

The Macao SAR Government urges:

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

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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ELDERLY DAYCARE CENTERS AND REHABILITATION FACILITIES WILL BE ALLOWED TO REOPEN IN PHASES, THE SOCIAL WELFARE BUREAU ANNOUNCED

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AP PHOTO



China reported an increase in daily confirmed coronavirus cases to 16, all brought from outside the country. Eleven were recorded among travelers arriving in the southwestern province of Sichuan, three in the northern region of Inner Mongolia and two in the southeastern manufacturing heartland of Guangdong. With local transmissions having fallen to virtually zero, much of the country has re-opened for business.

South Korea's top infectious disease expert is pleading for people over 65, pregnant women and other medically vulnerable individuals to stay at home as officials struggle to trace and stem the spread of the coronavirus amid increased public activity. Jeong Eun-kyeong, director of the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, made the comments yesterday while addressing 24 new cases linked to a group of churches near Seoul, including the death of a man in his 70s.

AP PHOTO



Philippines Traffic jams and crowds of commuters returned to Manila yesterday, as the metropolis relaxed antivirus measures in a high-stakes gamble to slowly reopen the economy while fighting the coronavirus pandemic. Commuter trains, taxis, ride-sharing cars, special shuttle buses and motorcycles rumbled back on the road in metro Manila but were only allowed to carry a fraction of their capacity as a safeguard. A larger swarm of private cars also helped choke roads.

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XINHUA

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APPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATION LOAN INTEREST SUBSIDY STARTS

The government has officially opened applications for the education loan interest subsidy program for local students yesterday. The application period will run until December 31 this year. The subsidy aims to cover a portion of the interest payments for local students' education loans. Eligible students are those who intend to pursue higher education degrees. These students may request a loan from banks that collaborate with the Student Welfare Fund. Once the loan is granted, students may apply to the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) program to ask the government to cover interest payments to the banks. If the subsidy is approved, the department will settle 70% of the interest whilst the student is still enrolled in a school program. The remaining 30% will be distributed once after the student graduates from the course.

TEACHERS SAY EXCHANGE PROGRAM IS A 'POLITICAL MISSION'

Some local teachers reportedly disagree with the government's strategy of introducing mainland teaching professionals on exchange in Macau, according to a report by Macau Concealers. The report cited anonymous local teachers who oppose the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ)'s efforts to promote "mainland excellent teachers" coming to Macau for an exchange program. The source commented that cultural differences make it difficult for mainland teachers to fit in with the Macau environment and that mainland teachers are not necessarily better than Macau teachers. The local teacher also described the exchange program as a "political mission" aimed at introducing the mainland's educational doctrines in Macau. The unidentified local teacher said that mainland teachers may attempt to change the ideology among Macau residents and render it more similar to that which is taught in the mainland.

GUANGDONG ARRESTS 37 SUSPECTS OF VIDEO CHAT SCAMS

Guangdong police authority has reported the arrest of 37 people suspected of being involved in naked video chat scams. The Shenzhen police department identified the suspects from various places in mainland China, reportedly working in two independent operation groups. In total, the suspects made over 3 million yuan. The two criminal groups arranged their operation bases outside of mainland China. Members were divided into different departments, handling customer service, IT, and money laundering, among other tasks. Four suspects alone extorted 2.4 million yuan while operating scams across three cities in two provinces. The other 33 suspects were found in possession of over 300 mobile phones, having blackmailed victims out of over 1 million yuan.

GAMING REVENUE PLUMMETS FOR 8TH MONTH STRAIGHT

LYNZY VALLES

MACAU gaming revenue has plummeted again in May, recording a drop of 93.2% from a year earlier, a figure that was slightly better than the median analyst estimate of 95%.

Data from the Gaming Inspection & Coordination Bureau shows that gross gaming revenue plunged to 1.76 billion patacas last month, representing the eighth month straight of declining revenue.

The figure shows that the SAR is still suffering the blow of the virus and ongoing entry and travel restrictions.

Meanwhile, analysts previously noted that casinos are losing more than \$1 million a day.

The outbreak has been largely contained in Macau as well as in neighboring Hong Kong and Mainland China. However, restrictions on travel make it almost impossible for tourists and high rollers to show up to place their bets.

Several gaming tables in the city's casinos remain vacant as the central government maintains its suspension of the individual visit scheme (IVS) and group tour visas.

It is still unknown when the central government will once again permit their citizens to apply for the IVS or grant



group travel visas.

However, analysts are hoping that border and visa restrictions will be eased from this month – particularly after the recently concluded National People's Congress.

Earlier, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said that the local government would request that the central government resume issuing the IVS and increase the number of cities covered by the scheme.

Even with restrictions being lifted, there will still be "a clear set of risks," Sanford C. Bernstein analyst Vitaly Umansky wrote in a note last month. Health experts are concerned about a second wave of infections, protests are flaring up again in Hong Kong, and the Chinese economy's recovery

has been slow as relations with the US deteriorate.

The average daily rate of Macau's gross gaming revenue from May 18 to May 24 fell into negative values, according to estimates from brokerage Sanford C. Bernstein. The average daily rate stood at approximately minus 25 million patacas, implying that gross gaming revenue for the seven-day period had tumbled 103% year-on-year. Bernstein said that the decrease was driven by a very small base of players during this pandemic outbreak which has driven volatility, particularly in the VIP segment. The group said that some sources have suggested Macau's GGR for May 1 to 24 was approximately 700 million patacas.

All casino operators have recorded a drop in gaming revenues in the first quarter of the year, with analysts at JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) reporting that Macau casino operators have enough financial liquidity behind them to survive with "near-zero revenue" for years.

According to data provided by the Public Security Police Force, which oversees immigration matters in the SAR, the number of tourist arrivals in April was 219,329, a slight increase from March arrivals of 200,000

However, it remains significantly subdued compared to the more than 3 million tourists per month averaged last year.

Cross-border traffic drops 90% in April

RENATO MARQUES

THE restrictions imposed over Covid-19 quarantine measures have caused the cross-border traffic in and out of Macau to drop by 89.5% in April this year when compared with the same period last year, according to figures released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

According to the official statistics, the total number of cross-

border trips recorded in April 2020 was only 45,707; a figure very far from the approximately 450,000 recorded in April 2019.

The statistics from DSEC included not only the traffic from private vehicles but also coach services to and from Zhuhai and Hong Kong as well as transportation of goods via logistics companies.

April figures added to the already-poor first quarter results,

making the first four months of the year responsible for a drop by 53% year-on-year to a total of 805,684 trips.

Meanwhile, the arrival and departure of commercial flights at the Macau International Airport decreased by 97.3% year-on-year to just 162 trips in April, and also recorded a fall by 63.3% year-on-year to 8,573 trips in the first four months of 2020.

The airport handled 1,515 tons of air

cargo in April, a figure that also represented a drop year-on-year of 56.4%.

In the first quarter of 2020, air cargo transportation reached only 7,916 tons, down by 34.7% when compared with the same period of 2019.

Conversely, the gross weight of containerized cargo transported by land increased in April by 64.1% year-on-year to 2,167 tons. On the other hand, the gross weight

of port containerized cargo decreased by 33.5% to 7,435 tons, with the cargo handled at the Ká-Hó Port decreasing by 85.4% and cargo shipped through the Inner Harbour rising by 14.4%.

In the first four months of 2020, the gross weight of containerized cargo by land increased by 24.7% year-on-year to 7,244 tons, whereas that of port containerized cargo dropped by 28.9% to 33,873 tons.

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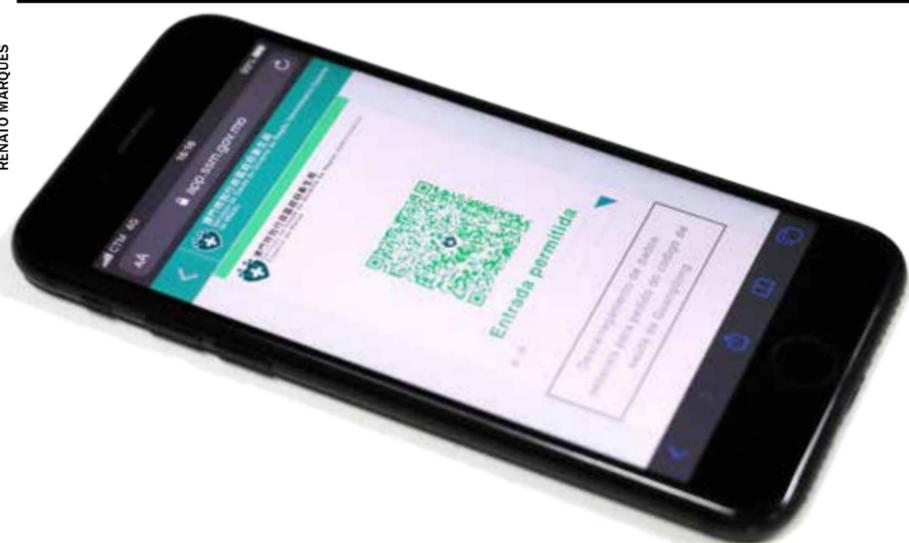
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RENATO MARQUES



HK to adopt Health Code system to open borders to Macau and Guangdong

RENATO MARQUES

THE authorities of Hong Kong are preparing to adopt the Health Code system currently in use in Macau and the Guangdong province to reopen their borders to travelers from these two regions, South China Morning Post (SCMP) has reported.

According to the report, a system similar to those in use by Macau and Guangdong will soon be launched in Hong Kong to allow travel between the three regions, as part of a plan from Carrie Lam's government to lift Covid-19 border restrictions. A prerequisite under the system will be a certification that any Hong Kong residents who wish to travel are virus-free.

"There will be a Hong Kong health code based on Covid-19 test results. The government is discussing with Guangdong and Macau authorities to ensure they recognize our test results and health codes for exemptions from quarantine requirements on their sides and vice-versa," a source familiar with the development in Hong Kong told the SCMP.

The Hong Kong media outlet also added that the process took longer than predicted as arrangements had been made to guarantee that there would be no transfer of personal data between different regional governments.

Earlier this month, Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam said that agreement to relax cross-border quarantine measures between Hong Kong, Guangdong province and Macau could be reached within weeks.

Reports previously noted that the neighboring SAR's administration was exploring the possibility of gradually relaxing cross-border quarantine restrictions, noting that mandatory quarantine rules for arrivals from mainland China and Macau is set to expire on June 7. There are no updates yet on whether this quarantine measures will again be extended.

Meanwhile, the idea behind the lifting of some restrictions on traveling to and from Hong Kong has been raised on several occasions as a significant step toward creating a so-called "travel bubble" within the Pearl River Delta.

Both Guangdong and Macau have been using this type of Health Code system since early May. From May 10, the system has been upgraded to allow the transfer of data regarding health status and travel history, allowing the restrictions imposed on non-resident

workers and cross-border students from Zhuhai to be eased for them to come to Macau and return to their jobs.

The reciprocity of the system also allows local residents to travel to Guangdong without being subjected to a 14-day quarantine procedure as long as they have recently tested negative for Covid-19 through a nucleic acid swab test.

The test is valid for seven days, after which it must be repeated for the purposes of the health code.

The transfer of data between Macau and Guangdong also allows cross recognition of test certification from both regions. The same is expected to apply when Hong Kong joins the system.

Official announcements are expected from Hong Kong during early June.

During the press conferences of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, the health authorities explained on several occasions that any lifting of restrictions under the Health Code system would only be possible among countries or regions where the Covid-19 outbreak is considered to be under control, and where those countries or regions share the same status in terms of the development of the disease and safety risks.

Non-resident workers down 7,900

THE number of non-local residents working in the SAR is down by 7,900 as of April, compared to the end of 2019, according to Chan Un Tong, deputy director of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL).

Non-local workers have been struck by the crisis of the pandemic outbreak, with many losing their jobs.

Yesterday, during a TDM radio program, some listeners complained about unemployment among local residents since the outbreak of Covid-19, accusing the DSAL of failing to find new jobs for Macau people.

During the radio broadcast, some callers voiced their resentment, asserting that local residents had become unemployed while non-locals retained their positions.

The DSAL director disagreed, stating that since January, the bureau has helped over 1,000 local residents to get a job. These jobs spanned the sectors of construction, security, cleaning, catering, retail and transport, among others.

Chan stated that it is up to local residents to fill the job vacancies created by



the departure of non-local residents.

The DSAL kicked off subsidized courses during the Covid-19 outbreak in order to "help affected workers to increase their professional skills in a short period and quickly integrate them into jobs of a technical nature to alleviate economic pressure caused by the epidemic."

The trainees who underwent the first phase of subsidized courses were primarily those who had become unemployed due to the epidemic. These included former tour guides, taxi drivers and tour bus drivers, as well as other workers in the transport and convention and exhibition sectors. Those who have participated in the training have an allowance

of up to 6,656 patacas upon completing the program.

Earlier, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong revealed that there are currently 8,700 unemployed people in the local community. Of these, 1,900 were dismissed.

Last month, DSAL data showed that Macau's number of non-resident workers fell 2% between the end of January and the end of last month to 189,518.

The total labor force in February to April was 403,100 and the labor force participation rate was 70.0%. Total employment was at 394,200 and the number of employed residents totaled 277,900, down by 3,200 and 2,300 respectively from the previous period. JZ

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AAM CALLS ON MEMBERS TO REPORT DIFFICULTIES ON THE JOB

The Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) is calling on its members to immediately report any difficulties they face with accessing information, documentation, or others while performing their legal duties. The information comes from a circular letter issued by the AAM to its members late last week. The letter urges that any lawyers confronted with difficulties in their relationships with Magistrate judges, Public Prosecution Magistrates, Judiciary Police staff members, and other judicial operators, should immediately inform the AAM Board of Directors. Without specifying any cases, the AAM hinted that such problems have already "been occurring and they have not been reported by the lawyers." The process of complaining to the respective authorities, which exists in order to protect the profession and the rights of its practitioners, can become complex and lengthy.

SULU SOU QUESTIONS GOV'T ABOUT FLOODING PROBLEM

Following the significant floods across the city last week, lawmaker Sulu Sou has submitted an interpellation to the government inquiring about the progress of disaster planning work. He noted that some drainage work had been finished in low-lying districts. The Decennial Disaster Plan sets out a series of anti-flooding and drainage improvement measures. The lawmaker asked about the progress of the plan and the possibility of work being done ahead of schedule. He also asked whether these works, originally planned some time ago, were still capable of managing the deteriorating environmental conditions. Finally, in addition to existing measures, he also questioned whether the government has planned other means of preventing flooding in the future.

THREE-TIER RAINSTORM SIGNAL TO RETURN IN SEPTEMBER

After several modifications, the city's rainstorm warning system will be reinstated to the three-tier mechanism this September, the government announced in the Official Gazette. The Yellow signal indicates that a rainstorm will continue. The Red signal is designated for rainfall exceeding 50mm, while the Black signals rainfall exceeding 80mm, which may cause landslides or other hazardous conditions. The Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau took reference from the system in Hong Kong to develop a similar system here, with two tiers of warning. Later, it was expanded to three tiers. In 2004, the authority changed it to an on-or-off one-tier system, which was confusing to some people who said that the forecasting implication of the one-tier system was not sufficiently strong.



GOV'T TO ALLOW REOPENING OF DAYCARE CENTERS

ANTHONY LAM

Elderly daycare centers and rehabilitation facilities will be allowed to reopen in phases, announced the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) at the Health Bureau's (SSM) press conference yesterday.

Even so, these facilities will operate with limited capacity when they resume, Hoi Va Pou, deputy director of the IAS stated. It is a decision made after consulting the SSM and facility operators, the deputy director noted. It was also disclosed that such facilities will reopen according to their types of services.

The city has seen 55 days with no new cases of Covid-19, Dr Alvis Lo Iek Long, medical director of the public Conde São Januário Hospital disclosed. Out of the 45 patients the city has seen so far, all of them have been discharged from hospitalization, while four are still in recovery quarantine.

June 8 will see the reopening of six daytime care centers for the elderly and five development centers for those with intellectual disabilities. Eight rehabilitation centers for those with intellectual or physical disabilities

will resume operation from June 22.

As the facilities will only resume with limited capacity, the IAS deputy director recommended families keep service users under homecare where possible.

In addition, June school fees for government-subsidized nursery facilities will be waived. The fee has been waived for several months already.

Government-subsidized nurseries have been ordered to suspend operations since January due to the city's first wave of Covid-19 outbreak. The IAS explained that it is aware of the need for such services.

As a result, the IAS has held discussions with the SSM and nursery operators and is hopeful that suitable arrangements for families requiring nursery services can be made.

If, in the future, such facilities are allowed to reopen, even under restricted circumstances, the fee will be calculated against the types and extent of services they offer.

Hoi revealed that her bureau has received information about families looking

for "friendly measures", a name coined by the city's education and social welfare authorities to refer to daycare services offered by education or nursery facilities.

Such "friendly measures" were proposed by the government to help families with taking care of children whose formal education has not resumed.

With that said, the IAS official disclosed that her bureau was in negotiations with operators regarding the possibility of offering so called "friendly measures" to nursery users.

Last month, the government hinted that it was working on retrieving Macau students studying overseas during the summer holidays.

Inês Chan, an official at the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), hinted that this retrieval operation may be slightly different from the previous one. However, it will likely use the Hong Kong International Airport as a stopover point.

Chan disclosed that the proposed arrangement, which is yet to be confirmed, implies that when the returnees arrive in Hong Kong, the MGTO will "find ways" to

bring them back. She added that when the MGTO disclosed they would help with the matter, it was already in negotiation with Hong Kong authorities.

The specific arrangements, however, have not been determined. Details of the arrangement will be announced, according to the MGTO official, in due course. All returnees will be sent to hotels for a mandatory quarantine period of 14 days, the tourism official added.

Many people have been urging the government to reopen the border, which has never been closed previously, on the social media pages of media organizations and the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

The public hospital's medical director has reiterated that there are a lot of requirements facilitating uninterrupted border crossings. He explained that the colored Health Code, the nucleic test and other measures are some of the factors fostering movement across the border.

He added that mutual recognition of these measures does not necessarily equate to uninterrupted human movement.

GEG Remains Committed to Team Members' Development



GALAXY Entertainment Group (GEG) has been closely monitoring the development of COVID-19 since its outbreak and has been contributing to the related control and preventive works in Mainland China and Macau. In addition to implementing an array of measures to protect the health and safety of its guests and team members, GEG continued to extend its care for the well-being and professional development of its team members by hosting a variety of training and workshops in a safe and healthy environment. With the pandemic under control, GEG has increased the frequency and scale of its regular trainings and offered additional training courses and workshops to raise the health, safety and virus prevention awareness of team members, as well as to help them excel in their professional skills and knowledge development. So far, more than 50 different training courses and events had been organized, with over 100,000 participation counts and more than 350,000 training hours occurred in April and May. As GEG continues to organize more trainings, GEG expects to hold up to 100 corporate training events for our team members by the end of the first half of this year.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING TO ENHANCE KNOWLEDGE

A host of skills and knowledge trainings aimed at enhancing the service delivery,



Ms. Eileen Lui, Group Director of Human Resources and Administration, participated in the training activities in support of the team members.



Mr. Kevin Kelley, Chief Operating Officer - Macau, encouraged team members to enhance their skills through GEG's training courses.

safety, compliance and technical skills have been designed for the operational team members from various departments so that they can perform their role to the highest quality standards.

Mr. Vasco Agostinho Chan, a team member from the Engineering Department of GEG, said, "The new training offered by the company has allowed me to learn a set of new skills from other scopes and enhanced my professional knowledge." Meanwhile, Ms. Lauren Luong from the F&B Department, believes the training has helped her at work. "The training has kept me mindful of the company's 'Asian Heart' service philosophy, which is to be



attentive and to anticipate guests' needs while serving our guests," she said.

BROAD-RANGE PROGRAMS FOR WELL-BEING

Apart from a variety of technical skills and knowledge-based topics, broad-range programs have also been offered to help enhance team members' well-being, such as Yoga and Tai Chi.

Mr. Wallace Lei, a team member from GEG's Table Games Department, joined a Tai Chi inspired stress and emotion management workshop. He thinks that the workshop has brought him quite a lot of positive impact. "I don't exercise often, but I learned some Tai Chi movements and concepts during the workshop, which have not only helped me relax through exercising, but also taught me how to apply these concepts at work, such as think twice before every decision."

Ms. Wendy Lai, a professional trainer of martial arts that was invited by GEG, said, "I've never seen other companies organize these types of training activities. This program shows how deeply GEG cares about the health and well-being of its team members." Besides, GEG also invited in-house trainers to promote and deepen team members' knowledge of GEG's mission, vision and values such as integrity, teamwork and its Asian Heart service philosophy.

Furthermore, GEG continues to cooperate



with the Labour Affairs Bureau on the Hotel and Catering Industry Safety Card Training Program by fulfilling its commitment to maintain a safe working environment for its team members. Currently, over 9,800 team members have completed the course with GEG targeting to have a further 3,000 team members complete the program by June.

Additionally, GEG continues to support the direction of prioritizing the employment of local residents. Since this year, GEG's subsidiary, Galaxy Cotai Project Management Ltd., has recruited over 170 residents graduated from the Labour Affairs Bureau's profession training courses or via its referrals. GEG will continue to assist related residents to commence related work at GEG, such as in the sector of hospitality.

STRICT PREVENTION MEASURES IN ALL TRAINING VENUES



GEG fully complies with the Macau SAR Government's policy on COVID-19 prevention. Alcohol-based hand gel is provided at all its training venues, and during classes, all team members are required to maintain a one-meter distance apart from each other. In addition, GEG sanitizes and disinfects all training venues and back-of-house areas on a regular basis.

PJ CHARGES RESTAURANT WORKER FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

JULIE ZHU

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has forwarded one man to the prosecution authority under the charge of embezzlement, officials revealed during yesterday's joint police press conference.

The suspect, surnamed Chan, is a 44-year-old mainland resident who was working for a restaurant located in Iao Han area. The restaurant specializes in take-away food services. One of two owners of the restaurant is a mainland man who is studying in Macau while simultaneously running the business. The mainland owner had been in contact with Chan for withholding money generated by the business.

The business has three employees: one cook, the accused who worked as a kitchen assistant, and another employee.

Chan started working for the restaurant in 2017. According to PJ, he was promoted the next year to a kitchen assistant and cashier position.

Since January this year, the restaurant's owner has remained in mainland China and was unable to return to Macau until the end of May. During his absence, Chan was responsible for transferring the restaurant's revenue to him via bank transfer. Chan was also expected to keep in contact with his employer.

However, the owner had not received any bank transfers by the end of March. The other owner



of the restaurant then visited the shop to examine the accounts and confirmed that no revenue had been generated by the restaurant.

At the end of May, the mainland owner returned to Macau and questioned Chan, who admitted to being in possession of the money.

The owner then reported the

case to the police authority. Upon police questioning, Chan refused to cooperate.

The PJ transmitted Chan to the prosecution authority under the charge of credit abuse involving a large sum of money.

Last week, PJ also charged one local resident with breach of trust. The local man, surnamed Lau, 38, was entrusted by his client to col-

lect rent. Since July of 2019, Lau had been collecting a monthly rent of 24,000 Hong Kong dollars for his client. However, in January of this year, Lau stopped transferring the rent to the landlord and left the real estate company he was working for. Later, Lau confessed to the police authority that he had used all the money.

In addition to the embezzle-

ment case, PJ received two reports regarding online fraud. In both cases, the victim is a Macau local woman in her 40s. In one case, she claimed to have lost 15,000 yuan to an online shopping scam. In the second case, the woman reported a loss of 20,000 Hong Kong dollars to a fake express company, believing that her online suitor (who claimed to be an Korean American) had sent her expensive gifts through the express company.

PSP REGISTERS TWO DRUNK DRIVERS DURING ROAD INSPECTION

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has registered two local residents driving under the influence of alcohol, PSP said during the joint police press conference.

The first suspect is a salesman, Lei, 33. During PSP's routine road inspection, Lei was intercepted on May 30 while driving his lightweight car. He was tested with 1.24 grams of alcohol per liter of blood. Lei admitted he had consumed alcohol prior to the police interception.

The second suspect is a clerk, surnamed Wong, 25. Wong was on his motorbike yesterday when he was ordered to stop for a blood alcohol test. The test showed that Wong had a 1.66 grams of alcohol per liter of blood. However, Wong appealed to the police authority for another test, which was conducted later in the hospital. The hospital test result showed an even higher value, at 1.77 grams.

Both Lei and Wong were forwarded to the prosecution authority. No ruling had been announced by the time of the press conference.

IFFAM joins online global film festival with 5 movies

RENATO MARQUES

THE International Film Festival and Awards Macao (IFFAM) is joining the online global film festival "We Are One," organized by Tribeca Enterprises and YouTube.

Macau's international film festival will be represented with a total of five films that, according to IFFAM, aim to display the highlights from the first four years of the festival.

The IFFAM selection for the global digital film festival includes three locally produced films: Tracy Choi's *Sisterhood*, winner of the audience award in the competition in 2016; *Lonely Encounter* by Jenny Wan, which won the best short film title last year; and Maxim Bessmertny's comic short

Dirty Laundry from 2019.

The last two contributions from IFFAM to the global festival are the mainland productions *Wrath of Silence*, from Xin Yukun, winner of jury and actor prizes of the Competition Session at IFFAM 2017, and *A City Called Macau*, from Li Shaohong, which was specially displayed at IFFAM 2019.

On IFFAM's participation at the global festival, the artistic director Mike Goodridge said, "We are so happy to be a part of this wonderful global event showcasing great world cinema. Our selection includes some of our favorite films from the region in the first four years of our festival, and we are delighted to be showing different sides of Macau in four of the five films."

In the same statement, Goodridge also expressed his appreciation to the organizers for being able to bring this festival together "in this challenging year and reminding us all why cinema from around the world matters."

From May 29 until June 7, the 10-day event will present over 100 feature and short films, documentaries, and animations from 21 of the world's great festivals, along with talks with famous film industry names. The online film festival can be accessed at YouTube.com/WeAreOne.

The first local film (*Sisterhood*) will be exhibited today at 8 p.m., followed by the others until June 6 at 7 p.m. when "A City Called Macau" will be played on the digital screen.



Hong Kong blocks Tiananmen vigil; rush on for UK passports

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

POLICE rejected an application yesterday for an annual candlelight vigil marking the anniversary this week of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown, as residents rushed to apply for passports that could allow them to move to the United Kingdom.

Thronged of people lined up at DHL courier outlets across the city, many to send documents to the U.K. to apply for or renew what is known as a British National (Overseas) passport.

"My BNO passport expired in 2004, but at the time I didn't renew it because I trusted China," said 40-year-old Peter Chan, who works in asset management and waited in line for more than two hours.

Chan said he was worried about political and security issues in Hong Kong stemming from an upcoming national security law as well as a push by the semi-autonomous territory's legislature to enact a bill that would make it illegal to insult the Chinese national anthem.

Even though there is rising anti-immigrant and anti-Asian sentiment in the U.K., "it's still better than Hong Kong," he said.

"In Hong Kong, you never know what will happen tomorrow," Chan said.

It would be the first time in 30 years that the candlelight vigil, which draws a huge crowd to



Protesters wave a Hong Kong colonial flag in a shopping mall during a protest against China's national security legislation for the city yesterday

an outdoor space, is not held in Hong Kong. The vigil marks the deadly military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

The police, in a letter to organizers, said it would violate coronavirus social distancing rules that ban gatherings of more than eight people.

Organizer Lee Cheuk-yan, chair of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, expressed disappointment and urged people to light candles individually and observe a moment of silence.

Amnesty International said authorities should facilitate a socially distanced vigil rather than ban it.

Britain's plan to allow Hong Kongers to stay in the UK for a longer period could include options that offer a path to citizenship

"COVID-19 must not be used as an excuse to stifle freedom of expression," said Joshua Rosenzweig, the group's deputy director for East and Southeast Asia. "With this ban, and a disastrous national security law looming, it is not clear if Hong Kong's Tiananmen vigil will ever be allowed to take place again."

Hong Kong has reported five local infections of the coronavirus in the last two days, breaking a nearly two-week streak of no new

cases outside of those brought in from abroad.

The rush to apply for passports came after Britain said last week that it might allow holders of the document to stay in the country for a year or more. The proposal came after China's legislature decided it would enact a national security law for Hong Kong.

The move is aimed at clamping down on a pro-democracy movement that has at times resulted in violent clashes between

protesters and the police. Critics say the law erodes the "one country, two systems" framework that promised Hong Kong freedoms not found in mainland China for 50 years.

Protesters demonstrated against the security law during lunchtime yesterday at a luxury shopping mall in the Central business district, shouting pro-democracy slogans.

The British National (Overseas) passport, which was issued to Hong Kongers when it was a British colony, allows them to visit the country for an extended period but falls short of offering them citizenship rights.

Currently, BNO passport holders can remain in the U.K. as visitors for six months without a visa. But Britain's plan to allow them to stay in the U.K. for a longer period could include options that offer a path to citizenship, according to British Home Secretary Priti Patel.

In Hong Kong's eastern district of Quarry Bay, Vanessa Tai was among more than 40 people who stood in line at a DHL service point, many holding envelopes with application documents.

Tai, 24, said the BNO passport is a Plan B for Hong Kongers who are worried about losing their freedoms as China strengthens its control over the city.

"If I had a choice, I'd rather work and live in Hong Kong. I hadn't considered emigrating or working overseas before this," she said. "Nowadays, my family and I are seeking an alternative, just in case."

As of February, nearly 350,000 Hong Kong residents held BNO passports, although the U.K. government estimated that there are 2.9 million people in the city of 7.5 million who are eligible for the passport. AP

XINHUA INTERVIEW

China's national security legislation reduces uncertainty in Hong Kong: US expert

CHINA'S national security legislation for Hong Kong "reduces uncertainty by thwarting instability" for financial markets in the "Pearl of the Orient," said a renowned U.S. expert on China.

"As far as threats that financial institutions will depart Hong Kong - as some have suggested - I think not," Robert Lawrence Kuhn, chairman of the Kuhn Foundation, told Xinhua recently via email.

"Financial institutions seek financial returns, financial markets abhor uncertainty, and this new



Pro-China supporters hold a placard on their way to protest at the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong

law reduces uncertainty by thwarting instability," Kuhn noted.

The senior expert noted that it would be better to understand China's ratio-

nale by putting the national security legislation for Hong Kong in the context of the Chinese dream, a great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Kuhn said there are "two pillars" supporting this "Great Rejuvenation": one is economic development, increasing the Chinese people's living standards, as exemplified this year by the eradication of all extreme poverty, a remarkable accomplishment.

The other pillar is national sovereignty, which is an essential element of

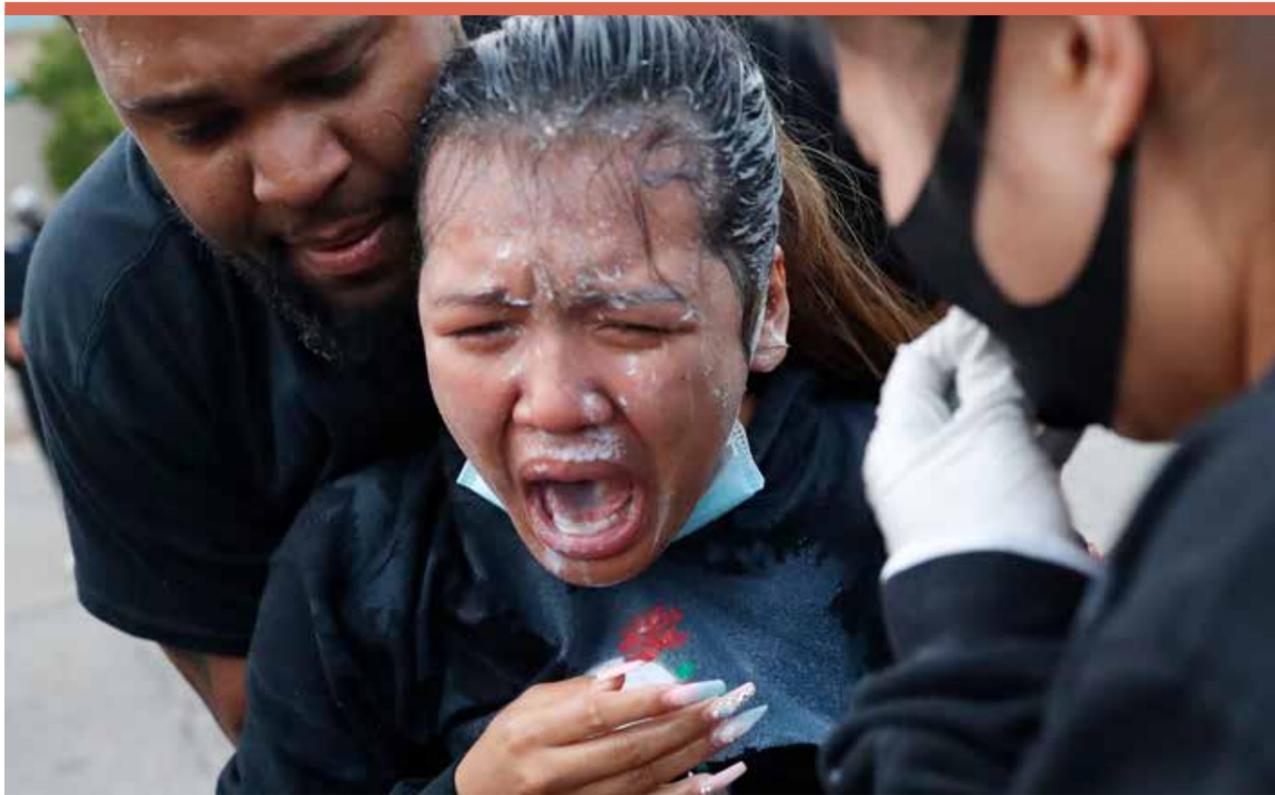
national pride, he noted, adding "Hong Kong's disruptions have been a sore in the side of this pillar, and China's leadership has determined that this sore must be healed. The move has the overwhelming support of the Chinese people."

The Chinese central government wants to "expand Hong Kong, not constrain it," especially as core of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area development plan to build a world-class mega-region, the U.S. scholar said.

Accordingly, he said, the central government will "defer to Hong Kong as much as possible and as long as possible," but there are "three red lines that cannot be crossed" - movement toward "Hong Kong independence," using Hong Kong to undermine the mainland's political system, and unending chaos which would threaten Hong Kong's economic viability.

On Thursday, Chinese lawmakers voted overwhelmingly at the third session of the 13th National People's Congress, the top legislature, to approve a decision on establishing and improving the legal system and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to safeguard national security. XINHUA

AP PHOTO



A woman is helped after being hit with pepper spray after curfew on Sunday

Mass gatherings, erosion of trust upend coronavirus control

MIKE STOBBE, NEW YORK

PROTESTS erupting across the nation over the past week — and law enforcement's response to them — are threatening to upend efforts by health officials to track and contain the spread of coronavirus just as those efforts were finally getting underway.

Health experts need newly infected people to remember and recount everyone they've interacted with over several days in order to alert others who may have been exposed, and prevent them from spreading the disease further. But that process, known as contact tracing, relies on people knowing who they've been in contact with — a daunting task if they've been to a mass gathering.

And the process relies on something that may suddenly be in especially short supply: Trust in government.

"These events that are happening now are further threats to the trust we need," said Dr. Sandro Galea, dean of the Boston University School of Public Health. "If we do not have that, I worry our capacity to control new outbreaks becomes more limited," he said.

Government officials have been hoping to continue reopening businesses, churches and other organi-

zations after months of stay-at-home orders and other infection-prevention measures. But health experts also hoped that any reopening would be accompanied by widespread testing, contact tracing and isolation to prevent new waves of illness from beginning.

Over the past week, protests sparked by the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white Minneapolis police officer pinned a knee to his neck, have involved thousands of people gathered tightly together in large crowds in more than 20 cities nationwide.

It's unclear if the protests themselves will trigger large new outbreaks. The protests were outside, where infections don't spread as readily as indoors. Also, many of the protesters were wearing masks, and much of the contact was likely less-hazardous "transient" moments of people moving around, passing each other, said Dr. William Schaffner, an infectious diseases expert at Vanderbilt University.

But, still, experts worry that public efforts to contain the disease in the future could be undermined.

In Los Angeles, the city's mayor announced over the weekend that COVID-19 testing centers were being closed because of safety concerns related to violent protests. Testing in Minneapolis

will be affected because some of the clinics that provide the service have been damaged in the protests, according to a city government spokesperson.

Reduced testing could "be giving the virus another head start," Schaffner said.

And contact tracing, which is only just getting going in several states, is an even bigger concern. It involves people who work for or with health departments asking intimate questions about where a person has been and who they've been talking to — and getting full, truthful answers in return.

"In this current environment which has enhanced or brought forth a mistrust of governmental authority, it might make them disinclined to speak with anyone in government," Schaffner said.

That is especially true in black communities trying to cope with episodes of police violence and longstanding frustrations with how they have been marginalized and mistreated by people who work for government agencies. And those are the communities that have been hardest hit by the coronavirus in the U.S. and most in need of public health measures to help control it.

In a press conference Saturday, Minnesota Public Safety Commissioner John Harrington used the term

"contact tracing" when describing an investigation into arrested protesters there. He said the goal is to "see if there are crime or white supremacy organizations that have played a role" and "to understand how do we go after them, legally," Harrington said.

But Harrington's use of "contact tracing" by law enforcement may complicate the job of health workers as they try to track the virus's spread, some experts said.

"That was an abuse of the word 'contact tracing.' That is not what contact tracing is," said Dr. Tom Frieden, former director of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Contact tracing is a service to patients and their contacts to provide services for patients and warning for contacts. It has nothing to do with police activity. Nothing," said Frieden, who is currently president of Resolve to Save Lives, a nonprofit that works to prevent epidemics.

Galea said he hopes many people will separate in their minds the contact tracing done by public health workers from crime investigations by the police. But, he added, "I do think sometimes it's difficult to make a distinction when you feel marginalized by, and targeted by, the entire government." AP

this day in history



1953 QUEEN ELIZABETH TAKES CORONATION OATH

Queen Elizabeth II has been crowned at a coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey in London.

In front of more than 8,000 guests, including prime ministers and heads of state from around the Commonwealth, she took the Coronation Oath and is now bound to serve her people and to maintain the laws of God.

After being handed the four symbols of authority - the orb, the sceptre, the rod of mercy and the royal ring of sapphire and rubies - the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, placed St Edward's Crown on her head to complete the ceremony.

A shout of "God Save the Queen" was heard and gun salutes were fired as crowds cheered.

The Archbishop and fellow bishops then paid homage to Queen Elizabeth II.

In a radio broadcast the Queen said: "Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust".

An estimated three million people lined the streets of London to catch a glimpse of the new monarch as she made her way to and from Buckingham Palace in the golden state coach.

The ceremony was watched by millions more around the world as the BBC set up their biggest ever outside broadcast to provide live coverage of the event on radio and television. Street parties were held throughout the UK as people crowded round television sets to watch the ceremony.

The crowds, some of whom had camped out overnight to ensure a prime position, were rewarded when the Queen and other members of her family, including the Queen Mother, appeared on the balcony at Buckingham Palace.

Despite the overcast weather conditions the RAF marked the occasion with a fly past down the Mall.

A fireworks display then lit up the skies above Victoria Embankment.

The Queen replaced her father, King George VI, as monarch following his death on 6 February 1952. After 16 years on the throne he passed away in his sleep and his 25-year-old daughter Elizabeth immediately became Queen.

The princess formally proclaimed herself Queen and Head of the Commonwealth and Defender of the Faith in February 1952 but the amount of planning and a wish for a sunny day for the occasion led to the long but excited wait for this day.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Over 20 million people watched the BBC coverage of the coronation. Many people crowded round neighbours' sets to watch television for the first time. The broadcast was made in 44 languages.

There was a shortage of professional coachmen to help transport dignitaries to Westminster Abbey in horse drawn carriages. Millionaire businessmen and country squires offered their services and on the day they dressed up as Buckingham Palace servants and helped take people to the ceremony.

Many commemorative souvenirs were produced to mark the occasion including a special set of four postage stamps.
 In 2002 the Queen celebrated her Golden Jubilee. She marked her 50 years on the throne with a mammoth tour of the Commonwealth and UK where millions turned out to celebrate during the Jubilee weekend.

The highlight of the weekend was the 'Party at the Palace' where stars from Ozzy Osbourne and Sir Paul McCartney to S Club 7 and Blue joined forces to entertain the crowds at Buckingham Palace.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Make a meal for a close friend or your partner. Got a killer music collection? Share a special mix with a friend who needs a lift. You have a lot to give, and that generosity can take many different forms.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Tongues are wagging about you, in a very good way. Your bravery is impressive. This is a very promising time for you in terms of building a better career network. A major connection is coming soon.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

It's simply not practical to cater to one (extremely picky) person's preferences right now. Remember that this is a democracy and that the majority rules, at least when you're in charge!



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

All the peaks and valleys of your life could feel twice as steep and deep today. The good events will feel twice as nice, and the bummers will feel double-bummer-y.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Maybe you need to slow down anyway and learn the benefits of patience. Anything worth having is worth waiting for. Immediate gratification doesn't always bring long-lasting value.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

If you go into the situation feeling like you're under a microscope, you'll be uptight. Relax and try to see these people as your allies, not your judges. They love you! You'll find that out for yourself.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

They'll call you if they need help, so don't worry about checking in with them. They can take care of themselves and get back up on their feet if they fall. Don't worry.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Let other people make some decisions, and trust that everything will still be okay, because it will. You're taking on too much responsibility. It's time to step back.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Creating more emotional distance between you and the source of negative energy will free you up from having to worry about what they're going to do next and let you enjoy your day a lot more.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

An authority figure who has been acting as your mentor might start becoming a bit more officious and a little less personal today, but don't take it personally! Their respect for you hasn't diminished.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Don't keep thinking that if something is difficult it must be good for you. A tough challenge doesn't always equal a good lesson in life. Sometimes, it's just a pain in the neck.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

The information you learn may require you to change your expectations, but at least you'll know where you stand. And that's more important than getting what (you think) you want.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

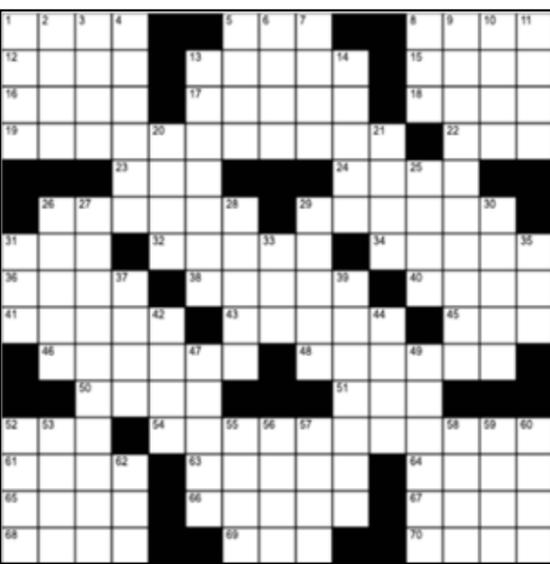
WEATHER

	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- In vogue; 5- Peat source; 8- Greek peak; 12- Author Jaffe; 13- Stork, e.g.; 15- Incandescent lamp; 16- It's blown among the reeds; 17- Combined; 18- Sign of healing; 19- Thoughtful; 22- Tax pro; 23- Pother; 24- Peak; 26- Crazy; 29- Shocked; 31- Gotcha!; 32- Squallid; 34- Beginning; 36- Indonesian holiday resort; 38- Less common; 40- Holy moly!; 41- Stomach woe; 43- Bucolic; 45- Singer Damone; 46- Large soup dish; 48- Was merciful to; 50- Lip-curling facial expression; 51- Carrere of "Wayne's World"; 52- It's in the genes; 54- Demolition; 61- Network of nerves; 63- Lucid; 64- "Splendor in the Grass" screenwriter; 65- Get one's ducks in ____; 66- Rich cake; 67- Olive genus; 68- Sped; 69- Filled pastry crust; 70- Russian no;

DOWN: 1- Gator's kin; 2- Rail rider; 3- A party to; 4- Roman general; 5- Ruination; 6- Smell or fragrance; 7- Actress Rowlands; 8- Delivery room docs; 9- Involving succession; 10- Hit with an open hand; 11- Benny, Björn, Anni-Frid, and Agnetha; 13- Man who has lost his wife; 14- Put a new price on; 20- Bad time in the Senate; 21- Repeat; 25- Numerous; 26- Biblical verb; 27- Arithmetic device; 28- Long; 29- Australia's ____ Rock; 30- Halfhearted; 31- "Aladdin" monkey; 33- Actress Joanne; 35- Shamus; 37- Able was ____; 39- Ecstasy; 42- Oboe, e.g.; 44- Not of the cloth; 47- Construct; 49- Allotted amount; 52- Fiddlesticks!; 53- Pianist Peter; 55- Swill; 56- Polo of "Meet the Parents"; 57- Charge per unit; 58- Inwardly; 59- Double curve; 60- Cool!; 62- Lamb's mom;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Trump's options to hit Hong Kong, from tariffs

DANIEL TEN KATE
& ENDA CURRAN

IF the markets are any judge, U.S. President Donald Trump's vow of "meaningful" action to strip some of Hong Kong's trade privileges has so far proved underwhelming.

Trump's announcement in the White House's Rose Garden last weekend didn't provide any details or timeframe for what would come next, only that it would cover the full range of agreements between the U.S. and Hong Kong with "few exceptions." U.S. stocks on Friday erased losses and traded little changed, with the S&P 500 Index rising 0.5% at the close in New York. Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index yesterday saw gains of more than 3%, led by the finance sector.

The risk was more evident later in the day yesterday, after Bloomberg reported that a "phase one" trade deal between the countries may be at risk after Chinese government officials told major state-run agricultural companies to pause purchases of some American

BLOOMBERG



US President Donald Trump arrives at the White House over the weekend

farm goods including soybeans as Beijing watches for any U.S. moves on Hong Kong. S&P 500 Index futures gave up gains to trade 0.6% lower, while U.S. 10-

year bonds erased declines.

Under the U.S.-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, the president is empowered to suspend the territory's special trading

privileges at any time through an executive order. The law covers the whole facet of the relationship, from trade to recognizing passports to rules that

affect air travel, shipping and investment. It even allows for U.S. dollars to be freely exchanged with Hong Kong dollars, which if revoked would amount

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

to China's banks

to what some analysts have called the "nuclear option."

"We're not seeing a rush for the exits at all," Tara Joseph, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, told Bloomberg Television yesterday. "What we're seeing generally is everyone first digesting the news. And second of all looking at their footprint in Hong Kong and thinking through whether that ought to change."

While revoking the policy act completely would raise huge legal questions that could mark a major hit to global trade, here are some of the key measures affecting trade that analysts are watching for.

TARIFFS

Trump could treat Hong Kong exports with the same tariffs as the mainland. Yet the effect of this may be minimal: The territory exported \$4.8 billion last year to the U.S., about 1% of what China shipped over. While Hong Kong is a major transshipment hub for Chinese goods, most of these are already taxed at mainland rates.

Moreover, the U.S. enjoyed a \$23 billion trade surplus with Hong Kong, the biggest in the

world -- meaning Trump would potentially be throwing away a win according to his favorite metric if the city takes any reciprocal action.

Stripping Hong Kong of its tariffs exemptions will damage the port, shipping services and logistic industries, Iris Pang, Chief Economist Greater China at ING Bank NV wrote in a note.

"But these industries have been hurt anyway since the start of the trade war between Mainland China and the U.S.," she wrote.

EXPORT CONTROLS

The U.S. allows Hong Kong to import certain sensitive goods that are prohibited from China. This includes certain dual-use technology with consumer and military applications, like carbon fiber used to make both golf clubs and missile components.

Ending these privileges would make Hong Kong subject to the same export controls, including those placed on China following a deadly military assault on protesters in Tiananmen Square in 1989. While total Hong Kong imports requiring a special license from the U.S. amounted to only 1.2% of all goods in 2018, American exporters

could have more paperwork to fill out on certain items.

"Export bans could have a direct impact on the tech race that China and the U.S. seems to be engaged in," according to economists at Natixis SA.

SANCTIONS ON INDIVIDUALS

An amendment to the policy act last year gives the president authority to sanction people who are responsible for undermining freedoms and autonomy in Hong Kong. The law specifically mentions blocking assets and revoking visas for people named by the president.

Those could include Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office chief Xia Baolong, the primary person in the mainland responsible for the territory; Luo Huining, who was appointed earlier this year to lead China's Liaison Office in Hong Kong; and officials in the city possibly including Carrie Lam, the chief executive. Erick Tsang, who oversees mainland affairs in Hong Kong, said over the weekend that he wouldn't fear any U.S. sanctions and would simply stay away from the country, the Standard reported.

SANCTIONS ON BANKS

U.S. lawmakers are quickly moving ahead with a bill that would penalize banks that do "significant transactions" with Chinese entities involved in

suppressing Hong Kong's freedoms. This could effectively cut those banks off from the U.S. financial system, with measures such as blocking foreign exchange transactions and dealings with American lenders or citizens.

Republican Senator Pat Toomey and Democratic Senator Chris Van Hollen plan to move the bill forward this week. Given the ease with which anti-China measures have passed recently in Congress, Trump may have little choice but to sign it.

Any action on this front could potentially do serious damage to China and Hong Kong's role as an international finance center.

BROADER SANCTIONS

Trump could use the 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act to implement much broader sanctions on China. This law, which is cited in the amendment to the U.S.-Hong Kong policy act that passed last year, gives the president wide powers to deal with any "unusual and extraordinary threat" that he deems a national emergency.

Trump has already threatened to use it on a number of occasions during his presidency. He mentioned them when he threatened last year to place levies on Mexican goods as a way to force curbs on the flow of un-

documented immigrants across the U.S.-Mexican border. And his administration also said in August that the legislation would give the president the authority to force American companies to leave China if Trump declared an emergency.

Still, any move on this front would escalate tensions with China drastically and effectively mean the end of the "phase one" trade deal signed in January.

'KILL' THE DOLLAR PEG

One key aspect of the U.S.-Hong Kong policy act is a provision allowing the U.S. dollar "to be freely exchanged" with the Hong Kong dollar.

If he wanted to, Trump "could kill the Hong Kong dollar peg in one fell swoop," according to Enodo Economics. Although that's unlikely, it said, even targeted curbs to block Chinese or Hong Kong banks from the U.S. dollar clearing system would have "significant implications."

Oxford Economics is among those that think it's unlikely the peg will fall victim to the political pressures and notes Hong Kong's foreign exchange reserves are twice the size of the monetary base. In the event of material outflows, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority has various tools to release liquidity into the interbank system, they said.

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葡國日, 從南到北的葡國風景畫作

Days of Portugal, Drawings from South to North.

inauguração | 開幕 | opening
04/06/2020 18h

horário | 時間表 | schedule
05/06/2020-10/07/2020
de Segunda a Sexta
週一至週五
from Monday to Friday
9h-17h

local | 場地 | venue
Chancelaria do Consulado-Geral de Portugal em Macau e Hong Kong
葡萄牙駐澳門及香港總領事館
Chancery of the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong

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OPINION

Our Desk

Anthony Lam



'IF YOU'RE GOING THROUGH HELL, KEEP GOING'

This quote by Sir Winston Churchill flashed into my mind when I was about to write this piece. If it's necessary to explain why I have picked it, read on.

This first half of the year has been tough on Macau people. Has it, or has it not? I'm rather unsure.

Look at the streets. They're full of people. Buses are full. Restaurants are packed. Shopping malls are frequented. In certain ways, I can't help but think the pandemic was unreal, if not surreal.

After all, with everybody held within the city, they must, no matter how willingly or unwillingly, consume goods and services here.

They are human beings, and they need to eat and drink to survive. They can avoid buying new clothes, new computers, new iPads, new cars, new flats, or any other new commodities that you can imagine.

The situation is not that bad, they said, hinting that many people in Macau have sufficient savings to survive. With this I agree, for I have seen people driving cars registered with that eye-catching red number plate that stands out from all the other monochrome plates in the city.

But we must admit that some people are really struggling.

Also fighting to survive are the many hotels across the city. I believe they have required deep thinking and taken a long time to make plans to cope with the ever-changing situation. It has been so fluctuating that not even we in the media can comprehend the situation.

Most of them have opted to run food-and-beverage offers, with some doing so spectacularly. I must admit that I've been to a 5-star NAPE hotel, in which an all-day set menu was offered at the incredible price of less than 300 patacas, not to mention a possible further discount.

What caught my attention was the way these businesses have tried to combat the situation and amaze their diners during these hard times. I'm a pious believer in food's ability to heal. That's why I trust this offer is going to mend the hearts of so many.

They have also dug up the years-old "I Love Macau" campaign for a rerun. When it was first introduced, the six casino operators placed emphasis on their love for Macau people by making the Macau ID an exclusive VIP card to access the exclusive privileges at their properties.

This reference to love reminds me of William Shakespeare's Sonnet 116:

Let me not to the marriage of true minds
 Admit impediments. Love is not love
 Which alters when it alteration finds,
 Or bends with the remover to remove:
 O, no! it is an ever-fixed mark,
 That looks on tempests and is never shaken;
 It is the star to every wandering bark,
 Whose worth's unknown, although his
 height be taken.
 Love's not Time's fool, though rosy lips
 and cheeks
 Within his bending sickle's compass come;
 Love alters not with his brief hours
 and weeks,
 But bears it out even to the edge of doom.
 If this be error and upon me proved,
 I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

**SPACEX'S HISTORIC ENCORE:
 ASTRONAUTS ARRIVE AT SPACE STATION**

**THE
 BUZZ**

SpaceX delivered two astronauts to the International Space Station for NASA on Sunday, following up a historic liftoff with an equally smooth docking in yet another first for Elon Musk's company.

With test pilots Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken poised to take over manual control if necessary, the SpaceX Dragon capsule pulled up to the station and docked automatically, no assistance needed. The hatches swung open a few hours later, and the two Dragon riders floated into the orbiting lab and embraced the three station residents.

Unlike the SpaceX and NASA flight control rooms, where

everyone was spaced well apart, there was no social distancing or masks needed in orbit since the new arrivals had been in quarantine for many weeks.

"The whole world saw this mission," NASA Administrator Jim Bridenstine said.

Hurley credited SpaceX and added, "It's great to get the United States back in the crewed launch business."

It was the first time a privately built and owned spacecraft carried astronauts to the space station in its more than 20 years of existence.

**WORLD'S REACTION TO
 US WEAVES SOLIDARITY,
 CALLS TO CHANGE**



Demonstrators hold placards during a march in central Auckland, New Zealand, yesterday

SEVERAL thousand people marched in New Zealand's largest city yesterday to protest the killing of George Floyd in the U.S. as well as to stand up against police violence and racism in their own country.

Many people around the world have watched with growing unease at the civil unrest in the U.S. after the latest in a series of police killings of black men and women. Floyd died on May 25 in Minneapolis after a white police officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck until he stopped breathing. The officer was fired and charged with murder.

The protesters in Auckland marched to the U.S. Consulate, where they kneeled. They held banners with slogans like "I can't breathe" and "The real virus is racism." Hundreds more joined the peaceful protests and vigils elsewhere in New Zealand, where yesterday was a public holiday.

In Iran, which has in the recent past violently put down nationwide demonstrations by killing hundreds, arresting thousands and disrupting internet access to the outside world, state television has repeatedly aired images of the U.S. unrest.

Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi urged the U.S. government and police to stop the violence.

"To American officials and police: Stop violence

against your people and let them breathe," Mousavi said at a news conference in Tehran yesterday. He also told the American people that "the world is standing with you." He added that Iran is saddened to see "the violence the U.S. police have recently" set off.

At a gathering in central London on Sunday, thousands offered support for American demonstrators, chanting "No justice! No peace!" and waving placards with the words "How many more?"

In other places, too, demonstrators wove solidarity with the U.S. protesters with messages aimed at local authorities.

In Brazil, hundreds of people protested crimes committed by the police against black people in Rio de Janeiro's working-class neighborhoods, known as favelas. Police used tear gas to disperse them, with some demonstrators saying "I can't breathe," repeating Floyd's own words.

In Canada, an anti-racism protest degenerated into clashes between Montreal police and some demonstrators. Police declared the gathering illegal after they say projectiles were thrown at officers who responded with pepper spray and tear gas. Some windows were smashed and some fires were set.

In authoritarian nations, the unrest became a chance to undermine

U.S. criticism of their own situations. Iranian state television repeatedly aired images of the U.S. unrest. Russia said the United States had systemic human rights problems.

And state-controlled media in China saw the protests through the prism of American views on Hong Kong's anti-government demonstrations, which China has long said the U.S. encouraged. In a commentary, the ruling Communist Party newspaper Global Times said Chinese experts had noted that U.S. politicians might think twice before commenting again on Hong Kong, knowing "their words might backfire."

North Korea's official Rodong Sinmun newspaper yesterday reported about the demonstrations, saying that protesters "harshly condemned" a white policeman's "lawless and brutal murder" of a black citizen. Three large photos from the Minneapolis Star Tribune, Reuters news agency and Agence France-Presse showed protest scenes from recent days in the city where Floyd was killed.

The article said hundreds of protesters gathered in front of the White House chanting "No justice, no peace," and that demonstrations were occurring in other cities and were expected to grow. It did not make any direct comments about the Trump administration. AP

India registered 230 coronavirus deaths in the last 24 hours, bringing its total to 5,394 as the country's phased plan to ease its lockdown kicked in from yesterday. Authorities are moving forward with the easing even as experts say India is nowhere close to the peak of the outbreak. Railways will run 200 more special passenger trains from Monday and some states have reopened their borders, allowing vehicular traffic.

Bangladesh Public transportation across Bangladesh reopened yesterday, though with restriction on the number of passengers. In Dhaka, officials were checking if buses were following health guidelines. Domestic flights resumed on at least three routes, as did ferry services to the southern coastal region. The government says the gradual reopening is crucial to revive the economy.



USA Police officers and National Guard soldiers enforcing a curfew in Louisville, Kentucky killed a man yesterday when they returned fire after someone in a large group fired at them first. Louisville Metro Police Chief Steve Conrad confirmed the shooting happened around 12:15 a.m. outside a business on West Broadway, where police and the National Guard had been called to break up a large group of people gathering in defiance of the city's curfew.



Yemen Aid organizations are making an urgent plea for funding to shore up their operations in war-torn Yemen, saying they have already been forced to stop some of their work even as the coronavirus rips through the country. Some 75% of U.N. programs in Yemen have had to shut their doors or reduce operations. The global body's World Food Program had to cut rations in half and U.N.-funded health services were reduced in 189 out of 369 hospitals nationwide.