

The Macao SAR Government urges:

- Implement regular epidemic prevention measures;
- Wash hands frequently and wear a mask;
- Keep a distance and avoid crowd gathering;
- Convert health code for boundary crossings;
- Stay within the Guangdong Province if leaving Macao.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



N.º 3687

THURSDAY
30 Jul 2020

T. 27°/33°

Air Quality Good

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

MOP 8.00
HKD 10.00



FUGITIVE JHO LOW, ALLEGED MASTERMIND OF THE 1MDB SCHEME STILL THOUGHT TO BE HIDING IN MACAU: MALAYSIAN GOV'T

P4

STILWELL ACKNOWLEDGES IN COURT SAUDEDE'S DISMISSAL WAS NOT ABOUT PERFORMANCE

P3

SECRETARY LEI SAID THAT PATIENCE IS NEEDED FOR MASS TOURISM TO RETURN AS THERE IS NO ASSURANCE OF WHEN IVS WILL BE REINSTATED

P2

AP PHOTO



China reported more than 100 new cases of COVID-19 yesterday as the country continues to battle an outbreak in Xinjiang. The 101 new cases was China's highest daily increase in weeks. The northwestern region of Xinjiang accounted for 89, with another eight in the northeastern province of Liaoning and one in Beijing. Another three cases were brought from outside the country by returning Chinese citizens.

AP PHOTO



Vietnam said it is stepping up measures against the coronavirus as the country's first domestic outbreak in more than three months continues to spread. Starting from a hospital in the popular beach city of Da Nang, 30 cases have been confirmed over the past five days, including an additional eight yesterday. "The outbreak this time has a high risk of spreading to other big cities and provinces around Da Nang," Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc said.

AP PHOTO



Japan As Japan battles a surge in coronavirus cases, some areas may be running out of isolation facilities to monitor infected people. The health ministry reported 981 new cases and three more deaths from COVID-19, raising the cumulative toll to 1,000 people. Most of the new cases were domestic, while 13 were found at airports from incoming flights, it said.

More on backpage

HONG KONG FACES WORST WAVE OF VIRUS

P5



MACAU PIONEER 'GIVES UP COMFORTABLE LIFE' TO SERVE IN MAINLAND CIVIL SERVICE: STATE MEDIA

P4

COURTESY CHINA NEWS

中新视频

刘延鑫
Liu Yanxin

广州市南沙新区职员
Staff of Nansha New Area,
Guangzhou

北京大学政府管理学院
School of Government Management, Peking University



DRONE ACTIVITIES BANNED DURING HELICOPTER SIGHTSEEING TOURS

The Macau government will ban unmanned aircraft activities in certain zones in Macau during the helicopter sightseeing tours to ensure that the tours will take place in a safe environment. The helicopter sightseeing tours, one of the "Macau Ready Go" economic revival measures, will be conducted at a relatively low height alongside Taipa and Coloane, according to the Civil Aviation Authority. Considering that it is necessary to establish the clearance for the sightseeing route and ensure the safety of the passengers, the Civil Aviation Authority will ban the unmanned aircraft activities in certain zones between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Wednesdays to Sundays from July 31 to August 30. Anyone who does not comply with the prohibition may face a fine of up to 20,000 patacas by the Civil Aviation Authority.

HOTEL OCCUPANCY RATE DROPS TO 11.8% IN JUNE

The average occupancy rate of guest rooms dropped by 77.6 percentage points to 11.8% in June, according to the latest data provided by the Statistics and Census Service. The rapid decline reflects the absence of tourists in Macau since February when the effects of the Covid-19 virus began to be felt in the city. The occupancy rate of 5-star hotels was just 5.8% in June, while the rates of 2-star hotels and guesthouses were 28.9% and 35.0% respectively. Last year, the average occupancy rate of a five-star hotel in Macau was about 90%. In the first half of 2020, the average occupancy rate of guest rooms was 27.2%, a drop of 63.9 percentage points year-on-year. The number of guests of hotels and guesthouses declined by 73.5% to 1.83 million, whereas their average length of stay went up by 0.2 nights to 1.7 nights.

MUSEUMS TO RESUME GUIDED TOUR SERVICES NEXT MONTH

Several museums under the auspices of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will resume public guided tours and group guided tours starting this Saturday (August 1). These museum spaces include the Macao Museum, the Macao Museum of Art, the Taipa Houses, the Museum of Taipa and Coloane History, and the Xian Xinghai Memorial Museum, according to the IC, while the Handover Gifts Museum of Macao will provide group guided tours only. In order to cooperate with the epidemic prevention measures, the number of participants in the guided tours will be limited. The number of participants in the public guided tours will be limited to 10, while the group guided tours will be limited to 15 or 20 participants.

PATIENCE NEEDED FOR RETURN OF MASS TOURISM TO MACAU

LYNZY VALLES

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said that patience is needed before mass tourism returns as there is still no assurance of when the Individual Visa Scheme (IVS) will be resumed, despite ongoing predictions made by analysts.

According to the official, Macau and Guangdong remain in close communication, but the SAR is still striving to improve its travel ties with mainland China so the IVS can resume.

Speaking to the press, Lei said that the authorities still need time but pledged that they would maintain efforts to reopen the borders.

Yesterday, Lei remarked that only after the tourist flow resumed could the gaming sector recover as well as the city's normal economic activities.

"We have practiced some stress tests at our immigration control checkpoints. [...] We'll make sure that the reopening of large-scale tourism from the mainland is done in a gradual manner," said Lei, adding that the government will still have to perform virus-prevention mea-



An attendant checks the temperature of a visitor at the entrance to Galaxy Macau

asures very well.

It is still unknown when the central government will once again permit their citizens to apply for IVS visas or grant group travel visas.

Earlier, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said that the local government would request that the central government resume the issuance of the IVS and increase the number of cities covered by the scheme.

In June, analysts held the hope that border and visa restrictions would be eased, particularly after the recently concluded National People's Congress in May. However, up

to now, the central government has not given the green light for the reissuance of these visas, which the city needs for the gaming and retail sector to bounce back.

Gaming analysts expect that the relaxation of quarantine measures for those entering Guangdong province via Zhuhai will lead to a marginal rebound in the city's gross gaming revenue, a move that they have dubbed the first step towards normalization.

Gaming analysts from different institutions have given different figures ranging from a 1% to 25% recovery. According

to Lei, fiscal budgets will be adjusted if needed.

"The pandemic has [lasted] longer than we expected. We'll be paying close attention to what will happen in the third and fourth quarter, and when necessary, we will further adjust our fiscal budget," he said.

During Lei's plenary session at the Legislative Assembly, he estimated that gross gaming revenue would reach 130 billion patacas this year. However, year-to-date gaming revenue is currently down 77.4% in year-on-year terms at just 33.7 billion patacas, compared to nearly 150 billion in the first six months of 2019.

Meanwhile, the total expenditure of the MSAR integrated budget for the 2020 financial year is 114.64 billion patacas, and the balance is currently 828.88 million patacas.

The Chief Executive has instructed the local government to cut expenditure next year in response to the impact of Covid-19. For departments and organizations applying cash accounting policies, the total common expenses of the central budget should not exceed the 2020 amount after a 10% deduction.

Survey shows many spending less during Covid-19

JULIE ZHU

A survey conducted by a research team from the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) indicates that nearly half of local residents have spent less money during the course of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Yesterday at MUST, the Institute for Sustainable Development released the results of the 2020 Macau Consumer Satisfaction Index. According to the statistics, a total of 48% of respondents reduced their expenditure during the

global health crisis.

Between June 1 and 21, the institute interviewed 421 Macau residents. The respondents rated their recent experiences in shopping and dining in the SAR.

Conventionally, the research team studies how Macau residents consume experiences in both Macau and Zhuhai. However, this year the Zhuhai questions were not included, and the survey covered questions relating to expenses during Covid-19 and the Macau e-voucher period.

Among those who

claim to have spent less money, 12.6% claimed a "great reduction" in expenses.

The results may not be surprising. Since the outbreak of Covid-19, many of the city's workers, both residents and non-residents, have taken unpaid leave or received wage-cuts. Others have been made redundant.

The oldest ferry company in Macau, Turbojet, reduced the salaries of the majority of its employees by 8% to 12%. Between April and June, Macau recorded an unemployment rate

of 2.5% overall, and 3.5% among local population.

In order to secure the local economy and employment, the local government launched the e-voucher scheme in February by issuing 8,000 patacas to each Macau resident.

A total of 69.1% of the MUST survey respondents said they were contented with the e-voucher scheme, while 26.6% held a neutral opinion, and 4.3% were unhappy with the scheme.

The survey only asked about the satisfaction level of respondents, but

did not dig into the explanations behind each respondent's answer.

With almost no tourists, Macau residents are happier with their shopping and dining experiences, according to the survey.

Compared to that of 2019, satisfaction when shopping for clothes increased by 7.9 percentage points, with the related factors - consisting of product quality, service quality and value - all recording better results.

Local diners also gave higher scores to Macau restaurants, with a 3.6 percentage points increase in satisfaction. Ratings of food quality, service quality and value concerning the dining experiences all received an increase in positive feedback.

www.macaodailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+19,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaodailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaodailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Lynzy Valles, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaodailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAODAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAODAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaodailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaodailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaodailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaodailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

RENATO MARQUES

THE former rector of the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), Peter Stilwell, has said that the dismissal of former lecturer Eric Sautedé from the institution was not due to his professional performance, but instead due to a clash between Sautedé's expression of political values in his capacity as a lecturer at the institution and the university's principles of not interfering in political debate, TDM Radio reported.

The acknowledgment was made during a court hearing pertaining to the former lecturer's case against the institution, in which Sautedé is seeking approximately 1.4 million patacas' compensation in both moral and material damages resulting from the 2014 dismissal.

The court heard the former rector's testimony on Monday, before the start of the trial, as Stilwell is planning to return to Portugal soon to enjoy his retirement.

The trial will discuss whether the conditions that led to Sautedé's dismissal from the university can be considered discriminatory based on his political views and interventions in public society. If so, this will have contradicted the freedoms granted to Macau citizens, as provided by the Macau Basic Law.

At the hearing, Stilwell noted that a decision such as one ending a scholar's employment at the institution must necessarily have a cause, explaining that the popularity of Sautedé among the media in Macau put the lecturer in a highlighted position, a fact that could work in favor of, or against, the institution, accord-

Stilwell acknowledges lecturer's dismissal was not about job performance



The former rector of the University of Saint Joseph, Peter Stilwell

ing to the positions conveyed.

"The more prominent a person is, the more careful they have to be with comments. [...] You cannot make use of your importance in the institution, to make the scale move to one side or another," he was quoted saying by TDM radio.

According to Stilwell, the situation presented in this case "is about recognizing how to position a Catholic university, which is an independent institution, in a space where political positioning has its nuances." He added that it is not the role of a Catholic

institution to enter into external political battles, citing the need to maintain neutrality.

In his testimony, the former rector identified several occasions on which the problem was not Sautedé's opinions (as a citizen) but how the public expression of those opinions would reflect and create problems for the university, noting that Sautedé had been informed about it more than once and reminded of that fact.

During the session, Stilwell said, "Freedom of expression is guaranteed by societies and

constitutions. It is not something that a university has the right to protect. What the university has to protect is academic freedom," adding that the importance attributed by society to universities comes from their degree of autonomy from economic and political interests.

At the court, the former rector also stated his belief that the case of Sautedé had been highlighted due to the ongoing situation in the neighboring region of Hong Kong, where pro-democracy demonstrators have been vocal for years.

A professor and leading figure in Hong Kong's political opposition has been fired from his university job following China's passage of a sweeping new national security law.

Hong Kong University's council voted to oust Benny Tai from his position as an associate law professor in an 18-2 vote on Tuesday, local media reported.

Tai has been out on bail since being sentenced to 16 months in prison in April 2019 as one of nine leaders put on trial for their part in a 2014 drive for universal suffrage known as the Umbrella Movement.

In a posting yesterday on his Facebook account, Tai said he intended to continue writing and lecturing on legal issues and asked for public support.

"If we continue in our persistence, we will de-

HK protest leader fired from university job to continue writing



AP PHOTO
Occupy Central leader Benny Tai stands in front of a vintage double-deck bus used as a polling center for an unofficial "primary" for pro-democracy candidates

initely see the revival of the rule of law in Hong Kong one day," Tai wrote.

While the 2014 movement failed in its bid to expand democracy in the semi-autonomous Chinese city, protests re-

turned last year following the local government's proposal of legislation that would have seen criminal suspects extradited to face trial in mainland China.

Opponents called

that a violation of Hong Kong's independent legal system it was guaranteed after being handed over from British to Chinese rule in 1997. Although the legislation was eventually shelved, the protesters' demands expanded to include calls for democratic changes and an investigation into alleged police abuses, growing increasingly violent over the second half of the year.

That prompted Beijing to pass the national security law, saying opposition made such a move impossible at the local level in Hong Kong. Critics have decried the law as part of a major crackdown on political

activity, free speech and academic independence that has prompted a prominent opposition group to disband. Some books have been removed from libraries over concerns they violated the legislation's restrictions on calls for greater autonomy for the city of 7.5 million.

In a statement issued after the vote to remove Tai, the Chinese central government's liaison office in Hong Kong said it marked "a punishment for evil doing and the upholding of justice."

Tai's removal "upholds the overall interests of Hong Kong, meets public expectations and safeguards social justice," the statement said. **MDT/AP**

GOV'T INVITES TENDERS FOR LRT SEAC PAI VAN LINE

The local government has invited tenders for a construction contract concerning the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) Seac Pai Van Line. Yesterday, the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) made the invitation public. The winning entity will be responsible for building the section of the LRT extension that runs from the Taipa Island Hospital Complex to Seac Pai Van. The section contains three LRT stations: the Island Hospital Complex Transfer Station, the Island Hospital Complex Station, and the Seac Pai Van Station. The builder will have 960 working days to finish the 1.6-kilometer-long major component of the LRT line. The entire project has 17 segments, each corresponding to the completion of different parts of the construction.

FIFTH DSES UNIVERSITY GRADUATE CAREER SURVEY STARTS

Starting from yesterday, the Higher Education Bureau (DSES) is following up with local university graduates in a survey relating to the career development of college leavers. The targets of this survey are local residents who graduated from a higher education degree three years ago. The interviewees will answer questions relating to their career circumstances since their graduation. It is the fifth year of the DSES' annual survey. Those who finished university in the academic year of 2016/2017 will receive an invitation from DSES to answer a three-minute online questionnaire. The interviewees are selected from the government's database of students registered for the university study subsidy program. The bureau will conduct the survey for 45 days in total, concluding September 11.

BOTTLED WATER FOUND TO CONTAIN HIGH LEVEL OF BROMATE

The newly published Consumer Report edition features a report on the quality of bottled water in Macau. The Consumer Council and the Department of Food Safety of The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) co-tested the quality of 30 different bottled water, including mineral water, distilled water and soda water. One sample of soda water was found to contain a level bromate, exceeding local regulations. Bromate is classified by the International Agency for Research on Cancer as a carcinogen, which means it can cause cancer in human. The Department of Food Safety of IAM has already adopted measures to safeguard consumers' health, including requesting the vendor to stop sale of the product and follow-up on the circulation of the product on the market. The quality of the other samples of bottled water were all satisfactory.



MACAU PIONEER 'GIVES UP COMFORTABLE LIFE' TO SERVE IN MAINLAND CIVIL SERVICE: STATE MEDIA

IN 2019, the State Council of China rolled out a new proposal to allow Macau and Hong Kong residents to work in mainland government departments in the Greater Bay Area. The program caught the attention of the media this week as government entities on the mainland again opened their applications to residents of the SARs.

In April, a Macau resident by the name of Liu Yanxin was admitted as a civil servant in Guangzhou, the provincial capital of Guangdong province. State media outlet China News recently interviewed Liu and found that this pioneer had decided to join the public administration because of his love and passion for the country.

Titled "The Colorful Life of Macau People," the interview opened with a short monologue from Liu: "We are the first batch of civil servants from Hong Kong and Macau to work on the mainland. We must do well to let the country see that young people

from Hong Kong and Macau can accomplish something significant."

The interview touched on Liu's current work situation, his early years and his future prospects and aspirations.

In the first segment, it was mentioned that Liu has been working as an investment promotion specialist in the Nansha New Area Industrial Zone of the Development Authority of Guangzhou. Over the past three months, he has been in charge of three major projects, including the Guangzhou campus project of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, the Information Industrial Park of China Railway Tunnel Bureau, and the Fine Sculpture Project in Beijing.

The same Guangzhou government department hired three people from Hong Kong, in addition to Liu. Liu believes that coming from the SARs gives him and his Hong Kong colleagues a "unique advantage to reduce

communication costs among Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macau."

As in other interviews concerning SAR residents in the mainland, Liu's patriotic sentiment towards the country is also highlighted at the center of the story.

Liu graduated from the School of Government at Peking University, which, thanks to his parents, had been Liu's dream school since he was a child.

Liu's mother was born in Macau and his father was born in Guangzhou. Since Liu was young, his parents had told Liu stories about Peking University. Consequently, Liu started to consider studying at the capital city university.

Both Liu and his parents are patriotic citizens of the country, and the family's passion for the nation is apparently reflected in their devotion to watching Tiananmen Square flag-raising ceremony from the best spot.

"On the second day after I arri-

ved Beijing, my parents grabbed me from my bed even before dawn to hurry up to Tiananmen Square to watch the flag-raising ceremony. Otherwise, we would not get a place in the front row," Liu recalled. "They regarded [flag-raising] as a solemn and prudent matter. The first time I saw the soldiers raising the flag slowly, I naturally felt a national pride coming from the bottom of my heart."

This emotional flag-raising ritual became one of the forces behind Liu's decision in staying in the Greater Bay Area for a career.

"Liu gave up his comfortable Macau life," as China News described.

Like many other Macau residents who have decided to work in the mainland China and received backlash from their relatives, staying in Guangzhou stirred disapproval among Liu's friends and family relatives. However, these stories always end with the disparaging ones being jealous

of those who chose the mainland China over Macau.

"At first, my friends and classmates in Macau could not understand why I insisted on working in mainland China. [They asked me] what are you expecting? Are you looking for hardships for yourself? [...] After a period of working, [...] they were gradually attracted by my work and they would ask me to recommend good jobs [in mainland China] for them," Liu recollected.

According to Liu, those who attempted to prevent him from working in mainland China eventually became impressed by his experience working on high-end projects, especially given the fact that Liu is still a "rookie."

As is customary, at the end of the interview, the great prospects of the Greater Bay Area were highlighted by the Macau resident. Liu believes that the Greater Bay Area is an emerging world-class bay area with global influence.

Fugitive Jho Low still thought to be hiding in the SAR

LYNZY VALLES

MALAYSIAN authorities are confident that fugitive businessman Jho Low is still hiding in Macau, as they continue working to bring him home to answer for his alleged role as the mastermind of the state's 1MDB financial scandal.

Back in February, it was believed that the fugitive was active in Wuhan.

However, this time authorities say they have a strong indication that he is in the SAR.

"Jho Low entered Macau after being traced to his

location in Thailand. Two days before the announcement of the results of the 14th general election, Jho Low was still here, but fled to the neighboring state after the results were announced," said Malaysia's Inspector-General of Police (IGP), Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Bador, as cited in media reports.

Yesterday, the official said that authorities are aware that he has conducted business transactions while based in the city, adding that his family members were moving freely around Hong Kong.

"We are pursuing every

avenue to track him down and bring him to justice. [...] As I mentioned before, I have never given up [on my] efforts to bring him back. [...] Jho Low is considered the most wanted man on our radar, and I don't intend to slow down in my pursuit of him," the official said.

Abdul Hamid also reportedly felt that the fugitive is being protected by Beijing, noting that it is "as if the Chinese government was being insincere" in the joint operation with its counterpart to extradite the wanted businessman.

"Efforts to bring Jho Low home have been ongoing for a long time, however, until now, there have not been any convincing responses from the republic," he said, referring to China.

A Malaysian court on Tuesday said that Low had played a crucial role in transferring 42 million ringgit (about \$10 million) of funds from a former 1MDB unit to ex-prime minister Najib Razak's accounts. Najib was found guilty of all seven charges in the trial and faces 12 years in prison, along with a 210 million ringgit fine.



ONCE a coronavirus success story, Hong Kong is facing its worst outbreak yet, and policy makers are realizing how little they can do without making a bad situation worse.

New infections have broken records in nine of the last 20 days. But unlike other global cities, Hong Kong has been reluctant to impose stay-at-home restrictions or close nonessential businesses. Instead, the rules have gotten incrementally tighter, changing by the week. Public gatherings were limited to four people, then two. Dining-in was banned for dinner, then lunch. Masks were required on public transport, then all indoor public spaces, now everywhere outdoors as well.

The steady drip of half-measures goes against what the short history of the pandemic has shown to work: broad and stringent lockdowns levied early on the infection curve. In Australia and other places currently fighting flare-ups, officials have quickly reinstated tight restrictions.

While still modest compared with outbreaks in many global cities, the up-tick in Hong Kong is particularly troubling, arriving after months with near-zero community transmission and from as yet untraceable origins -- exactly the circumstances in which the tightest restrictions are thought to be the most effective.

On Wednesday, the city reported 113 new local cases, taking the total outbreak to over 3,000.

But going further in Hong Kong could lead to a humanitarian crisis. "It is extremely di-

Hong Kong faces worst wave of virus, but it can't lock down



fficult to enforce a lockdown in Hong Kong," said Fernando Cheung, a lawmaker with a record of social advocacy. "There are more than 200,000 people living in subdivided units, some without private toilets and others combining their kitchens, toilets, and sleeping places all in one room. To ask people not to step out of that environment for a long period of time is inhumane and impractical."

"A full lockdown? Nobody will

say that this isn't in the arsenal, but logistically it's a nightmare," Bernard Chan, a top adviser to Chief Executive Carrie Lam, said in an interview. "People still need to go out and buy groceries. And people live in such a tight environment, even going down the lift you're exposed."

The challenge facing Hong Kong offers more evidence of the disparate impact of the pandemic along existing social and economic fault lines. From the

U.S to parts of Europe and South America, the most vulnerable populations are bearing the brunt of the health crisis, made worse by dysfunctional institutions and structures.

Whether or not Hong Kong officials tighten restrictions further, time is running out on the current strategy. Some 80% of isolation beds and wards in public hospitals are full, and the city's testing capacity is limited. The government is trying to add ca-

capacity with private testing labs in Hong Kong and mainland China, and preparing community isolation centers for patients in stable condition.

Meanwhile, the city is already in deep recession, rocked first by months of anti-Beijing protests, then by the pandemic. The economy shrank an unprecedented 9% in the second quarter, the fourth straight quarter of contraction, while the unemployment rate has more than doubled to 6.2% in the past 12 months, reaching a 15-year high.

In its current state of political and economic fragility, Hong Kong can't impose heavy lockdowns to eliminate all cases the way mainland China does, said Lam Ching Choi, a medical doctor and adviser to Lam. Instead, the measures have to balance personal and economic needs with public health outcomes, and allow the city to remain an open, international financial center.

"Our trust level is maybe the lowest compared with western countries because of the social events that happened this year," Lam said in an interview. "So we must listen to our people and not affect their work, their daily lives -- like shopping or visiting their family members." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

Facemask supply changed to 30 masks in one monthly round

RENATO MARQUES

THE twentieth round of facemask supply organized by the health authorities will be adjusted from the current supply of 10 facemasks every 10 days to the supply of 30 masks every 30 days, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center advised today during their regular press conference.

The masks will continue to be priced at the same amount per unit. Each pack of 30 will be sold for a total price of 24 patacas starting this Friday, July 31.

During the announcement, Doctor Alvis Lo, medical director of the Conde de São Januário Hospital, explained that the decision to promote the adjustment to the facemask supply program was taken to "facilitate the lives of citizens so that they do not need to travel so often to the sales points," avoiding the unnecessary congregation of people.



In response to questions from the media about whether the move could potentially be related to a termination of the supply plan, Lo said, "This is a plan to facilitate the lives of the citizens. This is just an adjustment and does not mean that after this [round] the plan will be over."

Adding to the discussion, the coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Doctor Leong Iek Hou, said that the extension of the mask supply to every 30 days occurred because "after 19 rounds people are already very familiar with the process."

Asked by the media whether

the move would put pressure on stocks, Lo replied that the government has granted enough stock to suppliers to ensure a steady supply.

"We can guarantee that all people will have access to masks without problems. At the peak time, we sold about 6 million [per round]; nowadays we are selling about 400,000. I think we can rest assured that there will be no problems since the demand for the product is much lower now," Lo said, adding that according to the latest data on the matter, more than 100 million masks have been sold already under the government scheme.

TRAVEL BUBBLE WILL COME ONCE CONDITIONS ALLOW: ALVIS LO

RENATO MARQUES

DOCTOR Alvis Lo, medical director of the Conde de São Januário Hospital, has said that work is still ongoing on the resumption of the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) visas by mainland authorities, and that the changes will come only once the conditions allow for them.

"We are doing things step-by-step," he explained.

"Now the citizens will be able to travel not just to and from nine cities [in Guangdong province], but to all Guangdong," said the doctor, referring to a new policy that took effect yesterday. "We are evaluating [whether] this [new measure] will bring any added risks as we always do and we will gradually lift the restriction measures previously imposed," he said.

Starting yesterday, Guangdong provincial government no longer requires arrivals from Macau to quarantine when entering the province. Previously the quarantine waiver had been in effect only for those leaving Macau to enter the cities of the Greater Bay Area, excluding Hong Kong.

In order to be granted exemption from undergoing a 14-day period of medical observation in Zhuhai, inbound travelers must have avoided travel to any places outside Macau and the mainland in the 14 days prior to their intended arrival in Guangdong.

Once in Guangdong, such travelers must make a daily digital declaration of their health status -- via the Guangdong health-declaration system -- in the 14 days following their arrival.

LAURAN NEERGAARD &
NICOLE WINFIELD

Early in the Covid crisis, frantic doctors

AMID the chaos of the pandemic's early days, doctors who faced the first coronavirus onslaught reached across oceans and language barriers in an unprecedented effort to advise colleagues trying to save lives in the dark.

With no playbook to follow and no time to wait for research, YouTube videos describing autopsy findings and X-rays swapped on Twitter and WhatsApp spontaneously filled the gap.

When Stephen Donelson arrived at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in mid-March, Dr. Kristina Goff was among those who turned to what she called "the stories out of other places that were hit before."

Donelson's family hadn't left the house in two weeks after COVID-19 started spreading in Texas, hoping to shield the organ transplant recipient. Yet one night, his wife found him barely breathing, his skin turning blue, and called 911.

In New York or Italy, where hospitals were overflowing, Goff thinks Donelson wouldn't even have qualified for a then-precious ventilator. But in Dallas, "we pretty much threw everything we could at him," she said.

Like doctors everywhere, Goff was at the beginning of a huge and daunting learning curve.

"It's a tsunami. Something that if you don't experience it directly, you can't understand," Italian Dr. Pier Giorgio Villani said in a series of webinars on six straight Tuesday evenings to alert other intensive care units what to expect. They started just two weeks after Italy's first hospitalized patient arrived in his ICU, and 10 days before Donelson fell ill in Texas.

Villani, who works in the northern city of Lodi, described a battle to accommodate the constant flow of people needing breathing tubes. "We had 10, 12, 15 patients to intubate and an ICU with seven patients already intubated," he said.

The video sessions, organized by an Italian association of ICUs, GiViTI, and the non-profit Mario Negri Institute and later posted on YouTube, constitute an oral history of Italy's outbreak as it unfolded, narrated by the first doctors in Europe to fight the coronavirus.

Italian friends spread the word to doctors abroad and translations began for colleagues in Spain, France, Russia and the U.S., all bracing their own ICUs for a flood of patients.

They offered "a privileged window into the future," said Dr. Diego Casali of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, who is from northern Italy and was directed to the webinars when he sought advice from a front-line friend about how to prepare.

Dr. Jane Muret of the French Society of Anesthesia-Resuscitation

also heard by word-of-mouth and, impressed by the breathing-tube lessons, posted a translation when France had only a handful of diagnosed COVID-19 cases.

"Now we can recognize our COVID patients" when they start showing up, she said.

Every tidbit about the newest baffling symptom, every trick to try, served as clues as the virus bore down on the next city, the next country. By the time Donelson arrived, Goff's hospital was adjusting ventilator care based on that early advice.

But while grateful for the global swirl of information, Goff also struggled to make sense of conflicting experiences.

"You have no idea how to interpret what went right or what went wrong," she said, "or was it just the native course of the disease?"

Even now, months into a pandemic first wave that's more like constantly shifting tides, Goff is humbled at how difficult it remains to predict who will live and who will die. She can't explain why Donelson, finally home after a 90-day ordeal, was ultimately one of the lucky ones.

CONFUSING REPORTS

Doctors in Italy were confused: Reports from China were suggesting a death rate of about 3% among those infected. But for the first 18 days, only the dead left the ICU at Bergamo's large Pope John XXIII Hospital.

While the toll eventually dropped, 30% of the hospital's initial 510 COVID-19 patients died.

After decades in practice, ICU chief Dr. Luca Lorini thought he knew how to treat the dangerous kind of respiratory failure -- called ARDS, or acute respiratory distress syndrome -- first thought to be the main threat.

"Every night, I would go home and I had the doubt that I had gotten something wrong," Lorini said. "Try to imagine: I am all alone and I can't compare it with France because the virus wasn't there, or Spain or the U.K. or America, or with anyone who is closer to me than China."

Only later would it become clear that for patients sick enough to need the ICU, death rates were indeed staggeringly high.

By February, China had filed only a limited number of medical journal reports on how patients were faring. Lorini's hospital tried to fill the data gap by dividing patients into small groups to receive different forms of supportive care and comparing them every three or four days -- not a scientific study, but some real-time information

AP PHOTO



Dr. Bin Cao of the China-Japan Friendship Hospital in Beijing explained that the virus sneaks past the lungs into the bloodstream

to share.

The first lessons: The coronavirus wasn't causing typical ARDS, and patients consequently needed gentler ventilation than normal. They also needed to stay on tho-

se ventilators far longer than usual.

"We made big errors," Villani said, weaning patients off machines too soon.

Then mid-March brought another startling surprise: In a training video for U.S. cardiologists, Chinese

doctors warned that the virus causes dangerous blood clots, and not just in the lungs.

Dr. Bin Cao of the China-Japan Friendship Hospital in Beijing explained that as the virus sneaks

past the lungs into the bloodstream, it damages the lining of blood vessels, forming clots in the heart, kidneys, "all over the body." He urged American doctors to use blood thinners protectively in the severely ill.

In Italy's epicenter, doctors were making the same discovery. Lorini described a scramble to get the word out via Skype and email. "This is a vascular sickness more than a pulmonary one and we didn't know that," he said.

In the U.S., the finding about blood thinners made biological sense to Dr. Tiffany Osborn, a cri-

AP PHOTO



Molly Gough, a speech therapist at the Zale Hospital on the UT Southwestern Campus speaks with patient Stephen Donelson

Doctors traded tips across oceans



critical care physician at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

"It means at least you're not shooting in the dark. You're trying something that from a physiologic standpoint makes sense," said Osborn, who was living in a camper in her driveway to avoid bringing the virus home to her family after her long ICU shifts.

By April, many doctors were bowing to pressure to try a malaria drug named hydroxychloroquine that obsessed President Donald Trump. Osborn never understood why such a drug would work and,

sure enough, it eventually failed when put to a real test.

But what else might be effective? "We're learning as we go," Osborn said. "You could talk to me in two weeks and I might be telling you something that's really different."

PROBLEMS WITH VENTILATION

When Stephen Donelson arrived in the emergency room, "we had very little hope for him," Goff said.

The Midlothian man had undergone an organ transplant two years earlier, and the immune-sup-

pressing drugs that prevent rejection of his new lungs and liver meant his body couldn't fight the coronavirus. Goff's first challenge: how to scale back those medicines just enough for Donelson to battle the virus without endangering his transplant.

Her second: He was fighting against the ventilator's artificial breaths. So Goff deeply sedated

Donelson, paralyzing his muscles to let the machine do all the work.

Hospital after hospital struggled with balancing how to get enough air into oxygen-starved coronavirus patients without further damaging fragile lungs.

Ventilation is like "blowing air into a sponge and all the little holes are opening up. Walls between the holes can be very thin. If you're putting in a lot of air, it can damage the lining of those little holes," explained Osborn, the St. Louis critical care specialist.

A trick the doctors shared with each other: Flip patients over from their backs to their stomachs — a procedure called proning that takes pressure off the lungs, which lie closer to the back. It also helps lower fluid accumulation in the lungs.

It's not a one-time fix. Donelson stayed on his belly about 16 hours a day early on, as his doctors watched his oxygen levels improve. It's also hot and heavy work: Every turn took five or six health workers, in full safety garb, working in slow synchrony to avoid dislodging his breathing tube.

Italy's Alessandro Manzoni Hospital set a schedule: Start turning patients onto their bellies at 2 p.m. -- it took more than three hours to work through them all -- and then put them on their backs again at 8 a.m., when fresh nurses arrived.

Hospitals that specialize in treating ARDS knew how to prone before COVID-19 hit. For many others, it was a brand-new skill their workers had to learn. Fast.

"We've never had to prone anyone here before the pandemic, but now it's like second nature," Kevin Cole, a respiratory therapist at

A trick the doctors shared with each other: Flip patients over from their backs to their stomachs — a procedure called proning

Fort Washington Medical Center in Maryland, said four months into the U.S. outbreak.

And some hospitals now are asking patients not yet on ventilators to simply roll over periodically, in hopes it might prevent them from needing more invasive care.

"What have we got to lose? That's something that's not going to hurt anybody," Osborn said.

CONTAGION

Even in normal times, critical-care specialists know they can't save all their patients. But they're used to more hand-holding. With this virus, even garbed in space-suit-like protective gear, health workers must minimize time with infectious patients to avoid getting sick themselves. And family members are largely barred, too.

"My general way of doing things

is, no one dies alone," said Osborn, who holds her phone in front of dying patients so loved ones can say goodbye.

She paused to compose herself, and added: "If this is going to happen, and you can provide some comfort that maybe they wouldn't have gotten if you weren't there, that's important."

The newest lesson: Recovery takes a lot longer than surviving.

Back in Dallas, Donelson spent 17 days on a ventilator. When it was removed, he was too weak to even sit without support and the breathing tube had taken away his ability to swallow.

"He would try to pick his head up off the pillow and it would lob to the side just like a newborn baby," said his wife, Terri Donelson, who for the first time since his hospital admission finally was allowed to connect with her husband through a videoconferencing app.

For days after waking up, Donelson had tremendous delirium, a dangerous state of mental confusion and agitation. He didn't know where he was or why, and would try to pull out his IV tubes. Then a bacterial infection hit his lungs.

Then one morning, worried that Donelson suddenly was too quiet, his doctor donned what she calls her "full-helmet, Darth Vader-style mask, which cannot possibly help anyone's delirium," and went in to check on him.

"I rubbed his arm," Goff recalled, asking him to wake up. "I said, 'Hey are you OK, are you with me?'" and Donelson started trying to talk, at first too raspy to understand.

Eventually, she made out that he was wishing her a happy Easter. She can only guess he heard the date on TV.

Doctor and patient cried together.

That was Donelson's turning point. He still wasn't deemed virus-free but physical therapists cautiously spent a little more time helping him gain strength and learn to swallow. His first bite: chocolate pudding.

Terri Donelson countered the long periods of isolation by keeping the video app running non-stop, talking to her husband and giving him quizzes to stimulate his memory.

"Little by little, with each day, he gains something new, something else reawakens," she said.

Finally, on June 19, 90 days after the frantic ambulance ride, Donelson — still weak but recovering — went home. His doctor is humbled by his survival, and anxiously awaiting better science to help guide care as the pandemic continues.

"If you have one patient who leaves a really strong impression on you, you may interpret that patient's experience to be hallmark. Until we have large, population-based studies of actual outcomes, it's really hard to know what's real and what's not real," Goff said. AP



A doctor watches a coronavirus patient under treatment in the intensive care unit of the Brescia hospital, Italy

US, Australia, N.Zealand team up to criticize China in Asia-Pacific

THE United States and Australia are teaming up in their criticism of China, taking the country to task for aggressive behavior throughout the Asia-Pacific and not acting quickly to contain the coronavirus.

The U.S. and Australian foreign and defense ministers pledged yesterday [Macau time] to renew and strengthen a united front against China and what they termed Beijing's malign behavior throughout the region and beyond that they said had grown worse in recent years.

The two sides — represented by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, Defense Secretary Mark Esper, Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne and Defense Minister Linda Reynolds — accused China of violating international norms in the South China Sea and vowed to uphold freedom of navigation and the rule of the law as well as democratic freedoms in Hong Kong.

Pompeo said the U.S. and Australia face “immediate crises” that must be dealt with simultaneously. Those include COVID-19 and “Chinese communist party ambitions,” particularly its “malign activity in the Indo-Pacific region and indeed all around the world.”

Pompeo applauded Australia for suspending its extradition treaty with Hong Kong, something the Trump administration is also pursuing as China moves to impose curbs on dissent in the former British territory. He also slammed China for using pressure to stop Australia from taking such actions by targeting exports to the country.

Payne said Australia would work to hold all states accountable for violating the rule of law and would support allies in combating “China's erosion of freedom in Hong Kong.” “We will step up and ensure that we support our mates,” she said.

Payne added that the U.S. and China would es-



Secretary of State Mike Pompeo meets with Australia's Foreign Minister Marise Payne at the State Department in Washington

establish a working group to combat Chinese disinformation about COVID-19 and other issues.

Payne, Reynolds and their delegation met with Pompeo and Esper at the State Department despite concerns about the coronavirus. They will voluntarily self-quarantine on their return home to Australia.

US SUPPORTS JAPAN

The United States supports Japan's protests over Chinese ships venturing into the economic waters near disputed East China Sea islands, the commander of the U.S. Forces in Japan said yesterday.

“The United States is 100% absolutely steadfast in its commitment to help the government of Japan with the situation in Senkaku,” Lt. Gen. Kevin Schneider said of the group of islands, which are controlled by Japan.

China also claims the islands, which it calls Diaoyu.

“That's 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. There is no deviation in that regard,” Schneider told reporters.

Japan has long protested the repeated presence of Chinese coast guard vessels in the waters. Schneider also noted such incursions had increased recently.

He called China the “No. 1 challenge” in regional security, although North

Korea was the more “immediate threat,” given its weapons development.

Schneider said the U.S. was offering Japan surveillance information and other support, such as “reconnaissance capability,” which refers to monitoring the whereabouts of a potential enemy, to help Japan “assess the situation and to figure out exactly what's going on in the water in and around the Senkaku.”

China shrugged off such concerns.

Wang Wenbin, spokesperson for the Chinese foreign ministry, reasserted China's claim to the islands, stressing it was the country's “inherent right to carry out patrol and law enforcement” activities in the area.

N.ZEALAND SUSPENDS TREATY WITH HK

New Zealand announced earlier this week that it will follow the lead of its intelligence allies by suspending its extradition treaty with Hong Kong.

The move comes in response to China passing a sweeping new security law for the semi-autonomous territory.

New Zealand is the final member of the “Five Eyes” intelligence-sharing alliance to take such action after the U.S., Australia, Canada and Britain

previously announced similar measures.

New Zealand relies on China as its largest trading partner and in the past has often tried to avoid direct political confrontation. China each year buys billions of dollars worth of New Zealand's agricultural goods, including its lucrative milk powder, which is used in infant formula.

But Foreign Minister Winston Peters said the new law went against commitments China had made to the international community.

“New Zealand can no longer trust that Hong Kong's criminal justice system is sufficiently independent from China,” he said.

Peters said there would be other changes to the relationship. New Zealand will now treat military and technology exports to Hong Kong in the same way as it treats such exports to China, he said. New Zealand also has updated its travel advice to warn its citizens about the risks they face under the new law.

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said New Zealand was following its principles.

“We do have a mature relationship with China,” Ardern said. “There have been occasions where we have taken different positions. This obviously will be one of them.” **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1986 SOVIETS LAUNCH SPACE STATION MIR

The Soviets have opened a new phase in space exploration with the launch of the world's biggest space station, Mir.

The successful launch of Mir comes just over three weeks after the American space shuttle Challenger disaster, in which seven astronauts died.

At next week's Communist Party congress in Moscow the Mir project is likely to be hailed as proof that the Soviets are leading the peaceful exploration of space.

Mir, which means both peace and world in Russian, is intended to provide a base for a permanently manned complex orbiting the Earth.

It succeeds the Soviet Salyut models, the last of which, Salyut 7, was launched in April 1982 and is still in orbit.

The Americans also had a space station, Skylab, which suffered damage on its initial launch and eventually proved too costly to maintain and fell back to Earth in 1979.

Soviet officials say their new craft represents the transition from research to large-scale production activities in space.

The station has six docking stations, which means other modules or laboratories can be added to it, expanding its size and capability.

The deputy head of the Soviet cosmonaut training centre, Alexei Leonov, said it would only be possible to determine how long Mir would remain in orbit after it had completed its first flight.

He said the cosmonauts, now taking part in a special training programme, would have separate cabins with windows and even individual desks and armchairs.

Mr Leonov explained that Salyut 7 was too small for the plans now being implemented by Soviet experts.

It has only two docking stations and can support a crew of only three, whereas Mir can carry between six and ten people.

The main work of the first cosmonauts on board Mir will be to continue with the experiments in materials processing, begun on Salyut 6 and 7.

Other activities will include observation of the Earth using high-powered cameras, as well as helping locate mineral deposits on Earth and monitor the seas for trawlers.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The first crew arrived on board Mir on 15 March 1986 and it remained more or less continuously occupied until November 2000. Crew member Valeri Polyakov stayed up a record 439 days.

The end of the Cold War marked a new era of space co-operation.

In September 1993 US Vice-President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin announced plans for a new space station, which would later be called the International Space Station, or ISS.

In preparation for this new project, the US became more closely involved with Mir.

From March 1995 seven US astronauts consecutively spent 28 months on Mir, during which time the spacecraft suffered a number of emergencies including a large fire on 23 February 1997 and a collision with an unmanned cargo ship on 25 June 1997.

Mounting costs contributed to the decision to bring down Mir.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Things might not feel like they're moving along as quickly as you would like, which could cause a certain degree of fraying when it comes to your nerves right now. But don't worry...



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Once you do get out into the world, you will get going and get energized. Just be careful not to rush through the day too quickly. In the late afternoon, there will be some sweet moments.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Do you think someone is not being totally open with you right now? Your instincts are right on. But their tight-lipped status is not due to an inability to trust you.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Previously made plans with other people might need to get rescheduled or canceled altogether. What you need to do is very important, and it's something you should do by yourself.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

If you feel your blood pressure mounting today, you should do more than take a deep breath. Take a different attitude towards the situation! There is a funny side to any stressful situation...



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

For especially incisive insight on your latest problems, turn to one of your friends today. You need to consult someone who either is in the same situation as you are, or has been before.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

One of your friendships is starting to feel one-sided - and you are not on the right side. Do you feel like you are giving more than you get? Compromising more than they do?



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

If your routine is starting to get boring, resist the urge to create a problem just for the sake of having something to talk about! You need to avoid conflict now more than ever.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you are working on starting or strengthening or shoring up a romance today, you had better take it all the way! Have fun with it. Be over the top. Flirt to a ridiculous degree.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Plus, all this worry will drain away the positive energy you require to succeed. Toss worry out the window for today, and just do what you want to do - try what you want to try.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Don't be surprised if you meet up with a kindred soul who is motivated by altruism, too. They can stimulate your mind and engage your heart on a higher, newer level.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

People are going to respond a lot better to concrete examples than to ambiguous concepts today, so if you are trying to make a point or sell an idea, you'll have to do it with facts and figures, set down in black and white.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

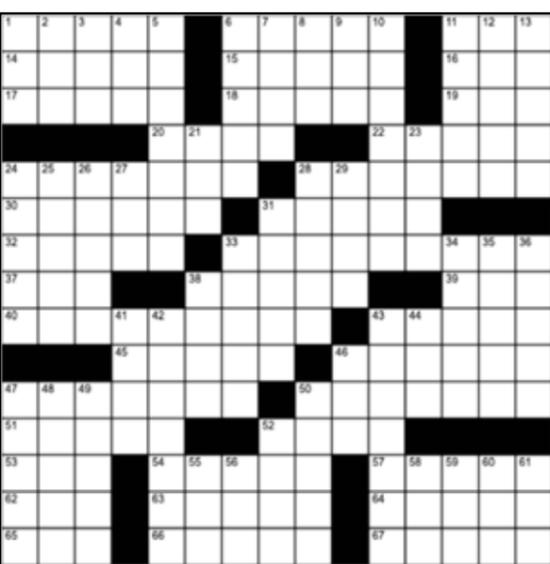
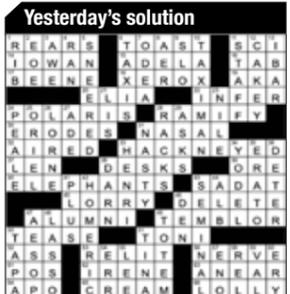
HARD

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Stun gun; 6- Sumptuous meal; 11- Multitude; 14- Martini garnish; 15- Passion; 16- ___-Mart; 17- Like Fran Drescher's voice; 18- Panorama; 19- Follower's suffix; 20- One way to run; 22- Visible exhalation; 24- Power plug transformer; 28- Keep from occurring; 30- Large soup dish; 31- Name; 32- Off-the-wall; 33- Auction space; 37- Loss leader?; 38- Pays to play; 39- Took in; 40- Rosy; 43- Doled (out); 45- Billiards shot; 46- Bullfighter; 47- Summit of an earthy mound; 50- Diabolical; 51- Aboriginal Alaskan; 52- Mailed; 53- Actress Long; 54- Biblical brother; 57- Cowboy's tool; 62- Durable wood; 63- Golf clubs; 64- Result; 65- Bartender's requests; 66- Feudal vassal; 67- Called one's bluff;

DOWN: 1- Unit of weight; 2- Pie-mode link; 3- Bro's sibling; 4- Sister of Zsa Zsa; 5- Associated; 6- Goodwill; 7- Actor Estrada; 8- Spots; 9- Foster Brooks persona; 10- Makes journeys; 11- Steal; 12- Stationery brand; 13- Attentive, warning of danger; 21- Guys; 23- Say for sure; 24- Fighting; 25- Because of; 26- Met highlights; 27- RPM part; 28- Heaps; 29- Hwys.; 31- Jazz pianist Art; 33- Pry; 34- Like Cheerios; 35- Cheri of "Saturday Night Live"; 36- Red Bordeaux; 38- Saab model; 41- Legal rights org.; 42- Marsh plant; 43- Pinto; 44- Bullpen stat; 46- Process leather; 47- Red River city; 48- Greek epic poem; 49- Seeps; 50- Logic; 52- Album unit; 55- Greek nickname; 56- School of the future?; 58- Gasteyer of "Saturday Night Live"; 59- Georgia, once; Abbr.; 60- Bring civil action against; 61- Brit. lexicon;



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

Manhattan D unit, High Floor
HK\$17,980,000 2,305 ft² 4 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

Houston Court, Coloane Village
\$12,800/mth 780 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR SALE

- [Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1/2 1 1/2
900 ft² \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,439 ft² \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,497 ft² \$11,826,300 (ref: 19015572)
- [Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,269 ft² \$12,000,000 (ref: 19070000)

FOR RENT

- [Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1 1/2
\$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)
- [Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 1/2 1 1/2
600 ft² \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2
710 ft² \$17,050/mth (ref: 20021002)
- [Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)

jml property 卓雅物業

(853) 2835 2699
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty

GOOGLE IN TALKS TO TAKE OVER MORE SEARCH TASKS ON SAMSUNG PHONES

ALPHABET Inc.'s Google and Samsung Electronics Co. are negotiating a major deal that would give Google products more prominence on the South Korean company's smartphones, according to correspondence viewed by Bloomberg News.

The talks involve giving Google more control over search on Samsung handsets globally. Samsung is the largest smartphone maker in the world, selling close to 300 million phones last year. Google's Android is already the underlying operating system on Galaxy devices, but a potential deal would promote Google's digital assistant and Play Store for apps on those devices, details from a person briefed on the matter show.

That would provide the U.S. internet giant with more valuable daily access to Samsung users and would mean the Korean company's own mobile services, such as the Bixby digital assistant, are less integrated on its own devices, according to the correspondence. The move would be a capitulation for Samsung, but the drop in demand for mobile devices during the Covid-19 pandemic has intensified the company's need for revenue and weakened its negotiating position with a key partner.

"Like all Android device makers, Samsung is free to create its own app store and digital assistant," a Google spokesperson said in an emailed statement. "That's one of the great features of the Android platform. And while we regularly talk with partners about ways to improve the user experience, we have no plans to change that."

"Samsung remains committed



to our own ecosystem and services," said a Samsung spokesperson. "At the same time, Samsung closely works with Google and other partners to offer the best mobile experiences for our users."

Samsung won't be giving up this valuable digital real estate for free. Terms of a potential deal could not be confirmed. However, Google pays billions of dollars each year to be the default search engine on the iPhone's Safari web browser and other Apple Inc. devices.

Google and Samsung have a tense but successful partnership through Android, Google's mobile operating system. The web giant provides the basic software for free, but has previously required hardware makers to pre-install its Play app store and suite of commercial products like Search, Chrome and YouTube. In return, Google sometimes agrees to share advertising revenue with the manufacturers.

Samsung has tried to develop its own services for its smartphones, including an Android alternative that was initially called Bada OS and later merged with other unsuccessful mobile software into the Tizen project. Samsung's Google Assistant rival, Bixby, has also

met with little positive reception. The company has over the years trimmed the overlapping apps and services on its handsets, but it still has a few vestiges of prior efforts to more actively take on Google's apps suite.

Samsung shipped 58 million smartphones in the first quarter, according to researcher IDC. While that led all manufacturers, the Covid-19 pandemic has hammered handset sales, leaving the company relying on other sources of revenue.

Deal talks are happening in the midst of antitrust investigations into Google. The company's Play Store is one of several services at the center of this scrutiny. Beyond China, Google and Apple control how most mobile app developers reach consumers, and the tech giants take a cut of as much as 30% on many sales through their digital marketplaces. Samsung's deal with Google may give the U.S. company even more power over developers.

Sundar Pichai, Google's chief executive officer, and Tim Cook, Apple's CEO, are set to testify to a U.S. congressional antitrust panel on Wednesday, along with the leaders of Facebook Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. **BLOOMBERG**



Moutai profit rises 13% as China liquor market remains solid

LIQUOR giant Kweichow Moutai Co. said its net income rose 13% in the first half of 2020 as the recovering local economy boosted demand for its ultra-premium line of baijiu, China's national drink, although growth has not yet returned to pre-pandemic levels.

Earnings for the first six months were 22.6 billion yuan (\$3.2 billion), the company said in a statement to the Shanghai stock exchange on Tuesday. Revenue for the period jumped 11% to 45.6 billion yuan. For the comparable period last year, it had reported a 26% rise in net income and 17% rise in revenue.

Moutai has shown exceptional resilience in the past few years, making it an investor darling and China's biggest stock. Demand for its fiery baijiu - scarce in supply and highly coveted by the Chinese elite - has survived a local economic slowdown, U.S.-China trade tensions, and more recently, the coronavirus pandemic.

The baijiu maker saw buoyant first-quarter earnings despite the virus spreading in China during that period, for-

cing the government to impose strict social-distancing measures including a lockdown in some places and a ban on all public gatherings.

There are signs, however, that the liquor maker may be facing pressure over its high prices. Moutai saw a record \$25 billion wipeout in its market valuation on July 16 after the influential state-run publication People's Daily took aim at its price tag, saying the alcohol is often used in corruption cases.

While revenue growth remained solid in the last quarter, the slower volume growth suggests a more difficult recovery in demand, Bernstein analysts led by Euan McLeish wrote Tuesday. The brokerage reduced its full-year revenue growth estimate to 12%, down from 16% earlier.

The distiller, which makes baijiu out of sorghum and wheat, could see demand weaken in the usually buoyant autumn months if Chinese consumers shun socializing amid resurgences of the coronavirus outbreak. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Galaxy works with NGO to promote responsible gaming



Galaxy Entertainment Group is promoting the importance of responsible gaming by organizing various events and activities, the casino operator said yesterday

in a statement.

In addition to hosting responsible gaming training events and workshops for company employees, Galaxy and Sheng Kung Hui

(SKH) Macau Social Services Coordination Office recently co-organized a parent-child financial workshop to help employees and their family members develop financial literacy.

Themed "Family Fun: Money Management Workshop," the workshop invited 30 employees and their family members to learn about financial management and the harms of gambling addiction.

Earlier, Galaxy donated MOP100,000 to the Bosco Youth Service Network in support of its launch of a new service for the community, working to support teens with gambling addictions.

MGM organizes cultural programs to mark Historic Center anniversary



In celebration of the 15th anniversary of the addition of the Historic Center of Macau to the UNESCO

World Heritage List, MGM China has launched a series of programs taking place from this July to cultivate

its employees' historical and cultural knowledge.

The multi-pronged series features a seminar co-organized with the Macao Polytechnic Institute, guided tours of the Historic Center supported by the Cultural Affairs Bureau and a practical e-learning course, attracting a total of nearly 300 employees.

MGM hopes that its team members will become better acquainted with Macau's history, so that they can guide visitors from around the world to take in its heritage. The initiative will also help MGM better relate the stories of Macau and promote cultural tourism.

EX-NEW ZEALAND All Blacks star Sonny Bill Williams is set to return to the National Rugby League after last appearing in the Australian competition in 2014.

Williams plans to sign a short-term deal with the Sydney Roosters after his current club, the Toronto Wolfpack, had to withdraw from the England-based Super League season amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The NRL is yet to formally ratify the deal, but Williams and the Roosters are confident the dual-code player will re-join the competition next month.

Williams, who will turn 35 next week, said he had booked flights to go on a European family holiday before the Roosters offered a short-term contract to return to the NRL. Williams and his family expect to spend two weeks in quarantine upon arrival in Australia, and he likely won't play before the 15th round when the Roosters take on Wests Tigers on Aug. 22.

"It's no secret that I'm pretty close with the lads at the Roosters, Nick (chairman Nick Politis) and Trent (coach Trent Robinson) and I stay in contact with," Williams told Australia's Nine Network. "Trent just gave me a call and inquired about what was happening over here and Nick hit me up and asked if

RUGBY

Sonny Bill Williams set to return to Australian rugby league



Ex-New Zealand All Blacks star Sonny Bill Williams

I had a couple of months in me to come back.

"To be honest, I hadn't trained for a bit and I'd been in holiday mode — we actually booked flights for a little family European holiday."

The New Zealand-born Williams forged a reputation as a hard-hitting, hard-running forward for Canterbury Bulldogs in the NRL before switching to the 15-a-side rugby union with the aim of qualifying for the All Blacks and bidding for a

World Cup.

He played 58 tests for New Zealand and was part of teams that won the 2011 and 2015 Rugby World Cup, spending two seasons in the NRL with the Roosters in between the tournaments. He has also played rugby sevens for New Zealand, competing in the 2015-16 World Rugby Sevens Series and the 2016 Rio Olympics.

Williams said he's motivated by the challenge of testing himself in the NRL again — "it's the

challenge that I just get so excited about. It lights that fire inside of you."

Roosters' veteran back Josh Morris said Williams was a very tough player to play against, "and any team with Sonny in it was a better team."

Williams' time away from the club and in a different game would be a boost for the Sydney club, Roosters co-captain Jake Friend said.

"He's been part of that All Blacks system which has been such a great system for so long," Friend said in a video posted on the NRL's website. "I'm sure there's plenty to learn off Sonny. I'm sure that Sonny is coming to learn plenty of stuff from us." AP

TWO WORLD SEVENS EVENTS FOR NEXT YEAR OFF

THE first two stops on the 2021 World Sevens Series rugby circuit have been canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic. World Rugby says the joint events in Dubai from Nov. 26-28 and in Cape Town from Dec. 4-6 have been cut because of the

"ongoing and dynamic global nature of the COVID-19 pandemic." The 2020 series was curtailed and New Zealand declared champions of the men's and women's titles after sports around the world were shuttered in March.

AD

CASA DE PORTUGAL
EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會

Escola de Artes e Ofícios
School of Arts and Crafts

workshop **Brincos em Resina**
Resin Earrings

JOALHARIA/JEWELLERY

≥ 15 anos/years old
monitora/monitor:
Cristina Vinhas

Terças
Tuesdays
18h30 - 21h30

total: 09 horas/hours
03 sessões/sessions

data/dates:
11, 18, 25/08/2020

início/starts: 11/08/2020
fim/finishes: 25/08/2020

propina/fee:
MOP 360 *

língua/language:
Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English **

patrocínio/sponsor: **Fundação Macau**

local/venue:
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado nº 431 - 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 8º andar B, sala 1, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
10 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

* Contactar a sede da CPM para informações sobre modalidades de pagamento.
Please contact CPM's headquarters for payment information.
** Aulas com tradução em Cantonês sempre que o número de alunos o justifique.
Sessions with Cantonese translation when the number of students justifies it.

morada/address: Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva, nº 28, R.A.E. de Macau
tel: (853) 28 726 828 fax: (853) 28 726 818
portugal@macau.ctm.net

MAKE-UP
FOR ALL OCCASIONS

• BRIDAL / WEDDINGS • PHOTO SHOOTS • PARTY •
• GRADUATION • SPECIAL EVENTS •

MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!

TEL / WHATSAPP: (853) 6685 3323 | WECHAT: MISSJ_23
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JULIANAC.MAKEUPARTIST

新 陽 光 清潔服務有限公司
NEW SUNSHINE CLEANING SERVICES LTD.

Portable Chemical Toilet Hiring

- Regular Units, Flush Units
- Units with Sanitizers, Sinks
- Deluxe Units
- Daily, Weekly or Monthly
- Deliver, Pick-Up & Pump Out of Portable Toilets

FREE DELIVERY

Call: 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

OPINION

World Views

Clara Ferreira Marques, Bloomberg

GOLD MINERS GET A SHOT
AT REDEMPTION

Gold's record run to almost \$2,000 an ounce has burnished cash flows and driven a surge in shares of bullion producers. The rally provides a renewed test of discipline for Barrick Gold Corp. and peers after a similar climb a decade ago prompted a spate of inflated deals and overly optimistic investments that wasted billions.

The 2020 redux isn't being fueled by traditional demand: The China Gold Association says consumption in the world's biggest buyer plunged by more than a third in the first half. Instead, it's a combination of low bond yields, pandemic worries and institutional investor appetite. Silver has also rallied, breaking through \$24 an ounce this week to its highest since 2013. Precious metals aren't always predictable, but Covid's stubborn resistance means the general picture is unlikely to change soon.

For gold-mining companies, this is becoming a test of memories. With costs contained even after pandemic-related closures, virtually all are churning out impressive cash: In the first three months, Toronto-based Barrick alone generated \$438 million in free cash flow based on a realized price of not far off \$1,600, compared to \$146 million a year earlier. Valuations look better too, especially for the sector's largest players.

That's a temptation to expand for those like Barrick Chief Executive Officer Mark Bristow who are facing constrained production growth and a metal price that's likely to be supported for some time yet. Recall, though, just how bad things got around 10 years ago, when prices last glittered this brightly. In 2017, chastising the industry, the hedge fund of longtime gold bull John Paulson put the gold mining sector's cumulative impairments since 2010 at \$85 billion. According to the same presentation, 80% of the value of the top eight deals was impaired. Enough to give today's executive pause.

The starting gun for this wave of gold deals has already been fired. That began with some operational logic and a dash of hubris, when Barrick announced plans to tie up with Africa-focused Randgold Resources Ltd. in 2018, only to bid unsuccessfully for Newmont Mining Corp. months later, when the target was buying Goldcorp Inc. More significant for what comes next, however, is that premiums were non-existent or modest; Barrick and Newmont never did combine, and ended up agreeing a more sensible joint venture in Nevada.

For an industry trying to woo back generalist investors and regain credibility, Chris LaFemina of Jefferies points out, the model is still pre-merger Randgold: a high dividend, net cash, no value-destroying share issues. Shiny prices haven't changed that yet.

This year it is China's bullion miners that have driven much of the action, in search of market clout and increased relevance. Shandong Gold Mining Co. agreed to buy Canada's TMAC Resources Inc. in May, a deal now facing some local opposition, and has also battled Russia's Nord Gold SE for West Africa-focused Cardinal Resources Ltd. No less acquisitive, Zijin Mining Group Co. agreed last month to buy Canada-headquartered Guyana Goldfields Inc. for \$240 million. Expect that to continue.

Paying out the 2020 windfall in dividends may be no bad thing, given how fast gold can turn. Investors will cheer. Still, if prices stay high, diggers can capitalize on the current excitement by encouraging a little more risk to tackle the problem of stagnant production. It's true that there were as many terrible greenfield projects in the past boom as there were bad M&A deals, but there is an extra incentive to bet on the yellow metal: Extra supply doesn't tend to erode the gold price.

Miners will need to invest \$37 billion by 2025 to keep output at 2019 levels, Wood Mackenzie Ltd. estimates. Not all of those projects will be in top destinations, or easy to extract. Gold at \$2,000 might just make a return to mining's buccaneering roots attractive enough.

Hong Kong's economy shrank by 9% from a year earlier in the latest quarter, hurt by the coronavirus pandemic and facing more potential damage from the loss of U.S. trade privileges due to a security law imposed by Beijing.

The performance reported yesterday for the three months ending in June was an improvement over the previous quarter's 9.1% contraction, the biggest since the government began reporting such data in the 1970s.

Hong Kong, a center for trade, finance and tourism, already was

struggling before the coronavirus prompted the government to impose travel curbs and restrictions on business.

Tourist arrivals fell following protests that began in June 2019 over a proposed extradition law and expanded to include demands for greater democracy and other grievances.

The territory also faces further trouble after Washington withdrew its special trade status in response to Beijing's imposition of a security law that will tighten control over the former British colony.

AP PHOTO



Rembrandt's "Self-portrait"

REMBRANDT, MIRO FETCH
MILLIONS AT SOTHEBY'S
VIRTUAL AUCTION

SYLVIA HUI, LONDON

A self-portrait by Rembrandt sold for 14.5 million pounds (\$18.7 million) at a Sotheby's virtual auction yesterday [Macau time] — a record price for a self-portrait by the Dutch master, the auctioneer's said.

Sotheby's said that the top end of the art market was "in rude health" and that its new live-streamed auction format, introduced because of the coronavirus pandemic, brought in a total of \$192.7 million.

"Self portrait wearing a ruff and black hat," from 1632 when Rembrandt was aged 26, was sought by six bidders. It fell within the 12 to 16 million pounds estimate. The last self-portrait by Rembrandt to appear at auction was sold for 6.9 million pounds in 2003, Sotheby's added.

The painting sold Tuesday was one of only three self-portraits by the painter to remain in private hands, and "the only one ever likely to come to auction." It measures about 22 by 16 centimeters, or about 8 by 6 inches.

The sale was part of a live-streamed global auction featuring dozens of pieces of artwork spanning

five centuries of art history, from Rembrandt to Picasso, and from Joan Miró to Banksy. The event saw staff from the auction house's New York, London and Hong Kong offices furiously gesticulating and whispering into phones as bidders vied to outdo each other.

The top-selling item was Miró's "Peinture (Femme au chapeau rouge)" (Woman in a Red Hat) from 1927, which fetched 22.3 million pounds (\$28.9 million). Sotheby's said

"With the global art world calendar having shifted, we too have seized the opportunity to do things differently."

HELENA NEWMAN
SOTHEBY'S EUROPE

the painting, which came to auction for the first time since 1966, set the highest sale price in Europe so far this year.

The sale also includes a triptych by elusive street

artist Banksy called "Mediterranean Sea View," painted in 2017. Presented in elaborate traditional frames, it features seascapes dotted with orange life jackets and alludes to the lives lost at sea during the European immigration crisis. The paintings fetched 2.2 million pounds — almost double the top estimated price — and the proceeds are meant to raise funds for a hospital in Bethlehem.

Helena Newman, chair of Sotheby's Europe, said the wide range of art on sale caters to "a new generation of collectors (who) show less concern with the traditional art market categories of the past."

"With the global art world calendar having shifted, we too have seized the opportunity to do things differently," she said.

Sotheby's London said some two-thirds of the works on sale have never been at auction before. Of the rest, most had been off the market for two decades.

Five works sold for over \$10 million. That included a bronze sculpture of a female figure by Alberto Giacometti, which fetched 10.7 million pounds (\$13.8 million), doubling the estimated price. AP

Australia's hard-hit Victoria state recorded its lowest daily tally of COVID-19 cases in nine days while the state premier expressed hope it was the start of a downward trend. Victoria reported 295 new cases and nine deaths, seven of which were in aged care homes that are bearing the brunt of the pandemic. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews said "trends are not made in one day" but that he hoped the decline continued.

AP PHOTO



Iran A British-Australian academic serving a 10-year sentence for espionage in Iran has been moved to a notorious prison where concerns for her well-being have escalated, the Australian government confirmed. Kylie Moore-Gilbert (pictured) was a Melbourne University lecturer on Middle Eastern studies when she was sent to Tehran's Evin Prison in September 2018. She had been arrested at Tehran airport while trying to leave the country after attending an academic conference.

AP PHOTO



Denmark Prince Joachim, the younger son of Queen Margrethe of Denmark, who underwent emergency surgery for a blood clot in his brain won't suffer any long-term effects, the royal palace said Tuesday. The 51-year-old prince, who had been on vacation in France, was admitted to the Toulouse University Hospital late Friday and was operated on early Saturday.

AP PHOTO



Sports Andy Haden, whose feigned fall from a lineup earned the All Blacks a match-winning penalty against Wales in 1978 and lasting notoriety for himself, has died. He was 69. Haden was diagnosed with chronic lymphocytic leukemia in 2003 and his condition, which had been stable, recently worsened. He died at home yesterday surrounded by family, New Zealand Rugby said.