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**A GROWING NUMBER OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASES HAVE PROMPTED THE POLICE TO ISSUE WARNINGS IN SEVEN LANGUAGES** P2

**HK RECORDS WORST DAY IN THIRD WAVE AS LAST MACAU PATIENT RECOVERS** P4

**HONG KONG IS EMERGING AS A CASE STUDY OF HOW THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAS WIDENED AN ALREADY GAPING WEALTH GAP** P7

**Indonesia** A court sentenced two elite police officers to 18 months and two years in prison for attacking a senior anti-corruption investigator with acid, in a verdict slammed by rights groups and anti-graft activists, who had called for the maximum penalty of 12 years' imprisonment for premeditated attacks that cause permanent disability.



**Japan** A Japanese H-IIA rocket carrying a United Arab Emirates Mars spacecraft has been placed on the launch pad for today's scheduled liftoff for the Arab world's first interplanetary mission, officials said yesterday. The launch of the orbiter — named Amal, or Hope — from Tanegashima Space Center on a small southern Japanese island was initially scheduled for this past Wednesday, but was delayed due to bad weather in the region.



**Afghanistan** The Taliban have put the son of the movement's feared founder in charge of their military wing and added several powerful figures to their negotiating team, Taliban officials said. The shake-up, one of the most significant in years, comes ahead of expected talks with Kabul aimed at ending decades of war in Afghanistan.

**Australia** After a one-day respite, coronavirus cases in the Australian state of Victoria have risen again, prompting a move to make masks mandatory in metropolitan Melbourne and the nearby shire of Mitchell.

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# TOURISTS TODAY

SUBSIDIZED LOCAL TOURS PROVE A HIT WITH FAMILIES AND MIDDLE-AGED COUPLES P3



**MASS MARKET OUTPERFORMS VIP EVEN AT NEAR-ZERO REVENUE** P5

## JUDGE DISMISSES HARASSMENT LAWSUIT AGAINST WYNN RESORTS

The lawsuit was filed by nine anonymous women who alleged they were sexually harassed by former casino mogul Steve Wynn

P6

### OFF-DUTY PJ INSPECTOR DRIVES DRUNK AND CRASHES

An off-duty Judiciary Police (PJ) inspector was driving under the influence of alcohol and crashed into a series of parked motorcycles on the slope next to Government Headquarters early Saturday morning. His case was heard by the courts the next day. The Court of First Instance sentenced the inspector to three months' imprisonment suspended for one year on the condition that a donation of 8,000 patacas is made to the Fu Hong Society. The man's bureau has also commenced disciplinary action against him, the PJ announced. On top of that, the inspector also had his driver's license suspended for one year, meaning that he cannot legally drive a vehicle during that period.

### SECURITY CHIEF: NO SIGNS OF EXCESSIVE VIOLATIONS BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

In response to lawmaker Sulu Sou's accusation that law enforcement entities have a high number of law-breaking officials within their ranks, the Office of the Secretary for Security commented that this is only a "subjective judgment." The lawmaker stated that in first half of 2020, the law enforcement branch has been involved in allegations of money laundering, fraud, document forgery, theft and disciplinary violations. The lawmaker asked about the possibility of expanding the duties of the law enforcement discipline supervising body. The office stressed that the body reports directly to the Chief Executive now and that the law enforcement branch is obliged to respond to the supervisory body's inquiries. The recent unearthing of alleged violations shows the reliability of the supervisory mechanism, the office added.

### LAW ENFORCEMENT DECLINES TO OFFER JUNE 4 ARREST NUMBERS

In his written question sent on June 8, lawmaker Sulu Sou asked the Secretary for Security about the number of arrests and inquiries that law-enforcement entities made on the evening of June 4, as a vigil to be held on that date was banned by the Public Security Police Force, justified by the need to contain Covid-19. In addition, the two daughters of democrat lawmaker Au Kam San were arrested that night for being in possession of images related to the June 4 Incident. In their recent reply to the lawmaker, the Office of the Secretary declined Sou's request, noting that many of those cases were still under investigation. The refusal to hold the vigil was legal, the office pointed out in their reply.

# CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASES PROMPT POLICE TO ISSUE MULTILINGUAL PUBLIC WARNING

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE recently reported cases of people found in the possession of, or attempting to publish, pornographic content involving minors on several social media networks have prompted the Judiciary Police (PJ) to issue a public warning to all people in Macau.

The unprecedented government statement was issued in at least seven languages, including Chinese, Portuguese, English, Korean, Vietnamese, Indonesian and Nepali.

According to the reports, in the last few days several people have been found to have attempted to publish videos showing pornographic material involving underage people.

The PJ stated that the warning was prompted by a notification by the International Criminal

Police Organization, commonly known as INTERPOL. They notified the PJ of the cases after social media network managers reported the incidents.

In the statement, the PJ described the cases and the modus operandi, saying, "some individuals in Macau have been using social media platforms or communication software to transmit or distribute pornographic videos with minors. We are highly concerned and the designated division has immediately been assigned to investigate."

"The Judiciary Police has since cracked several cases related to pornographic materials with minors, and the people involved have been arrested and transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office. We shall continue cooperating with INTERPOL to prevent and combat crimes pertaining to child pornography."

The cases mentioned in the statement involved at least five different people of Chinese, Filipino and Nepalese nationalities. The force is not excluding the possibility of more people being detained for these types of crimes.

According to the Penal Code, the production, sale, retail, import, export or distribution of pornographic materials involving minors by any name or means is punishable by imprisonment of up to five years. The PJ notes that "procuring or possessing such materials for the purposes stated could be liable to the same penalty."

Additionally, the authorities also issued a warning, saying, "anyone who profits from or makes a means of living out of these activities could face imprisonment of up to 8 years."

The authority highlighted the

fact that even if the transference of such materials occurs privately and among friends, these crimes are still punishable by up to three years of imprisonment. They warned the public not to search for, visit or download content from any websites containing pornographic materials featuring minors, and to be aware that such acts carry serious consequences.

The PJ also calls on anyone who knows of any activities of this kind to cooperate with the police and report any illegal activities that may endanger minors.

The Times tried to obtain a clarification from the PJ as to whether the force suspects the existence of a possible syndicate in Macau dedicated to the production or distribution of such materials, but as of press time it was not possible to obtain a reply.

### CRIME

## Three eateries shutdown after supplier bust

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has ordered three eateries located in Taipa be shutdown after their supplier, a food processing company, was found to be breaching several hygiene and sanitation rules, the IAM informed.

The case comes after the Times reported last week that the Public Security Police Force (PSP) had announced the closing of a food processing company that was illegally operating from a residential unit also located in Taipa.

Further investigations led the municipal authorities to understand that the company, which supplied processed fish products, had the three eateries as its main clients. These included a dumpling restaurant and two other shops that were serving takeaway food on food delivery app "Aomi." The eateries were

ordered to close.

According to the initial report, apart from the illegal operation of the company from a residential unit, the police found a high number of sanitation problems in the apartment, including the presence of cockroaches and live fish being processed in the apartment's toilet.

In the statement, the IAM also informed that it ordered Aomi to remove the eateries, which are now unavailable, from their app.

Legal provisions on food safety state that the breaching of sanitation rules is punishable with a fine ranging from 50,000 to 600,000 patacas and that, in cases with severe consequences, it can be considered a crime punishable up to five years imprisonment.

The PSP had initially discovered the food processing company in the course of investigating a report of an illegal non-resident worker.

### CRIME

## SCHOOL CHILDREN USED TO SMUGGLE CIGARETTES

ANTHONY LAM

**D**UTY-NOT-PAID cigarettes have recently been found in the school bags of cross-border school children at the border, the Macao Customs has disclosed.

An image released by the customs authority shows a carton of cigarettes, which are believed to have been obtained as duty-free merchandise, in a blue school bag containing school materials such as textbooks and worksheets.

The bureau did not disclose whether the students were caught while crossing the border alone or with an accompanying adult. It did not disclose whether any adults have been arrested or had charges pressed against them for the discovery either.

Macau law prohibits the sale of cigarettes to or by

people under the age of 18.

Following the recent easing of border restrictions, the customs authority has busted several attempts to smuggle illicit cigarettes. In some cases, the cartons of cigarettes were wrapped around the waists of suspects using tape. In others, the goods were camouflaged in food packaging.

One major bust took place last Friday in a joint operation by Macau and Zhuhai customs at the Border Gate. A local man and a mainland woman, both in their early fifties, were caught trying to smuggle a total of 2,000 duty-not-paid cigarettes into Macau. Food packaging was used to wrap the goods.

The crime carries a fine up to 100,000 patacas, the customs authority said.

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**Times**

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LYNZY VALLES

SEVERAL hundred local residents toured Macau yesterday under a government subsidy program that aims to get local tour guides working again. The residents took on the role of tourists, who have been unable to visit Macau for months because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Launched a month ago, the "Macao Ready Go! Local Tours" are proving popular with families and middle-aged couples. The number of tour groups yesterday for one of the tours - code MA-A - numbered 20 with up to 40 participants per group.

Tour code MA-A is part of the six community-based tours in the scheme, and takes residents to the Lin Zexu Memorial Museum, the Handover Gifts Museum, Rua do Cunha and Coloane Village.

The tour is the cheapest of the 15 total tours available under the program, costing Macau residents 18 patacas and non-residents 298 patacas.

Nine itineraries for leisure tours have costs of up to 138 patacas for residents and 418 patacas for non-residents.

Upon visiting a travel agency that is affiliated with the government's scheme, a participant is handed a brochure in Chinese with all the details regarding the 15 itineraries. According to the Times' observations, some agencies were not keen to accommodate English-speaking participants. Staff said the tours were only conducted in Canto-

nese, and did not discuss further details.

At another travel agency, would-be participants are also handed a brochure in Chinese. The customer is asked to choose their preferred itinerary based on the photos before an English version of the tour is printed for them.

After registering, the allocated tour guide calls the participant two days prior to the tour date to remind them of the pick-up point and time.

Participants are given two options for the pick-up and drop-off location: either the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal or the Taipa Ferry Terminal.

Most tours start from 8:30 a.m., including the community-based tours. On the day of the tour, the tour guide calls the participant an hour prior to the meeting time.

Yesterday, a number of tour groups gathered at the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal while waiting for the tour bus to arrive from the Taipa Ferry Terminal.

As observed by the Times, the majority of participants at yesterday's MA-A tour were senior citizens, middle-aged couples or families with young children or infants.

During the tour, a 100-pataca smart card is distributed for food and beverage consumption.

Many of these consumption cards were used at one Chinese bakery selling Macau's famous almond cookies and egg rolls. This particular store was offering a buy one, get one free promotion on some items yesterday.

Participants are given an hour and 15 minutes for lunch, during which time they are allowed to use the voucher at any store with an MPay console.

They are also given the option to either choose to continue with the tour and head off to Coloane or leave immediately after giving back the consumption voucher.

In one of the tour groups yesterday, out of 29 participants, only five chose to head to Coloane to visit the Coloane Fishing Village and Sam Seng Temple.

The government-sponsored program is being seen as lifeline to tour guides, who had been without business - and in many cases pay - since the Chinese Lunar New Year.

According to one tour guide who has been in the industry for 17 years, the scheme allows them to give one tour per week.

"There are many tour guides [in Macau] so we have to rotate.

We only do one tour per week," the tour guide said.

"The weekends are the busiest days," she added. "There are also tours on the weekdays, but not that many."

Questioned as to whether an English tour guide was available upon request, she remarked, "if the majority of the participants are English speakers then I believe [travel agencies] can arrange that. But it isn't usual."

The project is tailored to provide residents with budget travel plans and the opportunity to learn more about local communities and tourism products.

According to the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), the scheme also aims to lead to the progressive resumption of tourism activities in Macau in parallel with the city's scheme for economic recovery.

Mak Mak, the face of Macau tourism, was also present at different sites to greet the residents-turned-tourists. The black-faced spoonbill, featuring shades of red, yellow and blue, has been officially declared the mascot of MGTO and promotes the city for tourism purposes.

Each participant is subsidized 280 patacas per tour and is entitled to a maximum subsidy of 560

patacas granted by the project.

One of the participants said, "the leisure tour is really great, especially the one that involves this new [installation project] at an integrated resort. But there were a huge number of people there when we went."

"It's been several years [since I've been] to Coloane," said another. "It's nice to be here and since I'm here now, I'll purchase some salted fish."

The tour groups had health guidelines to follow, such as presenting a Macau health code upon visiting some museums. To practice social distancing, groups had to wait outside the museum when it reached maximum capacity.

About three groups were allowed in at one time.

The government had previously stressed that operators would be reminded about the general sanitization procedures and measures required.

Upon boarding the tour bus, passengers were required to sanitize their hands before being handed a bottle of water.

"Macao Ready Go! Local Tours" will be held until September 30. Residents can sign up at the outlets of all travel agencies involved in the project.

### HK REPORTS DAILY RECORD OF 108 NEW INFECTIONS

Hong Kong reported more than 100 new coronavirus infections yesterday, reaching a record as the government plans to extend mandatory wearing of masks to more public spaces. Social-distancing measures including restaurant restrictions and gym closures will remain in place for another week. Chief Executive Carrie Lam said at a press conference yesterday. The government is also planning to require that masks be worn in indoor areas beyond public transport. Civil servants will be working from home starting today, and the government will only offer necessary and emergency services, Lam said. The Department of Health said in a separate press conference that the city had 108 new virus cases Sunday, 25 of those involving people who had traveled abroad. Some 48 of the 83 new local cases had an unknown origin. "The situation is really severe and there is no sign that it is under control," Lam said. "To combat the pandemic, I hereby urge citizens to be patient in order to contain this."

### MACAU PATIENT NUMBER 46 RECOVERS

The city's 46th Covid-19 patient, a male Macau resident of Philippines nationality, has recovered and has been transferred from the public hospital to the Public Health Clinical Center in Coloane for recovery quarantine. As with the arrival quarantine, this period will last 14 days. The 57-year-old has diabetes and hyperlipidemia. Before returning to Macau on June 25, he stayed in the Philippines for several months. Upon arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport, he took the special ferry to the Taipa Maritime Terminal. He was sent to a designated hotel for arrival quarantine, where he tested positive for Covid-19. After being hospitalized for 22 days, the man was declared recovered on July 17 with two negative tests on July 14 and 16.



## ONLY GOVERNMENT COVID-19 TEST RECOGNIZED AT BORDER CROSSINGS

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE Taipa Maritime Terminal and the Conde de São Januário Hospital (CHCSJ) are the only two establishments in Macau that can provide Covid-19 nucleic acid tests recognized for border-crossing purposes, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center has announced.

Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, elaborated that tests done elsewhere, such as those done on patients newly admitted to hospital, are not considered eligible for other purposes and will not be shown on the Macau Health Code. In other words, it will not facilitate border-crossing or entry to casinos. Tests conducted purposefully on frontline casino workers will also not be recognized for immigration purposes.

She explained that this was to close a potential loophole where people avoid paying for the test by taking it free-of-charge as part of a regular check-up or other medical service.

Meanwhile, the official test quota will be expanded to 7,500 per day from today. An extra sample collection venue will be added at the Macau Forum in addition to the Taipa Maritime Terminal and the CHCSJ special test post. At the latter, only seniors, minors, secondary school students, registered disabled people and registered caretakers are eligible to get tested.

Procedures for booking a test remain unchanged. People should log onto the Health Bureau's booking platform to book directly. The first test for local residents is free-of-charge. Subsequent tests and tests for non-locals are MOP180 each.

Previously, Macau had only

lifted arrival quarantine procedures for mainland residents arriving from the mainland. This has been expanded and now covers Hong Kong and Taiwan residents under certain conditions.

First and foremost, they need to provide proof that they have been on the mainland for the preceding 14 days. The proof may be an itinerary card, border control record or other supporting documents.

They will also need to provide a negative Covid-19 test result obtained within the preceding seven days.

The lifting of arrival quarantine has also been expanded to mainland Chinese non-resident workers coming from the mainland. When attempting to enter Macau, they should have a negative Covid-19 test result from the last seven days and a green Macau Health Code.

Entries for non-working pur-

poses are more complicated. Currently, foreign tourists are still barred from entering Macau.

Mainland, Hong Kong and Taiwan residents who have been on the mainland for the past 14 days with a negative test from within the past seven days will be accepted quarantine-free.

However, they will be quarantined on arrival if they enter from Hong Kong or Taiwan. They will be barred if they depart from places other than greater China.

July 16 saw the end of the special ferry service between the Hong Kong International Airport and the Taipa Maritime Terminal. The Macao Government Tourism Office recorded 1,767 inbound and 1,163 outbound passengers over the one-month period. It also disclosed that the mission cost 4.5 million patacas.

## ISO CERTIFICATION TOUTED AS WAY TO ENHANCE COMPETITIVENESS

STAFF REPORTER

**M**ACAU companies can enhance their competitiveness through the quality management accreditation process, according to Howie Ng, a guest speaker at the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) certification seminar held last Friday at the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center.

Dozens of company representatives joined the seminar, with about

half of them not having yet received ISO 9001 certification.

"Companies should view this [process of obtaining certification] as a chance to review the company's operational status and to think of what can be further improved," said Ng, the technical director of Hong Kong Veritas Limited, who underwent 14 days of quarantine in order to participate in the seminar.

Ng also stressed that it is important for com-

panies to understand customers' needs and improve customer satisfaction during the pandemic.

ISO 9001 sets out the criteria for a quality management system. It helps organizations ensure they meet customers' and other stakeholders' needs within the statutory and regulatory requirements related to a product or service. More than 1 million companies around the world have been certified.

## MONETARY AUTHORITY WARNS CITIZENS OF UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY BY FUTU SECURITIES

**T**HE Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) has issued a statement warning citizens about a company named "Futu Securities" which, according to the AMCM, recently announced investment plans on several of their social media accounts.

In the statement, the AMCM noted that the company is not registered and has not been authorized

to perform any financial activities in Macau. The operations of the company are therefore considered unlawful under the provisions of the legal regime of the financial system of Macau.

The AMCM said it is aware of an attempt by this company to bypass the regulations of Macau. They warned that unauthorized operations in this field by any

person or entity constitutes a "particularly serious infraction" and that they can be fined up to 5 million patacas for such activities.

The AMCM is also warning the public to not engage in any financial transactions through unauthorized financial institutions to avoid being caught up in fraud and accruing losses. **RM**

GAMING

# Mass continues to outweigh VIP at near-zero revenue level

DANIEL BEITLER

**M**ASS market gross gaming revenue continued to outweigh the VIP segment in the second quarter of 2020, even as casino revenues collapsed amid a visitation drought.

Gross gaming revenue for the second quarter amounted to just 3.2 billion patacas, down 95.6% from the 73.3 billion patacas recorded in the same quarter a year earlier.

The mass segment, which extends from slot machines to premium mass, continued to account for the majority of revenue, notwithstanding a 99% reduction in visitor to Macau.

According to data released by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), the mass



market accounted for 53.5% of total gaming revenue in the second quarter of 2020, compared to 52.8% a year ago.

The data showed mass market gross gaming revenue was about 1.7 billion patacas in the second quarter, down 95.5% year-on-year and 89.0% from the first quarter. Meanwhile, aggregate VIP revenue for the

quarter stood at just above 1.5 billion patacas, down 95.7% from a year earlier and 89.9% sequentially.

The mass segment overtook its VIP counterpart for the first time in the first quarter of 2019 and has continued to outsize the high roller segment since then.

However, gaming analysts previously told Macau Daily Times that current border

crossing restrictions mean the VIP segment will likely recover much faster than the mass segment. This has been the case historically for other recessions in Macau, they said.

Guangdong's decision last week to lift quarantine requirements for all entrants, even its own residents, was celebrated by gaming analysts as a positive step, even though group tour visas and the Individual Visit Scheme program both remain suspended. These two visa types account for the vast majority of cross-border travelers from the mainland.

Observers suggest that even a partial reopening of the border between Macau and the mainland could see a deluge of visitation to the SAR based on pent-up travel demand and few alternative destinations overseas.

## NEW DICJ HEAD MEETS WITH CASINOS TO DISCUSS NEW MEASURES

The new director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), Adriano Marques Ho, visited casinos last week to observe the implementation of new health measures designed to prevent an outbreak of Covid-19. The director met with officials from the six gaming concessionaires and sub-concessionaires, and explained the new measures to protect both staff and customers. As part of the new measures, any visitor entering a casino must present a negative Covid-19 nucleic acid test certification. Casino staff will also be progressively tested for the virus, however, they will not be required to repeat testing periodically. The DICJ has requested that casino operators clearly display these new requirements at the over 400 customer and 47 staff entries and exits to their premises.

## FISHERMAN'S WHARF OPENS NEW EXHIBITION CENTER

Macau Fisherman's Wharf held a grand opening ceremony for its newly revamped Convention and Exhibition Centre on Friday. According to the operator of the themed entertainment complex on the Macau peninsula, Macau Legend Development, the new center will support the push to develop the territory into a regional destination for conferences and events. With a total area of 5,260 square meters, the facility is the oldest and largest pillar-less venue for meetings and banquets on the peninsula, according to Macau Legend. The venue has three main halls, five multi-function rooms, two VIP rooms and a spacious foyer for cocktail receptions. The venue is able to accommodate up to 3,000 people.

AD



### Luncheon Series

"Spreading it About:  
The Essential Case for Diversification"

Speaker  
Carlos Álvares, Vice-Chairman and  
Chief Executive Officer of BNU

britcham @ St. Regis Macao - Wednesday 22 July 2020

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13:00 : Lunch  
13:40 : Presentation - FAQs  
14:30 : Close


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#### Spreading it About: The Essential Case for Diversification

Carlos Álvares is the Vice-Chairman and CEO of Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) since June 2018. BNU is one of the two issuing banks of the Macau currency. Founded in Lisbon in 1867 and established in Macau in 1902, BNU serves Macau and support its economic and social development. BNU has an extensive network all around the world.

If the pandemic situation has taught us anything, it is that the diversification of Macao's economy is absolutely essential. What forms could this take? Joint ventures in Macao between local investors and overseas first class companies? If so who? Greater connectivity with the GBA? In what format? Who should drive these ventures, Government or private enterprises? How are these strategies best instigated and implemented? Carlos Álvares presents his thoughts on the importance of and strategies for Macao's diversification.



### FRANCE MACAU Chamber of Commerce


法國澳門工商會

Connect • Share • Grow

#### FMCC Signature Event

### 100 Years of Portuguese Military Presence in Macau (1875-1975)

Speaker : Mr Ricardo Borges, Heritage Researcher, Estoril High School of Hospitality and Tourism



#### Introduction:

The Portuguese presence in Macau dates back to the early 16th century, with the settlement quickly becoming a must-stop port for Portuguese merchants along lucrative trade routes in the region. By late 19th century, global and regional geopolitical developments marked a sharp turn in the established norms and by the 20th century, Macau saw Portuguese military presence at an all height level. During this exclusive dinner, be fascinated by the stories of Macau military history expert, Mr. Ricardo Borges, and discover how the Portuguese prepared for their challenges in an unprecedented study.

#### Dinner

Learn about the history of the Portuguese Military Forces in Macau, during an exclusive dinner with wines.

Thursday, 23 July, 2020  
7:00p.m. - 9:30p.m. (Reception: 6:45p.m.)  
Grand Lapa, Lotus Room, 2nd floor

#### Walking Tour

Go back in time and relive the 1910 incidents in Coloane, involving tales of pirates and outlaws in the Pearl River Delta.

Saturday, 25 July, 2020  
4:00p.m. - 6:00p.m.  
Coloane Village Square

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- 2020 FMCC members join @ MOP450\*
- Guests and non-members @ MOP550\*

\* Price includes 6 courses dinner menu.  
\* Strict No-Show/ Late Cancellation policy applies for this event.  
\* 2020 FMCC Members and Dinner participants can join the related walking tour in Coloane on July 25th.

Organizer: FRANCE MACAU Chamber of Commerce 法國澳門工商會  
Sponsor: GRAND LAPA

# PANDEMIC THREATENS TO BURST PHILIPPINES' ONLINE GAMING BUBBLE

WITH the twin global gaming centers of Macau and Las Vegas bleeding millions of dollars daily as casinos stand empty, the much smaller online gaming industry in the Philippines was supposed to benefit as gamblers logged into live-streamed bets to scratch the itch.

Instead, the \$8 billion gaming industry is also fighting for survival, with stark consequences for the country's property and retail sectors.

After being shuttered for months as they were considered "unessential" during the long lockdown to contain the virus, Manila's online casinos can still only partially operate. The restrictions have been weighing on their operations, said Ben Lee, a Macau-based managing partner at Asian gaming consultancy IGamiX.

This could be the tipping point for the country's gaming industry, which has faced waves of pressure including the threat of higher taxes, lawmakers' calls for an outright gaming ban and divisions over ugly accusations its largely migrant workforce brought crime to the country, and also worsened the virus outbreak.

Already, two of the nation's



60 licensed operators in what had been a robust industry have shuttered their doors since the pandemic began.

"There are more to come. We're just convincing them to stay," said Jose Tria, who works for the nation's gambling regulator as assistant vice president for offshore gaming. Only 14 of the operators have resumed operations; the rest are in wait-and-see mode.

If the industry collapses, it could leave empty as much as 3.4 million square meters of combined office and residential space as the industry's migrant workers head home,

according to Leechiu Property Consultants Inc. That's more than 600 football fields.

"They will just leave if nobody wants them," said David Leechiu, chief executive officer at the property services company, which has one of the biggest shares of online gambling clients among brokers in the Philippines. Since the lockdown, operators have canceled expansion plans, he said.

After President Rodrigo Duterte began giving out casino licenses in 2016, more than 300,000 foreign workers - many of them Chinese nationals - have come to the metropolitan

Manila area to work. The industry is propped up by demand from mostly Chinese punters placing bets from thousands of miles away, as gambling is banned in mainland China.

The migrants have a range of jobs including marketing, answering customer queries and processing payments for clients who place online bets on live-streamed games of baccarat, Dragon Tiger and Fantan.

Workers in the industry account for as much as 1% of the nation's consumption spending, which has helped drive sales of retailers such as Hermes-seller SSI Group Inc., said Nicky Franco, vice president for research at Abacus Securities Corp. in Manila.

Yet some lawmakers are determined to shut down the industry amid accusations of money laundering. In May, a bill was filed in the legislature seeking to ban online gambling operations because they are "making a mockery of our laws, peace and order." A group of licensed online gambling operators didn't reply to requests for comment on the legislation.

If the industry in the Philippines doesn't survive, possible beneficiaries include gaming companies in Vietnam,

where coronavirus cases have been largely contained, and Myanmar, said IGamiX's Lee. The two countries "are catching up very quickly" in terms of Internet links to China and power supply - two necessary criteria for online gaming to flourish.

Meanwhile, Sihanoukville in Cambodia serves as a cautionary tale of the boom-and-bust cycle in online gaming. Once a backpacker's stop, the coastal town became an online-casino hub. But lockdowns and a ban on the industry that came into effect on Jan. 1 left it filled with unfinished condominiums and shuttered businesses.

In San Antonio Village, Makati City in the Philippine capital, passenger vans ferrying online casino workers that used to choke the roads have become a rarity. Most of the industry's staff are cooped up in high-rise apartments and are closely watching to see what happens to the industry - and their jobs.

Property broker Leechiu is watching along with them. "To recover from the economic damage of Covid-19, we need as much economic activity as we can get," he said. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

MICHELLE L. PRICE

A federal judge has dismissed a lawsuit filed by nine women who alleged they were sexually harassed by former casino mogul Steve Wynn.

The women, manicurists and makeup artists in a salon at the Wynn Las Vegas, were unnamed in the lawsuit and instead identified by their attorneys as Judy Doe No. 1 through Judy Doe No. 9. Their decision to stay anonymous was one reason the judge dismissed the case in a Wednesday filing, arguing they hadn't legally justified the need to stay anonymous to continue their case.

They sued the Wynn Las Vegas and Wynn Resorts Ltd, alleging that the companies did not do enough to prevent a hostile work environment. They alleged that the companies were aware of misconduct by Wynn towards female employees but did not investigate it and covered up

## Judge dismisses harassment lawsuit against Wynn Resorts

any reported misconduct.

Wynn, 78, resigned in February 2018 as chairman and chief executive of Wynn Resorts. He has consistently denied sexual misconduct allegations, which were first reported in January 2018 by the Wall Street Journal.

Wynn was not named as a defendant in the women's lawsuit. Wynn's attorney L. Lin Wood said in an email message Friday night that he was not representing Wynn in the matter and would forward the message seeking comment to another Wynn attorney who was, Nate Lloyd. A voicemail message seeking comment from Lloyd was not immediately returned Friday night.

In the order dismissing the lawsuit, Judge James C. Mahan agreed with

another judge's earlier ruling that the women did not sufficiently justify their need to file their lawsuit anonymously using pseudonyms.

The women said in court filings that they chose to file anonymously because of fear of legal retaliation by Wynn, potentially being ostracized in their workplace and sensitive details that would upend their lives if made public.

Mahan also said the women did not sufficiently make their case in the complaint, using "generalized and vague statements without individualized factual support for their allegations."

The lawsuit was dismissed without prejudice, which means it can be refiled.

Phone and email mes-

sages seeking comment from the women's attorneys, Wynn Resorts and attorneys for Wynn Resorts were not immediately returned Friday night.

The lawsuit was originally filed in a Nevada court in September 2019 but was moved to a federal court a month later.

Wynn Resorts paid a \$20 million fine in February 2019 to settle a Nevada gambling regulatory probe of claims that executives failed to investigate sexual misconduct claims against Wynn before he resigned. Massachusetts gambling regulators then levied a \$35 million fine against the company two months later for failing to disclose years of allegations of sexual misconduct against Wynn. **AP**

## CAESARS TAKEOVER BY ELDORADO RESORTS WINS NEVADA APPROVAL

THE Nevada Gaming Commission approved the planned takeover of Caesars Entertainment Corp. by Eldorado Resorts Inc. - a big step forward for the multibillion-dollar casino merger.

The deal, announced in June of last year, would make Eldorado the largest operator of casinos in the U.S., including marquee resorts such as Caesars Palace and Paris in Las Vegas. It's a giant leap for the company, which until recently was a small, family-run casino business headquartered in Reno, Nevada.

The Federal Trade Commission gave its blessing to the deal last month. New Jersey and Indiana still need to complete their reviews.

In a presentation to Nevada's Gaming Control Board Wednesday, Eldorado Chief Executive Officer Tom Reeg said results at the company's properties had exceeded expectations since reopening after the coronavirus-related shutdown.

"The reopenings have gone quite well," he said. "Demand has been there."

Group bookings starting in September look "extremely strong," Reeg said, adding he expects a recovery for Las Vegas in the fourth quarter.

ERIC LAM & SHAWNA KWAN

**H**ONG Kong is emerging as a case study of how the coronavirus pandemic is affecting vulnerable members of society, as tens of thousands have been thrown out of work with little social safety net to support them in one of the world's most unequal and expensive cities.

The economy is mired in its deepest recession on record after a disastrous year of social unrest and then the virus outbreak, with a net 250,000 people losing work in the city since last May, according to data compiled by Bloomberg from the Census and Statistics Department Hong Kong. The lower-paid services and hospitality sectors have been hit the hardest, as protests and virus-control measures shuttered retailers and left hotels and restaurants empty.

As Hong Kong has no general unemployment benefit provision, that leaves most low-income job seekers reliant on savings, family assistance and charities at a time of stretched budgets and renewed concerns over a "third wave" of the virus outbreak. Hong Kong's income inequality has long been higher than any Group of 7 economy, and the 19 wealthiest billionaires in the city control assets of about \$230 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires' Index.

"The wealth gap has obviously widened because of Covid," said Iris Pang, greater China chief economist at ING Bank NV. "Hong Kong could become increasingly more unequal in terms of income. Poverty is becoming an imminent issue of Hong Kong. In short, the poor are getting poorer."

Job vacancies in the retail as well as the accommodation and food services sectors, among the most important sources of employment for the working class, have been particularly hard hit by the virus. They plummeted 64% and 80%, respectively, from a year ago as of March.

The total number of employed people has dropped by almost 250,000 for a record 6.5% decline from a year ago as of May. The number employed in the city now stands at just more than 3.6 million, less than half of Hong Kong's 7.5 million population, as the number of unemployed has almost doubled since the end of 2019 to more than 230,000.

As of 2018 about 1 million people in Hong Kong were considered poor by the government's definition, for a poverty rate of almost 15% after adding recurring benefits such as the Higher Old Age Living Allowance in June 2018, according to a December government report. It's likely that a year of political unrest and recession as well as the virus has seen those numbers worsen.

One of the most vulnerable groups is the city's growing population of people 65 and older, who

BLOOMBERG



The elderly collect free meals at a roast meat restaurant in Hong Kong

## Hong Kong's yawning wealth gap grows wider amid pandemic

are often unprepared for retirement and at a disadvantage when competing for jobs, while now also facing greater health risks from the virus. Hong Kong has a weak social safety net for its older population.

In 2018 those 65 and older who were considered poor stood at about 360,000 for a poverty rate of 31%, more than double the overall level, the report said.

"When I was 50 years old, people would still want me to work for them, but at the Chinese restaurant that I worked for, even though I could handle the job, the boss still looked down on me," said Y.T. Chan, a 65-year-old woman who lost her full-time job as a dishwasher last November following an illness.

After struggling to find work for months, she now earns about HKD2,000 a month from fill-in work as a cleaner and dishwasher. Her income can barely cover her expenses, which includes HKD4,200 in rent a month, so she relies on loans from friends or occasional money sent from her sons in mainland China.

Chan says she has bread for lunch and dinner is soup made

from the same pork bone for almost a week. She also eats leftovers at the restaurants where she sometimes works.

"The co-workers find it disgusting, but I don't mind," she said.

Joblessness among workers age 50 to 59 has climbed to 6.5%, well above the overall level of 5.9%, according to government data. Youths 15-19 are still the worst off, with a 16.1% unemployment rate.

Older people are often perceived by employers as having less physical strength and that they'll burden companies with more costly medical fees, said Jason Lam, a community organizer with Concerning CSSA and Low Income Alliance, a charity working with the under-privileged in Hong Kong.

"When they become unemployed and try to find a job in another field, it is very difficult with an age over 60. Employers will simply throw away their CVs," he said.

For many in Hong Kong, though, the prospect of comfortable retirement at 65 is a dream.

A Fidelity global retirement survey found that workers 55 and older in the lowest wage category of HKD15,000 to HKD30,000 a

month scored the worst among all demographic groups in Hong Kong with a retirement readiness score of 53 out of 150, meaning they are only able to meet 53% of their estimated retirement expenses. This compares with an overall score of 75 for Hong Kong.

It's not just the city's older population that is suffering, however. Losing a job can be more daunting in Hong Kong than in almost any other place in the world as it is the most expensive city globally for renters, according to a 2019 report from Deutsche Bank. For the have-nots, living in tiny subdivided apartments, containers and industrial buildings illegally for cheaper rents are the only option.

Ng Fung-kiu, a 39-year-old single mother of two teenagers, said she has suffered from insomnia since being fired from a sales job in February.

"I've lost nine pounds. I couldn't fall asleep last night until 6 a.m.," she said.

Ng lives in a tiny apartment she rents for HKD5,800 a month that's so small she has to cook next to her toilet. But without a job and little savings, she isn't sure if she

can make the rent from one month to the next. She now works as a cleaner in a residential building for HKD5,000 a month along with other occasional cleaning jobs. Ng relies on food packages from charity while she hunts for work.

"I spend all my time thinking about getting a stable job so that I don't have to worry anymore," she said. "I'm at the point where I have no idea how I can get by."

Recent measures like the HKD10,000 government cash handout may help families survive in the short term, but the government needs to make more substantive, long-term changes, said Wong Shek-hung, acting director of the Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau program with charity Oxfam.

In the meantime, the city's poor are left largely to fend for themselves.

"I met a recently unemployed man in his early 60s with just a combined HKD48 savings in two of his bank accounts," said Lam, the community organizer. "He was so overwhelmed when we simply offered him some food packages - you could tell how hard his life was." **BLOOMBERG**

AP PHOTO



# Russia is trying to beat the West to a Covid-19 vaccine

ILYA ARKHIPOV,  
YULIYA FEDORINOVA &  
STEPHANIE BAKER

A top Russian official said his country could roll out a vaccine against Covid-19 as soon as September, while denying accusations that hackers working for the country's intelligence agency tried to steal sensitive data from rival researchers in the U.K., U.S. and Canada.

"Russia may be one of the first to produce a vaccine against the backdrop of the billions that are being invested in the U.S. and all the pharma companies working on it," said Kirill Dmitriev, the chief executive of the government-backed Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), which is financing one of the the country's efforts to devise a vaccine. "It's a little bit of a shocking story."

President Vladimir Putin has made finding a vaccine a top priority. Russia has recorded more than 750,000 Covid-19 cases, making it the fourth most-affected country in the world. In Russia's race to be the first to find a vaccine against Covid-19, it's taking an approach that would be shunned in other countries, claiming it will know in just three months of trials whether its leading candidate works. If Russia proclaims success in the hunt for a vaccine before other candidates, it could

create a world of duelling vaccines and geopolitical battles over who gets supplies.

Dmitriev's comments came after the U.K., U.S. and Canada said hackers working with the group APT29, part of Russian military intelligence, had used malware to try to seize vaccine research. Dmitriev said Russia had no need to steal information from rival vaccine developers because it had already signed a deal with AstraZeneca Plc to manufacture the University of Oxford's Covid-19 vaccine at R-Pharm, one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in Russia. He said AstraZeneca is transferring the entire technological process and all ingredients for the full reproduction of the vaccine in Russia.

"Everything that is needed to produce the British vaccine has already been transferred to R-Pharm," he said. "AstraZeneca has already signed commitments to transfer all production of the British vaccine to R-Pharm."

AstraZeneca didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. It isn't clear whether AstraZeneca would transfer all the technology needed for Russia to produce the vaccine or if the agreement involves the British pharma giant sending the vaccine seed stock to manufacturers needed to begin production.

Some Western experts remain skeptical that Russia

has the expertise to produce its own vaccine by September.

"We don't think that's realistic," said Peter Shapiro, a pharmaceutical analyst at the research firm GlobalData, cautioning that Russia, like other countries, could approve the vaccine for political reasons. "The regulatory hurdles in Russia are low."

Nor is it likely that such a vaccine, if indeed approved in Russia, would find favor in the West, Shapiro said.

"We don't see a history of innovative vaccines being developed in Russia that win approval" in major markets like the U.S., Japan and Western Europe, he said. "Russia is not a major producer of export quality drugs or biologics."

The U.S., Western Europe and China have all set up research programs and supply chains for Covid-19 vaccine production. While the negotiations with AstraZeneca offer Russia the chance for doses of the Oxford vaccine if it proves successful, the global battle to secure supplies could leave Russia struggling to access other potentially successful vaccines, increasing pressure to advance its own program.

Dmitriev said he's so confident in Russia's leading vaccine candidate that he's taken it himself and had his whole family vaccinated, including his parents, who are in their seventies. The vaccine, financed by RDIF

and developed by the state-backed Gamaleya Institute in Moscow, has completed a phase 1 trial in 50 people, all of whom are members of the Russian military.

Russia's rapid approach to vaccine development differs from Western Europe and the U.S., where researchers typically run phase 3 trials for months to show safety and effectiveness. In another unusual move, Dmitriev said the vaccine has been given informally to "a significant" number of people. Analysts have questioned Russia's rushed unorthodox approach.

"The current situation with the vaccine looks like a race and sufficient clinic testing hasn't been done," said Sergey Shulyak, chief executive officer at Moscow-based consulting company DSM Group.

Russia, however, does have a track record developing vaccines using adenoviruses. It devised an Ebola vaccine using similar technology which is licensed in Russia for emergency use and which is expected to be deployed soon in the Congo. And Russia has been increasingly active in promoting its vaccine-making expertise in Africa. The Russian government together with United Company RUSAL opened the Russian-Guinean Research Center for Epidemiology and Prevention of Infectious Diseases in 2014 in Guinea. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## this day in history



### 1944 HITLER SURVIVES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT

Adolf Hitler has escaped death after a bomb exploded at 1242 local time at his headquarters in Rastenberg, East Prussia.

The German News Agency broke the news from Hitler's headquarters, known as the "wolf's lair", his command post for the Eastern Front.

A senior officer, Colonel Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg, has been blamed for planting the bomb at a meeting at which Hitler and other senior members of the General Staff were present.

Hitler has sustained minor burns and concussion but, according to the news agency, managed to keep his appointment with Italian leader Benito Mussolini.

Hermann Goering, Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe and Hitler's designated successor, went to see Hitler when he heard about the attack.

The German News Agency said the German people were deeply grateful that no serious harm had come to their leader and that fate had allowed him to "accomplish his great task".

"The attempt which has failed must be a warning to every German to redouble his war effort," said the newsreader.

And the deputy head of the press, Helmut Suendermann, stated: "The German people must consider the failure of the attempt on Hitler's life as a sign that Hitler will complete his tasks under the protection of a divine power."

This is the third attempt on Hitler's life and underlines the tension in Germany now faced with a two-front war as the allies take northern France and the Red Army close in on the Reich.

This week has seen the heaviest American bombing of Germany since they entered the war.

The 8th Air Force from Britain and the 15th Air Force from Italy sent about 5,500 heavy bombers and some 4,000 fighter planes to attack oil and aircraft stores in Germany and Austria.

The Soviet Army has made major advances on the front line between Brest-Litovsk and Lvov - a strategic city that is the key to capturing southern Poland.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The following day Adolf Hitler made a radio broadcast to the German nation detailing the failed assassination and thanked fate for allowing him to continue his "work". The planned coup, known as the July plot, was led by senior military leaders like Field Marshal Erwin von Witzleben and General Ludwig Beck. After Claus von Stauffenberg had placed the briefcase under the table next to Hitler, he left the building, heard the bomb explode and assumed Hitler was dead. He flew to Berlin to join Von Witzleben and Beck and take over using the German Home Army. But through a series of lucky circumstances Hitler was only slightly injured, though three other people were killed. Von Stauffenberg was arrested the same day and shot. The rest of the conspirators were tried and hanged or offered the chance to commit suicide. Eight of those executed were hanged with piano wire from meat-hooks and their executions filmed and shown to senior members of the Nazi Party and the armed forces.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**



**ARIES**

**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**

If you are entering a new situation or group today, it might be wise to play it safe. The universe is in a bit of a flux, and pure clarity will be hard to find. It will take you time to get your bearings.



**TAURUS**

**Apr. 20-May. 20**

Asking a friend to be honest with you can be tricky. If you are looking for support and end up getting judged, don't blame the friend. Instead talk to someone who knows that no one is perfect.



**GEMINI**

**May. 21-Jun. 21**

When you're riding the tides of life today, be very mindful of the undercurrents—because they are what will actually lead you to your destination. There's not much you can do to change the direction you're traveling



**CANCER**

**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**

It's more important than ever for you to balance your life now. The stars say that there is a great imbalance building, and it could send some bad vibes your way unless you address it.



**LEO**

**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**

It's more important than ever for you to balance your life now. The stars say that there is a great imbalance building, and it could send some bad vibes your way unless you address it.



**VIRGO**

**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**

All your plans are coming together nicely today, and it looks as though you're going to have a lot of fun! The hard work is over, so you can feel free to kick back and let yourself get distracted.



**LIBRA**

**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**

Every limit is there for a reason, and you need to yield to them. But luckily, there are so many fun things going on around you right now that you won't mind diverting your energies to something else.



**SCORPIO**

**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**

There are many temptations all around you today, but not all of them are healthy for your body and/or spirit. So you should make sure that you are well stocked with self-control!



**SAGITTARIUS**

**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**

Why go along with the crowd when you've got such an original mind and an incredible gift for self-expression? You are no lemming, and you will have a great opportunity to prove that to yourself today.



**CAPRICORN**

**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**

One of your most recent failed attempts at matchmaking might be working out after all—okay, so maybe that fixup didn't go as planned, but there is a domino effect at work here, and you should be prepared.



**AQUARIUS**

**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**

Things are starting to get very complicated between you and a friend. It seems that someone they are interested in is actually more interested in you. The guilty feelings could start to creep up on you today



**PISCES**

**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**

In a group dynamic today, you're going to feel as though someone or something is missing—and you should respect that feeling. It might be time for your group to find a new leader or director.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

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

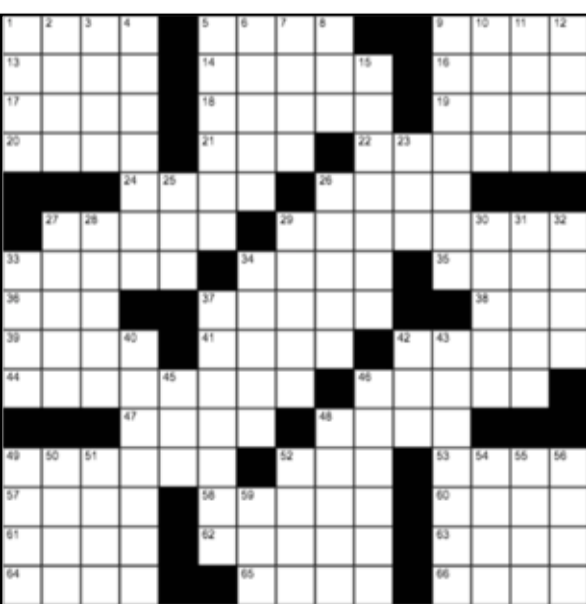
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	20	35	clear
Harbin	21	25	thundershower
Tianjin	23	36	clear
Urumqi	23	30	cloudy
Xi'an	18	34	cloudy
Lhasa	13	23	shower
Chengdu	23	30	overcast
Chongqing	25	31	drizzle
Kunming	17	23	shower
Nanjing	22	29	thundershower
Shanghai	25	30	drizzle
Wuhan	22	30	cloudy
Hangzhou	25	31	drizzle
Taipei	26	32	drizzle
Guangzhou	29	36	clear
Hong Kong	27	33	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	14	21	drizzle
Frankfurt	16	27	cloudy
Paris	16	30	drizzle
London	11	22	drizzle
New York	26	32	clear

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS: 1- \_\_\_ Sorry Now?; 5- Somewhat; 9- Deride; 13- Oven used to dry hops; 14- Madagascar monkey; 16- Hibernia; 17- Country singer McCann; 18- Uruguayan friend; 19- Work without \_\_\_; 20- Whence; 21- AWOL pursuers; 22- Woven container; 24- Langston Hughes poem; 26- Genesis shepherd; 27- Floating bombs; 29- Light musical work; 33- Assail; 34- From a distance; 35- Took to court; 36- Call \_\_\_ day; 37- Diary bit; 38- Howe'er; 39- Ball game; 41- Nair rival; 42- Doles (out); 44- Troublemaker; 46- Lofty nest; 47- Aviation pioneer Sikorsky; 48- Farm measure; 49- Ill will; 52- 1970 Jackson 5 hit; 53- Miss; 57- Arduous journey; 58- Style; 60- Hydrox rival; 61- Feminine ending; 62- Kett and James; 63- In the neighborhood; 64- Clairvoyant; 65- Intentions; 66- Fence opening;

DOWN: 1- Carnivorous mammal; 2- Filament; 3- Capital of Norway; 4- Staying power; 5- Los \_\_\_; 6- Beat; 7- French friends; 8- Used a shovel; 9- Rubella; 10- Pen sound; 11- Canadian tribe; 12- Etta of old comics; 15- Heist; 23- \_\_\_ Lingus; 25- Asian holiday; 26- "The covers of this book are too far \_\_\_" —Bierce; 27- Ditto; 28- Novelist Calvino; 29- Many times; 30- All, musically; 31- Titter; 32- Flurries; 33- [Oh, well]; 34- Lend \_\_\_; 37- Swallow greedily; 40- Burn unsteadily; 42- Debussy's "La \_\_\_"; 43- Soon; 45- Can \_\_\_ now?; 46- Entry; 48- Garfield's middle name; 49- Hwys.; 50- "Judith" composer; 51- Panamanian baby; 52- Opposed; 54- Bailiwick; 55- Chair; 56- Annoyed; 59- Hellenic vowel;



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**

**Two Shops, Down Town Macau**  
**HK\$20,800,000** 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup>

**FOR RENT**

**Retail Shop, Barra Area Macau**  
**\$48,000/mth** 1,968 ft<sup>2</sup>

**FOR SALE**

- [Macau] Apartment Historical Centre2 1 1 1  
840 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$4,580,000** (ref: 20016003)
- [Taipa] Wa Bao 2 1 1 2 1  
1,071 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$7,995,000** (ref: 18115568)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1 1 2 1  
1,420 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$10,900,000**(ref: 20016004)
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 1 1 2 1  
1,439 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,770,000** (ref: 19045004)

**FOR RENT**

- [Taipa] Studio apartment 1 1 1 1  
650 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$9,000/mth** (ref: 20061003)
- [Macau] One Central 2 1 1 2 1  
1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$25,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1 1 2 1  
2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$28,000/mth** (ref: 20031001)
- [Coloane] Ocean Garden 4 1 1 4 1  
3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)

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Property of the Week



**Two Shops, Down Town Macau**  
**HK\$20,800,000** 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup>

Two separate shops for sale although currently rented as one unit under a Grade 1 restaurant license, with a rental contract until Feb 2022.



Property Hotlist



2 connected apartments, Taipa Village

**\$8,380,000**  
1,404 ft<sup>2</sup>  
4 🛏 2 🚗



Retail Space, Areia Preta Area

**\$3,200,000**  
170 ft<sup>2</sup>



Retail Shop, Barra Area

**\$48,000/mth**  
1,968 ft<sup>2</sup>



One Oasis, Coloane

**\$14,500/mth**  
1,100 ft<sup>2</sup>  
2 🛏 1 🚗



More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Apartment w/ balcony 2 🛏 1 🚗 840 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$4,580,000** (ref: 20016003)
- [Taipa] Wa Bao 2 🛏 2 🚗 1,071 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$7,995,000** (ref: 18115568)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 🛏 2 🚗 1,420 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$10,900,000** (ref: 20016004)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 🛏 2 🚗 1,344 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,000,000** (ref: 19126001)
- [Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom 2 🛏 3 🚗 2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096000)

For Rent

- [Taipa] Studio apartment 1 🛏 1 🚗 650 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$9,000/mth** (ref: 20061003)
- [Macau] One Central 2 🛏 2 🚗 1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$25,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 🛏 2 🚗 2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$28,000/mth** (ref: 20031001)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 🛏 4 🚗 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 🛏 3 🚗 3 🚗 4,266 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$45,000/mth** (ref: 19055006ST)

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DEBBY WU & SARITHA RAI

# Apple iPhone assembler joins wave of tech investment in India

**A**PPLE Inc. assembly partner Pegatron Corp. is making preparations for its first plant in India, adding to a large influx of foreign tech investments in the country this year.

In June, the Indian government set out a \$6.6 billion plan to woo the world's top smartphone manufacturers, offering financial incentives and ready-to-use manufacturing clusters. Pegatron is now setting up a local subsidiary and joining fellow Taiwanese electronics assemblers Foxconn Technology Group and Wistron Corp., who have already been making some iPhone handsets in southern India.

With a number of factories in China, Pegatron is the second-largest iPhone assembler and depends on Apple for more than half of its business. Like its peers, it will set up in the south of India, according to a person familiar with its plans who asked not to be named. Foxconn, also known as Hon Hai, and Wistron are looking to expand their operations in the country, and Pegatron's entry can be seen as a defensive move to protect its share of budget iPhone manufacturing, according to Matthew Kanterman of Bloomberg Intelligence.

India has seen a surge of inward investment in recent



weeks, with Google, Facebook Inc. and others pouring close to \$20 billion into Jio Platforms Ltd., billionaire Mukesh Ambani's mobile internet venture. Google has committed to spending \$10 billion over the next five to seven years to hasten India's digital transition and Amazon.com Inc. has said it intends to export \$10

billion of made-in-India goods by 2025. When Jeff Bezos visited the country in January, he said "The 21st century is going to be the Indian century."

The country offers a vast pool of skilled labor as well as a domestic market of a billion mobile connections. Only about half of those are smartphones, however,

leaving untapped potential that is attractive to growth-hungry global brands like Apple, Samsung Electronics Co., Xiaomi Corp. and Oppo. For assemblers like Pegatron, exports would also be an enticing opportunity, especially at a time of worsening trade relations between Washington and Beijing making it imperative to have a di-

verse geographic base.

Smartphones are a focal point for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's much-touted Make in India program. Ravi Shankar Prasad, India's minister for information technology and electronics, has said the goal is for brands and manufacturers to transport the entire supply chain to the country, not just the end-stage assembly. Quoted by local media, Prasad said India wants not only the "bridgroom" but also the "wedding procession."

India will become a global manufacturing hub for both components and the complete assembly of smartphones and other devices, said Pankaj Mohindroo, chairman of the Indian Cellular & Electronics Association. The group's three dozen members include Apple, Foxconn, Google, Wistron, Oppo and others.

"The focus is shifting from making for India to exports and the \$400 billion electronics manufacturing that India is targeting by 2025 will be dominated by exports," Mohindroo said via phone from New Delhi. **BLOOMBERG**

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OPINION

World Views

Noah Smith, Bloomberg

**THE US NEEDS TO MAKE INDIA A BIGGER TRADE PARTNER**

Conflict between China and India has made it urgently necessary for the U.S. to deepen its economic integration with the latter country, through increased trade and investment. On June 15, 20 Indian soldiers and an unknown number of Chinese soldiers were killed when the two countries clashed over a disputed border. In response, India banned a number of Chinese apps. As my Bloomberg Opinion colleague Mihir Sharma points out, these conflicts are likely to drive India closer to the U.S. in strategic terms.

But that budding alliance will be harder to cement without deeper economic ties. Not only does trade tend to cement alliances, but building up allied countries' economies makes them much more able to resist military encroachments by rivals. The U.S. once understood this; the Marshall Plan famously helped stabilize Western Europe after World War II and prevent it from falling into the Soviet orbit, while opening U.S. markets to Japanese, South Korean and Taiwanese products helped those countries industrialize.

In recent years the U.S. seems to have forgotten this lesson. Opposition to the Trans-Pacific Partnership largely ignored the geopolitical importance of that treaty, which would have created an Asian trade bloc to rival China. Now, with the U.S.-China rivalry heating up, let's hope the U.S. will remember the importance of trade and investment as tools for cementing alliances. And the most important ally will almost certainly be India.

Deepening the economic partnership with India will be a long and difficult road. India now is only the U.S.'s ninth most important trading partner, barely ahead of tiny Taiwan.

A trade deal between the two countries could boost this number. But even a minor agreement fell through earlier this year. True to form, the Trump administration has been refusing to allow India duty-free access to U.S. markets unless India opens its agricultural sector to U.S. exports. Because India is still a largely rural, agrarian economy, demanding that the country put hundreds of millions of poor farmers at risk of being displaced by U.S. agribusiness was always a non-starter.

A future administration should be more sensitive to India's needs and vulnerabilities. Opening U.S. markets to Indian-made goods, even with no reciprocal opening by India, makes geopolitical sense. Having the U.S. as a stable source of demand for manufactured products would also help India to build up its industrial sector in the same way that China and South Korea did. And it would be unlikely to increase the trade deficit or put U.S. workers out of a job; instead, it would result in some companies shifting labor-intensive manufacturing out of China into India, as is now happening with Vietnam.

An even more beneficial economic relationship, however, would be increased direct investment by the U.S. into India. China famously bolstered its economy by relying heavily on foreign direct investment - as the workshop of the world, it invited companies from all over the globe to build factories in its special economic zones.

Nor is China's experience unique; economists have found that FDI, especially in manufacturing, tends to boost growth. In addition to providing capital for new buildings and machines, FDI is a way of transferring technology between countries. When U.S. companies build a factory or other facility in a developing country, they show the locals how advanced machinery, production processes and other technologies work. Those locals can then go start their own companies, making use of what they learned and raising productivity in the domestic economy. In the long run, technology is what makes a country rich, and because learning technologies from developed nations is much cheaper than reinventing them, tech transfers are a good way to help a country develop quickly.

India has long been faulted for lagging behind China when it came to FDI, especially in manufacturing. But things may be changing, as China becomes more insular and India makes an attempt to open up. [Abridged]

Police arrested four men Saturday for allegedly destroying an ancient statue of Buddha they found while doing construction work near an historic Buddhist site in northwest Pakistan, officials said.

The arrests in the district of Mardan were made hours after a video went viral on social media showing a man breaking the statue with a hammer when it was still partially embedded in the ground.

Local archaeologists later determined the Buddha statue was of historic value.

The men, charged under the country's antiquities laws, face up to five years in jail if convicted. The laws prohibit the destruction of damage to any antiquities, police said.

"We have taken the pieces of the destroyed Buddha into our custody to assess its archaeological value but apparently it was an ancient one. We lost it unfortunately," said Abdul Samad Khan, who heads the province's archaeology department.

Police said they are questioning the men, who are local residents, to determine exactly why they destroyed the Buddha, instead of alerting authorities.

**CHINA BLASTS DAM TO RELEASE FLOODWATERS AS DEATH TOLL RISES**



AP PHOTO

**A**uthorities in central China blasted a dam yesterday to release surging waters behind it amid widespread flooding across the country that has claimed scores of lives.

State broadcaster CCTV reported the dam on the Chuhe River in Anhui province was destroyed with explosives early Sunday morning, after which the water level was expected to drop by 70 centimeters.

Water levels on many rivers, including the mighty Yangtze, have been unusually high this year because of torrential rains.

Blasting dams and embankments to discharge water was an extreme response employed during China's worst floods in recent years in 1998, when more than 2,000 people

died and almost 3 million homes were destroyed.

Last week, the gargantuan Three Gorges Dam on the Yangtze opened three floodgates as the water level behind the massive dam rose more than 15 meters above flood level. Another flood crest is expected to arrive at the dam tomorrow.

Elsewhere, soldiers and workers have been testing the strength of embankments and shoring them up with sandbags and rocks. On Saturday, firefighters and others finished filling in a 188-meter break on Poyang Lake, China's largest freshwater lake, that had caused widespread flooding across 15 villages and agricultural fields in Jiangxi province. More than 14,000 people were evacuated.

Seasonal flooding strikes large parts of China annually, especially in its central and southern regions, but has been especially severe this summer. More than 150 people have died or are missing in flooding and landslides brought on by the torrential rains — 23 of them since Thursday alone.

About 1.8 million people have been evacuated and direct losses attributed to flooding are estimated at more than 49 billion yuan (56 billion patacas), according to the Ministry of Emergency Management.

Major cities have been spared so far, but concern has risen over Wuhan and other downstream metropolises that are home to tens of millions of people. AP

**BEIJING BATTLES NEW OUTBREAK IN FAR WEST XINJIANG**

**T**he number of confirmed cases in a new coronavirus outbreak in China's far west Xinjiang province has risen to 17.

The National Health Commission said Saturday that 16 more cases were identified in the previous 24 hours in the Xinjiang region, on top of a first case.

The outbreak in the city of Urumqi is the latest to pop up since China largely contained the domestic spread of the virus in March. The largest was a recent

outbreak in Beijing that infected more than 330 people.

Authorities in Urumqi have reduced subways, buses and taxis and closed off some residential communities, according to Chinese media reports. They also placed restrictions on people leaving the city, including a suspension of subway service to the airport.

China has been accused of human rights abuses in Xinjiang, the homeland of

the largely Muslim Uighur ethnic community. The region has long been blanketed with extreme security, which China says is necessary to prevent terrorist activity.

China's government has accused the U.S. of trying to "suppress Chinese companies" after Washington said Chinese enterprises may face legal trouble if they help carry out abuses in the Muslim northwestern region of Xinjiang. MDT/AP

**Middle East** Iran's foreign minister yesterday stressed that Iran-Iraq relations would not be "shaken" ahead of the Iraqi prime minister's planned visit this week to Saudi Arabia, Iran's regional rival.

**Syria** Citizens headed to polling stations in government-held parts of the war-torn country yesterday to elect a new parliament amid strict health measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus.



AP PHOTO

**Turkey** Media said yesterday that search-and-rescue teams recovered two more bodies from a boat that sank last month while ferrying dozens of migrants across a lake in eastern Turkey. Turkey, which hosts about 3.7 million Syrian refugees, is a main crossing point for migrants trying to reach Europe.

**Germany** Police officers were pelted with bottles to applause from a large crowd after they tried to end a brawl in central Frankfurt yesterday, leading to clashes that ended with 39 arrests, the city's police force said.

**Italy** The region that includes Rome is warning citizens that local lockdowns might have to be ordered if there are more clusters of coronavirus infections. Lazio Region Health Commissioner Alessio D'Amato said 17 new Covid-19 cases were registered yesterday, 10 of them "imported" from other countries when foreign residents returned to Italy.



AP PHOTO

**Brazil** An Indigenous leader who has become a symbol of the fight for Indigenous rights and preservation of the Amazon rainforest has been hospitalized, his institute and a relative confirmed Saturday.

**US** President Donald Trump is refusing to publicly commit to accepting the results of the upcoming White House election, recalling a similar threat he made weeks before the 2016 vote.