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THE TEDXSENADOSQUARE PUBLIC SPEAKING EVENT WILL BE HELD IN MACAU IN 2020 FOR THE SECOND TIME

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AP PHOTO



South Korea said yesterday it has won U.S. consent to use solid fuel for space launch vehicles, a move that is expected to enable Seoul to launch its first surveillance satellites and acquire technology to build more powerful missiles. Solid fuel offers greater mobility for missiles and rockets, and reduces launch preparation time. But Washington had imposed strict restrictions on Seoul's use of solid propellant. More on macaudailytimes.com

AP PHOTO



China New coronavirus cases continue to rise in China's northwestern region of Xinjiang, with 57 reported yesterday. Beijing also reported its first case of domestic transmission in more than two weeks, while the northeastern province of Liaoning added another six cases in its local outbreak. Another four cases were found among Chinese travelers arriving from outside the country, bringing the daily total over the past 24 hours to 68.

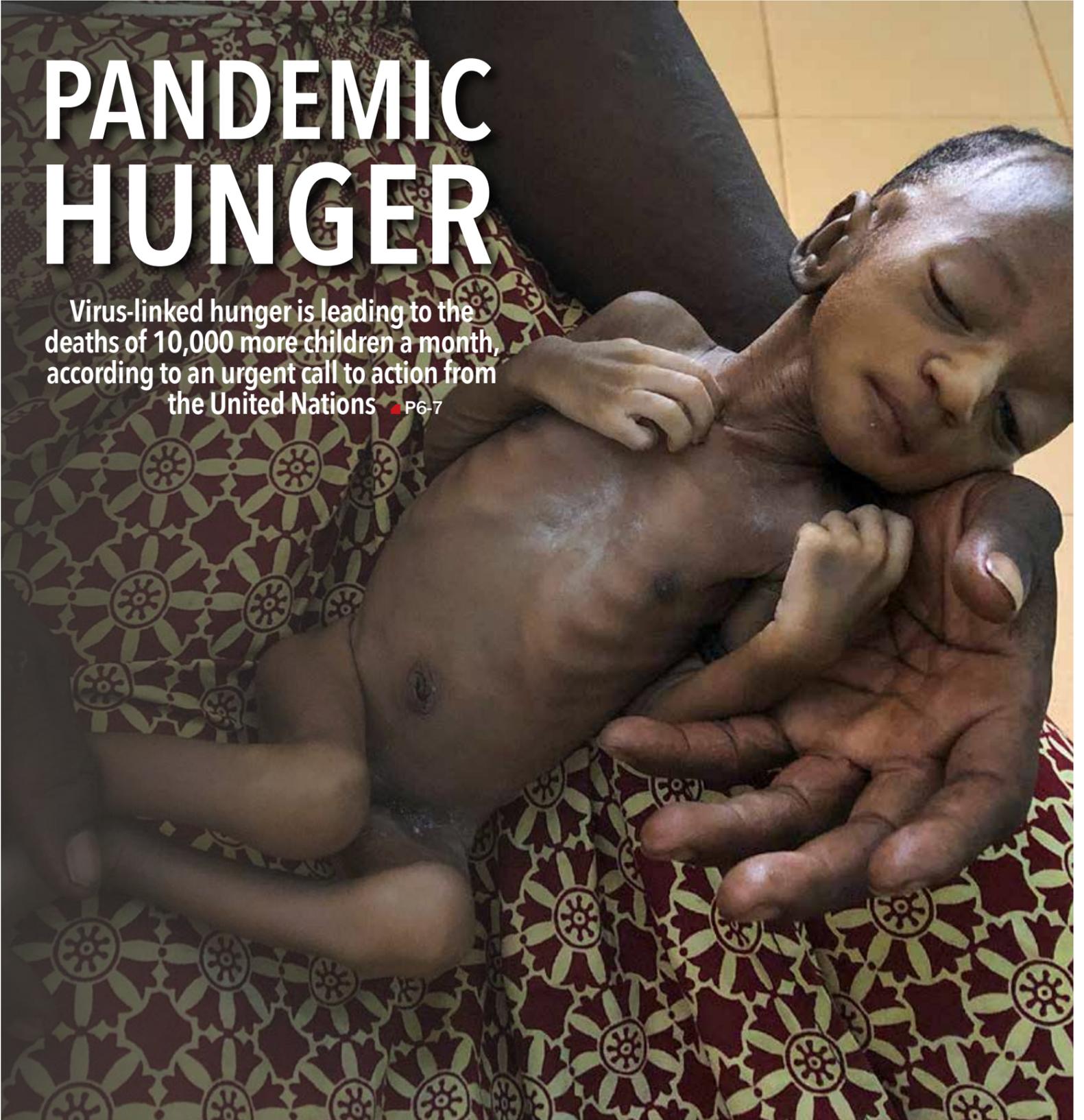
AP PHOTO



Vietnam yesterday locked down its third-largest city for two weeks after 22 cases of COVID-19 were found linked to a hospital. Public transport into and out of the central city of Da Nang was suspended. Over the weekend, thousands of mostly Vietnamese tourists cut short their summer vacations in the popular beach destination.

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AP PHOTO



PANDEMIC HUNGER

Virus-linked hunger is leading to the deaths of 10,000 more children a month, according to an urgent call to action from the United Nations

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AP PHOTO



IS THE ENTENTE IN CHINA-VATICAN RELATIONS DURING PANDEMIC HERE TO STAY?

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THREE BABY ABANDONMENTS IN FOUR YEARS

Macau has recorded three cases of infant abandonment referred by hospitals from 2016 until June 2020

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RENATO MARQUES



COURTS

JUDGE, LAWYERS HOPING FOR IPIM CASE RULINGS THIS AUGUST

RENATO MARQUES

THE high-profile court case involving corruption allegations against the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute is drawing to a close, with the final statements from the prosecution and defense tentatively scheduled for next month.

This imminent closure to the case was acknowledged yesterday by presiding Judge, Leong Fong Meng, while organizing the upcoming court work and rescheduling witnesses to the case.

After an uneventful court session in which the majority of those called to testify did

not present any relevant facts or clarifications about matters in dispute, the Judge took some time to organize the court work for the upcoming weeks.

Judge Leong called on both the prosecution and the defense lawyers to confirm the number and identity of witnesses they considered essential to call to the stand and which witnesses they might consider waiving the hearing in court for, where their testimony might be less important.

Judge Leong wanted to start with the final allegations as soon as possible, and ideally before August 11, being the date that the judiciary year closes. After this date, the courts'

activities are interrupted for the summer holidays.

The defense lawyers also expressed their wish to finalize the trial as soon as possible, and agreed that ideally, a decision should be made before the end of the judiciary year. Of note to the defense lawyers was the case of the former president of IPIM, Jackson Chang, who is undergoing trial while imprisoned.

With less than two weeks until the end of the judiciary year, that timeline seemed to be almost abandoned given that the many defense lawyers would need to prepare their final statements to court within that timeframe.

The prosecutors also predicted that their final allegations would take at least two hours to be delivered, with Judge Leong suggesting that the court would need to book at least two full days for the final statements proceedings.

In light of this, it seems likely that a final decision on the trial will be only known by September when the judiciary activity resumes.

NO CONCEALED SALES AT STARTOWER

During yesterday's court session, one of the witnesses called to testify on the case was a former business partner of Ng Kuok Sao on the business rela-

ted to the development of Star-Tower in Hengqin.

The witness said that, in partnership with Ng and another business partner, he had acquired one whole tower of the project, accounting for some 100 housing units. This acquisition should have cost about 200 million yuan in total.

The witness also said that the price of the whole tower was fixed at 21,000 yuan per square meter, and that that price should be the minimum sale price of the development, although he admits to having no awareness of any sales below this amount.

According to the witness, the units were sold for an average of 22,000 yuan to 24,000 yuan per square meter. In some cases, he was told by Ng to sell although he wanted to keep them to sell at a later stage with an added profit margin.

The witness also said that in all cases, the sales were subject to individual contracts and that all payments related to such contracts had to be done via bank transfer to his bank account, remarking that without exception, no payment in cash or without the signing of a formal contract had been allowed.

At the court, he also said that he did not know Miguel Ian and that he had never sold him any unit on such a project.

Such facts do not credit the theory proposed by the prosecution that Ian, a former Residency Application and Legal Affairs Division chief, had been given benefits in the acquisition of the several housing units on the tower as compensation for his help with the residency application processes at IPIM.

IAS knows of three baby abandonments in 4 years

LYNZY VALLES

MACAU has recorded three cases of suspected infant abandonment referred by hospitals from 2016 until June 2020, according to data provided by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS).

However, the IAS noted that there is "no obvious trend in the data" regarding an increase or decrease in frequency of baby aban-

donment, explaining that within the four year period, there were no incidents recorded in 2018 or in the first half of 2020.

There are no adoption centers in Macau, and adoption in the SAR is a challenging procedure. The city has a total of nine homes for children and youth.

"Macau provides residential care services for minors who are in crisis due

to various family situations (including suspected abandoned infant cases referred by hospitals) through nine homes for children and youths," the IAS explained.

These children include those who are from single-parent families, families with disabled family members and families with patients of chronic illness and diseases.

"After receiving a refer-

ral for inpatient services in children's and youth institutions, IAS will assess and determine the needs of the minors to be admitted to the children's and youth institutions, allocate suitable institutions for them, and coordinate physical examinations and check-in procedures," the bureau added.

To be transferred to these government-subsidized

centers, the monthly total income of the child's family if it is a two-member household should not be over 19,425 patacas, 26,775 patacas for three-member households, and 32,550 patacas for a four-member family.

IAS is the only legitimate agency to offer adoption services in the region.

According to the bureau, it can complete an adoption assessment in three months

upon receiving an application.

Once validated by the court, the adoptive relationship will become irrevocable, to safeguard the best interests of the adopted child.

"The law requires a rigorous adoption procedure: application, assessment, matching, observation period for adoption, and court validation," IAS stated.

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HR association calls on unemployed to improve their career skills

UNEMPLOYED and underemployed residents should take this time to improve their professional skills while they wait for the job market to recover, Choi Chin Man, director-general of the Macau Human Resources Association, has said.

Currently, the government is offering subsidized training programs through the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL). It caters to unemployed Macau residents or those in specific industries, including taxi drivers, tour guides, tour bus drivers and workers from the conferencing and exhibitions sector.

Participants will get a maximum subsidy of MOP6,656 during the training and will be referred to employers by the DSAL upon completing the training. The training scheme is part of the government's economic revival effort in response to the global hit caused by Covid-19.

In addition, the government is offering a salary subsidy of MOP15,000 in cash to each eligible Macau resident. The cash



handout for this year has been brought forward, as well as two rounds of the consumer e-voucher which provides MOP8,000 in total to all registered Macau ID holders.

With many residents wanting additional cash handouts and an increase in the spending value of the consumption card, Choi stated that his association considers expanding the subsidized training program for unemployed and underemployed residents to be a more suitable and

preferable policy.

The training policy, in Choi's opinion, can equip people with new or upgraded knowledge, making them more versatile and adaptive.

"The subsidized training program is a very good [policy] direction," the director-general said. "Receiving training means that they will have polished skills. In future difficult times, they have the skills to choose to change profession or career path."

However, he stressed the

group of underemployed residents should not be forgotten. Underemployment refers to the proportion of the labor force which is being underutilized in the job market because of their skills, experience or education, or because they are working part-time roles when they could be in full-time roles.

According to the director-general, many underemployed residents are earning half or even one-third of their original salaries.

"They still need to pay their bills – house mortgage, car loan, raise their children," Choi stressed.

The DSAL has also initiated a scheme with the Higher Education Bureau to arrange internship opportunities for graduating or soon-to-graduate university students. The authorities are working with entities in both Macau and mainland China to offer these students internships for six to eight weeks. When they conclude their internships, the DSAL will pair them with hiring employers. **AL**

TOURISM BOARD TO INCLUDE HENGQIN IN LOCAL TOURS

Visits to other Greater Bay cities will form part of the Macao Ready Go! Local Tour campaign, the city's tourism chief, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, has said. The next unveiling of new itineraries, will include tours that cover Hengqin, if travel conditions allow. Whether the tours go ahead will depend on the city's capacity to conduct Covid-19 nucleic acid tests. The head of the tourism authority does not want to fill up quotas with tourism needs. Given that this year's Macau Grand Prix has received the green light for the time being, the tourism board will roll out advertisements in other places, with mainland China as the main focus. Hong Kong and other surrounding places will be also form part of the marketing strategy, but advertisements will be generic in nature, given the pandemic.

CDC DEFENDS COVID-19 TESTS FOR CASINO ENTRANTS

If infections occur within casinos, the consequence will be serious. Dr Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has said in defense of the strict measures currently taking place at casino doors. For the time being, the government requires all entrants to possess a nucleic acid test result from within the preceding seven days and a Green Health Code in order to enter any casino. Backing the requirement, Leong reiterated that the global situation remains changing and uncertain, and the government cannot guarantee that cases will not emerge in the city. She reminded that asymptomatic cases have been found in many countries.

GOV'T OUTLINES PRIORITIES FOR YOUTH EDUCATION STRATEGY

The main focus of youth policies between 2021 and 2023 will be nurturing talented young people with a focus on career planning, in addition to enhancing their understanding of local and national development. The government will also focus on improving young people's competitiveness and fostering their multifaceted development. The cross-departmental working group responsible for youth policy will also improve knowledge among young people in relation to the master plan of the country as well as its regional development strategy. The policies, however, will undergo public consultation before they are implemented.

CRIME

PJ arrests six in illegal border entry scheme

RENATO MARQUES

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested six people suspected of being involved in a scheme facilitating illegal entry to the territory for mainland gamblers who wanted to play at local casinos, a PJ spokesperson informed during the joint press conference on Monday.

The police made the arrests in an operation last

Saturday in the surroundings of Ka-Ho Port in Coloane, detaining two people from the mainland and one Macau resident.

According to the information from the PJ, the 31-year-old local man is a casino worker, while those from the mainland include a 34-year-old male who was found to be overstaying his entry visa and four others whom the police believe were

trying to illegally enter Macau.

According to the same source, the group's operations were organized and those operating locally had established a system to provide accommodation in an illegal hostel located in Taipa.

The PJ conducted the operation after receiving intelligence from Zhuhai authorities on the suspected activities of the group.

The group was detained after the facilitators managed to smuggle into the territory the clients who arrived at Ka-Ho on Saturday.

The PJ said that three of the four people caught admitted to having used the scheme to avoid the Covid-19 prevention measures adopted on both sides of the border, saying that they did so in order to gamble in local casinos.

At the same time, the Zhuhai authorities detained another five people that the mainland authorities believe to be also connected to such a group, including the suspected ringleader.

To the PJ, the detainees also disclosed that to reach Macau using the above method would require payment of a fee that ranged between 22,000 and 30,000 yuan.

SJM RECORDS 74.4% FALL IN FIRST HALF GAMING REVENUE

NET gaming revenue at Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) fell 74.4% in the first half of 2020, according to financial results disclosed yesterday by the firm, with the VIP segment falling faster than mass.

According to the selected financial results, mass market gaming revenue of the company decreased 73.5% and VIP gross gaming revenue showed a decrease of 81.6% during

the first half of the year. During the same period, slot machine gross revenue fell 59.2%.

In the first half of the year, gross gaming revenue across all six Macau operators fell 77.4% in year-on-year terms to just MOP33.7 billion, with about two-thirds of the revenue earned in January alone.

Meanwhile, SJM said that the Group's Adjusted

EBITDA Margin decreased to negative 22.5% from 12.2% in the first half of 2019.

The casino operator cited the Covid-19 pandemic as the chief cause behind the sudden collapse in gaming revenue. It pointed to the 15-day closure of casinos in February, as well as ongoing restrictions on entry from the mainland, Hong Kong and other locations as

specific consequences of Covid-19 that have crippled gaming revenues.

"SJM's first half results reflect the severe contraction in travel and tourism caused by the Covid-19 pandemic," said Ambrose So, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of SJM Holdings Limited, in prepared comments.

Even so, SJM maintains a strong financial position, the company said, with

cash, bank balances and pledged bank deposits of more than HKD7.5 billion as of June 30, 2020.

"In this environment, we strive to control our running costs at a prudent level. [...] We are confident that when the region emerges from the pandemic, SJM will be at the forefront of Macau's resumed development into a world centre of tourism and leisure." **DB**

INTERVIEW

DIOCESE CONCERNED WITH GLOBAL ISSUES AFFECTING CATHOLIC CHURCH: EXPERT



José Miguel Encarnação, an expert on China-Vatican relations

LYNZY VALLES

IT remains unclear whether China will meet its pledge to recognize underground clergy and clandestine diocese.

According to José Miguel Encarnação, an expert on China-Vatican relations, the central government has kept religion within the exclusive sphere of the state, despite opening up in its economic and social aspects.

"By this, I mean that any action taken by China in relation to the Catholic Church must always fit within the diplomatic framework that exists today between China and the Holy See, that is, between the representatives of the Pope as the Vatican's head of state and China's mandated entity for this purpose," Encarnação explained in a recent interview with the Macau Daily Times.

The expert and editor of O Clarim, the Macau Diocese's mouthpiece, said that the issue remains outstanding as the Patriotic Association has been losing autonomy, as it is increasingly being controlled by the State Council, which limits its negotiating power.

"Only through a unilateral decision taken by the Central Government could China recognize the clergy and clandestine dioceses, and one of the conditions is its integration into the Patriotic Association," he said.

Many Christians in China have joined underground churches as the country continually tightens its control on churches.

These underground churches, also called loyal churches, came into existence in the 1950s right after the severing of ties between Chinese Catholics and the Holy See.

However, for Encarnação, it was significant to note that during the mandatory quarantine in China, as a consequence of Covid-19, there were more than 60 million people in Hubei province alone who attended masses, bible readings, prayers, religious news and videos online.

These residents even watched the Holy Week celebrated by Pope Francis in the Vatican.

The online broadcasts were made not only by officials from Catholic dioceses as large as those in Beijing and Shanghai, but also from the dioceses of Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines and Malaysia.

"At this moment, the explanation for the Chinese authorities not blocking internet access to such religious content is unknown, especially when not many years ago, more restrictive laws were passed in relation to any manifestation of religious worship, notably the law that prohibits citizens under eighteen years of age from participating in religious classes," ex-

plained Encarnação.

"It is yet another mystery to unravel in the already complex relationship between China and the Holy See," he noted.

Meanwhile, China has been urging the Vatican to cut ties with Taiwan. Initially, Beijing wanted the Vatican to cease its relations with Taiwan before it was willing to open dialogue.

Encarnação hinted that since the Holy See recognizes Taiwan as the legitimate government of China, necessary conditions for the Holy See's ability to move the Apostolic Nunciature from Taipei to Beijing remains unclear.

"In diplomacy, pressure is not exerted by just one party. Note that Taiwan today is only recognized by around fifteen states, the majority of which are micro-states with no influence globally," said the expert.

"For how much longer does the Holy See want to be included in this list, especially when China asserts itself as the world's second superpower?" he questioned.

Reports state that by the end of July, Vatican and Chinese delegations will meet in Rome to review and consider the possible renewal of the provisional agreement on the nominations of bishops, which was initially signed on September 22, 2018.

The agreement was made after the relationship established

when President Xi Jinping and Pope Francis started to exchange frequent correspondence following their elections, both in March 2013.

Encarnação noted that after the signing of the provisional agreement for the appointment of bishops was made public, several misinterpretations of the document followed.

According to him, what was written in the agreement was explicit: the recognition by the Holy See of nine bishops, one of them "posthumously, previously nominated by the Patriotic Association."

"The document adds almost nothing else. I do not know whether it is because of the desire of the world's Catholic community or the media's desire to see

the agreement as the first step towards the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and China," said the expert.

"The truth is that many have considered that in the near future, all new bishops in China will be appointed after consulting with both parties, which is not written anywhere in the document," Encarnação added.

Therefore, Encarnação does not consider the agreement a step forward for the Holy See in China.

"Much more important than the agreement is the good relationship that exists between Pope Francis and President Xi Jinping, and the countless messages that Pope Francis sends to Chinese Catholics on the most important dates of the Liturgical Calendar," said the expert.

"Now, in 2020, Pope Francis addresses Catholics in China, and no criticism is heard from the Blue Room of the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs."

When questioned on the role that the Macau Diocese plays in fostering the negotiation of the agreement, the expert noted that the local Diocese is "certainly wary of everything that is happening on this side of the world in relation to the Catholic Church." He compared the situation in Macau to the Diocese of Hong Kong in that the Diocese of Macau also has the status of a missionary diocese. Its bishops are elected by the prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples and report directly to the Pope.

Previously, Fr. Cyril Jerome Law, Jr noted that the city has a transparent relationship with the Vatican, citing the visit of Cardinal Fernando Filoni, which he also considered as a sign of the Holy See's care and the confirmation of their work in the SAR.



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (right) meets with the Vatican's Secretary for Relations with States Paul Gallagher in Munich, Germany

TEDxSenadoSquare follows event trend moving online

ANTHONY LAM

MACAU'S own TEDx event returns for its second edition this year, but this time online.

Due to the widespread Covid-19 across the globe, this year's TEDxSenadoSquare was moved online in order to avoid complications about social distancing and travel quarantines.

It's a new exercise not only for Macau but also for the team to move the event online. But this is not the sole challenge facing Venus Loi, one of the organizers of the event.

Loi admitted that they are not particularly experienced in hosting online events, but they consider it a valuable opportunity to learn how to do so.

A bigger problem is curating an event that attracts the interest of the public.

"I think the audience base is a real challenging factor," Loi said, referring not to the size of the population which would be attracted to a TEDx talk, but the particular interests and demographics of the audience.

In contrast to a TED talk, which generally focuses on larger topics, a TEDx talk is more localized and has a more independent approach, said Loi.

"It's not like a technology seminar that focuses on a sole topic," Loi explained. "A TEDx event can have all [different] topics in one event."

She said the open-mindedness of the audience is the key to making the event meaningful. "For example, the audience may be presented with a completely unfamiliar topic within the rundown," she said. "Their losing focus is something we try to avoid." In her opinion, audience

DANIEL BETTLER



Venus Loi, one of the organizers of TEDxSenadoSquare

members should have a mixed mindset and embrace various disciplines.

Because of the nature of TEDx talks, the organizer thinks it possible to gather a fully localized speaker lineup. The fame of the speakers is not part and parcel to receiving an invitation.

"Speakers don't necessarily have to be the owners of a large enterprise or a high-ranking government official," Loi explained. "Fame doesn't [predict whether an invitation is extended] but content does."

"At other TEDx events, even students can take the floor," Loi added. "That's why I believe it's possible to make an event with a full local speaker lineup. We can even do it now."

In her opinion, the key is what a speaker is capable of presenting, as much as how they do so.

"It may be completely normal for some speakers to present professional, technical or complicated concepts, such as com-

puter arithmetic or algorithms," she said. "This may be what they do every day."

But for lay people, it may be too incomprehensible and cause them to lose interest. "That's why we need to work with the speakers to determine a suitable angle or topic," she explained.

The organizer further explained she needs to remind speakers to focus on a topic that is appealing to Macau audiences, in addition to meeting the 18-minute TEDx talk time allowance.

"In addition, some speakers are knowledgeable in several areas, so we need to discuss with them so that they will focus on a single area," Loi explained. "We will also work on their pacing from scratch."

TEDxSenadoSquare will be held on Sunday, August 9, between 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. More information can be found on the organizer's website and social media pages.

HUSH closing concert moved to Tap Seac Square

THE closing concert of the "HUSH!! Full Music 2020" summer festival will be transferred from its original venue in Senado Square to Tap Seac Square, according to its organizer, the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

The concert, titled "Hot Wave in the City", will still be held at its original date and time

of August 2, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m., the IC said in a statement issued yesterday.

The cultural authority did not advance a reason for the venue change, however it did mention the need to follow the anti-pandemic "guidelines of the health authorities and deploy the appropriate measures in

the artistic activities."

The closing concert is dedicated to pop music and will feature performances by local bands, including Avidya, Chapter 2, Free Yoga Mats, Scamper, Ariclan and LAVY.

As the number of people allowed in the venue is limited, if the number of spectators inside the

venue reaches the maximum limit, spectators will be requested to wait in line for admission.

In conjunction with the epidemic prevention works, this year's festival hosted various types of music activities and workshops in different districts of the city between June and August.

Last weekend, a "Rooftop Sunset" concert was held at the Ponte 9 Rooftop, with several musical groups performing through the late afternoon and early evening. **DB**

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GREAT TIMES

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MACAU is a tiny yet an amazing city where cultures meet. For over four hundred years, the Chinese and western cultures have grown here as one. In celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the Inscription of the Historical Center of Macau on the World Heritage List, a series of activities has been brought together, awaiting you to discover the unique Sino-Portuguese culture.

Stepping into the miniature of Lisbon at the MGM MACAU Grande Praça, you will find yourself embark on a holistic journey of a Sino-Portuguese culture. The sunrays that shine through the dramatic skylight dome creates a roadmap for you to discover the artistry of Macau history. Through the Sino-Portuguese Cultural Tour, you will be able to learn all sorts of interesting stories behind every precious intangible cultural heritage, which are transmitted from generation to generation.



Allow yourself to immerse in the open space surrounded by azulejo, the blue-colored Portuguese ceramic tiles, and let music be the universal language of us. Revel in Fado, the Soul of Portuguese music that developed through Portuguese travelling history and sync with the emotions behind the chords and melodies. During the tour, you will get to learn about the history of Patuá, an endangered language system based on Portuguese vocabulary and integrate Malay, Cantonese, English and Spanish for the past four centuries in Macau. Even though it is gradually fading from memory, you will still get to learn a word or two during the tour!

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LORI HINNANT AND SAM
MEDNICK, HOUNDE

THE lean season is coming for Burkina Faso's children. And this time, the long wait for the harvest is bringing a hunger more ferocious than most have ever known.

That hunger is already stalking Haboue Solange Boue, an infant who has lost half her former body weight of 2.5 kilograms in the last month. With the markets closed because of coronavirus restrictions, her family sold fewer vegetables. Her mother is too malnourished to nurse her.

"My child," Danssanin Lanizou whispers, choking back tears as she unwraps a blanket to reveal her baby's protruding ribs. The infant whimpers soundlessly.

All around the world, the coronavirus and its restrictions are pushing already hungry communities over the edge, cutting off meager farms from markets and isolating villages from food and medical aid. Virus-linked hunger is leading to the deaths of 10,000 more children a month over the first year of the pandemic, according to an urgent call to action from the United Nations shared with The Associated Press ahead of its publication in the Lancet medical journal.

Further, more than 550,000 additional children each month are being struck by what is called wasting, according to the U.N. — malnutrition that manifests in spindly limbs and distended bellies. Over a year, that's up 6.7 million from last year's total of 47 million. Wasting and stunting can permanently damage children physically and mentally, transforming individual tragedies into a generational catastrophe.

"The food security effects of the COVID crisis are going to reflect many years from now," said Dr. Francesco Branca, the World Health Organization head of nutrition. "There is going to be a societal effect."

In Burkina Faso, for example, one in five young children is chronically malnourished. Food prices have spiked, and 12 million of the country's 20 million residents don't get enough to eat.

Lanizou's husband, Yakouaran Boue, used to sell onions to buy seeds and fertilizer, but then the markets closed. Even now, a 50-kilogram bag of onions sells for a dollar less, which means less seed to plant for next year.

"I'm worried that this year we won't have enough food to feed her," he said, staring down at his daughter over his wife's shoulder. "I'm afraid she's going to die."

GLOBAL FAMINES

From Latin America to South Asia to sub-Saharan Africa, more families than ever are staring down a future without enough food. The analysis published yes-



Osmary Vargas, who is malnourished, cries in a hammock as she waits for her mother to return from begging in the street for money and food in Maracaibo, Venezuela



A medic checks a malnourished newborn baby inside an incubator at Al-Sabeen hospital in Sanaa, Yemen



Mothers hold their babies suffering from malnutrition as they wait at a UNICEF clinic in Jabal Saraj, north of Kabul, Afghanistan



Fatima Li (right) holds

EXCLUSIVE**Virus-linked hunger tied to 10,000**

terday [Macau time] found about 128,000 more young children will die over the first 12 months of the virus.

In April, World Food Program head David Beasley warned that the coronavirus economy would cause global famines "of biblical proportions" this year. There are different stages of what is known as food insecurity; famine is officially declared when, along with other measures, 30% of the population suffers from wasting.

The agency estimated in February that one in every three people in Venezuela was already going hungry, as inflation rendered many salaries nearly worthless and forced millions to flee abroad. Then the virus arrived.

"The parents of the children are without work," said Annelise Mirabal, who works with a foundation that helps malnourished children in Maracaibo, the city in Venezuela thus far hardest hit by the pandemic. "How are they going to feed their kids?"

These days, many new patients are the children of migrants who are making long journeys back to Venezuela from Peru, Ecuador or Colombia, where their families became jobless and unable to buy food during the pandemic. Others

are the children of migrants who are still abroad and have not been able to send back money for more food.

"Every day we receive a malnourished child," said Dr. Francisco Nieto, who works in a hospital in the border state of Tachira. He added that they look "like children we haven't seen in a long time in Venezuela," alluding to those in famines in parts of Africa.

In May, Nieto recalled, after two months of quarantine in Ve-

Some of the worst hunger still occurs in sub-Saharan Africa. In Sudan, 9.6 million people are living in acute food insecurity

nezuela, 18-month-old twins arrived at his hospital with bodies bloated from malnutrition. The children's mother was jobless and living with her own mother. She told the doctor she had only been able to feed them a simple drink made with boiled bananas.

"Not even a cracker? Some chicken?" he asked.

"Nothing," the children's grandmother responded.

When doctors tried to treat them, one of the boys developed

"refeeding syndrome," where food can result in metabolic abnormalities. Eight days later, he died.

Nieto said aid groups have provided some relief, but their work has been limited by COVID-19 quarantines. A home set up in Tachira to receive malnourished children after they are released from the hospital is no longer in operation. So now children are sent directly back to their families, many of whom are still unable to feed them properly.

"It's very frustrating," Nieto said. "The children get lost."

PROGRESS REVERSED

The rise in child deaths worldwide would reverse global progress for the first time in decades. Deaths of children younger than 5 had declined steadily since 1980, to 5.3 million around the world in 2018, according to a UNICEF report. About 45 percent of the deaths were due to undernutrition.

The leaders of four international agencies — the World Health Organization, UNICEF, the World Food Program and the Food and Agriculture Organization — have called for at least \$2.4 billion immediately to address hunger. Even more than the money, restrictions on movement need to be eased so that families can seek treatment, said Victor Aguayo, the head of

UNICEF's nutrition program.

"By having schools closed, by having primary health care services disrupted, by having nutritional programs dysfunctional, we are also creating harm," Aguayo said. He cited as an example the near-global suspension of Vitamin A supplements, which are a crucial way to bolster developing immune systems.

In Afghanistan, restrictions on movement prevent many families from bringing their malnourished children to hospitals for food and aid just when they need it most. The Indira Gandhi hospital in the capital, Kabul, has seen only three or four malnourished children, said specialist Nematullah Amiri.

"Transportation between Kabul and the provinces was not allowed regularly and also people were afraid of coronavirus," Amiri explained. Last year, 10 times as many malnourished children filled the ward. The same is true of hospital beds in multiple countries, according to Médecins Sans Frontières.

Afghanistan is now in a red zone of hunger, with severe childhood malnutrition spiking from 690,000 in January to 780,000 — a 13% increase, according to UNICEF. Food prices have risen by more than 15%, and a recent study by Johns Hopkins University indicated an additional 13,000 Afghans younger than 5 could die.

Four in 10 Afghan children



She feeds her two-year-old son, Hama Sow, as he is treated with a feeding tube for malnourishment in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

child deaths each month

are already stunted. Stunting happens when families live on a cheap diet of grains or potatoes, with supply chains in disarray and money scarce. Most stunted children never catch up, dampening the productivity of poor countries, according to a report released this month by the Chatham House think tank.

In Yemen, restrictions on movement have also blocked the distribution of aid, along with the stalling of salaries and price hikes. The Arab world's poorest country is suffering further from a fall in remittances and a huge drop in funding from humanitarian agencies.

Yemen is now on the brink of famine, according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, which uses surveys, satellite data and weather mapping to pinpoint the places most in need. A UNICEF report predicted that the number of malnourished children could reach 2.4 million by the end of the year, a 20% increase.

Days after 7-month-old baby Issa Ibrahim left a medical center in the impoverished northern district of Hajjah, he succumbed to severe acute malnutrition. His mother found the body on July 7, lifeless and cold.

Fatma Nasser, a 34-year-old mother of seven, is among three million displaced people in Yemen who don't have enough mo-

ney to feed themselves or their children. She lives on one meal a day. Ibrahim Nasser, the father, lost his only source of income, fishing, after roads to the sea were closed because of the coronavirus.

The mother's milk dried up, and the baby lived on formula. But doctors say families tend to use less milk powder to save money, and babies don't usually get enough nutrition.

"It's God's will," the mother said. "We can say nothing."

LIVING FROM ONE MEAL TO THE NEXT

Some of the worst hunger still occurs in sub-Saharan Africa. In Sudan, 9.6 million people are living from one meal to the next in acute food insecurity — a 65% increase from the same time last year.

Lockdowns across Sudanese provinces, as around the world, have dried up work and incomes for millions. The global economic downturn has brought supply chains to a standstill, and restrictions on public transport have disrupted agricultural production. With inflation hitting 136%, prices for basic goods have more than tripled.

"It has never been easy but now we are starving, eating grass, weeds, just plants from the earth," said Ibrahim Youssef, director of the Kalma camp for internally

displaced people in war-ravaged south Darfur.

Long before the pandemic hit, Sudan's economy had plummeted, especially after the oil-rich south seceded in 2011. Decades of economic mismanagement under Omar al-Bashir led to a surge in food prices, and the transitional government now in power

"The food security effects of the COVID crisis are going to reflect many years from now."

DR FRANCESCO BRANCA
WHO

has struggled to stop the tailspin.

Natural disasters are making the situation even worse. The country's production of grain has dropped by 57% compared to last year, largely due to pests and seasonal floods. And swarms of desert locusts have already infested three Sudanese provinces, threatening more losses to farmers.

Internally displaced people in the restive provinces of Darfur, Kasala and Kordofan have been hit hardest, and the poorest say they can barely afford one meal a day.

Emergency food security needs by country

Estimated number of people expected to be in urgent need of humanitarian food assistance in January 2021. Chart shows the most vulnerable countries ranked from highest to lowest among monitored countries.

Number of people in each country impacted:

Yemen	More than 15 million
DRC, Zimbabwe, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Sudan	5 — 10
Ethiopia, Nigeria, Somalia, Kenya	2.5 — 5
Uganda, Mozambique, Guatemala, Burkina Faso, Cameroon	1 — 2.5
Honduras, Niger, Haiti, Madagascar, Malawi, CAR	0.5 — 1
El Salvador, Lesotho, Chad, Burundi, Nicaragua, Mali, Mauritania, Rwanda	0.1 — 0.5

SOURCE: Famine Early Warning Systems Network

AP

"I don't have the basics I need to survive," said Zakaria Yehia Abdullah, 67, a farmer in the Krinding camp in West Darfur, who hasn't worked the fields since authorities imposed a partial lockdown in April and local militias escalated attacks. "That means the 10 people counting on me can't survive either."

Before the pandemic and lockdown, his family ate three meals a day, sometimes with bread, or they'd add butter to porridge. Now they are down to just one meal, in the morning, of "millet porridge" — water mixed with grain. He said the hunger is showing "in my children's faces."

Adam Haroun, a Krinding camp official, recorded nine deaths linked with malnutrition, otherwise a rare occurrence, over the past two months — five newborns and four older adults, he said.

To mitigate the crisis, the government, with support from the World Bank, is rolling out a \$1.9 billion cash transfer program to Sudan's neediest families. But many residents of Sudan's long-neglected regions remain skeptical that authorities can alleviate their suffering.

"The hunger here is not any normal hunger," said Adam Gooma, a local activist in Kabkabiya, North Darfur, who helps run displacement camps in the area.

Back in Burkina Faso, COVID-19 restrictions are also hitting hard, keeping families like that of 14-year-old Nafissetou Niampa from the market. Niampa lay face down on a bed at the Yalgado Ouedraogo University Hospital in the capital, Ouagadougou, fanned by her mother. The teenager has a heart condition that affects her breathing and now is shedding weight as well.

"Before the disease we didn't have anything," said Aminata Mande, her mother. "Now with

the disease we don't have anything also."

Burkina Faso was already facing a growing food crisis, with rising violence linked to militants cutting families off from their farms. With the advent of the coronavirus, the government closed markets, restricted movement and shut down public transport, making it much harder for traders to buy and sell food.

While malnutrition deaths routinely rise during the four-month wait for the next harvest in October, this year is worse than anyone can remember, according to physicians and aid workers. On the World Food Program's hunger map, nearly all of Burkina Faso is a red zone of need.

Even though the Tuy province produces the most corn in the country, food there is not reaching those who need it most. In Tuy between March and April, the number of underweight newborns increased by 40%, signifying that the mothers were most likely malnourished during pregnancy, said Joseph Ouattara, chief doctor at the hospital in the small town of Houunde.

Child deaths due to malnutrition are also escalating. In a normal year, an average of 19 children die from malnutrition in Tuy. But in the first five and a half months of this year alone, the number of children dying from what appears to be malnutrition is already up to 20 just at the province's central hospital in the main town of Houunde.

Ernestine Belebongo, a 37-year-old trader with a stand at the Houunde market, was unable to buy or sell food for weeks, so there has been no fish or meat for her five children since March. Her 3-year-old daughter is swiftly losing weight, and even though most of the COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted, Belebongo still serves her family only grain.

"I'm worried about the lean season," she said. "I have many kids and no money." AP

COVID-19

Head of China CDC gets injected with experimental vaccine

DAKE KANG, BEIJING

THE head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention says he has been injected with an experimental coronavirus vaccine in an attempt to persuade the public to follow suit when one is approved.

"I'm going to reveal something undercover: I am injected with one of the vaccines," Gao Fu said in a webinar Sunday hosted by Alibaba Health, an arm of the Chinese e-commerce giant, and Cell Press, an American publisher of scientific journals. "I hope it will work."

The Associated Press reported earlier this month that a state-owned Chinese company injected employees with experimental shots in March, even before the government-approved testing in people — a move that raised ethical concerns among some experts.

Gao did not say when or how he took the vaccine candidate, leaving it unclear whether he was injected as part of a government-approved human trial. He did not respond to requests for comment.

The claim underscores the enormous stakes as China competes with U.S. and British companies to be the first with a vaccine to help end the pandemic — a feat that would be both a scientific and political triumph.

China has positioned itself to be a strong contender. Eight of the nearly two



Gao Fu, the head of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention (China CDC)

dozen potential vaccines in various stages of human testing worldwide are from China, the most of any country.

Gao declined to say which of the vaccines he was injected with, saying he didn't want to be seen as "doing some kind of propaganda" for a particular company.

Last month, Gao was a coauthor on a paper introducing one candidate, an "inactivated" vaccine made by growing the whole virus in a lab and then killing it. That candidate is being developed by an affiliate of state-owned SinoPharm.

The company previously said in an online post that 30 employees, including top executives, helped "pre-test" its vaccine in March, before it was approved for its initial human study. Scientists vehemently debate such self-experimentation, because what happens to one or a few people outside a well-designed

study is not usable evidence of safety or effectiveness.

Chinese state media have also reported that employees of state-owned companies going abroad are being offered injections of the vaccine.

Gao said he took the injection to instill public confidence in vaccines, especially amid a tide of rising mistrust that has fueled conspiracy theories and attacks on scientists.

"Everybody has suspicions about the new coronavirus vaccine," Gao said. "As a scientist, you've got to be brave. ... If even we didn't do it, how can we persuade the whole world — all the people, the public — to be vaccinated?"

Andrew Rennekamp, an editor at Cell and one of the moderators of Gao's webinar, said, "This is a brave thing to do, and it shows his faith in what he believes is the safety of the vaccine and his commitment to the

science and to public health."

Even as China is among the leaders in the global race for a vaccine, it is also striving to overcome years of drug scandals — the latest coming in 2018 when authorities recalled a rabies vaccine and later announced that batches of children's DPT vaccines, for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus, were ineffective.

Gao himself had also been under heavy scrutiny for the China CDC's initial handling of the coronavirus outbreak, both at home and abroad. He largely vanished from public view for months, resurfacing again in an interview with state media in late April.

Recently, Gao has been involved in research on the coronavirus.

As vaccine research continues, China's CDC is now looking into potential immunization programs, trying to figure out whether to prioritize children, the elderly or healthcare workers, he said.

Gao's revelations come at a time of heightened geopolitical tensions fueled by the outbreak.

Gao said repeatedly in his lecture that he wanted more cooperation between the U.S. and China, pleading for unity even as relations between Beijing and Washington plummet to new lows.

"We don't want to have China and the U.S. separated scientifically," Gao said. "We've got to work together." AP

this day in history



1981 CHARLES AND DIANA MARRY

Crowds of 600,000 people filled the streets of London to catch a glimpse of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer on their wedding day.

The couple were married at St Paul's Cathedral before an invited congregation of 3,500 and an estimated global TV audience of 750 million — making it the most popular programme ever broadcast.

Britons enjoyed a national holiday to mark the occasion.

Lady Diana, 20, arrived almost on time for the 1120 BST ceremony after making the journey from Clarence House in the Glass Coach with her father, Earl Spencer.

She made the three-and-a-half minute walk up the red-carpeted aisle with the sumptuous 25 ft (7.62 m) train of her Emmanuel designed, ivory taffeta and antique lace gown flowing behind her.

Archbishop of Canterbury Dr Robert Runcie led the traditional Church of England service, but he was assisted by clergymen from many denominations.

The bride's nerves showed briefly when she mixed up the Prince's names — calling him Philip Charles Arthur George, rather than Charles Philip.

Charles, 32, in the full dress uniform of a naval commander, slightly muddled his vows too, referring to "thy goods" rather than "my worldly goods".

After a brief private signing ceremony the Prince and Princess of Wales walked back down the aisle to the refrain of Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance.

The newlyweds took the open-topped state landau to Buckingham Palace where they emerged on the balcony at 1310 BST to give the crowds the kiss they had been longing to see.

Afterwards Charles and Diana retired from the public gaze to enjoy toasts and a wedding breakfast with 120 family guests.

A "just married" sign attached to the landau by Princes Andrew and Edward raised smiles as the married couple were driven over Westminster Bridge to get the train to Romsey in Hampshire to begin their honeymoon.

Courtesy BBC News

AUSTRALIAN police have revealed that Chinese students based in Sydney are being forced to stage photos and video of themselves bound and blindfolded in an extortion scam described as virtual kidnapping.

Eight students this year have fallen victim to the scams, which have netted criminal syndicates 3.2 million Australian dollars (\$2.3 million), New South Wales state Police Detective Chief Superintendent Darren Bennett said.

The students are typically telephoned by a Mandarin speaker who purports to be someone holding authority in China such as an embassy, police or tax official. They are told they risk deportation or arrest unless their fa-

CRIME

CHINESE IN SYDNEY FALL VICTIM TO 'VIRTUAL KIDNAPPING' SCAM

milies pay a ransom.

The students send images of themselves bound and gagged, move into hotels and cut off all communications.

"Our message today to everyone is that, if you receive a telephone call that encourages you to deposit money into a bank account by a person who's pretending to be from a position of authority in China or another location, don't pay any money, either hang the phone up, call the police, or

call your university or educational facility to get some advice and counseling," Bennett said.

New South Wales Assistant Police Commissioner Peter Thurtell said Chinese authorities had assured Australian police that under no circumstances would a government agency contact a student overseas to demand money.

The scam is becoming increasingly common as Australia-China relations continue to sour. AP

IN CONTEXT

In less than a year the couple produced their first child, William, on 21 June 1982.

A second son, Prince Harry, was born on 15 September 1984.

By that time Prince Charles' long-running relationship with Camilla Parker-Bowles was putting strain on his marriage.

Princess Diana's relationship with the rest of the Royal Family deteriorated and she developed bulimia. The couple separated in 1993.

Diana spoke publicly about her problems and her own and her husband's infidelities in a Panorama documentary in November 1995.

The marriage formally ended with a decree absolute in August 1996.

Diana was killed in a car crash in 1997.

Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles married on 9 April 2005.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Like a lighthouse on a foggy night, you can serve as a life-saving beacon to some important (and very confused) people. Your instincts are right on target, so speak up if and when you smell a rat.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

If you've been searching for a missing element, hidden idea, or final piece of a vexing puzzle, you'll find it in the words or actions of someone you've known for a long time.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

If you look inside your wallet, you might see a few dust bunnies. Living a cash-free life may be great, but you can't pay for everything with plastic or your phone.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Are you ready for romance? That's not a silly question! Timing is everything when it comes to the art of love, and you need to feel totally on board for a new relationship.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

The heady thrill of excessive behavior could tempt you today, but it's time to take a more conservative viewpoint on things. Watch your money, don't shop, and stick to your diet.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Truly great days don't just appear on the calendar out of nowhere. Truly great days are made by an array of variables aligning in the proper order. And as you can imagine, those are rare days indeed.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

There is a difference between being observant and being whiny. If you see something wrong and have suggestions for how to improve it, then you're being observant.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Sure, the details of your life can be a bit boring sometimes, but you definitely need to get a handle on them unless you want missed connections, misunderstood remarks, and monumental frustration.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

A big payoff is due in a financial sense as well, and it's one you should share with the people you love. You're a generous person anyway, so spread the wealth!



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

To help make a tough decision, use equal parts good old-fashioned research and good old-fashioned instinct. Facts and feelings are an unbeatable combination that will steer you right every time.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Let go of old ideas and lost opportunities and make room for new challenges and new hopes. There are things beyond your control. The sooner you accept that the better.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Nothing is quite as it seems, so anyone who claims to have a cure-all is full of baloney. Ask a few pointed questions and you'll quickly show them to be the snake oil salesman that they are.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	32	cloudy
Harbin	22	29	thundershower
Tianjin	24	33	cloudy
Urumqi	17	28	clear
Xi'an	22	33	cloudy
Lhasa	13	23	drizzle
Chengdu	24	26	moderate rain
Chongqing	27	37	clear
Kunming	16	29	cloudy
Nanjing	24	29	thundershower
Shanghai	27	34	overcast
Wuhan	24	32	shower
Hangzhou	26	35	cloudy
Taipei	25	31	clear
Guangzhou	28	36	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	18	26	drizzle
Frankfurt	13	26	clear
Paris	12	24	clear
London	11	19	clear
New York	25	32	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Brings up; 6- Browned sliced bread; 11- Biol., e.g.; 14- Herbert Hoover, for one; 15- Journalist ___ Rogers St. Johns; 16- Decorative flap on a garment; 17- Designer Geoffrey; 18- Brand name for a copying machine; 19- Police blotter abbr.; 20- Charles Lamb's pen name; 22- Deduce; 24- North Star; 28- Extend into subdivisions; 30- Wears away; 31- Like Fran Drescher's voice; 32- Broadcasted; 33- Stale; 37- Spy novelist Deighton; 38- Student tables; 39- Bauxite, e.g.; 40- Pachyderms; 43- Begin's co-Nobel; 45- Motor truck in Britain; 46- Erase; 47- Reunion attendees; 49- Earthquake; 50- Mock, annoy; 51- Author Morrison; 52- Beast of burden; 53- Ignited again; 56- Pluck; 61- Not neg.; 62- Peace goddess; 63- Lend ___; 64- Mil. address; 65- Fatty part of milk; 66- Hard candy.

DOWN: 1- Curved bone; 2- Fair-hiring abbr.; 3- Wonderment; 4- Managed; 5- Scoffed; 6- Hire cars; 7- Ancient theaters; 8- ___ Lingus; 9- ___-mo; 10- London cabbie; 11- Employees; 12- Like a birthday dessert; 13- Girder type; 21- Fleur-de-___; 23- Egypt's river; 24- Norman Vincent ___; 25- Projecting window; 26- TV producer Michaels; 27- Summer slaker; 28- Prepares for billiards; 29- Requests; 31- Beastly; 33- Artist Rousseau; 34- Warble; 35- Muse of lyric poetry; 36- Discourage; 38- Mend with rows of stitches; 41- In addition to; 42- Like the "Iliad" or the "Odyssey"; 43- Highly original; 44- Long-sleeved linen vestment; 46- Cub Scout group; 47- Author of fables; 48- Cow catcher; 49- Clan symbol; 50- Spanish snack; 51- Singer Turner; 54- Miscalculate; 55- Shelter; 57- Ambient music pioneer; 58- Fam. reunion attendee; 59- Batman after Michael; 60- Trick ending?;

Yesterday's solution

W	I	L	L	T	A	S	K		K	A	T
O	N	E	I	O	T	H	E	R	S	A	L
O	F	A	N	D	O	Y	L	E		O	P
F	O	R	E	M	A	N		P	S	Y	C
				M	A	T	E		P	O	I
V	O	Y	A	G	E		E	G	O	M	A
I	R	A	N	I		G	L	E	N		L
S	A	G		S	I	D	E	D		A	L
O	T	H	E		E	V	E	R		L	O
R	E	T	A	I	N	E	R		S	I	E
				S	R	O			R	E	D
M	U	S	T	A	R	D		E	N	S	I
A	N	T	E		A	R	T	A	S		P
S	T	A	R		S	U	E	D	E		U
S	O	B									S

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IAM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	



<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Manhattan D unit, High Floor HK\$17,980,000 2,305 ft² 4 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Houston Court, Coloane Village \$12,800/mth 780 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1/2 1 1/2 900 ft² \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)</p> <p>[Taipa] Buckingham 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,439 ft² \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)</p> <p>[Macau] Lakeview Tower 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,497 ft² \$11,826,300 (ref: 19015572)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,269 ft² \$12,000,000 (ref: 19070000)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1 1/2 \$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 1/2 1 1/2 600 ft² \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2 710 ft² \$17,050/mth (ref: 20021002)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p>	<p>jml property 卓雅物業 Since 1994</p> <p>(853) 2835 2699 hello@jmlproperty.com www.jmlproperty.com</p> <p>f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty</p>
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BANKERS LEAVING HONG KONG FACE GRIM JOB MARKETS, HIGH TAXES

AFTER several years weighing the pros and cons of leaving Hong Kong, Ms Lee is taking the plunge and moving to Canada. Though she has no job lined up, faces higher taxes and will have to endure harsh winters for the first time, she's willing to risk it.

"Am I worried about my job prospects in Canada? Of course I'm worried," said the compliance officer at a major global financial firm who asked that her first name not be used. "The economy isn't great and firms are freezing headcount. I can say this is probably the worst time to migrate."

As China strengthens its hold on Hong Kong with a new security law, residents considering an escape are coming to grips with the sacrifices they'll face. With the global economy enmeshed in the worst recession in almost a century, jobs are hard to find and countries are tightening borders. Hard-earned skills, languages and contacts that helped them thrive in the Asian finance hub won't all travel. And preferred destinations like Canada, Australia and the U.K. impose taxes that are three times higher.

"Just because you were successful in Hong Kong doing a certain job doesn't mean that there's going to be an appetite for your skill set or experience in another country," said John Mullally, regional director at Robert Walters Plc, who handles financial sector recruitment for Southern China and Hong Kong. "It's probably one of the worst times in our living history to be rocking up in a new country and expecting to land a job."

The challenges aren't deterring people like Lee. She's already bought a house in Toronto and plans to move in October, forgoing a job paying more than HKD1 million



(\$130,000) a year. Lee, in her 30s, and her husband first applied for a visa in 2014 as a back-up plan in case things got worse. In her view it has, with the security law becoming the last straw.

"We have lost any optimism toward the Hong Kong government," she said, convinced that the finance hub will become just another Chinese city with curbs on free speech and censored television. "We don't want to stay here any longer."

Even with the risks that come with relocation - especially in the middle of a global pandemic - recruiters are seeing an uptick in demand. Two years ago, about 80% of job hunters who came to see Mullally were looking for work in Hong Kong. Now about half of them are seeking work abroad, driven by the security measures along with dwindling job prospects in a city embroiled in a deep recession of its own.

"The message they gave me is

they just don't feel that Hong Kong for them is long-term the best option from a career and earnings perspective," Mullally said.

While Hong Kong doesn't publish immigration statistics, applications for good citizenship cards - which certify a person doesn't have a criminal record - serve as a proxy

Some are convinced that the finance hub will become just another Chinese city with curbs on free speech

because they're often needed to apply for foreign visas. The monthly number of applications averaged 2,935 from June 2019 to April 2020, a 50% jump versus 2018.

Yet with unemployment rate in Canada at double digits and Australia close to that, emigres like Sam recognize the job search won't

be easy. The senior investment banker at a global firm is moving with his wife and two kids to Australia in three months.

Sam spent his teens in Australia, but has been in Hong Kong for 20 years, developing contacts that launched his banking career. He declined to reveal his salary, though investment bankers in Hong Kong are typically awarded bonuses that are 50% higher than in Sydney, Mullally said.

Senior private bankers meanwhile earn about 30% more in Hong Kong than in Australia, said Rick Chung, a Hong Kong-based recruiter for banking and finance at Randstad NV who is seeing about 10 to 15 finance people a week looking for jobs abroad.

Sam, 43, will have to start from scratch in Australia, and may have to switch careers. With the top marginal income tax rate of about 45% - versus 15% in Hong Kong - he'll also have less money to spend. "I left Australia many, many

years ago and I don't have any corporate contacts there so it'd be hard for me to stay in investment banking," said Sam, who didn't want his last name published. "Taxes are so much higher in Australia so I don't think I will be able to earn as much."

A mid-level mergers and acquisitions banker named Leung is also considering a move -- to London. Leung, 38, worked there for five years before coming back to Hong Kong a decade ago. Like Sam, he's looking for a better place to raise his three-year-old son. Leung doesn't hold U.K. citizenship but has a British National Overseas passport granted to Hong Kong residents before the colony was handed back to China in 1997.

Leung has no job lined up in London, where bankers typically earn about 15% more than in Hong Kong, but also pay triple the taxes. While housing in Hong Kong is among the most expensive in the world, London isn't far behind.

"I don't mind giving up what we have in Hong Kong to trade for a better future for my son," said Leung, adding the hardest part will be leaving his parents behind. "I don't mind starting all over again."

Lee meanwhile, is getting ready to head to Toronto in a few weeks, after winning a bidding war to buy a house in the city's west end. Many friends may follow suit she says, while another colleague at her firm just quit to decamp to the U.K.

Edward Zhang, an agent with Dracco Pacific Realty in Vancouver, which markets high-end homes, said a friend just referred six friends from Hong Kong seeking properties in the Canadian city.

"So many around me are plotting to leave Hong Kong," Lee said. "Honestly, who isn't?" **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China opens online registration for Sands Shopping Carnival



Online registration is now open for the three-day Sands Shopping Carnival, being held between August 7 and 9 at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo. The carnival is the largest shopping event of its kind in Macau, and provides a free business platform for local SMEs and Sands retailers amid

the pandemic period, while creating a new weekend destination for local residents and tourists.

Featuring over 500 booths, free parking, and free admission, the carnival provides an ideal shopping and leisure destination for families. It aims to give back to the communi-

ty by offering the best deals to Macau residents and tourists in order to stimulate domestic consumption and help boost the economy.

Sands China is implementing a series of strict sanitization and safety measures to safeguard public health. In order to help monitor crowd size, carnival-goers are highly encouraged to register their attendance ahead of time on the event's official registration platform.

Besides the online registration platform and headcounts at venue entrances to monitor crowd size, other safety measures include temperature checks upon entry, mandatory wearing of face masks and disinfectants and hand sanitizers at all booths and at all carnival entry and exit points.

GEG Launches U-LEAD Graduate Internship Program



To support the internship program that was recently organized by the Macau Labor Affairs Bureau, Galaxy Entertainment Group has launched a U-LEAD Graduate Internship Program (U-LEAD Program) that offers a three-month internship to fresh graduates referred by DSAL so that they can obtain a deeper understand-

ing of integrated resort operations, further develop their professional skills, and obtain the work experiences needed for planning their future career pathways.

Recently, GEG held open days for the U-LEAD Program at Galaxy Macao, which attracted fresh graduates from various local universities and

institutions.

During the open day, participants explored GEG's career opportunities through the company's introduction of its latest development projects, executive speeches, and the sharing of success stories by current employees.

GEG has been working closely with the local universities and institutions on supporting local talent development and helping local talents discover their career paths. Since the launch of the GEG Internship Program in 2008, GEG has provided comprehensive training and integrated resort internship experiences to more than 650 tertiary education-level students.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

MOTORSPORTS

NASCAR banks on minority drivers to broaden sport's exposure

RAJAH Caruth liked the animated autos of "Cars" as a kid, got hooked on the race scene after a trip to the track and sharpened his driving skills as a teen via online racing.

Caruth might one day earn his shot at inspiring the next generation of drivers.

The 18-year-old Caruth is a NASCAR prospect, a young Black driver and one of a half-dozen youngsters participating in the Drive for Diversity program tasked with finding and developing drivers for a sport lean on women and minorities behind the wheel.

"Ideally, I'd want to be in the Cup Series in the next decade," Caruth said. "Hopefully, by then."

The program has developed few drivers for the elite Cup Series over nearly two decades in existence -- Bubba Wallace and Daniel Suarez are among the former members and the only ones currently with rides -- but a renewed push at scouting younger drivers and promoting them has NASCAR optimistic more recent classes will reverse the trend.

Wallace's extraordinary season and his emergence as a social activist, in fact, have put a bright light on the program,



Driver Bubba Wallace

which wobbled for years between a public relations exercise and a meaningful avenue toward a Cup Series career.

There are 56 graduates of the Drive for Diversity pit crew program actively working across the three national series, including 27 at the Cup Series level. Cup rides for

program graduates are scarce, though. Kyle Larson, who is half Japanese, was the most successful alumnus until he used a racial slur during a live-streamed virtual race and was fired by Chip Ganassi.

"There needs to be more resources available for that program," said Brad Daugherty,

the lone Black team owner in NASCAR.

The task of turning the program into more of a driver factory is on the agenda of Drive for Diversity director Jusan Hamilton.

The 30-year-old Hamilton, the first Black to serve as race director for a Cup Series race, is a former dirt track driver who applied to an early version of the program only to be told he needed more experience. As his D4D role expanded, Hamilton helped change the goals to targeting prospects as young as 12 and established a coordinated developmental system.

Drivers are tutored by older members or other mentors, receive marketing training and there is an emphasis on physical fitness.

"We can control the full process and develop the drivers, help them grow within the system from beginning up

to when they're ready to race at the ARCA level," Hamilton said. "They can then showcase their talents and use that to get themselves beyond the touring level and up through the ranks of Truck, Xfinity and Cup."

The challenges of securing a major ride -- support resources, critical sponsorship money and connections -- are difficult for any young driver but seem greater for minorities. Aside from pushing for more diversity inside the race car, D4D is also looking at ways to increase diversity among sponsorship, ownership and support roles.

"It's an uphill battle and that's one of the biggest things the program sets out to offset at the youth level," Hamilton said. "The program is now set up to be able to give them a better opportunity to make those connections and to understand those resources to get to the next level." AP

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OPINION

World Views

Andrea Felsted, Bloomberg

WORKING FROM HOME
IS TERRIBLE NEWS FOR
LANDLORDS EVERYWHERE

Early on in the pandemic, reports of the death of the office appeared greatly exaggerated. But as Covid-19 lingers, and second infection spikes dot the global map, something is changing in how employees and employers view the workplace: It's being seen as an option rather than a necessity for many white-collar workers.

Once we get the pandemic under control, this shift will be welcomed by cost-cutting companies and staff who dread the daily commute. But for the owners of commercial property — already reeling from the move away from brick-and-mortar retail — the consequences may be severe. The market values of commercial real-estate companies, such as Land Securities Group Plc and British Land Co. Plc, have plummeted.

This isn't just a question of tech workers at Alphabet Inc., Twitter Inc. or Facebook Inc. taking the relatively straightforward step of doing their stuff from home. All kinds of companies are making the same calculation. Alan Jope, boss of consumer goods giant Unilever, doesn't see workers ever returning to offices 100%. Swiss bank UBS Group AG says a third of its employees could keep operating from home.

With property being a big business cost, employers would love to cut their space. Burberry Group Plc, a British luxury company, is exploring whether it can save money on its offices outside the U.K.

Analysts at UBS assume that, on average, working one or two days a week at home could become the norm. That would have big implications for office vacancy rates, which have a close correlation to rents. In London's West End commercial district, for example, more home working — together with an impending recession — could mean the vacancy rate rising from 3.3% in the first quarter of 2020 to just over 10% at the end of the year, according to UBS. It might still be 11.5% in 2022, the bank said.

The real crunch won't come immediately. Susan Munden, an analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence, notes that commercial tenants are tied into leases, and there are heavy costs in exiting rental agreements early. At the biggest European real-estate firms, average leases are four to eight years.

Better news for the property industry is that it will be able to reuse commercial space as residential developments assuming people still want to live in cities once the pandemic ebbs. By cutting supply in this way, UBS estimates that the West End office vacancy rate could stabilize at 5.1% by 2025.

And the office won't disappear altogether. While Zoom does well enough for the more transactional elements of work, there's no substitute for face-to-face interaction when collaborating on a creative project, building trust with clients or mentoring staff.

Yet landlords will have to work harder. Tenants already wanted modern, environmentally friendly buildings with good quality air, outside terraces and facilities such as bicycle storage. Covid will accelerate this trend.

Real-estate providers like Derwent London Plc — known for stylish buildings including the White Collar Factory in Shoreditch, which boasts a rooftop running track — may be better placed. British Land has taken note of the change, refurbishing parts of the flagship Broadgate estate it manages in London. Gecina SA, a Paris property specialist whose mission is to "design, build and manage living spaces to enrich the experience of our customers," saw its net-asset value rise in the first half of this year.

Even as offices lose staff to home-working, they may need to retain space to make sure desks can be kept the right distance apart. Given more stringent hygiene requirements, hot-desking might be less desirable. Meanwhile, if the office is used for more collaborative work, more room might be set aside for meeting areas. British Land is already seeing demand from companies seeking short-term overspill space.

Tenants' greater desire for flexibility — whether that's through shorter leases or monthly rent payments — will nevertheless be a challenge for landlords, who need some certainty to service their own extensive borrowings. In the Covid era, such long-term guarantees are in short supply.

A Malaysian court sentenced former Prime Minister Najib Razak to serve 12 years in prison yesterday after finding him guilty in the first of several corruption trials linked to the multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund that brought down his government two years ago.

Najib was calm and stone-faced as he became the first Malaysian leader to be convicted. He took an oath in brief remarks in the dock that he was innocent.

The judge sentenced Najib to 12 years in jail on one count of abuse

of power, 10 years each for three counts of criminal breach of trust, and 10 years each for three counts of money laundering, as well as a fine of 210 million ringgit (\$49.4 million). But he ordered the sentences to run concurrently, meaning that Najib will face only up to 12 years in jail.

The judge allowed a stay of the jail sentence and fine pending Najib's planned appeal. But he raised the bail amount and ordered Najib to report to the police twice a month.

(More on macaudoailytimes.com)

UN REPORT

NORTH KOREAN
OFFICIALS ABUSED
REPATRIATED WOMEN

THE U.N. human rights office reported yesterday that scores of North Korean women who had traveled abroad in a desperate search for work were abused by security officials and police through beatings, detention in unsanitary conditions, undernourishment and invasive body searches after being sent back home.

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights presented the findings in a new report that alleges "multiple and serious human rights violations by state security and police officials" in North Korea, based on 100 accounts from women who were detained in the secretive country from 2009 to 2019 after being forcibly returned home.

The women spoke to U.N. human rights officials after eventually fleeing North Korea following their detention.

Testimonies suggest the women, who often fell into the custody of human traffickers, faced bonded labor or sexual exploitation in other countries — then were deemed traitors or punished for contacting Christian groups abroad after their return.

"It is heartbreaking to



Women visit the statues of former North Korean leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il in Pyongyang to lay flowers Monday, on the occasion of the 67th anniversary of the end of the Korean War

read these stories of women who fled their country looking to make ends meet, but who ended up being punished," High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet said in a statement accompanying the report. She said the women "should be taken care of, not detained and subjected to further human rights violations."

"These women have a right to justice, truth and reparation," she added.

North Korea's diplomatic mission in Geneva did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The U.N. rights office also called on foreign countries where the women fled — at times including neighboring China — to

respect the principle of "non-refoulement," or not returning people to countries where they could face a real risk of human rights violations.

"These accounts show once again the systemic nature of human rights violations in the DPRK, and the need to keep seeking pathways to proper accountability for such crimes," Bachelet said, using the acronym for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The report only focused on women who had fled abroad, not the many people held in political prisons in North Korea which are believed to also be a site of human rights violations. AP

Australia Victoria state is restricting non-urgent surgeries so that hospital nurses can be transferred to elderly care homes, where most COVID-19 deaths are occurring, Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said. Victoria reported 384 new infections and six deaths yesterday, down from a record 532 cases on Monday.



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson says it is the government's "duty" to protect the U.K. from a second coronavirus spike as he defended the decision to recommend against all but essential travel to Spain. He says the government must "take swift and decisive action" where it thinks risks are "starting to bubble up again."

German authorities are advising against tourist trips to Catalonia and two other Spanish regions in light of rising coronavirus infections. A note posted by the foreign ministry yesterday advises against "nonessential tourist travel" to Catalonia, its western neighbor, Aragón, and Navarra in northern Spain. It cites a rise in infection figures and "local closures."



South Africa The International Monetary Fund has approved a \$4.3 billion emergency loan to South Africa as it reels under the coronavirus pandemic. The country has the world's fifth largest virus caseload, and confirmed cases are approaching half a million. The fact that Africa's most developed country for the first time approached the IMF for a loan is the latest sign of pain.

United Nations The U.N.'s humanitarian aid coordinator has unlocked another \$100 million from its emergency fund to help 10 under-resourced countries in Africa, the Middle East and the Americas meet pressing needs made worse by the pandemic. The injection from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs brings the total to \$225 million released to help 20 countries this year, a record allocation from its Central Emergency Response Fund (see p6-7).

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Newsis, Yonhap via AP



Stache off. The U.S. ambassador to South Korea has shaved his controversial mustache due to the "summer heat," he says. Harry Harris' facial hair had drawn criticism from the media and online commentators, who compared his mustache to those worn by colonial Japanese governors from 1910 to 1945. More on macaudoailytimes.com