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**LAWMAKERS CALL FOR GAMING OPERATORS TO DO MORE FOR ECONOMIC DIVERSIFICATION AHEAD OF THE CONCESSION EXPIRY DATE IN JUNE 2022** P3

**MACAU RESIDENTS WITH ZHUHAI RESIDENCY CARD CAN BYPASS QUARANTINE** P2

**AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED TWO NEW CASES OF CONTAGION, BRINGING THE TOTAL NUMBER IN MACAU UP TO 41** P4



**Russia** Moscow woke up to a lockdown obliging most of its 13 million residents to stay home, and many other regions of the vast country quickly followed suit to stem the spread of the new coronavirus. Putin warned his envoys in Russia's far-flung regions that they will be personally responsible for the availability of beds, ventilators and other key equipment. "We have managed to win time and slow down an explosive spread of the disease in the previous weeks, and we need to use that time reserve to the full," Putin said.



**US** Gasoline prices have dropped to their lowest levels in four years, and they are almost sure to go lower as oil prices plunge. Price-tracking services put the national average yesterday around \$2 a gallon. Some stations were spotted charging under a dollar. However, demand is weak because so many Americans are under shelter-in-place rules and businesses have been shuttered because of the coronavirus outbreak.



**US** Two ships carrying passengers and crew from an ill-fated South American cruise are pleading with Florida officials to let them carry off the sick and dead, but Gov. Ron DeSantis says Florida's health care resources are already stretched too thin. As the Zandaam and its sister ship the Rotterdam make for Florida, passengers confined to their rooms are anxious for relief, hoping DeSantis will change his mind and allow them to disembark despite confirmed coronavirus cases aboard.

More on backpage

# NO WAY BACK TO MACAU FROM HK



## DISMANTLING DEMOCRACY? VIRUS USED AS EXCUSE TO QUELL DISSENT



P6-7

# NO WAY BACK TO MACAU FOR THOSE WITHOUT 'SAFE-CONDUCT' THROUGH MAINLAND

RENATO MARQUES

WITH the halt of the special transportation service from Hong Kong International Airport to Macau arranged by the Tourism Crisis Management Office, the only way residents can now return to Macau is through mainland China. This route is only viable for those who possess a safe-conduct document, tourism board representative Inês Chan said yesterday during the daily press conference of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) representative revealed the information after a question from the media about the chartered vehicle arrangement, which was used to transport residents who had arrived at Hong Kong International Airport in the last 15 days and required special assistance to reach Macau due to restrictions imposed by the neighboring region.

The service, which ran via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, stopped at midnight on March 31.

"It is very difficult to reply to this question. It will depend on which countries or regions the Macau residents are located as different countries have different measures of prevention and control, and also different res-



trictions," Chan said. "For those with safe-conduct [documents] and who have the possibility of arriving in a city in the mainland first, and then can reach Macau through China, this is a possibility. But for those who don't have a safe-conduct [document], then there is no way [to reach Macau]."

The official also noted that situations are different from person to person, depending on which travel documents they possess, where they are located, specificities such as airline policies, and other variables that are

almost impossible to control.

"Measures are being changed on daily basis and airlines are also changing their policies accordingly," she said.

Chan noted that those who have already acquired tickets to travel might be prevented from doing so due to policy changes regarding their departure point, final destination, or even stop-overs. She advised residents to reconsider all travel plans at this moment.

When evaluating the work that was done to assist all those

that managed to arrive in Hong Kong in the 15 days that the special transportation service was operating, Chan recalled that over the two phases of the operation, the service carried a total of 2,136 people into Macau, including the 129 expected yesterday. This figure still needs to be verified.

Chan highlighted the large amount of bureaucracy in the way, and tasks that needed to be performed by both the local and Hong Kong authorities to make this operation successful.

She praised everyone involved, despite criticism of what some considered to be an exaggerated length of time needed for all the clearances and procedures so the transportation service could be managed.

The MGTO official recalled that the "special corridor" was used for 15 consecutive days from March 17 until March 31. She said that the service must not be considered a right, but as humanitarian work performed by the two Special Administrative Regions so that Macau residents would not be stranded at Hong Kong International airport and could return home. It was a temporary and strictly limited measure that cannot be continued indefinitely, Chan explained.

"We cannot continue [to assist] because countries have taken many measures to contain the disease outbreak, including border closure and others," Chan said. "We can't ask for all the support that the Hong Kong authorities gave to bring Macau people back without establishing a limit."

According to the MGTO official, one of the restrictions enforced by airlines at the moment is preventing airline counter check-ins for people traveling to Hong Kong who do not possess Hong Kong residency ID cards.

## Macau residents with Zhuhai residency card can bypass quarantine

RENATO MARQUES

THE representative of the Public Security Police Force at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center said yesterday that local residents that have a Zhuhai city residency card are among those exception groups that can travel freely between Macau and mainland without the imposition of mandatory quarantine restrictions.

The official was replying to a question from the me-

dia during yesterday's daily press conference organized by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center. The question concerned new entry policies adopted in Guangdong Province that require all cross-border arrivals to undergo a 14-day quarantine when entering the province.

Last Friday, Macau's Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak confirmed that four groups of people from Macau may enter the southern Chinese province wi-

thout needing to undergo a 14-day quarantine.

The first group includes people travelling for urgent business purposes or governmental issues. The second category includes drivers of double-plated cars or Macau single-plated cars which have been allowed to enter Hengqin. Another group includes workers in Guangdong and Macau cooperation industrial zone and workers in the Macau-Zhuhai cross-border industrial zone. The last group includes

individuals who maintain ordinary routines across Guangdong, Macau and Hong Kong.

Yesterday, representatives of the Macau government confirmed that, as per their understanding, individuals who are residents of both Macau and Zhuhai may avoid the quarantine measure too.

"As far as we know, the residents of Macau that also possess a [residency] card of Zhuhai city can enter Zhuhai without the imposition of quarantine

and, from there, it should be possible to access other cities in the Guangdong Province under the same conditions," said the representative.

The same spokesperson also informed that, after an agreement, the authorities of Macau and Zhuhai will reopen the hotel facility that had been formerly used to enforce the mandatory 14-day quarantine measure for non-resident workers (TNR) from the mainland before being allowed to reenter Macau.

The venues had earlier stopped accepting workers after their occupancy neared its maximum, according to reports from the Macau authorities.

"There are no changes in the policy," said the representative yesterday, adding, "It is also the same place that we used before. We are just reopening it after being closed for a few days."

Anyone who is not a Macau resident needs to undergo a 14-day quarantine period in Zhuhai that will allow them to get a medical certificate stating their non-contamination with Covid-19, which is required to enter Macau.

The official also noted that when the quarantine period is completed, the individuals will be admitted to Macau through a special and exclusive corridor created for such a purpose.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

# Lawmakers call on casino operators to do more for diversification

JULIE ZHU

**S**OME of Macau's lawmakers called yesterday for gaming operators to do more to contribute toward the economic diversification of the city ahead of the concession expiry date in June 2022.

The call came after lawmaker Si Ka Lon raised the topic of economic diversification, prompting nearly a dozen lawmakers to voice their opinion that casino operators needed to do more to support the diversification objectives of the city.

Paulo Martins Chan, director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), was at the Legislative Assembly yesterday. There he declared that the non-gaming aspects of casino operators will be studied, among other criteria, when the future gaming concessions are reviewed.

The long-discussed policy objective has once again returned to public interest amid a Covid-19-induced economic decline that will be aggravated in Macau because of the industrial weight of the casino sector. Revenue from gambling activities, which directly account for approximately half of Macau's economy, were down 50% during the first two months of the year.

Lawmakers such as Ma Chi Seng, Pang Chuan, Chui Sai Peng, Wang Sai Man, and Si Ka Lon, yesterday called for greater "non-gaming aspects" and suggested that the concessionaires should help other local businesses.



BLOOMBERG

Hosting more sports events and exhibitions, and working to attract a greater variety in international visitors are among the efforts that lawmakers believe will help local businesses. They believe that the casino operators have a role to play in these efforts.

Lawmaker Si Ka Lon said that he wants the gaming operators to provide "relief" to help specific sectors in Macau. Chui Sai Peng hopes that gaming operators will invest in businesses in the arts sector, for instance, as Macau's small

and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) do not have the resources to invest in or support other local SMEs. Pang Chuan wants gaming companies to help the technology industry so the industry can in turn supply these companies with slot machines and other products and services.

However, while the majority of lawmakers want gaming operators to do more to help other businesses, lawmaker Davis Fong defended the casino operators by saying that Macau itself should

"further develop the gaming industry."

According to Fong, who is also a gaming scholar, Macau has one sector known worldwide, and that sector is gaming. The industry has brought advanced technologies to Macau and allowed the city to experiment with other drivers of the economy, including integrated resorts that offer shopping, entertainment and eateries. This has been brought to Macau in part by the foreign casino operators, which invested heavily in the city.

"Why did we invite foreign-capital? Because we wanted technology transfer. Now, we have learned enough about their integrated resorts, shopping and catering," said Fong, who specializes in gaming industry research. "Now is the right time for Macau's gaming industry to be upgraded to another level because gaming companies can bring even more technologies to Macau."

Following Fong, Wang Sai Man acknowledged that Macau's integrated resorts are not only attractive to tourists but also to Macau's local market. "Sometimes, even when gaming companies do a free-parking promotion, the promotion attracts consumers who normally [shop] in the old areas of Macau," said Wang.

In response to the lawmakers, DICJ director Paulo Martins Chan said that his personal understanding of economic diversification was that non-gaming aspects should include other parts of the economy distinct from that directly introduced by casino operators.

The latest government-issued report on economic diversification found that gaming and junket activities accounted for over half of Macau's industrial structure in 2018. The report, released in December last year, concluded that the heavy-weight sector had a value added of 220.8 billion patacas and an industrial share of 50.52%, breaching the 50% level for the first time since 2014, when it accounted for over 58%.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

# Medical exams at border test 4,000 tourists but Macau 'unable' to test residents

**T**HE Macau SAR government can approve over 4,000 tourists to enter Macau after an equivalent number of Covid-19 medical examination were held near the border checkpoints, but it is unable to allow members of the public to pay for such a test anywhere in Macau, including at the public hospital.

During yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary session, the city's newest lawmaker Wang Sai Man asked the local government where in Macau members of the public can pay to be

tested for the Covid-19 disease and how much these tests cost.

But the director of the Health Bureau (SSM), Lei Chin Ion, said that Macau's medical facilities are only able to test a maximum of 1,000 Covid-19 samples every 24 hours, telling Wang that members of the Macau public have no access to such tests by their own initiative.

Earlier in March, the Macau SAR government started medical examination tests at several locations near different ports.

On March 16, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) sent more than 4,000 visitors coming from high-prevalence areas to these locations to receive medical examination. These visitors waited six to eight hours before they were notified with a negative test result and before they were set free to move around in Macau.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U commented yesterday that "SSM's test machine is already working 24 hours [per day]. We can only test

the suspected cases, we can't provide extra services."

Recently, the local government decided to start using the newly finished Kiang Wu nursery institute facility to quarantine people in close contact with confirmed Covid-19 infected patients.

Lei assured that the facilities will be safe for the quarantine personnel as well as for medical professionals working at the site.

Another matter concerning hospital facilities is the Islands District Medical

Complex, which is expected to start operations in 2023 at the earliest, according to the Secretary, who revealed the update after being questioned by lawmakers José Pereira Coutinho and Wong Kit Cheng.

Amid the development of Covid-19, the two lawmakers were concerned about healthcare facilities and medical professionals.

The Secretary reported that the Islands District Medical Complex is expected to finish construction by the third quarter of 2022. After that, it will take appro-

ximately another year for refurbishment. The island medical complex will have 64 "high-quality" isolation rooms.

Aside from the abovementioned topics, lawmaker Chan Iek Lap proposed that the government distribute cash to medical professionals, especially to private sector doctors. As Chan has been voicing at the AL recently, private sector employees need the local government's help "in order to survive."

In Chan's opinion, distributing money to private doctors, saves procedural troubles compared to other kind of schemes that might require doctors to apply and have the government then review their applications. **JZ**

AP PHOTO



People wearing face masks wait to cross a street in Beijing

# MOTHER AND SON RETURNEES ARE LATEST CONFIRMED CASES

**T**HE Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced yesterday two new confirmed cases of Covid-19, bringing the total number of cases in Macau up to 41.

The 40th patient is a 47-year-old female resident of Macau. According to information released by the Center, the patient is a housewife who recently returned

to Macau from the U.K. The 41st patient is a 20-year-old male resident who studies in the U.K. and is the son of the 40th patient.

The two of them departed from the British capital on March 26 on Cathay Pacific flight CX250, seats 22A and 22G. They arrived at the Hong Kong International Airport in the afternoon of March 27 and passed the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-

-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) using a chartered vehicle organized by the Tourism Crisis Management Office on the same evening.

At that time, the quarantine measures of the Health Bureau were arranged to carry out medical observation at the Royal Dragon Hotel.

The two latest patients were confirmed positive for the new

coronavirus after nasopharyngeal swab test samples reviewed yesterday. Pneumonia caused by the novel coronavirus was then confirmed.

The two patients have been admitted to the isolation ward of the public hospital. They are currently in a stable condition.

Four of their companions were listed as close contacts and arran-

gements have been made for medical observation at a temporary medical isolation center.

Separately, the health authorities reported in the early hours of yesterday morning the discovery of the 39th confirmed case of Covid-19.

The case is a nine-year-old girl who is the daughter of the city's 34th case. She is currently Macau's youngest patient diagnosed with the Covid-19 disease.

The patient, her father and her older brother went to Manila, the Philippines, on January 17 and stayed in the country until March 18. The children were visiting their mother.

On March 18, the three of them travelled home on Cathay Pacific Airways flight 902 from Manila to Hong Kong. She travelled in business class, in seat number 14D.

Upon arriving in Hong Kong, they took a bus to the HKZMB Hong Kong boundary checkpoint, and then boarded a coach via the HKZMB to reach Macau.

Although none of them had respiratory symptoms as they arrived in Macau, they were instructed to perform a 14-day home quarantine under the former anti-pandemic requirements. They took bus route 101 from HKZMB to their residence at block I of Wah King Garden in Area Preta.

Initial tests showed she was negative for the infection, but a third nasopharyngeal swab taken on March 30 confirmed that she had contracted the disease. **AL**

AD



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	23/04/2020
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CRIME

# Drunk driver crashes vehicle at Border Gate checkpoint

ANTHONY LAM

A drunk driver crashed his vehicle into a gate at the Border Gate vehicle passageway on March 26, on his way back to Macau from Zhuhai, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) announced yesterday.

The 56-year-old businessman from Macau, surnamed Choi, was charged by the PSP with drunk driving. His sentence came out soon after and was reported by the police authority yesterday.

Choi was sentenced by the court to five months' imprisonment with one year's probation. His driving license was also suspended for one year.

The incident occurred at around 10 p.m. that night. He was driving his double-plate car, which is eligible to drive in both Zhuhai and Macau, and was returning to the Special Administrative Region.

Like all other drivers using the vehicle checkpoint, he was required to pass through border control in his car. While he was doing so, he crashed into a gate in the passageway. Following the car accident, the officers on duty approached the site and attempted to investigate.

The PSP officers discovered clues that the driver might have consumed alcohol before driving. The officers then conducted alcohol blood test on the driver and found that his blood alcohol level was 1.81 grams per liter, which is above the legal threshold and is



considered drunk driving.

During the investigation, the driver admitted to the police that he had consumed alcoholic beverages at a dinner earlier that night in Zhuhai.

## SALESPERSON EMBEZZLES 1 MILLION PATACAS

The Judiciary Police announced a case of embezzlement in which a 31-year-old suspect, surnamed Huang, stands accused of stealing 1 million patacas from the company he worked for.

Working as a salesperson at a liquor wholesaler, the male non-resident worker from the mainland admitted that he had taken the money and lost it all gambling.

The money he took was composed of payments from customers. Part of the suspect's job was to collect such payments on behalf of the company.

The case concerned 20 customers of the wholesaler. The largest payment amounted to MOP510,000. While auditing its accounts, the wholesaler discovered that payments from these clients had not been received. After questioning the suspect, the crime was discovered.

## INSTANT MESSAGING APP DATING SCAM

A 37-year-old local delivery worker was reportedly scammed out of HKD30,000 and MOP36,000

to dating fraud. He began chatting with a woman on an instant messaging app, before inviting her out.

She told him that he needed to prove his financial viability to her parents, so that she would be allowed to go out with him. She asked him to transfer the two amounts to demonstrate his finances and the victim complied.

According to the police report, the man was confident about the possibility of meeting this woman, and so agreed to the request.

Later, upon realizing he had been tricked, the man reported the case to the Judiciary Police, noting the losses of HKD30,000 and MOP36,000 to fraud.

## JOINT UNIVERSITY EXAMS TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN APRIL 16 AND 19

The joint exams of four local universities will take place as planned from April 16 to April 19, according to the exam organizer. The four universities are the University of Macau, the Macao Polytechnic Institute, the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies, and the Macau University of Science and Technology. The Portuguese exam will take place on April 16 and April 17. The Chinese exam has been arranged for April 18. On the last day, students will take mathematics and English exams. Exams were expected to be postponed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Students who intend to take the exams are advised not to leave Macau in the 14 days prior to their exam.

## JUDICIARY POLICE TO RECRUIT 250 STAFF THIS YEAR

The Judiciary Police plans to expand its workforce by hiring an additional 250 personnel in 2020. The number of forensic science technicians will grow from 13 to 25. The number of senior forensic science technicians will increase from 25 to 33, according to the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly, which discussed the bill yesterday. Lawmakers of the committee agreed with the Judiciary Police's expansion plans. The Judiciary Police has been expanding over the last seven years. Of the 250 additional workers, 176 will be investigators.

## FIRST QUARTER FLIGHT MOVEMENTS HALVED

The number of flights connecting the Macau International Airport to other locations has dropped by 55% in the first quarter in year-on-year terms. During the period, demand for the airline industry also plummeted due to Covid-19, with the passenger capacity decreasing 45%. In 2019, the revenue of the major operators of the airport totaled approximately 6.27 billion patacas, representing a 13.6% increase compared to the previous year. The Sociedade do Aeroporto Internacional de Macau S.A.R.L. (CAM), which is the public concessionaire of the airport, recorded a 16.5% increase in revenue that year to 1.82 billion patacas. As the Covid-19 situation continues to develop, CAM remarked that the future of profits yielded from the airport has become uncertain.

## GOV'T INTRODUCES E-VOUCHER REGISTRATION MEASURES FOR NEWBORNS

THE government will allow newborns to be registered on the Consumption Subsidy Scheme, better known as the 3,000-pataca e-voucher scheme.

The measures now being introduced facilitate the registration of eligible newborns who do not hold Macau Resident Identity Cards (Macau ID) within the registration period.

Starting yesterday and running until April 8, citizens can conduct a preliminary assessment of the resident identity card application on behalf of their newborn children at the Identification Services Bureau (DSI). New parents should present the birth report issued by the Civil Affairs Registry, their original resident identity card and a photocopy of the spouse's identification do-

document, and will be able to register their children for the consumption subsidy at the same time, the DSI explained.

After that, citizens can complete the formalities for their child's resident identity card in person on another day.

Other first-time applicants for the Macau ID card who have already registered for the consumption subsidy must submit all the required documents and complete the formalities on or before April 23, 2020.

Extra fees for expediting the formalities may be incurred to ensure the Macau ID is issued on or before April 29, 2020, enabling applicants to collect the consumption subsidy by April 30, the final date for collection. RM

## SUNCITY MANAGEMENT SEE SALARIES REDUCED FOR TWO MONTHS

SENIOR management personnel at gaming promoter Suncity Group have announced that they will take a voluntary salary deduction for two months, media outlet Allin Media reports.

According to the report, the move was made necessary due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the ensuing additional border control measures. Daily visitor arrivals have dropped to several thousand recently as the measures took effect.

As a result, the junket has decided to cut wages for senior management personnel.

The junket has also come to a consensus with its more

junior employees. They will be taking 15 days off in both April and May, for a total of 30 days. It is unclear whether the time off will be compensated.

The move comes as the local government has called on gaming industry participants not to impose layoffs or force pay cuts amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

Suncity will also set up an anti-pandemic support fund to this end. Non-management employees are able to apply for interest-free loans of as much as half of their monthly salaries. Repayment will only start in October 2020 and can be completed across a calendar year. AL

# Dismantling democracy? Virus used as

DUSAN STOJANOVIC, BELGRADE

**S**OLDIERS patrol the streets with their fingers on machine gun triggers. The army guards an exhibition center-turned-makeshift-hospital crowded with rows of metal beds for those infected with the coronavirus. And Serbia's president warns residents that Belgrade's graveyards won't be big enough to bury the dead if people ignore his government's lockdown orders.

Since President Aleksandar Vucic announced an open-ended state of emergency on March 15, parliament has been sidelined, borders shut, a 12-hour police-enforced curfew imposed and people over 65 banned from leaving their homes — some of Europe's strictest measures to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Serbian leader, who makes dramatic daily appearances issuing new decrees, has assumed full power, prompting an outcry from opponents who say he has seized control of the state in an unconstitutional manner.

Rodoljub Sabic, a former state commissioner for personal data protection, says by proclaiming a state of emergency, Vucic has assumed "full supremacy" over decision-making during the crisis, although his constitutional role is only ceremonial.

"He issues orders which are au-

tomatically accepted by the government," Sabic said. "No checks and balances."

In ex-communist Eastern Europe and elsewhere, populist leaders are introducing harsh measures including uncontrolled cellphone surveillance of their citizens and lengthy jail sentences for those who flout lockdown decrees.

The human rights chief of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe said while she understands the need to act swiftly to protect populations from the COVID-19 pandemic, the newly declared states of emergency must include a time limit and parliamentary oversight.

"A state of emergency — wherever it is declared and for whatever reason — must be proportionate to its aim, and only remain in place for as long as absolutely necessary," said the OSCE rights chief, Ingibjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir.

In times of national emergency, countries often take steps that rights activists see as curtailing civil liberties, such as increased surveillance, curfews and restrictions on travel, or limiting freedom of expression. China locked down whole cities earlier this year to stop the spread of the virus as India did with the whole nation.

Amnesty International researcher Massimo Moratti said states of emergency are allowed under international human rights law but

AP PHOTO



Serbian army soldiers patrol in Belgrade's main pedestrian

warned that the restrictive measures should not become a "new normal."

"Such states need to last only until the danger lasts," he told The

Associated Press.

In European Union-member Hungary, parliament on Monday passed a law giving Prime Minister Viktor Orbán's government the ri-

ght to rule by decree for as long as a state of emergency declared March 11 is in effect.

The law also sets prison terms of up to five years for those con-

## EXCEPTIONAL TIMES

# South Korea shoe cobbler donates for needy amid coronavirus

**K**IM Byung-rok survived tuberculosis when he was 23, but was left with one good lung. In his work polishing and mending shoes, he inhaled too much dirt.

So when he bought land on a small, quiet mountain in 2014, he wanted to heal, to do some farming — and to breathe fresh air.

But now Kim, 60, wants to donate a big chunk of his holdings to the local government. So many South Koreans are shutting their businesses and face declining incomes due to the coronavirus outbreak, which has hit the country hard; Kim thought the value of his land could be put to good use.

"I went through a rough childhood and I got help from others all the time. I've always thought I should one day become a person who helps others,"



Kim Byung-rok

Kim said at his Seoul shop, the thick grime under his nails testimony to how he spends his days.

"Wouldn't it be good if I give the people strength and courage?" he said.

It has had that effect. An online media story on his

offer has garnered more than 2,100 comments. Some call him "an angel" or "a person who deserves a seat in heaven."

Kim's three plots of land are located in Paju, near the border with North Korea. He has pledged the lar-

gest parcel of about 10,000 pyeong (a bit more than 8 acres). Local officials value the gift at between 500 and 700 million won, or between \$400,000 and \$570,000.

There are technicalities that must be worked

out. Authorities are trying to make sure Kim will not face gift taxes, but he's adamant: "If I have to pay that, I would accept that."

Kim, a devout Christian who jokingly calls himself "a lamb," has led a turbulent life.

His father died when he was 6, and his mother later married a man who beat and abused him. Kim ran away from his home and began working as a shoeshine boy when he was 10.

Tormented by the separation from his family, Kim drank and smoked excessively. Then came the TB. When he survived, he found relief in his faith and in volunteer service.

For the past 25 years, he has fixed thousands of used or castoff shoes and donated them to poor people, and provided free haircuts to older people with

dementia or other health problems.

Kim and his wife now work together and make about 2-3 million won (\$1,635-\$2,450) a month, considerably less than South Korea's average household income of 4.8 million won. They live in a small, two-room apartment with two of their three adult children, one of them a 26-year-old son with Down syndrome.

Kim said that "what aches my heart the most" is the reaction of some friends and neighbors to his plan.

"They tell me things like, 'Hey, what the heck are you doing. ... Take care of your children first,'" Kim said. "But I've never had my kids go hungry and I've been living happily. ... I'm satisfied with my life and can't just ignore the poor and needy." AP

# excuse to quell dissent



Street, in Serbia

victed of spreading false information about the pandemic and up to eight years for those interfering with efforts to contain the spread of the coronavirus, like a

curfew or quarantine.

Rights groups and officials say the law creates the possibility of an indefinite state of emergency and gives Orbán and his government

carte blanche to restrict human rights and crack down on freedom of the press.

"Orban is dismantling democracy in front of our eyes," said Tanja Fajon, a member of the European Parliament, "This is a shame for Europe, its fundamental values and democracy. He (Orban) abused coronavirus as an excuse to kill democracy and media freedom."

"This is not the way to address the very real crisis that has been caused by the COVID-19 pandemic," said David Vig, Amnesty International's Hungary director.

Hungarian Justice Minister Judit Varga said criticism of Hungary's bill were "political attacks based on the wrong interpretation or intentional distortion" of its contents.

Other governments have also adopted extreme measures.

In Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu's caretaker government passed a series of emergency executive measures to try to quell the spread of the new virus. These include authorizing unprecedented electronic surveillance of Israeli citizens and a slowdown of court activity that forced the postponement of Netanyahu's own pending corruption trial.

In Russia, authorities have turned up the pressure on media outlets and social media users

to control the narrative amid the country's growing coronavirus outbreak. Moscow went on lockdown Monday and many other regions quickly followed suit.

Under the guise of weeding out coronavirus-related "fake news," law enforcement has cracked down on people sharing opinions on social media, and on media that criticize the government's response to the outbreak.

In Poland, people are worried about a new government smartphone application introduced for people in home quarantine.

## In ex-communist Eastern Europe and elsewhere, populist leaders are introducing harsh measures including uncontrolled cellphone surveillance

Panoptykon Foundation, a human rights group that opposes surveillance, says some users who support government efforts to fight the pandemic worry that by using the app they could be giving too much private data to the conservative government.

While nearly 800 coronavirus cases and 16 deaths have been recorded in Serbia, according to Johns Hopkins University, testing has been extremely limited and

experts believe the figures greatly under-represent the real number of victims. Most people suffer mild or moderate symptoms, such as fever and cough, from the virus but for some, especially older adults and people with existing health problems, more severe illness can occur, including pneumonia and death.

Images of the transformation of a huge communist-era exhibition hall in Belgrade into a makeshift hospital for infected patients has triggered widespread public fear of the detention camp-looking facility that is filled with row-upon-row of 3,000 metal beds.

The Serbian president said he was glad that people got scared, adding he would have chosen even a worse-looking spot if that would stop Serbs from flouting his stay-at-home orders.

"Someone has to spend 14 to 28 days there," Vucic said. "If it's not comfortable, I don't care. We are fighting for people's lives."

"Do not Drown Belgrade," a group of civic activists, has launched an online petition against what they call Vucic's abuse of power and curtailing of basic human rights. It says his frequent public appearances are creating panic in an already worried society.

"We do not need Vucic's daily dramatization, but the truth: Concrete data and instructions from experts," the petition says. **AP**

### EXCEPTIONAL TIMES

# Students provide sanitizers to daily workers to fight virus

**T**HEY toil on the fringes, without any job security or set hours or decent wages. And the coronavirus has made their already difficult lives harder, and more hazardous.

And so a group of university students in Yogyakarta, on the Indonesian island of Java, set out to help these "informal workers." On social media, they put out the word: We need money to help these people whose work is seldom appreciated. In just one week, the donations rolled in.

Then, said organizer Ari Wijayanto, they fanned out to distribute 400 bottles of hand sanitizers and 30 bottles of hand soaps to pedicab drivers. Construction workers. Food sellers. Motorcycle taxi drivers. Traders in the city's wet market, where stalls offer perishable goods like live meat, fish and produce.



AP PHOTO

And as demand for sanitizers increased and price rose, the students made plans to make it themselves.

"They are the most vul-

nerable people here. Some of them do not have social insurance. So we want to support them," Wijayanto said.

For many, the rise of CO-

VID-19 has led to a decline in income.

As of Thursday, the government said there were 893 confirmed cases in Indonesia, including 16 in

Yogyakarta. This growing threat has meant a decline in visitors to Kota Gede, one of Yogyakarta's most popular tourism areas.

"Today I saw almost no tourist came here," said Yeni Pratiwi, a fried snacks seller there.

According to Pratiwi, since the COVID-19 outbreak, she has lost 40% of her daily income.

"I cannot just stay at home. Staying at home means my family will have nothing to eat," Pratiwi said.

The two bottles of soap and a bottle of hand sanitizer she got from the students will enable her to maintain hygiene while working at the market for eight hours every day.

"They are really helpful. My children usually provided anti-bacterial hand soap to me. But it is difficult to find now," Pratiwi said,

and very expensive.

The delivery of soaps and sanitizers was planned on Tuesday but was delayed until Thursday; the students needed to obtain their own masks and other equipment to protect themselves. When they did, they also handed out fliers on hygiene.

The students have big plans. They hope to open a kitchen distribute foods to informal workers at three different places in Yogyakarta. They are looking to raise more money to serve their needs, including medical supplies and masks.

The need is great, said one student, Raihan Ibrahim Anas: "Some of the pedicab drivers we met today said they cannot get any customers."

And until the government steps up, he said, the students will step in. **AP**



Healthcare workers assist a patient at one of the intensive care units at German Trias i Pujol hospital in Badalona, Spain

# Spain hit by record virus deaths; NY demands reinforcements

ARITZ PARRA,  
DAVID RISING  
& NICK PERRY, MADRID

**S**PAIN'S coronavirus deaths jumped by a record number yesterday as the country's medical system strained to care for its tens of thousands of infected patients, and the World Health Organization warned that the pandemic was far from over in Asia.

In the United States, where the spread of the coronavirus has been accelerating, New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo begged for health care reinforcements, saying up to 1 million more workers were needed.

Spain and Italy are still struggling to avoid the collapse of their health systems, with Spain saying hospitals in at least half of its 17 regions are at or very near their ICU bed limits and more than 10,000 medical workers are among the country's reported 94,417 infections.

To cope, dozens of hotels across Spain have been converted into recovery rooms for patients not in serious condition, and authorities are building makeshift field hospitals in sports centers, libraries and exhibition halls. So far they have managed to add 23,000 beds.

Overnight, Spain recorded 849 new deaths, the highest daily toll since the pandemic hit the southern European country. It has now claimed the lives of 8,189 people in Spain, forcing Madrid to open a se-

cond temporary morgue this week after an ice rink pressed into service last week become overwhelmed.

Authorities are shifting ventilating machines to regions with the highest number of ICU patients and moving the patients themselves between regions "has not been ruled out," said Dr. María José Sierra of Spain's health emergencies center.

Deaths climbed rapidly in the United States, which was poised to overtake China's reported virus death toll of 3,300. But experts say all numbers reported by governments and states in this pandemic are faulty in different ways, due to the lack of testing, mild virus cases that are missed or the determination of some governments to try to seize and shape their pandemic narrative.

"This is going to be a long-term battle and we cannot let down our guard," said Dr Takeshi Kasai, WHO's regional director for the Western Pacific. "We need every country to keep responding according to their local situation."

Hard-hit Italy and Spain now account for more than half of the 38,000 COVID-19 deaths reported worldwide and the United States has the most confirmed cases at 164,610, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Italy's death toll rose to nearly 11,600 — the highest in the world by far — but its rates of new infections were slowing.

To the east, Russia regis-

tered 500 new confirmed cases in the biggest spike since the beginning of the outbreak, bringing its total to 2,337. Moscow, the capital, has been on lockdown since Monday and the government is edging toward declaring a national state of emergency.

In New York, the epicenter of the American outbreak, Cuomo and health officials warned that the crisis unfolding there is just a preview of what other U.S. cities and towns will soon face. New York state's death toll climbed by more than 250 people in a day to over 1,200.

"We've lost over 1,000 New Yorkers," Cuomo said. "To me, we're beyond staggering already."

Even before the governor's appeal, close to 80,000 former nurses, doctors and other professionals were stepping up to volunteer in New York, and a Navy hospital ship arrived with 1,000 beds to relieve pressure on the city's overwhelmed hospitals.

In California, officials put out a similar call for medical volunteers as coronavirus hospitalizations doubled over the last four days and the number of patients in intensive care tripled.

Experts, however, maintain the pandemic will be defeated only by the social distancing measures that have put billions of people on lockdown and upended the world's economy.

Dr. Chiara Lepora in the virus hotspot of Lodi in northern Italy said the pan-

demic had revealed critical health care issues in developed countries.

"Outbreaks cannot be fought in hospitals," she said. "Hospitals can only deal with the consequences."

In the southern state of Florida, officials were meeting later yesterday to decide whether to let the infection-plagued cruise ship *Zaandam* dock after more than two weeks at sea.

In a South American dream trip that turned into a nightmare, dozens on the ship have reported flu-like symptoms and four people have died. The company said eight people have tested positive but 2,300 other passengers and crew are in good health.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has said the state's health care resources are stretched too thin to allow the ship to dock. The ship needed special permission just to pass through the Panama Canal.

More than 235 million people — about two of every three Americans — live in the 33 states where governors have declared statewide orders or recommendations to stay home.

"Challenging times are ahead for the next 30 days," President Donald Trump told reporters. "The more we dedicate ourselves today, the more quickly we will emerge on the other side."

Worldwide, more than 788,000 people have been infected and 166,000 have recovered, according to Johns Hopkins University. AP

## this day in history



### 2000 WARTIME CODING MACHINE STOLEN

A coding machine used by the Germans to encode messages during World War II has been stolen from the Bletchley Park Museum in Buckinghamshire, south-east England.

Police said the thief is thought to have carried the cipher machine, which looks like a large typewriter, out of the museum in broad daylight, on a day when the building was open to the public.

It is one of only three such machines in the world, and its value is estimated at more than £100,000.

Christine Large, the director of the Bletchley Park Trust, said, "This particular one was extra special because it was used by the German SS and was made to a higher standard than the ones which were used in the field. We can only hope we get it back."

It's thought the machine may have been stolen to order. It is thought more than one person may have been involved in a carefully-planned operation.

The machine was secured in a glass cabinet which had not been broken. There was an alarm system in operation as well as volunteers watching over the collections.

The theft comes just a week before a new security system was to be installed.

Bletchley Park, a stately home in 50 acres of grounds, was known as Station X during the war. There, British agents succeeded in cracking the Enigma code - a cipher with 150 million million possible combinations which the Germans thought was unbreakable.

By 1945 there were 10,000 mathematicians, linguists and chess champions working there, decoding up to 18,000 messages a day.

The methods they used - inventing machines which ran through large numbers of possible positions in a short period of time - meant the work at Bletchley Park paved the way for the invention of the modern computer.

Their work is said to have shortened the war by several years. Winston Churchill referred to the staff as "the geese that laid the golden eggs, and never cackled".

Station X was a secret until 1967, but is now a popular tourist attraction.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The machine's whereabouts remained a mystery until in September 2000, police began receiving letters from a man saying he was acting on behalf of someone who had bought it. The letter writer demanded £25,000 for its safe return.

The museum agreed to pay the money, but a 6 October deadline was not met.

Two weeks later, BBC television presenter Jeremy Paxman opened a parcel at his office at Television Centre, London. It contained the missing Enigma machine.

No ransom was paid. The machine was missing three of its four encryption rotor wheels, but they were later also returned safely.

Police arrested antiques dealer Dennis Yates in November 2000. The 58-year-old from Derbyshire admitted sending the letters to the police, and sending the Enigma machine to Jeremy Paxman. He was jailed for 10 months.

During his trial the court heard he had become involved in events which spiralled out of his control.

He had received death threats from those he was working for, and has never named the mystery buyer to police. Those who carried out the theft have never been caught.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
There's real heat growing between you and someone else. Unfortunately, this person probably isn't emotionally available right now (no matter how available they may look).

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
Your social status is on a rapid upswing, and you'll be in high demand by a wide array of people. Invitations will be coming your way left and right, and you should let yourself be as choosy as you want.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
If someone you know has recently been making a lot of promises but delivering on none of them, today is the day to say something. Ask this person why so many obligations have been neglected lately.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You're positively bursting with pride today, but it's not the bad kind that alienates people and makes you show off. It's the good kind, the kind that fills you with confidence and encourages you.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Have the celebrities in your social circle been getting a bit too big for their britches lately? Popular people are not always popular for the right reasons, and the chinks in their armor are beginning to show.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
Could there be too much happening in your life right now? Not according to the stars. They say that your capacity for thinking fast, working faster, and enjoying every minute of the craziness is incredibly high.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Pinning all of your hopes on one person isn't a wise idea right now, so try to be realistic about your expectations. This person might be pretty awesome, but they may not be capable of delivering.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
If you've been separated from the world while nursing a bruised ego, it's time for you to get back into the game! Whether you feel ready or not, today is the day to step up and shift back into life.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Having good luck isn't always a passive experience. You can't just wait for a kind genie to arrive at your doorstep and grant you three wishes. In order to enjoy more luck in your life right now, you have to create it.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Your desire to make a connection with new people deserves to be satisfied, so reach out and approach that person who has been making you smile lately. It won't be difficult to make new friends.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Showing that you have the maturity and tact to negotiate with someone who rubs you the wrong way will send a very powerful signal to some important people you want to impress.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Eavesdropping on interesting conversations can be a fun pastime, but it can also get you into a lot of trouble if you aren't careful. Play it safe and mind your own business.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

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

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

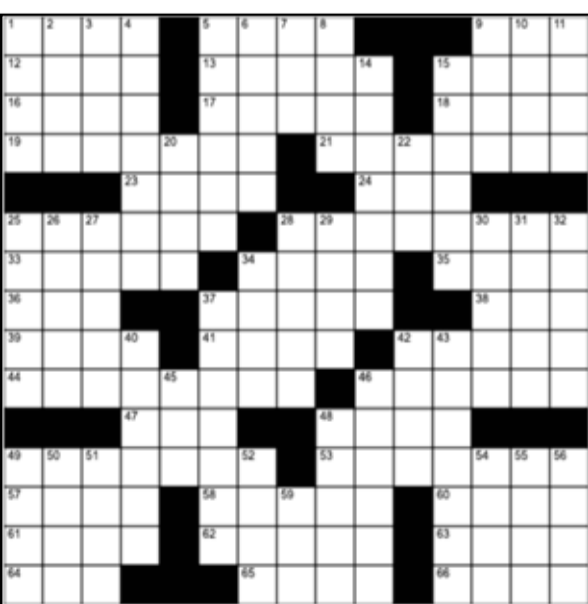
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-5	8	clear
Harbin	-21	-9	clear
Tianjin	-5	6	clear
Urumqi	-8	-1	clear
Xi'an	-4	10	clear
Lhasa	-3	14	clear
Chengdu	3	13	cloudy
Chongqing	4	14	cloudy
Kunming	3	11	drizzle
Nanjing	-3	8	clear
Shanghai	0	8	clear
Wuhan	-3	12	cloudy
Hangzhou	-2	9	clear
Taipei	9	12	cloudy
Guangzhou	6	15	cloudy
Hong Kong	10	16	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	2	4	drizzle
Frankfurt	6	16	moderate rain
Paris	5	14	drizzle
London	5	13	drizzle
New York	0	4	cloudy

## CROSSWORDS

**ACROSS:** 1- Crack; 5- Flaky mineral; 9- Pick up; 12- Pull apart; 13- Make into a statue; 15- Roman censor; 16- Architect Saarinen; 17- Challenger; 18- It may be happy; 19- Predominate; 21- East African nation; 23- Opaque gemstone; 24- Used to be; 25- Out of bed; 28- Intensified; 33- Play groups; 34- Cheek; 35- \_\_\_ Abby; 36- Actress Farrow; 37- Fads; 38- That, in Tijuana; 39- Biblical birthright seller; 41- Energy units; 42- Burdened; 44- Privily; 46- Fluent; 47- Phooey!; 48- Writer Wiesel; 49- Unpredictable; 53- Small, sassy woman; 57- Desktop picture; 58- \_\_\_ Ark; 60- Saab model; 61- Appraise, charge per unit; 62- Fuji rival; 63- Actress Harper; 64- Curvy letter; 65- Juniors, perhaps; 66- Supplements, with "out";

**DOWN:** 1- Dance move; 2- \_\_\_-do-well; 3- River in central Switzerland; 4- Officer of military police; 5- Highway divider; 6- Total; 7- Automobile; 8- Experts; 9- London jail; 10- Sewing case; 11- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 14- Plastering tools; 15- Pursued; 20- Galoots; 22- Atlas page; 25- Summits; 26- Elevate; 27- Son of Abraham; 28- Pet term for man's best friend; 29- Flock members; 30- \_\_\_ say more?; 31- Art supporter; 32- Honeybee; 34- Medieval Scandinavian chieftain; 37- Reconsider; 40- Sophisticated; 42- Burrow; 43- See-through material; 45- Grab a bite; 46- Bottles; 48- One of the Allens; 49- Leprechaun land; 50- Some DVD players; 51- Doesn't keep; 52- Whispers sweet nothings; 54- Vichyssoise ingredient; 55- Scottish Gaelic; 56- Chuck; 59- Pother;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

## 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**



**Nova City Apartment, Taipa**  
HK\$12,880,000 1,494 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 2

**FOR RENT**



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

**FOR SALE**

- [Taipa] Va Fat Apartment 2 1 1  
725 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,380,000 (ref: 18115566)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village Apartment 1 1 1  
785 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,780,000 (ref: 20016009)
- [Coloane] Man Fai Apartment 3 2 1  
1,390 ft<sup>2</sup> \$7,380,000 (ref: 190650105T)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village Apartment 4 2 1  
1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)

**FOR RENT**

- [Taipa] Loft Style Unit 1 1 1  
890 ft<sup>2</sup> \$12,000/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Coloane] Hellene Garden 1 3 2  
1,663 ft<sup>2</sup> \$14,000/mth (ref: 20021003)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1  
1,626 ft<sup>2</sup> \$20,800/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 1  
2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> \$22,000/mth (ref: 19091003)

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# HUAWEI WARNS OF 'PANDORA'S BOX' IF US CURBS TAIWAN SUPPLY

**H**UAWEI Technologies Co. is bracing for its most difficult year on record in 2020, when tightening U.S. sanctions and the Covid-19 pandemic threaten to slam an already slowing business.

Rotating Chairman Eric Xu said he's aware of the potential for Washington to tighten restrictions on the company, including by stopping Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. from selling chips to Huawei. The Chinese government wouldn't tolerate such action and it would irrevocably damage the global supply chain, Xu said in some of Huawei's strongest comments against the Trump administration's measures so far.

"If the Pandora's box were to be opened, we'll probably see catastrophic damage to the global supply chain - and it won't just be one company, Huawei, destroyed," Xu told reporters after unveiling 2019 earnings. "I don't think the Chinese government will just watch and let Huawei be slaughtered on a chopping board. I believe the Chinese government will also take some countermeasures."



BLOOMBERG

China's biggest tech company remains in Washington's cross-hairs even as Covid-19 spreads across the globe. The White House is reportedly considering imposing restrictions on the sale of semiconductors to Huawei by global corporations such as TSMC and Samsung Electronics Co., a move that would effectively deprive the Chinese giant of the most advanced chip technology. That

would escalate already damaging restrictions on Huawei, which yesterday reported net profit grew 5.6% - the slowest pace of bottom line growth in three years.

"Why can't China ban the use of American 5G chips, base stations, smartphones and other smart devices based on the same network security reasons?" Xu said, adding he couldn't confirm reports about curbs on TSMC.

Huawei had previously reported sales growth of about 19%, to 859 billion yuan (\$123 billion) in 2019, roughly the same as in the previous year. And the Shenzhen-based company's profit improved to 62.7 billion yuan. But Xu said 2019 was its most difficult year yet, when it was forced to transform its business after expansive scrutiny and sanctions from the U.S. The effort to contain

Huawei - and by extension, China - forced the company to turn inward.

The Trump administration's campaign to get allies such as Japan and Australia to shut out Huawei gear and phones helped drive sales in the Asia-Pacific down 13.9%, though that was more than offset by a surge at home in China.

In the fourth quarter alone, which was most impacted by the U.S. prohibition on Huawei selling Android phones with Google's mobile services, the company shipped roughly 55 million devices, calculated from the difference between its September shipments update and the year's total. Of the 240 million Huawei and Honor phones shipped, 6.9 million had fifth-generation wireless networking, an area where the company remains a tech leader.

Contrary to warnings from American lawmakers and diplomats, numerous European countries like the U.K. and Switzerland have opted to use Huawei's technology in building out their 5G networks. The U.K. and Germany have both echoed U.S. concerns about how far Huawei can be trusted with key infrastructure of the future, but those have not extended to the severity of an outright ban. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD

PRESENTED BY  
銀河娛樂集團  
Galaxy Entertainment Group

13TH JUNE @ STARWORLD SAVE the DATE

BRITCHAM MACAO'S PEACE 'N' LOVE BALL

DON'T MISS THE BUS

A vibrant, multi-colored bus advertisement. The bus is primarily blue and yellow with a large rainbow graphic on the side. Text on the bus includes 'BRITCHAM MACAO'S PEACE 'N' LOVE BALL' and 'DON'T MISS THE BUS'. Above the bus, there are several suitcases and a guitar. The background is white with the event date '13TH JUNE @ STARWORLD SAVE the DATE' and the presenter's name '銀河娛樂集團 Galaxy Entertainment Group'.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## FOOTBALL

# Tottenham announces salary cuts as chair's pay rise emerges

ROB HARRIS

**T**OTTENHAM chairman Daniel Levy says salaries for non-playing staff are being cut due to the coronavirus pandemic as the club has disclosed his pay package more than doubled to 7 million pounds (\$9 million) last year.

The disclosure yesterday about Levy's salary and bonus for the north London club's new stadium being completed came in accounts also published on the British company register.

The corporate filing of the 2018-19 club's annual report came as Tottenham is grappling with the unexpected economic fallout of the Premier League — and all sport in Britain — being halted in an effort to contain the spread of the COVID-19 disease. That has led Tottenham to follow Barcelona and Juventus in trying to reduce the wage bill, including of the club's leadership.

"Yesterday, having already taken steps to reduce costs," Levy said on the club website yesterday,



"we ourselves made the difficult decision — in order to protect jobs — to reduce the remuneration of all 550 non-playing directors and employees for April and May by 20% utilizing, where appropriate, the government's furlough sche-

me. We shall continue to review this position."

The club did not respond to a question about how many staff were being furloughed.

In the statement, Levy said "the club's operations have effectively

ceased" and there is "no certainty when we may play games again or whether we will be allowed to play in front of our fans."

Levy indicated a desire for coach Jose Mourinho and the players to accept forgoing some pay as well.

"We hope the current discussions between the Premier League, PFA (Professional Footballers' Association) and LMA (League Managers Association) will result in players and coaches doing their bit for the football ecosystem," Levy said.

"Many families will have lost loved ones, many businesses will have been destroyed, millions of jobs lost and many clubs whether big or small may struggle to exist," Levy added. "It is incumbent on me as chairman to ensure we do everything we can to protect our employees, our fans, our partners, our club for future generations — and equally important — our wider community where we have such an immense sense of responsibility."

The disclosure about Levy's pay from the club as the "highest paid director" came in accounts the club has to file annually to Companies House. Levy received a salary of 4 million pounds — up from 3 million pounds in 2017-18 — plus a deferred bonus of 3 million pounds for the new 61,000-seat stadium being completed last year.

Levy's pay rise coincided with one of Tottenham's most successful seasons, reaching a first Champions League final — losing to Liverpool — and finishing in the Premier League's top four for a fourth successive season to secure a place back in Europe's elite competition. **AP**

AD

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**OPINION**

**World Views**

Tim Loh, Bloomberg

**NEW TESTS COULD TURN TIDE AGAINST CORONAVIRUS—IF THEY WORK**

Spain wanted some new rapid coronavirus tests so badly that it bought ones that didn't work. So did the Czech Republic. The U.K. snapped up millions of them as well, even before scientists have established their accuracy.

Why the frenzy? Countries desperate to curb the pandemic need a clearer picture of the virus and its spread. They're willing to make a big bet on new testing approaches that look more broadly for signs of infection than existing diagnostics. The stakes are enormous as economies around the globe grind to a halt and the death tally keeps climbing.

"They will be cheaper, easier to use and could be widely deployable," said Catharina Boehme, chief executive officer of the Foundation for Innovative New Diagnostics in Geneva, a non-profit group that will evaluate the new tests in coming weeks. But "there is a lot of uncertainty still about the performance of these tests."

Until now, the only way to check whether someone had Covid-19 was to employ a labor- and resource-intensive process that detected the coronavirus's genetic material in a person's nose or throat sample. While highly accurate, this so-called molecular testing has drawbacks, including the short supply of key components for them.

The tests also run on complex machinery that require skilled technicians. The resulting bottlenecks have stymied attempts for wide-scale testing, and the tragic consequences are playing out in Milan, New York, Madrid and other hotspots around the world.

By contrast, the rapid diagnostics can be as simple as a home-pregnancy test, delivering results in less than 15 minutes, if they can be shown to work. Their underlying technology is sound, too, used widely for years to test people for influenza, HIV and Zika. The only reason it's taken this long for them to become available is that developers had to first get their hands on patients' blood samples to study how they reacted to the coronavirus, and then develop diagnostics that recognize the response.

The new tests come in two varieties. One hunts for so-called antigens - substances that induce an immune response such as the spikes that protrude from the coronavirus's outer shell - in nose and throat samples. Because they are fast and simple, they are well-suited for drive-through testing centers, doctor's offices or even homes.

The second type looks for antibodies, which a patient's body produces in reaction to the viral attack. These tests should tell people if they've already beaten Covid-19, even if they never had symptoms or mistook their illness for the flu.

That ability could be a powerful way for policymakers to determine how widely the coronavirus has spread, informing decisions about when to reopen parts of the economy and who is best-suited to get back to work. In hospitals especially, putting doctors and nurses who are not contagious and presumably immune on the front lines could be crucial.

Many governments have decided they can't wait. The U.K. has stocked up on more than 4 million finger-prick antibody blood tests that could be made available on Amazon.com Inc. and in pharmacies.

Spain bought thousands of antigen tests from a Chinese supplier, only to find out that they're frequently saying people don't have the coronavirus when they do. The Czech Republic also found tests it purchased from China to be less reliable than planned.

"Until we have independently validated tests, governments shouldn't be rushing in to buy millions of them," said Rosanna Peeling, director of the International Diagnostics Centre at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

For all their potential upside, the new diagnostics may never be as accurate as molecular testing. A patient might test positive for Covid-19 because he developed antibodies against a different coronavirus, such as one that causes the common cold, according to Peeling.

Another risk is simply timing. The body needs about a week to build up enough antibodies to make them detectable - and that process can take even longer in older people or those whose immune system doesn't work so well.

**BOTTLES OF SPIRITS, WINE FREE AT TAIPA BAR**

**THE BUZZ**

A Taipa bar is offering bottles of spirits and wines for free to regular and walk-in patrons - up to 10 bottles per person.

The bar owners said this measure came to mind because they cannot cope with the surplus of stock. "The only condition," the owners said, is that patrons must show their health certificate, take a temperature reading and donate to a local charity a minimum of 20 patacas. The bar has boxes on the counter for donations to charities or NGOs.

"We are offering spirits and wine for free to our regulars, who are now less and less regular, and to walk-ins," the bar owners, who

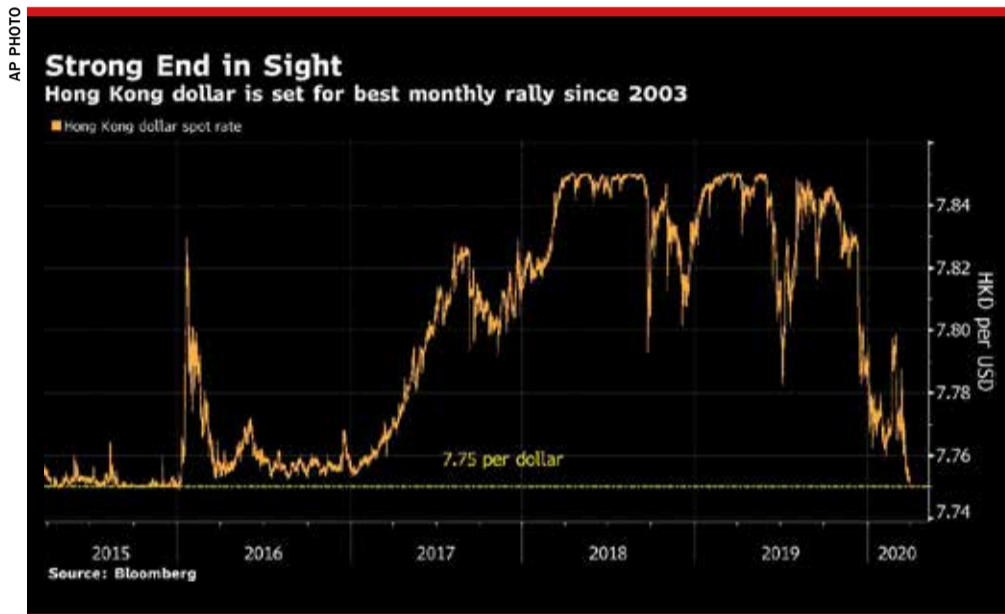
asked to remain anonymous, said. "The reason we want to remain anonymous is because we don't want to take any advantage of the situation." They expect people to "find the treasure bar."

Local bars and restaurants have seen their business take a hit from this health crisis. The numbers of tourists are in free fall and the food and beverage outlets are seeing their revenues shrink "by the hour."

Patrons are "taking the government prevention guidelines seriously, which we understand and applaud."

The bar said that the offer will stand "till the end of time, or stock."

**HONG KONG DOLLAR STRENGTH TO LAST AFTER BEST RUN SINCE 2003**



In a world convulsed by market volatility, there's one surety (for now): Hong Kong's currency will continue outperforming the greenback.

Elevated local rates relative to the U.S. have made the city's currency the best carry trade in Asia, and propelled it to a 0.51% gain this month - set for its best in more than 16 years. The strength will likely be sustained as local borrowing costs are expected to stay higher than U.S. rates in the near term, while Hong Kong's interbank liquidity pool remains small. The Hong Kong dollar traded at 7.7535 versus the greenback as of 4:50 p.m. local time.

The Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the U.S. dollar in a band that ranges between 7.75 and 7.85 to the U.S. dollar. In turn, Macau's pataca is fixed to the Hong Kong dollar at an exchange rate of 1.03. As the Hong Kong dollar is pegged to the greenback, both special administrative regions essentially import U.S. monetary policy.

Even as Hong Kong cut its base interest rate twice in March, liqui-

dity remains so tight in the city that the local dollar is edging closer to the strong end of its trading band at 7.75. Demand for the currency has been increased by local banks hoarding cash before quarter-end regulatory checks, and more than 20 days of net local stock purchases by Chinese mainland investors. In addition, a global shortage of U.S. dollars could boost the Hong

**The Hong Kong dollar's performance is a standout at a time when most currencies witness a sell-off as the outbreak of the coronavirus damages confidence in global economic growth**

Kong dollar as a proxy.

"The Hong Kong dollar may hit 7.75 in the short term," said Carie Li, an economist at OCBC Wing Hang Bank Ltd. "Hong Kong rates won't follow the U.S. borrowing costs to decline quickly even after the quarter-end because the local liquidity pool is small, and that will help maintain a wide yield differential."

The rally follows an

expansion of the gap between the Hong Kong dollar's borrowing costs and the corresponding U.S. rates to the widest since 1999, a move that makes being long the city's currency a lucrative strategy. The aggregate balance in the city - an indicator of interbank cash supply - has shrunk 70% over the past two years to HK\$54 billion.

The Hong Kong dollar's performance is a standout at a time when most currencies in the world witness a sell-off as the outbreak of the coronavirus damages confidence in global economic growth. It's the best-performing exchange rate in emerging markets over

the past month.

Its strength is a far cry from most of the past two years, when it repeatedly touched the weak end of its trading band as investors sold the currency due to its ultra-low interest rates. In response, the local de-facto central bank had to sell U.S. dollars to prevent the currency from falling beyond 7.85 - the weak end of its trading band. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**



**Latin America** From Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Santiago, Chile to Mexico City, the coronavirus is taking root in the world's most unequal region, where many of Latin America's first cases arrived with members of the elite returning from vacations or work trips to Europe and the United States. Many of the wealthy are already recovering, but experts warn that the virus could kill scores of the poorest people, who must work every day to feed their families, live in unsanitary conditions and lack proper medical care.



**Brazil** Like every Sunday, Brazilian Pastor Silas Malafaia (pictured) took the stage of his Pentecostal temple in a middle-class Rio de Janeiro neighborhood. But this week, he wore a T-shirt instead of a blazer and, behind the three cameras broadcasting to his legion of YouTube followers, were thousands of empty seats. Brazil's churches have landed on the front lines of a battle between state governors, who have introduced quarantine measures, and President Jair Bolsonaro, who is actively undermining them.



**Zimbabwe** We are already ruined. What more harm can coronavirus do?" Irene Kampira asked as she sorted secondhand clothes at a bustling market in a poor suburb of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. People in one of the world's most devastated nations are choosing daily survival over measures to protect themselves from a virus that "might not even kill us," Kampira said. WHO's recommended virus precautions seem far-fetched for many of Zimbabwe's 15 million people.