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**IFFAM WILL TAKE PLACE  
DECEMBER 3 TO 8 UNDER THE  
THEME 'A CELEBRATION OF LIFE  
& THE BIG SCREEN'**

P3

**CHINA DEFENDS  
CONTROVERSIAL CORONAVIRUS  
RESPONSE IN NEW REPORT**

P7

**THE DRAGON BOAT TEAM OF BAÍA DO  
MAR CANOE CLUB IS READY FOR THIS  
YEAR'S DRAGON BOAT RACES, COACH  
RACY LEONG TOLD THE TIMES**

P3



**China** has reported its first non-imported case of the new coronavirus in two weeks, an infected person on the island of Hainan off the southern coast. The National Health Commission said yesterday that there were also five imported cases in the previous 24-hour period, bringing the nation's total case count to 83,036.



**China's** exports and imports both fell in May as the coronavirus and trade tensions with the U.S. weighed on demand at home and abroad. Exports fell 3.3% compared to a year earlier to \$206.8 billion and imports dropped 16.7% to \$143.9 billion. The plunge in imports drove the country's trade surplus up sharply to \$62.9 billion. The surplus with the U.S. reached \$27.9 billion and climbed \$18.2 billion with the E.U.



**India** reported 9,971 new coronavirus cases on Sunday in another biggest single-day spike, a day before it prepares to reopen shopping malls, hotels and religious places after a 10-week lockdown. India has now surpassed Spain as the fifth hardest-hit country, with 246,628 confirmed cases of the coronavirus, including 6,929 deaths. New Delhi, Mumbai and Ahmedabad are among India's worst-hit cities. Six of the country's 28 states account for 73% of the total cases.

More on backpage



P2



**CROWDS DEFY  
RESTRICTIONS  
WORLDWIDE  
TO PROTEST  
AGAINST  
RACISM**

AP PHOTO



P8

# POLICE RESPOND TO DOUBLE STANDARDS ON TWO GATHERINGS

**PUBLIC** Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson Ma Chio Hong was unable to provide a clear clarification on the double standards applied to two gatherings with opposing purposes.

During Friday's regular police press conference on Covid-19, several questions were asked regarding the department's understanding of the city's demonstration and assembly laws. This followed PSP's "arrest" of two pedestrians at Senado Square on Thursday night and the department's negligence to make arrests regarding a gathering on Friday.

On Thursday, PSP "arrested" two young female citizens who showed up at Senado Square after the annual June 4 vigil ran online. The two women happened to be the daughters of lawmaker Au Kam San, the organizer of the vigil.

Despite there being no vigil or other civil assembly taking place at the square, the police department had deployed a team of about 50 officers in uniform, with more undercover, to survey the space.

When the online vigil finished, Au's daughters left the indoor gathering. They visited Senado Square, carrying electrical candles and pamphlets which the duo had helped remove from the site where the online vigil was held.

PSP spotted the two women at 10:30 p.m. and suspected them of taking part in an assembly and of violating Macau's demonstration law.



Only at around 2 a.m. on June 5 did PSP release the pair. The police authority also seized the candles and pamphlets.

"We just put the booklets and two electric candles down and that was it. They took them away from us as evidence to go to court with, and to see if they would charge us with illegal assembly, which is ridiculous because we're just

two people," one of his daughters, Cherry Au, told TDM.

Meanwhile, the PSP spokesperson insisted that the actions taken were in accordance with the law and that the department had taken all actions necessary to ensure Macau's safety against Covid-19.

Ma continued to claim that PSP felt that the situation required the

police department to station dozens of police officers at Senado Square, despite the fact that there were no signs of an assembly.

Ma said that PSP was "reporting" the case to the prosecution authority. PSP has already sent Au's daughters' cases to the Office of the Prosecutor General (MP), albeit without formal charges.

On the one hand, PSP had de-

med the presence of two passers-by at Senado Square an assembly. On the other hand, the department had no information about a gathering of dozens of people on Friday morning in support of the national security law of Hong Kong.

That morning, the Macao Youth Federation held a gathering to support the national security law of Hong Kong. A group of 40 participants marched from the Macao Science Center, past the Macao Tower, Barra area and Iao Han, spreading their message.

When asked about whether this was defined as an assembly, Ma said that PSP was "unaware of the event" and was "uncertain regarding the nature of the activity."

Ma said "it [was] difficult to comment on each individual case" and PSP handled all cases in accordance with the law.

However, the PSP spokesperson stated that according to Macau's demonstration law, parties must inform the PSP director in case there is any possibility of using public roads or public spaces.

During the course of the 40-minute press conference, Ma was unable to justify PSP's double standards in the two cases.

Citing the Court of Final Appeal, Ma said that a protest should comprise of one person or more, an assembly requires two or more people.

In the end, Ma remarked that members of the public should not worry about unlawful arrests because Macau is a city of freedom of speech and safety, and because Macau's police authority follows the law. **MDT**

# Hong Kong's last British leader: China's agenda 'Orwellian'

**T**HE last British governor of Hong Kong criticized the Chinese government on Friday over proposed national security legislation, calling it part of an "Orwellian" drive to eliminate opposition in violation of the agreement on handing the territory over to Beijing.

Chris Patten defended London's announcement that it would grant residency and a path to citizenship for nearly 3 million Hong Kong residents if Beijing goes through with passage of the legislation.

The law is seen as po-

tentially imposing severe restrictions on freedom of speech and opposition political activity in the former British colony that was handed over to Chinese rule in 1997. China has denounced the offer of citizenship as a violation of its sovereignty.

"If they've broken the [Sino-British] Joint Declaration, if they've thrown it overboard, how can they then use the joint declaration as though it stops us doing something that's a sovereign right of ours?" said Patten, now chancellor of the University of Ox-

ford, in an online talk with reporters.

The declaration is a bilateral treaty signed as part of the handover process. China has essentially declared it null and void, while Britain says Beijing is reneging on its commitments made in the document that was supposed to be remain in effect until 2047.

China shocked many of Hong Kong's 7.5 million people when it announced earlier this month that it will enact a national security law for the city, which was promised a high le-

vel of autonomy outside of foreign and defense affairs.

An earlier push to pass security legislation was shelved after massive Hong Kong street protests against it in 2003. However, Beijing appeared to lose patience after months of sometimes violent anti-government protests in Hong Kong last year that China said was an attempt to split the territory off from the rest of the country.

Patten said the security legislation is unnecessary because Hong Kong's legal code already includes provisions to combat terro-

rism, financial crimes and other threats to security.

"What Beijing wants is something which deals with those rather worrying Orwellian crimes like sedition, whatever that may be," Patten said.

China may also be seeking grounds to disqualify opposition candidates from running in September's election for the local legislature by accusing them of being disloyal, he said.

Beijing has ignored promises that Hong Kong could democratize of its own accord after the handover,

Patten said. The U.S. should unite with other democratic countries to oppose underhanded tactics by Beijing, he said.

"It's the Chinese Communist Party which attacks us, which hectors, which bullies, which tells companies which have roots in our countries, that unless they do what China wants, they won't get any business in China," Patten said. "That's the way the Mafia behave, and the rest of the world shouldn't put up with it, because if we do, liberal democracies are going to be screwed." **MDT/AP**

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**Times**

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Artistic director of the IFFAM, Mike Goodridge

# IFFAM announces theme, confirms running dates

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE organizing committee of the International Film Festival & Awards - Macao (IFFAM) has confirmed this year's theme and running dates.

In a statement, the IFFAM organizers confirmed that the festival will take place between December 3 and 8 with the theme "A Celebration of Life & The Big Screen."

Additionally, the organizers have announced that, from June 15, industry professionals inter-

ested in participating in this year's IFFAM can submit their film entries online using the festival's official website.

According to organizers, the festival aims to present a complete program with both feature and short films.

Earlier, the government has cancelled a series of its events due to the Covid-19 outbreak. However, IFFAM is one of the events that will go ahead as planned.

In their statement, IFFAM noted that they had chosen the theme "A Celebration of Life & The Big Screen" since this year has been marked by the world battle against Covid-19.

Under the theme, the festival will also include a specially curated section dedicated to films that define the out-of-home "big screen" experience.

The director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO)

and president of the IFFAM organizing committee, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, said, "The coronavirus pneumonia pandemic has created sweeping global impact and has posed new barriers between people. Film, however, possesses the invincible power to transcend such barriers and continue to foster human connections around the world. In these times of adversity, our hope is kindled, as the film industry never ceases moving forward with perseverance, like film reels that keep rolling. Bringing new film productions into the cinematic world, filmmakers weave boundless possibilities out of the impossible," adding, "At this moment, the IFFAM organizing committee is embracing a positive outlook for the future and is actively gearing up for the 5th International Film Festival & Awards - Macao to be unveiled this December. We look forward to sharing with all of you the fruits of the hard work from worldwide filmmakers and contribute to steering the film industry forward, and build a brighter future together."

Complementing the MGTO director, the artistic director of the festival, Mike Goodridge, said, "It has been heartbreaking to see cinemas around the world closed this year, so IFFAM would like to celebrate the return to cinemas and the joy of this beautiful communal experience."

"There is nothing quite like sitting in the dark and sharing a movie with strangers, laughing together, crying together, screaming together," said Goodridge. He added that IFFAM would be an opportunity for local audiences to get back into theatres.

# Local dragon boat teams ready to race

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE dragon boat team of Baía do Mar Canoe Club, a local canoeing association, is ready for this year's dragon boat races, the team's coach, Racy Leong, told the Times yesterday on the sidelines of the team's praying session.

A praying session is a Taoist ritual and tradition for dragon boat teams and racers, conducted for safety and victory. Resembling a lion dance to some, the dragon heads at the front of the boats were dotted to symbolize energy and the spirits.

Leong disclosed that this year the club would be deploying a team of 84 athletes to compete in five dragon boats. The club has signed up for the standard dragon boat and small dragon boat



races in the Open Category, as well as the small dragon boat race in the Women's Category.

Dragon boat races were

also affected by event cancellations due to Covid-19, along with events such as the Lunar New Year Float. Leong said it has restricted

the practice time allotted to all teams.

She explained that it was difficult for her team to conduct some practices,

such as intensive training for new team members.

As such, Leong is measured about the team's performance this year. "Although we will try our best, we aim to finish top six in the event," Leong stated.

The dragon boat team of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) was also conducting a prayer session yesterday. The ritual was led by the bureau's director, Lou Pak Sang, who is also the team's manager.

Although legally Macau is governed by a secular government, it has been a common practice for teams of government departments to follow this tradition.

This year, the DSEJ dragon boat team consists of a dozen athletes, some of them their Portuguese colleagues with the bureau. At the praying session, at least four Portuguese athletes were seen representing the DSEJ.

They will be competing with teams representing other government bureaus in the Public Service small dragon boat category of the races.

When interviewed by the Times after the praying session, Lou said that he did not want to impose stress on the team. "Doing their best will be good," the DSEJ director said. "And to represent the style of the DSEJ."

In order not to stress out the team, the director maintained a humble attitude. "[The] finishing position is not important," he said.

In addition, he also saw the race as a chance to cheer the city up. "I feel both good with Covid-19 easing in Macau and with the dragon boat races being held," the education regulator said. "It will be a chance for people to release [...] pressure."

## TOURISM REGULATOR LAUNCHES PLATFORM TO PROMOTE LOCAL DISCOUNTS

The Macao Government Tourism Office has recently launched an online platform that aims to consolidate information on discounts and promotions being offered by local businesses. The platform is named "Macao Ready Go." Originally, it was meant to disseminate the said information to tourists after the pandemic. But as the special border restrictions have not eased yet, the regulator has decided to launch the platform for local residents. Users will be able to access discounts on hotel lodging, catering, shopping, leisure and entertainment, etc. They can also save coupons for services they are interested in. Currently, 381 businesses have signed up to disseminate their information. The regulator is inviting more businesses to join the platform.

## MAJORITY OF SCHOOLS NEED SCHOOL YEAR EXTENSION

About 85% of local schools have requested permission to extend the school year until July, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau disclosed in a statement. Data from the bureau shows that as of the end of May, 91% of senior high schools, 87% of junior high schools and 78% of primary schools have applied to the bureau for permission to extend the school year in order to make up for the three-month school suspension due to Covid-19. The bureau also disclosed that vacancies for students would be tight in the immediate future. It is requiring school operators to make use of the maximum number allowed for each class to fit in more students.

## HOUSEHOLD WATER AND POWER USAGE RECORDS DOUBLE-DIGIT RISE

At a joint press conference, the city's water and electricity suppliers, Macao Water and the CEM respectively, announced that a 14% rise was recorded for both utilities in April and May. The companies attributed the rise to people spending more time at home due to the pandemic and the hot weather. In order to respond to the economic downturn caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the government has released a scheme to subsidize local households and businesses in relation to their water and power charges.

## GOV'T TO USE SHERATON HOTEL FOR QUARANTINE PURPOSES AGAIN

Starting from yesterday, the Macao Government Tourism Office said that it is again using Sheraton Grand Macau's "special isolated area" for medical observation. According to the statement issued last night, the number of people who need to stay for medical observations has gradually increased. In late March, the hotel has become the 12th hotel to be designated as a quarantine facility and the first property in Cotai. Previously, the government announced that the hotel has agreed to offer 2,000 rooms from their entire premises.

# GOV'T COMMENDS NAM KWONG FOR REDUCING FUEL PRICES

**T**HE Economic Bureau (DSE) has issued a statement praising the Nam Kwong Company for their announcement that they will lower fuel prices. Prices will be dropped by 1.30 patacas per liter on both gasoline and diesel products, effective as of yesterday.

In the statement, the DSE noted that they had been informed by the company of the adjustment. The changes come as part of the company's social responsibility policies and in support of the local government, in order to overcome the current difficulties and challenges.

Praising the fuel supplier's measures, the DSE said that it considers the fuel price drop to be an appropriate measure for these unprecedented times, and that it "will help to foster the spirit of solidarity and mutual aid and relieve the pressures felt by different sectors of society and by residents."

In the same statement, the government call on all sectors to join forces to overcome the difficulties and challenges brought by the pandemic outbreak, and to commit themselves to "safeguard[ing] the harmonious



environment." They write that this is the only way to achieve the government's proposed goal of "stabilizing the economy and ensur[ing] the quality of life of the population," as well as ensuring future socio-economic development.

The announcement of the price reduction on fuel products comes after Friday's meeting of the Follow-up Committee of Public Administration Affairs of

the Legislative Assembly. Several lawmakers urged the government to push for a reduction of the price of fuel products in Macau, a topic that has been a point of discussion for several weeks. This is also related to the drastic fall in the price of oil barrels in international markets.

During the meeting, the committee reviewed three government reports on the government's work in handling

Covid-19, the implementation of law No.11/2013 on cultural heritage protection, and the government's report on school resumption.

The committee also discussed matters about including continuing education, the Macao Foundation's distribution of subsidies, visas for visiting scholars, tobacco control, immigration for investment and skills, and oil prices. RM/JZ

## STANLEY HO'S DAUGHTER FILES LEGAL PROCEDURE IN RELATION TO MAGNATE'S WILL

**D**EBORAH Ho, the youngest of late gambling magnate Stanley Ho and Clementina Leitão's offspring, has filed a court procedure to keep track of any action administered that is pertinent to her father's will. Ho passed away on May 26 at the age of 98.

Under the court procedure, the lawyer representing the younger Ho's interests will be notified by the Hong Kong High Court should the latter take an action in relation to the late Ho's estate, several Hong Kong media agencies are reporting.

Legally known as probate caveat, the court procedure Ho filed will stop anyone from taking any proceedings from the estate of a deceased unless a court of law has proved the will to be final and valid.

Upon hearing about the

court procedure filed by her cousin, Luisa Maria Leitão, a Hong Kong television entertainer and Leitão's niece, expressed that she was saddened by the news. She was also quoted in reports saying that she would be attending her uncle's memorial service.

Ho was also said to be "ill in Macau and poor" while seeking family trust documents.

An article by Fortune Magazine published on the magnate's demise reported that the magnate had built a "\$14.9 billion empire," which was passed on to his daughter Pansy Ho. She also holds stakes in MGM China Ltd. and Shun Tak Holdings Ltd., a company her father founded. The gambling magnate has 16 children, as seen on the signatory of a statement issued upon his demise by Shun Tak Holdings Ltd. **AL**

## NETIZENS COMPLAIN OF 'UNSMOOTH' POOL REOPENING

RENATO MARQUES

**F**OLLOWING the announcement from the Sports Bureau (ID) on Friday that the government would reopen nine public swimming pools the following day, many citizens have struggled to enter the pools after the long closure of the facilities.

Over the weekend, several netizens claimed on social media that the reopening of the pools was not a smooth process. A handful of people criticized the shortening of the schedule and the difficulty in entering the public pools due to the limitation on the number of people allowed. According to several posts on Facebook, and despite the rainy weather over the weekend, pools have been full in several locations, namely in Taipa, with many having to wait a long time to access the pool.

According to the announcement from ID on Friday, the nine pools have now resumed operations with limitations on the number of people allowed inside as follows: Centro Des-

portivo Tamagnini Barbosa and Centro Desportivo do Colégio D. Bosco (maximum capacity of 30 people), Estoril Swimming Pool (140 people), Dr. Sun Yat Sen Municipal Park swimming pool (970 people), Olympic Sports Center (160 people), Carmo Swimming Pools (45 people), Taipa Central Park Swimming Pool (145 people), Hac Sa Park Swimming Pool (145 people), and Cheoc Van Swimming Pool (100 people).

Besides the adjustment made to the number of people that can be at the same time in the pool facilities, the ID also adjusted the opening hours from 7 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. on outdoor facilities, and until 9 p.m. for the indoor ones.

The ID also said that according to the current infection control measures in place, people will be asked to wear a face mask while in the indoor common areas, as well as presenting a valid health code and have their body temperature measured at the entrance.



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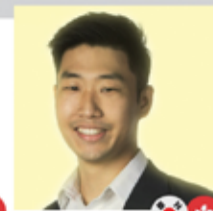
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**Property of the Week**



**Large 3/4 Bedroom Apartment, Coloane**  
**HK\$12,980,000** 2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 2 2

A large and open plan apartment that underwent a full renovation from the previous owner. The Master Bedroom and 4th Bedroom have been combined to create a large 'Master Suite' with walk-in wardrobe space and a large bathroom area.

The open plan kitchen merges into the dining and living areas to give a tremendous feeling of space. Two further bedrooms and a bathroom are separated by stairs and a hallway.

Situated on the top floor, there is a generous balcony leading off the living room and access to the building roof terrace via the external staircase. There are two car parks included in this property, it will make a fantastic family home and investment property, there is always a very high demand for rental.

Viewing by appointment.

**Property Hotlist**



**Modern Studio, One Oasis**

**\$6,357,000**  
 691 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 1



**Manhattan 1/F Carpark, Taipa**

**\$1,480,000**  
 1



**The Fountainside Villas Historical Macau**

**PoA**  
 2,973 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 3 4 1



**Manhattan E Unit, Taipa**

**\$19,800/mth**  
 1,626 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 3 2



**More Listings**

**For Sale**

- [Macau] Apartment w/ balcony 2 1 840 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$4,580,000** (ref: 20016003)
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 1 3 2 1,663 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$8,200,000** (ref: 19025577)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village- two connected 4 2 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$8,380,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 2 1,420 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$10,900,000** (ref: 20016004)
- [Macau] Keng Ou Office 3 2,352 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$17,500,000** (ref: 19096002)

**For Rent**

- [Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1 **\$3,800/mth** (ref: 20041001)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1 710 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$10,000/mth** (ref: 20021002)
- [Macau] Vai Fung Triplex 2 2 1,065 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$14,000/mth** (ref: 19121001)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 2 2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$28,000/mth** (ref: 20031001)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 4 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)

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**Sold**

One Central high floor, 2 beds

**Rented**

Central Taipa apartment, 1 bed

**Rented**

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# ADELSON'S SINGAPORE CASINO PROBED OVER LAUNDERING CONTROLS

CHANYAPORN CHANJAROEN  
& TOM SCHOENBERG

**T**HE Singapore casino of billionaire Sheldon Adelson's Las Vegas Sands Corp. is being probed by the U.S. Department of Justice over whether anti-money laundering regulations were breached in the way it handled the accounts of top gamblers.

The Justice Department in January issued a grand jury subpoena to a former compliance chief of Marina Bay Sands Pte, seeking an interview or documents on "money laundering facilitation" and any abuse of internal financial controls, according to a copy of the subpoena seen by Bloomberg News.

Prosecutors asked the former compliance head, as a person with knowledge of the casino's operations, to produce records related to any such violations including through gambling junkets and third-party lending using casino credit, the document shows. The U.S. inquiry, which people familiar with the matter said is likely in its early stages, is also seeking to establish if there was any retaliation against whistleblowers, according to the subpoena.

Sands fell as much as 5.3% on Bloomberg's report before closing up 1.1% in New York. Other operators, including MGM Resorts International and Wynn Resorts Ltd. erased declines and closed higher on a day that the Las Vegas Strip saw its casinos open for the first time since March due to the coronavirus.

Marina Bay Sands is one of the most profitable casinos in the

world, accounting for more than a fifth of revenue and about a third of operating income at the U.S. parent. Las Vegas Sands' Asian operations, which also include Macau, contributed about 85% of the company's \$13.7 billion in revenue last year, and have helped make Adelson one of the richest men in the U.S.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Las Vegas said she couldn't confirm or deny ongoing investigations. The subpoena also requested information on another former casino employee, who people familiar said carried out fund transfers to high rollers.

In a written response, the Singapore casino said any suggestion of inappropriate activity is taken seriously, and it has investigated every assertion of wrongdoing brought to its attention. Marina Bay Sands and its parent company haven't received any requests from the Department of Justice, according to people familiar with the matter.

## OTHER PROBES

Las Vegas Sands has drawn other Justice Department scrutiny in recent years. In 2013, the company paid \$47.4 million to end a federal investigation into its acknowledged failure to report suspicious deposits by a high-stakes gambler in Las Vegas. In 2017, it paid \$6.96 million to resolve a probe into alleged violations of U.S. law in connection with bribes paid to government officials in China and Macau. Sands admitted it knowingly and willingly failed to ensure the legitimacy of about \$5.8 million in payments to

a business consultant.

Marina Bay Sands also faces a probe in Singapore by the Casino Regulatory Authority into its money transfer policies. A spokesperson for the agency declined to comment further as the investigation is ongoing, adding it hasn't received a request from the Department of Justice in connection with Marina Bay Sands.

In its emailed response to Bloomberg, the regulator also said it's "committed to ensuring that the casinos in Singapore, including Marina Bay Sands, remain free from criminal influence or exploitation, and takes a serious view of any allegations of unauthorized money transfers."

Claims about these transfers surfaced in a lawsuit filed last year by Wang Xi, who sued Marina Bay Sands seeking to recover \$6.5 million that he said was sent to other casino patrons in 2015 without his approval. The Singapore Police Force is also investigating Wang's complaint, Bloomberg News reported last month. The casino has declined to comment on the suit.

The Singapore regulator asked Marina Bay Sands to review its third-party transfer process, one of the people said. Such transfers, when authorized, are legal and used by groups of gamblers to share winnings and losses at different foreign casinos.

## JUNKET OPERATORS

These transfers are sometimes made through so-called junket operators, which provide transportation, hotels and credit to high rollers. In Macau, these ope-

rators allow Chinese gamblers to get around strict capital controls by pledging assets on the mainland in exchange for credit at casinos. The junkets are more strictly controlled in Singapore.

Marina Bay's internal probe found instances of its group employees violating accepted transfer procedures by filling in payment details on pre-signed or photo-copied authorization forms, according to a person familiar with the matter. It also uncovered cases in which original documents were destroyed, the person said.

## THOROUGH REVIEW

Such practices appear to have stopped since April 2018, when the casino - which has had at least six chief compliance officers in the last decade - amended its procedures, according to the person familiar.

"When allegations related to the mishandling of 'letters of authorization' were made, the company thoroughly reviewed the matter," a Marina Bay Sands spokesman said in the statement. "The review concluded that no patron funds were transferred in a manner that was contrary to a patron's intent."

The company has shared this information with the authorities in Singapore and will cooperate with any governmental requests it may receive, according to the statement.

Singapore requires casinos to implement internal controls and check the authorization of fund transfers, as well as comply with requirements to prevent money laundering and terrorism finan-

cing, the regulator said in its written response to Bloomberg.

A global anti-money laundering watchdog last year urged Singapore to tighten its controls. The Financial Action Task Force reported in November that the city state has inadequate customer due diligence requirements for entities such as casinos and real estate agents. It noted "moderate shortcomings are still affecting" the two sectors, without citing any companies. The casino regulator didn't reply to a request for comment on the watchdog report.

## Crazy Rich

Marina Bay Sands is one of two firms granted licenses to operate casinos on the island. Last year, the Singapore government agreed to extend the licenses held by Genting Singapore Ltd. and Las Vegas Sands to 2030, in exchange for pledges to invest a combined \$9 billion in tourism projects.

With a profit margin ranging from 53% to 56% in the three years ending in 2019, Marina Bay Sands is among the most profitable integrated gaming resorts in the world, according to Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Brian Egger.

Since opening in 2010, the casino has become an iconic tourist attraction, and was featured in the "Crazy Rich Asians" film. In addition to the 160,000 square-foot casino, the complex has three 55-story hotel towers topped with a boat-shaped sky deck and pool, as well as a shopping mall and convention center.

Like many casinos around the world, Marina Bay Sands is closed due to the pandemic, slashing revenue for firms like Las Vegas Sands. Macau gaming revenue across all casinos plunged 93% in May from the year earlier, as operators await the opening of borders to spark a recovery after an unprecedented shutdown.

**BLOOMBERG**

# Beijing defends its coronavirus response in new report

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

**S**ENIOR Chinese officials released a lengthy report Sunday on the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic, defending their government's actions and saying that China had provided information in a timely and transparent manner.

China "wasted no time" in sharing information such as the genome sequence for the new virus with the World Health Organization as well as relevant countries and regional organizations, according to the report.

An Associated Press investigation found that government labs sat on releasing the genetic map of the virus for more than a week in January, delaying its identification in a third country and the sharing of information needed to develop tests, drugs and a vaccine.

National Health Commission Chairman Ma Xiaowei did not address the specific findings in the AP report, but said it "seriously goes against the facts." He added that there were many unknowns in the early stage of the outbreak



Xu Lin, Vice head of the Publicity Department of the Communist Party shows a copy of the white paper on fighting COVID-19

and that it took time to gather evidence and figure out the characteristics of the new virus.

"The Chinese government did not delay or cover up anything," he said. "Instead, we have immediately reported virus data and relevant information about the epi-

demic to the international community and made an important contribution to the prevention and control of the epidemic around the world."

He ticked off a series of government actions from a detailed timeline in the government report. The

timeline says that China began updating the WHO on a regular basis on Jan. 3 and that the head of China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention briefed the head of the U.S. CDC on Jan. 4.

U.S. officials have been critical of China's early response, adding

to a deterioration of U.S.-China relations over trade and technology and pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

Asked how China would repair its relations with the rest of the world, Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu said that cooperation over the pandemic had improved ties with most other countries.

Without naming the U.S., he said: "Certain countries go against the tide of history. To disguise their inadequate response to COVID-19, they insanely smeared and slandered China ... . In response to such scapegoating practice, China will certainly fight back."

The report, which ran 66 pages in the English version, lauded China's success in reducing the daily increase in new cases to single digits within about two months and the "decisive victory ... in the battle to defend Hubei Province and its capital city of Wuhan" in about three months.

Wuhan, where the first cases of the virus were detected late last year, was the hardest-hit part of China in the outbreak. The city and soon after much of Hubei province were locked down for 2 to 2 1/2 months to stop the spread of the virus to the rest of the country.

The report credited Chinese leader Xi Jinping with making the Jan. 22 decision to cut Wuhan off by cutting transportation links and banning people from leaving or entering the city. AP

## CHINA URGES CITIZENS TO SHUN AUSTRALIA AS DISPUTE SIMMERS

**C**HINA is advising its citizens not to visit Australia, citing racial discrimination and violence against Asians, in what appears to be Beijing's latest attempt to punish the country for advocating an investigation into the coronavirus pandemic.

A notice issued by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism last week said there has "been an increase in words and deeds of racial discrimination and acts of violence against Chinese and Asians in Australia, due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic."

"The ministry advises Chinese tourists to raise their safety awareness and avoid travelling to Australia," the notice said.

As part of its perceived retaliation, China has already effectively ended imports of Australian barley by putting tariffs of more than 80% on the crop, accusing Australia of breaching World Trade Organization rules by sub-

sidizing barley production and selling the crop in China at below production costs. That came a week after China banned beef imports from Australia's four largest abattoirs over labeling issues.

Australian Trade Minister Simon Birmingham on Tuesday said the country did not want a trade war, but said China "has made errors of both fact and law" in applying WTO rules, adding that there was no evidence that Australia was engaged in dumping of products.

Australian has been among countries pushing for an international investigation into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic and responses to it. Beijing has denied its measures against Australian beef and barley were related to those calls.

The World Health Organization has bowed to calls from most of its member states to launch an independent probe into how

it managed the international response to the virus, which was first found in China late last year. The evaluation would stop short of looking into contentious issues such as the origins of the virus.

Chinese Ambassador Cheng Jingye's has told Australian media that the country might face a Chinese boycott of its tourism and exports of wine, beef and other goods if the government pressed for a coronavirus inquiry.

China is the No. 1 market for Australian beef, accounting for about 30% of exports. It's also the biggest foreign buyer of Australian barley.

Beijing has regularly used access to its huge market to punish governments from Norway to Canada in political disputes. Chinese officials routinely refuse to confirm a trade disruption is related to a political clash but make it clear Beijing wants concessions. AP

**Medical Insurance Subsidy Scheme for Macao SAR Residents Living in the Zhuhai**

**Scope of application**  
Macao residents living in Zhuhai who hold a Residence Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents and have joined the "Zhuhai City Basic Medical Insurance"

**Eligible population and amount of subsidy**

Eligible population	Amount of subsidy
Children aged 10 years or below	Up to MOP220
Primary and secondary school students	Up to MOP220
Residents aged 65 years or above	Up to MOP490
Persons with disabilities	Up to MOP490

**Required documents for application**

- Completed "Medical Insurance Subsidy Scheme for Macao SAR Residents Living in the Mainland - Application Form" (available at the Health Bureau website)
- Photocopy of Macao SAR Resident Identity Card
- Photocopy of Residence Permit for Hong Kong and Macao Residents
- Photocopy of a Macao bank passbook or other document containing the name and account number
- Proof of payment of insurance premium (can be printed at any service points of the Social Insurance Fund Management Centre of the Zhuhai City after settlement of payment)
- In the case of individuals aged 10 years or below, as well as students of primary and secondary education, the photocopy of the identity document of a parent/ guardian/ curator should be submitted; besides, if such persons do not have a bank account, their parent's/ guardian's/ curator's bank account can be provided instead
- For applicants with disabilities, the documentary proof of disability issued by the Social Welfare Bureau should be submitted

**Method of application**

- In person - Submit the necessary documents to the Healthcare Subsidy Scheme Support Centre of the Health Bureau, the Integrated Service Centre of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Macao Government Services Centre, or the Macao Government Services Centre in Islands
- By post - Send the application via registered mail with advice of delivery to the Healthcare Subsidy Scheme Support Centre of the Health Bureau, PO Box 3002, Macao
- By electronic means - Email address: ybjt@ssm.gov.mo

**Enquiry Website** [www.ssm.gov.mo](http://www.ssm.gov.mo) **Telephone** 2822 5050 **E-mail** [ybjt@ssm.gov.mo](mailto:ybjt@ssm.gov.mo)

澳門特別行政區政府衛生局  
Bureau de Saude do Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau

# Largely peaceful protests against police brutality march on

STEVEN SLOAN,  
JUSTIN PRITCHARD  
& TOM FOREMAN JR.,  
WASHINGTON

**M**ASSIVE protests against police brutality nationwide capped a week that began in chaos but ended with largely peaceful expressions that organizers hope will sustain their movement.

This weekend's marches featured few reports of problems in scenes that were more often festive than tense. Authorities were not quick to release crowd size estimates, but it was clear tens of thousands of people — and perhaps hundreds of thousands — turned out nationally.

Wearing masks and urging fundamental change, protesters gathered in dozens of places from coast to coast while mourners in North Carolina waited for hours to glimpse the golden coffin carrying the body of native son George Floyd, the black man whose death at the hands of Minneapolis police has galvanized the expanding movement.

Collectively, it was perhaps the largest one-day mobilization since Floyd died May 25 and came as many cities lifted curfews imposed following initial spasms of arson, assaults and smash-and-grab raids on businesses. Authorities have softened restrictions as the number of arrests plummeted.

Demonstrations also reached four other continents, ending in clashes in London and Marseille, France. In the U.S., Seattle police used flash bang devices and pepper spray to disperse protesters hurling rocks, bottles and what authorities said were "improvised explosives" that had injured officers, just a day after city leaders temporarily banned one kind of tear gas. Around midnight in Portland, a firework was thrown over the fence at the Justice Center, injuring a Multnomah County deputy, Portland police Lt. Tina Jones said. Smith said police had declare an unlawful assembly and were making arrests.



Demonstrators protest near the White House in Washington, over the brutal death of George Floyd

The largest U.S. demonstration appeared to be in Washington, where protesters flooded streets closed to traffic. On a hot, humid day, they gathered at the Capitol, on the National Mall and in neighborhoods. Some turned intersections into dance floors. Tents offered snacks and water.

Pamela Reynolds said she came seeking greater police accountability.

"The laws are protecting them," said the 37-year-old African American teacher. The changes she wants include a federal ban on police chokeholds and a requirement that officers wear body cameras.

At the White House, which was fortified with new fencing and extra security measures, chants and cheers were heard in waves. President Donald Trump, who has urged authorities to crack down on unrest, downplayed the demonstration, tweeting: "Much smaller crowd in D.C. than anticipated."

Elsewhere, the backdrops included some of the nation's most famous landmarks. Peaceful marchers mingled with motorists as they crossed the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Cars had been cleared from the Brooklyn Bridge as protesters streamed into Manhattan on a day that New York police relaxed enforcement of a curfew that has led to confrontations. They walked the boulevards of Hollywood

and a Nashville, Tennessee, street famous for country music-themed bars and restaurants.

Many protesters wore masks — a reminder of the danger that the protests could exacerbate the spread of the coronavirus.

Roderick Sweeney, who is black, said the large turnout of white protesters waving signs that said "Black Lives Matter" in San Francisco sent a powerful message.

"We've had discussions in our family and among friends that nothing is going to change until our white brothers and sisters voice their opinion," said Sweeney, 49.

A large crowd of Seattle medical workers, many in lab coats and scrubs, marched to City Hall, holding signs reading, "Police violence and racism are a public health emergency" and "Nurses kneel with you, not on you" — a reference to how a white officer pressed his knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes.

Atop a parking garage in downtown Atlanta, a group of black college band alumni serenaded protesters with a tuba-heavy mix of tunes. Standing within earshot, business owner Leah Aforkor Quaye said it was her first time hitting the streets.

"This makes people so uncomfortable, but the only way things are happening is if we make people uncomfortable," said Quaye, who

is black.

In Raeford, North Carolina, a town near Floyd's birthplace, people lined up outside a Free Will Baptist church, waiting to enter in small groups. At a private memorial service, mourners sang along with a choir. A large photo of Floyd and a portrait of him adorned with an angel's wings and halo were displayed at the front of the chapel.

Protesters and their supporters in public office say they're determined to turn the outpouring into change, notably overhauling policing policies. Many marchers urged officials to "defund the police."

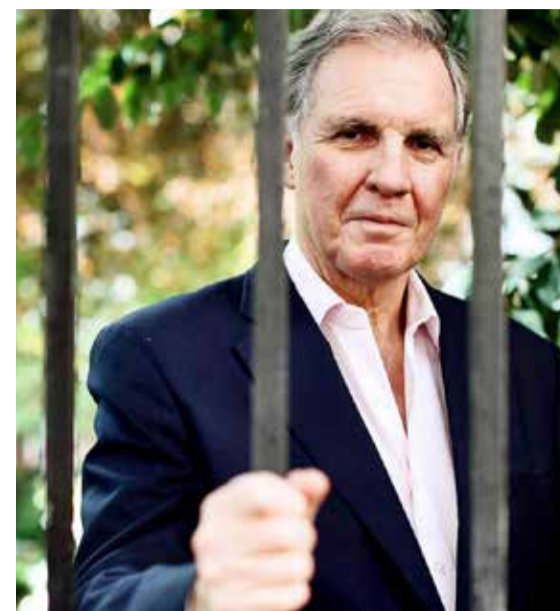
Congressional Democrats are preparing a sweeping package of police reforms, which is expected to include changes to immunity provisions and creating a database of use-of-force incidents. Revamped training requirements are planned, too — among them, a ban on chokeholds.

The prospects of reforms clearing a divided Congress are unclear.

Back in North Carolina, the Rev. Christopher Stackhouse recounted the circumstances of Floyd's death for the congregation.

"It took 8 minutes and 46 seconds for him to die," Stackhouse said at the memorial service. "But it took 401 years to put the system in place so nothing would happen." AP

## this day in history



### 1999 LIAR AITKEN JAILED FOR 18 MONTHS

Disgraced ex-cabinet minister Jonathan Aitken has been jailed for 18 months after he admitted lying during a failed libel action.

The former Conservative MP admitted both charges earlier in the year, following the collapse of his libel case against The Guardian newspaper and Granada TV.

Passing sentence at the Old Bailey, Mr Justice Scott Baker told Aitken he had woven a "web of deceit" and committed an inexcusable breach of trust.

From the dock, the former minister blew a kiss to his daughters, who started to cry as the verdict was announced.

He was later taken away to begin his sentence at Belmarsh jail near Woolwich, south London. His solicitor said he would not be appealing against the sentence.

Aitken dramatically resigned from his post as Chief Secretary to the Treasury in 1995, after The Guardian and Granada TV's World in Action programme reported that a Saudi businessman had paid for a stay at the Paris Ritz hotel - in breach of ministerial rules.

The MP launched his ill-fated libel action, announcing he had quit to fight what he said was "the cancer of bent and twisted journalism".

The trial also addressed World in Action allegations that Aitken procured prostitutes for his Arab business clients on their visits to the UK, and that he was aware, as a director of BMARC, that the company had sold guns to Iran in contradiction of a United Nations embargo.

But it was his insistence that his wife Lolicia had settled the Ritz bill which ultimately brought his downfall, when documents were presented proving she had been in Switzerland, not Paris, over the entire weekend in question.

Charges of perjury and conspiracy to pervert the course of justice followed, and in March, unable to pay his legal debts, he had himself declared bankrupt.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Jonathan Aitken served almost seven months of his 18-month sentence, and following his release began a theology course at Oxford University.

His ill-judged decision to launch a libel action in order to defend his lies resulted in personal disaster. Aitken said his "whole life was shattered" within 24 hours of the collapse of the trial.

But having pleaded guilty to perjury and conspiring to pervert the course of justice, he appeared to feel remorse for his actions.

"I have learned my lessons. I hope I never tell any lies again. Sometimes you become a prisoner of your own lie. Ultimately I have no excuses," he said.



**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 Don't make any unreasonable promises. Help those incapable of taking care of their personal affairs. Business and emotional partnerships will run smoothly.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Use your quick wit to win points and friends. You will meet new and exciting people if you attend social activities or sporting events. You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 Overindulgence will be a problem if you are out in a social setting. Take the whole family and make it an enjoyable outing. Don't let your partner goad you into wearing your heart on your sleeve.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 Complete those hobbies you started a long time ago. You may find yourself in a heated dispute with a friend if you try to change your mind. You like to stay busy and now is your chance to do just that.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 You can pick up information that will give you an edge. You will meet exciting new people through interest groups or functions that you attend with your children.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 Social activity should be on your agenda. Don't go out of your way, and don't let these unexpected guests cost you money. You may need to make a few alterations to your living arrangements.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 You can make new friends who could turn into intimate connections if you join clubs or take creative courses. Try to keep any mood swings under control; they may result in alienation.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 Home improvement projects will run smoothly. You are best to put in some overtime rather than get involved in family gatherings. Be careful not to hurt the ones you love.

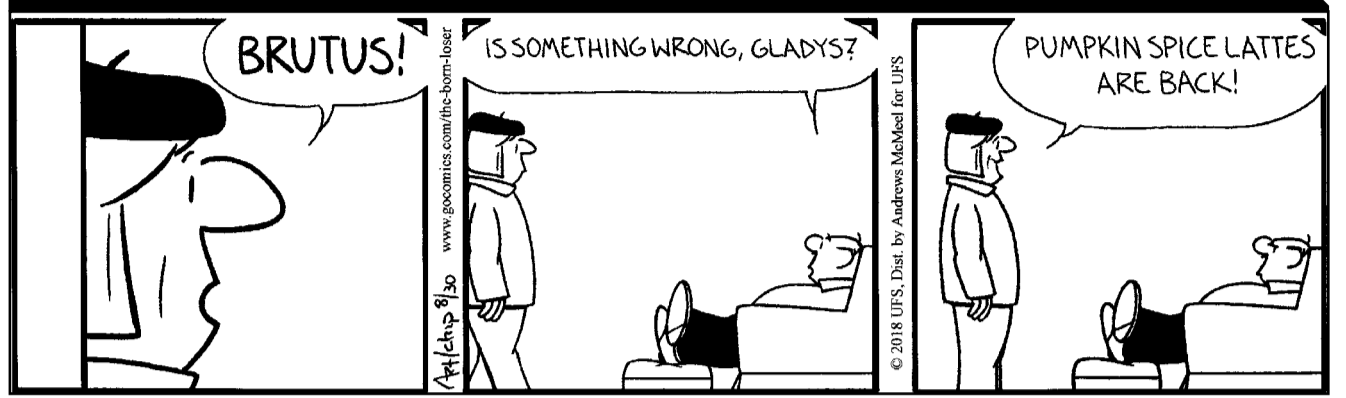
**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Older relatives may make unreasonable demands. Be sure that you have all the facts before you take action. Turn your present relationship around or start a new one.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 You can expect to have some problems with skin, bones, or teeth if you haven't taken proper care of them. Your energy will be high; however, if not channeled suitably, temper tantrums may erupt.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 Make money using your ingenuity and creative talent. You can stabilize your situation if you compromise. Be careful what you say. Social relationships may get tense.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 You will be misinterpreted if you get involved in other people's problems. It would be in your best interest to stay away from any intimate involvement with a client or coworker.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	18	30	cloudy
Harbin	12	23	thundershower
Tianjin	20	28	cloudy
Urumqi	22	33	cloudy
Xi'an	22	37	clear
Lhasa	10	20	drizzle
Chengdu	19	34	cloudy
Chongqing	21	33	clear
Kunming	15	29	shower
Nanjing	22	28	moderate rain
Shanghai	22	26	heavy rain
Wuhan	23	31	drizzle
Hangzhou	22	25	heavy rain
Taipei	25	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	25	31	moderate rain
Hong Kong	28	32	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	13	18	drizzle
Frankfurt	9	18	drizzle
Paris	11	18	drizzle
London	9	19	drizzle
New York	21	31	moderate rain

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS: 1- Pet plant; 5- Little mark; 10- "Puppy Love" singer; 14- Damage; 15- Wispy clouds; 16- Café au \_\_\_\_; 17- Langston Hughes poem; 18- Choir members; 19- A single time; 20- Gospel singer Winans; 21- Kind of tomato; 23- Place for ordering alcoholic drinks; 25- Driving peg; 26- Baseless distrust of others; 31- Elevate; 35- Kimono accessory; 36- Disgusting; 38- Yellowish brown color; 40- Seemingly forever; 42- Quake; 44- Zip; 45- Melody; 47- Night vision?; 49- Calendar abbr.; 50- Unit of magnetic induction; 52- Incoming; 54- Illustrative craft; 56- \_\_\_\_ Dawn Chong; 57- Highly seasoned sausage; 62- Member of a great Peruvian people; 66- Actress Ward; 67- Gymnast Comaneci; 68- Be in front; 69- Minus; 70- Encompassed about; 71- Architect Saarinen; 72- Raw materials; 73- Carousal; 74- Remnant;

DOWN: 1- In vogue; 2- Enmity; 3- Camaro model; 4- Simple life form; 5- Indecent; 6- Heap; 7- Romain de Tiroff, familiarly; 8- Lara of "Tomb Raider"; 9- One who osculates; 10- Hand cream ingredient; 11- "Peter Pan" dog; 12- Strike with foot; 13- Corroded; 22- Milk source; 24- Some; 26- Composition in verse; 27- Circa; 28- Wash cycle; 29- Secured, as victory; 30- Director Kurosawa; 32- Fleming who created Bond; 33- Hindu teacher; 34- Finish with; 37- North Sea feeder; 39- Positive principle; 41- Lisa, to Bart, briefly; 43- Wedding; 46- Thunder sound; 48- Actress Farrow; 51- Places of contest; 53- Like some brides and threats; 55- Chaplin persona; 57- Jury member; 58- Otherwise; 59- Get an A, say; 60- Redolence; 61- Baseball team; 63- \_\_\_\_-do-well; 64- Attention; 65- Sick as \_\_\_\_; 66- \_\_\_\_-mo;



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



<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>Large 3/4 Bedroom Apartment, Coloane</b>                  HK\$12,980,000 2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>Manhattan Apartment, Taipa</b>                  \$19,800/mth 1,626 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>[Macau] Apartment Historical Centre 2 1/2 1 1/2                  840 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)</p> <p>[Coloane] Hellene Gardens 1 3 1/2 2 1/2                  1,663 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,200,000 (ref: 19025577)</p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 1/2 2 1/2                  1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)</p> <p>[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1/2 2 1/2                  1,420 ft<sup>2</sup> \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p>[Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1                  \$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)</p> <p>[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2                  710 ft<sup>2</sup> \$10,000/mth (ref: 20021002)</p> <p>[Macau] Vai Fung Triplex, Macau 2 1/2 2 1/2                  1,065 ft<sup>2</sup> \$14,000/mth (ref: 19121001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2                  2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)</p>
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# Sands Cares Ambassadors Continue to Show Care for the Community



During this challenging time of the pandemic, Sands China's group of team member volunteers – the Sands Cares Ambassadors – have been working together with local community organisations, NGOs and schools to offer their support to help keep Macao healthy and safe from COVID-19, and to express their care for some of society's more vulnerable groups. Their initiatives have included many different types of activities.

The Ambassadors have helped deliver relief items like medical facemasks and hand sanitisers to community groups, as part of Sands China's MOP 5 million COVID-19 relief fund. They've also helped clean and sanitise local school facilities, and have made phone calls to check in on elderly Peng On Tung users. And they've also packed and distributed sanitation and emergency typhoon response kits with Macau Red Cross.

And with the community largely staying home to prevent the spread of the virus, Sands China Ltd. and the Sheng Kung Hui Social Service Coordination Office worked together to organise a parent-child colouring contest, aimed at enhancing parent-child interactions and enriching children's at-home activities.

Sands China's COVID-19 relief effort in Macao is part of Sands Cares, the global corporate citizenship program of its parent company, Las Vegas Sands Corp.



SOCIAL MEDIA

# ZUCKERBERG-FUNDED SCIENTISTS: REIN IN HATE ON FACEBOOK

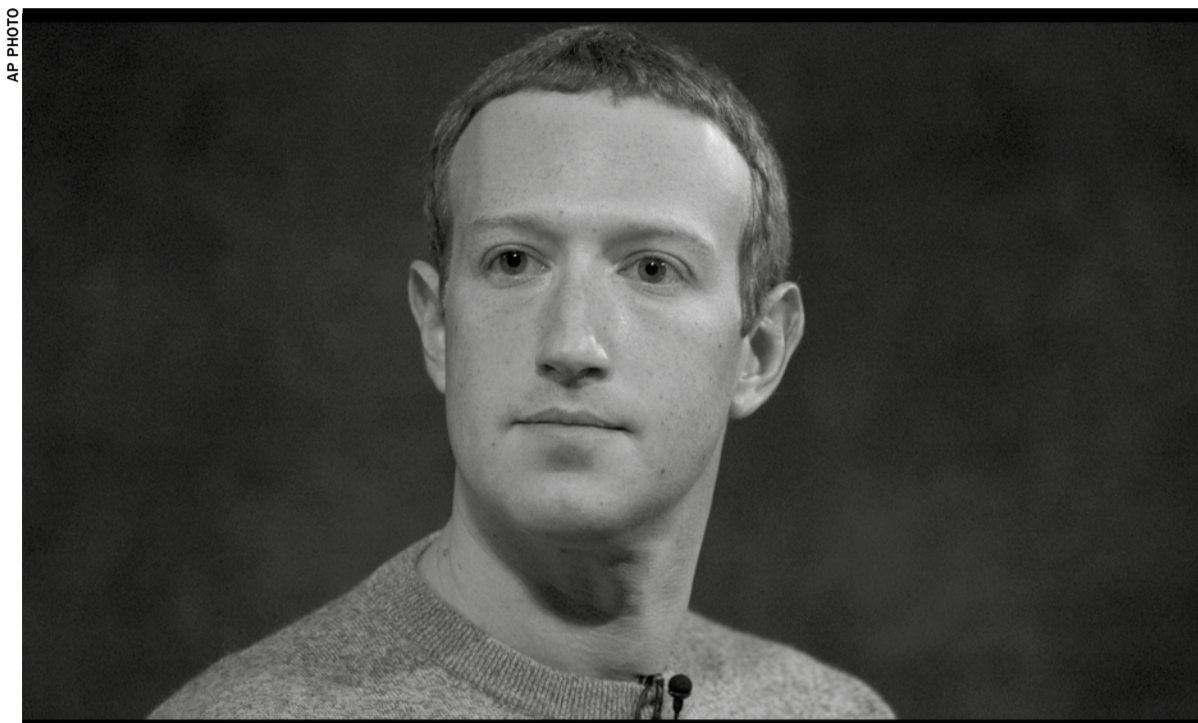
FRANK BAJAK, BOSTON

**D**OZENS of scientists doing research funded by Mark Zuckerberg say Facebook should not be letting President Donald Trump use the social media platform to “spread both misinformation and incendiary statements.”

The researchers, including 60 professors at leading U.S. research institutions, wrote the Facebook CEO yesterday [Macau time] asking Zuckerberg to “consider stricter policies on misinformation and incendiary language that harms people,” especially during the current turmoil over racial injustice.

The letter calls the spread of “deliberate misinformation and divisive language” contrary to the researchers’ goals of using technology to prevent and eradicate disease, improve childhood education and reform the criminal justice system.

Their mission “is antithetical to some of the stances that Facebook has been taking, so we’re encouraging them to be more on the side of truth and on the right side of history as we’ve said in the



AP PHOTO

letter,” said Debora Marks of Harvard Medical School, one of three professors who organized it.

The others are Martin Kamppmann of the University of California-San Francisco and Jason Shepherd of the University of Utah. All have grants from a Chan Zuckerberg Initiative program

working to prevent, cure and treat neurodegenerative disorders including Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease.

They said the letter had more than 160 signatories. Shepherd said about 10% are employees of foundations run by Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan.

The letter objects specifically to Zuckerberg’s decision not to at least flag as a violation of Facebook’s community standards Trump’s post that stated “when the looting starts, the shooting starts” in response to unrest in Minneapolis over the videotaped killing of George Floyd, a black

man, by a white police officer. The letter’s authors called the post “a clear statement of inciting violence.”

Twitter had both flagged and demoted a Trump tweet using the same language.

In a statement, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative noted that the philanthropic organization is separate from Facebook and said “we are grateful for our staff, partners and grantees” and “respect their right to voice their opinions, including on Facebook policies.”

Some Facebook employees have publicly objected to Zuckerberg’s refusal to take down or label misleading or incendiary posts by Trump and other politicians. But Zuckerberg — who controls a majority of voting shares in the company — has so far refused.

On Friday, Zuckerberg said in a post that he would review “potential options for handling violating or partially-violating content aside from the binary leave-it-up or take-it-down decisions”

“I know many of you think we should have labeled the President’s posts in some way last week,” he wrote. “Our current policy is that if content is actually inciting violence, then the right mitigation is to take that content down — not let people continue seeing it behind a flag. There is no exception to this policy for politicians or newsworthiness.” AP

**ALBERGUE SCM**  
婆仔屋文創空間

**彎曲的風景**  
TWISTED LANDSCAPES  
EXHIBITION BY 作品展 EXPOSIÇÃO DE  
**張正民**  
ZHANG ZHENGMIN

Duration of Exhibition  
April 23rd until June 28th 2020

Opening Hours  
Every day, from 12:00pm to 8:00pm  
Except Monday, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm

Exhibition Venue  
Albergue SCM – A2 Gallery

Free Admission

ALBERGUE SCM / ALBcreativeLAB  
ADDRESS: CALÇADA DA IGREJA DE SÃO LÁZARO NO.8, MACAU  
TEL: + 853 - 2852 2550/ 2852 3205 FAX: + 853 - 2852 2719  
INFO: facebook.com/AlbergueSCMMacau  
EMAIL: creativealbergue@gmail.com

**仁德** CENTRO MÉDICO PEDDER  
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

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OPINION

World Views

Clara Ferreira Marques, Bloomberg

VIETNAM BREAKS OUT OF THE COVID TOURIST TRAP

Vietnam is pulling ahead in the race to reopen Southeast Asia to city-hoppers and sunseekers.

International arrivals were down 98% in May from a year earlier, after a record 2019. Yet success in containing the coronavirus epidemic means domestic travel has already restarted. Thailand, by comparison, is still under a state of emergency, and other neighbors in the tourism-friendly region are only slowly easing restrictions. The steady reopening will help Vietnam's convalescing economy, and may encourage a welcome rethink on leisure industry priorities.

For a country of nearly 100 million that borders China, Vietnam has been something of a standout case through the pandemic. Official records show just 329 cases and no deaths. That reflects a decision to close borders rapidly, quarantine tens of thousands, and to contact trace and test at impressive levels. Clear official communication, affordable test kits and locally made protective equipment helped. Its lockdown lasted barely a month, and since mid-April, all new cases have been imported. By contrast, Thailand has roughly 3,100 cases, the Philippines over 20,000 and Singapore more than 37,000, mostly in migrant-worker dormitories.

The result is that Vietnam has been among the first countries globally to get its citizens holidaying again. Tourism makes up only about 9% of the \$260 billion economy.

It's an early glimpse into what post-pandemic holidays might look like for all of us. A cautious version, perhaps, compared to tourist-dependent parts of Europe racing toward peak summer months. So far, observations gathered over the past few weeks by Thien Minh Group, which runs everything from cruises to resorts, suggest travelers favored shorter breaks closer to home, at the beach or in natural settings, with many still shunning flights. Discounts and safety were key motivators, though anecdotal evidence suggests hotels have preferred throwing in extras to cutting room rates, a harder move to reverse.

What about the next step, then, the return of foreign visitors? That may still be months away, despite airlines beginning to prepare for overseas flights. Considering Vietnam's relative safety, that's a stark indication of just how long it will take to get the near-\$9 trillion global tourism industry moving again, as countries work to hammer out bilateral agreements for travel, starting with priority business visitors. Even these lanes are often not green but amber, says Brendan Sobie, an independent analyst, and fraught with restrictions as with Singapore and China, or China and South Korea.

Potential pitfalls abound. Who comes first, and when? Ken Atkinson, an industry veteran who is now vice chairman of the Vietnam Tourism Advisory Board, points out that to avoid politics, there are likely to be objective thresholds put in place: a month of no community transmission, for example. Countries that have managed the pandemic well — South Korea or New Zealand, say — are likely to be among the first in line. The focus for Chinese tourists, key for Southeast Asia, will probably be on the Golden Week holiday at the start of October.

The other half of this jigsaw is countries of origin. China, whose visitors spent some \$17 billion in Thailand alone last year, has used tour groups for political aims before. For now, though, safety appears to be a greater concern, and that's especially true for the independent travelers who will probably cross borders months before tour groups on red-eye charter flights.

For Vietnam, as for all of Southeast Asia, there is a silver lining to this slow return to the world stage. The region has been a victim of its own success with mass tourism. The 2018 closure of Maya Bay in Thailand, the setting of the film "The Beach," and of Boracay in the Philippines the same year speak to the damage done by hordes of backpackers and unthinking tourists. A health-conscious, eco-savvy reopening that focuses on higher-margin independent travelers may help build a more sustainable future.

The worldwide death toll from COVID-19 has surpassed 400,000, according to a tally by Johns Hopkins University that health experts say is still an undercount because many who died were not tested for the virus.

The milestone was reached yesterday, a day after the Brazilian government stopped publishing a running total of coronavirus deaths and infections. Critics called the move an extraordinary attempt to hide the true toll of the disease rampaging through Latin America's

largest nation.

Brazil's last official numbers recorded over 34,000 virus-related deaths, the third-highest toll in the world behind the U.S. and Britain.

Worldwide, at least 6.9 million people have been infected by the virus, according to Johns Hopkins.

The U.S. has seen nearly 110,000 confirmed virus-related deaths and Europe has recorded over 175,000 since the virus emerged in China late last year.

INDIA, CHINA TO CONTINUE EFFORTS TO DEFUSE BORDER ROW

AP PHOTO



The China-India border dispute covers nearly 3,500 kilometers of frontier that the two countries call the Line of Actual Control

INDIA and China will press ahead with military and diplomatic engagements in a bid to resolve a standoff along their disputed Himalayan frontier, the foreign ministry in New Delhi said yesterday.

The External Affairs Ministry said in statement that a meeting between Indian and Chinese military commanders at a border post in the Himalayan region on Saturday took place in a "cordial and positive atmosphere."

"Both sides agreed to peacefully resolve the si-

tuation in the border areas in accordance with various bilateral agreements and keeping in view the agreement between the leaders that peace and tranquility in the India-China border regions is essential for the overall development of bilateral relations," the statement said.

There was no immediate reaction from Beijing.

Indian officials say the standoff began in early May when large contingents of Chinese soldiers entered deep inside Indian-controlled territory

at three places in Ladakh, erecting tents and posts. They said the Chinese soldiers ignored repeated verbal warnings to leave, triggering shouting matches, stone-throwing and fistfights.

India also mobilized thousands of soldiers.

China has sought to downplay the confrontation while saying the two sides were communicating through both their front-line military units and their respective embassies to resolve the issue.

TAIWANESE VOTERS OUST NATIONALIST MAYOR WHO SOUGHT PRESIDENCY

VOTERS in the Taiwanese port city of Kaohsiung this weekend ousted their mayor, whose failed bid for the presidency on behalf of the China-friendly Nationalist Party earlier this year brought widespread disapproval among residents.

The number of votes to recall Han Kuo-yu far exceeded the 574,996 needed to remove him. Han accepted the result in a statement to supporters and media after the threshold was passed.

But he blamed the media in part for the result, saying he had been subjected to "constant smears, rumors and attacks." He has one week to leave office, unless he decides to appeal.

The success of the recall vote — Taiwan's first — was hailed by commentators as the latest sign of politicians being held accountable in the island's robust democracy. It is also a further blow to the

AP PHOTO



Ousted mayor Han Kuo-yu

Nationalists, who moved their government to the island after Mao Zedong's Communists swept to power in mainland China in 1949.

The party's continued association with China's demand for eventual unification between the sides has continuously hurt it at the polls, but a failure to generate popular candi-

dates has also resulted in recent major defeats.

The measure to remove Han needed the support of 25% of the city's more than 2 million eligible voters. Just over 22,000 voted to oppose his recall.

Han won a surprise victory in 2018 in what had long been a stronghold of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party, which rejects China's demand that it recognize Taiwan as a part of China.

His decision to take a leave of absence to seek the presidency just months after taking office drew heavy criticism and a petition campaign was launched to seek his recall.

Han was blasted for his contacts with China's ruling Communist Party and lost in January's presidential election to DPP incumbent Tsai Ing-wen by a whopping 57% to 38%, with a third-party candidate taking the remaining percentage. AP

AP PHOTO



South Korea reported 57 new cases of the coronavirus yesterday, its second straight day with over 50 new infections. The new cases took the country's total to 11,776, including 273 deaths. South Korea's caseload peaked in late February and early March when it recorded hundreds of new cases each day. But the outbreak has significantly eased amid aggressive tracing, testing and treatment, prompting authorities to loosen strict social distancing rules.

Malaysians will be allowed to travel interstate, get their hair cut at salons and visit street markets beginning Wednesday, when more coronavirus lockdown restrictions are lifted. Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said yesterday that more economic sectors will reopen, schools and religious activities will gradually resume, and people can travel for domestic holidays after nearly three months of lockdown.

AP PHOTO



Australia Health Minister Greg Hunt said he hopes the Black Lives Matter rallies across the country that broke COVID-19 social distancing rules will not lead to a new wave of infections. More than 20,000 people marched in Sydney and crowds rallied in Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide despite public health warnings. "If there is someone who is infectious in the midst of a crowd like that, that can have a catastrophic impact," Hunt told ABC radio.

Football The Chinese Football Association says six members of the national under-19 squad have been suspended for six months for violating coronavirus control measures by leaving training camp at midnight to go drinking. "It was a severe violation of the team's epidemic control regulations, and caused negative impacts on the whole team," the CFA was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.