

THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY APPROVED AN AMENDMENT OF THE JUDICIARY POLICE BILL WHICH OUTLINES RESPONSIBILITIES, POWERS AND PENALTIES FOR AGENTS

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THE PRIVATE KIANG WU HOSPITAL WILL BE A NEW COVID-19 TEST LOCATION STARTING NEXT MONDAY

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Chinese and U.S. trade envoys will hold a meeting by phone "in the near future" to discuss an agreement aimed at resolving a tariff war, a Commerce Ministry spokesman said yesterday. The spokesman, Gao Feng, gave no details of the timing at a ministry news briefing. Under the "Phase 1" trade agreement signed in January, both governments agreed to suspend potential additional penalties on each other's goods.



India counted another record high of new coronavirus infections as it ramped up testing to more than 900,000 a day. The 69,652 new cases pushed India's total past 2.8 million, of which 2 million have recovered, the Health Ministry said. The country also recorded 977 coronavirus fatalities in the past 24 hours, raising total deaths to 53,866, the ministry said.

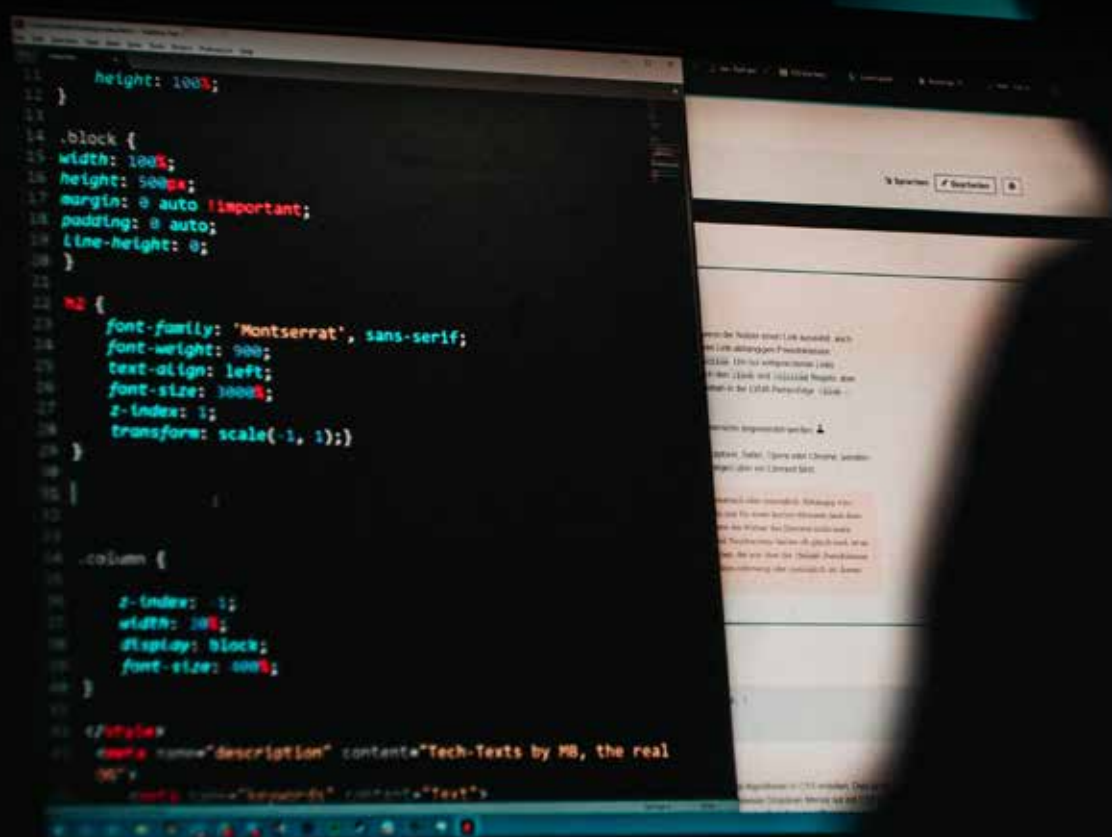
South Korea reported 288 new cases, its third straight day over 200, as health authorities scramble to slow an outbreak in Seoul. As of noon yesterday, 676 cases have been linked to a huge northern Seoul church led by a conservative activist. Sarang Jeil Church's pastor, Jun Kwang-hun (pictured), marched in downtown Seoul over the weekend, shared a microphone with other protesters and was later hospitalized after testing positive.

Australia Health officials in hot spot state said the daily new COVID-19 tally would have to be substantially lower before authorities would consider easing the lockdown in Melbourne. "I won't give you a figure, but single digits or even low double digits," the State of Victoria Deputy Chief Health Officer Allen Cheng said.

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SECRETARY WONG DEFENDS 'SPECIAL MISSIONS' PHRASE AS PJ BILL APPROVED

JULIE ZHU

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday approved an amendment of the Judiciary Police (PJ) Bill, Law No. 5/2006, which outlines responsibilities, powers and penalties for police officers from this branch of law enforcement.

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, together with other high-ranking officials from the security forces, brought the revised bill to the AL for a final reading. The latest version of the law includes four new provisions.

One of the new articles entitles the PJ to use seized items. The items must be designated as belonging to the Macau SAR and they must be useful for the bureau's actions.

The law also added 10 types of extreme violation of discipline which are subject to mandatory retirement or suspension. These behaviors include insulting detainees, not offering help when it should be rendered, consuming drugs, drink-

-driving – which poses severe threats to society and to work duties – and more. These behaviors can be made subject to a disciplinary procedure within 10 years.

According to the new law, the Chief Executive has the right to exempt some specific PJ officers from revealing their identity, for example those on “special missions”.

Some lawmakers expressed that the local government had hitherto been transparent in terms of police officers' identity in the past, however were concerned about the use of the phrase “special mission.” Lawmaker Sulu Sou said the term was ambiguous and should be better defined.

Wong disagreed that the term was ambiguous, adding that the amendment had been the fruit of enormous discussion among AL legal advisors and the government. Once again, the secretary rebutted criticism

of the bill by explaining that protection for such officers was standard practice and is implemented in many countries in the world, including in the West.

Secretary Wong Sio Chak said the amendment had been the fruit of enormous discussion among AL legal advisors and the gov't

As for other safeguards, the Secretary explained to the AL plenary that officers whose identity is not revealed to the public must still inform those being confronted face-to-face during a PJ investigation that he or she is a police officer. This would include when searching a person's body or when taking action with a warrant. When a police officer requests assistance from a person for an investi-

gation, the officer is already “enforcing the law and must reveal [his or her] identity.”

However, when the police officers are still undergoing the process of any action which does not require face-to-face confrontation, the concerned individuals do not need to reveal their identity.

“If there are any suspects, any disagreement or any violation, the public can also report the case. The report mechanism remains the same as what exists now,” said the Secretary.

Some lawmakers expressed that Macau is a small place and even if the government conceals the identity, these officers' identities will be known easily.

Wong believes that although Macau is a small place and people's identity is easily confirmed, from the perspective of the law, the officers must be protected. As for the practical difficulties, Wong did not elaborate.

LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

E-VOUCHER 2021: Lawmaker Zheng Anting has proposed that the government continue issuing e-vouchers in 2021. Zheng said that many local residents are not optimistic about the health of next year's economy. Therefore, extending the e-voucher scheme to 2021 will help boost Macau's domestic consumption. In his opinion, even though mainland China has already resumed issuing tourism visas, the Covid-19 situation in Macau's neighboring regions is discouraging visitors from traveling to Macau. Zheng expects Macau's economy to take some time to recover. He also believes that Macau should expedite the development of further infrastructure projects to create more jobs, reduce the unemployment rate, and in turn promote the future of the energy, transport, telecommunication, and infrastructure-related industries. In addition, Zheng urged the government to seize opportunities to work with Guangdong, especially Hengqin, as a means of diversifying Macau's economy.

TOURISM CIRCUIT-BREAKER: Lawmaker Chui Sai Peng is worried about the negative impact to Macau in case mainland China triggers its circuit-breaker mechanism. Mainland China is prepared to suspend the issuing of tourism visas at any moment should both Macau and mainland China's Covid-19 situation worsen. The preparation for this suspension is called the circuit-breaker. Chui hopes that Macau will not suspend mainland visitors from visiting the territory simply because one individual is a confirmed Covid-19 case. A full circuit-breaker has an extreme impact on Macau. Chui recommends the local government to closely monitor the goods trade to avoid any possible Covid-19 virus transmission during their circulation in Macau's market. Chui believes that the “safe and low case rate” in Macau is attractive to mainland visitors. Similar to Chui, lawmakers Ma Chi Seng and Davis Fong urged Macau to keep up the good work in combating Covid-19.

SPARE LAND: Lawmakers Chan Hong and Agnes Lam have voiced their opinions on Macau's spare land. Chan hopes that the Macau government can use more recovered land to build leisure and recreational spaces for the public instead of public housing. Recently, the government announced that it will build a 19,000 square meter leisure and activities park. The project will be the first in Macau to use waste elements, such as vehicle tires, by giving them a new life in an eco-friendly manner. Lam asked the government to answer the question: “[...] what measures and technologies will the local government use to make sure that the waste will not harm human health?” Citing other opinions, Lam wondered whether it is possible for the government to consider using part of the land plot to build parking lots, green zones, or other facilities.

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Portuguese School IT system hacked for ransom

RENATO MARQUES

THE Internet-based school management system of the Macau Portuguese School (EPM) has been the target of a cyberattack by an undisclosed group attempting to extort money from the institution in exchange for regaining access to the system, the Times has learned from various sources. At stake is possibly the personal data of the students, parents and staff.

Hoje Macau first reported that, according to information provided by the school to parents in a meeting last month, the cyberattack occurred in April but a formal complaint was only filed with the Judiciary Police (PJ) last week.

To the Times, the PJ confirmed it had received the complaint

from the school institution, advancing that the hijacking of the software system was intended to obtain an undisclosed amount of money as a ransom.

The PJ noted that, as the case is now under investigation, it is not able to reveal any more details that might jeopardize the investigation.

The Times also reached out to the president of the Association for Macanese Education (APIM), Miguel Senna Fernandes, for a comment on the case. Senna Fernandes said that APIM, one of the major shareholders of the Portuguese School Foundation, is not aware of the amount requested by the hackers.

"We know nothing about the amount [requested], because we have not been contacted for such

a purpose," Senna Fernandes said. "As far as I know, there was no [specific] amount [requested], for the time being."

He stated that the case is in the hands of the PJ, which will investigate it and reach a conclusion.

When asked for a comment on a suggestion to the Times that the group had requested that the ransom be paid using cryptocurrency, Senna Fernandes said, "it would not be surprising, as we are talking about a purely digital context. But I'm not sure."

According to the report of Hoje Macau, the parents were surprised to be informed so late in the process, almost three months after the hacking was known.

Commenting on the case, the president of the Parents Association of the Macau Portuguese

School, Filipe Regêncio Figueiredo, hinted that the school board of directors has failed to take timely action on the case, adding that the information provided to the parents meeting held on July 16 was not accurate, as at the time the principal Manuel Machado, representing the board, informed that all stakeholders had been informed of the occurrence.

For Figueiredo, the institution failed in reporting the hacking of the system by only reporting it to the PJ and the School Foundation, saying that the school board should have taken further steps to protect the interests of the school community by extending the report of this case to the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau as well as to the Office for Personal Data Protection and the Cybersecurity

Commission.

On the topic, Hoje Macau also cited Machado saying that in consequence of the attack no data from the system had been transferred or lost.

"There was no copy nor data detour. This is very important. The data is all in our possession, it just cannot be used [as it is encrypted]," Machado explained.

The school management system is netGIAE, an online platform that can be operated via Intranet or Internet by users of the system.

It is used by students, teaching staff, and non-teaching staff. Access to some parts of the system can also be granted to parents or guardians.

The system can be used for several purposes, including registration, information, and registration of students' results, as well as attendance reports.

Among the data that the school board said had been encrypted are school reports as well as names, photos, and personal data of both the students and their parents or guardians.

Criminal cases fall by one-third in first half of 2020

COMPARED with the first half of 2019, the same period this year has seen about 32% fewer criminal cases received by the police, the Office of the Secretary for Security announced yesterday.

The fall makes the count of criminal cases during the period this year 4,691.

A stable and satisfactory security condition is perceived to exist by the office, despite the Covid-19 pandemic presenting potential turbulence to society.

The police have also detected a change in the fashion in which scams and drug-dealing have

been committed, although the authorities have recorded a falling inclination in the latter type of crimes.

A supporting fact is that the number of drug cases during the period nearly halved compared with the same period last year. The police saw trafficking by water on the rise due to stricter border controls during the pandemic.

On the other hand, there were two murder cases. The police pointed out that despite both being cracked down upon swiftly, the social problems underlying

those cases were worrying.

The authorities are reminding people to be vigilant, whether outside or at home.

The city saw an overall fall in sex-related crimes, but sexual abuse against children has risen in incidence. Education is the key to improving the situation, the police noted.

The secretary did not offer comments on the assessment of casino-related crimes in the first half of 2020 because it saw it as unrepresentative due to a near absence of incoming visitors and quiet casino activity. **AL**

AL APPROVES SCHOOL FRAMEWORK BILL TO TAKE EFFECT NEXT YEAR

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday approved a revision to the private non-tertiary education private school framework bill, which will enter into force next year.

According to the amendment, a private school operator is subject to a fine of between 500,000 patacas and one million patacas fine should they enroll students without having a license.

The school should have a board consisting of seven people, which must include the school rector, a teacher, and a

representative of the parents. The first board must have four members in addition to the school principal. More than half of the board members must be Macau residents.

Previously, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) said that in the event that a private school is closed, the DSEJ will be able to help students affected by the closure.

The DSEJ will be able to place any students affected by the closure of a private school into a public school. **JZ**



BASKETBALL

MACAU MULLED AS MAJOR VENUE FOR EAST ASIA SUPER LEAGUE

RENATO MARQUES

DEBUTING next year, the East Asia Super League (EASL) is eyeing Macau as one of the stops on its Asian tour, the organizers have revealed to the Times, with the possibility of it becoming a major venue of the tournament now a serious consideration.

"We are currently in the process of planning our Season 1, including the 'group stage' and Final Four," a spokesperson at EASL said, adding, "Given our great history so far with 'The Terrific 12' in Macau, we strongly desire to have many Macau elements in Season 1."

To make that possible, the organizers said that they are currently

in discussions with the government as well as several private business stakeholders regarding their plans to bring the League to Macau in 2021.

The League's Season 1 has been announced for October 2021 with a group stage, culminating with a "Final Four" stage taking place by February 2022.

Given the possibilities open to organizers, Macau could become one of the host cities of the League, by either hosting matches from the group stage, where it could be used as a "home" side of one of the participating teams coming from the Chinese Basketball Association (CBA) or, have a highlighted role in the Final Four, which would determine the champion, runner-

up and third-place finisher.

Questioned by the Times as to whether, in such a case, the event would be held in a public venue or at an integrated resort, the same spokesperson said that had not been decided.

"We are open to both collaboration with one of the integrated resorts or staging our events in the government-owned facilities. For EASL, it's important that we provide fans with the best experience in person and on broadcast."

EASL recalled that the previous events organized in Macau made use of the facilities in Studio City, the Macau Dome and Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion, noting, "we are familiar with the various venues in Macau, and we're con-

fidant we'll be able to execute a great event product at any of them."

The first season of EASL will include the participation of eight of the best professional teams in East Asia and the Philippines, in a home-and-away group stage from which the best four teams will proceed to the Final Four stage. In an announcement made yesterday by EASL, it was also said that the League is aiming to double the number of participating teams for the second season (2022/2023), when the number of teams in the group stage will be 16.

Participants will include top teams from the Greater China region, Japan, Korea, and the Philippines.

AGREEMENT WITH FIBA TO BOOST REPUTATION

Also announced yesterday was a 10-year agreement between EASL and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), which aims to elevate the reputation of the League as well as develop club basketball in the region. The agreement establishes that the League will take place one month after the annual FIBA Asia Champions Cup, the most important club competition in Asia, which takes place annually in September.

On the agreement, FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis said, "the recognition of the East Asia Super League is based on a shown commitment to developing basketball in the region, and is in line with FIBA's club competition strategy, that is, to shape international club competitions."

Regarding this opportunity, FIBA's Executive Director for Asia, Hagop Khajirian, noted that over the past few years, EASL has demonstrated "the operational capability to organize high-level competitions for top clubs, and a strong commitment to elevating the sport of basketball in East Asia under the FIBA regulatory framework for leagues."

EASL's CEO Matt Beyer expressed great satisfaction about receiving FIBA's support in the launching of the Asian League. "We are confident it will become one of the top professional basketball competitions in the world by 2025," said Beyer.

Beyer also added that EASL is looking forward to furthering FIBA's vision to strengthen domestic clubs and league competition in East Asia, which will contribute to FIBA's global club championship ambitions.

Urban planner sees co-existence of new park, old factory possible

THE old factory buildings that are only taking up one-sixth of the proposed new leisure area in Taipa shall not cause much conflict in terms of the overall design, Lam Iek Chit, urban planner and member of the Cultural Heritage Committee, has told local Chinese media outlet All About Macau.

The Macau government recently announced its plan to build a new leisure area near Nova City in Taipa, incorporating used car tires in the design. The land plot is home to five old cotton mills. The government did not announce whether the factories would be conserved.

The old factory buildings were owned by the Macau

Textile Company Limited and were in operation between 1968 and 1971. The total floor area amounts to 6,300 square meters, making it the largest textile factory in Macau when it opened.

According to Lam, the special significance of the factory buildings is that they were built and opened when Taipa was still full of agriculture and fisheries.

The urban planner suggested reviving the empty factory buildings, which would highlight the theme of the park – conservation and environmental friendliness – while enriching the culture of the district. He cited the Overseas Chinese City in Shenzhen,

the Huashan 1914 Creative Park in Taipei and The Mills in Hong Kong, which have all been converted to cultural facilities from old factories, as examples.

In terms of architectural design, the buildings have zig-zag roofs with windows facing northeast, letting in sufficient sunlight in the morning.

Conserving the buildings would not cost the government as much money as those in the old Taipa town as the former is a concrete structure. In addition, preserving elements that resemble an industry that has supported thousands of local families is also worthwhile, Lam said. **AL**

AIRPORT LAUNCHES DESIGN PHASE FOR SECOND TERMINAL

THE kick-off meeting for the design phase of Terminal 2 and the heliport of the Macau International Airport (MIA) was held on Tuesday, the Macau International Airport Company Limited (CAM) announced. The company sees it as a milestone for the Pac On project.

The government has previously unveiled plans to convert part of the Taipa Ferry Terminal into a facility that would handle airport passengers, considering the two buildings' proximity.

The expected capacity of the second terminal of the MIA is 2 million passengers per year, with a total floor area of 56,000 square meters and a dedicated roadway of 660 meters connecting it to the airport tarmac.

The airport's expansion was deemed necessary as it was designed to handle 7.8 million passengers per year, but saw 9.6 million passengers in 2019. Using part of the Ferry Terminal to solve the congestion could save both time and money.

This design project is divided into two stages, which are preliminary design and detailed design, and is expected to be completed at the end of this year.

The Pac On Terminal Preparation Office is going to conduct research on selecting suitable airlines to operate at Terminal 2, and also trying to introduce intelligent airport equipment and systems to enhance the passenger travel experience. **AL**



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CINEMATHEQUE PASSION TO REOPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SEPTEMBER 1

Having been closed for maintenance and renovations since July, the Cinematheque Passion is now almost ready to reopen to the public. After the arthouse's contract with the former operator ceased last month, the Cinematheque, under the auspices of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), underwent renovations of its façades, interior walls, stairs and drainage pipes, as well as maintenance and repair of the internal equipment. A comprehensive cleaning and disinfection operation was also carried out on the facility. The Cinematheque will reopen to the public from September 1, according to the IC. When it reopens, all visitors will be required to wear face masks, undergo body temperature checks, present their health code and cooperate with the staff on site regarding any health or social distancing instructions.

SERVICED OFFICES BECOMING MORE POPULAR

Owners of local serviced offices have told Macao Daily News that the popularity of, and familiarity with, the facilities is growing. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, many businesses are turning to serviced offices in the hopes of cutting operational costs. Such offices are more popular with new entrepreneurs, but they have differing concerns. For example, an educator expressed a preference for commercial premises to industrial buildings because the first impression made upon clients is important. Another entrepreneur in the creative industry is considering to move into a serviced office due to lower rental and value-added services such as legal advice and proposal consultation. Some other entrepreneurs told the newspaper that if rents at serviced offices become too high, they may choose to move out.

CONSUMER PRICES GROWTH SLOWS IN JULY

The growth in consumer prices slowed considerably in July, according to the latest data provided by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased by 0.27% year-on-year in July to 102.14, corresponding to 0.67 fewer percentage points than the year-on-year growth in June (+0.94%). Still, DSEC attributed the growth to the higher cost of eating out, outpatient services, and hairdressing and beauty services. The Composite CPI reflects the impact of price changes on general households in Macau. Among the various categories of goods and services, price indexes of health and education went up by 5.49% and 5.17% respectively year-on-year in July, whereas the index for communication fell 11.39% year-on-year and that of recreation and culture fell 10.65%. For the 12 months ending July 2020, the average Composite CPI rose by 2.19% from the previous period (August 2018 to July 2019).

KIANG WU WILL CONDUCT COVID-19 TESTS FROM MONDAY

ANTHONY LAM

Kiang Wu Hospital will be a new Covid-19 test location starting next Monday, with reservations being taken from now, Dr Lo Iek Long from the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center officially announced yesterday.

Bookings shall be conducted on the platform run by the Center. The medical doctor explained that bookings made for next Monday or after shall come with the option of the Kiang Wu Hospital as part of the test locations.

Results of tests taken at the private hospital will appear on the user's health code, meaning that the results are identical to those obtained from the government in terms of eligibility for border crossings and casino entry.

In the first phase, the private hospital has a test capacity of 1,000 per day. Specimens shall be collected by nasal-pharyngeal swab at the private medical facility.

After negotiations, Lo unveiled the private hospital has agreed to charge 120 patacas for each test, identical to government-operated or commissioned test locations.

Asked whether the government is subsidizing the private hospital's operation as a test location, the medical doctor said, "the government is not offering any subsidy to the hospital in terms of the test."

He disclosed that the University Hospital of the Macau University of Science and Technology has also filed an application to enlist as a test location.

For a private medical facility

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



A temporary medical site installed next to an entrance to Kiang Wu Hospital

to be approved as a testing facility, several criteria should be met. "We do inspect the facilities' environment, equipment and technical standards," Lo disclosed. "But I'm not planning to disclose the technical standards here because they are too technical and don't make much sense to the general public."

He also disclosed that if a vaccine becomes available, certain groups of people should be prioritized, such as frontline medical staff.

"I expect in the early stage of vaccine availability, there won't be enough supply for all," the medical doctor foresaw. "Scientifically, frontline medical staff [are] prone to the risk. In addition, chronic patients and the elderly are also more [at-risk]

than other groups."

With regards to the opening of the new school year, although no official from the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau was present at the press briefing, Dr Leong Iek Hou from the Center tried to explain, in terms of epidemiology, that the new school year should be able to commence similarly to previous years.

For certain schools the summer holiday started slightly later than usual because they attempted to make up for the school suspension during the peak of Covid-19 outbreak in Macau. Schools were closed for nearly three months.

Before summer, schools were allowed to reopen as conditions stabilized in both Macau and on the mainland. Many students

live on the mainland but go to school in Macau.

Given that schools reopened during May and June and the conditions in Macau are not much different from the conditions during those two months, Leong is confident that the new school year should be able to start as usual.

When questioned as to what date the new school year should start, the medical doctor noted she was not in the position to make that reply. Usually, the school year starts in early September.

The Health Bureau and the education regulator are in communication with regards to health measures encouraged as schools start the new school year.

SMG improves typhoon readiness through regional cooperation

STAFF REPORTER

The Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) has been working closely with the weather bureaus of Beijing, Guangdong and Hong Kong to streamline weather forecasting and allow citizens to receive uniform information, according to information shared with the Times.

The bureau said that regional cooperation is

"designed to strengthen the capacity to respond to emergencies and determine work procedures, review and improve deficiencies, and formulate improvement plans."

Its work to improve "the weather information distribution channel" will help to avoid confusion, especially for travelers between the regions, the SMG said.

To determine typhoon

Higos' path in Macau, the SMG expanded their map to cover other potential areas that the tropical storm may appear in. The optimized map has been more accurate in reflecting the uncertainty of the trajectory predictions.

The Meteorological Monitoring Center, a department at the SMG, has been improving the efficiency of day-to-day monitoring operations, which includes the dis-

tribution of typhoon work and consultation mechanisms prior to an incoming storm.

Using this approach, the SMG has been able to give more advance notice of signal changes during these extreme weather events. By raising awareness of weather information, the weather bureau believes that citizens will be better equipped to take the appropriate measures to stay safe.

The SMG has also improved their information distribution channels such as the SMG website and the mobile app. The bureau is now employing social media channels such as WeChat and Telegram to disseminate information. "This way, the population can receive weather forecasts in time and also through several information channels."

The SMG was criticized in 2017 for its slow response to typhoon Hato. Since then, the bureau has worked with other government entities to improve its typhoon preparedness and response ability.

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong government yesterday condemned the U.S. decision to suspend extradition and tax exemption treaties with the semi-autonomous Chinese city, saying it was being used as a pawn in geopolitics.

On Wednesday, the U.S. suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong, becoming the latest country to do so after Canada, Australia and Britain suspended such agreements. The U.S. also suspended an agreement with Hong Kong on reciprocal tax exemptions on income derived from the international operation of ships.

"The U.S.' unilateral decision reflects its disrespect for bilateralism and multilateralism under the current administration and should be condemned by the international community," the territory's government said in a statement.

The government "strongly objects to and deplores the U.S.' action, which is widely seen as a move to create troubles in China-U.S. relationship, using Hong Kong as a pawn," it said.

The government said that bilateral agreements were not preferential treatment given to Hong Kong, but were negotiated in good

faith to benefit both parties.

Hong Kong has faced mounting international pressure following Beijing's implementation of a national security law which has been viewed as an attack on the "one country, two systems" framework under which the city has been governed since its return to China in 1997.

China's foreign ministry said Hong Kong will also suspend its extradition agreement with the U.S. in response.

"I want to emphasize again

that Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs and no one should interfere," said ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian, who urged the U.S. to "stop meddling in Hong Kong affairs."

Since July 1997, Hong Kong has surrendered 69 fugitives to the U.S., with the U.S. extraditing 23 people to Hong Kong, according to official data.

Jeffrey Bader, a former U.S. diplomat, said the actions taken so far are unlikely to dissuade China.

"Hong Kong is an issue that's

going to be with us for quite some time, and in a frustrating way," he said.

"It's part of China and things that are internal to China, even if they have an international dimension, like Hong Kong and Xinjiang, the Chinese have a demonstrated disdain for outside opinion and are inflexible in reaction to it."

Separately yesterday, lawmakers from Hong Kong's largest pro-democracy party, the Democratic Party, said they planned to hold a poll and debate to deter-

mine whether they will continue serving in the legislature another year, following an election postponement attributed to the coronavirus outbreak.

Opinions within the pro-democracy camp differ on whether lawmakers should boycott the extension of their terms or stay to have a voice in the legislature. Lawmakers in favor of boycotting say staying sets a precedent to delay elections.

"The public opinion is still very divided, we want the solidarity of the people," James To, a member of the Democratic Party, said at a news conference. "We would prepare at least one debate in order ... to have a comprehensive range of arguments and points so that the whole society can decide."

The elections were to be held in September but city officials postponed them for a year. Critics say they feared the governing pro-Beijing party would lose seats if they were held on time. **AP**

AP PHOTO



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RUSSIA

Opposition leader Navalny in coma after alleged poisoning

DARIA LITVINOVA,
MOSCOW

RUSSIAN opposition politician Alexei Navalny is in a coma and on a ventilator in a hospital intensive care unit after falling ill from suspected poisoning that his allies believe is linked to his political activity.

The 44-year-old foe of Russia's President Vladimir Putin felt unwell on a flight back to Moscow from Tomsk, a city in Siberia, and was taken to a hospital after the plane made an emergency landing in Omsk, Navalny's spokeswoman Kira Yarmysh said on Twitter.

She told the Echo Moskvy radio station he must have consumed something from tea he drank at an airport cafe before boarding the plane yesterday. During the flight, Navalny started sweating and asked her to talk to him so that he could "focus on a sound of a voice." He then went to the bathroom and lost consciousness.

"Looks like Putin is doing really badly — was handed some data on protest sentiment growing explosively — if he made the decision to poison Navalny," the politician's close ally Vladimir Milov said in a tweet.

Navalny is currently being treated at the Omsk ambulance hospital 1, he is in a coma in grave condition. Doctors at the hospital remain tight-lipped about his diagnosis. Anatoliy Kalinichenko, deputy chief doctor of the hospital, told reporters that Navalny was in grave, yet stable condition. Kalinichenko said doctors are considering a variety of diagnosis, including poisoning, but refused to give details, citing a law preventing doctors from disclosing confidential patient information.

State news agency Tass reported that police were not considering deliberate poisoning, citing an anonymous source in law enforcement who said "it is not unlikely that he

drank or consumed something yesterday himself."

Yarmysh on Twitter bristled at that suggestion: "Of course. It's just the tea was bad. This is what the state propaganda is going to do now — yell that there was no deliberate poisoning, he (did something) accidentally, he (did something) himself."

Navalny's doctor Yaroslav Ashikhmin told the independent Meduza outlet that he is trying to arrange his transfer to a clinic in Hanover or Strasbourg, saying that medics in Europe not only can offer better treatment, but also figure out which toxin Navalny was poisoned with.

Last year, Navalny was rushed to a hospital from prison where he was serving a sentence following an administrative arrest, with what his team said was suspected poisoning. Doctors then said he had a severe allergic attack and discharged him back to prison the following day.

Navalny's Foundation for Fighting Corruption has been exposing graft among government officials, including some at the highest level. Last month, he had to shut the foundation after a finan-

cially devastating lawsuit from Yevgeny Prigozhin, a businessman with close ties to the Kremlin.

Belarus' authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko accused Navalny last week of organizing unprecedented mass protests against his re-election that have rocked Russia's ex-Soviet neighbor since Aug. 9. He did not, however, provide any evidence and that claim was one of many blaming foreign forces for the unrest.

Like many other opposition politicians in Russia, Navalny has been frequently detained by law enforcement and harassed by pro-Kremlin groups. In 2017, he was attacked by several men who threw antiseptic in his face, damaging one eye.

The most prominent member of Russia's opposition, Navalny campaigned to challenge Putin in the 2018 presidential election, but was barred from running.

He set up a network of campaign offices across Russia and has since been putting forward opposition candidates in regional elections, challenging members of Russia's ruling party, United Russia. One of his as-

sociates in Khabarovsk, a city in Russia's Far East that has been engulfed in mass protests against the arrest of the region's governor, was detained just last week after calling for a strike at a rally.

In the interview with Echo Moskvy, Yarmysh said she believed the suspected poisoning was connected to this year's regional election campaign.

Vyacheslav Gimadi, a lawyer with Navalny's foundation, said the team is requesting Russia's Investigative Committee open a criminal probe. "There is no doubt that Navalny was poisoned because of his political stance and activity," Gimadi said in a tweet yesterday.

Navalny is not the first opposition figure to come down with a mysterious poisoning. In 2018, Pyotr Verzilov, a member of Russia's protest group Pussy Riot, ended up in an intensive care unit after a suspected poisoning and had to be flown to Berlin for treatment. Opposition activist Vladimir Kara-Murza was hospitalized with poisoning symptoms twice — in 2015 and 2017. Both said they believed they were poisoned for their political activity. AP

this day in history

1968 RUSSIA BRINGS WINTER TO 'PRAGUE SPRING'



Dozens of people have been killed in a massive military clampdown in Czechoslovakia by five Warsaw Pact countries.

Several members of the liberal Czechoslovak leadership have been arrested, including Prime Minister Alexander Dubcek.

The Soviet news agency, Tass, claims "assistance" was requested by members of the Czechoslovak Government and Communist party leaders to fight "counter-revolutionary forces".

But in a secret radio address, Czechoslovak President Ludvik Svoboda condemned the occupation by Warsaw Pact allies as illegal and committed without the government's consent.

US President Lyndon Johnson said the invasion was a clear violation of the United Nations Charter and that the excuses offered by the Soviet Union were "patently contrived".

"It is a sad commentary on the communist mind that a sign of liberty in Czechoslovakia is deemed a fundamental threat to the security of the Soviet system," he said.

The Czechoslovak authorities have ordered their vastly outnumbered army not to fight and are appealing to the public for restraint.

Czechoslovakia's abortive path to freedom began when Mr Dubcek, a Slovak, became Communist Party leader in January.

A programme of wide-ranging democratic reforms had been gathering pace in the face of Soviet disapproval and the rebirth of social and political freedom became known as the "Prague Spring".

In the capital of Prague today, crowds of people gathered in the streets chanting support for Mr Dubcek and imploring the foreign troops to go home.

Much of the resistance was centred around the Prague radio station. As the day progressed, Czechoslovak youths threw home-made missiles and even tried to take on Russian tanks.

Reports say some tanks and ammunition trucks were destroyed, but Soviet troops responded with machinegun and artillery fire and at least four people were shot dead.

In the Wenceslas and Old Town Squares, hundreds of youths made barricades out of overturned lorries to try and halt the advance.

Soviet and eastern block commanders have now imposed an overnight curfew and are threatening to shoot on sight anyone caught breaking it.

All rail, road and airline routes out of Czechoslovakia have been closed as troops continue to enter the country - now estimated to number nearly 175,000 men.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following the invasion, Mr Dubcek and others were banned from office and replaced with a famously repressive communist regime. All the reforms were annulled or abandoned.

The invasion drew condemnation from across the globe. Significantly many western communist parties and communist Yugoslavia and Rumania dissociated themselves from the USSR's actions.

As with Hungary in 1956, the West took no action. The Soviet defence minister is said to have recommended invading even if it meant third world war. Moreover, the US was in the middle of a presidential election campaign and entrenched in Vietnam.

The Communists were finally ousted on 24 November 1989 and Mr Dubcek made a triumphant return to Prague. He became chairman of the new post-Communist administration in what became known as the "Velvet Revolution".

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Instructions belong in a board game, not in your romantic relationship. It's important to do things your own way, and yes, that may include making your own mistakes.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You might be put on the spot today. Try to think first before you say something. It would be out of character for you to blurt out something, but it could be risky.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You definitely shouldn't set aside your happiness because you're afraid it might make them feel bad, though. They wouldn't want you to do it. Besides, it's a bad habit to get into.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Choose a type of communication that's out of the ordinary today. Not only will it get you noticed more quickly, but it will also help your message get across a lot more clearly.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Teamwork will play an important role in your success. Sure, it might not be the fastest way to get things done, but there's no denying that it will be the most pleasurable.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

There is plenty of room for a fair compromise between what you want and what someone else wants right now, so don't be too stubborn about getting your way.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

If you're in the middle of any business dealings, be extra careful today. You shouldn't have to worry about anyone's honesty or integrity, but you should be very mindful of details.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

It's also a prime day for people watching, so go outside and watch the world go by for a while. You could be immensely entertained by the normal behavior of normal people.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you're feeling overwhelmed now, you need to let some things go. These things could be hopes, work projects, relationships, or even goals. The fact is that you are only one person.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Getting more closely connected with the people you really value is easier than ever. Right now, everyone's schedules fit together, and everyone is on the same page.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It's time to bring out your secret weapon: your amazing conversational skills. If someone has you feeling flummoxed, why not talk to them about it? They aren't going to react any way but positively.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

They'll just be a bunch of headaches. Let things unfold on their natural timetable. It might be torture to do so, but you can get through it. Distract yourself with something fun. That always helps!

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

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

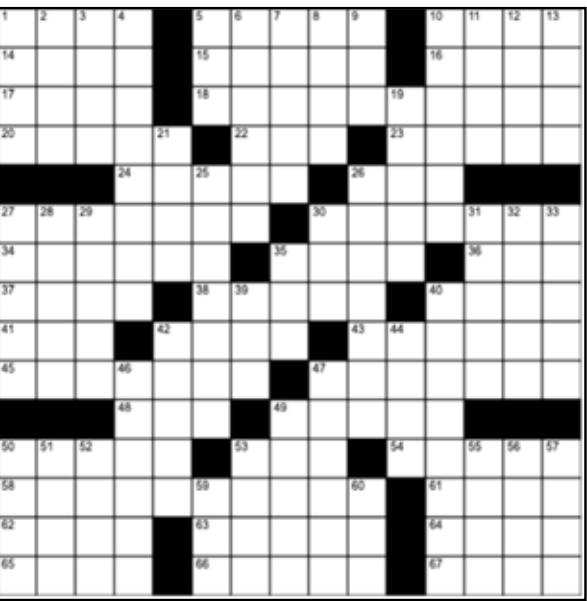
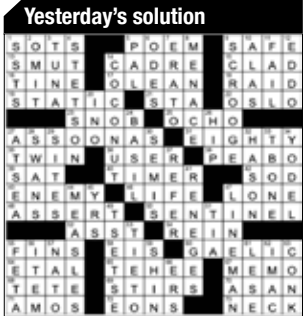
WORLD

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Moscow	13	25	clear
Frankfurt	13	24	clear
Paris	15	27	clear
London	15	21	clear
New York	25	30	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Organization to promote theater; 5- Long arm; 10- City in Western Nevada; 14- Go sour; 15- Lend ____; 16- Yoked pair; 17- Forever's partner; 18- Oil derived from the resin of pine trees; 20- Profundity; 22- ____ Tafari (Haile Selassie); 23- Sleek swimmer; 24- Wretched hut; 26- Caviar; 27- Occasionally; 30- Convent; 34- Breadwinner; 35- Deal (with); 36- Actress Thompson; 37- All-male; 38- To the left, at sea; 40- Ollie's partner; 41- Brit. lexicon; 42- Quick cut; 43- Unbolt; 45- Act as chairperson; 47- Sets straight; 48- One-million link; 49- El Greco's birthplace; 50- As a companion; 53- Fur scarf; 54- Sporting blades; 58- Meeting for consultation; 61- Daredevil Kniveel; 62- Ballerina's skirt; 63- Specimen of genus Aquila; 64- Hard to find; 65- Golden calf; e.g.; 66- Madame de ____; 67- Reason to cancel school;

DOWN: 1- Somewhat; 2- Unclothed; 3- Pitfall; 4- Any unnamed object; 5- Squeal (on); 6- Hardens; 7- Untamed; 8- Swimmer's regimen; 9- Poetic preposition; 10- Putrid; 11- Way out; 12- Hawaiian goose; 13- Doozy; 19- Peter of Herman's Hermits; 21- Household; 25- Porch; 26- Hernia; 27- Author of fables; 28- Spud; 29- Commerce; 30- Hide-hair link; 31- John of England; 32- Hit back, perhaps; 33- Jerks; 35- One with a beat; 39- Filled pastry crust; 40- Railway ties; 42- Scorch; 44- Evening, informally; 46- Wicked; 47- Delphic shrine; 49- Line dance; 50- Broadway opening; 51- Garish; 52- Fully aware of; 53- Exhausted; 55- Author Hunter; 56- Architect Saarinen; 57- Move sideways, killed; 59- Legal thing; 60- Sushi choice;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

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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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FOR SALE

Jade Garden- Spacious Family Home, Taipa
HK\$18,000,000 3,180 ft² 4 3 1

FOR RENT

Ocean Garden, Taipa- Sakura Court
\$35,000/mth 3,700 ft² 4 4 1

FOR SALE

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

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

[Macau] One Central 2 2 2
1,269 ft² \$11,800,000 (ref: 19070000)

[Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom 2 3 2
2,530 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096000)

FOR RENT

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

[Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 1 1
600 ft² \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)

[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1 1
710 ft² \$20,460/mth (ref: 20021002)

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

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Macau Labor Market Policies: the Peculiar Visible Hand

Speaker: Ms Helena Kok, Partner, MdME Lawyers

Introduction:

Labor policies, laws and regulations directly influence the well-being of our society. Macau's Labor Market has been experiencing tremendous challenges lately. Join us and hear from Ms. Helena Kok, an expert in labor law, who will share insights on the effectiveness of the visible hand in meeting expectations of all stakeholders.

Date: Wednesday, 26 August, 2020

Time: 9:00a.m. - 10:30a.m. (Reception: 8:45am)

Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16
Promenade Room, 6th floor

RSVP before 2p.m. on 24 August

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ROB HARRIS, LISBON

Monday, 3 am
PSG v Bayern
H 3.45, D 4.25, A 2.07

ODDSCHECKER.COM

THE Champions League final will finally be a meeting of champions again. Bayern Munich made sure the title match will live up to the competition's name by beating Lyon 3-0 yesterday [Macau time], setting up a final against Paris Saint-Germain.

It's the first time in 22 years that the final will feature two teams who qualified as domestic league champions.

Lyon wasted a couple of early chances and was then overwhelmed by the clinical Bavarian powerhouse, the competition's highest-scoring team which was coming off an 8-2 win over Barcelona in the quarterfinals.

Serge Gnabry netted twice before Robert Lewandowski added a later header, giving that duo a combined 24 Champions League goals this season, part of Bayern's total haul of 42.

PSG as a team only has 25 goals in the competition this season.

"We will look to organize our defense, but we know our biggest strength is putting our opponents under pressure," Bayern coach Hansi Flick said.

In 35 games since Flick was promoted to manager in November after Niko Kovac's firing, he won 32 of them to steer Bayern from fourth place in the Bundesliga, to German Cup glory and into a first continental final since lifting the European Cup in 2013.

Sunday's game at Benfica's stadium [3am, Macau time] will be the first time since Real Madrid faced Juventus in 1998 that two domestic champions met in the final.

AP PHOTO



Lyon's goalkeeper Anthony Lopes tries to stop Bayern's Robert Lewandowski, who scored the 3rd goal

FOOTBALL

Bayern beats Lyon 3-0, to play PSG in Champions League final

"For now we celebrate a little bit," Bayern midfielder Alphonso Davies said. "But afterwards we focus on the next game. It's going to be a good game, there's going to be goals in it."

The loss for Lyon, in its first Champions League semifinal in a decade, cuts out the last route back into European competitions next season.

After only finishing seventh in the curtailed Ligue 1 season and

being beaten in the French League Cup final by PSG, Lyon will be out of Europe for the first time since the 1996-97 season.

Back on the field where it knocked out Manchester City on Saturday, Lyon was made to pay for the squandering its opportunities to take the lead after finding more space in the Bayern defense than Barcelona, which was thrashed 8-2 on Friday.

"The first couple of minutes we

struggled a little bit," he said. "My goal came at the right time to give us a bit of confidence."

His threat was evident across the pitch at the Sporting stadium in Lisbon, driving forward with the ball for the move that led to the second goal. After releasing Ivan Perišić on the left wing, the ball was squared into the penalty area. Lewandowski's sliding connection was blocked by Lopes but Gnabry was on

hand to knock in the second in the 33rd.

It extended Gnabry's hot scoring streak to nine goals across nine games in this season's pandemic-disrupted Champions League.

Lewandowski never has much trouble scoring, although it took until the 88th minute this time when he rose to meet Joshua Kimmich's free kick with a header. **AP**

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu



THE AUXERRE 1800M TURF 2020-08-23|Sun|16:10

THIS Sunday is the last race meeting day of the 2019-20 MJC racing season. As usual you have all the top horses to come out and compete for some of the major features of the season. My focus is to find good winner of the day; be it in the features or in the supporting races - horses that caught my eyes and have the racing conditions to suit I will analyse and recommend to you, Macau Daily Times readers. This meeting I am looking at a horse from the K.M Chin's yard which raced in the derby race 19 July; a messy race and **Fantastic Friends** (pictured) caught wide most of the way, and in the finish he again raced very wide without cover and the winner **Sacred Magnate** seems to have a class above him. The race on Sunday **Fantastic Friends** should find it easier to handle with the in form J.B Hamel riding him, with his good pair of hands he should let the horse to relax after jumping off from barrier three, down at the straight gradually tighten the rein and push the bid up and find himself a good firing position and get ready for a strong fight at the winning post. The Auxerre is not a strong 1800 metres turf race, **Fantastic Friends** should run a very good race for K.M Chin before the MJC 2019-20 season closed. Good luck!

Race 5 The Auxerre 1800M Turf: Horse no. 3 Fantastic Friends Win & Place



OPINION

World Views

Andrea Felsted, Bloomberg

HOLIDAY INN MAY
OFFER REFUGE FROM
THE PANDEMIC

With international travel decimated by Covid-19, it's a dark time for hoteliers. So it's hardly surprising that Accor SA might be interested in a merger with London-listed InterContinental Hotels Group Plc, owner of the Crowne Plaza and Holiday Inn brands.

France's Le Figaro newspaper reported that Accor's chief executive officer, Sebastien Bazin, considered an approach for the rival company before deciding the timing wasn't quite right. But if a deal could be agreed, there would be an opportunity to strip out costs to help the chains navigate the current crisis. It would also put them on a surer footing when an upturn eventually comes.

IHG operates a so-called "asset-light" business model, where it doesn't own much property — preferring instead to franchise its brands and offer hotel-management services to the owners. Its French rival has moved in this direction too, which limits the savings you'd get if you were combining two big property portfolios.

Nevertheless, there are other costs that could be cut in areas such as centralized bookings, property management and the procurement of goods used by hotels. IHG and Accor are respectively the world's fourth- and fifth-biggest hotel operators, and there would also be geographical advantages to bringing them together. IHG is the market leader in China and is strong in the U.S., while Accor is number one in many other regions, according to analysts at Bernstein.

The two companies are especially concentrated in the mid-market, through chains such as Accor's Ibis and Novotel brands. These cater more to domestic travelers, so they're better placed to recover more quickly from the pandemic.

The problem is that the very circumstances that make a deal desirable also render it difficult to construct. Shares in Accor have fallen 40% since before the pandemic — about twice as much as IHG stock. So Accor has suffered much more, leaving it as the smaller party. That makes it harder for Bazin to initiate talks from a position of strength. Based on their market values, a nil-premium merger would give IHG shareholders 57% of the combined company and Accor's 43%.

In another unhelpful development, Accor's bonds were cut to a junk rating by Standard & Poor's on Wednesday. And its shareholder base is complicated: China's Jinjiang International and the Qatar Investment Authority are its two biggest investors, each owning stakes of between 11% and 12%.

A bigger concern is that negotiating a deal in the midst of a travel maelstrom is challenging. The two sides would have to make assumptions about how quickly consumers will start returning to hotels, and when companies will be prepared to send their staff on trips again. Against this backdrop, it's not easy to work out a fair price. Both sides are at risk of being caught out.

Still, if a deal can be done, it has some merit. Travel will recover at some point, and a more muscular group would be better placed to negotiate franchise deals with property owners and to use its combined marketing clout to snag more customers.

NORTH KOREA SETS RARE PARTY
MEETING AFTER ECONOMIC SHORTFALL

With unusual candor, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un admitted that U.S.-led sanctions, the pandemic and devastating floods have hurt his country's dismal economy as his ruling party scheduled a rare congress in January to set development goals for the next five years.

Kim announced his first five-year development plan with goals of improving North Korea's power supply and agricultural and manufacturing production during the last Workers' Party congress in 2016, its first in 36 years.

But at this week's meeting of the party's decision-making Central Committee, Kim acknowledged economic shortcomings caused by "unexpected and inevitable challenges in various aspects and the situation in the region surrounding the Korean Peninsula," the North's official Korean Central News Agency reported yesterday.

Experts say the coronavirus derailed some of Kim's major economic goals after North Korea imposed a lockdown that significantly reduced trade with China — its major ally and economic lifeline — and likely hampered its ability to mobilize its workforce.

THE
BUZZ

HARRIS SEIZES HISTORIC
MOMENT IN ACCEPTING
VP NOMINATION



Democratic vice presidential candidate Sen. Kamala Harris, D-Calif.

KAMALA Harris accepted the Democratic nomination for vice president yesterday [Macau time], cementing her place in history as the first Black woman on a major party ticket and promising she and Joe Biden will rejuvenate a country ravaged by a pandemic and riven by racial and partisan divides.

In an address capping the third night of the virtual Democratic National Convention, the California senator evoked the lessons of her late mother, Shyamala Gopalan, a biologist and Indian immigrant, saying she instilled in her a vision of "our nation as a beloved community — where all are welcome, no matter what we look like, where we come from or who we love."

"In this election, we have a chance to change the course of history," Harris said. "We're all in this fight."

Mixing a former prosecutor's polish with the deeply personal, Harris also spoke of her Jamaican father and getting a "stroller's eye view" of the civil rights movement as her parents protested in the streets in the 1960s.

"There is no vaccine for racism," Harris said. "We have got to do the work."

Harris addressed a party that has staked its future on bringing together a racially

diverse coalition of voters. She was preceded in the convention program by Barack Obama, meaning the nation's first Black president introduced the woman trying to be the first Black person to hold the vice presidency. Obama said Harris was an "ideal partner" for Biden and was "more than prepared for the job."

" Donald
Trump's failure
has cost lives and
livelihoods.

KAMALA HARRIS

Harris is a former district attorney and California state attorney general. She promised to speak "truths" to the American public. She said she and Biden, who tapped her as his running mate last week, believe in a country where "we may not agree on every detail, but we are united by the fundamental belief that every human being is of infinite worth, deserving of compassion, dignity and respect."

Democrats hope Harris can galvanize their party's faithful — who are divided between progressive and moderate wings — and win over swing voters still deciding between Biden

and Trump. But she also was introducing herself to a national audience that may not have been paying close attention to the race until now.

Harris spoke at a convention center in Biden's home state of Delaware that was empty except for socially distanced reporters and a few campaign staffers. She was introduced by her sister, Maya, her niece Meena and Ella Emhoff, her stepdaughter who calls her "Momala." At the end of her speech, Biden walked out to join her from a distance and both were soon joined by their spouses.

In sweeping remarks that touched on the legacy of Black women who paved the way for this moment, Harris noted that this week marks the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote. Except that right, Harris said, came much later for most Black women, who helped secure that victory yet were still prohibited from voting.

Harris also blistered Trump, something she's expected to do frequently as she campaigns with Biden in the coming months — though in-person events may remain impossible as the coronavirus rages. **MDT/AP**

Australian lawmakers for the first time can attend Parliament remotely due to new rules introduced in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Australia's Parliament resumes in Canberra beginning Monday for two weeks. Lawmakers can participate in debates and ask questions by video with the House Speaker's approval, but they will not be able to vote on legislation, second motions or move amendments to legislation.



USA Airbnb is banning house parties worldwide as it tries to clean up its reputation and comply with coronavirus-related limits on gatherings. The San Francisco-based home sharing company said it will limit occupancy in its rental homes to 16 people. It may offer exceptions for boutique hotels or other event venues.

USA Airbnb filed preliminary paperwork for selling stock on Wall Street, undaunted by a global pandemic that has taken some wind out of its home-sharing business. The San Francisco-based company said it submitted a draft registration statement to the Securities and Exchange Commission. It kept details in the statement confidential.



UK The brother of the suicide bomber who set off an explosion at a 2017 Ariana Grande concert in Manchester killing 22 people and injuring hundreds, has been sentenced to a minimum of 55 years. Hashem Abedi had denied helping plan the attack at the end of the Manchester Arena concert on May 22, 2017, but was found guilty of murder, attempted murder, and conspiring to cause explosions. His sentencing had been postponed due to travel restrictions put in place because of the coronavirus pandemic.