

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

# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MOP 8.00 HKD 10.00



**MENZIES AND THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN THE MACAU SAR HAVE CHARTERED A FLIGHT FOR THE REPATRIATION OF 175 FILIPINO NATIONALS**

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**GRAFT BUSTER NOT KEEN ON ANONYMOUS TIPS AS IT FINDS MOST GROUNDLESS**

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**CHINA IS TAKING DRACONIAN MEASURES TO SLASH BIRTH RATES AMONG UIGHURS, MINORITIES IN A SWEEPING CAMPAIGN TO CURB ITS MUSLIM POPULATION**

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AP PHOTO



**China** Authorities in southwestern Sichuan province said yesterday at least 12 people have died and 10 are missing following heavy rains, adding to a grow toll from summer flooding across the country. Sichuan's Mianning county was battered by storms on Friday and Saturday, with flooding especially bad in Yihai township, the county government reported. Two vehicles plunged into a river along a flood-damaged highway, and 7,705 people were evacuated in the area.

**China** reported a further decline in new cases, with just 12. Seven of those were locally spread cases in Beijing, where nearly 8.3 million people have been tested in recent weeks. The number of new cases in the city was down by half from the day before, the National Health Commission reported. Beijing temporarily shut a huge wholesale food market where the virus spread widely earlier this month, reclosed schools and locked down some neighborhoods.

AP PHOTO



**India** has reported a new daily record of nearly 20,000 new infections as several Indian states reimpose partial or full lockdowns to stem the spread of the coronavirus. India's health ministry has recorded 548,318 COVID-19 total cases as of yesterday, a jump of nearly 100,000 cases in a week in the world's fourth-worst affected country after the United States, Brazil and Russia.

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EXCLUSIVE

# WONG HOPES TRAVEL BUBBLE SOON

In his first interview since the renewal of his contract as president of Sands China, Wilfred Wong foresees economic recovery will take a couple of years in the best-case scenario

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# SANDS TO HOST SHOPPING CARNIVAL AIMED AT ASSISTING SMES

PAULO COUTINHO & LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE Venetian Macao will host a three-day Sands Shopping Carnival from August 7 to 9 at Co-tai Expo, providing a free business platform for local SMEs and retailers amid the pandemic period.

Local SMEs and Sands retailers can register for nearly 500 booths at the carnival, occupying a total area of 19,000 sqm, which will be opened to the public.

Sands China Ltd. (SCL) president, Wilfred Wong, wants the event to be a platform for suppliers and retailers to combine efforts, along with the gaming operator, to overcome the difficult economic situation caused by Covid-19. The event can safely accommodate 9,000 participants in each session.

The MOP6.5 billion project is fully supported by SCL and is directly aimed at helping SMEs.

SCL is paying for all expenses related to the event, including the venue, organization, and booths and publicity.

The idea of the shopping carnival "started off with a question – what can we do for the SMEs during this period? Many of our suppliers – about 400-500 of them – are SMEs and we used to do a lot of business with them. But during this pandemic, because we don't have customers, the supply business has gone down," he told the Times.

The pandemic has caused an economic downturn in the region because strict travel and border restrictions have prohibited tourists from entering the city.

According to the company president, by providing a free business platform, the gaming opera-

tor may be able to help SMEs do more business as activity in the city returns to normal.

"It's really to help the SMEs. We don't get anything out of it; it's pure investment to make sure that at this difficult time we help each other. Also, about 250 of the stands will be given to the retailers in our shopping mall," Wong disclosed.

According to him, SCL has 850 retailers, and many of them are "suffering."

"The new electronic consumption payment of MOP5,000 will come up [in August] and we'd like to give people the best value when they spend their money. Instead of spending it on expensive stuff, we give them a discount. So, our retailers have promised us that they can go to as low as 80% discount," he said.

The carnival will occupy five expo halls, two of which are for exhibition booths and activities, while three are for carparks capable of accommodating up to 700 vehicles.

In order to safeguard public health at the carnival, the company will implement a series of strict sanitization and safety measures to prevent the transmission of Covid-19.

The carnival will require participants to register online so as to limit the number of attendants. This will allow the event to strictly follow the government's health regulations.

Questioned on his expectation on the attendance of the festival, Wong replied, "We don't know. We're going to operate from 12 noon to 10 p.m. So, assuming that each session lasts two to two and a half hours, you can multiply the number of sessions [four to five]

by 9,000" at maximum capacity. Maybe less, but we will only take up to that number.

"At any given time, we won't allow more than 9,000 people. The way to control it is to register people by day. Before the entrance, we will have an indicator of the number of people inside. Once it reaches that number, people have to wait outside," he explained.

In addition to shopping, the event will include an international-cuisine food area, shows, lucky draws, 1 pataca products, singing competitions, and activities and games for children such as a "little chef workshop."

The exhibition area includes a "parenting and family friendly area, gourmet range, food court, retail area, various Sands retailers, creative culture area, carnival game areas and household products."

Commenting on the global trend of shops closing in response to the Covid-19 outbreak, Wong said, "I think individual retailers have to assess their own situation. Obviously, this is a time for consolidation."

"Right now, only a few have closed down. We're still maintaining a very good presence of most retailers because we've given rental assistance to them."

The Sands Shopping Carnival is organised by SCL and co-organised by the Macao Chamber of Commerce. It is supported by the Macao Economic Bureau, the Macao Government Tourism Office and the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), and sponsored by Bank of China Macau Branch, ICBC (Macau), Luso International Banking Ltd., and BNU Macau.

## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

# Wilfred Wong

PAULO COUTINHO

**I**N his first interview since the renewal of his contract as president of Sands China Limited (SCL) for a four-year term, Wilfred Wong says he is eager to see a "travel bubble," initially comprising Guangdong, Macau and Hong Kong, to start walking that long and winding road to economic recovery – which he foresees will take a couple of years in the best-case scenario.

He understands that the governments of the three regions have to implement the "bubble" with safety, transparency and trust. But since the epidemic of Covid-19 "is basically contained in China," Wong thinks the time has come to gradually ease cross-border restrictions. He hopes this could happen in July, inferring from recent comments by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng.

In the interview with the Times, Wong spoke about the company's policy on labor, layoffs and the repatriation of non-resident workers recently made redundant, many of whom "where identified" for possible rehiring when operations return to some normality, because the local workforce is in short supply.

As for the new concessions, Wong believes that the "big six" start with an advantage and sees no threat in the possibility of having "more competition". He expects to break even with the latest non-gaming attraction in town: the resident show, teamLab.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) - Gaming in times of pandemic. Last week the Economy Intelligence Unit (EIU) forecast a 70% drop this year in Macau's economy due to poor visitation and predicts a recovery only in late 2021. Can gaming be sustainable under these conditions. Is this a fair assessment and forecast by the EIU?**

**Wilfred Wong (WW) -** There are so many uncertainties. A lot depends on how fast the government will allow the Individual Visit Scheme to resume. The sooner, the better. Right now, under these conditions, it's very difficult. Everyone is struggling.

All six gaming concessionaires are trying their best. We did not lay off local people. We managed to keep employment. We give a lot of discounts to local residents to support the government's domestic consumption [lead] economic strategy. So, if you're a Macau resident, you now come to our restaurants, you get 30% discount. But in the longer-term, we really need the tourists to come back. Macau really depends on it.

**MDT - We are all expecting a so-called travel bubble, but nobody sees it happening before the end of July. What's your expectation?**

**WW -** I think, according to what the chief executive said to reporters last week at the Dragon Boat races, something will happen in July, but I do not expect a full opening. It will be gradual, and there will be a pilot scheme where maybe a select group of people, upon application, can come. The first group would probably be investors, business-people and professionals; Hong Kong, Guangdong, Macau and then subject to tests [other provinces]. Once they're comfortable that the mechanism is working - the reciprocal recognition of the health code is working - then they can open up. This idea of a travel bubble really needs to be implemented. Given that China is now relatively safe, there is no reason why Macau should bar people from China, particularly from Guangdong.

**MDT - By the way, Hong Kong as a visitor source market was growing steadily before this crisis, what was the main reason for this rise in the Hong Kong market?**

**WW -** I think Hong Kong people really, now, find that Macau is such a good break away. Particularly over holidays and weekends because Hong Kong people used to go away all the time, but they used to travel overseas. With all the hassle associated with travel and expenses involved, Macau becomes a real option and our enriched offerings really attracted [them]. Many of my friends are asking when can they come to Macau because they all want to

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# sees 'no reason to bar visitors from Guangdong'



come and see teamLab and have a couple of good meals.

**MDT - teamLab SuperNature at the Venetian had its soft opening on June 15. How has the response been so far?**

**WW** - It's been very encouraging because it's still a soft opening. This is a resident show. Depending on the response, we're expecting to hold it for at least two to three years because it's a lot of investment. When we launched this with the MGTO, there were requests for additional capacity. We had two slots for them every day, but now we have to add another slot. It's been very popular. I estimate that over the last weekend [June 20-21] we had almost 3,000 visitors.

**MDT - This is a considerable investment in non-gaming. How much money are we talking about?**

**WW** - USD25 million. It's not something where we're really looking for a quick return. This is something which we feel is going to help in diversifying and for the relaunch of Macau.

**MDT - Do you really expect to break even or return a profit on this show?**

**WW** - We'll be happy to break even because it's only two or three years and there are heavy operating costs. If the trend continues with the opening up of the borders, there's a good chance.

**MDT - Now, a very specific situation. Recently, there were periods of negative income in the**

**gaming results. Is it just a lucky bunch of high rollers? Can you explain how this "negative income" happens?**

**WW** - Gaming is a law of probability and when you have a large number of players, it evens out and therefore the house has an advantage because you have large numbers. Now we're left with a [small] number of high rollers and so, if they get lucky that day, there's no balancing off.

**MDT - Who are those lucky guys?**

**WW** - They're very professional. They're good [baccarat] players and we've been watching them. And they have deep pockets. They know how to play and they have the money behind them. So that could only happen when you have a handful of players. That's why the earlier the border relaxation comes in, the better. Even if you allow Hong Kong business people, there are many more big players in the business circle that can come through and that would help support, because the junkets are also drying up. Then, China of course, Guangdong has always been a very important supply chain.

**MDT - Now onto the labor front. How deeply have the staff at Sands China been affected by the financial burden?**

**WW** - Of course, there's not enough work for everybody. So we've been asking staff to take leave [without pay], but on a volun-

tary basis, and so far, especially, among the local employees, we have maintained a very stable workforce. There was no cut in salary, we did not lay off people, but for the foreign labor because it's always seen as a supplement, when there's not enough work, then we unfortunately have to let some go when their contract expires.

**MDT - Do you foresee rehiring them when this becomes normal?**

**WW** - We have identified people [to take] no-pay leave for an extended period because according to the labour law,

**"Stability for Macau is so important, particularly on the road of recovery from the pandemic. It's going to take a couple of years to recover**

blue cards will still be valid for 90 days. So, if they take three months and the work comes back and the border relaxation comes in, [and] we need them, we can always take them back. We have assurance from the Labour Affairs Bureau, saying that they will respond very positively and quickly to people who've been on no-pay leave or laid off during this period, when they need to come back.

**MDT - If this goes back to normal you will need them as you don't have it in the local market.**

**WW** - Yes. We have to keep the jobs for the local people, but we also need that supplemental workforce.

**MDT - According to Macau Daily Times, "Wilfred Wong, will remain in his position until February 20, 2024, a year more than the term initially approved by the gaming operator's board." Can this be read as a sign of confidence that SCL will bid successfully in the 2022 tender for the new concessions?**

**WW** - Don't you think so? (laughs). I think we are all hoping for the best and hope that this sends a signal to the market that we are preparing, we're well prepared for it. God knows what would happen. At this stage, stability for Macau is so important, particularly on the road of recovery from the pandemic. It's going to take a couple of years to recover. So, this is a very critical time.

**MDT - Do you see more concessions being granted and if that's the case, will that affect Sands China and all the other operators?**

**WW** - It's really not for me to say. A lot depends on what the government is doing. They're looking at the whole landscape. They are going to conduct a public consultation and then, there will be discussion between Macau and Beijing. A lot is going on. I really cannot speculate.

Things depend on the government's survey. Already, we have six mature concessionaires, who are investing a lot of money. In total, we have invested USD50 billion into this place within the last 15 years, but a lot of the money invested was in the early days. We invested 2.5 billion in the Venetian at that time. This could easily be 10 billion, today. So, if you were to build something new now, it's going to be 100 billion. So, by proportion, one more is not going to change the landscape that much because we're still building, right?! Galaxy is building phase three; Studio City, phase two. And the Lisboa Palace is still to open. So, there's a lot in the game already, but if the government thinks that to introduce some more competition is a good thing, so be it. We're ready.

**MDT - IVS dropped Japan's plans. Is the company looking at other possibilities?**

**WW** - Yes, we dropped Japan. But we already have a lot of com-

mitments. In Macau, we have a USD2 billion commitment on The Londoner investment. In Singapore, we have another USD3 billion commitment for expansion. So the company, in the next two years, is not without opportunity and that's why [Sheldon Adelson] prefers to focus on these investments, [where] the return is justified. And then of course, if any other opportunity arises, a merger or acquisition, he's looking at it, but so far, I have not heard of any prime targets yet.

**MDT - I asked you this question a couple of years ago on the US-China trade war and you were very optimistic at the time that it wouldn't affect Macau. Will this affect American operators going forward?**

**WW** - This is like America's overall strategy towards China; it's not just a trade issue. Some say we're entering into a Cold War type of mentality, but we're not in trade and Macau is a special administrative region. So I do believe the Chinese government is going to look at Macau's overall stability as a very important consideration. I hope we're not being used as a pawn in any of this because we need a rational analysis of what we have done, what our contribution is, why we should be here. So far, we haven't heard that we're being used in this context of the US-China trade war.

**MDT - One last question on the GBA. How much do you want to be part of this project of which Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng seems very keen?**

**WW** - We are very keen. I think there's a good prospect that there'll be greater integration between Hengqin and Macau. Now, if that happens and if cross border arrangements are made more convenient, it may help us fill the gap for hotel accommodation and it also may mean that we have bigger space for exhibitions. Right now, one of the biggest challenges for Macau is that overnight accommodation is still in great demand. If you look at before the pandemic, our occupancy was over 95%. That is a very high ratio. If we can [access] land supply in Hengqin, we can build hotels, then shuttle people here every day.

**MDT - It all depends on having a seamless connection.**

**WW** - Yes, a seamless connection. For example, our staff going to work there every day; how are they treated for tax? There's a lot of government measures that need to be put in place for a full integration or better integration. We are interested in following the government's lead.



## ANOTHER BATCH OF DISMISSED WORKERS REPATRIATED

LYNZY VALLES

**MENZIES** Macau Airport Services Ltd and the Philippine Consulate General in the Macau SAR have chartered a flight for some 175 Filipino nationals in the region whose contracts were either renewed or terminated by the company as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak.

The Consul General, Lilybeth Deapera, spoke with the local firm to charter a flight for the dismissed Filipino nationals when it learned that the company was laying off or not renewing the contracts of over 400 of its workers.

The dismissals were due to the steep reduction in flights that the

airport was handling amid the pandemic outbreak. The current situation has persisted since February.

The company then signed a deal with Air Macau, who brought some 60 of its employees back to the Philippines, their home country.

The rest of the Menzies employees opted to stay in the region on a no-pay leave basis. Previously, the company had said that they guaranteed that their laid-off staff would be re-recruited once business went back to normal.

"In May, we heard there will be over 300 workers from Menzies who will be discharged. [The workers] clarified that [many]

will see their contracts end on May 20 but these workers were still deciding whether they will go home or not," Deapera explained.

"They were given two options. One was that their contracts will not be renewed [in which case] they will go home with the company paying their fare and once the situation improves, they will be the first to be rehired and will be given the ticket to come back to Macau. The other option was their contracts will be renewed but they will not be paid unless there's work. Some opted for that," the official added.

According to Deapera, the Philippine government will pay for part of the chartered flight.

The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office selected people from their lists to board yesterday's flight.

Initially, the Consulate conducted a survey among stranded nationals who wished to return home. Some of those on the flight were workers whose contracts with other companies have not been renewed. Twelve of them were formerly with Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) who opted to join the flight by registering with the Consulate.

"I've been working with Galaxy for eight years. My contract that expired in May was not renewed. Twelve of us are going back home. They told us that if

everything goes well, they might call us back again," said one who worked as a public area attendant.

"Maybe someday we can come back and apply again," said another former GEG employee. "They gave us 2,000 patacas as financial assistance," he added.

The Consulate's data shows that it assisted 696 of its nationals who have been stranded in the city due to the absence of direct flights from Macau to Manila.

Deapera said that she is unsure whether they could further assist in repatriating stranded Filipino workers. Ferry services to the Hong Kong International Airport have resumed for the meantime, but it is not known if they will run past July 16.

On a separate note, a total of 104 migrant workers from Myanmar were also repatriated yesterday morning via Hong Kong.

## Sulu Sou asks for more gov't help finding jobs for youth

**LAWMAKER** Sulu Sou has asked the Macau government to help local youth find jobs.

In his interpellation to the local government, Sou posed several questions regarding youth employment. The lawmaker asked whether the Macau SAR government has evaluated the impact of Covid-19 on the youth unemployment rate, as well as the state of Macau's overall starting salary.

The lawmaker also wants to know the government's proposed measures to diversify jobs for youth in order to turn

the current crisis into an opportunity.

Previously, the local government published the Macau Youth Policy 2012 - 2020, which laid out several prospects for local talent in Macau.

In his interpellation, Sou pointed out that many young people in Macau aspire to enter the public service, or the gaming and tourism sectors. He stated that there are many barriers to local youth entering other industries.

Sou said he wanted to know more about the developments and improvements made to the next

iteration of the Macau Youth Policy.

According to employment statistics released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the rate of local unemployment is on the rise this year. The local unemployment rate is at 3.4%, with a total of 9,700 people unemployed.

Sou pointed out that about 5% of the 9,700 unemployed people are first-time job seekers. Sou also suggested that as much as 90% of the city's university graduates intend to stay in Macau working in 2020. **JZ**

## ENTERPRISE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM TO INCLUDE FINANCIAL SUBSIDY

**UNIVERSITY** graduates this year may receive 8,000 patacas per month or 50 patacas per hour as a subsidy during a three-month internship co-hosted by local enterprises and the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL).

On top of this financial subsidy, enterprises will also be required to obtain labor insurance for these interns.

Under this program, participants will get the chance to participate in an internship at local enterprises, including public utility

entities such as Macao Water, CEM and telecom companies, banks and integrated resorts.

The 1,800-seat program will allow interns to work in various positions in different industries, including catering, customer service, information technology, engineering, and facility management and operation.

In order to assist interns with their internship, the DSAL will offer workshops on workplace etiquette, reception skills, event guidelines and career planning to all selected graduates.

Graduates are required to submit a report to the DSAL following successful completion of their internship and will be awarded a certificate in recognition of their experience. The DSAL will also help these graduates with job matching should they intend to start working upon graduating.

Interested graduating university students may register to participate in the program by midnight, July 6. The list of successful candidates will be published on July 9. **AL**

# Consumer law to give gov't new powers over price information

JULIE ZHU

**A**N amendment to the city's consumer protection law, currently being discussed by lawmakers, will give the government the power to compel all entities involved in a product's supply chain to disclose the cost of any specific goods or services. The move is designed to deter any part of the supply chain from suddenly raising prices.

Yesterday, government representatives met with members of the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly to discuss the amendment of the consumer protection law.

After a closed-door meeting, committee chairman Ho Ion Sang reported to the media the latest changes to the proposed amendment.

According to the draft amendment presented to the lawmakers yesterday, the government added five new provisions to the law, all relating to the monitoring of commodity prices. Ho described the new amendments as empowering "the collection of information of products' prices."

Overall, the proposals prescribe that when the price of good or service changes significantly or remains "unreasonably high", the Macao Consumer Council has the power to "collect the latest,

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



fullest and newest information" about the specific commodity.

Manufacturers, producers, importers, retailers and other parties involved in the supply chain of the concerned product will be obliged to provide information to the Council regarding the cost of the commodity. No party will be permitted to deny the Council's request on the grounds of commercial confidentiality.

Before requesting the information, the Council must have sought the opinion of a consumer advisory committee. The information collection process must be carried out in accordance with a plan that has been preapproved and supervised by a monitoring body.

According to Ho, once this amendment is approved and comes into effect, the Council will be able to compel informa-

tion about the cost and profit of any commodity, including both goods and services.

Ho claimed that this new concept helps to protect consumers and facilitate the government in making evidence-based policies.

The committee also discussed the possibility of establishing a consumer advisory committee with government representatives.

The government did not elaborate on the details about the proposed committee during yesterday's meeting. However, Ho said that the committee will have the function of other existing advisory bodies.

In order to form this new advisory body, the local government will draft new laws to be submitted to the Legislative Assembly for approval.

Another major concern raised at yesterday's meeting related to

an amendment on price tags. The new amendment prescribed that all businesses must label the price of goods and services in "clear, visible, and explicit" form.

When one commodity is sold per unit, the "unit price" must be attached onto the price tag as well.

Failure to comply with the abovementioned price tag regulation can attract a fine of up to 10,000 patacas.

The government also added further context into the law on "special contracts." Special contracts refer to the relationship between buyers and sellers and may be verbal or written.

Today, the AL committee will continue discussions on the amendment of the consumer protection law. Lawmakers are expected to hear more on the special contracts and the establishment of the advisory body.

## HOUSEHOLDS SUFFER STENCH FROM 'DIY WASTE PIPE'

Some city households have been suffering from their neighbors' home-made construction. According to a report by Macao Daily News, a senior couple living in a residential building located in Costa area, created a pipe to divert human waste from their bathroom. About 10 years ago, the couple renovated their house. In order to expand their kitchen, they built a bathroom on their balcony. The sewage channel of the bathroom was then connected to a water pipe on the balcony. As a result, the entirety of the new sewage channel was located outside the building, and hung off the third floor of the building, reaching down to the ground floor. For the past 10 years, sewage passing through the pipe has leaked from the channel, releasing odors into the surrounds. The Land, Public Affairs and Transport Bureau is already aware of the situation and has informed the complaining households that the department will follow up.

## TAIPA LEISURE AREA SAID TO BE AFFECTED BY BAD SMELL

A recreational area in Taipa is affected by a bad smell, according to the Macau United Citizens Association. The concerned area is the Taipa Coastal Area, where there is a running trail, a bicycle trail, a children's playground and exercise equipment. Recently, the association received complaints from some of the runners of a bad smell along the running trail between the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge and Av. dos Jogos da Asia Oriental. The association believes that the foul smell is related to the sea reclamation project. The association hopes that the relevant government department will follow up to ensure the water quality, protect the environment and surrounding ecosystem, and reduce pollution.

## COVID-19 TEST AND FACEMASK PRICES OFFICIALLY PUBLISHED

The local government has made an official dispatch to record the price of facemasks supplied under the government distribution program, as well as Covid-19 tests needed for most people to cross the border to the mainland. According to the dispatch signed by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, the government charges 180 patacas per Covid-19 test to anyone, regardless of their status as a resident or non-resident. For the government-supplied facemasks, local residents and non-local workers pay 8 patacas for 10 pieces. The announcement is merely an official record of the price inside the government official gazette. The first Covid-19 test is free of charge to Macau residents and Macau non-local workers. Specific groups are either exempted from paying for the test or given a discount.

# CCAC not keen on anonymous corruption reports as it finds majority to be groundless

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE use of real names when reporting acts of suspected corruption does not violate the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, the local Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) noted in its reply to lawmaker Sulu Sou's inquiry, in which the lawmaker pointed out that the Convention allows for anonymous reporting. The CCAC said that anonymous reports are much harder to properly investigate.

The lawmaker cited Clause 2, Article 13 of the Convention Against Corruption and said it recommends that member states offer discretion on

anonymous reporting, among other protective measures.

Sulu Sou pointed out that, in many cases, whistleblowers may face consequences, including punishment or dismissal following their disclosure of suspected corruption cases.

The lawmaker questioned how the government would be able to guarantee impartiality when handling anonymously reported cases, whether it could protect whistleblowers in the absence of dedicated laws, and if it would consider legislation to protect whistleblowers.

In its reply, the anti-graft watchdog stressed

that "[real-name reports] do not imply that the identity of the complainant or the whistleblower will be publicized."

The CCAC explained that if the whistleblower expresses their reluctance to have their identity revealed, the Commission has internal mechanisms to take note of the request and handle information relating to their identity with extra caution.

The problem, according to the CCAC, is that it is more difficult to investigate cases initiated via an anonymous report. The anti-graft authority said that two-thirds of these anonymous reports were deemed to be grou-

ndless in 2019.

Furthermore, the entity pointed out that its inspectors are bound by a duty of confidentiality throughout their work including when presenting before a court of law – pursuant to the Charter of the CCAC and Administrative System for the Handling of Civil Servant Complaints. Anyone in breach of this duty can be prosecuted.

In addition, the public entity stressed that the Labor Relations Law's stipulation on unreasonable lay-offs is also capable of safeguarding whistleblowers against any possible revenge.

All in all, neither the CCAC nor the Public Ad-

ministration and Civil Service Bureau are aware of or have received reports regarding any revenge taken against any whistleblower.

The People's Republic of China ratified the Convention in 2006 and requires the special administrative regions of Macau and Hong Kong to also abide by its provisions.

To protect informants from revenge and other adverse consequences, laws have been made in several countries such as the U.S., the U.K. and New Zealand. Article 33 of the Convention Against Corruption also stipulates the need for such legislation.

## IC SAYS IT DOES NOT KNOW DETAILS OF 'MOLLYWOOD' PROJECT

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) said it does not know the details of a plan to build a film project in Macau that would rival Hollywood and Bollywood. Speaking to Portuguese news agency Lusa, the IC admitted to not knowing much about the project, but said it was "very enthusiastic about the existence of cultural projects [...] playing a role to promote the development of the local cultural and creative industries." The film project, known as 'Mollywood', was announced at an event in mainland China last week and drew the support of more than 100 artists from the Chinese film and television industry. Few details were announced, but organizers promised the project would underpin diversification efforts and lead to the creation of an industry worth hundreds of billions of dollars.

## HUSH SHORT COMPETITION NOW OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) is calling for submissions for the short video competition "HUSH!! 300 Seconds" from all interested parties. The competition is one of many activities offered by the popular "HUSH!! Full Music 2020" that returns this year with a new format. Local musicians, bands and performers will perform both online and at designated venues throughout July and August. The venues include the Macao Contemporary Art Centre - Navy Yard No. 2, the Macao Science Centre Square, the Ponte 9 Rooftop and Senado Square. The regulations and application form for the short video competition can be obtained and downloaded from the IC's designated website at [www.icm.gov.mo/hush](http://www.icm.gov.mo/hush).

## IFFAM RETURNS AS CANNES FILM MARKET PARTNER

The International Film Festival & Awards - Macao (IFFAM) returns this year as a member festival of the "Fantastic 7", a Cannes Film Market initiative that was moved online this month because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Fantastic 7 presents seven "fantastic" genre projects from seven different festivals and works to connect emerging talent in the industry with potential business partners by creating a space for dialogue and exchange. This year, IFFAM put forward the local Macau project "Foreign Cop" directed by Maxim Bessmertny and produced by Bessmertny and Jorge Cordeiro dos Santos. Currently in development, this crime thriller is set in 1980 Macao where gangsters, cabaret dancers, and slot machines coexist in an exciting atmosphere of neon lights, kitsch architecture and early consumer electronics. Private investigator Mendonza arrives in the city from Portugal to catch the robbers who dared to perform a casino heist in the city, brutally killing a loyal casino employee.

THOMAS TUCKER



# STUDENTS RETURNING FROM TAIWAN EXEMPTED FROM PRE-FLIGHT COVID-19 TEST

ANTHONY LAM

MACAU university students pursuing an education in Taiwan can be exempted from the Covid-19 nucleic acid test prior to their flight back home, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center has announced.

A registration platform for testing exemption started operation yesterday on the website of the Higher Education Bureau. The measure was implemented because people flying into Macau are required to show a virus-free test result upon checking in for their flights. The beginning of summer holidays in Taiwan may see a large number of students returning home.

To register, students must declare whether they have had unprotected contact with a Co-

vid-19 patient, and have any symptoms of fever, acute respiratory symptoms, sore throat or shortness of breath. They will also be asked to provide their personal and flight details. Registration must occur at least 48 hours prior to the flight.

The exemption does not waive the need for a 14-day quarantine period upon arriving in Macau. Students will be sent directly to designated hotels for quarantine upon arrival.

Despite the fact that the island has seen no new infection since April 13, Dr Alvis Lo, medical director of the Conde de São Januário Hospital, explained at yesterday's press conference that the quarantine is a precautionary measure.

"In order to ensure the health and safety of all people in Macau, the [quarantine] measure will continue to take effect

for the time being," Lo said. "I must reiterate that quite a significant number of students are returning home from Taiwan. We are only waiving their pre-flight test. They still need to be quarantined upon arrival."

Indeed, the medical doctor stressed that these students will eventually take two Covid-19 tests in Macau - one at the airport, and the other right before their quarantine ends.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong U, issued an official order yesterday to institutionalize the prices for the Covid-19 test and centrally supplied masks. However, Lo stressed that this should not be interpreted as an indefinite continuation of the centralized mask supply scheme.

Apart from that, the public are speculating as to what the

local government has done to enable the test to be so much cheaper than in Hong Kong.

Lo explained that it was because of economies of scale. "Because the government has taken the lead to negotiate with and assigned the tender to one vendor, we have more bargaining power."

Because the government is taking the lead, the vendor does not need to incur costs in hiring its own medical and security staff or rent a site to handle the test. "This helps lower the costs significantly," Lo explained.

Separately, on behalf of the Macao Customs Service, the Public Security Police Force explained that continued effort is being put into combating unreasonably frequent border crossings and small-scale smuggling of cigarettes, meat and vegetables from Zhuhai.

## USJ video shorts get screen time at MGM's The Spectacle

DANIEL BEITLER

CREATIVE students at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) yesterday saw their projects on the big screen.

Actually, 25 large LED screens that make up the award-winning Spectacle at MGM Cotai. The enclosed space was once again being used by USJ students as a testing ground for video production ideas after the successful collaboration between the two organizations last year.

This year a team of five students from the USJ's Faculty of Creative Industries was tasked to create 24 short videos to mark each hour of the day, each one using a different te-

chnique, from time-lapse to stop-motion, animation and green-screen. They had just one week to complete the project, including concept, design, shooting, and post-production.

That is a mammoth task, according to João Nuno Brochado, a senior lecturer at the USJ who teaches the courses involved in the project.

Brochado described The Spectacle as an "incredible visual canvas" and said that it offered his students the chance to experiment with techniques they had not yet employed in the classroom.

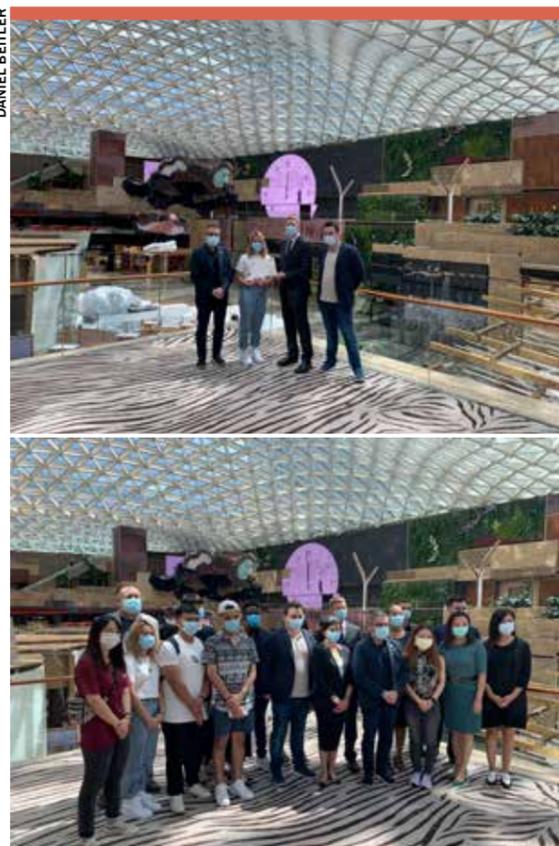
This is the second year that the collaboration between MGM and

USJ has been held. Representatives of the casino operator said they were pleased to aid the development of local talent and the creative industries.

"We started talking to the USJ last summer because we wanted to start developing more local talent in Macau, working within the creative arts for these large fixed installations," said Derek Watterud, assistant vice president of digital and technology solutions at MGM, when asked about the collaboration.

"[The Spectacle] creates some very interesting challenges for storytelling and for multimedia design. We look at it like we have all of these great

DANIEL BEITLER



tools and canvas for they [the students] to work on. So, if they can apply their art on one of the greatest

canvases in the world, why shouldn't they have that opportunity?" asked Watterud.

# China forces birth control on Uighurs to suppress population

**T**HE Chinese government is taking draconian measures to slash birth rates among Uighurs and other minorities as part of a sweeping campaign to curb its Muslim population, even as it encourages some of the country's Han majority to have more children.

While individual women have spoken out before about forced birth control, the practice is far more widespread and systematic than previously known, according to an AP investigation based on government statistics, state documents and interviews with 30 ex-detainees, family members and a former detention camp instructor. The campaign over the past four years in the far west region of Xinjiang is leading to what some experts are calling a form of "demographic genocide."

The state regularly subjects minority women to pregnancy checks, and forces intrauterine devices, sterilization and even abortion on hundreds of thousands, the interviews and data show. Even while the use of IUDs and sterilization has fallen nationwide, it is rising sharply in Xinjiang.

The population control measures are backed by mass detention both as a threat and as a punishment for failure to comply. Having too many children is a major reason people are sent to detention camps, the AP found, with the parents of three or more ripped away from their families unless they can pay huge fines.

After Gulnar Omirzakh, a Chinese-born Kazakh, had her third child, the government ordered her to get an IUD inserted. Two years later, in January 2018, four officials in military camouflage came knocking at her door anyway. They gave Omirzakh, the penniless wife of a detained vegetable trader, three days to pay a \$2,685 fine for having more than two children.

If she didn't, they warned, she would join her husband and a million other ethnic minorities locked up in internment camps — often for having too many children.

"To prevent people from having children is wrong," said Omirzakh, who went deep in



Alif Baqytali hugs his mother, Gulnar Omirzakh, at their new home in Shonzy, Kazakhstan

debt to scrape together the money and later fled to Kazakhstan. "They want to destroy us as a people."

Birth rates in the mostly Uighur regions of Hotan and Kashgar plunged by more than 60% from 2015 to 2018, the latest year available in government statistics. The hundreds of millions of dollars the government pours into birth control have transformed Xinjiang from one of China's fastest-growing regions into one of its slowest in just a few years, according to new research obtained by The Associated Press in advance of publication by China scholar Adrian Zenz.

"This is part of a wider control campaign to subjugate the Uighurs," said Zenz, an independent contractor with the nonprofit Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry and the Xinjiang government did not respond to multiple requests for comment. However, Beijing

has said in the past that the new measures are merely meant to be fair, allowing both Han Chinese and ethnic minorities the same number of children.

Under China's now-abandoned 'one child' policy, the authorities had long encouraged, sometimes forced, contraceptives, sterilizations and abortions on Han Chinese. But minorities were allowed two children — three if they came from the countryside.

That changed under President Xi Jinping, China's most authoritarian leader in decades. Soon after he came to power, the government revised birth regulations so Xinjiang's Han Chinese could have two or three children, just like minorities.

While equal on paper, in practice Han Chinese are largely spared the abortions, sterilizations, IUD insertions and detentions for having too many children that are forced on Xinjiang's other ethnicities, interviews and data show. Some rural Muslims,

like Omirzakh, were punished even for having the three children allowed by the law.

Fifteen Uighurs and Kazakhs told the AP they knew people interned or jailed for having too many children. Many received years, even decades in prison.

Once in the detention camps, women are subjected to forced IUDs and what appear to be pregnancy prevention shots, interviews and data show.

One former detainee, Tursunay Ziyawudun, said she was injected until she stopped having her period and kicked repeatedly in the lower stomach during interrogations. She now can't have children and often doubles over in pain, bleeding from her womb, she said. Ziyawudun said women at her camp were made to undergo gynecology exams and get IUDs, and their "teacher" told them they would face abortions if found pregnant.

In 2014, just over 200,000 IUDs were inserted in Xinjiang. By 2018, that jumped more than

60 percent to nearly 330,000 IUDs. At the same time, IUD use fell sharply elsewhere in China, as many women began getting the devices removed.

Chinese health statistics also show a sterilization boom in Xinjiang.

Budget documents obtained by Zenz show that starting in 2016, the Xinjiang government began pumping tens of millions of dollars into a birth control surgery program. Even while sterilization rates plummeted in the rest of the country, they surged seven-fold in Xinjiang from 2016 to 2018, to more than 60,000 procedures.

Zumret Dawut, a Uighur mother of three, said after her release from a camp in 2018, authorities forced her to get sterilized. If she didn't, they told her she'd be sent back to the camp.

"I was so angry," she said. "I wanted another son."

The birth control campaign is fueled by government worries that high birth rates among Muslims leads to poverty and extremism in Xinjiang, an arid, landlocked region that has struggled in recent years with knifings and bombings blamed on Islamic terrorists. Though the program adopts tactics from China's 'one child' policy, the campaign unfolding in Xinjiang differs in that it is ethnically targeted.

"The intention may not be to fully eliminate the Uighur population, but it will sharply diminish their vitality, making them easier to assimilate," said Darren Byler, an expert on Uighurs at the University of Colorado.

Some experts take it a step further.

"It's genocide, full stop," said Uighur expert Joanne Smith Finley, who works at Newcastle University in the U.K. "It's not immediate, shocking, mass-killing on the spot type genocide, but it's slow, painful, creeping genocide." AP

## HONG KONG

# Beijing warns of visa bans on Americans

**C**HINA said yesterday that it would retaliate against U.S. moves to punish officials tied to political crackdowns in Hong Kong by imposing visa restrictions on Americans it considers to have "performed badly" on matters regarding the se-

mi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian gave no details in making the announcement at a daily briefing. It wasn't clear if the measure targeted only U.S. government officials or those in

the private sector as well.

It comes as China's legislature is expected to pass a national security law for Hong Kong today that critics say will severely limit opposition politics and freedom of speech in the city.

The U.S. says it will

respond by ending favorable trading terms granted to the former British colony after it passed to Chinese control in 1997. The Senate on Thursday unanimously approved a bill to impose sanctions on businesses and individuals — including the

police — that undermine Hong Kong's autonomy or restrict freedoms promised to the city's residents.

Zhao reiterated China's insistence that the law was "purely an internal affair of China, and no foreign country has

the right to interfere."

"The U.S. side's attempt to obstruct China from promoting Hong Kong's national security legislation through the so-called sanctions will never succeed," Zhao said. "In response to the above-mentioned wrong behavior of the U.S. side, China has decided to impose visa restrictions on U.S. personnel who perform badly on Hong Kong related issues." MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

**P**RIME Minister Boris Johnson acknowledged yesterday that the coronavirus pandemic has been a “disaster” for Britain, as he announced a spending splurge designed to get the country — and his faltering Conservative government — back on track.

As the U.K. emerges from a three-month lockdown, Johnson has lined up big-money pledges on schools, housing and infrastructure, in an attempt to move on from an outbreak that has left more than 43,000 Britons dead — the worst confirmed death toll in Europe.

“This has been a disaster,” Johnson acknowledged. “Let’s not mince our words. I mean, this has been an absolute nightmare for the country and the country’s gone through a profound shock.”

“But in those moments, you have the opportunity to change and to do things better,” he told Times Radio. “This is a moment now to give our country the skills, the infrastructure, the long-term investment that we need.”

Johnson promised a “Rooseveltian approach,” invoking the New Deal policies of President Franklin D. Roosevelt that helped wrench the United States out of the Great Depression. Johnson’s first announcement was 1 billion pounds (\$1.25 billion) to build new schools. The British leader plans to unveil a series of other infrastructure projects this week.

Johnson won a large ma-

# Boris Johnson says COVID-19 has been a disaster for Britain

majority in Parliament in December with a promise to rebalance Britain’s London-dominated economy and revive the long-neglected former industrial regions of central and northern England.

Those plans were thrown into turmoil by COVID-19. The U.K.’s official death toll stands at 43,550, the third-highest in the world after the United States and Brazil, and the true figure is likely higher.

“What we’re going to be doing in the next few months, is really doubling down on our initial agenda, which was all about investment ... in infrastructure, in education, in technology, to bring the country together,” he said.

Critics want to know where the money will come from. The economic freeze caused by the pandemic has left Britain facing a deep recession — the Bank of England estimates that the U.K. economy could end the first half of 2020 around 20% smaller than at the start of the year.

The U.K. faces another economic shock at the end of this year when a post-Brexit transition period

ends, casting the country out of the 27-nation bloc’s vast single market.

Talks with the EU on a new trade deal have bogged down amid wide differences on major issues including fishing rights and competition. If no agreement is struck by the end of the year, the U.K. faces tariffs and other barriers to business with the EU, its biggest trading partner.

Despite the gloomy economic outlook, Johnson said it would be “a mistake” to return to the austerity of previous Conservative governments, which since 2010 have cut public spending in an attempt to lower a national debt that was swollen by the 2008 global financial crisis.

Despite his attempts to turn the page, Johnson, who was hospitalized in intensive care with the coronavirus in April, will likely face a reckoning over his government’s handling of the outbreak.

Critics accuse the government of being too slow to impose a nationwide lockdown, of failing to get enough protective equipment to medical workers and of botching the launch of a test-and-trace system to control

new outbreaks.

Deaths and new infections are now declining, but slowly, and Britain lags behind its European neighbors in reopening society and the economy.

In another sign of Johnson’s attempt to regain control, Britain’s top civil servant announced late Sunday he was stepping down. Mark Sedwill is leaving his twin jobs as head of the civil service and national security adviser after reports of disagreements with Johnson’s powerful chief adviser, Dominic Cummings.

Johnson has named David Frost, the government’s EU trade negotiator, to the national security post. The appointment has raised some eyebrows because Frost is a political appointee, rather than a neutral civil servant.

Opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer said it was “obvious that the prime minister wanted to move (Sedwill) and was determined to do so.”

“Why you do so in the middle of a pandemic and a crisis instead of actually focusing on the crisis, is a question the prime minister needs to answer,” he said. AP

## this day in history



### 1992 THATCHER TAKES HER PLACE IN LORDS

Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has taken her place in the House of Lords as Baroness Thatcher of Kesteven.

She is expected to take part in her first debate in two days time, speaking out against the government on the Maastricht Treaty.

Although the quieter, more reflective House of Lords is not regarded as the natural battleground of the aggressive former prime minister, her allies hope she will use the Lords to keep her policies on the agenda.

During her acceptance ceremony she said: “I, Margaret Baroness Thatcher, so swear by almighty God that I will be faithful and bear true allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, her heirs and successors according to law, so help me God.”

She announced her decision to leave the Commons seven months after being ousted from Number 10 by her own party.

At the time the former prime minister indicated she wanted to remain in politics.

She said her decision to leave the Commons would give her more freedom to speak her mind, and made it clear she would fight any proposal for European integration that would threaten British sovereignty.

But she was careful to pledge her loyalty to Prime Minister John Major, whose government is now occupied with managing splits within the party over European policy.

Anticipating Baroness Thatcher’s expected intervention on Maastricht, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd today strongly defended the treaty, saying this was not the moment to turn “timid and sour” on Europe.

He said: “It is not sensible when you are beginning to win the arguments to back off into some massive and destructive isolation by seeking to destroy the Treaty of Maastricht.”

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Margaret Thatcher was elected MP for Finchley in 1959 and succeeded Edward Heath as leader of the Conservative party in 1975.

She became Britain’s first woman prime minister in 1979, and by the time she was ousted by her own party in 1990 she was the longest serving prime minister of the 20th century.

Mrs Thatcher used her appointment to the House of Lords to continue to make her views heard, particularly on European issues.

Ill health forced her to abandon her regular public speaking engagements in 2002.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 The heat is getting turned up a lot higher in one of your personal relationships, but, unfortunately, it might not be in a good way. Look for little annoyances to suddenly turn into full-fledged fights.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 Try to keep matters of the heart on the up-and-up right now. Being brutally honest is tough sometimes, but it's much more valuable than softening the truth with little white lies.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 You have an important choice to make today. You can either expend all your energy trying to avoid any and all conflict, or you can have fun debating people whose thoughts and feelings differ from yours.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 Staying conservative and cautious might be the right strategy when it comes to investing money. But when it comes to sharing your emotions, the more extravagant you are the better!

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 Sure, it takes a little bit of confidence to talk to new people. In normal times, meeting the right people also takes luck - you need to be in the right place at the right time.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 When a goal is too easy to attain, it isn't as fulfilling as a hard-won victory. So take the more difficult route today, and don't be too rigid about what you are willing or unwilling to do.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 Remember to keep the horse before the cart on this particular issue. If you let them push you into doing or saying something before you're ready, things won't go as they are supposed to.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 You might get so wrapped up in overcoming a challenge today that you lose track of time. One minute you're yawning into the morning daylight, and the next the sun is setting!

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 The exciting opportunity that arrives today might intimidate or even frighten you a little bit, but if you focus on the potential rewards it could bring you, you'll find yourself more and more willing to take the chance.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 You're in a real fix-it mood today. You'll want to put things right and solve any and all problems that come your way. But you should hold off on playing the hero too early in the day.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 The extraordinary efforts of someone in your crew are creating some incredible opportunities for you right now, and today is the day to take advantage of them!

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 This is a good day for you to work on your self-esteem and communication skills. The day isn't going to be too hectic, so you should have all the time you need to get introspective and check in with yourself.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

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

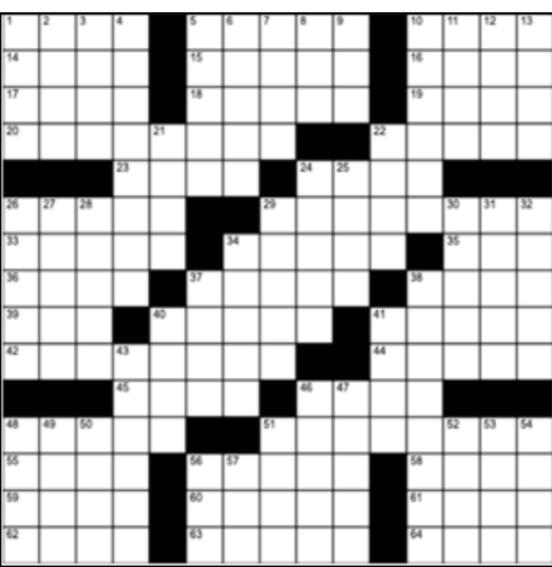
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	21	33	cloudy
Harbin	17	26	cloudy
Tianjin	2	32	cloudy
Urumqi	11	24	clear
Xi'an	21	34	clear
Lhasa	13	25	shower
Chengdu	25	35	overcast
Chongqing	26	34	overcast
Kunming	18	26	thundershower
Nanjing	20	30	cloudy
Shanghai	22	30	clear
Wuhan	22	34	cloudy
Hangzhou	23	28	drizzle to moderate rain
Taipei	26	31	overcast
Guangzhou	28	35	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	32	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-10	20	cloudy
Frankfurt	13	22	cloudy
Paris	14	21	cloudy
London	12	18	cloudy
New York	21	29	cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS: 1- Suffragist Carrie; 5- Godly love; 10- New Mexico art colony; 14- Wife of Jacob; 15- Sip; 16- Heavenly bodies; 17- He sang about Alice; 18- Agave fiber; 19- Military group; 20- Official paper; 22- Sporting blades; 23- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 24- Flexible tube; 26- Draw a bead on; 29- In the middle; 33- Acid type; 34- Assorted; 35- Summer drink; 36- Tear; 37- "Bolero" composer; 38- Swenson of "Benson"; 39- Siouan speaker; 40- Conclusion; 41- Celestial being; 42- Addictive substance; 44- Inactive; 45- One of the Baldwins; 46- Fix up; 48- Bottle; 51- Chosen; 55- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 56- Vertical passage; 58- Mother of the Valkyries; 59- Gillette brand; 60- Lover of Juliet; 61- Call for; 62- Faint, with "over"; 63- Severe; 64- Addition column;

DOWN: 1- Decker out; 2- Prefix with -drome; 3- Apply powder to oneself; 4- Kilo; 5- Befuddled; 6- Profits; 7- Kind of prof.; 8- Mom-and-pop org.; 9- Slippery swimmer; 10- Man's wig; 11- "Judith" composer; 12- Village Voice award; 13- Fast fliers; 21- Take \_\_\_ your leader; 22- Cornerstone abbr.; 24- Spells; 25- Like Nash's lama; 26- Biblical brother; 27- \_\_\_ man with seven wives; 28- Lesser; 29- Honda model; 30- Scope; 31- Gardening tool; 32- Distributed cards; 34- Frenzied; 37- Ceremonial act; 38- Without sin; 40- People in general; 41- White House staffer; 43- Offhand; 46- Allude; 47- John of England; 48- Strong criticism; 49- Minstrel's instrument; 50- Bern's river; 51- Matching; 52- Family portrait?; 53- Steinbeck; East of \_\_\_; 54- Pops; 56- Grads-to-be; 57- Boiling;



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**

**Hellene Gardens, Coloane**  
 HK\$15,800,000 2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 1/2 2 1/2

**FOR RENT**

**One Central, Macau- Lovely 2 bedroom**  
 \$25,000/mth 1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1/2 2 1/2

**FOR SALE**

- [Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1/2 1 1/2  
 900 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 1/2 2 1/2  
 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1/2 2 1/2  
 1,420 ft<sup>2</sup> \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)
- [Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom 2 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2  
 2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096000)

**FOR RENT**

- [Taipa] Delightful 1 Bed 1 1/2 1 1/2  
 820 ft<sup>2</sup> \$9,500/mth (ref: 20051001)
- [Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 1/2 1 1/2  
 600 ft<sup>2</sup> \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2  
 2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2  
 4,266 ft<sup>2</sup> \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# FACEBOOK SHARES POISED TO FALL AFTER STARBUCKS JOINS AD PULLBACK

KURT WAGNER

**F**ACEBOOK Inc. shares were poised to fall for a second day after more businesses, including Starbucks Corp. and Diageo Plc., joined the growing number of brands planning to halt spending on social media, undermining the company's growth outlook.

Shares declined about 2.5% in early trading before markets in New York opened on Monday. The stock had tumbled 8.3% Friday after Unilever, one of the world's largest advertisers, said it would cease spending on Facebook properties this year, eliminating \$56 billion in market value and shaving the net worth of Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg by more than \$7 billion. Shares closed at \$216.08 Friday after reaching a record \$242.24 the preceding Tuesday.

Starbucks and Diageo followed Unilever, Coca-Cola Co. and several other companies in saying they will cut ad spending, part of an exodus aimed at pushing Facebook and other social media platforms to limit hate speech and posts that divide and disinform.



While a single advertiser can do little to hurt a company that generated \$17.7 billion in revenue last quarter, the rising tally creates peer pressure on other brands, and civil rights groups say they expect more corporations to join a boycott. Combined with a pandemic-fueled economic slowdown, the threat to Facebook deepens.

"Given the amount of noise this is drawing, this will have significant impact to Facebook's business," Wedbush Securities analyst Bradley Gastwirth wrote in a research note. "Facebook needs to address this issue quickly and effectively in order to stop advertising exits from potentially spiraling out of control."

Facebook was already bracing for weakness in the second quarter, which ends this week. Chief Financial Officer Dave Wehner said in an April earnings call that he saw the "potential for an even more severe advertising industry contraction."

The number of coronavirus cases has surged in the intervening

months, prompting many parts of the country to slow or roll-back reopening efforts and giving advertisers added justification to rein in spending. Facebook's sales will rise 1% in the June period, followed by a 7% increase in the third quarter, analysts predict, by far the smallest quarterly growth increases since the company went public.

Starbucks said Sunday that it would pause spending on all social media platforms while it carries out talks internally, with media partners and civil rights groups "in the effort to stop the spread of hate speech."

Zuckerberg announced changes Friday designed to appease critics, but the Anti-Defamation League, one of the groups calling for the boycott, called the amendments "small." Some analysts have said the financial impact of recent exits will be limited, citing past advertiser revolts.

Even so, this exodus is distinct in key ways, Bernstein Securities analyst Mark Shmulik wrote in a research note Saturday. There's heightened pressure to publicly demonstrate that brands stand with civil rights groups, he said.

"The current environment is very different," Shmulik wrote. "It is very visible who is and isn't participating in the boycott where brand silence [equals] being complicit." **BLOOMBERG**

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AP PHOTO



Inter Milan's head coach Antonio Conte

ANDREW DAMPE, ROME

FOOTBALL

**T**OMMASO Berni, Inter Milan's third-choice goalkeeper who hasn't played in six seasons with the club, was sent off the bench for dissent during the weekend's game at Parma.

Only two full rounds into the Italian league's restart, four coaches have also been punished for protests: Gian Piero Gasperini (Atalanta), Antonio Conte (Inter), Simone Inzaghi (Lazio) and Giuseppe Iachini (Fiorentina).

Others booked or sent off include an assistant coach for Juventus and the sporting directors of Cagliari and Brescia.

In stadiums free of fan noise, Serie A's referees have been targeting a wide array of bench members with disciplinary action.

"I'm sorry. It hadn't happened in 2 1/2 years," Inzaghi said after invading the pitch during the frenetic finish of Lazio's 2-1 win over Fiorentina on Saturday.

"I was trying to help the referee because there was a bit of

chaos, but I wasn't disrespectful. I just entered the field."

But when referee Luca Banti sent Inzaghi off, the coach responded, "No, no. I won't go."

Inzaghi later explained, "I didn't understand that I had been sent off."

With stadiums empty of fans due to the coronavirus pandemic, TV cameras and microphones have been picking up nearly everything that players, coaches and bench members are saying.

Even when the benches have been moved to the first few rows of the stands, as in Parma when Berni was singled out by the referee during the second half, officials can still hear everything.

It was the second time this season that Berni was sent off

from the bench, and this time, at least, it seemed to motivate his team. Inter promptly scored twice to erase an early deficit and produced a 2-1 comeback win.

Plenty of players on the field are also seeing red cards. Moments after Berni's outburst, Parma was reduced to 10 men when midfielder Juraj Kucka was sent off for protests. Kucka then became even angrier and had to be dragged down into the tunnel by club officials.

Fiorentina, which has been at odds with the referees in both of its matches since the restart, had defender Martín Cáceres and coach Iachini both punished for profanity during a 1-1 draw with Brescia.

After Fiorentina's loss to Lazio, which included a controversial penalty awarded to the Roman club, club president Rocco Comisso suggested that teams should be able to appeal decisions to the VAR.

"I wouldn't have anything against it," said Nicola Rizzoli, Serie A's refereeing director. "But we've got to remember that we're part of a worldwide game. The rules need to be the same in Italy and abroad. At the moment this isn't being discussed at the international level.

"Maybe it should be tried but we can't make sudden, personalized decisions," Rizzoli added.

AC Milan technical director Paolo Maldini offered a strong suggestion that the club will re-

new Gianluigi Donnarumma's contract before it expires at the end of next season.

The 21-year-old goalkeeper has already taken over the starting position on Italy's national team from Gianluigi Buffon.

"Milan needs to try and keep a player of Donnarumma's importance," Maldini said before Milan's 2-0 win over Roma on Sunday. "He started in our youth system and in my modest opinion he's the best goalkeeper in the world."

However, Donnarumma already earns 6 million euros (\$6.7 million) per season and Mino Raiola, his agent, will be expecting a big salary increase that financially strapped Milan may not be able to afford. AP

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OPINION

World Views

Andrea Felsted, Bloomberg

THE MALL CAN'T SURVIVE IF THERE AREN'T ANY STORES

Rent collection day last Wednesday looked like a disaster for mall landlords in the U.K. Reeling from the coronavirus lockdown, tenants including JD Sports Fashions Plc, Boots drugstores and Primark withheld some payments pending negotiations with landlords. Estimates vary widely as to how much was paid of the 2.5 billion pounds (\$3.1 billion) due — from 10% to 50%.

This isn't just bad news for Lakeside mall-owner Intu Properties Plc, which on Friday collapsed into administration. Missing rents affect everyone, including property developers Hammerson Plc and British Land Co.

Whatever the final tally, the balance of power between retailers and their landlords has indelibly shifted. The days when well-known retail chains signed 25-year leases dictating that rents only rose were already largely consigned to history. But the retail apocalypse wrought by Covid-19 means that landlords have no choice but to accept even shorter leases and far more flexible terms with a good dose of the right services thrown in.

As I have argued, the pain from the pandemic must be shared between retailers and property owners on both sides of the Atlantic. The future of the mall depends on it. Brick-and-mortar outlets were already facing existential questions from the rise of Amazon.com Inc. and other online retailers, and many traditional retailers had started to embrace e-commerce too. Covid-19 is accelerating this shift. At the end of last year, digital accounted for about 30% of U.K. retail sales excluding food. This could increase to more than 40% over the next year or so, according to independent retail analyst Richard Hyman.

The trend makes store economics even more challenging. Moving sales online has its own costs, from stock management to processing returns, which can't be offset with a commensurate reduction in store expenses. And now retailers have to invest to adapt their shops to social-distancing rules.

With such pressure on profits, some stores will inevitably have to close. Those that don't will have to cut costs, and that includes rent. In order to better manage cash flows, it's imperative they be allowed to move to monthly rent payments from quarterly ones.

Another option is for landowners to offer so-called turnover rent deals based on a proportion of in-store sales, usually underpinned by a minimum fee. This model, already common in off-price retail parks, aligns everyone's interests. It gives mall owners an incentive to make their properties as appealing to customers as possible, with a pleasant environment, concierge services and a good mix of tenants covering retail, food and leisure. And retailers would be more inclined to sign for a longer period.

The downside for property companies is more uncertainty because they cannot count on a guaranteed income stream to pay down their debt. Still, this is probably better than an empty unit.

As push comes to shove, it's best relations stay cordial. After all, retailers have promised to pay their landlord, and rent that hasn't been collected during the pandemic isn't written off. Yes, there's a case for leniency when chains are clearly in distress. But it's harder to justify withholding what's due when retailers have remained largely open, such as Boots, or are in good shape financially, such as JD Sports.

There are good reasons to encourage constructive dialogue. Store chains that take an aggressive stance may be exposing themselves to legal action. In the U.S., Gap Inc. is facing suits from Simon Property Group Inc. and Brookfield Property Partners LP. Plus, now that leases are much shorter, discussions over the proper rent come around much more frequently. When they do, companies that paid in full during the crisis may be able to secure better terms than those that reneged.

With no let up in the ferocity of retail competition, it's smart to strike more favorable deals in the future. But any tense moments should be saved for the contract negotiations, not quarter day.

The world surpassed two sobering coronavirus milestones yesterday [Macau time] - 500,000 confirmed deaths, 10 million confirmed cases - and hit another high mark for daily new infections as governments that attempted reopenings continued to backtrack and warn that worse news could be yet to come.

"COVID-19 has taken a very swift and very dangerous turn in Texas over just the past few weeks," said Gov. Greg Abbott, who allowed businesses to start reopening in early May but on Friday

shut down bars and limited restaurant dining amid a spike in cases.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom rolled back reopenings of bars in seven counties, including Los Angeles. He ordered them to close immediately and urged eight other counties to issue local health orders mandating the same.

More Florida beaches will be closing again to avoid further spread of the new coronavirus as officials try to tamp down on large gatherings amid a spike in COVID-19 cases.

RACIAL INJUSTICE

DEMOCRATS WANT JOHN WAYNE'S NAME, STATUE TAKEN OFF AIRPORT

IN the latest move to change place names in light of U.S. racial history, leaders of Orange County's Democratic Party are pushing to drop film legend John Wayne's name, statue and other likenesses from the county's airport because of his racist and bigoted comments.

The Los Angeles Times reported that earlier this week, officials passed an emergency resolution condemning Wayne's "racist and bigoted statements" made in a 1971 interview and are calling on the Orange County Board of Supervisors to drop his name, statue and other likenesses from the international airport.

The resolution asked the board "to restore its original name: Orange County Airport."

"There have been past efforts to get this done and now we're putting our name and our backing into this to make sure there is a name change," said Ada Briceño, chair of the Democratic Party of Orange County.

According to those who crafted the resolution, the effort to oust Wayne, a longtime resident of Orange County



who died in 1979, is part of "a national movement to remove white supremacist symbols and names (that are) reshaping American institutions, monuments, businesses, nonprofits, sports leagues and teams."

In a 1971 Playboy magazine interview, Wayne makes bigoted statements against Black people, Native Americans and the LGBTQ community.

"I believe in white supremacy until the blacks are educated to a point of responsibility. I don't

believe in giving authority and positions of leadership and judgment to irresponsible people," he said.

Wayne also said that although he didn't condone slavery: "I don't feel guilty about the fact that five or 10 generations ago these people were slaves."

The actor said he felt no remorse in the subjugation of Native Americans.

"I don't feel we did wrong in taking this great country away from them. ... (O)ur so-called stealing of this country from them was just a matter of survival," he said. "There were great numbers of people who needed new land, and the Indians were selfishly trying to keep it for themselves."

Wayne also called movies such as "Easy Rider" and "Midnight Cowboy" perverted, and used a gay slur to refer to the two main characters of the latter film.

Orange County Supervisor Don Wagner told the newspaper that he had just heard about the Democratic resolution and was unaware of its wording or merit. AP

COUPLE DRAW GUNS AT CROWD HEADING TO ST. LOUIS MAYOR'S HOME

A white couple pointed guns at protesters in St. Louis as a group marched toward the mayor's home to demand her resignation after she read the names and addresses of several residents who supported defunding the police department during an online briefing.

A social media video showed the armed couple standing outside of their large home yesterday [Macau time] in the upscale Central West End neighborhood of the Missouri city.

In the video, the unidentified couple shouted at protesters, while people in the march moved the crowd



Armed homeowners standing in front their house along Portland Place confront protesters marching to St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson's house

forward, urging participants to ignore them. People in the crowd included Black and white protesters.

It wasn't immediately clear whether St. Louis police were aware of the incident. An email and phone call from The Associated

Press to police weren't immediately answered.

The group of at least 500 people was heading toward Mayor Lyda Krewson's home, chanting, "Resign Lyda, take the cops with you," news outlets reported. AP

Australia Health authorities are using a saliva test while working against a coronavirus outbreak in Melbourne. Victorian Health Minister Jenny Mikakos said yesterday that 75 people had tested positive in the state in the latest 24 hours. She said the saliva test was first used in a Melbourne suburban hot spot on Sunday. The saliva tests in research were only 87% as accurate as the nasal swab because saliva contained less virus than the throat.



South Korea Fans of pro sports may be required to wear masks and discouraged from shouting or eating food when they possibly return to the stands in coming weeks. Jung Eun-kyeong, director of South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said such measures were being discussed as health authorities and the sports ministry map out plans for spectators to return to sports. The plans could be announced as early as this week.

Philippine officials say authorities in a central village may face criminal or administrative complaints for allowing a street parade and dance despite a strict coronavirus lockdown. Officials of Basak village have been ordered to explain why the religious fiesta in honor of St. John the Baptist was held Saturday despite a prohibition against public gatherings. Performers in native wear and face masks danced during the night procession, which drew a large crowd.



Germany Authorities have extended by a week a partial lockdown in a western German district hit by a big coronavirus outbreak at a slaughterhouse. The measures were imposed on Guetersloh county, home to some 360,000 people, for an initial one-week period nearly a week ago. Cinemas, gyms and bars were closed, but stores remained open and restaurants have been able to serve customers from the same household.