



ONLY A THIRD OF RESIDENTS HAVE USED THE ENTIRE MOP3,000 AMOUNT ON GOV'T E-VOUCHERS MEANT TO STIMULATE LOCAL COMMERCE P2

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NON-CHINESE READERS FORESEE DIFFICULTIES GETTING GOLDEN BUS TICKETS ON THE HONG KONG-ZHUHAI-MACAU BRIDGE P2



EU European leaders took a historic step towards sharing financial burdens among the EU's 27 countries by agreeing to borrow and spend together to pull the economy out of the deep recession caused by the virus outbreak. Pushed by Germany and France, leaders agreed to borrow jointly by selling bonds, using the EU's collective strong credit rating that keeps interest costs low. The money will fill a 750 billion-euro recovery fund.

Australia's hot spot Victoria state yesterday reported 374 new cases of COVID-19, its second-highest daily tally. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews also announced three more deaths, bringing the national death toll to 126. Andrews said a lockdown in Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne, which began two weeks ago, is having an impact.



India A surge of 37,140 new positive cases in the past 24 hours has taken India's coronavirus caseload to 1,155,191. The Health Ministry on yesterday also reported 587 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities up to 28,084. The number of recoveries stand at 724,577. With a surge in virus cases in the past few weeks, state governments in India have been ordering focused lockdowns in high-risk areas to slow down the spread of infections.

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UNWRITTEN RULES

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NON-CHINESE READERS FORESEE DIFFICULTIES GETTING GOLDEN BUS TICKETS

ANTHONY LAM

NON-CHINESE readers seeking to take the shuttle bus running on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) may find it difficult to purchase a ticket when needed, as the only remaining ticketing method is solely in Chinese.

The Times reported yesterday that the only remaining online booking channel for the shuttle bus (more commonly known as the Golden Bus) is through WeChat, a Chinese social media and instant messaging app.

The single-language platform is a concern for many who cannot read Chinese, although some said that it was "natural" for a Chinese app to only have a Chinese language option.

A reader surnamed Lobo saw the matter from a commercial angle. "The market is so small in Macau that it might not be commercially viable to have it in any other language," he said.

Another reader, surnamed Creeden, told the Times that some of her friends faced similar difficulties in purchasing tickets. "We don't know how to search for the HKZMB bus merchant as there doesn't seem to be a search option and a lot of it is in Chinese," Creeden said.

Another of Creeden's friends urgently needed to secure a ticket, but could not find them as a payment merchant on WeChat.

Foreigners are currently barred from entering mainland China and the two Special Administrative Regions of Macau and Hong Kong. Nonetheless, Lobo is concerned that the online booking arrangement will persist after the pandemic, and non-Chinese reading passengers will be unable to purchase their bus tickets due to the language barrier.

Payments for tickets are to be made through the app's payment gateway, WeChat Pay, which



has been incorporated into the social media app. Similar to other payment platforms such as PayPal, a registration process is required.

The most direct method is to connect WeChat Pay to a mainland bank account, or an account in Macau with the Bank

of China or the Banco Nacional Ultramarino. The account must have a single account holder. "If it's co-owned with your spouse, you're excluded," Lobo pointed out.

Signing up with a credit or debit card is also an option. Some online tourism platforms, inclu-

ding some based on the mainland, have indicated that connecting WeChat Pay with credit or debit cards issued outside mainland China is possible. Nonetheless, some have not found this possible.

"I cannot [sign up with] a Macau credit card," one reader said. "Only Hong Kong or mainland bank accounts are accepted."

The main problem is that "many of the local residents or blue card holders don't have access to WeChat pay," Lobo explained.

On Monday, the operator's customer service hotline, which is only available in Mandarin and Cantonese, told the Times that a passenger without WeChat Pay can ask a friend to pay on their behalf. This recommendation remains unsatisfactory to many.

The Times could not get in touch with the bus operator or WeChat for further clarification by press time.

Only one third of e-vouchers have been fully consumed

LYNZY VALLES

WITH little more than a week to go before the first phase of the consumer voucher expires, only a third of local residents have used the entire 3,000 pataca amount on the e-voucher.

As of Friday last week, only 205,000 local residents had used the entire amount on the e-voucher - just one-third of the 624,000 residents who have collected the subsidy.

The maximum transaction amount per day is 300 patacas.

If residents fail to use the entire 3,000 patacas before July 31, the remaining amount will return to the public coffers.

The first round of the e-voucher scheme for permanent and non-permanent residents started

on May 1 as part of the government's measures to stimulate the local economy, support local businesses and stabilize the job market during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Until July 17, official data shows that the total transactions amounted to 1.78 billion patacas.

The data also shows that 24% and 71% of the overall spending amount went to the catering and retail sectors respectively.

Approximately 63% of the overall spending was placed with SMEs.

Among these, about 40% of the total spending made through the consumer card went to establishments with fewer than 20 workers.

No details have been announced yet regarding the second phase of the e-voucher scheme. The next round amounts to 5,000 pata-

cas worth of spend and will start in August and end on December 31.

For now, the government has reminded the public to keep their consumer card safe and to report any lost cards to police authorities.

After the conclusion of the scheme, the card will become an empty Macau Pass card which residents can top up themselves if they want to keep using it as a normal payment card.

The e-voucher scheme allegedly coincided with profiteering practices at supermarkets back in early May. As reported, several local supermarket brands were accused of profiteering by residents. Photographs that compared prices before and after the start of the scheme went viral on social media platforms as proof of the allegations.

MORE DIVERSE COURSES TO BE OFFERED BY LABOR BUREAU

A wider choice of training courses and up to 10,000 more places will be added to the subsidized training program in its upcoming phase, Cheung Wai, head of the Vocational Training Department of the Labor Affairs Bureau, disclosed yesterday.

The next phase of the subsidized training program, initiated by the government in response to the beleaguered employment market, will cater to those who are currently employed.

Further updates will be made to the program, following demands from the market. For the time being, the bureau intends to run language and hospitality courses, among other programs.

The update was deemed necessary as the bureau has experien-

ced demand from employees who also have time for additional training. The current phase is focused on upskilling those who are currently unemployed.

Cheung disclosed that in the first three phases of the subsidized training program, there have been 96 courses, 88 of which have already commenced, taking in more than 1,600 students.

As of the end of last month, nearly 1,000 students have concluded their training, 400 of whom have successfully gained a new job.

The second Macau Integrated Tourism and Leisure Occupational Skills Competition will return on July 29 after being delayed for several months due to the pandemic. The competition will take place at

JW Marriott Hotel Macau, as announced yesterday by the organizer, the Macao Federation of Trade Unions.

The skills competition will focus on gaming and entertainment, hotel services, and culinary skills, as these are elements that are already in demand in the SAR.

This year, the organizer has also added exhibitions to the event for showcasing companies' features to the public.

The Federation noted that this year's competition, as in the previous year, is supported by the city's six gaming concessionaires: Sands China, Wynn Macau, Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited, Galaxy Entertainment Group, MGM China and Sociedade de Jogos de Macau. **AL**

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DANIEL BEITLER & RENATO MARQUES



Glória Batalha Ung (left) and Irene Lau

RENATO MARQUES

THE former president and executive director of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Irene Lau, has backed the allegations made by the Public Prosecution's Office against the former executive director of IPIM, Glória Batalha Ung.

Yesterday in the Court of First Instance, Lau stated that it was forbidden for IPIM staff members to give any information to applicants before the submission of their application documents.

According to Lau, only those in charge of the department, as well as the Executive Committee of IPIM (which includes the executive directors and its president), are permitted to know the criteria used to classify the applicants' submissions.

Questioned on the topic by both the prosecutor and several defense lawyers, Lau admitted that this rule was an "unwritten one" that formed part of IPIM's normal practices and procedures.

According to Lau, for an IPIM staff member to provide details to applicants, "the applicant or his legal representative needed to come to IPIM in person and such meeting needed to be attended by two people from IPIM staff." Furthermore, Lau explained that such encounters would always take place at the IPIM facilities and could never be done elsewhere or by private contact.

Lau's words were in connection to the charges against Batalha, who is accused of breaching IPIM secrecy and abusing her

Lau backs charges against Batalha, citing 'unwritten' IPIM rule

powers as an executive director by assisting an applicant. The applicant is a woman named Yan Peiyu who was working as a Professor at the Macao University of Science and Technology in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

On the second day of the trial, Batalha had admitted to giving advice to Yan so she could get her residency application approved by IPIM, by suggesting that her salary was too low and that she should therefore improve her résumé and join associations in her field in Macau.

In court, Batalha claimed she believed that her actions were legal and within the scope of her powers at IPIM, and that she had believed they were in line with the government's ambitions to attract qualified talent in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine, as expressed in the policy address of that year.

During yesterday's session, Lau reaffirmed on several occasions that the given information was confidential. According to Lau, providing such information to applicants was illegal and not in accordance with the policies and procedures of IPIM or within the ambit of Batalha's role as executive director.

In response to further questions from Batalha's lawyer, Pe-

dro Leal, Lau added that it was her understanding that, "providing detailed information on the IPIM criteria used to evaluate the applications would potentially jeopardize the process, as applicants would include false information to fulfill such requirements."

Leal presented the counterargument that even if Batalha had offered some insight to Yan that allowed her to perfect her application, none of the documents submitted were forged and none of the information provided to IPIM was false, leading to Lau issuing a favorable opinion on Yan's request for residency and subsequent approval.

Lau also disputed Batalha's statement from an earlier stage of the trial that the Secretary for Economy and Finance had told IPIM's executive committee to prioritize applications by qualified staff and encourage investment in the field of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Yesterday in court, Lau said that the Secretary never mentioned any such advice or guidelines to her.

APPLICATIONS WITH SURPRISE CRITERIA

One of the facts which the defense lawyers disputed the most was Lau's statement regarding the need to keep applica-

tion criteria secret.

"If an investor does not know how much he should invest to meet the criteria how can he apply?" questioned the defense lawyer of Jackson Chang, Álvaro Rodrigues.

He observed that the scheme states clearly that the "investment needs to be relevant to Macau SAR." In light of this, he noted that it would be considered normal and logical for a potential investor to find out which areas of investment would be considered relevant to Macau and how much they should invest in those.

The lawyer's comments came after Lau reiterated that to disclose the minimum amount to be invested in the case of investment projects would breach the same confidentiality rules that she said were common and accepted knowledge among all IPIM staff.

Rodrigues was also interested to know whether, when Lau took office from Chang, she noticed anything unusual in the operations of IPIM that led her to believe the former president had done something against the rules or to benefit a particular person. Lau responded that she never found anything strange or unusual in the conduct of the former president.

Questioned on who estab-

lished the rule that staff at IPIM could not disclose to applicants the minimum investment amount for their investment project to be considered, Lau said, "It was the president [Chang] but through a verbal order," admitting that such guidelines cannot be found in writing in any rulebook or internal IPIM guideline documents.

In response to another of Leal's questions, Lau further explained why she considers Batalha's disclosure of information to constitute a breach of confidentiality.

"[Within the executive committee of IPIM] we were given different tasks and work fields. One director should not interfere with the other director's work unless the president gives orders otherwise." She noted that such division of work and responsibilities had been established by Chang.

This was one of the few acknowledgments made in response to the numerous questions asked by Leal. In most cases, Lau avoided replying as much as possible, at one point asking the judge whether "the court should ask her such questions."

The trial resumes tomorrow to continue to hear witnesses from among the IPIM staff who are related to the case.

HISTORIAN: ALTERING STREET NAMES MAY AFFECT MACAU'S SPECIAL POSITION

ANTHONY LAM

ANY rash alterations to Macau's street names will endanger the co-existence of Chinese and Portuguese features in Macau, potentially affecting Macau's strategic position as the bridge between China and Lusophone countries, said Paul Chan Wai Chi, a high school history teacher and former legislator.

"Changing the names of streets and roads of Macau is against the Central Government's original intention," said Chan referring to what he sees as the tolerance of the Central Government to Macau's history and uniqueness. "It is the foundation on which the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration and Macau's position as the China-Lusophone platform was laid," Chan elaborated.

Chan was asked by the Times to comment on the proposal to eradicate "colonial street names that constitute insults to China," as referred to by Chan Pou Sam, an advisor at the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM).

Although the IAM responded yesterday, saying that it has no plan to change existing street or road names in Macau, the advisor deems the change necessary as it is crucial to decolonizing Macau.

He even cited the national security law of Hong Kong to support his proposal. He said that as the law has been passed in the neighboring territory, Macau residents should



also have their sense of national recognition strengthened. He therefore believes it necessary to dilute the colonial elements from Macau's culture.

Paul Chan did not agree with the comparison to Hong Kong's new law. He pointed out that the societies of the two Special Administrative Regions are very different, and hence, the best means of managing them are also different.

"Since the two cities have different social characteristics, the means of handling things are also different," the history teacher explained.

"No one should damage the harmony of Macau for the sake of showing allegiance."

It is possible that the IAM advisor is not referring to all

all, it would cause a lot of confusion in people's lives."

Nonetheless, his proposal, revealed last week by Jornal de Macau, included Praça Ferreira do Amaral, Rua do General Castelo Branco and Rua de Pedro Nolasco da Silva. These are Portuguese figures who had an impact on Macau's history.

For example, Ferreira do Amaral was Governor in Macau who was assassinated because of his iron-fist governance, which included the destruction of numerous Chinese graves to pave roads.

In Chan Pou Sam's opinion, the story behind the name of the roundabout has negative associations for future generations and should be changed.

Paul Chan, disagrees with this reasoning, explaining that "history is the root of past experience and future visions." He added that unless the names are extremely offensive, they should not be changed rashly.

In the proposal, the advisor also listed some street names that, in his opinion, are "too long, too wordy and too incomprehensible" due to their translation from Portuguese to Chinese, such as Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro and Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida.

The former is widely referred to as "San Ma Lo", meaning "new road" in Cantonese. Senior residents noted that it was the first major avenue in Macau, which acknowledges the direct connection between the southeast and west sides of the Macau Peninsula.

The latter road is referred to as "Ho Lan Un" in Cantonese, which is literally translated into English as "Holland Garden". The name is used because in 1622, the Portuguese army defeated a Dutch invasion force and took some soldiers captive. They were held near the now Horta da Mitra District, where the avenue begins.

Chan Pou Sam is also the vice president of the Jiangmen Communal Society.

"No one should damage the harmony of Macau for the sake of showing allegiance."

PAUL CHAN WAI CHI
HISTORY TEACHER

streets across the city, given he has been quoted as saying, "I don't support a big change, because if we changed them

Health Bureau reflects on debut medical mission to Algeria, Sudan

LYNZY VALLES

REPRESENTATIVES from the Health Bureau (SSM) and the Chongqing Health Commission held their first sharing session Monday, after returning to the SAR from Algeria and Sudan as part of a joint medical mission to fight the pandemic.

The SAR government sent representatives abroad for the first time to carry out an international medical emergency mission.

During the meeting, the two parties shared experiences on the support work provided to the two African countries and discussed cooperation between Macau and Chongqing in the

emergency medical response field.

The director of the SSM, Dr. Lei Chin Ion, said that the mission had allowed the two parties to deepen cooperation and collaboration in the healthcare industry.

Tasked with carrying out a "mission against Covid-19" in Africa, the "China Anti-Epidemic Medical Experts Group" was composed of five representatives appointed by the SAR government, together with representatives from the Chongqing government.

Dr Alvis Lo Iek Long, a clinical director of the public Conde de S. Januário Hospital Centre, shared Macau's experiences in the prevention and control of

the pandemic outbreak, while deputy chief of the Municipal Health Commission of Chongqing, Dr Zhou Lin, presented the work on prevention and control of Covid-19 and the Chongqing health system.

According to a statement issued by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, both parties exchanged views on ways to consolidate the work to protect against and prevent the epidemic. These included medical observation in hotels and nucleic acid tests, as well as methods and experiences of diagnosing cases, among others.

Following the invitation of the governments of Algeria and Sudan, a group



of medical experts from the Chinese Government specialized in combating the epidemic was formed and sent to aid the north African countries in the fight.

The mission began on May 14 for a consecutive

duration of 30 days.

The group returned to the city on June 12 after completing the mission.

In another statement, it was noted that Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong U, highli-

ghted that participation in this mission not only increased the capacity of the Macau emergency medical team, but also allowed these members to gain international experience in responding to Covid-19.

GAMING

New US casino powerhouse shows no signs of becoming Macau contender

DANIEL BEITLER

ELDORADO Resorts' \$17 billion (135 billion patacas) acquisition of Caesars Entertainment may have created a new casino powerhouse in the U.S., but it is still very unlikely to be a serious contender in the upcoming license tender in Macau, according to one analyst.

Eldorado Resorts Inc. said the combined company will now own and operate more than 55 casino properties in 16 U.S. states, including eight resorts on the Las Vegas Strip. It will take the iconic name of Caesars Entertainment Corp. going forward as the largest casino owner in the world.

But the largest casino owner in the world will remain a U.S. giant without a Macau foothold, predicts Ben Lee, managing partner of IGamiX Management & Consulting.

"Eldorado is more focused



BLOOMBERG

on the domestic market [at present], especially with the new merger," said Lee. "It's a giant in the U.S. market but not globally."

Last year, Caesars became the first international casino operator to formally withdraw from the race for a Japan license, citing the merger as a major domestic distraction. Presently, it has showed no signs of interest in the bidding for the next

round of Macau's licenses.

Caesars decided not to bid for the first round of Macau licenses after the gaming liberalization of the early 2000s, citing regulatory concerns about the gambling enclave.

The Macau gaming concessions are due to expire in June 2022. With just 23 months left on the clock, very little is known about the requirements of the next round of conces-

sions other than speculation that the government may end the satellite casino agreements and that diversification will be likely written into the contracts.

For Lee, the only outsider contender with a real chance in the upcoming tender is Malaysia's Genting, who are currently building a property by Nam Van Lake that may or may not house a small casino. The property is tentatively set to open in 2022.

The Eldorado-Caesars merger involves properties across the United States, including in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Mississippi, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Las Vegas.

In Vegas, the combined company now owns Caesars Palace, Paris Las Vegas, Planet Hollywood, Harrah's Las Vegas, the Flamingo, Linq Hotel, Cromwell, Bally's, and the Rio off the Strip. It will be one of

the largest employers in Nevada.

"We are pleased to have completed this transformative merger," Tom Reeg, former CEO of Eldorado Resorts and now CEO of Caesars Entertainment Inc. said in a statement.

Reeg promised to welcome the combined company's tens of thousands of employees and create value for stakeholders by using "strategic initiatives that will position the company for continued growth."

The buyout also affects Caesars properties in the United Kingdom, Egypt, Canada, Dubai and a golf course in Macau. The company vaulted over MGM Resorts International as the world's largest casino operation.

Trading under the Caesars stock symbol, CZR, began Tuesday in the U.S., according to Anthony Carano, company president and chief operating officer.

AD

FRANCE MACAU Chamber of Commerce
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FMCC champions Breakfast Meetings in town with key speakers sharing their views on current business affairs. Our monthly events take place every last Wednesday of the month at Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16. Open to all!

Road to Recovery: Macau post-COVID-19
Speaker: Ms Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes
Director of the Macao Government Tourism Office

FMCC Breakfast Meeting
Wednesday, 29 July 2020

Introduction:
COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on our lives and the economy. Join us to hear MGTO's Director Ms Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes present the strategies and recovery plan to ensure the survival and the revival of the Macau tourism industry.

Date: Wednesday, 29 July, 2020
Time: 9:00a.m. - 10:30a.m. (Reception: 8:45am)
Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16
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Macao Green Hotel Award

The Environmental Protection Bureau is committed to promoting the implementation of environmental protection measures in Macao's hotel industry, such as waste reduction at source, waste separation for recycling, and food waste management. By recognizing the hotels that adopt environmental management concepts with the Green Hotel Award, Macao's hotel industries are encouraged to improve their environmental performance.

2019 Gold

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CONRAD
SHERATON GRAND
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THE RITZ-CARLTON

2018 Gold

Hotel China
MORPHEUS
MGM

2017 Platinum

THE VENETIAN

2017 Gold

POUR SEASONS
GRAND HYATT
PARISIAN

* In no particular order

Organizer: Environmental Protection Bureau
Collaborator: SOFITEL
Supporting Organizations: SUEZ NWS, AF, etc.

HONG KONG

FEAR OF CHINA DRIVING EXTRADITION CONCERNS

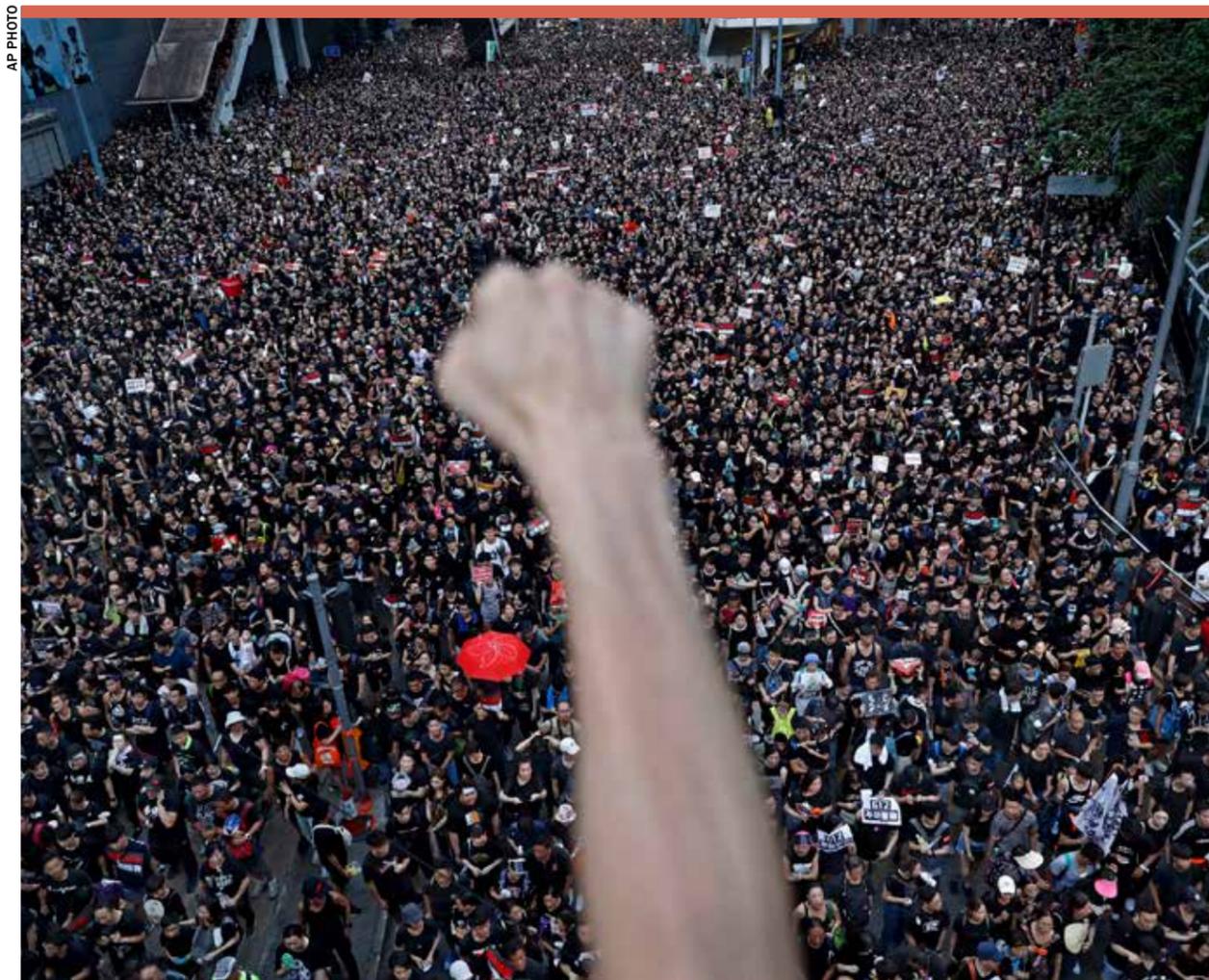
ZEN SOO & ROD MCGUIRK, HONG KONG

WITH Britain the latest country to scrap its extradition treaty with Hong Kong, the focus in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory has returned to the concerns about China's legal system that set off months of anti-government protests last year.

Those sometimes violent demonstrations — themselves sparked by an extradition bill — were used as justification by Beijing to impose a sweeping national security law on June 30 that has been cited by Britain, the United States, Australia and Canada in suspending their extradition agreements with Hong Kong.

The moves underscore a growing divide between authoritarian China and the U.S. and other like-minded democracies over human rights and other issues. Just three years ago, Australia's conservative government was making a high-profile push for an extradition treaty with China, an effort that ran afoul of parliamentary opposition. Now, not only has Australia suspended extradition with Hong Kong, it is warning its citizens of the risk of arbitrary detention in China.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was in London yesterday to discuss China-related issues with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson



and Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, one day after Britain suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong. China's ambassador to Britain, Liu Xiaoming, called the step a gross interference in his country's internal affairs.

The key issue, paralleling one in the Hong Kong protests, is the possibility that suspects returned to the city could be handed over to Chinese law enforcement and disappear into the mainland's opaque and frequently abusive legal system. China says

the new security law is needed to combat terrorism and separatism and prevent Hong Kong from becoming a base for subverting Chinese state power.

"Extradition, at the bottom of it, is a political act. It's a political act whether or not you surrender a person," said Philip Dykes, chairman of the Hong Kong Bar Association. "Extradition treaties with Hong Kong were always on the basis that whatever happens, a person will not be removed to the mainland."

It was a separate pie-

ce of extradition legislation that led to last year's protests, one that would have permitted the extradition of criminal suspects from Hong Kong to China. While the Hong Kong legal system's fairness and transparency has helped establish the city as a center for business and finance, China's Communist Party-dominated courts are accused of handing down convictions based on political considerations and frequently using coerced confessions.

The biggest political crisis in the former British colony since its 1997 handover to Chinese sovereignty was triggered by a murder case. A young Hong Kong man, Chan Tong-kai, allegedly killed his girlfriend while on vacation in Taiwan and fled back home.

Hong Kong authorities could not send Chan to Taiwan for trial because of the lack of an extradition treaty. The government cited Chan's case as an example of the loophole the proposed extradition legislation would close, allowing Hong Kong to transfer fugitives to any jurisdiction with which

it did not have an extradition treaty, including Taiwan and mainland China.

The proposal triggered a massive backlash from Hong Kong residents, who feared that suspects could be sent to the mainland for trial. Though the government withdrew the bill during the protests, the demonstrations took on a broader anti-government and anti-police agenda and grew increasingly violent.

The detention of several Hong Kong booksellers in late 2015 had already focused concern about Beijing's undermining of the legal autonomy the territory was promised when it was handed back to Chinese rule.

The booksellers vanished before resurfacing in police custody in mainland China. Among them, Swedish citizen Gui Minhai was abducted from his vacation home in Thailand and later appeared twice in videotaped confessions, the second time after being taken off a train by police in eastern China in January 2018 while in the company of two Swedish diplomats.

Another of the booksellers, Lam Wing-kee, later fled to Taiwan. The prospect of falling afoul of the new law and disappearing into the maw of the Chinese legal system has prompted others to leave as well.

Among them are a former employee of the British Consulate in Hong Kong, Simon Cheng, who has been granted political asylum in Britain, and Nathan Law, a leading member of Hong Kong's opposition movement who posted on Facebook that he had left Hong Kong for an undisclosed location.

China has pledged to retaliate for Britain's decision to cancel its extradition treaty with Hong Kong, as well as to ban the sale of military-grade equipment to the territory.

"China urges the British side to abandon the illusion of continuing colonial influence in Hong Kong ... so as to avoid further damage to China-Britain relations," foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Tuesday.

China's dissatisfaction is based on issues of national pride as well as more practical concerns. Under President Xi Jinping, China has pushed hard for the return of corrupt officials and others who have fled abroad with their ill-gotten gains. While that effort has scored some successes, it has also been frustrated by the lack of extradition treaties with key countries.

Canceling extradition to Hong Kong represents a further vote of no-confidence in China's legal system, one already registered by the refusal of the U.S., Britain and other nations to sign extradition agreements with Beijing.

Australia abandoned plans to do so in 2017. Parliament's endorsement of the treaty was to be a highlight of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang's visit to Australia in March of that year, a high point in a volatile diplomatic relationship. Since then, ties have deteriorated to a historical low. AP

AD

An advertisement titled "Safety precautionary measures for Storm Surge". It features a blue and yellow color scheme with icons of waves and a house. The text includes: "Take preventive measures, for example, placing the objects in a place away from the water" and "Avoid areas affected by floods, such as basements or low lying areas". The logo of the Department of Environmental and Planning Services is visible at the bottom.

Global banks look to Taiwan expansion in shift away from Hong Kong

MIAOJUNG LIN, SAMSON ELLIS & KIUYAN WONG

TAIWAN'S top financial regulator said global banks are looking to expand on the island after China's passage of a controversial security law in Hong Kong prompted some firms to rethink their Asian strategies.

Some U.S. securities firms are considering an expansion in Taiwan while other international banks plan to start new operations, said Huang Tien-mu, chairperson of Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission. He didn't name any of the companies that have expressed interest in Taiwan.

"We aren't trying to replace anyone, but that doesn't mean we have no ambition," Huang said in an interview. "We hope to appeal to the capital and talent from the rest of Asia, not just Hong Kong."

Hong Kong has been embroiled in unprecedented political turbulence after more than a year of anti-government protests, and is now in the cross-hairs of a broader fight between the U.S. and China. The former British colony faces intense competition from cities including Singapore, Shanghai and Tokyo to maintain its status as the key Asian finance hub.



Taiwan's government sees a potential exodus of financial professionals from Hong Kong as a chance to reinvigorate an economy grappling with a peaking population, a shortage of skilled workers and shrinking exports. Its minister for Mainland Affairs Council in July welcomed Hong Kong and multinational companies, establishing an office dedicated to easing immigration.

Foreign banks with the most assets in Taiwan include Citigroup Inc., Standard Chartered Plc and HSBC Holdings Plc, according to financial commission data.

President Tsai Ing-wen is also looking for concrete measures to help Hong Kong residents after her support for last year's pro-democracy protests contributed to her overwhelming election victory in January. Taiwan saw record immigration and investment from Hong Kong in 2019, a trend that's continued this year. The

number of Hong Kongers settling in Taiwan in the first five months of the year almost doubled from the same period in 2019.

A majority of U.S. businesses operating in Hong Kong are worried about the impact of the controversial national security law, according to a survey released last week by the American Chamber of Commerce. The lobby group said 76% of companies were concerned about the sweeping measures barring subversion, secession, terrorism and foreign collusion, with most being "extremely concerned."

Hong Kong's top finance official Paul Chan sought to reassure financial institutions on Sunday that the new national security law doesn't affect their ability to conduct business, allocate capital and trade securities. He also asked regulators to relay the message to brokers, banks and insurers to ease their concerns.

"As long as the financial industry continues to operate normally under the framework of Hong Kong's existing laws, their busi-

ness operations will continue as usual," Chan said in a blog post.

OFFSHORE ACCOUNTS

Taiwan plans to relax some rules to raise its competitiveness, such as expediting a policy to allow domestic companies to open offshore banking accounts to win back Taiwanese capital from tax havens, Huang said. He would also align the island's financial regulation to international standards to lure foreign investment.

The commission is currently in talks with Nasdaq Inc. about cross-listing options once a new trading venue for technology startups and small stocks is in place this year, according to Huang, who took over the job in May. The regulator would also allow more products for financial institutions to cope with low interest rates, including wealth management tools for retirement, and reverse mortgages, Huang said.

Meanwhile, the agency plans to amend local insurance laws to encourage more green investment. Huang said he will also talk to the central bank about insurers and fund managers' need for hedging tools. About two thirds of life insurers' investments were made overseas as of May, according to the Taiwan Insurance Institute. **BLOOMBERG**

President Tsai Ing-wen is looking for concrete measures to help Hong Kong residents

XINJIANG

US sanctions Chinese companies over Muslim abuse complaints

CHINA said yesterday it would take unspecified "necessary measures" after the U.S. government imposed trade sanctions on 11 companies it says are implicated in human rights abuses in China's Muslim northwestern region of Xinjiang.

The sanctions add to U.S. pressure on Beijing over Xinjiang, where the ruling Communist Party is accused of mass detentions, forced labor and other abuses against Muslim minorities.

Xinjiang is among a series of conflicts including human rights, trade and technology that have caused U.S.-Chinese relations to plunge to their lowest level in decades.

The Trump administration also has imposed sanctions on four Chinese officials over the accusa-

tions. Beijing responded by announcing unspecified penalties on four U.S. senators who are critics of its human rights record.

The Department of Commerce said earlier the addition of the 11 companies to its Entity List will limit their access to U.S. goods and technology. It gave no details of what goods might be affected.

"This action will ensure that our goods and technologies are not used in the Chinese Communist Party's despicable offensive against defenseless Muslim minority populations," said Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross in a statement.

The Chinese foreign ministry rejected the sanctions as interference in its affairs and an attempt by Washington to hurt Chinese companies.

"What the United States is concerned about is not the human rights issues at all, but to suppress Chinese companies, undermine the stability of Xinjiang, and smear China's Xinjiang policies," said spokesperson Wang Wenbin. "We urge the United States to correct its mistakes, revoke relevant decisions and stop interfering in China's internal affairs."

Wang said Beijing will "take all necessary measures" to protect Chinese businesses, but gave no indication of possible retaliation.

China has detained an estimated 1 million or more members of the Uighur and other Muslim ethnic minority groups in internment camps.

The government describes them as vocational



Residents line up at a security checkpoint into the Hotan Bazaar where a screen shows Xi Jinping in Hotan in Xinjiang (2017)

training facilities aimed at countering Muslim radicalism and separatist tendencies. It says those facilities have since been closed, a claim that is impossible to confirm given the restrictions on visits and reporting about the region.

Veterans of the camps and family members say those held are forced, often with the threat of violence,

to denounce their religion, culture and language and swear loyalty to Communist Party leader and head of state Xi Jinping.

The companies cited yesterday include clothing manufacturers and technology suppliers.

Two companies cited, Xinjiang Silk Road BGI and Beijing Liuhe BGI, are subsidiaries of BGI Group, one

of the world's biggest gene-sequencing companies. The Commerce Department said they were "conducting genetic analyses used to further the repression" of Muslim minorities.

Human rights groups say security forces in Xinjiang appear to be creating a genetic database with samples from millions of people including through using blood and other samples subjects are compelled to provide. Nationwide, authorities have gathered genetic information from the Chinese public for almost two decades that the government says is for use in law enforcement.

Three of the companies cited were identified by investigations by The Associated Press in 2018 and 2020 as being implicated in forced labor. **AP**

AP PHOTO



USA

Biden, lawmakers warn of foreign interference in election

MARY CLARE JALONICK & ERIC TUCKER, WASHINGTON

DEMOCRATIC presidential candidate Joe Biden said he is putting Russia and other foreign governments "on notice" that he would act aggressively as president to counter any interference in U.S. elections. The statement came hours after Democratic leaders issued a new warning that Congress appears to be the target of a foreign interference campaign.

Biden said in a statement yesterday [Macau time] that he would treat foreign interference as an "adversarial act that significantly affects the relationship between the United States and the interfering nation's government." He criticized President Donald Trump for not doing enough in response to U.S. intelligence agencies' assessment that Russia interfered in the 2016 presidential election.

"If any foreign power recklessly chooses to interfere in our democracy, I will not hesitate to respond as president to impose substantial and lasting costs," Biden said.

The new alarms give a renewed urgency to concerns that foreign actors could be trying to influence the vote or sow disinformation. Biden said last week that he had begun receiving intelligence briefings and warned that Russia, China and other adversaries were attempting to undermine the presidential election. Biden gave no evidence, but he said that Russia was "still engaged" after 2016

and that China was also involved in efforts to sow doubts in the American electoral process.

During an online fundraiser, Biden added: "It's going to be tough, there's not much I can do about it now except talk about it, and expose it, but it is a serious concern. It is truly a violation of our sovereignty."

And in an interview on MSNBC, Biden said Russian President Vladimir Putin "knows I mean what I say."

The Democratic leaders said in a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray that they are concerned that Congress appears to be the target of a "concerted foreign interference campaign" to influence the 2020 presidential election. They asked Wray for an all-members, classified briefing on the matter before the August recess.

The letter from House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer and the top Democrats on the House and Senate intelligence committees contains no details about the threats, though they describe them as serious and specific.

"We are gravely concerned, in particular, that Congress appears to be the target of a concerted foreign interference campaign, which seeks to launder and amplify disinformation in order to influence congressional activity, public debate, and the presidential election in November," wrote Pelosi, Schumer, House Intelligence Committee Chairman Adam Schiff, D-Calif., and Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, the top Democrat on the Senate In-

telligence panel.

A congressional official familiar with the letter said that there was a classified addendum "to ensure a clear and unambiguous record of the counterintelligence threats of concern." The person, who was granted anonymity to describe the confidential letter, said the addendum largely draws from the executive branch's own reporting and analysis.

The FBI said it had received the letter but declined further comment.

While the Democrats' exact concerns were unclear, there have been worries since Trump was elected that Russia's efforts to sow American chaos are ongoing in the 2020 election. The 2016 effort included hacking of Democratic email accounts during the campaign by Russian military intelligence officials and the subsequent disclosure by WikiLeaks.

Intelligence authorities said that hack-and-leak operation was aimed at helping Trump's presidential campaign and harming that of his Democratic opponent, Hillary Clinton. Russians also used a covert social media campaign to spread misinformation and posts aimed at dividing American public opinion. In the end, former special counsel Robert Mueller charged 25 Russian nationals for their roles in foreign interference and influence during the campaign.

Democrats, including members of the Senate intelligence panel, have voiced concerns that an ongoing Republican probe into Biden's son, Hunter Biden, and his work in Ukraine would am-

plify Russian disinformation. That probe is being led by Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Chairman Ron Johnson, R-Wis.

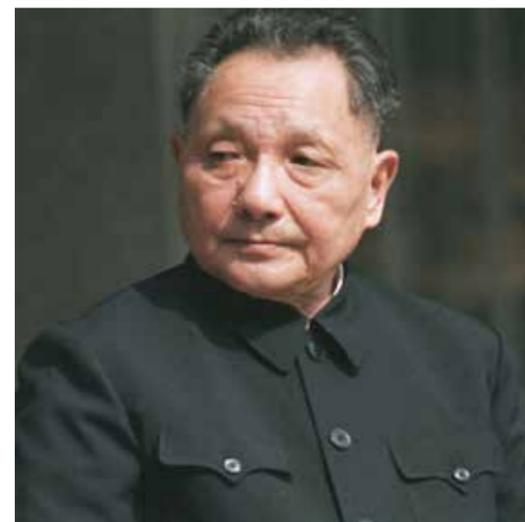
In a statement, Johnson spokesman Austin Altenburg said the committee's staff had already requested and received a briefing on Russian disinformation and Johnson had requested an additional briefing at the member level.

While Biden criticized Trump for not acting more aggressively against Russia, his pledge that his intelligence community would report "publicly and in a timely manner" on any foreign efforts to interfere in an American election also appeared to be a course correction of sorts to the approach of the Obama administration, which waited months after Russian hacks of Democratic email accounts in 2016 to officially attribute them to Moscow.

Officials did so only after a rigorous internal debate over what they should say. Even when the administration did issue its October 2016 statement blaming Russia for the hacks, it did not mention Putin by name nor an ongoing effort to determine whether the Kremlin's election interference efforts were being coordinated with the Trump campaign.

Hillary Clinton, who lost the 2016 presidential election to Trump, said yesterday she was "glad" Biden was speaking up. "It's very clear that Russia succeeded," she told MSNBC. "They believed that they were able to influence the minds and even the votes of Americans, so why would they stop?" AP

this day in history



1977 DENG XIAOPING BACK IN POWER

The disgraced deputy Prime Minister of China, Deng Xiaoping, is to return to Chinese Government.

The Chinese Communist Party conference has restored him to the offices of Vice Premier of the State Council, Vice-Chairman of the Central Committee, Vice-Chairman of the Military Commission and Chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army.

He was dismissed from his posts after the leftist Gang of Four blamed him for the popular uprising in Tiananmen Square in April last year after Premier Zhou Enlai's death.

Since the death of Chairman Mao last September the Gang of Four has sidelined Mr Deng and attempted a programme of radical reform.

But Mao Tse Tung's named successor as CCP chair, Hua Guofeng, has been purging the Party of extremist influences such as the Gang of Four.

The Gang of Four was formally expelled from the CCP at a meeting of the Central Committee's Third Plenum last weekend.

The Gang includes Mao's fourth wife, Jiang Qing, former vice premier and politburo member Zhang Chunqiao, former factory worker Wang Hongwen and Shanghai intellectual Yao Wenyuan.

The official CCP newspaper, The People's Daily, last week accused the group of trying to "rebuild" the Communist Party, excluding senior officials and creating a "mass organisation".

Chinese authorities now regard "pleading the Gang's innocence" as a "counter-revolutionary act".

A party official in Kiangsi who defended the group recently was "denounced for his crime" at a meeting of 4,000 people.

Premier Hua has also identified far-left tendencies in party leaders of 13 of China's 29 administrative regions and removed them from power.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

By the end of 1978 Deng Xiaoping had effectively wrested power from Hua Guofeng.

The Gang of Four members had been arrested in October 1976 and were put on trial in 1980 for their part in an attempted coup.

In 1978 Deng oversaw the historic change of direction for China, the stressing of the so-called "Four Modernisations" of agriculture, industry, national defence, and science and technology.

During Deng's long hold on power, he instituted a variety of reforms aimed at decentralising the economy and opening the country to international trade.

He resigned from his last official Party post in 1989, after he and other Party elders ordered the use of military force to clear Tiananmen Square.

He remained extremely influential until his death in 1997, and it was Deng who agreed to Jiang Zemin's elevation to Party chief and Deng who nominated Hu Jintao as Mr Jiang's successor.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

It can be boring and annoying, or it can be delightful and fascinating. It's up to you. It's too easy to let other people tell you how to feel. How about making yourself feel how you want to feel?



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

The world around you is wide open to your suggestions right now, so throw your biggest hopes and wishes out to the universe and see which ones come into being! Don't waste a minute of time.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Don't be so hard on yourself, worrying about what you're doing right and what you may be doing wrong. Just be you! That's the only thing that matters.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You may be feeling a lot more than you're thinking, which could cause a misunderstanding if you're not careful. You have to work harder to know when your feelings are relevant and when they are not.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

There has been a leadership vacancy in one of your groups for some time now. Folks need a leader, and you should give serious consideration to nominating yourself for the job.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It pretty much looks like you can't screw up today no matter what tack you take! It's the perfect day to try something you've never tried before. You'll be a success.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

If no one will stop what they're doing and help, just do it yourself. It isn't any fun to have to do more work, but at least when you're done you can feel proud of yourself for not just sitting around and complaining.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Why are you trying so hard to hide your imperfections? These are the small details about your personality that people need to see in order to understand who you really are. Don't hesitate to show them.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The social games used to be fun and charming, but lately they've become too predictable and tiresome. It's time for a change in plan. People who are all talk and no action need to be avoided.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

An elderly friend or relative would probably appreciate help with something, and it won't be much of an inconvenience for you to make a huge difference in their day.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It might be up to you to get the conversation going, but once you do, they will drive most of the talking, and you'll start to feel like you've known them all your life.

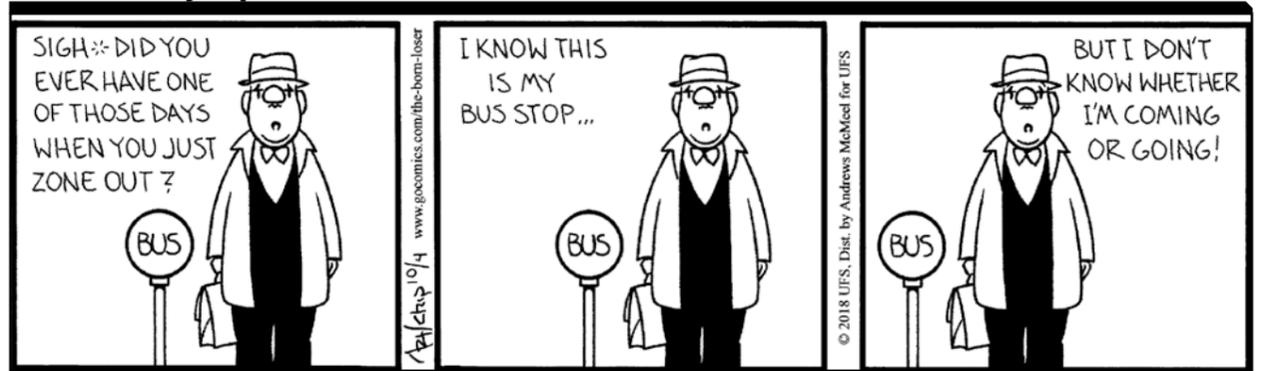


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

If you spend too much time thinking about another person's motivations right now, you'll only get overwhelmed. You won't be able to predict what they'll do next, so why try?

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| 7 | | | | | | | | 4 |
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| | | | 1 | 3 | | | | 8 |
| 6 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | 6 | | | | | 1 |
| | | | | 7 | 2 | | | 6 |
| 6 | 8 | 5 | | | | | | |
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HARD

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

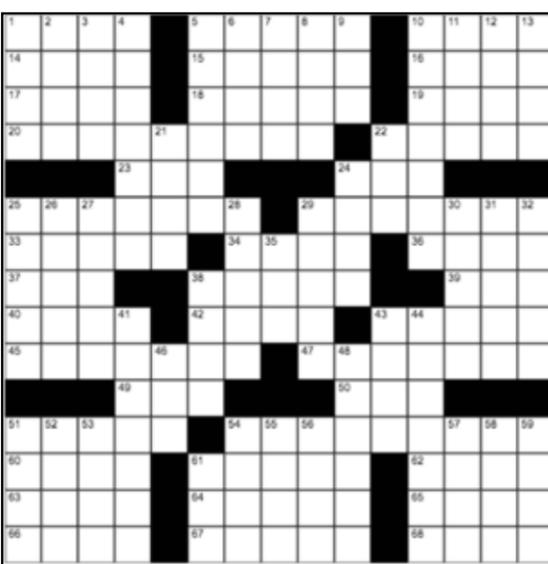
WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | 22 | 33 | cloudy |
| Harbin | 18 | 30 | thundershower |
| Tianjin | 25 | 32 | overcast |
| Urumqi | 22 | 29 | cloudy |
| Xi'an | 21 | 28 | drizzle |
| Lhasa | 12 | 24 | shower |
| Chengdu | 21 | 29 | shower |
| Chongqing | 25 | 31 | drizzle |
| Kunming | 18 | 25 | shower |
| Nanjing | 25 | 34 | overcast |
| Shanghai | 26 | 35 | drizzle |
| Wuhan | 26 | 34 | cloudy |
| Hangzhou | 25 | 37 | overcast |
| Taipei | 26 | 32 | cloudy |
| Guangzhou | 28 | 36 | cloudy |
| Hong Kong | 28 | 33 | cloudy |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | 15 | 20 | drizzle |
| Frankfurt | 12 | 23 | clear |
| Paris | 13 | 24 | clear |
| London | 12 | 21 | cloudy |
| New York | 25 | 32 | drizzle |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Manipulator; 5- Heartburn; 10- He sang about Alice; 14- Saltimbocca seasoning; 15- African acacia tree; 16- Timber; 17- Obstacle; 18- Cover story; 19- French 101 verb; 20- Reducing enzyme; 22- Barbecue leftovers?; 23- Bleaching agent; 24- Brian of rock music; 25- All together; 29- Creatures; 33- Liquid measure; 34- Radiograph; 36- Piece of fencing?; 37- Pot used to contain the ashes of a dead person; 38- Ornamental coronet; 39- Photographer Goldin; 40- Garage sale sign; 42- Iams alternative; 43- Surmise; 45- Speech; 47- Give an account; 49- Naval rank, briefly; 50- Russian fighter; 51- Maker of Pong; 54- Potassium nitrate; 60- Horse of mixed color; 61- Sub system; 62- Pianist Peter; 63- Mentor; 64- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 65- Injectable diazepam, in military lingo; 66- City near Provo; 67- Inventory; 68- North Sea feeder;

DOWN: 1- The Beatles' "Back in the ___"; 2- All there; 3- Mild oath; 4- Customary; 5- Lets up; 6- Big bash; 7- Large wading bird; 8- Pipe; 9- The Greatest; 10- Inspiring amazement; 11- Portnoy's creator; 12- Learning; 13- Lyric poems; 21- Fluid-filled sac; 22- Singer DiFranco; 24- "Only Time" singer; 25- Peer; 26- Suckle; 27- Frenzied; 28- Banish; 29- Biblical brother; 30- Sleep issue; 31- Minimum; 32- Logic; 35- Blame; 38- Swabbies; 41- Breastbone; 43- Clench; 44- Insistence; 46- Verse starter?; 48- Pacific Surfliner operator; 51- Golden Fleece ship; 52- Travel from place to place; 53- Bern's river; 54- Chimney residue; 55- ___ Domini; 56- Not of the cloth; 57- Afternoon affairs; 58- Bald eagle's relative; 59- Laugh loudly; 61- Bro's counterpart;



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 ft²

FOR RENT

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

FOR SALE

[Macau] Apartment Historical Centre2 1 1 1
840 ft² \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)

[Taipa] Wa Bao 2 1 1 2 1
1,071 ft² \$7,995,000 (ref: 18115568)

[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1 1 2 1
1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)

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

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Studio apartment 1 1 1 1 1
650 ft² \$9,000/mth (ref: 20061003)

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

[Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1 1 2 1
2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)

[Coloane] Ocean Garden 4 1 1 4 1
3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)

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TECH FIRMS BEGIN TO ABANDON HONG KONG OVER SECURITY LAW

FELIX TAM

CHINA'S sweeping national security law has forced technology firms to reconsider their presence in Hong Kong. The nimblest among them - the city's startups - are already moving data and people out or are devising plans to do so.

Beijing's polarizing law, which took effect this month, upended Hong Kong's tech scene just as it seemed on a path to becoming a regional hub. Entrepreneurs now face a wave of concern from overseas clients and suppliers about the implications of running data and internet services under the law's new regime of vastly expanded online policing powers. Many are making contingency plans and restructuring their operations away from Hong Kong.

A government-sponsored advertisement promoting a new national security law in Hong Kong.

Their actions may foreshadow similar decisions from internet giants like Facebook Inc., Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Twitter Inc., all of which confront the same set of uncertainties. The larger firms are taking time to fully assess the impact of the new law, while sentiment in the city itself is dour with about half of U.S. business people saying they plan to leave, according to a recent survey by the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. On Tuesday, Naver Corp. - owner of Japan and Korea's largest social media services - said in a blogpost it's relocating a data-backup center from Hong Kong to Singapore for "data security and operational issues" without mentioning the Beijing legislation.

"We are now in a dilemma. If



we follow the law in Hong Kong, we may violate other countries' regulations," said Ben Cheng, co-founder of software company Oursky. "We worry that people will not trust us someday if we tell them we are a Hong Kong-based company."

Twelve-year-old Oursky has already had trouble in the short period since the law came into force, with some foreign cloud service providers refusing to work with Hong Kong-based entities and reviewing the practice, Cheng said without elaborating. To circumnavigate these issues, his company will set up offices in the U.K. in about a year and then expand to Japan.

Tech companies that handle data are particularly vulnerable under the new law. Police can ask them to delete or restrict access to content deemed to endanger national security, with non-compliance punishable with a fine of

HK\$100,000 (around \$13,000) and six months in prison for representatives of infringing publishers. Such provisions put technology companies under "tremendous risk and liability," said Charles Mok, a Hong Kong lawmaker. "It's a signal to these companies to be very careful. If you want to be safe and you don't want the uncertainty, then maybe you have to leave Hong Kong."

Social media apps are arranged for a photograph on a smartphone in Hong Kong on July 7.

In recent years, the global financial center has grown into an attractive destination for fintech entrepreneurs, and its close proximity to Shenzhen and the so-called Greater Bay Area has helped foster research and development ties between startups and Chinese universities. Hong Kong had been expected to reach \$1.7 billion in datacenter revenue by 2023, rivaling nearby Singapore whose ser-

ver market brought in \$1.4 billion last year, according to data from Structure Research.

All that is now under threat. Pro-democracy protests rocked the city in 2019, spooking the investors and tourists vital to the economy. Then Covid-19 struck -- and struck again. To many of the city's entrepreneurs, the Beijing legislation was the final straw.

More than half of Measurable AI's clients are U.S.-based. The Hong Kong firm tracks business receipts and provides transactional data to hedge funds and corporations, many of whom have expressed concern about how data trade may be affected by the Beijing law as well as Washington's retaliatory measure of rescinding Hong Kong's special trade status. "Right now might be a good time for us to rethink how we can restructure or have the operations outside of Hong Kong," co-founder Heatherm Huang said, adding

that the company's accelerating plans to migrate parts of its business development and sales to Singapore and New York.

"Doing a startup in Hong Kong is already difficult. It's a super expensive city," Scott Salandy-De-four, co-founder of energy-tech startup Liquidstar, told Bloomberg News. Even before the new law, the situation in the city was fraught with U.S.-China tensions over everything from trade to human rights. Investors have become very cautious about people and businesses with ties to China and the new law "is like the last nail in the coffin," said the entrepreneur, who is now planning to relocate to Singapore.

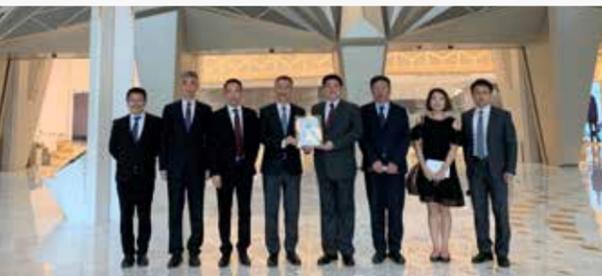
One founder of an edtech venture, who like several executives interviewed asked not to be identified because of the sensitivity of the issue, said their company had transferred all its data to portable offline storage in case there was a need to leave Hong Kong in the future.

"This would be just a short-term phenomenon. I think after they understand the society is more stable, businesses will come back," said Terence Chong, an associate professor of economics at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "Hong Kong is the gateway to China. If they want to have access to China's market, it is the best place for them." Supporters of the law see it as a necessary step to restore investor and business confidence by curbing months of sometimes-violent unrest that have rocked the former British colony.

For some, the allure of closer integration with China through the Greater Bay Area is too good a chance to pass up. "I think Hong Kong can still play the role it's always played, bringing international and Chinese players in technology closer together," said Tony Verb, co-founder of GreaterBay Ventures. "I don't see reasons right now to run away." **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Liaison Office recognizes Melco's pandemic prevention efforts



Melco Resorts & Entertainment's pandemic prevention efforts have been recognized by the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR. A certificate commending the epidemic prevention efforts made by Melco for both the mainland and Macau was presented by

Yao Jian, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office, and received by Melco representatives at a ceremony held at Morpheus at City of Dreams on July 15.

According to Melco, Yao conveyed his appreciation for the company's contributions not only to Wuhan but also

for its efforts in assisting Macau's local associations and the broader community.

"We are grateful for the leadership of Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR and the local Macau SAR Government for their continued, proactive and decisive responses in helping contain the spread of the coronavirus," said Kent Wong, chief advisor at Melco Resorts & Entertainment.

"We strive to continue embracing Melco's philosophy of giving back to the community not only through donations such as that [given] to Wuhan and Hubei in late January this year, but also in helping the community in need through our 'Simple Acts of Kindness' volunteering activities."

MGM's pandemic prevention efforts recognized by Liaison Office



A delegation led by Yao Jian, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR, recently visited MGM Cotai and presented a certificate of appreciation to MGM for its anti-pandemic efforts to support the nation and the SAR government.

Officials accompanying Yao

Jian included Chen Guo Kai, director general of the Economic Affairs Department, and Zuo Xiang Hua, director of Economic Affairs Department, alongside other representatives. The delegation was warmly welcomed by MGM senior executives and given a tour of the hotel to observe how anti-pandemic

measures have been implemented to protect both guests and employees.

The two parties also took the occasion to exchange views on opportunities and challenges arising from Macau's economic recovery after the pandemic.

Yao Jian recognized MGM's anti-pandemic efforts in the past few months, according to the casino operator. While presenting a certificate as a token of appreciation to MGM, the Liaison Office also encouraged the company to continue working in unity and cooperation with the SAR government and different groups to combat the pandemic. The Liaison Office also stressed the need to cultivate employees' sense of belonging to the nation.

TALES AZZONI, MADRID

FOOTBALL

AFTER a small outbreak of coronavirus cases threw Spain's second division into chaos, the courts could end up deciding who gets promoted or relegated.

Deportivo La Coruña was demoted to the third division on Monday even though it couldn't play its final-round match against Fuenlabrada because some Fuenlabrada players tested positive for COVID-19 just hours beforehand.

Deportivo, the 2000 Spanish league champion and a two-time Copa del Rey winner, is threatening legal action to try to stay in the second tier.

"It was a mistake," Deportivo president Fernando Vidal said of their demotion. "It was a complete adulteration of the competition because in the last two rounds every significant match has to be played at the same time. What happened was very serious. We will do whatever is needed. I don't consider the club has been relegated."

Deportivo – and other clubs – wanted all matches to be postponed but the Spanish league, along with the Spanish soccer federation and the nation's sports council, suspended only the match affected by the outbreak. They said it was "the solution that best

protected the health of players and the overall integrity of the competition."

Spanish league president Javier Tebas said yesterday that suspending the entire round would have jeopardized the league even more as it would be harder to keep players from all teams fit and protected from the risk of infection.

He said the final round would not be repeated, and dismissed the possibility of adding clubs to the second division next season so Deportivo could avoid demotion.

"There was no adulteration of the competition," Tebas told Spanish TV. "The decision was actually made to defend the interests of Deportivo."

Among the clubs also considering legal action were Elche, Rayo Vallecano and Numancia.

Elche temporarily grabbed the final spot for the promotion playoffs on Monday, but it will lose it if Fuenlabrada earns at least a draw in a rescheduled ma-

tch against Deportivo, which will have only pride to play for.

Elche said in a statement the decision to postpone only Fuenlabrada-Deportivo "directly affected the integrity of the competition and was not fair."

Rayo Vallecano also was fighting for a playoff spot and depended in part on Fuenlabrada's

result. Club president Raúl Martín Presa said the entire final round should be annulled.

Numancia played its match under protest, saying the fairness of the competition was not maintained.

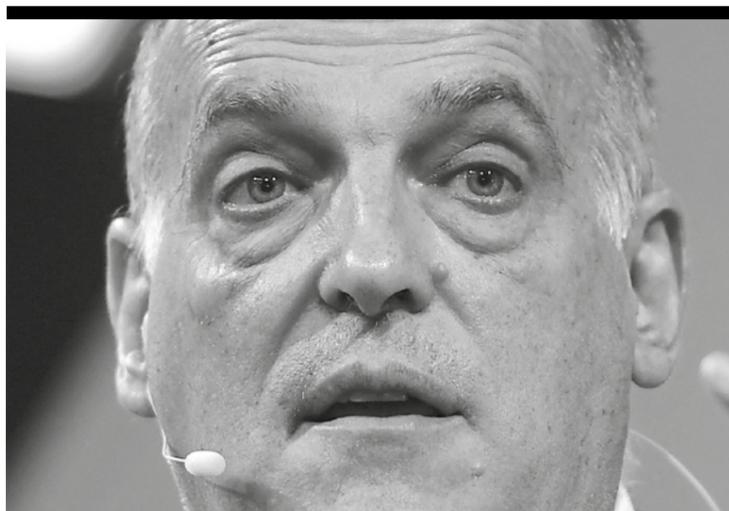
Deportivo players released a statement yesterday saying they told a Spanish league official they

shouldn't be playing if all matches were not canceled.

"Everything that happened after the announcement that only our game was suspended has no validity determining the outcome of a competition that must always be decided on equal terms," the statement said.

Deportivo coach Fernando Vázquez said his team's rivals benefited because they didn't have to deal with the pressure of Deportivo's result. Vázquez said it was strange the other matches were allowed to be played considering that Fuenlabrada hosted Elche just a few days ago and maybe players were already infected by then.

The announcement of the positive cases at Fuenlabrada, based just south of Madrid, came just hours before the final round. Tebas said six players and two members of the club's technical staff tested positive. The team said no one who tested positive showed symptoms of the disease. **AP**



Spanish league president Javier Tebas

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OPINION

Our Desk

Anthony Lam



MANNERS MAKETH MAN
(PERSON)

Using the word "man" at the (near) end of the title in no way signifies my approval of referring to all of humankind with one single gender. Apart from Colin Firth and the film, it is the linguistic factors that have made that word irreplaceable. All starting with the voiced bilabial nasal, the three words have a 2-2-1-syllable construction, making it especially rhythmic.

Over the weekend, a friend of mine made a shared a post on her social media wall from another social media user surnamed Yu, which told a story about a yum-cha experience.

To cut a long story short: Yu was having a normal yum-cha gathering with a group of senior people – not necessarily by age but social ranking – when the Lazy Susan was rotated by the daughter of a "not-so-familiar friend" while Yu was trying to reach for a piece of Har-gow (shrimp dumpling).

The daughter swiftly "wiped out" the crust and the meat from the three pineapple buns with char-siu that she ordered, isolating the bun.

In both instances, the mother did not say a word, nor was the daughter reprimanded. Since parenting is considered a family's business, it's excusable that the other people didn't make a sound.

If you haven't been to Cantonese yum-cha, it is an occasion where foods are placed in the center of a roundtable for everybody to share. Sharing it means that one single person doesn't finish an entire portion.

My friend said, referencing to her experience, that opinions on such situations were divided. Some people thought she was making a fuss out of nothing, while she considered such behavior complete negligence of manner.

Manner is such a subtle quality but nonetheless includes a wide range of elements. It can be defined by how a person converses and conveys themselves.

My friend has also pointed out that, traditionally, the most senior in the group should start eating before everybody else. The strictest rule sets out that if the most senior person doesn't start, nobody should. I hear that the Japanese are still keeping this rule on the table.

I spoke about the issue with my friend on social media. I am not particularly concerned about who gets the first mouthful. I mean, if I happen to be the most senior person at the table, I don't really mind letting others get the first piece.

The same rule applies to the last piece. In some cultures, there is a consensus as to how the last piece of a shared dish should be taken. The person who attempts to take the last piece should ask if anybody else wants it. Despite being a symbolic act when it comes to the real world, it is a demonstration of respect for others.

For me, that's not crucial. My co-diners can feel free to take the last piece without even letting me know.

With all that said, what concerns me the most in the "char-siu pineapple bun" story is that the daughter was never – at least not when the incident happened – told that she was wasting food.

Wastefulness is another heavy topic to cover, but if we make it simple: the daughter did not only waste food that she had taken, but also deprived others of the right to eat the food.

I once asked Paul Pun, head of the Caritas Macau, if they ever received unconsumed food from casino buffets. He told me they did but stopped because there were not enough people to consume all.

A long-awaited report on Russian influence in British politics criticized the British government for neglecting to investigate whether Russia interfered in the 2016 Brexit referendum, describing its utter lack of curiosity about the threats to democracy as being a major failure at the heart of power.

The parliamentary report's authors accused the British government of "actively avoiding" looking into evidence of the Russian threat to the EU referendum. The authors found this particularly unforgivable given the evidence that emerged of Russian interference in the U.S. elections and in the Scottish independence

referendum in 2014.

"There has been no assessment of Russian interference in the EU referendum and this goes back to nobody wanting to touch the issue with a 10-foot pole," committee member Stewart Hosie said, demanding that such a study be done and the public informed.

While the report from the parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee said it would be "difficult — if not impossible — to prove" allegations that Russia sought to influence the referendum, it was clear that the government "was slow to recognize the existence of the threat."



An aerial photo shows the extent of flooding in Guzhen Town of Lu'an City in eastern China's Anhui Province

BREACHED LEVEES TRAP
THOUSANDS AS FLOODING
IN CHINA WORSENS

BREACHED levees have trapped more than 10,000 people in an eastern Chinese town as flooding worsens across much of the country, local authorities said yesterday.

High waters overcame flood defenses protecting Guzhen, a town in Anhui province, on Sunday, the provincial government said on its official microblog.

Flood waters rose as high as 3 meters, the official Xinhua News Agency quoted Wang Qingjun, Guzhen's Communist Party secretary, as saying.

About 1,500 firefighters were rushed to carry out rescues in the province, where weeks of heavy rains have disrupted the lives of more than 3 million people, Xinhua said.

China's Meteorological Administration said more heavy rainfall along the Yellow River and Huai River is expected over the next three days.

At least 141 people have died or gone missing in flooding since the beginning of June, with

more than 150,000 houses damaged and direct economic losses estimated at about \$9 million.

On Sunday, a dam in Anhui was blasted to allow flood waters to flow downriver. The province's Wangjiaba dam on the Huai River opened its 13 sluice gates on Monday, flooding cropland and forests to prevent more extensive damage downriver.

The move forced more than 2,000 people to seek safety in the middle of the night, some loading blankets and furniture onto three-wheel motorcycles.

Built in 1953, the Wangjiaba dam is a key defense against flooding along the Huai and has only opened its sluice gates on 15 occasions, the last time in 2007.

Other parts of Anhui have also been forced to take extreme measures, with the Liu'an city government reporting that Huai River waters had been directed into seven flood retention areas.

Both the Yangtze, China's mightiest river, and

the Yellow River to the north have become engorged following torrential rains.

The western city of Lanzhou, on the Yellow River, has already seen a second flood crest as the river speeds past it toward eastern China and the Bohai Gulf.

In the central province of Hubei, authorities in Enshi prefecture that lies to the south of the Yangtze warned residents yesterday to prepare to evacuate because a nearby newly formed barrier lake could burst anytime. Such lakes are usually formed when rivers become blocked by earth, stones and other debris.

While rainfall has been heavier than usual this year, the level of death and destruction is below the annual average for the last few years, according to Xinhua.

China experienced its worst flooding in recent years in 1998, when more than 2,000 people died and almost 3 million homes were destroyed, mostly along the Yangtze. AP



Nepal will allow both domestic and international flights to resume beginning Aug. 17. The government hasn't decided what types of visitors will be allowed entry and from which countries. Flights were stopped in March when the country was in full lockdown to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Only chartered and repatriation flights were allowed to fly out stranded tourists and return Nepalese workers from abroad.

China Numbers of new cases in China's latest coronavirus outbreak fell yesterday, with just eight reported in the northwestern region of Xinjiang. Another three cases were brought from outside the country, according to the National Health Commission, bringing China's total to 83,693 with 4,634 deaths. Xinjiang cases have been concentrated in the regional capital of Urumqi.



Cyprus Asylum-seekers infected with coronavirus could be seeping through the porous cease-fire line in the ethnically divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus, the country's health minister warned this week. Minister Constantinos Ioannou pointed to "a problem" after a number of migrants who recently crossed from the breakaway north to seek asylum in the internationally recognized south have tested positive for COVID-19.



UK Amber Heard denied yesterday that she fabricated injuries to show that her then-husband Johnny Depp had been violent toward her as she took to the witness box for her second day of evidence in Depp's libel case against a British tabloid over allegations of domestic violence.