

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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MONDAY T. 269/ 32° Air Quality Gr 01 Jun 2020

FINANCIAL SUPPORT MEASURES
DESIGNED TO SHORE UP INDIVIDUALS
AND BUSINESSES MIGHT BE
DISTRIBUTED AS EARLY AS THIS MONTH

ORGANIZERS CONFIRM: TWO MACAU GP HEADLINE EVENTS CANCELLED

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN"

MACAU'S ECONOMY SHRANK 49% IN THE FIRST QUARTER, AS COVID-19 HIT REVENUE FROM GAMBLING, HOTELS AND TOURISM

AP PHOTO

China's Defense Ministry said the navy's only entirely home-built aircraft is carrying out sea trials to test weapons and equipment and enhance training of the crew.

Ministry spokesperson
Ren Guoqiang said Friday the exercises were being conducted as planned, apparently unaffected by the country's coronavirus outbreak.

Philippines police have arrested 90 Chinese for allegedly running an online gambling hub without permits and for violating quarantine restrictions, officials said yesterday. Police made the mass arrests Friday after spotting some of the suspects converging closely without face masks outside a rented apartment in violation of quarantine restrictions, in Cavite province south of Manila.



Afghanistan The Islamic State group took responsibility yesterday for a roadside bomb attack against a bus belonging to a local TV station that killed two employees. Marwa Amini, the deputy spokeswoman for the Afghan interior ministry, said four other station employees were wounded in Saturday afternoon's attack in Kabul.

Egypt The military said it has killed at least 19 militants in raids and airstrikes against an Islamic insurgency in the northern part of the Sinai Peninsula, in clashes that also left at least five casualties among its troops. Col. Tamer el-Rifai said in his statement late Saturday that forces dismantled at least five explosive devices and destroyed two fourwheel drive vehicles and a storehouse.

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ROOFTOP LIVING

Complaints prompt gov't demolition unit to target illegal rooftop structures





HIGHEST COURT UPHOLDS POLICE BAN ON JUNE 4 VIGIL

NEW USJ RECTOR STEPHEN MORGAN TALKS HIGHER EDUCATION'S NEXT STEP FORWARD



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Distribution of next financial support measures expected this month

JULIE ZHU, ANTHONY LAM

HE local government expects to begin distributing financial relief for employees and businesses in June, Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong said during a press conference on Friday.

The Executive Council (ExCo) has completed discussions about the administrative regulations related to financial relief for local employees, freelancers and business owners. The regulation proposes a subsidy of 15,000 to 200,000 patacas for those eligible. Individuals must be local residents of Macau in order to receive the money.

The money will be distributed either through bank transfer or mail. The total budget for the plan is 6.6 billion patacas.

The local community has been concerned about some professionals, particularly freelancers without tax registration. On Friday the Secretary had good news for those professionals.

According to Cheong, taxi drivers, rickshaw drivers, tour guides, stall owners, street market vendors, water taxi drivers and fishermen belong to a special sector and may not have registered for taxes. The new regulation outlines a solution for some of these people.

The Secretary briefly mentioned that the government department responsible for the scheme



Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong

will conduct background checks on any subsidy applicants from the concerned categories. Once they are deemed eligible, they will be granted 10,000 patacas.

Earlier this year, the Legislative Assembly (AL) passed an amendment of the 2020 budget bill, which includes this group of subsidies. This administrative regulation will come into effect tomorrow. It is estimated that a total of 274,000 employees, 7,000 freelancers and 38,000 businesses will benefit from the subsidy.

Eligible employees in Macau

will see their salary subsidy deposited into their bank accounts on June 16, the government announced over the weekend. This is part of the MOP10 billion economic revival scheme announced by the government earlier this year.

If they have not registered their bank account detail with the Financial Services Bureau (DSF), they will get their subsidy in the form of check, which will be mailed out in batches from June 18. The check, in addition, must be banked by end of this year.

Employees in Macau who had

an employment status registered with the DSF between January 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020 will be preliminarily covered by the scheme. These employees will get MOP15,000 as salary subsidy due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Meanwhile, civil servants and employees who received MOP20,000 worth of tax refund for the fiscal year of 2018 will not be covered.

From June 2, employees can visit the DSF's website to check their eligibility for the payment. If they are eligible, the money will be paid automatically without any application process needed. Otherwise, they can file an application to the DSF by June 29 with proofs of their employment during the concerned period.

Freelancers and business operators without any employee will also get MOP15,000, while certain freelancers, such as tour guides, tricycle riders and taxi drivers, get MOP10,000 instead.

Businesses with employees will be eligible to receive between MOP50,000 and MOP200,000, depending on the number of employees registered under their businesses with the DSF.

Companies covered by the same taxpayer identification number will be able to receive a maximum of 1 million patacas in subsidy grants.

Any company receiving government grants that then dismisses an employee without cause will be required to refund at least part of the grant.

Public utility companies - those that provide electricity, water, natural gas and other fuels - will be excluded from the support measures. In addition, entities providing public transportation or infrastructure services, financial services, formal education and higher education, as well as casino activities, are also exclu-

In order to check their eligibility, freelancers and business operators can visit the DSF's website

Economy shrinks by 49% during first quarter of 2020

Mposted a deep contraction in the first quarter as lockdown measures introduced to contain the virus outbreak hit revenue from gambling, hotels and tourism.

Gross domestic product in Macau plummeted 48.7% in the first three months of 2020, according to the city's statistics department. That is the fifth

in the city's economic ou-

In a statement over the weekend, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) attributed the major contraction to a "substantial decline in total demand" for Macau's exports of ser-

Exports of services dropped by 60% year-on-year, according to DSEC, with

economy straight quarterly decline exports of gaming services and other tourism services falling even faster, by 61.5%

and 63.9% respectively. The local economy depends heavily on the city's casinos, whose revenue was badly damaged by a 15-day lockdown in February and visitation restrictions on the mainland, which have made travel to Macau impractical for most people.

Visitor arrivals fell by nearly 70% in year-on-year terms in the first quarter, with January accounting for the majority of Macau's 3.22 million tourists, before the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic was felt outside of mainland China.

Travel restrictions in or out of Macau will be lifted by early June, while the individual traveler visa scheme will restart soon after, according to analyst Vitaly Umansky, as cited by Bloomberg.

Plans for a 'travel bubb le' involving at least Guangdong Province, Hong Kong and Macau are believed to be under discussion by the relevant authorities, though no information has yet been disclosed on when exactly travel restrictions would ease.

"Once global lockdowns

are lifted, the worst may be over for the tourism-related sectors in Hong Kong as well as Macau," Overseas-Chinese Corp economists including Tommy Xie wrote in a note. "That said, neither of the two cities will be able to see a strong recovery in its tourism activities amid concerns about second wave of infections." MDT/BLOOMBERG

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nuDaily 澳門每日時報 * EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR)_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Shevia Zandona

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang ju ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif, Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C. MACAU SAR **Telephones**: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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Congratulations on the 13th Anniversary of Macau Daily Times







ADDITIONAL MEDICAL SUBSIDY STARTS TODAY

An extra phase of the medical subsidy for this year has come into effect today, the government announced. Each eligible Macau ID holder is entitled to an annual medical subsidy, which is currently worth 600 patacas. As part of the public economic revival scheme proposed, all eligible Macau ID holders will receive an extra medical subsidy voucher this year. When added to the normal medical subsidy, this year, all will receive 1,200 patacas for use at private medical establishments. The subsidy is valid until May 31, 2021. It can be transferred to an ID holder's parents, children or legal spouse.

RETURNEE FROM UK ARRESTED FOR DRUG **TRAFFICKING**

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has arrested a 29-year-old man on suspicion of trafficking illegal, addictive substances using common parcel services. According to the PJ, he had been residing in the U.K. and had returned to Macau in March. Under the cooperation mechanism, mainland law enforcement agencies transferred intelligence to the PJ, who later arrested the suspect as he was leaving the post office after picking up a parcel. The parcel contained, among other things, three small bottles of marijuana essential oil worth 2,000 patacas. The suspect told police that it was for his own use, which didn't convince the PJ, as he returned a negative drug test

SEX CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN ON THE RISE

Over the past four years, the number of sex offences committed against children has been increasing, according to law enforcement authorities. They disclosed that on average, 12 investigations were conducted per year and 14 victims were recorded. There were 24 cases in 2018 alone, however, nearly double the number in 2017. The victims included both male and female children. Protections for children have to be increased, as many of the offences were committed by people known to the children, including domestic helpers, family friends or even relatives. Parents should keep an eye out for changes in their children's behavior and remain vigilant when communicating with them.





Highest court upholds police ban on June 4 vigil

PAULO COUTINHO, **ANTHONY LAM**

HE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has ruled that a decision by the police to ban this year's June 4 vigil due to the government's Covid-19 prevention measures will be upheld.

The 32-page ruling in Chinese, and its Portuguese translation, were posted Friday on the courts' website.

The judges said that the public police commander's decision "not to allow the assembly in this special time of combating the epidemic throughout the community" does not violate any legal provisions.

"On the contrary, it would have breached article 3 of the Law for the Prevention, Control and Treatment of Transmissible Diseases" (Law no. 2/2004) had it decided to authorize the vigil, the ruling sta-

The TUI said that "taking into account the current epidemic and the professional opinion offered by the Health Services, in order to prevent the spread of and a new outbreak of the disease, [the deci-

sion to ban the vigil] does not deserve reproach."

The ruling was followed by a brief disclaimer from Judge José Maria Dias Azedo. The magistrate reiterated his support for the decision based on public health concerns related to the pandemic. However, he noted that the administrative procedure which led to the appealed decision "should have taken into account the provisions in articles 23 to 25 of Law no. 2/2004."

In the provisions of the law for the prevention of contagious diseases (article 24), it is stated that "exceptional decisions" should be made by the Chief Executive through a decree published in the Official Gazette. The TUI's ruling states that the decision was made by the commander of the Public Security Police (CPSP).

Veteran pro-democracy legislators Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong, who have held the vigil since 1990, had appealed to the highest court in an attempt to have the authorities' ban overruled, following criticism that "political motivations" led the police to cancel the event.

The government, represented by Secretary André Cheong, has denied the allegations. But pro-democracy advocates see this year's ban as "a dangerous and possibly illegal precedent" that may put an end to the vigils, which have been an embarrassment to the pro-China camp over the last 30 years.

In the past few years, several hundred people had attended the candlelight vigils in downtown Macau in memory of the victims of the Tiananmen Square Massacre of June 4, 1989.

VIGIL ORGANIZER DISAPPOINTED BY RULING

Shortly after the court's decision, vigil organizers announced that the event would move online this year.

The decision came as co-organizer Au Kam San said in a public statement that he was disappointed with the highest court's justification for upholding the ban on this year's vigil.

The lawmaker received the judgment responding to his appeal on May 29, three days later than the five-day response period legally stipulated for appeals regarding assemblies and protests.

Au pointed out that the court only repeated statements about the Covid-19 pandemic and the city's prevention work, but did not respond to his argument. Au rebutted the suggestions that the vigil does not violate any laws of the city.

HONG KONG TIANANMEN **VIGIL MAY GO ONLINE TOO**

The Hong Kong government also banned this year's June 4 vigil in Hong Kong for the same reasons, where tens or hundreds of thousands usually attend.

Democratic parties are planning alternative ways to mark the anniversary by lighting a candle in every household "from Central to the Northern Territories." Meanwhile, a group of Hong Kong people in Taiwan said they planned to hold a vigil at Liberty Square in Taipei at 8 p.m. on June 4.

Organizers also said they would consider moving the event online if police ban the alternative arrangements.

If the vigil doesn't receive police approval, a memorial will be held from 8 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and participants can hold candles and observe a moment of silence wherever they are, Lee Cheuk-yan, chairman of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, said at a briefing yesterday. The alliance called for support for a global social-media campaign using the hashtag #6431truth.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 13th ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU DAILY TIMES

































Gov't targets illegal rooftop structures after public complaints

RENATO MARQUES

HE government has intensified its crackdown on illegal constructions, recently demolishing several structures that had been illegally built on rooftops.

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has informed in a statement that several deconstruction works were performed last month by the Permanent Inter-Departmental Working Group for Demolition and Vacating of Illegal Construction. The group took steps to demolish clandestine construction operations located on the rooftops of three low-rise buildings

on the Peninsula, namely in the Istmo Ferreira do Amaral area, as well as on Rua de Silva Mendes.

The group was assisted in the task by the Public Security Police Force. They demolished three structures that were supposed to be separate or extensions of housing units in the buildings.

The bureau explained that it had verified that these illegal structures consisted of metal and concrete, concrete roofs, masonry and brick walls, as well as metal fencing.

The bureau proceeded with the demolition last month, after the people responsible for the creation of the structures had been ordered to demolish them immediately and restore the rooftop following DSSOPT procedu-

The structures remained unaltered until the deadline, and the DSSOPT proceeded with the demolition. The offenders were informed that they would have to assume legal responsibility and bear all the costs of the work.

After the demolitions concluded, the DSSOPT initiated their refund process. The expenses related to the works will be handled by the Financial Services Bureau.

In their statement, the DS-SOPT called on all citizens to refrain from performing illegal construction work. They said that they would continue to closely

monitor all suspicious activity, especially any work that might obstruct access for firefighters and other emergency rescue teams, or work that constitutes a risk to public safety and sanitation.

The group also explained that the action was triggered by several complaints about the illegal structures, namely the concrete and metal rooftop, the placement of fences and supports, as well as the construction of brick walls, and placement of glass windows. Inspectors onsite confirmed these reports, notifying those responsible immediately.

The group is also reminding the public that the authorities are monitoring these matters throu-

gh this permanent mechanism, aiming to fight all illegal construction.

In the past, the government established a financial support plan for this very purpose. They aimed to aid the demolition of all illegal structures, including cages and bars placed on balconies and windows.

Over the last few years, there has been much discussion about the problems associated with the placement of these illegal structures all over the territory. In particular, this has been the case when accidents or fires occur in apartment buildings with illegal structures that compromise and delay firefighters' access, causing severe damage to several houses.

Although there is news about a small number of rooftop constructions being targeted by the DSSOPT every year, Macau is known to have a very high number of these illegal structures, especially on the rooftops of low-rise and high-rise buildings.

MOTORSPORT

FIA confirms cancellation of two headline events at Macau GP

RENATO MARQUES

THE International Automobile Federation (FIA), the governing body of international automobile racing, said that two of the headline events from the Macau Grand Prix will not take place this year, confirming an earlier report by the Times. These events are the World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) races and the FIA GT World Cup.

The FIA confirmed this when they officially released their decisions at the FIA World Motor Sport Council late last week.

The Council approved the restructuring of the 2020 WTCR calendar, and announced that the six weekend-long, Europeonly calendar would start with Austria's round on September 12-13.

According to an FIA statement, the amendments "were approved at a meeting of the FIA Touring Car Commission on May 26 and received full FIA ratification."

The FIA noted in their

statement that the decision was made in the face of "an extremely challenging and ever-changing situation [that] has led to several difficult decisions being taken," including the cancellation of all four rounds of the Asia leg. The main focus will now be on "delivering the maximum number of events possible during these unprecedented times."

Races in Austria, Slovakia, and Spain have been rescheduled, while a brandnew event will take place in

Adria, Italy.

Events in Germany and Hungary were reinstated after initially being cancelled due to coronavirusrelated restrictions in the countries.

François Ribeiro, head of Eurosport Events and WTCR promoter, said, "the events in Asia made up 40% of the original calendar. For the Asia leg to go ahead, the freight must be shipped from Europe at the end of July. Right now, it is simply not possible to predict what restrictions

will still be in place by then, with a very real chance of a second wave of Covid-19 – a fundamental consideration."

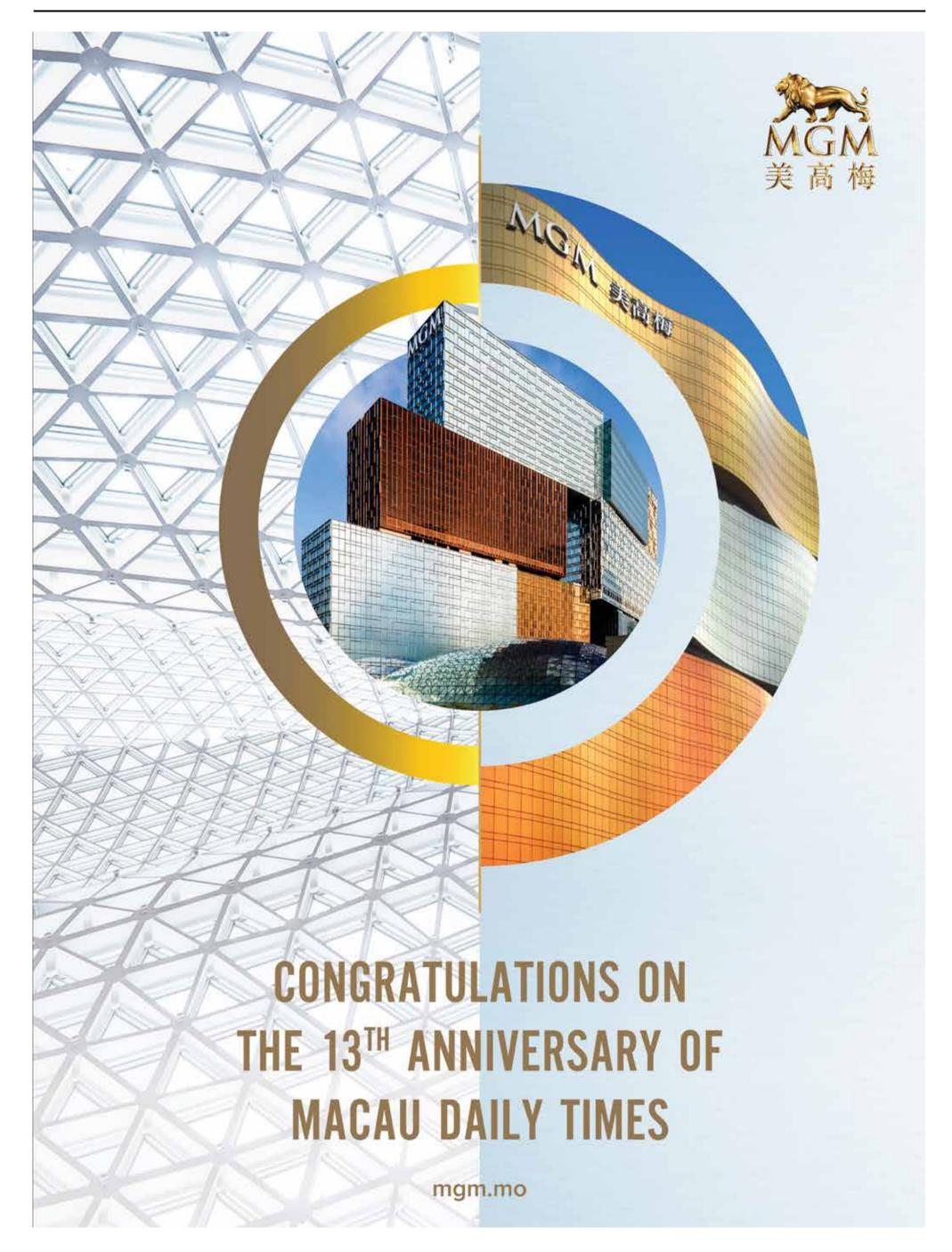
"Then there is the safety and wellbeing of our participants and the wider communities in those countries in Asia we were due to visit," he listed as additional concerns.

The original WTCR calendar had rounds in Macau, China, South Korea, and Malaysia.

Last month, the Times broke news of a second

race likely to face cancellation. In addition to the FIA WTCR not returning to Macau for this year, the FIA has also confirmed that the FIA GT World Cup, which has been held at the Guia Circuit annually since 2015, will not be held in 2020.

According to the FIA, the entity "will work with the various stakeholders involved to investigate options to bring the event back in the future." They did not say, for the time being, whether the event would be automatically be reinstated in 2021.





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STEPHEN MORGAN
RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Higher education is about to take a big step forward

JULIE ZHU

OR the newly-appointed Rector of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), Rev. Deacon Stephen Morgan, some "very significant steps" will be made in the higher education sector in the next few years.

In an interview with the Times, Morgan said that Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng's promised educational reform was quite clear in scope and would bring major change if the city is able to attract a truly international cohort of students.

"My mandate is four years. At the end of those four years I will expect that there will have been very significant steps forward in that respect, irrespective and regardless of what happens at the USJ," said Morgan, who now heads Catholic institution.

The Times sat down with Morgan to understand his vision for the USJ and what he thinks of higher education reform in Macau.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - What are the prospects for the USJ under your leadership?

Stephen Morgan (SM) - I think the university has enormous potential.

The kind of Latin temperament of Portuguese, that capability to see the big picture and be inspired by it. We have a lot of English speakers and English-speaking culture is very pragmatic, and of course the Chinese are enormously thorough people. When you put those three things together, you can have one of two results: you can have an enormous fight between the three cultures, or you can actually have something quite special. And I think there's something really quite special here. It's a cultural encounter without any sense of superiority from one culture to the other, and a real desire to engage with the other cultures positively and learn from them.

It also means recognizing your shortcomings. So I think that means the prospects of the university are good. But we are a university that is manifestly international. By international, we mean students and stuff from all over the world.

There is a slight distortion here, as sometimes some universities count mainland Chinese students as international. They manifestly aren't. We are in China. It's one nation. So if you're Chinese and you're here, you are not international. You might be from another community, but you are not international. Well, [so far] we haven't been able to do that [attract mainland students].

MDT - What is the university's plan for attracting mainland students?

SM - Well it's something that's not easy to get to the bottom of. We've never been allowed to admit mainland students, so we have to carve out a future for the university that isn't dependent on them, and that's fine.

I think we've got a slightly complementary perspective to offer China. I understand full well that in order to convince the Chinese, and I mean both the Chinese government and the Chinese people, [...] you have to build a relationship of trust first, and you can't force the pace of trust.

Our relationship with a number of universities on the mainland, particularly with a group of scholars at Renmin University of China in Beijing, is very good and we're trying to find concrete ways of expressing [that] as we work with one another.

I hope that in time it demonstrates to both the authorities here Macau and the authorities in Beijing that we are a trusted partner. If that means in two, three, four, five or 10 years' time we have a cohort of mainland students here, it will be great

MDT - What's your interpretation of the Chief Executive's vision for higher education, as announced in the policy address?

SM - There is a future. The Chief Executive has conceived of this vision for higher education in Macau very explicitly. Macau could become an international hub for higher education. I think what he said was quite clear in terms of the direction.

I think the most important thing that the Macau government can do is create an environment where that can happen. So that means, for example, dealing with people whose particular academic skills are not readily available here. Already, the financial conditions in Macau and the tax structure, for example, are very helpful in attracting academics. I think the other thing is that if one reads between the lines of what the Chief Executive said, [...] it seems quite clear that he wants the universities here to be agencies for skills transfer to ensure that we build up a community of local academics in Macau who can compete on the world stage and attract people to Macau. I think

MDT - Is Macau ready to become an international hub for education?

that's really important.

SM - You don't do that overnight. It's not a 12-month project. It's probably a 10- or 20-year project. Certainly, the tradition of public policymaking in China is much more long-term than it is in Europe and in North America. Here, there is a capacity to take a kind of long-term view. If we set the direction correctly, if we set the right policy objectives and follow through on those with the necessary policies and sometimes changes to the law, there's no reason why it couldn't happen. My mandate is four years. At the end of those four years I will expect that there will have been very significant steps forward in that respect, irrespective and regardless of what happens at USJ.

MDT - Is Macau, or its universities, international enough to form a new hub?

SM - That's quite a difficult question to answer. There is a very high level of internationalization amongst the academics and the scholars working at all the universities. At the student level, it's slightly distorted, as I said, by the fact that some ways of counting consider students from Zhuhai to be international.

But Macau is an easy

place to be a non-Chinese. Although the base level of English may not be quite so high, it's a lot better than it was 25 years ago. The physical environment of Macau, the way in which cultures have existed alongside one another for such a long time, means that it's actually quite a comfortable place.

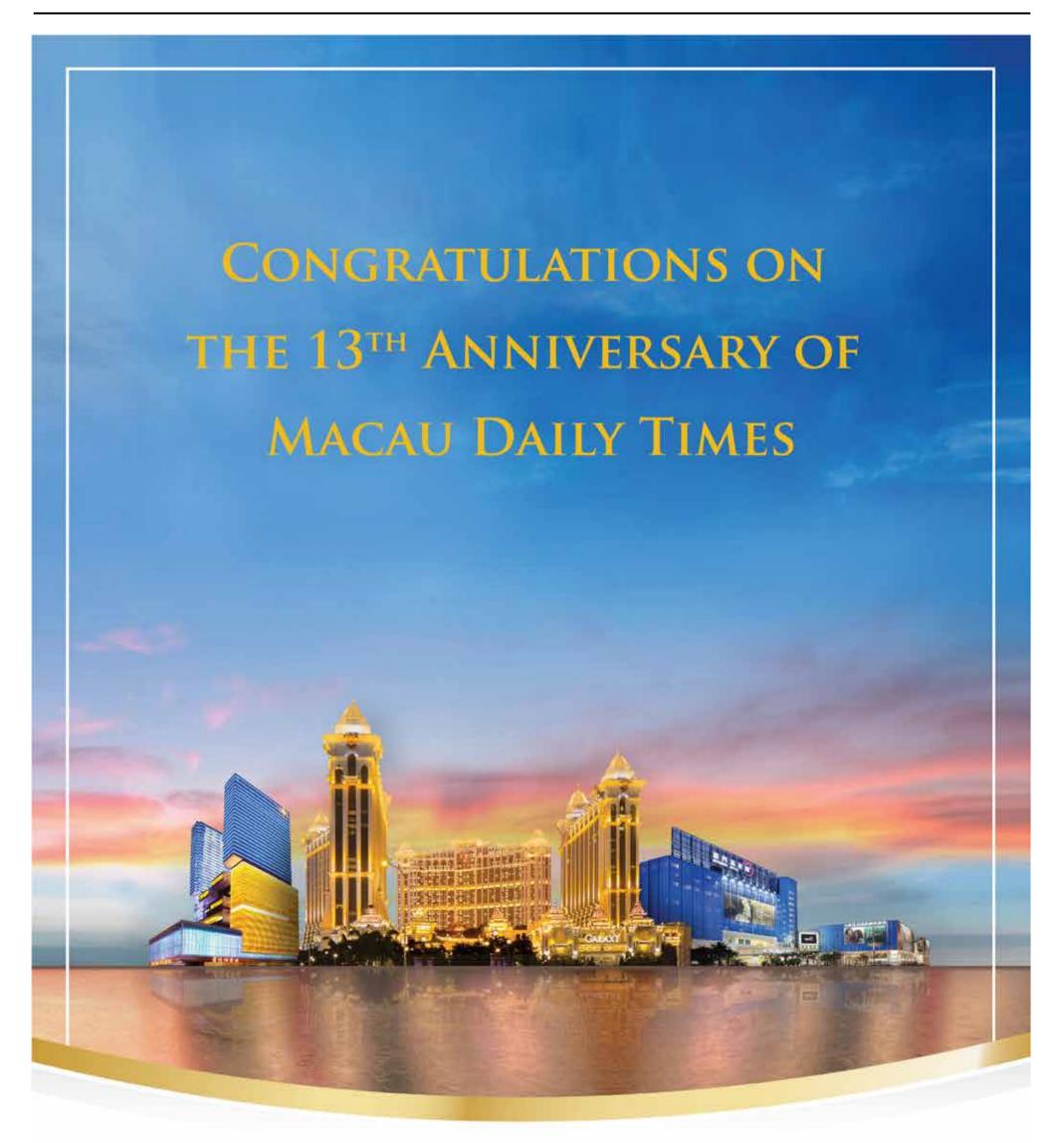
Is it international enough or ready? Probably not. Will it become more international? Well, if the universities take the Chief Executive's challenges at face value and follow through with what he has asked us to do, then I'm sure they'll become even more international. It's entirely possible that in 20 years' time Macau could be seen as the international hub of higher education in east Asia, in the same way that they're trying to achieve that in Dubai in the Middle East.

MDT - What are admissions looking like for the upcoming semester, amid the impact of Covid-19?

SM - We have limits set for us by the DSES [the Higher Education Bureau], but I don't think that's going to be a problem for us. I think we're about a month, maybe six weeks behind where we would be in a normal year because of the coronavirus. It's been extraordinarily unsettling for everybody. The conversations that I've had with the other universities, and the headteachers and principles of secondary schools here is that students are a bit behind. I think that there will be a lower number of international students coming to Macau next year and that's kind of inevitable. In some respects, that's fine.















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NO CONFIRMATION YET ON WHETHER FACE MASK SCHEME TO CONTINUE PAST ROUND 14

LYNZY VALLES

THE 14th round of the pu-**⊥** blic mask distribution scheme kicks off today under the same rules and conditions as the previous rounds.

Earlier, the authorities had hinted that the centralized mask supply scheme, which allows residents and workers of Macau to purchase 10 facemasks for a fixed price of 8 patacas, might come to an end in the near future. However, it would not say whether wearing masks would no longer be necessary.

Since the city has not had any new confirmed cases of Covid-19 for 53 days, the authorities said that they were currently examining new recommendations for the use of facemasks. They did not discuss what these measures might be.

Currently, the public is still required to wear facemasks when entering public or private institutions, including public transportation and taxis.

Under the government's



scheme, some 56 contracted pharmacies across Macau were initially designated as places to purchase the subsidized face masks. There is now a total of 84 accredited pharmacies where local residents can buy face masks.

Data provided by the authorities on Friday showed that more than 76 million facemasks had been purchased by residents and non-resident workers since the commencement of the scheme.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U had previously hinted that

there was a need to consider whether it would be necessary to extend the government scheme.

Facemasks are now readily available compared to when the outbreak began. However, they are being sold at a much higher price than before.

Facemasks used to cost only 50 patacas per box, yet they are currently being sold at private establishments for an average of 150 patacas per box.

Alves Lo Iek Long said that last month, the price point was considered affordable in Macau. He said that this is the time to consider discontinuing the scheme.

However, these suggestions have caused some members of the public to worry about price hikes for facemasks.

In light of this, lawmaker Ella Lei wrote an interpellation to the SAR government, urging them to extend the scheme.

In Lei's opinion, the "heavy financial burden" for some individuals will encourage them to not wear facemasks or to reuse the same one. She noted that the surge in the demand for facemasks in the private sector may lead to a price hike.

MACAU ONE OF 15 PLACES WORLDWIDE TO ELIMINATE **VIRUS**

MACAU is one of just 15 countries and territories to have reportedly eliminated Covid-19, according to official data collated from around the world.

Macau's last case recovered on May 19. The region became Covid-19 free the same day as Saint Kitts and Nevis, a small island nation in the West Indies.

Many of the other countries or territories that have managed to eliminate the virus are small island nations that are distant from Covid-19 epicenters. These countries or territories are Anguilla, the Caribbean Netherlands, Dominica, Eritrea, the Faeroe Islands, the Falkland Islands, French Polynesia, Papua New Guinea, Saint Barthélemy, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, Seychelles and Timor-Leste.

Data collectors note that there are some discrepancies between health authorities about what constitutes a recovered case. The World Health Organization recommends the adoption of one of two sets of criteria: either 14 days after the patient's symptoms have resolved, or after symptoms disappear and the patient tests negative for the virus twice within a 48-hour window. In some countries, a patient counted as "recovered" when they were discharged from hospital, even if no testing was performed. DB

AD 🖿

Special Healthcare Subsidy Scheme



Together we fight against COVID-19



Purpose

In response to the COVID-19 epidemic, the Macao SAR Government has launched the "Special Healthcare Subsidy Scheme" to provide additional healthcare subsidy of MOP600 for eligible Macao residents.

Beneficiaries and period of use

All individuals who, on or before 30th April 2021, are holders of valid or renewable Macao SAR Permanent Resident Identity Card, are entitled to the distribution of healthcare vouchers worth MOP600.

Vouchers can be used during the period from 1st June 2020 to 31st May 2021.

Using instructions

Beneficiaries only need to present their valid MSAR Permanent Resident Identity Card upon consultation with an enrolled health professional of Scheme 2020, the corresponding voucher amount will be deducted through the healthcare voucher system.

Transfer of vouchers (choose one of below methods)



Method 1 Through a self-service



After registering mobile phone number at a self-service kiosk, transfer vouchers at any time via the Health Bureau website or



Method 3 To be processed by the health professional at the time of consultation



Visit the Health Subsidy Scheme Support Centre for staff assistance



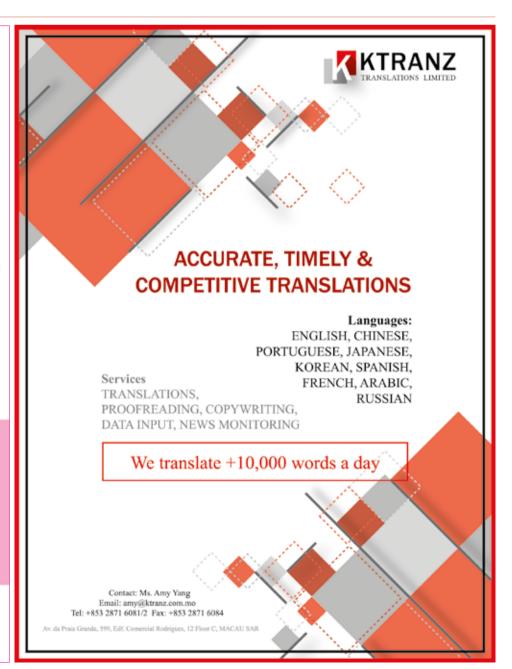


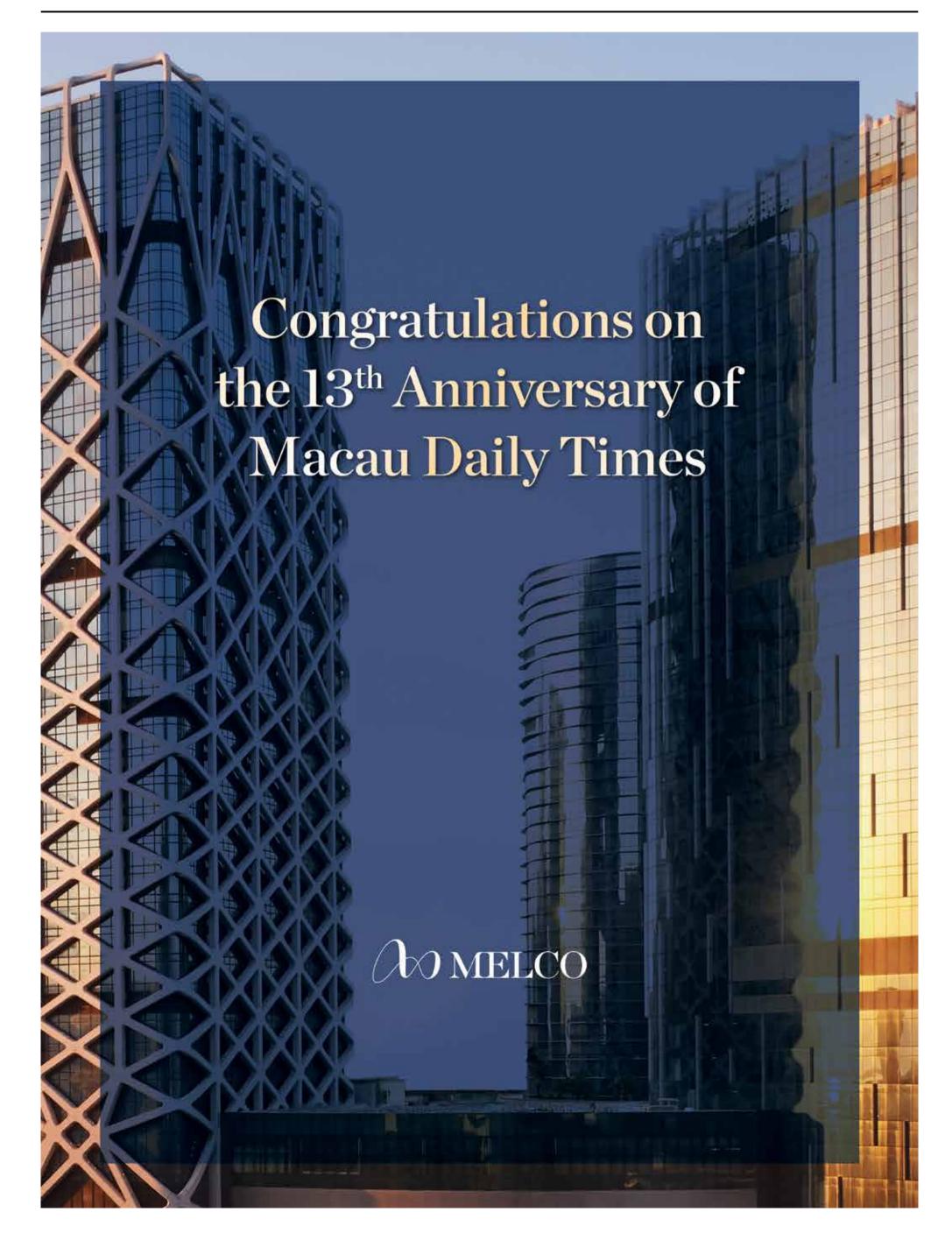
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Create A Better TOMORROW TODAY 今天開創明天



MGM's International Nurses Day Series Events Honor Angels in White

The coronavirus pandemic has once again highlighted the incredible work of medical personnel and made this year's International Nurses Day hold a special significance. MGM celebrated International Nurses Day in May with a series of delightful events to express gratitude to "Angels in White", which also drew city-wide attention to the true value of nurses to the world.

Heart-warming Gifts as Morale Booster

As part of the "Guardian of Love" program that MGM collaborated with The Women's General Association of Macau in April, the two parties joined hands with Nurses Association of Macau and the Association of Building a Good Home Together to launch the "Sweet Indulgence in Appreciation to the Angels in White" campaign, presenting registered nurses in Macau with 3000 gifts, including a face mask case and a cake voucher sponsored by MGM, as a token of gratitude for their high level of professionalism and strong sense of responsibility that helped protect Macau from the pandemic.





At the launching ceremony of the campaign, representatives from the four organizers extended warm greetings to the nurses who joined this special occasion. The nurses accepted the kindness with great delight as this meant a lot to them, especially when Macau has girded itself for a long battle against the pandemic.

Pansy Ho, Co-chairperson & Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "We hope to show our heartfelt appreciation for the devotion of our local nurses and medical workers who safeguard the lives and safety of Macau citizens."

Nightingale's Spirit Shines over Macau

Additionally, MGM spread love and good vibes to nurses with enchanting light display and string quartet performance. On May 11 and 12, a light display with heart-shaped lighting and thank-you messages was put on the façade of MGM COTAI, symbolizing the light of hope that nurses have brought to the world.

Representing another gesture of appreciation for Macau's nurses, MGM invited a string quartet from the Macao Youth Symphony Orchestra Association to perform the first movement of String Quartet No.1 in E minor, "From My Life" by Czech composer Bedřich Smetana at the Spectacle of MGM COTAI on May 12. It was livestreamed on Facebook and Instagram pages of MGM, offering people who were unable to enjoy the beautiful piece at the Spectacle an alternative of watching the performance online.





MGM

Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau T 853 8802 2888 F 853 8802 3333 E sustainability@mgmmacau.com W http://www.mgm.mo/





UK may offer citizenship path to 3 million HK residents

ANDREW LANGLEY

THE U.K. may open a path to citizenship for almost 3 million Hong Kong residents unless China backs down on its planned security law for the city.

The move would vastly expand the number of people in the former British colony who could be eligible to live in the U.K. Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab indicated earlier that about 350,000 Hong Kong residents may be considered. The broader step was revealed in a media factsheet issued Friday by the Home Office.

Chinese lawmakers approved this week a resolution to draft a new national security law for Hong Kong, a measure that democracy advocates say will limit essential freedoms. The U.K. government says the legislation would be in breach of the international treaty signed before the Britain returned its former colony to Chinese control in 1997. President Donald Trump said Friday he would move to end Hong Kong's privileged trade status with the U.S. over the legislation.

The proposed law has reignited the pro-democracy protests that raged in Hong Kong last year, but had largely halted as the city

grappled with the pandemic. Protesters fear the legislation, which aims to tame acts of treason, secession and sedition and would allow mainland security forces to operate in the city, will erode the "high degree of autonomy" that China agreed to respect when it regained control.

Hong Kong was a British colony for 156 years. At the time of handover in 1997, many residents were granted British Nationals (Overseas) status. As of Feb. 24, there were about 2.9 million people that had the status, the factsheet said. Of those, 349,881 were holders of a British Nationals (Overseas) passport.

The BNO passport holders currently have the right to come to the U.K. for six months. Raab had said that limit would be removed, allowing them to apply to work and study for extendible periods of 12 months. He referred to the change as a "pathway to future citizenship." Those rights could now be extended to the wider pool, the factsheet said.

"What we now would like to see is China just pause for thought and step back from this step, reconsider and above all live up to its international obligations," Raab said Thursday. **BLOOMBERG**

LATEST CEPA AMENDMENTS TAKE EFFECT TODAY

THE latest amendments to the Closer Economic Partnership Arrangement (CEPA) will come into effect today, in the hopes of further promoting economic ties between mainland China and Macau.

CEPA resembles a free trade agreement between two separate customs territories of a single sovereign state. Mainland China and the Macau Special Administrative Region signed their initial agreement under CEPA on October 17, 2003.

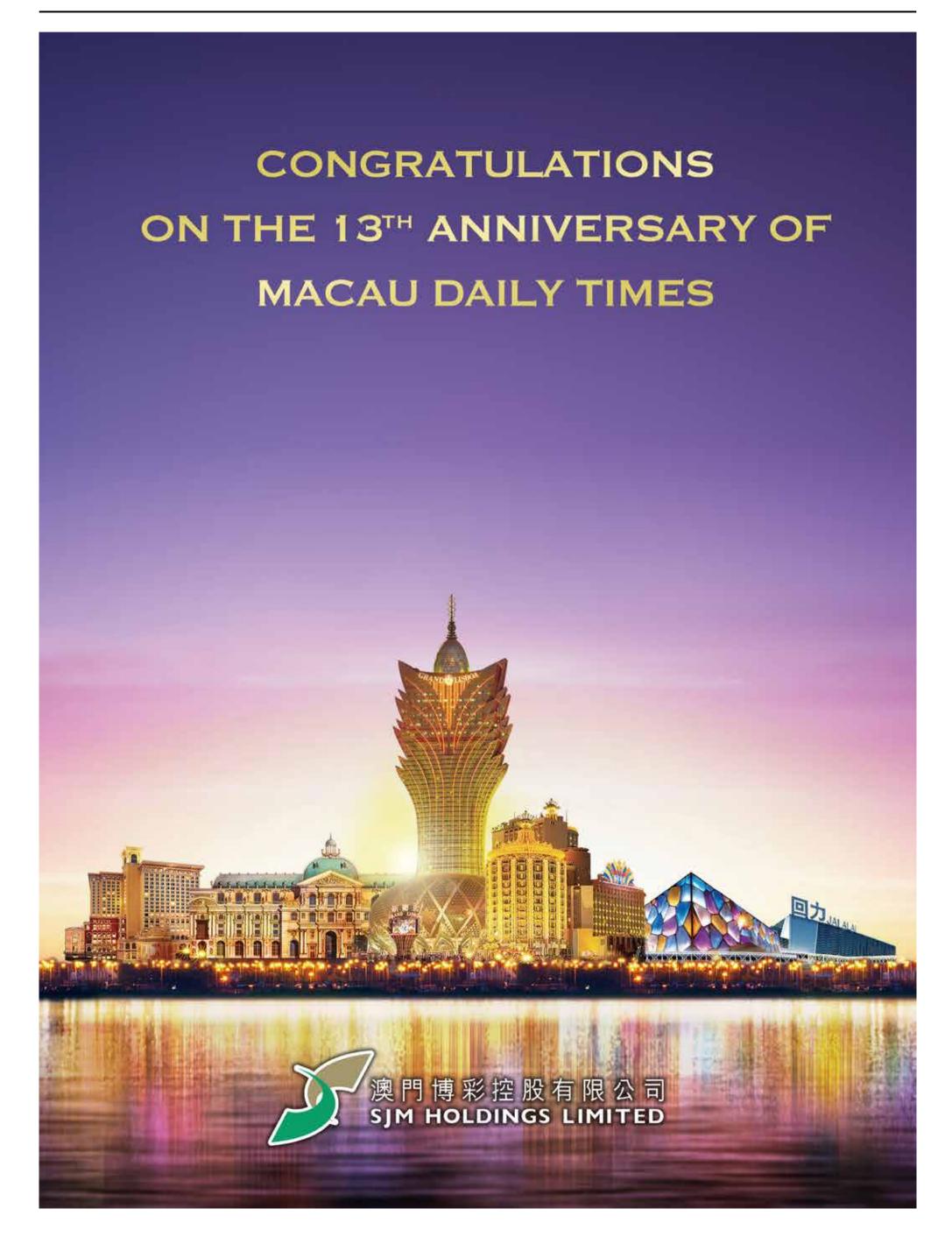
CEPA allows eligible Macau companies to be considered as

operating within the same domestic customs territory as the mainland.

The new amendments will further lower the barriers for Macau companies entering the mainland market. They cover areas such as finance, law, accounting, tourism and education. Seven mainland public departments will handle the applications submitted by Macau companies.

The government hopes that the move will bring create more opportunities for Macau's professionals and small businesses. AL







China says US action on Hong Kong 'doomed to fail'

HE mouthpiece newspaper of China's ruling Communist Party said that the U.S. decision to end some trading privileges for Hong Kong "grossly interferes" in China's internal affairs and is "doomed to fail."

The Hong Kong government called President Donald Trump's announcement unjustified and said it is "not unduly worried by such threats," playing down concern that they could drive companies away from the Asian financial and trading center.

An editorial Saturday in China's official People's Daily newspaper said that attempts at "forcing China to make concessions on core interests including sovereignty and security through blackmailing or coercion ... can only be wishful thinking and day-dreaming!"

Trump's move came after China's ceremonial parliament voted last week to bypass Hong Kong's legislature and develop and enact national security legislation on



Pro-China supporters hit the effigy of U.S. President Donald Trump outside the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong

its own for the semi-autonomous territory. Democracy activists and many legal experts worry that the laws could curtail free speech and opposition political activities.

The Chinese government issued no official response Saturday, but has said previously it would retaliate if the U.S. went

ahead with its threat to revoke trading advantages granted to Hong Kong after its handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997.

"This hegemonic act of attempting to interfere in Hong Kong affairs and grossly interfere in China's internal affairs will not frighten the Chinese people and is doomed to fail," the People's Daily

In Hong Kong, small groups of Beijing supporters marched to the U.S. Consulate on Saturday carrying Chinese flags and signs protesting "American interference in China's internal affair" and calling Trump "shameless and useless."

Elsewhere in the city, youthful activists including Joshua Wong held a news conference to welcome Trump's announcement and try to downplay any economic fallout.

Tensions between the U.S. and China over Hong Kong have increased over the past year, with the U.S. defending pro-democracy protesters who clashed with police last year and China vilifying them as violent rioters and separatists.

"It is now clear that Hong Kong is caught in the middle of major China-U.S. tensions," said Tara Joseph, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. "That is a real shame for Hong Kong and it will be a

challenge in the months ahead."

Joseph said there were many unanswered questions about how the trading relationship will unravel and predicted that "it won't be like flipping a switch."

Trump said Friday that his administration would begin eliminating the "full range" of agreements that had given Hong Kong a relationship with the U.S. that mainland China lacked, including exemptions from controls on certain exports. Washington's response could also include U.S. travel bans or other sanctions on officials connected with the crackdown on last year's pro-democracy protests, including members of the Hong Kong police force.

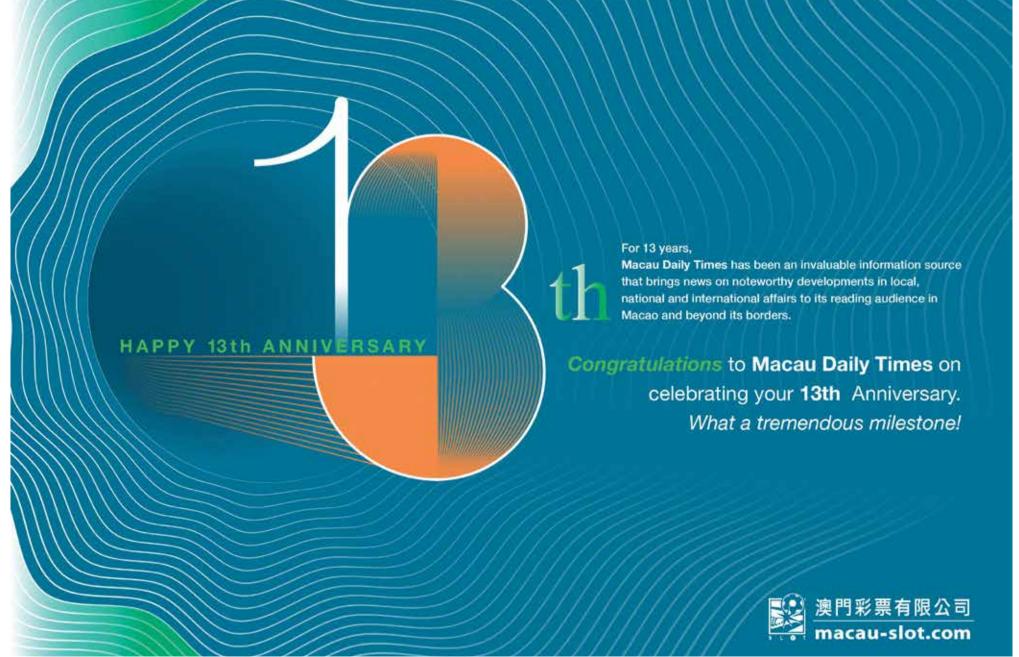
"China has replaced its promised formula of one country, two systems, with one country, one system," Trump said, echoing recent statements by pro-democracy activists in Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong government accused Trump and his administration of smearing and demonizing the government's duty to safeguard national security and called allegations that the security law would undermine individual freedoms "simply fallacious."

"President Trump's claim that Hong Kong now operated under 'one country, one system' was completely false and ignored the facts on the ground," it said in a written statement. MDT/AP



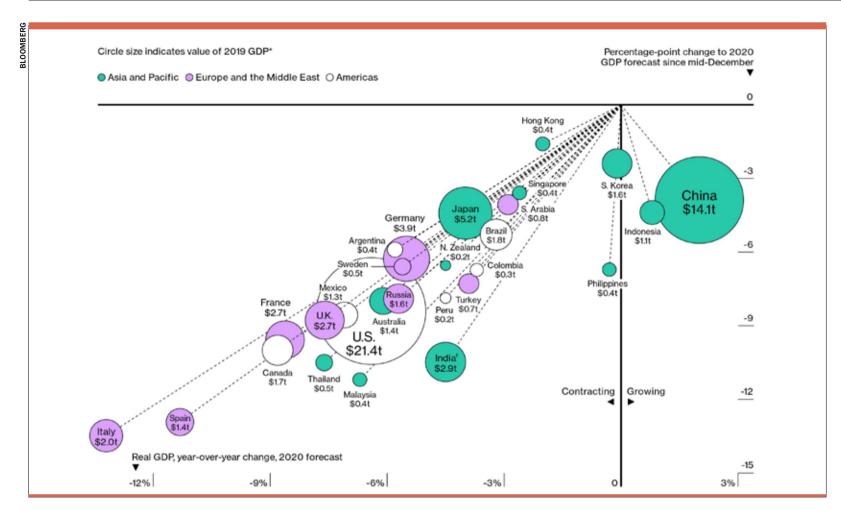




PANDEMIC



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Pandemic opens door to ideas new and old for a better economy

ALEXANDER WEBER

Modern economies will change forever after the coronavirus pandemic passes if some radical thinkers get their way.

Governments have already cast aside dogmas at least temporarily - such as Germany's "black zero" balanced budgets - to protect companies and jobs in the deepest peacetime recession in almost a century.

Yet moves such as governments mailing checks to citizens and the U.K. administration borrowing direct from the Bank of England also offer a glimpse of different ways of running things in the longer-term.

"Every crisis is an opportunity to rethink priorities," said Maria Demertzis, deputy director of the Bruegel think tank in Brussels. "The scale and the type of the crisis mean that, by definition, the tools we're operating under aren't sufficient."

Change won't be easy. The global financial meltdown a decade ago led to similar cries, mostly to no avail besides stricter rules on banks that were later watered down. Here are some of the ideas - often old ones revived - that their proponents want to see go mainstream this time

MONEY FOR NOTHING

Government cash handouts have been a striking part of the fight against the slump. The U.S. has sent \$1,200 checks to low- and middle-income households, and Hong Kong is giving residents HKD10,000 (\$1,300). Some administrations are temporarily paying the wages of private-sector workers so they can

be furloughed rather than sacked.

It has happened before - the U.S. and Australia both issued checks during the global financial crisis, and Hong Kong has been using it as an occasional tool for a while. What's different this time is that there has been barely any opposition from fiscal conservatives.

That has given new impetus to calls for a universal basic income - payments to citizens from the state regardless of whether they're working. Rationales include improving economic flexibility, eradicating poverty and reducing the exploitation of labor.

Pilot projects have failed to gain

much traction though. Most recently, a Finnish experiment ended in 2018 with mixed results. It didn't deliver the boost to the jobs market some hoped it would, though it did make people happier.

Spain approved a "minimum living wage" this week, a lesser step than the junior partner in the coalition government had pushed for.

CHECKS FOR FREE

A lot of economic thinking is focused on how governments should pay for such plans, and meet all the other bills they're accumulating. One radical strand says they should simply get their central banks to create cash out of thin air, debt-free.

Known as helicopter money, it's supported by advocacy groups such as Positive Money, as well as some economists. European Cen-

tral Bank officials repeatedly say they haven't discussed it.

Closely related is Modern Monetary Theory, which argues that governments can run budget deficits in pursuit of policies such as full employment without raising taxes or even selling bonds to finance the outlays. They should stop only if inflation rises too high.

Stony Brook University Professor Stephanie Kelton, a prominent MMT adherent, says the U.S. should spend a lot more than it taxes for the duration of the crisis. Economists at Pictet Wealth Management already see some traces of MMT in the U.S. response to the slump.

The pandemic exposed how certain jobs critical for coping with this crisis - such as cleaning, nursing and restocking supermarket shelves - are among the worst-paid

Another idea is "perpetual bonds" that never have to be repaid, which politicians in Italy and Spain have floated. Far-left politicians in Europe are calling for unlimited bond purchases by the ECB and subsequent debt cancellations.

Such monetization would be illegal in the European Union and elsewhere - legislation drafted be-

cause of fears of hyperinflation - but milder forms of the argument are gaining traction. Some economists say the ECB could buy up private loans to companies and stretch out maturities over several decades. Japan is arguably already doing so.

LET'SWORK

If public money is seen as a policy tool, then jobs are a popular goal. Long-term unemployment can lead to what's called "hysteresis" - a loss of skills that undercuts the economy's potential.

Work guarantees are popular among some U.S. Democrats amid bleak prospects for young people,

with the government as an employer of last resort.

The pandemic also exposed how certain jobs critical for coping with this crisis - such as cleaning, nursing and restocking supermarket shelves - are among the worst-paid. While health workers have received daily applause from citizens in many cities, that doesn't seem to be translating into higher wages.

At the other end of the pay scale, anthropologist David Graeber says the crisis supports his theory that many of today's best-remunerated gigs don't serve any real function.

EATTHE RICH

For those hoping to paying off the dizzying costs of the recession while redressing social imbalances, the answer is to tap the wealthy. Peru is planning a levy that would lead to greater "solidarity" between citizens, and German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz has floated taxing the well-off after the crisis.

Thomas Piketty, a French economist who made his name arguing that modern capitalism inherently favors the rich, has noted that Germany and Japan imposed massive wealth taxes after World War II.

The crisis has also intensified the spotlight on internet companies such as Facebook Inc. and Amazon. com Inc., which were already in the crosshairs of governments for their low tax payments. Now they're also seen as beneficiaries of the confinement measures.

The European Commission's new 750 billion-euro (\$833 billion) recovery fund includes a plan to tax the digital giants if a global solution can't be found.

Other companies aren't immune - supermarkets and producers of long-lasting foods are also perceived to have been crisis winners. A YouGov poll shows a majority in the U.K. supports a tax on "excess profits."

BRING IT HOME

International trade could fall by more than 30% this year because of the coronavirus, according to the World Trade Organization. For some, shortages of medical equipment and the apparent fragility of supply chains are evidence that decades of globalization went too far and now is the time for greater self-sufficiency.

Donald Trump has spent his U.S. presidency attacking global commerce, and the U.K. has opted to leave the EU, the world's largest single market. Those trends look set to continue.

The EU itself is urging vigilance about foreign investments to ensure critical infrastructure isn't sold off amid depressed asset prices, and the coronavirus recovery plan aims for "tech sovereignty where it matters."

Germany's leadership has revived a once-rejected plan to revolutionize the nation, installing a form of state capitalism that owes an intellectual debt to countries such as China.

SLOW DOWN

While all of the above ideas rely on getting the economy back on its feet, one movement insists that it may then be time to take a breath.

The current crisis is effectively a real-life experiment in what's known as "degrowth" - a philosophy of reduced consumption that environmentalists have touted as the only way to save the planet from climate change.

While the pandemic lock-downs suggest that's no fun, proponents say the chaotic freezing of the economy shouldn't be seen as an example of degrowth, but rather as a sign of why it's needed - namely because the virus crisis shows the "unsustainability and fragility" of our current way of life.

BLOOMBERG











PANDEMIC

疫病大流行



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Mosques reopen in Saudi Arabia and Jerusalem amid virus woes

AYA BATRAWY, DUBAI

ENS of thousands of mosques across Saudi Arabia reopened yesterday for the first time in more than two months, with worshipers ordered to follow strict guidelines to prevent the spread of the coronavirus as Islam's holiest site in Mecca remained closed to the public.

The Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, Islam's holiest site outside of Saudi Arabia, also reopened for prayers for the first time since it was closed in mid-March.

With little regards for social distancing, throngs waited outside the holy site's gates before it opened early, with many wearing surgical masks. As they were allowed to enter, the faithful stopped to have their temperature measured.

The mosque was one of Jeru-

salem's many holy sites, including the Church of the Holy Sepulcher and the Western Wall, that were restricted to worshipers at the height of Israel's coronavirus outbreak. Throughout that period, worshipers continued to pray in the alleyways outside the mosque.

Jews also resumed their pilgrimages yesterday to the hilltop compound they revere as the Temple Mount, site of the two Jewish biblical temples.

In Saudi Arabia, the government prepared for the reopening of around 90,000 mosques after sanitizing prayer rugs, washrooms and shelves holding copies of the Quran, the Muslim holy book.

The Ministry of Islamic Affairs said millions of text messages were sent to people in multiple languages to inform them about the new rules for public prayer, which include keeping a two-meter distance between people during prayer, wearing face masks at all times and abstaining from greeting one another with handshakes or hugs.

Children under 15 years-old were not being allowed inside mosques. The elderly and those with chronic conditions were being told to pray at home. People are also being advised to perform the mandatory ablution at home since washrooms at mosques will be closed, to use hand sanitizers and to bring their own prayer rugs and copies of the Quran.

The restrictions call for mosques to open just 15 minutes before each of the five daily prayers and to close 10 minutes after they conclude. Friday sermons and prayers are to last no longer than 15 minutes.

Yesterday, Saudi Arabia also lifted a ban on domestic air travel and permitted some public sector workers to resume office work again, though full attendance will not be allowed until mid-June.

The new measures come as Saudi Arabia and other countries around the world begin to loosen restrictions and stay-at-home orders following weeks of curfews and lock downs.

However, the Grand Mosque in Mecca, which houses the cube-shaped Kaaba that Muslims around the world pray toward, will remain closed to the public. The city has been under a strict lock down for several weeks. The mosque in Medina where the Prophet Muhammad is buried will be partially opened to the public to pray outside.

The continued closure of Mecca points to the increasing likelihood that the kingdom may suspend this year's annual Muslim hajj pilgrimage, which falls in late July. Already, a senior Saudi official has told prospective pilgrims not to plan for the hajj this year amid the global pandemic.

Despite taking early and unprecedented measures to curb the spread of the virus, Saudi Arabia has recorded more than 83,000 people contracting the virus, including 480 deaths.

Israel has weathered the coronavirus better than other harder-hit countries. It has recorded fewer than 300 deaths and has managed to mostly keep its daily infection count to the low dozens since the beginning of May. But it also imposed severe restrictions that battered its economy and sent its unemployment rate skyrocketing. Many of those restrictions, including on places of worship, began to be eased earlier this month.

The Temple Mount is the holiest site in Judaism, but for the most part Jews are forbidden to pray there and instead do so at the adjacent Western Wall. In recent years Jewish activists have been agitating for greater Jewish access to the site, including what they say is the right to pray there. That has angered Palestinians who see the attempt as part of Israeli encroachment on land they seek for their future state. The fate of the shrine is an emotional issue at the heart of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

In Pakistan meanwhile, the country's daily death toll from COVID-19 kept climbing, hitting a new high of 88 overnight.

Amid reports of an acute bed shortage and near daily warnings from health professionals to tighten lock down measures, the government has kept mosques open, urging safe distancing but not enforcing it.

In the latest easing of restrictions, the government has withdrawn the limits on congregations in mosques and churches.

Pakistan's coronavirus death toll of 1,483 is third only to Iran and Turkey in the Middle East. The country has counted 69,496 positive cases of COVID-19. **AP**

Greece clarifies policy, to allow tourists from all nations

GREEK officials said Saturday that the country will not limit arriving airline passengers next month to people coming from 29 countries but that travelers who departed from places that aren't on the initial list will be subject to mandatory testing for the coronavirus upon arrival and a quarantine period of one or two weeks.

The two-tiered policy, which revised information the Greek government issued Friday, will be applied during June 15-30, although officials left open the possi-

bility of maintaining entry restrictions after the end of June.

High-ranking tourism ministry officials said the government needed to clarify the purpose of the 29-country list during the coronavirus pandemic, pointing to a statement posted on the Foreign Ministry's website. The officials spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because of the issue was politically sensitive.

According to the officials and the foreign ministry document, a limited number of international flights will continue only being allowed to land at Athens International Airport until June 15. Per European Union policy, every arriving passenger must be tested for the virus and stay overnight at a designated hotel.

Visitors who test negative are required to self-quarantine for 7 days, while the ones who test positive must spend 14 days under a supervised quarantine.

Greece is taking steps to welcome more visitors in time for the summer vacation season. Starting June 15, international flights also can land in Thessaloniki, the country's second-largest city. Those from the 29 designated countries, the majority of them in Europe, will be subject to random tests.

Passengers from all other countries will have to continue getting tested, staying overnight at specific hotels, and quarantining for either seven or 14 days.

The 29 countries announced Friday are: Albania, Australia, Austria, North Macedonia, Bulgaria, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Estonia, Japan, Israel,

China, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lebanon, New Zealand, Lithuania, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, South Korea, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Czech Republic and Finland.

Greece imposed a lock-down early in its coronavirus outbreak, a move credited with limiting infections. The country had a total of 175 deaths and 2,915 confirmed cases as of Saturday. No cases have been detected on the vast majority of the Greek islands, which are popular vacation spots.

Tourism and related in-

dustries make up around 20% of the Greek economy, and the government has been anxious to ensure the tourist season is not lost this year. According to the Tourism Ministry, 350,000 jobs depend directly on tourism, as many as double that number indirectly.

At this point "we are at point zero" concerning relaunching tourism traffic lost during the pandemic, a tourism ministry official told the AP, adding that it will take at least two or three weeks to see if bookings start to pick up. MDT/AP







PANDEMIC



MACALI'S LEADING NEWSDADED



India to exit lockdown in phases even as infections surge

BIBHUDATTA PRADHAN & SUDHI RANJAN SEN

NDIA announced a phased lifting of the nationwide lockdown by allowing malls, restaurants and places of worship to open from June 8, as the country attempts to revive an economy ravaged by the world's toughest stay-at-home restrictions.

The country, which had enforced sweeping and strict orders March 25, will limit the stringent rules to areas that have a large number of active cases, until at least June 30. Authorities will decide on opening schools and colleges in July, while resumption of international air travel is planned only in the final phase.

The exit plan comes even as India, which has

the most number of infections in Asia, has been unable to flatten its curve despite the restrictions, leaving its already troubled economy in deep disrepair. In the most recent phase of its lockdown, which ends on May 31, the South Asian nation allowed the resumption of some domestic flights and interstate rail services

India has been easing out of its strict lockdown since April 20 with its economy likely headed for its first full-year contraction in more than four decades. Gross domestic product expanded 3.1% in the three months through March from a year ago, the Statistics Ministry said in a statement in New Delhi on Friday.

The country's strict restrictions forced some

122 million people out of jobs in April alone, according to estimates by the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy Pvt. and is likely to push at least 12 million people into extreme poverty, according to World Bank estimates.

Despite the relaxation of curbs to allow industry to start functioning again, most businesses are still struggling to take off because of travel restrictions, broken supply chains and a flight of labor from cities back to the relative safety of their villages.

The latest decision means restrictions on domestic flight movements - currently capped at one third of a previous schedule - will also be lifted, according to Arun Kumar, head of India's Directorate General of

Civil Aviation.

"However, in view of the prevailing sentiments the scaling up will be gradual and shall factor in the sensitivities of all stakeholders," Kumar said in response to a query.

The South Asian nation's death toll hit 4,983 on Saturday, climbing past the 4,638 fatalities from Covid-19 in China. The nation of 1.3 billion people now has the highest number of fatalities in Asia, excluding Iran, despite the largest lockdown in the world. Still it is far behind the number of cases and deaths seen in places like the U.S., U.K., Brazil and Russia.

Infections rose to 174,496 on Saturday, the ninth highest globally, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

The country's death toll quadrupled in less than a month, accelerating by more than 1,000 over the past week, while infections have been soaring at a similar pace. Government experts have begun to acknowledge the outbreak won't peak until June or July. **BLOOMBERG**

this day in history



2001 Nepal Royal Family MASSACRED

The King and Queen of Nepal have been shot dead after the heir to the throne went on the rampage with a gun before turning it on himself.

Eleven people died in the incident which started when Crown Prince Dipendra allegedly had a dispute with his mother over his choice of bride.



King Birendra, Queen Aishwarya and Prince Niranjan were among the victims of the tragedy at the royal palace in Nepal's capital, Kathmandu.

The other victims included three of the King's children, his two sisters and one more member of the family by marriage.

The King's younger brother was also hurt in the attack, but his condition is not known

The only person left unharmed from the family was the King's middle brother Prince Gyanendra, who was out of the country at the time of the incident.

Some reports say the Crown Prince is on a life support machine in hospital.

If he lives, he is expected to be declared the successor.

Crown Prince Dipendra, who was educated at Eton College, is reported to have been in conflict with his family over his choice of bride, Devyani Rana, for some time.

Queen Aishwarya is said to have been the real power behind the throne and allegedly threatened to remove her oldest son from the line of succession, although this would not have been allowed under the constitution.

The murders are thought to be the worst mass killing of royalty since the Romanovs were put to death in 1918 during the Russian Revolution.

"This is a most unfortunate and shocking event," said Deputy Prime Minister Ram Chandra Paudel.

"Shocking is an understatement, we have been orphaned by this loss," said a vegetable seller, Janardan Sharma, who like many in Kathmandu rushed to the royal palace to try to find out more news of the tragedy.

Kofi Annan, Secretary General of the UN, issued a statement saying that he was "profoundly shocked" by the killings of King Birendra and other members of his family.

He called for calm in the country and said that he was "deeply saddened by this tragedy".

King Birendra, 55, ascended the throne in 1972.

When nationwide unrest broke out in 1990 he was forced to legalise political parties and accept a parliamentary system. He was the last ruling Hindu monarch.

Courtesy BBC News

In context

It was later confirmed Crown Prince Dipendra had turned the gun on himself but did not die immediately and lapsed into a coma.

He died some 30 hours after the shootings when the king's middle brother, Prince Gyanendra was declared the new king Devyani Rana fled Nepal and is reported to be in Europe. Riots followed the killings as conspiracy theories about coups flourished.

Prince Paras Shah, who had suddenly become second in line to the throne as son of the new king, was blamed for the tragedy as people refused to believe Dipendra could have killed his parents.

Two leading Maoists also tried to blame India for conspiring with the Nepali government to undermine the sovereignty. There followed an upsurge in violence led by the Maoist rebels which led to a state of emergency in November 2001. A seven-month truce failed in August 2003 and two years later the king imposed direct rule saying the government had failed to defeat the Maoists.

In April 2006 an alliance of seven opposition parties organised national strikes and protests which led to a violent crackdown by the police. The UN human rights commissioner in Nepal urged the king to restore democracy and prevent further bloodshed.

The following month, the Nepalese government approved a plan to curtail the king's powers, oblige the royal family to pay tax and hand over control of the army to parliament which will also name the king's heir.



YOUR STARS



ARIES



You're on to something tangible and need to act fast Hide your cards and learn to say no. Consider a conservative investment that will stay solid when everything else goes



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You can make money if you put your mind to it. You will learn valuable information if you travel today. You have to let go of your past if you wish to get out of any sentimental mood.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You should be able to get involved in an interesting proposition today. Your efforts won't go unnoticed; however, someone you work with may get jealous. Be aware of any deception.



LIBRA

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You could experience unusual circumstances and meet eccentric individuals. Don't jump too quickly if someone tries to make you join in on their crusade. Be very careful while in transit.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Questioning authority is essential right now. It will show them that you aren't just automatically going to do whatever they tell you to do and remind them that you are no pushover.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It's time to shift the focus in your life. Move away from frustration and toward things that work. For example, if you've been holding onto a floundering relationship, move on today.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

If you act with anger you may blow the relationship you've been woking hard at. You can get a great deal accomplished if you bring work home and spend some more time with the family.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You can meet someone who will become very dear to you if you get out and socialize. You may find yourself in an emotional fix if you interfere in other people's problems.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Property investments, insurance, tax rebates, or inheritance should bring you financial gains. Don't be a pest or a troublemaker today. Your talent will be recognized.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Today could offer you a chance to get what you want while helping someone else get what they want, too. You could be in a burgeoning new relationship.



CAPRICORN

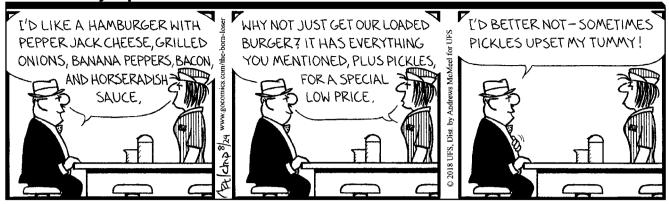
Dec. 22-Jan. 19 There could be a few pressing issues to deal with today, but the good news is that once you deal with them, they'll be done. The rest of the day is



PISCES

Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's time to shift the focus in your life. Move away from frustration and toward things that work. For example, if you've been holding onto a floundering relationship, move on today.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

EASY+

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HARD

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				2				6
						5	8	
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						6		

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- Not much; 5- Sexy; 8- Lukas of "Witness"; 12- Dry red wine; 14- State of midwestern USA; 15-Look___, I'm Sandra Dee; 16-Maker of Pong; 17- Java neighbor; 18- Voice of America org.; 19- Auditor; 21- Current; 23- Tennis do-over; 24- Wellput; 25- Chucklehead; 26- Japanese form of self-defense; 30- Country singer Travis; 32- Dens; 33- Belittle; 37- Antiquing agent; 38- Paddled boat; 39- Lawyer Dershowitz; 40- Monarch; 42- Allow to enter: 43- Style; 44- Picks up the check; 45- Henri's here; 48- Messy place; 49- Accomplished; 50- Distant; 52- Tear roughly; 57- Calculus calculation; $58- Bridle\ part; 60- Like\ Fran\ Drescher's\ voice; 61-9th\ letter\ of\ the\ Hebrew\ alphabet; 62-9th\ letter\ of\ the\ letter\ of\ the\ Hebrew\ alphabet; 62-9th\ letter\ of\ the\ letter\$ Roof overhang; 63 - Layers; 64 - Son of Isaac and Rebekah; 65 - Rightful; 66 - Go out with;

_ in Kalamazoo; 2- French actor Jacques; 3- Latin lesson word; DOWN: 1- I've Got _ 4- Tapered seam; 5- Rime; 6- Nocturnal bird; 7- Engine attachment; 8- ___ monde; 9- Flummoxed; 10- Off-track; 11- Chairs; 13- Cedes; 14- Yeah, right; 20- Classical starter;

22- Kofi ____ Annan; 24- Burning desire?; 26-Exclamation to express sorrow; 27- Othello villain; 28- Capital of the Ukraine; 29- Like some vbs.; 30- Hint; 31- Commerce; 33-Pyramid category; 34- Soprano Gluck; 35-Canter or trot; 36- Tolkien tree creatures; 38- In the middle; 41- Take ten; 42- Fervent; 44- Involuntary muscular contraction; 45-Fuming; 46- Roman name of Demeter; 47-_ man with seven wives; 49- Hamlet, e.g.; 51- Honolulu's island; 52- As it happens 53- Sudden assault; 54- Between ports; 55-Sharp to the taste; 56- Otherwise; 59- Seine contents;



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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



HK\$4,900,000 900 ft2 2 km 1 km

FOR RENT Taipa Apartment Great Venetian View \$28,000/mth 2,060 ft2 4 == 2 L

FOR SALE

[Macau] One Oasis modern studio 691 ft² **\$6,357,000**

[Taipa] Manhattan Dunit 4 m 2 k 2,305 ft2 \$15,980,000 (ref: n/a)

[Macau] Keng Ou Office 2,352 ft² \$17,500,000 (ref: 19096002)

[Macau] 2 Shops downtown 1,404 ft² \$20,800,000 (ref: 19015573) FOR RENT

[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1 1 1 1 \$10,000/mth (ref: 20021002)

Vai Fung Triplex, Macau 2 = 2 ₹ \$14,000/mth (ref: 19121001) Manhattan 3 1 2 5

\$19,800/mth (ref: 20031001) 1,626 ft² [Taipa] Private house 2 🚗 3 🛏 3 🖢 \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



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+853 6680 9804 juliet@jmlproperty.com



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Property of the Week



Hoi Wan Garden, Taipa

HK\$4,900,000 900 ft² 2 🚐 1 💺

Easy access to the bridge to Macau, Taipa shops and restaurants, the Cotai Strip and of course schools with bus stops immediately outside and surrounding the building. Situated next to Macau Anglican College the apartment is ideal for a couple or family and has open views towards Macau. With a modernized kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The well-planned layout gives the property a spacious feel.

Viewing by appointment, call us or send us an email!

Property Hotlist



Apartment in the Historical Centre

\$4,580,000 840 ft²

2 🛌 1 💺





Retail Space in Areia Preta Area

\$3,200,000 1,70 ft²





Taipa Apartment Great Venetian view

\$28,000/mth 2,060 ft²

4 🛌 2 💺





Traditional Apartment Old Taipa Village

\$9,900/mth 600 ft²



More Listings

For Sale

[Macau] One Oasis modern studio

[Taipa] Manhattan Dunit

[Macau] 2 Shops downtown

[Macau] Keng Ou Office

11 691 ft² \$6,357,000 (ref: n/a)

4 2 2,305 ft2 \$15,980,000 (ref: n/a)

1,404 ft2 \$20,800,000 (ref: 19015573)

4 2 2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)

[Cotai] One Grantai

For Rent

[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1 1 1 1

710 ft² \$10,000/mth (ref: 20021002)

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

2,352 ft² **\$17,500,000** (ref: 19096002) [Taipa] Manhattan 3 1,626 ft² \$19,800/mth (ref: 20031001)

1,968 ft2 \$48,000/mth (ref: n/a) [Macau] Retail Shop, Barra area

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Nova City, 3 beds, Macau

Rented

Buckingham, 2 beds



Rented

Macau Apartment, 2 beds





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With small coffee brands reeling, Nestle, Starbucks set to grow

MARVIN G. PEREZ

TARBUCKS Corp. and Nestle SA, the maker of Nescafe and Nespresso coffee, could see their brands grab a bigger share of the market as the virus lockdowns end, limiting consumer choices.

Futures prices for arabica coffee, the kind used by Starbucks, have fallen 26% in New York this year. The drop comes as the pandemic has curbed demand at coffee shops, restaurants and offices, and as global supply has surged.

Bigger coffee makers like Nestle and Starbucks have more capacity to survive the closures than smaller, specialty producers, according to James Watson, a senior beverage analyst for Rabobank International. The result: "We may see a lot of coffee-shop closures, creating a bit of a vacuum" when communities open up, Watson said.

"Big players, with ready access to retail will be positioned to fill that gap," Watson said by telephone. "That may happen through an acquisition, or taking the business accounts from another company. There might be a lot of closures, and there may not be many high-end options for consumers."

strengthen encryption for

paying clients and insti-

tutions, but not for users

with free accounts, Reu-

ters reported, citing the

company's security con-

rences, the report added.



Nestle decline to comment for this story, but in an April 24 earnings call, Francois-Xavier Roger, the company's chief financial officer, said being an out--of-home business in the coronavirus era is a "tremendous burden."

As a result, he said, "we want to offer prompt and pragmatic assistance to some of our out-of-home and food service partners to help them to weather the crisis and help them to restart the business, that's really the idea."

Meanwhile, Starbucks CEO Kevin Johnson said last week that his company's sales are recovering as the coffee chain moves toward normalizing its operations. The

Seattle-based chain aims to reopen 90% of its U.S. locations by early June, with most limited to drive-through, delivery and pickup at store entries.

"Over the last week, we have now regained about 60-65% of prior year comparable U.S. store sales while reopening under modified operations and with reduced hours," Johnson said in a statement.

SUPERMARKET SALES

For the time being, consumers are buying more coffee to get their fix at home, aiding producers like Nestle. In the 13 weeks ended May 17, U.S. retail sales at supermarkets and other outlets rose 15% from a year earlier, according to data from Chicago--based market researcher

But "at-home increases for coffee will never compensate for food-service loss," according to Judy Ganes, the president of J. Ganes Consulting, which follows the industry. "Recovery won't be quick."

Before the virus hit,

Chris Nolte and Paul Massard sold about 2,000 pounds a week of their Per'La Specialty Roaster to Miami-area hotels, restaurants and in the single coffee ship they ran. They started the roaster operation in late 2015, mostly focusing on hotels, and added the

coffee shop two years ago. Once the closures began, bringing the city's tourist season to a brutal halt, that number dropped by 85%, according to Nolte. Now the two men, who met during their first semester in business school back in 2001, have pivoted to social media and online sales to overcome at least some of the sales dearth.

STILL POSITIVE

"We are using mostly Instagram and Facebook," Nolte said in a phone interview from their roasting plants just outside Coral Gables. Initially, the company had nine employees,

but Nolte and Massard are the only two left working.

Nolte, though, remains positive.

"I am very optimistic that we have what it takes to survive this test and come out on the other side, even stronger," Nolte said. "It would be impossible for me to be an entrepreneur and not be optimistic."

Their challenges mirror the headwinds facing thousands small producers and shops globally.

JOB LOSSES

The restaurant industry alone is set to lose 7.4 million jobs, consulting firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas Inc. estimates.

Massimo Zanetti, an Italian based roaster, with operations in Europe, U.S. and the Americas, has already said that weak food--service sales, particularly in Southern Europe will hurt its profits.

"In order to reduce as much as possible this impact, we are working to reduce our operating expenses and our CapEx by selecting and working only on high-priority projects," Pascal Heritier, Massimo Zanetti's chief operating officer, said on a call. **BLOOMBERG**

AD



In response to que-We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

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Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong lat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao Paediatric Surgery: Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics: Dr. Zhang Zhigin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

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

Gastroentero-Hepatology: Dr. Zhan De Juan General Medicine: Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

ZOOM TO STRENGTHEN ENCRYPTION FOR PAYING CUSTOMERS Zoom Video Communications Inc. plans to trolls sneak in and disrupt The company is trying web meetings with profato improve security as

well as "significantly up-

grading their trust and

safety," Stamos told Reu-

ters. "The current plan is

paid customers plus en-

terprise accounts where

has seen cases of online

sultant Alex Stamos. the company knows who The company prethey are." viewed its plans with ci-Zoom has seen global vil liberties groups and usage of its service surge activists against childduring coronavirus shut--sex abuse on Thursday, downs, but has come unthe report said. Plans are der increasing pressure subject to change and it is over vulnerabilities in the unclear which nonprofit app's software encryption. organizations would qua-The company has been sued amid accusations it lify for such heightened security for video confehid flaws in its app, and

ries, Zoom pointed to its May 27 report that said its focus is to build the so-called end-to-end encryption for its meeting product, which may be later rolled out for its chat, phone and webinar offerings. "Only our paid users will have access to end-to-end encryption for their meetings," it said. "However, all users will use the 256-bit GCM encryption on May 30 regardless of their license

type." BLOOMBERG

nity and pornography.

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OPINION World Views

Tae Kim, Bloomberg

TWITTER-TRUMP SPAT **SIGNALS NEW CHAPTER FOR SOCIAL MEDIA**

It was a momentous week for social media. After years of trying to have it both ways, Twitter — one of the industry's major platforms — moved to hold President Donald Trump accountable for the content in his posts under the same rules it applies to the general public. This decision to regulate some of Trump's most controversial posts has now sparked a blacklash from the president, and spawned a new uncertain chapter for the industry.

It all started on Tuesday, when Twitter Inc. added a fact-check warning label to two of president's posts about mail-in voting. In response, Trump threatened in a set of tweets Wednesday to "strongly regulate or close" down social-media platforms. He followed up by signing an executive order late Thursday that seeks to limit some of the broad liability protection social media companies have under federal law. Undaunted, Twitter escalated the situation early Friday by putting up a notice that obscured one of the president's posts about protests in Minneapolis, which included the phrase "when the looting starts, the shooting starts." Twitter said it violated the platform's rules on "glorifying violence." The back-and--forth will likely continue, but either way, this is a turning

Historically, Twitter and Facebook have walked a fine line when regulating content on their platforms, flagging or removing the most egregious posts while turning a blind eye to some polarizing content, including potentially misleading posts from elected officials. Critics have argued social media firms are incentivized to elevate content with binary takes that spur outrage, often with misinformation, as it drives more viral engagement over nuanced discussion with context. On Tuesday, the Wall Street Journal reported Facebook had glossed over internal research that showed its algorithms were feeding users more and more divisive content.

Facebook has implemented a fact-checking program that reduces the distribution of false news, while Facebook and Twitter require the removal of hateful and threatening posts and employ algorithms to help them detect and deter the spread of misinformation by the general public. The social media firms have vigorously shuttered posts on anything that threatens physical harm, but have generally shied away from regulating posts from politicians, citing political free speech and newsworthiness factors. So the flagging of Trump's posts marks a departure.

Conspicuously, Facebook has taken a different tack than its competitor. CEO Mark Zuckerberg told Fox News this week, "We have a different policy than, I think, Twitter on this," referring to Twitter's fact-check labels on the president's mail-in voting posts. He added his company shouldn't be the arbiter of truth of everything that people say online." Zuckerberg's position to shy away from the controversy is curious, given Facebook does have an official policy to regulate anything that could promotes "voter suppression." Clearly, there is a line there.

For Twitter, led by CEO Jack Dorsey, the platform's actions followed inflammatory tweets from the president in which he posited conspiracy theories alleging, without evidence, that cable-TV news host Joe Scarborough may be involved with a murder decades ago. Twitter's lack of action on the conspiracy posts spurred wide criticism questioning why Trump was being held to a different standard, versus the average user. If anyone else had tweeted something similar in such a blatant manner against the rules, their account would have likely been suspended or shut down. Twitter's terms of service clearly says: "Abuse/harassment: You may not engage in the targeted harassment of someone, or incite other people to do so." It seems the added spotlight may have pushed Twitter to move this week.

When the dust settles, Trump's threats will likely be seen as political theater without any lasting ramifications for Twitter's business. The irony is, if Twitter does lose its legal protections and can be sued for defamatory content generated by its users, Trump's Twitter account would be the prime candidate for deleted posts as the company would try to protect itself from lawsuits.

Of course, the last thing the president is going to want to do is give up his direct line to his nearly 80 million followers. For all his bluster, he needs Twitter and doesn't really have the power to shut down the service. [Abridged]

13 YEARS A TIMES: THE 'TEENS'

Thirteen years ago, only someone with a crystal ball would have been able to predict how the year 2020 would turn out.

Macau practically isolated from Hong Kong and Guangdong, with no tourists crossing the borders and casino rooms empty, in the middle of one of the worst pandemics the modern world has ever seen, affected by a disease that has infected over six million people worldwide and claimed more than 370,000 lives.

Stanley Ho, the phlegmatic and visionary businessman who reigned over this casino town for decades, also passed away this year. A "new normal" is taking shape here and elsewhere, as the world grapples with a public health and economic crisis. Two superpowers, the U.S. and China, are fighting a brutal trade war in the context of a "cold war" of unpredictable consequences.

There is a "new normal" for the "one country, two systems" regime, where the status quo of the Hong Kong and Macau SARs is being compromised by a series of questionable decisions by Beijing-led governments and mainland China itself, eroding the rule of law, and freedom on both sides of the Pearl River Delta.

We witnessed and reported uncompromisingly all of that thanks to you, readers, sponsors, advertisers and friends with your constant support. We need it now, more than ever, as we enter our 'teens.'

Because the times, they are a-changing.

Paulo Coutinho

NEPAL'S PARTIES SHOW RARE UNITY ON BORDER DISPUTE WITH INDIA

WHILE Nepal's latest border dispute with India has strained relations between South Asian neighbors with centuries-old historical, cultural and economic ties, it also has brought the tiny Himalayan nation's bickering political parties together in a rare show of

The opposition Nepali Congress party has voiced support for the government in its row with India over its inauguration of a Himalayan link road built in a disputed region that lies at a strategic three-way junction with Tibet and China.

In response, the government of Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli issued a new political map of the country that showed the disputed territory within its borders, a move that was overwhelmingly supported by Nepal's opposition and civil society.

"It is just not the political parties but the whole population that is backing the government on the issue," said Puranjan Acharya, an independent analyst.

The 80-kilometer road, inaugurated by Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh earlier this month, cuts through the Lipu Lekh Himalayan pass, which is considered one of the shortest and most feasible trade routes between India and China.



Nepalese students shout slogans during a protest against the Indian government inaugurating a new road through a disputed territory

Nepal fiercely contested the inauguration of the road and viewed the alleged incursions as a stark example of bullying by its much larger neighbor, triggering a fresh dispute over the strategically important territory.

Nepal, which was never under colonial rule, has long claimed the areas of Limpiyadhura, Kalapani and Lipu Lekh in accordance with the 1816 Sugauli treaty with the British Raj, although these areas have remained in control of Indian troops since India fought a war with China in 1962.

The dispute over the territory, however, brought a new wedge in relations between the two South Asian nations, leading to an exchange of strong-worded statements and remarks from both

sides. India called Nepal's move a unilateral act that is not based on historical facts, and said it was contrary to the bilateral understanding to resolve the outstanding boundary issues through

This is not the first time there have been differences between Nepal and India.

India imposed an economic blockade in 1989 and again stopped the exports of oil, medicines and food to Nepal in 2015, causing severe shortages for months in Nepal, which at the time was recovering from a devastating earthquake. India had supported an ethnic group in Nepal that was demanding more territory. Nepal called India's involvement an interference in internal affairs. MDT/AP



Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel will not personally attend a meeting in the U.S. with the leaders of the world's major economies if President Donald Trump goes ahead with it, unless the course of the coronavirus spread changes by then, her office said Saturday.



England Horse racing will be the first main sport to resume today after the government approved the end of the 11-week shutdown of events if there are no spectators and coronavirus protocols are followed. Jockeys will wear masks and medical checks will be required on arrival.

Kenya Two children and and an unborn child were killed in a Kenyan police operation aimed at detaining a family member, a human rights group said Saturday. Police confirmed the children's deaths and asserted they were used as "human shields" by the man, whom they called a suspected Islamic extremist with an al-Qaida linked group.



and agriculture waste spilling into the seas off Rome has decreased 30% during Italy's coronavirus lockdown, preliminary results from a nationwide survey of seawater quality indicate.



Vatican Pope Francis is cautioning against pessimism as many people emerge from coronavirus lockdowns to lament that nothing will ever be the same. During Mass in St. Peter's Basilica to mark Pentecost yesterday, Francis noted a tendency to say "nothing will return as before." That kind of thinking, Francis said, guarantees that "the one thing that certainly does not return is hope."

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Why did the bird cross the road? A police officer was seen guarding a bird crossing Avenida de Dom João IV. The bird was walking in the road while cars were passing by, and the policeman moved into the road in an apparent effort to protect it.