

The Macao SAR
Government urges:

Let's all persist;
Wash hands frequently;
Wear a mask properly;
Avoid crowd gathering;
Keep a social distance;
Declare health conditions;
Reduce leaving Macao.

Novel Coronavirus Response
and Coordination Centre

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®
Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

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TUESDAY
26 May 2020

T. 24°/ 28°
Air Quality Good



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MOP 8.00
HKD 10.00



**CLASSES WERE SUSPENDED
YESTERDAY AFTERNOON FOLLOWING
THE RAINSTORM SIGNAL ISSUED
BY THE WEATHER BUREAU**

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**HEAD OF PUBLIC HOSPITAL UNSURE
IF HEALTH AUTHORITIES CONSULTED
AHEAD OF HUSH! FESTIVAL**

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**CHINA SAYS HONG KONG'S
JUDICIARY WOULD REMAIN
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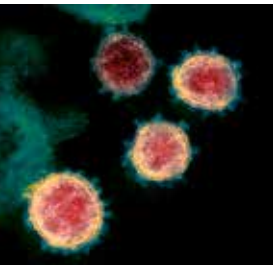
AP PHOTO



South Koreans will be required to wear masks when using public transportation and taxis nationwide starting today as health authorities look for more ways to slow the spread of the coronavirus as people increase their public activities. The Health Ministry said masks also will be enforced on all domestic and international flights from tomorrow. From June, owners of "high-risk" facilities will be required to use smartphone QR codes to register customers.

South Korea plans to send 370,000 face masks to tens of thousands of South Koreans adopted in the West to help them weather the coronavirus. The Foreign Ministry said its diplomatic missions will work with dozens of international adoption groups to distribute the masks in 14 countries. South Korea has been a major source of babies for adoption in the West since the end of 1950-53 Korean War.

AP PHOTO



China Wuhan has conducted more than 6.5 million coronavirus tests over a 10-day period in a bid to test all its 11 million residents, state media said yesterday. The city's health commission, in a post on its website, asked anyone who hasn't been tested to come forward by the end of today. No new COVID-19 cases have been reported since the 10-day campaign started, though some people with no symptoms tested positive.

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THE RETURN OF BOXING

Fury, Wilder to trade blows in third bout in Macau, not Vegas: Arum

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HOW COVID-19 FORCED DEVELOPMENT OF VIRTUAL EVENTS

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IFTM TO HOLD ONLINE SUMMIT TOMORROW

The Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) is set to hold its 5th annual TEd Summit event tomorrow online, which will include five simultaneous sessions broadcast from the institute's 44 undergraduate researchers. According to a statement issued by IFTM, the online event will feature two keynote speakers: Sara Dolnicar from the University of Queensland and Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM Holdings China. IFTM implemented its capstone research requirement in 2015 in a bid to ensure that its graduates possess the skills and tools required to formulate relevant questions, analyze the current industry situation and contribute to planning course adjustments for future tourism and hospitality development. As an extension of this capstone project, the TEd Summit event aims to be a platform to share the insights and findings amassed by top student researchers with industry.

UM'S FACULTY OF HEALTH SCIENCES MOVES SYMPOSIUM ONLINE

The University of Macau (UM) recently held the Fourth Symposium on Biomedical Sciences online, attracting some 130 students, researchers and scholars mainly from Macau and mainland China. Conducted by the UM's Faculty of Health Sciences, the symposium held discussions on a wide range of issues in the field of biomedical sciences, allowing participants to share their research findings. A virtual tour of the 35 academic posters, which presented key information about the latest developments in the fields of cancer, stem cell research, genomics, bioinformatics, bioimaging, aging, neuroscience, immunology, infectious diseases, and drug discovery was presented. The UM added that participants were able to vote for the best speaker and best poster awards through the online platform.

MPI CO-FOUND PORTUGUESE ACADEMIC JOURNAL

The Macao Polytechnic Institute (MPI) and the University of Porto in Portugal have jointly presented Orientes do Português, the first Portuguese international academic journal in Asia, with the goal of strengthening cooperation between Macau and Portuguese-speaking countries. The journal was founded to "stimulate the development of Macau's role as the 'International Portuguese Training Centre' and 'Training Centre for Chinese-Portuguese Bilingual Professionals', as cited in a joint statement issued by the local institute. The journal also aims to provide a platform for the Portuguese language scholars in Asia to showcase their academic achievements and conduct academic exchanges. According to the MPI, all the papers strictly follow the standards and models of international academic journals and have been carefully reviewed by the editorial board and also anonymously reviewed by two internationally renowned experts.

MANDATORY COMPENSATION DAYS FOR HOLIDAY OVERLAP TAKE EFFECT

ANTHONY LAM

FROM today, employees in Macau will get an extra rotational holiday as compensation for when that rotational holiday overlaps with a statutory holiday. The measure is part of the amended Labor Relations Law that comes into effect today.

If a rotational holiday overlaps with a statutory holiday, the employer should offer an extra day off to compensate for the rotational holiday within 30 days of the holiday concerned.

Where an employee is required to work on a statutory holiday and the employee is paid on a monthly basis, the employee will be entitled to one extra day's pay or a compensatory day off. If the employee is paid per job or per hour, the employee will be entitled to one day of extra basic salary or an extra day of holiday.

The compensatory holiday must be enjoyed within three months of the date of the original holiday. If that is not possible, the employee can



Construction workers seen at a road renovation project earlier this month

request two days of holiday as compensation.

The ceiling of monthly basic salary has been raised to MOP21,000 when used to calculate severance pay.

Rights for new parents have also expanded. The provision of five days of paid paternity leave is, for the first time, formalized in Macau as part of the amendments to the Labor Relations Law.

The original law was passed in 2008, with two amendments made in 2015.

Prior to this amendment, the concept of paternity leave had been introduced to the public sector, as well as partially in the private sector. Hence, the current amendment sees the concept institutionalized as a legal requirement in the city across both the private and public sectors.

CPPCC members propose extending Macau law to Hengqin

THIRTY-SIX Macau members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) have brought a communal proposal to Beijing, which includes a request to extend Macau's law to Hengqin.

Roughly, the proposal consists of four parts, ranging from cooperation plans to judicial formation.

In particular, the group recommended a model to allow Macau and Hengqin to "negotiate, build, manage and use" together under

the premise of the One Country, Two Systems policy. The doctrine will be adopted in the "in-depth cooperation zone" of Hengqin and Macau.

While elaborating on the model, the Macau representatives at the CPPCC indicated they want to break through the institutional barriers between the two places.

"Under the premise of observing the national constitution and the Basic Law of Macau, [we shall] extend some laws, systems and rules of Macau as a free port,

to the in-depth cooperation zone, in order to build a judicial institutional system in which mainland China shall be in charge of the politics, security, and criminal justices, whereas civil and commercial systems and rules are to be connected to Macau and international standards," the group explained.

Macau's Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, used the policy address occasion last month to express his wish to see Hengqin become a "second Macau." Offering

few details, Ho said that he would like Hengqin to adopt the same "system" as the SAR, in order to help Macau's development. At the same time, he said Macau law would not be applicable to the nearby island.

Under the recent CPPCC proposal, the Macau delegates are calling for more economic measures to bring the two territories closer. As of today, Hengqin has already granted a "Macau people, Macau tax" policy for local residents who work in Zhuhai.

From today, fathers can enjoy five days of paternity leave consecutively or intermittently from three months of the mother confirming her pregnancy to 30 days of the baby being born.

Paid maternity leave lengthens to 70 days from today, with a buffer period of three years. Within this period, an employee who has worked at a company for more than a year will enjoy 70 days of maternity leave. Of this, 56 days will be paid by the employer and up to 14 days will be paid by the government.

In addition, 63 days of the maternity leave must be used immediately after birth, with the remainder used before or after birth, either in part or in full.

An employee will still be able to take 70 days of maternity leave in the case of a stillbirth. Meanwhile, 10 extra days will be added to the maternity leave if the baby passes away during the 70-day leave.

Child adoption will entitle the parents to two days of holiday. **AL**

The delegates suggested that Hengqin create more tax exemptions so that tourists would not be taxed for their shopping goods.

Signatories of this proposal include Liu Chak Wan, Chancellor of the Macau University of Science and Technology, businessman Chan Meng Kam, Leonel Alberto Alves, lawmaker Chui Sai Cheong, sister of the Chief Executive, Ho Teng Iat, and other prominent elites in Macau.

They expect that by making these administrative improvements, Hengqin will provide both Macau companies and residents with a commercial environment and living conditions similar to that of Macau and the developed part of the world. **JZ**

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Medical doctor unsure if health authorities consulted ahead of Hush! festival

ANTHONY LAM

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has started recruitment for the annual Hush! festival, which will be held in July this year. The announcement, made during yesterday's regular press briefing on Covid-19-related matters, was apparently unknown to Lo Iek Long, medical director of the public Conde São Januário Hospital (CHCSJ), who could not say whether he or other health authorities had been consulted for health and safety concerns at the popular event.

While the event was formerly held on Labor Day at Hac Sa Beach, this year's event will be held in several urban locations with the fair at the Macao Science Center.

Its rescheduling comes as the Sports Bureau (ID) has also received the green light to proceed with the annual Dragon Boat Races, on the condition that only local teams participate this year.

When asked whether the IC had received approval or advice from the Health Bureau (SSM) regarding the music event, Lo appeared puzzled and hesitant, before saying that he did not have sufficient information on hand to answer the question.

Macao's health authorities, cultural departments and public sports entity all fall under the purview of Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U.

After reiterating that he did not have sufficient information to answer further questions, he expressed his confidence in his colleagues from other public departments. "When they need to carry out work that is necessary,



they will take health and hygiene conditions into account," the doctor said.

"We have also posted various measures online for various entities to follow," Lo added. "There are different measures for different [types of] venues."

The medical doctor added that July is more than one month away, so it may be too early to make any conclusive statements on the health and hygiene conditions.

Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, reiterated that the SSM, the ID and Municipal Affairs Bureau were in regular discussion regarding reopening sporting facilities such as public swimming pools, basketball grounds and playgrounds.

According to Leong, the health authority has also offered te-

chnical advice to other bureaus on health measures. When these facilities are reopened, they will adopt anti-Covid-19 measures currently in effect in other public areas.

On the other hand, besides the Covid-19 nucleic test station at the Taipa Ferry Terminal, the SSM is adding an extra test station from today at the CHCSJ.

The Macau test station, as introduced by Lo, has already been in operation but only offers services for new patients taken in by the hospital. Currently, all new intakes will be tested for the virus before being admitted.

Lo stressed that besides new intakes, the test station will also serve seniors and children, as well as those with disabilities and their caretakers.

"The additional test station is for the convenience of these

groups of people," Lo explained. "It is not a must that they test at the Macau station."

It is at the test-taker's discretion to decide which test station to attend. "For example, if the test-taker thinks the Taipa station is more convenient, they can take the test there," Lo explained. "Indeed, there is a dedicated provisional bus stop, which has greatly improved the degree of convenience."

When eligible test-takers make a booking for the test, they will have the option to choose between the Macau or the Taipa test stations. The pricing scheme has remained unchanged. From today, test-takers can opt to pay for the test using the mobile payment system, MPay.

"We are in negotiation with other payment systems in the hopes of providing more payment options," Lo added.

PRIMARY 4 TO 6 CLASSES RESUMED YESTERDAY

Classes of primary school levels 4 to 6 resumed yesterday, with sets of safety health precautions required for students upon entry of the school. Pupils were required to wear face masks and maintain an appropriate level of social distance, as well as completing the online health declaration. The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau reminds students to not to attend classes if they have a fever or otherwise feel unwell. For cross-border students, the DSEJ reminds them to bring relevant identification documents and complete the city's health code, as well as the electronic Entry/Exit Health Declaration Card in advance. Next Monday, pupils from primary school levels 1 to 3 will return to school. Junior secondary school (F1 to F3) students returned to classes on May 11, while senior secondary school (F4 to F6) students returned on May 4.

CONSUMER PRICES INCREASE 2% IN APRIL

The Composite Consumer Price Index (103.13) for April increased by 2.05% year-on-year, a slowdown of 0.42 percentage points from the growth in March (+2.47%). According to data from the Statistics and Census Service, the increment was attributable to higher prices of fresh pork, dearer charges for eating out and rising rental prices for dwellings. Among the various sections of goods and services, the price indexes of education and food and non-alcoholic beverages rose by more than 5% respectively year-on-year. Conversely, the indexes of communication and clothing and footwear fell by 8.93% and 4.41% respectively. Falling prices of gasoline, electricity and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) drove down the price indices of transport and housing and fuels. For the 12 months ended April 2020, the average Composite CPI rose by 2.62% from the previous period, with notable growth in the price indexes of education, transport, and food and non-alcoholic beverages.

IC LAUNCHES BOOK PROGRAMME FOR ARTISTIC ASSOCIATIONS

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has officially launched the Venue Booking Programme of the Macao Contemporary Art Centre – Navy Yard No. 2 and expanded the scope of events covered in the programme. In view of the impact of the pandemic, the IC said in a statement that it will extend the implementation period of activities and projects subsidized under the "2020 Financial Support for Local Association Activities/ Cultural Projects Programme." This allows the activities to start before December 31, 2020 and conclude no later than the second quarter of 2021. In addition to maintaining free provision of the venue to local associations and individuals to organize events, the IC has also expanded the scope of events to cover music and drama activities. At present, over 20 venues are available for local associations and individuals to apply to use. IC said that it is planning to release more artistic and cultural spaces, and is negotiating with private companies to offer suitable venues for these events.

Rainstorm causes minor flooding in districts

CLASSES of all levels were suspended yesterday afternoon following the rainstorm signal issued by the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG).

Schools were also advised to ensure that their premises were kept open and that staff were available to look after students who had

already arrived and to arrange appropriate activities for them. Parents were advised against rushing to schools to pick up their children.

Some videos circulating on social media showed that minor flooding occurred around Inner Harbor, where waters had also entered some iconic stores and eateries. Meanwhile,

an image taken by lawmaker Sulu Sou's office, which is located blocks away from the coast of the Inner Harbor, also showed minor flooding.

The Oriental Arch in ZAPE was also flooded, causing inconvenience to drivers passing by.

The rainstorm warning signal was issued at 10:40 a.m. although

it had already been raining heavily by around 9 a.m. yesterday. The rainstorm warning signal was stopped at 1:35 p.m.

The bundle of measures that the government formerly presented as solutions to severe weather conditions included works such as the construction of flood barriers (levees).

This planned deployment will include the Inner Harbor district, although the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) acknowledged in October 2018 that this could only be done after 2021. In April 2019, officials said that these projects were on hold and pending the results of further studies and analysis. **LV**

How Covid-19 forced development of virtual

RENATO MARQUES

THE worldwide outbreak of the Covid-19 virus has indirectly led people and entities to learn to apply skills and technologies that, despite existing for a long time, were seldom used in formal contexts.

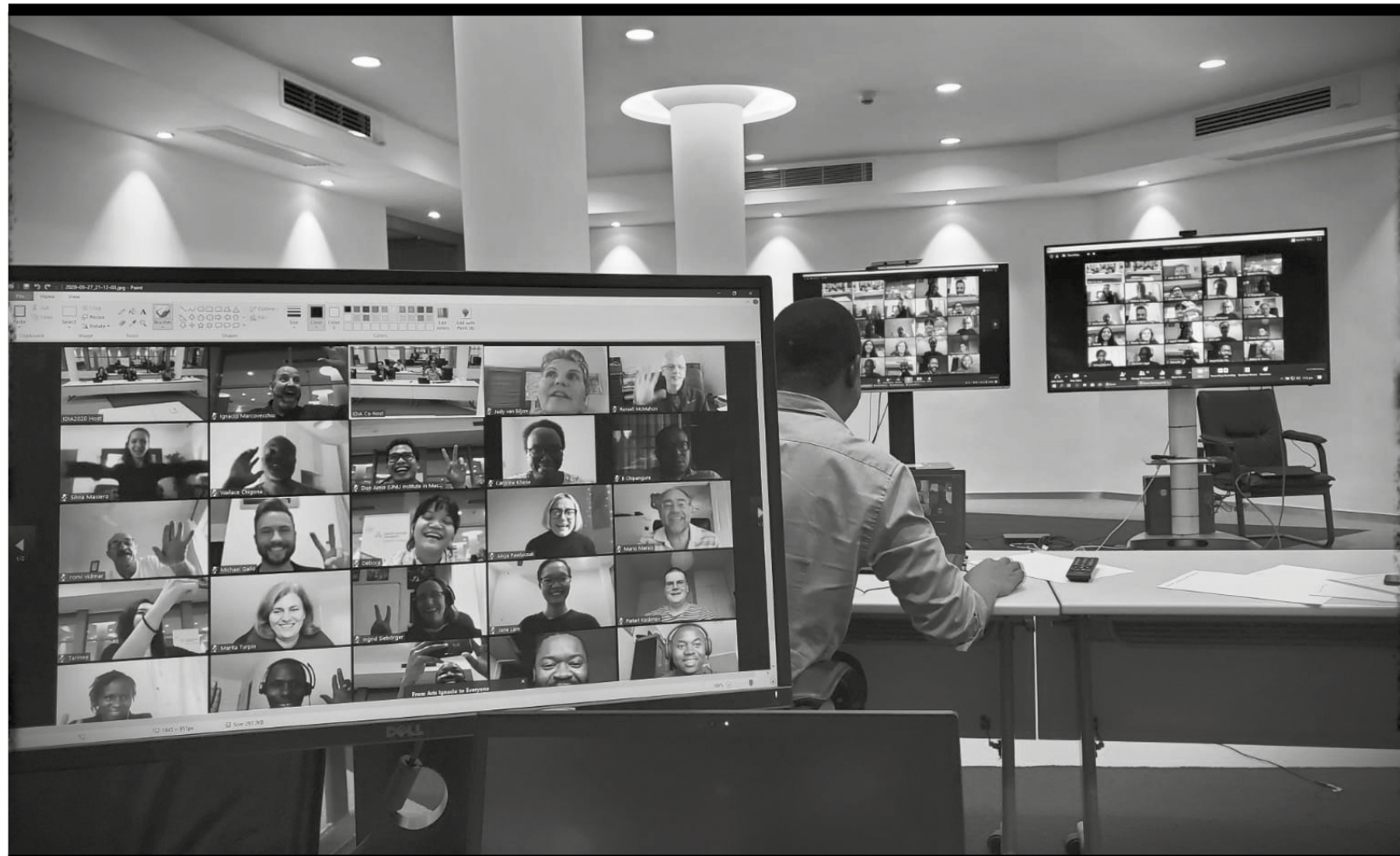
This is one of the conclusions drawn by the representatives of the United Nations University Institute on Computing and Society (UNU-CS) based in Macau. In an exclusive interview, the officials told the Times about the challenges and outcomes of transitioning a physical conference to a virtual event.

"We were forced to come up with this solution as preparations had been made for a face-to-face [on-site] conference in Macau, but we soon realized that the situation [regarding Covid-19] was not going to make that possible, so we had to come up with a plan to solve that problem," the UNU-CS Principal Research Fellow, Mamello Thinyane said.

"We had several options and of course one of them was to cancel the event, which we didn't want to do as we had already received payments and things were prepared," said Thinyane.

Organizers eventually decided to go ahead. Due to the circumstances, this meant necessarily hosting it without the on-site presence of the large majority of participants.

According to Mamello, the feedback received from participants



showed the results were positive. He also noted that it was pleasing to realize how participants engaged in the new system and were sympathetic and understanding with regard to the changes that occurred, and the methods adopted.

"For us, it was a good learning experience as it was the first time that most of us – if not all of us –

have done a virtual conference, so it was very much about applying all the skills and knowledge we had from hosting a physical conference to the virtual space," Mamello said.

Highlighting the positive impacts of moving the conference to an online event, Hannah Thinyane, a Principal Research Fellow from UNU-CS who was

both a participant and a moderator in the conference said, "I think one of the good things was that we managed to bring together a bigger audience than we would actually have had in person. I think there were about 50% more people than would have normally had attended."

She added that in this particular respect, "Covid-19 perhaps

helped us as everyone was quarantined around the world and so more people had the time and opportunity to participate."

For her, the fact that the conference had turned virtual was also an opportunity for people to engage more genuinely on the topics in discussion as there was not much else competing for their attention at the time, since

CRIME

Man claims 600 million yuan losses in tourism investment fraud

JULIE ZHU

A mainland man has reported a loss of 600 million yuan to an investment fraud allegedly related to several Macau tourism and food and beverage companies, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported during yesterday's joint police press conference.

The victim, a businessman in his 60's, reported the case to the PJ on January 19 this year.

According to the PJ, the man said that a mainland resident had convinced him to invest in a Macau investment opportunity comprising a tourism company, an

alcohol company and a food company.

The resident told the victim that each month the investor would be guaranteed 2.45% in interest on the total amount of the investment, on top of the four companies' profit share.

Prior to January 2020, the victim continued to sink money into the investment scheme over the course of several years, between 2016 and 2018. During this time, the victim transferred 600 million yuan to the companies by directly depositing the money to mainland bank accounts provided by the suspects. According to the PJ, there is more than

one suspect in this case.

During the purported investment period, the suspects transferred approximately 100 million yuan to the victim on one occasion, claiming it to be net profit. The PJ believes that the suspects used the money to deceive the victim and buy his faith in the investment.

A total of 24.9 million out of the 100 million yuan was transferred to a mainland bank account belonging to one of the suspects in a single transaction.

Two of the abovementioned four companies were registered under the name of this same man.

The victim last received a

profit payout in 2017.

On May 21 this year, the PJ eventually found one man, presumably involved in the case, and took him to the police station for inquiry. The PJ said that the police department had evidence of the suspect's involvement in the fraud. The suspect denied his involvement and only acknowledged that he had opened two of the companies.

The PJ forwarded the man to the prosecution authority under the charge of fraud involving a large amount.

The suspect, surnamed Wong, is aged 41 years old and a blue-card holder.

Wong identified himself as a seafood breeder for Macau restaurants. Originally, the victim did not know Wong. The two became acquainted through other suspects who are currently on the run.

MAN STEALS AND DUMPS VEGETABLES

A local middle-aged man allegedly stole unattended vegetables from a restaurant owner, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported during yesterday's joint police press conference.

The suspect is a man, surnamed Tam, who is in his 50s. The restaurant owner reported the case to the Public Security Police force (PSP) on May 24. At 7 a.m. that day, the victim placed three storage crates fully loaded with vegetables in front of his restaurant. He left the vegetables unattended. When he returned to the site shortly afterwards,

one container with vegetables was gone. He reported the theft to the authorities.

The shop's CCTV surveillance camera footage shows a man riding a black motorbike and stealing the container.

At 8:30 p.m., the PSP visited Avenida do Conselheiro Borja, where they found the motorbike and the residence of the suspect.

Upon police inquiry, Tam admitted to his actions. Tam, who is currently unemployed, drove past the restaurant that morning and saw the vegetables unattended. He took them hoping that he could sell them to passengers along the way. However, his scheme was in vain and he decided to get rid of the food at Avenida do General Castelo Branco. The vegetables were worth a total of 400 patacas.

The PSP has already forwarded the case to the prosecution authority.

events

the large majority could not leave their homes or had significant mobility restrictions.

Mamello Thinyane added that the conference included the participation of people from around 50 countries and regions, a result that could not have been achieved in the initially-planned physical conference.

One of the participants from the conference was Michael Gallo, a Research Assistant at the UNU-CS, who shared his opinion and experience with the Times.

According to Gallo, in total there were around 250 people registered to attend the different sections, with each section hosting about 50 to 60 people at one time.

Questioned on the potential skills developed in schools and other teaching institutions through the use of video conference platforms, Hannah Thinyane said, “I believe that if you know [in advance] that you will need to use these kinds of methods you can adjust your teaching materials and prepare your classes for this environment.”

"But if it's just a last-minute thing I think the unpreparedness from both the teachers and the students can cause problems, with the teacher being overwhelmed and the students being unprepared and unfamiliar," she

continued. “I also think that as people become experienced with it, it is only going to get better.”

Mamello Thinyane noted that although the level of interaction and communication is different from an on-site event, the online format provides an extra tool in the repertoire of all users.

"I see this as an opportunity for these institutions and organizations to start learning and perfecting how to do online conferencing, teaching or others and I think that in the future, even if there is no Covid-19, they still can use it and plan activities specifically designed for these platforms," he said.

Addressing some of the interesting facts of the conference, Gallo compared the conference to “building a car while you’re driving it,” explaining how during the conference several tools designed to facilitate interaction from participants were tested.

Gallo noted that essentially this conference works as a case study and shows that “this is a modality that could maybe not entirely replace, but substitute in-person conferences.”

The research assistant also said the use of these technologies and the facilitation of the Internet had a positive effect in reducing the environmental impact on the planet, especially in regard to business-related travel. Moreover, other positive effects might also come from the optimization of this technology as a substitute for physical travel, he suggested.



From left: Mamello Thinyane, Hannah Thinyane and Michael Gallo

PROACTIVE APPROACH TO HEALTH SURVEILLANCE COULD COST LESS IN THE LONG RUN

RENATO MARQUES

DURING an exclusive interview with the Times, a research assistant at the United Nations University Institute on Computing and Society (UNU-CS) in Macau, argued that the outbreak of Covid-19 showed that governments worldwide should invest more in proactive surveillance systems to prevent major health outbreaks and prolonged consequences.

"In public health you have active surveillance which is monitoring something that is occurring in real-time, which is basically what we are doing now, but you also have proactive surveillance, which is related to the gathering of information on something before it happens and to prevent it from happening," said Michael Gallo, who holds a Bachelor of Science degree with Honors in Biochemistry from Moravian College.

The proactive surveillance type has an “upstream focus,” that helps to prevent or at least to

reduce some of the social and economic problems resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic.

Gallo said that by tackling these issues proactively, health officials can reduce the long-term damage caused by them. He said this concept could lead to a grounded justification for public health expenditure on the basis of averting higher costs downstream.

“Let’s say that we could invest 10 or 20 million U.S. dollars [80-160 million patacas] in some kind of monitoring system for infectious diseases. If that was working effectively, we could compare it with the costs that we are now experiencing and that we can actually quantify losses of productivity and damages to the economy,” he said.

This would “convince people that the costs are much smaller if you invest upstream.”

"But, we know that governments are not usually thinking in the mid and long-term; they usually focus only on the short-term and immediate things that can be shown to the public," remarked Gallo.

MACAU INTERNATIONAL SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

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**Pré-qualificação de Concurso Público n.º
MTRM2/CR-2020/04/002
“Fornecimento de Materiais de Marcação e
Prestação de Serviços de Manutenção para a
Linha da Taipa do Metro Ligeiro de Macau”**

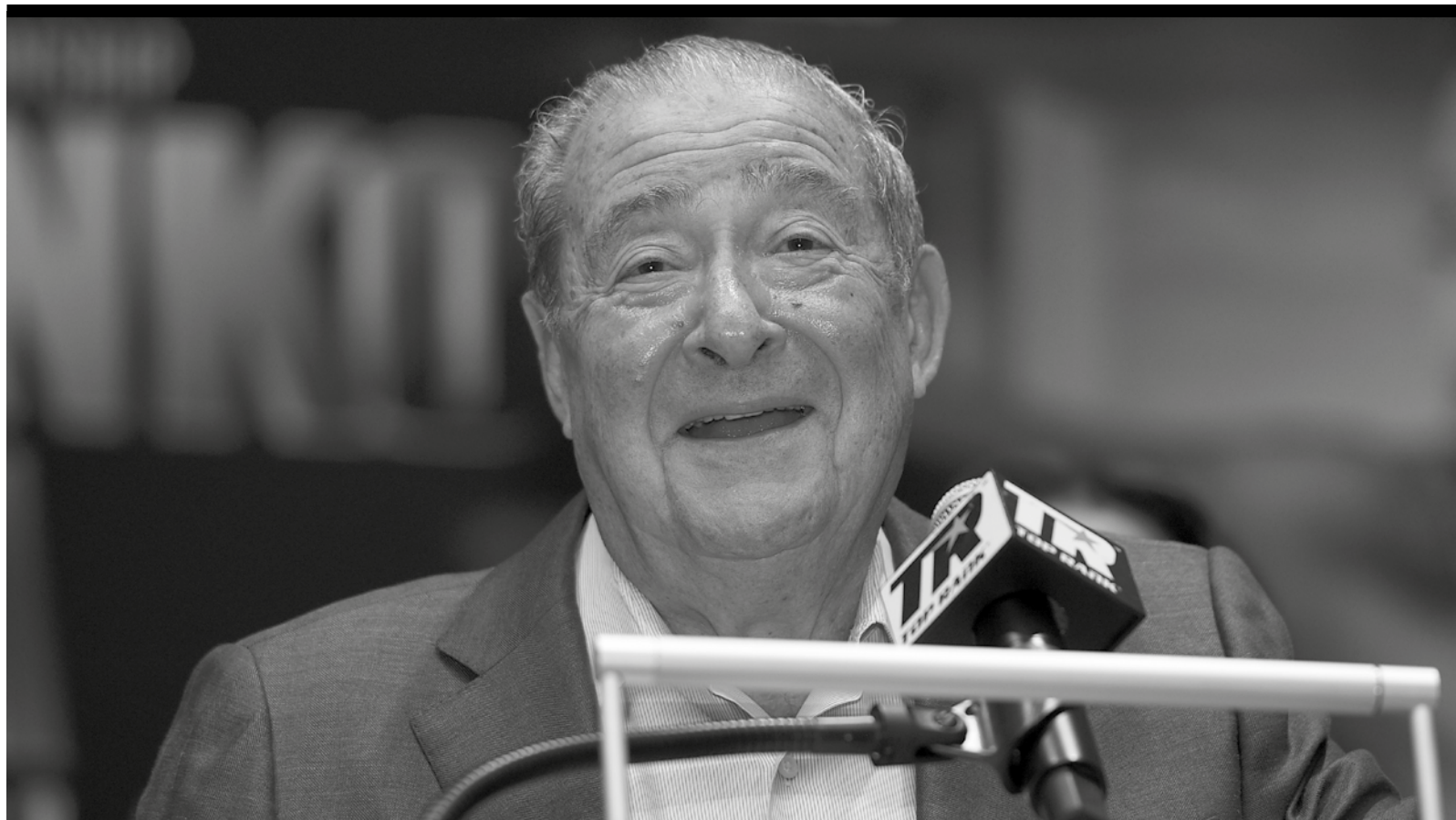
De acordo com a deliberação da Comissão Executiva da MTR, no dia 6 de Maio de 2020, procedemos à pré-qualificação de concurso público para o “Fornecimento de Materiais de Marcação e Prestação de Serviços de Manutenção para a Linha da Taipa do Metro Ligeiro de Macau”.

Os interessados podem exigir, através do envio de email para procurement@mtr.com.mo, até 29 de Maio de 2020, a documentação da pré-qualificação do referido concurso.

Os concorrentes devem enviar, por email, a documentação da pré-qualificação para procurement@mtr.com.mo, antes das 18h do dia 6 de Junho de 2020

25 de Maio de 2020
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AP PHOTO



Boxing promoter Bob Arum

FURY VS WILDER PART 3 TO TRADE BLOWS IN MACAU, NOT VEGAS

RENATO MARQUES
& DANIEL BEITLER

FIGHT promoter Bob Arum wants to bring the third part in the trilogy bout between Tyson Fury and Deontay Wilder, initially scheduled to take place in July in Las Vegas, to Macau this November.

Macau has emerged as the best option for hosting the boxing event, Arum told the Times in a

phone interview yesterday, after Vegas went into shutdown in March on account of Covid-19.

Boxing events made a brief appearance in Macau in 2013 and 2014, with major fights involving boxers Manny Pacquiao and Brandon Ríos. Now, Arum sees Macau's rapid recovery from the coronavirus as a chance to bring boxing back while few other places are capable of hosting large sports events.

"This fight says something to the world that Macau is back and it's functioning," Arum told the Times. "That message will go around the world. Whether it leads to more boxing events [in Macau in the future], I don't know, but it's the right message to send."

The founder and CEO of Las Vegas-based Top Rank also elaborated on some details regarding the fight rumored to be taking place at the Cotai Arena, clarifying that, in

fact, organizers are in talks with all six gaming operators in Macau to support the event. Arum said the idea was to host it on neutral soil, at the East Asian Games Dome.

"We're talking with everybody. We want to make this a big, big community event and I think it would attract a lot of international attention," Arum remarked.

So far, he said that none of the casino operators had confirmed their involvement, but "all six have

been contacted, [and] all have indicated interest."

The rumors about the boxing match started about one month ago when Arum, who co-promotes Fury along with Frank Warren, told Sports Illustrated Now that the third fight between Fury and Wilder would have been postponed due to the Covid-19 outbreak in the U.S. and its impact on the U.S. gaming capital, Las Vegas.

At that time, Arum noted that the bout would not take place before November or December.

Other than Macau, Australia was also considered as a potential host of the event over the last few weeks.

This will be the third time that Fury and Wilder meet at the ring in less than two years.

After the first event in December 2018 in Los Angeles, which ended in a controversial 113-113 draw - with scorecards showing 115-111 for Wilder and 114-112 for Fury (which was incorrectly announced as 114-110) - the heavyweight duo squared off again in a battle in Las Vegas in February this year.

At this second event, Fury won the seventh round, putting an end to Wilder's five-year reign as World Boxing Council (WBC) champion.

The second bout was said to have generated a total of \$17 million (MOP135.8 million).

The East Asian Games Dome was inaugurated in 2005, being one of the major venues of the 2005 East Asian Games. The indoor sports facility also hosted several events for the 2007 Asian Indoor Games.

The last time the Dome was used for a major sports event was back in 2011 when Macau hosted the FIVB World Grand Prix Finals for Women's Volleyball.

Macau climbs Asia ranking of top convention cities

DANIEL BEITLER

MACAU has climbed five places in an international ranking of top convention cities to place 12th in the Asia-Pacific region.

The ranking was published by the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA) in its "International Meetings Market 2019 Report". It sorts territories by the number of recognized association meetings held within a calendar year.

The ranking also showed rapid improvement in a global context,

where Macau soared 23 places to place the 48th top convention city worldwide.

The conferencing and events industry is one of several sectors earmarked by successive Macau administrations for its potential to drive economic diversification. According to the government's latest state of diversification report, the sector represented less than 1% of gross domestic product in 2018.

The Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) said that the city "has considerable advantages and is appa-

rently appealing in the international convention market." To back up this claim, IPIM highlighted a 38% year-on-year increase in the number of ICCA-recognized international conferences held in Macau last year.

Among these international conferences recognized by ICCA, science and technology-themed conferences represented the largest proportion (just over one-quarter) among which topics of electronic science and engineering account for the most.

An authority in the global convention indus-

try, ICCA counts more than 1,100 government organizations, convention-related companies, and convention centers from about 100 countries and regions around the world among its partners.

Each year, ICCA collects statistics of international association conferences held in different territories around the world. The statistics are used to compile the ICCA Annual Report, which is taken as an authoritative indicator of the global convention market and an important reference for convention organizers in selecting conference destinations.

TAIWAN RECORDS GROWTH IN MACAU RESIDENT SETTLERS

THE number of Hong Kong and Macau residents who have registered residency in Taiwan has increased by 15% year-on-year to 11,009, with the pro-democracy movement in Hong Kong appearing to add to the trend, according to the Taipei Times.

Some 2,774 of these residents from both Special Administrative Regions live in New Taipei City, while 2,418 of them live in Taipei, according to the lead researcher, Mandy Lang, of Great Home Realty Co., citing statistics from Taiwan's Ministry of the Interior.

The recorded increase was also attributable to Hong Kong and Macau residents who have studied and worked in Taiwan

for several years and have since opted to stay in the region.

The investment requirements for people from Hong Kong and Macau seeking to immigrate to Taiwan is significantly lower than for residents of other nationalities.

Residents from both SARs are only required to make an investment in a company of NTD6 million (1.6 million patacas). Other nationalities are obliged to make an investment of nearly NTD15 million.

Lang said that New Taipei City topped the list of areas to settle in, followed by Taipei, Taoyuan, Taichung, Kaohsiung and Tainan, which is likely due to its job market advantages. LV

China says Hong Kong judiciary to stay independent under new law

IAIN MARLOW & KAREN LEIGH

CHINA sought to reassure Hong Kong that its judiciary would remain independent under a new national security law, as concerns grow that the city may lose one of its key selling points for international companies.

"The legislation will not change the one country, two systems policy, Hong Kong's capitalist system, high degree of autonomy, nor will it change the legal system in Hong Kong SAR, or affect the independent judicial power, including the right of final adjudication exercised by the judiciary in Hong Kong," Xie Feng, commissioner of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Hong Kong, said at a briefing yesterday.

Still, Xie provided few new details on how the new law would be implemented while addressing journalists and diplomats. Instead he repeated a line that said that protesters breached a red line supporting independence, mischaracterizing a movement that pushed for meaningful elections, an independent review of police abuses and the withdrawal of a bill that would allow extraditions to the mainland for the first time.

China last week stirred outrage in Hong Kong by announcing it would write in a sweeping new national security law into the city's

BLOOMBERG



charter, fueling fresh protests and a sell-off in the markets. The National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament meeting in Beijing this week, confirmed it would pass a bill establishing "an enforcement mechanism for ensuring national security" for the city, without providing details.

The bill would require Hong Kong to quickly finish enacting national security regulations under the Basic Law that governs relations with China, NPC Standing Committee Vice Chairman Wang Chen said in a speech last week. China's parliament empowers itself to set up a legal framework

and implementation mechanism to prevent and punish subversion, terrorism, separatism and foreign interference "or any acts that severely endanger national security," Wang said.

The lack of details surrounding the new law has generated alarm among Hong Kong's business community. The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong on Friday cited an independent judiciary as a key reason the city has prospered over the years.

Yesterday, Hong Kong's Bar Association said the legislation was incompatible with the Basic Law that governs the city's relations

with China, calling it "worrying and problematic." The association said a reference to "judicial organs" in a draft of the law gave rise to perceptions that Hong Kong's judiciary would be instructed to act in a certain way, and urged authorities in the city to urgently address constitutional and legal concerns.

'CORNERSTONE'

"Independence of the judiciary is the cornerstone of the success of the HKSAR and should not be undermined in any way," the association said, referring to the formal name of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

The measure is expected to pass through the NPC before the end of its annual session May 28. It would still require several procedural steps including approval by the NPC's decision-making Standing Committee, which could come as early as next month, the South China Morning Post reported.

Unrest "has thrust Hong Kong into the gravest situation since its return and served to highlight national security loopholes in the city," Xie said on Monday "Therefore it is of the greatest urgency to establish an improved legal system and enforcement mechanism in the Hong Kong SAR to safeguard national security."

'TERRORIST ACTIVITIES'

The Asian financial hub on Sunday saw a return to the larger-scale demonstrations and clashes with police that marked months of pro-democracy unrest last year. Hundreds of protesters flooded the central Causeway Bay shopping area in opposition to the legislation, prompting police to use a water cannon and tear gas to disperse them.

China's move and the resurgent unrest come before citywide elections in September. Opposition members hoped to gain an unprecedented majority in Hong Kong's Legislative Council.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday said the measure was necessary to stop separatists, independence advocates and external forces backing "violent and terrorist activities."

"Everyone should have more confidence in the future of Hong Kong, and do not need to worry too much," Wang said. **BLOOMBERG**

Beijing strongly condemns US blacklisting dozens of its firms

CHINA condemned the U.S. adding 33 Chinese entities to a trade blacklist, a move that risks potential retaliation from Beijing as tensions between the world's two-biggest economies deteriorate further.

The U.S. Department of Commerce on Saturday expanded its so-called entities list, which restricts access to American technology and other items, to include 24 Chinese companies and universities it said had ties to the military and another 9 entities it accused of human rights violations in Xinjiang.

China's foreign ministry yesterday expressed "strong dissatisfaction" and "firm opposition" to the move as it defended the government's crackdown in Xinjiang, saying that "counter-terrorism measures" were taken "to prevent the breeding of terrorism and extremism at

AP PHOTO



the source."

"We urge the United States to correct its mistakes, withdraw the relevant decisions, and stop interfering in China's internal affairs," foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told reporters. "China will continue to take all necessary measures to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises and safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests."

The U.S.-China relationship has worsened dramatically in the past few months, partly as America has become one of the countries worst hit by the coronavirus pandemic, which first broke out in the Chinese city of Wuhan. The world's two biggest economies have clashed on a range of issues from trade to Taiwan.

Some of the organizations affected issued statements opposing the bla-

cklistings, while analysts warned of a further decoupling between the U.S. and China.

"The move marks a U.S.-China technology decoupling 2.0 or 2.5," said Zhou Xiaoming, a former Ministry of Commerce official and diplomat. "This won't be the last one, and there will be more coming."

Qihoo 360 Technology Company Ltd., an Internet security software supplier, said earlier in a statement that the U.S. move politicized business. NetPosa Technologies, Ltd, which produces video recorders, said the sanctions won't have a major impact on its daily operations, adding that it will continue to localize its supply chain.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday warned U.S. politicians were pushing relations to a "new

Cold War," as American politicians condemned Beijing's move to impose a national security law on Hong Kong.

"The message sent from the U.S. is more important than the entity list itself," said Li Yong, a senior fellow at the China Association of International Trade, which is connected to the Ministry of Commerce. "It shows the U.S. intention to politicize commercial ties, curb China's technology development and expand its long-arm jurisdiction."

Li said China has refrained from implementing its own "unreliable entity list" because it still wants to leave some "breathing space" for bilateral relations. China announced it was preparing the blacklist in mid-2019 at the height of the trade war with the U.S., but never said who was on

the list.

Still, when the U.S. announced further curbs on Huawei Technologies Co Ltd. earlier this month, Hu Xijin, the editor of the Global Times newspaper, tweeted that China would retaliate using the list. And the paper cited a source close to the Chinese government as saying U.S. companies such as Apple Inc and Qualcomm Inc could be targeted.

The recent move from the U.S. may prompt China to take some "proportionate countermeasures," said Zhou. The "unreliable entity list" could be one option and "retaliation could be taken as early as after the Two Sessions," Zhou said, referring to the annual legislative meetings currently underway in Beijing and scheduled to end on May 28. **BLOOMBERG**

AP PHOTO



US faces a Memorial Day like no other; Greek islands reopen

AMERICANS prepared to mark a Memorial Day like no other as the coronavirus pandemic upended traditional commemorations, while Greece sought to revive its crucial tourism sector by restoring ferry services to its popular Aegean islands.

U.S. authorities warned beach-goers to heed social-distancing rules to avoid a resurgence of the virus that has infected 5.4 million people worldwide and killed over 345,000, including nearly 100,000 Americans, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lifted a coronavirus state of emergency in Tokyo and four other remaining areas yesterday, but said that does not mean the end of the outbreak. He said the goal is to balance preventive measures and the economy until vaccines and effective drugs become available.

In New York City, honoring fallen military members will be done with car convoys and small ceremonies this year instead of parades to conform with coronavirus lockdown restrictions.

"It's something we're upset about, but we understand," said Raymond Aalblue, chairman of the United Military Veterans of Kings County, which usually puts on a parade in Brooklyn.

There's "no reason to put anybody in harm's way," he said, adding "it's really cutting quick to the heart of all the veterans."

Veterans, along with nur-

sing home residents, have made up a significant portion of those who died in the U.S. outbreak.

After two days of playing golf, President Donald Trump is scheduled to make Memorial Day appearances at Arlington National Cemetery, where he will lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and speak at a historic fort in Baltimore.

The White House, meanwhile, slapped a travel ban on Latin America's most populous nation, saying it would deny admission to foreigners who have recently been in Brazil. The ban, which takes effect Thursday, does not apply to U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents.

Brazil, with over 363,000 reported infections, is second only to the U.S. and many health experts say that number understates the severity of the country's outbreak.

Greece's low COVID-19 infection rate allowed the government to restart the summer holiday season three weeks earlier than previously planned. In addition to reopening ferries with new passenger limits, it allowed cafes and restaurants to open under new social distancing rules. All this, of course, was for Greek holidaymakers as foreign tourists aren't expected until after June 15.

"We will implement exactly what the state has told us, whatever the doctors have told us, first and foremost for the safety of our customers," said Spiros Bairaktaris, owner of a restaurant in Athens that was reducing capacity from 100 customers to 30.

"Many will come to Greece because we had the fewest number of deaths compared to other countries and thank God for that," he added.

Greece, which shut down early, has only 171 of Europe's nearly 170,000 coronavirus deaths.

Islands such as Santorini, Mykonos, Corfu and Samos are a major draw for tourists, but had been mostly off-limits since late March when the country's coronavirus lockdown took effect.

Like many southern European countries that rely heavily on visitors, tourism makes up over 10% of the Greek economy.

Hard-hit Spain reached a milestone yesterday as half the population — including those in the country's two biggest cities, Madrid and Barcelona — were finally allowed to gather, albeit in limited numbers. Outdoor seating at bars and restaurants also reopened.

Madrid coffee bar owner Roberto Fernández said the reopening was bittersweet.

"We are also a little sad today, as we have lost two of our more elderly regular customers," Fernández said. "They use to come every day but now they have left us."

Relaxations go a step further in the rest of Spain, where people can visit beaches and nursing homes, conduct weddings and spend as much time as they want outdoors. Spain has recorded 28,700 confirmed deaths and more than 230,000 virus infections.

In the Czech Republic, bars and restaurants ope-

ned their indoor spaces to patrons as did hotels, public pools, saunas and fitness centers.

But as lockdowns are being rolled back across Europe, a fresh outbreak linked to a Dutch slaughterhouse has spread across the border into neighboring Germany. Dutch authorities said yesterday that 147 of 657 employees at a meat processing plant in Groenlo tested positive, and 19 of them live in Germany.

Several coronavirus clusters among abattoir employees in Germany have prompted the government to pledge a crackdown on poor working conditions in the industry.

In Russia, infections topped 350,000 — the third highest in the world — as health officials reported 9,000 new cases and 92 new deaths, bringing the overall death toll to 3,633. Russia denies allegations that its death rate is suspiciously low, insisting that's due instead to its effective measures to counter COVID-19.

Millions of Australian children returned to school as the number of coronavirus patients continues to fall. Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk said that students and teachers had to observe one key message: Stay home if sick.

"We're not out of the woods yet. We have to take each day as it comes, each week as it comes and we keep our fingers crossed that Queenslanders will continue to flatten that curve," Palaszczuk said. **AP**

this day in history



1998 VETERANS REJECT JAPANESE 'SORROW'

Emperor Akihito of Japan has spoken of his "deep sorrow and pain" over the suffering inflicted by his country during World War II, but did not apologise for the treatment of prisoners in work camps.

Addressing a state banquet at Buckingham Palace, attended by the Queen, Duke of Edinburgh, Queen Mother and 11 other senior Royals, the Emperor said he could "never forget" the many kinds of suffering experienced by so many.

War veterans said that Emperor Akihito had not gone far enough and demanded a "real, meaningful apology."

They are angry with Japan over its refusal to offer more substantial compensation and a full apology for their suffering during the war.

Earlier, in a gesture of contempt, former prisoners of war turned their backs on Emperor Akihito and whistled the wartime anthem Colonel Bogey as he rode with the Queen in a Royal carriage down The Mall.

Later, outside nearby Westminster Abbey where the emperor laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, a memorial to the dead of World War I, around 500 protesters repeated their protest, turning their backs and humming Colonel Bogey again.

Under the post-war Japanese constitution, Emperor Akihito is a non-political figurehead and, as such, cannot formally apologise for the suffering inflicted by the Japanese imperial army.

But in the banquet speech on Tuesday, delivered in Japanese, he came close to saying sorry.

"It truly saddens me, however, that the relationship so nurtured between our two countries should have been marred by the Second World War.

"The Empress and I can never forget the many kinds of suffering so many people have undergone because of that war.

At the thought of the scars of war that they bear, our hearts are filled with deep sorrow and pain. All through our visit here, this thought will never leave our minds.

We sincerely hope that such a history will never be repeated between our two nations."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Of the 50,016 British military personnel taken captive by the Japanese 12,433 died or were killed in captivity. The survivors campaigned for years for extra compensation for the horrors they endured.

On 26 November 1998 a Japanese court ruled against them saying the issue was settled when Japan made a token payment of £76 (the equivalent of £1,200 today) to the servicemen in the early 1950s.

Two years later, the British government granted a total of £100m to 16,700 former PoWs or their widows "in recognition of the unique circumstances of their captivity".

The chairman of the Japanese Labour Camp Survivors' Association, Arthur Titherington, said the veterans would continue to seek a full apology from the Japanese emperor.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

If you want things to change, you have to be willing to put in more effort. Self-discipline isn't always fun, but it is always effective. Take notes and get ready for some changes.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Don't fret about any small complication or drama today. It won't mess up your day as much as you fear it will. Unexpected stuff happens, so just roll with it.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

That kind of bravado might seem impressive, but it will only get you into some deep and very hot water. Be honest and be humble. The people who have authority over you will appreciate and respect it.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

It's up to you to make the connections you need, so reach out and don't be shy. People are going to be very receptive to your questions. Asking around will help you get more out of life.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Avoid doing anything big or ostentatious today. This isn't the right time to make expensive travel plans or major purchases or commit to anything in formal legal terms.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

But if you adjust your expectations and try to be okay with little or no progress today, you'll still be able to enjoy all your interactions. Just don't expect too much.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You're eager for your future to begin, but when will that come? There's no telling, but a glimpse may come today if you step back and give yourself space to see it.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You could be dealing with a lot of different requests today, which could be confusing or even overwhelming. Just take your time and think about your priorities.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Let people do what they want while you take care of the work you need to do. Trying to force people to do what you want them to do is a lost cause. Don't waste your energy.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Double-check and confirm just to make sure. Get things in writing! If you only assume that they got it right the first time, you could live to regret that assumption.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Someone you usually find fascinating could leave you feeling bored today, but don't worry. That doesn't mean you're no longer into this person. It probably just means you need to take a break.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Try to communicate your emotions clearly to someone you're worried about now. Being brutally honest is tough sometimes, but it's much more valuable than softening the truth with little white lies.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	13	28	cloudy
Harbin	9	18	shower
Tianjin	17	27	cloudy
Urumqi	17	29	clear
Xi'an	20	31	overcast
Lhasa	5	16	cloudy
Chengdu	17	26	overcast
Chongqing	19	25	cloudy
Kunming	14	24	shower
Nanjing	19	28	cloudy
Shanghai	20	24	drizzle
Wuhan	16	29	cloudy
Hangzhou	20	24	drizzle
Taipei	24	27	drizzle
Guangzhou	24	29	shower
Hong Kong	24	29	moderate rain

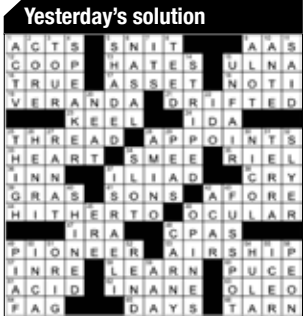
WORLD

Moscow	10	19	drizzle
Frankfurt	8	21	clear
Paris	14	23	clear
London	11	24	clear
New York	15	24	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Mouthlike opening; 6- Weaned pig; 11- Little drink; 14- Little bits; 15- Put off, as an agenda item; 16- ___ Pinafore; 17- Birds on Canadian coins; 18- Straighten; 19- Center starter; 20- Architect Saarinen; 22- Falls short; 24- Varied; 28- Thickset; 30- Builds; 31- Coral island; 32- Mexican money; 33- Pertaining to the thyroid or adrenal, e.g.; 37- Big bang producer; 38- Fields of comedy; 39- Tokyo, formerly; 40- Star; 43- Gandhi's land; 45- Duck with soft down; 46- Speaks publicly; 47- More nasty; 49- Food ordered to go; 50- Make watertight; 51- Scraps; 52- Life support?; 53- Absurd; 56- Muscat native; 61- ___ Cone; 62- Family tree member; 63- Red Bordeaux; 64- The Crystals' "___ a Rebel"; 65- Tenuous substances; 66- Adonais, Thanatopsis, or In Memoriam;

DOWN: 1- Part of RSVP; 2- In addition; 3- Oklahoma First Nation; 4- Oh, brother!; 5- Declares positively; 6- Gaze intently; 7- Nimbus; 8- ___ Wan Kenobi was a character in "Star Wars"; 9- Math subj.; 10- Comprising ten parts; 11- Valentino role; 12- Suggest; 13- Greek letters; 21- Double curve; 23- Rights org.; 24- Profundity; 25- Peace goddess; 26- Roman goddess of the hearth; 27- Green prefix; 28- Flight segment; 29- Muscle quality; 31- Transform; 33- Dead duck; 34- Brought on; 35- Old French expression meaning "goodbye"; 36- Way to cook; 38- It may turn; 41- Distribute cards; 42- Joining; 43- Annoying; 44- Dundee denial; 46- Bit of grain; 47- New Brunswick neighbor; 48- Continental cash; 49- Forest makeup; 50- Money; 51- On a single occasion; 54- Peebles or Long; 55- Loser to DDE; 57- Voice of Bugs; 58- Summer drink; 59- Beverage made with beaten eggs; 60- Very cold;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE

Manhattan D unit, High Floor
HK\$17,980,000 2,305 ft² 4 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

Manhattan Apartment, Taipa
\$19,800/mth 1,626 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2

FOR SALE

[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden	2 1/2 1 1/2
900 ft² \$4,900,000	(ref: 19106003)
[Coloane] Hellene Gardens	1 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,663 ft² \$8,200,000	(ref: 19025577)
[Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units)	4 1/2 2 1/2
1,404 ft² \$8,380,000	(ref: 19096006)
[Macau] Seaview Garden	3 1/2 2 1/2
1,420 ft² \$10,900,000	(ref: 20016004)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Traditional Apartment	2 1/2 1 1/2
600 ft² \$9,900/mth	(ref: n/a)
[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort	1 1/2 1 1/2
710 ft² \$10,000/mth	(ref: 20021002)
[Macau] One Central	2 1/2 2 1/2
1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth	(ref: n/a)
[Taipa] Great View Apartment	4 1/2 2 1/2
2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth	(ref: 20031001)

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Luxury and COVID-19: Shocking Effects to the Industry

Speaker: Ms Fflur Roberts, Head of Luxury Goods Research, Euromonitor International, London

FMCC Webinar
Thursday, 28th May 2020

**Introduction:**

Luxury shopping behaviour, channel dynamics and travel plans are seeing inevitable shifts as a result of lockdowns. With the pandemic having a huge economic and psychological impact, consumers' sentiment will be severely dampened and premium priced items likely to be affected. Euromonitor's expert Ms. Fflur Roberts will show how COVID-19 is impacting the luxury market and will identify the key themes reshaping luxury.

Date: Thursday, 28th May, 2020

Time: 5:00p.m. - 5:30p.m.

Platform: Zoom (link will be sent after registration)

RSVP before 4 pm on 28th May

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ONE GOOD THING

INDONESIAN CHOREOGRAPHERS PROVIDE DIGITAL STAGE FOR DANCERS

EDNA TARIGAN, JAKARTA

BEFORE the coronavirus pandemic arrived, 2020 seemed fated to be a great year for Siko Setyanto's dance career: touring Germany and South Korea, performances in Indonesia, classes and more classes.

Now this man in motion has spent more than two months holed up at home with his wife.

"For dancers, it is like the blood line stopped in our body," he says. "I cannot move freely, no more job ... while my economic responsibilities do not stop. Personally, I was stressed too."

He was rescued by two choreographers in Indonesia's capital who have given a traditional system for tipping artists, saweran, a modern twist — posting video recordings of dancers' work on YouTube and asking for donations to keep the dancers and their art alive.

"We remember a long time ago we watched performances with the saweran system," said Rusdy Rukmarata, who masterminded the project with Yola Yulfianti.

"No ticket box, no promotion,

only space in the market and the musicians. People can watch them for free, if they like it, they give the tip to the performers," Rukmarata said.

So Rukmarata and Yulfianti, members of the Jakarta Arts Council, started Saweran Online on the Indonesian Dance Network channel. On this digital stage, dancers

can show their work; the shows are free, but viewers are encouraged to donate.

There are more than 60 videos by individual and dance groups

from various backgrounds and genres. Included are traditional Indonesian dance, contemporary ballet and even dance workouts for older viewers. Some dancers provide videos, while others record performances at Rukmarata's studio.

Each donation is divided: 75% for the performer, 20% to other COVID-19 needs in Indonesia and the rest to pay for the project's costs.

Siko Setyanto saw money deposited in his bank account two weeks after his video went up. The cash is important to Setyanto, but so is the opportunity to show his art: "I really appreciate how this program can be a place for the dancers to express our works."

Yulfianti said performers are responsible for attracting viewers and support.

"The dancers should be as creative as they can. They should attract their viewers too," Yulfianti said.

The two have been joined in their effort by independent art producer Ratri Anindyajati, who has recovered from the COVID-19 and is renowned as Case 03 in Indonesia. Anindyajati said her survival has inspired her to do more for others during the pandemic.

"As I grew up with the dance community, I would like to help them. Moreover, it is not only helping people around the dance community," but also others who need aid, Anindyajati said. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Indonesian dancer Nala Amyrtha performs during a video recording for "Saweran Online" program on Indonesia Dance Network YouTube channel

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OPINION

Our Desk

Renato Marques



GETTING INTERNATIONAL WITH OUR PEOPLE

In the aftermath of Covid-19 (if I can say so) there are a lot of lessons we can take from common people and various conversations.

Contrary to popular belief, I advocate that listening to common voices and the “average citizen” is far more productive and closer to reality than hearing only the expert opinions of typical social commentators.

Despite the fact these “vox pop” comments might not sound as eloquent as the ‘experts’, they often carry a lot more content and significant information. Call it “purer” if you like, or simply, stripped from the usual grey-toned political correctness and self-oriented interest of the second group.

A couple of days ago, I decided to break the chain that had been keeping me mostly around the house and wander the distant areas of Macau. What I found surprised me.

The landscape had suffered a significant change around Coloane, not geographically, but in terms of the human factor. People look different, and more than that, they talk and act differently.

The influx of just a few hundred Macau residents living abroad, which we had heard a lot about because of their Covid-19-triggered return, had changed the conversations and the activities.

Although the English-speaking nature of these people was a clear sign that these were not your “common locals,” my attention was focused on them long before I even heard them speaking a single word. They just looked different, from their clothes to their attitude.

Later on, while I was having a relaxed meal at a fresco in a popular weekend destination restaurant, two of these “different residents” sat right next to my table and started chatting in happy, loud voices that were impossible not to hear. They looked young, but I only realized how young they were when one of them shouted to the other in panic after taking a few sips out of a large Sangria jar.

“This thing has alcohol in it!” she shouted. “Oh my God, I am just 15. If my parents find out about this, they will kill me,” she exclaimed.

On the other side of the table, her friend replied, “Relax! It’s nothing... I am just 16 too anyway.”

After that moment of panic, all returned to normal as slices of pizza were consumed during a seemingly long overdue conversation that brought the pair up to date.

By that time, I bet the Sangria also tasted just like orange juice but that’s not the most important part.

When I was heading home, the good old parking lot also looked different. There were few cars, even fewer motorcycles parked and somewhat more unusually, there was also a group of teens and at least one adult, all skateboarding.

A quick look as I got near and I realized they were longboards, something I remember seeing before a couple of years ago – maybe nearly a decade – in Macau, but which had suddenly disappeared (at least from my perspective).

As I was traveling back to the city, in my mind only had one thought: If this virus was (and still is) responsible for many hassles and negative effects on people, families, and even on the global economy, it has sure turned Macau into a different and, dare I say it, “more international” place. We did not even have to promote the destination abroad, as the destination promoted itself through its people.

Before closing, I would like to note one more thing took me by surprise from that “Sangria-conversation.”

That is that Macau can also represent a new sense of freedom, which can lead to the removal of the inhibitions of those abroad in stating “I am from Macau!”

TDM TOP OFFICIAL TO RETIRE SEPTEMBER 1

THE BUZZ

The Executive Committee Chairman of public broadcaster TDM, Manuel Gonçalves Pires Júnior, has submitted a request for retirement starting September 1. His coming retirement indicates a successor will likely be announced soon.

First reported by Macau Business, the long-standing civil servant is said to be planning to retire from the public sector altogether.

He was appointed as a non-executive Chairman of TDM’s Board of Directors in March 2011, before being made Chairman of the Executive Committee three years later.

Prior to joining the public broadcaster, Pires held a deputy director role at Macau’s tourism board.

TDM is owned, funded and overseen by the government, which appoints its top officials.

IN RACE FOR TOURISM, GREECE REOPENS CAFES, ISLAND FERRIES

AP PHOTO



The port of Piraeus, near Athens

DEREK GATOPOULOS, ATHENS

GREECE restarted regular ferry services to its islands yesterday, and cafes and restaurants were also back open for business as the country accelerated efforts to salvage its tourism season.

Travel to the islands had been generally off-limits since a lockdown was imposed in late March to halt the spread of the coronavirus, with only goods suppliers and permanent residents allowed access.

But the country’s low infection rate in the Covid-19 pandemic prompted the government to start the holiday season three weeks earlier than the expected June 15 date, as other Mediterranean countries — including Italy, Spain and Turkey — are grappling with deadlier outbreaks.

At Bairaktaris restaurant on central Monastiraki Square in Athens, waiters and staff wearing purple face masks and some with plastic visors, sliced meat from the revolving gyros grill, arranged flowers on widely spaced tables and waited for customers, who remained cautious yesterday.

Spiros Bairaktaris, the

exuberant owner, is carrying on a family business running for 140 years and has framed pictures on the wall of himself sitting next to supermodel Naomi Campbell, singer Cesaria Evora, and other past celebrity customers. He says he’s optimistic about the season despite the slow start.

Greece’s low infection rate prompted the government to start the holiday season three weeks earlier than June 15, as other Mediterranean countries

“This has never happened before,” he told the AP. “We normally sit 100 in the inside area, now it’ll be just 30. ... There won’t be any bouzouki music or dancing until we get the all-clear from the doctors.”

“But I think people from all over Europe will come here because we have a low death toll, thank God.”

Greece has had nearly 2,900 infections and 171 deaths from the virus. Italy has seen nearly 33,000 coronavirus patients die, Spain has had nearly 29,000 dead and Turkey has had 4,340 deaths, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University.

Social distancing regulations and passenger limits have been imposed on ferries and at restaurants to ward off new infections.

State-run health services to combat the coronavirus are being expanded to the islands, with intensive care units being placed on five islands: Lesbos, Samos, Rhodes, Zakynthos, and Corfu, along with existing ICU facilities on the island of Crete.

Tourism is a vital part of the Greek economy, directly contributing more than 10% of the country’s GDP as Greece struggles to emerge from years of financial crisis. More than

34 million visitors traveled to Greece last year, spending 18.2 billion euros (\$19.5 billion), according to government data.

With a view of the Acropolis and padded lounge seating, it’s usually hard for cafe goers to find a spot at Kayak, but midday it was still largely empty.

“Eighty percent of our business is from tourism, and people in Greece are cautious, they fear they will lose their job,” owner Liza Meneretzi said. “I’ve been running the cafe for 30 years, and I’ve never seen anything like this. But I was born an optimist, so we’ll see how things go.” AP

AP PHOTO



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe lifted a coronavirus state of emergency in Tokyo and four other remaining prefectures yesterday, ending the declaration that began nearly eight weeks ago. The emergency was softer than the lockdowns imposed in many countries, and requested rather than required businesses to shut and people to stay home.

AP PHOTO



India Domestic airline travel partially resumed in India, which is easing its virus lockdown despite adding more than 6,000 new infections per day. At New Delhi’s Indira Gandhi International Airport, passengers in masks or full protective suits stood in long lines to show identification and boarding passes to security personnel standing behind plastic partitions. Ticket machines have been shifted outside, where airport workers sanitized baggage and stalls stocked masks, sanitizer and face shields.

AP PHOTO



Australia Students in two more Australian states returned to school full-time as numbers of COVID-19 patients in hospitals across the country fall. New South Wales and Queensland states joined the less populous Western Australia and South Australia states and the Northern Territory in resuming face-to-face learning instead of studying from home online. Australia’s remaining jurisdictions plan to send students back to school in stages through early June.

Fiji’s national airline is laying off more than 750 staff, about half of its workforce, as it struggles for its survival. Remaining employees will have their pay reduced by 20% and only get paid for the days they work. CEO Andre Viljoen said the company is negotiating with lenders and aircraft lessors for payment deferrals. He said Fiji Airways expected to receive almost zero revenue over the coming months due to canceled international flights because of the pandemic.