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GROSS GAMING REVENUE DROPPED
97% YEAR-ON-YEAR IN JUNE,
FALLING TO A YEARLY LOW OF JUST
MOP716 MILLION

MACAU WILL BE CASHLESS
WITHIN FIVE YEARS,
ASSURES JOE LIU

THE MSAR GOV'T EXPRESSES
SUPPORT OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY
LEGISLATION PASSED BY THE CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT ON THE MAINLAND

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Thailand has begun a fifth phase of relaxations of COVID-19 restrictions, allowing the reopening of schools and high-risk entertainment venues such as pubs and massage parlors that had been shut since mid-March. It also is allowing in foreign visitors on a controlled basis, limiting entry to those with existing family or work ties to the country, students, technical experts for businesses, investors and specially invited VIPs.

The Philippines has retained a strict lockdown in a central city President Rodrigo Duterte described as a new coronavirus hot spot, while the capital and the rest of the country were placed in lighter quarantines. The moves further stretch three-month lockdowns and quarantines in the country. Duterte blamed Cebu city, which will remain under a lockdown up to July 15, for many violations of the rules that led to infection spikes.



Japan Tokyo Disneyland and DisneySea reopened yesterday after being closed for four months due to the coronavirus pandemic, with hundreds of visitors applauding as the gate opened. The two parks near Tokyo have new guidelines, including limiting the number of entrants in three shifts to maintain social distancing. No handshakes, hugging or photos taken with Mickey Mouse and other characters are allowed.

FIRST ARRESTS

Hong Kong police made 10 arrests on day one under the new law which China says would only affect 'extremely few criminals who are severely endangering national security'

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STARTING SALARY OF UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES EXPECTED TO FALL
TO MOP10,000

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PROPERTY
**COMMERCIAL SPACES
THAT CATER TO
DOMESTIC MARKET
SEEN GROWING**

Some retailers whose business comes primarily from the local market have expanded their shops amid the Covid-19 pandemic, contrary to those retailers who target tourists

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ELLA LEI CALLS FOR RETIREMENT OF NON-LOCAL COOKS

Lawmaker Ella Lei has repeated her demands to the government, asking for the protection of local workers. This time, Lei was talking specifically about cooks. Gaming companies should provide facilities and coaches to train local cooks, according to Lei. She also wants the government to work with gaming companies to carry out employment training. The local workers represented by Lei said that some restaurants had forced the local executive chefs to work for a daily salary instead of a monthly salary. According to statistics from the Labour Affairs Bureau, as of July 2019, gaming companies and their affiliated companies hired 2,840 non-local cooks. Lei asked whether the local government would set a fixed ratio between local cooks and non-local ones.

LAWMAKER ASKS ABOUT RESIDENTIAL BUILDING ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

Lawmaker Chan Hong has asked the local government to establish laws to regulate the electricity supply in buildings. In her interpellation to the government, Chan pointed out that Macau has a large number of buildings over 30 years old. The facilities in these buildings have aged, and electricity supply devices are especially worn out. In addition to the accumulated degeneration of the installations, many local property owners lack awareness about what needs to be done to maintain these facilities. Many property owners also lease their properties, making it difficult to find the right person to maintain the facilities. In the context of these issues, Macau lacks a law regulating residential building electricity devices. Chan believes that the first solution the government must provide is establishing a law on the issue, followed by improving local residents' awareness of residential building electrical safety.

ROADS TO CLOSE FOR ENGINEERING WORK

Rua de Tai Lin will be affected by special transport arrangements starting today, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced yesterday. From today until July 31, the road will ban parking by vehicles and pedestrian thoroughfare. The DSAT also extended the special transport arrangements in the vicinity of the Legislative Assembly building for a longer period. Until October 5, the government will construct the parking lot at the Praça da Assembleia Legislativa. The government will continue the road closure from Praça da Assembleia Legislativa to the parliament building. This parking lot will be available for the Legislative Assembly's internal use. It will be a two-level underground parking space.

GROSS GAMING REVENUE TOUCHES NEW LOW AFTER 97% PLUMMET

DANIEL BEITLER

GROSS gaming revenue dropped 97% year-on-year in June, falling to a yearly low of just 716 million patacas.

June was the fifth consecutive month that gaming revenue plummeted, according to official data published by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. Year-to-date gaming revenue is down 77.4% year-on-year at 33.7 billion patacas, compared to nearly 150 billion in the first six months of 2019.

Revenue has tracked at near-zero levels since February, when the impact of the coronavirus began to be felt in Macau. Visitor arrivals from the mainland plummeted after China enforced city-wide lockdowns and canceled its visa programs for travel into the special administrative region.

January was the only month of the year that mostly avoided

BLOOMBERG



the fallout from Covid-19. Gross gaming revenue fell 11.3% to 22.1 billion patacas in January, yet that month alone still accounts for nearly two-thirds of 2020 revenue to date.

The issuance of Individual

Visit Scheme visas, which are popular with mainland gamblers, and group tour visas both remain suspended. Chinese provinces require visitors and returnees to undergo a mandatory 14-day quarantine, which is also understood to deter visitation.

Earlier this week, Sanford C. Bernstein analyst Vitaly Umansky wrote that the easing of these travel restrictions will determine when gross gaming revenue begins to pick up and at what pace. Umansky warned that the recent outbreak in Beijing may delay the anticipated reopening of borders.

George Choi, a research analyst at Citigroup Global Markets Asia, said that the low gross gaming revenue trend would continue until the mainland Chinese government lifts outbound travel restrictions. If that occurs in the next few weeks, the rate of revenue decline could decrease, starting from the third quarter.

Last year, the casino business directly accounted for about half of Macau's economy. The lucrative industry is the primary source of tax revenue for the government and a lifeline for many small businesses in the SAR.

GROSS GAMING REVENUE JAN-JUN 2020

Month	Revenue*	Growth
Jan	22,126	-11.3%
Feb	3,104	-87.8%
Mar	5,257	-79.7%
Apr	754	-96.8%
May	1,764	-93.2%
Jun	716	-97.0%

*Revenue is measured in millions of patacas. All data is provided by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Starting salary of university graduates expected to fall to MOP10,000

JULIE ZHU

THE Macau Human Resources Association believes that university students set to graduate this year will have a lower starting monthly salary than those in previous years.

President of the association, Choi Chin Man, voiced his expectations during yesterday's TDM radio program.

On June 27, the Statistics and Census Service reported that the general unemployment rate for

March to May this year had risen to 2.4% and that the unemployment rate of local residents was 3.4%.

Choi said that Macau companies are being more cautious with recruitment, as many corporations are considering this year's overall economic situation before hiring new employees.

This year, it is estimated that 9,000 university students will graduate in Macau. Of these students, 51% will graduate

from Macau universities, 18% are studying in Taiwan, 16% are in mainland higher education institutions, and the remainder are enrolled in schools in other regions or countries.

Choi urged university graduates to understand Macau's current employment environment.

Last year, university graduates' starting salaries were between 15,000 and 16,000 patacas, according to Choi. He estimates that, this year, first-time job seekers

may be offered monthly salaries of 10,000 patacas or even less.

The president of Macao New Chinese Youth Association, surnamed Ieong, also commented that graduates will find it difficult to secure jobs in tourism and gaming-related industries.

However, those studying science, technology and engineering will probably have fewer problems finding employment.

According to the official data, the number of unemployed people has

increased to 9,700 in the latest reporting period between March and May.

Among the unemployed population searching for a new job, most were previously engaged in the retail sector and in gaming and junket activities.

Meanwhile, the number of underemployed individuals increased by 2,300 to 10,600, with the majority working in gaming and junket activities.

According to the official data, the construction sector and the retail sector.

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Commercial spaces that cater to domestic market growing, even as tourist shops close

LYNZY VALLES

SOME retailers whose business comes primarily from the local market have actually expanded their commercial spaces amid the Covid-19 pandemic, contrary to the experience of those retailers who primarily serve tourists. The latter group are seen closing in some districts of the Macau SAR after months of near-zero revenue.

That comes as the city is on track to record an economic contraction of up to 70% this year, according to some estimates.

Commercial spaces in the local market have remained "healthy and stable," according to real estate agency Ambiente Properties, particularly those located in Avenida Horta e Costa, the Three Lamps District and the Taipa area.

Retail stores in these particular areas largely cater to local consumers, whereas many commercial spaces in the city center and ZAPE district have already closed, with a substantial number up for lease already.

Thanks to financial assistance distributed by the government to local SMEs and residents, some operators have taken up more commercial spaces. Spending by local residents using consumption vouchers reached 1.46 billion patacas in total in the past two months, and 70% of total spending went to the retail and supermarket sector.

"We see a few operators expanding their businesses. For example, snacks businesses have

DANIEL BEITLER



expanded to other store locations, and beauty stores taking additional 8,000 square feet in Grade A space," said Suzanne Watkinson, managing director of Ambiente and a Macau real estate consultant.

"In the local areas, if some long term tenants find their business lagging, then the landlord will allow them to divide the space and sublet."

Speaking to the Times, Watkinson said that subletting a space was a win-win situation for both the tenants and landlords, as landlords could not afford to lose tenants in these trying times.

The rental prices of these commercial spaces has remained stable, as the current market situation cannot be "too aggressive."

However, commercial spaces selling products and services to the city's tourists are experiencing a different reality.

Businesses reliant on tourist spending are facing a tough time as tourists arrivals continue to drop due to travel and border restrictions.

Currently, all foreign tourists, as well as blue card holders, are still barred from entering Macau as part of the city's infection control measures.

The tightening of quarantine measures for arrivals in Macau starting in late March 2020 caused the number of visitor arrivals in April to tumble 99.7% year-on-year to just 11,041. This affected local businesses that are heavily reliant on tourism.

According to Ambiente, retailers – particularly in the Senado Square area – have been calling for rent reductions due to the lack of customers.

These commercial spaces include those that are proximate to China Plaza, where many travel agencies are located.

"We've seen a lot of stores closed in those area. Why? Because they all target tourists and not the domestic market. Four to six of the travel agents have closed," said Watkinson.

"One of our clients was a travel agent for long time [and they have] closed. It's understandable, because they don't have any business. The pharmacies geared towards tourists are closed, as well as gold jewelry shops. Instead

of having 20 [of branches] open, they have reduced it."

Watkinson added that many commercial spaces in the city have been closed for three months, implying that the closures were directly due to the impact of Covid-19.

Ambiente said that it is optimistic about office spaces, however, as the majority of companies renting the spaces are SMEs which are mostly fully supported by government policies.

"The demand for office space remains stable, and with limited supply, rents remain stable," said Watkinson.

However, the real estate agency noted some downsizing by larger international firms, with some back-office space being cut by 50%. Some centralizing and outsourcing services by international companies are now being handled by their offshore headquarters, leading to a reduction in the required office space.

"[In terms of] rentals of Grade A offices, these are controlled by a few owners and as there's little supply, they are able to maintain their rents on the high side, [while] rents of Grade B office space in NAPE area are stable but open for negotiation," Watkinson said. She added that landlords are keeping face value high but are offering a greater rent-free period.

For now, companies based locally are also awaiting the re-opening of borders, particularly from the SAR's top source market, and for the city's economy to return to normal.

Macau will be cashless within five years, assures Joe Liu

DANIEL BEITLER

MACAU will become a cashless society within the next five years, according to the Director of Macau Pass, Joe Liu.

"I am very confident that Macau is heading toward a cashless society," said Liu on the sidelines of a breakfast event organized by the British Chamber of Commerce in Macao. "We are working closely with the government to support the development of a cashless society."

Macau holds this potential, according to Liu, because "we are in the backyard of mainland China, which is already almost completely cashless" and where most vendors expect payments to

be settled electronically.

But while the territory can learn a lot about e-payments from its giant neighbor, Macau first needs to overcome several regulatory hurdles.

One of these hurdles is the strict resolve of the Monetary Authority of Macau which is, according to Liu, "very strict with what you can do with financial licenses [...] and probably one of the strictest financial regulators in the world, even stricter than Hong Kong."

"We have to follow the same procedures as all the banks [irrespective of the sums being transferred]," added Liu.

Another challenge listed by Liu concerns the taxi in-

dustry. According to the entrepreneur, because MPay makes most of its money from tourists, taxis are an obvious place to install payment terminals.

But license holders are disincentivized to adopt mobile payments because the Monetary Authority will not allow taxi fares and tips to be combined into a single payment. That leads to less convenience for the rider and less earnings for the driver.

Still, even with these hurdles, the mobile payments platform has seen its market penetration grow substantially. Today, MPay serves about 400,000 local users, more than half of Macau's population, while its total

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transactions value is close to some 10 billion patacas.

Contactless smartcard Macau Pass has also seen its market penetration grow after the company was selected by the government to roll out Macau's consump-

tion subsidy scheme. The scheme involves two rounds of "electronic vouchers" distributed to every registered Macau resident in sums of 3,000 patacas and 5,000 patacas.

The company said it does

not receive any commission from the scheme, nor for installing the terminals that vendors use to collect payments.

Macau Daily Times is the official media partner of Britcham Macao.



CRIME

YOUNG MAN ACCUSED OF ASSAULT AND RAPE OF GIRLFRIEND

JULIE ZHU, STAFF REPORTER

A 24-year-old local man stands accused of crimes including aggravated assault, rape, unlawful detention and illicit possession of a weapon, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday during a joint police press conference.

The victim is his ex-girlfriend, a 25-year-old woman who works as a clerk. The suspect, surnamed Lau, is a student.

The pair began dating in April. After about two months, Lau's girlfriend decided to break up with him. At this time, they were living together in his apartment located in the Fai Chi Kei area.

On June 25, when the victim announced her decision to end

the relationship, Lau became angry and refused. Lau physically assaulted the victim with a baseball bat and demanded that she stay with him while holding a knife.

In order to protect herself from imminent danger, the victim successfully deterred Lau from further attacking her again by claiming that she would stay in the relationship. The victim was not able to leave the apartment that day.

The next day, on June 26, the suspect demanded sex from the victim. She was forced to comply, as Lau threatened to hurt her if she did not.

On June 27, the victim convinced Lau to leave the house for

work and Lau allowed the victim to leave the house. Once she left the apartment, the victim reported the case to the police department.

PJ officers arrested the man at his apartment that same day. Lau admitted that he had assaulted his girlfriend but denied the accusations of imprisonment and rape.

On June 29, the PJ handed the case over to the prosecution authority. The police department believes that there is sufficient evidence to prove that Lau assaulted the victim multiple times and raped her.

Last month, a civil servant from the Health Bureau was charged with raping his wife and accused

of domestic violence.

The case was similar to Lau's. The suspect, surnamed Tam, was asked for a divorce by his then wife. In response, Tam raped his wife. Tam's wife first filed a rape complaint to the police authority.

In 2016, a Vietnamese man nearly stabbed his ex-girlfriend to death after the victim attempted to break up with him.

WOMAN LOSES 4.89M IN MONEY EXCHANGE SCAM

A mainland woman has reported a loss of HKD4.89 million in a fraud case, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday.

The victim is a 33-year-old mainland woman who claims to be a businesswoman. On June 18,

the victim contacted the suspect through an intermediate friend. The victim asked the suspect to exchange currency with her.

The suspect is surnamed Lai. Lai and the victim agreed that the woman would transfer HKD4.89 million from her VIP room account to another VIP room account in exchange for 4.5 million yuan, which Lai would provide.

The 25-year-old Lai agreed to the deal. However, after the victim transferred the money, she did not receive the yuan.

On June 29, the victim's friend reported the case to the PJ on behalf of the woman, as she was in mainland China and could not come to Macau due to Covid-19 restrictions.

The PJ found Lai, who is a mainland resident, working in Macau as a salesman. Lai refused to cooperate with the police authority. However, based on CCTV footage, the PJ believes that Lai withdrew the money from the VIP room bank account and charged him with fraud.

DRUNK DRIVER GIVEN ONE-YEAR BAN

A man who works as a driver has been banned from driving for one year after he was involved in a car accident while intoxicated. Nobody was injured in the car accident.

The accident happened around 7:30 a.m. on June 26. The police discovered the car accident on Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen, where two light-duty cars had collided.

The suspect, surnamed Chan, is a 32-year-old Macau resident. Chan was found at the accident and he admitted having consumed alcohol before driving. He was tested with 1.95 grams of alcohol per liter of blood.

Chan was sentenced to six months and 15 days imprisonment with a suspended sentence of two years. He is also banned from driving for one year.

Former gov't public relations chief given additional role

VICTOR Chan, the former director of the Government Information Bureau (GCS), was assigned the role of director at Macao Investment and Development Limited yesterday, following his take-up of a new advisory post at the Secretariat for Economy and Finance, which also commenced yesterday.

The publicly-owned company has a business scope that covers "the conception, management and exploration of space for the establishment of com-

panies and non-entrepreneurial entities, particularly the acquisition, construction, promotion, transfer or leasing of the space as well as the direct or indirect supportive services providing to the clients," according to its official introduction.

The company is set up to foster regional cooperation and initiate investment projects, among other things.

The Macau government has a 94% stake in the company, while the Industrial

and Commercial Development Fund has a 3% stake, as does the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute.

Victor Chan's old position at the GCS was assigned to Inês Chan, the former head of the Department of Licensing and Inspection of the Macao Government Tourism Office. It is believed that Inês Chan secured her new job thanks to her performance at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center's press conferences. AL

NEW DEPUTY HEAD APPOINTED AT CULTURAL AFFAIRS BUREAU

CHEONG Lai San was appointed the new deputy director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) yesterday, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U announced in the Official Gazette.

Cheong's appointment will be valid for one year starting from July 1, the secretary's order stipulated. The order also stated that the costs incurred by the appointment would be borne by the IC.

As usual, the se-

cretary noted that Cheong's résumé demonstrates her professional ability to take on the job.

Cheong graduated from the University of Macau with a bachelor's degree in software engineering.

She entered the public service in August 2002. From 2003, she spent 17 years at the Identification Bureau, where Ao Ieong was the head before being promoted to secretary.

Over the past two

months, Cheong has worked as a consultant at the Secretariat for Administration and Justice.

The outgoing deputy director, Chan Kai Chon, took the position on January 22 last year. Chan resigned from the vice-directorship but will remain at the IC as a Primary Consultant Senior Technician.

Chan has appeared at several IC press conferences regarding World Heritage sites and scenery protection. AL

Scientific leaps essential to lifting border restrictions, say medical experts

ANTHONY LAM

THE existence of an effective vaccine is a crucial condition for the lifting of border restrictions such as quarantines, Dr. Alvis Lo, medical director of the public Conde São Januário Hospital, has said.

At yesterday's Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center press conference, the doctor explained that, globally, prevention and control of the pandemic was full of uncertainties.

"Let's look at the infection figures each day," Lo said. "Many places still see new infections and deaths [being] recorded."

Before discussing vaccinations, he said that Macau is relatively fortunate to have the opportunity to discuss the lifting of certain border restrictions, instead of the number of new infections or deaths.

"As per the current global situation, I believe we need a new thing to get the condition fully under control," he said. "By a new thing I mean, for example, vaccination and medications."

According to Lo, when an aca-

AP PHOTO



demic from the Chinese Academy of Engineering, Zhong Nanshan, visited Macau a few days ago, he suggested that at least five vaccinations in China alone have reached the second phase of clinical trials.

"We need to have hope. Science is progressing. We need to bear in mind that many groups of people are working on vaccinations and medications," Lo said as an encouragement.

"Our containment efforts have

worked out and can be considered successful."

On the hopes of returning to normal border-crossings without nucleic acid tests, health codes and masks, Lo said it would only be possible with effective vaccinations and medications. "It should take some time," the doctor said.

As for the requirements to wear masks, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said that the health authorities have been

working on a guideline, but that the situation has changed, so it has been put on hold for now.

"We have been working on amending the guideline," Leong explained. "During this [period], Beijing had new infections, that's why we have decided to wait and see if any impacts will be felt in Macau or our neighboring regions."

Leong added that an announcement will be made if any updates become available.

Meanwhile, it was reported that some people were trying to depart Macau for overseas via the special ferry service to the Hong Kong International Airport. They were barred from boarding the ferry because their trips involved transit stops between Hong Kong and their final destinations.

When questioned about the situation, Lau Fong Chi, head of the Public Relations Division of the Macao Government Tourism Office, said, "We are aware of a press release issued yesterday by the Airport Authority in Hong Kong, which explained the fact that some measures are in place with regards to transit passengers."

This was because some transit passengers were stranded at Hong Kong International Airport as they could not board their connecting flights.

"It is possible that the Airport Authority has enacted certain special measures on certain flights of certain airlines," Lau added. "It only affects transit passengers catching a connecting flight in Hong Kong but not those departing Macau and catching a flight there."

HK quarantine extension won't obstruct travel bubble, health authorities say

THE recent extension of the Hong Kong SAR's mandatory quarantine measures should not be seen as a total wipe-out of previous negotiations with the Macau and mainland governments, according to Dr. Alvis Lo, medical director of the public Conde São Januário Hospital.

This statement implies that the pending travel bubble, which would allow visitors from the three jurisdictions in southern China to move between one another while still blocking entry to overseas visitors, may still go ahead.

Hong Kong this week extended its 14-day mandatory quarantine requirements in relation to entrants from Macau, mainland China and Taiwan to at least August 7.

The deadline is being extended each month as Hong Kong works to keep local outbreaks of Covid-19 under control and as the city grapples with a host of other issues, from the controversial national security law to "technical issues" relating to health



code implementation.

"It doesn't imply that our previous negotiations didn't work out or agreed measures will only be implemented after August 7," said the medical director, when asked yesterday to comment on the neighboring region's policy.

"It is only an extension to an already-existing policy."

Lo gave assurances in the press conference that the extension would not obstruct any negotiations concerning the governments of the two Special Administrative Regions. However, Lo noted that currently there are no special details that he can disclose.

Hong Kong Chief Executive

Carrie Lam previously announced that travel bubble plans for Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China had stalled over "technical issues."

The Hong Kong official had also previously said that she had already spoken with Macau Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng regarding the matter, and that both governments had been working hard to facilitate travel between the two SARs for their residents.

This is the second time that the quarantine measures have been extended.

The preventive measure was first extended until July 7, two weeks later than originally stipulated. AL/LV

MACAU EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR HK NATIONAL SECURITY LAW

THE government of the Macau SAR has come out in staunch support of the national security legislation passed by the Central Government on the mainland (see more on p6-7).

A statement issued yesterday by Macau's Government Information Bureau argued that, in formulating the legislation, the central authorities had "respect[ed] Hong Kong's enjoyment of a high degree of autonomy and the fundamental rights and freedoms of its citizens."

The local government also said that the legislation reinforced the "long-term successful implementation of the 'One country, two systems' principle."

"Safeguarding national security is a core element for ensuring the country's prolonged stability, and the long-term stability and prosperity of its two SARs. Such a task is both a duty and responsibility of all citizens across the nation, including those in Hong Kong and Macau," the government said in the statement. "[These] are essential duties to ensuring successful implementation of the 'One country, two systems' principle."

Macau passed its own national security legislation in 2009. In 2018, Macau set up a committee to safeguard national security, and to coordinate and enforce local initiatives relating to national security.

According to yesterday's statement, the Macau SAR will continue to build on local legislation concerning the safeguarding of national security, while stepping up promotional effort within the community on the matter. Meanwhile, Macau will work closely with Hong Kong regarding the enhancement of enforcement mechanisms relating to national security.

AP PHOTO



A man displays the Hong Kong colonial flag on the anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China from Britain in Hong Kong yesterday

UK extends immigration rights for 3 million eligible Hong Kongers

SYLVIA HUI, LONDON

BRITAIN announced yesterday that it was extending residency rights to up to 3 million Hong Kongers eligible for the British National Overseas passport, stressing that it would uphold its historic duty to a former British colony after Beijing imposed a sweeping new national security law in Hong Kong.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab told lawmakers that Britain was changing its immigration rules to allow BNO passport holders a special route to citizenship. Eligible individuals from Hong Kong will have the right to live and work in the U.K. for five years without the current six-month limit. After five years, those who wish to will be allowed to apply for settled status and then again for citizenship 12 months after that.

Britain's government estimates there are around 2.9 million British National Overseas passport-holders currently in Hong Kong. It says its extended residency rules would apply to them and their immediate dependents.

No exact date was given for the new rule's implementation, and Raab said further details will be announced later.

The announcement came hours after China imposed a sweeping new national security law in Hong Kong that Britain calls a flagrant breach of China's international obligations and a "clear and serious violation" of the Sino-British Joint Declaration.

That treaty paved the way for Hong Kong's handover from British to Chinese rule in 1997, and was supposed to guarantee at least 50 years of Western-style rule of law and civil liberties for Hong Kong under a "One Country, Two Systems" principle until 2047.

Chinese officials have in the past referred to the document as a "historical document," a claim that Britain strongly rejects.

"China's decision to impose national security legislation on Hong Kong is deeply regrettable. Now China have imposed this law we will launch a new immigration route for British Nationals Overseas and their families," Home Secretary Priti Patel said. "The UK has a historic and moral obligation to British Nationals Overseas in Hong Kong and we will honor our commitment to them."

Raab said Tuesday that Beijing's decision to impose the security law on Hong Kong lay in "direct conflict with China's international obligations."

He said yesterday that the trust in China's ability to live up to its international responsibilities took "a big step backwards."

"We fought very hard and we negotiated with the Chinese back in the 1980s to have the freedom for peaceful protest and freedom of expression to be respected," Raab said. "China through this national security legislation is not living up to its promises to the people of Hong Kong. We will live up to our promises to them." AP

HONG Kong police made their first arrests yesterday under a new national security law imposed a day earlier by China's central government, detaining ten people suspected of violating it during protests by thousands of people.

Police said one man with a Hong Kong independence flag was arrested at a protest in the city's Causeway Bay shopping district. Police arrested another woman for holding up a sign displaying the British flag and calling for Hong Kong's independence. Three other women were detained for possessing items advocating independence. Further details were not immediately available.

Hong Kong police said on Facebook that they arrested some 370 people on various charges, including unlawful assembly, possession of weapons and violating the national security law.

The arrests come as thousands took to the streets yesterday in an anti-government protest on the 23rd anniversary of Britain's handover of Hong Kong to China in 1997. For the first time, police banned this year's annual march. Protesters shouted slogans, lambasted police and held up signs condemning the Chinese government and the new security law.

The law, imposed by China following last year's anti-government protests in the semi-autonomous territory, makes secessionist, subversive, or terrorist activities illegal, as well as foreign intervention in the city's internal affairs. Any person taking part in secessionist activities, such as shouting slogans or holding up banners and flags calling for the city's independence, is violating the law regardless of whether violence is used.

The most serious offenders, such as those deemed to be masterminds behind the crimes, could receive a maximum punishment of life imprisonment. Lesser offenders could receive jail terms of up to three years, short-term detention or restriction.

Hong Kong's leader strongly

HANDOVER MARCH

Hong Kong police r

endorsed the new law in a speech marking yesterday's 23rd anniversary of the handover of the territory — officially called the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region — from British colonial rule.

"The enactment of the national law is regarded as the most significant development in the relationship between the central authorities and the HKSAR since Hong Kong's return to the motherland," chief executive Carrie Lam said in a speech, following a flag-raising ceremony and the playing of China's national anthem.

"It is also an essential and timely decision for restoring stability in Hong Kong," she said.

DEMOCRATS: LAW ENDS AUTONOMY

A pro-democracy political party, The League of Social Democrats, organized a protest march during the flag-raising ceremony. About a dozen participants chanted slogans echoing demands from protesters last year for political reform and an investigation into accusations of police abuse.

The law's passage Tuesday further blurs the distinction between the legal systems of Hong Kong, which maintained aspects of British law after the 1997 handover, and the mainland's authoritarian Communist Party system. Critics say the law effectively ends the "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong was promised a high degree of autonomy.

The law directly targets some of the actions of anti-government protesters last year, which included attacks on government offices and police stations, damage to subway stations and the shutdown of the city's international airport. Acts of vandalism against government facilities or public transit can be prosecuted as subversion or terrorism, while anyone

taking part in activities deemed secessionist would also be in violation of the law.

Pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo said in a news conference that the security legislation does not abide by the rule of law and is a dire warning to the free press.

"This would tell you that they want not just to get us, but to intimidate us into inaction, into a catatonic state," Mo said.

Hong Kong's police force said they would consider as illegal any flag or banner raised by protesters deemed to promote Hong Kong's separation from China or express support for independence for Tibet, Xinjiang or the self-governing island democracy of Taiwan that China claims as its own.

Police will use a new purple flag to warn protesters if they display banners or shout slogans that may constitute a crime under the law.

Concerns have also been raised over the fate of key opposition figures, some of whom have already been charged for taking part in protests, as well as the disqualification of candidates for Legislati-



Police detain a protester

AP PHOTO



Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam (center): law "essential and timely decision for restoring stability in Hong Kong"

make first arrests under new security law



After being pepper sprayed during a protest in Causeway Bay before the annual handover march in Hong Kong

ve Council elections scheduled for September.

BEIJING: PEOPLE MAY CRITICIZE CCP

In Beijing, the executive deputy director of the Cabinet's Hong Kong affairs office, Zhang Xiaoming, said Hong Kong people are allowed to criticize the ruling Communist Party but cannot turn those complaints "into actions."

"What happened recently in Hong Kong has shown a deviation from the right track of the

'one country, two systems' (framework)," Zhang told reporters yesterday.

"To some extent, we made this law in order to correct the deviation ... to pull it closer to 'one-country.'"

Zhang also said that, "The law is a 'sword of Damocles' hanging above extremely few criminals who are severely endangering national security."

Schools, social groups, media outlets, websites and others will be monitored and their national security awareness will

be raised, according to the law, while the central government will have authority over the activities of foreign non-governmental organizations and media outlets in Hong Kong.

The law says central government bodies in Hong Kong will take over in "complicated cases" and when there is a serious threat to national security. Local authorities are barred from interfering with central government bodies operating in Hong Kong while they are carrying out their duties.

Security legislation was mandated under Hong Kong's local constitution, but an earlier attempt to pass it in the city's legislative body in 2003 was shelved because of massive public opposition. Beijing finally decided to circumvent the Hong Kong legislature and have the law passed Tuesday by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament.

President Xi Jinping signed a presidential order putting the law into effect, and it has been added to the Basic Law, Hong Kong's constitution.

The law's passage comes after Hong Kong's legislature in early June approved a contentious bill making it illegal to insult the Chinese national anthem.

The law's enactment deepened concerns abroad about Hong Kong's future.

REACTIONS ABROAD

Britain's foreign secretary told reporters yesterday that the law "is a clear and serious violation" of the Sino-British Joint Declaration, the agreement that paved the way for the former British colony's handover to Chinese rule.

Dominic Raab said officials have carefully assessed the law and he plans to set out details of what action the U.K. will take along with its international partners in response.

The U.S. is moving to end special trade terms given to the territory. The Trump administration has also said it will bar defense exports to Hong Kong and will soon require licenses for the sale of items that have both civilian and military uses.

The U.S. Congress has also moved to impose sanctions on people deemed connected to political repression in Hong Kong, including police officials, while Britain has said it could offer residency and possible citizenship to about 3 million of Hong Kong's 7.5 million people.

China has said it will impose

visa restrictions on Americans it sees as interfering over Hong Kong.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo denounced the threat of a visa ban as a sign of "how Beijing refuses to take responsibility for its own choices" and said the law's adoption "destroys the territory's autonomy and one of China's greatest achievements."

Beijing's "paranoia and fear of its own people's aspirations have led it to eviscerate the very foundation of the territory's success," Pompeo said in a statement.

TAIWAN OPENS HK MIGRATION OFFICE

Taiwan yesterday opened an office to facilitate migration from Hong Kong following China's passage of a national security law for the former British colony seen as sharply restricting political opposition and freedom of speech.

Taiwan is a self-governing democracy claimed by China as its own territory and has firmly rejected Beijing's demand that it unify with the mainland under the "one country, two systems" framework in place in Hong Kong.

At a ribbon-cutting ceremony, Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council minister, Chen Ming-tong, said the office would assist Hong Kong professionals seeking to move to the island for a range of purposes, including education and business.

The establishment of the office is "not only a statement on Taiwan's support to Hong Kong's democracy and freedom, but also highlights our determination to care for Hong Kong people," Chen told reporters.

Chen said the law's implementation effectively terminates China's promise to allow Hong Kong to retain its separate legal, economic and civil rights promised to it for 50 years beginning from the 1997 return to Chinese rule. MDT/AP

SPEAKING at the 44th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council yesterday [Macau time] in Cuba on behalf of 52 countries welcomed the adoption of the law on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) by China's top legislature.

The number of countries, which signed the

52 countries welcome adoption of law on safeguarding national security in HK

joint statement Cuba read at the session, is expected to rise.

"Non-interference in internal affairs of sovereign states is an essential principle enshrined in the

Charter of the United Nations and a basic norm of international relations," a representative of Cuba read the joint statement.

"In any country, the legislative power on national

security issues rests with State, which in essence is not a human rights issue and therefore not subject to discussion at the Human Rights Council," said the statement.

"We believe that every country has the right to safeguard its national security through legislation, and commend relevant steps taken for this purpose."

"In this context, we

welcome the adoption of the decision by China's legislature to establish and improve a legal framework and enforcement mechanisms for the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region HKSAR for the purpose of safeguarding national security, as well as China's reaffirmation of adherence to 'one country, two systems' guideline," the statement said. XINHUA

AP PHOTO



Calls for UN probe of China forced birth control on Uighurs, which Beijing denies

POLITICIANS around the world have called for a United Nations probe into a Chinese government birth control campaign targeting largely Muslim minorities in the far western region of Xinjiang, even as Beijing said it treats all ethnicities equally under the law.

They were referring to an Associated Press investigation published this week that found the Chinese government is taking draconian measures to slash birth rates among Uighurs and other minorities, while encouraging some of the country's Han majority to have more children. The Inter-Parliamentary Alliance on China, a group of European, Australian, North American, and Japanese politicians from across the political spectrum, demanded an independent U.N. investigation.

"The world cannot remain silent in the face of unfolding atrocities," the group said in a statement.

The AP found that the Chinese government regularly subjects minority women in Xinjiang to pregnancy checks and forces intrauterine devices, sterilization and even abortion on hundreds of thousands. New research obtained by The Associated Press in advance of publication by China scholar Adrian Zenz also showed that the hundreds of millions of dollars the government pours into birth control has transformed Xinjiang from one of China's fastest-growing regions to among its slowest in just a few years.

The AP found that 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, documents and interviews show, with the parents of three or more ripped away from their families unless they can pay huge fines.

The U.S. Commission on International Religious Free-

dom called for a U.N. and State Department investigation, saying the Chinese government's birth control campaign "might meet the legal criteria for genocide." According to a U.N. convention, "imposing measures intended to prevent births" with "intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group" is considered evidence of genocide. The last colonial governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, told Bloomberg Television that the birth control campaign was "arguably something that comes within the terms of the UN views on sorts of genocide."

The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee cal-

led the forced birth control "beyond deplorable," and said that "a nation that treats its own people this way should never be considered a great power." U.S. senators Kirsten Gillibrand and Kamala Harris wrote a letter urging the Trump administration to respond to an "alarming" AP investigation, and U.S. Senator Marco Rubio and Representative Ro Khanna also called for action.

U.S. President Donald

Zhao Lijian fired back by calling Pompeo 'a brazen liar,' saying the Uighur population had more than doubled since 1978

Trump told China President Xi Jinping he was right to build detention camps to house hundreds of thousands of ethnic minorities, according to a new book by former national security adviser John Bolton. However, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said the reports of forced birth control for minorities were "shocking" and "disturbing" in a statement Monday.

"We call on the Chinese Communist Party to immediately end these horrific practices," he said.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian fired back on Tuesday by calling Pompeo "a brazen liar," saying the Uighur population had more than doubled since

1978 in response to criticism of Xinjiang's birth control policies.

"If Mr. Pompeo is telling the truth, how can he explain the big increase in the Uighur population?" Zhao asked.

For decades, Xinjiang's population grew quickly, as minorities enjoyed laxer birth control restrictions than Han Chinese. But in just three years, new measures have caused the birth rate in Xinjiang's Uighur-majority areas to plunge, and it is now well under the national average.

Zhao also said the American government had been responsible for "genocide, racial segregation and assimilation policies" on Native Americans. Darren Byler said the Chinese state-orchestrated assault on Xinjiang's minorities does echo past birth control programs.

"It recalls the American eugenics movement which targeted Native and African Americans up until the 1970s," he said. "China's public health authorities are conducting a mass experiment in targeted genetic engineering on Turkic Muslim populations."

In response to the AP story, which he called "fake news," Zhao said the government treats all ethnicities equally and protects their legal rights. Chinese officials have said in the past that the new measures are merely meant to be fair, with the law now allowing minorities and China's Han majority the same number of children. AP

this day in history



1964 PRESIDENT JOHNSON SIGNS CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

The Civil Rights Bill - one of the most important pieces of legislation in American history - has become law.

US President Lyndon B Johnson signed the bill creating equal rights in voting, education, public accommodations, union membership and in federally assisted programmes - regardless of race, colour, religion or national origin.

The bill has caused much controversy since it was introduced last year by President John F Kennedy.

It was signed tonight in the White House five hours after the House of Representatives passed it by 289 to 126 votes.

After the signing, President Johnson shook hands with civil rights leader Dr Martin Luther King.

In a television address to the nation he called on US citizens to "eliminate the last vestiges of injustice in America".

"Let us close the springs of racial poison," he said.

Parts of the bill take immediate effect, including the "public accommodations" element which means black people can no longer be excluded from restaurants, hotels, bars, cinemas, sports stadia and other public facilities.

Sections on voting rights and desegregation of schools are also enforceable from now and give the Attorney General more power to intervene where necessary.

The section on equal opportunity in employment will not begin to operate for another year and will not be fully effective for five years.

During the debate on the bill, segregationist politicians from America's deep south expressed their disappointment and anger.

Congressman Howard Smith of Virginia called it a "monstrous oppression of the people".

Civil rights activists have welcomed the new law. Roy Wilkins, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People described it as "the Magna Carta of human rights".

He applauded the appointment of former governor of Florida Leroy Collins as director of the new Community Relations Service, set up to deal with issues arising from the desegregation of public facilities and institutions.

The Civil Rights Commission has announced a campaign to implement the law.

And Dr King said he would be seeking commitments from businesses and community leaders all over the south to respect the new law under a campaign called Operation Dialogue.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Extra civil rights measures were introduced in the following years.

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 aimed at removing the rights of states to introduce restrictions to stop certain people voting. The 1968 Civil Rights Act outlaws discrimination in the sale or rental of housing.

Many states acted quickly to circumvent the law which led to a great feeling of injustice and resentment in the inner cities and the rest of the decade was marred by race riots and assassinations.

Black leader Malcolm X was shot in 1965 and Martin Luther King was killed in 1968.

The black ghetto riots between 1964 and 1968 marked the most prolonged period of unrest in the United States since the American Civil War. They were finally suppressed when tens of thousands of National Guardsmen were sent in to quell them.

Black people continued to remain at a disadvantage when looking for work, and programmes of "affirmative action" were introduced during the 1970s under President Nixon.

The Civil Rights Act of 1991 encouraged positive discrimination and allowed lawsuits against employers if their hiring had a "disparate impact" on women or minorities, even if there was no proof of discriminatory intent.

YOUR STARS**ARIES****Mar. 21-Apr. 19**

Being intrigued by new people and new cultures will energize you to a point that you might finally understand what you really need to be doing with your life. The blinders are coming off.

**TAURUS****Apr. 20-May. 20**

Step back, slow down, and try to keep yourself busy just having a good time. Take a long lunch or a long walk - whatever will keep you peacefully distracted.

**GEMINI****May. 21-Jun. 21**

Go ahead and take the good advice of friends and associates. Who cares if that means they'll know how much influence they have over you?

**CANCER****Jun. 22-Jul. 22**

Eloquence is right up there, too: The right words will always be right at the tip of your tongue, and you will be in plenty of situations to make the most of your wit.

**LEO****Jul. 23-Aug. 22**

Your brain is a big and vital organ - and it's nowhere near even half full! Spend some time learning something new today, and you'll be doing something very good for yourself.

**VIRGO****Aug. 23-Sep. 22**

Too many variables are at play, and the chances that you will emerge from the arrangement without losses are very slim. Define your boundaries today.

**SCORPIO****Oct. 23-Nov. 21**

All you need to do is avoid conflict. So try to resist your natural urge to go against the crowd, because it could ruffle a few feathers. Just go with the flow and play nice.

**CAPRICORN****Dec. 22-Jan. 19**

A door is opening in your career, but it might require you to leave your family for a while. Travel is something that you usually enjoy quite a bit, but this time it could be a lot more work than you were expecting.

**SAGITTARIUS****Nov. 22-Dec. 21**

Today, despite the tension that you can sense brewing under the surface, you should just focus on having fun. The impending drama is not something you created, and it is absolutely not your responsibility.

**AQUARIUS****Jan. 20-Feb. 18**

The patterns you have developed in your social life are becoming a little bit boring - what you need right now is a new cast of characters, and a new agenda for fun.

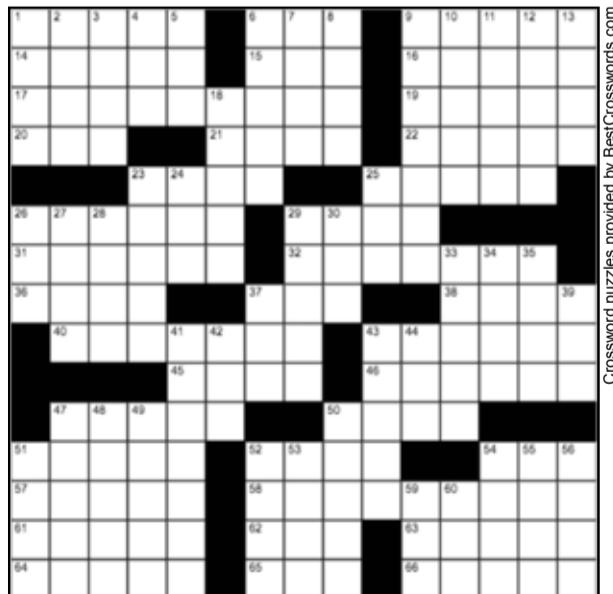
**PISCES****Feb. 19-Mar. 20**

Today, if you let yourself get drawn into a mystery, you will be giving this mystery power over you. Don't try to figure out why things are happening the way they are happening.

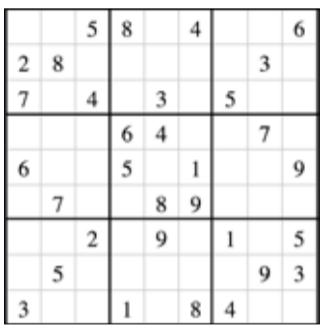
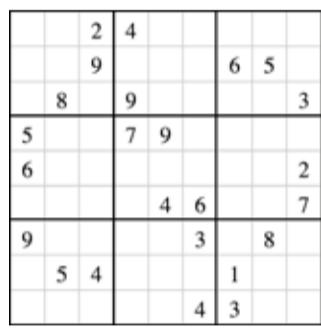
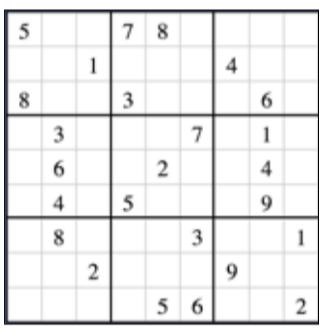
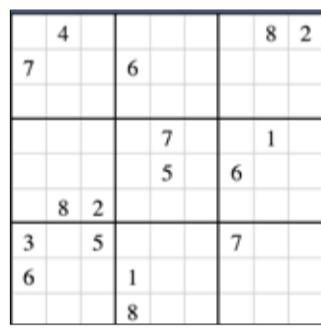
CROSSWORD

ACROSS: 1- Tries; 6- CPR specialist; 9- Connect with; 14- Winter drink; 15- Vegas roller; 16- Cowboy, at times; 17- Connoisseur of wine; 19- Atlas feature; 20- "Cats" monogram; 21- Terminates; 22- Sanctimonious; 23- Hip bones; 25- Brace; 26- Predaceous insect; 29- Able was _____.; 31- Fix beforehand; 32- Marsh plant; 36- Actor Ian; 37- ___ Lingus; 38- Archer of myth; 40- 1992 David Mamet play; 43- Mistakes; 45- Underworld river; 46- Shares viewpoints; 47- Hiding place; 50- Salinger girl; 51- Without ___ in the world; 52- Bygone Dodge; 54- Give one star, say; 57- It beats rock; 58- At the same time; 61- Driving hazard; 62- List-ending abbr.; 63- Money spent; 64- Viscounts' superiors; 65- Rebellious Turner; 66- One of the Allens;

DOWN: 1- Dundee denizen; 2- Some digits; 3- Teen spots?; 4- Halloween greeting; 5- Dupe; 6- Minneapolis suburb; 7- Temperate; 8- Driving aids; 9- Combination of three; 10- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 11- ___ salts; 12- Get ready to drive; 13- Table scraps; 18- Robbery; 23- "Who's there?" reply; 24- Fail to tell the truth; 25- PC component; 26- Dashboard abbr.; 27- Buck follower; 28- Dudley Do-Right's love; 29- Mountaineer's tool; 30- Unit of corn; 33- Lofty nest; 34- Wrinkle remover; 35- Knowledge; 37- In whatever degree; 39- Draft org.; 41- Declares positively; 42- Advanced degree?; 43- Reddish dye; 44- Tach reading; 47- Milan's La ___; 48- Get to the point?; 49- Staggering; 50- Make into a statute; 51- Semicircular recess; 52- Portent; 53- Intro to physics; 54- Old German helmet; 55- Pond organism; 56- Light gas; 59- Anguish; 60- Humble dwelling;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**SUDOKU****EASY****EASY+****MEDIUM****HARD****WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Beijing	22	29	thundershower
Harbin	18	31	cloudy
Tianjin	24	32	thundershower
Urumqi	18	30	clear
Xi'an	22	35	clear
Lhasa	13	25	cloudy
Chengdu	21	34	cloudy
Chongqing	23	28	drizzle
Kunming	16	23	moderate to heavy rain
Nanjing	23	26	thundershower
Shanghai	23	26	drizzle
Wuhan	25	28	heavy rain
Hangzhou	4	29	drizzle to moderate rain
Taipei	26	30	moderate rain
Guangzhou	26	32	thundershower
Hong Kong	26	31	thundershower

WORLD

Moscow	16	22	cloudy
Frankfurt	17	25	drizzle
Paris	16	21	drizzle
London	12	19	cloudy
New York	21	25	drizzle

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Fire department 28 572 222

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

PJ (Open line) 993

Telephone – Report 1000

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

PSP 28 573 333

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081

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

**FOR SALE**Hellene Gardens, Coloane
HK\$15,800,000 2,530 ft² 3 2 2 2**FOR RENT**One Central, Macau - Lovely 2 bedroom
\$25,000/mth 1,269 ft² 2 2 2**FOR SALE**

[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)
[Macau] Seaview Garden	3 2 2	1,420 ft² \$10,900,000	(ref: 20016004)
[Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom	2 3 2	2,530 ft² \$12,980,000	(ref: 19096000)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Delightful 1 Bed	1 1 1	820 ft² \$9,500/mth	(ref: 20051001)
[Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment	2 1 1	600 ft² \$9,900/mth	(ref: n/a)
[Taipa] Great View Apartment	4 2 2	2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth	(ref: 20031001)
[Taipa] Private house	2 3 3	4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth	(ref: 19055006ST)

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CHINA REOPENS BUT BUSINESSES STRUGGLE TO LURE BACK CONSUMERS

JOE McDONALD, BEIJING

THE Daronge restaurant in Chengdu in China's west has reopened but, with business down by half, its staff of 150 come to work on alternate days.

Three months after China declared victory over the coronavirus and started to reopen its economy, the restaurant is among thousands of small businesses that are struggling to lure back skittish consumers nervous about the virus and possible job losses.

"People still worry about eating out," said an employee, Ming Yuan. "We are giving customers coupons in hopes they will come back."

Official data show many Chinese industries, from auto manufacturing to e-commerce, are returning to pre-virus activity levels. But retailers, restaurants and other businesses that employ millions of people were hit especially hard. That raises questions about how fast the economy can generate new jobs for people who lost theirs in the pandemic.

"The Chinese economy is recovering, but very, very slowly," said Iris Pang of ING.

China faces a bumpy road to recovery. Demand for exports is weak as infections rise in the United States, Brazil and other markets. Summer flooding set back the recovery in some southern areas.

Already soured by a tariff war, relations with Washington have worsened further over a security law imposed on Hong Kong.

The Trump administration has revoked some of Hong Kong's trading privileges. That threatens to undercut its status as a major port.

The slow pace of China's recovery is sobering for countries that are struggling to manage

AP PHOTO



their own viral outbreaks.

In the United States, businesses in some states reopened in May. Employers added a surprise 2.5 million jobs that month. But that followed losses in March and April that have left roughly 30 million Americans unemployed.

Analysts expect U.S. data due out Thursday to show a gain of 3 million jobs in June. But more states are suspending or reversing reopening orders amid new viral outbreaks, suggesting hiring could slow or decline in July.

In China, Citigroup said Monday its measures of business activity indicate a "weakening in the recovery momentum of industrial production" as well as consumer demand and public movement.

Forecasters expect economic growth to resume as early as this quarter after industrial production returned to positive territory in May, when it grew 4.4% over a year earlier. That was boosted by higher government spending on building bridges and other public works, Beijing's traditional strategy for pumping money

quickly into the economy.

Estimates of this year's economic growth range from the low single digits to a small contraction.

The government has promised to spend 2 trillion yuan (\$280 billion) to create 9 million jobs. But Beijing, leery of adding to already high debt, avoided joining the United States, Japan and other major economies in announcing a \$1 trillion-plus stimulus package.

"That has a cost," said Pang. "It means the Chinese economy will recover only very, very slowly."

The job-creation target is only a fraction of losses.

Private sector analysts say as much as 30% of the urban workforce, or as many as 130 million people, lost their jobs at least temporarily during the shutdown. They say as many as 25 million jobs might be lost for good this year.

Some city governments have tried to draw customers back to vacant shopping malls by giving away discount coupons. That helped, but the scale of the gi-

veaways was modest in a market of 1.3 billion potential consumers. Spending in restaurants still was off 19% in May from a year earlier. Retail sales contracted 2.8%.

That is a setback for the ruling Communist Party's long-term goal of reducing reliance on exports and investment by nurturing self-sustaining growth based on consumer spending and service industries that generate jobs with less capital spending.

The ruling party appealed to companies to avoid layoffs during the two months that most business and travel were shut down. Entrepreneurs were promised tax breaks and loans. Premier Li Keqiang said in May the government wants to encourage consumers to spend by making sure 70% of its stimulus is channeled into wages.

But the scale of the aid is limited and the official Xinhua News Agency has acknowledged it has been hampered by red tape and the reluctance of state-owned banks to deal with struggling private businesses they see as a bad risk.

Wu Dani, who owns a snack

shop in the eastern city of Jinan, said her revenue is down 90% from before the outbreak. From a workforce of 10, only she and one employee remain.

"We never benefited from government policies. It's just empty talk," Wu said. "If the government announced new policies to support businesses during the coronavirus outbreak, it would only benefit my landlord."

A virus outbreak in Beijing last month sparked fears of a second wave of infections. Authorities imposed travel controls on the capital and ordered testing of thousands of residents. But other local outbreaks have been contained relatively quickly, limiting their impact.

Manufacturing activity improved in June but export demand was weak, according to a survey released Tuesday by the national statistics agency and an industry group, the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing.

The monthly purchasing managers' index rose to 50.9 from May's 50.6 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity expanding. Its employment sub-index sank to 49.1 from May's 50.2, indicating employers were cutting jobs.

"The external environment is very severe," the Federation said in a statement. It said production is "still significantly higher" than demand.

Business "hasn't turned around yet," said the owner of a clothing factory with 20 employees in the western city of Xi'an.

The owner, who refused to give her name, said she used to make 100,000 yuan (\$16,000) a year but has lost tens of thousands of yuan this year.

"I am almost on the verge of closing the factory," she said. AP

CORPORATE BITS

Sands Cares Ambassadors host teamLab experience for children with disabilities

Sands Cares Ambassadors recently hosted a group of children with disabilities at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo, where they experienced teamLab SuperNature Macao's immersive art space, as part of the company's efforts to give back to community.

The Sands Cares Ambassadors accompanied and guided the children through the teamLab exhibit, where they enjoyed interactive experiences like The Infinite Crystal Universe, Valley of

Flowers and People and Sketch Ocean.

The participating community associations were Cradle of Hope Association, Macau Down Syndrome Association, Macau Autism Association and Macau Deaf Association.

"In every community, underprivileged children deserve our extra care and attention, and our team of volunteers enjoys the opportunity to help nurture them and provide them with positive developmental opportunities," said Dr. Wilfred Wong,

president of Sands China Ltd. "We're very glad that this visit to teamLab could contribute to our company's efforts to give back to community through our Sands Cares program."

The Sands Cares Ambassador program was established in August 2009 to give Sands China team members a way to serve the local community by organizing community activities. The program has a membership of over 3,300 volunteers from across all of Sands China's properties.

MGM, business incubator to polish young entrepreneurs' skills

Organized by MGM, Parafuturo de Macau (PFM Macau) and the Macao Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre (MYEIC), the "MYEIC x MGM Young Entrepreneur Nurturing Program" was officially launched Tuesday.

This two-year program offers participants professional guidance through mentorship with industry professionals, with the aim of enhancing business skills, professional knowledge and the competitiveness of young entrepreneurs.

Kenneth Feng, president

of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "this collaboration can help young entrepreneurs determine the right strategies to connect with the market."

Chui Sai Peng, CEO of PFM Macau and chairman of MYEIC, said, "We truly understand the aspirations shared by every entrepreneur, which is to enter the market with their business projects, which is why we are co-hosting this 'MYEIC x MGM Young Entrepreneur Nurturing Program'."

The program will be di-

vided into eight rounds of professional mentorship and training programs. It will feature various areas such as branding and marketing, information technology, human resources, hotel operations and purchasing. Each of these training programs will be arranged by senior management figures from the field to provide tailored guidance.

The program is also enriched with other activities, such as on-site inspections, back-of-house visits and business-matching sessions. Interested enterprises or young entrepreneurs may apply to join via MYEIC.

HOWARD FENDRICH

IT'S a complete guessing game, but it's still fun to discuss: Will the legacies of the four most prominent and successful tennis players of today — and maybe ever — be affected by the coronavirus-interrupted 2020 season?

And how will Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic — known as the Big Three of the men's game — along with Serena Williams, fare whenever they do return to competition? (Federer is out until 2021 after twice needing arthroscopic knee surgery.)

Call them the Big Four. They rule their sport, on and off the court, and have done so to such an extent that no matter how many wins and losses might come the rest of the way, their places in history are secure. Williams owns 23 Grand Slam singles titles, the most in the professional era. Federer has a men's-record 20, Nadal 19 and Djokovic 17; no other man has more than 14.

They drive interest among tennis fans and non-fans, alike.

Let's be honest: What happens with them matters more than with other players, particularly when Williams is trying to equal Margaret Court's all-era mark of 24 majors, and when Nadal and Djokovic are closing in on Federer.

Also intriguing: Their ages. Federer and Williams turn 39 soon; Nadal is 34, Djokovic 33.

"It could be like, 'Huh, I really enjoy spending time at home.'

AP PHOTO



Switzerland's Roger Federer (right) congratulates Serbia's Novak Djokovic on winning their semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, in January 2020

TENNIS

No Wimbledon, jumbled season and 'Big 4' legacies

They're not in the rat race. There's no momentum. So emotionally and mentally, they could think, 'Ugh, do I really want to do this again? Do I really want to start up with training? Can I really, 100%, be focused?' said Chris Evert, an 18-time major champion. "Or, on the other side of the coin, they could have a sense of urgency and think, 'OK, I really need to appreciate my tennis for another year or so and I need to achieve my goals

now. I'm not getting any younger."

Wimbledon should have been happening right now but was called off for the first time since 1945 because of the COVID-19 outbreak. Sanctioned tennis has been suspended since March and, as of now, is scheduled to resume in August; the U.S. Open begins the last day of that month. The French Open, postponed in May, is now slated to start Sept. 27, two weeks

after the U.S. Open ends.

"It's much easier to (get) a body ready (that is) 21 years old, than a body that is 34 years old. That is 100 percent. But at the same time, a 34-year-old body and mind have much more experience than a body and mind of 21 years old. So I don't know what's going to happen," Nadal said.

"In general terms, it's better for a young guy, because all this period of time that we lost, a young

guy has plenty of time to recover. An older guy, in terms of 'timing,'" Nadal said, using his fingers to signal quotation marks, "we lost the same amount of time, (but) in terms of perspective, it's different. Because losing a year at 34 or 36 or 33, is not the same as losing a year at 20, when you have all your career in front of you."

Perhaps Nadal skips the hard courts of New York, where he's the defending champion, to be better rested and prepared for the red clay of Paris, where he could match Federer's 20 Slam triumphs with No. 13 at Roland Garros. Maybe Djokovic opts to go to the U.S. Open after sounding negative about it, figuring an absent Nadal ups his own chances.

Federer's best shot to add to his total probably would be at Wimbledon, where he's won eight times. Hard to say how many more attempts he'll get.

Williams, meanwhile, made it to the finals at four of the past seven Grand Slam tournaments, going 0-4. And even if she surprisingly bowed out in the third round at the Australian Open in January, there's little reason to believe she couldn't make another run, especially at the U.S. Open, where she is a six-time champion and was the runner-up in 2018 and 2019.

As for the prolonged break, Williams said: "I felt like my body needed it, even though I didn't want it. And now I'm feeling better than ever. I'm feeling more relaxed, more fit. Now I'm just like: Now I can go out and play real tennis." AP

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OPINION

World Views

Marcus Ashworth, Bloomberg

HOW EVERYBODY LEARNED TO LOVE THE EURO

The euro is at its strongest level for nearly two years on the European Central bank's own official trade-weighted index, which compares it with a basket of other leading currencies. In the past, this would have been a serious worry for the world's largest trading bloc. The continent, with Germany at the forefront, is heavily dependent on exports.

But things are different this time. The first stage of the post-Coronavirus economic recovery will be driven by domestic consumers, rather than overseas purchasers of goods. As such, the robustness of the euro should be seen as a judgment on Europe's relative strength compared to the U.S. and other parts of the world.

So far at least, its management of the Covid-19 crisis from a health-care perspective has been far superior to that of the Americans. And the better you manage that, the more quickly you can reopen your economy.

For once, this looks like the type of currency strength that the ECB might tolerate, if it's a true reflection of improving domestic growth prospects.

Bloomberg Economics' activity trackers show a deep plunge in both the U.S. and European economies during lockdowns, but the recovery has been quicker and more complete in France and Germany, the main engines of the euro zone. In mid-June, French and German economic activity was at 80%-90% of normal levels, compared with 65% in the U.S.

The EU — and the ECB — won't want the euro to rise too fast and thereby threaten the next stage of any recovery by choking off export growth. Countries such as Italy, Spain, Greece and France will also have an eye on salvaging the summer tourist season, something that an inflated currency wouldn't help.

One might have expected the euro to be weaker given the ECB's massive 1.35 trillion-euro (\$1.5 billion) pandemic response. But with the other major central banks making similar interventions, that hasn't happened. Even negative ECB interest rates are no longer as powerful a deterrent, as other global rates have fallen substantially.

The U.S. Federal Reserve's crisis response has had a particular emphasis on capping dollar strength to prevent a systemic global recession, which is having a knock-on effect in boosting other currencies. But the euro is noticeably outperforming versus other major currencies too, such as the Chinese yuan and the British pound.

The real difference in Europe has been the combination of the ECB's monetary stimulus with a substantial domestic and EU-wide fiscal response. This has improved investor perceptions of the EU's longer-term growth potential. If even the famously parsimonious Germans are backing fiscal transfers to the hard-hit Italians and Spanish, this sends out a strong signal — one that's very different to the austerity imposed on Greece after the last crisis.

Monday's Franco-German summit between French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel was marked by a firm commitment to getting their proposed 750 billion-euro EU recovery fund over the line this summer. While Austria, the Netherlands, Sweden and Denmark have valid concerns about how the money's spent, the tide in Berlin has turned definitively in favor of a more unified economic response to keep the euro project alive.

Germany assumes the six-month rotating presidency of the EU today [Macau time], and Merkel won't want her legacy tarnished by another European failure. It's just a shame that it took a global pandemic to snap the Germans out of their austerity mindset. There are many roadblocks ahead in Europe's recovery, but a stronger currency shouldn't be one of them.

STUDY: CORONAVIRUS IMMUNITY MAY BE MORE WIDESPREAD THAN TESTS SUGGEST

People testing negative for coronavirus antibodies may still have some immunity, a study revealed yesterday by BBC News has suggested.

For every person testing positive for antibodies, two were found to have specific T-cells which identify and destroy infected cells. This was seen even in people who had mild or symptomless cases of Covid-19.

But it's not yet clear whether this just protects that individual, or if it might also stop them from passing on the infection to others.

According to BBC, researchers at the Karolinska Institute in Swe-

den tested 200 people for both antibodies and T-cells.

Some were blood donors while others were tracked down from the group of people first infected in Sweden, mainly returning from earlier affected areas like northern Italy.

This could mean a wider group have some level of immunity to Covid-19 than antibody testing figures.

It's likely those people did mount an antibody response, but either it had faded or was not detectable by the current tests. And these people should be protected if they are exposed to the virus for a second time.

AP PHOTO



Indonesia Authorities in Jakarta are extending for 14 days restrictions put in place to fight the spread of the coronavirus because cases are still on the rise. Jakarta has confirmed over 11,600 cases of the virus, including 632 deaths. In all, Indonesia has reported 57,770 cases, including 2,934 fatalities. Large-scale social restrictions were imposed in the capital on April 10 and were eased on June 10. Jakarta Gov.

India reported 18,653 new coronavirus cases and 507 deaths in the past 24 hours with June proving to be the worst month since the pandemic hit the country in late January. India's total cases reached 585,493 on Wednesday, more than 400,000 of them reported in June alone. India's health ministry said 17,400 people have died.



South Korea is considering listing religious facilities with nightclubs, hostess bars and karaoke rooms as "high risk" venues for the spread of COVID-19 following a slew of transmissions tied to church gatherings. Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said more than 40% of the country's newly confirmed infections over the previous three days were traced to places of worship.



USA Seattle police showed up in force yesterday at the city's "occupied" protest zone, tore down demonstrators' tents and used bicycles to herd the protesters after the mayor ordered the area cleared following two fatal shootings in less than two weeks. Television images showed no signs of clashes between the police, many dressed in riot gear, and dozens of protesters at the "Capitol Hill Occupied Protest" zone that was set up near downtown following the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

LITTLE EVIDENCE THAT PROTESTS SPREAD CORONAVIRUS IN US

MIKE STOBBE & NICKY FORSTER, NEW YORK

THREE is little evidence that the protests that erupted after George Floyd's death caused a significant increase in U.S. coronavirus infections, according to public health experts.

If the protests had driven an explosion in cases, experts say, the jumps would have started to become apparent within two weeks — and perhaps as early as five days. But that didn't happen in many cities with the largest protests, including New York, Chicago, Minneapolis, and Washington, D.C.

In what's considered the first systematic look at the question, a team of economists determined that only one of 13 cities involved

in the earliest wave of protests after Memorial Day had an increase that would fit the pattern.

It was Phoenix, where experts say cases and hospitalizations surged after a decision by Gov. Doug Ducey to end Arizona's stay-at-home order on May 15 and eased restrictions on businesses. Arizona residents who were cooped up for six weeks flooded Phoenix-area bar districts, ignoring social distancing

guidelines.

In many cities, the protests actually seemed to lead to a net increase in social distancing, as more people who did not protest decided to stay off the streets, said that study's lead author, Dhaval Dave of Bentley University.

"The large-scale protests can impact both the behavior of the protesters and the behavior of the non-protesters," said Dave. The paper was released last week by the National Bureau of Economic Research, but has not been published by a peer-reviewed journal.

In many cities, the protests actually seemed to lead to a net increase in social distancing

Drawing from data compiled by Johns Hopkins University, The Associated Press reviewed trends in daily reported cases in 22 U.S. cities with protests. It found post-protest increases in several cities — including Houston and Madison, Wisconsin — where experts say other factors were more likely the main drivers.

Health officials are still investigating case surges in different states, and more data may come in. But ex-

perts believe that if the protests did have a big impact on cases, stronger signs would be apparent now.

The killing of a black man at the hands of a white officer touched off protests around the United States. Coincidentally, some states had begun to lift social distancing restrictions in late May.

Dave and his colleagues counted protests over three weeks in 281 cities with populations of at least 100,000. Most had protests lasting more than three days, and many had protests that had at least 1,000 participants.

It's not clear how many protesters participated, let alone how many of them wore masks or got tested after. That may have varied from place to place.

It's hard to measure the protests' precise impact for a number of reasons.

Another factor: Many people don't get tested unless they feel symptoms. Many protesters were young adults, who generally are less likely to get severe illness, and therefore may not have gotten tested, experts said.

And some who do get tested may still not answer all the questions they are asked by outbreak investigators. AP