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WYNN RESORTS PLANS TO REOPEN ITS US CASINOS WITH SOME OF THE SAME SOCIAL DISTANCING PRECAUTIONS ALREADY IN USE IN MACAU P5

China Six people died and 20 others were injured when a bus flipped over on a highway in southwestern China, local authorities reported. Another three people were in critical condition following Saturday's accident on a main road connecting the city of Xichang with the Sichuan provincial capital of Chengdu.



Japan Shinto shrines, a go-to place for many Japanese to pray for good health and safety, have largely shuttered during the coronavirus pandemic. But one Tokyo shrine went online for those seeking solace. Onoterusaki Shrine in downtown Tokyo was livestreaming prayers on Twitter during a May 1-10 holiday, allowing those stuck at home to join rituals.



India's confirmed coronavirus cases have surpassed China's, with the Health Ministry on Saturday reporting a spike to 85,940 infections and 2,752 deaths. China has reported 82,941 confirmed case and 4,633 deaths since the virus was first detected late last year in the central city of Wuhan.



Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani and political rival Abdullah Abdullah have signed a power-sharing agreement two months after both declared themselves the winner of last September's presidential election. The deal calls for Ghani to remain president of the war-torn nation and Abdullah to lead the country's National Reconciliation High Council and some members of Abdullah's team would be included in Ghani's Cabinet.

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MACAU HEALTH AUTHORITIES ASK ZHUHAI TO INVESTIGATE REPORTS OF FRAUDULENT COVID-19 CERTIFICATES

RENATO MARQUES

CLAIMS on the internet that it is possible to acquire fake medical certificates in Zhuhai attesting to negative Covid-19 results has raised concerns from health authorities in Macau.

Yesterday, during the daily press conference at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, the authorities said that they are aware of the claims and that they are following up on the case through their Zhuhai counterparts.

Questioned on the topic by the media, Dr Alvis Lo, and Dr Leong Iek Hou, reaffirmed that local authorities are seeking information from Zhuhai authorities verify the claims.

"We are aware of the news and we are following up on the matter," Lo said. "But we cannot act on the other side of the border. We are waiting for the Zhuhai authorities to investigate and ascertain if these reports are true."

According to the representative of the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center, if it is confirmed that such medical certificates are being forged, "the Zhuhai coun-



terparties will act to tackle them." He added that, for the time being, the local authorities have not yet been updated on the veracity of such reports.

Adding to Lo's reply, Leong said that the Macau authorities have already requested clarification of the situation from their counterparts in Zhuhai.

Nevertheless, Leong admitted that the local authorities do not know what the alleged forged certificates look like.

"We do not know what these 'fake' certificates look like. So far we have been able to verify all certificates [presented] and we have not detected any forged certificates," she concluded.

Lo took the opportunity to clarify the new measure which came into effect on Sunday, allowing

people with Covid-19 negative nucleic acid tests to cross in and out of Macau on the provision that they must stay under medical observation for up to 24 hours until the result of the test is known.

Lo explained that the measure has not changed, but clarified that the day of the sample collection for testing is not included in the seven days of the test's validity.

"At the moment we can see that many people are crossing the border between Zhuhai and Macau but some of the institu-

tions might not be able to provide the test result in just a few hours. We decided that people without results need to wait in medical observation," adding that if these people are not subjected to such restrictions, "they would start circulating and that could compromise the public health on both the sides [of the border]."

He also explained that the 24-hour period is "the longest time we can expect for the result to be known," and clarified that as soon as a person is notified of a negative result, the person can be immediately discharged from observation and continue with their travels.

Lo explained that the seven days of validity of each test, only starts from the time the result is known, refuting the idea that the medical observation period would reduce the time each nucleic acid test performed was considered valid.

MORE STUDENTS WISH TO RETURN FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS

AROUND 80% of the requests received by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) from residents hoping to return to Macau are from students who wish to return for their summer holidays, the MGTO representative at the center, Inês Chan said.

According to the official, the majority of the requests are from those who wish to return during the months of July and August.

However, "we do not know yet if [return-

ing to Macau at these times] will be possible or how, because it has to do with the policies of the airline companies and also the measures in force in the places where they are."

"For those in South Korea, Taiwan, and Australia, we have already managed to solve the problem of the requirements for nucleic acid tests, but for other regions and countries we need to follow up on their updates." **RM**

'Carnival' kicks off six weekends of SME business opportunities

RENATO MARQUES

ORGANIZED by Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) and the Macao Chamber of Commerce (MCC), the "Healthy and Fun Carnival" kicked off on Saturday for six consecutive weekends of sales and business opportunities to support local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

According to the organizers, in the venue comprising the first and second-floor public areas of Broadway

Macau, there are a total of 70 booths that have been made available, free of charge, for over 100 different local SMEs to participate in the carnival which aims to continue to boost domestic consumption.

Over the next five weekends, small businesses participating in the project will benefit from the space and promotion to attract potential costumers, increasing their sales during the difficult times caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

At the same time, the movement of money and goods is also intended to assist Macau's economy during the pandemic, as the restrictions imposed have resulted in the economy suffering a big blow due to the lack of incoming visitors.

During the inauguration speech, the vice president of the MCC, U Kin Cho said "Since the coronavirus has been slightly alleviated and taking the opportunity of the government's e-vouchers we received

this month, GEG and MCC came together to create this carnival in hopes of stimulating society and the economy so that things can get back on track, with residents being able to enjoy leisure consumption in a relaxed and entertaining environment and SMEs being able to enjoy increased revenues."

Divided into three different areas, the carnival has spaces for retail shops, gourmet food and drink, and games, the latter of which

is especially dedicated to the younger ones.

The booths display a large variety of daily necessities, cultural and creative products, food products, and snacks, all at discounted prices.

Lucky draws and other promotions such as cash coupons to be used at the merchants' physical stores will be also given to those that spend a minimum of 400 patacas at the carnival. The carnival will operate in a controlled environment to minimize any possibilities of infection, in line with the government's regulations and guidelines.

The carnival will be held on weekends from noon to 7 p.m. until June 21.

IFTM UPDATES WEB DOMAIN WITH UNIVERSITY'S NEW ACRONYM

THE Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) is introducing a new internet domain name which will apply to both their institutional website as well as electronic-mail addresses.

The new domains add an "m" to the one previously in use, becoming "iftm.edu.mo."

This change comes as a result of the acronym update from IFT to IFTM, which followed the approval and publication of the institute's bylaws under the Administrative Regulation 27/2019 on August 7 last year.

In a press statement, the IFTM revealed that the change in the institution's domain will take effect immediately. It also noted that the old domain will not be completely shut down and will continue to function for a transition period until December 31, 2021. **RM**

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Chief gaming inspector says stepping down was always the plan

RENATO MARQUES

THE sudden announcement last week that Paulo Martins Chan would be stepping down from his position as director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) had always been the plan, the official said on the sidelines of a public event on Saturday.

Macau's top gaming regulator told the Times that "this decision was already made last year, during the term of the previous government."

"My secondment would end on December 1 and at the time the former Secretary [for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong] asked me to stay to pass the ongoing work to the next government. After that, the new Secretary [Lei Wai Nong] also asked me to stay on the post for at least six months more and that is what I did," Chan said.

According to Chan, the pending work has been concluded and the matters have been passed to the new director of the DICJ. He can finally return to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) from where he had been initially seconded.

Chan explained that the request for him to stay at least six months after November last year would allow him to still be in charge of the DICJ at the time of the

RENATO MARQUES



presentation of this year's Policy Address by the Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng.

"The decision was made. The work was passed on. I think this is the right time for me to return to the MP," Chan concluded, thanking the previous Chief Executive and Secretary for Economy and Finance and well as the staff at the DICJ that "always supported me."

RETURN TO THE MP WHERE HE IS NEEDED

During the same interview

with the Times, Chan also said that the return to the MP is a natural move that had been long due, revealing that the Prosecutor-General Ip Son Sang has reminded him often that he was needed at the Office.

"During the past few years, the Prosecutor General called me on several occasions requesting my return to the MP [as soon as possible] since several co-workers have retired, namely some Portuguese judges, which created a lack of human resources at the MP," he added.

SENSE OF MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

In an evaluation of the work completed and goals achieved over the past few years, Chan noted that he leaves the Bureau with a sense of accomplishment of the duties that he was attributed.

"To some extent, I can say that we promoted some reforms in the DICJ," he said. "We implemented a few measures and we achieved some good results namely on the prevention of money laundering for which in Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG) we re-

ceived a good evaluation and personally I also got an award from an international organization. From my point of view, I think that was very positive," Chan said, although he acknowledged that there is still "a lot of work to be done."

ADRIANO HO CONFIRMED AS SUCCESSOR

To the Times, Chan also confirmed that Adriano Marques Ho would succeed in the post as the next director of the DICJ. Ho is expected to take up the position on June 10.

"Secretary Lei already confirmed that Ho would be [my successor]. I believe that the government should have carefully weighed their options before picking a name for the post and I also believe that he has all the qualifications to do a good job," Chan said.

Questioned on the background of his successor and the possibility of an increasing influence of the security sector, Chan said, "I believe that the increasing and stricter enforcement of regulations has already been a direction followed in the past few years [which continues with Ho]."

Chan regards Ho as a person who is aware of the realities of the gaming sector and in this sense "has some advantage to implement [more measures] and to continue on such work [of regulating the sector]."

MGTO's mega-events account for 30% of tourism media coverage

DANIEL BEITLER

FOUR-LARGE scale cultural events organized by Macau's tourism board accounted for over 30% of all media coverage on Macau tourism last year, according to an annual evaluation report.

Dubbed tourism "mega-events", the four major events organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) last year were the Parade for Celebration of the Year of the Pig, the Macao Light Festival 2019, the 30th Macao International Fireworks Display Contest, and the 4th International Film Festival

& Awards - Macao.

An annual evaluation on the tourism branding and media effectiveness of the mega-events found that all attained a high "level of awareness" and a very high "level of satisfaction" among the public.

In terms of media coverage, the International Film Festival was by far the most widely reported among the four events, with a total volume of 196,800 articles. It also gained the most traction on social media, with over 43.7 million interactions. The second-most popular event was the Fireworks Display Contest, which had media coverage of

32,200 articles and registered over 17.5 million social media interactions.

The findings of the report showed that media coverage came in greater proportion from the greater China region, accounting for as much as 93% in some categories. Comprising of mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong, the greater China region accounted for 92% of all visitor arrivals in 2019.

Based on the findings of the report, the MGTO has concluded that events held in the second half of the year attracted more media attention and discussion, which is considered a positive influence

on Macau's tourism branding. The tourism board therefore suggests the launching of events with programs that "resonate with traditional festivals vibrant with local characteristics," so as to attract wider media coverage and discussion during the final months of the year.

Several large-scale sports and cultural events were cancelled or postponed in the first half of 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic. The 31st Macao International Fireworks Display Contest, slated to be held this September and October, was cancelled earlier this month.

CC CONTINUES TO INVESTIGATE SUPERMARKET PRICES

THE Consumer Council (CC) said yesterday that it is continuing to investigate prices in supermarkets following complaints earlier this month of price hikes at some retailers.

In a statement issued yesterday, it disclosed a report on the existence of price differentiation between supermarkets.

The report reveals the prices of around 100 products in six categories such as rice, cereals, edible oil, canned and preserved foods, beverages, and household cleaning products, found for sale in 44 local supermarkets.

The council advised consumers to consult the report and use the Macau Pricing Information Desk, which has diverse functions for comparing prices.

Since May 1, the day from when the government e-voucher could be used, residents have turned to social media over the weekend to express their complaints, uploading several photos for proof.

Authorities previously said that according to the investigations conducted, most cases were found to be related to mistakes by establishments or their staff members, and this occurrence was exaggerated by reports on social media.

Yet it later revoked the "Certified Store Quality Symbol" from Royal Supermarket, saying it considers the justification given by the company for several instances of price hikes to be "unacceptable". LV

THAILAND REMOVES MACAU FROM HIGH RISK LIST, BUT FLIGHTS STILL SUSPENDED

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macau SAR is one of four territories that Thailand has removed from its list of dangerous disease zones, which means that visitors from the SAR will be treated with fewer precautions upon arrival in the country. The other regions that were removed are mainland China, South Korea and Hong Kong.

However, the Civil Aviation Authority of Thailand issued an order over the weekend to extend the ban on international passenger flights to the kingdom until June 30. Therefore, all international flight permits granted for before this date are cancelled.

Currently, only AirMacau is operating flights to Bangkok, as cited in yesterday's departure information of the Macau International Airport (MIA).

According to Thai reports, the countries that remain on the dangerous disease zones' list include Spain, France, Germany, Switzerland, and the U.K., Japan, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Italy, Iran and the United States.

Visitors arriving from these countries are required to present



health certificates issued within three days prior to their flights and should also present evidence of health insurance. These visitors are also required to install and use a mobile monitoring application.

Similarly, Macau still has an entry ban in place for foreign tourists and non-resident workers. There is no confirmed date for when the ban will be lifted.

Yesterday was the consecutive 39th day on which no new Covid-19 cases have been recorded in Macau.

Meanwhile, local reports note that the city's airport is only operating 20 flights daily, with about 5,220 flights cancelled this month due to the impact of the pandemic.

Last month, only 950 passen-

gers arrived in Macau via the MIA. The significant reduction in arrivals by air is mainly due to stricter regulations by the Macau SAR and the fewer flight options that have followed from them.

Last month, authorities announced that they required all those traveling to Macau – including the city's own residents – to present a copy of a certificate that states

that they are not infected with Covid-19. Failure to present one will result in them being refused from boarding the flight to Macau.

However, Macau residents who need such a certificate for their necessary outbound travel will not be able to obtain one from a public medical institution in the SAR.

The presentation of a medical certificate only applies to local residents and mainland visitors with the Individual Visit Scheme as they are the only ones that can enter the region, as well as residents of Hong Kong, Taiwan and blue card holders living in Zhuhai.

Since last Monday, all non-resident workers who live in Zhuhai can enter Macau without having to go through quarantine. Three conditions must be met cumulatively: having an address or holding a residence card in Zhuhai; holding a certificate of a negative test result for Covid-19 valid for seven days; and obtaining a 'green' Macau health code.

For those who meet the three requirements, current restrictions such as observing a 14-day quarantine in Zhuhai to be able to enter Macau will be lifted.

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GAMING | US

Wynn will reopen without poker in concession to new pandemic era

WHEN Wynn Resorts Ltd. gets the go-ahead to reopen casinos in Las Vegas and Boston, one of gambling's most iconic games won't be offered: poker. It also won't be as easy to play craps. At the company's Encore Boston Harbor resort, the game will be allowed only in the high-limit area, where crowds are typically smaller.

It's all part of efforts to limit contact between patrons during the pandemic and appears to draw heavily from the experience in Macau over the past three months.

The decisions by Wynn, one of the most prominent casino operators in the country, highlight the changes gamblers can expect when they return to resorts that have been closed for two months as a result of the coronavirus. Poker rooms are typically crowded, and the game is one of the least profitable for casinos.

Macau casinos reopened in late February after a 15-day closure ordered by the government. After reopening, casino operators were told to adopt strict social distancing and pandemic prevention measures that included health screening, the wearing of face masks and the requirement that patrons leave a vacant seat between one another.

A similar approach is now being introduced in the U.S. Casino operators there plan to open with every other slot machine closed and will impose limits on how many people can play at a table. In some cases, they'll do temperature checks.



One post making the rounds on social media shows Hialeah Park Racing & Casino in Florida testing a poker table with customers wearing masks and playing behind a giant sneeze guard.

MGM Resorts International, the largest casino operator on the Las Vegas Strip, released plans earlier this week that showed sinks for hand-washing installed in the lobby of the Bellagio. The company is relying heavily on technology to make guests comfortable, such as online check-ins and mobile phones doubling as room keys at its hotels.

The changes will present challenges for players. Can

you read a competitor's face in poker when it's hidden behind a protective mask? Is it polite to blow on the dice before rolling in craps, as many people do for good luck?

Virtually all of the nearly 1,000 casinos in the U.S. were closed as result of the coronavirus, and 52 are open now, according to a running tally by the American Gaming Association.

Most of those that have opened are in smaller markets or on tribal land. Casinos in Louisiana and Mississippi, two relatively large markets, are expected to open next week.

Jay Snowden, chief executive officer of Penn National Gaming

Inc., said in an interview Thursday that he expects as many as five states to let their casinos reopen this month, with most of the others following in June.

Penn's 41 properties will open with half or less of their slot machines and tables available, Snowden said. Buffets will stay closed, and employees will wear masks, but he's leaving it up to local authorities to decide if customers must as well.

Snowden said he was heartened by images of a fairly busy start in some markets that have reopened, such as Deadwood, South Dakota. "It shows there is pent-up demand," he said. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

LOCAL WOMAN DAMAGES EQUIPMENT DURING COVID-19 TESTING OUTBURST

A local woman's outrage resulted in the temporary suspension of Covid-19 testing services at the Taipa Ferry Terminal. On Friday, the woman physically struck nucleic acid test devices while complaining about the Health Bureau's arrangements. The woman demanded the health authority change the test devices and equipment. Her outburst jeopardized the test site's operation and inconvenienced other people. The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center reported the woman's behavior to the Public Security Police Force (PSP). The center has condemned the woman's behavior, urging all individuals who wish to receive the tests to follow instructions in an orderly manner.

DSES TO ORGANIZE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

In July and August, the Higher Education Bureau (DSES) will help Macau local university students with internships in Macau or at mainland companies and organizations. The internship program is divided into two phases, with a total of 170 positions. The internships covers business management, human resources, communication, design, healthcare, and education. Each phase of the internship lasts four weeks. Eligible individuals are Macau local residents studying during the 2019/2020 academic year, at the second year or above of a bachelor or postgraduate degree. The deadline for internship applications for July is May 23. For August internships, the deadline is May 29.

EXCO COMPLETES DISCUSSION ON SECURITY FORCE SALARY BILL

The Executive Council (ExCo) has completed its discussion on the draft of law No. 8/2012, which concerns salary compensation for security force workers, according to a statement released by the council on Friday. The bill has taken into consideration the fact that security force personnel work on a different schedule compared to other civil servants. Security forces operate permanently unlike other public services. According to Macau's Civil Servant protocol, if a civil servant works over 44 hours per week, the worker is entitled to a salary compensation. As the current method of calculating working hours does not reflect the uniqueness and uncertainty of the security force and to ensure that security force's civil servants are compensated fairly, the security authority has amended the bill. The amendment proposes to calculate security force personnel's weekly average working hours by averaging the total working hours for each month.

GAMING | VIETNAM

Suncity's joint venture project granted casino license

HONG Kong-listed Suncity Group Holdings Ltd has announced that the \$4 billion (about 32 billion patacas) casino project in Hoiana, Vietnam, was last week granted an operating license valid until December 2080.

The granting of the Certification for the Eligibility

for Casino Business paves the way for the joint venture to kick off its first phase in early 2021.

In a Hong Kong Stock Exchange filing, Alvin Chau, chairman of Macau junket Suncity Group, who also leads the Hong Kong listed firm, said that he was "thrilled" that Hoiana was granted a casino license.

The Suncity brand is one of the investors in the Hoiana casino project.

"This is a very exciting time to witness my vision for Suncity sprout from ground zero into a truly integrated resort company - a true metamorphosis for Suncity," Chau said, as cited in the press release. The firm stressed that

"the full opening of Hoiana is scheduled to happen in 2021 while an exclusive preview will be held in summer 2020".

The 165-hectare Hoiana integrated resort is located in South Hoi An. It was previously announced that the integrated resort will only have 1,000 hotel rooms and 140 gaming tables.

ing tables.

Suncity group, which owns a one-third stake in the project was expected to bring its expertise in attracting high-roller Chinese gamblers to the project.

Hoiana was originally scheduled to open its first phase in the first quarter of 2019, but this was later delayed to early 2020 and then delayed again until 2021.

In February, Suncity said that Covid-19 will not impact the opening of the casino project, adding that it was confident that it would obtain the license to operate on time. **LV**



From left: lawmakers Lao Chi Ngai, Sulu Sou and Au Kam San as seen during Friday's Legislative Assembly plenary session

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Lawmakers squabble about dress code amid June Fourth debate

JULIE ZHU

LAWMAKER Chan Chak Mo disapproved of Sulu Sou's outfit during Friday's Legislative Assembly's (AL) plenary meeting.

During the meeting, Sou wore a short-sleeve white t-shirt with the inscription "People Will Not Forget". The slogan refers to the June Fourth Incident, 1989, when the government of the People's Republic of China forcibly suppressed student-led demonstrations in Beijing and more than 400 other locations across the country.

"I request that the chairman rule whether men can wear short-sleeve t-shirts, and ask what the dress code of the plenary meeting is? His t-shirt says "People Will

Not Forget". I have no problem with that," clarified Chan during the lawmakers' speech session before the agenda.

"[The June Fourth Incident] has nothing to do with what you are saying," AL president Kou Hoi In affirmed to Chan.

Sou later also demanded the opportunity to speak, hoping to respond to Chan's complaint. However, the AL president urged Sou not to continue the argument because other lawmakers were in the middle of debating another topic.

Sou pointed out that the president could mute his microphone, similar to what has happened before. The AL president then silenced Sou's microphone, saying "You asked for it. I am going to mute it."

When the discussions regarding the June Fourth Incident had ended, Kou defended his decision to mute the microphone, and commented on the AL dress code. According to Kou, the AL has no explicit dress code, although participants are expected to dress appropriately.

The AL chairman defended Chan and implied that Sou's outfit may not have been proper for an AL plenary meeting. However, Kou was unable to identify any specific rule suggesting Sou's garment was unsuitable for AL. Instead, he resorted to recollecting the first AL chairman's, post 1999, speech to assert that "AL is a solemn place."

The Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IAM) controversial decision last week to revoke its approval for

a public exhibition on the June Fourth Incident, prompted debate during Friday's plenary session.

Lawmaker Lao Chi Ngai's claim that the June Fourth image exhibition violates the Constitution Law, the Basic Law and the One Country principle, had angered three directly elected lawmakers.

Lawmakers Ng Kuok Cheong, Au Kam San and Sou had earlier raised an objection and expressed their dissatisfaction towards the IAM's banning of the annual image exhibition.

Lao's statement was first opposed by Au. "Breach of the Constitutional Law, Basic Law and the One Country, Two Systems principle is a radical charge. Saying that organizing an exhibition, a memorial event, is breaching the

Constitutional Law and the Basic Law is an extremely serious accusation," said Au, who demanded that Lao retract his comment.

The same sentiment was shared by Ng and Sou, who both believe that the organizers of the image exhibition, which has been regularly organized in the past, applied for the event and the exhibitions appropriately and were approved legally.

"What does it have to do with the breach of Constitutional Law and the One Country Two Systems principle? I hope economist Lao can explain this political matter," Sou said.

Lao, who did not back down, engaged in several rounds of debate with Sou, Au and Ng. Lao argued that the exhibition violates the One Country principle and disagrees that the exhibition is for civic education purposes. He said he wants the best for Macau and wants Macau society to be stable. He refused to take the allegation back.

Lawmaker Ng commented that "there are many ways to love the country: being critical of it is one of them."

Lawmaker blasts 'incapable' Chinese judges for 'lacking int'l perspective'

JULIE ZHU

BUSINESSMAN-cum-lawmaker Vitor Cheung Lup Kwan has called Chinese judges in Macau "incapable", stating that Portuguese judges are far more competent. The controversial statement was made during the Legislative Assembly's (AL) plenary meeting on Friday.

Secretary for Administration and Justice André

Cheong Weng Chon presented the government's prescribed amendment of law No. 13/2001 to the AL. The law concerns training courses and an internship program for personnel to become judges or prosecutors.

Overall, the amendment raised the bar for entry to the court and prosecution office. The provision suggests some mandatory course require-

ments, and two years of working experience anywhere outside of a court and prosecution office.

While other lawmakers were generally worried about Macau's shortage of judges, Cheung expressed his thoughts on the amendment proposal and judges more generally.

Despite his usual lack of engagement in AL discussion, Cheung, an indirectly

elected lawmaker from the business sector, made several blunt comments on current judges who were trained in Macau.

"I rarely read AL documents. Today, when I saw this one, I made an historical first step [to read the document]," said Cheung.

"Macau's current judges are really incapable in terms of international law. Especially judges who studied in Macau. They

are lacking an international perspective," Cheung commented.

"The Portuguese have deep regard for both China and Macau," said Cheung. "If you clean out [some current] incapable judges and hire Portuguese judges, I believe [the Portuguese judges] are capable of devoting themselves to Macau. Even the Court of Final Appeal uses Portuguese judges. [...] The most important thing is to be open-minded."

Cheung, who chairs the board of the Taipa-based hotel Pousada Marina Infante, urged Macau to not focus on the number of judges but to improve the

quality of judges. In Cheung's opinion, Macau's judges need to improve their proficiency, knowledge of law, and their life experience.

Besides advocating for Portuguese judges, Cheung also recommended that the SAR government send judges abroad to receive training, if not in the U.S., in Portugal or elsewhere in the European Union.

"When they return, they will be a lot better. Especially concerning business matters, if Macau does not have these [Portuguese or foreign trained] judges, it is impossible for Macau to do a good job," Cheung commented.

Hong Kong police watchdog upholds actions against protesters

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

A long-awaited report from an official Hong Kong police watchdog group issued Friday said officers used force only in response to threats to their safety during months of anti-government protests last year.

Police fired live rounds on 12 occasions when they "had reasonable suspicion of lethal force" being used or prepared against them, the Independent Police Complaints Council said in the lengthy report.

Its conclusions are unlikely to convince critics who say officers unnecessarily fired bullets, tear gas, rubber bullets and pepper spray to suppress the sometimes violent protests.

Although described as independent, the council is appointed by Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam, leading critics to say it ultimately serves the interests of the pro-Beijing administration rather than civil society. It has no investigative powers of its own.

The report assessed six days between June and August last year near the beginning of the protest movement, which was sparked by the Hong Kong government's attempt to pass a bill that would have allowed suspects to be extradited from the semi-autonomous territory to face trial in mainland China. The legislation was ultimately withdrawn but the protests continued over several complaints, including a demand that police be held accountable for their head-



Anthony Neoh (left) chairman of the Independent Police Complaints Council

vy-handed response.

The protests began peacefully but at times descended into violence, with clashes between police and protesters leading to accusations that the police abused their power and even colluded with organized crime figures, who on one occasion attacked protesters and escaped mostly without being arrested.

The report found "room for improvement" in the police's handling of clashes with protesters, making recommendations such as a review of the police operational command structure, its guidelines on the use of force and officer training.

Lam said at a news conference on Friday that the report was "comprehensive and objective" and that she will accept its recommendations.

"Hong Kong has been adopting many internationally adopted guidelines on use of force. Of course, it's not perfect, and we could improve on that," Anthony Neoh, chairman of the council, said at a news conference.

"We also want the report to serve a broader purpose and objective, so that the public will have a better understanding of what has happened in Hong Kong," he said.

A panel of international experts appointed to advise the council

last November concluded that it lacked the power and independent investigative capacity to conduct a meaningful probe, but the council continued its work.

The human rights group Amnesty International said in March that the council lacked impartiality and echoed protesters' demands that the government establish a truly independent inquiry into police conduct.

The council's report said the protest movement, which was initially peaceful, had degenerated into violent protests with participants attacking police and destroying property. It said police seized assault rifles, hand guns, ammunition and bomb-making materials connected to the protests, demonstrating that "our community is being dragged into an era of terrorism."

Large-scale protests have ended, but the report said their economic damage had been compounded by the coronavirus pandemic. Lam on Friday put plans for an independent review of the underlying causes of the protest movement on hold, saying she will focus on overcoming the economic challenges caused by the virus. AP

KEY FINDINGS OF IPCC REPORT

- The report says the use of force by police was a "reaction" to protesters using "guerrilla-type attacks" that were "accompanied by violence and vandalism verging on terrorism"
- The IPCC recommends setting up an expert committee of scientific and medical experts to advise police on whether tear gas and pepper spray are within "acceptable toxicological limits for use in Hong Kong streets"
- It recommends revising some police training related to use of force, real-time intelligence monitoring and quick action to avoiding escalation
- The delayed police response to a mob attack on citizens in Yuen Long on July 21, 2019, showed "deficiencies" that gave rise to rumors that police were colluding with local gangs known as triads - but the IPCC found no evidence to substantiate that claim
- It recommends an accreditation process for commanders and rank-and-file officers involved in public order policing

GREATER BAY AREA

China unveils financial support to tie cities closer

CHINA'S financial regulators unveiled a sweeping plan to facilitate cross-border transactions and investments between Hong Kong, Macau and cities in southern China as part of the government's ambition to transform the coastal region into a high-tech megalopolis to rival California's Silicon Valley.

The People's Bank of China, together with the nation's banking securities and foreign

exchange regulators, on Thursday announced a slew of potential measures to support the so-called Greater Bay Area, including allowing Hong Kong and Macau citizens to buy wealth management products issued by mainland lenders in the region and vice versa.

China's policy makers are seeking to turn the area into a global innovation hub, boost infrastructure connectivity between

cities and strengthen Hong Kong's role as an international center of finance, shipping and trade as well as the center for the offshore yuan business.

The move comes amid increasing political tension in Hong Kong, with Beijing exerting greater influence over the city after almost a year of pro-democracy protests and as China has largely contained its outbreak of the coronavirus.

Hong Kong, Macau, Shenzhen and Guangzhou are the four key Bay Area cities, driving the region's economic development, according to the blueprint announced earlier last year. HSBC Holdings Plc has estimated the region - with more than 67 million residents - would encompass a trillion-dollar economy and eclipse Japan as the world's fourth-largest exporter. MDT/BLOOMBERG

HONG KONG HANDOUTS MAY BE RECEIVED IN JULY

HONG Kong's cash handout included in a host of relief measures promised by the government could be received by eligible recipients as early as July, Financial Secretary Paul Chan said.

The HKD10,000 (\$1,290) handouts will be received mid-July if recipients opt for electronic registration with banks to collect the money in their personal accounts - the fastest channel for payment - Chan wrote on his blog yesterday. Re-

gistration looks set to begin at the end of June, he said.

His comments come as the Asian financial hub grapples with a recession brought on by last year's often violent pro-democracy protests and the months-long impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

With the Legislative Council's approval of the budget, relief measures aimed at supporting wage earners and businesses can now be implemented, Chan said.

He noted Hong Kong still faces severe economic challenges and that unemployment has deteriorated.

Social stability also remains a critical factor, Chan said. The city in recent weeks experienced a resurgence in protests, signaling another summer of unrest could lie ahead.

"If the epidemic subsides but violence returns, it will discourage international investors" and slow the recovery of the local economy, he wrote. MDT/BLOOMBERG

China faces angry world at key WHO meeting

KAREN LEIGH
& JASON SCOTT

AT the first meeting of the World Health Organization's governing body since Covid-19 stormed the globe, China is set to be challenged on two of its most sensitive issues: The Communist Party's initial handling of the virus and the status of Taiwan's participation.

While the U.S. has launched a daily barrage of attacks on China, including suggesting the virus escaped from a laboratory in the central city of Wuhan, the European Union and Australia are set to play a key role pushing for a probe into the virus's origin when the World Health Assembly - the WHO's decision making body - gathers today for an annual meeting in Geneva.

A U.S.-backed bloc is also pushing for Taiwan, whose handling of the virus has been a rare success story, to attend the meeting as an observer. The move - aimed at strengthening Taiwan's official and unofficial diplomatic relationships - has angered China, which views the island as a province and has long sought to isolate it on the world stage.

The showdown reflects a broader geopolitical struggle pitting the U.S. and its allies against China, whose authoritarian system has come under scrutiny in the wake of a pandemic that has killed about 300,000 people and devastated the global economy. The U.S. has suspended funding for the WHO, claiming it's biased toward China, and even suggested setting up an alternative body.

Yet for all the noise, most analysts expect China to command support from a large swathe of the nearly 200 countries taking part in the assembly that need good relations with the world's second-biggest economy to shore up domestic growth. And any effort to replace the WHO is also unlikely to gain traction.

"As much as the WHO has struggled and been the subject of criticism in this crisis, any replacement would look remarkably similar to what we have today," said Natasha

AP PHOTO



In this March file photo, China's President Xi Jinping talks with patients and medical workers in Wuhan

Kassam, a former Australian diplomat in China who is now a research fellow at the Lowy Institute in Sydney. "It is hard to imagine an effective global health institution that excluded China, and it's hard to imagine the United States making Taiwan's participation a red line."

Still, the anger in some parts of the world over China's response to the pandemic is still fresh, and will likely play out this week. Apart from an initial cover up, the world has become increasingly upset with China's heavy-handed response to any criticism.

Australia in particular has felt the heat from Beijing, which threatened a boycott of its goods and also suspended meat imports from four processing plants for "technical" reasons. The government in Canberra called the boycott threats "economic coercion" and hasn't backed down on its calls for a virus probe.

"You can't let the trail go cold," Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison told reporters on May 8. "And I think Australia and the United States and the United Kingdom and countries all around the world would like to know what happened, because we don't want to see it happen again."

While the EU was still working out the wording of the proposal in the run-up to the assembly, the European Commission has said a draft resolution envisaged calling for "an independent review on lessons learned from the international health response to the coronavirus."

Australia has said that could happen through the WHO's Health Emergencies Program, which was set up after the Ebola crisis in 2014, and the International Health Regulations Review Committee, which assessed the response to the H1N1 pandemic in 2009.

The building acrimony has also made more countries willing to pressure China on Taiwan, which is a red line for authorities in Beijing. President Tsai Ing-wen's government in Taipei has made a vocal pitch to be included in the proceedings this week, saying it needs access to firsthand information about the spread of the disease.

The WHO has said its Ethiopian director-general, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, has no mandate to offer Taiwan an invitation to the assembly because there is "no clear support" among member states. Tedros in April had accused Taiwan of being behind a racist campaign against him and Africans in general - a charge that Taipei rejected as "slander."

A proposal backed by 13 member states has called for the assembly to make a call on whether Taiwan can attend. China has blocked Taiwan's participation in the organization since the independence-leaning Tsai was elected in 2016 and refused to accept that both sides belong to "one China."

The U.S. is "determined" to see Taiwan participate in the meetings as an observer, with a spokesperson at the U.S. Mission in Geneva saying that lessons from its

successful experience fighting Covid-19 "would be of significant benefit to the rest of the world."

"The People's Republic of China would rather that success not be shared, no doubt to avoid uncomfortable comparisons," the spokesperson said.

For its part, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said it "firmly rejects" countries' proposal to invite Taiwan to attend the assembly, and has also blasted the call for an independent probe into the virus origin as "political maneuvering."

"Certain countries insisted on discussing proposals involving Taiwan to politicize a public health issue," Zhao said Friday. "This consequence can only severely interfere with the progress of the conference and undermine international cooperation."

China is confident that the majority of countries won't allow Taiwan to participate as an observer, and Beijing would "never" allow an independent investigative team inside its borders, said Shi Yinhong, an adviser to China's cabinet and also a professor of international relations at Renmin University in Beijing.

"It's becoming clear that China's basic stance is to reject criticism, and focus on the efforts it has made in the global fight," Shi said. "This is a position that China won't change, hence posing a sharp opposition to the voices of accusing its cover-up and claiming accountability." **BLOOMBERG**

this day in history



1950 US AND EUROPE AGREE NATO AIMS

Almost exactly a year after signing the North Atlantic Treaty, 12 nations have agreed a permanent organisation for the defence of the United States and Europe.

The final meeting of the fourth session of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, or Nato as it has become known, was held in front of cameras at Lancaster House in London.

The 12 foreign ministers sat around a horseshoe table, with the United States Secretary of State, Dean Acheson, at the centre. A large audience of newspaper and newsreel correspondents, cameramen and photographers broadcast their speeches around the world.

During negotiations over the past few days, the ministers have reached agreement over a communiqué outlining the aims of the Organisation, and setting out a six-point plan for strengthening ties between their countries.

Key among these was the establishment of a council of deputies, with a permanent chairman and a full-time staff, to put the objectives of the Treaty into action.

Opening the meeting, Mr Acheson thanked all his colleagues for their "tireless efforts" and said that "genuine progress" had been made.

"Throughout its deliberations, the council has recognised that only through coordinated plans and effort could its great objectives be achieved," he said.

He then went on to read the communiqué, which spoke of the principles behind Nato and outlined the objectives the organisation is working towards.

It stressed the importance of seeking a diplomatic solution before military force is used, but where some nations are not willing to cooperate, it said, "the maintenance of peace and the defence of freedom require the organisation of adequate military defence."

The communiqué also includes directives on defence, finance and economics, and establishes a North Atlantic planning board for shipping.

The British Foreign Minister, Ernest Bevin, called the agreement one of "historic significance".

"I'm afraid we cannot arrive at sensational decisions," he told the meeting. "This business of building for peace is a very grim business, and it has to be worked for day in and day out. "We must never give up faith in its ultimate trials."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The 12 nations who signed the North Atlantic Treaty in 1949 were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Britain, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United States.

Later in 1950, US general and future president Dwight D Eisenhower was appointed Nato's first supreme commander.

Nato soon ran into controversy when West Germany was included in the Treaty in 1955. The Soviet Union saw it as a direct threat, and in the same year created a counter-alliance called the Warsaw Pact.

When the Cold War ended, the Warsaw Pact was dissolved in 1991.

No longer directed at the perceived threat of Soviet aggression, Nato formed closer ties with Eastern Europe and began a major re-evaluation of its role.

The Organisation's first aggressive action took place in 1995, in a campaign of airstrikes launched against Bosnian Serb positions in the former Yugoslavia.

It was followed in 1999 by an 11-week campaign of airstrikes over Kosovo which it undertook without United Nations approval.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Your charisma will no doubt attract a lot of attention. Sit back. You'll communicate easily and develop new friendships. And some of them will be around for a long time.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

If you can get away for a vacation, do so. Tempers may flare if you haven't been completely honest about your intentions or your whereabouts. Those you work with may have little consideration for the underdog.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Stretch the truth, and you may get blamed for something you didn't do. However, you must not neglect your family. Unexpected visitors will be a welcome surprise.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You can make money but not through harebrained schemes or gambling. You will be prone to carelessness that could result in accidents. Lay your cards on the table regarding your personal direction.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

This is a great day to beautify your living quarters or to entertain at home. You'll find it easy to upgrade your environment by redecorating or changing your residence. You're in the mood for love.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been feeling up to par. Make changes around your house and plan to do some entertaining. Exercise programs will be effective.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your determination and stamina will make your work look flawless and effortless. Your efforts will be rewarded handsomely. Older members of your family may try to take advantage of you.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Don't agree to make any of those cosmetic alterations you've been considering. You can make personal changes that will enhance your appearance and bring you greater popularity.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your stability will aid you in getting support from your fellow workers. Your attitudes are changing rapidly. Real estate investments will payoff. And so will social ones.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Relatives may play an important role in your social activities. Your partner will be emotionally unable to cope. Don't be afraid to pursue unfamiliar grounds.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Restrictions may be difficult for you to live with, but try to do things by the book. Don't let others restrict you from saying how you feel about family issues.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Don't let others bully you into agreeing with them. Not everything you hear will be legitimate. If you put your mind to it, you could entertain or host a multitude of social events.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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		5	8		4			
3	1	6						
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						2		

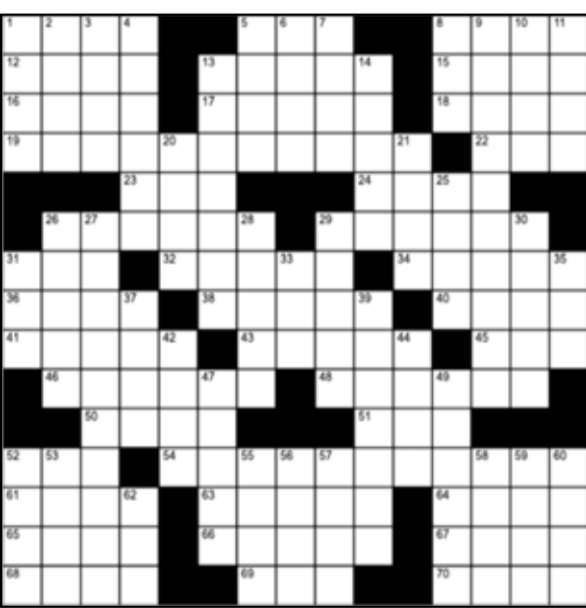
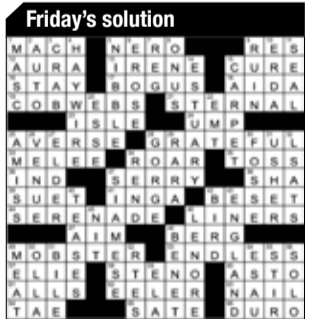
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	14	22	cloudy
Harbin	0	15	cloudy
Tianjin	14	21	overcast
Urumqi	15	26	shower
Xi'an	20	36	cloudy
Lhasa	8	17	cloudy
Chengdu	22	31	drizzle
Chongqing	23	31	drizzle
Kunming	14	27	clear
Nanjing	23	33	cloudy
Shanghai	23	32	clear
Wuhan	23	34	cloudy
Hangzhou	22	35	cloudy
Taipei	23	27	cloudy
Guangzhou	24	34	clear
Hong Kong	25	31	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	12	21	drizzle
Frankfurt	6	18	drizzle
Paris	10	19	clear
London	7	15	drizzle
New York	11	25	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Agitate; 5- Seed vessel; 8- Gyro bread; 12- Raise to third power; 13- Trims; 15- Radiate; 16- Work without ___; 17- Me too; 18- As far as; 19- Citizenship; 22- Alley-___; 23- Commandment word; 24- Seemingly forever; 26- Head cases?; 29- Nimble; 31- Definite article; 32- Peruvian peaks; 34- Register as a participant; 36- Enervates; 38- Flip out; 40- Mozart's "___ kleine Nachtmusik"; 41- Made a mistake; 43- Salty; 45- Unmatched; 46- Judicial decision; 48- Buffoons; 50- Underworld river; 51- Affirmative vote; 52- Hot diamonds; 54- Ill-fated; 61- Hamlet, e.g.; 63- Due (to); 64- It may turn; 65- Bluesy James; 66- Do not disturb; 67- Energy units; 68- No. 2; 69- Yr.'s end; 70- Stink;

DOWN: 1- Examine, search; 2- "Chicken of the sea"; 3- Yeah, right!; 4- Eye membrane; 5- Que ___?; 6- Like some history; 7- Moore of "G.I. Jane"; 8- Little, in Lille; 9- Burden; 10- Bandleader Puente; 11- Perched on; 13- Gasping; 14- Located; 20- The last Mrs. Chaplin; 21- Long ago; 25- Zilch; 26- Beet variety; 27- Stands for; 28- Sun-dried brick; 29- Savory jelly; 30- Looks after; 31- Lao-___; 33- Van Gogh had one later in life; 35- Blushing; 37- Faction of a group, often religious; 39- Blow up; 42- Prohibitionists; 44- It's used to walk the dog; 47- Sing the praises of; 49- Veer toward the sunset; 52- Brainchild; 53- Burmese, Manx, and Scottish Fold; 55- Overwhelmed; 56- Confirmation, e.g.; 57- "Power Lunch" network; 58- Beget; 59- Periphery; 60- Writing table; 62- Gobble up;



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

Unique Ground Floor Loft, Central Macau
HK\$9,990,000 2,200 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

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

FOR SALE

- [Macau] Apartment Historical Centre 2 1/2 1 1/2
840 ft² **\$4,580,000** (ref: 20016003)
- [Taipa] Wa Bao 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,071 ft² **\$7,995,000** (ref: 18115568)
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 1 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,663 ft² **\$8,200,000** (ref: 19025577)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,420 ft² **\$10,900,000** (ref: 20016004)

FOR RENT

- [Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1 1/2
\$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2
710 ft² **\$10,000/mth** (ref: 20021002)
- [Macau] Vai Fung Triplex, Macau 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,065 ft² **\$14,000/mth** (ref: 19121001)
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 1/2 1 1/2
1,100 ft² **\$15,900/mth** (ref: 20031002)

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kitty@jmlproperty.com

Property of the Week



Unique Ground Floor Loft, Central Macau
HK\$9,990,000 2,200 ft² 2 🛏️ 2 🚿

A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property.

Adjacent to the dining area there is a wonderful outside area perfect for barbecuing and al fresco dining. On the mezzanine floor two large double bedrooms with a lots of built in storage share a good size walk in shower room. This property is truly unique in design, and location.

This unique opportunity is located on a quiet street behind the San Januario hospital which has regular bus service and various eateries and shopping nearby. The property is also walking distance to Macau business district.

Property Hotlist



Chun Fuk, Taipa Village

\$8,998,000

834 ft²

2 🛏️ 2 🚿



Taipa Village
2 connected apartments

\$8,380,000

1,404 ft²

4 🛏️ 2 🚿



Manhattan, Taipa

\$20,800/mth

1,626 ft²

3 🛏️ 2 🚿



Delightful 1 Bedroom, Taipa

\$9,500/mth

820 ft²

1 🛏️ 1 🚿



More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Apartment Historical Centre 2 🛏️ 1 🚿 840 ft² **\$4,580,000** (ref: 20016003)
- [Taipa] Wa Bao 2 🛏️ 2 🚿 1,071 ft² **\$7,995,000** (ref: 18115568)
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 1 🚗 3 🛏️ 2 🚿 1,663 ft² **\$8,200,000** (ref: 19025577)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 🛏️ 2 🚿 1,420 ft² **\$10,900,000** (ref: 20016004)
- [Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom 2 🚗 3 🛏️ 2 🚿 2,530 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096000)

For Rent

- [Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1 🚗 **\$3,800/mth** (ref: 20041001)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 🛏️ 1 🚿 710 ft² **\$10,000/mth** (ref: 20021002)
- [Macau] Vai Fung Triplex 2 🛏️ 2 🚿 1,065 ft² **\$14,000/mth** (ref: 19121001)
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 🛏️ 1 🚿 1,100 ft² **\$15,900/mth** (ref: 20031002)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 🛏️ 4 🚿 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)

Recent Movements

Sold Nova City, Macau, 3 beds

Rented One bed apartment, Central Taipa

Rented Taipa loft unit, 1 bed



JML Events



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team



Macau Golf Masters

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EUROPE'S BROKEN TOURISM INDUSTRY STRUGGLES TO SAVE THE SUMMER

PAUL TUGWELL, STEFAN NICOLA,
MATTHIAS WABL
& HENRIQUE ALMEIDA

ON the Greek island of Mykonos, Mayor Kostas Koukas is desperately trying to revive the tourism that is the life blood of the local economy.

Koukas, and his counterparts in towns and cities across Europe, are looking to salvage something from the summer season after the coronavirus pandemic brought travel to a standstill. With the disease largely under control in Greece, Mykonos is in a strong position to benefit as restrictions are loosened more quickly than in harder-hit nations like Italy and Spain.

"Residents want the island to open up not just to contain economic losses but also because tourism is our life," Koukas said. "For sure, this season won't be normal, but we want to open because it will be very important for the following ones."

After a two-month battle to contain the virus, European governments have begun slowly easing curbs on public life, providing hope to hoteliers, restaurateurs and bar owners. It's a delicate balancing act for officials keen to revive activity but wary of a resurgence of the disease.

The outbreak dealt an unprecedented blow to tourism in Europe, hammering sales and putting millions of jobs at risk in a sector that accounts for about 10% of output. Demand is seen plummeting by around 40% this year and is not expected to return to pre-crisis levels until 2023, according to the European Travel Commission, which represents 33 national tourism organizations.

Companies from British Airways owner IAG SA to Germany's TUI AG, the world's biggest package-holiday operator, are eliminating tens of thousands of jobs and some smaller, family-owned businesses may never recover.

"It is only a matter of time until money runs out and we will see bankruptcies all around Europe," said ETC Executive Director Eduardo Santander.

Countries with lower infection rates, including Greece, Germany and Austria, are ready to open up more quickly, striking bilateral deals on travel. In others, like Italy, Spain and France, where a combined 85,000 people have died, it remains unclear how soon tourism will become viable again, and how it will cope with strict social-distancing and hygiene rules.

To spur a revival in the sector, the European Commission this

week published guidelines on everything from the removal of border restrictions to the use of mobile-phone tracing applications. But many people won't feel safe enough to travel until there's a vaccine or treatment, which may be months or even longer away.

The immediate impact will be softened by financial aid from European governments, including wage support, loan guarantees and reductions in sales tax. But the ETC says the level of disruption is "far more severe" than during the financial crisis a decade ago and will bring "fundamental changes" to the industry.

On Germany's Baltic coast, Rainer Malchus can't wait to unlock the doors of his 5-star luxury hotel on the island of Ruegen and begin to recoup hundreds of thousands of euros in lost sales.

Staff are busy preparing his Romantik Roewers Privathotel in the resort town of Sellin for Monday's opening, wiping hand railings, sealing mini bars, and emptying the 52 rooms of items that are difficult to disinfect.

"It's great that we can welcome guests again because this entire region is dependent on tourism," Malchus said. "Everyone, from the tour guides and the souvenir shop to the corner ice cream parlor have waited for this moment."

His expectation is that Germans who usually fly to Spain, Italy or Greece during the summer will flock to the country's North and Baltic Sea resorts this year instead.

In Austria, entrepreneurs are coming up with new ideas to lure guests, including free rooms, themed culinary evenings or philosophy and literature sessions.

Peter Fetz, who owns the 250-year-old hotel "Hirschen" in Schwarzenberg, said he had daily cancellations worth 40,000 to 50,000 euros flooding his inbox during the second half of March.

"It's tough, no question about it, but we are young and creative, we'll get over it," Fetz said. "We had a good year last year, so we

have some reserves left, but I had to postpone the planned room renovations."

Swiss officials are hoping its image as a peaceful country with pristine mountain landscapes will give it a competitive edge. A new marketing campaign focuses on post-lockdown consumers, such as families with children who have to watch their budgets, and couples who may have been separated by distance, or who need a break from a stressful confinement.

Adrian Bridge, who runs the Yeatman Hotel overlooking the city of Porto in northern Portugal, said his biggest challenge will be convincing guests that hygiene standards are strict enough to protect them from possible infection.

"People will want to see their table laid out in front of them and that they are able to unwrap their knife and fork so they see they are the first to touch them," Bridge said. "Historically, we tried to be invisible in the cleaning process and now we will be visible for the guests to be reassured."

Back in Greece, where the government has won praise for a relatively successful virus containment strategy, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said last week that the tourist sector should be fully back in business by July 1.

The country's 515 organized beaches will reopen on Saturday, but strict conditions illustrate how vacations will have to change in the coronavirus era.

The number of bathers will be limited to 40 for every 1,000 square meters, with a mandatory distance between sun shades set at 4 meters and lounge chairs positioned 1.5 meters apart. Staff must disinfect the chairs after each use and only takeout food may be served — no alcohol.

ETC's Santander said over the longer term the virus crisis is an opportunity for a "fresh start."

"We have been talking for so long about sustainable growth, climate change, over-tourism, et cetera, but this is a chance to press the reset button, challenge pre-established models and finally take all these matters seriously," Santander said. "We must use this opportunity to accelerate the transformation to the tourism of tomorrow." **BLOOMBERG**

PORTUGAL TO REOPEN BEACHES ON JUNE 6

PORTUGAL'S government plans to reopen beaches on June 6 as it eases confinement measures put in place to contain the coronavirus outbreak. Rules will include keeping a distance of 1.5 meters between people and signs will indicate how full each beach is, Prime Minister Antonio Costa said at a Lisbon news conference on Friday. Beaches may be closed again if they get too crowded. The government

already allowed beach access for some sports. Tourism, including on Portugal's Atlantic coast, accounts for about 15% of the economy and 9% of employment. The country has been less affected by the pandemic than Italy or neighboring Spain. The government started lifting restrictions on May 4, and Costa said Portugal will continue easing confinement measures according to a plan announced on April 30.

OPINION

World Views

Rachel Rosenthal, Bloomberg

THE CORONAVIRUS ISN'T THE END OF YOUR CAREER

For the hotel chef who can't afford his nine prescriptions, losing a job could be a matter of life and death. Even among the employed, fear of what's around the corner is almost as paralyzing.

It's enough to put the minor inconveniences of working from home – the unrealistic homeschooling curricula, the crick in your lower back, the maddeningly slow WiFi – into perspective. Just treading water seems like a victory, forget about actually doing your job well.

And if you do catch yourself wondering about the seminar you were supposed to attend, or the promotion you meant to apply for, you may even feel guilty. How can anyone think about job advancement right now? Finding a good time for "that conversation" with your boss has awkward written all over it.

But the coronavirus doesn't have to be a dead end for your career. If anything, it's a moment to be nimble and prove your value. That may sound like a tall order right now. The uncomfortable truth, however, is that skating by won't provide any sort of job security. This is as urgent for millennials entering their peak earning years as it is for baby boomers watching their retirement savings circle the drain.

The first order of business is making sure your skills are evolving with the needs of your company. These days, that's the ability to charm a client over Zoom, or keep projects on schedule as your team straddles time zones with fragmented working hours. If you're in an industry directly hit by the virus, think about how your experience would be applicable to fields that have solid long-term prospects, like cybersecurity, robotics and artificial intelligence. These sectors aren't just for coders and engineers; they need accountants, compliance officers, HR managers and communications teams.

With companies in triage mode, it's up to you – not your boss – to identify what those must-have skills are. Caroline Ceniza-Levine, a Florida-based career coach at SixFigureStart, says the employers she works with in travel, financial services and technology can't see more than 60 days ahead. Traditional on-the-job training was one of the first things to go as the outbreak intensified, according to a recent report by McKinsey & Co.

Making an effort to understand your company better is a good place to start. "I know too many senior people who don't read [their employer's] annual reports," said Ceniza-Levine. You should know what the financial outlook is, which parts of the business are still making money, and whether resources are shifting.

The good news is that "re-skilling" is getting easier. Last month, Coursera Inc. said it will offer unemployed workers free access to 3,800 online courses. E-learning is relevant for people who've kept their jobs, too. Herminia Ibarra, a professor at London Business School, teaches a webinar on career reinvention. She recently asked participants in an online poll to describe their response to the coronavirus: 50% of the 2,000 people who wrote in said the outbreak had given them "opportunities to try new things or learn new skills." In some cases, this new expertise is directly related to working remotely, Ibarra wrote in Harvard Business Review.

Remember, too, that industries from pharmaceuticals and Big Tech to pizza delivery and drug stores are actually adding headcount. Amazon.com Inc. brought on at least 175,000 people in March and April alone. Other businesses are moving people around internally or starting to prepare for events later in the year. Facebook Inc. said it will hire more than 10,000 people in its product and engineering teams ahead of the U.S. election.

In the next few weeks and months, it may be tempting to keep your head down, your kids quiet and your wine glass (ahem, coffee cup) full. But if you're feeling anxious, it may be wise to consider diverting that weekly beverage budget to Coursera instead. [Abridged]

The Chinese ambassador to Israel was found dead in his home north of Tel Aviv yesterday, Israel's Foreign Ministry said.

No cause of death was given and Israeli police said it was investigating.

Du Wei, 58, was appointed envoy in February in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. He previously served as China's envoy to Ukraine.

He is survived by a wife and son, both of whom were not in Israel.

Israel enjoys good relations with China.

The ambassador's death comes just two days after he condemned comments by visiting U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who denounced Chinese investments in Israel and accused China of hiding information about the coronavirus outbreak.

HONG KONG SHOP OFFERS 'TEAR GAS' FLAVOR ICE CREAM

AP PHOTO



NADIA LAM & ALICE FUNG

TEAR gas is among the new flavors at a Hong Kong ice cream shop.

The main ingredient is black peppercorns, a reminder of the pungent, peppery rounds fired by police on the streets of the semi-autonomous Chinese city during months of demonstrations last year.

"It tastes like tear gas. It feels difficult to breathe at first, and it's really pungent and irritating. It makes me want to drink a lot of water immediately," said customer Anita Wong, who experienced tear gas at a protest. "I think it's a flashback that reminds me of how painful I felt in the movement, and that I shouldn't forget."

The flavor is a sign of support for the pro-democracy movement, which is seeking to regain its momentum during the coronavirus pandemic, the shop's owner said. He spoke on condition of anonymity to avoid repercussions from the pro-Beijing government.

"We would like to make a flavor that reminds people that they still have to persist in the protest movement and don't lose their passion," he said.

He tried different ingredients, including wasabi and mustard, in an effort to replicate the taste of tear gas. Black pepper, he said, came closest to tear gas with its throat-irritating effects.

The flavor is a sign of support for the pro-democracy movement

"We roast and then grind whole black peppercorns and make them into gelato, the Italian style. It's a bit hot, but we emphasize its aftertaste, which is a sensation of irritation in the throat. It just feels like breathing in tear gas," the 31-year-old owner said.

More than 16,000 rounds of tear gas were fired during the protests, according to Hong Kong authorities, many in densely populated districts where narrow streets are filled with small restaurants and apartment blocks.

The protests began over proposed legislation that would have allowed criminal suspects to be extradited to mainland China to face charges. While the bills were withdrawn, demonstrations continued over concerns Beijing is eroding the civil liberties granted to the former British colony

when it was returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

The ice cream shop also provides a space for people to express their views about the movement, including the use of sticky notes that featured

in the "Lennon walls" that appeared throughout the territory at the height of the demonstrations.

Such expressions date back to the 2014 Occupy

Central protests, when a major stairway leading to the Hong Kong government headquarters was plastered with thousands of notes carrying messages of support.

At about \$5 a serving, tear gas ice cream has been a hit. Prior to social distancing regulations over the coronavirus outbreak, the shop's owner said he was selling 20-30 scoops per day.

The demonstration have mostly died away as the city fights the coronavirus, but there are widespread expectations that larger actions may emerge during the summer. Already, police have been out in force to deter large gatherings and the government is pressing ahead with legislation that would make it a crime to mock the Chinese national anthem. AP

Pakistani police acting on intelligence raided a militant hideout in a wooded area in the country's east killing four members of an Islamic State-linked group, the country's counter-terrorism agency said yesterday. In a statement, the agency said the overnight raid was carried out in Bahawalpur, a deeply conservative district in Punjab province where outlawed Sunni militants have a strong presence.

Libya Bombs hit a shelter for displaced people in Libya's capital Tripoli, killing at least seven people including a 5-year-old child from Bangladesh, health authorities said Sunday. The shelling of the facility in the city's Furnaj district late Saturday also wounded at least 17 people

AP PHOTO



Germany The Bundesliga season resumed Saturday with what German fans call "ghost games," played without spectators, and in Dortmund it was hard to tell that the city's beloved team was playing at all. Instead of thousands of fans chatting and drinking beer outside the stadium, there were only a few locals out for a weekend bike ride as Borussia Dortmund hosted Schalke in a usually fierce local rivalry.

AP PHOTO



Germany Demonstrations took place Saturday in several European cities against restrictions aimed at controlling the spread of the coronavirus, with tear gas used on protesters in Poland and arrests made at a gathering in London's Hyde Park. Police in several German cities enforced distancing rules as thousands of people gathered to express a mix of frustrations.

Brazil In the remote Amazon community of Betania, Tikuna tribe members suspect the coronavirus arrived this month after some returned from a two-hour boat trip down the Solimoes River to pick up their government benefit payments. Dozens subsequently got headaches, fevers and coughs. Two died. And the five government medical workers for the community of about 4,000 are not treating the sick because they lack protective equipment and coronavirus tests.