

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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RCR electronics

CHINA IS REPORTEDLY USING BIG DATA TO STOP ITS RESIDENTS GOING OVERSEAS TO GAMBLE

LOCAL UNIVERSITIES RETAIN POSITIONS IN GLOBAL UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

CHINA COMMEMORATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PACIFIC WAR'S END; MACAU HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REMEMBER CONFLICT AT EXHIBITION

China Beijing's main international airport yesterday began receiving international flights again from a limited number of countries considered at low risk of coronavirus infection. Passengers flying in from Cambodia, Greece, Denmark, Thailand, Pakistan, Austria, Canada and Sweden must have first shown a negative coronavirus test before boarding, city government spokesperson Xu Hejian told reporters.



Thailand Health officials say a prison inmate has tested positive for the coronavirus in the country's first confirmed locally transmitted case in 100 days. They said yesterday the inmate is a 37-year-old man who was arrested for drug abuse who was arrested in Aug. 26 and tested positive on Wednesday when brought to the health center of a prison in Bangkok.



India has registered a record single-day spike of 83,883 new cases, driving the country overall tally to 3.85 million. The Health Ministry yesterday also reported 1,043 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities up to 67,376. India has been reporting the highest daily increases for more than three weeks. The ministry said the country's fatality rate had declined to 1.76% and its deaths per million population was "one of the lowest in the world."

South Korea reported its first drop below 200 new coronavirus cases in more than two weeks, but the country's strained hospitals were treating more seriously ill patients after the prolonged recent surge in infections. Yesterday's increase of 195 new cases, the first daily increase below 200 in 17 days, indicated the country was beginning to see the effects of stringent social distancing restrictions recently imposed in the greater capital area.

More on backpage

MACAU 2040

Public consultation on the Urban Master Plan starts today for a future city of 808,000 people with an area of 37sqkm

LIGHT RAIL EAST LINE TO GO UNDERGROUND

GOV'T CHARGING STATIONS MORE EXPENSIVE THAN PRIVATE ONES

The Macau SAR's planned charging stations for electric motorbikes will be more expensive than private ones. The Office for the Development of the Energy Sector (GDSE) issued a statement explaining the local government's plans for the charging stations. During the first stage, the government will install 200 public electric charging stations. Considering the costs of installing, operating and maintaining the charging stations, in the long term, the public should start paying for the charging service. Using fast public charging as an example, the current pricing plan will be higher than normal household electricity tariffs, but lower than the cost of normal gasoline consumption per kilometer. Currently, the GDSE is carrying out a study on electricity charging tariffs, which will be publicly released in due course.

GOV'T WILL NOT CONSIDER MANDATORY WINDOW INSPECTIONS

The government says it needs to study further the possibility of launching a mandatory window inspection scheme. In a reply to lawmaker Agnes Lam's interpellation, the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) used Hong Kong as an example, saying that a mandatory window inspection scheme is difficult to carry out on a large-scale because of problems such as uncooperative individuals. The bureau expects Macau to face the same problems as Hong Kong, so the bureau wishes to further study the topic first. In addition, the bureau said that the SAR government has no intention of studying the effect of Macau's current measures, which consists of authorities encouraging the public to inspect the windows on their own without a legal requirement.

COMMUNITY ADVISORS PROPOSE MULTIFUNCTIONAL DETENTION BASIN

Community advisors of the central districts have urged the government to build a multi-functional detention basin at Praça de Ponte e Horta. The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has plans to build a detention basin below the Praça de Ponte e Horta park. Central district advisor Cheong Sok Leng proposed that the government to upgrade the garden's current water fountain and that the future detention basin be used as a facility to prevent floods and as a car park. Another advisor, surnamed Hong, proposed that the building accommodating the detention basin have three floors. The bottom level will be used for flood prevention, the middle as an immigration checkpoint and that the top be used by the government for both commercial and administrative purposes.

LRT EAST LINE TO GO UNDERGROUND WITH COST ESTIMATE OF MOP2 BILLION

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macau Light Rapid Transit (LRT) East Line system will be built entirely underground, the government announced yesterday in the press conference for the launch of public consultation on the project.

The LRT East Line aims to link the Pac On area in Taipa to the Border Gate. It will pass through Zone A of the new landfills and link to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) Port, which will be an important part of the city's major transport hub. This will connect the airport, the Taipa Ferry Terminal, and the HKZMB to the Border Gate.

During this year's sectorial Policy Address, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, had hinted at the possibility of the line being built entirely underground, a solution that has now been confirmed.

Like Rosário, the chairman of the LRT company, Ho Cheong Kei, explained that this solution aims to maximize use of Zone A's land resources in the new landfills. This will reduce the impact on traffic during construction, and allow operation of the line even during severe weather conditions such as typhoons.

The line will be 7.65 kilometers long with six stations and will include an underwater tunnel section, with 2.4



kilometers linking Zone E on the new landfills in Taipa to Zone A.

During the press conference where the government also announced the public consultation of the Urban Master Plan, Ho hinted that the project might cost around MOP2 billion. The estimated amount was based on the construction costs of a similar facility in the neighboring region of Hong Kong.

"We do not have an exact reference as we do not have any experience using this method in Macau," Ho said, noting that for the construction of the tunnel the Tunnel Boring Method (TBM) will be used.

"In Hong Kong, some 16

kilometers of this type of underground excavation cost about MOP4 billion. While in Beijing, the same method used in the city subway system has reportedly cost around MOP1 billion per kilometer. I think our reality is closer to the Hong Kong one," Ho said.

The official also said that construction of the East Line is likely to take at least five years and will begin when tunnel drilling starts. He added that the same trains that are currently operating on the Taipa line will also circulate on the new line.

Unlike the first LRT line, which officials admitted lacked planning and had several mistakes, Ho said that the go-

vernment will take several factors into account for the East Line. The number of entries and exits from stations will be increased so that the facility can also operate as an easy and accessible pedestrian network in Zone A. Stations will also be equipped with other types of services, including shops and restaurants.

"[This time] we will take into account the commercial factors to boost the use and increase the Return on Investment," Ho said. "We need to think about this in more detail regarding the quantity and functionality, as we do not want these shops and restaurants to cause any disturbance to the operation of the LRT."

Only 30% of civil servant applicants pass ability test

JUST 30% aspiring civil servants passed the government's comprehensive ability evaluation.

Earlier this week, the SAR government published a list of final grades for the exam.

The exam was orga-

nized on July 26. Around 14,323 people applied to take the exam but only 76% of applicants sat the test. This is the fourth exam that has been run for the assessment of integrated skills after the amendment of the Administrative Regula-

tion No. 23/2017.

The results are classified as "pass" and "not pass" and the cut-off for passing was 50 points.

The highest performer scored 93 points, and over 200 examinees scored over 70 points. The exam had a pass

rate of 30%, with a total of 3,321 examinees passing.

The test results are valid for three years. Candidates who qualify and meet other legal requirements can apply to work for the public department as vehi-

cle inspectors, technical counselors, public relations supervisors, driving test examiners, postal counseling technicians, and other types of jobs.

These individuals can apply for these jobs within three years. The exam results are valid until September 1, 2023.

In the fourth quarter of this year, the integrated skill assessment exam will be open to the undergraduate level. **JZ**

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DETAIL OF MACAU MAP (DSSC)



Urban Master Plan unveiled with emphasis on regional, international links

RENATO MARQUES

THE government's urban development plans for the next 20 years were unveiled yesterday when the public consultation document was presented by the interdepartmental group in charge of the Urban Master Plan.

With major focuses on the city's reorganization and establishing regional and international link areas, housing and public infrastructure will take the lead role and define the uses of current and planned land.

According to the government's estimations, by 2040, the Special Administrative Region will possess a total area of 36.8 square kilometers where 808,000 people will live.

Taking these predictions into account, the government defined the percentages for each of the eight categories that would occupy the land. The three major categories are public infrastructure, housing and green ecological areas, occupying 23%, 22%, and 18% of the land respectively.

According to Chan Pou Ha, the director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), land usage was defined according to three principles: the current urban situation, mixed usage of the lands, and a balance between employment and housing. This is an attempt to reorganize the city so that residents would have fewer transportation needs and reduce lengthy, time-consuming trips between home, work and school.

URBAN RENEWAL FOCUSED ON INDUSTRIAL SWAP

One of the highly anticipated topics of the Urban Master Plan was its connection with the government's intentions of moving forward with urban renewal.

The focus is not the housing buildings of the old neighborhoods, but a reorganization of the areas occupied by industrial sectors, and an industry swap from light industry to high technology.

Two areas of the city are planned to change significantly in appearance and purpose. The first is Avenida de Venceslau de Morais, which currently has the most warehouses and small industries operating from old industrial buildings. This area will receive a facelift, giving way to modernization and a change of sector. It will be dedicated to housing as well as commercial activities to "reduce the impact of the industrial activity in the residential areas and improve the global environment in the neighborhood," the government said.

Another area to be transformed is the Inner Harbor, where the old piers will be revitalized as a leisure and tourism coastal attraction. The project includes significant changes to the piers, buildings, and even traffic, as some streets along the waterfront will be transformed into pedestrian and esplanade areas.

The government also aims to modernize the industry and relocate them to other areas of the region, namely to a new industrial area of Pac On. It will reuse the

old Pac On industrial park and incentivize the swap from industrial activity to high technology, making good use of the new plans to transform the area, which is a major transport hub in Macau.

By 2040, Macau will possess a total area of 36.8 square kilometers where 808,000 people will live

MULTI-TRANSPORT HUBS TO CONNECT REGIONALLY

Another area of the government's Urban Master Plan is the integration of all transport into hubs to allow fast transportation between several areas of Macau. It will also facilitate transport in and out of Macau, either with connections to the cities of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) or internationally.

The government aims to increase links between the interna-

tional airport, which will undergo further expansion, and maritime transport via the Taipa Maritime Terminal, the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system, and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) Port.

This plan includes not only the fourth bridge between Taipa and Zone A of the new landfills, but also the new LRT East Line which will connect the Pac On area to the Border Gate while passing through the HKZMB and all of Zone A.

The government says this is part of Macau's regional integration, aiming to link Macau to the major cities of the GBA within one hour.

Locally, the government has also proposed categorizing the different roads of Macau. This will create an inter-zone network and define a series of main-road links to promote traffic detouring away from certain areas of the city. This will also include optimization of pedestrian accesses via under or upper passages for main-road crossing, creating an effective pedestrian system.

FINAL RESULTS EXPECTED IN ONE YEAR

The public consultation on the Urban Master Plan starts today and will last for 60 days, until November 2. The final results of the Urban Master Plan will only be known in about one year, the director of DSSOPT said in a reply to the media.

As Chan explained, "now we are going to have 60 days of public consultation, which will follow a period of 180 days for the company responsible for the consultation to elaborate [on] their preliminary report."

"Then this report will be submitted to the Urban Planning Council [CPU], which will have to analyze it and also provide comments. In the final stage, the consultant will have 90 days more to finalize the report with input from CPU, presenting a final version that will then be delivered to the Chief Executive," she said, noting that this should occur by September 2021.

RENATO MARQUES



HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS REMEMBER CHINA-JAPAN CONFLICT AT WAR EXHIBITION

JULIE ZHU

STUDENTS at yesterday's opening of a history exhibition pledged to enhance their knowledge of the Second World War, specifically the Japanese invasion of China. The exhibition, themed "In Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Victory of the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War," kicked off yesterday at the Tap Seac Gallery.

Organized by the Macao Foundation and the Oral History Association of Macao, the exhibition showcases approximately 70 historical pictures that show how the Chinese defeated the Japanese during the Second World War. The pictures also feature Macau people participating in the fight against Japan. This allows visitors to learn how Macau residents contributed to the victory of the Chinese people.

The organizers and their supporting organizations, including the Liaison Office, hope that the exhibition will enhance patriotic education amongst the Macau public.

Approximately 50 students from several local secondary schools, including the Yuet Wah College and the Escola Hou Kong,



attended the opening ceremony where they listened to a guide explain the exhibition.

During the tour, several students shared their thoughts on the exhibition with the media.

One of the students, surnamed Ao Jeong, said that sensing the hardship of the ancestors who fought in the war and seeing pictures of the Nanjing Massacre deeply touched him. They made him compare people's li-

ves during the wartime and those today. The student commented that "the motherland will not be bullied only when it is strong."

Another student, surnamed Chan, learnt about Macau's involvement in the war, saying that he could not imagine what Macau's situation was like at that time.

According to a student surnamed Vong from Yuet Wah College, these students applied to the

school to be at the exhibition's opening ceremony.

Speaking to the Macau Daily Times, Angel Iek, a student from Escola Hou Kong, applauded the exhibition as it supplemented her knowledge regarding this specific part of history.

"Actually, we have also learned about this part of the history in the school's history classes. Through the exhibition and the guide's explanation, I have new

knowledge and understanding regarding this segment of history," said Iek.

"Even though we can't change this segment of history, we will not forget it."

Crystal Ng, who is also a student from Escola Hou Kong, said that this exhibition was more touching than a history textbook because it has many pictures.

"Pictures make us feel the bitterness and the gallantry of fighters during this segment of history in a more direct way. I feel fortunate that we live in a happy and peaceful era, but I also feel pity that we lost such brave warriors during this time of history," said Ng. She thanked her school for letting students take the time to visit the exhibition during school hours.

The exhibition will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. until September 9.

This year, the SAR government will open a national security education museum that aims to provide the city with a permanent patriotic exhibition.

Speaking to the Times at yesterday's opening ceremony, William Choi, president of the Association of Culture and Art of Macau, said that "Macau still does not have enough of these kinds of exhibitions" and that he wants more of them.

GAMING | AUSTRALIA

Crown admits newspaper ad included false claims

THE board of Crown Resorts misled investors through a newspaper advertisement last year that claimed long-time junket partner Suncity was controlled by a regulated Hong Kong firm.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, Crown's chief legal officer Joshua Preston admitted at a New South Wales gaming commission inquiry that the claim was incorrect. "The junket operations were not part of that listed company," he said, as reported by the Australian newspaper.

Preston said that Crown's junket partnership was actually with Alvin Chau, the high-profile junket operator who chairs the Hong Kong-listed company.

According to Preston, the board was made aware

of the error days after the release, but they had not corrected it to his knowledge. There is no suggestion that the board intended the statement to be misleading, according to the Sydney Morning Herald.

Suncity Group Holdings Limited is a company listed on the main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and is primarily engaged with the development of residential and commercial properties, providing hotel and integrated resort management, and consultancy services.

However, the gambling promotion activities associated with the Suncity name are managed by the Macau-based Suncity Group. According to the company's website, its VIP entertainment services have a foothold in the Ma-

cau SAR, South Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines.

The newspaper advertisement was published in July last year in response to the findings of a joint investigation by Australian media sources The Age, the Sydney Morning Herald and 60 Minutes. They alleged Crown Resorts' junket partners had links to organized crime and money laundering.

The inquiry is being conducted to assess Crown's suitability to hold a license for a new hotel and casino nearing completion at Sydney's Barangaroo.

Additional law enforcement investigations into Crown regarding other matters are running in parallel with the inquiry, including alleged links to money laundering activities via its partners. **DB**

GOV'T COLLABORATES WITH GAMING OPERATORS TO PROMOTE IN BEIJING

LYNZY VALLES

THE government is set to launch a tourism promotion campaign during the second week of September on Beijing's busiest commercial street. The campaign will involve the city's six gaming concessionaires.

According to a report by Radio Macau, the promotional campaign, which is being coordinated by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), will take place on Wangfujing Street in Beijing.

This is the first tourism campaign being run abroad since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

During the first half of 2020, visitor arrivals declined by 84% year-on-year to 3.26 million due to travel and border restrictions.

Last month, China had set a date for the resump-

tion of tourist visas for visitors travelling to the Macau SAR. From September 23, any mainland resident will be able to apply for an Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) visa to visit Macau for tourism purposes. The timing positions Macau for a tourism recovery bounce during China's Golden Week in early October, a normally popular time in the Macau gaming calendar.

As the promotion of gambling is prohibited on the mainland, gaming operators are likely to publicize their hotel and restaurant promotions during the upcoming campaign.

Recently, the government launched a scheme for tourists from mainland China, aiming to boost the economy and protect local jobs.

The scheme was ini-

tiated by the Macau SAR government with support from e-commerce giants Tencent and Alibaba, as well as Air Macau. It aims to attract tourism to the city through promotions on air tickets and hotels, and rebates on shopping and dining to encourage tourists to increase their spending and length of stay.

After the IVS was reinstated for Guangdong residents on August 12, preliminary data shows that the city recorded a 25% rise in visitor arrivals compared to the weekend prior.

Previously, the Public Security Police Force had said that it did not expect significant changes in border traffic. However, they are now predicting a gradual upward trend in the number of arrivals in the coming weeks.

Macau universities retain positions in global university rankings

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) and the University of Macau (UM) have retained their places on the 2021 Times Higher Education (THE) ranking.

MUST, which ranked 32nd in Asia, is the best university in Macau, followed by the UM in 37th position. They are the only institutions from Macau featured in the ranking. MUST's position in Asia is due to it being ranked in 251st to 300th in the world ranking.

MUST's highest ranking came from the International Outlook category where it scored 100 points, followed by Citations, scoring 86.3.

For Research and Teaching, MUST scored at 23.6 and 29.7 respectively out of 100 points.

UM, meanwhile, ranked 301st to 350th. The university scored slightly higher in Research and Teaching, with 35.5 and 30.0 points respectively.

It scored 99.3 and 64.8 for International Outlook and Citations respectively.

In 2015, the university was ranked 276th to 300th.

Meanwhile, universities from mainland China have secured the top two spots in THE's Asia University Rankings for the first time since it began in 2013.



Tsinghua University, the first Chinese university to achieve the top spot, has maintained its number one position this year. Meanwhile, Peking University rose from fifth to second place.

Mainland Chinese universities claimed three of the top 10 positions for the first time ever this year, with the University of Science and Technology of China and South Korea's Sungkyunkwan University tied at 10th place.

"[The] Chinese mainland's dominance is truly cemented by achieving the top two spots for the first time in the ranking," said THE's Chief Knowledge Officer Phil Baty.

"China has been ahead of a lot of Asian nations in prioritizing the knowledge economy, prioritizing investment in great universities, that included of course financial investment to very [...] high levels, but also reform to make sure that academics, scholars of China are incentivized [...] on producing high quality work," he added.

According to Baty, the world will see more Chinese scholars producing research at high levels in leading journals, which will further improve Chinese

universities' rankings.

The National University of Singapore ranked third in the Asia University Rankings, followed by the University of Hong Kong and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

The University of Oxford topped this year's World University Rankings 2021, followed by Stanford University, Harvard University and California Institute of Technology.

The rankings, which were revealed yesterday, include the best colleges and universities in Asia, featuring institutions from

30 territories and regions.

The ranking classifies research-intensive universities using their core missions of teaching, research, knowledge transfer and international outlook. The 2021 rankings include more than 1,500 universities across 93 countries and regions, making them the largest and most diverse university rankings to date.

The Asia University Rankings are based on the same 13 performance indicators as THE's World University Rankings, recalibrated to reflect the region's unique characteristics.

Mainland-Macau conference explores post-Covid future for business

A conference on cooperation between mainland and Macau enterprises was held online yesterday, drawing the participation of government officials, business interests and investment promoters, who explored ways to support the industrial and commercial sectors in the two jurisdictions, while coping with the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Participants also used the conference to exchange views on the development of Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road Initiative, both major policy objectives of China that involve the governments of the Pearl River Delta region.

Among the participants



IPIM President Lau Wai Meng delivers a speech at the conference

from Macau were Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong and the President of Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM),

Lau Wai Meng.

In his speech, the Macau Secretary called on business associations in Macau to work with the local government to revita-

lize the city's economy and strengthen cooperation with mainland China's provinces and municipalities.

Lau said that the epidemic has brought greater impact to businesses that rely on a traditional offline operation model. The IPIM President said that, in order to help enterprises understand the latest developments of the market, his bureau has held a number of online workshops and seminars covering various topics including participation in the Greater Bay Area and Belt and Road Initiative projects.

According to organizers, a total of 180 online viewers from various sectors participated in the event. **DB**

CHINA USING BIG DATA TO TACKLE 'CROSS-BORDER' GAMBLING

MAINLAND officials say they are using big data to identify Chinese residents planning to go overseas for gambling purposes and have prevented them from leaving the country.

The controls are being applied to people who are suspected of being involved in gambling or gambling-related businesses, said Ji Lixia, deputy director of Beijing Immigration Inspection, in a Wednesday press briefing, according to gaming news website GGRAsia.

Ji said that her department was working to tackle cross-border gambling activities and warned Chinese travelers not to gamble while abroad.

Last week, China established a blacklist system for cross-border gambling tourist destinations, saying that gambling activities were disrupting the country's outbound travel market and endangering residents' lives and properties.

Investment analysts say that Macau is likely not considered a "cross-border" gaming jurisdiction.

In the past year, China has also condemned offshore hubs of online casino operators that target mainland Chinese patrons. Reports about these operations in places such as Cambodia and the Philippines suggest it is already big business. **DB**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

CHINA COMMEMORATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF END OF PACIFIC WAR

CHINA yesterday commemorated the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in the Pacific, during which it endured a brutal invasion and occupation of much of its territory by Japan.

Communist Party leader and head of state Xi Jinping led government officials in a minute of silence and presentation of floral wreaths at a memorial hall dedicated to soldiers and civilians who participated in the struggle.

Japan launched a full-on invasion of China in 1937, marked by urban warfare and atrocities such as the notorious Rape of Nanking.

While armies under Nationalist Party leader Chiang Kai-shek fought most of the major battles, Communist Party guerrillas under Mao Zedong forced Japan to divert soldiers and resources from battlefields elsewhere with low-level engagements.

Although Japan formally surrendered aboard the USS Missouri on Sept. 2, 1945, China marks the end of the war on Sept. 3 when it first held nationwide celebrations.

The Communists swept to



AP PHOTO

power in 1949 following renewed civil war against the Nationalists and continue to uphold the struggle against Japan as a source of their legitimacy to rule. Chiang relocated his Republic of China government to Taiwan, where it

continues to enjoy strong though unofficial U.S. support after making a transition to full democracy more than two decades again.

The relatively low-key commemoration reflects social dis-

tancing rules in place during the coronavirus outbreak and contrasts sharply with how China has marked other significant anniversaries, including a lavish military parade through the center of Beijing last Oct. 1 to mark the

70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic.

Earlier on Thursday, Xi told Russian leader Vladimir Putin that he wanted to work for "international fairness and justice," the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

The exchange of messages was intended to commemorate the joint struggle of China and the former Soviet Union against the Axis powers, and also underscores the close cooperation over recent years between China and Russia in resisting the influence of Washington and the democratic West.

The two nations should use the 75 anniversary of the war's end as an "opportunity to lead their countries towards deeper comprehensive strategic coordination," Xinhua quoted Xi as saying.

"He also suggested that the two sides make concerted efforts with the international community to actively uphold and practice multilateralism," Xinhua said, referencing China's standard term for resisting American and Western influence. AP

AD

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 30 millimetres in an hour, and is likely to continue.

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The End of Tourism and the Future of Mobilities

Professor Kevin Hannam PhD FRGS will discuss our understanding of the concept of tourism in the context of wider mobilities and the current Covid-19 pandemic. He will go on to examine various possible future mobility transitions for Macao and the GBA based upon previous and current thinking on utopias and dystopias.

He is currently the Pro-Rector for Research and the Professor Librarian at the University of St Joseph, Macao. He has extensive experience of senior management roles at universities in the UK and elsewhere and has developed many successful transnational educational partnerships in Asia.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

Czech Senate president meets Taiwan leader; Beijing protests

THE Czech Senate president met with Taiwanese leader Tsai Ing-wen and other top government officials yesterday during a rare trip by a foreign dignitary to the self-ruled democratic island that rival China called an "open provocation."

Tsai presented a medal for Jaroslav Kubera, the late predecessor of Czech Senate President Milos Vystrcil.

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.

Tsai called Kubera a "great friend" and gave a nod to Vystrcil's speech Tuesday, saying his words "I'm a Taiwanese" had touched many hearts.

"Our actions are telling friends in Europe and all over the world, whether Taiwanese or Czechs, we will not succumb to oppression, will bravely speak up, actively participate in international affairs, and contribute our capabilities," she said.

Beijing is furious about the Czech delegation's visit, with the foreign ministry summoning the Czech Republic's ambassador



The Czech Senate President Milos Vystrcil gives a press conference in Taipei

to lodge stern representations and saying the trip amounted to "flagrant support of Taiwan independence." China claims Taiwan as its own territory and strongly objects to any official contact between other countries and the

self-governing island.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi said earlier this week that Vystrcil's visit is an "open provocation."

"China must tell the Czech Senate leader: You've crossed the line!" Wang said.

Vystrcil and Taiwan's foreign minister also refuted China's warnings.

"I do not feel I have crossed any red line whatsoever," Vystrcil said in response to reporters' questions yesterday. "We did not do anything

that would be an infringement of the One China policy."

He added, "every country has the right to interpret the One China principle in their own way."

"We are here to stay and Taiwan is not going anywhere," Taiwan's Foreign Minister Joseph Wu said. "Taiwan is trying to maintain the status quo and the status quo is that Taiwan does not belong to China. Taiwan is governed by its own people."

Vystrcil and Wu announced further cooperation in business, scientific research and democratic exchange.

Vystrcil announced the formation of a working group from the Czech side dedicated to cooperation on the economy and cybersecurity.

Tensions between the Czech Republic and China have simmered since a dispute between their capitals last year. They ended a sister-cities agreement because Beijing had wanted Prague to agree to the "One China" principle, which says Taiwan is part of China. **AP**

AD

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

對象
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GERMANY

Soviet-era nerve agent used on Russia's Navalny

GEIR MOULSON, BERLIN

RUSSIAN opposition leader Alexei Navalny was poisoned with the same type of Soviet-era nerve agent used in a 2018 attack on a former Russian spy, the German government said yesterday [Macau time], provoking outrage from Western leaders who demanded Moscow provide an explanation.

The findings — which experts say point strongly to Russian state involvement — added to tensions between Russia and the West. German Chancellor Angela Merkel called Navalny's poisoning attempted murder, meant to silence one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics.

The Berlin hospital treating the dissident said he remains on a ventilator though his condition is improving. It said it expects a long recovery and still can't rule out long-term effects on his health from the poisoning.

The German government said that testing by a German military laboratory showed "proof without doubt of a chemical nerve agent from the Novichok group." British authorities identified Novichok as the poison used on former spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter in England.

"There are very serious questions now that only the Russian government can answer, and must answer," Merkel said.

The United Kingdom and Italy also called on Russia to explain what happened, with British Prime Minister Boris Johnson calling the use of a chemical weapon "outrageous." In Washington, National Security Council spokesman John Ullyot tweeted that it was "completely reprehensible."

"We will work with allies and the international community to hold those in Russia accountable, wherever the evidence leads," Ullyot said.

The European Union's foreign affairs chief, Josep Borrell, said any use of chemical weapons was "a breach of international law."

Navalny, a politician and corruption investigator, fell ill on a flight to Moscow on



Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny speaks to the media prior to a court session in Moscow last year

Aug. 20 and was taken to a hospital in the Siberian city of Omsk after the plane made an emergency landing.

He was moved two days later to Berlin's Charite hospital, where doctors last week said initial tests indicated Navalny had been poisoned.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said the Russian ambassador was summoned to his ministry after the latest findings.

Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Dmitry Polyansky, dismissed the finger pointing as a knee-jerk reaction. "Today accusing #Russia is a must-do for any Western country," he said in a tweet.

In Moscow, Russian authorities were quick to blame Germany for not sharing its findings.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russian authorities are "ready and interested in full cooperation and exchange of information" with Germany but added that Berlin still hasn't provided any official response to formal requests from the Russian prosecutor general's office and doctors who treated Navalny.

Peskov reiterated that Russian doctors didn't find any poisonous substances in Navalny's system. Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova charged on state TV that Germany preferred "public statements without providing any facts whatsoever" to "a thorough investigation."

The German government

said it would inform its partners in the European Union and NATO about the test results and would consult them on a response. Germany also will contact the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

Shortly after the test results were announced, the Charite hospital said that Navalny is still in intensive care but "continues to improve."

"Recovery is likely to be lengthy," it said in a statement. "It is still too early to gauge the long-term effects, which may arise in relation to this severe poisoning."

Andrea Sella, a professor of inorganic chemistry at University College London, said Navalny's prognosis is hard to predict. He said that "very swift action" is needed to stabilize patients in poisoning cases and noted the "significant delay," given that Navalny was initially cared for by Russian doctors who said they had ruled out poisoning.

"The problem is that even if Mr Navalny were to survive there may be lingering long-term neurological issues," Sella said.

Navalny's allies in Russia have insisted he was deliberately poisoned by the country's authorities, accusations that the Kremlin has rejected as "empty noise."

"To poison Navalny with Novichok in 2020 would be exactly the same as leaving an autograph at a crime scene, like this one," Navalny's longtime ally and strategist

Leonid Volkov said in a tweet that featured a photo of Putin's name and a signature next to it.

It would not be the first time a prominent, outspoken Russian was targeted in such a way — or the first time the Kremlin was accused of being behind it.

Navalny's allies have also accused Russian authorities of delaying his transfer out of the country after the poisoning. It took much wrangling and 48 hours to move Navalny to Berlin. Local doctors at the time said he was too unstable to be transported, and the Kremlin said it would defer to the physicians.

The Siberian medical team relented only after a charity that had organized a medevac plane revealed that German doctors who examined the politician said he was stable enough to be moved.

The reversal came as international pressure on Moscow mounted substantially.

"The system has long lost its ability to operate in an optimal way. It had to choose between the scandal related to Navalny's (possible) death in Omsk and the risk of the poisoning being discovered by German doctors," political analyst Abbas Gallyamov said.

Novichok is a class of military-grade nerve agents developed by the Soviet Union at the end of the Cold War. Western weapons experts believe it was only ever manufactured in Russia. AP

this day in history



1957 HOMOSEXUALITY 'SHOULD NOT BE A CRIME'

A report sponsored by the government has suggested homosexual behaviour between consenting adults should no longer be a criminal offence.

The proposal is the principal and most controversial recommendation put forward by the 13-member committee chaired by Sir John Wolfenden, Vice-Chancellor of Reading University, investigating the current law on homosexuality and prostitution.

The first print of 5,000 copies of the 155-page "Report on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution" - known as the Wolfenden report - sold out within hours of publication.

After its three-year long inquiry, the Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution in Great Britain came to the conclusion that outlawing homosexuality impinged upon civil liberties.

It said society and the law should respect "individual freedom of actions in matters of private morality" and stressed it was neither condoning nor condemning homosexual acts.

Ultimately, private morality or immorality was "not the law's business".

It defined "adult" as being a person over the age of 21 and that such acts should be decriminalised only if they took place "in private" and with consent.

Under current law, various homosexual offences can incur anything from a £5 fine to life imprisonment.

The committee also made recommendations to "clean up the streets" of London and other major cities of prostitutes by introducing much higher penalties for soliciting.

But the report did acknowledge that by forcing prostitutes off the streets there could be a rise in the number of "call girls" and small ads in newspapers referring to "masseuses," "models" or "companions".

The Wolfenden committee included three women, judges, doctors, MPs, lawyers and ministers of religion.

Only one expressed his reservation on relaxing the law on homosexuality - James Adair, formerly Procurator-General at Glasgow. He believed it would be regarded by many homosexuals as "condoning or licensing licentiousness".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Goeffrey Fisher, supported the Wolfenden report's recommendation to decriminalise male homosexuality. (There was never a law against sex between women, so never one to repeal.) He was joined by the British Medical Association, the Howard League for Penal Reform and the National Association of Probation Officers.

But the government rejected the proposal. Homosexual men would have to wait another ten years before the law permitted sexual relations between adults over the age of 21 - "in private" and not at all among members of the Merchant Navy or Armed Forces.

In Scotland sex between two men was not decriminalised until 1980.

The age of consent for gay men was lowered to 18 in 1994.

A law equalising the age of consent for gay men in line with that for heterosexual adults to 16 was forced through parliament in February 2000.

Sir John Wolfenden became director of the British Museum (1969-1973) and was made a life peer in 1974. He died in 1985.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Balancing your family evenly with your career isn't always required. On days like today, it will be clear which one should take top priority. You can't let good opportunities pass you by.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You'll be able to focus more on the exhilarating aspects of the unknown and less on the scary aspects of it. You're about to learn about qualities you never knew you had.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

People have been making a lot of assumptions about you lately, and today you need to clear up some of their confused ideas. Let them know who you are and what you're all about.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Things are about to equalize in your life, so get ready to enjoy a healthier, more balanced period. This is a great time to examine one of your closer relationships.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Try not to blush too much, because you're going to be thrust onto center stage and you'll need to look as responsible and composed as everyone thinks you are!



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Not to worry. No one can come up with ideas quite like the ones you come up with, so you can be confident that you will always be able to impress the people you need to impress.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Watch out for people who say one thing and do another, no matter how powerful they are. You don't have to call them out on their hypocrisy, but you do have to avoid sharing any of your secrets with them!



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You might not realize it, but you make a very good role model. The younger people in your life could learn a lot from your ideas and attitudes, so why not be more open with them?



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Quick fixes don't work for long, so you can expect some of your haste to come back to haunt you unless you double-check your work. Save yourself some headaches later by getting things right the first time.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Give it time, and you will begin to feel much more comfortable with them. Now is the time to reach out and connect with other people, even the ones you don't think you'll like.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Having a block of time in which you can control things down to the minute will let you feel more powerful in your life even as things are changing.

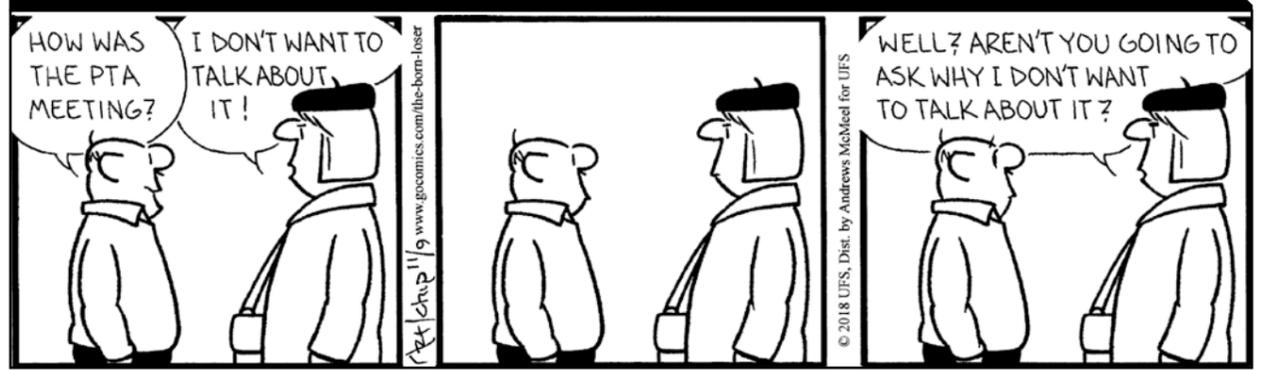


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Don't give them a second thought for now. Then it will be easy for you to get back into the rhythm of the day and get the things done that you need to do.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

MEDIUM				HARD			
6	8		7	3			7
		9			6		5
4		3					1
	9		2			3	8
	4	9	7	7		2	
	6	5		1			
9			3				2
	8		9		5	1	
		1	9		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- Just ___; 5- Caesar's wings; 9- Straight; 13- Comic Rudner; 14- Cheek cosmetic; 16- What's left; 17- Clanton foe; 18- Crest; 19- To ___ (perfectly); 20- Iowa city; 21- "___ tu" (Verdi aria); 22- Waterways; 24- Dies ___; 26- Increase in height or number; 27- Sharp-edged instrument; 29- Unmatched; 33- Renaissance fiddle; 34- Plastic or liberal, e.g.; 35- Cpls.' superiors; 36- Turkish honorific; 37- Puff up; 38- Nonsense; 39- Burmese, Manx, and Scottish Fold; 41- Circular band; 42- Unfolds; 44- Optional; 46- Young purrer; 47- Commedia dell'___; 48- Be dependent; 49- Delicate morsel of food; 52- Visit; 53- Snakes; 57- Hunk; 58- Cessation; 60- Swag; 61- Yorkshire river; 62- Rub out or remove from memory; 63- Langston Hughes poem; 64- Tear apart; 65- Antiquing agent; 66- "A Doll's House" heroine;

DOWN: 1- Neck of the woods; 2- Former name of Thailand; 3- French 101 verb; 4- Overtune; 5- Debt that remains unpaid; 6- French wine valley; 7- Autobahn auto; 8- The fruit of a hen; 9- Makes journeys; 10- Network of nerves; 11- Addict; 12- French summers; 15- Most strange; 23- Neighbor of Leb.; 25- Mythical bird; 26- Put a new price on; 27- Stately; 28- Lessen; 29- Lying flat; 30- Everglades bird; 31- Rocklike; 32- Fast fliers; 33- Speed contest; 34- In play; 37- Fragile; 40- Healed over, like a scrape; 42- Black gold; 43- Saliva enzyme; 45- Prefix with athlete; 46- Prison warden; 48- Employ again; 49- Boris Godunov, for one; 50- Rival of Bjorn; 51- Mend with rows of stitches; 52- All-male; 54- And ___ bed; 55- Wanting; 56- Portico; 59- Noteworthy period;

Yesterday's solution

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

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Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

K-SHAPED RECOVERY IN EMERGING MARKETS SEES RICH GET RICHER

SIMON FLINT & LIVIA YAP

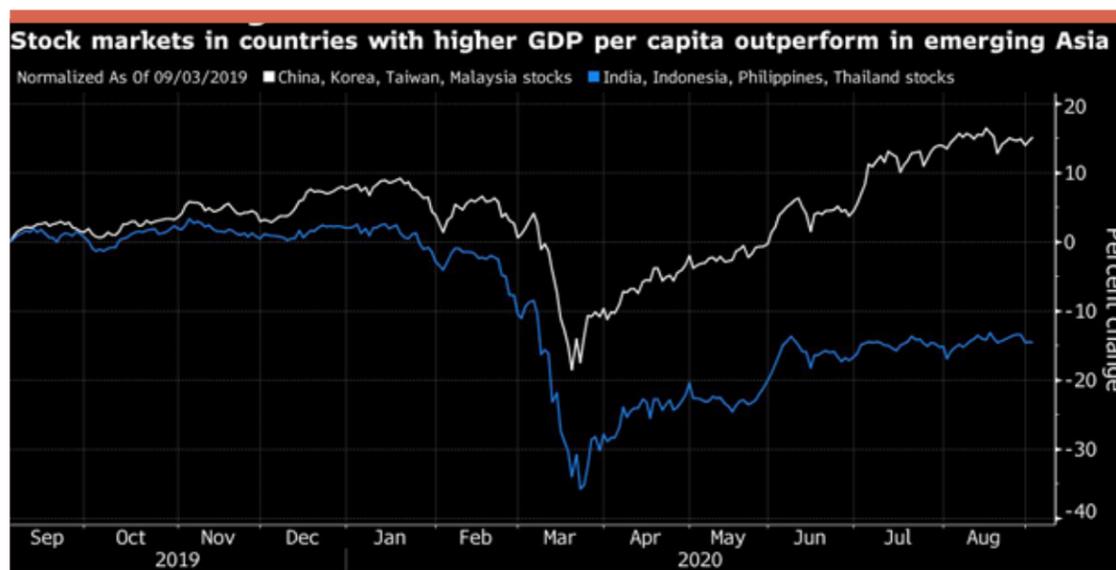
EMERGING markets are being split apart by an increasingly K-shaped recovery.

Stocks and currencies from wealthier developing nations have outperformed their poorer peers since the coronavirus outbreak. The gulf may even get wider if the pandemic leads to deeper recessions in the most disadvantaged countries.

As long as the virus lasts the K-shaped divergence will continue, said Rob Subbaraman, global head of macro research at Nomura Holdings Inc. in Singapore. "In the EM world with rapidly rising debt and deep recessions, the cost of servicing debt is going to get more burdensome and we cannot rule out some financial crises or major debt restructuring."

A Bloomberg study of 17 emerging markets has found a 42% correlation between gross domestic product per capita and stock performance since the virus-fueled risk sell-off began on Jan. 20 until early this week. The correlation between GDP per capita and currency returns was 31%.

Wealthier emerging markets



have been better placed to rebound from the March sell-off due to more advanced technology and governance that have given them greater flexibility to respond to the pandemic. They have been able to limit the impact of lockdowns and social distancing, make larger fiscal responses, and are better equipped with the resources needed to curb the outbreak, such as hospitals, test centers and quarantine facilities.

Countries such as South Korea and Poland have seen the smallest

increase in economic disruptions, according to an effective lockdown index compiled by Goldman Sachs Group Inc. The gauge takes into account a combination of government restrictions that suppress activity and adds social distancing numbers based on Google mobility data. There has been a negative correlation of 54% between Goldman's gauges and per capita GDP. In turn, countries with the lowest lockdown index have tended to see the best stock

market and currency performance.

The rich-poor divide among emerging markets is widest in Asia. The stock returns from the four economies with per capita GDP above \$10,000 last year - China, South Korea, Taiwan and Malaysia - has been 20% above that of the nations which fall below that level, including India, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. While this is partly due to the number of technology companies

listed in the former countries, it is also due to the fact that authorities there have been able to spend more to reassure citizens and investors.

South Korea's fiscal response to the pandemic, including three supplementary budgets, totals 270 trillion won (\$228 billion), or about 14% of GDP, providing support to the stock market even as the local outbreak has worsened. In contrast, the Philippine government has said it's unable to fund the 1.3 trillion pesos (\$27 billion) stimulus package approved in June. The nation's stock market is the region's worst performer this year, dropping more than 25%.

True, some emerging-market central banks such as India and Thailand may be deliberately seeking to hold back their currencies, but this represents only a relatively small proportion of the overall underperformance.

Looking ahead, lower rates of infection, greater policy space, and stronger health services may help more affluent countries maintain their lead in the economic recovery.

Richer emerging economies are likely to gain access to effective coronavirus vaccines sooner, following the steps of wealthy developed nations. There is even a risk bigger economies will monopolize supply, a scenario that played out in the 2009 swine flu pandemic. **BLOOMBERG**

AD

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FOOTBALL

Nations League offers late start in 2020 for national teams

GRAHAM DUNBAR, GENEVA

EUROPE'S national teams will play their first games of 2020 when the UEFA Nations League campaign starts this week in stadiums without fans.

Kicking off with a meeting between recent World Cup winners Germany and Spain today [Macau time], and ending next Tuesday with a rematch of the 2018 final between France and Croatia, there is plenty of high-quality matchups on the program.

Still, few would be surprised if some of the 54 games scheduled over six days can't be played.

Players on the 55 national teams flying around the continent face mandatory pregame tests for COVID-19, with UEFA rules giving local authorities power to quarantine people and shut down games.

Paul Pogba is already missing, left out of the French camp last week after a positive test.

UEFA has back-up plans to

AP PHOTO



Joachim Loew's German national team will kick off the games today against Spain

draw lots to determine the result if a game can't be played and neither team is to blame.

A team judged at fault for a game being canceled can be forced to forfeit a 3-0 loss, which has already happened in Europa League and Champions League qualifying. Those UEFA rulings have been challenged at the

Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The stakes are arguably higher now as 2020-21 Nations League groups feed into European qualifying playoffs for the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

UEFA is the only soccer confederation using this upcoming international window for games, with the rest having postponed

their schedules because of the pandemic.

The inaugural Nations League two years ago was a clear success as the group stage produced competitive games between teams of a similar level instead of unpopular friendlies.

It also let UEFA spread hundreds of millions of euros (dollars) from unified commercial deals among member federations.

This time, the most influential countries wanted more games, and so the groups for the highest-ranked teams in League A have been expanded from three teams to four, playing six games each. That also saved Germany and Croatia from relegation to League B.

UEFA has retained the format of having the four League A group winners advance to a mini-tournament the next year hosted by a participating team. Host Portugal won the first trophy in June 2019.

However, with the 2020 Eu-

ropean Championship having been rescheduled to next June-July, it is unclear when the Nations League final four can be staged. The schedule for 2021 must also include World Cup qualifying games.

The final Nations League standings will send two teams into UEFA's World Cup qualifying playoffs planned for March 2022.

With the new season delayed by the pandemic, the national team games will be staged before many domestic leagues have even begun. The English Premier League and Spain's La Liga start on Sept. 12.

Germany hosting Spain in Stuttgart is the pick of opening night, when Ukraine and Switzerland play in the same group.

The revived Netherlands team hosts Italy on Monday without coach Ronald Koeman after his move to Barcelona. Poland and Bosnia-Herzegovina complete the group.

Top-ranked Belgium opens at Denmark on Saturday in the same Copenhagen stadium where they will meet next June at Euro 2020. England's visit to Iceland will be the first meeting between the two since England's embarrassing exit at Euro 2016.

France's group also includes European champion Portugal, and they will play a rematch of their Euro 2016 final at Stade de France on Oct. 11. **AP**

AD

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OPINION

World Views

Ferdinando Giugliano, Bloomberg

ICELAND HAS VERY GOOD NEWS ABOUT CORONAVIRUS IMMUNITY

The emergence of a handful of people reinfected by SARS-Cov-2 — including individuals in Hong Kong, Italy and the U.S. — has sparked panic over the future course of the pandemic.

It's not difficult to see why. One of the great hopes in tackling the new coronavirus is that partial herd immunity can slow its spread, as the number of cases continues to rise globally. A vaccine — seen as the real game changer in the fight against the pathogen — also relies on inducing some form of long-lasting antibody reaction in inoculated individuals.

But what if immunity wanes, plunging humanity into a never-ending cycle of relapses? This is the stuff of nightmares.

Fortunately, things may not be so bad. For now, there are very few cases of confirmed reinfections, suggesting they may be rare. Some doctors also believe that most relapses will be milder than the first infection. (That happened in the Hong Kong reinfection, although not in the U.S. case.) This weakening of the virus's impact will depend on our body learning to fight it, for example via the development of suitable so-called T-cells.

A crucial question to gauge the risk of reinfection is how many individuals develop antibodies and how long they last. Some experts worry that only those who suffer the worst Covid-19 cases produce an immune response that's both sizeable enough and protracted enough to build up adequate antibodies. If this is true, the lucky ones who escape the worst symptoms — including most kids and young adults — will be more vulnerable to reinfection.

A study on the pandemic in Iceland published in the New England Journal of Medicine offers some evidence to dispel such fears. The researchers have looked at serum samples from 30,576 individuals, using six different types of antibody testing (since different techniques often produce conflicting results).

The paper's central findings are that, out of 1,797 tested people who'd recovered from Covid, 91.1% produced detectable levels of antibodies. Moreover, these levels hadn't declined four months after the diagnosis. The immune response was higher among older individuals — who are at greater risk of developing a more dangerous form of the coronavirus — and among those who presented the worst symptoms.

But the broader immune response is potentially good news for the efficacy of any vaccine and appears to confirm that reinfections, at least shortly after the first illness, may indeed be rare.

While it's also theoretically good news for herd immunity, that doesn't mean we're anywhere near achieving that happy state. It is thought that about 70% of a population would need to have antibodies to effectively stop the spread of the virus. The study estimates that less than 1% of the Icelandic population came in contact with SARS-CoV-2. This is even lower than the corresponding estimates for Spain, the U.K. and Italy, and shows how far many countries are from group immunity.

It is also too early to say whether these antibody findings will hold over a longer time period. It's possible that immunity will fade as time goes by, leaving us more exposed to the virus. But, for now, there's no reason to fear the worst. The development of vaccines is happening at break-neck speed, and available evidence shows the human body is indeed developing some form of protection. In a year of overwhelmingly grim news, this is very welcome.

Only six people in Hong Kong have tested positive for the coronavirus out of a batch of 128,000 residents who had undergone the mass-testing program that began on Tuesday.

Four of the six were previous coronavirus patients who had been discharged last month, and still carried traces of the virus when they were tested.

As of yesterday, 850,000 people in the city of 7.5 million had registered to take part in the weeklong program that offers all residents a one-time, free coronavirus test as the city seeks to identify silent carriers of the virus.

The low number of positive cases found so far has drawn criticism that the government's universal testing program was not cost effective amid privacy concerns and fears that DNA data could be sent to mainland China.

Hong Kong saw its third and worst surge of coronavirus infections in early July.

Apart from the six people, Hong Kong reported eight other coronavirus infections yesterday. In total, it has reported 4,839 confirmed cases with 93 deaths.

EU UNVEILS PLAN TO SECURE RAW MATERIALS, CUT DEPENDENCY

LORNE COOK, BRUSSELS

WORRIED by an increasing dependency on the raw materials used to make smart phones, televisions and energy-saving lights, the European Union yesterday launched a new strategy to secure access to rare earth minerals and to reduce reliance on suppliers like Chile, China and South Africa.

The EU is predicted to need around 60 times more lithium and 15 times more cobalt for electric vehicle batteries and energy storage by 2050. Its demand for rare earth materials in permanent magnets used in several technologies could increase 10-fold over the same period.

The coronavirus pandemic is highlighting the world's increasing reliance on electronics and technology for remote work, education and communication, and the 27-nation EU enters a widening race to secure supplies for its communications, health, defense and space sectors along with the United States, China and Japan.

"We have to drastically change our approach," European Commission Vice-President Maros Sefcovic said. "We are largely dependent on unsustainable raw materials from countries with much lower



European Commissioner for Internal Market Thierry Breton shows a map of Europe during an online press conference at the EU headquarters in Brussels

environmental and social standards, less freedoms, (and) poor, unsustainable economies."

The EU gets around 98% of its rare earth minerals from China. Turkey supplies 98% of its borate, while Chile meets 78% of Europe's lithium needs. South Africa provides 71% of its platinum. The European Commission believes that the EU's mining potential is underused.

"We need to diversify supply and make better use of the resources within the European Union, where we would apply the highest environmental and social standards to that effect," Sefcovic told reporters in Brussels.

The strategy aims to set up a European Raw Ma-

terials Alliance with industry, investors, the European Investment Bank, EU member countries and others to help secure raw mineral supply chains. The commission wants to start a partnership with Canada and interested African countries starting next year.

The EU also wants to study ways to reuse, repair and recycle products that use rare earth minerals. The commission said that while recycling works well in Europe, less than 1% of products containing the components are actually recovered to be treated.

The goal is to map the possible supply of critical raw materials in EU stocks and waste, as well as to identify projects to help recover them, by 2022. AP



Japan Rescuers were searching yesterday for a livestock ship carrying 42 crew members that a survivor said sank during rough weather a day earlier off a southern Japanese island, the coast guard said. The Filipino crew member was rescued late Wednesday after Japanese navy P-3C surveillance aircraft spotted him wearing a life vest and waving while bobbing in the water. He is currently hospitalized but in good health.

Australia's hot spot State of Victoria yesterday recorded its second consecutive day of increased Covid-19 cases. The state health department said there had been 113 new infections and 15 deaths in the latest 24-hour period. There were 90 new infections and six deaths recorded on Wednesday. There were only 70 new cases on Tuesday, the lowest tally since June.

Australia A pregnant woman says she didn't know she was breaking any law when she was handcuffed by police in front of her children and led away in her pajamas for allegedly inciting people to demonstrate against the state's pandemic lockdown. Zoe Buhler's partner helped her live stream the arrest on Wednesday at her home where she lives with two children aged 3 and 4 in the city of Ballarat.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Achmad Ibrahim



Coffinment. A man lays inside a mock coffin as punishment for violating city regulations requiring people to wear face masks in public places as a precaution against the new coronavirus outbreak in Jakarta, Indonesia, yesterday.



US With just two months left until the U.S. presidential election, Facebook says it is taking more steps to encourage voting, minimize misinformation and reduce the likelihood of post-election "civil unrest." The company said it will restrict new political ads in the week before the election and remove posts that convey misinformation about COVID-19 and voting. It will also attach links to official results to posts from candidates and campaigns that declare premature victories.