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THE GOVERNMENT IS UNDECISIVE ON BUDGET FOR AIRPORT'S EXPANSION; RULES OUT SECOND RUNWAY

P2

POLICE DISMANTLE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION GANG, ARREST THREE

P4

ADRIANO HO TAKES OFFICE TODAY AS NEW DIRECTOR OF DICJ, A ROLE WHICH BRINGS MORE CHALLENGES THAN EVER

P5

China At least seven people have died in flooding in central China yesterday, with more heavy rain forecast for the region in coming days. In Guangdong province along the southeast coast, more than 20,000 people were forced to seek shelter, with local government offices providing hundreds of tents along with bottled water and clothes in the worst-hit areas of Zhaoqing and Qingyuan.



India New Delhi has reversed orders that limited the scope of coronavirus testing and reserved hospital beds for city residents as the Indian capital's caseload continues to surge. Delhi's numbers of infected jumped to 29,943 yesterday of India's 266,598 total cases nationwide. Delhi has the best health care in India, drawing patients from across the country.

Philippines The Ramon Magsaysay awards have been canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, marking only the third disruption in six decades for the annual prize regarded as an Asian Nobel. The Philippine foundation that hands out the awards said it has no choice "with the COVID-19 pandemic practically immobilizing the world."



Indonesia reported a daily increase in coronavirus cases of more than 1,000 for the first time yesterday as its total confirmed cases reached 33,076. There were 1,043 new cases and 40 more deaths, taking the death toll to 1,923, the highest in Southeast Asia. New cases have been spiking as the government gradually allows businesses to resume operations amid growing economic pressures in Southeast Asia's largest economy.

More on backpage

A YEAR AFTER ONE-MILLION PROTEST

THE MARCH GOES ON IN HONG KONG

P6



POLICE AND GATHERINGS
A SHOT IN THE FOOT

P3



LAWMAKER URGES GOV'T FOR CAREER TRAINING SYSTEM

Lawmaker Lei Chan U has urged the local government to amend the city's vocational training mechanism. In an interpellation to the government, Lei raised questions regarding the professional training mechanism and the concerned laws. In Lei's opinion, Macau currently lacks development goals and plans for the occupational training program. Lei pointed out that Macau does not have a public department specifically responsible for the program, and that confusion has arisen from the many local advisory committees that provide human resources training. Lei suspects there is an overlap of functions between all these departments, which harms the quality of the training. The lawmaker hopes that the government can draft a platform to sort out the functions of professional training in accordance with Macau's overall interests.

CCM CALLS FOR LOCAL SHOW PROPOSALS

Local theater companies may now submit their proposals to the Macao Cultural Centre (CCM), which is calling for local productions to apply to be shortlisted for staging in the coming year. The submission period will end on July 17. The project led by the CCM will involve a total grant of 3.2 million patacas. Chosen works of performing arts will, in total, receive a production fee of up to 1.96 million patacas. In the statement issued by the CCM, the public performance venue is looking for "an eclectic sort between classic and contemporary approaches." It is also focusing on a multiplicity of forms. The shortlisted performing arts proposals will be revealed in August, after which time candidates will attend interviews in September to pitch their projects, which will determine the final selection.

STUDENT'S VISA REVOKED AFTER ASSAULTING WOMAN

The Court of Second Instance (TSI) endorsed the security authority's decision to invalidate a mainland student's staying permit. In 2018, the mainland citizen in question was studying for a master's degree in Macau. One day, he kissed and hugged a woman on the street without her consent. The court sentenced him to two months of imprisonment, suspended for one year, in addition to 3,000 patacas compensation to be paid to the woman. Later, the Secretary for Security published a dispatch nullifying the man's visa, believing that his behavior posed a threat to the city's security and that his acts showed that he lacks the propriety to stay in Macau while being a student. The student appealed to TSI, but the court said that the student's lack of legal sense was enough to invalidate his visa.

GOV'T UNDECIDED ON AIRPORT EXPANSION BUDGET

JULIE ZHU

THE government has not yet decided on the budget for the expansion of the Macau International Airport (MIA), the Follow-up Committee for Land and Public Concession Affairs of the Legislative Assembly (AL) reported yesterday.

Yesterday, the local government took the members of the AL committee to visit the site of the future airport extension.

According to Ella Lei, chairman of the AL committee, the local government is still unclear regarding the amount of money to be spent on the project, as well as the commencement date of the construction work.

However, it is generally expected that the government will be able to start building two facilities in 2021.

One of the two facilities will be a fenced-off corridor connecting the Macau Ferry Terminal to the airport boarding area. The second project is a bridge outside the corridor. The fenced-off corridor will be used to transport passengers from the terminal to the airport by shuttle bus. The bridge will facilitate public access to the enclosed area. The airport expansion is expected to serve as another terminal of MIA. The local



government plans to relocate four airlines to Terminal 2, which is expected to accommodate 1.5 to 2 million passengers annually.

During yesterday's meeting with the government, the aviation authority said that Macau is still waiting for the Central Government's approval for the expansion plan.

The local government's plan is to relocate the helicopter service to the future Taipa airport. As explained by Lei, the local government will sign two concessions: one related to the helicopter servi-

ce relocation, and another to facilitate the approval for the use of the Taipa Ferry Terminal facilities.

Also during yesterday's meeting, government representatives including Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário revealed that the SAR government will not consider the possibility of building a second airport runway.

On the sidelines of the press conference of the AL committee, the Secretary commented on the future transportation hub.

"Together with Terminal

2, Taipa Ferry Terminal will have ferries [and] Light Rapid Transit. Later, helicopters will move there as well," said Rosário. "We have also started the construction of the fourth bridge between Macau and Taipa. The bridge links [Taipa Ferry Terminal] as well."

According to Rosário, the fourth cross-sea bridge will directly extend to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge artificial island.

Rosário believes that Terminal 2 will divert some traffic flow for MIA.

According to the airport master plan report in March 2019, which was submitted to the central government, the plan noted that the expansion would be rolled out in two phases.

The first development phase has been set to handle a capacity of 11 million passengers – which corresponds to the baseline forecast traffic for 2025 – while the second phase will be able to accommodate up to 15 million passengers.

This phase corresponds to the level of demand projected in 2033 and 2041 for the high scenario and baseline, respectively. This master plan was approved by the SAR government in July 2016 and incorporated into the Five-Year Development Plan of the Macau SAR (2016-2020).

Lo unaware of athletes' Covid-19 test requirement

ANTHONY LAM

On the sidelines of a Health Bureau (SSM) press conference, medical director of the Conde São Januário Hospital, Alvis Lo Iek Long, told the Times that he was personally not aware of the Sports Bureau (ID) requiring all dragon boat athletes registered for the upcoming races to be tested

for Covid-19.

Sources show that the ID issued a notice on the testing requirement in haste. The races will be held on June 21 and 25, but originally the ID required that athletes take the test this week.

On Monday, the ID issued another notice, telling athletes that the test requirement would be put on hold. It is be-

lieved that the ID will issue further notices to fully explain the requirement in the near future.

When the ID announced that it would retain the annual dragon boat races this year on May 5, it only announced that it would restrict the number of teams to a smaller number than last year, as well as require athletes to wear masks before and after their races.

As such, the Covid-19 nucleic acid test requirement was added later and has only been enacted recently.

Currently, the SSM requires the border-crossing population to take the test every seven days to retain their eligibility to cross the border. Should the ID require athletes to take the test, this validity period means that the results obtained will not cover both race days. Participating athletes may then need to undergo another test for the second race day.

However, Lo explai-

ned that the validity period for the test should be considered alongside other factors. Merely setting a threshold may not be meaningful, he suggested. "The result will be meaningless if you [come into] contact with a Covid-19 patient right after a test," Lo explained.

Another concern that the athletes have is whether this test will use their first-timer free quota. Many athletes are students and are not yet earning their own income. The test is priced at 180 patacas for each time taken.

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Police hurting its own image: commentators

ANTHONY LAM

THE police's differing practices in handling three incidents held respectively on June 4, 5 and 6 has stirred up public debate. Its deployment of a large team to halt the June 4 vigil that did not take place has "hurt its image," social commentator and deputy director-general of the Association of Synergy of Macau, Johnson Ian, told the Times.

In the first place, the commentator was not convinced by the police's decision to cite Covid-19 as the reason for barring the vigil. "Mainly because Macau has seen more than a month [free] from new infection," Ian explained. "Even schools and community activities have resumed. It is not very convincing to the public."

Looking back at the series of events – the June 4 exhibition, the vigil and the arrest on the evening of June 4 – the handling by the police, in the commentator's opinion, was "unwise and ugly."

The deputy director-general of the social affairs concerned group stressed that the city is a Special Administrative Region, and that the city's special characteristics are a crucial condition for the international community to view it as such.

"It relies on whether [the city] can retain its original characteristics and whether the societies are still free, open and enjoy rule of law," Ian explained. "The right to commemorate June 4 is an important [criterion] to the international community."

The commentator emphasized that he does not see "a market" for radicalism in Macau. Most local people despise the idea.

After the arrest of lawmaker Au Kam San's two daughters and another student on June 4, the police have explained that "one person constitutes a protest and two an assembly." However, on Monday, the police attempted to clarify that it originally meant, "one person is capable of hosting a protest and two an assembly."

Vitor Tang, a Macau lawyer, referred to a ruling by the Court of



Johnson Ian does not see 'a market' for radicalism in Macau

Final Appeal numbered 95/2014, which states: "In general, an assembly means a group of people, in order to reach the goals of exchanging views and discussions, as well as forming collective opinions, grouping together at a certain location."

The court differentiated an assembly from several situations, namely a simple and accidental encounter, such as an encounter at an exhibition; an accidental gathering, such as a human flow caused by the change of a public road; the lack of an independent and particular purpose, such as a group tour; and the factor of persistence, such as an association.

The lawyer stressed that no court ruling has suggested that the nature of an assembly being for or against a purpose would alter its eligibility. Such a differentiation is not found in the Law 2/93/M – Law governing Rights

to Assembly and Protest.

Most importantly, both the Basic Law and the Law 2/93/M protect Macau residents' rights to hold civil assembly and protest.

This view is shared by lawmaker Sulu Sou. The lawmaker pointed out that the police's statement on "one person's protest and two people's assembly" was sourced from a Court of Final Instance judgment

numbered 25/2011.

In the first place, some residents filed the appeal to the court, stating that the stipulation of Law 2/93/M on the minimum number of people calling a protest or assembly was unconstitutional.

They claimed that the stipulation hurt the interests of protests or assemblies called by one or two people.

STUDENT WITH MONOCHROME FLAG INTERCEPTED BY POLICE ON JUNE 4

A female secondary school student was stopped by two plain-clothes police officers near the Senado Square, Chinese online media, But Choi Chi Yau, reported.

The police officers showed their passes and requested the girl to lay her belongings on the ground.

She was later brought to a grey seven-seater vehicle that carried five other plain-clothes officers and was driven to the Judiciary Police office in Cotai. There, a search was conducted on her by a female police officer. Her belongings, which included a monochrome flag, a pair of gloves, a pair of eyeglasses, two-sided tapes, white ribbon and a pin, were confiscated.

The police then asked her to sign four documents before commencing an interrogation. She was asked to disclose the time and date of purchasing

her belongings. With a "stiff attitude," as described by the girl, the police officers questioned whether she was part of an organized event and whether she was influenced by the "protest atmosphere" in Hong Kong.

She was also asked to unlock her cellphone for search, which, according to the report, she could not decline as the police told her she had signed consent.

Upon sending her home, the police officers told her not to think Macau has no freedom of expression. The police stressed that the ban on the assembly was only because of Covid-19 and pledged that assemblies will be allowed later.

"You're still young. Focus on your studies and neglect politics. Stay still," was the last line the police told the girl.

In response, the court referred to the constitutional explanation by Gomes Canotilho and Vital Moreira, both Portuguese law experts, stating that the minimum number of people to call on a protest is one, while an assembly two.

The lawmaker could not understand why the judgment was "interpreted by the police in a bizarre manner," stressing that the judgment was to ensure freedom of expression.

The police announced at the Monday press conference that the June 5 event, in which dozens of people showed their support for Beijing's national security legislation on Hong Kong with banners in their hands and stickers on a semi-double decker bus at the Macao Science Center before parading to the Macau Tower, has been preliminarily categorized as a "festive parade."

Speaking on the police's comment, former New Macau Association lawmaker Paul Chan hinted that it was a very dangerous comment. "If the police thinks 'festive activities' – even if they are conducted in the form of an assembly or march – do not need prior declaration, I fear that in the future there will be various kinds of 'festive activities' held at any time and in any place," Chan explained. "The law should be equal [for] everybody."

Gov't to hold internship program for graduates

THE SAR government is launching an internship program to assist local university graduates.

Yesterday, Labour Affairs Bureau director Wong Chi Hong disclosed that the program is scheduled to

start at the end of this month.

The program is targeted at approximately 7,000 university graduates. However, there are only 1,800 vacancies.

Banks, Macao Water,

CEM, and more governmental exclusive concessionaires and companies are providing the opportunities.

Each internship is three months long. Students will receive either 50 patacas

per hour or 8,000 patacas per month, paid by the concerned companies.

According to the local government's statistics, Macau's latest unemployment rate is 2.2%.

Wong said that the SAR

government is highly concerned about the growth of unemployment, adding that most of the job losses were recorded within the tourism and catering sector due to the drop in the number of visitors.

As of April this year, Macau recorded a reduction of 7,900 non-local workers. These workers were mostly from the construction and retail sectors.

The local government has also launched paid training programs, claiming to have helped 246 people find employment since the start of the measure. JZ

AUTHORITIES DISMANTLE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK

RENATO MARQUES

THE Judiciary Police (PJ), in collaboration with the Macao Customs Service (SA), have dismantled a criminal organization dedicated to providing illegal transportation of people from the mainland into Macau, a PJ spokesperson advised yesterday during the force's special press conference to unveil the case.

According to the information provided during the press conference, the PJ received a tip-off that the clandestine cell was preparing to perform another of its operations, and with the help of the PJ's Zhuhai counterpart, planned an operation that resulted in the detention of three suspects in the early hours of June 9.

The three suspects, all males from the mainland, were caught at around 3:30 a.m. after having disembarked from a small rubber boat in the surrounding area of the Sai Van Bridge. Two of the men were illegal immigrants and the third person was a member of the organization



responsible for navigating the boat that transported them into Macau.

The Zhuhai police authori-

ties also revealed that they have detained a further four people suspected of being part of the same criminal organization

that, according to information from the PJ, has been operating for about one month.

Upon being taken in for

questioning, the two illegal immigrants revealed that they had hired the services of the criminal group in order to get to Macau, where they were planning to gamble in the local casinos.

They claim to have used this method to avoid the border restrictions currently imposed on tourists, including those from the mainland, that wish to visit Macau due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Further questioning of all suspects revealed that the people using these illegal methods of accessing the region were paying amounts between RMB10,000 and 30,000 per person for each trip.

The man in charge of the boat's navigation, who told PJ he was working as a construction worker in the mainland, received RMB5,000 as compensation for the job.

The suspects were taken yesterday afternoon to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation and to be charged with the crimes of illegal immigration and the facilitation of illegal immigration. The PJ does not discard the possibility that other charges might come at a later stage concerning the participation of one of the suspects within the group of four other people who were detained in Zhuhai.

LOCAL RESIDENT LOSES APPEAL ON CHILDREN'S RESIDENCY

RENATO MARQUES

A permanent resident in Macau of Portuguese nationality has lost an appeal to the Court of Second Instance (TSI) in which she aimed to obtain for her two daughters the same residency status, the Office of the President of the Court of Final Instance has informed.

In the ruling, the TSI notes that although the mother was born in Macau and had acquired the status of permanent resident before Macau's handover, at the time of the birth of her daughters (2007 and 2013) she was living in, and had moved her residency to, Portugal.

According to TSI, it had been asked to issue an opinion on an appeal from the Identification Bureau, after a previous decision of the Administrative Court that had told the mother that people can only acquire the status of a permanent resident of Macau

under the provisions of article 1, number 1, line 6 of the Law 8/1999 when they are included in all the following conditions: 1) descending from a permanent resident of mixed ancestry (Chinese and Portuguese); 2) being of Chinese nationality (or not have yet opted for a nationality); 3) having been born outside Macau; 4) have been living and settled residency in Macau, and 5) having a parent (mother or father) that at the time of birth was also residing in Macau.

As the TSI further explained, regarding the first requirement, "although the mother of the two applicants is unquestionably a permanent resident of Macau" the applicants themselves only have "Portuguese blood," failing on the requirement of also having Chinese blood.

Regarding the second and third requirements, the court stated that there is no doubt that the

applicants do not have Chinese nationality and there is clear evidence that they had born in Portugal.

Concerning the fourth and fifth requirements, the court clarified that permanent residence is understood to mean "the usual place of residence, which tends to be stable and is the location where one's home is, thus necessarily involving stability and continuity and being the center of a person's personal and professional life."

Since the mother of the applicants was, at the time of their birth, living in and had her professional life settled in Portugal, this means that she was no longer considered as permanently residing in Macau. Since the same applies to the children, as they had always been living with their parents in Portugal, several requirements to obtain permanent residency in Macau had not been met.

GDI RECEIVES 24 BIDS FOR ZONE A PUBLIC HOUSING

JULIE ZHU

THE Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) received a total of 24 bids in the public tender for the public housing project located in the New Urban Zone.

The land is located on land plot B10, Zone A. The award criteria require tenderers to build the foundation work and a three-floor basement.

Four bids were rejected.

GDI expects construction to start in the fourth quarter of 2020. The deadline to deliver the completed project is the first quarter of 2022. In total, the project is expected to cost between 215 and 280 million patacas.

The successful tenderer will manage piles of sheet-piling, excavation, bracing and dewatering, among other works.

The maximum construction period is 315 to 378 workdays. Any delay in delivering the final product will result in a penalty.

The construction will be divided into three parts, on which the successful contractor will spend 380 workdays, 130 workdays, and 180



workdays respectively.

At the end of this year, the local government will design the detailed facilities and types of houses available at the public project.

The government will only announce the number of households and other details after the design is completed.

According to the local government's earlier report, there will be a total of 3,000 affordable housing units in Zone A. Land plot B10 occupies an area of 6,831 square meters, and will have houses, public parking lots, and commercial and social facilities. Once completed, there will

be 642 affordable housing units on B10, with an additional 680 parking spaces for cars and motorbikes.

The Housing Bureau plans to use eight land plots on New Urban Zone A to build public houses or related facilities, including seven public housing projects and one community facility.

Previously, the Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng guaranteed that the local government will not reduce the number of the 28,000 housing units on Zone A.

Ho also pledged that the government will complete the development of the 3,000 affordable houses.

Adriano Ho expected to implement stricter gaming regulations

RENATO MARQUES

THE new director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), Adriano Ho, takes office today in his new role.

Ho has been working as an advisor to the Office of the Secretary for Security since 2014, gaining notoriety when, from 2004 to 2010, he headed the Macau branch of China's National Central Bureau of Interpol.

In between the two positions, he also headed the Judiciary Police's (PJ) Criminal Investigation Department for a period of two years, until he was appointed to head the PJ's Gaming and Economic Crimes Investigation Department.

Ho's experience in the field comes not only from the posts he held at the PJ but also from his latest position, in which he spent a year representing the security office in meetings with the DICJ, gaming operators and the security sector, to discuss topics related to casinos' security measures.

In this capacity, he has acted as the link between the DICJ, the gaming operators, and the security forces.

Ho's personality and skills remain a complete mystery to many gaming analysts, who prefer not to comment on the potential changes

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



that he might enforce in the new post. However, local commentators stated their opinions to the Times regarding Ho's biggest challenges and upcoming work.

Among those commentators was lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho, who said "I think Adriano Ho will do good work. We will have to be more attentive to [gaming] concession contracts, deadlines for compliance with contractual clauses, and [also] more attentive to the regulatory body [the DICJ]," implying that he believes Ho to be the right man for the job.

For Pereira Coutinho, the gaming concessionaires have been,

over time, exempted from many duties that should be included under the concession responsibilities, such as the costs of managing and maintaining the Light Rapid Transit, the Macau Dome, the subsidy scheme to public buses concessionaires, as well as being included in the work of protecting and preserving cultural and heritage sites and monuments such as the Ruins of St. Paul's, and Dom Pedro V Theatre.

For the legislator, when it comes to the new rules that would apply to the new concessions from 2022, "the gaming concessionaires must be required to do a total replacement of their [shuttle] bus fleets,

cars, and motorcycles with others powered by environmentally-friendly energy."

Pereira Coutinho also mentioned that the government, through the DICJ, should enforce tighter rules concerning all of those duties, establishing clear deadlines and sanctioning clauses for delayed compliance, non-compliance or defective compliance with the duties, presenting a report at the end of each year to the Legislative Assembly.

"For me, the most important are the concession contracts themselves, often with loopholes, omissions, or with a very broad scope

that are very difficult to achieve [or to control effectively]," he said, noting this as the biggest challenge Ho must face in his new post.

Previously, in an exclusive interview with the Times, the former director of the DICJ, Paulo Martins Chan, also expressed his opinion that Ho is in a good position to do his job well, saying, "I believe that the government has carefully weighed their options before picking a name for the post and I also believe that he has all the conditions to do a good job."

For Chan, Ho's background and skills indicate an increasing influence of the security sector among the gaming sector, saying "I believe that the increasing and stricter enforcement of regulations has been already a direction followed in the past few years. He is a person that is aware of the realities of the gaming sector and in this sense has some advantage to implement [more measures] and to continue on [the] work [of regulating the sector]."

On the other hand, gaming analyst and chairman of the Macao Political Economy Research Association, Samuel Tong Kai Chung, has said on the topic that the post of director of DICJ is not an influential one in relation to the gaming law amendments that will establish the rules for the new tendering of gaming concessions.

For Tong, the change of the bureau's head "won't impact the direction that has been established, having little influence on policy decision-making," he was cited as saying to Inside Asia Gaming.

Paulo Martins Chan is set to return to the Public Prosecutions Office.

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HUNDREDS MARCH IN HONG KONG AS CARRIE LAM URGES STABILITY

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

HUNDREDS of people marched in Hong Kong's streets yesterday to mark a year since the start of anti-government protests, as the leader of the semi-autonomous city called for peace and stability.

"Everyone has to learn their lesson, including the Hong Kong government," Carrie Lam told reporters. "Hong Kong cannot bear that kind of chaos, and the people of Hong Kong want a stable and peaceful environment to be able to live and work here happily."

Lam did not elaborate on what lessons should be learned.

Hundreds of protesters marched in Hong Kong's central district yesterday evening and shouted slogans including "Hong Kong independence, the only way out" and "Fight to the end."

They marched despite police warnings that force could be used to disperse participants and that they faced up to five years in prison. Riot police later charged at a group of protesters, deploying pepper spray and tackling some to the ground.

Yesterday was the one-year anniversary of a huge march through central Hong Kong that grew into a pro-democracy movement that saw protesters break into the legislative building and take to the streets every weekend for

months.

"The mass protest on 9 June last year has been etched in the collective memory of Hongkongers," the Civil Human Rights Front, which organized the event, wrote in a Facebook post. "It also marks the beginning of our togetherness in defending our beloved city."

Protesters also gathered in shopping malls to mark the anniversary at lunchtime, holding up signs and banners reading "Liberate Hong Kong" and singing protest songs. Police closed some streets and walkways ahead of possible protests.

The June 9, 2019, march was in opposition to a proposed extradition bill that would have allowed people in the former British colony, which has its own legal system, to be sent to mainland China to face trial. Organizers pegged the turnout at more than a million people, while police estimated the crowd at 240,000.

In the ensuing months of protests, violent clashes broke out at times between protesters and the police, leading to accusations of police brutality and sparking protester demands for an independent inquiry into police behavior.

There was a lull in protests during the coronavirus outbreak early this year, but as infections have ebbed, protesters have returned to the streets to demonstrate

against an imminent national security law for Hong Kong as well as a recently approved law that makes it illegal to insult the Chinese national anthem.

Critics and protesters say the national security law is a blow to the "one country, two systems" framework following the handover of Hong Kong from Britain to China in 1997, which promised the city freedoms not found on the mainland.

China blames the protests in part on foreign intervention and is hastening to enact the national security law aimed at curbing secessionist and subversive activities in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's problems are a result of the opposition and foreign allies "attempting to turn Hong Kong into an independent or semi-independent political entity and a pawn to contain China's development," Zhang Xiaoming, deputy director of the Chinese Cabinet's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office, said in a speech posted on the office's website on Monday.

"The more the bottom line of national security is consolidated, the greater the space will be for Hong Kong to leverage its advantages under 'one country, two systems,'" Zhang said.

China will "unswervingly" protect its sovereignty and block any outside interference in Hong Kong's affairs, he said. **AP**

TIMELINE: A YEAR OF PROTESTS

ONE YEAR ago, a sea of humanity — a million people by some estimates — streamed through central Hong Kong on a steamy afternoon. It was the start of what would grow into the longest-lasting and most violent anti-government movement the city has seen since its return to China in 1997. A year later, as new protests simmer, China is poised to enact a national security law to crack down on further disturbance. After 12 months of exhilaration for some, exasperation for others and exhaustion for all, Hong Kong's future still hangs in the balance.

JUNE 9, 2019: Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrate against proposed amendments to Hong Kong laws that would allow suspects to be extradited to China to face trial. Many feel the legislation would undermine the "one country, two systems" principle under which Hong Kong was returned to China by exposing residents to a murky legal system with fewer protections. An even larger march against the proposal took place the following week.



AP PHOTO

JUNE 12: Protesters take over the streets around Hong Kong's legislature, known as Legco, and prevent lawmakers from entering to debate the extradition bill. Some throw rocks and metal barricades at police. Officers use tear gas to disperse the crowds in what will become a common practice in the months ahead.

JULY 1: Protesters smash their way into the legislature building on a public holiday, spray-paint slogans on the walls, tear down the portraits of legislative leaders and deface the Hong Kong city emblem in the main chamber. The legislature remains closed for repairs for a few months.



AP PHOTO

AUG. 17: A large contingent of Chinese militarized police with armored vehicles mass to hold drills in Shenzhen, the mainland city bordering Hong Kong. The presence of the People's Armed Police, whose functions include crowd and riot control, sparks speculation that they would intervene in Hong Kong's protests.

AUG. 25: Hong Kong police deploy a water cannon for the first time as clashes with protesters escalate. The water is often laced with pepper spray to cause a stinging sensation and dyed with coloring to mark the clothing of those who join protests.

SEPT. 4: With no end in sight for the protests, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam says the government will formally withdraw the extradition legislation. By then, though, the movement's demands have expanded to include an independent investigation into alleged police brutality against protesters, the unconditional release of those detained and greater democracy in city elections.

NOV. 2019: Protesters occupy and barricade several university campuses for several days and battle police outside in some of the most violent clashes in the months of protests.



AP PHOTO

NOV. 24: The pro-democracy opposition wins a sweeping victory in district council elections across the city of 7.5 million people. The results buoy the protesters, but pro-Beijing parties remain in control of the legislature, where only half the members are elected by popular vote.

SPRING 2020: The protests ease somewhat in the weeks following the election and are further slowed by the coronavirus outbreak. The arrest of 15 prominent pro-democracy activists in mid-April sparks small protests in shopping malls that are broken up by police, who cite virus-related limits on the size of public gatherings.

MAY 28: China's National People's Congress ratifies a decision to develop national security laws for Hong Kong. Chinese and Hong Kong leaders say the protests created an urgent need for such laws. Pro-democracy activists and many legal experts fear a further erosion of "one-country, two systems." The laws are expected to be enacted by the end of the summer.



AP PHOTO

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

China's companies emerge as global donors in virus pandemic

AS the coronavirus spread, the world's richest communist dug into his deep pockets.

Jack Ma, founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and a member of the ruling Communist Party, helped to pay for 1,000 ventilators delivered to New York in April. Ma's foundation also is giving ventilators, masks and other supplies in Africa, Latin America and Asia.

The pandemic marks the debut of China's business elite as global humanitarian donors alongside their American, European and Japanese counterparts. Ma, Alibaba and other Chinese companies and tycoons are donating hundreds of millions of dollars of medical supplies, food and cash in dozens of countries.

Video service TikTok has promised \$250 million to pay health workers and help others hurt by the outbreak. Tencent, operator of the popular WeChat messaging service, pledged \$100 million and says it has sent masks and protective gear to 15 countries including the United States.

Other companies including computer maker Lenovo and electric automaker BYD Auto have given masks and other supplies. Haier Smart Home, a global appliance maker, says its factory in Pakistan is distributing food to neighbors.

That gives donors a chance to repair China's image and gain credit with President Xi Jinping's government, which faces criticism its secrecy and delay in responding to the virus that emerged in central China in December made the outbreak worse.

"No single country can handle this crisis independently," Ma said during an online seminar organi-

AP PHOTO



Jack Ma, who retired as Alibaba chairman last year, is China's richest entrepreneur, with a net worth of \$39 billion

zed by his foundation for African doctors to speak with Chinese experts who fought the outbreak.

This wave of Chinese donations is notable for "giving internationally, which is usually quite limited in scope," said Edward Cunningham, who researches Chinese philanthropy at the Ash Center of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, in an email.

Philanthropy in China has grown as its economy flourished but has been focused at home or on foreign universities with family connections to donors, said Cunningham.

American companies including Walmart Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. have given medical supplies and money in Africa, India and Latin America. Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey promised \$1 billion and has announced donations in Africa, the

Middle East, Asia and the United States. Cisco Systems Inc. donated to the World Health Organization and the United Nations.

Ma's foundation is helping the African Centers for Disease Control and Prevention expand virus testing to 1 million people across the continent, according to John Nkengasong, director of the agency.

Africa, where experts fear health systems with limited resources will face a spike in infections, is a longtime diplomatic priority for Beijing. Chinese companies see the continent as a source of resources and its 1.3 billion people as an important market.

"We are extremely pleased and proud of the partnership with the Jack Ma Foundation," said Nkengasong during the April 28 online seminar. He said some 1,600 me-

dical workers from across Africa participated.

Giving can be politically fraught at a time when Beijing is mired in conflicts with the United States, Europe and its Asian neighbors over trade, technology, spying allegations and territorial claims.

The European Union's foreign minister, Josep Borrell, wrote in March there was a "struggle for influence" under way through the "politics of generosity."

Huawei Technologies Ltd., the biggest global maker of telecom switching equipment and the No. 2 smartphone brand, says it has given medical and communications technology, masks and other protective gear in more than 20 countries including Spain, Ireland, Zambia and South Africa.

U.S. officials say Huawei is a security risk, which the company denies. Washington wants European and other allies to shun Huawei technology as they upgrade to next-generation telecoms networks.

Huawei didn't directly answer a question about whether it was trying to influence official decisions but said in a written statement donations "will be guided by actual needs on the ground."

Jack Ma's foundation has promised supplies to all 54 African countries including 500 ventilators, 200,000 protective suits and 500,000 gloves.

"There is a sentimental impact among the populations who can see in China a country which values their health," said Mame

Goor Ngom, a political analyst and editor for Africa Check, an organization in Senegal that checks the accuracy of public claims.

African governments including Senegal, Rwanda and Ethiopia publicly thanked Chinese donors.

Chinese donations in Ghana "cannot be compared with what the Americans gave out, but they got more publicity," said Manasseh Awuni Azure, a Ghanaian commentator.

China faces complaints after Africans in the southern city of Guangzhou reported they were evicted from their homes, forcibly tested for the virus or suffered discrimination.

"The stigma of this violence cannot disappear so easily," said Ngom.

Other companies have sent donations to the United States and other developed countries where they have few commercial interests.

JD.com, China's biggest online retailer, said its founder, Richard Liu, and his wife, Nancy Zhang, have given 50 ventilators, 5 million masks, surgical gloves and other supplies to British hospitals. The company provides free online medical and psychological counseling services worldwide.

Virus test kits paid for by Jack Ma's foundation that arrived in Rwanda in March were "a much needed contribution," said the country's president, Paul Kagame, on Twitter. "I know the people of Rwanda join me in gratitude." AP

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Philippine defense chief flies to disputed island amid feud

THE Philippine defense chief and top military officials flew to a disputed island in the South China Sea yesterday to inaugurate a beach ramp built to allow the "full-blast" development of the territory in a move likely to infuriate China.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana brought journalists to witness the ribbon-cutting ceremony on the island, internationally called Thitu, in what he said was a milestone in efforts to make the island, long occupied by Filipino forces and fishermen, more livable without militarizing it.

The island, which Filipinos call Pag-asa, or hope, lies near one of China's

man-made islands in the Spratlys, the most hotly contested area of the South China Sea.

Lorenzana said the Philippines has the right to develop its nine occupied islands as other claimants have done. He played down the prospect of a hostile Chinese reaction, citing cozier ties between Manila and Beijing under President Rodrigo Duterte.

"This is a disputed area," Lorenzana told journalists on the island in remarks provided by the Department of National Defense. "The Chinese have said that they will not attack us so we're safe here."

The beach ramp will allow Philippine navy and

cargo ships to dock and unload construction materials and heavy equipment for new projects, including the repair of a seawater-eroded airstrip. Military barracks, more civilian homes, a school, an ice plant for fishermen, solar and diesel power supplies and a radio station for weather reports are also planned, Lorenzana said.

A fishermen's shelter is being completed with plans for it to be inaugurated on Friday when the Philippines marks its Independence Day, he said.

With the beach ramp now usable, "we can go full blast," the defense chief said.

China, the Philippines,

AP PHOTO



Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (4th from right) and the other military officials are welcomed by residents at the newly built beach ramp at the island of Pag-asa, also known as Thitu

Vietnam and Malaysia have had increasingly tense territorial spats in the region in recent years after China turned seven disputed reefs into missile-protected island bases, including three

with runways. Taiwan and Brunei also have claims in the busy waterway. Indonesia is not officially involved in the conflicts but has had confrontations with Chinese fishermen and coast

guard vessels which it has accused of encroaching into the Natuna Sea near the disputed waters.

Lorenzana said the government has no plan to militarize the island by arming it with missiles, cannons or other heavy weapons.

Three nearby sand bars collectively called Sandy Cay have become a new front in the disputes after China accused the Philippines of attempting to construct structures there a few years ago. Since then, flotillas of Chinese fishing boats and coast guard and navy ships have kept a close watch on Sandy Cay, sparking protests from the Philippines. AP

AP PHOTO



Protesters heartened by swift reform, but vow broader change

SUDHIN THANAWALA,
ATLANTA

IN the two weeks since George Floyd's killing, police departments have banned chokeholds, Confederate monuments have fallen and officers have been arrested and charged amid large global protests against violence by police and racism.

The moves are far short of the overhaul of police, prosecutors' offices, courts and other institutions that protesters seek. But some advocates and demonstrators say they are encouraged by the swiftness of the response to Floyd's death — incremental as it may be.

"Everywhere you look, you see something that gives you hope," said Frank James Matthews, 64, an activist in Alabama. "But we have no illusions because something that's embedded like racism is hard to kill."

Matthews spent years pushing for the removal of a Confederate monument in Birmingham near the site where four black girls died in a racist church bombing in 1963. The city took down the obelisk last week after protesters tried to remove it themselves during one of the many nationwide demonstrations over Floyd's killing by police in Minneapolis.

At a memorial for Floyd yesterday in Houston, Bracy Burnett said it was hard to tell if the changes that have taken place since Floyd's death will last.

"It's a start, but you can't expect an oppression of 400 years to be eliminated in a few months, a few years," Burnett, 66, said.

Tancey Houston Rogers, 49, said she's seen more progress in addressing racism and police brutality in the last two weeks than she's seen in the past.

"Now, we've got to take it

forward," she said.

Floyd died May 25 after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into Floyd's neck for several minutes even after Floyd stopped responding. Prosecutors have charged that officer, Derek Chauvin, with second-degree murder. Three other officers at the scene were charged with aiding and abetting.

Minneapolis has since banned chokeholds, and a majority of the City Council has vowed to dismantle the city's 800-member police agency. Police in Denver have also banned the use of chokeholds and required officers who intentionally point their gun at someone to notify a supervisor and file a report.

Police officers have also faced charges for violent conduct during protests.

Savano Wilkerson said he worries about a backslide on reform if national attention shifts away from Floyd's case. He's also concerned about convictions against the officers charged in Floyd's death.

"It's not really a win yet because they could easily get off," the 22-year-old resident of West Palm Beach, Florida, said during a phone interview yesterday.

The recent protests are the country's most significant demonstrations in a half-century — rivaling those during the civil rights and Vietnam War eras.

During the push for civil rights in the 1960s, activists also won some quick concessions from authorities, said Ashley Howard, an

assistant professor of history and African American studies at the University of Iowa.

"If you want to take the cynical view, cities want to get back to business as usual," she said. "They don't want property defaced. They don't want to be on the front page of the newspaper."

But Howard said she sees perseverance and a long-term vision for a "radical alternative" among the marchers and is hopeful for more substantive changes.

Civil rights icons Xerona Clayton and Andrew Young also predicted a broader impact from the protests.

"There's going to be a new consensus emerging about how to maintain law and order in a civilized society," said Young, a confidant of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. who went on to become a congressman, United Nations ambassador and Atlanta mayor.

Young said organizing protests during the civil rights era was harder, so that delayed some of the movement's victories.

Clayton said another difference was how receptive people in power were to demonstrators.

"They're at least talking about making the change and wanting to make the change," said Clayton, who served as King's office manager in Atlanta and organized protest marches and fundraisers. "The people who have been the perpetrators — as I call them — are talking differently." **AP**

this day in history



1967 ISRAEL ENDS SIX-DAY WAR

Fighting in the Middle East has ended after Israel finally observed the UN ceasefire and halted her advance into Syria.

Within the last six days Israeli troops have taken territory many times larger than Israel itself and united the holy city of Jerusalem for the first time since 1948.

Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol justified the pre-emptive strike on Egypt, and battles with Jordanian and Syrian forces by saying his country was acting in self-defence.

He told the Sunday Times newspaper: "The threat of destruction that hung over Israel since its establishment and which was about to be implemented has been removed."

He added: "For the first time in 19 years, Jews are again free to pray at the Wailing Wall and at other shrines sacred to Judaism in Jerusalem and Hebron."

The UN set a ceasefire at 1630GMT (1730BST) after Israel and Syria agreed to position UN observers on both sides of the front line at Kuneitra, nine miles (14 km) inside Syria, and at Tiberias, on the Israeli side.

But Syria has said Israeli fighter planes flew over its capital, Damascus, five minutes after the ceasefire had been due to come into force.

Two hours later the observers sent word to the UN Security Council in New York that firing on both sides of the front line had indeed stopped.

There was good news and bad news for Egyptians.

Having decided to resign yesterday after his country's humiliating defeat, President Abdel Nasser today announced he would in fact remain in office.

This brought thousands of Egyptians out onto the streets of Cairo and other Arab cities cheering and rejoicing. In an address to the Assembly, relayed by loudspeaker to the crowds outside, he said: "I will give the nation everything I have, even my life itself."

But this was tempered by reports from Cairo Radio that Israeli bombing raids of the Suez Canal had left it blocked with sunken ships, a further blow to the nation's economy.

Meanwhile the Soviet Union — which has broken off diplomatic relations with Israel — and its Eastern Bloc allies have agreed a plan to re-supply Arab forces with armaments.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After a period of relative peace in the Middle East, Palestinian guerrilla groups, supported by Egypt and Syria, started a series of attacks on the Israeli border in 1965.

These were followed by Israeli reprisals and a gradual build-up of Arab military forces around Israel's border.

The second Arab-Israeli war, also known as the six-day war, began on 5 June with a massive pre-emptive strike on Egypt. Israel crippled Egypt's air force, then seized the Sinai peninsula from Egypt in the south and the strategic Golan Heights from Syria in the north.

It also pushed Jordanian forces out of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, uniting the once divided Holy City.

The assault that ended 10 June changed the face of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

It also displaced some 500,000 Palestinians who fled to Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

In November 1967, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 242 which laid down a formula for Arab-Israeli peace whereby Israel would withdraw from territories occupied in the war in exchange for peace with its neighbours.

This resolution has served as the basis for negotiations ever since.

Israeli forces evicted Jewish settlers from the Gaza strip in August 2005 and began to demolish some settlements on the West Bank as well.

Egypt and Jordan are the only Arab nations that have made peace with Israel since 1967.

GEORGE FLOYD BURIED IN HOUSTON

THE BLACK man whose death has inspired a worldwide reckoning over racial injustice will be buried today [Macau time] in Houston, carried home in a horse-drawn carriage. George Floyd, who was 46 when he was killed, will be laid to rest next to his mother. On May 25, as a white Minneapolis officer pressed a knee on Floyd's neck for several minutes, the dying man cried out for his mother. His funeral will be private. A public memorial service was held yesterday in Houston,

where he grew up. Some 6,000 people attended. Under a blazing Texas sun, mourners wearing T-shirts with Floyd's picture or the words "I Can't Breathe" — one of the other things he cried out repeatedly while pinned down by the police officer — waited for hours to pay their respects. Floyd's body, dressed in a brown suit, lay in an open gold-colored casket. Shortly after the memorial ended, Floyd's casket was placed in a hearse and escorted by police back to a funeral home.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Contact the silliest folks you know and have a ball just complaining about the weather. You can't go wrong when you're talking with them.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Let them know what's going on in your life. This will help remind you of the positive influences you have in your life, which will make you feel valued.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

It's a great time to get what you want, whether you're trying to sell your possessions, promote an agenda, or even just convince a friend about something, you are in luck today!



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

After a trying (but blissfully brief) period of emotional intensity and upheaval, your daily life is calming down. You're back to a nice and predictable rhythm again.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Help them if you have the time. You could be invaluable to them, but be careful that you don't put yourself front and center. The drama is about them, not you.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You may not believe those with different views, but you should still listen to what they have to say today. There is wisdom in their words, even if their logic escapes you.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

The primary motivator for you right now might be money, but is that really what you need most in life? This is a good day for you to take stock of your goals. Ask yourself what will really make you happy.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

If you aren't given what you deserve, you need to ask for it. Don't worry that people will think you're being too egotistical. They'll be impressed.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

What's with all the gloom and doom? Right now, your imagination is coming up with a future that is far darker and more troublesome than it should be, so why not start thinking more positively?



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

No matter what you need today, you have friends who can help you get it. Need a recommendation for a new hairstylist? Looking for the perfect place to go on your next vacation?



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You've been trying to ignore it because you've been so busy dealing with other aspects of life, but today your need to feel socially useful will finally overpower your other urges.

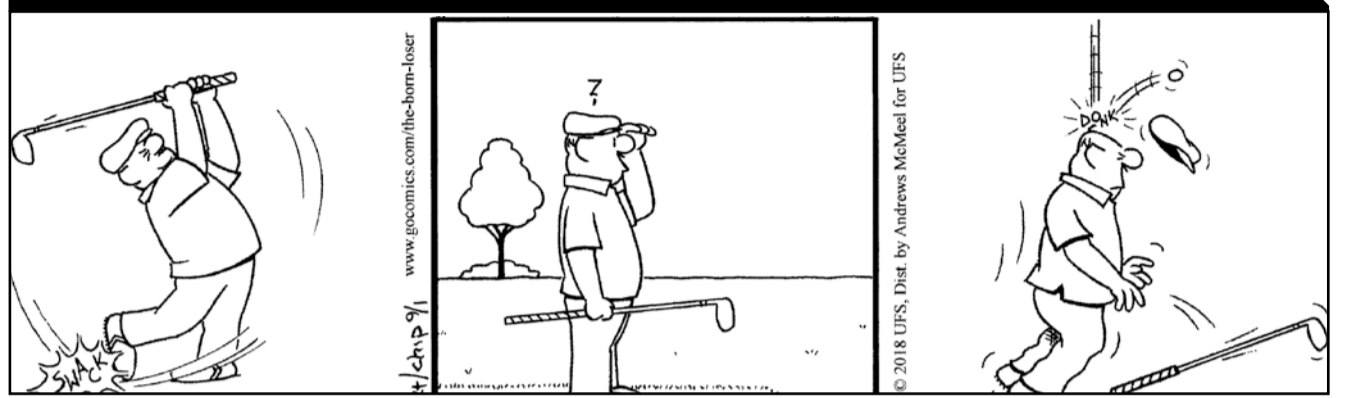


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

They're going through a bit of an emotional upheaval that is putting a sour look on their face, but after a few minutes with you that frown will turn upside down!

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

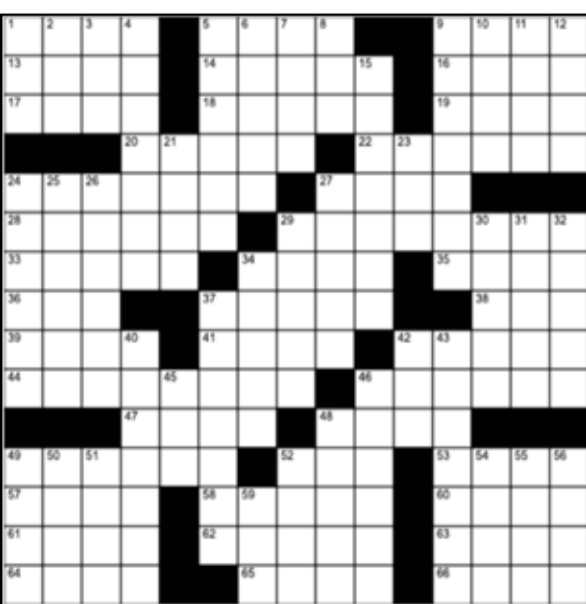
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	21	35	cloudy
Harbin	18	26	moderate rain
Tianjin	23	33	cloudy
Urumqi	19	27	cloudy
Xi'an	17	29	cloudy
Lhasa	13	22	shower
Chengdu	20	32	cloudy
Chongqing	23	32	cloudy
Kunming	17	27	cloudy
Nanjing	25	30	thundershower
Shanghai	24	29	drizzle
Wuhan	25	31	shower
Hangzhou	24	29	moderate rain
Taipei	25	29	overcast
Guangzhou	26	32	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	32	shower
WORLD			
Moscow	16	26	clear
Frankfurt	13	22	drizzle
Paris	13	19	clear
London	12	19	drizzle
New York	20	28	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Splotchy; 5- French clergyman; 9- Go out with; 13- Light brown; 14- Viewpoint; 16- Collar type; 17- At hand; 18- Tadpole milieu; 19- Overgrown with ivy; 20- In the future; 22- System of social perfection; 24- Illness; 27- Med school subj.; 28- Scoffs; 29- Almond liqueur; 33- Classic Alan Ladd western; 34- First man; 35- Large jug or pitcher; 36- McKellen or Holm; 37- Muscat native; 38- High school subj.; 39- Husky burden; 41- Graph prefix; 42- Vice ____; 44- Edible turtle; 46- Sty; 47- Bartlett's abbr.; 48- Baylor's city; 49- Buffoons; 52- Capt.'s superior; 53- Soviet news service; 57- Burt's ex; 58- ____ Gay; 60- Uh-huh; 61- Irish island group; 62- "The Crucible" setting; 63- Beget; 64- Chinese dynasty; 65- Jealous wife of myth; 66- Boris Godunov, for one;

DOWN: 1- Farm enclosure; 2- Frozen water; 3- Mound stat; 4- Heartwood; 5- Quaking trees; 6- Swell up; 7- Musical group; 8- Break off; 9- Follower; 10- Take ____ from me; 11- Author Morrison; 12- "Only Time" singer; 15- Large sea wave; 21- In this place; 23- Pitch; 24- Help; 25- Breathe in; 26- Less fatty; 27- Appliance brand; 29- I don't give ____; 30- Pipsqueak; 31- Keyed up; 32- Church instrument; 34- At full speed; 37- Objects; 40- Pencil sketch; 42- Singer Damone; 43- Boastful person; 45- Abby's twin; 46- Kind of party; 48- Strong Australian horse; 49- A type of bake; 50- Actress Singer; 51- Son of Judah; 52- Yard tunneler; 54- Warts and all; 55- Lab fluids; 56- Psychic; 59- Slangy negative;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE

Large 3/4 Bedroom Apartment, Coloane
HK\$12,980,000 2,530 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

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

FOR SALE

[Macau] Apartment Historical Centre 2 1/2 1 1/2
840 ft² \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)

[Coloane] Hellene Gardens 1 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,663 ft² \$8,200,000 (ref: 19025577)

[Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 1/2 2 1/2
1,404 ft² \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)

[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)

FOR RENT

[Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park
1 1/2 \$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)

[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2
710 ft² \$10,000/mth (ref: 20021002)

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

[Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2
2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

HONG KONG OKs \$5 BILLION BAILOUT FOR CATHAY PACIFIC AIRWAYS

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

FINANCIALLY battered Hong Kong airline Cathay Pacific Airways has become the latest airline to get government support to survive the coronavirus pandemic.

The Hong Kong government yesterday approved a 39 billion Hong Kong dollar (\$5 billion) recapitalization plan that calls for a new government-controlled entity called Aviation 2020 to buy \$2.6 billion of an up to 33 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$4.3 billion) share offering by Cathay Pacific.

That would give it a 6% stake in the airline. The airline also would receive a 7.8 billion Hong Kong dollar (\$1 billion) loan from Aviation 2020.

Cathay Pacific proposed the bailout as it struggles to survive the near collapse of regional travel due to the pandemic.

"The objective is to help protect Hong Kong's role as a leading international aviation hub in this region, as well as the long term, overall economic development of Hong Kong, while generating a reasonable return for the government," Hong Kong financial secretary Paul Chan told reporters.

Chan said that the government had "no intention" of becoming a long-term shareholder in Cathay Pacific, and would not interfere in the operations and management of the airline.

He said the government decided to invest in Cathay Pacific as the premium dividends on the preferred shares held will generate a return of about 4% to 7.5%, compared to the average 3.7% return for the investment portfolio of the city's

AP PHOTO



sovereign wealth fund, the Exchange Fund.

"We hope that during these difficult times that this can help (Cathay Pacific) recover, and when they do so, they can pay off the loans and buy back the preferred shares," said Chan, adding that defending Hong Kong's flight routes was crucial for maintaining the city's status as a regional aviation hub.

Cathay Pacific, one of Asia's biggest airlines, was founded in 1946 by two former Air Force pilots to help transport goods from Australia to China. It has been hamstrung by the recent collapse of regional travel on top of a decline in traffic to Hong Kong following months of anti-government protests.

The airline has grounded most of its flights as travel remains restricted across much of the region.

"Cathay Pacific has explored available options and believes that a recapitalization is required to ensure it has sufficient liquidity to weather this current crisis," the airline said in the filing.

Cathay Pacific and major stakeholders Swire Pacific and Air China suspended trading ahead of the announcement

The airline's current largest shareholder, Swire Pacific, issued a statement saying it "fully supports" the recapitalization plan.

Swire Pacific, a conglomerate descended from a trading house set up in Liverpool in 1816, holds 45% stake in Ca-

thay Pacific. Air China, China's state-owned flag carrier has a 30% stake.

Cathay Pacific said it plans executive pay cuts and a second voluntary leave scheme for employees on top of earlier cost-cutting measures.

In the first four months of the year, the number of passengers carried by Cathay Pacific plunged nearly 65% amid a halving of capacity. The airline has been operating a skeletal network of flights to major destinations such as Singapore, Beijing, Los Angeles, New York and Tokyo.

Cargo measured by weight fell nearly 27% in the first four months, against about a 25% decrease in capacity, the airline said.

Chan pointed out that Hong Kong, unlike the U.S. and mainland China, lacks a domestic aviation market.

"If we don't have internatio-

nal flights, then everything comes to a grinding halt," he said.

Cathay Pacific and Cathay Dragon, the group's two main carriers, reported a combined 4.5 billion Hong Kong dollar (\$580 million) unaudited loss in the first four months of 2020.

As an airline partially owned by a state-owned carrier with much of its business in mainland China, Hong Kong's political upheavals have weighed heavily on Cathay Pacific.

Last year, the airline's CEO Rupert Hogg resigned under pressure after some of Cathay Pacific's employees were found to have joined the protests.

More than a dozen airlines worldwide have sought government relief either in the form of bailouts or special loans to cope with the fallout from the pandemic. Some airlines, such as Latam Airlines Group and British carrier Flybe, have stopped flying altogether. **AP**

CORPORATE BITS

East Asia League appoints Mark Fischer as COO



The East Asia Super League (EASL), the regional competition for basketball clubs in East Asia, has appointed Asia sports industry veteran Mark Fischer as Chief Commercial Officer, the group announced in a statement.

Fischer will be responsi-

ble for driving the league's marketing partnerships, media distribution, and other commercial revenue streams in this newly-created role.

"With our upcoming Terrific 12 tournament in Macau this September, [the] home-

-and-away league formally launching in Fall 2021, and our new digital content series launching, now is the perfect time to add an executive with Mark's outstanding track record of success in building, marketing, and commercializing sports properties in Asia," said Matt Beyer, EASL CEO.

As the first managing director of the National Basketball Association's China operations, Mark Fischer led NBA China from a 2-person startup in 2003 to a body valued at \$2.3 billion in 2008. He had previously served as General Manager of NBA Taiwan and as head of NBA Asia's sponsorship and events business based out of Hong Kong.

GEG holds sanitation training for local school



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) has sent specialized team members to the Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School to carry out sanitation training for the schools' cleaning staff.

GEG mobilized a team of specialists from its Environmental Services Department for a visit to the school to also donate various cleaning supplies aimed at improving the professionalism and skillset

of the schools' cleaning staffs so that they can better maintain the hygiene for classes to resume, the gaming operator announced in a statement.

During the training session, the representative from the department used a combination of theories and demonstrations to explain and illustrate a series of good hygiene practices such as proper cleaning procedures, hygiene knowledge, occupational health and safety measures, and the uses and efficacies of different cleaning supplies among others.

GEG pledged that it will continue to assist the local schools and social service organizations.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

BOXING

Fury-Wilder III by end of the year, promoter says

THE U.S. promoter of Tyson Fury is hoping to stage a third heavyweight fight between the British boxer and Deontay Wilder by the end of the year, potentially in Macau, as Macau Daily Times reported earlier.

Bob Arum told The Associated Press that Fury "owes" Wilder a third fight after claiming the WBC belt off the American with a seventh-round stoppage in February. Only then would Fury turn his attention to an all-British fight with Anthony Joshua, the WBA, IBF and WBO titleholder, in early 2021.

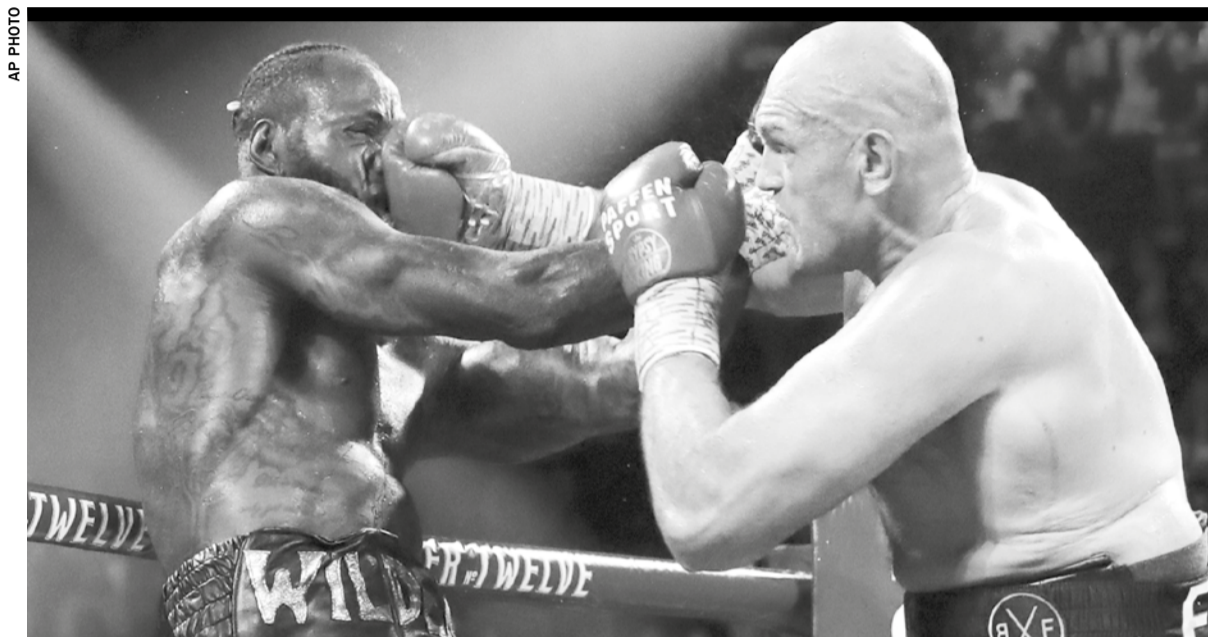
"We hope to do that fight in November or December," Arum, the CEO of Top Rank, said of Fury-Wilder III.

"Whether it's for a full audience or a limited audience in the United States or put it on in Macau, which may be open for full arenas as early as November... you know, we're exploring all our options."

Joshua is also set to fight this year, against mandatory IBF challenger Kubrat Pulev.

"Next year there'll be this huge fight with Fury and Joshua, that's the way the cards turn," Arum said. "And I agree it will be a massive, massive fight wherever it takes place; U.S., U.K. or somewhere else."

Fury has said he has been approached to take on Mike Tyson after the 53-year-old former



AP PHOTO
Tyson Fury, of England, lands a right to Deontay Wilder (left) during a WBC heavyweight championship boxing match in Las Vegas, in late February

undisputed world champion posted workout clips on social media last month, proclaiming "I'm back."

But Arum thinks they should only ever meet in a "joke" fight for charity.

"If it's anywhere near serious,

I'm not going to be a participant in something that could be really deadly," he told the AP. "Mike Tyson was a great fighter, he's in his 50s now. (He) doesn't go and fight really seriously a guy who is at the top of his game in his 30s.

"That's not right and nobody

should encourage it. If it's a joke, they go and spar around, who cares? And particularly for charity, that's great."

Fury-Wilder II was the last fight Arum promoted before the enforced shutdown of sport because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Arum will use the same venue, the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas, to launch live boxing's comeback in the United States today [Macau time].

A six-fight card, headlined by WBO featherweight world champion Shakur Stevenson, will kick off a series of twice-weekly events in a hotel ballroom across June and July which will all be staged without fans and media, with the fight announcers based remotely.

In the arena, the fight judges will be pushed back from their usual ringside position and adjudicate from a distance of eight feet.

All boxers will have been tested for COVID-19 on arrival and then have their movement limited to a bubble of block-booked floors of the hotel and a separate room where they will train and eat. A dedicated lift will transport fighters between the two areas.

They will then be tested again for the coronavirus after yesterday's weigh-in.

"It is more than ethical," Arum said of bringing boxing back during a pandemic. "It is something that is a contribution because people are battling this coronavirus, but they still have to lead their lives.

"They still are entitled to enjoyment. Nothing gives people enjoyment like live sports, whether it's boxing or football or something like that." MDT/AP

AD

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OPINION

Animal Farm

Albano Martins



RETHINKING GAMING IN MACAU

Edmund Ho launched the liberalization of the gaming industry just after the transition.

Gaming revenues were almost insignificant in that time compared to today.

At the time, gaming was already the golden goose of this land.

Ho cleverly managed to make it grow exponentially. From 2002 to 2004, real GDP grew by 10.1%, 14.2% and 27.3%.

Last year, gaming revenue in nominal values was something like 6.2 times Macau's 1999 nominal GDP.

Ho's great vision put Macau on the gaming world's map and intelligently solved the problems facing the Macau economy.

But Ho was cautious and played it safe, playing within the rules and technology that he had at the time.

The control of capital flows and the guarantee that they come from suitable sources forced him to take the only possible option at the time: gambling in a casino and not online.

Macau did not have enough technology to engage, without danger, in another type of gaming.

With the liberalization of gambling, Macau now has a complex of casinos that are of world-class quality and multifaceted, supported by hotels, resorts and international standard facilities. They are prepared for the future and to be used by industries in the MICE area.

However, Covid-19 appeared when it was least expected and the gaming world shuddered!

The pandemic raised many doubts about an economy based only on this type of gaming, and above all on mass gaming.

It proved that it is necessary to add another dimension to this gaming model, that of online gaming.

In four months, the casinos lost something like 68 billion patacas in revenue and the Macau government almost 27 billion patacas in taxes on gambling. Not to mention the collateral damage it caused to the local economy.

It is therefore necessary to rethink gaming again.

Today, we are mature enough to add another segment to the Macau gaming sector that does not depend on the player's physical presence: online gaming.

How shall we do this?

One solution would be for the six current gaming concessionaires to jointly take over this new gaming platform, so that they are "obliged" to jointly create a new society in the next concession contracts, where all would participate for this market segment only.

The synergies that would be achieved by joining all of them in relation to online gaming would multiply gaming income and provide the regulator with greater abilities to inspect this new segment. The Macau government itself could be a shareholder through one of its own companies and a large junket could be associated with the new online gaming platform.

All of this would guarantee credibility, suitability, easy control and the enormous strength of the project.

Of course, the huge investments made by the concessionaires to date would require rules to protect the current casino industry.

Online gambling should only be offshore, meaning that it is forbidden for any Macau resident or tourist who is in Macau to participate and, if China does not feel comfortable, that it is also forbidden to Chinese players on the continent.

Under these conditions, online gaming would not interfere with current gaming and would be a complement to the revenue of casinos and the Macau government.

Credibility, trustworthiness and control are needed in a world where concerns about money laundering and financing of terrorism are paramount.

Today, it is possible and prudent to develop this type of gaming by respecting these rules.

In the next concession, all the concessionaires must be forced to join together in exploring the same online gaming platform.

They will continue to compete with each other in the traditional market for live casinos. However, they will be a single voice, full of credibility, suitability and strength, in the online market.

The government must rethink its strategy.

As American protesters took to the streets to mourn the death of George Floyd, they found an unexpected ally: K-pop fans.

Floyd died May 25 after a police officer pressed his knee into his neck for several minutes even after he stopped moving. K-pop fans galvanized by police brutality and political disappointments swiftly mobilized, re-purposing their usual platforms and hashtags from boosting their favorite stars to backing the Black Lives Matter movement. They flooded right-wing hashtags and police apps with short vi-

deo clips and memes of their K-pop stars.

In a tweet last week to its 26 million fans, South Korean boy band BTS said it opposes racial discrimination and violence and announced a \$1 million donation to Black Lives Matter.

Fans quickly followed suit with the hashtag #MatchAMillion on Twitter, matching the donation after 24 hours according to "One In An ARMY," a global fundraising team made up of BTS fans. Even so, political activism isn't exactly associated with K-pop fans.

NORTH KOREA CUTS OFF ALL COMMUNICATION WITH SOUTH KOREA

NORTH Korea said it was cutting off all communication channels with South Korea yesterday, a move experts say could signal Pyongyang has grown frustrated that Seoul has failed to revive lucrative inter-Korean economic projects and persuade the United States to ease sanctions.

The North's Korean Central News Agency said all cross-border communication lines would be cut off at noon in the "the first step of the determination to completely shut down all contact means with South Korea and get rid of unnecessary things."

When South Korean officials tried to contact their North Korean counterparts via several channels after the North's announcement yesterday, the North Koreans didn't answer, according to the South Korean government.

North Korea has cut communications in the past — not replying to South Korean phone calls or faxes — and then restored those channels when tensions eased. North Korea has been accused at times of deliberately creating tensions to bolster internal unity or to signal its frustration over a lack of progress in nuclear talks with Washington.

In its announcement, North Korea said the move was a response to South Korea's failure to stop activists from floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across their border.

"The South Korean authorities connived at the hostile acts against (North Korea) by the riff-raff, while trying to dodge heavy responsibility with nasty excuses," KCNA said.

South Korea's liberal government, which seeks improved relations with



North Korea, said that cross-border hotlines must be maintained as they are the basic means of communication between the two Koreas. The Unification Ministry said South Korea will strive to promote peace while abiding by inter-Korean agreements.

For years, conservative South Korean activists, including North Korean defectors living in the South, have floated huge balloons into North Korea carrying leaflets criticizing leader Kim Jong Un over his nuclear ambitions and human rights record. The leafleting has sometimes triggered a furious response from North Korea, which bristles at any attempt to undermine its leadership.

North Korea said the move was a response to South's failure to stop activists from floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across their border

South Korea has typically let activists launch such balloons, citing their rights to freedom of speech, but has halted some attempts when North Korean warnings appeared to be serious. In 2014, North Korean troops opened fire at propaganda

balloons flying toward their territory, triggering an exchange of fire that caused no known casualties.

North Korea began taking issue with the leafleting again last week.

Kim's sister Kim Yo Jong called defectors involved in recent leafleting "human scum" and "mongrel dogs," and she threatened to permanently shut down a liaison office and a jointly run factory park, both in the North, as well as nullify a 2018 inter-Korean military agreement that had aimed to reduce tensions.

North Korea's latest moves will further set back South Korean President Moon Jae-in's push for inter-Korean reconciliation.

"The North Koreans have been trying to find something they can use to express their dissatisfaction and distrust against South Korea. And they've now got the leafletting issue, so I don't think we can simply resolve (tensions) even if we address issues related to the leafletting," said Kim Dong-yub, an analyst from Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies.

He said the North Korean statement also appeared aimed at strengthening internal unity and signaling the North's resolve not to make concessions in nuclear talks. AP

South Korea has reported 38 new cases of COVID-19 and one more death, bringing national totals to 11,852 infections and 274 virus-related fatalities. Figures from South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention yesterday showed 35 of the new cases came from the Seoul metropolitan area, where officials have struggled to trace transmissions linked to entertainment venues, church gatherings and low-income workers who couldn't afford to stay home.



Nepal Police in riot gear fired a water cannon and beat protesters demonstrating over the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic. About 200 protesters gathered on a road leading to the prime minister's official residence with signs demanding more virus testing. The government has been criticized for limited testing, inadequate quarantine facilities and limited aid to poor people affected by the country's lockdown. The business community has been pressuring the government to ease restrictions.

South Australia state will allow 2,000 fans to attend an Australian rules football match on Saturday but won't allow a Black Lives Matter rally on the same day. South Australia is the first state or territory to allow a crowd to return to professional sport. Police Commissioner Grant Stevens said spectators will be allowed at a match between Port Adelaide and the Adelaide Crows.



UK There certainly won't be fuss. Count on that. When Britain's Prince Philip reaches the grand age of 99 today, he will spend it quietly and in much the same way he's spent most of his adult life: beside Queen Elizabeth II. The stalwart consort plans a quiet lunch at Windsor Castle, where the senior royals have been sheltering due to the COVID-19 pandemic.