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China A shorter-than-usual ban on drone use in Beijing is seen as a signal that China will curtail its major political meeting of the year because of the coronavirus. Beijing police announced yesterday that the use of drones, balloons, gliders and other low-flying objects will be banned for nine days, from May 20 to May 28. The National People's Congress was postponed this year because of the virus outbreak. It is scheduled to start May 22, so the flying ban suggests it may last just one week.



China reported seven new cases yesterday, six of them in the northeastern province of Jilin where authorities have raised alert levels and suspended rail connections to a county where a cluster of unknown origin has been growing. China has reported a total of 4,633 deaths among 82,926 cases. [More on p7](#)

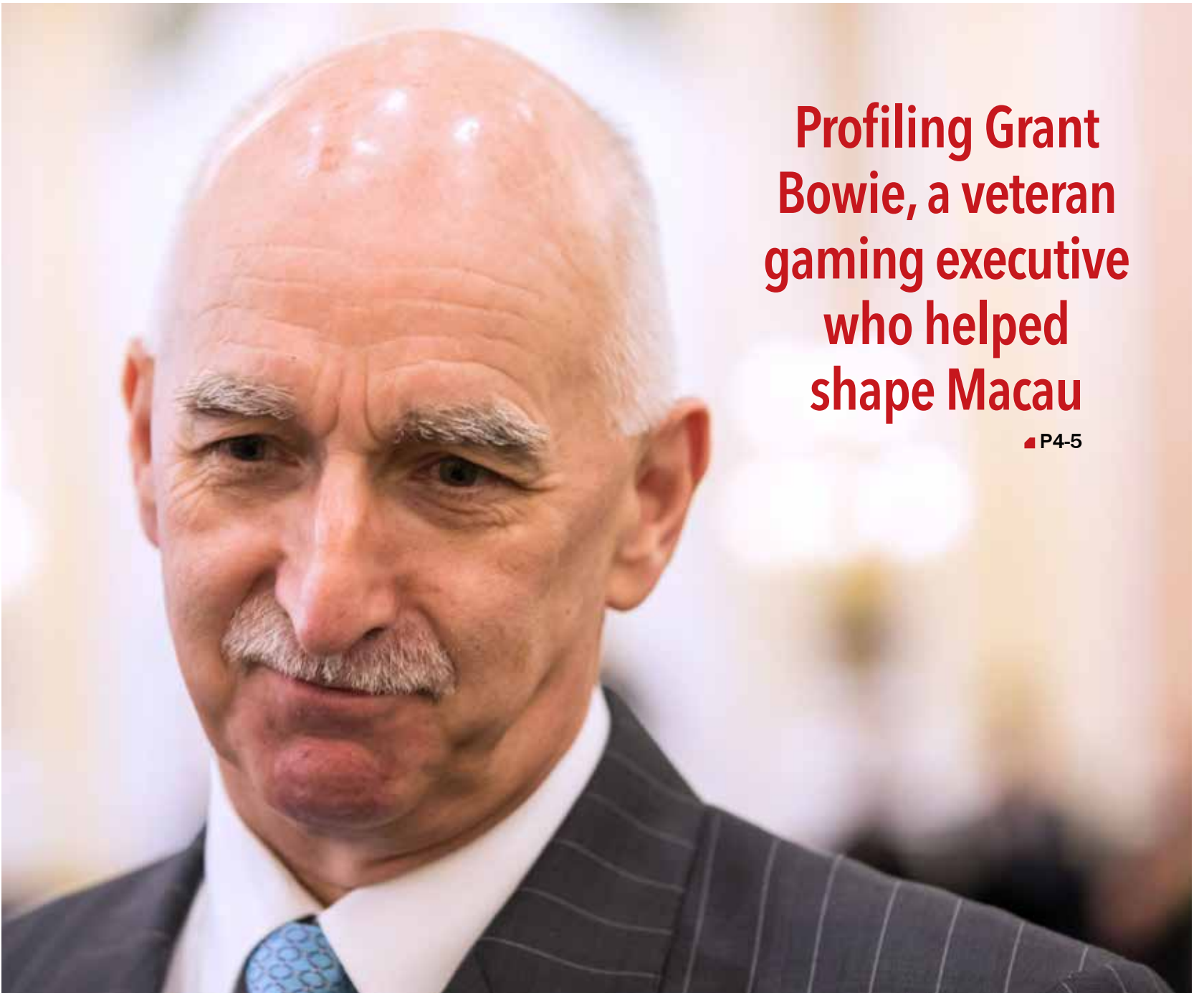


Thailand has reported no new confirmed cases of the coronavirus for the first time in more than two months. There also were no new deaths reported yesterday, leaving the country's total at 3,017 cases with 56 fatalities. Since the beginning of May, Thailand has reported single-digit daily increases with the exception of May 4, when a cluster pushed the number to 18. The last time Thailand reported no new cases was on March 9.

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MGM GRANT

BLOOMBERG



**Profiling Grant
Bowie, a veteran
gaming executive
who helped
shape Macau**

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COURTESY TAIWAN NEWS



**WHITE
DOLPHIN
BATHES
IN NAPE
WATERS**

P6

DATE FOR CIVIL SERVICE EXAM STILL UNKNOWN

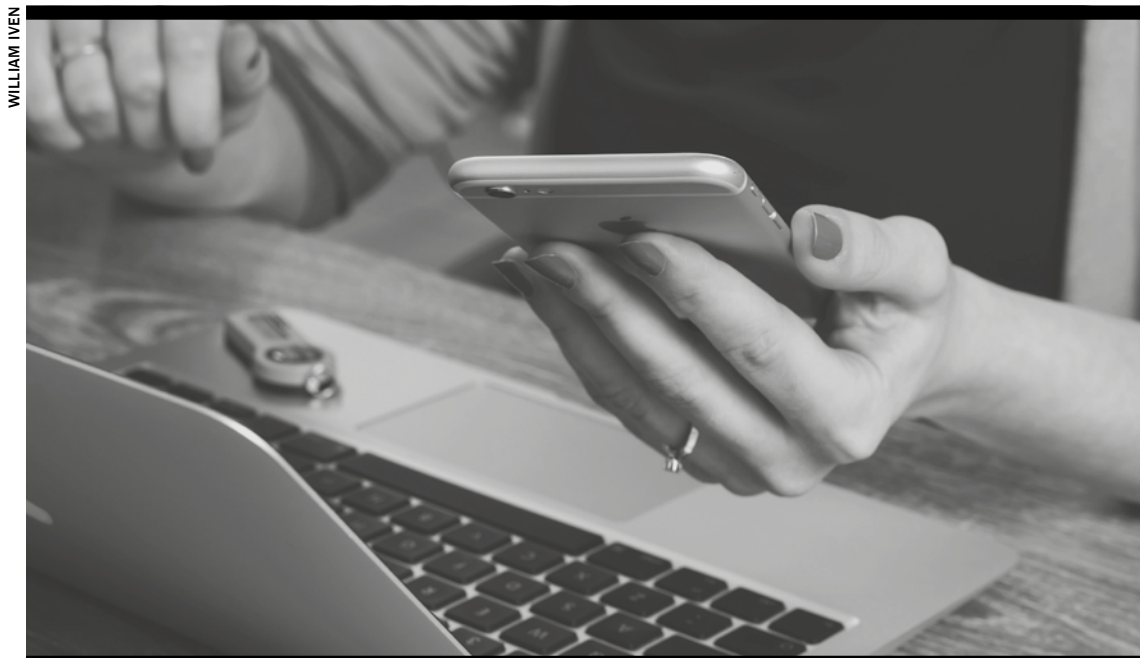
The date of the civil servants' competency examination is still unknown, according to Kou Peng Kuan, Director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP). The results of the last civil servants' exam will expire in July, with a new assessment required. Originally, the SAR government had planned to organize the assessment exam for the beginning of the year. However, the exam was postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak. The SAFP has not yet decided when the exam will be rescheduled to. The bureau will first assess developments in the Covid-19 situation and the current human resources situation in all government departments before making a final decision on the date. According to Kou, the SAFP will continue to simplify the exam's procedures, improving time-management measures and other related aspects.

FEW INTERESTED IN THIRD PHASE OF PAID TRAINING

The government started receiving applications yesterday for paid training courses for local workers, with fewer people seen queuing up to enroll. According to a report by TDM, approximately 30 people waited outside the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) to sign up for the courses. This number is smaller than that of both the first and second phases. The third phase has a total of 800 places, with courses ranging from welding and carpentry, to painting and wall mounting. The entire program provides 2,000 training places across 20 job types. Workers who attend 80% of their course, participate in the relevant exams, and accept the DSAL's employment assistance offers can also receive a subsidy.

PUI TOU SCHOOL TO HAVE NEW CAMPUS IN TAIPA

The local government has given a plot of land to the Macau Pui Tou School Support Association as a concession to build a school campus in Taipa. According to a dispatch signed by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, the land plot is near R. de Viseu, Taipa, and occupies an area of 1,104 square meters. The concession was completed with the exemption of a public tender. The association will use the land to build a new campus for the Pui Tou Taipa school. The campus will comprise of one 50-meter-tall, 16-storey building. In 2017, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) signed an agreement with the Macau Pui Tou School Support Association stating that the association's schools would be enlisted in the government's Blue Sky project. The project, which was launched in late 2015, seeks to improve the environment of the city's schools to ensure that each educational institution has a playground from which the children can see the sky.



CRIME

ONLINE SCAMS GROW AS CASINO CRIMES DECLINE

RENATO MARQUES

ALTHOUGH crimes relating to gambling activities are on the decline, crimes involving online shopping and online relationships are continuing to grow in number, with local residents being targeted, the Judiciary Police (PJ) said yesterday.

The acknowledgment was made during yesterday's joint press conference of the police forces, which took place at the PJ's headquarters.

During the conference, a PJ spokesperson revealed that a local woman in her 50s was reportedly scammed out of 540,000 patacas by a man she had met online.

In the report, the woman told the police that she met the man in 2019, and that they had been communicating often and had

established a long-distance relationship.

At some point, the man told her he needed to make some investments in his company and asked to borrow \$12,500 (MOP100,000) from her.

She agreed and transferred the money to a bank account in the Philippines as per his request.

Some time later, the man called again, asking for more money and claiming that he had to pay taxes and tax-related fines in the U.K.

According to the woman's records, she transferred a total of 44,000 British pounds (MOP432,000) to a bank account in the U.K. between February 28 and April 12.

A few days later, the man contacted her again to give her the good news that he had received

a payment of about 3 million euros (MOP26 million) and that he could finally repay her for all the loans. However, he contacted her again a few days later, claiming that the parcel that he had sent her with the cash had been detained by Turkish authorities on suspicion of money laundering, and that they were asking for 62,300 euros (MOP540,000) to release it.

At this point the woman refused to cooperate with the man. After talking with a friend, she decided to present the complaint to the PJ.

OVER MOP3.6M LOST TO FACEMASK SCAMS

The amount of money swindled through facemasks sale scams advertised on the Internet has surpassed the sum of MOP3.6 million, a PJ spokes-

person said yesterday during the joint press conference of the police forces.

According to the report from PJ, up until May 11, the police had received 63 reports of people being deceived while trying to acquire facemasks online.

The spokesperson added that the 63 cases involved 81 victims, including 77 local residents, two Hong Kong residents, one mainland resident and one Singapore resident.

The latest case received by the police, dated May 4, was also included in the total sum of MOP3.62 million.

According to the report, a local man contacted an online seller who was advertising facemasks for sale. After agreeing on a price, he placed an order for three boxes of 50 masks and paid a deposit.

The seller never contacted him after that. The man was then unable to contact the seller to ask about the products, prompting him to file the case with the PJ.

ANOTHER CAUGHT WITH LOST E-VOUCHER CARD

During the daily joint press conference of the police forces, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson advised that police had detained another person for the unlawful use of an Electronic Consumption Voucher (e-voucher) belonging to another person.

While following up on a report of card loss, the PSP found that the card had been used in a supermarket in Seac Pai Van. When they reviewed footage from surveillance cameras, they identified a suspect, a 63-year-old woman, who was a resident in the same area. She admitted to the crime, but claimed that she had found the card in the vicinity of her building.

GBA authorities bust smuggling group

A group smuggling counterfeit fashion items and electronics from Asia to North America has been busted by law enforcement authorities from the Greater Bay Area, the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department has announced.

The joint operation

was carried out by the customs teams from mainland China, Macau and Hong Kong.

During the operation, Hong Kong authorities discovered and confiscated more than 10,000 items, which have an estimated value of HKD1.5 million.

Items confiscated in-

cluded mobile phones, clothing, shoes, and accessories such as leather belts, sunglasses, scarves, wallets, purses, and caps.

The operation lasted for three weeks, from April 20 to May 10. The trio of authorities intensified their daily operations to trace counterfeit products being smuggled

from or through the three jurisdictions.

In Macau, the crime of violating intellectual property rights carries a maximum sentence of four years in prison. In Hong Kong, the maximum punishment for importing or exporting counterfeit products is a HKD500,000 fine and five

years' imprisonment.

In late January this year, just before the Lunar New Year holidays, Hong Kong Customs confiscated about 7,000 counterfeit products including red packets, toys and stationery items, which had an estimated value of about HKD170,000. **AL**

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Lawmaker says it's too late to appeal axing of photo exhibition

DANIEL BEITLER,
ANTHONY LAM

LAWMAKER Au Kam San will not file a judicial appeal against the government's decision to ban a controversial photo exhibition from being held in Senado Square. The veteran democrat told the Times that the lengthy judicial procedures would not be completed in time to stage the exhibition, which was scheduled for June 4, the 31st anniversary of the 1989 Tiananmen Square Incident.

Held every year alongside the main candlelight vigil, the exhibition serves to document the events of the summer of 1989 when student-led demonstrators calling for political reform in China were forcibly suppressed by the government.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) is responsible for the decision to ban the exhibition, citing social distancing guidelines which have been in place during the Covid-19 pandemic. As the exhibition location in central Senado Square is frequented by both locals and tourists, the photo exhibition regularly draws a large crowd.

With its permission suddenly revoked, lawmaker Au said that the photo exhibi-



tion would not be held this year unless an alternative location could be arranged at short notice.

Meanwhile, the democrat lawmaker is today expected to submit the notification of public assembly for the vigil itself to the Public Security Police Force. The power to refuse public assemblies was recently transferred from the IAM to the police authority.

Pro-democracy associations in Macau have described the IAM's decision as being politically motivated. They say that the government is using Covid-19 infection prevention measures as an excuse to prevent the

exhibition from being held. Some worry that these justifications will be extended to the vigil.

One of the most vocal pro-democracy groups in the city, the New Macau Association, said it was "shocked" by the decision, which "is obviously based on political reasons."

"[The IAM] is using administrative means to suppress freedom of expression and to minimize space for civil society," the New Macau Association said in a statement released on Tuesday. It also accused the bureau of working to cover "the historical crimes of the bloody

suppression of the regime at that time."

As the Times has reported in previous years, mainland visitors are often seen stopping at the exhibition boards to study them. Local residents interviewed near the exhibition say they are not familiar with the Tiananmen Square protests, even though similar demonstrations were held in Macau that same summer.

According to democrat lawmaker Sulu Sou, this historical event is deliberately omitted from the education authority's standardized textbooks and is rarely taught in schools.

CHINESE SCHOLAR WANTS TO RELOCATE FORUM MACAO TO HENGQIN

ALL affairs relating to trade cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries should involve Macau, according to Lin Guangzhi, head of the Institute for Social and Cultural Research (ISCR) at the Macau University of Science and Technology.

On the sidelines of yesterday's launch ceremony for the 2018-2019 China-Portuguese Speaking Countries Economic and Trade Cooperation Development Report, Lin highlighted Macau's role in the

national development plan of mainland China.

According to Lin, Macau and Zhuhai are currently "writing an article" together on jointly developing Hengqin.

Currently, the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macao) has its roots in Macau, but the scholar believes this could move to Hengqin.

"We hope that we can relocate the China-Portu-

guese Speaking Countries Economy and Trade Cooperation Development and the Forum Macao to Hengqin," said Lin.

The professor explained that Macau lacks the space for the institution, but Hengqin can accommodate it.

In the report on China-Portuguese Speaking Countries of 2018-2019, Macau was highlighted in three chapters. The report did not explicitly reveal how Macau contributed, benefited, or was practi-

cally involved in the trading relationship between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. Its theoretical roles and the effectiveness of Macau's participation were mentioned, however.

Trade in merchandise between China and Portuguese-speaking countries reached \$149.6 billion in 2019, representing a 1.55% increase year-on-year, according to data from China Customs.

Portuguese-speaking countries sold goods worth \$105.6 billion to China in 2019, up by 0.06% year-on-year. The value of China's merchandise exports to those countries reached \$44.1 billion in the same period, an increase of 5.3% year-on-year, according to Chinese official data. **JZ**

AMENDMENT WOULD LESSEN FINANCIAL RISK FOR EMPLOYERS HIRING FROM OVERSEAS

JULIE ZHU

THE latest amendment proposal for the city's non-local workers employment law could lead to some non-local workers incurring financial losses if they make trips to Macau for work while unsure of their actual employment situation.

Yesterday, the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) listened to the local government's introduction to the amendment, having raised some questions.

According to Vong Hin Fai, Chairman of the AL committee, the local government prescribed a new provision to the law, No.21/2009, concerning the employment of non-resident workers.

The fourth article of the law currently prescribes that all non-local workers will be issued a staying permit as a worker in Macau. This provision specifically concerns domestic helpers and non-professional workers.

According to the government, it serves the purpose to prevent "tourists" from seeking jobs while staying in Macau.

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) would be the authority to issue staying permits. The staying permits can be temporary or non-temporary.

Pursuant to yesterday's amendment, a non-resident worker must meet two conditions to be eligible for a staying permit. The conditions are that the personnel possess an employment-purposed-entry-permit issued by the Macau SAR government and the personnel must enter Macau from outside of Macau and with the document on hand. Even when meeting both requirements, a staying permit is not guaranteed.

Some members of the committee were highly concerned about the benefit to local employers.

According to Vong, the local government explained that if a non-resident worker fails to get a staying permit after crossing a Macau immigration checkpoint, that person will have to leave Macau. When the person has to leave, the concerned employer will not be obligated to pay for the personnel to leave. Instead the cost will need to be paid by the workers themselves.

When non-resident workers fail to obtain a staying permit, any employment relationship they may have agreed to is not officially in effect, thus the employer has no obligation to pay for the worker to leave Macau.

In 2019, 63 non-resident workers failed to get a staying permit. In 23 cases, the workers were given temporary staying permit but not a blue card. As of May 11, of this year, the PSP has rejected 28 applications for a temporary staying permit.



BLOOMBERG

PROFILE

Grant Bowie's leadership difficult to replace, say analysts, employees



LYNZY VALLES

ONE of the pioneers of Macau's Western-style integrated resorts model, Grant Bowie, has announced he will resign from his post at MGM China.

After leading the one of the city's gaming operators for a decade,

Bowie is set to leave MGM China, where he has held the position of CEO and executive director. He was previously president of MGM Grand Paradise.

Bowie has always been an advocate for encouraging local leadership. As seen at several of MGM's events, the CEO has always been vocal about raising and appren-

ting local residents, initiating a series of training programs that target local employees.

For Ben Lee, managing partner at IGamiX Management & Consulting Ltd, this will be Bowie's legacy – engaging with and encouraging local leadership.

Lee believes that Bowie has acted as the buffer between Pansy

Ho, co-chairperson and executive director of MGM China, and U.S. partner, MGM Grand Paradise.

"The fact that there has been no overt fracturing of that relationship speaks to his management style," Lee told the Times.

Lee predicts his successor will be an American executive.

"We might also see a restructu-

ring of the line reporting directly to Vegas, as that is what happened to Sands," the gaming consultant said.

Grant has worked for three major Las Vegas companies in the past 22 years.

Before joining MGM China in 2008, the 62-year-old held a similar position at Wynn Macau.

According to Niall Sean Murray, chairman of consulting firm Murray International, the new leader will have to please Beijing in the upcoming renewal process, which will take place in 2022. They will also have to keep MGM shareholders and the stock market calm by focusing on the numbers and the bottom line.

"However, politically-motivated, high-IQ, low-EQ leadership and number crunching will eventually cause significant damage to the heart of the organization and its team members and will slowly kill the golden goose," the consultant said.

He also said that a Las Vegas-centric strategy would not be appropriate for the Macau market. and that MGM China's strategy would need constant and significant adjustments to meet the needs of the local market.

According to the gaming consultant, this unenviable task was led, facilitated and refereed by Grant Bowie to a large extent. Thus, his key leadership role will be difficult to replace.

"Grant helped prioritize challenges to be tackled, delicately manage powerful personalities and egos, bridge cultural divides and help reach optimal solutions to best fit

GAMING

Las Vegas Sands gives up on \$10 billion Japan casino project

CHRISTOPHER PALMERI
& LISA DU

LAS Vegas Sands Corp., the world's largest casino company, is dropping its pursuit of a license in Japan, ending a multidecade quest for what was one of the biggest prizes in the global gambling business.

The company founded by billionaire Sheldon Adelson has been trying to expand in Japan since at least 2005, but management objected to some terms of the country's casino legislation, according to people familiar with the matter.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks was that the concession would be good for only 10 years. Even in that time frame, national or local government officials could change the terms in a way that might crimp profit. The company's resorts in Macau

and Singapore have licenses that extended for 20 and 30 years, respectively.

"We are grateful for all of the friendships we have formed and the strong relationships we have in Japan, but it is time for our company to focus our energy on other opportunities," Adelson said in a statement.

The departure of Sands is a setback for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who has been trying to boost Japan's economy through a focus on tourism. The coronavirus and the resulting collapse in travel have hurt that as well. The company's decision is also likely to be a disappointment for potential casino suppliers and partners.

"It's probably not a coincidence that Sands comes to this conclusion amid a pandemic," said Jay Defibaugh, an analyst at CLSA, pointing to the shutdown of some

of the company's resorts as part of efforts to curb the virus's spread.

Japan was considered a huge opportunity for the industry given its mature and wealthy population of 126 million. Locals are big fans of pachinko, a slot-machine-like game that's become a \$192 billion business, but no Vegas-style casinos exist. Enabling legislation was passed in 2016. With as many as three resorts opening, analysts predicted the market could top \$20 billion annually, making it the second-largest in Asia after Macau.

Companies, however, have grown more disenchanted. Caesars Entertainment Corp. halted its effort to win a license in Japan last August, choosing to focus on its U.S. operations and merger with Eldorado Resorts Inc. MGM Resorts Interna-

tional became the de facto winner of a license in Osaka after Malaysian tourism giant Genting Bhd and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. dropped out.

Genting and Galaxy have said they are still interested in a location elsewhere in Japan, as are Wynn Resorts Ltd. and Hong Kong's Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd.

Casinos have also remained unpopular with the Japanese public, with a majority of residents opposed to them.

The industry's reputation was further dented by the December arrest and indictment of a ruling-party lawmaker on suspicion of receiving bribes from a Chinese company seeking to invest in the casino industry. The Liberal Democratic Party politician, Tsukasa Akimoto, has denied wrongdoing.

The arrest was the first of a sitting lawmaker in about a decade.

In the past year, Sands honed its focus on the area around the capital of Tokyo, especially the southern city of Yokohama - which had raised its hand to host a casino despite vocal opposition from local residents. Keikyu Corp., which operates railway networks in the area, had expressed an interest in working on a casino resort there.

Adelson, one of the richest men in the world, said he would be willing to spend \$10 billion on a resort that would include gambling, hotels and meeting space, similar to those he's built in Las Vegas, Macau and Singapore.

Considering the resort could take five years to build, a 10-year concession wasn't enough to earn a

good return on that size investment, said the people, who asked not to be identified discussing private deliberations.

Land prices and labor expenses in Japan are high, and banks were unwilling to lend more than half of the construction cost, the people said. The proposed taxes in Japan would be steep with a 30% levy on gambling revenue and a 31% corporate tax rate.

The country was also planning to put limits on the number of times Japanese citizens could visit and impose an entry fee of about \$55 a day, the people said. Winnings by foreign gamblers may also be taxed.

Sands, which will close its office in Japan, focused some of its efforts in recent years on getting these terms changed at the both the local and national level, but

local operational requirements, serve guest demands and the best interests of shareholders," Murray told the Times.

"This was a very difficult task, but one that Grant could handle due to his vast international experience and his unique approach to leadership, which combines an extremely high IQ with an extraordinary EQ wrapped in dogged determination to do the right thing for the right reasons," he said.

Murray noted that Bowie would be hard to replace, as a "charismatic team leader will be needed to fill the leadership and to steer MGM Macau and MGM Cotai in the right direction for the right reasons moving forward."

Meanwhile, when asked whether his retirement was prompted by the steep drops in the city's gross gaming revenue, Lee remarked, "I believe Grant has been looking to retire for quite a while and with the company looking to cut costs at all levels, probably decided it was an opportune time to take that retirement."

MGM China's revenue during the first quarter of the year tumbled 63% year-on-year to \$272 million.

The drop in gross gaming revenue was mainly caused by the travel restrictions introduced by the central government, which included the halting of the Individual Visa Scheme, which prevented the city's main source market from entering Macau, as well

as the 15-day closure of casinos in the city on February 5.

The company clarified in a filing that Bowie had decided not to extend his contract, aligning with his personal retirement plans.

"Mr. Bowie has confirmed that he has no disagreement with the Board and there are no other matters in relation to his retirement as the Chief Executive Officer of the Company which need to be brought to the attention of the shareholders of the Company", the company said in a filing.

Murray said that significant corporate strategic leadership change is afoot at MGM with the recent departure of James Murren, former chairman and CEO of MGM Resorts International, the promotion of Bill Hornbuckle to president and the departure of a significant number of property presidents and senior executives.

"Another major change in how MGM will conduct business moving forward is the impact of the sale and lease-back of properties to the Blackstone Group and MGM's significant financial commitment to a Japanese IR [integrated resort]," said Murray.

Although Bowie will continue to act as an advisor to the company until December 31, 2022, the gaming consultant said there would be a major change in day-to-day leadership strategy and implementation at the company.

The Times also spoke with former employees of MGM China. Some of them commented that Bowie was always keen on working with and getting close to his staff.

Bowie was said to be supportive of the Golden Lion Team, even remaining in attendance at dragon boat races for as long the team remained in the race. He was also seen running with his team members last year in the annual Trailhiker event.

"For him, taking care of the staff is a priority, and this includes giving learning opportunities, developing them and giving them a safe and good work environment," said former employee Vanessa Estorninho.

Echoing the sentiment, former employee Juliana Kung said, "He genuinely cares about the well-being of the staff. He remembers the names of team members whom he would not see on a regular basis."

For these former employees, working with Bowie was a learning opportunity. He would continually advise them to explore their career paths and strive for excellence.

"He is very inspiring, and he has a wealth of knowledge in so many different facets beyond the integrated resort industry. It makes every conversation with him a learning opportunity," Kung said.



ultimately concluded that wouldn't happen. Adelson has abandoned expansion efforts in the past when the anticipated returns didn't seem like they

were worth the risk, most notably a proposed resort in Spain in 2013. Recently, he said he may pursue casino acquisitions for the first time.

As for Japan's long-gestating plan to build casinos, the wait continues. "This isn't the death knell for integrated resorts in Japan, the long-

term outlook for casino gaming is still very bright," Defibaugh said. "But it has not worked out as everyone has envisioned." **BLOOMBERG**

AD

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ANTHONY LAM



MAINLAND ENTRANTS CAN BE TESTED FOR COVID-19 IN MACAU

ANTHONY LAM

MAINLAND residents holding business, family visit or public service permits to Macau, as well as those entering Macau with mainland passports, will be allowed to undergo Covid-19 testing in Macau. News of the new arrangement was announced by Alvis Lo Iek Long, medical director of the Conde São Januário Hospital (CHCSJ), at the Health Bureau's (SSM) daily press briefing yesterday.

Entrants should make bookings for the test on the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center's website. They will be charged MOP180 for each test

they take and will not have their first test provided free of charge.

The number of people who can test in Macau is limited and Macau residents will be prioritized, Lo stated.

He also disclosed that the quotas for each time slot are not stationary. The authority actively monitors the popularity of each time slot and adjusts quotas to ensure those in need receive a test.

When asked whether the authority would expand coverage and test more people, Lo reiterated that the SSM has prioritized and will save the tests for high-risk groups of people, such as teachers and fishery workers.

"All newly hospitalized patients at the CHCSJ have to undergo the test," Lo said. "Through this measure, we have tried to lower the risk of an internal outbreak."

Some may have confused the expansion of the testing population with the lifting of certain travel restriction measures, the doctor noted. On this, Lo reminded the public to ensure that they fall within the population exempted from pandemic control measures in Zhuhai.

"If they don't, they will still be required to undergo 14-day quarantine in Zhuhai," Lo explained.

The criteria for exemption are the possession of a green code from the colored code health

declaration, a negative Covid-19 test result, a Macau ID card and a Zhuhai or Zhongshan Residence Card.

"With that said, having a negative test result from Macau doesn't equate to exemption from quarantine in Zhuhai," Lo said. As such, members of the public should exercise caution.

Previously, authorities hinted at the termination of the centralized mask supply scheme. When asked whether other measures would also be lifted, Lo reiterated that the two are not related.

"Again, the mask scheme was to ensure the accessibility of crucial resources," Lo said.

As for the continuation of the

daily press briefing, Lo told the Times that the authority has not discussed the topic, so he could not answer the question.

12-YEAR-OLD PATIENT RECOVERS

Another Covid-19 patient in the city has recovered and started a 14-day recovery quarantine period at the Public Health Clinical Center on Coloane Hilltop, Lo disclosed during the press briefing.

The 12-year-old boy left for Macau from the U.K., where he was studying, on March 19 and arrived in the city the following day.

Abiding with the then-quarantine measures, he was assigned to stay at the Grand Coloane Resort.

Two days later, as he developed a fever and cough, he was sent to CHCSJ for a medical check. He was later diagnosed with Covid-19.

He spent 52 days in the isolation ward and had his recovery confirmed by the medical team yesterday, with two negative viral tests conducted on May 10 and 12 respectively. As he was hospitalized at the Coloane facility, there was no transfer required.

There are two other patients being treated in the Public Health Clinical Center's isolation ward. One is a 26-year-old Korean air stewardess with Air Macau, while the other is a 15-year-old local female student.

Due to privacy concerns, the authorities have not released additional information on their condition.

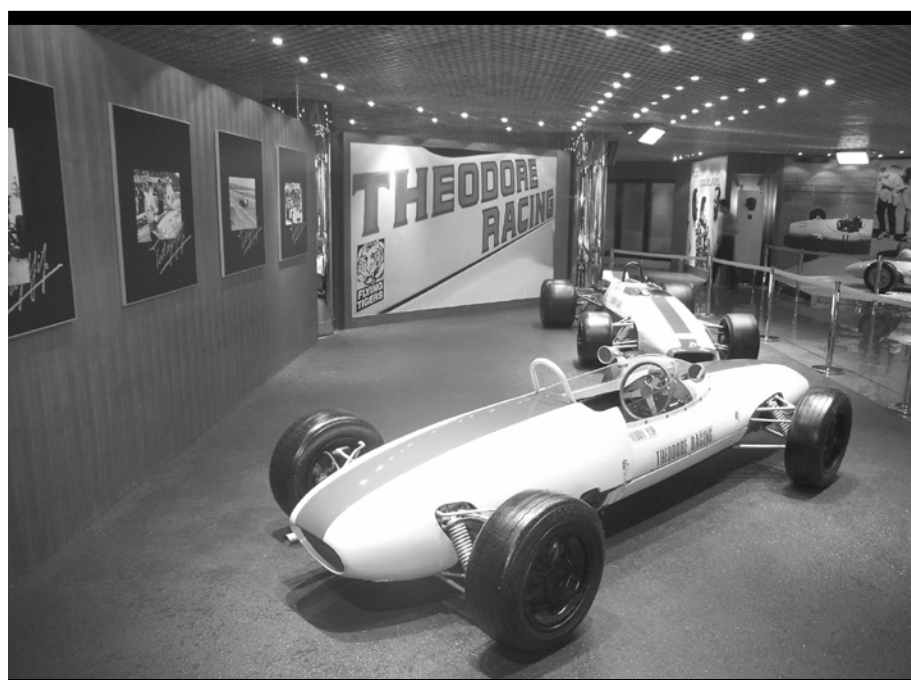
GRAND PRIX MUSEUM POSTPONES OPENING TO SECOND HALF OF 2020

RENATO MARQUES

THE renovated and expanded Macau Grand Prix Museum will not open its doors to the public during the first half of this year as previously announced by the director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes.

In a reply to the Times, the MGTO confirmed that the museum opening would be postponed until the second half of the year.

"The Macao Grand Prix Museum is now slated to open in the second half of 2020 due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic," the MGTO said in its written reply to the Times, confirming information that was aired during this year's government policy address.



According to the latest estimates, the renovation and upgrade of the museum will cost more than 830 million patacas.

The museum closed its doors temporarily on July 1, 2017 for the renovation

and expansion of the facility. At the time, the government forecast that it would reopen by November 2018.

Besides the delay and the fact that the works have taken more than

double the forecast time to complete, the final budget has approximately tripled from initial amount that was stated in 2016, when the project was presented (about 300 million patacas).

ENDANGERED DOLPHIN SEEN SWIMMING AROUND NAPE

A video on social media showing a white dolphin swimming off the coast of the city's NAPE district has been authenticated by the Marine and Water Bureau.

According to the bureau, the dolphin was indeed sighted, however they did not say whether the video was taken by an employee. They believe the dolphin is an Indo-Pacific humpbacked dolphin, an endangered species that lives around the Pearl River Delta.

From their distant vantage point, the bureau's officer that confirmed the sighting did not observe any visible wounds, nor was the dolphin tangled in a fishing net. It left the area after splashing in the water for a while, the bureau said.

Sightings of this species in that area are unusual, as

it is a major marine route for ferries crossing the Pearl River Estuary. The water movements caused by the ships are disturbing for the species, if not injurious, said Ho Wai Tim, president of the Macau Ecological Society.

Ferry services in the region have been suspended for several months because of the coronavirus pandemic, leading to quieter waters.

On normal occasions, dolphins only swim to the south of Coloane or in the waters near the airport. "Normally, they aren't seen near the Kun Iam Statue," said Ho.

Last summer, two dead dolphins were found off the coast from Macau in the space of five days. Ho hopes the government will release the autopsy report and clarify what caused the dolphins' deaths. **AL**

AP PHOTO



China may test all of Wuhan amid fears of virus comeback

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

AUTHORITIES in Wuhan, the Chinese city where the coronavirus pandemic first broke out, are planning to test all 11 million residents in the next 10 days, Chinese media reported.

No official announcement has been made, but district officials confirmed receiving marching orders from the city's coronavirus task force, the reports said. It remained unclear if and how such

a monumental testing campaign would happen.

The short order came after the discovery last weekend of a cluster of six infected people at a residential compound in the city, the first new cases in more than a month. China has moved quickly to snuff out new outbreaks wherever they pop up, even as it relaxes restrictions on the movement of people and reopens public attractions to limited numbers of visitors.

Jilin province, which borders

North Korea in China's northeast, has suspended all public transport and imposed other restrictions as it battles a fresh outbreak. In neighboring Heilongjiang province, which dealt with its own outbreak recently, the city of Harbin is quarantining anyone coming from Jilin for 14 days and banning them from hotels.

The sudden order appeared to confuse local officials. A man who answered the mayor's hotline in Wuhan said that districts have 10 days to arrange the testing in their

respective jurisdictions. But a woman who answered later yesterday said the tests must be done in the next 10 days.

A major state-owned news website, Jiemian, said it had obtained an implementation plan for the city's Wuchang district that said all residents should be tested by May 20, or in about a week's time.

Wuhan was the area hit hardest by the coronavirus in China. Of the 4,633 reported deaths nationwide, 4,512 were in Hubei province, including 3,869 in

Wuhan, the provincial capital.

China imposed a lengthy lockdown on most of Hubei in late January to stem the spread of the virus. People were forbidden from entering or leaving the province, public transportation suspended and residents were mostly restricted to their homes.

The lockdown was lifted outside of Wuhan after two months, and in Wuhan itself on April 8, after 2 1/2 months.

The new cases appear to have shocked city officials into action. They dismissed the Communist Party secretary of the neighborhood where the cluster was found for poor management of the residential community, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The order said the testing should focus on the elderly, densely populated areas and those with mobile populations, according to the media reports. It wasn't clear if that meant only some people would be tested or if they would be prioritized.

One expert at Wuhan University told the Global Times newspaper that 3 to 5 million residents have already been tested, which could leave 6 to 8 million others for a citywide test.

In Beijing, a shorter-than-usual ban on drone use in the Chinese capital is being interpreted as a signal that China will curtail its major political meeting of the year because of continuing concern about the outbreak.

Police said yesterday that the use of drones, balloons, gliders and other low-flying objects will be banned for nine days, from May 20 to May 28. Such bans are common during major events.

The National People's Congress usually happens over two weeks in March but was postponed this year because of the coronavirus outbreak. It is scheduled to start on May 22, so it may last just one week.

Some participants in a recent preparatory meeting joined by video conference, sparking speculation that some of the 3,000 delegates may do so at the Congress itself. **AP**

Trump: Fed retiree fund should ban Chinese investments

THE Trump administration has directed the U.S. federal employee retirement fund to scrap its plan to place more than \$4 billion into Chinese investments, a move that comes as the president blames Beijing almost daily for not doing more to stop COVID-19 from spreading around the world.

The administration has given the board overseeing the Thrift Savings Plan until Wednesday to comply with the president's directive. The more than \$4

billion, however, is a small slice of the hundreds of billions in the tax-deferred retirement savings and investment plan that works like a 401(k) plan offered by private corporations.

National Economic Council Chairman Larry Kudlow and the president's national security adviser Robert O'Brien wrote a letter Monday to Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia calling on the retirement fund's board to keep money out of Chinese equities. Fox Business Network

first reported the development.

The letter warned that such investments present significant national security and humanitarian concerns because they operate in violation of U.S. sanction law and help China bolster its military and oppress religious minorities living in the country.

"The Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board ... is set to implement these plans during a time of mounting uncertainty concerning Chi-

na's relations with the rest of the world, including the possibility that future sanctions will result from the culpable actions of the Chinese government with respect to the global spread of the COVID-19 pandemic," the letter said.

O'Brien told Fox Business Network's Varney & Co. yesterday that several billions were going to be invested in Chinese military companies or surveillance state companies.

"We thought that was risky for U.S. national se-

curity but we also thought it was risky for the investors, because those companies don't have to comply with the same ... rules that you'd have to if you were listed on the stock exchange," O'Brien said.

Scalia followed with a letter to the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board asking it to forgo its plan to move money into the Chinese equities.

In November 2017, the board selected a new benchmark index for investing a portion of its funds to

one that contains equities from emerging markets, including China. The board evaluated that decision last year after a group of senators expressed concern that companies benefiting from this investment would "include those involved in military activity, espionage and human rights abuses by the Chinese government," Scalia wrote.

The board declined to reverse its decision and the fund is expected to shortly invest up to \$4.5 billion in Chinese equities. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Writing with fire reading in German latz "Now", in Ultimo, known in German as Ulten, in the German-speaking province of South Tyrol, in northern Italy

Italy's South Tyrol invokes autonomy to pry open lockdown

COLLEEN BARRY,
BOLZANO

THE blazing orange letters of fire spelled out a familiar message in Italy's South Tyrol province, an old call to resistance repurposed for the days of the coronavirus: "Los von Rom" and "Freiheit," German for "Away from Rome" and "Freedom."

In decades past, the words ignited on a mountainside demanded independence from Rome's rule for the province's German-language majority. Now, they vent discontent in South Tyrol, which was once part of Austria, with the uncompromising and indiscriminate lockdown that the Italian government imposed to slow the spread of the virus.

Spurred by economic pressure, the provincial governor defied Rome this week and reasserted South Tyrol's cherished autonomy, allowing restaurants, hair salons, tattoo parlors and museums to reopen Monday -- well ahead of the timetable set by Italy's government.

"We have a relatively positive situation regarding the epidemic, with a rate of contagion the lowest in Italy," said Gov. Arno Kompats-

cher, whose South Tyrolean People's Party has controlled the province since 1948. The party's legislators in the national parliament back Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte's government.

"We appreciated the actions of the government in the phase of emergency, where it was necessary to move in a united way," Kompatscher said. "But we are very proud and jealous of our autonomy."

While the rest of Italy watched with a mix of envy and curiosity, South Tyroleans wearing masks could browse shops again for items such as a tablecloth needed for a gift, have piercings changed by appointment and visit a hairdresser for a long-overdue haircut.

They sat in Walther Square, near Bolzano's Duomo, and ate lunch at the prescribed 2-meter (over 6 foot) distance or drank coffee in bars outfitted with Plexiglas safety screens.

Despite the province's bold stance, some business owners demurred to Rome -- for now.

Alexander Sullmann, a bar owner in the town of Neumarkt, known in Italian as Egna, said he was waiting at least a week to see if clearer safety guidelines for his industry emerge. He was particularly worried about

how to enforce rules that forbid more than two people from different households at a single table.

"The province gave us the OK, but there are a lot of questions and a lot of rules are not set in stone yet," Sullmann, 30, said,

South Tyrol, or Alto Adige to Italian speakers, is an Alpine province of world-class ski resorts and neatly manicured orchards and vineyards that became part of Italy after World War I. Following a period of violence in the 1950s and 1960s, the German-speaking resistance settled down after Italy implemented the province's autonomy status, enshrining bilingualism and allowing 90% of local tax revenue to remain in South Tyrol.

The province, with a population of 520,000, today enjoys the highest gross domestic product per capita in Italy and among the highest in Europe at 42,600 euros (\$45,500). But the pandemic is forecast to contract the economy by 7%-11%, and many see the extended shutdown of commercial and social life as decisive.

The head of the region's 59,000-member chamber of commerce, Michl Ebner, backed the push for South Tyrol to go its own way on emerging from the virus lockdown.

"I understand the concept of solidarity," Ebner said. "But you cannot apply the same rules from Lampedusa to the Brenner Pass. The situations are different."

South Tyrol reported no new confirmed virus cases on Tuesday. The province so far has 2,572 confirmed cases with 290 deaths -- both figures representing about 1% of Italy's totals.

Ebner pointed to a lack of discipline in Italy's hard-hit Lombardy region during the early stage of an initial lockdown, when cellphone data showed about half of residents leaving their homes.

In South Tyrol, "when the order was given not to leave home, people didn't leave their homes," he said. "If here the numbers are improving ... need to take note and award the virtuous."

Until the flaming words that appeared recently against the night sky, it had been years since fires protesting Rome's governance burned on local mountainsides.

The leader of the 6,000-strong "Schuetzen," a cultural association that aims to preserve Tyrolean customs and which sees Rome as a foreign power -- took credit for igniting the flames. Juergen Wirth Anderlan thinks the "peaceful message" made Kompatscher's push to open businesses easier to sell to Rome's minister for regional affairs.

"He could say, 'I don't have my people under control, there is something bubbling up there,'" Wirth Anderlan told the AP. "What the economic federations and tourism federations told the provincial president was probably heavier and carried more pressure than from us. We underscored that with these fires." AP

this day in history



1955 COMMUNIST STATES SIGN WARSAW PACT

The Soviet Union and its Eastern Bloc allies have signed a security pact in the Polish capital, Warsaw, after a three-day conference.

Announcements in Warsaw and Moscow said the Soviet Prime Minister, Marshal Nikolai Aleksandrovich Bulganin, and leaders of seven other countries approved the draft of a new mutual aid agreement called the Warsaw Treaty of Friendship, Co-operation, and Mutual Assistance.

It is designed, among other things, to ensure close integration of military, economic and cultural policy between eight Communist nations.

Signatories to the treaty - the USSR, Poland, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Albania - have agreed to unify their forces under one command although at this stage it is not known who will take this post.

Yugoslavia, the only European Communist state not included in the pact, was expelled in 1948 from Cominform, the Communist information agency for refusing to acknowledge Soviet supremacy.

The treaty, signed at the Warsaw Palace, comes in the wake of news that West Germany has been accepted by western nations into Nato (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) following talks earlier this month in Paris.

In a speech at the beginning of the Warsaw talks, Marshal Bulganin warned that the USA, Britain and France were turning West Germany into "the principal hotbed of the danger of war in Europe" by allowing it to re-arm.

He said allowing West Germany into Nato was "the major obstacle" to reunification of Germany.

Existing bilateral agreements between nations of the Eastern Bloc, he stated, were no longer sufficient to ensure their security and this Warsaw Pact would supersede all of those.

He added that Nato was also encouraging countries in the Near and Middle East to form military blocs to plan attacks on the Soviet Union and its allies.

In his concluding speech today, Marshal Bulganin emphasised the pact was inspired by the Leninist principle of peaceful co-existence between democratic nations and said they wanted to abide by the United Nations Charter.

However the Times newspaper editorial today points out that unifying the armies of all eight countries will also allow the USSR to base its own troops in member states and "would certainly help to keep the satellites in order".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Warsaw Pact countries placed their forces under the command of Marshal Ivan Stepanovich Koniev.

The Warsaw Pact did allow the USSR to suppress nationalist rebellions. Its troops crushed uprisings in Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968 which prompted Albania to withdraw from the pact later that year.

The democratic revolutions of 1989 in eastern Europe heralded the end of the Warsaw Pact and the Cold War between east and west.

East Germany withdrew in 1990 and on July 1 1991 at a final summit meeting of Warsaw Pact leaders in Prague, Czechoslovakia, it was declared "non-existent".

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Cue up some good music to listen to through your headphones. And take deep, controlled breaths if you have to explain something simple to someone who isn't getting it.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Your passionate nature could come out in full force today - and come in handy. You might want use it to defend someone who's been judged unfairly by other people.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Do you have a specific deadline in mind like a wedding, or is this an overall lifestyle change? No matter what your goals, this type of analytical approach can help you get to the finish line faster.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Should you or shouldn't you? No matter what you're debating right now, even if you think that your indecisive nature isn't going to enable you to come to a decision on your own.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Take on a new obligation if you can. Your restlessness is a gift that, while challenging, will give you a chance to shine and build your ego up to where it should be right now, which is healthy!



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Don't delve too deeply into any type of emotional entanglement right now, even if you think that you're completely ready to take things to the next level. It's still too soon.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You might think that doing everything at once will ensure that you'll stick to the plan, but nothing could be further from the truth. One step at a time is the best way to reach your goal.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Your more intense feelings are bubbling up to the surface today, and they could cause you to be somewhat distracted. You need major stimulation to stay tuned in to other people.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You might be getting some hints about good things to come. You can't wait to get started on the next phase of your life, whatever that entails.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

This is a great day for friendships - making them, strengthening them, and celebrating them! The people you like the best are wonderful distractions during the day.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Putting them off for another day might seem like the right move, but you'll only spend your private time worrying about it all anyway.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Go through your day in the normal way. Don't check your e-mail every five minutes or anything, but be ready to leap into action if the need arises.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

4	1	3		9	
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	3		9		1
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			4	8	6
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		3		5	4

EASY+

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MEDIUM

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HARD

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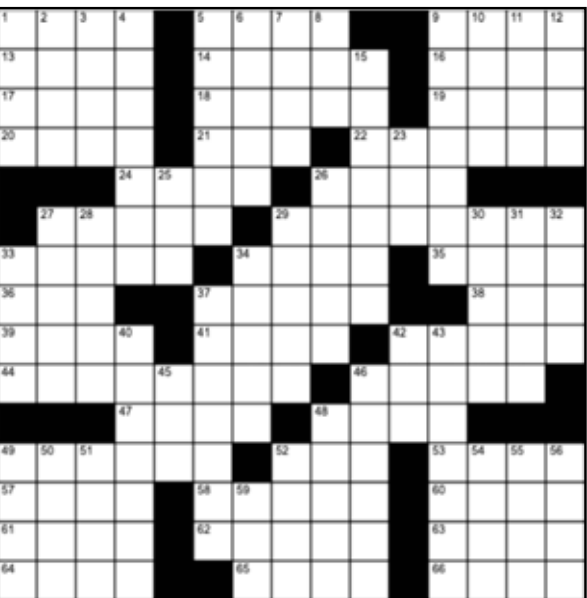
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Lab fluids; 5- Java neighbor; 9- Hankering; 13- Manipulator; 14- Skirt; 16- Turner and others; 17- Harangue; 18- Reef material; 19- Gnar!; 20- Autobahn auto; 21- Help; 22- Pertaining to Denmark; 24- Realtor's sign; 26- Utah lily; 27- Royal domain; 29- Lycanthrope; 33- New Brunswick neighbor; 34- Ship stabilizer; 35- Christmas song; 36- Neither Rep. nor Dem.; 37- Oneness; 38- Mark of Zorro; 39- Breezes through; 41- Roman emperor; 42- Musical drama; 44- Finely chopped; 46- Firm; 47- Affirmative votes; 48- Leprechaun land; 49- Fall of rain; 52- Sandwich initials; 53- Stretched out; 57- It may turn; 58- Grind together; 60- Word processing command; 61- Bacchanalian cry; 62- Jack of "The Great Dictator"; 63- Mon ____; 64- Square; 65- Ale, e.g.; 66- Enthusiastic vigor and liveliness;

DOWN: 1- Chapter of the Koran; 2- Biblical birthright seller; 3- Tear apart; 4- Craftsperson; 5- Pacify; 6- Evade; 7- Hog fat; 8- Highest mountain in Crete; 9- Obscure; 10- Wife of a rajah; 11- Old Pontiacs; 12- Bk. before Job; 15- On in years; 23- What Dorian Gray didn't do; 25- Cheer for Manolete; 26- Take care of; 27- Cattle spot; 28- Duck with soft down; 29- Off-the-wall; 30- Seeped; 31- Suspicious; 32- Type of market; 33- Farrow and Hamm; 34- Leg joints; 37- Experience; 40- Kelp; 42- Paddle; 43- Overture; 45- Coloring material; 46- Toward this place; 48- Beast of Borden; 49- Anna of "Nana"; 50- Shelter for honeybees; 51- Smell or fragrance; 52- Harden by heat; 54- Indigo; 55- Notion; 56- Person, place, or thing; 59- Pick up;

Yesterday's solution

M	U	S	H		A	R	M	O	R		H	O	P	E
A	G	L	U		M	E	A	R	A		A	B	E	L
A	L	A	S		A	S	P	E	N		R	I	L	E
M	A	T	T	E	R		A	G	A	M	E	T	E	
				L	E	E		E	D	E	N			
				S	E	M	E	S	T	E	R		T	R
				O	C	A		T	E	A		A	L	T
				A	L	C	H	O	L		A	L	L	S
				P	A	R	S	E			O	W	E	
				S	T	O	O	L			D	E	C	L
				P	R	O	B	A	N		T	E	S	
				P	R	O	B	O			U	A	K	A
				S	A	V	E				T	E	R	R
				S	M	E	E				A	S	O	N
				T	A	R	P				R	E	B	A
											G	A	T	E



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



AD

FOR SALE



Fragrant Court, Ocean Gardens
HK\$24,000,000 3,500 ft² 4 3 1

FOR RENT



Buckingham, Taipa
\$15,900/mth 1,100 ft² 2 1 1

FOR SALE

[Macau] Retail space, Area Preta
170 ft² \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)

[Macau] One Central 2 2 1
1,269 ft² \$12,000,000 (ref: 19070000)

[Macau] One Central lakeview 2 2 1
1,269 ft² \$12,500,000 (ref: 19070002)

[Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1
1,720 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096006)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Delightful 1 Bed 1 1 1
820 ft² \$9,500/mth (ref: 20051001)

[Macau] Vai Fung Triplex, Macau 2 2 1
1,065 ft² \$14,000/mth (ref: 19121001)

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

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



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The Art of Giving

Lurdes de Sousa *



MODERN PHILANTHROPY AND LEGACY

PHYSICS genius Albert Einstein once said: "There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle. The other is as though everything is a miracle." Life, we all know, is a miracle in itself.

One's legacy is decided by the way one lives and practices the Art of Giving in their life. In 1888, a wealthy and successful businessman was reading an obituary in a French newspaper. It was supposed to be his brother's, but as he read, he realized that the obituary had been written about him by mistake. It bore the headline "The Merchant of Death is Dead," and described a man who had amassed his fortune by helping people kill one another. He was, unsurprisingly, deeply troubled by this glimpse of what his legacy might have been had he actually died on that day.

This businessman, a gifted chemist, was the inventor of dynamite. He died years later in 1896 in San Remo, Italy. He grew fantastically rich from the proceeds of his explosives businesses, inventing and manufacturing dynamite, the blasting cap, gelignite, and ballistite. These patented inventions were made during a time when diamond drilling crowns and pneumatic drills were coming into general use. Together, these inventions reduced the cost of many construction projects like drilling tunnels, blasting rocks, building bridges, and so on. When he died, the Swedish businessman bequeathed a considerable portion of his fortune to create a fund and prizes in his name. These prizes included a grant for the person who accomplished "the most or the best work for fraternity among nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the promotion of peace congresses." As stated in his will, the prizes were to be awarded to those people "who have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind" in the previous 12 months. These prizes were first awarded in 1901; this is the true story of Alfred Nobel, the inventor of dynamite and the creator of the Nobel Prize, for which he is best remembered.

It is believed that this incident, with his obituary and the vision of his legacy as the inventor of dynamite, motivated Alfred Nobel to donate his fortune to fund an annual award to give to those whose actions have benefitted human life the most as an everyday miracle.

Values outlast individuals. Individuals, communities and businesses are to be remembered by their legacies.

2020 will be remembered as a year of most disruptive times. It is time to reflect on what you, your community, or your industry have done to grow by lifting others.

***President, Associação Internacional de Filantropia (Macau)**
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president@artofgiving.org.mo

Macau Daily Times is the official media partner of the Associação Internacional de Filantropia (Macau).

187-YEAR-OLD JARDINE FACES PAIN IN INDONESIA AFTER EXPANSION

AFTER political protests and the coronavirus crisis walloped its businesses in Greater China, Jardine Matheson Holdings Ltd., one of Hong Kong's last remaining British trading houses, is facing a new challenge - in Indonesia.

The pandemic has hobbled the Southeast Asian nation's \$1 trillion economy, weighing on Jardine's local automotive distribution unit and the second-biggest profit contributor, PT Astra International. The conglomerate, whose operations span property, retail, hotels and motor vehicles, has warned investors of "increasingly difficult conditions" in Indonesia, where the fatality rate from Covid-19 is the highest in the region.

Indonesia's auto industry association almost halved its 2020 vehicle sales forecast, dimming the outlook for Astra, which sells cars and trucks from Toyota Motor Corp. to Isuzu Motors Ltd. With Indonesia's economic growth set to cool to the slowest in almost two decades this year, Astra's other businesses including heavy machineries and palm oil are also feeling the hardship.

"The weakness has really been a result of Covid-19 heavily impacting Southeast Asia, where Jardine has fairly meaningful exposure, most notably in Indonesia," said Jonathan Galligan, group deputy head of research at CLSA Ltd.

For the 187-year-old "hong," as foreign trading houses are known in Hong Kong, Indonesia marks a new front in its battle to revive growth at businesses ranging from its Mandarin Oriental hotels to Dairy Farm supermarkets. While the pandemic has also pummeled Jardine's Hong Kong-based peers such as Swire Pacific Ltd., the continuing surge in infections in Indonesia points to unforeseeable risks in Southeast Asia, a region that accounts for about 42% of Jardine's underlying profit.

Shares of Jardine plunged 12% last month in Singapore, their steepest since 2011, and are trading near



A near-empty road runs through the central business district in Jakarta, Indonesia

an almost nine-year low, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. They have tumbled 32% since a controversial extradition bill introduced and later withdrawn by the Hong Kong government sparked social unrest in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory. Astra has dropped 46% in Jakarta this year, compared with a 28% drop in the local benchmark index.

Representatives for Jardine didn't respond to requests for comments.

Founded in July 1832 in Canton as a tea and opium trader, Jardine's fortunes have been closely linked to China's. In 1994, Jardine moved its Hong Kong listing to Singapore, three years before Britain returned the city to China. The group's unit Jardine Cycle & Carriage Ltd. gradually took control of Astra starting 2000, after the firm's owners faced headwinds during the Asian financial crisis. Jardine has continued to diversify across Southeast Asia from Vietnam to Malaysia and Thailand ever since.

The group now includes engineering and construction company Jardine Pacific Ltd., automotive businesses Jardine International Motors Group and Astra, retail group Dairy Farm International Holdings Ltd., investment holding company Cycle & Carriage, property firm

Hongkong Land Holdings Ltd. and hotel chain Mandarin Oriental International Ltd. Astra took a minority stake in Indonesia's ride-hailing giant Gojek in 2018 and invested further in the company last year.

Swire Pacific, on the other hand, has been focused principally in Greater China, according to its annual report last year. For example, almost 90% of its real estate portfolio is in Hong Kong and mainland China. These two regions also contributed to 68% of its beverages division's profit last year. The group's shares have plunged 49% since the protests started mid-last year, while the outbreak slammed tourism and travel, paralyzing operations at its unit Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd.

The group's underlying profit is estimated to drop an average 12% this year, according to five analysts' forecasts compiled by Bloomberg. A weakening rupiah is another challenge the group is facing, CLSA's Galligan said. The local currency has depreciated about 7% against the dollar this year.

Despite the headwinds, Jardine has a strong balance sheet, giving it financial power to reinvest when opportunities arise, Galligan said. The group had \$7.2 billion in cash and equivalents as of end-December, compared with \$6.6 billion in short-

-term debt.

In early March, announcing a 4% decline in its underlying profit for 2019, Jardine Executive Chairman Ben Keswick said the company's performance for the rest of this year will depend on "the duration, geographic extent and impact of the outbreak and the measures taken to control it."

In its home base of Hong Kong, as the government grapples with a deep recession and starts to relax restrictions imposed earlier to contain the spread of the virus, a revival of pro-democracy protests is threatening to add to Jardine's risks.

Maxim's Group, in which Jardine's Dairy Farm holds 50%, became a target of angry demonstrators last year after the daughter of the caterer's founder criticized the unrest, prompting protesters to vandalize and boycott its restaurants. With travel and tourism at a standstill, Mandarin Oriental said in April that its performance was "severely impacted," resulting in an underlying loss of about \$40 million in the first quarter.

"They have survived the World Wars and opium wars," said Nicolas Van Broekhoven, a Singapore-based analyst at researcher Smartkarma. "You name it, they've come through it. They will survive this one."

MDT/BLOOMBERG

LINDSEY BAHR,
AP FILM WRITER

DRIVE IN

AL Capone lived out his final years on a grand estate in Palm Island, Florida, with his wife, Mae, by his side and grandchildren running around the property. It sounds like a pretty nice end for the notorious Chicago gangster, until you realize that he spent those post Alcatraz years suffering from declining health, dementia and the long-term effects of a syphilis infection from when he was just a teenager that went untreated. Also? He was likely broke. Then he died of a heart attack on January 25, 1947. He was only 48.

It's this chapter that gets the focus in "Capone," a hallucinatory and messy (in all respects) film starring Tom Hardy as the once great crime boss who is now hardly recognizable to himself or his family and in a state of rapid decline. With ashen skin, blood-red eyes and a voice that is so raspy as to be almost unintelligible, Hardy's Capone looks like a drawing of a comic book gangster that's gone too far.

"Fonse" (the name Al is not to be uttered on the property) totters around his well-groomed and cliché Floridian mansion in an open robe with a cigar (and, later, a carrot) hanging out of his mouth. When he's not shouting at his wife (Linda Cardellini) or

gardeners, he can often be found with a thousand-yard stare which either means he's about to go into a flashback sequence or is soiling himself — he does both quite frequently. His decay is cartoonish, as though all of his past sins are oozing out of his brain and body. They are laid out just as chaotically and unpleasantly in "Capo-

ne" for audiences to make sense of.

"Capone" is the work of filmmaker Josh Trank, who, you may recall, is the blockbuster wunderkind who became a bit of a pariah in under four years. His film "Chronicle" made him, at 27, a precious box office superstar who earned comparisons to Spiel-

berg and Cameron. But his decline started before he could make good on the assumption that he was the next big thing. He was then hired, and fired, from a Star Wars film. But perhaps his most infamous moment was when he distanced himself from his expensive "Fantastic Four" reboot a day before it opened (and bombed)

with a tweet implying that studio interference ruined his once great film.

Although we'll never get to see what he might have done left to his own devices with "Fantastic Four," for better or worse "Capone" is fully a Josh Trank product. He wrote, edited and directed. And although "Capone" has interesting elements and a strong style, it is also deeply flawed and a bit of a slog to get through.

The supporting cast is wasted (it's not just Cardellini). Matt Dillon pops up for a bit. And Kyle MacLachlan plays the physician who suggests the family give him a carrot instead of a cigar, since he won't notice anyway. It's also numbingly violent.

Al Capone's last year could make for an interesting film, but there is little poetry or transcendence in "Capone," and nothing even remotely close to the quietly devastating third act of "The Irishman." Although maybe Trank wanted something more garish and horrifying and surreal for Capone, like a carrot cigar, a droopy diaper and a golden Tommy Gun. At the very least, it's hard to look away.

"Capone," a Vertical Entertainment release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "strong/bloody violence, pervasive language and some sexuality." Running time: 103 minutes. ★★☆☆

AP PHOTO



Tom Hardy in a scene from "Capone"

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OPINION

World Views

Andrea Felsted, Bloomberg

REINVENTING HOLIDAYS FOR THE CORONAVIRUS ERA

The world's biggest package-holiday company has given a glimpse of what vacations will look like as long as the novel coronavirus remains a potent health threat. Say goodbye to the all-you-can eat buffet and get ready for a renaissance in road trips as getting away means staying very close to home for the foreseeable future.

That's bad news for Tui AG, which gets the majority of its business from international holidaymakers. Yesterday, the German company said it will cut up to 8,000 jobs, about 15% of its workforce, to slash costs and cope with the new, grim reality in the global travel industry. Lockdowns paralyzing countries around the world meant it burned through 1 billion euros (\$1.1 billion) of cash from March 27 to May 10, as it had to shut hotels, cancel trips and refund customers.

Even as restrictions are eased, the near future doesn't look much brighter. Discussions on reopening international borders are only just beginning, leaving the potential for lengthy quarantines — not a great way to spend one's vacation. And there's no certainty holidaymakers worried about catching the virus will want to travel abroad anyway. So this summer looks pretty much like a washout. Tui has only sold around 35% of its summer 2020 offerings, compared to the some 60% it would usually have booked up by now in a normal year.

In order to adjust, Tui Chief Executive Officer Fritz Jousen said the company is reinventing its holiday offerings to focus on more local travel, which it expects to recover more quickly. When Europeans start to travel again, they are likely to stay in their home countries, or possibly venture only a bit further afield to visit neighboring nations. That has certainly been the case in China, where Tui has already restarted its business for domestic trips.

With that in mind, of all Tui's hotels around the world, the company is first preparing to reopen ones on Germany's North and Baltic Sea coasts, popular destinations for its domestic clientele. There will need to be strict hygiene measures. Wherever possible in Tui hotels, food and drink will be served to guests by staff wearing masks. The company will also promote more hotel packages without flights included to tap demand from customers who want to drive in their own cars. The risk is that this encourages more customers to book directly with hotels themselves, and avoid travel agents altogether.

Cruises too could be more local, and focused on smaller ships, where the number of passengers on board is limited and social distancing easier to put in place. For example, Tui could offer short trips from German harbors to the North and Baltic Seas, while expanding its already popular cruises around the British Isles.

All these measures, however imaginative, may be too late to save this summer, but Tui says demand is picking up for holidays from the autumn onward. It's hopeful that Greece and Majorca will open up later this season, allowing it to recoup some business lost during the traditional summer months, and possibly set a precedent for an extended summer season for years to come.

Tui, which has been granted a 1.8 billion-euro bridging loan from the German state bank KfW, certainly needs holiday bookings to start looking up soon. Its cash burn is concerning even though it still had available resources of 2.1 billion euros as of May 10. The cash outflow is expected to be between 250 million euros and 300 million euros a month for the remainder of the financial year. Although Tui also warned that it faced a potential cash outflow of an additional several hundred million euros per month from refunding customers.

That's no holiday. Even if Tui adapts to the short-term constraints, the changing nature of travel means pressure for the foreseeable future.

MEXICO FINDS 15,000 TURTLES IN CRATES BOUND FOR CHINA

Mexican authorities said yesterday [Macau time] they have seized a shipment of 158 wooden crates bound for China containing about 15,000 fresh-water turtles, some of them endangered.

The environmental prosecutors' office said the crates were found at a freight facility on the outskirts of Mexico City.

The turtles included white-lipped mud turtles, Mexican giant

musk turtles, narrow-bridged musk turtles and the common red-eared slider. About 260 of the creatures had died in the crates.

The office said the turtles were not properly marked, nor did the shipment's paperwork accurately reflect the species of turtles involved.

The trade in other kinds of wildlife has been implicated in the transmission of threats like the novel coronavirus to humans.

THE BUZZ

POLL: TAIWANESE DISTANCE THEMSELVES FROM CHINESE IDENTITY

ABOUT two-thirds of Taiwanese don't identify as Chinese, according to a survey released yesterday that highlights the challenge China would face in bringing the self-governing island under its control.

The U.S.-based Pew Research Center found that 66% view themselves as Taiwanese, 28% as both Taiwanese and Chinese and 4% as just Chinese. The telephone poll of 1,562 people, conducted last fall, has a margin of error of 3.2 percentage points.

The results are consistent with other polls showing that people in Taiwan increasingly identify only as Taiwanese, Pew said.

Today's Taiwan was born of a civil war in China that brought Mao Zedong's Communists to power on the mainland in 1949. The rival Nationalists, led by Chiang Kai-shek, fled to Taiwan, an island about 160 kilometers off China's east coast.

Seventy years later, younger generations in particular have developed a distinct identity, with 83% of respondents under 30 saying they don't consider themselves Chinese.

Alexander Huang, a professor at Tamkang University in Taiwan, said it is



a question of politics, not ethnic background. Younger Taiwanese grew up in a democracy, while China is a one-party state. Another factor, Huang said, is the diplomatic pressure that China puts on Taiwan and the military exercises it conducts in Taiwan's vicinity.

"We are ethnic Chinese for sure. But politically, I think that's the big difference," he said. "It is quite understandable that people don't want to be identified as Chinese."

In addition, about 2.3% of Taiwan's people are members of indigenous groups who are not ethnically Chinese.

Taiwan has never declared independence, though in many ways it acts like a nation, with its own foreign ministry and military. China still considers the island

of 23.6 million people part of its territory and bristles at any talk of independence. It favors peaceful unification but pointedly does not rule out the use of force, if necessary.

The Pew survey found that about 60% of Taiwanese have an unfavorable view of China. While 52% support closer economic ties with China, only 36% favor closer political ties.

Conversely, more than two-thirds have a favorable view of the U.S., with 79% supporting closer political ties. The U.S. cut formal diplomatic relations with Taiwan in 1979 to recognize Beijing as the government of China, but it continues to sell fighter jets and other arms to Taiwan. A U.S. law requires that Washington ensure that Taiwan has the means to defend itself. AP

New Zealand reported zero new cases of the coronavirus on Wednesday, the second day in a row without any new cases and the fourth day since early last week. Most businesses, including malls, retail stores and sit-down restaurants, will be able to reopen. Social distancing rules will remain in place and gatherings will be limited to 10 people. The lifting of restrictions will coincide with the release of the government's annual budget tomorrow.

South Korea has no immediate plans to return to strict social distancing rules after a spike in cases. Vice Health Minister Kim Gang-lip told reporters the government needs more time to analyze details of recent outbreaks before determining whether to change the guidelines. Daily cases had dropped into single digits before spiking to around 30 each day recently. Nightclubs in a Seoul entertainment district were linked to many of the new infections.



Indonesia reported more than 600 new cases of the coronavirus for the first time yesterday, taking its total to 15,438. The 689 new cases were the most since 533 were reported on Saturday. The country has recorded 1,028 deaths. The spike comes as the government is considering a plan to start easing social restrictions next month to allow businesses to gradually reopen.



Lesotho Southern Africa's tiny mountain kingdom of Lesotho has confirmed its first positive case of COVID-19, making it the last of 54 African countries to report the disease. The Lesotho health ministry says one person, who recently arrived in the country, had tested positive without showing signs of illness. The patient is isolated.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Armando Franca



Fatima. The statue of Our Lady of Fatima is carried back to the chapel of the Apparitions at the end of celebrations at a virtually empty Catholic shrine in Fatima, Portugal, yesterday. The dean of the shrine has asked pilgrims to stay away from the shrine in an attempt to stem the spread of the coronavirus.