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AP PHOTO



China Summer floods in China have left more than 200 people dead or missing and caused \$25 billion in direct damage, an emergency management official said yesterday. The floods struck major river systems across the central and southern parts of the country. Major cities have been largely spared by the flooding but the impact compounds losses to the economy from the coronavirus outbreak that began in the central Chinese city of Wuhan late last year.

China New local cases in China fell into the single digits, while Hong Kong saw another rise in hospitalizations and deaths. Hong Kong reported 62 new cases, up from 33 the day before, along with an additional five deaths. HK has required masks be worn in public and limited restaurant dining among other measures to curb a new outbreak.

AP PHOTO



Indonesia has announced that a travel corridor arrangement with South Korea has been agreed for essential business trips between the two countries, and will be effective from Monday. This follows Indonesia's similar arrangement with the United Arab Emirates that took effect late July. Tourism is not part of these arrangements.

Australia The coronavirus outbreak centered in Australia's second-largest city showed a decline in new infections Thursday, though the state's leader urged continued vigilance. Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews said there were 278 new infections and eight new deaths, down from around 700 daily at the peak of the outbreak.

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NOW, NOBODY CAN FLY

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BLOOMBERG



JIMMY LAI RELEASED WITHOUT CHARGE AFTER 36 HOURS DETENTION

AP PHOTO



P7

INT'L MUSIC FESTIVAL ADAPTS TO COVID-19 BY INVITING LOCAL PERFORMERS

Due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, the Macao International Music Festival, originally scheduled for October this year, will have a different format. Themed 'For a Special Year', this year's festival will present nine programs and a total of 20 performances by local music groups starting from August 22. As the coronavirus has presented uncertainties in regard to artists' transportation, logistics and rehearsal arrangements, resulting in the inability for overseas performing groups to come to Macau, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has decided that this year's Festival will be largely based on local concerts. This year's Festival presents free of charge concerts and activities. Registration for the workshops and activities should be made through the IC website from August 17.

MGTO SUPPORTS ALIPAY'S GBA REWARDS FESTIVAL FOR RETAILERS

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is supporting digital platform Alipay to organize the "Greater Bay Area Mega Rewards Festival", designed to promote Macau-based retail brands and shops with special characteristics within Guangdong province through multiple online and offline discount and promotional activities. According to a government statement, the festival aims to attract Guangdong tourists to travel to Macau and shop, thereby supporting the tourism-led revival of the city's economy. Alipay kicked off the Festival on August 10 with over 20,000 participating stores in Macau equipped with Alipay launching a variety of discounts and promotions. These offers are also promoted on the "Macao Ready Go!" online platform rolled out by the MGTO. According to the same statement, MGTO Director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes assured that Macau is ready and prepared to welcome mainland visitors.

IC PUBLISHES LATEST ISSUE OF MUSEUMS NEWSLETTER

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has published the latest "Newsletter of Museums and Exhibitions of IC," introducing recent and upcoming exhibitions of the Macao Museum and the Macao Museum of Art with illustrations and articles. It also introduces children's picture books, exhibition albums and artworks collections, including "Music Road of Xian Xinghai", "The Long Journey: The Forbidden City" and the "Maritime Silk Road and Red December - Carlos Marreiros". The issue is available free of charge at distribution points. An electronic version of the publication is also available on the IC website for the public to access.

BLOOMBERG



ONE BILLION PATACAS IN SUBSIDIES PROMISED IN NEW BUS CONTRACTS

JULIE ZHU

THE Macau SAR government is preparing to sign a new contract with Macau's bus companies by September. The government will pay one billion patacas in subsidies to the two bus companies in return for six years of service.

Yesterday, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário and Director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT) Lam Hin San met with members of the Legislative Assembly (AL) Follow-up Committee on Land and Public Concession Affairs to answer questions regarding the bus contract.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Rosário and Lam provided the media with some insights into the contract.

The future bus contract is expected to be signed before October. It will be a six-year contract with the two bus companies currently operating in Macau. The former bus contract covered a ten-year period.

Given that Macau may have more public transportation options within the next six years, such as further lines of Light Rapid Transit, the local government believes it is more appropriate to shorten the contract to six years rather than entering into another ten-year

relationship with the bus companies.

The new contract will include a fixed amount of government financial support for the companies of approximately 1.04 billion patacas. Of that total, 304 million patacas will be used to subsidize the fares of senior passengers, passengers with disabilities and student passengers. The remaining amount of approximately 300 million patacas will subsidize the use of the service by other passengers.

The 304 million patacas subsidy is subject to adjustments every year as the numbers of these categories of passengers may differ each year.

The remaining 600 million patacas of the yearly subsidy will be fixed during the first three years. In the third year of the contract, the bus companies will be able to apply to the government to alter the size of this subsidy. The government makes no promises to increase this specific portion of the subsidy. Should the government approve any changes to this 600 million patacas subsidy, the adjusted amount will only come into effect starting from the fourth year of the contract.

Each year, the local government will assess the bus services. Based on the assessment, the authority will decide whether

or not to reduce the 600 million patacas subsidy. The criteria for this assessment include basic bus frequencies, the number of passengers, and other key data.

The bus companies will be allowed to carry out other collateral services such as advertising, or renting buses to other businesses. However, the companies must make such vehicles distinguishable from normally operating buses, with regard to the nature of its business. For example, a bus rented out for other services should be a different color to the vehicles used for transporting the general public. Drivers should also exclusively operate one type of bus, driving either public buses or operating vehicles leased to other business.

Companies may use their vehicles to make a profit from advertisement, but the advertisements must be pre-approved by the government.

Bus companies will be obliged to return business profits to the government. The amount of profit to be returned will be calculated based on a specific and currently undisclosed percentage of their pre-tax profit. As per the previous contract, this share is likely to be around 10%.

In addition, bus companies will be eligible to ask government for plots of land to use for

vehicle maintenance, parking and other purposes. Bus companies may build facilities on such land. The plots of land will be provided to the companies for free.

The SAR government also has environmental protection requirements for the bus companies. In the contract, it is suggested that at least 50% of the large buses used for routes that do not need to cross the bridges should be composed of environmentally-friendly vehicles, with a 2022 deadline to reach this percentage. By 2024, all large buses operating on routes that do not cross bridges must be environmentally-friendly vehicles.

According to Ella Lei, chairman of the AL Follow-up Committee on Land and Public Concession Affairs, when the fourth Macau-Taipa bridge is ready, the local government expects to use these environmentally friendly vehicles for crossing between the islands and the peninsula.

Each year, bus companies will be able to apply to adjust bus fares.

The contract does not mention training for workers, nor employment disputes. The local government hopes that the new contract will be helpful in encouraging the two companies to compete with each other.

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Hurdles on AirAsia's path to helping Macau students

ANTHONY LAM

LOW-COST carrier AirAsia is willing to help Macau students return to their places of study abroad, but there is a critical problem with transit suspension in some places, Celia Lao, CEO of the airline's Macau and Hong Kong arm, told Macau Daily Times.

Recently, several airlines, including Air Macau and EVA Air, have agreed to add or operate special flights to help transport Macau students to Europe and North America in time to begin the new school year.

For example, Macau's flag-carrier Air Macau has announced additional flights from Macau to Seoul, South Korea so that students can catch an Asia-na Airlines flight to Europe.

AirAsia, which operates flights from Macau to Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines, has a parallel brand called AirAsia X, which operates long-haul flights to destinations outside of Asia. When asked by the Times whether AirAsia X would be an option for students, Lao said that it was currently impossible.

One major reason is that international flights have not yet resumed in some parts of the



world. She pointed out that domestic services have resumed in Malaysia, but international flights are still very limited, if not suspended.

"Moreover, transit service has not yet resumed at Kuala Lumpur International Airport," she added. "So, students won't be able to take transit at Kuala Lumpur."

She stressed that once policies allow, the airline is ready to provide assistance. "We have remained in communication with [various public bodies]," Lao disclosed. "If any of them require our collaboration, we are willing to operate flights."

Lao stressed that AirAsia is very focused on helping to revive Macau's tourism industry. She said that AirAsia has kept up communication with governments in Macau and abroad,

regarding actions that it can take to help revive Macau's tourism industry.

"[Macau doesn't] often make it into foreign papers, even though we have done so well in

containing the virus," Lao said, referring to the health protection measures on which Macau should be commended and which should be highlighted internationally.

"We tried our best to tell other governments that Macau is ready to build travel bubbles," she added.

Lao also referred to the Macao Ready Go! discount platform and local tour scheme recently launched by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) as a good sign for tourism revival in the SAR.

The discount platform is a website application that consolidates and lists all current

discounts offered by registered businesses, regardless of their scale.

The tour scheme is an initiative to help support local tour guides and travel agencies during a time of almost no cross-border travel. It subsidizes local residents to join grouped tours, visit local sites and spend some money, if they desire.

Lao is excited about the campaign, although it is currently only for local residents. "It is disseminating a strong message that we are recovering," she said. "When travel restrictions are lifted, tourists will have confidence in returning."

She pointed out that under the "new normal," activities and facilities have gradually resumed in Macau. She also revealed that the airline has obtained the Macao Ready Go! promotional video from the MGTO to play in its transport hubs in Malaysia and the Philippines.

FLIGHT CANCELLATIONS INCONVENIENCE STUDENTS: LAWMAKER

MACAUI lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho has received complaints regarding allegations that Taiwan-based EVA Airways has canceled flights and forced students to buy more expensive tickets with travel agencies.

According to reports by local Portuguese newspaper Ponto Final, the airline canceled a September 18 flight from Macau to Taipei, from where students are expected to take transit flights to London, Paris and Lisbon. The lawmaker told the newspaper that these students all made their bookings on the airline's website.

After completing the original booking process

and receiving a confirmation, the students, 10 in total, received a notice about the flight cancellation. The airline told them to rebook with select travel agencies.

The lawmaker said tickets sold at travel agencies are three times more expensive than those booked online.

The cancellation will also cause some students to miss on-going connections, said Coutinho. That is because Taiwan's Taoyuan International Airport allows a maximum transit time of only eight hours, meaning that a passenger must catch another flight or clear immigration within that period of time. **AL**

Facial recognition deserves UN attention, says Jason Chao

RENATO MARQUES

THE installation of a large number of surveillance cameras by the security authorities, and the announced upgrade of facial recognition functions in many of them, were among the topics noted on the List of Issues (LOI) for Macau by the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Committee.

As Jason Chao, a representative of the Macau Research Group, acknowledged during a press conference held on Wednesday, the surveillance system raises issues regarding the right to privacy.

For Chao, more important than the existence of a surveillance system in itself is the possibility of this system being transi-

tioned from manual operation to an automated system that immediately recognizes and traces people's actions.

"This certainly carries a lot of constraints and works as a 'chilling' effect for the people in Macau," Chao said, adding that is scientifically proven that people change their behavior when they know they are being filmed.

People's natural expressions are also affected by surveillance and people are less likely to be willing to participate in any form of political or social intervention or demonstration. Thus, surveillance works not only restrict privacy but serve to restrict people's expression of their will, Chao said.

Chao also highlighted that the committee's response to the discussion of this topic is rather important as it is a "new topic" about which there is little information and almost no previous documentation or recommendations from the UN to governments worldwide on the use of such systems.

Given the introduction of facial recognition capabilities for some surveillance cameras, known as "Eyes in the Sky", the committee is now asking what guarantees the local government can provide regarding "safeguards against the abuse of data [...] and restrictions on its use."

According to figures advanced earlier by the security authorities, the

system will include a total of 2,600 cameras when completed in 2023.

The total number of surveillance cameras being installed was contested almost one year ago by pro-democracy lawmaker Sulu Sou and the New Macau Association, who discovered through a survey and the analysis of documents from the surveillance system project that the number of cameras disclosed by the security authorities was incorrectly stated.

According to Sou, the number of cameras may be much higher than initially thought, as the numbers advanced by the authorities refer to the number of locations and not of devices. Sou claims that since several cameras are usually installed in each location, the total number should be much higher than that officially announced by the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak.

GOV'T HAS NO INFORMATION ON THREATS TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

RENATO MARQUES

THE Government Information Bureau (GCS) has stated in a written reply to the Times that the bureau does not have any information regarding the comments made on Wednesday by Jason Chao in his role as representative of the Macau Research Group.

During a press conference held on Wednesday, Chao told Portuguese and English-language media outlets that the press freedoms they have enjoyed until now may not last.

"[It is] very likely the Macau authorities or the Chinese authorities are going to tighten their grip on the media outlets in Macau," Chao said, adding that this is directly related to the "unhappiness" of the central authorities with the media coverage of the social unrest in the neighboring region of

Hong Kong.

In its reply to the Times, the GCS said that Macau would protect the freedoms enshrined in the Basic Law.

"The Macau SAR Government values freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of publication, as these are explicitly protected under Article 27 of the Basic Law of the Macau SAR," the GCS said.

In January, while meeting with representatives of local media outlets reporting in Portuguese and English, the Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, affirmed the significant role that Portuguese and English language media play in promoting the coexistence of Chinese and western culture in Macau, and as a mediator between the Government and the Portuguese and English-speaking communities in the city.

CIVIL SERVANT ADMITS TO STEALING

A civil servant has been accused of theft, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) recently reported.

The accused is a 59-year-old man surnamed Chow, who is reportedly an assistant technician working in a government department.

On July 27, while Chow was parking his motorbike in the central district, he identified an opportunity

to steal items from a vehicle nearby.

One Macau Pass card and one raincoat were left inside the helmet left on the motorbike. Chow took both items without anyone immediately noticing and later used the Macau Pass card several times.

On August 4, the Macau Pass owner realized that a total of 250 Macau patacas

had been used on his card. The card was used a total of 14 times, at stores near O Bairro Horta da Mitra and Jardim de Luís de Camões. The owner then reported the case to the police authority.

On August 9, PSP officers apprehended Chow in his apartment and he admitted to the theft. According to Chow, his son also used the Macau Pass, although without knowing that the card was a stolen item. The case was forwarded to the prosecution authority on August 10. JZ

TUTOR CHARGED WITH ILLICIT APPROPRIATION

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) has charged a tutor with illicit appropriation.

The tutor and her husband, aged in her 40s and 55 respectively, were accused of illicit appropriation.

On August 3, in the afternoon, a man lost his Macau Pass e-voucher with 5,000 patacas in credit remaining.

Later he discovered that

there was only 4,126 patacas left on his card after it had been used to make 12 purchases.

The purchases were reportedly made a woman who spotted the Macau Pass when passing by a recreational leisure park.

On August 10, police officers found the woman who allegedly took the card. They managed to track her down using CCTV

footage, which pointed to Avenida Marginal do Lam Mau as a likely location to apprehend her.

The woman told the police authority that, after she came into possession of the card, she had consulted with her husband about what to do and both had decided to keep the card.

She and her husband have been charged with illicit appropriation.

As of Wednesday, the husband was still in mainland China, while the wife was forwarded to the prosecution authority. JZ

Crypto-yuan ready to undergo testing in Greater Bay

RENATO MARQUES

CHINA'S national cryptocurrency – Digital Currency Electronic Payment (DCEP) – is ready to undergo testing in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) in the upcoming weeks, the official newspaper of the Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of China, Nanfang Daily, has reported.

In the report, the director of the Guangdong Local Financial Supervision Administration Bureau, He Xiaojun, said that GBA will play an important role in the adoption of the Chinese cryptocurrency, and especially in its use across China's borders.

For He, the neighboring region of Hong Kong will play a very important role in the broader release of the DCEP and in the common usage of the currency in virtual



A woman walks past the People's Bank of China (PBOC) in Beijing

banking operations.

"The use of digital currency developments allows modern financial technology to better serve the construction and development of the entire Greater Bay Area," He said, adding, "Guangdong will encourage innovation and intensify business integration with Hong Kong and Macau in virtual banking and other aspects."

The news comes right after China's central bank announced the completion of the final stage of DCEP beta testing in Shenzhen last week. The implementation of the Chinese national digital currency is seen as one of the most highlighted elements of the central government's plan to transform the GBA into a thriving economic zone.

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National and SAR officials in Beijing applaud Macau's anti-pandemic achievements

ANTHONY LAM

CHINA'S Minister of Commerce and the Macau Chief Executive have both commended Macau's efforts and achievements in the fight against Covid-19.

In a Wednesday meeting in Beijing with the Macau's head of government, Ho Iat Seng, China's Minister of Commerce, Zhong Shan, applauded Macau's alignment with the Central Government's leadership and directives, adding that it had helped to contain the coronavirus. Zhong went on to say that he felt that Macau has been fully developed economically and socially. The society, he noted, is also very stable.

In return, the Chief Executive explained to the Ministry of Commerce that it was "under the leadership of the Central Government, the SAR Government's united effort and all residents' commitment, [that] we've survived the past eight months."



Ho Iat Seng (left) and Zhong Shan

"This is not a simple achievement," Ho added, with an exclamation of agreement heard from other officials at the meeting.

Ho explained that the pandemic has brought economic turbulence to Macau, but that the city has managed to keep a handle on the situation.

"Last year we saw 40 million tourists, while this year, so far,

it's been virtually zero," Ho said. "Given that, our economy is under stress."

"What is good is that we have maintained a reliable surplus over the past 20 years of the Macau SAR, which is [...] able to support us during the pandemic," he added.

Meanwhile, the Chief Executive stressed to the Minister that

"this government has not relaxed on livelihood matters. We have tried our best to encourage [Macau residents] to continue spending to maintain the pillar of the economy."

Wednesday saw the first nationwide lifting of quarantine requirements since the first outbreak of Covid-19.

Ho revealed that he purposely picked this particular date to set off on his trip to Beijing. In his opinion, it constitutes a symbolic message to the general public.

Ho is in the capital city to participate in official discussions with national authorities regarding Macau's cooperation with neighboring region, Hengqin. He will remain in the capital city until next Monday.

The government head reiterated that Macau is eager to move forward with the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone initiative.

Ho stated that the project was in accordance with President Xi Jinping's directive to continue

developing Hengqin using a framework based on cooperation, in order to create a favorable environment for Macau's adequate economic diversification.

In return, Zhong stated that his Ministry would give its support – in line with the Central Government's directives – to promote innovative mechanisms for the development of Hengqin, in order to advance the economic diversification of Macau.

The two officials also talked about the next Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Macao). Zhong said that the Ministry of Commerce would support hosting the event once the pandemic was under control.

Land resources in Hengqin could be used to provide Macau enterprises with fresh space for the development of new products and to advance the city's traditional Chinese medicine sector, it was suggested.

AD

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GALAXY'S CONFIDENCE IN MACAU NOT SHAKEN BY 91% REVENUE DROP

LYNZY VALLES

GALAXY Entertainment Group's (GEG) net revenue during the second quarter of 2020 stood at HKD1.15 billion, down 91% year-on-year and down 77% quarter-on-quarter due to the adverse impacts of Covid-19, which included a significant reduction in tourist arrivals and subsequent decline in revenue.

During the first half of the year, the group's net revenue was down 76% year-on-year to HKD6.22 billion, while its January to June adjusted EBITDA stood at negative HKD1.09 million compared to HKD8.32 billion in the first half of 2019.

Its adjusted EBITDA for the second quarter of this year stood at negative HKD1.4 billion.

Speaking in a press conference held online yesterday, Lui Che Woo, chairman of GEG, announced that its balance sheet remains strong with HKD49.8 billion in cash and liquid investments and HKD43.6 billion of net cash.

"During this period of very low revenue our focus has shifted from reve-



nue generation to effective cost control. However, it is important to not cut costs excessively and therefore adversely impact our ability to deliver upon customer service standards when business returns," said the chairman.

The deputy chairman of GEG, Francis Lui, explained that the gaming operator has lowered its daily expenditure to HKD2.5 million a day.

"We spent about HKD3.4 million a day during the first quarter. So far in the second quarter, it has been lowered to HKD2.5 million a day. We've already made improvements to the tune of 10% to 20% and we hope

to continue to make efforts so that [...] we can better our finances," said Lui.

Meanwhile, it is still "too early to say" for GEG to expect a positive outcome this year on the resumption of the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS).

The government recently announced that it will expand the IVS and group travel beyond Zhuhai to Guangdong Province by August 26, and nationwide by September 23, provided the pandemic situation continues to improve.

For the gaming operator, it is premature to comment on how quickly the market may recover, despite the long-awaited

'baby steps' toward regaining visitors. It notes that it is still expecting to experience further headwinds from the pandemic, which will have an adverse impact on its financial performance.

Given the ongoing Covid-19 situation, the board decided yesterday not to declare a dividend. GEG paid a special dividend of HKD0.45 per share on April 24.

"Our balance sheet has been very sound. [...] We took the prudent step to conserve cash during this crisis [...] As we gradually continue the recovery we will consider it as we go forward. We have a strong balance sheet and we continue to invest in our Cotai development projects," said GEG's Chief Financial Officer, Robert Drake, who was also present at the online press conference.

The construction process for GEG's expansion is on schedule, according to Lui, who noted that developments for these projects will follow the timetable no matter how the pandemic situation changes.

"We will continue to work with the government and proceed with the project," said Lui.

concessionaires who previously indicated interest in the Japan market have backed out for various reasons, including revenue downturns caused by the pandemic outbreak, as well as what is being seen as a particularly tough regulatory environment in the East Asian country.

Earlier this month, Wynn Resorts Ltd. revealed it had already closed its Yokohama office after plans for Japan to award casino licenses were delayed.

Las Vegas Sands also pulled out of the race for a Japan IR in May due to restrictive licensing and regulatory measures.

Melco Resorts & Entertainment stated it would continue to "work diligently" in Japan, according to Lawrence Ho, chairman and CEO, during the company's first quarter earnings call.

He has previously said that Melco continues to "actively engage" with Yokohama officials in order to discuss its plans.

FITCH AFFIRMS MGM RESORTS RATING ON ACCOUNT OF 'STRONG LIQUIDITY'

FITCH Ratings has affirmed the 'BB-' Long-Term Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) of MGM Resorts International and MGM China Holdings, on the basis of the companies' "strong liquidity position to weather the challenging operating environment."

Recently, Fitch revised downward its assumptions for major gaming jurisdictions, particularly for the Las Vegas Strip and Macau, to reflect a more challenging recovery trajectory as the coronavirus pandemic continues to hinder international and domestic tourism.

However, according to a report released yesterday by the ratings agency, the U.S.-based casino company and its local subsidiary are in a relatively favorable position partly because of an earlier decision to sell some Las Vegas properties and lease them from the new owners.

"The company was in a favorable liquidity position heading into the pandemic, having recently monetized Bellagio and MGM Grand vis-à-vis sale leaseback transactions," noted Fitch in the report, "but it also took proactive steps to increase cash as operations halted."

These included raising unsecured debt "to repay precautionary revolver draws," as well as terminating a \$1.25 billion stock tender offer.

Additionally, Fitch has affirmed MGM Resorts' and MGM China's unsecured debt at 'BB-/RR4'.

The Rating Outlook is Negative, which reflects the risk uncertainty the global gaming industry is facing from the pandemic. Fitch said it could revise the Rating Outlook to Stable when there is a greater degree of confidence in the gaming industry's recovery trajectory. **DB**

Lui committed to Japan IRs despite timeline delays

LYNZY VALLES

GALAXY Entertainment Group (GEG) said that it remains committed to its Japan expansion plans despite the timeline delays associated with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

GEG Chairman Lui Che Woo remarked that the group continues to make progress in respect of its international expansion plans, acknowledging that timelines for Japan may be impacted. However, they pledged to adjust accordingly.

"Regarding progress in Japan, we all know that given the impact of Covid-19, you cannot rush the project. It's difficult for us to predict how this will play out but we



GEG Chairman Lui Che Woo

intend on our original plan," said Lui.

"Our Japan-based team continues with our Japan development efforts even as they deal with the Covid-19 crisis. We view Japan as a great long-term growth opportunity that will complement our Macau operations and our other international expansion ambitions," Lui stated.

According to Japanese media reports, the so-called basic policy on integrated resorts (IRs) are delayed until this month or later.

Japan's government also recently stated that a decision will be made on whether to postpone the certification application period based on the impact of the pandemic.

Meanwhile, some Macau

WYNN RESORTS ESTABLISHES NEW FOUNDATION TO HELP MACAU'S DEVELOPMENT

WYNN Resorts (Macau) has set up a foundation with an initial fund of 10 million patacas to promote Macau's "prosperous and harmonious development," according to the foundation's statute published in the Government's Official Gazette.

Titled "Wynn Care Foundation," the foundation's establishment was formally recognized in an executive order issued by the Chief Executive on 9 July, but published in the Official Gazette this week.

The foundation aims to make a "positive social impact" on Macau and mainland China by supporting education projects for young people, small businesses, charity and community events, sustainable development, environmental protection, and sporting and cultural events.

The gaming operator will be the president of the foundation, represented in its first four-year term by Linda Chen, Vice Chairman, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director of the company. **DB**

JIMMY LAY

Hong Kong media tycoon relieved he wasn't sent to China

JIMMY Lai had just finished his morning exercise and was catching up on the news when the police arrived.

"There were 15, 20 policemen there, and they said I was under arrest and that they were from the national security department," the Hong Kong media tycoon recounted in a live-streamed video chat yesterday.

His arrest Monday morning at his home was the highest-profile detention under a new national security law that took effect in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory on June 30. He has not been charged but was held for 36 hours on suspicion of colluding with a foreign country or entity. He was released on bail.

Lai, 71, said he was worried he could be sent to the mainland, where the legal system has fewer protections. His fears were allayed when he realized that the officers were not speaking in Mandarin, the mainland Chinese language.

"I kind of settled down a little bit because ... I knew that I wouldn't be sent to China at least," he said.

The national security law says that certain cases can come under the jurisdiction of mainland China.



Hong Kong media tycoon and newspaper founder Jimmy Lai, sits in a car as he leaves a police station after being bailed out in Hong Kong, Wednesday

Chinese and Hong Kong officials say most cases will be handled locally.

In the hours after his arrest, Lai was taken to his office and his

personal yacht as police searched for evidence. He was also shifted between several police stations, as there was an electricity blackout in one, while in another the finger-

print machine was not working.

"A lot of the time I was sitting there waiting," he said, adding it was the first time he had spent so much time in handcuffs as police

took him from place to place.

The headquarters of his Next Digital media group, which operates the pro-democracy Apple Daily tabloid, was raided by hundreds of officers after his arrest, stoking fears that press freedom would be curtailed.

Hong Kong has long enjoyed freedoms not found on the mainland under a "one country, two systems" framework.

Lai expressed surprise that his arrest came so quickly, saying that he thought authorities would keep a low profile because of the strong condemnation of the law by some in the international community.

He has been a harsh critic of the new law and China's ruling Communist Party.

"If I knew that I will end up here or eventually in prison, would I have changed myself in other way? I thought about it, and I said no, because this is my character," he said. "This is the way I react to things. My character is my destiny."

Following Lai's arrest on Monday, investors rushed to buy Next Digital stock in a show of support. The stock surged more than 1,100% to 1.61 Hong Kong dollars before settling around 0.38 Hong Kong dollars on Thursday. That's still nearly five times higher than before Lai's arrest.

He urged people not to engage in a buying spree of Next Digital shares.

"I advise nobody to touch it," he said. "Because this is just a very ephemeral phenomenon that's not going to last." **MDT/AP**

TRADE WAR

Pompeo, in Slovenia, pushes 5G security, warns about China

MATTHEW LEE, BLED

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is in Slovenia making the case for high-speed wireless networks that bar Chinese companies like Huawei.

On the second leg of a four-nation tour of central and eastern Europe, Pompeo met with Slovenian officials in the mountain lake town of Bled yesterday and signed a joint declaration on "5G Clean Network Security" that aims to keep untrusted telecommunications vendors out of Slovenia.

"Free nations must work together to confront authoritarian threats," he said. "It is absolutely critical that every nation makes a good sovereign decision about how the private information of its citizens is going to be handled."

Pompeo has led a U.S. campaign across Europe and elsewhere against



Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Jansa (right) shakes hands with US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo ahead of their meeting in Bled yesterday

Huawei and other Chinese companies that the Trump administration accuses of turning over sensitive data and personal information to China's security apparatus. The campaign has had mixed results, but NATO ally Slovenia is on board, and the declaration commits "to

protecting the privacy and individual liberties of the citizens of the United States and Slovenia."

"The tide is turning against the Chinese Communist Party and its efforts to control information," Pompeo said.

Slovenia last month rol-

led out a nationwide commercial 5G network with the Swedish telecoms giant Ericsson, which Pompeo and other U.S. officials frequently mention as a "trusted" alternative to Huawei.

Besides the 5G declaration, Pompeo discussed energy security with Slove-

nia's president and prime minister. The United States is keen to wean Europe from its dependence on Russian oil and gas and has launched numerous initiatives throughout the continent to diversify European energy sources. It has offered to sell U.S. fuel to Europe and has been promoting nuclear energy.

Pompeo arrived in Slovenia from the Czech Republic, where he called upon the young democracies in the region to embrace hard-won freedoms and counter threats from Russia and particularly China, which he said is in many ways more dangerous than the former Soviet Union.

"The CCP is already enmeshed in our economies, in our politics, in our societies in ways the Soviet Union never was," he told Czech lawmakers, referring to the Chinese Communist Party.

Pompeo, however, said

that "even more of a threat is the Chinese Communist Party and its campaigns of coercion and control."

"In your country alone," he said, "we see influence campaigns against your politicians and security forces, the theft of industrial data that you have created through your innovation and creativity, and we've seen the use of economic leverage to stifle freedom itself."

Pompeo said they should continue to resist Chinese attempts to assert economic and political leverage over them. He noted several recent developments in which China has threatened Czech officials with retaliation for showing support for Taiwan, Tibet and Hong Kong.

China has accused the United States of "oppressing Chinese companies" through its declarations about telecom equipment suppliers Huawei and ZTE being national security threats. **AP**

75 years later, one million Japanese war dead still missing

MARI YAMAGUCHI,
TOKYO

SEVENTY-FIVE years after the end of World War II, more than 1 million Japanese war dead are scattered throughout Asia, where the legacy of Japanese aggression still hampers recovery efforts.

The missing Japanese make up about half of the 2.4 million soldiers who died overseas during Japan's military rampage across Asia in the early 20th century.

They are on remote islands in the South Pacific. They are in northern China and Mongolia. They are in Russia.

As the anniversary for the end of the Pacific War arrives Saturday, there is little hope these remains will ever be recovered, let alone identified and returned to grieving family members.

Only about half a million are considered retrievable. The rest are lost in the sea or buried in areas that can't be reached because of fighting or security or political reasons, according to Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, which is in charge of support measures for bereaved families.

Locating, identifying and finding places to store the decades-old remains have been complicated as memories fade, artifacts and documents get lost and families and relatives age.

In 2016, Japan's parliament passed a law launching an eight-year remains recovery initiative through 2024. It promotes more DNA matching and cooperation with the U.S. Department of Defense in case remains are found at U.S. military facilities on islands in the southern Pacific that were former battlegrounds.

It was not until 2003 that the Japanese government started DNA matching, but only at the request of possible families. In July, Japan set up a comprehensive remains information center at the ministry that would provide DNA testing.

After Japan's disastrous retreats in the Pacific in 1943, the military started sending back empty boxes



People gather for the cremation ceremony for Japanese war dead in World War II, in Papua province, Indonesia (2013)

with stones to bereaved families, without providing details about the deaths. Japan insisted all war dead would be honored as gods at Yasukuni Shrine.

Similar practices were continued by postwar governments, which didn't put an emphasis on identifying individual remains to return to families, experts say.

Japan sent its first overseas remains collection mission in 1952 after a seven-year U.S. occupation ended. The efforts were unwelcome in many Asian countries that had suffered under Japanese wartime aggression.

The government in the 1950s dispatched missions to major former battlegrounds for the "token" collection of random remains; most were unidentified and never returned to families. After collecting the remains of about 10,000 war dead, the welfare ministry in 1962 tried to end the project but was forced to continue the effort following repeated requests by veterans and bereaved families.

The government mission has so far recovered just 340,000 remains; most are kept at Tokyo's Chidorigafuchi national cemetery of unknown soldiers.

They were never DNA tested or identified, and almost certainly include

a "significant number" of the remains of non-Japanese nationals, including Koreans and Taiwanese soldiers drafted and sent overseas to fight for the Japanese Imperial Army, said Kazufumi Hamai, a Teikyo University historian and expert on the remains issue.

More than 240,000 Koreans fought for Japan during the country's 1910-1945 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, including 20,000 believed to have died outside of mainland Japan. Some of their remains were most likely brought back, unidentified and mixed with the Japanese collected during past missions before being placed in Chidorigafuchi.

Japan's delayed and insufficient remains collection underscored the government's failure to face up to its wartime past, Hamai said.

"The government lacked respect for individual remains and their dignity," he said. "Their remains collection program was sloppy and carried out reluctantly at the request of veterans' families, while completely neglecting the Koreans and Taiwanese."

About 700 remains of Koreans have been separately stored at a Tokyo Buddhist temple, Yutenji. Health and welfare ministry officials say they are the only re-

mains of the former Korean soldiers that they are aware of. More than half of the 700 are from North Korea.

Several hundred remains had been previously returned to their homes through diplomatic arrangement, but talks have been stalled in recent years as diplomatic relations have soured over Japan's wartime actions, including the use of forced laborers and the sexual abuses of women forced to work at frontline military brothels.

Japan gained access to Russia and Mongolia only starting in 1991, when Japan was given a list of tens of thousands of imprisoned Japanese soldiers and maps of the mass graves where they were buried. About 600,000 were sent to former Soviet prisons, where 55,000 died, including a few thousand Koreans.

Last year, a U.S. citizens' group searching for the remains of American war dead in the Pacific War found the remains of about 160 Asians on the island of Tarawa — called the Republic of Kiribati today. It asked the Japanese and Korean governments to have them DNA tested.

Hamai says the case could set the stage for Japan and South Korea cooperating to identify and return the remains to where they belong. **AP**

this day in history

1941 SECRET MEETINGS SEAL US-BRITAIN ALLIANCE



The Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, has spent the last few days in top-secret meetings with the American President, Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Details of the meetings only emerged after the announcement of a joint declaration by Britain and America on the basic principles for a post-war world, sealing the alliance between the two countries for the downfall of Hitler.

The document, known as the Atlantic Charter, consists of a list of eight undertakings.

- Britain and the United States seek no territorial gains from the war
- any changes to a country's territory should only happen with the agreement of the people living there
- it is the right of everyone to choose the government under which they will live
- self-government should be restored to those who have lost it
- there should be free trade between all nations
- improvements in the economy and in living standards should be available to all
- there should be peace following what the Charter calls "the end of Nazi tyranny"
- peace should enable freedom of movement around the world
- a belief that aggressive nations must be disarmed if the world is to live at peace

Rumours of high-level talks have been rife for weeks in the American press following the sudden disappearance from Washington of Mr Roosevelt and several top US officials.

Mr Churchill's unexplained absence from the House of Commons during a statement on the war situation on 6 August had also attracted some attention.

It turned out both men were involved in at least three days of intensive talks on board the American cruiser, USS Augusta, and the British battleship, HMS Prince of Wales, anchored in Placentia Bay in Newfoundland.

It was the first time Mr Churchill had met Mr Roosevelt as heads of their respective governments, and their discussions were thought to have covered several other matters, such as the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June, the supply of weapons under the Lend-Lease Act, and the threat to Britain's lifeline in the Battle of the Atlantic.

Although the Charter is clearly an undertaking for the two countries to co-operate after the war, it stops short of anything which might bring forward America's participation in the war.

But as Japan continues to build up her fleet in the Pacific, speculation has been growing as to just how long the Americans can stay out.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Within four months, the United States was at war. The Japanese attacked the US naval base at Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, and Germany declared war on America soon after. President Roosevelt became a key player as one of the "Big Three" Allied leaders with Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Joseph Stalin.

The friendship forged at Placentia Bay formed a firm foundation for a series of crucial strategy conferences throughout the war, culminating in the Yalta conference in February 1945.

It later emerged that a key issue during the Atlantic Charter talks was President Roosevelt's mistrust of Britain's imperial ambitions.

He saw the fight against Nazi occupation as extending to ensuring the freedom of colonial people from rule by imperial powers - including Britain.

The Charter, especially declarations two, three and four, laid the foundations for the granting of independence to Britain's Empire which began with Indian independence as early as 1947.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Today is one of those days when the more organized you are, the more you will enjoy yourself. So do yourself a favor and start the day by evaluating what needs to be done and how you are going to go about doing it.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Some great news could be coming your way today, but you need to play it cool! Don't rush ahead and do anything too hastily. Let the news settle in and give everyone a chance to get used to the changes that are coming.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Get some distance between your friendships and your financial life, too. If your personal relationships get entangled in your money issues, you will never be able to have fun with them again!



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

They could make your life unpleasant if you tick them off, so tiptoe around any tricky topics and play nicey-nice no matter how rude someone is being. It is the wisest tactic for now.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

This kind of can-do positive energy can help you attract a lot of diverse people who will keep your life interesting and your problems small. Keep things light and you'll stay bright.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It's not an ideal day for you to work with others. You could be feeling especially combative, with little if any patience for people who aren't as on the ball as you.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Is your life lacking romance right now? If you want more roses, wine, and poetry from your special someone, you need to give them more roses, wine, and poetry. Show them what you expect of them with your actions.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Do something physical today. Whether you take a long walk or dance while you clean the house, you'll finish up in a much better mood than you were in when you started.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Someone has been playing games with you, and they haven't been the fun kind. All the phone tag, confusing conversations, and generally flaky behavior is not something you have to put up with.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you're only acting modest because you don't want to come off as being too cocky, then you aren't being honest! You could get some praise today, but don't feel guilty about enjoying it!



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Tantalizing social invitations seem to hold the promise of a new love connection, but don't get sucked in by illusions. Be skeptical of any new people on the scene, because they aren't what they appear.

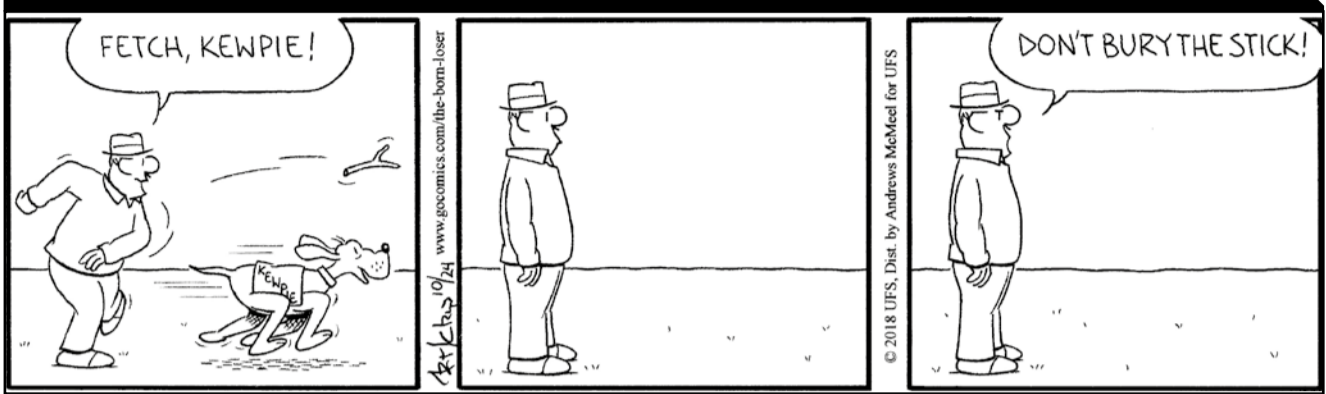


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Do you have too much control over everyone else's life right now? Being in charge might make you think that you are doing everyone else a favor, but that's an illusion.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

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- Drinks slowly; 5- Jamaican popular music; 8- Small mountain; 12- Captain ____; 13- Pop pieces; 15- Potpourri; 16- Oklahoma Native; 17- Pipsqueak; 18- Singer Campbell; 19- Pottery of hardened clay; 22- Exploit; 23- ____ anglais (English horn); 24- Jack of "Rio Lobo"; 26- Goddess of wisdom; 29- Skullcap; 31- From ____ Z; 32- Sullen; 34- Pertaining to the moon; 36- Molecular component; 38- Burrowing animals; 40- See ya!; 41- Locations; 43- Slap; 45- A Kennedy; 46- Intones; 48- Dried grape; 50- Egyptian deity; 51- Cellular stuff; 52- When doubled, a dance; 54- Sac in which bile is stored; 61- A pitcher may take one; 63- Sheer fabric; 64- Boxer Oscar ____ Hoya; 65- Charles barker; 66- Swagger; 67- Cowardly Lion portrayer; 68- Rind; 69- ____ kwon do; 70- Singer Adams;

DOWN: 1- Sneaker or loafer; 2- Scintilla; 3- Wanting; 4- Rough design; 5- Planted; 6- Was aware of; 7- Mogul capital until 1658; 8- Monopolize; 9- Persons who claim superior enlightenment; 10- Untruths, tells falsehoods; 11- Unaccompanied; 13- Breastbone; 14- Carousal; 20- Weed whackers; 21- Airline to Tel Aviv; 25- Sometimes you feel like ____; 26- Top story; 27- Dentifrice; 28- At ____ for words; 29- One way to play; 30- Devoured; 31- Small batteries; 33- Dutch carrier; 35- Far out; 37- Crux; 39- Bright red color; 42- Hitch; 44- Basic currency of Papua New Guinea; 47- ____ Amore; 49- Bicycle seat; 52- Applaud; 53- Flexible tube; 55- Trent of the Senate; 56- Old Italian money; 57- Sky color; 58- Like a noted Norwegian Blue parrot?; 59- K-12; 60- Steak order; 62- Gal of song;

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE

One Central Stylish modern 2 bedroom
HK\$14,839,000 1,349 ft² 2 1 1

FOR RENT

One Oasis, Coloane
\$14,500/mth 1,100 ft² 2 1 1

FOR SALE

[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden	2 1 1
900 ft² \$4,900,000	(ref: 19106003)
[Taipa] Wa Bao	2 1 2
1,071 ft² \$7,995,000	(ref: 18115568)
[Macau] Unique Loft	2 1 2
2,200 ft² \$9,990,000	(ref: 15115464)
[Macau] Seaview Garden	3 1 2
1,420 ft² \$10,900,000	(ref: 20016004)

FOR RENT

[Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park	1 1 1
\$3,800/mth	(ref: 20041001)
[Taipa] Studio apartment	1 1 1
650 ft² \$9,000/mth	(ref: 20061003)
[Macau] One Central	2 1 2
1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth	(ref: n/a)
[Taipa] Private house	2 1 3
4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth	(ref: 19055006ST)

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CHINA'S DAYS AS WORLD'S FACTORY ARE OVER, IPHONE MAKER SAYS

DEBBY WU

A key supplier to Apple Inc. and a dozen other tech giants plans to split its supply chain between the Chinese market and the U.S., declaring that China's time as factory to the world is finished because of the trade war.

Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. Chairman Young Liu said it's gradually adding more capacity outside of China, the main base of production for gadgets from iPhones to Dell desktops and Nintendo Switches. The proportion outside the country is now at 30%, up from 25% last June.

That ratio will rise as the company - known also as Foxconn - moves more manufacturing to Southeast Asia and other regions to avoid escalating tariffs on Chi-

nese-made goods headed to U.S. markets, Liu told reporters after his company reported financial results.

"No matter if it's India, Southeast Asia or the Americas, there will be a manufacturing ecosystem in each," Liu told investors on a conference call, adding that while China will still play a key role in Foxconn's manufacturing empire, the country's "days as the world's factory are done."

Foxconn said in a statement yesterday that, contrary to "inaccurate media reports," management's comments during the call did not refer to any specific companies, facilities or products, and were intended to reflect macroeconomic and industry trends.

Intensifying trade tensions between Washington and Beijing

have pushed device manufacturers to diversify their production bases away from China, and Liu last year said that Apple's most prized product, the iPhone, can be made outside China if needed. The two nations remain in trade talks, but Liu's comments affirm a growing expectation that the China-centric electronics supply chain will fragment over the longer term.

The Taiwanese company reported better-than-expected net income of NT\$22.9 billion (\$778 million) for the quarter ended in June, a period that saw increased demand for iPads and MacBooks. Revenue was NT\$1.13 trillion, but Hon Hai warned it expects its third-quarter sales will be down by double digits relative to 2019. Apple is expected to delay its iPho-

ne launch this year.

Hon Hai is bouncing back from a record profit slump in the first quarter as production at its factories recovered and shelter-in-place orders spurred demand for home computing equipment. The pandemic likely boosted iPad and Mac sales, even as Apple store closures weighed on iPhone sales, Apple CEO Tim Cook said on July 31 after reporting quarterly revenue that crushed estimates. Apple accounts for half of Hon Hai's sales.

Even as Apple outperformed, Hon Hai's other customers have fared less well. Hong Kong-listed subsidiary FIH Mobile Ltd. said in its Aug. 7 earnings release that while Huawei Technologies Co.'s new phones have been popular in China, they missed expectations

elsewhere following U.S. sanctions. Another key customer Xiaomi Corp. suffered a backlash in the Indian market amid growing tensions between China and the South Asian country. FIH lost \$100 million in the first half.

Foxconn has been shaking up its traditionally China-focused operations. Hon Hai is among Apple assembly partners that plan to expand operations in India, potentially helping the iPhone maker grow its presence in the country of 1.3 billion and shift some of the U.S. company's supply chain outside of China as ties between Washington and Beijing fray.

Chinese rivals are also posing a growing challenge. Local electronics titan Luxshare Precision Industry Co. is poised to become the first Chinese homegrown iPhone assembler after sealing a deal in July to buy an Apple handset production plant from Wistron Corp. While Hon Hai will keep assembly orders for premium iPhones, Luxshare will eat into the business for mid-to-entry-level Apple handsets, Fubon Securities analyst Arthur Liao wrote in a July 23 note.

Foxconn will work on its component business to maintain tech leadership and it also benefits from its long-term relationship with Apple, Liu said in response to several analysts' questions about Foxconn's competitive strategy against the rising Chinese supplier.

Orders could be further affected after President Donald Trump issued an executive order barring U.S. residents from doing business with Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s WeChat. Annual iPhone shipments could plunge 25%-30% if Apple is forced to remove the app from its app stores worldwide, TF International Securities analyst Kuo Ming-chi warned in an August 9 note. **BLOOMBERG**

Cathay soars as airport transfer hopes offset bleak outlook

CATHAY Pacific Airways Ltd. shares extended their double-digit rally after a Chinese state-run newspaper tweeted that Hong Kong's airport may restart transfer flights to mainland China, a move that could inject the beleaguered carrier with some much-needed travelers.

Cathay climbed more than 13%, its biggest intraday gain in two months, as the Global Times said on Twitter that the transfer flights "could soon resume." The newspaper cited a source it didn't identify. Cathay typically relies on mainland traffic for a large portion of revenue, and the tweet came after the carrier reported a record

loss and warned of more gloom ahead.

Airline stocks globally already were outperforming on signs of a pickup in traffic in parts of the world, a gradual reopening of some borders and renewed hopes for a vaccine.

The stock-market enthusiasm contrasted with Cathay's announcement during the lunchtime trading break that it suffered a first-half net loss of HKD9.9 billion (\$1.3 billion) as the coronavirus pandemic brought global travel to a near standstill. The carrier said it doesn't expect any meaningful recovery in business for some time. That news was already priced in, howe-

ver, given that Cathay had warned about the loss last month.

In a statement Wednesday, Chairman Patrick Healy said the airline and its Cathay Dragon unit flew only 4.4 million passengers in the first six months, down from 18.3 million a year earlier. Passenger revenue tumbled 72% to HKD10.4 billion during the period. It flew an average of just 500 passengers a day in April and May.

"The global health crisis has decimated the travel industry and the future remains highly uncertain, with most analysts suggesting that it will take years to recover to pre-crisis le-



vels," Healy said.

Covid-19 struck just as Cathay was trying to rebuild following protests in Hong Kong that led to changes in senior management and a sharp drop in traffic last year.

The pandemic made

matters much more grave for Cathay and airlines in the U.S. and elsewhere, many of which are relying on government aid to survive. Unlike most airlines, Cathay has no domestic market to fall back on.

Cathay took several

steps to reduce costs, including cutting salaries, introducing unpaid leave programs for staff and closing crew bases in the U.S. The airline also agreed with Airbus SE to defer deliveries of A350s and A321neos to as far as 2025, while it is in "advanced negotiations" with Boeing Co. for the deferral of B777-9 widebodies.

The outlook remains extremely challenging as the virus spreads, with confirmed infections topping 20 million this week. The International Air Transport Association doesn't expect the global airline industry to recover to pre-virus levels before 2024. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE FINALS

Silva, the City wizard who helped to redefine English soccer

STEVE DOUGLAS

THERE'LL be no standing ovation in a full stadium for David Silva after his final appearance for Manchester City.

He won't be grabbing a microphone — Pablo Zalabeta-style — and making a triumphant speech to City's fans, either. Not that it's his style, anyway.

Indeed, whisper it but there's an outside chance, if circumstances dictate, that the man they call "Merlin" — after the mythical wizard — might already have worn the club's blue shirt in a competitive game for the last time.

Now, let's take the best-case scenario: How about Silva ending his decade-long, era-changing City career by lifting the Champions League trophy as captain?

Whatever happens over the coming days during the finale of Europe's top club competition in Lisbon, the Spanish playmaker has already etched his name in City lore as perhaps its greatest player.

More than that, Silva has been a driving force behind the way soccer has been redefined in England, where subtlety, creativity and technical qualities are valued as much as the long-standing virtues of power and physicality.

"He's tiny," City manager Pep Guardiola said, "a little player, not a box-to-box player. And my image of England from the



outside, I thought, 'Maybe he's going to suffer.'"

"Happily," Guardiola added, "I was wrong."

Silva's City story began long before Guardiola arrived at Etihad Stadium in 2016 and got the best out of his compatriot. Six years earlier, in fact, when he joined from Valencia for 24 million pounds and as a newly crowned World Cup winner with Spain.

The Premier League wasn't the domain of the little playmaker at the time — Chelsea's attacking midfielders were the powerful Michael Ballack and Frank Lampard, for example, and Liverpool's was dynamic captain Steven Gerrard — though the seeds of change were there.

Luka Modric was starting to excel in a deeper role at Tottenham, Cesc Fabregas was already flourishing at Arsenal, albeit in a more box-to-box role. Deco, the Brazilian schemer comparable in style to Silva, had two fairly underwhelming seasons at Chelsea from 2008-10.

Silva's arrival felt significant, and not just because a player who could easily have been at home in the midfield of Barcelona or Real Madrid was choosing to play his peak years at a rising upstart like City.

"We hadn't seen anyone with his attributes, his physicality, do what he did," Joleon Lescott, Silva's teammate at City, told The Associated Press.

Here was someone who worked primarily between the

lines, linking up attacks in a silky, stylistic and controlled way. Silva was bringing something very different to English football, and would soon be widely admired not necessarily for his numbers — with 77 goals in a total of 434 City appearances so far, he has never been a prolific scorer — but for his touch and game management, and the way he coped with the Premier League's physicality.

For 10 years, he has been kicked around. To this day, he seems amazed how little protection he gets from referees in England, and he had repeated ankle problems in 2015 under then-manager Manuel Pellegrini.

But he stayed at City and had the mentality to rise to the physical challenge, perhaps establishing himself as the pivotal figure in its growth as a domestic and European force. Indeed, Silva is the only player to have been at the club for all of the trophies won under its Abu Dhabi ownership, starting with the FA Cup in 2011.

"He is just able to find space and be effective," Lescott said. "It's an in-depth footballing thing to say, but I don't know if I've ever played with someone with the ability of not being near anyone at any time but then not be a passenger."

"His close control, his awareness ... I don't ever remember David getting tackled."

Silva made 93 assists after his debut in the Premier League in

August 2010, 29 more than any other player in that 10-year period. His best, surely, was that flick and volley to Edin Dzeko for City's last goal in a famous 6-1 win at Manchester United in 2011.

By then, another stylish Spanish playmaker, Juan Mata, was in the Premier League with Chelsea. In 2012, another would arrive in the form of Santi Cazorla at Arsenal.

Silva was proving to be a trailblazer, in his own humble and understated style.

"I don't think we appreciated him," Lescott said, of English soccer in general, "and I think his profile plays into that. At the time, the media allowed the bigger personalities to take the limelight, which happens. I don't think he minded that at all."

If the bond between Silva and City wasn't already strong, it was cemented in the 2017-18 season when he was granted compassionate leave for parts of a record-breaking campaign for Guardiola's team so he could return to Spain to be with his partner following the premature birth of their son, Mateo. It gave a rare insight into the private life of a man who rarely does interviews.

Silva missed key games as Guardiola underscored a "family comes first" mantra and told his players before one game: "You have to win for David Silva and his girlfriend. ... If you go out there and we suffer, then suffer for him. Is that clear?"

So, how will it all end for the 34-year-old Silva at City? Sometime, when the pandemic has passed, he will return to the Etihad to have a proper send-off in front of the fans in a testimonial. A statue of Silva may be built, or a training ground named after him like with Yaya Toure. **AP**

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu



THE LEYTON ORIENT

2020-08-16|Sun|16:10

PPETER Leyshan's sand runner **Destney** (pictured) should prove himself a capable winner this Sunday in The Leyton Orient Class 3&4 1350 Metres sand race. **Destney** is an 8 year old but he is a proven consistent sand horse; his last three races were ran progressively from 5th, 3rd and 2nd. Looking at his barrier draws all of them were high number gates in 9, 10 and 12. This time he drawn barrier 8 with the in form F. Henrique above and carrying only 122 lbs, run on these conditions he should get a comfortable run in the race and get himself into a good firing position near the finish and goes on on better than his last race. There are 3 horses that can give **Destney** a good challenge at the straight, however with the weight factor **Destney** should be on top of these three. These three you should put them into your mix if you play exotics, these are **Hostwin Euphoria**, **Powerful Conqueror** and one of the top weight **Striking Brahma**.

MJC Meeting Race 1 Horse no. 8 Destney Win/Place, put Horse no. 6 Hostwin Euphoria, 7 Powerful Conqueror and 3 Striking Brahma into your mix



OPINION

Editorial

Paulo Coutinho



SOFT CAUSES

For the first time in the history of Hong Kong, a newsroom was raided and searched by the police.

The headquarters of Next Digital media group, which operates the pro-democracy Apple Daily tabloid, was raided last Monday by hundreds of officers, stoking fears that freedom of the press would be curtailed in Hong Kong.

The action followed the arrest of the newspaper owner and founder at his home, earlier the same day.

Jimmy Lai, 71, has long been a harsh critic of China's ruling Communist Party and he is already facing trial on charges of participating in illegal assemblies going back to the banned June 4 vigil.

It is not totally surprising that the outspoken media magnate would be the highest-profile detainee under the new national security law (NSL) that took effect in Hong Kong on June 30, on the grounds of "colluding with a foreign power or entity."

What was surprising - even for a man that has 'seen it all,' like the founder of Apple Daily - was the swift action of the newly-established national security agency, run by China: "I thought authorities would keep a low profile" because of the strong condemnation of the law in the international community."

After 36 hours in custody, he was released on bail without charge.

But the image of over a hundred policemen entering and searching a newsroom, in a disproportionate show of force, arresting executives in the process, was a chilling sight for many, journalists in particular, on both sides of the Delta - and beyond.

This week, the topics of national security and freedom of the press were addressed by opposing parties in Macau.

On his way to a crucial trip to Beijing on Wednesday, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng said that it is not a requirement to copy the HKSAR when revising our existing legislation. Commenting on the specific case of Apple Daily in Hong Kong, he said he would not rule out the possibility of police conducting inspections on media outlets with a warrant from a court of law.

At the same time, human rights activist Jason Chao came out in public with a worrisome warning to the Macau press, notably to the local English and Portuguese media.

Speaking during an online press conference on human rights, Chao said it was "very likely the Macau authorities or the Chinese authorities will tighten their grip on the media outlets in Macau."

As reported yesterday by Macau Daily Times, the activist used the analogy of the "boiling frog" to describe the situation facing the English and Portuguese-language press.

"Right now, you are relatively free to report whatever you want, but sooner or later I am concerned that they will look for a chance to take away this freedom from you," Chao said. The rationale is that, according to information privy to him, the Chinese government was "not happy" about the way those media outlets reported on the civil unrest in neighboring Hong Kong last year.

On this occasion, Jason Chao also hinted at a strategic change in the pro-democrat course of action, focusing on what he described as "soft rights" vis a vis "hard rights," the latter meaning political reform, democracy, personal freedoms.

Realpolitik is the name of the game here.

CHINA EXTENDS ANTI-DUMPING TARIFFS ON INDIAN OPTICAL FIBER

China's Commerce Ministry said yesterday it has extended punitive tariffs on Indian optical fiber products for five years.

The announcement follows a yearlong review after a previous tariff expired in 2019. It takes effect today.

It is unclear if the move is in any way related to a recent bout of antagonisms between the Asian giants linked to a border clash in which 20 Indian



soldiers died.

The tariffs on single-mode optical fiber range from 7.4% to 30.6% and were first imposed in August 2014.

Optical fiber is used in telecommunications networks.

Earlier this month, India kept in place tariffs on Chinese-made solar power products that were imposed to protect its own manufacturers.

PACIFIC WAR'S END MEANT YEARS OF PAIN FOR JAPANESE GIRL IN CHINA

AP PHOTO



Fumie Sato poses for picture in her backyard Saturday, at her home in Yokohama, Japan

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

THE last day of the Pacific War was also supposed to be Fumie Sato's last.

After hearing Emperor Hirohito's Aug. 15, 1945, radio broadcast declaring Japan would soon be "enduring the unendurable" in defeat, her father, an Imperial Army officer in Manchuria, announced his family would die by suicide together because the Soviets would soon invade their neighborhood.

She was 13.

Now 88, as the 75th anniversary of the Pacific War's end approaches, Sato told her story publicly for the first time to The Associated Press. Not even her children had heard it until she recently showed them a letter detailing her ordeal in Manchuria. Sato is the mother of AP journalist Kii-chiro Sato.

Somehow, when she learned that she was to die, she remained calm, even as she watched her father help bury the neighboring family in their yard after they killed themselves.

"There was nothing I could do. I just had to brace myself for it," Sato said.

But later, when her fa-

ther returned from an army meeting, he carried an order that his family must return to Japan alive.

For two years they waited for evacuation, living in constant fear of being attacked by the Russians now in Manchuria. Captured at one point by the Soviets, her father was about to be sent to Siberia when Chinese friends rescued him.

Fearing attack by Russians, older girls shaved their heads so that they looked more like boys

Her family lived on meager earnings from selling fermented beans that they grew in a shelter and selling tobacco made from leaves they bought from Chinese growers. Fearing attack by Russians, older girls shaved their heads so that they looked more like boys.

Sato's father got sick and died and never made it home.

In 1948, they were finally allowed to evacuate. Her mother and other siblings went ahead. Sato stayed with a younger sister, Tomiko, who was ill, and they were to take a later train meant for the sick and their caregivers.

But before they could leave, her sister died. Sato was told she couldn't get on the train alone, but she was saved because there happened to be a solo patient who agreed to travel with Sato.

"If that person wasn't there, I would have been an orphan and never would have returned to Japan," Sato said. "Fate was on my side. I was lucky."

She hugged a box containing the ashes of her sister to her chest as she traveled to Nagasaki, where she was reunited with the rest of her family at her uncle's home.

Sato declined her uncle's offer to pay for her high school, and instead got a job to help him.

Sato came forward with her story because at 88, she wants her children to know the suffering she went through after the war.

"I'm already old, I could die any day. I thought it would be sad if my children didn't know anything about their mother's childhood memories," she said.

Former classmates from her school days in Manchuria invited her to join a trip there, but she declined.

"I only want to remember happy memories," Sato said. AP

AP PHOTO



New Zealand's first known community outbreak in more than three months grew to 17 cases on Thursday and is expected to increase. Health officials are still working to trace where the virus came from, and a lockdown imposed in Auckland could be extended well beyond an initial three days. Before the cluster was detected this week, no case of local transmission had been reported in New Zealand in 102 days. All of its other cases were travelers quarantined after arriving from abroad.

South Korea reported 56 new cases of the coronavirus as new infection clusters continue to pop up across major cities. Forty-three of the new cases were reported in the Seoul area, while two came from Busan, the country's second-largest city where infections have been reported at schools and among foreign cargo ship workers.

Bhutan The Himalayan kingdom has imposed its first nationwide lockdown due to a virus infection in a returning traveler who had been released from quarantine. The government issued a stay-at-home order for its approximately 750,000 people, and all schools, offices and commercial establishments were closed. It said the lockdown would be enforced from five to 21 days "to identify and isolate all positive cases, immediately breaking the chain of transmission."

AP PHOTO



UK Researchers at Imperial College estimate that 6% of England's population — or 3.4 million people — have been infected by COVID-19, a figure far higher than previous findings. The estimate is based on a study of 100,000 randomly selected volunteers who used home finger-prick tests to find antibodies for the virus that causes COVID-19.