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China New virus cases declined yesterday in China and in Beijing, where a roughly two-week spike appears to be firmly on the wane. A total of 12 cases were reported for the country, down from 22 the day before. Beijing reported seven cases, down from 13, while the two other cases were reported in neighboring Hebei province and three were listed as having been brought from abroad by Chinese travelers. No new deaths were reported.

South Korea has reported 51 additional cases of the coronavirus over the past 24 hours, a continuation of an upward trend in new infections. The figures released yesterday by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention took the country's total to 12,535 with 281 deaths. It says 10,930 people have recovered while 1,324 people remain in treatment for the COVID-19 illness.



Tokyo's metropolitan government reported 55 new cases yesterday, the largest number since early May, but officials say some were picked up by precautionary tests and the jump does not immediately mean a return to business restraints. Japan earlier allowed tests only for those with symptoms or close contacts with patients. Tests for precautionary purposes, mainly for night entertainment establishments, began earlier this month as businesses started resuming in phases.

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GOV'T TO RETHINK EXPATS' ID PROCESS

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INÊS CHAN OFFICIALLY APPOINTED GCS DIRECTOR

Inês Chan, formerly Head of the Licensing and Supervision Department at the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), has been officially appointed the Director of the Government Information Bureau (GCS). According to an executive decree published in yesterday's Official Gazette, the Chief Executive has appointed Chan for a one-year term starting on July 1. Chan entered public service in 1990. She has worked for the Cartography and Cadastre Bureau, and has been a department head at the MGTO since 2001. Chan has represented the MGTO at over 100 of the Macau Covid-19 response center's press conferences. From July 1, the current GCS director, Victor Chan Chi Ping, will serve as an advisor at the Office for the Secretary for Economy and Finance.

UPGRADES TO CIVIL SERVANT TRAINING PROGRAMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

The local government has plans to enhance civil servant training programs, according to the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP). In its reply to lawmaker Lei Chan U's interpellation, the SAFP revealed that it will propose changes to civil servant training mechanisms in the third quarter of this year. The changes will enhance civil servants' sentiments on the national situation, comprehension and leadership skills. The SAFP hopes to build a team of honest and responsible civil servants who love both Macau and the country. Currently, the bureau is analyzing civil servant training programs according to overall training goals, course design and the evaluation and management of the students, among other perspectives.

APRIL BUSINESS CLIMATE SHOWS MINOR IMPROVEMENT OVER MARCH

Even as the business climate for restaurants and retailers remained exceptionally poor in April, the Statistics and Census Service has reported a minor improvement that month over March. It found that the proportion of interviewed restaurants recording a year-on-year decline in receipts fell by 9 percentage points from March to 88%. As for retailers, the proportion of those interviewed that registered a year-on-year sales decrease (87%) stayed at a similar level as in March. The outlook for May was also poor, with 38% of the interviewed restaurants and 50% of the retailers expecting a year-on-year decline of 50 percent or more in receipts.

IPIM PROMISES RESIDENCY APPLICATION PROCESS IS NOW UNDER REVIEW



Lau Wai Meng, (second from right) the new IPIM president

DANIEL BEITLER

The embattled Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) at the center of an ongoing corruption case says its entire residency application process is currently under review.

This follows complaints from several expatriates in Macau who told the Times this week that they waited years to find out if their residency status would be renewed. The bureau's former president and vice-president are now standing trial, accused of corruption and alleged irregularities in the residen-

cy permit approval process.

IPIM told the Macau Daily Times that it is "running an overall review of all works relevant to the approval and supervision of temporary residency applications based on major investments and technical qualifications."

The investment department also said that it is investigating all approved applications and assessing approval procedures in general.

On Tuesday, the Times reported that a growing number of expatriates in Macau have been left in limbo, not knowing if their applications will ever be

processed. Though they are legally allowed to remain in Macau while their applications are under review, the lengthy wait has been a source of instability for many families here. It has turned everyday tasks like opening bank accounts, purchasing new phone numbers, or enrolling children in schools into needlessly taxing affairs.

In response to an enquiry about this matter, IPIM said it would "handle" applicants whose cases are outstanding as a "priority."

"It has come to our notice that some of the applicants with expired ID have yet to comple-

te the renewal procedure," the investment department said. "Different applications entail different length of time to handle and the assessment procedure takes time. IPIM is now handling the affected applicants with priority, in compliance with relevant regulations and standard procedure."

One expatriate contacted by the Times yesterday slammed IPIM's statement as a "stock standard response" that was "merely placating [the media]."

"The issue is not about their processes and standards and optimization," said the source, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retribution. "If anything, their systems review process is holding application processing up. [...] Their organizational culture is the problem. Their culture is toxic."

Former IPIM president Jackson Chang and deputy Glória Batalha Ung, together with more than 20 other defendants, are currently standing trial at the Court of First Instance for the alleged irregularities. The two officials were removed from their posts during an anti-corruption probe in late 2018.

Lau Wai Meng, the new president of IPIM, was sworn into office at the end of last month for a one-year term. He succeeds Irene Lau, who served as acting president during the interim period.

EIU forecasts Macau economy will suffer a 70% contraction this year

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) forecasts a 69.8% contraction of Macau's economy this year, "the most severe contraction in Macau's history, owing to the impact of the coronavirus."

In its latest report on Macau's economy, the EIU highlights the June

18 figures released by the Statistics and Census Service on tourist arrivals data, which showed that visitor arrivals fell 99.5% in year-on-year terms.

"Given the poor gambling and tourism figures published for April-May and the recent imposition of fresh

controls on travelers from Beijing, Macau's second-quarter economic performance will be dire," the report states.

"We maintain our forecast that the economy will enter deep double-digit contraction in 2020, with a resumption in economic performance (to pre-crisis le-

vels) unlikely until late 2021."

The EIU currently estimates gross domestic product (GDP) output in Macau to drop nearly 70% in 2020, bouncing back to 31% growth in 2021.

"An economic recovery will start to build in 2021, although the

pace of expansion that year [...] will primarily reflect a low base of annual comparison. We do not expect tourism or gambling levels to return to pre-crisis levels until 2022 at the earliest."

According to official data, the Macau economy shrank by 4.7% in real terms in 2019, marking the first full year of negative growth since 2016. In 2017 and 2018 the economy grew at a rate of 9.1% and 4.7% respectively.

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LYNZY VALLES

DESMOND Lam, professor of integrated resorts and tourism management at the University of Macau, has called for the proposed regional travel bubble to be approved by the relevant authorities as soon as possible.

According to Lam, Macau cannot rely on its residents' spending to keep the local economy afloat, and the government's large-scale cash relief scheme is only a temporary measure.

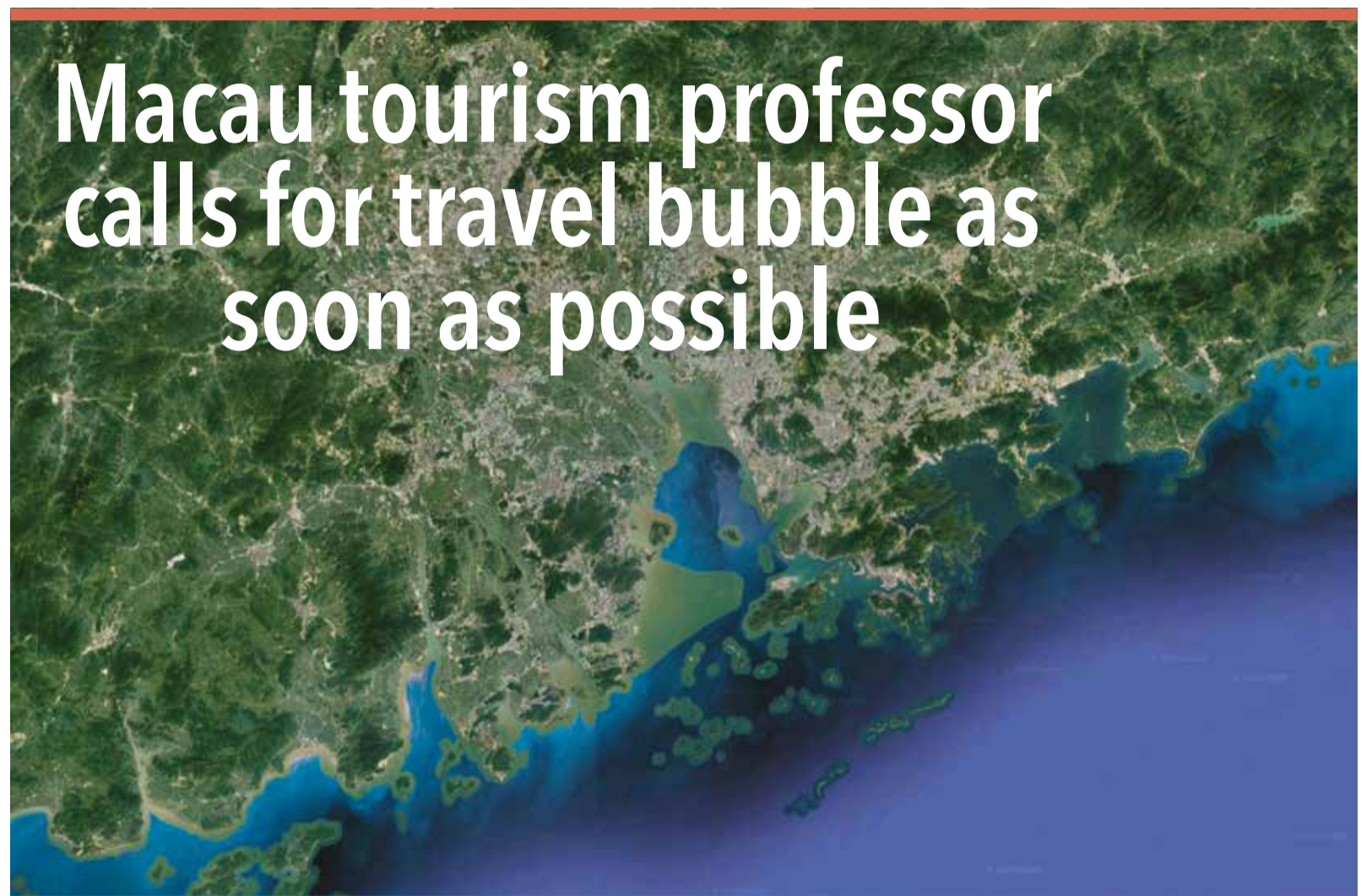
"We cannot rely on just Macau residents. At the end of the day, we're just 678,000 [people]. There is a limit on what we can do collectively. That's why we need to have the travel bubble, we need to have a bigger market which could be mutually beneficial," Lam told the Times on the sidelines of a breakfast talk organized by the France Macau Chamber of Commerce.

Earlier this week, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam announced that the travel bubble plans for Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China have been stalled over "technical issues."

The plan would allow Hong Kong residents to be exempt from mandatory 14 day-quarantines upon visiting the aforementioned regions, given that they acquire a certificate stating that they are free of Covid-19.

She dismissed reports that Macau would not benefit from the scheme, as Hong Kong media have suggested this week.

Instead, Lam said she has already spoken with Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng regarding the matter and both governments have been working hard to facili-



tate travel between the two SARs for their residents.

The community has been waiting for the travel bubble to finally be implemented, and the fact that plans have stalled has disappointed many.

"I know they are actively working towards that but [residents] just need to be patient about it," the professor said.

"Most countries have reactivated domestic tourism [as many] rely on that to support the economy. But in Macau's case, well, we have been trying. Everyone is really going out and

spending money but I think it's insufficient," Desmond Lam said.

During the talk, the professor also noted that now is a good time to re-evaluate the city's long-term strategies, such as the significance of the mass market versus selected "higher-value" tourism segments.

Meanwhile, questioned on whether he thinks the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) will be reinstated soon, Desmond Lam suggested that the travel bubble plan and the commencement of the visa scheme

would go hand in hand.

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

However, it is still unknown when the central government will begin reissuing IVS visas, particularly now, given that Beijing has returned to lockdown after an outbreak of new Covid-19 cases.

Analysts at Sanford Bernstein are skeptical about the IVS restarting by July.

"There has been no new information on when IVS visa issuances may begin, but once they start, we expect a phased approach preceded by health certifications most likely [at this stage. While we remain hopeful, we are skeptical that IVS will resume in July]," said the brokerage's analysts Vitaly Umansky, Eunice Lee and Kelsey Zhu.

The analysts also noted that if there are new outbreaks in the regions while they work towards a travel bubble, the plan could "certainly be delayed again."

Macau allegedly excluded from HK health code recognition

ANTHONY LAM

THE Macau Health Code will not be recognized by Hong Kong when they introduce their own system, but the neighboring SAR will recognize the code being used in Guangdong province, several Hong Kong media outlets are reporting.

This comes as the Secretary for Food and Health of Hong Kong, Sophia Chan, said yesterday that Hong Kong will develop a local health code system for people traveling between Hong Kong and Guangdong province, or

Hong Kong and Macau.

The secretary disclosed the news in a written reply to Hong Kong's Legislative Council members. Chan said that Macau, Guangdong and Hong Kong are considering a pilot scheme for the mutual recognition of Covid-19 test results and mutual quarantine exemptions in a bid to relax the restrictions on the cross-border travel between the three places within limits.

When questioned about the news yesterday, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center in Macau reiterated that negotiations about the

recognition of Health Codes in Macau, Guangdong and Hong Kong were in progress. The center could not provide further information because the "details have not yet been finalized."

The center also reminded members of the public to stay vigilant about any unofficial information regarding the matter.

Several Hong Kong media outlets cited sources which said that the Hong Kong Health Code system would be available at the earliest from June 27. Nonetheless, it is unlikely that the long-anticipa-

ted intra-GBA recognition scheme will include Macau.

The arrangement of excluding Macau in the first phase is due to Macau's concerns with the unstable Covid-19 conditions on the mainland and in Hong Kong, according to the press.

The local Novel Coronavirus Center declined to authenticate the information. Dr. Alvin Lo Iek Long, the medical director of the public Conde de S Januário Hospital, declined to comment because he believes that what he says will be perceived as "credible information."

TAIWAN ACCEPTING ENTRANTS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS

CHONG Kong residents, as well as select people of other nationalities, will be allowed to enter Taiwan from June 29, the Taiwan Centers for Disease Control announced yesterday.

This is the second time the jurisdiction has relaxed its border restrictions in the last week. It was previously announced that entry restrictions on non-Taiwanese students studying on the island would be relaxed. The students will be allowed to resume their studies in Taiwan as a result.

Now Taiwan is accepting applications for some non-sightseeing visits.

Foreign nationals who wish to enter Taiwan for rea-

sons other than sightseeing or social visits can make an application to the authorities. Macau and Hong Kong residents, on the other hand, can make an application if they are traveling for humanitarian, business, employment and immigration reasons, or they are the spouse of a Taiwanese resident.

In addition to an official approval, Taiwan also requires a health declaration to be submitted online prior to the flight. An English-language version of a negative Covid-19 nucleic acid test report must be presented to the airlines prior to check-in.

Even with all these measures, entrants are still required to undergo a 14-day quarantine upon arrival. **AL**

TOURISM BOARD INVESTIGATING COTAI RESORT PRICING MISTAKE

ANTHONY LAM

THE Macao Government Tourism Office is investigating an alleged pricing mistake by a Cotai resort and will make another announcement in due course, the authority informed the Times at yesterday's Covid-19 press conference.

The Galaxy Hotel in Cotai allegedly refused a number of guests who reportedly booked rooms using online travel agencies (OTAs) for as little as HKD19 per night. The hotel is owned by gambling concessionaire Galaxy Entertainment Group and is part of its flagship location, Galaxy Macau.

The guests were told upon check-in that the pricing mistake was caused by a technical problem.

According to reports on social media, some guests had already checked-in when the problem was spotted by the hotel and were asked to leave the rooms in "20 minutes."

Last night, the hotel operator issued a statement on its social media page. The operator addressed the matter without commenting on the allegations.

In its statement, the gambling concessionaire pointed out that the prices were different from

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



those the hotel provided to travel agencies. It has worked closely with the agencies involved to correct the mistakes.

"We advise the guests who have been affected (for bookings made on the OTAs on 23 June, 2020) to contact their OTAs to

arrange for viable solutions," the resort operator noted in the statement.

The Social Welfare Bureau announced at the same press conference that from July 1, social service facilities, such as community centers and daycare centers for

senior and youth service squads, can resume operating gradually.

In order to safeguard users and workers, the bureau has issued technical guidelines for facility operators. In addition, workers at these facilities must undergo Covid-19 nucleic acid testing prior

to the resumption of work.

Finally, the bureau will also arrange trainings, technical workshops and hands-on drills to teach workers Covid-19 containment measures.

With regard to the application for a waiver of quarantine in Zhuhai, the Public Security Police Force announced yesterday that there would be a physical application point operating from tomorrow.

Applications are currently only available online. Since they commenced, many people have had difficulty with the process because they were not familiar with digital platforms or they simply do not have an email address, which is a mandatory field in the application. Some lawmakers have even requested the government to make exceptions for elderly people so that they will not have to input an email address.

The physical application point will be set up at the Immigration Affairs Building in Pac On, which is next to the Taipa Ferry Terminal.

The physical application point will be open from 9 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. on Monday to Thursday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Fridays. It will remain open during lunch hour, but will be closed on weekends and public holidays.

Applicants will fill in physical application forms and declare that the information provided is true. If the application is approved, applicants will be notified via text message.

JULIE ZHU

THE Urban Planning Committee has approved draft plans for the land plot of the Macau Portuguese School, according to the vote at yesterday's plenary meeting.

The land plot has an area of 7,357 square meters. According to the plan, the land will continue being used as school facilities. This is the second draft plan for the school's expansion.

The height of the buildings on the land is divided into four categories. Zone A must keep its existing architecture, Zone B must continue to be an open space, Zone C has a maximum building height of 50 meters, and Zone D cannot have walls more than 3 meters tall.

Before constructing anything, the land concessionaire must submit a report to the government to evaluate ventilation capacity.

The gap between all buildings must be no less than one-sixth of the tower

Urban planning committee approves Portuguese School land plan



height. The maximum external width of the façade must be 70 meters.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau gave its opinions on the plans. The bureau proposed that buildings in Zone C should keep at a "specific distance" to allow the architectural view of Zone A to be observable.

In October, the committee members said that the school's first expansion plan draft would lead to poor lighting conditions on campus after considering the previous proposal.

The Land, Public Affairs and Transport Bureau said it would conduct further studies and revise the plan.

The school's expansion has been wanted for a long time. During his visit to Macau last year, the Portuguese president said that the expansion would go ahead in 2019.

Besides the school's expansion plan, the committee approved another two drafts related to two school land plots.

One of the land plots is

situated at the Largo Governador Tamagnini Barbosa in Taipa. This plot has an area of 2,313 square meters.

The maximum building height allowed is 11.2 meters, and the incline roof must be plastered with Chinese-style tiles. The angle of the incline should be 22 degrees.

The other land plot is Rua do Asilo No.35-79 and Travessa das Pedrinhas No.38, where Escola Primária Luso-Chinesa do Bairro Norte is situated.

The plot has an area of 1,731 square meters and should be used for educational purposes. The maximum building height allowed is 50 meters.

DSSOPT INVESTIGATES NATIONAL SECURITY AD

The Land, Public Affairs and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) is investi-

gating a case of unapproved national security advertising.

Earlier this month, a billboard advertisement was displayed on the façade of a building located on Avenida da Praia Grande.

The advertisement, created by the Macau Culture Communication Association, commended the new national security law in Hong Kong.

On the sidelines of yesterday's committee meeting, DSSOPT director Chan Pou Ha said that her department is currently investigating the case.

DEFUNCT BOOKSTORE TO STAY PROTECTED

The land near the Hong Kung Miu Temple prompted a discussion regarding heritage protection during the Urban Planning Committee meeting.

An historical bookstore,

which is considered to be culturally valuable, is located on Avenida do Coronel Mesquita, near to the Hong Kung Miu Temple.

Committee member Lui Chak Keong, questioned the reason for the lack of development in the area, suggesting that the vacant space could be used to repair or reconstruct the old building.

A representative from Cultural Affairs Bureau said that the open space can provide a better view of the defunct bookstore. The representative stressed that issues involving cultural heritage must be resolved by reference to the Cultural Heritage Protection Law.

Under the plan, the land was separated into three-parts, Zone A, B, and C. The bookstore is located in Zone A. Zone B will remain the open space and some buildings on Zone C will be redesigned.

The draft plan was successfully passed although there were several concerns raised regarding the heritage protection issue.

New arthouse operator answers few questions at first showing

DANIEL BEITLER

A public outreach attempt by the new operator of the Cinematheque Passion backfired yesterday after a company representative repeatedly declined to provide any information about the company's owners or any of its previous projects.

The evasive response of the company added to the mystery surrounding Companhia de Produção de Entretenimento e Cultura In Limitada, which was awarded a three-year tender to operate the arthouse last week.

The company offered the lowest accepted bid in the tender at 15.2 million patacas, significantly lower than the 25 million requested by the former operator, CUT.

But the decision of the Cultural Affairs Bureau to award the tender to the new operator has proven controversial and reportedly upset many local filmmakers and film enthusiasts. A petition, signed by over one hundred local filmmakers is calling on the government authority to explain its decision and disclose more information on the bidder's background.

Very little information is publicly available concerning the



DANIEL BEITLER

company and its activities since its founding in 2015.

Yesterday's press conference was meant to assure the public of the company's commitment to build on the "successful and solid foundation" established by its predecessor. However, questions about the company's background went repeatedly unanswered.

A representative of the company, Event Coordinator Kathy Wong, affirmed that the majority shareholder was a man named

Leong Chan Weng, but would not reveal any details about his background.

Wong also declined to provide examples of the company's previous work experiences, although he maintained that they had worked with several clients on "overseas" projects.

Asked repeatedly by various media outlets to give an example of previous work, Wong stated that the company provides a range of services, including promotional film shooting, film

screening, promotion and distribution, outdoor screening, subtitle translation, proofreading services, as well as event coordination and media coordination services.

Wong also said that the company had operated without a website since its founding as one had not been required for its business activities. A website is currently under development, she said.

Other members of the team introduced yesterday include Operations Director Tung Mei Yi, who has worked in the Hong Kong film industry for more than 30 years. Tung will be supported by June Wu, an international film marketer who has distributed more than 100 Chinese films.

These two industry veterans will help oversee the company's four principle objectives, namely to create a platform for exchange among local filmmakers; to grow the population of local audiences and improve their level of film appreciation; to integrate local film and video resources; and to establish international communication networks in the film industry.

Wong said that "with their support, we can help our young filmmakers to expand their careers in the film industry."

Mollywood film project to generate 'billions of dollars' for diversified Macau

LYNZY VALLES

A new, landmark film and television venture named "China Mollywood" was launched early this week. It aims to strengthen the international competitiveness of the Chinese film market and initiate a new film models with Chinese characteristics, Business Wire reported.

"Mollywood will be built into another cultural industry cluster with the output value of hundreds of billions of dollars in the future for the diversified development of Macau," according to the organizers.

Headquartered in Macau and critically acclaimed as the "Eastern Hollywood," the new project is jointly sponsored

by more than 100 renowned Chinese entertainment industry giants, including Wang Haige, Jackie Chan, Yu Dong, Gong Yu, Sammo Hung, Wen Jun, Liu Jiang, Chen Baoguo, Gaowa Siqin and Gong Hanlin.

The new project was officially launched at Xianghe Guohua Film and Television Base in China on Sunday.

Renowned Chinese director Chen Kaige remarked, "Mollywood will speed up building itself as a base for communication and cooperation with the mainstream [ing] of Chinese culture and the coexistence of multiple cultures, and will play a more active role in promoting cultural exchanges between the East and the West, and mutual



Wang Haige

learning between civilizations."

Based on the film and music industries, and e-commerce and smart technologies, the project will build a comprehensive ecosystem as a "platform+content+data+community" model and create a "global technology and film culture center in the new era of intelligence."

Similar to Hollywood and Bollywood, or-

ganizers claim that Mollywood will be another world film, music, fashion production and communication hub. It will also become an experimental base for combining technology, film and television.

During the launch, Wang Haige, the World Peace Culture Ambassador and the Chairman of Mollywood Group, said that Mollywood will involve many industries and

industrial chains, such as film and television production and distribution, the music industry, big data centers, artificial intelligence, entertainment marketing and advertising, e-commerce, creative exhibitions, fashion entertainment and talent training.

Mollywood aims to promote the coordinated cooperation and joint development of China's film and television production services.

In addition, Mollywood will establish a "film and television base cooperation certification" mechanism worldwide to form a standardized service system for the connection and integration of film and television production, consultation and coordination services.

FIRE ALARM CAUSES 200 HOUSEHOLDS TO LOSE POWER

Two hundred households experienced a short power outage after a fire alarm went off in a building located on R. da Hortense. At approximately 10:30 a.m. yesterday, a fire alarm was registered at No. 51 R. da Hortense. The Fire Services Bureau (HB) arrived at the scene and to find that an air conditioner and the power grid on the external wall of the first floor were on fire. The firefighters put out the fire and nobody was injured in the incident. The HB then informed the electricity company, CEM, to follow up on the case. At 10:49 a.m., several areas experienced a loss of power. The streets affected were Av. de Artur Tamagnini Barbosa, Tv. Dos Currais, R. dos Currais, R. da Hortense, and R. Norte do Canal das Hortas.

BUS COMPANIES RECORD COMBINED MOP117 MILLION PROFIT IN 2019

The two bus companies operating in Macau made a combined profit of 117 million patacas in 2019. Bus operators TCM and Transportes Urbanos de Macau (Transmac) published their annual reports yesterday. Transmac recorded a net income of 45.26 million patacas. The company also served 6% more passengers in 2019. In total, Transmac transported 46.3% of all bus passengers this year. This represents 105 million rides or a daily capacity of 290,000 passengers, a 9.26% increase year on year. TCM made a net profit of 72.36 million patacas. As of the end of 2019, TCM carried 300,000 passengers per day. On October 3 and 4, TCM transported over 400,000 passengers on each day, establishing a new record.

GUIZHOU AND MACAU SIGN POVERTY RELIEF AGREEMENT

The Guizhou government has signed nine agreements with Macau, allowing the SAR to participate in Guizhou's poverty relief efforts. The key poverty alleviation projects that Macau is involved with in Guizhou are the construction of educational facilities, the donation of healthcare equipment, Portuguese-language promotion, jobs involving not-for-profit activities, and improvements to living environments and more. The Liaison Office in Macau is also one of the partners in the poverty alleviation agreement. In 2018, the Macau SAR government signed agreements with Guizhou province to offer poverty relief to Congjiang County, Guizhou. The nine new agreements are part of the governments' efforts to deepen cooperation between Guizhou and Macau.



MONGOLIA

PEOPLE VOTE AMID ECONOMIC WOES, ANTI-CORONAVIRUS SUCCESS

GANBAT NAMJILSANGARAV,
ULAANBAATAR

MONGOLIANS were voting in parliamentary elections yesterday across the vast, lightly populated country, a U.S. ally squeezed between authoritarian governments in China and Russia.

The polls are being held amid considerable success in the country's fight against the coronavirus, with just 215 cases of COVID-19 recorded. All of them have been imported and no one has died.

People lining up to vote in the capital, Ulaanbaatar were required to maintain a distance of 2 meters between them. Once inside the polling place, election workers checked their temperatures and distributed hand sanitizer.

Police, interior troops and intelligence agents kept a close watch on polling places in response to fears the result to be affected by the buying of votes with cash or free transportation provided by candidates.

Economic malaise, corruption and weak public services dominate concerns among the country's 3.2 million people, about half of whom live in Ulaanbaatar. Electricity and sewage treatment are in particularly short supply in the slum communities that surround the capital, mostly populated by former herders who have given up life on the steppe.

Polling places opened at 7 a.m. and close at 10 p.m. with finals results not expected until today. Some of the country's 2 million eligible voters also cast their ballots mobile polling stations on Tuesday.

Mongolia has maintained a nearly 30-year democracy instituted after a new constitution was adopted in 1992 following six decades of communism. The Mongolian People's Party is seeking to

retain the 65 seats it won in the 76-seat State Great Khural in 2016 while its chief rival, the Democratic Party, will seek to claw back some of its losses. More than 600 candidates are running in 29 constituencies under a system that returns two to three members from each district.

Lawmaker and Democratic Party Chairman Erdene Sodnomzundui said he hoped there would be high turnout for what he described as a particularly momentous vote.

"This election is very important as it will decide the future development of our country, not only for the next four years, but maybe the next 40, 50 years," Sodnomzundui told reporters.

Urban areas in the largely rural country are the most hotly contested, with 28 candidates running in one district of Ulaanbaatar.

Landlocked Mongolia boasts vast mineral wealth but has struggled to attract foreign investment because of plunging commodity prices and high-profile disputes between the government and large investors such as mining giant Rio Tinto. Despite its success in holding down infections, Mongolia's economy is set to shrink because of the pandemic and prices are rising.

Corruption and a bulging national debt of about \$23 billion, or twice the country's annual economic output, have also been a major drag on the economy.

That's left more than 30% of Mongolia's people living below the poverty line, and resentment over income inequality and graft could boost the odds for outsider candidates.

Mongolia also walks a narrow tightrope between maintaining its political and economic independence from both Soviet-era patron Moscow and rising regional power

China. Almost 95% of Mongolia's petroleum and energy needs are met by Russia, while China buys more than 90% of the country's mining exports, mainly coal and copper.

Washington has sought to encourage good governance and the growth of civil society in Mongolia, along with holding joint military drills and making Mongolia a NATO partner nation. Many Mongolians refer to the U.S. as their country's "third neighbor" in recognition of the many varied exchanges between the two that help counter both Russian and Chinese influence.

Despite public discontent, the MPP is expected to make a strong showing based on its general competence in running government affairs and deft handling of COVID-19.

Mongolia moved swiftly to close its borders in January to prevent the virus from spreading into its territory. Those diagnosed generally have been Mongolians returning from Russia and other nearby nations. The Ministry of Health says 158 have recovered and 57 remain in treatment and isolation.

The two most recent cases were people who were isolated upon arrival on June 10 from Kazakhstan.

Another 255 Mongolians arrived yesterday aboard a charter flight from Seattle, according to Mongolia's official Montsame news agency. All will be tested and quarantined.

Among the MPP's leading candidates are current Prime Minister Ukhnaagiin Khurelsukh, Cabinet Secretary Luvsannamsrain Oyun-Erdene and former presidential candidate Badmaanyambuugiin Bat-Erdene. The head of state, President Khaltmaagiin Battulga of the Democratic Party, elected in 2017, is not on the ballot. AP

HIMALAYAS

China blames India for border clash, urges stability

CHINA yesterday again accused India of provoking a border clash earlier this month that left at least 20 soldiers dead, but urged New Delhi to "meet China halfway" in restoring peace and stability along their disputed frontier high in the Himalayas.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian offered a longer explanation of China's view of the incident but gave little new information.

He reasserted China's claim that the confrontation on June 15 in the Galwan Valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region, occurred on China's side of the Actual Line of Control and Indian forces had illegally entered Chinese territory.

"The responsibility (for the incident) is entirely not on the Chinese side," Zhao said at a daily briefing.

"The reckless actions by the Indian military seriously violated agreements signed between the two countries and seriously violated the basic principles of international relations. They were evil in nature and the consequences were severe," Zhao said.

Commanders agreed earlier this week to disengage their forces in their first meeting since the confrontation.

The clash was the deadliest between the two countries in 45 years. India said 20 of its soldiers died. China has not released any information on casualties on its side.

Soldiers brawled with clubs, rocks and their fists at 4,270 meters above sea level, but no shots were fired, Indian officials have said. The soldiers carry firearms but are not allowed to use them under a previous agreement in

the border dispute.

Indian security officials said the fatalities were caused by severe injuries and exposure to subfreezing temperatures.

The valley falls within a remote stretch of the 3,380-kilometer Line of Actual Control — the border established following a war between India and China in 1962 that resulted in an uneasy truce.

Zhao said talks held Monday and Tuesday resulted in both sides agreeing to take necessary measures to cool the situation and promote peace and stability.

"We hope the Indian side will strictly abide by and seriously implement the above consensus and meet China halfway and through practical actions, restore peace and stability in the border region," Zhao said.

Asked why China was offering such a lengthy defense of its position when the sides had already agreed to reduce tensions, Zhao said that was to counter a "large amount of fake news" on the matter being circulated by Indian diplomats and the country's media.

A nearly identical statement was issued by China's Defense Ministry, which said Chinese troops had taken "defensive measures and determinedly counterattacked against the Indian side's violent actions, successfully protecting national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The latest tensions appear to be rooted in China's objections to India building a road through a valley connecting the region to an airstrip, possibly sparking Beijing's move to assert control over territory along the border that is not clearly defined in places. AP



KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL,
SOUTH KOREA

KOREAS

Kim suspended action against South for impasse

NORTH Korea said yesterday leader Kim Jong Un suspended a planned military retaliation against South Korea, in an apparent slowing of the pressure campaign it has waged against its rival amid stalled nuclear negotiations with the Trump administration.

Last week, the North had declared relations with the South as fully ruptured, destroyed an inter-Korean liaison office in its territory and threatened unspecified military action to censure Seoul for a lack of progress in bilateral cooperation and for activists floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border.

Analysts say North Korea, after weeks deliberately raising tensions, may be pulling away just enough to make room for South Korean concessions.

If Kim does eventually opt for military action, he may resume artillery drills and other exercises in frontline areas or have vessels deliberately cross the disputed western maritime border between the Koreas, which has been the scene of bloody skirmishes in past years. However, any action is likely to be measured to prevent full-scale retaliation from South Korean and U.S. militaries.

Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency said Kim presided by video conference over a meeting Tuesday of the ruling Workers' Party's Central Military Commission, which decided to postpone plans for military action against the South brought up by the North's military leaders.

KCNA didn't specify why the decision was made. It said other discussions included bolstering the country's "war deterrent."

Yoh Sang-key, spokesman of South Korea's Unification Ministry, said Seoul was "closely reviewing" the North's report but didn't further elaborate.

Yoh also said it was the first report in state media of Kim holding a video conferencing meeting, but he didn't provide a specific answer when asked whether that would have something

AP PHOTO



to do with the coronavirus.

The North says there hasn't been a single COVID-19 case on its territory, but the claim is questioned by outside experts.

Kim Dong-yub, an analyst from Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies, said it's likely that the North is waiting for further action from the South to salvage ties from what it sees as a position of strength, rather than softening its stance on its rival.

"What's clear is that the North said (the military action) was postponed, not canceled," said Kim, a former South Korean military official who participated in inter-Korean military negotiations.

Other experts say the North would be seeking something major from the South, possibly a commitment to resume operations at a shuttered joint factory park in Kaesong, which

was where the liaison office was located, or restart South Korean tours to the North's Diamond Mountain resort. Those steps are prohibited by the international sanctions against the North over its nuclear weapons program.

Analysts say North Korea, after weeks deliberately raising tensions, may be pulling away just enough to make room for South Korean concessions

"Now isn't the time for anyone in Seoul or Washington to be self-congratulatory about deterring North Korea," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

"There may be a pause in provocations or Pyongyang might temporarily deescalate in search of external concessions. But North Korea will almost certainly continue to bolster its so-called 'deterrent.' As long as the Kim regime refuses to denuclearize, it is likely to use Seoul as a scapegoat for its military modernization and domestic politics of economic struggle after failing to win sanctions relief."

The public face of the North's recent bashing of the South has been Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, who has been confirmed as his top official on inter-Korean affairs. Issuing harsh statements through state media, she had said the North's demolishing of the liaison office would be just the first in a series of retaliatory action against the "enemy" South and that she

would leave it to the North's military to come up with the next steps.

The General Staff of the North's military has said it would send troops to the mothballed inter-Korean cooperation sites in Kaesong and Diamond Mountain and restart military drills in frontline areas. Such steps would nullify a set of deals the Korea reached during a flurry of diplomacy in 2018 that prohibited them from taking hostile action against each other.

Also condemning the South over North Korean refugees floating anti-Pyongyang leaflets across the border, the North said Monday it printed 12 million of its own propaganda leaflets to be dropped over the South in what would be its largest ever anti-Seoul leafletting campaign.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Kim's decision to hold back military action would affect the country's plans for leafletting. The North's military had said it would open border areas on land and sea and provide protection for civilians involved in the leafletting campaigns.

The North has a history of dialing up pressure against the South when it fails to get what it wants from the United States. The North's recent steps came after months of frustration over Seoul's unwillingness to defy U.S.-led sanctions and restart the inter-Korean economic projects that would breathe life into its broken economy.

Nuclear negotiations between Pyongyang and Washington largely stalled after Kim's second summit with President Donald Trump last year in Vietnam, where the Americans rejected North Korea's demands for major sanctions relief in exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities. AP

PHILIPPINES

Villagers brace as volcano grows restive

PHILIPPINE villagers near a restive volcano on a central island are bracing for possible evacuations that would require physical distancing because of the coronavirus pandemic, an official said yesterday.

The Philippine Institute

of Volcanology and Seismology said it detected dozens of small earthquakes on the western flank of Kanlaon volcano, which emitted plumes of steam up to 300 meters in the air overnight. Kanlaon on Negros island is one of about two dozen active volca-

noes in the Philippines.

Those signs, along with a slight bulging of Kanlaon's slope, "indicate that hydrothermal or magmatic activity is occurring beneath the edifice," the institute said. It added that the volcano "is at an abnormal condition and has entered

a period of unrest."

Zeaphard Caelian, who heads the disaster response agency in Negros Occidental province, said authorities issued an initial alert in March after Kanlaon began showing signs of restiveness, which intensified last weekend.

More than 20,000 people in eight villages within 6 to 12 kilometers of Kanlaon would have to be evacuated if the volcano shows signs of an imminent eruption. Officials are identifying evacuation centers where physical distancing could be observed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, Caelian said.

The Philippines has reported more than 32,000

confirmed coronavirus infections, including 1,204 deaths, among the highest in Southeast Asia.

The volcano-monitoring institute warned the public from venturing into a permanent 4-kilometer danger zone around Kanlaon due to possible sudden eruptions of steam. It advised airplanes to avoid flying close to the summit of the 2,465-meter mountain. AP

AP PHOTO



Members of the Red Cross disinfects a facility at Rio de Janeiro's main wholesale market

Brazil tests COVID shot, without deal to use it if it works

MAURICIO SAVARESE,
SAO PAULO

BRAZIL is testing an experimental coronavirus vaccine, but interim Health Minister Eduardo Pazuello acknowledged yesterday [Macau time] that the government has yet to strike a deal to get it if it works. Other nations have already secured hundreds of millions of doses of the shot created by Oxford University.

The country's pandemic response has faced criticism since March, when President Jair Bolsonaro started defying social distancing recommendations. Hours before Brazil's health minister spoke at congress, a judge ordered Bolsonaro to wear a face mask whenever he is outdoors in the capital of Brasilia.

Pazuello, an army general who made his career in logistics, discussed Brazil's efforts to buy a vaccine for the virus or acquire the technology to make it. The country's health regulator, Anvisa, approved human clinical trials for the potential vaccine this month.

Pazuello said a decision on a deal for Brazil to acquire the planned vaccine is expected by the end of the week, but will depend on the government's chief of staff.

British researchers started testing the experimental shot in May aiming to immunize more than 10,000 people, including older people and children. The vaccine is one

of about a dozen in early stages of human testing.

Brazil, where coronavirus infections are still on the rise, is the only country other than the United Kingdom testing the Oxford vaccine. The country counts more than 1 million confirmed cases and more than 52,600 fatalities.

Clinical trials began in Sao Paulo on Monday and will start in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday. The British Embassy says 5,000 health professionals are being vaccinated.

"We are working directly with the three most promising" vaccines, Pazuello said, naming the Oxford shot, a vaccine under development by American company Moderna and one of the Chinese experiments, which he did not disclose.

Vijay Rangarajan, the British ambassador to Brazil, told The Associated Press he hopes Brazil will "be one of the first countries to receive the vaccine" if it works.

"However, that will depend on when the country will sign the agreement," he said by e-mail. "There is already production capacity for the vaccine of 2 billion doses worldwide. But much of the global production is already purchased."

On May 21, the United States announced a deal for at least 300 million doses of the Oxford shot, and committed up to \$1.2 billion to the effort. On June 13, pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca agreed to supply up to 400 million doses of

the experimental vaccine to European Union nations. Other negotiations are ongoing with Russia and Japan, among other countries, the company's CEO said this month.

The British ambassador also added he wants "to ensure Brazilians can benefit from any vaccine, quickly and not for profit."

Bolsonaro has been criticized for downplaying his government's response to the pandemic, comparing the disease to "a little flu."

Prior to vaccine trials, Bolsonaro repeatedly touted the use of chloroquine to treat COVID-19, the disease that can be caused by the coronavirus, even as health experts dismissed its efficacy. The U.S. announced May 31 that it would donate 2 million doses of hydroxychloroquine, a similar anti-malarial that is considered less toxic, to the South American nation.

The U.S. also pledged to donate 1,000 ventilators to Brazil. The first 200 ventilators are expected arrive by the end of this week, U.S. Ambassador Todd Chapman told reporters in a video call.

Another experimental vaccine in development by Chinese company Sinovac Biotech will be tested in Brazil in July, according to the Sao Paulo state government. Sinovac has a deal with the state's Instituto Butantan to produce it. Some 9,000 Brazilians are expected to participate.

Earlier, a Brazilian federal judge ordered Bolsonaro to

comply with local rules to wear a face mask or be fined.

In recent weekends, a sometimes unmasked Bolsonaro has joined throngs of people protesting against Brazil's Congress and Supreme Court and he has visited bakeries and outdoor food stalls, drawing crowds around him.

Since the end of April, Brazil's federal district has required people to wear face masks in public to help control the spread of the new coronavirus. Failure to comply carries a possible daily fine of \$390.

Judge Renato Coelho Borelli said in his ruling that Bolsonaro "has exposed other people to the contagion of a disease that has caused national commotion."

The Brazilian president did not immediately comment on the decision. An earlier court ruling required him to publish the results of three COVID-19 tests he took early March, and all were negative for the virus. He has not disclosed any tests since then.

Bolsonaro sometimes appears in public events with a mask, unlike some other heads of state, including U.S. President Donald Trump, Mexico's Andrés Manuel López Obrador and Argentina's Alberto Fernandez, who has often hugged supporters and taken selfies with them while not wearing a mask, although use of a mask is mandatory in Argentina's capital. AP

this day in history



1950 UN CONDEMNS NORTH KOREAN INVASION

North Korea has invaded South Korea at several points along the two countries' joint border.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has denounced North Korea's actions as a breach of the peace and has called for an immediate ceasefire.

The United States President Harry S Truman has gone a step further and urged western nations to go out to Korea and help repel the communist invasion.

"By their actions in Korea, communist leaders have demonstrated their contempt for the basic moral principles on which the United Nations is founded," he said.

The invasion took the international community by surprise, even though the American Economic Co-operation Administration has its biggest mission - about 2,000 staff - in South Korea.

The seven-power commission of the United Nations in Korea (Uncok) confirmed North Korean troops crossed the border - known as the 38th parallel - in 11 places after artillery bombardments were reported in South Korea at 0400 local time.

Uncok has identified northern forces in the Ongjin peninsula and the north-western town of Kaesong and northerly town of Chuncheon and landings on the east coast around Skagning, almost 40 miles from the border.

Their statement also contained details of machine-gun attacks by four 'Yak' aircraft on military and civilian airfields outside the South Korean capital Seoul, destroying aircraft and jeeps and setting fire to petrol tanks.

President Syngman Rhee of South Korea - who denied early rumours of war - told Uncok at least 36 North Korean tanks and armoured cars had been counted on their way to Seoul by the shortest routes.

The North Korean wireless station, in the capital Pyongyang, justified the invasion saying communist forces were counter-attacking against border incursions by the South Koreans in the early hours of the morning and reported a state of war shortly after noon local time.

After an emergency meeting with his cabinet South Korea's foreign minister Ben Limb urged the people of the republic to resist the "dastardly attack".

The UN Security Council met at Lake Success, Detroit after the Korean Ambassador John Myung Changan sent an urgent petition to the State Department in Washington.

Korea has been divided since the Japanese withdrawal at the end of World War II left the USSR occupying the area north of the 38th parallel and the US to the south.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

For the first time the UN asked broadcasters - including the BBC and Voice of America - to transmit the UN ceasefire resolution to North Korea.

The republican government fled Seoul and the following day America offered military aid - including air and sea support - to South Korea.

On 28 June North Korean troops entered the capital and took control. The UN invoked military sanctions shortly afterwards.

President Truman and his government interpreted the invasion as Russian-backed communist aggression.

The USSR and North Korean authorities claimed they were responding to attacks from the republican south. The war cost about two million lives.

Fighting did not stop until 1953 with the signing of the armistice on 27 July.

But a peace deal has never been reached. American troops remain stationed in the de-militarized zone on and around the 38th parallel separating North and South Korea.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Get the word out to your friends and family about what is going on in your life. You'll get some interesting ideas and quite a few volunteers willing to lend you a hand and give you some moral support.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Denial can be a powerful force in your life, but it is seldom a positive one. Be extra careful right now to see things as they truly are, and accept them that way.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Your intuitive feelings are definitely helpful in many life situations, but right now they might be distracting you from focusing on one important project or relationship.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

As a rule, keeping in touch with your inner self is extremely important in life. Today, staying in touch with "you" will help you see an important obstacle before anyone else does.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Denying that fact and fishing around for compliments or encouragement will annoy more people than it will impress. No one wants to be expected to boost your ego. You have to do it.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Slow down your excitement and let other people understand what is behind your viewpoint. Only then can they understand why you're feeling the way you are.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

The less distracted you are, the more likely you'll be able to recognize an unusual invitation or proposal. A door is opening, so get ready to stick your foot in it to keep it from slamming shut again.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

As long as you don't sign any legal documents or commit any money toward something that isn't yet certain, there is nothing wrong with devoting your mental energy to being in a hopeful state.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There is a lot of potential for rewarding verbal communication today, so it's a great time for talking about big ideas with a friend or two. Sharing your hopes and dreams is always good fun.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

The good news is that your career may be about to take a very exciting turn. The bad news is that it might also take up a lot more of your personal time, at least for a while.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It's not easy to know who or what needs your attention right now. You're so deep in the thick of things that it's difficult to get a good perspective on what it is you need to get involved with and what is better left alone.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Like a stained-glass window in a church, the many colors and components of who you are right now are coming together to create something quite breathtaking.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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		6			7	2		
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8	4		6					

HARD

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9	1							
5			8		6			
		2	3					
						1		
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							2	4
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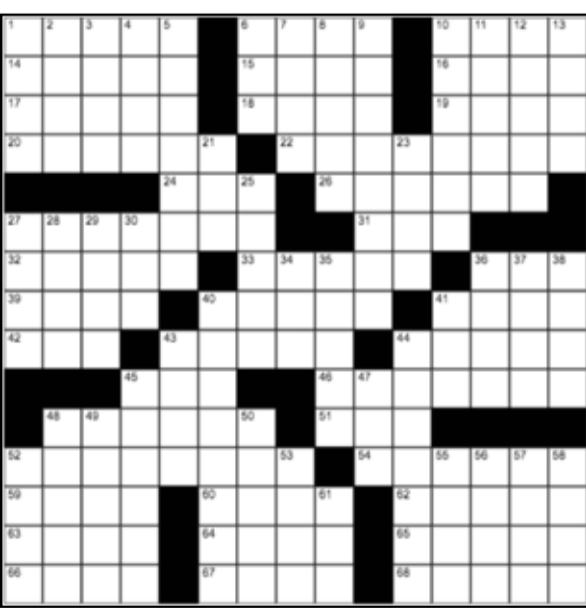
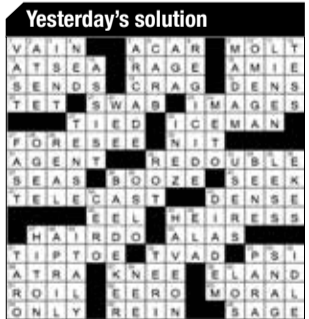
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	29	thundershower
Harbin	15	22	cloudy
Tianjin	22	29	thundershower
Urumqi	19	29	clear
Xi'an	21	34	cloudy
Lhasa	12	23	cloudy
Chengdu	23	35	cloudy
Chongqing	24	34	clear
Kunming	17	26	shower
Nanjing	22	31	cloudy
Shanghai	24	27	moderate rain
Wuhan	22	33	cloudy
Hangzhou	24	27	heavy rain
Taipei	26	31	clear
Guangzhou	27	32	moderate rain
Hong Kong	28	31	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	12	23	clear
Frankfurt	15	25	cloudy
Paris	18	30	clear
London	18	27	clear
New York	21	33	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Brief advertisement; 6- Blunted blade; 10- Tears; 14- One on track?; 15- Insult; 16- Quod ___ demonstrandum; 17- Two-time loser to Dwight; 18- Free from contamination; 19- Nothing more than; 20- Paucity; 22- Native American shoe; 24- ___ Mahal; 26- Begins; 27- Ape; 31- Publicity; 32- Put together; 33- Slender boat; 36- Gumshoe; 39- Fix up; 40- Loose coil of yarn; 41- Basic unit of heredity; 42- Battleship letters; 43- Tally; 44- Biblical brother; 45- Part of B.C.E.; 46- Yo-Yo Ma, e.g.; 48- French form of kick boxing; 51- Ballpark fig.; 52- Truly; 54- Some mattresses; 59- ___ Brockovich; 60- Zeno's home; 62- Way to cook; 63- Take a breather; 64- Unit of currency in Iran and Yemen; 65- "Don't Cry for Me, Argentina" musical; 66- Mars' Greek counterpart; 67- Lab fluids; 68- Postpone.

DOWN: 1- Small fastener; 2- Put aboard; 3- Bruins' home; 4- The back end of something; 5- Fragile; 6- Paranormal letters; 7- Purple fruit; 8- Continental cash; 9- Building; 10- Comment; 11- ___ my case; 12- Seine spot; 13- Type of gun; 21- Actor Linden; 23- Sugar source; 25- Hollowed pumpkin; 27- Mentor; 28- Change for a five; 29- Disencumbers; 30- Judge in 1995 news; 34- ___ Lingus; 35- Family tree member; 36- Actress Hatcher; 37- Grandson of Adam; 38- 1/100 of a monetary unit; 40- Disperses; 41- Guy's counterpart; 43- Ladies of Sp.; 44- Changed; 45- Happenings; 47- Double curve; 48- More tender; 49- Licorice-like flavoring; 50- "Dallas" matriarch; 52- Mother of Ares; 53- Age unit; 55- Wander; 56- Follow; 57- Nick and Nora's pooch; 58- Remain; 61- After.



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

Fragrant Court, Ocean Gardens
 HK\$24,000,000 3,500 ft² 4 3 1

FOR RENT

Nova City, Taipa Great family home
 \$22,000/mth 2,503 ft² 4 3 1 1

FOR SALE

- [Macau] Retail space, Areia Preta
170 ft² \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)
- [Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1 1
900 ft² \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 2 2
1,404 ft² \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom 2 3 3 2
2,530 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096000)

FOR RENT

- [Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park
1 \$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1 1
710 ft² \$13,200/mth (ref: 20021002)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 2 2
2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 3 3 3
4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)

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Macau SAR, China Mon-Thu: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:30
 地址:澳門南灣大馬路759號3-5樓 Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00
 Tel: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623 Sat: 9:00-13:00

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BREAKFAST SERIES
 MPay with Joe Liu

A Macao beyond Payment
 How MPay will change Macao further

British Chamber of Commerce in Macao

britcham @ St. Regis Macao - Wednesday 1 July 2020

Inquiries and RSVP
 info@britchammacao.org
 Tel +853 8798 9697

Jade Room
 St. Regis Macao, Cotai

07:45 : Registration
 08:00 : Breakfast
 08:15 : Presentation
 09:00 : Close

Britcham Members – Complimentary
 Non-Members – MOP/HKD 200

Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event

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.

MPay

TAKASHI MOCHIZUKI & YUKI FURUKAWA

Sony's plan to wring more revenue from chip arm: subscriptions

SONY Corp. is developing subscription-based services for its semiconductor customers, moving beyond just selling chips and creating a new source of revenue within a \$10 billion business.

The Tokyo-based tech giant set up a team last year to explore new business models for the group that provides image sensors for everything from Apple Inc. iPhones to Hasselblad V cameras. It leads the global market for smartphone cameras but is vulnerable to device cycles and overly reliant on Apple, Huawei Technologies Co. and a handful of other big brands. The company is now building a more comprehensive offering that includes a software platform to support and augment those sensors, Hideki Somemiya, head of the new initiative, told Bloomberg News in an interview.

The goal is to become a provider of solutions to companies that want to use sensors and analytics to optimize their business, offering them not just hardware but also software and support for a fee - akin to the way Amazon Web Services or Microsoft Corp.'s Azure support businesses' online needs. Somemiya said the opportunity is especially big outside traditional sensors for photography use, in emerging areas ranging from autonomous



driving to factory automation and retail planning.

"Most of our sensor business today can be explained only by revenues from our five biggest customers, who would buy our latest sensors as we develop," Somemiya said. "In order to be successful in the solution business, we need to step outside that product-oriented approach."

That means cultivating a service relationship as Sony has done with its PlayStation consumer business, which counts more

than 40 million paying PlayStation Plus subscribers. Now that the gaming division is going through an arid patch of hardware sales in anticipation of the next-generation PlayStation 5, that subscriber base is keeping the division steady. Somemiya's goal, shared by Chief Executive Officer Kenichiro Yoshida, is to bring the company's semiconductor group to the same level of self-sustaining revenue.

"We often get queries from customers about how they can

use our exotic products such as polarization sensors, short-wavelength infrared sensors and dynamic vision sensors," Somemiya said. "So we offer them hands-on support and customized tools."

Sony last month introduced a sensor chip with a built-in artificial intelligence engine, which Somemiya said can "free up hundreds of millions of people" who are currently working on identifying defects on production lines around the globe. The same sensor can also be used to inform retail stocking decisions, making sure products on shelves match what customers want. For those sorts of applications, Sony's after-sales support is essential, Somemiya said.

Customer support is currently included in the one-time price of Sony sensors. But Somemiya said Sony would provide the service via separate subscription in the future. Made-by-Sony software tools would initially focus on supporting the company's own sensors and the coverage may later expand to retain customers even if they decide to switch to non-Sony sensors, he added. Some European automakers are

already making use of that arrangement.

"What we should get rid of is a rooted principle that everything should be by Sony," Somemiya said. "We must be flexible in offering the best possible solution to challenges that customers face."

Sony will seek business partnerships and acquisitions to build out its software engineering expertise and offer seamless support anywhere in the world. Somemiya said the sensor unit's subscription offering is a long-term plan and shouldn't be expected to become profitable anytime soon, at least not at meaningful scale.

A successful solutions business would strengthen the unit's hardware sales, Somemiya said. His ultimate vision is of selling hardware as part of a solutions package.

"Maybe what we can do is you buy a camera system for a multi-year contract of services, and we make sure to upgrade the camera's sensor to the latest every three years," he said. "It's not an easy thing to do, but that's why it's a value that we would be able to provide." **BLOOMBERG**

ENERGY

Japan starts to seek bidders for first floating wind farm auction

JAPAN officially launched its effort to seek participants in the nation's first auction for a floating offshore wind farm.

The nation's economy and land ministries will select the winner of the auction around June 2021 to construct the floating

turbines off the southern prefecture of Nagasaki, according to a joint statement yesterday. The deadline for bidding in the auction is Dec. 24.

Winning bidders will be chosen after consulting with experts on the feasibility and efficiency of the proposed business plans,

according to a spokesman of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry.

The capacity of the floating farm must be a minimum of 16.8 megawatts. The feed-in tariff for the farm is set at 36 yen (\$0.34) per kilowatt hour.

The auction will be the

first under Japan's offshore wind promotion law, which took effect April 1, 2019, as the nation aims to achieve the target of boosting renewable energy to 24% of its total power generation by 2030, from about 17% in 2019.

Developing affordable floating offshore wind

technology is seen as key to meeting those goals, as available land is scarce and Japan doesn't have the shallow coastal areas that have allowed traditional offshore turbines to prosper in places like Denmark and the U.K.

BloombergNEF expects Toda Corp. to win the auc-

tion as the company is already planning to develop a 22-megawatt floating project in the same location, and the tender process gives preference to existing developers with good community ties and offshore wind experience, according to analyst Isshu Kikuma. **BLOOMBERG**

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OPINION

World Views

Sarah Halzack, Bloomberg

FACEBOOK AD BOYCOTT IS A WORTHY USE OF BRAND POWER

When it comes to responding to the current reckoning on racial injustice, a trio of outdoorsy retailers are blazing a trail their industry peers should follow.

Patagonia, REI and VF Corp.'s North Face have in recent days committed to temporarily yanking advertising from Facebook and Instagram as part of a campaign to pressure the Silicon Valley social-media titan to do more to curb hate speech and language promoting violence on its platform. A coalition of civil rights groups, including the NAACP and the Anti-Defamation League, are behind the effort, which aims to get businesses to pause their spending on Facebook ads for the month of July.

If companies are serious about finding ways to champion the Black Lives Matter movement, then surely they know earnest tweets and carefully-worded corporate statements are not enough. Flexing their corporate muscle to give Facebook a much-needed nudge, though, takes things a step further.

After recent events, Facebook has said it is actively considering revising a number of its policies and products, including reviewing how it handles content that violates or partially violates its rules. To this point, though, moral overtures from lawmakers and activists haven't dramatically changed the compass by which Facebook navigates these issues, even though staying its course, at this point, is itself something of a political act. But maybe it would feel more urgency to change if the pressure were financial, not philosophical.

Plus, I like that this particular approach to supporting the Black Lives Matter movement encourages consumer companies to take an action that would be felt outside the walls of their own corporate headquarters. One of the more common ways of responding to the recent social unrest is for companies to make new commitments around diversifying their workforces, with the likes of PepsiCo Inc., Gap Inc. and Adidas AG among the companies that have done so. This is absolutely the right thing to do; maybe making such overhauls earlier would have led Pepsi to dump the obviously offensive Aunt Jemima brand long before last week.

With a campaign of financial pressure on Facebook, corporate participants are extending their influence outside in a push for key business partners to embrace the same values. In that way, this effort has something in common with the 15 Percent Pledge, a nascent effort to get retailers to commit to ensuring that 15% of products on their shelves come from Black-owned businesses. Sephora and Rent The Runway have gotten on board with this initiative, and I'd urge other big names to do the same.

I suppose consumer brands might resist a temporary flight from Facebook because they believe that, whatever the politics of the moment, it is irresponsible not to do everything they can to win customers' dollars right now after Covid-19-related closures have just dealt their revenues a devastating blow. However, they should instead think of a Facebook ad hiatus as a way of being on the right side of history while conserving a bit of cash.

If that is not impetus enough, consumer giants should keep in mind that public opinion has shifted dramatically in recent weeks toward supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. That suggests most brands aren't taking a major reputational risk by asking Facebook to do more.

Of course, there are reasons to be skeptical that briefly keeping ad dollars away from Facebook will have much impact. With Facebook's \$71 billion in revenue last year, it would take big names and big numbers for this campaign to have even a tiny impact on the social media company's income statement. And history doesn't offer many good analogies to evaluate whether or not something like this might work.

Still, it's worthwhile for big consumer brands to try. Cleaning up Facebook would go a long way toward extinguishing hate speech and racist rhetoric in America, and big advertisers have unique leverage to try to make it happen.

An international aid group says coronavirus data in some countries show a sharp discrepancy between cases in men and women amid concerns that women lack proper access to testing and health care.

The International Rescue Committee highlights several socially conservative countries including Somalia and Afghanistan, where health ministry data this week show 72% of cases are male and 28% are female.

In Yemen, 75% of cases are male and in Pakistan and Chad, it's 74%. The global breakdown is roughly 50%.

An IRC emergency health advisor, Stacey Mearns, says in a statement that "while men in these places have more freedom of movement and tend to be out in the community socializing more, many go home to women. Also, women are usually caretakers of the sick and elderly in these cultures and therefore exposed to COVID-19."

She adds that "what we are seeing is a situation in which women are potentially being left out of testing and their health deprioritized."

Testing overall in many of these countries remains low because of a shortage of materials, with conflict often complicating health responses.

PUTIN HAILS NAZI DEFEAT IN VIRUS-DELAYED RED SQUARE PARADE



Soviet tanks T-34 roll toward Red Square during the Victory Day military parade marking the 75th anniversary of the Nazi defeat in Moscow

JIM HEINTZ, MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin hailed the defeat of Nazi Germany at the traditional massive Red Square military parade in Moscow, which was delayed by more than a month because of the invisible enemy of coronavirus.

The parade is usually held May 9 on Victory Day, Russia's most important secular holiday, but was postponed until yesterday due to the pandemic. But the timing allowed Russia to mark another significant war-era event — the 75th anniversary of the Red Square parade by troops returning home after the Nazis' defeat.

"It is impossible to imagine what would have happened to the world if the Red Army did not stand up to its defense," Putin said in an address to the parade.

Some 14,000 soldiers took part in the parade, including units from several former Soviet republics and from Mongolia and Serbia.

More than 230 military vehicles drove across the

vast square in the Russian capital, ranging from renowned WWII-era T-34 tanks to hulking Topol intercontinental ballistic missile-launchers. A flyover of helicopters, bombers and fighter planes completed the show of military might.

An estimated 27 million Soviets died in the war, either on the battlefield or as civilian casualties. Their valor and suffering has become key to Russia's national identity.

"It was our people who were able to overcome a terrible, total evil," Putin said. "This is the main, honest, in-no-way-unclear truth about the war. We must protect and defend it, pass it on to our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren."

Putin and other Russian officials have frequently expressed umbrage at what they see as attempts by other countries to "rewrite history" by downplaying the Soviets' role in World War II.

The appeal to Russian patriotism comes at an important time for Putin, with early voting be-

ginning Thursday in a referendum on constitutional amendments that would allow him to run for another two terms as president, possibly in office until 2036.

Putin made no mention of the coronavirus pandemic in his speech, tacitly reinforcing his claim the previous day that Russia has passed the most dangerous stage in the pandemic. However, Russia has reported more than 7,000 new infection cases daily this week and has the third-highest confirmed number of infections in the world after the United States and Brazil.

Many spectators in the viewing stands were wearing masks, but Russian soldiers in close formation on the square did not. Putin and other dignitaries on the main viewing stage also did not wear masks.

Those dignitaries included elderly war veterans with rows of medals cascading down their chests. Presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov said all the veterans in attendance had undergone quarantines before the event. AP

Australia has recorded its first death from COVID-19 in a month, increasing the national toll from the new coronavirus to 103. Authorities in Victoria state said a man in his 80s died overnight, lifting the state's total to 20. The state recorded double-digit increase in cases for an eighth consecutive day, with 20 new cases confirmed yesterday.



India has counted more record highs in daily reported cases and COVID-19 deaths. The 15,968 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours took the national total to 456,183. The Health Ministry also reported 465 more deaths, driving fatalities up to 14,476. The ministry said the recovery rate was continuing to improve at 56.38%. The actual numbers, like elsewhere in the world, are thought to be far higher due to a number of reasons such as limited testing.



UK Gregory Katz, 67, an acclaimed correspondent for The Associated Press in London who recently led the news cooperative's coverage of Brexit and the election of Boris Johnson, died yesterday. He had been ill in recent months and had contracted COVID-19. His career over four decades took him across the globe. He was part of the team in 1994 that won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting for a series on violence against women around the world.

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Monday June 29. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.