benefit local residents and thereby help strengthen consumer confidence.

# Tokyo Olympics seem sure to happen - but in 2021, not 2020

STEPHEN WADE  
& MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

**T**HE Tokyo Olympics are going to happen — but almost surely in 2021 rather than in four months as planned.

This became clear after the IOC on Sunday announced it was considering a postponement and would make a final decision within four weeks. Major Olympic nations like Canada and Australia have added pressure by saying they will not send teams if the games are staged this year.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach sent a letter to athletes explaining the decision, while also acknowledging the extended timeline might not be popular.

“I know that this unprecedented situation leaves many of your questions open,” he wrote. “I also know that this rational approach may not be in line with the emotions many of you have to go through.”

The IOC's move seemed inevitable for weeks with pressure

AP PHOTO



Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike (right)

mounting from all quarters — athletes, sponsors, broadcasters and more than 200 national Olympic committees, and international sports federations.

Shortly after Bach's statement, the Canadian Olympic Committee said it would not send athletes to the Olympics unless the games are postponed by a year. Australia issued a statement saying it was advising its athletes to prepare for

an Olympics in 2021.

World Athletics President Seb Coe sent a letter to Bach saying that holding the Olympics in July “is neither feasible nor desirable.” He outlined a number of reasons, including competitive fairness, the likelihood athletes would overtrain if given a compressed schedule and the uncertainty caused by orders in many countries barring people from gyms

and other workout venues.

National Olympic committees in Brazil and Slovenia had also called for postponement until 2021. Norway's Olympic body said it did not want athletes going to Tokyo until the global health crisis is under control.

The United States governing bodies of swimming and track — two of the three top-tier Summer Games sports — had called on

their national Olympic officials to push for a postponement.

Japan's politicians fell in line quickly yesterday as they awakened to Bach's move, which was announced at 3 a.m. in Tokyo as most of the city slept.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, speaking at a parliamentary session, said a postponement of the Tokyo Olympics would be necessary if the games cannot be held in a complete way because of the coronavirus pandemic.

“If it is difficult to hold (the Games) in a complete way, a decision of postponement would be unavoidable,” he said.

Abe said he hoped the IOC would announce a decision quickly, and Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike echoed him.

The IOC holds most of the cards in any rescheduling, spelled out in a Host City Contract signed in 2013 between the IOC, the Japanese Olympic Committee and the city of Tokyo.

Japan is officially spending \$12.6 billion to organize the Olympics, but a national audit put the figure at more than twice that much. The bill is sure to increase with any postponement, and the vast majority of the spending if from the public treasury.

The IOC has a reserve fund of about \$2 billion to tide itself over, and also has insurance against postponement or cancellation. **AP**

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OPINION

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



FUN MANDARIN: ZÍ

Today marks the first day of the fun mandarin series. This series will serve only for entertainment purposes.

In 2019, the simplified Chinese character 梓 (zǐ) topped the list of most used characters in names of newborns in mainland China.

梓 refers to the catalpa tree, to a board that is sculpted for printing purposes, to a hometown. It can also be used as a surname.

子 (zǐ) is second on the list. It means children, grandchildren, young people, fruits, animal eggs, young, interests, naming a person, naming people with good morality and good knowledge, time, feudal hierarchy, naming words, units for some verbs, etc.

宇 (yǔ) is third on the list. It can refer to a roof, a house, space, time, territory, or aura.

浩 (hào) 宇 (yǔ) was the most picked full name given to mainland newborn boys in 2019, with 20,102 boys getting this name. 浩 (hào) refers mostly to big, wide, deep, big quantity.

— (yī) 诺 (nuò) was the most picked full name given to mainland newborn girls in the same year. — (yī) can refer to pure, focus, full, sameness, another, short movement, integration, unification, otherwise, first time. 诺 (nuò) is the sound or verb for agreement or promise.

王 (wáng), 李 (lǐ), 张 (zhāng), 刘 (liú), 陈 (chén) are the top five surnames which have the largest population. In Guangdong, Fujian, and Zhejiang, 陈 (chén) is the most common surname. In Heilongjiang, Jilin, Neimenggu, Liaoning, Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei, Shanxi, Shandong, Henan, Shanxi, Jiangsu, Anhui, Gansu, Hainan and Xinjiang, 王 (wáng) is the most common surname. In Shanghai, 张 (zhāng) is the most common surname. In Sichuan, Hubei, Chongqing, Hunan, Yunnan, 李 (lǐ) is the most common surname. In Guizhou, 杨 (yáng) is the most common surname. In Jiangxi, 刘 (liú) is the most common surname. In Guangxi, 黄 (huáng) is the most common surname. In both Qinghai and Ningxia, 马 (mǎ) is the most common surname.

As of December 31, 2019, a total of 21.28 million mainlanders' names contain the character 国 (guó). The character means a form of government which have lands, people and sovereignty, country, face of a country, political type of a country, nation, policies related to a country... basically, anything related to a country. It can also be used to specifically refer to China in many expressions. Some 17.69 million mainland men are named with 国 (guó), while 3.59 million mainland women also use this character in their names.

The top ten mainland male given names containing 国 (guó) are: 建 (jiàn) 国 (guó), meaning to build or to develop the country; 国 (guó) 强 (qiáng), meaning making a country strong, or a strong country; 国 (guó) 华 (huá), meaning a brilliant, flourish, country; 国 (guó) 庆 (qìng), meaning to celebrate the country or the other way around, it is also the name of the national holiday of China; 国 (guó) 平 (píng), meaning a peaceful country or a stable country; 国 (guó) 良 (liáng), meaning a long living country; 国 (guó) 军 (jūn), meaning national army; 志 (zhì) 国 (guó), meaning remembering the country or devoted to the country; 国 (guó) 栋 (dòng), which stands for country pillar, meaning people who can bear an important mission; and 国 (guó) 辉 (huī), for things that give a country a good face or make a nation proud.

It must be stressed that the meaning of these names is not singular. I have only listed the most common or general meaning behind each of these favourite names.

Macau's Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, is expected to address the territory this morning and possibly announce new measures further restricting entry to the city. The address will be broadcast to the public at 10 a.m.

According to information released by the government yesterday, Macau's top official is analyzing the situation following the announcement of new entry restrictions in neighboring Hong Kong.

The neighboring city has barred entry for all non-residents, including those who are residents of mainland China, Taiwan and Macau.

Yesterday, the Macau government would not rule out the possibility of applying similar or identical measures.

Macau presently admits entry to the city for all residents of the greater China region. It bars non-resident workers, unless they are also residents of Hong Kong, Taiwan or the mainland.

# HK EXPATS POINT FINGERS OVER WHO'S SPREADING CORONAVIRUS

BLOOMBERG



LATE last week, as Hong Kong reported a spike of new coronavirus cases, resident returnees found themselves at the center of controversy as imported cases of the virus threaten a city widely regarded as a model of containment.

"They thought they were escaping the virus and now they're bringing it back with them," said one resident of Hong Kong. "It really annoys me. If anyone is masking up, it should be the people who left and came back. We stuck it out and stayed."

In the last week, hundreds have rushed back to Hong Kong, in part to avoid the government deadline that subjects all international arrivals to a 14-day self-quarantine. The influx has more than doubled the number of cases in Hong Kong to 356, a shocking spike after the local government had mostly contained the spread of Covid-19 for the past two months.

In response to the surge, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam issued a 14-day ban on foreign non-residents and moved to restrict alcohol sales at bars, restaurants and nightclubs. Fighting back tears, she slammed the growing numbers of people who have been caught breaking

quarantine.

"To anyone who intends to breach the quarantine orders, anyone who still wants to go out and meet up with friends, can you not be restrained for some more time so Hong Kong can win this battle?" she said.

The spike has exploded new tensions among the city's expatriates. Bankers, lawyers, pilots and business people are now trading blame, blasting quarantine-breakers on Facebook and threatening to report their neighbors to the police.

It's also given new ammunition to local Hong Kongers irritated by the lax mask-wearing standards of foreign residents, with several newspapers running front page articles criticizing bare-faced expatriates and displaced college students hanging out in bars despite calls for social distancing.

Until last week, many in Hong Kong, Singapore and even China assumed the worst had passed. Hong Kong had closed schools and community facilities and ordered civil servants to work from home beginning in late January. Less than 10 days ago, officials felt confident enough to invite city workers

back to their offices and to reopen some libraries and public spaces.

Then, on Friday, the city registered a single-day record of 48 confirmed cases, the majority of them imported. Officials continue to report quarantine violations, in spite of the threat of up to six months in prison and fines of HKD25,000 (\$3,200).

On Sunday, Hong Kong caught five returnees who had broken quarantine - two by removing electronic tracking bracelets. Another 36 people who left their apartments without permission are on a police "wanted list."

Many foreign residents who stayed, working from home with young children in small Hong Kong apartments, standing in line for toilet paper and other supplies are raging on social media against those who are now coming home and refusing to self-isolate.

"If you were afraid to stay in HK when shit got real, and you ran away to your expat enclave - you can now hole up in your pint-sized apartment for the next two weeks and eat Pizza Hut delivery," one resident wrote in a local Facebook group. "Welcome back. Now, suck it up." MDT/BLOOMBERG

Slovakia said the new government is planning to increase testing for the coronavirus. Prime Minister Igor Matovic said that the number of tests should reach 3,000 a day "as soon as possible." Until now, the country was averaging about 300 tests daily. It's one possible reason the country has only 186 reported cases of Covid-19.

AP PHOTO



WHO The head of the World Health Organization says the coronavirus outbreak is accelerating but insists "we can change the trajectory of this pandemic." WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus noted that COVID-19 has now been reported in nearly every country in the world. He said it took 67 days from the first reported case to reach the first 100,000 cases; 11 days for the second 100,000 cases and just four days for the third 100,000 cases.

AP PHOTO



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called yesterday for an immediate cease-fire in conflicts around the world to tackle the coronavirus pandemic. The U.N. chief said: "It is time to put armed conflict on lock down and focus together on the true fight of our lives." Guterres said people caught in armed conflicts are among the most vulnerable and "are also at the highest risk of suffering devastating losses from COVID-19."

AP PHOTO



Mozambique Unidentified militants attacked a Mozambican town close to an area in which companies including Total SA and Exxon Mobil Corp. are developing liquefied natural gas projects worth almost \$60 billion. The assault began yesterday morning in Mocimboa da Praia, about 60 kilometers south of where the LNG developments are located in Cabo Delgado province, police spokesman Orlando Mudumane said in comments broadcast on state television.