



LAWMAKERS DENOUNCED THE SO-CALLED 'RUMOR CRIME' AS AN ATTACK ON MACAU'S FREEDOMS

P5

THE TRANSPORT BUREAU DENIES 'GHOST BUSES' EXIST

P4

DUMPING INTO THE SEA CANNOT BE SEEN AS A SUSTAINABLE ACTIVITY AND IS ANTI-THESIS TO CSR, CONTENDS LEANDA LEE

P3

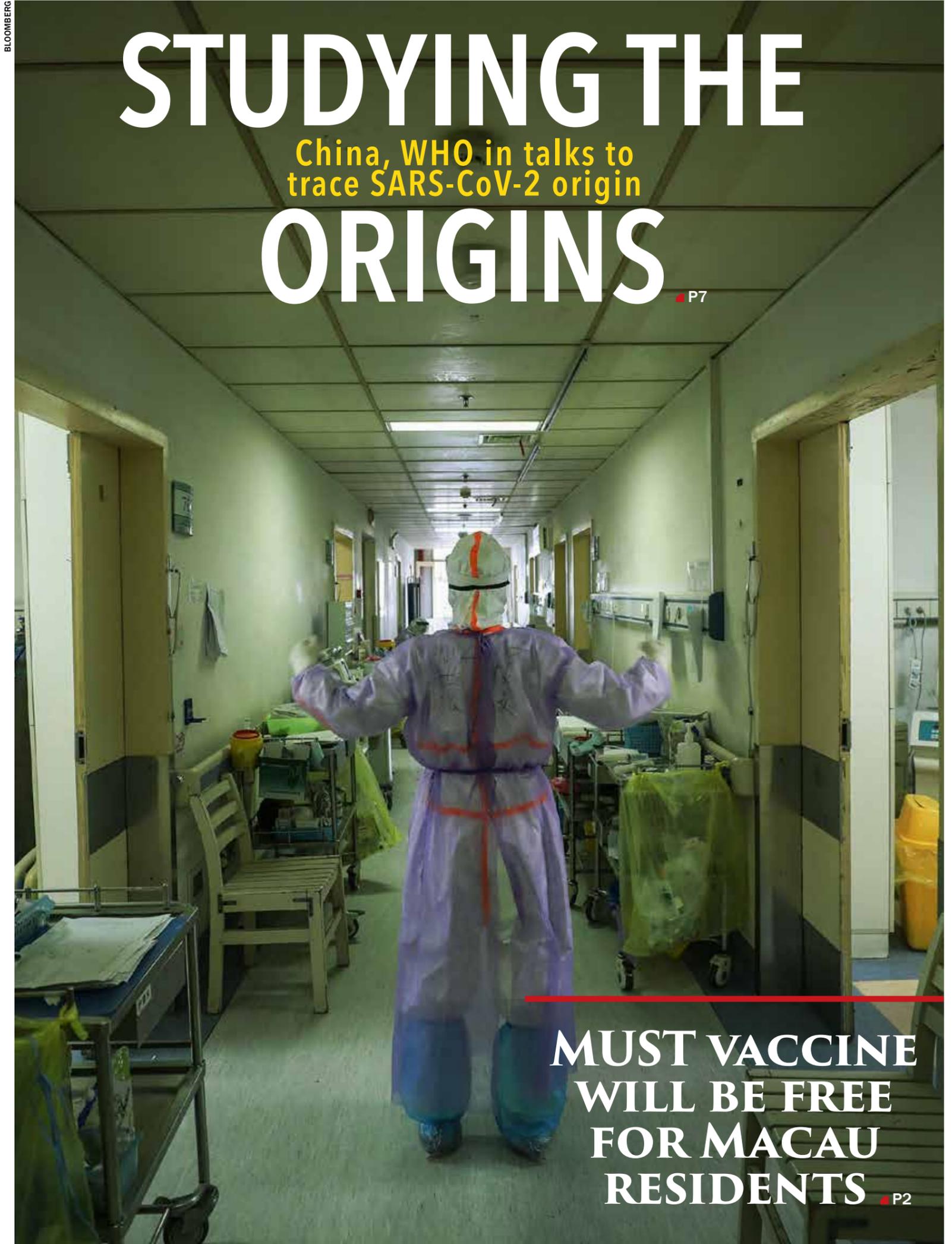


The Philippines
Commuter trains, buses and other public vehicles stayed off the main roads of the Philippine capital yesterday and police were again staffing checkpoints to restrict public travel as surging virus cases forced another lockdown. Officials deployed dozens of shuttle buses, along with army trucks, to ferry stranded medical personnel and workers of authorized businesses. Most domestic flights to and from the capital were cancelled, and night curfews will return in places.



Australia's hard-hit State of Victoria banned people who should be self-isolating from exercising outside their homes and introduced tougher fines for infected people who continue to go to work. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews said self-isolation was hard to enforce if people used a lawful excuse to justify other decisions. Military and health teams who knocked on the doors of 3,000 homes recently could not find 800 people who should have been there because they had the virus or were awaiting a test result.

More on backpage



STUDYING THE ORIGINS

China, WHO in talks to trace SARS-CoV-2 origin

P7

MUST VACCINE WILL BE FREE FOR MACAU RESIDENTS

P2

MUST VACCINE EXPECTED TO BE FREE FOR MACAU RESIDENTS

JULIE ZHU

THE Covid-19 candidate vaccine currently being researched by a team led by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) is expected to be distributed free of charge to Macau local residents, should it prove successful.

Each vaccine is estimated to cost approximately 100 patacas to manufacture, Professor Zhang Kang, one of leading researchers on the team, told Macau Daily Times on the sidelines of a press conference yesterday.

Led by MUST, the research team consists of scientists from the school, the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) and other Chinese institutions which have been working on a candidate vaccine based on the receptor-binding domain (RBD) of SARS-Cov-2, the virus that causes Covid-19.

Zhang expects all research procedures, human clinical trials, and manufacturing to be completed by the end of this year or early next year.

Even though production of the candidate vaccine costs approximately 100 patacas (and possibly even less than that), according to Zhang, the research team still hopes to lower the cost and make it free for Macau residents.

"The production can be fast and in large quantities," added Manson Fok, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at MUST. "Therefore, the production can be comparatively cost-effective."



Professor Zhang Kang, one of leading researchers on the team

Negotiations between the research team and manufacturers have already entered their final phase. However, the names of the candidate manufacturers remain confidential.

The first human clinical trial will be done in collaboration with one manufacturer from Taiwan. Neither the trial nor the production will have traces of Macau's involvement, said Fok.

As explained by both Fok and Zhang, the trial requires tens of thousands of confirmed infections, which is impossible to source in Macau. In addition, Macau does not have a medical

products authority to approve the manufacture.

The team plans to reserve approximately eight million vaccines for Hong Kong and Macau residents if the vaccine proves to be successful.

The research team is planning to certify the future vaccine outside of the greater China region.

"We may verify the vaccine in authorized organizations in the United States or the European Union because Macau does not have a certification authority," Zhang told Macau Daily Times. "We probably will not certify it in mainland China because there

are already many vaccines under development in mainland China."

According to data from the World Health Organization, there are more than 150 candidate Covid-19 vaccines under development around the world. The most prestigious medical and academic institutions are currently testing those vaccines, and some have already progressed to human trials.

The professor from PolyU reaffirmed yesterday that this vaccine is likely to be the first one available for clinical use if it is effective.

MAINLAND, HONG KONG REPORT FEWER NEW CASES

BOTH mainland China and Hong Kong reported fewer new cases of Covid-19 yesterday as strict measures to contain new infections appear to be taking effect.

Mainland China announced 36 new cases across the country, down from 43 the previous day. Of those, 28 were in the northwestern region of Xinjiang and two in Liaoning province in the northeast.

Another six cases were brought by Chinese arriving from overseas. No new deaths were registered, leaving China's total at 4,634 among 84,634 cases reported since the virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year.

Hong Kong reported 78 new cases over the previous 24 hours, the first time in almost two weeks that new cases had fallen into double-digits.

Authorities in the semi-autonomous southern Chinese city ordered mask wearing in public places, restrictions on indoor dining and increased testing to contain the outbreak.

China's central government also sent a medical team to assist in efforts and an exhibition center has been converted into a temporary hospital in the event beds run short. Deaths from the disease in Hong Kong have risen to 38 among 3,589 total cases. **AP**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH OF ARBITRARY LAWS, SELECTIVELY ENFORCED'

Dear Editor,

There is a bizarre case in Macau recently involving a workplace dispute.

An employee started to work for a company and had her salaries paid via bank transfer using her real name on the real ID card. The worker had asked her employer to pay for her medical bills, but there was a mistake in her name on the M7 form of the medical bills.

Her employer paid the bill, but questioned the payment after she resigned.

Her employer referred the matter of the mistaken name to the police, who suspected fraud.

Soon after getting the police involved, the worker and her employer reached an agreement regarding the matter. However, the Public Prosecutions Office will not drop the case and is now accusing the employee of forging documents.

The purpose of the crime, they say, is to conceal her true identity and prepare for future crimes. The pre-trial judge also agrees with the prosecution.

There are many firms in Macau that provide forged documents for hiring blue card workers. Many people know this. Has anyone ever been accused of forging documents? The answer is almost none.

I have seen enough of arbitrary laws, selectively enforced in Macau, unfortunately.

And what about the independence of the courts?

Judges should always maintain an independent and neutral position. Some judges tend to be preconceived and

suspect crimes are always present, and they believe that the defendant has committed a criminal act from the beginning. The judge should insist on the presumption of innocence.

Today, whatever evidence is submitted by the investigative agency, the Public Prosecutions Office will accept and submit it, and the court will generally accept it too. There is no real basis for determining its usefulness as evidence.

In some cases, the judge basically adopts the practice of "you have your defense, and I have my own judgment."

These judicial failures can be catastrophic. If a guilty verdict was based on a false accusation, then the people will lose confidence in the justice system and society will be unstable.

Unjust, false and wrongly filed cases have always been a pain in the hearts of legal professionals.

In fact, the three organs of government should perform their respective duties in criminal litigation activities and monitor each other, and prevent unjust and false cases from ever reaching the courts.

Yours sincerely,
A concerned citizen

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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

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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 Telephone: +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

ANALYSIS

The gift of waste

XINHUA



LEANDA LEE, MDT

CORPORATE Social Responsibility and sustainability walk hand in hand. CSR purposefully integrates a company into its corporate eco-system and does not impose costs (externalities) on the community, the environment and other stakeholders. In Macau, the dumping of operational by-products (resource-rich waste, such as food waste) into the South China Sea cannot be seen as a sustainable activity and is antithesis to CSR.

Natural systems have an incredible ability to absorb and process outputs; in nature there is no waste. The leftovers from one organism become resources for another in a circular system, emulated by models of the Circular Economy. There is, however, a limit to the volume beyond which any system becomes overburdened. What was once a gift to an organism or ecosystem, in the wrong place or volume, becomes toxic. No longer usable, it becomes waste. One role of CSR is to identify and attend to those externalities.

As has recently come to public attention, Macau's waste-management systems have become over-burdened: the consistently high per capita production of solid waste at 2.17 kgs per day (2018 figures); the decision not to plant man-

groves along the northern part of the Areia Preta coastal area, and to reclaim the area instead to deal with the stench; and burden-shifting from one waste-stream to another all corroborate that story.

The reversal of the decision to plant mangroves deserves exploration. Mangroves' adaptability to low levels of oxygen, mud, salt and pollutants, and their stabilizing effects against coastal erosion and movement of silt, particularly in locations prone to typhoons, makes them eminently suited to such applications as recommended by the Environmental Protection Bureau. Even though these plants have phenomenal capacity to absorb gases and uptake nutrients from anaerobic environments, Macau's coastal zones have become unviably polluted with what experts describe as 'very nasty toxic stuff that kills fish and can kill people': a concoction of liquid with suspended solids, oils and fats, and toxicity that kills any natural bacteria that would normally start the process of biodegradation. Macau's lack of capacity to sufficiently treat its wastewater has led to under-treated effluent and sludge being discharged into surrounding waters.

Adding to the problems is Macau's comparatively high

solid waste volume. This can be better managed by reducing food waste - the heaviest fraction of general waste. Food waste also causes damage to the Energy from Waste (EfW) infrastructure - incinerators and transportation network - as it contaminates general waste with its corrosive and moist characteristics. Given Macau's branding as a city of abundance, luxury and gastronomy, the capacity to reduce food waste from hotels and resorts is limited. Management, thus, naturally focuses down-stream, and the current option of choice is the already over-burdened sewerage system: a classic burden-shifting scenario.

" Macau's coastal zones have become polluted with what experts describe as 'very nasty toxic stuff that kills fish and can kill people' "

Some of the food waste management systems currently in use in Macau may produce "earth-friendly water" in another context, but a system that wastes 2 to 4 litres of potable water per kilogram of

food waste in bacteria-activated macerators to push more solids down the sewer creates clear externalized costs under Macau's particular circumstances - an already over-burdened public infrastructure that puts even greater pressure on an already degraded marine environment. Under U.K. legislation, the output of such systems is very highly regulated, if not banned.

Food waste can, however, offer other gifts: composted for fertilizer, soil additives and animal feed; biogas from anaerobic digesters and anaerobic co-digesting systems.

Of these, Macau does not have the space to store and produce compost, and some

Integrated Resorts that have tested this option have had export to the mainland cut off. Lack of agriculture means soil additives and animal feeds are not viable options. Anaerobic digesters and co-digesting options producing biofuels, although recommended for use in Macau for its health, environmental and energy capture benefits in a 2016 study by Hong Kong researchers, would require significant investment in upgrades to wastewater treatment infrastructure.

In the absence of anaerobic digesters, the ideal scenario, allowing for Macau's existing

infrastructure, is the production of odorless, high caloric, low weight, low volume and dry fuel for EfW. Waste management systems are currently available which can be incorporated into community waste-collection points, and hotel and restaurant in-house food-waste management to efficiently produce such a residue: volume (therefore transport requirements) is reduced by 80%, without using water, moderate energy use, with no off-gas, no pathogens, nor pest risk. The subsequent reduction in the burden on the public waste-water treatment infrastructure and our marine environment, and decontamination of the Municipal Solid Waste suggests the way forward is public-private partnerships with Integrated Resorts to consider such options.

The socially responsible action of corporates is to audit the impacts of operations both within and out the back door, beyond companies' physical boundaries, and then to offer solutions in collaboration with other stakeholders.

In the lull before economic activity ramps up post Covid-19, and before the existing waste-management infrastructure starts to creak again under the burden, with good will, there is a window of opportunity to make Macau an exemplar and turn such waste into a gift.

DSAT DOES NOT FAVOR DOUBLE TAPPING BUS CARDS

JULIE ZHU

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) is disinclined to accept the proposal of passengers "double tapping" bus cards, according to bureau director Lam Hin San.

Last month, lawmaker Agnes Lam wrote an interpellation to the government with questions related to bus services.

The lawmaker used Beijing, Shenzhen and Taipei as examples to recommend that the transport authority adopt the aforementioned payment model. A double tapping bus card model means that a bus passenger has to tap the card once when getting on the bus and another time when getting off.

According to Lam, double tapping could help the government to collect statistics on passengers' travel routes and, in turn, would provide reference for the transport authority to make better bus arrangements.

DSAT head Lam Hin San neither assented to nor decli-



ned the lawmaker's proposal. However, he indicated it was unlikely to be accepted.

Lam acknowledged that the bureau was listening to public opinion and would take its views into consideration along with the relevant proposals when drafting new bus contracts.

"Actually, the bureau has already been gradually installing passenger evaluation systems on buses to analyze the utilization of bus routes and stops," said Lam.

As of today, the SAR government is paying approximately 100 million patacas to the bus companies annually. The concerned bus concessions expired at the end of last year and the contracts were extended for 14 months until the end of this year.

Previously, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works pledged to resolve the bus concession issue before August 15 this year. The lawmaker also brought up the topic in her interpellation, asking about,

among other things, the government's plans to establish a bus fare adjustment mechanism.

Currently, seniors, students and residents with special needs can apply to the contactless e-payment company, Macau Pass, for a registered card that will automatically apply discounts to their bus fares.

The DSAT head said that the government will consider public opinions when preparing for the new contract.

TRANSPORT AUTHORITY DENIES 'GHOST BUSES' EXIST

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) issued a statement yesterday to deny allegations regarding the existence of "ghost buses", referring to buses deployed, partially deployed or never deployed, merely to meet minimum shift requirements instead of to take passengers.

Last Sunday, the DSAT and the two bus companies held a joint press conference to explain the former's decision to cut bus frequency. The government bureau assured the press that special buses will be deployed should bus stops become too crowded.

Just one day later, on the first working day after the change was announced, many bus users reported waiting for 15 to 20 minutes longer than usual.

Meanwhile, another type of so-called "ghost buses" was suspected based on data from the DSAT's official app.

Chinese newspaper Macao Daily News reported that the app showed a bus one stop away but did not appear at the next stop after 10 minutes. The app then showed the bus had already passed the stop.

In response, the DSAT stressed all bus stops across the city are equipped with radio-frequency identification devices that record operational data. Such data are also verified by a third-party entity.

DSAT disclosed that on August 3, the accuracy rate of route announcement was 97%. The bureau added that the accuracy rate can be affected by operational or network conditions. **AL**

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RENATO MARQUES

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

THE Legal Regime of Civil Protection received its final approval last night at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Even though the law was unanimously approved in general terms more than a year ago, it has since raised significant criticism from several lawmakers considering its inclusion of a controversial new crime related to the creation or spreading of rumors during sensitive moments such as times of calamity or natural disaster. The lawmakers say this can be considered an attack on people's freedoms.

On the line was Article 26 of the legal regime that establishes a new crime named "Crime against public security, order and peace in sudden incidents of a public nature." Its inclusion has, since the first draft of the law, raised many concerns and criticism among several sectors in society.

Such opposition continued yesterday with lawmaker Au Kam San being the first to express his opinion.

"This is a new crime that did not exist before and so it deserved a lot of attention," Au said, noting that although the government introduced "a lot of improvements" during the discussion of the law at the First Standing Committee of the AL, "it still represents a threat to the freedom of speech." The democrat lawmaker promised to vote against the article.

Following Au, lawmakers Sulu Sou and José Pereira Coutinho also expressed strong opposition to the inclusion of the new crime.

"This is the reason this law is taking so long to be discussed," said Sou. "If it was not for this article, I think it would have been possible to approve this law last year."

To illustrate his concerns, Sou gave the example of Li Wenliang, the Wuhan doctor known as the first whistleblower of the Covid-19 pandemic, whose was silenced by mainland authorities.

Concluding his thoughts, Sou said, "a healthy society cannot have only one opinion. Rumors should be tackled with transpa-

Rumor crime is an 'attack on freedoms,' lawmakers claim



rency and with civic education, not with the creation of a crime. If the government is more transparent and open with the population, there will be fewer rumors."

Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho noted that the creation of this crime would add unnecessary concern to peoples' lives, that will make the public worried about they say or what other family members say.

"They will be in fear of saying anything or participating in anything," Coutinho said, adding that the way to avoid unfounded rumors is by informing the public in a timely manner.

Giving the example of the daily briefings on Covid-19, created and maintained by the government, the lawmaker says that it is possible to inform the public and receive immediate feedback from the population. "More informa-

tion equals less space for people to create stories," he said.

For the lawmaker, the solution given by the security authorities to determine the intention of the person accused of spreading rumors is too complex, time-consuming, and expensive. He said that people can only prove their innocence "during a judiciary case that involves hiring lawyers and many other things."

On the government side, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, noted that all the questions now raised by the lawmakers had already been addressed and justified in the standing committee.

Claiming that many other countries and regions also have similar laws, Wong recalled that this crime has a particular timeframe in which it can be enforced and that is very restricted. It would not apply to any general situa-

tion in society, explained Wong.

"A person would never be penalized if the action is done unintentionally. As in this crime, we must prove that it has the intention to cause harm and the police must produce objective proof," the Secretary said.

Wong also replied to the suggestion of Sou to solve the pro-

blem through civic education by saying that these efforts were already underway. "In fact, we do this [already] to improve the behavior of our population. But we cannot ignore that there is always a possibility of the law being breached by someone - even people that are not from our society."

AL WORK EXTENDED UNTIL SEPTEMBER 15

LAWMAKERS HAVE approved unanimously the extension of the work calendar of the Legislative Assembly (AL) until September 15. The originally approved calendar has set the summer holiday recess to begin from August 15, but due to the interruption of the legislative work caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, the

AL has decided to extend its calendar year by another month. As explained by the president of the AL, Kou Hoi In, the extension will be used to continue working on the 11 bills and amendments that are currently being analyzed at the Standing Committees, with the aim of concluding them as soon as possible.

Minimum age for economic housing applicants draws lawmakers' attention

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKERS continued to express disagreements over the minimum age required for the subsidized housing applicants to be eligible for properties under the new Economic Housing Law, as the bill headed into its final

approval yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Under the law, the government has established a minimum age of 23 for single applicants, while lowering the limit to 18 on households with married people.

Several lawmakers disagreed with such difference

saying that the law is establishing an unjustified discriminatory rule. The lawmakers argued that from 18 years of age, any person in Macau is considered an adult with full rights and responsibilities.

Au Kam San, Ng Kuok Cheong, Sulu Sou, José Pereira Coutinho, and Ella Lei

all requested the articles detailing this matter be separated from the body of the text and be voted on separately.

Still, the law was passed with the large majority of lawmakers saying they did not see a problem with establishing such a limitation.

Iau Teng Piu was one of

the lawmakers that came to the defense of the criteria saying that age is a "relative right". Iau gave the example of the ban on anyone under the age of 21 from working the gaming floors of casinos, as well as for certain positions in the police forces.

On the government side, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário replied that the decision from the government to establish such an age criteria had nothing to do with discrimination, but was for

practical reasons.

"We needed to choose and define criteria according to the resources we have," said Rosário. "In the future, we will have 34,000 public housing units and we will have enough resources to consider a different option."

The Secretary also said that when he announces his sectorial address for 2021 later this year, he hopes to have more news regarding upcoming changes to public tenders for economic and social housing.

SEPTUAGENARIAN DIES AFTER JUMPING OFF BUILDING

A woman in her 70's has died after apparently jumping from a residential building near Lilau Square, where she lived. A resident in the building reported hearing a loud bang at 6:45 a.m. on Monday, before seeing a woman lying on the second floor. A team of firefighters moved the woman to the ground floor and brought her to the hospital, where she was declared dead. Her injuries were consistent with falling from a height, and the police did not discover any suspicious wounds. Her husband said that she suffered from chronic diseases and needed to take medications regularly.

BODY OF SEXAGENARIAN FOUND IN RESIDENTIAL APARTMENT

The body of a man aged 62 was found at 6:44 a.m. yesterday at a residential apartment in Fai Chi Kei by the Fire Services Bureau, who handed the case to the Judiciary Police. A neighbor of the late man reported to the bureau at 5:27 a.m. on the same day that he smelled a strong odor. The firefighter entered the apartment and discovered the body lying on the floor of the bathroom. There were no signs of life. The police did not collect biological data from the body as the man had been deceased for some time. A Macau ID of a 62-year-old man surnamed Pun was found on spot.

POLICE DISCOVER DRUGS TRAFFICKED VIA UNLOCKED MAILBOXES

The Public Security Police Force uncovered a drug trafficking operation involving the use of unlocked residential mailboxes to transfer substances. Last week, while patrolling near the São Domingos Municipal Market, police officers spotted two suspicious men at the entrance of a residential building who ran away as the officers approached. The officers intercepted and found drugs on one, and unearthed drugs and tools in several unlocked mailboxes. The police later intercepted two Macau ID holders who were of Thai and Filipino nationalities respectively. The man who fled was caught near the Ruins of St Paul's.

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY

'SPECIAL CORRIDOR' FOR STUDENTS STILL UNDER REVIEW



RENATO MARQUES

THE possibility of re-opening the special corridor linking Macau with the Hong Kong International Airport for the purpose of allowing local students to return to overseas universities is still being reviewed, according to the Higher Education Bureau (DSES).

In response to an enquiry by the Times, the DSES said that the relevant departments were still studying whether to reopen the link for students who study at foreign universities. Last Friday, the Novel Coronavirus Coordination and Response Center said there were no such plans at present.

In a reply to the Times, the Bureau noted that "any solution to

help students to continue their studies" is being carefully reviewed, hinting that the creation of the corridor is not the only option being considered.

DSES director, Sou Chio Fai, in an interview with Radio Macau over the weekend, aired the possibility of the corridor returning.

Questioned also on if the current situation of the Covid-19 pandemic and consequent travel restrictions could lead to a higher number of local students deciding to study in Macau instead of at overseas universities abroad, the DSES chief said only that this was not the focus or intention of his education administrators.

"We did not make any study or forecast on the potential change in

the number of students that choose to study in Macau or not," said Sou. "As a public entity in the field of higher education, our Bureau's role is to assist and promote the development of local higher education institutions and the quality of higher education courses."

In the fulfillment of such roles, the DSES said it had organized many activities to provide information for students so they could reach their own decisions. Among such activities are talks on pursuing further studies in various countries and regions.

Regarding the announced merging of the DSES into the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) and on the current status of such work, the DSES declined

to make further comments, noting that the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong U had recently responded to such questions.

Ao Ieong previously said that she hoped such work could be concluded before the year-end, advancing that the timeline for the implementation is mostly dependent on the necessary legal procedures.

The Secretary said that the Legal Affairs Bureau and the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau are currently reviewing the administrative regulations that will rule on such merging. After that, they will be sent to the Executive Council for further examination.

List of students sent to gov't meant to inform, not pressure, says source

DANIEL BEITLER

A letter requesting the Macau government help local students to return to overseas universities this September was intended only to inform the authorities of how many students are affected, according to a representative contacted by Macau Daily Times, and not to petition the government into acting.

The representative, a Macau-based parent who requested to remain anonymous, said that the list contains the names of about 80 students from

different schools across Macau.

"We sent the names and number of students to the government in the letter, to help them to be more informed of the situation," said the representative, whose daughter studies at a European university institution.

Contrary to some media reports, the group does not expect a flight to be arranged for them. Rather, "we are asking for alternative travel arrangements, so that our children can return to their studies. Not all classes can be held online all of the time."

The students are a mix of university and high school level students, mostly studying at institutions in Portugal and the U.K., although some are in other European countries and North America. The majority of them are returning students, however some are expecting to leave for their first year of studies abroad, according to the representative.

The special ferry link to the Hong Kong International Airport, which would allow the students to board a Hong Kong flight bound for Europe, is the most likely solution.

However, at present, the link remains severed amid concerns of the recent 'third wave' outbreak in neighboring Hong Kong.

Another option is to fly from Macau to London, or another European destination, via a transit location in Asia.

The Novel Coronavirus Coordination and Response Center recently indicated that Macau residents wishing to travel to Europe could take flights via Taipei or Seoul. However, many restrictions still apply to travelers, for example a maximum eight-hour transit period in Taipei.

The affected students hope to be able to leave Macau by the end of this month or early September at the latest, the representative told the Times.

Meanwhile, Lusa News Agency reported this week that at least 20 local students have requested assistance from the Consulate General for Portugal in Macau and Hong Kong in traveling back to Portugal to attend higher education classes. It is not known whether these are the same students as in the list submitted to the government.

The Consulate General said it was in contact with Macau SAR authorities, but also noted the possibility of other travel arrangements, including fulfilling a 14-day quarantine in Hong Kong before heading to Europe.

CHINA and the World Health Organization are discussing plans to trace the origin of the coronavirus outbreak following a visit to the country by two experts from the U.N. agency, the foreign ministry said yesterday.

Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters the experts conducted "preparatory consultations on scientific research cooperation on virus tracing" during their two-week stay, which ended Sunday.

Their talks touched on research in the areas of population, environment, molecules, animal traceability and transmission routes of the coronavirus, as well as plans for further scientific research, Wang said.

The two sides also further investigated the possible animal source, intermediate host and transmission route of the coronavirus to "more effectively prevent and control the epidemic," Wang said.

Wang said the two sides worked on formulating a plan for China's contribution to the global tracing effort under a resolution passed by the World Health Assembly under WHO. No word was given on when that effort will begin in earnest.

The virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year and has been linked to a wholesale food market where wild animals were sold. Scientists think it likely jumped from a wild animal such as a bat to humans via an intermediary species, possibly the anteater-like pangolin.

However, China says a full investigation may have to wait until the pandemic is under control and has rejected accusations that it delayed releasing information to WHO at the start of the outbreak.

The World Health Organization said earlier an advance team looking into the origins of the COVID-19 outbreak has concluded its mission in China, and the U.N. health agency is preparing the deployment of a larger group of

China, WHO in talks on plans to trace coronavirus origin



experts to the suspected outbreak zone.

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the "international team" will deploy to Wuhan, the city where the pandemic is believed to have erupted late last year. Tedros said "terms of reference" have been drawn up by the WHO and China, but he did not specify.

"The WHO advance team that traveled to China has now concluded their mission to lay the groundwork for further joint efforts to identify the virus' origins," he told a news conference. "Epidemiological studies will begin in Wuhan to identify the

potential source of infection of the early cases."

He said "evidence and hypothesis" generated from the work

Brazil and India, as investigators seek to clarify the origins of the virus and how it may have jumped from animals to humans late last year.

Dr. Michael Ryan, the WHO's emergencies chief, noted "gaps in the epidemiological landscape" and said it would be assessed what studies to conduct and what data to collect. He said the two-person advance team had not returned from China, and had not been "debriefed" yet.

"The real trick is to go to the human clusters that occurred first and then to work your way back systematically looking for that first signal at which the animal human

species barrier was crossed," Ryan said. "Once you understand where that the barrier was breached, then you move into the studies in a more systematic way on the animal side."

The WHO press office, contacted by The Associated Press after the news conference, did not provide details of the terms of reference, say whether they would be made public, or indicate how big the international team would be or when it could be sent to China.

It said team members had "extensive discussions" with their Chinese counterparts during the three-week visit, and had discussions by video with virologists and other scientists in Wuhan — including the Wuhan Institute of Virology. U.S. President Donald Trump in April claimed to have seen evidence to support the theory that the lab was the origin of the virus.

On Sunday, Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House top coronavirus adviser, said the virus was "extraordinarily widespread" in the U.S. and infections in urban and rural America marked a "new phase" for the pandemic in the country.

Ryan, asked to comment about such remarks, said he didn't believe the intention was "to create a sense of a new phase ... but to really remind all states that the disease never went away."

"It's not our job to tell the U.S. what it should be doing at sub-national level: The state-based planning and implementation guided by the national scientists seems to be (on) the right path," Ryan added. "The difficulty for us all is: sometimes we know the right path. The difficulty is choosing to walk it." **MDT/AP**

"The WHO advance team has now concluded their mission to lay the groundwork for further joint efforts to identify the virus' origin."

TEDROS

would "lay the ground for further, longer-term studies."

The comments came amid an increasingly heavy toll from the pandemic in the United States,

Heavy rains hit eastern provinces from weakening tropical storm

HEVY rains and high winds were hitting China's eastern coastal region yesterday from a tropical storm weakening as it neared Shanghai.

The skies over the financial hub were overcast ahead of rain later in the day.

Hagiput was a typhoon with winds blowing up to 136.8 kilometers per hour at its center when it made landfall in Zhejiang province in the early morning. At noon, the tropical storm had winds of up to 108 kph and was moving north at around 25 kph, China's National Meteorological Center said.

No major destruction or injuries have been reported. State

broadcaster CCTV showed trees toppled in the Zhejiang city of Yuhuan.

In the major Zhejiang manufacturing center of Wenzhou, south of Shanghai, authorities reported evacuating 200,000 people to shelters and recalling more than 6,000 fishing boats to port. Waves along the coast were reported at heights of 4.2 meters.

This year's typhoon season has been relatively mild in China, although flooding since June along its major river systems has caused scores of deaths, forced around 2 million people to be evacuated and caused more than 49 billion yuan (\$7 billion) in damage. **AP**



Boats are moored to take shelter from the wind at the coastal area of Sansha Town of Xiapu County in Fujian Province

INDIA

Residency law in Kashmir amplifies demographic fears

SHEIKH SAALIQ
& AIJAZ HUSSAIN,
SRINAGAR

FOR almost a century, no outsider was allowed to buy land and property in Indian-controlled Kashmir.

That changed Aug. 5 last year when India's Hindu nationalist government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi stripped the Himalayan state's semi-autonomous powers and downgraded it to a federally governed territory. It also annulled the long-held hereditary special rights its natives had over the disputed region's land ownership and jobs.

Since then, India has brought in a slew of changes through new laws. They are often drafted by bureaucrats without any democratic bearings and much to the resentment and anger of the region's people, many of whom want independence from India or unification with Pakistan.

A year later, things are swiftly changing on the ground.

Under a new law, authorities have begun issuing "domicile certificates" to Indians and non-residents, entitling them to residency rights and government jobs. Many Kashmiris view the move as the beginning of settler colonialism aimed at engineering a demographic change in India's only Muslim-majority region.

Amid growing fears, experts are likening the new arrangement to the West Bank or Tibet, with settlers — armed or civilian — living in guarded compounds among disenfranchised locals. They say the changes will reduce the region to a colony.

"Given the history of Indian state intervention in Kashmir, there are efforts to destroy the local, distinctive cultural identity of Kashmiris and forcibly assimilate Kashmiri Muslims into a Hindu, Indian polity," said Saiba Varma, an assistant professor of cultural and medical anthropology at the University of California, San Diego.

Residency rights were



Kashmiris protesting against Indian government stripping the Himalayan state's semi-autonomous powers, in August last year

introduced in 1927 by Kashmir's Hindu king, Hari Singh, to stop the influx of outsiders in the former princely state. Historians say the maharaja brought land ownership rights on the insistence of powerful Kashmiri Hindus. They continued under Indian rule after 1947, as part of Kashmir's special status.

The new law, introduced in May amid the coronavirus lockdown, makes it possible for any Indian national who has lived in the region for at least 15 years or has studied for seven years and taken certain exams to become a permanent resident in Jammu-Kashmir. The Indian government is ensuring the process is fast-tracked and has introduced a fine of 50,000 rupees (\$670) to be deducted from the salary of any official in the territory who delays the process.

Those receiving domicile certificates include Hindu refugees from Pakistan following the 1947 bloody partition of the subcontinent, Gurkha soldiers from Nepal who had served in the Indian army, outside bureaucrats working in the region and some marginalized Hindu communities. Even the natives must apply for residency, otherwise they risk losing government jobs and welfare benefits.

About 400,000 people have been given domicile certificates in over a month, Pawan Kotwal, a top Indian official was quoted on Saturday by The Tribune, a north Indian English-daily. Officials have not said how many of them are

locals and have generally been tight-lipped about the process.

Navin Kumar Choudhary, a senior bureaucrat from eastern Bihar state, was the first high-profile outsider to get residency on June 26. While Kashmiris were aghast as Choudhary's picture displaying the certificate went viral on social media, many in Hindu-majority southern Jammu rejoiced.

Gharu Bhatti, an activist working for the welfare of lower caste Hindus in Jammu, said the law ended their "slavery."

Bhatti's parents were among some 270 sanitation workers brought by the government to Jammu from neighboring Punjab state in 1957. Since then, their numbers have grown to nearly 7,000, said Bhatti, who is among the first few dozen from his community to get the region's residency.

"Now our kids have a future. They can be whatever they want to be. We will have choices to make now," he said.

But even some Hindu groups in Jammu have resented the law, expressing fears of job and business losses to outsiders.

Authorities have called the new residency rights an overdue measure to foster greater economic development by opening up the region for outside investments. Girish Chander Murmu, the region's top administrative official, in late June told reporters that the law was aimed at bringing economic prosperity and dismissed any fears of demographic change as "propaganda."

Many natives in Kashmir are skeptical of such clarifications and liken them to assurances Indian authorities made prior to the Aug. 5 decision when they said no constitutional changes were planned.

Human rights activists, pro-freedom leaders and Kashmiri residents have long feared that giving outsiders the right to buy land and property could further plunge the region into chaos and set in motion a plan to crush the identity of its people.

"We have always been fed lies and deceived by gimmicks of development and democracy by the Indian state," said Shafat Ahmed Mir, a university student. "As a people, it is the most critical time in our history and we have never faced such an existential threat before."

Kashmir's fury at Indian rule has been long seething.

The stunning mountain region has known little but conflict since 1947, when British rule of the subcontinent divided the territory between the newly created India and Pakistan.

After a series of political blunders, broken promises and a crackdown on dissent, Kashmiri separatists launched a full-blown armed revolt in 1989, seeking unification with Pakistan or complete independence. India dubbed the armed rebellion terrorism abetted by Pakistan, a charge Islamabad denies.

Tens of thousands of civilians, rebels and government forces have been killed in the conflict in the last three decades. AP

this day in history



1962 MARILYN MONROE FOUND DEAD



Screen icon Marilyn Monroe has been found dead in bed at her Los Angeles home.

The 36-year-old actress' body was discovered in the early hours of this morning by two doctors who were called to her Brentwood home by a concerned housekeeper.

The doctors were forced to break into Miss Monroe's bedroom after being unable to open the door. She was found lying naked in her bed with an empty bottle of Nembutal sleeping pills by her side.

The local coroner, who visited the scene later, said the circumstances of Miss Monroe's death indicated a "possible suicide".

Marilyn Monroe was born Norma Jeane Mortenson on 1 June 1926 in Los Angeles.

Her mother, Gladys Baker, had mental problems which resulted in Norma Jeane spending most of her childhood in foster homes and orphanages.

She wed her neighbour, Jimmy Dougherty in 1942, but the marriage failed in 1946 due to Norma Jeane's new-found fame as a photographic model.

In 1944 while her husband was serving in the South Pacific with the Merchant Marines, Norma Jeane was discovered by photographer David Conover.

By 1946 she had signed her first studio contract with 20th Century Fox and changed her name to Marilyn Monroe.

Since 1947 she has appeared in 30 films, including The Prince and the Showgirl, Bus Stop, The Seven Year Itch, How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying, for which she won a Golden Globe for Best Actress in a Comedy.

Her 1954 marriage to baseball star Joe DiMaggio lasted just nine months and on 29 June 1956 the star married playwright Arthur Miller.

But that marriage ended in 1961. Miss Monroe's romantic life has long been the subject of speculation and she has been linked with President Kennedy.

Millions of fans around the world will be deeply shocked by the star's premature and tragic death.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Marilyn Monroe was buried in the Corridor of Memories at Westwood Memorial Park in Los Angeles.

Two months before she died Monroe had been fired by Fox Productions for repeatedly failing to turn up on the set of the film *Something Has Got To Give*.

The production was never completed even though Monroe was re-hired by the film company on 1 August. During the months before her death she had been seeing Joe DiMaggio and the pair had agreed to re-marry on 8 August 1962.

For 20 years after her death flowers from DiMaggio were delivered weekly to Monroe's crypt.

There has been much speculation about Marilyn Monroe's death and the causes of it. Many have suggested that it was highly unlikely she committed suicide but perhaps accidentally took an overdose of drugs.

Others have suggested that a third party may have administered the drug.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

A foreign person could have a very positive influence in your life today, especially if they're from your past. What they have to say could surprise you, but you should give them the benefit of any doubt.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Put yourself in an uncertain situation where you could be rejected or come out with less than you put in. Trust yourself and just see what happens. No matter what the outcome, you'll be better off.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Are you feeling overwhelmed by someone or something new in your life? Whether you're overwhelmed in a good way or a bad way, today brings you a chance to get the control you so desperately need.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

At work, you have to remind yourself that not everything rests completely on your shoulders. Stop putting so much pressure on yourself, because no one else is. Co-workers are there for a reason.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

If you've been trying to start a new romance, or you're just looking to amp up the romance level in your current relationship, today could give you a wonderful opportunity to do just that!



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It's going to feel a bit scary at first, but it's also going to feel very invigorating. Don't be surprised if a friend asks to come along on the adventure. The more the merrier!



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Ugly emotions are bubbling up inside you today, and it doesn't matter why. You're feeling out of sorts, and you need to deal with these feelings by sharing them.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Don't rein in your instincts. If something doesn't seem right, it isn't right. Even if you're in the middle of a business deal, you should listen to your gut if it tells you to walk away at the last minute.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It could feel like an adventure when a distractingly fascinating person moves into your orbit. Before you engage in conversation, observe them for a while.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You're moved more by facts and figures than by tears or treacle today. You're hungry for analytical thinking right now, and your mind wants to see things in black-and-white terms.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Not only is it good to learn to be more independent, but they'll appreciate a little break. Blurring the line between friendship and therapy is never a wise idea. Avoid it at all costs to keep your friendships healthy.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Thanks to a recent accomplishment, you should be feeling much more confident! You could get a great opportunity to gain more authority over your life and put some new ideas into play.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

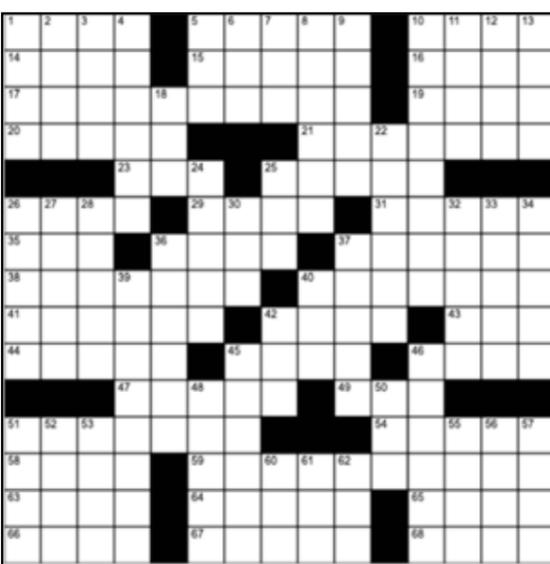
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	26	32	thundershower
Harbin	20	26	thundershower
Tianjin	27	31	shower
Urumqi	21	30	clear
Xi'an	25	35	overcast
Lhasa	12	26	cloudy
Chengdu	25	33	shower
Chongqing	29	39	clear
Kunming	18	26	shower
Nanjing	26	34	thundershower
Shanghai	27	33	drizzle
Wuhan	28	36	cloudy
Hangzhou	26	34	overcast
Taipei	26	31	drizzle
Guangzhou	25	28	rainstorm
Hong Kong	26	28	rainstorm
WORLD			
Moscow	13	25	clear
Frankfurt	13	24	clear
Paris	15	27	clear
London	15	21	clear
New York	25	30	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Med school subj.; 5- Lost in Paris?; 10- Being, to Brutus; 14- Indonesian holiday resort; 15- Bay window; 16- Chain piece; 17- Germinated seed; 19- Gen. Robert ___; 20- "Lou Grant" star; 21- Broken; 23- Nile reptile; 25- Sumptuous meal; 26- Boxer Max; 29- Biting; 31- Lute of India; 35- Mil. officers; 36- Jutting rock; 37- Godlike; 38- Pariah; 40- Arid areas; 41- Whip up; 42- Strike forcefully; 43- Ballpark fig.; 44- Prepared to pray; 45- Haul; 46- Ice cream brand; 47- Choir members; 49- Spanish aunt; 51- Bribe; 54- Inflict; 58- Jai ___; 59- At right angles to the vertical; 63- Drops from the sky; 64- Prevention dose; 65- Raison d' ___; 66- Run in neutral; 67- Ruhr city; 68- Bamboozle;

DOWN: 1- Benny, Björn, Anni-Frid, and Agnetha; 2- Scottish refusals; 3- Lawyer Dershowitz; 4- Musical ineptitude; 5- Explosive sound; 6- Drop the ball; 7- ___ Grande; 8- Confounded; 9- Extreme; 10- Optional; 11- Worm fiber; 12- Dagger of yore; 13- ___ out a living (barely got by); 18- Grads-to-be; 22- Help; 24- Analyze a sentence; 25- Cookie fruit; 26- Child's building cube; 27- Done to ___; 28- Rival of Helena; 30- Feline; 32- Out of gas; 33- Fidgety; 34- Reposes; 36- Bovine animals; 37- Passed out; 39- Lotion for skin eruptions; 40- Singer Shannon; 42- Clear tables; 45- Permeable; 46- Made; 48- Lake in the Sierra Nevada; 50- ___ Jima; 51- Dress often worn by Hindu women; 52- Decked out; 53- Frozen rain; 55- Famous last words; 56- Over-50 org.; 57- "Twittering Machine" artist; 60- Hosp. staffers; 61- Frozen water; 62- Mahayana movement of Buddhism;



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



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170 ft² \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 1/2 2 1/2
1,404 ft² \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,344 ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)
- [Macau] One Central Stylish 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,349 ft² \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)

FOR RENT

- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2
710 ft² \$17,050/mth (ref: 20021002)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2
2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)
- [Coloane] Ocean Garden 4 1/2 4 1/2
3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2
4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)

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AD

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

EASYJET Plc is seeing a stronger-than-anticipated rebound in passenger demand following the lifting of lockdowns, prompting it to accelerate the addition of flights.

Aircraft operated with 84% of seats full in July, EasyJet said in a statement yesterday. With bookings for late summer ahead of projections it will operate 40% of capacity in the quarter through September, up from the planned 30%.

"I am really encouraged that we have seen higher than expected levels of demand," Chief Executive Officer Johan Lundgren said in the release. "We have now completed more than one month of restart operations and are seeing encouraging performance across the network."

With Covid-19 infection levels declining in most of Europe, governments have been easing travel restrictions. Britain's biggest low-cost carrier was among the first European airlines to begin building up services as lockdowns eased, though the reintroduction of U.K. curbs on people arriving from Spain has created some uncertainty, according to Lundgren.

Sanford C. Bernstein analyst



AVIATION

EASYJET EXPANDS SUMMER SCHEDULE

Daniel Roeska said in a note that EasyJet's seat-occupancy level and a lower-than-expected cash outflow were both "modestly encouraging."

Shares of the Luton, England-based carrier traded 5.3% higher at 534.2 pence as of 8:07 a.m. in London, paring the decline this year to 62%.

A comparison of July traffic shows that EasyJet has been less aggressive than rival discounters in bringing back flights, resulting in higher occupancy levels.

The U.K. airline attracted 2 million passenger last month, whereas Ireland's Ryanair Holdings Plc, Europe's largest no-frills carrier, lured 4.4 million customers but with 72% of capacity filled.

Smaller Wizz Air Holdings Plc, the low-cost leader in Eastern Europe, has been faster in building up its schedule and carried 1.8 million passengers with a lower load factor of 60.5%.

Roeska said EasyJet's steadier approach may reflect

either lower demand on the routes it serves, which have a higher mix of business passengers, or more caution on the part of management. The carrier said it's undertaking only profitable flights, rather than slashing fares to fill planes.

Lundgren said on a media call that Britain's 14-day quarantine for arrivals from Spain will most likely push people to visit alternative sunspots, adding that there's little visibility into demand beyond September. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

HK STOCKS JUMP SUDDENLY WITH PROPERTY DEVELOPERS LEADING GAINS

HONG Kong stocks saw a sudden spike in afternoon trading yesterday, with property shares leading the advance.

The Hang Seng Index rose 2% at the close as inflows from across the border continued for a seventh day. Before the advance, the gauge had fallen for three straight sessions. A measure of property stocks listed in the city increased 2.1%, the most since July 6.

Analysts saw no apparent reason for the surge. The Hang Seng Index has underperformed all year, entering the day down 13%.

Wharf Real Estate Investment Co. rose 7.5% to lead gains, while New World Development Co. and Hang Lung Properties Ltd. added at least 3.3%. The city's home July sales rose 35% year-on-year in terms of value, the Land Registry said in a statement Tuesday. That's the second monthly increase after declines in the January-May period.

The Hong Kong property gauge is trading at 8 times expected earnings over the next 12 months, compared to a peak of 27 reached in 2007.

The Hong Kong dollar hovered near 7.75 versus the greenback, which is the strong end of its trading band. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD

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DRIVE IN

Beyoncé's 'Black Is King' is supreme Black art

MESFIN FEKADU,
MUSIC WRITER

KING Beyoncé's new film takes you on a journey of Black art, music, history and fashion as the superstar transports you to Africa to tell the story of a young man in search of his crown, matched to epic songs she created while inspired by "The Lion King."

The voyage feels even more special during the current state of the world, as the Black experience has been looked at closely in the wake of the many deaths of Black people, and the Black Lives Matter movement that continues to protest racism and inequality. And for those of us who have been stuck in place for months because of the coronavirus pandemic, the voyage and escapism are welcomed.

In "Black Is King," which debuted Friday on Disney+, Beyoncé continues to dig deep into her roots and share her discovery with the world, like she did on the sweet masterpiece "Lemonade." Black pride is the center of the film, with African artists strongly represented, as Beyoncé shares her stage with Tiwa Savage, Wizkid, Mr Eazi, Busiswa, Salatiel, Yemi Alade,



Beyoncé in a scene from her visual album "Black is King," premiering Friday on Disney Plus

Moonchild Sanelly and more.

They add a great deal of energy and beauty to the film — through lyrical delivery, eye-popping and sharp choreography, and bright and elegant costumes — bringing the songs from "The Lion King: The Gift" to life.

That album was inspired by the time Beyoncé spent voicing the character of Nala in the latest

version of "The Lion King." Audio from the animated film are included, but it's the newer passages that truly resonate.

"When it's all said and done, I don't even know my own native tongue. And if I can't speak myself, I can't think myself. And if I can't think myself, I can't be myself. And if I can't be myself, I will never know me," a man says. "So Uncle

Sam, tell me this, if I will never know me, how can you?"

Powerful.

Later in the film, Beyoncé says: "We have always been wonderful. I see us reflected in the world's most heavenly things. Black is king. We were beauty before they knew what beauty was."

That leads into "Brown Skin Girl," as Naomi Campbell, Lupita

Nyong'o and Kelly Rowland — queens that Beyoncé name-drops on the song — make appearances alongside other black and brown women and girls in a deep celebration of melanin, diversity and sisterhood. Beyoncé singing "because you're beautiful," face-to-face with Rowland, could induce tears.

"Black Is King" also highlights music's royal family: The Carters. Jay-Z makes a stunning appearance on "Mood 4 Eva," while 8-year-old Blue Ivy steals the spotlight every time she appears on screen. Tina Knowles as well as Sir and Rumi Carter — who the film is dedicated to — are also present.

It's a family affair, with musical cousins — both familiar and on the verge — part of the safari ride.

"Black Parade" plays as the credits scroll at the end of "Black Is King," and the song title could be the best way to describe the film: a procession into Beyoncé's black liberation.

OK, now let's get in formation.

"Black Is King," a Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures release, is rated TV-14 by the Motion Picture Association of America. Running time: 85 minutes.★★★★

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Macau Creative Lantern Workshop Part 22 [Advance]

This workshop introduces participants to the techniques of traditional Chinese lantern making. With the basic skill of lantern making, the participants will be able to create their own creative lanterns by the end of the workshop.

Instructor
Master Alfredo Ceynas

Date
August 17th to 28th, 2020
(Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday)

Time
19:00 - 21:00

Venue
Albergue SCM – Hall D1

Language
English
(Supplement with Cantonese translation)

Registration deadline
August 15th, 2020
(Saturday, until 1:00pm)

Free of charge (First-come,first-served)

* Students with less than 80% of the attendance will be placed into a waiting list for all upcoming courses. Please contact Albergue SCM if there is any enquiry.

Registration QR code

ALBERGUE SCM / ALBcreativeLAB
ADDRESS: CALÇADA DA IGREJA DE SÃO LÁZARO NO.8, MACAU
TEL: + 853 - 2852 2550 / 2852 3205 FAX: + 853 - 2852 2719

INFO: facebook.com/AlbergueSCMMacau
EMAIL: creativealbergue@gmail.com

Organizer: ALBERGUE SCM / ALBcreativeLAB
Co-Organizer: CA CULTURA 澳門文化館
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OPINION

World Views

Sarah Green Carmichael, Bloomberg

WHERE'S THE SYMPATHY FOR LONELY YOUNG PEOPLE

Imagine a condition so bad for your health, it reduces your life expectancy as much as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. It weakens your immune system and carries an increased risk of dementia and heart disease. It even causes your wounds to heal more slowly and hurts your ability to recover from cancer.

There is one: loneliness.

Former U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has been warning about the health effects of what he calls a "loneliness epidemic" since at least 2017, but his clarion call is carrying further these days, thanks in part to a perfectly timed new book and months of Covid-19-induced isolation.

I mention the physical health effects of loneliness because, in the face of a pandemic whose deadliness is as obvious as the refrigerated trucks parked outside hospitals, the world seems to have decided that people — especially younger people — who feel lonely right now are selfish, weak, entitled or simply bored. The Greatest Generation survived the Great Depression and fought World War II, after all, and today's youth are merely being asked to binge on Netflix.

This glib comparison, a favorite jest of late-night comics, ignores the fact that connection is one of humanity's most fundamental and basic needs. And while phone calls and video chats can keep people in touch, they're not the same as getting together. Nor can people support one other quite as fully via technology. Videoconferencing doesn't let you babysit children or help a friend move.

There's been lots of sympathy for lonely elders during the pandemic. Without diminishing their suffering, it's worth asking: Can't this same empathy be extended to lonely young people? Smooth skin and a full head of hair don't lessen the pangs of isolation.

On the contrary, young people may feel even worse than their elders; surveys conducted before the pandemic found the highest rates of loneliness among the young and the lowest among people over the age of 72.

Younger people report higher rates of anxiety and depression as well, and the pandemic hasn't changed that. In July, 47% of people under 30 reported feeling anxious, according to data published by the CDC, and that percentage drops steadily with age. Only 13% of people 80 and above reported symptoms of anxiety. Undergrad and graduate students are often able to access affordable mental health care through their colleges, but closing schools has made those resources harder to access.

Work provides an important social scene for younger people. In general, people in their 20s are more likely than older people to value socializing and to make new friends, but this is especially true at work, where they form more personal bonds and say that such friendships improve their performance.

Older folks may be better equipped to cope with isolation and more resilient in the face of adversity. The human brain changes throughout life, and people with older brains report higher levels of contentment and satisfaction, and are better at seeing things in perspective and concentrating. They're better able to focus on the positive, less reactive to criticism and more accurate when it comes to reading other people's feelings. The intense highs and lows of youth — the angst and agita — give way to the equanimity of maturity.

So, I'd like to see a little more understanding directed at the young. Shame discourages people from seeking treatment and it encourages them to lie about whether they've been exposed to Covid-19, making it harder to test and trace. If we don't want people in their 20s going to bars, we should shut down bars — not reopen them and then yell at whose who show up.

Public policy to control Covid-19 cannot rely on shaming or harassing people into compliance. Yes, some young people could be doing a better job of social distancing. But understand that, for them, it's probably harder.

[Abridged]

A New York City prosecutor fighting to get President Donald Trump's tax returns told a judge yesterday [Macau time] he was justified in demanding them because of public reports of "extensive and protracted criminal conduct at the Trump Organization." Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance, Jr. is seeking eight years of the Republican president's personal and corporate tax records, but has disclosed little about what prompted him to request the records, other than part of the investigation related to payoffs

to two women to keep them quiet about alleged affairs with Trump. In a court filing Monday, attorneys for Vance, a Democrat, said the president wasn't entitled to know the exact nature of the grand jury probe, which they called a "complex financial investigation." They noted, though, that at the time the subpoena for the tax filings was issued to Trump's accountants, "there were public allegations of possible criminal activity" at the president's company "dating back over a decade."

**WHERE'S JUAN CARLOS?
 SPAIN MULLS FORMER
 MONARCH'S FUTURE**



**BARRY HATTON &
 ALICIA LEON, MADRID**

SPECULATION over the whereabouts of former monarch Juan Carlos gripped Spain yesterday, a day after he announced he was leaving the country for an unspecified destination amid a growing financial scandal.

In a letter published on the royal family's website on Monday, Juan Carlos told his son King Felipe VI he was moving outside Spain due to the "public repercussions of certain episodes of my past private life."

Juan Carlos is the target of official investigations in Spain and Switzerland, which are looking into possible financial wrongdoing.

His bombshell announcement took most Spaniards by surprise. Neither the royal family nor the government disclosed where he was going.

Daily newspaper ABC reported yesterday that Juan Carlos left Spain on Sunday and flew via Porto, in neighboring Portugal, to the Dominican Republic. La Vanguardia also said he was in the Caribbean country, but only temporarily.

But El Confidencial newspaper said he could be in Portugal, where he spent part of his childhood, or in France or Italy, where he has family and friends.

The 82-year-old former king is credited with hel-

ping Spain peacefully restore democracy after the death of dictator Francisco Franco in 1975. But marred by scandals in the later years of his reign, Juan Carlos in 2014 abdicated in favor of his son Felipe, losing the immunity from prosecution Spain's Constitution grants to the head of state.

In the wake of Juan Carlos's announcement, some people called for the monarchy to be abolished. The leftist political party Unidas Podemos, the junior member of Spain's coalition government, wants a public debate about creating a republic.

Juan Carlos is being investigated in Spain and Switzerland on possible financial wrongdoing

"There is no reason at all to keep supporting a monarchy which doesn't possess minimum ethical standards," the party said in a statement late Monday.

But the Socialist party, which leads the government under Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, has showed no willingness to follow that path and has declared its support for Felipe. Even so, Sánchez recently said he found the developments about Juan Carlos "disturbing."

In downtown Madrid, opinions were divided.

"I think it is really bad

that we let him go," said Sara Fernandez, a 38-year-old insurance worker. "He should have to stay here, return the money and do prison time, like all Spaniards when you break the law."

But janitor Mar Verdugo, 55, urged caution. "We are judging him without any evidence, so when there is a sentence we will see if he has done right or wrong," she said.

Juan Carlos's lawyer, Javier Sánchez-Junco Mans, said in an emailed statement that the former king had asked him to make clear that even though he will be outside Spain he intends to be available to cooperate with the investigation.

Juan Carlos cannot be tried for alleged crimes he committed while he was on the throne because the king has immunity. However,

he could potentially stand trial for acts committed after 2014.

A statement from Spain's general prosecutor's office in June said it was investigating whether Juan Carlos received millions of dollars in kickbacks from Saudi Arabia during the construction of a high-speed railway there by a Spanish consortium.

Since then, Spanish media outlets have published damaging testimony from a separate Swiss investigation into millions of euros that were allegedly given to Juan Carlos by Saudi Arabia's late King Abdullah. AP



Japan For nearly 70 years, until he turned 85, Lee Jong-keun hid his past as an atomic bomb survivor, fearful of the widespread discrimination against blast victims that has long persisted in Japan. But Lee, 92, is now part of a fast-dwindling group of survivors, known as hibakusha, that feels a growing urgency — desperation even — to tell their stories. More on macaudailytimes.com



The United Nations chief says the coronavirus pandemic has led to the largest disruption of education in history, with schools closed in more than 160 countries in mid-July affecting more than 1 billion students. In addition, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said yesterday that at least 40 million children worldwide have missed out on education "in their critical pre-school year."

Italian air traffic controller provider ENAV says that air traffic in July showed signs of recovery from the coronavirus shutdown. Air traffic in July was three times higher than a month earlier in Italy, as the first Western nation to be hard hit by the coronavirus epidemic started to emerge from lockdown. ENAV reported yesterday. ENAV said 75,200 flights were recorded last month, down 60% from a year earlier but significantly higher than June's 26,000.



Belgium The Belgian notary federation said yesterday that divorces have risen since the second half of May, when the lockdown and pandemic restrictions began easing in the country, allowing married couples whose relationship didn't survive to get out and get a divorce. Divorces rose nearly 25% in the second half of May, compared to the same period last year, the federation said.