

The Macao SAR Government urges:

Implement regular epidemic prevention measures;
Do our best to persist;
Wash hands frequently and wear a mask;
Keep a distance and avoid crowd gathering;
Perseverance leads to success.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

THE GOV'T SAYS IT IS COORDINATING WITH ALL STAKEHOLDERS TO ENSURE SCHOOL RESUMPTION IS SAFE FOR CHILDREN

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GAMING ANALYSTS EXPECT A PARTIAL RECOVERY STARTING FROM SEPTEMBER. SOME PREDICTIONS IMPLY A STRONG FINAL QUARTER

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AP PHOTO



Australia recorded its deadliest day of the pandemic yesterday as the government urged hot spot State of Victoria to announce plans to lift a lockdown on the country's second-largest city. Victoria's health department reported 41 deaths from COVID-19 and 73 new infections in the latest 24-hour period. Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews (pictured) said only eight of the 41 fatalities occurred in the latest 24-hour period. The other 33 fatalities occurred in aged care since late July and were reported on Sunday.

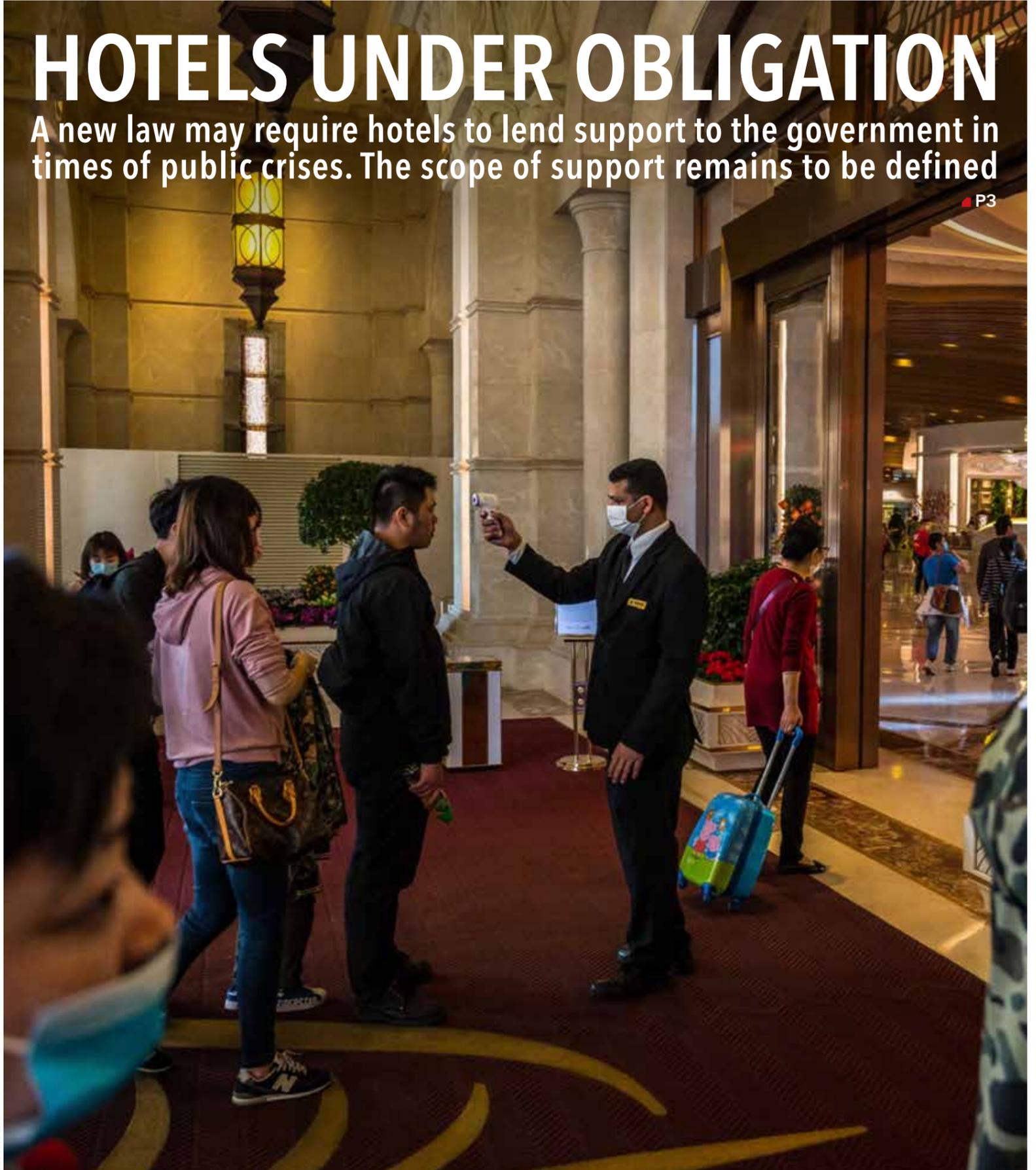
AP PHOTO



India registered 78,512 new coronavirus cases in the past 24 hours, maintaining an upward surge. The Health Ministry yesterday also reported 948 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities up to 64,469. Five straight increases of more than 75,000 cases a day have raised the country's total virus tally to over 3.6 million. The virus has badly hit India's major cities and is now fast spreading in smaller towns and rural areas.

New Zealand lifted a lockdown in the city of Auckland yesterday and is mandating masks on public transport. The nation's largest city had been in a lockdown for more than two weeks after an outbreak of the coronavirus was discovered earlier this month, following more than three months without any community transmission. Health Minister Chris Hipkins said it was safe to reopen Auckland because all the recent infections have been linked to the same cluster through contact tracing.

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BLOOMBERG

HOTELS UNDER OBLIGATION

A new law may require hotels to lend support to the government in times of public crises. The scope of support remains to be defined

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**ANGELA LEONG
OPTIMISTIC ABOUT
NATIONAL DAY TOURISM**

The managing director of SJM Holdings, Angela Leong, believes that the upcoming National Day Holiday will bring vitality to Macau's economy. During a recent SJM event, Leong revealed that SJM's hotel occupancy has not recorded a significant increase yet, but that the mainland's resumption of issuing tourism visas has brought a positive impact to Macau. Leong acknowledged that the economy has been "pacified" for a period and that the National Day Holiday will not create a sudden change to the current status. She believes that a gradual and steady growth is a preferable scenario for Macau's economy.

**TRAINING BANKNOTES
EXCHANGED FOR
CASINO CHIPS**

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has apprehended four men responsible for a scam involving HKD10 million. The victim in this case is a male Macau resident. The victim planned to exchange, with two mainland men, casino chips worth HKD10.6 million into HKD10 million in cash. The two mainlanders gave 9,949 sheets of training banknotes to the victim near the border gate. When the victim was counting the "cash," the two handed the casino chips over to the third suspect and left Macau. Later, the PJ found the third suspect's vehicle in Cotai as the fourth suspect, believed to be the mastermind, was being given the chips. The 'mastermind' refused to cooperate with the police authority.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION
CLASSES REQUIRE
MORE ATTENDANCE**

Students and lecturers involved in continuing education courses are required to take attendance twice for every class, according to an administrative regulation which comes into effect today. The administrative regulation is related to the 2020-2023 continuing education plan which suggested that the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) should be responsible for providing devices to course providers to take attendance for both teachers and students. Learners and lecturers must use their ID cards to swipe into every class. The student's first swipe in must occur within the 30 minutes before and 15 minutes after the class' commencement. The second swipe in should occur within 30 minutes of the class' completion. The lecturer must first swipe within the 30 minute window prior to the class starting, and secondly, within 30 minutes of the class finishing. Only when the aforementioned condition is met, is the attendance considered effective.

MEASURES TAKEN TO ENSURE SCHOOL RESUMPTION SAFETY AMID COVID-19

ANTHONY LAM

THE government is coordinating with various stakeholders to ensure the safety of students once the school year opens today, Wong Ka Ki, head of the Department of Education at the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, disclosed yesterday.

The department head pointed out that such communications started in July. The education regulator has directed all local schools to conduct drills to review the level of resources, as well as to determine any liabilities prior to school year opening.

In addition, the department head reported that discussions were held with different government bureaus, including the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the Transport Affairs Bureau and the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau, to clarify arrangements on the school year opening day.

To provide a smoother process for cross-border students, the PSP will resume the operation of special lanes at either the arrival or the departure halls that only cater to the group of students, depending on the time of the day. They will be allowed to use the lanes using their student cards or if they are wearing a school uniform.

The education regulator said that there are about 3,000 cross-border students and staff.

In addition, the education bureau department head said that it will deploy teams to the Border Gate to offer assistance to students who may need it.

However, a separate announcement made recently by the education regulator has generated confusion and objection among parents. The authority noted last week that school children below three years old would not start the new school year.

The announcement was made so late that parents had no time to prepare for the change. Some say they now need more time to arrange daycare services.

Later that night, the educa-

tion bureau issued a statement to say that, in association with the Social Welfare Bureau, a special daycare service will be offered to those children who may need it. Even so, the education bureau was still condemned by lawmakers and parents for poor planning.

In order to facilitate the special daycare service, the two bureaus have commenced the operation of two hotlines to take inquiries and registrations from parents.

Wong disclosed yesterday that so far the hotlines have received calls regarding 26 children, of whom 17 have already been enrolled in the special daycare service. Of the remaining nine children, seven need to submit additional documents to complete the application, while the paren-

ts of the other two were still deciding about whether they would make use of it.

The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center has lifted the quarantine requirement on people who have visited Nantang Town in Shanwei City of Guangdong Province in the preceding 14 days, as it sees the number of infections there falling.

With this change, only people who have visited Urumqi, the provincial capital of Xinjiang, in the preceding 14 days will be quarantined upon arrival in Macau. People with 14-day travel histories in other parts of the mainland will not be quarantined when arriving in Macau. However, they will still need valid Health Codes and Covid-19 test results in order to enter the city.

TESTING AT MACAU FORUM TO BE OPERATED BY THIRD PARTY

FROM today, the Covid-19 test specimen collection location at the Macau Forum will be operated by the China Certification and Inspection Group Macau Co. Ltd., Dr Lo Iek Long of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced yesterday.

The Center has approved four Covid-19 test specimen collection locations so far. Apart from the Macau Forum location, there is the Taipa Ferry Terminal, the Conde de São Januá-

rio Hospital, and Kiang Wu Hospital.

The Taipa Terminal location is operated by the same third-party vendor, while the one at the private hospital is operated by the hospital itself.

As of yesterday, the other two locations are operated by the Macau government, represented by the Coronavirus Center.

The test is necessary for people who want to cross the border with mainland China or enter a casino in Macau. **AL**

Greater Bay to remain key market for Singapore companies

SINGAPORE and China's southern Guangdong Province will emerge from the Covid-19 pandemic stronger, and the Greater Bay Area will remain a key market for Singapore companies, according to a joint statement released by government entities yesterday.

The 11th Singapore-Guangdong Collaboration Council (SGCC)

meeting was held over video-conference in Singapore and Guangzhou, co-chaired by Guangdong's governor Ma Xingrui and Singapore's Minister for Transport Ong Ye Kung.

The two sides reaffirmed the strength and resilience of economic ties and wide-ranging cooperation between Guangdong and Singapore, and the two co-

chairs looked forward to enhancing multi-faceted cooperation between the two sides amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

They said in the joint statement that as the global economy faces challenges arising from the Covid-19 pandemic, both sides shall strengthen their cooperation and work together steadfastly to overcome the

pandemic. Both sides shall forge ahead with business resumption, strengthen transport connectivity, and facilitate travel under the China-Singapore Fast Lane to promote greater exchange of people.

They said both sides shall continue to explore opportunities and new areas of growth post-Covid-19, and continue to deepen Singapore-

-Guangdong collaboration for mutual growth and prosperity.

Singapore and Guangdong will strengthen cooperation by keeping economies open, enhancing business environment, and upholding supply chain connectivity, they added.

"This is to provide the necessary conditions for enhanced trade and investment between Singapore and Guangdong, inject vibrancy into our [partnership], and work towards a better future for both sides." **MDT/XINHUA**

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Hotels to be legally obliged to support gov't in crises

RENATO MARQUES

UNDER the provisions of the new Hotel Business Law, local hotels will be legally obliged to offer financial and material support to the government in times of crisis, such as public health crises, natural catastrophes, or disasters. This rule generated interest from several members of the Legislative Assembly (AL) Second Standing Committee where the bill is being discussed in detail, with some questioning the government on the text of the rule, Committee Chairman Chan Chak Mo said during a media briefing.

According to Chan, the new article comes in response to the pandemic of Covid-19 but its scope is not restricted to public health-related crises.

The chairman noted that several members of the committee asked the government specifically what the law's requirements are when it says that hotels "should pay all support [to the government]" and, "must comply with the guidelines issued by the government."

The members considered this to be too broad and lacking in clarification.



Asked by the media whether this new rule, which clearly states a duty of cooperation with the government, is in any way related to the difficulties previously acknowledged by the government in finding hotels to become designated quarantine venues, Chan reaffirmed that this rule also applies in circumstances other than a public health crisis.

He offered the example of "during typhoons, when the government might call on the ho-

tels to provide support to casino workers or other workers that are stranded and cannot return home. In this case, hotels might have the responsibility to lodge them."

In late March this year, during the peak of Covid-19 infections in Macau, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng publicly reprimanded casino concessionaires for what he interpreted as their unwillingness to live up to corporate social responsibility obligations. Ho was

referring to the difficulties the government encountered in using their properties as designated quarantine facilities.

Another of the topics widely discussed in yesterday morning's committee meeting was in relation to Articles 70 and 71 of the law; the subject to be addressed in this meeting.

The articles are related to the duty of hotels – and restaurants and similar establishments located within the hotel premises –

and their ability to restrict access to, or even ban, patrons based on certain conditions.

According to Chan some of the new conditions include the refusal to grant access to people carrying firearms and explosives, as well as dangerous, hazardous, or smelly substances.

One of the points on which there did not seem to be consensus was the rule that allows "luxury restaurants" to refuse entry to people under the age of 12.

According to the Chairman, some of the committee members asked the government if such a restriction would constitute discrimination.

Chan noted that there are limits to such establishments' rules and that they cannot include discrimination by gender, religion, and ethnicity, among others.

However, other reasons can be used to turn away patrons or refuse to serve them.

"These rules can be related, for example, to dress codes, restricting people's access to a certain venue if they are wearing shorts or flip-flops and can also be related to young children as they might disturb the other guests," Chan said, although he also noted, "we have asked the government to further clarify the rule."

The chairman added that this was the third meeting of the committee since they received the new text of the law and that in the meeting schedule for today, the committee and the government is expected to be able to finish the law's review.

Resident slams room condition, lack of drinking water at quarantine facility

LYNZY VALLES

SEVERAL local residents who have undergone the mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival to the Macau SAR have different experiences to share. Some – particularly those that have stayed in a low rating hotel – are expressing frustrations over their deprivation of what they call 'basic human rights.'

Since the beginning of August, Treasure Hotel, situated adjacent to the Golden Crown China Hotel, has been relisted as a quarantine facility.

Figures from the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) show that the government has spent tens of millions of patacas on the use of different designated hotels for local residents.

Non-residents have to pay 5,600 patacas, making

the cost 400 patacas per day.

While many were pleased with their stay at four or five star hotels, such as the Sheraton Grand Macao, others were upset with their designated quarantine hotel.

For James Ho, his ongoing stay at Treasure Hotel has become a nightmare, in part because of restricted water supplies.

The hotel is only providing 24 bottles of 360ml water across the 14 days in addition to the one bottle of water supplied with each of the day's three meals.

According to Ho's account, the total of 66 bottles amount to an average of 1.7 liters of water per day, less than the recommended daily amount in many jurisdictions, which ranges from 1.9 liters to 3.5 liters depending on the source.

"The hotel said that they cannot give me more water because that was it, even when I said I was willing to pay," Ho told the Times.

"The staff said that I should just boil water from the washroom but that is not okay because there is no filtration system, the hotel is very old, meaning the water pipes are old," the concerned resident argued.

Ho then decided to call the MGTO hotline and was informed that there is no limit on how much water the designated hotel should provide to the guests.

"After I called the tourism board, they called the hotel and 30 minutes later, I was brought a case of water. It [the issue] is the hotel management. Maybe they have a budget problem, I don't know," he added.

The lobby of the hotel is

situated on the 11th floor, while its rooms are located below.

Ho noted that some quarantined residents are situated on rooms without sunlight or fresh air as the rooms face concrete walls due to the location of the hotel, which is close to a hillside.

According to the resident, there should be options for those who will undergo quarantine to upgrade their rooms despite having to pay – similar to the procedures in other cities such as Hong Kong and Shanghai.

"I was put on the fifth floor and I would not want to imagine how those who are on the lower floors are feeling. You will get sick because the rooms are extremely humid, you can smell it in the air. The walls are full of mold and the carpet



is wet. It is not right," said Ho.

"I don't think the issue is with the government but with the hotel. They just don't want to go through the hassle to help us. They treat us like prisoners. [...] it's basic human rights: sunlight, fresh air and water," he added.

The citizen lamented that designated quarantine hotels such as this present a poor image of the city, noting that the rooms being provided – whether paid or unpaid – are unhygienic.

He also expressed concerns for people who suffer

from anxiety or are claustrophobic as they are left with no other option but to remain in a room for 14 days where only concrete walls could be seen.

To many residents, including Ho, paying for a 14-day quarantine stay is not an ordeal as long as they are provided with sufficient food and water.

Prior to checking in at the hotel, guests are handed a piece of paper with the wifi password which has a note saying, "the hotel is not yet open for business: slow wifi connection is normal."

FREE TAXI PARKING POLICY EXTENDED FOR TWO MONTHS

The Macau SAR government has extended a free parking policy for taxis, according to a dispatch published in the Official Gazette. Taxis can park for free at the western parking lot of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge until September 20 of this year. At the beginning of 2020, when the Covid-19 pandemic started, the SAR government decided that, from February 5, the city's taxis could park at the western parking lot of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge for free. The SAR government adopted the policy hoping to provide temporary pandemic relief for the taxi industry. At the beginning of July, the local authority extended the policy for two months. Yesterday's extension marks the second in the contingency plan to help the taxi industry.

DUMPING CONSTRUCTION WASTE COSTS 70 PATACAS PER TON

The city's landfill will charge 70 patacas for each metric ton of construction waste dumped on the site. According to a dispatch published in the government's Official Gazette, from January 17, 2021, Macau will implement its new management regime on construction waste. Under the new law, the relevant parties will be allowed to dump soil, sand, concrete, and other inert construction and demolition materials that have been properly classified and can be used as filling materials at a price of 70 patacas per metric ton. Special or other construction and demolition materials will cost 200 patacas per metric ton, including asphalt, glass fiber, combustible waste, chemical waste and recyclable materials. All vehicles carrying the materials to be dumped must be approved by the Environmental Protection Bureau. Illegal dumping is subject to a fine of between 50,000 and 200,000 patacas.

LAWMAKERS ASK ABOUT EXERCISE FACILITIES AND GOVERNMENT CARS

Lawmaker Agnes Lam has written an interpellation to the SAR government regarding exercise facilities while Sulu Sou has asked about the government's expenditure on buying cars. Lam wondered if the local government will install more accessible exercise and leisure facilities in town and arrange for helpers to be on site to assist senior citizens using the equipment. She also wanted to know if the government has plans to increase the green areas in both the city and public parks. Sou thinks that the local government is lagging behind in terms of saving public resources when purchasing cars for the civil service. He wants a reform of civil services' vehicle management and has recommended that public servants take public transportation.

JULIE ZHU



CRIME

QR CODES, INVESTMENT SCHEMES AND SEX: FIVE SCAMMED BY ONLINE 'CATFISH'

JULIE ZHU

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has reported five fraud cases in which victims lost money after being connected to people without a confirmed identity.

During yesterday's joint police press conference, the PJ reported the five cases involving five local residents, including an underage middle-school student.

The five cases shared one characteristic in common: the victims all were in contact with an online 'catfish', a person pretending to be someone they are not.

In the first case, the victim is a Macau man in his 20s. An individual contacted the man through a chat app claiming to be able to help the man with a virtual currency investment. The unidentified suspect persuaded the victim to open an account on another app and deposit 1,680 patacas into it. The victim sub-

sequently made two bank transfers through two different banks into two different mainland bank accounts of 8,320 yuan and 41,680 yuan, following instructions from the suspect. The 'catfish' then cut contact with him.

In the second case, the victim is a casino employee in his 40s. The victim started communicating with an unknown person who later persuaded him to move the conversation to another app and to disclose his password and the username on the platform.

During this period, the victim received several phone calls from different friends who reported that they had made several online e-money transfers to an account being used by the suspect at that time. They did this because the unidentified suspect told these people that the man was in need of money. The victim lost

1,000 yuan from his e-payment and his friends reported a combined loss of between 1,700 yuan and 2,000 yuan.

The third victim is a medical professional from a public hospital in his 40s. His fraudster, who claimed to be a woman, agreed to provide sexual services to him for 800 patacas. The payment was requested to be made in the form of game points. The victim spent 799 patacas buying 3,000 game points and sent the game card information to the catfish.

Afterwards, he received a phone call from a man requesting 8,000 patacas as a deposit for the sex service who stated that the payment should also be made with game points. The victim only bought 2,000 points worth 533 patacas, despite the suspect's requests for more money.

The fourth victim is a middle-school student. He watched a

TikTok video and joined a related group chat. One individual from the chat requested a private conversation with the boy. During the private talk, the person sent a QR code to the boy and said that the code was for him to scan to give gifts to the TikTok user, claiming that the gifts would not cost anything. The boy used his father's phone to scan the QR code several times, causing his father to lose over 54,000 yuan in the process.

In the last fraud case, the victim is a local woman in her 60s. Her 'catfish' claimed to be an American soldier stationed in Iraq who said he had mailed a package to the woman in Macau but it was intercepted in Turkey. To get it, he said the victim must pay HKD56,000. The woman transferred the money to a Hong Kong bank account. On August 29, she reported the case to the police authority.

Engineering contractor announces global share offering

ENGINEERING contractor Macau E&M Holding has submitted a proposal for it to be listed on Hong Kong Stock Exchange main board.

The Macau-based company plans to offer a total of 125 million shares, comprising of 103.1 million new shares and 21.9 million sale shares, of which, 90% or 112.5

million shares will be for international offer.

Ten percent, or 12.5 million shares, will be for the Hong Kong Public Offering (subject to reallocation) at an indicative offer price ranging from HKD1.00 and HKD1.20 per share, as cited in a Business News Asia report.

Assuming an offer pri-

ce of HKD1.10 per share, the net proceeds from the global offering - after deducting underwriting fees and commission and estimated expenses in connection with the global offering - are estimated to be approximately HKD60.1 million.

The Hong Kong Public Offering kicked off yesterday at 9 a.m. and will

end on September 3 at 12 p.m.

According to the report, the final offer price and results of allocation will be announced on September 10.

Under the stock code 1408, general trading of the shares of the engineering services solution will commence on September 11.

Through its listing on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, the company aims to strengthen its financial position to further develop its capability as a contractor and participate in more large-scale construction projects.

Macau E&M Holding Limited is an E&M engineering services works contractor in Macau, with a history of working on private sector projects such as hotels and integrated entertainment resorts. As of June 30 2020, the group had 63 current projects. LV

Analysts see minor revenue recovery starting September

ANTHONY LAM

GROSS gaming revenue (GGR) of Macau should begin to recover from September amid Beijing's resumption of mainland travel permits to Macau, at least one analyst has said, with another expecting a "swift recovery" when all travel restrictions are lifted.

The comments appeared in a report by Bloomberg. The monthly GGR of the city has fallen for seven months in a row, compared with last year, with year-on-year falls as steep as 97% in some months.

The analysts told the news outlet that they expect Macau to see another year-on-year decrease of over 90% in August. Their median estimate is 93%, spanning from the lowest decline of 84% to the highest of 95%. The actual result is due to be released today.

They estimate this year's



BLOOMBERG

VIP gambling revenue will see an aggregate fall of 68% in year-on-year terms, implying some recovery in the final quarter.

Two among the group of analysts interviewed by Bloomberg expressed particular optimism over Macau's attractiveness to players from the mainland. George Choi from Citigroup expects a bounce to the pre-Covid-19 level once all quarantine and travel res-

trictions are lifted. He even estimates GGR in 2021 will see a 140% rise compared to this year.

Bloomberg quoted him as saying that he believes social distancing requirement will not strongly impact GGR, "provided that the six concessionaires evenly distribute players across tables."

Although Vitaly Umansky from Sanford C Bernstein estimates that GGR will start

increasing from September, he added that the recovery also relies strongly on tourists' confidence in Macau, the number of flights to Macau, as well as Hong Kong allowing travel to Macau.

In contrast, Kenneth Fong from Credit Suisse pointed out that two factors may become the undercurrent in Macau's GGR recovery: Beijing's tightening capital outflow and Macau's lack of fluidity.

GOV'T PROMOTION FOR MAINLAND TOURISTS STARTS TODAY

THE government's promotional scheme to encourage visitors to travel to Macau starts today. Under the scheme, mainland tourists may follow the Macau government's accounts on two mainland social media platforms to participate in two separate lucky draws to win hotel accommodations and flight privileges.

When booking a hotel stay in Macau, winners will be entitled to a price deduction of up to 500 yuan.

Once in Macau, they can get e-goodie bags on mainland social media app WeChat, which can only be redeemed by spending. The government hopes this will encourage repeat consumption.

The measure comes as visitation to Macau has largely disappointed since visa restrictions began to be eased last month.

Zhuhai began reissuing tourist visas for Macau on August 12, before the policy was rolled out across Guangdong Province last week. China is expected to reinstate tourist visas in the rest of mainland China on September 23, just in time for the popular Golden Week holiday in the first week of October.

According to data released by the Public Security Police Force yesterday, the number of visitors in Macau last weekend was mostly unchanged from a week earlier. The SAR recorded between 9,000 and 10,000 visitor entries on both Saturday and Sunday.

The total number of border crossings on these days amounted to 263,500 and 226,500 respectively, indicating that residents and non-local workers continue to make use of border crossing services. **DB/AL**

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New Rainstorm warning signal system
It comes into effect on the 1st of September 2020

Black rainstorm warning signal - level 3
This warning signal is issued when heavy rain has fallen or is expected to fall over extensive areas, exceeding 80 millimetres in an hour, and is likely to continue.

Red rainstorm warning signal - level 2
This warning signal is issued when heavy rain has fallen or is expected to fall over extensive areas, exceeding 50 millimetres in an hour, and is likely to continue.

Yellow rainstorm warning signal - level 1
This warning signal is issued when heavy rain has fallen or is expected to fall over extensive areas, exceeding 25 millimetres in an hour, and is likely to continue.

For more information see the QR code

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INDIA SAYS CHINESE MILITARY MADE MOVES NEAR DISPUTED BORDER

AIJAZ HUSSAIN, SRINAGAR

INDIA said yesterday its soldiers thwarted “provocative” movements by China’s military near a disputed border in the Ladakh region months into the rival nations’ deadliest standoff in decades.

Local military commanders from the two countries were meeting along the disputed frontier yesterday to resolve the issues, India’s defense ministry said. It said India was committed to dialogue “but is also equally determined to protect its territorial integrity.”

The statement said China’s People’s Liberation Army on Saturday night “carried out provocative military movements to change the status quo” and “violated the previous consensus arrived at during military and diplomatic engagements” to settle the standoff in the cold-desert region.

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said border forces were communicating over recent matters but gave no details.

“Chinese border troops always

act in strict compliance with the Line of Actual Control, and have never crossed the line for any activities,” Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing.

India’s defense ministry issued its statement after a gap of a day and did not give details of the nature of the new incident.

The statement said Indian troops “undertook measures to strengthen our positions and thwart Chinese intentions to unilaterally change facts on ground.”

It said the activity took place on the southern bank of Pangong Lake, a glacial lake divided by the de facto frontier between the rivals and where the India-China face off began in early May on the lake’s northern flank.

Indian military experts said the latest incident occurred in Chushul sector, where the two sides were generally respecting each other’s positions.

“We never had any problem in this place and we hold it pretty strongly,” said Lt. Gen. D.S. Hooda, who served as the Indian mili-

tary’s northern commander. “After relative calm, China has suddenly opened a fresh, brand new front. It’s a huge provocation.”

India unilaterally declared Ladakh a federal territory and separated it from disputed Kashmir in August 2019, ending its semi-autonomous status and straining the already prickly relationship between New Delhi and Beijing. China was among the countries to strongly condemn the move, raising it at international forums including the U.N. Security Council.

According to some Indian and Chinese strategic experts, India’s move exacerbated existing tensions with China, leading to the deadly June border clash.

The disputed and undemarcated 3,500-kilometer (2,175-mile) border between India and China, referred to as the Line of Actual Control, stretches from the Ladakh region in the north to the Indian state of Sikkim. The two Asia giants fought a border war in 1962 that also spilled into Ladakh and ended in an uneasy truce. The two countries have been trying to se-

ttle their border dispute since the early 1990s, without success.

The ongoing standoff high in the Karakoram mountains is over disputed portions of a pristine landscape that boasts the world’s highest landing strip, a glacier that feeds one of the largest irrigation systems in the world, and a critical link to China’s massive “Belt and Road” infrastructure project.

The face off began at three places. Soldiers at Pangong Lake ignored repeated verbal warnings, triggering a yelling match, stone-throwing and even fistfights. By June it escalated and spread north in Depsang and Galwan Valley, where India has built an all-weather military road along the disputed frontier.

On June 15, the troops engaged in a nighttime clash in Galwan that was the deadliest conflict in 45 years between the nuclear-armed rivals.

According to Indian officials, Chinese troops atop a ridge at the mouth of the narrow valley threw stones, punched and pushed Indian soldiers down the ridge at

around 4,500 meters (15,000 feet), leaving 20 Indians dead, including a colonel. China did not report any casualties.

Accusing each other of instigating the violence, both sides pledged to safeguard their territory but also to try to end the standoff that dramatically changed the India-China relationship.

Several rounds of military and diplomatic talks on ending the crisis have been unsuccessful.

In a symbolic move, India banned some Chinese-owned apps, including TikTok, about two weeks after the deadly clash, citing privacy concerns that it said pose a threat to India’s sovereignty and security.

On Saturday, India pulled out of multinational military exercise organized by Russia in which China and Pakistan, India’s bitter rival, are also participating. India apparently cited the coronavirus pandemic but experts say the decision to pull out from the exercise was because of its raging territorial dispute with Beijing.

“So far, Chinese transgressions were limited to about half a dozen places alone in Ladakh. By opening new fronts, is the whole Line of Actual Control fair game now?” said Hooda, the military expert. AP

Thai government delays purchase of submarines from China

THAILAND’S government has decided to delay the purchase of two submarines from China, withdrawing its request to parliament to include the sum for an initial payment in the fiscal year 2021 national budget.

Government spokesman Anucha Burapachaisri announced yesterday that Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who concurrently

serves as defense minister, had told the navy to delay the 22.5 billion baht (\$723 million) purchase until fiscal year 2022. The government had sought to have 3.375 billion baht (\$108 million) included in the 2021 budget to cover the first of seven annual installment payments.

Funding the submarines had become a hot political issue, with critics saying

the purchases could not be justified while the country carried a huge economic burden from the coronavirus crisis. It also threatened to create fissures in Prayuth’s ruling coalition government, as a major partner threatened to oppose its inclusion in the budget.

Anucha said the government’s decision showed that the prime minister understood the worries

of the Thai people, so the money will instead be used for other purposes, such as a relief program for those who are affected by the coronavirus outbreak.

Thailand will soon start negotiations with China on the details of delaying the purchase, he said. A report on the website of the Bangkok Post newspaper said Beijing has already agreed to the delay.

Thailand expects to receive its first modern submarine in 2023 as part of the same deal with China. Its purchase was funded in the 2017 budget.

The purchase delay may serve to ease pressure on Prayuth’s government, which has been facing a well-organized student-led protest movement seeking to oust it from power. The protes-

ters, who say their goal is greater democracy, want new elections, amendments to the constitution and an end to intimidation of critics of the government. They charged that the request to fund the submarine purchases was an example of how the government neglected the public good in favor of expensive military projects with debatable benefits.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

THE Czech Republic's top legislator yesterday told an economic forum in Taiwan that freedom and democracy are the basis of prosperity, on the second day of a visit that has drawn vows of retaliation from Beijing.

Senate President Milos Vystrcil is leading a delegation of 89 leaders from the Central European country's political, business, artistic and academic circles on a trip aimed at boosting contacts.

Taiwan relies on such exchanges to counter China's efforts to isolate the self-governing island that Beijing claims as its own territory, to be annexed by military force if it deems necessary. Like all but 15 countries, the Czech Republic has no formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan, but maintains robust informal contacts.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian yesterday said Beijing would not "sit idly by and let go of the public provocation of the Czech Senate speaker and the anti-China forces behind him."

"They must pay a heavy price for their short-sighted behavior and political opportunism," Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing.

Vystrcil spoke at an economic forum where the two sides signed agreements on high-tech manufacturing and environ-

Czech officials visit Taiwan as China threatens retaliation



Czech Senate President Milos Vystrcil (front left) is greeted by Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu as he arrives for delivering a speech at National Chengchi University in Taipei yesterday

mental management.

"I believe that without the possibility of free cooperation between entrepreneurs and employers, there will be no freedoms and democracy in the Czech Republic or Taiwan, because freedom and democracy are the basis of prosperity," Vys-

trcil told participants.

Taiwan Economics Minister Wang Mei-hua said the delegation's visit was bringing real economic benefits to the two sides.

Wang said the visit also stood as "proof to the world that no matter how big the pressure is, how difficult the situation is, nothing

can stop Taiwan and the Czech Republic's determination to defend freedom, democracy and protect human rights."

Taiwan's high-tech companies are major investors in the Czech Republic, while the island's robust democracy marks a stark contrast to China's authoritarian

Communist Party system.

During his visit, Vystrcil is to meet with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, who is detested by Beijing for her assertions of the island's independence.

Vystrcil's six-day visit to Taiwan was prompted in part by complaints from the Czech side that China was introducing unwanted political elements into their relations.

Prague and Beijing severed sister city relations after China refused to remove language from the agreement dictating that the city's government endorse the "one-China principle" that defines Taiwan as part of China.

Vystrcil's predecessor, Jaroslav Kubera, had planned to travel to Taiwan, angering pro-China Czech President Milos Zeman.

Kubera died in January before making the trip and Vystrcil said China's pressure, including a warning from the Chinese Embassy against congratulating Tsai on her reelection, contributed to his decision to travel to the island. AP

AD

盛世社會發展基金成立二十週年

CESL Asia Social Investment 20th Anniversary

兒童繪畫比賽

Kid's Drawing Contest

收件日期
Collection Date
8月26日至9月9日
26th Aug - 9th Sep

對象
Category
八歲至十二歲
Ages 8-12

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AP PHOTO



MIDDLE EAST

Diplomat tapped to be PM in crisis-hit Lebanon

A Lebanese diplomat was appointed to form a new government in crisis-hit Lebanon yesterday after winning the backing of major political parties.

President Michel Aoun asked Lebanon's ambassador to Germany, Mustapha Adib, to form a new government after he secured 90 votes in the 128-member parliament.

Adib told reporters his number one priority will be to quickly form a government able to implement crucial reforms to regain the trust of the Lebanese and international community.

His appointment comes weeks after a devastating explosion in Beirut. The country is also mired in a severe economic crisis.

Earlier yesterday, Lebanon's president held consultations with heads of parliamentary blocs to designate a new prime minister for the crisis-stricken country, with a career diplomat poised to win the job.

Lebanon's ambassador to Germany, Mustapha Adib, was expected to be named as prime minister-designate and asked to form a new government after winning the backing of major parties, including the crucial support of senior politicians from his own Sunni Muslim community.

The consultations were

being held hours before French President Emmanuel Macron was due to arrive for a two day-visit, during which he is expected to press Lebanese officials to formulate a new political pact to lift the country out of its multiple crises and political stalemate in the wake of the devastating Beirut explosion earlier this month.

It's Macron's second visit to the former French protectorate in less than a month. He came days after the devastating Aug. 4 blast in the port of Beirut that killed 190 people, wounded 6,000 and damaged residential and commercial areas in large parts of the capital.

The government resigned less than a week after the blast.

Macron and other world leaders as well as the International Monetary Fund have refused to give assistance to Lebanon before its leaders enact major reforms. The swift consensus around Adib, a little known diplomat, signaled a sense of urgency by Lebanon's traditional politicians to try and contain the rapidly worsening economic and financial crisis and show movement ahead of Macron's visit.

Former Prime Minister Saad Hariri emerged from his meeting with Aoun on Monday, telling reporters his 18-member bloc had gi-

ven its backing to Adib. He called for the formation of a government of experts "that implement reforms aimed at restoring the world's confidence in our economy so we can start to emerge from this crisis."

Adib, who returned from Germany to Lebanon on Saturday, was the only name to emerge as a favorite for the post of prime minister, who according to Lebanon's sectarian-based power sharing system has to be a Sunni Muslim. The candidate who gets the most support is asked to form the new Cabinet, but Lebanon's divided political class has often been bogged down over who holds senior posts and key ministries.

Adib was named by four former prime ministers, including Hariri, on the eve of Monday's consultations.

Earlier Sunday, the head of the powerful Hezbollah militant group, Hassan Nasrallah, said his supporters will cooperate and facilitate the formation of a government that would be able to improve economic conditions and undertake major reforms.

The Iran-backed militant group, which has a dominant role in Lebanon's politics, has come under intense criticism and public scrutiny as the country faces multiple devastating crises. Hezbollah and its allies were

also expected to name Adib.

An unprecedented economic crisis had already sapped the Lebanese currency of more than 80% of its value, driving unemployment, poverty and inflation through the roof.

Coronavirus infections and deaths have also spiked, causing concerns and pushing authorities to reintroduce some restrictions on economic and social activities that have largely been ignored amid the slump. And the recent explosion badly damaged the port of Beirut, a main trade channel for the small country, which depends on imports.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab's government, backed by Hezbollah and its allies, resigned on Aug. 10, six days after nearly 3,000 tons of ammonium nitrate exploded in Beirut's port, where it had been stored for six years.

Adib, who has been Lebanon's ambassador to Germany since 2013, served as an advisor to one of Lebanon's former Prime Ministers, Najib Mikati. He took part in the committee in charge of writing Lebanon's new electoral law in 2005 and 2006, and acted as chief of Cabinet in 2011.

The 48-year-old is a native of the northern city of Tripoli, holds a PhD in law and political sciences and had taught in universities in Lebanon and France. **AP**

this day in history



1960 GAME ON FOR BRITISH BETTING SHOPS

The government has given the go-ahead for betting shops to open for business from 1 May next year.

The move follows the introduction of the new Betting and Gaming Act.

The aim is to do away with archaic, restrictive and often inconsistent laws on gambling.

And from 1 January 1961 gambling for small sums will be legal for games of skill such as bridge.

As the Daily Telegraph newspaper's leader writer points out: "Weekly bridge clubs, meeting in the local hotel, will no longer have to settle up in the bus shelter."

And pubs will be allowed to introduce slot machines.

The government hopes legalising betting shops will take gambling off the streets and end the practice of bookmakers sending "runners" to collect from punters.

At the moment, anyone who wants to place a bet on the horses has to demonstrate they have enough credit to set up an account with a bookmaker and do their dealings by telephone.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher, welcomed the move as a way of bringing the gambling habits of the country under greater government control.

The Home Secretary, Richard Austen Butler, has set out a timetable for the reforms. In October this year, licensing committees will be set up to consider applications from bookmakers from March and April 1961.

Then from 1 May approved bookmakers issued with licences and permits from the Racecourse Betting Control Board will be allowed to take bets at "tote odds", or totalizator, when the total amount staked - after tax and administrative costs are deducted - is divided among the winners.

Six months later, higher penalties for illegal street betting will be introduced.

The sections of the act governing gaming and arcade machines will probably come into force as soon as this autumn.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After 1 May 1961 betting shops opened at a rate of 100 a week. After six months there were already 10,000 set up. About 1,000 casinos were opened in the first five years. Two more Gaming Acts in 1963 and 1968 introduced licences for other forms of gaming. But loopholes in the law allowed almost anyone to open a casino and as a result, many of them became a cover for criminal activity. In 1970 a new Gaming Act put far greater restrictions on all gaming, including bingo and slot machines, now subject to licence and placed under the control of the Gaming Board which answered directly to the Home Office. Gambling is now a major industry worth billions. The National Lottery was set up in 1994 while new gambling websites on the Internet allow punters to gamble 24 hours a day. In October 2004 the government introduced the Gambling Bill designed to tighten rules for betting on the internet and lift restrictions on the number of casinos.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

If boosting your career isn't at the top of your to-do list right now, it should be, especially today, when your deep yearning for something more challenging goes from a whisper to a deafening din.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

There's no need to drastically change your lifestyle, but a few nips and tucks here and there might be a good idea. Make your own coffee instead of buying a latte. Brown bag it for lunch.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

There are many emotions swirling around just beneath the surface today, and that goes for all the people you're dealing with. It's time to utilize a high degree of sensitivity with anyone you encounter.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

They won't accept shallow small talk from you anymore. They want to know your true thoughts and what you really want out of life because they want to see how they can fit into it.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

If you're contemplating any major travel in the future, today is a good day to start to put things in motion. Nail down the dates and try to look into affordable options.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

They aren't as meaningful as people might think they are, and if you just remember not to take things too seriously, you'll end this day still feeling good about things.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Sure, this type of uninhibited communication might cause you to put your foot in your mouth every once in a while, but who cares? More often than not you'll add value to the conversation.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You'll be in a more aggressive mood today, but you'll still have your characteristic warmth and charm to keep people feeling happy and comfortable around you. This is a wonderful day for networking.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Sharing your life with someone is a choice. Past friends and partners have always provided you with the support you need, but right now someone could be morphing from supporter to controller.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If your ego has been feeling a battered lately, get ready for that to change today. But don't look to outside forces to do the changing. It will all come from inside of you.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Issues from the past could resurface now, but there's no pressure. You'll get to the answers eventually. Watch out for miscommunications between you and your partner or co-workers now.

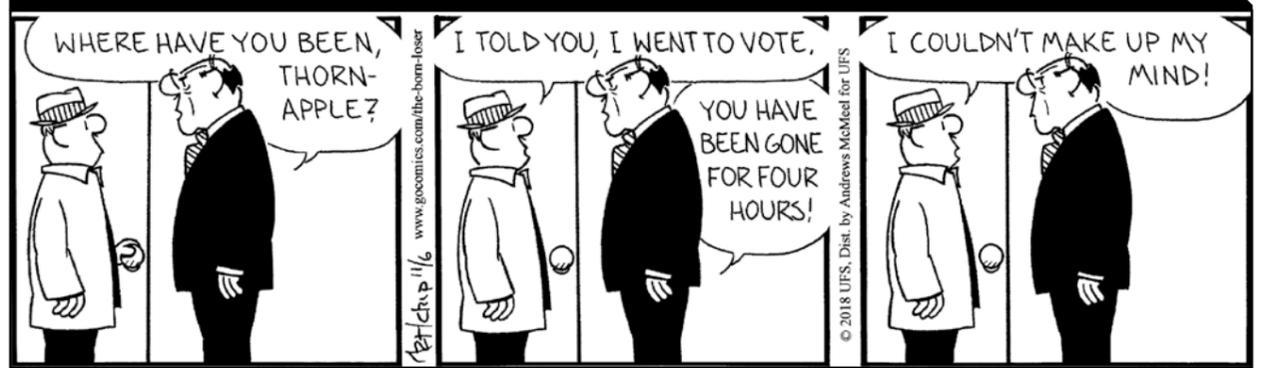


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

The nicest things in life - food, music, friendship, love - take time. Today, keep in mind the fact that there's a direct correlation between the time you spend on a project and the quality of the outcome.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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| | | | 3 | | | | 8 | |
| 4 | | | | | | 2 | | |
| | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | 5 | |
| | | | | 4 | 1 | | | |
| | | | 6 | 2 | | | | |
| 7 | | | 8 | 5 | | | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | 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 | | | |
| Moscow | 13 | 25 | clear |
| Frankfurt | 13 | 24 | clear |
| Paris | 15 | 27 | clear |
| London | 15 | 21 | clear |
| New York | 25 | 30 | cloudy |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Deeply moved; 5- Colorado resort; 10- Equal a bet; 14- Big do; 15- Renounce; 16- Black-and-white cookie; 17- Black, in Bordeaux; 18- Maker of Pong; 19- ___-do-well; 20- Dealer in cloth; 22- Precedent; 24- Arabian republic; 25- Key in again; 26- He played Ricky; 28- Destiny; 32- Therefore; 35- Pass with flying colors; 37- Out, in bed; 38- Debussy's "La ___"; 39- Palpitate; 41- Marseilles Mrs.; 42- Bully; 45- Kind of tide; 46- Whispers sweet nothings; 47- Mgmt.; 48- Emilia's husband; 50- Besides; 54- Tops; 58- Abnormal; 61- Kiss; 62- Moon of Jupiter; 63- Knot again; 65- ___contendere; 66- High-ranking NCO; 67- Orchard; 68- ___ Bator, Mongolia; 69- To ___(perfectly); 70- Ruhr city; 71- London gallery;

DOWN: 1- Lustful; 2- Preceding, poetically; 3- King of Troy; 4- Underwater missile; 5- Whence one may worship; 6- Foster Brooks persona; 7- Babble; 8- Everglades bird; 9- Rip-roaring; 10- Hide; 11- Scope; 12- Dreg; 13- Traditional passed-down knowledge; 21- Hydrocarbon suffix; 23- Toll rds.; 25- Having wealth; 27- Fill completely; 29- San ___ Italy; 30- Exec's note; 31- Gorillas, chimpanzees and orangutans; 32- Jane Austen classic; 33- Oboe, e.g.; 34- Metric unit of mass; 36- Bard's "before"; 37- Swedish pop band whose hits include "Waterloo"; 40- Passing notice; 43- River pollutant; 44- Are you ___ out?; 46- Macaroon flavoring; 49- Leg; 51- Vessel; 52- Lulus; 53- Preminger et al.; 55- Dough; 56- Dazzling display; 57- Excelled; 58- Soprano Gluck; 59- Of the highest quality; 60- Advantage; 61- Witnessed; 64- ___ had it!;

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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HK\$2,950,000

FOR RENT

Va Fat, Taipa
\$9,900/mth 950 ft²

FOR SALE

- [Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1 1 900 ft² \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 2 1,269 ft² \$11,580,000 (ref: 19070000)
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 2 2 1,439 ft² \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)
- [Taipa] Nova City 3 2 2 1,494 ft² \$12,880,000 (ref: 17050001RT)

FOR RENT

- [Taipa] Waterfront Duet New studio 1 1 469 ft² \$9,000/mth (ref: 20081001)
- [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'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TRADE WAR

CHINA'S CHIP EXECUTIVES WORRY THEY'RE NEXT ON US HIT LIST

DOZENS of senior Chinese government officials and business leaders gathered at the 2020 World Semiconductor Conference last week, but their usual agenda of trumpeting the nation's chip innovation was colored by fears their industry might be next to suffer trade sanctions from the Trump administration.

The White House's campaign to contain China's tech ascendancy has already shaken up the world's technology supply chain and further restrictions would seriously set back China's still-developing chip industry, executives including Legend Capital Co.'s Arthur Ge and Wang Xuguang, chief executive officer of AINTEC, said at the conference last week. That's despite the resiliency in China's chip demand, which has been supported by a recovery in manufacturing following disruptions during the coronavirus pandemic.

"If the U.S. further hit key areas of Chinese tech industry, for example the advanced chip manufacturing, the impact would be devastating," said Ge, managing director



of Legend Capital, an investment arm of the parent of Lenovo Group Ltd.

The White House this month slapped new restrictions on exports to Huawei Technologies Co. amid an escalating standoff between the two largest economies that has already ensnared other Chinese tech giants like Tencent Holdings Ltd. and ByteDance Ltd. The latest rules required any chip companies using U.S. technologies to seek licenses before working for Huawei, effectively closing off the loopholes that the Chinese cor-

poration had explored after earlier curbs that threatened the survival of its chipmaking unit HiSilicon.

The U.S. is considering new restrictions on exports of semiconductor manufacturing equipment and associated software tools, lasers, sensors and other technology, Reuters reported last week. Already, Synopsys Inc., the Mountain View, California-based provider of electronic design automation (EDA) tools, has suspended cooperation with Huawei following the U.S. curbs, China Chairman Ge Qun said at the conference.

"The entire chip industry is too fragile to defend itself. We are at least 20 years behind comparing to Silicon Valley from scale and quality of talent to size of the ecosystem," said Wang of AINTEC, a Suzhou-based company that develops 3D visual chips. "If we can prosper [with the U.S.], that's the best, but if the situation doesn't allow this to happen, we need to think what we have on our hands."

For its part, the Chinese government has stepped up efforts to defend domestic tech companies

and increase the industry's self-sufficiency. This month, it rolled out a series of measures that include tax breaks, tariff exemptions and investment incentives to bolster chipmakers and software producers.

Local corporations are also boosting investments in research and development, with state-backed Tsinghua Unigroup building a \$22 billion memory chip plant in the city of Wuhan. Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp. recently completed a secondary listing in Shanghai, raising more than \$7.6 billion that would be used to develop next-generation chipmaking technologies to compete with rivals like Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Tsinghua Unigroup and SMIC, along with HiSilicon and Cambricon Technologies Corp., are among a handful of homegrown firms that are engaged in advanced chip manufacturing.

"Although no one wants to say this, the world is approaching a new cold war era. I'm afraid this trend will get stronger in the future," said Li Xing, co-founder of Beijing-based private equity company V Fund and a former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. executive. "However, the challenge could become an opportunity for the industry" as China seeks local replacements. **BLOOMBERG**

AD

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羅嘉慧 Emily Lo
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Former NBA player Chris Weber, ESPN analyst Jalen Rose, and CBS Sports commentator James Brown

JOE REEDY

CHRIS Webber's emotional comments last week in support of NBA players, who boycotted the playoffs after the shooting of Jacob Blake, generated millions of views because they came from the heart and addressed sensitive topics.

But for Webber and other Black commentators who discussed this week's call to action throughout the sports world, it wasn't unusual to discuss such subjects. The only difference is that this time he spoke in front of a live TV audience.

"These are conversations I have had with my mom since I've been 5 years old. This is nothing I haven't said a thousand times before, but no one heard it," Webber said by phone from the NBA bubble at Walt Disney World in Florida. "These are the same conversations and hopefully something gets done."

On-air conversations about race have been common in sports media because it is more diverse, particularly with more Black on-air talent, than the rest of the news media, where many organizations have pledged this year to hire more minorities. Former athletes have a pipeline to advance into sports media as commentators, and many popular shows feature a Black man or woman as a host.

Amid a dizzying week of news that included the Republican National Convention, the coronavirus pandemic and protests following the shooting of Blake by a police officer in Kenosha, Wisconsin, sports networks

Former athletes, sports shows take lead on social justice

devoted large chunks of their programming to discussions of social and racial injustice. Boycotts by players in several leagues — games canceled in the NBA, NHL, Major League Baseball and Major League Soccer, and NFL players not practicing — presented an opportunity for sports on TV to deviate from the usual script.

Those conversations took different forms. TNT's Kenny Smith showed solidarity with players by walking off the "Inside the NBA" set on Wednesday. On Thursday, NFL Network was slated to air the Los Angeles Chargers' first workout at SoFi Stadium. Instead, it turned into a forum for players to express their feelings about racial and social issues after practice was canceled.

Talk shows on ESPN and FS1, normally devoted to debates about teams, players and coaches, became forums to discuss experiences with racism.

"I have young nephews and I've had to talk to them about death before they've even seen a movie," Webber said in his comments on TNT on Wednesday.

CBS studio host James Brown, who has been a part of network television for 36 years, said his conversations with players and executives have shown that athletes feel like they're at a crossroads.

"They don't get the impression that anything significant is being done by leadership across the country and that they're not serious about changes," Brown said. "Athletes also feel a moral obligation to represent the marginalized and to advocate strongly for that until they see serious changes."

Former NFL linebacker Emmanuel Acho has tried to create some of those changes himself. Along with interviewing athletes on FS1's "Speak for Yourself," he has started a YouTube series called "Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black Man." Acho is scheduled to release a book with the same title in November.

"I fervently believe that if the white person is your problem, only the white person can be the solution," Acho said in his first episode.

His guests have included actor Matthew McConaughey and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

"There are topics that can be intimidating for others, but for me, being able to address them is the most fulfilling," Acho said. "I've seen a lot of encouraging discussions throughout different shows this week. You have to tackle issues that pertain to everyone's lives. You are talking about life and death, not wins

and losses."

ESPN commentator Jalen Rose, who was Webber's college teammate at Michigan, said conversations about social justice and race relations can be emotionally and physically draining, but he believes they are signs of progress.

"To use a sports analogy, I look at it as trying to gain field position. If you look up at the scoreboard it is 465 years (since slavery) to zero and it's the first quarter and you know you aren't going to win the game, but you have to go out there and play your best and move the ball forward for the people that come behind you," Rose said. "You might get four or five first downs and then get a pass interference call but when you punt you are still gaining field position. It has to be about the marathon and the long game which can be frustrating but those are the cards we've been dealt."

Brown, who also hosts the NFL Broadcasting Boot Camp for players each year, said current and former athletes are getting more respect and attention when they speak about issues outside sports.

"It's hurtful — because I am an older athlete — to say all we can do is play ball and not be engaged. We're husbands and grandfathers. To marginalize athletes

is wrong. The nexus between sports and civic action is there," Brown said.

Brown added that athletes who speak out need to be articulate, informed and mindful that their words have staying power.

It was just two years ago that Jimmy Pitaro took over as president of ESPN and issued a "stick to sports" edict for the network's on-air talent. But the interpretation of those words has evolved. When social unrest intersects with sports, ESPN won't ignore the topic.

For Rose, the era of athletes sticking to sports is over — in part because President Donald Trump hasn't been shy about criticizing NBA and NFL players who disagree with him.

"If he's acknowledging NFL players who are kneeling and he says, 'They deserve to be fired,' that now becomes a sports topic. If one of the owners of the Atlanta Dream talks about the Black Lives Matter movement in derogatory terms, that now becomes a topic. When Herschel Walker or Brian Urlacher say what they want to say about politics, then that's going to become a topic," Rose said. "You understand there are going to be people who are unhappy, but I do applaud the NBA, ESPN and national media outlets that allow people to express themselves both ways." AP

OPINION

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



EUROPEAN UNION, A DOOMED CAUSE

It is not the intention of this piece to either hurt someone's feelings or provoke anyone. As an outsider to the European Union, I would like to share my experience with the European Union, some of the "European united policies", and, especially, with the fortified culture and "persona" of each country.

Before I start, I hope all readers know that I am like all of you: my opinion is restricted and confined due to my family background, my social background, my cultural background, my education, and the people I have met.

Furthermore, my opinion is likely to be completely wrong, since I have no way to thoroughly attest to or confirm it. However, I have learned that, in the so-called democratic and liberal society, an artist who has failed maths, physics, and geography in school might end up being faithfully and loyally followed by people who believe the world is whatever said artist says it is.

Therefore, allow me the noble right of taking the liberty to assume that, regardless of how stupid my opinion sounds, people will still respect my right to express it.

That said, why do I consider the European Union a doomed cause? Many other people have endless opinions on this topic. I will share my experience from one perspective: visa policies for tourists.

I have been to a small village in the European Union four times in total; a small village in Portugal. I have also been to the Lisbon airport a total of eight times. Unlike some people who have been to Beijing and Shanghai and believe they have already seen everything in China, I consider myself to have never "actually" been to Portugal, nor the European Union.

Before each of those four visits, I had to apply for a tourist visa. From my own perspective, if I want to go to other people's place, I should not judge or compare their policies, lifestyle, culture or norms with my own. I always compare a country with other countries aside from my own. If you eat meat, you eat your meat. If you are a vegetarian, you are a vegetarian. A meat eater does not have to agree with or even respect the vegetarian, and vice versa, but both individuals must accept that they are different, but I digress.

When I applied for the Schengen visa, I did not have, still do not have, and will not have any thoughts on how the process may be worse or better than in my place.

I have applied for several kinds of visas in order to visit some developed countries. The Schengen visa is the only one requiring an applicant to submit a birth certificate issued within six months. I still have no clue why a birth certificate must be younger than six-months old to testify for an applicant. For me, this is one bit of proof of the rigid mindset of the European Union. Furthermore, Schengen countries asked me to book a round-trip flight and show the proof of purchase when applying for the visa. No flight tickets, no EU visa.

Like I said before, I compare the Schengen visa to other visas, for example, the US visa, the UK visa, the Canadian visa, the Australian visa, or the New Zealand visa. None of these countries demand the aforementioned two documents.

I just wish someone could help me understand how these two documents help the European Union to confirm what it is that they want to confirm about a tourist.

I am nonetheless very happy to be able to provide the Schengen countries with the documents they ask for. But it just made me wonder: what kind of different "controlling" and "regulatory" thinking does the European Union zone have?

NEARLY 500K REGISTER FOR FREE TESTS IN HONG KONG

Hong Kong authorities say nearly half a million people have registered for a free universal coronavirus testing program that is due to begin today.

Residents registering online have already booked out 80 testing sites located in gymnasiums and community centers for the initial day of the program, according to the government's website. It said other centers still have places if the number of those signing on rises above the 420,000 registered as of late Sunday.

Hong Kong launched the program in an effort to track down

paths of infection that have consistently added to case numbers despite strict social distancing and other measures imposed on the densely populated city of 7.5 million. All who wish to be tested can do so at no cost.

Hong Kong on Sunday reported another 15 cases of coronavirus and one additional COVID-19 fatality, bringing its totals to 4,801 cases and 88 deaths.

Mainland China yesterday reported 17 new cases found over the previous 24 hours, all of them brought from outside the country.

THE BUZZ

HUAWEI ENDS RUGBY SPONSOR DEAL OVER AUSTRALIA 'TRADE WAR'



AP PHOTO

CHINESE telecom giant Huawei is ending its oldest major sporting sponsorship deal, saying yesterday it was breaking its contract with an Australian rugby league team after nine years because of a "great trade war" between China and Australia.

Australia has barred the world's largest maker of switching gear and major smartphone brand from involvement in crucial national communication infrastructure in recent years, while China has ratcheted up pressure for an Australian policy reversal.

"Unfortunately as everyone knows, Huawei has been caught in the middle of a great trade war and the effects on our business is greater than we expected," Huawei Australia's chief corporate affairs officer Jeremy Mitchell told reporters.

Huawei will end its current financial backing of the Canberra Raiders at the end of the current National Rugby League season, because of the "negative business environment" in Australia, Mitchell said. The grand final is on Oct. 25.

Huawei will continue as one of the minor sponsors, as the team searches for a replacement major sponsor.

"We would've loved to

have stayed for another nine years or 10 years, but the business environment in Australia is very hard for a Chinese company," Mitchell said.

The Raiders is the only team in the national competition based in the Australian capital, the center of government and national policy-making.

Last year, Huawei had renewed its sponsorship deal for two years until the end of the 2021 season.

Huawei's landmark decision to sponsor the team in 2012 came months after the government banned the company on security grounds from involvement in the rollout of Australia's National Broadband Network in 2011.

The sponsorship was seen as an attempt to improve Huawei's public image in the eyes of lawmakers and senior bureaucrats who barrack for the Canberra team.

Raiders board member Dennis Richardson, a former head of the Defense Department and of the main domestic spy agency, Australian Security Intelligence Organization, had been a vocal supporter of Huawei's sponsorship deal.

Mitchell said the government's decision in 2018 to ban Huawei from Australia's 5G networks had had

a major economic impact.

Huawei would consider renewing its sponsorship partnership with the Raiders "if the business environment changes for us" in Australia, he said.

"The reality is we've gone from 1,000 staff. Next year we'll be 100 staff. The impact of the 5G ban and the greater Australia-China relationship has had a huge flow-on effect," Mitchell said.

"Where we had hoped our business would pick up outside of the 5G hasn't happened," he added.

Raiders chief executive Don Furner said the team was "very sad" to be losing its major sponsor. Neither Huawei nor the team has ever made public the value of the sponsorship.

"The Canberra Raiders and Huawei have enjoyed a fantastic partnership for nearly a decade - they have been by far our longest serving major sponsor," Furner said.

China has made Australia lifting its ban on Huawei on essential infrastructure a condition of turning around strained bilateral relations. The diplomatic relationship has since worsened because Australia called for an independent inquiry into the origins of and international responses to the coronavirus pandemic. AP



AP PHOTO

South Korea has counted its 18th straight day of triple-digit daily jumps in coronavirus cases as its health minister warned about an increase in transmissions gone untraced and infections among senior citizens. Of the 248 new cases reported yesterday, the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said 187 were from the Seoul metropolitan area.

Nepal's government is allowing the first foreign mountaineering team to climb a Himalayan peak this year. Information Minister Yuba Raj Khatiwada said the team of 15 Bahrain nationals and three British citizens will attempt to scale Mount Lobuche and Mount Manaslu during the autumn climbing season. Nepal's popular spring climbing season was canceled because of the coronavirus pandemic.



AP PHOTO

Middle East A Star of David-adorned El Al plane flew from Israel to the United Arab Emirates yesterday, carrying a high-ranking American and Israeli delegation to Abu Dhabi in the first-ever direct commercial passenger flight between the two countries. The Israeli flag carrier's flight marked the implementation of the historic U.S.-brokered deal to normalize relations between the two nations and solidifies the long-clandestine ties between them that have evolved over years of shared enmity toward Iran.



AP PHOTO

USA Joe Biden is mounting a more aggressive offense against President Donald Trump with a rare public appearance in Pittsburgh today [Macau time], where he's expected to say Trump is contributing to the violence in the streets nationwide. According to a campaign aide, the Democratic presidential nominee will accuse Trump of exacerbating unrest and will make the argument that the violent turn some of the recent protests is the Trump administration's problem.