

The Macao SAR Government urges:

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

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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ENTHUSIASTS OF INDEPENDENT FILMS IN MACAU ARE UNSURE ABOUT THE NEW CINEMATHEQUE PASSION OPERATOR'S COMMITMENT TO CUT'S 'GOOD JOB' P4

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FOSHAN, A CITY IN THE GREATER BAY AREA, IS PLANNING TO BUILD A YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP INCUBATION BASE FOR HONG KONG AND MACAU RESIDENTS P6

China's capital reported a decline in newly confirmed cases of coronavirus, with a public health expert saying a recent outbreak in the city was under control and the number of new cases should drop in the coming days. Beijing reported 21 cases yesterday, down from 31 on Wednesday. Authorities have confirmed 158 cases in Beijing in the past week. Most if not all have been linked to the city's largest wholesale food market, where thousands of people work.

AP PHOTO



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said his government is discussing possible resumption of mutual visits with Thailand, Vietnam, Australia and New Zealand — all nations where coronavirus infections are largely under control. Japan has imposed entry bans on nationals of more than 110 countries. Once visits restart there would be ample precautions, including virus tests, Abe said.

South Korea reported 59 cases as infections continue to steadily rise in the greater capital area. It said 39 of the new cases came from Seoul and its metropolitan area, where health authorities have been scrambling to stem transmissions amid increased economic activity and eased attitudes on social distancing.

AP PHOTO



India recorded its the highest one-day increase of 12,281 coronavirus cases, raising the total caseload to 366,946, but the government rules out reimposing a countrywide lockdown. India's total deaths reached 12,237, a rise of 334 in the past 24 hours, according to a Health Ministry statement. Prime Minister Narendra Modi (pictured) rejected a new lockdown.

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REPATRIATED

362 Filipino nationals flew home yesterday after being stranded in Macau for up to four months P6



LYNZY VALLES

SUICIDE CITY YET TO OVERCOME MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA: EXPERTS P2

MITCHELL HOLLANDER



TRUCK DRIVER FOUND DEAD INSIDE HIS VEHICLE

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has reported the discovery of the body of a 51-year-old Macau local male resident. The deceased, who was a truck driver, was found by one of his colleagues at 6 a.m. yesterday morning. He spotted the driver still sitting on his seat inside the truck he had been operating. Firefighters from the Fire Services Bureau confirmed the man's death. The vehicle was parked at a parking meter near Lao Hon market, where he usually picked up his co-workers. According to the PJ, the man still had all his belongings and had no apparent suspicious injuries. As of 10 a.m. yesterday, the cause of the death had not been determined and requires the final report of a coroner.

SECURITY AUTHORITY BACKS SUSPENSION DECISION

The Secretary for Security has reaffirmed the suspension of a former leader of the Macao Customs Service, according to an update provided on the website of the secretary's office. The suspended individual was a department head at the customs authority, surnamed Chow. Chow was involved in crimes related to "fake cards," which helped criminals transfer money. The bureau conducted disciplinary investigations into the matter. On May 4, Chow was suspended by the director of the Macao Customs Services. Chow later appealed to Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak. However, the secretary refused Chow's appeal and backed the decision to suspend him.

POLICE CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL DRUG SELLING

A local woman was detained for selling cough syrups containing codeine, a controlled drug in Macau, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced. The suspect was found in an underground shop near the Border Gate. Surnamed Hoi, the 34-year-old Macau local resident claimed that she met a man who told her about moving the medicine from Hong Kong to Macau. Hoi was instructed by the man to look for grey goods traders to help transfer the cough syrups to the mainland. On June 12, one of the grey goods traders was found carrying the illegal items. He claimed that Hoi had commissioned him to carry the cough syrups to the mainland and to transfer them to others. The case was reported to the PJ, who said that Hoi received 4 patacas for each cough syrup transferred, while the grey goods traders received 5 patacas. More than 400 cough syrups were successfully transferred, each being sold for over 100 yuan.

FERNANDO CERDO



CITY STILL FACES HURDLES TO OVERCOME MENTAL HEALTH STIGMA

LYNZY VALLES

The Macau SAR has not yet overcome the stigma of mental illness, which has led people with mental health concerns to "save face" and refrain from seeking help.

Recently, five suicides and attempted suicides have occurred within a span 10 days, according to police authorities.

Speaking to the Times, Stella Cheong, president of the Macau Society of Registered Psychotherapists, said that the small size of the community in Macau is one of the most significant reasons why people suffering with mental health issues are afraid to come forward and see therapists.

A study recently conducted by the Fuhong Society of Macau and the University of Macau showed that Chinese culture's high regard for "saving face" contributes to why people are hesitant to seek help.

Echoing the same sentiments, Cheong said, "upon going to see a therapist, many people are afraid that they will be seen as weak and fragile. They cannot overcome what they perceive as a shameful matter."

"People are afraid that others will look down on them. It's all about saving face for the Chinese. You cannot show people that such problems are going on," she said.

According to the expert, 60% of her clients suffer from both anxiety and depression, while the rest suffer from obsessive-compulsive disorders, dissociative disorders and bipolar disorders.

"The stigma is there and they don't have the right concept. They don't know what the therapy can give them. They don't know how they can start and [will only] seek help when symptoms have become severe," she explained.

A lecturer from the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Saint Joseph, Cynthia Leong believes that being labeled as a sick person is about "more than saving face," as it not only influences one's reputation but every aspect of their life.

At the beginning of the year, the suicide prevention and emotional aid hotline Life Hope Caritas recorded more than 10 calls relating to suicide in first 20 days of January.

In an update, the secretary-general of Caritas Macau, Paul Pun, said that the charitable organization's assistance hotline received 20 calls last month and so far nine calls this month.

"We cannot say we have had more cases, but according to the number who have committed suicide [this year], it seems that it's more or less the same [as last

year]," Pun said.

Most of the callers were women. According to the psychotherapist, it is difficult for men to seek help for cultural reasons.

"Especially for Chinese men, it's not easy. Only when it's really very serious, then they seek help. Their symptoms can last for months, sometimes years and I don't know how they tolerate having insomnia for [such a long period of time]," she said.

Suicidal thoughts come more often when people are suffering from loneliness, helplessness and insomnia, even when taking medication for these problems.

The expert suggested that Macau is a little behind on overcoming the stigma that surrounds mental health issues compared to Guangzhou or other big cities on the mainland.

She added that Macau is still "quite conservative," although the demand for these services has been increasing.

Meanwhile, Leong says, "the world is becoming more complex nowadays, compared to 10 or 20 years ago. Therefore, you can also see that there are more therapies than before, as there is a market there, people need them."

The lecturer and psychology expert says there are patients who have needed to wait for over a month for a counselor to become available.

Last year, former Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam assured that the government was working to prevent suicide. He described that as a challenging task.

Data from 2018 shows that 81 people committed suicide, 20 of which were tourists.

Stress among Cheong's clients has been worsened due to the pandemic. However, in general, Cheong says that the government has been doing "good work" to strengthen its social community services.

The government also helped these residents acquire medicines that are only available in Hong Kong.

"The government understands that these patients cannot miss their medications, and since these types of high dose medicines are under the government's control, [they have helped local residents] to acquire them," said Cheong.

A study conducted in 2017 estimated that between 23,500 and 36,600 people in the Chinese population of Macau were suffering from depression.

Led by Brian Hall, a scholar and an associate professor at UM, the study showed that that there was a larger proportion of residents suffering from depression here than in Hong Kong or the mainland.

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Gov't proceeds with plan to harmonize pay policies across security forces

THE government has proposed abolishing one existing administrative regulation and amending another law in order to unify payment compensation policies across all departments of the security force.

Yesterday, the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) reported the latest change in the local government's attitude on the matter with regards to the Judiciary Police's new special career regime.

The proposal will lead to the abolishment of the article 35 of administrative regulation No. 9/2006, which is related to the organization and operation of the PJ, and the amendment of law No. 8/2012 regarding accessory remuneration for employees of the security force and security department.

The first regulation proposes compensation standards for PJ employees, and the second prescribes additional financial compensation for other security departments, including the PJ, the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the Macao Customs Service and the Fire Services Bureau.

In March, the local government had two meetings with the AL committee and more meetings with the AL legal advisors regarding the PJ's special career regime.

After accepting both the suggestions of lawmakers and AL legal advisors, the local government brought the most up-to-date law text to the committee

DANIEL BEITLER



with amendments to the compensation policies.

Working any hours beyond the usual 44 working hours will be compensated, and overtime

will be adjusted in proportion with the Civil Service Index Table, chairman of the First Standing Committee Ho Ion Sang explained.

DSAL HOPES TO HELP LOCALS BECOME COOKS

THE Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) says that it is looking for jobs for Macau residents.

Recently, lawmaker Leong Sun Iok wrote an interpellation asking the DSAL about the city's employment situation, especially the ratio of employed residents to non-local workers.

In their reply to Leong, the DSAL said that the bureau would continue looking for more prospective jobs for Macau local residents, particularly jobs in large-size enterprises, such as professional cook positions.

The DSAL believes that local workers will be able to take these jobs with proper training and employment assistance, and that the number of non-local workers can be reduced.

According to DSAL statistics, by the end of 2019, Macau had a total of 189,000 blue card holders

contributing to the city's development, 7,020 fewer than by the end of 2019. There were some 158,000 skilled and unskilled workers, down by 7,499. The rest of the blue card holders were composed of domestic helpers, who are not considered as either of the aforementioned types of blue card workers.

"It shows that the actual number of non-local workers has been constantly decreasing," the DSAL said.

In the first quarter of 2020, the DSAL refused 517 blue card applications for skilled and unskilled workers. Some 119 companies applied to revoke 676 non-local worker permits.

DSAL says that it will continue monitoring changes to the global economy, and will review Macau's employment situation and adjust the number of non-local workers. JZ

The government proposed the inclusion of additional compensation for PJ investigators in law No. 8/2012 as well. The bill amendment is already on the AL's agenda.

Besides salary compensation, the government also amended the provisions related to the transparency of PJ employment in the PJ's special career regime.

According to Ho, when recruiting new investigators, the PJ will be only obligated to publicly disclose the recruitment details during two stages. One is when the public applies to take the PJ entry exams, and the second instance is when the exams are being held. In all steps following the exams, the PJ is exempt from notifying the public.

Previously, the government had proposed expanding the number for PJ staff to about 1,600 through the introduction of new departments and divisions. As of September, the PJ's team was composed of 1,266 employees. The government hopes they will carry out an expansion of approximately 25% over the next seven years.

According to Ho, government representatives claimed that the exact number of new PJ employees depended on the Executive Council. JZ

INÊS CHAN TOUTED AS NEXT GCS DIRECTOR

The Head of the Licensing and Supervision Department at the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will replace Victor Chan Chi Ping as Director of the Government Information Bureau (GCS), according to a report by Macau Post Daily. Inês Chan Lou, a senior official at the tourism board, has been MGTO's main representative at the regular press briefings organized by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center. She will take over from Chan, who has held the post since 2000. The report also suggested that Chan will move to the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance.

IFTM CONDUCTS HUMAN RESOURCE MONITORING SURVEY

The Macao Institute for Tourism Studies' (IFTM) Tourism Research Centre is conducting a survey for the Macao Human Resource Monitoring Study (MHRM). The MHRM is a long-term research project, aiming to fill gaps in knowledge about Macau's labor force, such as job satisfaction, job stress, intention-to-quit, organizational loyalty measures and satisfaction with a host of occupational and work conditions, such as benefits, opportunities for advancement and relationships at work, among other things. The study focuses mostly on the tourism, hospitality and gaming industries and is conducted using random-digit dialing to gather a sample of eligible respondents. Selected respondents may opt to complete the questionnaire through a telephone interview, or fill in the online questionnaire. Eligible respondents who participate from the survey will have a chance to win one of 10 supermarket coupons worth MOP1,000. According to information from the survey organizers, the information gathered will be analyzed to provide insights on industry leaders and the general public. This will facilitate understanding of issues related to the local labor force.

GOV'T REPOSSESSES ANOTHER LAND PLOT AT HAC SA

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has repossessed a land plot at Hac Sa Beach in Coloane. The plot, which has a total area of 1,400 square meters, is located right on the beachfront. In an operation held on June 17, a government interdepartmental group proceeded with the eviction and cleared of the land plot of all materials. They also erected new fences to prevent occupation, the DSSOPT informed in a statement. The land was repossessed after the deadline in a final notice to the occupants to vacate the land came to pass. Similar operations were carried out on several land plots in the area, starting in April this year. For the time being, the DSSOPT has not yet provided any information on what the land plots will be used for now that they are in government possession.

New Macau calls for end to abuse of teachers' pension funds

ANTHONY LAM

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou, who is backed by the New Macau Association, is urging the government to close a loophole that allows private schools to use money from teachers' pension funds as severance pay when they dismiss teachers without cause.

Some schools have been calculating the money they have invested

in their employees' provident funds against the amount of dismissal compensation that is paid when a teacher's contract ends, or when the teacher retires or is dismissed.

In March, the Court of Second Instance issued a judgment on the problem. The court ruled that private schools should not use employees' provident funds as severance pay.

The court added that the purpose of provident funds was to safeguard teachers' retirements, rather than to ensure that schools can pay the compensation owed during the termination of contracts.

Sou said he approved of the Court's ruling, explaining that the mandatory requirements for provident funds that were institutionalized by

the Legal Framework Governing Private Foundational Education Institutions (Legal Framework) were based on an identical justification.

Furthermore, the requirements for mandatory provident funds and labor protections fall under two different laws, with the latter falling under the Labour Relations Law.

"The authorities should

rectify the problem as soon as possible," the lawmaker urged.

Some teachers have already filed complaints about this practice with the Labour Affairs Bureau, which has been inconsistent in its handling of these complaints. Sou suspects this might be due to their lack of understanding of the Legal Framework.

In addition, the lawmaker has also encouraged teachers who have been victims of this loophole to register with the Labour Affairs Bureau so that action can be taken.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

MYSTERIOUS COMPANY BEHIND ARTHOUSE TENDER RAISES EYEBROWS AMONG FILM BUFFS

ANTHONY LAM

ENTHUSIASTS of independent films in Macau say they are unsure about the new Cinematheque Passion operator, as selected by the Cultural Affairs Bureau's (IC) in a recent tender. If there are no other hurdles, starting from September, the Cinematheque will be operated for the next three years by a company called Companhia de Produção de Entretenimento e Cultura, which literally translates as the Entertainment and Culture Production Company.

The company quoted the IC about 15 million patacas to operate the arthouse for three years when its predecessor, CUT Lda's, asked for a 25 patacas million check for the same length of time.

Local film enthusiasts are questioning the appointment, as there is very little information about the winning company online. According to open sources, it has participated in two bid-dings, namely the tender for the souvenir shop at the Mandarin's House and for filmmaking services for the Macao Government

DANIEL BEITLER



Tourism Office.

Normally, the tender opening entity does not need to disclose the details of the proposal that it receives from the bidder. It is also not normal practice to disclose the background of the bidder.

However, the lack of information about the company that was founded in 2010 has raised many questions in film enthusiast circles. The Cinematheque is known as the only independent cinema in Macau that screens both mainstream and

Film enthusiasts are questioning the appointment, as there is very little information about the winning company

alternative films. These include monochrome or re-mastered classics such as Ang Li's 1994 masterwork "Eat Drink Man Woman," as well as "The Farewell," for which actress and rapper Awkwafina won the Golden Globe Best Actress Award.

Local cultural commentator, Pan Lei, reposted his previous interview with Chinese media outlet All About Macau, stressing that the cultural appeal of the Cinematheque is significant to Macau. The mini cinema, in his opinion, is part of the city's

cultural image as well. "It adds points to Macau," he told the Chinese newspaper.

Local filmmaker Chan Ka Keung wrote to the same Chinese newspaper to commend the Cinematheque for providing "rich cultural activities" over the past three years. He made a long film called "Passing Rain," which was screened at the Cinematheque in 2018. The film also made it to the International Film Festival and Awards - Macao.

In his article, Chan pointed out that he was not convinced that the IC's price-oriented approach on art was beneficial. In this tender, the IC increased its weighing on the price factor by 5% to 40%.

Another individual who wrote to the newspaper thought that the winner must have submitted a spectacular proposal. The writer believed that the IC had not picked a proposal on the grounds of price alone.

The writer also said that the Cinematheque is "a cultural hub and a key [piece of] film infrastructure to foster communications, exchange and collaboration between filmmakers."

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Melco suspends and revamps House of Dancing Water show

MELCO Resorts & Entertainment announced its House of Dancing Water show at the City of Dreams Cotai property was suspended starting yesterday and until January next year, to be redesigned by creator Franco Dragone.

The water-based "extravaganza" written and directed by Franco Dragone premiered in September 2010, and has welcome over 6 million spectators over the years.

The gaming operator told the Times that the change will force a reduction in the show's 160 plus staff. Blue card holders employed at the HODW, who comprise around half of the workforce, will be let go, the Times has learned. Melco says they are determined to hire local workers.

"We have very different workers' situations, so we have to deal differently with them, case by case," a company source told the Times, explaining that "some are in Macau, some are not."

Franco Dragone will keep



his position as artistic director. While the founder of The House of Dancing Water remains responsible for the artistic and creative direction of the production, the show will be managed by a separate entity.

Most of the staff contracts were transferred from the company previously in charge of the show, Dragone Macau Limitada, to TDAB Sociedade Unipessoal Limitada, a com-

pany controlled by Melco.

David Sisk, Melco's Chief Operating Officer, Macau Resorts said in a statement that, "We are honored that our collaboration with Franco Dragone has flourished through the immense success of The House of Dancing Water. The show will be re-imagined to offer new energy and excitement, enhancing its status as Macau's must-see performance. As a sign of

Melco's commitment to local people, the re-imagined new show will also benefit from the continuous development of local talent."

The new production will debut "in mid-January," in time for the Chinese New Year.

Melco clarified that the change was not prompted by the current Covid-19 pandemic, instead it is meant to create a "more exciting and fun show for the city."

The re-imagined show is part of Melco's efforts "focusing on creating world-leading hospitality and entertainment in Macau to attract new and quality tourism to the city," the company says. The Times has learned that Franco Dragone is "working on the revamp as we speak, and he is supposed to come to Macau in September."

Melco also said it will "continue to invest in The House of Dancing Water – upholding its devotion to craftsmanship and its dedication to world-class entertainment offerings, designing unique masterpieces created to become beacons for the city." PC

VISITOR ARRIVALS PLUMMET 99.5% IN MAY

VISITOR arrivals fell 99.5% year-on-year in May to number just 16,000, according to the latest data provided by the Statistics and Census Service. Despite the near-zero level of visitation, May still marked a 46.1% increase over the number of tourists in April.

Overnight visitors and same-day visitors totaled 9,000 and 7,000 respectively. The average length of stay of visitors extended by 4.1 days to 5.3, driven by overnight visitors who stayed on average for 14.7 days because of the mandatory medical observation for people entering Macau. Meanwhile, the duration for same-day visitors (0.2 days) remained unchanged from a year earlier.

In the first five months of 2020, the number of visitor arrivals fell by 81.1% year-on-year to 3.24 million, with 2.85 million of them arriving in January, before the effect of the coronavirus had been felt in Macau.

The average length of stay of visitors went up by 0.3 days year-on-year to 1.4 days, with that of overnight visitors increasing by 0.5 days to 2.7 days, while that of same-day visitors remained unchanged at 0.2 days. DB



BREAKFAST SERIES
MPay with Joe Liu

A Macao beyond Payment
How MPay will change Macao further

britcham @ St. Regis Macao - Wednesday 1 July 2020

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Britcham Members – Complimentary	07:45 : Registration
Non-Members – MOP/HKD 200	08:00 : Breakfast
	08:15 : Presentation
	09:00 : Close

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A Macao beyond Payment - How MPay will change Macao further

Mr. Joe Liu is the Director of multiple Macao enterprises with a diversified business portfolio encompassing fintech, e-commerce, media marketing and public affairs. MPay is Macao's first mobile payment system to further reinforce local government's scheme on fintech and e-payment. MPay's main features include online and offline payment, payment transfer, utilities payments, public transportation ticketing, MPark (automatic parking fee collection system) and Transport QR code for bus rides.

In Q4 2019, the People's Bank of China authorized the launch of MPay in Mainland China, making MPay the first cross-border mobile payment instrument and digital wallet provided by a financial institution outside the Mainland. Last but not least, it is confirmed that MPay will soon be available in Hong Kong.



EPIDEMIC CONTROL MEASURES

HOUSEHOLD PRECAUTION

The virus outbreak is still severe. Every household should take necessary precautions to ensure environmental hygiene in the community.

Adequate ventilation


- ★ Ensure good ventilation in the house
- ★ If there is no window, a functioning ventilation system should be guaranteed

Bathroom

- ★ Maintain good hygiene in the bathroom
- ★ Close the toilet seat lid before you flush
- ★ Soap and disposable toilet paper should be provided in the bathroom
- ★ Ensure good pipe drainage and make sure there is no leakage. Pour half a cup to one cup of water into floor drain holes every day to ensure the functioning of the U-trap drain

Household Cleaning

- ★ Furniture surfaces, walls, floors, door handles, computer keyboards and mobile phones should be cleaned frequently with diluted bleach (1:100)
- ★ If floors, carpets, walls or other surfaces are soiled by bodily fluids or waste, such surfaces should be disinfected immediately (hand gloves should be worn while disinfecting)
- ★ Disposable items, especially face masks, should be disposed of properly
- ★ Towels, bed linens and clothing should be washed and disinfected regularly



FILIPINO NATIONALS FACE QUARANTINE 'HURDLE' ONCE HOME

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macau International Airport saw hundreds of passengers yesterday – an oddity during the pandemic – as 362 stranded Filipino nationals flew home after being stranded in the city for up to four months.

This was the second and last repatriation flight organized by the Philippine Consulate General in Macau.

Due to the significant number of repatriation requests to the Philippine government from consulates abroad – particularly those in the Middle East – it took some time for the consulate to officially charter the special flights.

The one-way trip via Philippine Airlines had 140 tourists and 222 overseas Filipino workers onboard. Ninety-five of those on the flight were pregnant women.

According to Consul General Lilybeth Deapera, the second chartered flight still gave priority to adults with children, pregnant women, senior citizens and nationals with health conditions.

Initially, the consulate conducted a survey to see how many stranded nationals, tourists or not, were keen to go home.

“The ones included in the survey [were] around 800 people,” said the official.

The first chartered flight they negotiated with Philippine authorities brought some 162 passengers back home.

There are still a few hundred



Filipino nationals in the SAR. However, these individuals can fly through Hong Kong International Airport, given that they inform the Philippine Consulate 72 hours prior to their flight and submit their contact, flight and family details.

Although these 362 passengers were finally able to return home after months of waiting for a direct flight, their misfortune does not end there. These individuals are required to undergo a Covid-19 swab test, which tourists in Macau have to pay around 500 patacas for. Those who undergo the mandatory quarantine period in the Philippines will have to stay on a designated cruise ship and

share a room with one to three other people.

If tested negative, they will only be required to stay for at the designated quarantine site three to five days, given that Macau has been free of Covid-19 for the past two months.

“Those in Luzon might be allowed to be picked up given the recent easing of the lockdown. Those from Visayas and Mindanao will be sent over,” Deapera explained.

Yesterday, the airport was packed with these travelers, with many of them starting to check in before 10 a.m.

The flight departed at 2:15 p.m. yesterday.

One passenger, Mary Ann Bonus, expressed worry about going home as the number of cases in the Philippines spiked to 27,779 yesterday.

“We’re worried because there are a lot of cases back home. We

don’t want to stay [in Manila] for a long time for quarantine purposes. But at the same time, I can’t spend more months here as I have been unemployed for two months already,” she said.

Another passenger, Ayla Alferez, along with her one-year-old son and sister only came to Macau to visit her husband over Christmas. However, their return flight was rescheduled twice before it was officially cancelled.

They had also booked flights from Hong Kong to Taiwan to Manila, which were cancelled as well due to the increase in cases.

The consulate had followed up on her case to ensure she was onboard the previous chartered flight arranged by Melco Resorts & Entertainment.

“We didn’t join that flight because I cannot bring along my 23-year-old sister with me. Luckily now, we’re finally able to get on board. We’ve spent so much money on tickets and on being stranded already,” said Alferez.

“I hope we only stay for three to five days in the designated quarantine site because I’m also worried about my son.”

Yesterday’s flight also repatriated the bodies of five deceased Filipino nationals.

FERRY SERVICE RETRIEVES RESIDENTS

THE first sailing of a special ferry service available to and from Macau – via the Hong Kong International Airport – has brought home Macau residents from overseas, the MSAR government announced yesterday. The service, which uses Taipa Ferry Terminal as its home port, has sailings until July 16. It serves Macau

residents wishing to return to Macau, and those currently located in Macau due to the novel coronavirus alert but who wish to return to their place of origin. There are two sailings inbound to Macau and two sailings outbound each day during the period. The special ferry service is provided by TurboJET and Cotai Water Jet.

GREATER BAY

New cross-city alliance promotes urban design collaboration

RENATO MARQUES

THE Greater Bay Area Urban Designer Alliance (GBAUDA) was inaugurated on Wednesday in a ceremony that was held both online and offline. Hong Kong’s Chief Executive, Carrie Lam, attended the event.

The alliance brings together five architecture and urban planning groups and entities from the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA).

The GBAUDA aims to promote collaboration amongst urban design professionals, practices and organizations in the

GBA, including urban designers, architects, landscape designers, town planners and engineers, and establish professional recognition for urban design practitioners in the area.

Macau is represented by the Center for Architecture and Urbanism (CURB), as one of the alliance’s founding members.

Alongside CURB, the other founding members of the alliance are the Hong Kong Institute of Urban Design (HKIUD), the Guangzhou Urban Planning Association, the Urban Planning Society of Shenzhen, and

the Zhuhai Planning Exploration and Design Industry Association. Together, they have created a network of institutes that are on a mission to elevate urban design standards and improve the livability of cities in the region, a statement from GBAUDA informed.

During Wednesday’s ceremony, it was also announced that HKIUD would host the first-ever event organized by the GBAUDA, GBA Urban Design Week, which will take place in November.

The president of CURB’s board of directors, architect Nuno Soares, said that the alliance

is “a leading and powerful platform to advocate for the pursuit of excellence in urban design, architecture, and urban planning in the GBA.”

He also noted that the GBA “offers an opportunity to celebrate local idiosyncrasies, acknowledging the individual contribution of each city in the construction of a rich and diverse urban network.”

The alliance has new ambitions to create a common territory and joint future that need to be wished for, pursued, designed and ultimately lived by all, he concluded.

GREATER BAY

FOSHAN TO OPEN SARS YOUTH ENTREPRENEUR INCUBATOR

FOSHAN, a city in the Greater Bay Area, is planning to build a youth entrepreneurship incubation base for Hong Kong and Macau residents.

The Foshan government announced the plan on Wednesday, together with an entrepreneurship service platform aimed at serving the incubation base.

The Foshan government hopes to use the platform to help Macau and Hong Kong residents be treated the same Foshan local residents.

According to Mayor of Foshan, the city will deepen the cooperation mechanisms “Hong Kong + Foshan” and “Macau + Foshan,” and will speed up the establishment of the high-end service demon-

stration zone for Guangdong, Macau and Hong Kong cooperation.

The Foshan government also stated that the city will deepen offshore trade cooperation with Hong Kong, and trade and commercial collaborations between Macau and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Promotion of the Greater Bay Area initiative has been growing since Premier Li Ke-qiang formally endorsed the plan for a cluster of cities around the Pearl River Delta in 2017. In the past few years, intercity cooperation has been a major policy goal for the two SARs and nine mainland cities involved in the Greater Bay Area project. **JZ**

AP PHOTO



Trump meets Xi in Japan (left) and John Bolton, former Trump adviser

Bolton: Trump solicited Chinese help for his reelection effort

ZEKE MILLER, DEB RIECHMANN & JILL COLVIN, WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Donald Trump “pleaded” with China’s Xi Jinping during a 2019 summit to help his reelection prospects, according to a scathing new book by former Trump adviser John Bolton that accuses the president of being driven by political calculations when making national security decisions.

The White House worked furiously to block the book, asking a federal court for an emergency temporary restraining order yesterday [Macau time] against its release.

Bolton’s allegations that Trump solicited Chinese help for his reelection effort carried echoes of Trump’s attempt to get political help from Ukraine, which led to his impeachment.

“I am hard-pressed to identify any significant Trump decision during my tenure that wasn’t driven by re-election calculations,” Bolton wrote.

The 577-page book paints an unvarnished portrait of Trump and his administration, amounting to the most vivid, first-person account yet of how Trump conducts himself in office. Several other former officials have written books, but most have been flattering about the president. Other former officials have indicated they were saving their accounts of their time working for Trump until after he left office to speak more candidly. The Associated Press obtained a copy of Bolton’s book in

advance of its release next week.

Bolton, Trump’s national security adviser for a 17-month period, called Trump’s attempt to shift the June 2019 conversation with Xi to the U.S. election a stunning move and wrote that it was among innumerable conversations that he found concerning. He added that Congress should have expanded the scope of its impeachment inquiry to these other incidents.

Deeply critical of the president and much of his senior team, Bolton wrote that because staff had served him so poorly, Trump “saw conspiracies behind rocks, and remained stunningly uninformed on how to run the White House, let alone the huge federal government.” He added that while he was at the White House, Trump typically had only two intelligence briefings a week “and in most of those, he spoke at greater length than the briefers, often on matters completely unrelated to the subjects at hand.”

Trump was asked about the book on Fox News Channel’s “Hannity,” and the president accused Bolton of violating the law by releasing the book. “He broke the law. Very simple. I mean, as much as it’s going to be broken,” Trump said. “It’s highly classified information, and he did not have approval.”

He tweeted early Thursday that the book “is made up of lies & fake stories” by a “disgruntled boring fool who only wanted to go to war.”

The book includes embarrass-

ing claims that Trump thought Finland was part of Russia, didn’t know that the United Kingdom was a nuclear power and called reporters “scumbags” who should be “executed.”

As for the meeting with the Chinese president in Osaka, Japan, Bolton wrote that Trump told Xi that Democrats were hostile to China.

As for the meeting with the Chinese president in Osaka, Bolton wrote that Trump told Xi that Democrats were hostile to China

“He then, stunningly, turned the conversation to the coming U.S. presidential election, alluding to China’s economic capability to affect the ongoing campaigns, pleading with Xi to ensure he’d win,” Bolton said. “He stressed the importance of farmers, and increased Chinese purchases of soybeans and wheat in the electoral outcome.”

Bolton wrote that he would print Trump’s exact words, “but the government’s pre-publication review process has decided otherwise.”

The book, titled “The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir,” is set to be released Tuesday by Simon & Schuster. It has been the subject of a lengthy battle between Bolton and the

White House.

The Justice Department sued on Tuesday in an effort to delay publication of the book, claiming that it still contained highly classified information and that a required review by the National Security Council had not been concluded. According to the filing, a career official determined no classified material remained in April, but national security adviser Robert O’Brien initiated a secondary review that deemed additional information to be classified.

Bolton wrote that he was asked to add phrases like, “in my view,” to make it clear he was expressing his opinion instead of relying on sensitive information. In others, he was asked to describe things more generally. He was asked to remove quotation marks nearly every time he recounts conversation between Trump and foreign leaders and himself and foreign leaders.

The White House’s contention that so much of the book was classified appeared to be a tacit admission that many of Bolton’s allegations were accurate — as inaccurate information could not be classified.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said yesterday that he attended a meeting between Trump and Xi at the Group of 20 nations in Osaka but never heard Trump pleading with Xi to buy more agriculture products to ensure he would win reelection.

“Absolutely untrue. Never happened. I was there. I have no re-

collection of that ever happening. I don’t believe it’s true. I don’t believe it ever happened,” Lighthizer said at a Senate hearing on trade issues. “Would I recollect something as crazy as that? Of course I would recollect it.”

Bolton wrote that he raised some of his concerns about Trump’s conversations with foreign leaders with Attorney General William Barr and flagged similar worries with White House attorneys and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo.

“The pattern looked like obstruction of justice as a way of life, which we couldn’t accept,” he wrote.

Trump continually pandered to Xi, Bolton wrote. At a White House Christmas dinner in 2018, Bolton said Trump asked why the U.S. was sanctioning China over its treatment of Uighurs. China suspects Uighurs, who are predominantly Muslim and culturally and ethnically distinct from the majority Han Chinese population, of harboring separatist tendencies. In recent years, China has dramatically escalated its campaign against them by detaining more than 1 million people in internment camps and prisons.

“At the opening dinner of the Osaka G-20 meeting, with only interpreters present, Xi explained to Trump why he was basically building concentration camps in Xinjiang,” Bolton wrote. “According to our interpreter, Trump said that Xi should go ahead with building the camps, which he thought was exactly the right thing to do.”

In the book, Bolton describes every Trump decision as being guided by concerns for his own reelection, a claim that evokes the scandal that sparked Trump’s impeachment last year.

The book alleges that Trump directly tied providing military aid to Ukraine to the country’s willingness to conduct investigations into his Democratic challenger Joe Biden and Biden’s son Hunter. In one conversation, Trump said “he wasn’t in favor of sending them anything until all the Russia-investigation materials related to Clinton and Biden had been turned over,” Bolton writes.

Trump’s decision to withhold military assistance to Ukraine until it agreed to investigate Biden led the House to charge Trump was abusing his power. The aid was ultimately released once the holdup became public. The GOP-controlled Senate ultimately acquitted the president on that count and a count of obstructing Congress’ investigation of the incident.

Bolton was called to testify before House lawmakers conducting the impeachment inquiry, but he declined, suggesting he wanted a federal court to decide whether he should heed a White House directive not to cooperate with the inquiry. AP

India cautions China over its claim to area of deadly clash

ASHOK SHARMA & EMILY SCHMALL, NEW DELHI

INDIA yesterday cautioned China against making “exaggerated and untenable claims” to the Galwan Valley area even as both nations tried to end a standoff in the Himalayan region where their armies engaged in a deadly clash.

Twenty Indian troops were killed in Monday's clash, which was the deadliest conflict between the sides in 45 years. China has not disclosed whether its forces suffered any casualties.

Responding to China's claim to the valley, India's External Affairs Ministry spokesman Anurag Srivastava said both sides agreed to handle the situation responsibly. “Making exaggerated and untenable claims is contrary to this understanding,” he said in a statement.

Both sides accused each other of instigating the clash between their forces in the valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region along the Himalayan frontier.

China stuck to its position that it was Indian troops who had deliberately provoked and attacked its officers, though it also signaled it wanted talks, noting the importance of the broader bilateral relationship.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian, citing Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in a call with his Indian counterpart, said that “mutual respect and support serves our long-term interests” as two emerging nations trying to realize their full development.



Indian army soldiers and family members pay tribute to Colonel B. Santosh Babu during a funeral at his home town at Suryapet, about 140 kilometers from Hyderabad, yesterday

“After the incident, China and India communicated and coordinated through military and diplomatic channels,” he said at a daily briefing. “The two sides agreed to deal fairly with the serious events caused by the conflict in the Galwan Valley, and ... cool down the situation as soon as possible.”

Meanwhile, an Indian confederation of small and midsize companies called for a boycott of 500 Chinese goods, including toys and textiles, to express “strong criticism” of China's alleged aggression in Ladakh.

The call for a boycott followed protests Wednesday in New Delhi where demonstrators destroyed items they said were made in China while chanting “China get out.”

The Himalayan clash has fanned anti-Chinese sentiments already running high due to the coronavirus. India counts more than 366,000 virus cases and 12,200 deaths.

But a broader boycott could backfire for India if

China chose to retaliate by banning exports to India of the raw ingredients used by India's pharmaceutical industry.

Media reports said senior army officers of the two sides met Wednesday to defuse the situation, but there was no confirmation from either side.

Indian security forces said neither side fired any shots, instead throwing rocks and trading blows. The Indian soldiers, including a colonel, died of severe injuries and exposure in the area's sub-zero temperatures, the officials said.

India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar said yesterday that all Indian troops at Galwan were carrying arms on Monday. But as per 1996 and 2005 agreements between the two countries, they were not expected to use firearms during faceoffs, he said on Twitter.

He was apparently responding to criticism by opposition Congress party

leader Rahul Gandhi who wanted to know “why were our soldiers sent unarmed to martyrdom?”

The clash escalated a standoff in the disputed region that began in early May, when Indian officials said Chinese soldiers crossed the boundary at three different points, erecting tents and guard posts and ignoring warnings to leave. That triggered shouting matches, stone-throwing and fistfights, much of it replayed on television news channels and social media.

China's foreign minister warned New Delhi not to underestimate Beijing's determination to safeguard what it considers its sovereign territory. His comments came in a phone call Wednesday with his Indian counterpart, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

Wang said China demanded that India conduct a thorough investigation and “harshly punish” those responsible.

Jaishankar, in turn, accused China of erecting a structure in the Galwan Valley, which he called a “premeditated and planned action that was directly responsible for the resulting violence and casualties,” according to a statement.

He added that the incident would have “serious repercussions” on India's relationship with China, but that both sides were committed to further disengaging on the remote plateau of the Himalayan terrain.

While experts said the two nations were unlikely to head to war, they also believe easing tensions quickly will be difficult. **AP**

this day in history



1982 'GOD'S BANKER' FOUND HANGED

The body of a top Italian banker has been found hanging from Blackfriars Bridge in London.

Known as God's banker for his links with the Vatican, 62-year-old Roberto Calvi was the chairman of Banco Ambrosiano in Milan and a central figure in a complex web of international fraud and intrigue.

He had been missing for the last nine days before his body was discovered by a passer-by hanging from scaffolding on a riverside walk under the bridge.

Police are treating the death as suicide.

Mr Calvi became chairman of Banco Ambrosiano, now Italy's largest private bank, in 1975 and built up a vast financial empire.

In 1978, a report by the Bank of Italy on Ambrosiano concluded that several billion lire had been illegally exported.

In May 1981, Mr Calvi was arrested, found guilty, and sentenced to four years' imprisonment, but released pending an appeal. During his short spell in jail he attempted suicide.

Mr Calvi was due to appear in an Italian court next week to appeal against his conviction.

Later this month he was to be tried for alleged fraud involving property deals with Sicilian banker Michele Sindona, who is himself serving 25 years in America over the collapse of the Franklin National Bank in New York in 1974.

The Vatican is directly linked to Mr Calvi by Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, the Pope's bodyguard, a governor of the Vatican and head of the Vatican bank which has a shareholding in Ambrosiano.

Now Ambrosiano is on the verge of collapse amid press reports that investigators found a €400m “hole” in its accounts. Last week the bank's executive board decided to strip Mr Calvi of his authority.

The Italian Treasury dissolved the bank's administration and the Bank of Italy is now a temporary commissioner.

Mr Calvi fled to Venice nine days ago after shaving his moustache to avoid being recognised.

From there it seems he hired a private plane to take him to London.

The day before he was found dead, his secretary committed suicide in Milan by jumping off the fourth floor of the bank's headquarters.

Teresa Corrocher, aged 55, left an angry suicide note condemning her boss for the damage she said he had done to Ambrosiano and its employees.

Courtesy BBC News

NEPAL MOVES CLOSER TO CLAIMING DISPUTED LAND WITH INDIA

NEPAL'S upper house of parliament yesterday signed off on a proposed constitutional amendment that would change the nation's political map to include strategically important territory also claimed by India.

Already approved by the lower house, the proposed amendment still needs to be signed by the president before becoming official.

The proposed map has been strongly criticized by India and soured relations between the South Asian neighbors and a formal constitutional amendment is likely to further strain ties.

Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli's government has pushed for the amendment and it has widespread public support.

Nepal has long claimed the areas of Limpiyadhura,

Kalapani and Lipu Lekh in accordance with an 1816 Sugauli treaty with the British Raj, although the areas have remained under the control of Indian troops since India fought a war with China in 1962.

India does not recognize Nepal's claims, and says talks should be held on any outstanding boundary issues.

The border dispute between the two countries

heated up again last month when India opened a Himalayan link road through one of the disputed regions that lies at a strategic junction with Tibet and China.

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

Nepal fiercely contested the inauguration of the road, seeing it as an incursion and a stark example of bullying by its much larger neighbor. **AP**

IN CONTEXT

It was later revealed that Roberto Calvi was found with five bricks in his pockets and had in his possession about \$14,000 in three different currencies.

On 23 July an inquest jury returned a verdict of suicide. This was overturned in 1983 when a second inquest delivered an open verdict on the death.

In October 2002 forensic experts appointed by Italian judges concluded that the banker had been murdered. They said his neck showed no evidence of the injuries usually associated with death by hanging and his hands had never touched the stones found in the pockets of his clothes. American Archbishop Paul Marcinkus was sought for questioning but was granted immunity as a Vatican employee. He retired in 1990 and died in 2006.

In October 2005 five people went on trial in Rome. They were Sardinian financier Flavio Carboni, his former girlfriend Manuela Kleinszig, Roman entrepreneur Ernesto Diotallevi, Calvi's former bodyguard, Silvano Vittor and convicted Cosa Nostra treasurer Pippo Calo. They were acquitted in June 2007.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You've been in a fog about someone for a while, and a conversation with a mutual friend will illuminate some facts you were previously unaware of. Your long-held opinion about them is about to change.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

A charming new person might come into your life today and they give you lots of compliments. However, their flattery is probably going to cause you to ask them some questions instead of just blushing.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Have some fun today and focus on creative pursuits. Even if you can't draw your way out of a paper bag, you can create some great things today if you try.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You're surrounded by good people with good energy right now, so try to make the most of it! Get to know those people who you've had some short but sweet conversations with.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You have always tried to be there for your friends when they needed you, but it's important for you to remember that you can't fix their problems right now.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

But you can process these complicated emotions if you take your time. Go slowly and ask for more time if you need it. People will want to know why you're off your game, so tell them.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Names, numbers, and other bits of information are all things you can master and organize with ease. Everyone else will defer to you on the big picture since you have the small picture so well in hand.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

If you want more attention from a boss, crush, or even your current partner, stop asking for it. Back up, go off on your own, and create a little mystery around yourself.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You're feeling the need for someone to help you start thinking more positively right now. Your own ability to stay focused on good thoughts is getting challenged.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today, you could have an urge to go explore a place or idea that's usually uncomfortable for you. Your curiosity has become stronger than your fear of the unknown, and this is a very positive development.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

While you know how to create a good time for everyone around you, you might not be feeling like making life easier for others. Why? Well, things are not so easy for you right now.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You might be feeling a little bit insecure about your status in your social circle right now, but if there is any kind of power shift going on among your friends, it's a temporary disturbance.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

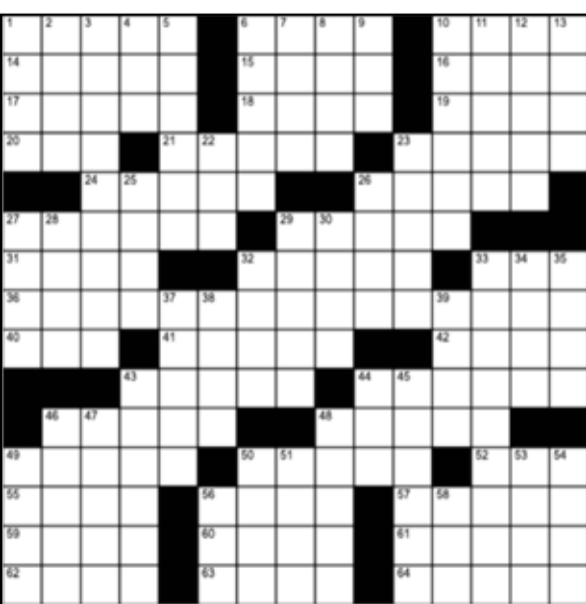
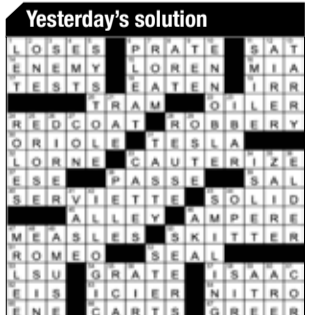
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	34	cloudy
Harbin	13	23	cloudy
Tianjin	22	34	cloudy
Urumqi	17	25	moderate rain
Xi'an	18	30	overcast
Lhasa	14	26	shower
Chengdu	21	30	cloudy
Chongqing	24	33	cloudy
Kunming	19	26	shower
Nanjing	19	27	cloudy
Shanghai	22	27	overcast
Wuhan	20	26	drizzle
Hangzhou	23	27	moderate rain
Taipei	25	31	overcast
Guangzhou	26	34	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	17	31	drizzle
Frankfurt	12	23	drizzle
Paris	14	20	drizzle
London	13	20	drizzle
New York	20	27	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Minor, in law; 6- Run smoothly; 10- Ersatz butter; 14- Maker of Pong; 15- Succulent plant; 16- Commotion; 17- Ancient physician; 18- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 19- Journey; 20- North American deer; 21- Devoured; 23- Chairs; 24- Godly love; 26- Pulls down; 27- Comeback; 29- Counterfeit; 31- Bounce back; 32- Living in a city; 33- Isr. neighbor; 36- Make a trade?; 40- Sky light; 41- View; 42- Genesis victim; 43- Investigate closely; 44- Exclamation of triumph; 46- Emblem; 48- Vow locale; 49- Seine spot; 50- Rate; 52- Up to, informally; 55- Not a dup.; 56- "His and ___"; 57- Of first importance; 59- Apparatus for weaving; 60- Initial stake in a hand of poker; 61- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 62- Sicilian volcano; 63- Small plateau; 64- Change for the better;

DOWN: 1- Leaf of a book; 2- Bibliography abbr.; 3- Extended discussion; 4- Ill temper; 5- Musical ineptitude; 6- Cut partner; 7- Peter Fonda title role; 8- Horse of mixed color; 9- ___ judicata; 10- Furry swimmers; 11- Navigation acronym; 12- Prepares for publication; 13- "My fault!"; 22- Prone; 23- Hot spot; 25- Flub; 26- Richard of A Summer Place"; 27- Gym counts; 28- Beige; 29- Salty; 30- Clarinet cousin; 32- Pre-owned; 33- Rake; 34- O.T. book; 35- Actor Lugosi; 37- Adlai's running mate; 38- Worthless person; 39- Pasternak heroine; 43- Stain; 44- ___ Lilly and Company; 45- System of social perfection; 46- Fortune-telling cards; 47- The Hunter; 48- Flummoxed; 49- Tent stick; 50- Lacoste of tennis; 51- They may be fine; 53- Poker declaration; 54- Be in front; 56- Ark passenger; 58- CD-___;



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

One Central 2 Bedroom Views Over Nam Van Lake
HK\$11,800,000 1,269 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

Retail Shop, Barra Area Macau
\$48,000/mth 1,968 ft²

FOR SALE

[Macau] One Oasis modern studio 2 1/2 1 1/2
691 ft² \$6,357,000 (ref: n/a)

[Taipa] Chun Fuk apartment 2 1/2 2 1/2
834 ft² \$8,998,000 (ref: 20036002)

[Taipa] Buckingham 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,439 ft² \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)

[Cotai] One Grantai 4 1/2 2 1/2
2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Delightful 1 Bed 1 1/2 1 1/2
820 ft² \$9,500/mth (ref: 20051001)

[Taipa] Traditional Apartment 2 1/2 1 1/2
600 ft² \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)

[Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)

[Taipa] Private house 2 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2
4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)

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GAMING

VEGAS TO GET NEW CASINO AHEAD OF SCHEDULE

CHRISTOPHER PALMERI

REAL estate developer Derek Stevens is opening the Circa Resort & Casino in downtown Las Vegas on Oct. 28, two months earlier than initially planned, as the city tries to bounce back from the coronavirus shutdown.

The property will be the first new casino built from the ground up in the downtown market in four decades. Stevens, working with his brother Greg, won't open the resort's 777-room hotel tower until later this year. The Covid-19 crisis put limits on how many workers the company could put in elevators during construction, so the developers redirected funds to complete the lower floors first.

"This was not in the original plan," Derek Stevens said in an interview, but being able to open the casino and restaurants two months early "was a huge bonus."

Downtown Las Vegas,



which is north of the city's famous hotel Strip, has been undergoing a bit of a renaissance thanks to the remodelings of existing properties. Revamped spots include Tilman Fertitta's Golden Nugget and the D Las Vegas, formerly Fitzgeralds, which Stevens owns. Those casinos are loca-

ted along the city's Fremont Street, and generally attract a younger, more budget-conscious traveler.

The city's tourism took a terrible hit with the coronavirus, which closed the state's casino industry for nearly three months beginning in March. Nevada casinos began

welcoming back guests on June 4, but most visitors have been locals, with air travel and the meeting business falling far behind.

Circa will feature 1,350 slot machines over a two-story casino and what the developer is billing as the world's largest sportsbook, with a TV studio and room for as many as 1,000 guests.

Casino owners are placing big bets on sports wagering, believing America's love affair with their teams will translate into increased attendance in casinos. The National Football League's Raiders are scheduled to play their first home game at a new Las Vegas stadium this summer after relocating from Oakland, California.

Circa will also feature a parking structure, with art installations, a sound system and access specifically designed for ride-sharing companies, that Stevens is calling the "Garage Mahal." **BLOOMBERG**

SPOTIFY TURNS TO WARNER BROS.' DC SUPERHEROES FOR NEW PODCASTS

SUPERHEROES have swarmed comic-book stores, movie theaters and TV. Now they're coming for podcasts.

AT&T Inc.'s Warner Bros. will produce a slate of original scripted podcasts based on DC Comics, the home of Batman, Superman and Wonder Woman, the company announced yesterday. Spotify Technology SA, the world's largest paid audio service, will get first crack at distributing them under a multiyear deal between the two businesses.

The companies didn't disclose what shows they would release, or timing for when they will debut. But the deal gives Spotify yet another set of exclusive podcasts that can draw listeners and advertisers to its service.

In just the past year and a half, the Swedish streaming company has acquired podcast companies the Ringer, Gimlet Media and Parcast, and secured exclusive rights to distribute exclusive podcasts such as "The Joe Rogan Experience" and "Last Podcast on the Left."

Listenership of podcasts on the service has soared over that span, though Spotify still trails Apple Inc. in many markets. Warner Bros., meanwhile, gets to experiment with a new medium. The studio has already released dozens of successful movies and TV shows based on its DC Comics. **BLOOMBERG**

AD

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FOOTBALL

At 35, Ronaldo may have lost a step during the lockdown

ANDREW DAMPF, ROME

AT 35, Cristiano Ronaldo is struggling to regain his famous explosiveness following the three-month break for the coronavirus pandemic.

The Juventus striker failed to make an impact in his first two matches back, making his run of 19 goals in 14 consecutive matches before the break seem like a distant memory.

"Right now his (physical condition) numbers are not bad, maybe the best of the season, which means he trained a lot (during the lockdown)," Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri said after his team lost to Napoli in a penalty shootout in the Italian Cup final following a 0-0 draw yesterday [Macau time].

"In terms of his acceleration and top speed, his numbers are not what he's accustomed to. But that's normal for someone who hasn't been playing games."

In last week's semifinal match against AC Milan, Ronaldo vir-



tually disappeared after failing to convert a first-half penalty.

Against Napoli, the five-time Ballon d'Or winner's impact lasted all of five minutes.

Ronaldo earned a corner kick with a series of his trademark ste-

p-over moves and then had his only chance of the match batted away by Napoli goalkeeper Alex Meret.

Making matters worse, Ronaldo could only watch helplessly when Napoli sealed the 4-2 shoot-

out victory before he was slated to take Juventus' last spot kick.

During the awards ceremony, Ronaldo appeared on the verge of tears.

The game coincided with his son Cristiano Jr.'s 10th birthday

and a title would have given Ronaldo the 30th trophy of his career for club and country.

This was supposed to be the month when Ronaldo was leading Portugal in the defense of its European Championship title. Instead, he's going to have to play himself back into shape with Serie A resuming next.

Juve's other key forwards are also racing to get back into shape.

Paulo Dybala has shown only flashes of brilliance after testing positive for COVID-19 for 50 days. His failure to convert the opening penalty of the shootout set the tone for the loss.

Gonzalo Higuain missed the two cup matches after injuring his right thigh upon the return to training, and Douglas Costa had a series of injuries before the break.

"These are all players who are used to resolving situations individually," Sarri said. "Right now we can't expect more considering our condition."

With little time for training, though, Ronaldo and Juventus will have to play their way back into shape with Serie A about to restart with games every three or four days.

On the bright side, Juventus' defense appears in top shape after keeping consecutive clean sheets with 42-year-old goalkeeper Gianluigi Buffon putting on a performance for the ages in the final. **AP**

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OPINION

World Views

Noah Smith, Bloomberg

**FEAR OF INFECTION HURT
 THE ECONOMY MORE THAN
 LOCKDOWNS**

Until recently, it seemed like the contentious debate over lockdowns was over. By the end of May, many states were defying the warnings of public-health experts, reopening restaurants, retail and public spaces. The huge protests against police brutality and racism reinforced the notion that keeping Americans confined to their homes was a lost cause. Now, even San Francisco, one of the first cities to issue a stay-at-home order, is proceeding with a phased reopening of businesses and public spaces.

But reopening always came with a question mark. With the coronavirus still out there, would cases rise if stay-at-home orders were lifted? And if that happened, would lockdowns have to come back?

Unfortunately, while the hard-hit Northeast has mostly gotten its outbreak under control, almost half of the states, largely in the South and Southwest, are seeing a rise in new cases. In states such as Texas, South Carolina, North Carolina, Florida and Arizona, positive test ratios are rising, suggesting that a wave of new infections, rather than increased testing, is behind the increase. This has some experts asking which states will be the first to re-instate lockdown. Houston is already considering a new stay-at-home order.

The arguments for new localized lockdowns are strong. After all, the disease is the same as it was in March, so if lockdowns made sense then, why not now? And epidemiological evidence does show that stay-at-home orders were effective in suppressing the disease in the U.S., reducing a county's death rate by about 60% after three weeks. The easiest way to see the difference is simply to compare Sweden, which famously refused to implement a lockdown, to its Nordic neighbors, all of which made the opposite decision:

Despite this surge of deaths, Sweden still hasn't reached herd immunity, meaning more infections and loss of life are on the way. The epidemiologist who designed the country's strategy now says he regrets his choice.

But what about the economic damage? Sweden's economy is set to suffer a sharp contraction, but less than that of most other European countries.

The labor market collapsed at the same time across the U.S. irrespective of the state-level policies imposed. There is very little evidence that labor markets in states... that imposed stay-at-home orders earlier were differentially affected.

State lockdowns also didn't affect credit-card spending very much. Even in Scandinavia, economists estimate that lockdowns accounted for only a modest fraction of Denmark's economic underperformance relative to Sweden.

It might seem strange that lockdowns can be both effective at protecting people from coronavirus and yet not have a big impact on the economy. But it's definitely not impossible. There's growing scientific evidence that Covid-19 spreads primarily through prolonged indoor personal contact. By forcing people to work from home and socialize over the internet instead of filling crowded offices and social gatherings, lockdowns could protect public health without doing too much harm to the economy.

This suggests that new lockdowns need not be as restrictive as the ones in March to protect the public. Instead of mandating that everyone stay at home, they could simply ban large indoor social gatherings and indoor restaurant and bar seating, while requiring that companies continue work-from-home policies. Everything else - indoor retail, outdoor gatherings, small indoor social interactions - could be allowed, with the additional requirement that masks be worn in stores or at outdoor events.

This sort of lockdown-lite might achieve the best of both worlds for states and cities experiencing coronavirus spikes. But it also needs to be paired with vigorous testing, contact tracing and isolation of infected people. Most states still either haven't hired enough contact tracers to track new infections, or aren't doing enough testing - or both.

Together, this toolkit - masks, testing and tracing and targeted lockdown-lite - can control the virus until a treatment or vaccine arrives, while causing minimal damage to the economy. [Abridged]

About 1.5 million laid-off workers applied for U.S. unemployment benefits last week, a historically high number, even as the economy increasingly reopens and employers bring some people back to work.

The latest figure released yesterday marked the 11th straight weekly decline in applications since they peaked at nearly 7 million in March as the coronavirus shut down much of the economy and caused tens of millions of layoffs. The decline was much smaller, though, than in recent weeks, falling just 58,000.

The total number of people receiving unemployment aid also fell

slightly, reflecting the return of many to their old jobs.

Still, analysts had expected a sharper decline in weekly applications, and some expressed disappointment that so many people are still seeking unemployment benefits even as restaurants, gyms and many categories of retail shops are reopening across the country.

The jobless claims report generally tracks the pace of layoffs. But it provides little information about how much hiring is occurring that would offset those job losses. In May, employers added 2.5 million jobs — a surprise increase that caught analysts off-guard because the number of applications for unemployment aid was still so high.

**228,000 RECEIVE GOV'T
 INCOME SUBSIDY,
 MORE TO COME**

RENATO MARQUES

A total of 228,000 residents have received the 15,000 patacas distributed by the government as part of the income subsidy scheme. The scheme aims to mitigate the economic difficulties generated by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) informed in a statement.

According to the statement, these beneficiaries will be followed by a group of about 77,000, who will receive the subsidy in the form of a bank cheque sent to their mailboxes.

The DSF said that the entire subsidy distribution process was managed by the government. It was enforced through an administrative regulation on May 30 and will conclude in the next two weeks.

The second batch of subsidies being sent out will also include subsidies for companies, DSF said. They should expect to receive their money before the end of this month.

The bureau also said that since June 2, when the DSF started their system, which allows people to check on their eligibility and the status of their subsidy, the DSF has received a total of 470,000 inquiries. Of



MACAU PHOTO AGENCY

these, 358,220 were from individuals working for companies seeking to check their eligibility, while 119,518 inquiries were related to self-employed professionals and operators of commercial establishment.

The DSF also said that in case self-employed professionals and commercial establishment operators were not happy with the results obtained regarding their eligibility, they can file an appeal and present evidence of their eligibility.

As of Tuesday, June 16, the DSF acknowledged that they had received a total of 1,862 applications related to 2,027 appeals which will now be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

The subsidy, which is part of a support fund for fighting the economic impact of the pandemic, aims to distribute a total

of 10 billion patacas as part of support measures for the population, and grant employment, stabilize the economy and maintain the population's living standards, the government previously announced.

Under the rules of the support fund, the government is distributing 15,000 patacas to workers who meet the requirements, as well as to self-employed professionals and commercial establishment operators who work solo.

Some professions, such as taxi drivers and other freelance jobs, will receive 10,000 patacas. Self-employed professionals and commercial establishment operators who have contracted workers will receive 50,000 to 200,000 patacas, depending on the number of employees they have.

Nepal Five foreign nationals who took part in a protest in Nepal against the government's pandemic response will be deported as soon as international flights resume, the country's top immigration official said. The three Chinese, one American and one Australian were not being detained but are required to report to officials regularly until they leave the country, immigration chief Ramesh Kumar KC said. All five will be banned from returning to Nepal for two years.



AP PHOTO

USA Danny Masterson (pictured), known for his roles in "That '70s Show" and "The Ranch," has been charged with raping three women, Los Angeles County District Attorney's officials announced yesterday. The incidents occurred between 2001 and 2003, officials allege. Masterson's attorney Tom Mesereau said his client "is innocent, we're confident that he will be exonerated when all the evidence finally comes to light and witnesses have the opportunity to testify."



AP PHOTO

UK Dame Vera Lynn (pictured), the endearingly popular "Forces' Sweetheart" who serenaded British troops abroad during World War II, has died at 103. During the war and long after, Lynn got crowds singing, smiling and crying with sentimental favorites such as "We'll Meet Again," and "The White Cliffs of Dover."

**SELF-SERVICE ID CARD RENEWAL
 EXTENDS TO 24 HOURS A DAY**

THE Identification Services Bureau (DSI) has extended the self-service application for Macau SAR Permanent Resident Identity Card renewal to 24 hours a day, enabling residents to go through formalities for ID card renewal at any time.

Holders of Macau SAR identity cards who have reached the age of 25 or

above on the latest issuance date of their identity card can renew the identity card using self-service kiosks as early as six months before it expires or at any time after its expiry.

Other holders of these identity cards who have reached the age of 18 or above on the latest issuance date of their iden-

ity card can use self-service kiosks to renew the identity card during office hours.

Applicants who need to change their personal data (for example name, marital status, or parents' name) cannot use the self-service. They have to go through relevant application formalities at DSI's service counter.



AP PHOTO

Hong Kong Disneyland opened its doors to visitors for the first time in nearly five months, at a reduced capacity and with social distancing measures in place. The theme park is the second Disney-themed park to re-open worldwide, after Shanghai Disneyland.