

12 YEARS
A-CHANGIN'

Double Down!
ADVERTISING HERE
+853 287 160 81

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

CTM 5G New Era
is Coming

\$268 / 25GB
\$488 / 50GB

Get ready for 5G!

N.º 3516 MONDAY T. 23º/ 29º Air Quality Good
20 Apr 2020

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MOP 8.00
HKD 10.00 2305 4271

LAS VEGAS SANDS IS SUSPENDING THE CASINO GIANT'S \$2.37 BILLION DIVIDEND TO SAVE MONEY AS IT WEATHERS THE GLOBAL TOURISM LULL

14 VETERAN DEMOCRATS ARRESTED IN HK FOR PROTEST PARTICIPATION

DONALD TRUMP DEFLECTS THE CRISIS TO STATE GOVERNORS AS THE WEIGHT OF A SINKING ECONOMY HAS BEGUN TO COMPLICATE HIS REELECTION EFFORT



South Korea reported just eight more cases of the coronavirus yesterday, the first time a daily increase has dropped to single digits in about two months. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said the additional figures raised the country's total to 10,661, including 234 deaths.



Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard acknowledged yesterday it had a tense encounter with U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf last week, but alleged without offering evidence that American forces sparked the incident.

India Rebels fighting against Indian rule in disputed Kashmir attacked a paramilitary post on Saturday, killing three soldiers and wounding two others, an Indian official said. At least two militants on a motorbike opened gunfire at the post in the northwestern Sopore area on Saturday evening, said Pankaj Singh, an Indian paramilitary spokesman.

United Nations Experts have recommended blacklisting 14 vessels for violating sanctions against North Korea in a report that accuses the country of increasing illegal coal exports, imports of petroleum products and continuing with cyber attacks on financial institutions and cryptocurrency exchanges to gain illicit revenue.

Austria has shut down its last coal-fired power plant as part of a plan to end the use of fossil fuels for energy production by 2030. Utility company Verbund said the plant in the southeastern town of Mellach was powered down Friday.

More on backpage

THE FIGHT AHEAD

MACAU LOOKS FOR SIGNS HO IAT SENG HAS POLITICAL WILL TO SAVE ECONOMY

P4-5 POLICY ADDRESS



BACK TO SCHOOL AGAIN

HIGH SCHOOLS TO RESTART CLASSES FOR SENIORS IN TWO WEEKS

P3



LAWMAKER WANTS MORE PAID TRAINING COURSES

Lawmaker Leong Sun lok has asked the local government to expand the government paid training program to more sectors. In Leong's interpellation to the SAR government, the lawmaker pointed out that the first two phases of the program had shortages of supplies and recorded a large number of applications. The first two phases included a total of 1,200 vacancies and Leong wants more vacancies. He also wants the government to include workers who became unemployed before the fourth quarter of 2019 and this year's university graduates in the program. The government should, according to Leong, also disclose support measures for currently employed workers whose jobs have been affected by Covid-19.

SPECIAL EDUCATION AMENDMENT EXPECTED THIS YEAR

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has planned to submit the amendment of special education regulation to the Executive Council within this year. The bureau expects the proposal to be passed into law in 2020 as well. The amendment involves an assessment for integrated program students. In the academic year of 2019/2020, Macau has a total of 77 schools, 43 of which provide integrated education services, including nine public schools and 34 private schools. In the academic year of 2018/2019, all integrated program students were successfully put into a school. Currently, no special education students have been forced to drop out of school.

MORE MUNICIPAL PROJECTS TO PROVIDE 700 JOBS

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said it plans to launch 60 municipal projects next month, which will yield over 700 jobs. The projects involved include the renovation and optimization of 60 public bathrooms, the maintenance of iron railings in the streets of Macau, the exterior decoration of urban areas, the renewal of door number boards, the optimization of pedestrian walkways, and the maintenance of roads, among others. The IAM already adjusted its tender system to increase opportunities for small and medium-sized companies by allowing more local SMEs to participate in construction projects, as well as to hire more local workers.

OVERSEAS MACAU RESIDENTS MAY SEEK CHINESE EMBASSY'S HELP TO RETURN

JULIE ZHU

MACAU residents who live overseas and wish to return to Macau have been advised to seek help from the Chinese embassy according to Inés Chan, representative of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

During Friday's daily press conference of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, Chan reported that MGTO has received a total of 28 assistance requests from overseas Macau students. Seven students' contact and personal information were confirmed, while the other 21 did not provide their contact or personal information to MGTO.

These students, who wish to return to Macau, asked the SAR government to arrange transportation to transfer them from the Hong Kong International Airport back to Macau. They also expressed their dissatisfaction over the fact that they cannot obtain a Covid-19-free medical test result in their current location, which is the U.K.

Chan suggested that these Macau residents try seeking help from the Chinese embassy because she had learned that the embassy planned to arrange charter flights to bring Chinese citizens to Mainland China.

On April 6, Hong Kong suspended a special travel arrangement on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-

AP PHOTO



-Macau Bridge that allowed the Macau government to collect its residents from the Hong Kong International Airport.

Since April 15, the Macau SAR government has required all passengers to present a Covid-19-free medical test result before they board their flights to Macau. Local residents are no exception.

As to what the Macau local government can do to help overseas Macau residents obtain a test, Chan stated "we try our best to as-

sist them."

The Macau SAR government is able to provide consultancy, and to provide specific documents and proofs for overseas Macau residents upon the requests of the concerned individuals.

Lo Iek Long, medical director of the Conde São Januário Hospital, believes that it is reasonable for the Macau SAR government to implement the Covid-19-free proof measure.

"We request the test to pro-

tect aircraft cabin crew and other passengers," said Lo.

Previously, the local government had planned to adjust entry policies for non-local workers in April. As of yesterday, no updates have been issued concerning this topic.

Lo stated that the Chief Executive and principal government officials will assess the situation influencing the non-local workers entry policy plan and make future policy changes.

EXCO COMPLETES DISCUSSION ON AMENDED 2020 BUDGET

THE Executive Council (ExCo) has completed discussions on the draft of the amended 2020 budget.

The total expenditure amount of the MSAR integrated budget for the economic year of 2020 has been changed to 114.64 billion patacas, while the balance of the MSAR integrated budget for the economic year of 2020 remains at 828.88 million patacas, consisting solely

of budget execution balances of the autonomous services and organizations.

The total expenditure of the aggregate budget of the special agencies for the economic year of 2020 has been changed to 26.27 billion patacas, and the aggregate budget of the special agencies for this economic year will show a loss amount of 7.72 billion patacas.

The amendment involves a 10 billion pa-

tacas investment to the Macao Foundation, which will be used as a support measure for the local economy in the coming months.

The common expenses of the central budget will also increase by another 3.64 billion patacas, which will consist of a budgetary allowance for the second round of e-vouchers issued under the government's Consumption Subsidy Scheme. **JZ**

FOREIGN RESERVES FALL 2.3% FROM A MONTH EARLIER

THE Monetary Authority of Macao has announced that the preliminary estimate of the SAR's foreign exchange reserves amounted to 176.6 billion patacas at the end of March 2020.

The reserves decreased by 2.3% from the revised value of 180.7 billion for the previous month, according to the Monetary Authority.

The SAR's foreign exchange reserves at the end of the first quarter represented 10 times the currency in

circulation at the end of February 2020.

The trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca dropped 0.12 points in month-to-month terms but rose 2.90 points year-on-year to 108.5 in March. This implies that overall speaking, the exchange rate of the pataca declined against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners on a monthly basis but increased on an annual basis. **DB**

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+18,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

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

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



School resumption back on track for senior students

ANTHONY LAM

SECONDARY schools will resume in May in a two-phased approach, the director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), Lou Pak Sang, announced yesterday during the daily press conference organized by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

According to the DSEJ plan, senior secondary school students will resume on May 4, while junior secondary school students will return to school on May 11.

The arrangement for other education levels is still pending, but the bureau director hinted that if all goes well, these levels

will follow later with their own resumption dates. Online lessons will continue for lower level classes for the time being.

The first two phases of school resumption concern about 27,000 students.

However, the DSEJ director noted that there would be greater flexibility for the resumption of kindergarten levels and students with special education needs. He indicated the possibility of a lack of resumption for these levels.

If new Covid-19 cases are confirmed between now and the announced school resumption dates, the DSEJ will consult the Health Bureau (SSM) about whether school resumption should

be postponed again. Likewise, should the number of Covid-19 cases rise after the resumption, further school suspension will be considered following consultation with the SSM.

Lou reminded students and teachers to remain in Macau for the next two weeks, not only to prepare for school resumption, but also to lower the risk of infection from outside sources.

Cross-border students, meanwhile, are reminded to undergo whatever measures necessary to satisfy border-crossing requirements set forth by the governments in Guangdong and Macau, if they decide to return to school in Macau. They are also advised to return to Macau and

stay at a relative's place if possible.

As earlier stated, parents have the discretion to apply for school absence on behalf of their children should they have concerns about the school resumption. Schools are urged to consider such absences with flexibility.

Schools are also advised by the authority to make arrangements for younger students, should parents need to work and face difficulties in taking care of them during the day. When junior secondary schools resume, schools will take applications from these parents and provide daycare assistance at schools.

Should time permit, schools can conduct student assessments blending materials from before and after the school suspension. It should, however, be conducted in a relaxed fashion, according to the government. Other "conclusive assessment" will not be appropriate, the DSEJ has stated.

The bureau has also recommended no student should be held back this school year. Lou reiterated that position yesterday.

As the bureau has previously stated, schools have the discretion to extend their teaching to make up for lost time – although this is not recommended by the DSEJ – but teaching must end on or before July 31.

Guidelines on school resumption have been uploaded to the DSEJ's website and distributed to schools. They include health and safety measures, student assessments, promotion and detainment, as well as curriculum arrangements.

The Covid-19 outbreak in the city has resulted in the swift development of online teaching. Following advice from the DSEJ, many schools, teachers and students have taken their first steps in online lectures.

When asked about the reliability of online teaching platforms, the DSEJ head said that schools have the freedom to choose whichever one to use. Lou disclosed that the bureau is working on Macau's own online teaching platform. He hopes that it will be available in September this year, when the new school year commences.

The bureau is striving to design the platform especially for use by local schools. Lou hinted that this step is a response to the "possible normality of online teaching in the future."

Lo Iek Long, medical director at the Conde São Januário Hospital, stands with the DSEJ's decision on school resumption. He added that it is irrational to halt school indefinitely because the epidemic "seems to be a 5,000-kilometer run, a half-marathon or a full marathon," implying that there is still some distance to go before it ends.

GOVERNMENT CONFIDENT IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLY

THE Macau SAR government is confident in its ability to supply more affordable housing units to local residents in the long-term.

The First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) had a discussion with government representatives on Friday about the amendment of the affordable housing bill.

Secretary for Transport and

Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário attended the discussion.

Ho Ion Sang, chairman of the AL committee, said that in the short-term, affordable housing supplies will remain at zero. However, he reported that the government is confident more units will be made available in the long-term.

Earlier this year, the govern-

ment opened applications for the 3,011 affordable housing units located in New Urban Zone A, but the start date for the construction of these housing units remains unknown.

On the sideline of Friday's AL committee discussion, Rosário reiterated that affordable housing is designed to solve local residents' housing issues. They are not for investment purposes. **JZ**

IKEA STORE TO HOLD SOFT OPENING THURSDAY

SWEDISH furniture brand IKEA will hold the soft opening for its first Macau store on Thursday.

Located in the shopping mall of the Nova Grande residence, next to the Central Park in Taipa, the 8,000-square-meter shop is the first full store in the

Macau SAR. It will include an IKEA Café and a Swedish Food Market, and will offer as many as 600 parking spaces for customers.

Pictures circulated on social media on Saturday after the company held a "test and family day" ahead of Thursday's soft launch.

Earlier, the store had been scheduled to open in the first quarter of this year.

The local IKEA franchisee already operates a 'pick-up store' from the Macau Tower, where customers can collect purchases made on the company's website. **DB**

GAMING

Sands suspends \$2.37 billion dividend, seeks acquisitions

CHRISTOPHER PALMERI

WITH the casino industry shut down by the coronavirus, Sheldon Adelson is suspending Las Vegas Sands Corp.'s dividend. He's also looking to purchase existing resorts from others for the first time, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Sands' majority shareholder, Adelson said late last week the savings will help shore up the company's finances as it weathers the shutdown of casinos in the U.S. and Singapore, and a sharp cutback in Macau. He personally collected \$1.22 billion in dividends last year out of a total of \$2.37 billion.

"I am known for the phrase, 'Yay dividends!,' and I assure you that it is still my mantra," Adelson, the company's founder and chief executive officer, said in a statement. "As I look forward to the day - soon let us hope - when this terrible virus is no longer of concern - I see many strategic opportunities for our company precisely because of our financial strength."

Sands will continue some \$5.5 billion in investments in projects under construction, including a new hotel tower in Singapore and the remodeling of a Macau property that is being rebranded the Londoner. The company is also still pursuing expansion opportunities, such as a new casino in Japan and one in New York City, if legislators allow them.

But the Las Vegas-based company is also considering buying existing resorts for the first time, said the people, who asked not to be identified discussing private deliberations. Adelson is looking to take advantage of potential discounts the company

could find amid the industry contraction. He is interested in properties that play to the company's strength - large resorts in tourist destinations that focus on meeting and convention business, they said.

Adelson has been one of the largest supporters of Republican candidates in the U.S., and the dividend cut isn't expected to curtail his giving this year, one of the people said. Adelson lobbied to help pass the \$2.2 trillion stimulus bill signed by President Donald Trump last month because it helps small businesses. He said Sands won't seek government loans.

The 86-year-old billionaire was one of several dozen CEOs named on Tuesday to Trump's advisory group on how to get the U.S. economy growing again after the coronavirus crisis.

Virtually all of the casinos in the U.S. have been closed for the past month, leading to an unprecedented crash in revenue. Companies have hustled to raise cash and cut costs.

Sands has said it will continue to pay employees through the shutdown, including making up for lost tips. Wynn Resorts Ltd. has followed a similar path, while rivals including MGM Resorts International and Caesars Entertainment Corp. have put workers on unpaid furloughs.

The company's Macau affiliate, Sands China Ltd., is also suspending its final dividend for 2019. It paid out a total dividend of \$616 million to outside shareholders last year.

The company's Macau affiliate, Sands China Ltd., is also suspending its final dividend for 2019. It already paid out a total dividend of \$616 million to outside shareholders last year. **BLOOMBERG**

G2E ASIA POSTPONED AGAIN, THIS TIME TO DECEMBER

ANNUAL gaming industry event G2E Asia will be again postponed, this time to December 1 to 3 this year, its organizing bodies have announced.

The organizing bodies, the American Gaming Association and Reed Exhibitions, revealed in a statement that the further postponement was made necessary as the figures of the Covid-19 global infection are still on the rise in many territories. As a result, border controls have remained stricter than normal in Macau.

For the time being, Macau only accepts entrants holding passports issued by a greater China jurisdiction. Other tourists are barred from entering the city.

"Unfortunately, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and continued travel and commercial restrictions, it is not possible to hold G2E Asia in July as originally planned," the organizing body wrote.

The organizing body added that they would continue to monitor the situation and remain in close contact with all G2E Asia stakeholders, the local government, and health authorities over the coming months.

In normal circumstances, the event is held during the third or the fourth week of May each year. This year will be the 14th time the event has been organized in Macau. Last year, the event hosted nearly 200 exhibitors and attracted about 16,500 spectators. **AL**

ANALYSIS | POLICY ADDRESS

After health crisis victory,

LYNZY VALLES

CHIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng has satisfied the public with his handling of the novel coronavirus outbreak, riding on a wave of popularity in his first four months leading the city. However, some political commentators have argued that despite his success tackling the Covid-19 health crisis, the government has failed to show the political will to adequately address social problems caused by the pandemic.

This afternoon, Ho is set to deliver his first Policy Address to review what has already been achieved with regards to alleviating the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. Usually presented every November, the Chief Executive is set to detail the government's future recovery plans.

Aside from the usual announcements on housing, the economy, and further integration of the Macau SAR in the Greater Bay Area (GBA), some observers are holding out for the government to establish policies in other, sometimes overlooked areas of society.

According to some political commentators, the public is hoping for fresh ideas and perspectives on the city's future development in a bid to increase confidence in the current administration.

HIGH PERFORMANCE, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

A study conducted in early February by the Macao Polling Research Association showed that nine out of 10 members of the public are satisfied with the local government's measures to prevent a further outbreak of the novel coronavirus. Just four months into the job, Ho Iat Seng is thought to be riding on a wave of popular support.

Having pleased the Macau public with his work to combat Covid-19 so far, Ho has set high standards for the upcoming address.

Lawyer Sérgio Correia de Almeida expressed his belief that Ho has been generally good at protecting the Macau SAR and its residents during the Covid-19 outbreak, noting, "it is natural that expectations are high at this point."

This same sentiment was echoed by political commentator and legal expert António



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng takes the podium at

Katchi, who dubbed the current administration's move as "largely correct and undoubtedly effective."

But early success in the health campaign have led to high expectations in many quarters of the city regarding the post-Covid-19 economic recovery plan.

Another major issue that some would like to see addressed this afternoon is the mid-term prognosis on the economy and whether the various cash handouts and subsidies will create inflationary pressures

Of particular note are the social and economic problems caused by the Covid-19 outbreak.

For Katchi, the government's address of the public health crisis has not shown any political will

to tackle social problems caused by the Covid-19 outbreak.

Katchi referred to the failure of the government to protect employees from employers and tenants from landlords, adding that the government has showed contempt for non-resident workers, treating them as a "discardable labor force."

Residents who are self-employed professionals, small businessmen, and perhaps some medium-sized enterprises may also bear the economic consequences of the pandemic, however he noted that large company shareholders and real estate speculators will be spared.

"Right at the beginning of the outbreak, the government should have submitted to the Legislative Assembly a temporary emergency bill banning layoffs, furloughs, unpaid leaves, and salary reductions on any ground, forbidding employers from forcing employees to take paid annual leave," Katchi told the Times.

But he said he does not expect

some question if HHS has will to save economy



CAUTION: INFLATION AHEAD

Another major issue that some would like to see addressed this afternoon is the mid-term prognosis on the economy and whether the various cash handouts and subsidies will create inflationary pressures.

The government has aimed to boost the business activity of local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through the issuance of two rounds of e-vouchers totaling 8,000 patacas for every resident. The credit, which comes amid a raft of new measures, can be used for consumption purposes across the city, but some entities, such as casino operators, are excluded.

For Katchi, this type of financial assistance should not have been the government's first method of alleviating the economic pressure on small businesses.

The suspension of rental obligations and bank loan repayments would have been a much better approach to help small businesses survive and help their employees to retain employment. "Only if that were not enough should government [direct] financial aid to SME's be considered – the latter should never be the first option," he said.

Other commentators are worried that the e-vouchers may prove ineffective at stimulating the economy and putting cash back into the pockets of the people if consumer prices grow at a faster pace than the moderate rise of recent years.

"The government is giving out a lot of money to encourage people to kind of stimulate the local market but at the same time, once when we have this kind of 'free money' going around, our inflation will also freely go up," said So.

Democrat lawmaker Au Kam San said that the current cash handout is just a short-term measure and he is concerned about the need to develop a more permanent support structure.

"In the next half year or so, I think the government should do more because the effective period of this [measure] is merely six months," said Au.

The lawmaker wants Macau to be better prepared when the SAR is again faced with another economic restructuring, whether it be willingly undertaken through diversification efforts or due to a global catastrophe like Covid-19. "We can't hope for ambitious plans, but I still hope the government can refine existing policies," said Au.

The Policy Address will be held at 3 p.m. today at the Legislative Assembly, followed by a press conference at the Government Headquarters at 5 p.m., where the Chief Executive will answer questions from the media.

such measures to be undertaken by the government.

"It would run counter to its very nature of a bourgeois, pro-oligarchy government. It has already made its choice about who will bear the consequences of this crisis: first and foremost, non-resident workers; then, to a lesser degree, resident workers - for the time being, only in the private sector," he said.

Many non-resident workers have already lost their jobs because of the pandemic, while redundancies have also been noted among the resident workforce.

For today's Policy Address, Paul Pun, secretary general of Caritas Macau, is hoping for the concerns of the Macau's most vulnerable to be included in Ho's plans for this year.

According to Pun, the new government should address areas which the previous government never tackled through the annual address, particularly those concerning the protection of non-resident workers.

"Today we should have something to accommodate the migrants that also contribute to the safety of the society. They have a role to play. Local citizens and

non-resident workers are partners in some way. We still need to think of something to serve those people," said Pun.

Lawyer Correia also agreed that measures to encourage the economy and support better integration of non-resident workers from abroad are needed.

SERIOUS SCRUBBING

Aside from this matter, there was also a call for further transparency and clarity in the city's public administration.

Correia stressed that, due to the low taxation in the SAR, there is no reason to allow companies or shareholders with addresses in the British Virgin Islands or Cayman Islands to operate in the city unless there is "something to be kept secret."

The lawyer is looking for an approval of a set of measures to effectively combat corruption, namely through a substantial increase in the taxation of offshore companies that still operate in Macau and are holding real estate assets.

Correia noted that a clear and coherent program for reforming the Public Administration, the justice system including courts, conservatories, notaries, and bi-

lingualism is needed. He also called for a mechanism to hold political office holders accountable and for a serious anti-corruption drive greater than that seen in the mainland.

"After 20 years of integration, Macau needs a greater cleansing than that carried out by President Xi Jinping in Beijing and in the interior of China," said the lawyer. "If that cleansing had been carried out soon after 1999, or at the end of the first Chief Executive's decade, Macau would be much better today. There's no place for corrupt people to continue doing business in Macau and exploiting its people under the cover of patriotism," he added.

ACROSS THE BORDER

The Chief Executive has also said that he seeks to actively encourage young people to participate in the development of the GBA.

Ho's electoral campaign had included a goal to improve the comprehensive quality and competitiveness of young people as well as to implement active policies on youth employment and entrepreneurship.

However, given the Covid-19 pandemic and the stricter border

restrictions put in place, one political commentator believes that border controls recently imposed in the GBA have put the relocation plans of Macau residents on hold. For Larry So, the lockdown discourages young entrepreneurs that are keen to transfer to the GBA, because there are no assurances they will be allowed to return to Macau at their leisure.

"There is nothing wrong with the lockdown. But if we are talking about encouraging people to move to the GBA, do we mean that if anything like this pandemic happens, our young people who are staying in one of the GBA cities cannot come back to their homes? This is a dilemma," said So.

The commentator called for this matter to be discussed during the Policy Address, noting that Ho's campaign platform had made GBA integration a major policy objective.

Correia also agreed that in spite of Macau's integration into the GBA and the accompanying policies of the central government, Macau must have its own technological, cultural and scientific development program to justify its political and administrative autonomy.

JAPAN

New wave of infections threatens to collapse hospitals

MARI YAMAGUCHI & YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

HOSPITALS in Japan are increasingly turning away sick people as the country struggles with surging coronavirus infections and its emergency medical system collapses.

In one recent case, an ambulance carrying a man with a fever and difficulty breathing was rejected by 80 hospitals and forced to search for hours for a hospital in downtown Tokyo that would treat him. Another feverish man finally reached a hospital after paramedics unsuccessfully contacted 40 clinics.

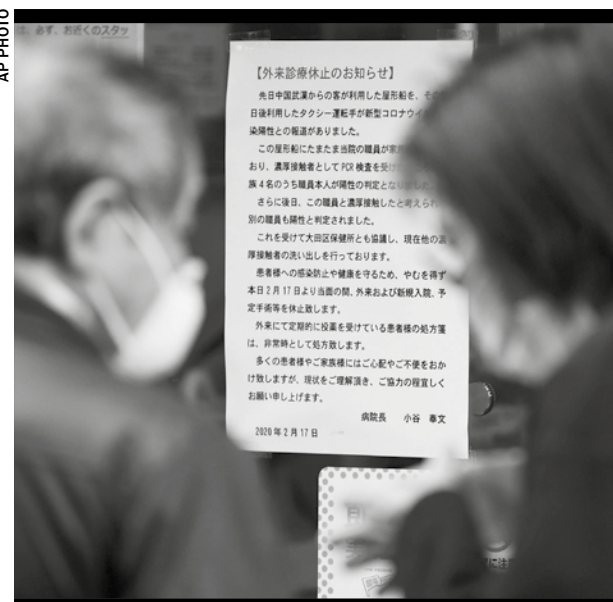
The Japanese Association for Acute Medicine and the Japanese Society for Emergency Medicine say many hospital emergency rooms are refusing to treat people including those suffering strokes, heart attacks and external injuries.

Japan initially seemed to have controlled the outbreak by going after clusters of infections in specific places, usually enclosed spaces such as clubs, gyms and meeting venues. But the spread of virus outpaced this approach and most new cases are untraceable.

The outbreak has highlighted underlying weaknesses in medical care in Japan, which has long been praised for its high quality insurance system and reasonable costs. Apart from a general unwillingness to embrace social distancing, experts fault government incompetence and a widespread shortage of the protective gear and equipment medical workers need to do their jobs.

Japan lacks enough hospital beds, medical workers or equipment. Forcing hospitalization of anyone with the virus, even those with mild symptoms, has left hospitals overcrowded and understaffed.

The "collapse of emergency medicine" has



already happened, a precursor to the overall collapse of medicine, the Japanese Association for Acute Medicine and the Japanese Society for Emergency Medicine said in a joint statement. By turning away patients, hospitals are putting an excessive burden on the limited number of advanced and critical emergency centers, the groups said.

"We can no longer carry out normal emergency medicine," said Takeshi Shimazu, an Osaka University emergency doctor.

There are not enough protective gowns, masks and face shields, raising risks of infection for medical workers and making treatment of COVID-19 patients increasingly difficult, said Yoshitake Yokokura, who heads the Japan Medical Association.

In March, there were 931 cases of ambulances getting rejected by more than five hospitals or driving around for 20 minutes or longer to reach an emergency room, up from 700 in March last year. In the first 11 days of April, that rose to 830, the Tokyo Fire Department said. Department official Hiroshi Tanoue said the number of cases surged largely because suspected coronavirus cases require isolation until test results arrive.

Infections in a number of hospitals have forced medical workers to self-isolate at home, worsen-

ing staff shortages. Tokyo's new cases started to spike in late March, the day after the Tokyo Olympics was postponed for a year. They've been rising at an accelerating pace for a current total of 2,595. Most patients are still hospitalized, pushing treatment capacity to its limits.

With about 10,000 cases and 170 deaths, Japan's situation is not as dire as New York City's which has had more than 10,000 deaths, or Italy's, with more than 21,000 fatalities, according to Johns Hopkins University.

But there are fears Japan's outbreak could become much worse.

Doctors say they are stretched thin. Since it takes time for COVID-19 to be diagnosed, patients who show up at hospitals can unintentionally endanger those around them.

Calls for social distancing have not worked well enough in crowded cities like Tokyo, experts say, with many people still commuting to offices in crowded trains even after the prime minister declared a state of emergency.

Officials fear people may travel during the upcoming "golden week" holiday in early May.

"From the medical field, we are hearing cries of desperation that lives that can be saved may no longer be possible," Abe said Friday. "I ask you all again, please refrain from going out." AP

AP PHOTO

ANALYSIS

With new virus plan, Trump passes buck to states

AAMER MADHANI, CHICAGO

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's guidelines for states to reopen their economies had the hallmarks of a permission structure. But what he really created was a blame structure.

On Friday, he emphatically embraced protesters who defied the orders of their states' governors to restrict movement and large gatherings to combat the coronavirus pandemic.

Less than 24 hours before, he had given governors a metrics-driven guide to make their own decisions. But he did it in a way that also pushes responsibility to the states, giving him a way to shift the blame if things go badly. And he pushed to dump the ongoing problem of a shortage of testing for the virus in the governors' laps as well.

It fits a familiar pattern for Trump: claim credit for what's going well, find a fall guy for what's not.

In making the case that large swaths of the country can safely ease restrictions under the new guidelines, Trump also found a way out of his constitutionally questionable

assertions that he had "total authority" to decide how the states return to a semblance of normalcy.

He couldn't have been more explicit in casting the need for expanded screening for the virus — something that public health experts say is necessary before Americans can get back to normal life -- as the governors' problem.

"The States have to step up their TESTING!" Trump declared on Twitter on Friday.

New York Gov. Andrew

If there was any doubt about how quickly Trump wants the economy firing on all cylinders, he dispelled it with a trio of tweets saying to "LIBERATE" Michigan, Minnesota and Virginia — all states with Democratic governors. In effect, he was egging on protesters resisting the governors' stay-at-home restrictions.

He was liberal in identifying foes. He slammed presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden over the Obama administration's handling of the H1N1 flu outbreak. And he jabbed at Cuomo, whom he's alternately praised and lambasted throughout the crisis.

"Governor Cuomo should spend more time 'doing' and less time 'complaining'. Get out there and get the job done," Trump tweeted.

Trump's eagerness to revive the economy — a key part of his reelection strategy — was evident in the evolution of the guidelines issued by the White House.

The final guidance doesn't go as far as what the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had recommended to the White House last week.

The CDC, according to a

Trump's push to deflect the crisis to the doorstep of governors comes as the weight of a sinking economy has begun to complicate his reelection effort

Cuomo, a Democrat, was having none of that.

He said Trump had passed the buck to the governors "without passing the bucks" for states to do what's needed. His state has been the hardest hit in the nation, with more than 14,000 virus-related deaths.

"We cannot do this without the federal government," Cuomo said.



The workers who keep Spain going under lockdown

ÁLVARO BARRIENTOS,
PAMPLONA

AS Spain hunkers down after five weeks of confinement, the brave few keep the country going during a coronavirus outbreak that has killed more than 20,000 of their fellow citizens.

These workers — butchers, taxi drivers, pharmacists — in the northern city of Pamplona as well as in the rest of Spain's cities and towns are unified by their courage and one piece of equipment: the face mask.

"I feel a great sadness and impotence when faced with the tragedy we are living through," said taxi driver Isabel Zarranz, who has continued to work as part of the essential services authorized by the government. "Our way of life has changed forever."

Matilde Mattos said while cleaning the window of a pharmacy: "This crisis is a way of showing us that we are destroying the planet. It is a sign from God."

Most retail stores, including restaurants and bars, along with schools and other services have been closed for weeks to stem a COVID-19 ou-

tbreak that has infected over 190,000 people in Spain. While people infected with the coronavirus often experience mild or moderate symptoms, possible complications like pneumonia can put their lives at risk.

Factories and construction sites were reopened last week after a two-week freeze.

While hundreds of thousands in Spain have lost their jobs during the lockdown, these few workers are making sure the basic needs and services function at the risk of also falling ill.

Yet uncertainty reigns for their future as well, with the country heading for a likely recession along with large parts of Europe as business activity and trade plummets.

"I don't know what will happen in the coming months. It is a huge unknown," butcher Jose Mari Armendariz said.

For fish dealer Gladis Neire, used to attending to her regular clientele, the confinement has taken the life out of her stall.

"I feel so bad for so many people who have died," she said. "The market where I work, there are always people. Now it is empty." AP

draft of the recommendations obtained by the AP, talked about using more specific criteria and in many cases looking for improvement over longer periods of time, before easing restrictions in high-transmission areas. Examples include wanting to see sustained reductions over 30 days in positive tests for coronavirus, and sustained reductions over 15 days in numbers of coronavirus deaths. Under Trump's guidelines, a state would have to see a decline in documented COVID-19 cases over 14 days.

The dilemma for states is clear.

Dr. Tom Frieden, the former CDC director, said testing needs "to increase by a factor of three to as much as a factor of 20" from the current rate of about 150,000 tests being conducted each day. Even without adequate testing, though, Trump in part justified his road map for relaxing social distancing by arguing that cases have peaked in the United States.

Some experts say available data seems to suggest that a national peak has been reached, but the situation differs from city to city and state to state. Others say it's not yet clear there's been a peak anywhere.

"From the places I know about, the data are not defini-

tive that we are peaking," said Marc Lipsitch, a Harvard University epidemiologist.

Trump's push to deflect the crisis to the doorstep of governors comes as the weight of a sinking economy has begun to complicate his reelection effort. A new Pew Research Center survey found that 65% of respondents believed Trump responded too slowly to address the threat of the coronavirus outbreak in the U.S.

The lack of a national testing strategy will increase the chances for prolonged deadly waves of the disease to emerge in the months ahead, said Lawrence Gostin, a public health expert at Georgetown University.

"It's impossible to get to the place where we want to be without a national testing strategy," Gostin said. "With a state-by-state approach, it can't possibly work."

Trump boasts that his administration has paved the way for 3.5 million tests nationwide — more than any other nation. But the U.S. lags several nations in testing on a per capita basis, including Germany and South Korea. The president counters that "areas of our country that have been hotspots have done much more."

Indeed, in New York, more than 550,000 tests have been administered.

But Cuomo said in a state of 19 million residents and 9 million working people, getting people back to work safely will require far more testing. Complicating matters, Cuomo said, is that states, the federal government and private sector are competing against one another to acquire testing.

"The federal government cannot wipe their hands of this and say, 'Oh the states are responsible for testing,'" Cuomo said.

But that's exactly what Trump has in mind.

Drs. Deborah Birx and Anthony Fauci, the top medical experts on the White House coronavirus task force, say the "new normal" in American

life will look much different for some time. But Trump scoffs at the idea of an America where restaurants aren't packed with diners or big stadium events are left half empty in the name of social distancing.

"Our normal is if you have 100,000 people in an Alabama football game — or 110,000, to be exact — we want 110,000 people there," Trump said. "We want every seat occupied."

But Gostin, the Georgetown expert, said it's not realistic that the country will return to such normalcy soon.

"The president's guidance is not entirely irresponsible," Gostin said. "It's also not a national plan." AP

CHINA REJECTS CORONAVIRUS CONSPIRACY THEORY

CHINA IS pushing back against President Donald Trump and some of his officials, who've flirted in recent days with an outlier theory that the coronavirus was set loose by a Chinese lab that let it escape. The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman on Friday accused the U.S. administration of attempting to shift the focus from its own missteps in dealing with the pandemic by talking up a theory that it was started by a pathogen from a

laboratory in Wuhan, the city where the global outbreak began. A scientific consensus is still evolving, but the leading theory is that infection among humans began at an animal market in Wuhan, probably from an animal that got the virus from a bat. Experts overwhelmingly say analysis of the new coronavirus's genome rules out the possibility that it was engineered by humans, as some commentators have suggested.

Fair to furlough? Massive UK job-saving plan prompts pushback



AP PHOTO

BRITAIN'S bailout battle is heating up before the first penny has even been paid in an unprecedented effort to save jobs amid the coronavirus pandemic.

While more than half of U.K. companies are expected to apply for government grants to pay furloughed employees, critics say they expect too much of the cash to go where it's not needed.

"In my opinion, all allowances, handouts and incentives don't go to the most needy but to the people or organizations most adept at claiming them," Hargreaves Lansdown Plc co-founder Peter Hargreaves said in an email. "Letting people have the choice to work would be a better solution."

Under the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, which starts taking applications on Monday, employers can claim a grant covering 80% of the wages for a furloughed employee of up to 2,500 pounds a month (about 25,000 patacas). The expected participation rate - and Friday's announcement that it would be extended into June - puts the estimated total cost at as much as 56 billion pounds (557 billion patacas).

The program is designed

to minimize the economic damage from a prolonged lockdown. U.K. Chancellor of the Exchequer Rishi Sunak has vowed to do "whatever it takes" to counter the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, which could see the economy shrink by more than a third in the second quarter. A protracted lockdown could see unemployment increase by over 2 million.

Most industry bodies say the economic damage would be far greater without the government's intervention and welcomed the program's extension while reminding firms that there are invisible strings attached.

"In the end this has got to be about trusting business," said Peter Cheese, chief executive officer of CIPD, the professional body to the country's human resource and personal development sector whose survey found the majority of employers in the U.K. expect to access the program. "I think the public will call companies to account if they do not see them acting in a shared interest and not just short term self-interest."

For many U.K. businesses - particularly those directly hit like non-food retail, hospitality and travel - CJRS is already proving essential. In the airline in-

dustry, British Airways is planning to use it to help furlough more than 30,000 employees, while low-cost rival, EasyJet Plc said about 7,500 of its U.K. staff were furloughed in April and May. Virgin Atlantic Airways Ltd. said about 80% of its workforce was currently furloughed.

Arcadia Group - the parent company of brands including Topshop and Dorothy Perkins - plans to furlough 14,500 workers using taxpayer money. "Obviously the furlough scheme is helpful to retailers whose doors have been closed," said Philip Green, its billionaire owner.

Nevertheless, Arcadia's decision to furlough about 90% its 16,000 staff sparked outrage on social media given Green's personal wealth and past dividends paid to his family. Richard Branson's \$5.8 billion fortune drew similar scrutiny after Virgin Atlantic's chief executive officer called for a government bailout of the airline industry.

In many cases, a wealthy backer doesn't mean the company has ready access to cash.

Edinburgh Woollen Mill, controlled by the multimillionaire Philip Day, has furloughed the majority of its shop floor staff across its various retail brands. A

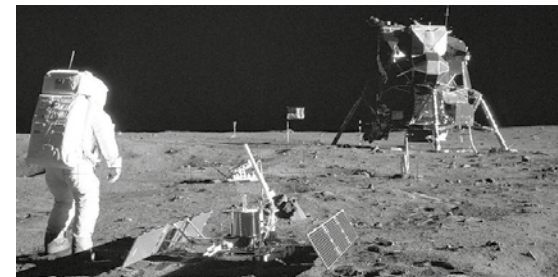
spokesman said that even with government support the company was still having to use "all funds at our disposal and multiple years of retained profits to sustain as many jobs as possible". It has also activated a previously untapped 100 million-pound credit facility in order to put the business in a stronger position.

"Our owner does not take a salary nor take money out of the business. Their notional net worth is based on the book value of business not liquid wealth," the company said in a statement.

When and whether employers should reach into their own pocket before the taxpayers' is sure to remain live as the budget deficit blows out. Undercoring the debate is the biggest known unknown: What the economy will actually look like once the pandemic has passed.

"One problem is trying to understand how long this will go on for and how deep the impact will be," said David Ketchin, head of Europe for Hackett Group, a management consultancy. "The scheme absolutely is something that's prevented large swathes of layoffs in the first instance, but if this does go on for a long time it won't make a big difference." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

this day in history



1972 APOLLO 16 SAFELY ON MOON AFTER ENGINE CRISIS

The Apollo 16 mission has landed on the Moon after a seven-hour crisis that nearly aborted the mission altogether. Astronauts John Young and Charles Duke became the fifth team to step down onto the Moon at 0324 BST (0224 GMT). They landed in the Descartes crater region of the lunar highlands.

A delighted Charles Duke exclaimed, "Contact!" as the lunar module, Orion, touched down.

His first comment on looking around him was, "We're not going to have to walk far to pick up rocks."

It was the end of a seven-hour drama which began at 2036 BST (1936 GMT) the previous evening, when an engine on the command module, Casper, malfunctioned after it had separated from the lunar module.

If the engine had been fired at this point, the craft could have veered out of control or far off course, with disastrous consequences.

The command module has to place itself in a precise orbit above the Moon to be in the right place to pick up the lunar module for the journey home.

As the engine could not be fired, Orion could not be cleared for the landing, and there were serious doubts at mission control that it would be possible to make a landing at all.

Although the astronauts were not believed to be in personal danger, there were fears of another expensive failure like Apollo 13 two years ago, when an explosion on board crippled the spacecraft, aborting the mission and putting its crew at serious risk.

The two Apollo 16 astronauts on the lunar module were told to halt their landing attempt and keep Orion close to Casper in a "station keeping position" in which it would be possible quickly to link the two craft if necessary.

Mission control issued an 0814 BST (0714 GMT) deadline to fix the problem or abandon the mission and return to Earth.

Then shortly before 0300 BST (0200 GMT) the command module pilot, Thomas Mattingly, managed to fire the engine while on the far side of the Moon, out of radio contact.

The command module smoothly moved to the right point orbiting between 60 and 70 miles (95 to 110 km) above the lunar surface.

That cleared the way for the lunar module to begin making its descent.

The delay meant Young and Duke have had to cancel one of their three excursions on the moon buggy they have brought with them, but they should still be able to complete most of the mission as planned.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The command module pilot who dealt with the engine crisis, Thomas Mattingly, was the astronaut who was taken off the disastrous Apollo 13 mission at the last minute.

The Apollo 16 mission was dogged by major and minor setbacks, but scientifically it was a great success.

It brought back more data than ever before, including 212lbs (96 kg) of moon rock.

The two astronauts took two long drives into the lunar highlands, going higher above the lunar plain and into more rugged terrain than other expeditions.

Their findings challenged the geologists' view that volcanic activity had formed the Moon's features.

Instead, they found evidence that the impact of meteorites may have played a larger part than previously thought.

The Apollo programme had already been cut back severely by the time of Apollo 16, and there was only one more manned mission to the Moon, in December 1972.

However, in January 2004 the US President, George Bush, said American astronauts would return to the Moon by 2020 as the launching point for missions further into space.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Get into some activities that will help you in making new friends. A friendship might suffer if money becomes an issue. Don't let emotional upset force you into the poorhouse.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 You will be able to communicate well today. Uncertainties regarding relatives will make situations uncomfortable if you attend a family function.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 Visitors are likely to drop by and may even stay a little longer than you want them to. Your passionate nature may make you jealous if your mate has been too busy to take care of your needs.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 You can meet interesting new friends if you join worthwhile groups. You might find group functions tiring. Don't draw too much attention to yourself at work.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 You need to be active and spend time with friends you enjoy. Keep your feet on the ground, if you can. Opportunities to expand your circle of friends will result in possible new romantic encounters.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Secret enemies will be eager to spread rumors about you. Your mind is on moneymaking ventures. You will benefit through hidden assets and property investments.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Communications with loved ones may be strained. You will be relentless when it comes to getting yourself back into shape. You will need to spend extra time sorting through your work.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Don't press your luck with your loved ones. Children may be demanding, and entertainment could cost a lot more than you can really afford. You will be prone to carelessness that could result in accidents.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Toning, fitness, pampering should all be scheduled. Your home environment appears to be a little shaky. Talk to your mate about a vacation and discuss the expectations of your relationship.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 You may be in love today, but who knows what tomorrow may bring. You will reach the most people if you speak out at an organizational function. Plan a day of enjoyment with them.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 You may be looking at some difficulty with your family today. Don't get upset. Disputes on the home front may be hard to avoid. Socially, you need a fast paced form of entertainment.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Any renovation or decorating to your home should include the whole family. Delve a little deeper if you really want to know the score. You can come into money that you don't necessarily work for.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

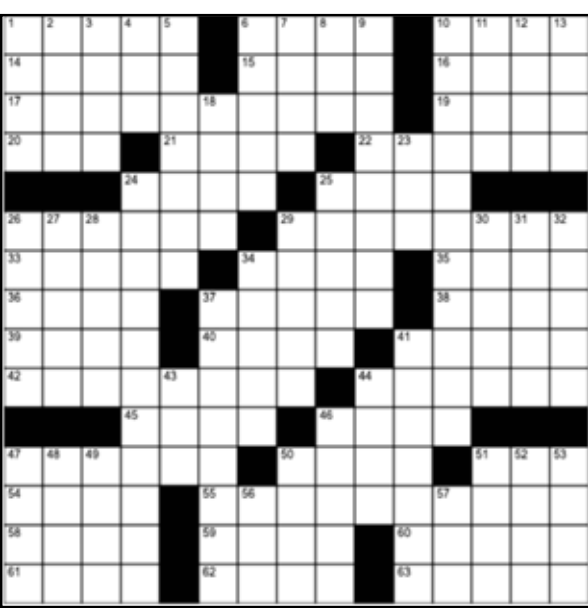
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	10	17	clear
Harbin	2	12	moderate rain
Tianjin	12	17	clear
Urumqi	10	22	clear
Xi'an	13	20	overcast
Lhasa	5	18	cloudy
Chengdu	15	22	overcast
Chongqing	18	20	drizzle
Kunming	13	28	clear
Nanjing	11	21	drizzle
Shanghai	12	22	drizzle
Wuhan	12	17	drizzle
Hangzhou	11	23	drizzle
Taipei	21	24	overcast
Guangzhou	22	29	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	29	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	2	11	drizzle
Frankfurt	5	15	clear
Paris	12	17	cloudy
London	7	15	clear
New York	6	15	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- One in prison for good; 6- Hunk; 10- Room in a casa; 14- Love deeply; 15- Assistant; 16- Russian river; 17- Written in the native language; 19- 100 centavos; 20- Battery size; 21- Sites; 22- Whip up; 24- Quote; 25- Planetary revolution; 26- Certain Muslim; 29- Pertaining to ships; 33- Transport; 34- They're charged; 35- Gymnast Korbut; 36- One of the Baldwins; 37- Elicit; 38- Enlarge, as a hole; 39- Waiter's offering; 40- A pitcher may take one; 41- Mazda model; 42- First public performance; 44- Unsteady gait; 45- Fine and delicate; 46- Pinguid; 47- Quantity; 50- "The Clan of the Cave Bear" author; 51- Vanilla ____; American rap star; 54- "Death in Venice" author; 55- Teacher; 58- On or towards the Mediterranean, for example; 59- Emptiness; 60- Satisfies; 61- Injury reminder; 62- Canadian gas brand; 63- Basic monetary unit of Denmark;

DOWN: 1- Hot rock; 2- Impression; 3- ____ song (cheaply); 4- Directional suffix; 5- Fact; 6- Gravy, for one; 7- Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"; 8- Nabokov novel; 9- Lullaby; 10- Dominance; 11- Calculus calculation; 12- Final; 13- Succulent plant; 18- Pigeon coop; 23- Rodent, betrayer; 24- Orbiting the moon; 25- Jerks; 26- Rascal; 27- More robust; 28- Peace goddess; 29- Snare; 30- Wedge; 31- Playing marble; 32- Truman's birthplace; 34- Creamy white; 37- Optional; 41- Invertebrate; 43- Author Fleming; 44- Stadium section; 46- Best; 47- Latin lesson word; 48- Not fem.; 49- Fit for service; 50- Sale sign; 51- What's ____ you?; 52- "Fargo" director; 53- Scottish Gaelic; 56- Rejections; 57- Saturn or Mercury;



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 3 bedroom, Ready to move in!
HK\$11,400,000 1,515 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

Manhattan Apartment, Taipa
\$20,800/mth 1,626 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2

FOR SALE

[Taipa] **Wa Bao** 2 1/2 2 1/2
 1,071 ft² **\$7,995,000** (ref: 18115568)

[Taipa] **Taipa Village- two connected** 4 1/2 2 1/2
 1,404 ft² **\$8,380,000** (ref: 19096006)

[Macau] **Unique Loft** 2 1/2 2 1/2
 2,200 ft² **\$9,990,000** (ref: 15115464)

[Coloane] **Large 3/4 bedroom** 2 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2
 2,530 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096000)

FOR RENT

[Macau] **Vai Fung Triplex, Macau** 2 1/2 2 1/2
 1,065 ft² **\$15,800/mth** (ref: 19121001)

[Taipa] **Buckingham** 2 1/2 1 1/2
 1,100 ft² **\$15,900/mth** (ref: 20031002)

[Taipa] **Manhattan** 3 1/2 2 1/2
 1,626 ft² **\$20,800/mth** (ref: n/a)

[Coloane] **Ocean Garden** 4 1/2 4 1/2
 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)

jml 卓雅物業
 property since 1994

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

f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty



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

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



Juliet Risdon
+853 6680 9804
juliet@jmlproperty.com



Elda Lemos
+853 6226 8566
elda@jmlproperty.com



Sam Lee
+853 6611 0975
sam@jmlproperty.com



Kitty Lou
+853 6630 0730
kitty@jmlproperty.com

Property of the Week



Nova City 3 bedroom, Ready to move in!
HK\$11,400,000 1,515 ft² 3 2

Fresh on the market is this spacious 3 bedroom apartment in the heart of Taipa, Macau. Ideal for the family, this location has several kindergartens and schools within 5 minutes walk and best of all, Taipa Central Park is right at your doorstep with kids playground, basketball courts, swimming pool and public library.

Entering this family home is a generous dining and living space. The living room has city views and overlooks the park below. The modern kitchen has a large window for ample natural light and ventilation and adjoins a store room/maid room.

Nearby facilities include a bus stop at the building entrance, popular restaurants and bars nearby and Park n Shop and San Mui supermarkets within easy walking distance.

Property Hotlist



Chun Fuk, Taipa Village

\$8,998,000
834 ft²
2 2



Apartment in Historical Centre

\$4,580,000
840 ft²
2 1



Manhattan Apartment, Taipa

\$20,800/mth
1,626 ft²
3 2



Buckingham, Taipa

\$15,900/mth
1,100 ft²
2 1



More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] **Wa Bao** 2 2 1,071 ft² **\$7,995,000** (ref: 18115568)
- [Taipa] **Taipa Village- two units** 4 2 1,404 ft² **\$8,380,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Macau] **Unique Loft unit** 2 2 2,200 ft² **\$9,990,000** (ref: 15115464)
- [Coloane] **Large 3/4 bedroom** 2 3 2 2,530 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096000)
- [Macau] **One Central Stylish** 2 2 1,349 ft² **\$14,839,000** (ref: 19096004)

For Rent

- [Taipa] **Ocean Garden** 4 4 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)
- [Taipa] **Vai Fung Triplex, Macau** 2 1 1,065 ft² **\$14,000/mth** (ref: 19121001)



Recent Movements

Sold Hellene Garden, Taipa, 3 beds

Rented Taipa Loft Unit, 1 bed

Rented Buckingham, Taipa, 2 beds



JML Events



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team



Macau Golf Masters

LET'S CONNECT

jmlmacau
 jmlproperty

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

+853 2835 2699

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

UK youth orchestra plays 'Ode to Joy' alone but together

A nationwide lockdown didn't stop Britain's National Youth Orchestra from making music — alone but together.

With the country in its fourth week of isolation to slow the spread of the new coronavirus, the collection of teenage musicians from across the U.K. can't meet in person the way they usually do during school holidays.

Instead, the orchestra's 164 musicians opened their windows or stood their doorsteps to play 40 seconds of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" at 5 p.m. (1600 GMT) on Friday.

Members of the public across Britain joined in on myriad instruments — from violin and viola to saxophone, trombone and tuba — and posted footage of their performances on social media using the hashtag #NYOdeToJoy. In London, Anglican

AP PHOTO



vicar Jeremy Fletcher gave his rendition on an electric guitar.

The performance was dedicated to health care staff, other essential workers and anyone who feels isolated in their home.

Violinist Kynan

Walker, the 18-year-old orchestra leader, said the performance was intended as "a nationwide gesture of gratitude."

"Beethoven wanted this music to be a completely new innovation for classical music, but

also a message to society in terms of uniting, and this overwhelming sense of joy," he said. "So it's been great for us to prepare something that seems so relevant to today — especially in the circumstances that we're in right now." AP

NBC'S PEACOCK LAUNCHING IN JULY WITH 'HANDFUL' OF ORIGINALS

TALI ARBEL

NBCUNIVERSAL says its video-streaming service Peacock will launch nationally in July as planned, even though just a handful of its original series will be ready.

The service was meant to have a mix of originals, classic shows and movies, and current NBC programming like its late-night shows and "Law & Order: SVU." Original shows are key to hooking consumers inundated with new streaming services, but the coronavirus pandemic has largely shut down Hollywood production.

Peacock was also supposed to get a big push from the Olympics this summer, but the quadrennial games have been postponed until 2021.

Peacock now expects to have "dozens" of premieres of originals in 2021, said Matt Strauss, the company's chairman. It's tricky to predict when Hollywood production will return to normal after the coronavirus shutdown.

Peacock is rolling out Wednesday to Comcast subscribers as a sort of test before the national launch. It is still targeting July for a national rollout, but is also looking at moving up the date.

NBC is pitching Peacock as a free, ad-supported streaming service in an attempt to distinguish itself from a slew of new paid-subscription services that compete with market giant Netflix, including Disney Plus, Apple TV Plus and the upcoming HBO Max.

In July, Peacock will have a basic, free tier; a \$5-a-month version with original series and other shows; and an ad-free version for \$10 a month. Comcast subscribers get Peacock free, and NBC wants to bundle it with other platforms as well. Cable company Cox has already agreed to offer Peacock to its subscribers for free.

Peacock is launching with 10 long-term ad sponsors. It says it will limit ad time to 5 minutes or less per hour, considerably shorter than on traditional broadcast TV. AP

AD

CASA DE PORTUGAL
EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會

Escola de Artes e Ofícios
School of Arts and Crafts

curso . course

Informática e Redes Sociais – Seniores

Computer and Social Networks Course - Seniors

monitora/monitor: **Inês Dias**

Terças e Quintas
Tuesdays and Thursdays
10h30 - 12h30

início/starts: 23/04/2020
fim/finishes: 16/06/2020

propina/fee:
MOP 1200 *

total: 30 horas/hours
15 sessões/sessions

língua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English ** patrocínio/sponsor: **Fundação Macau**

local/venue:
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado nº431-487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 14º andar A, sala 3, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
10 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

* Contactar a sede da CPM para informações sobre modalidades de pagamento.
Please contact CPM's headquarters for payment information.

** Aulas com tradução em Cantonês sempre que o número de alunos o justifique.
Sessions with Cantonese translation when the number of students justifies it.

morada/address: Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva, nº 28, R.A.E. de Macau
tel: (853) 28 726 828 fax: (853) 28 726 818 portugal@macau.ctm.net

仁德 **CENTRO MÉDICO PEDDER**
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

Gastroentero-Hepatology : Dr. Zhan De Juan

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

OPINION

World Views

Ariel Proccacia, Bloomberg

WHY SCIENCE WON'T
ACE ITS COVID-19 TEST

A New York Times article published earlier this month proclaimed that, according to scientists, "never before have so many of the world's researchers focused so urgently on a single topic." It went on to describe the race to develop a coronavirus vaccine and drugs for treating it, involving global collaborations of medical researchers. Epidemiologists are also laboring tirelessly to save us from the virus by modeling its spread and directing mitigation efforts. Meanwhile, some macroeconomists are working overtime to save us from the epidemiologists.

But that hardly accounts for most of the world's researchers, who specialize in disciplines as alphabetically diverse as aerobiology and zoopathology. In the U.S. alone there are likely hundreds of thousands of scientists and engineers who have the desire and knowledge to contribute to the fight against the coronavirus. And those of us working in academia continue to command the resources and professional autonomy needed to refocus our work, despite having decamped from proverbial ivory towers to dingy basements.

So why haven't we seen a dramatic shift in academic research priorities across all disciplines? One reason may be lack of coordination.

Under normal circumstances, science works remarkably well as a decentralized process, where researchers identify problems they're passionate about, study them with very little oversight, and then hope to convince their peers that their work is inspiring, profound or useful. Good research projects are deliberative and careful, often taking years from conception to publication.

In a crisis, however, the usual scientific process is inadequate. When it comes to dealing with the coronavirus, time is of the essence, and the relevance of a project is determined by its potential to save lives, aid mitigation efforts, or alleviate the epidemic's damage to society.

Scientists need an up-to-date, detailed understanding of the situation on the ground in order to pinpoint feasible problems whose solutions truly matter. This understanding, in turn, can only arise from a system for large-scale coordination and information sharing between the scientific community and those managing the response to the pandemic at all levels — which doesn't exist (at least in the U.S.).

It would be a mistake to dismiss the absence of such a system as yet another way in which we were woefully unprepared for a pandemic. Admittedly, until a few months ago pandemics were roughly in the same category as sharknadoes from the public's perspective: Most people who feared these potential catastrophes were film critics. But coordination and information-sharing are also required if scientists are to effectively respond to more familiar disasters like earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, wildfires and oil spills.

This exact point is one of the key conclusions of a prescient report, "Science During Crisis," which was published last year by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. "At the onset of a crisis," the authors wrote, "a central curated clearinghouse developed in advance should be activated to collect, disseminate, and coordinate relevant scientific information." The report makes a number of sensible and equally unimplemented recommendations, but I believe this is the one that would have made the biggest difference (and can still make a difference in the future).

To be sure, despite the difficulties there already are plenty of valuable contributions from scientists and engineers across many disciplines. To ease the shortage of medical devices, economists from Boston College and MIT put forward a clever triage protocol, and engineers from the University of California, Berkeley, are designing kits that convert sleep apnea devices into ventilators. As another example, several apps created by computer scientists and mathematicians anonymously trace users' exposure to the coronavirus. Applications of artificial intelligence are somewhat less sporadic; in fact, a new public-private consortium plans to invest \$367 million in harnessing AI against the virus.

But the scale of these timely initiatives is still tiny relative to grand scientific endeavors like the Apollo program, which has made numerous cameos in commentary about the pandemic. Even in the longer term I expect we won't be seeing the epic mobilization of scientists that perhaps would have been possible with better preparation and coordination. That doesn't mean scientists won't play a key role in defeating the coronavirus. The goal shouldn't be to land on the moon, but merely to land on our feet.

As global tourism collapses, so does the orchid industry in top exporter Thailand, where the flowers are regarded as a symbol of hospitality. Global demand for cut flowers, from Thai orchids to Dutch tulips and Kenyan roses, has plummeted as businesses and hotels shutter worldwide and consumers stay at home.

Millions of orchids - used to decorate hotels and restaurants, and for celebrations and events - are being cut and thrown out every day because they can't find a buyer, according to Sompong Thaveesuk, vice president of the Thai Orchids Garden Enterprise Association.

"There are barely any buyers, and even if we wanted to export flowers, we couldn't do it because most of the passenger flights, which usually carry them, have been canceled," said Sompong, who estimated demand was down 95%.

Thai orchid growers and exporters, employing some 50,000 workers, are just focusing now on keeping the farms going, while they wait for buyers to return. As coronavirus cases and deaths keeping rising across the globe, and lockdowns seem set to continue, that may be some way off.

HONG KONG

US, UK CONDEMN
ARRESTS OF DEMOCRACY
ADVOCATES



Media tycoon Jimmy Lai, who founded Hong Kong newspaper Apple Daily, is arrested by police officers at his home in Hong Kong

THE United States condemned the arrests of at least 14 veteran pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong on charges of joining massive anti-government protests last year, saying the police action jeopardizes a high degree of autonomy guaranteed the southern Chinese city.

Among those arrested Saturday were 81-year-old activist and former lawmaker Martin Lee and democracy advocates Albert Ho, Lee Cheuk-yan and Au Nok-hin. Police also arrested media tycoon Jimmy Lai, who founded the local newspaper Apple Daily.

The sweeping crackdown amid a coronavirus pandemic is based on charges of unlawful assembly stemming from huge rallies against proposed China extradition legislation that exposed deep divisions between democracy-minded Hong Kongers and the Communist Party-ruled central government in Beijing.

The bill — which would have allowed the residents of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory to be sent to mainland to stand trial — has been withdrawn, but the protests continued for more than seven months, centered around demands for voting rights and an independent inquiry into police conduct.

While the protests began peacefully, they increasingly descended into violence after demonstrators became frustrated with the government's response. They feel

that Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam has ignored their demands and used the police to suppress them.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in a statement condemned the arrests.

"Beijing and its representatives in Hong Kong continue to take actions inconsistent with commitments made under the Sino-British Joint Declaration that include transparency, the rule of law, and guarantees that Hong Kong will continue to 'enjoy a high degree of autonomy,'" Pompeo said. He was referring to the 1997 handover of the former British colony to China, which promised the city would enjoy political freedoms not afforded mainland China.

Attorney General William Barr also weighed in with a statement saying these events show how "antithetical the values of the Chinese Communist Party are to those we share in Western liberal democracies. These actions — along with its malign influence activity and industrial espionage here in the United States — demonstrate once again that the Chinese Communist Party cannot be trusted."

Britain's Foreign Office also criticized the arrests, saying "the right to peaceful protest is fundamental to Hong Kong's way of life and as such is protected in both the Joint Declaration and the Basic Law."

Beijing has accused the U.S. and other Western

countries of instigating the protests and insists they're China's internal affairs.

The Office of the Commissioner of the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Hong Kong said police were enforcing the law against those suspected of organizing and participating in unauthorized assemblies, and foreign countries have no right to interfere, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"It is completely wrong that the U.K. Foreign Office spokesperson has distorted the truth by painting unauthorized assemblies as 'peaceful protests,' in a bid to whitewash, condone and exonerate the anti-China troublemakers in Hong Kong," the statement said.

Lai, Lee Cheuk-yan and Yeung Sum — a former lawmaker from the Democratic Party who was also arrested — were charged in February over their involvement in a rally on Aug. 31 last year.

The Hong Kong authorities had denied permission for most of the rallies and police increasingly used tear gas and pepper spray against demonstrators, arresting hundreds.

The League of Social Democrats wrote in a Facebook post on Saturday that its leaders were among those arrested, including chairman Raphael Wong. They were accused of participating in two unauthorized protests on Aug. 18 and Oct. 1 last year. AP



Germany A group of 47 unaccompanied children evacuated from refugee camps in Greece landed in Germany on Saturday, German officials said. The Interior Ministry said the minors landed in Hanover on a flight from Athens. They were all tested for the coronavirus before departure and will remain in two-week quarantine before moving on to other German states



Jerusalem A small group of Christian clerics celebrated the Holy Fire ceremony at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem on Saturday as the coronavirus pandemic prevented worshippers from taking part in the ancient ritual.



Spain Passengers on a luxury liner's around-the-world cruise, begun before the globe was gripped by the coronavirus pandemic, are finally approaching the end of their odyssey after 15 weeks at sea. The ship, the Costa Deliziosa, was heading toward a port in Spain before ending its journey in Italy.

Africa now has more than 1,000 deaths from COVID-19, the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Saturday, while Nigeria said the president's chief of staff had died. A total of 52 of the continent's 54 countries have reported the coronavirus, with the overall number of cases surpassing 20,000 on Saturday.

Canadian police yesterday asked residents in a rural area of the Atlantic coast province of Nova Scotia to stay in their homes as they look for a suspected shooter who may be driving a police car and in police uniform. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police said they had identified the gunman in Portapique, Nova Scotia as 51-year-old Gabriel Wortman and that several people were shot.