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**A TEAM FROM MUST HAS WON A DESIGN AWARD FOR MONG HÁ HILL MUNICIPAL PARK WALKING SYSTEM**

P5

**GALAXY ENTERTAINMENT CLARIFIES IT HAS NO AFFILIATIONS WITH ONLINE GAMBLING**

P4

**RONALDO IS THE SECOND FOOTBALLER EVER TO REACH 100 INTERNATIONAL GOALS AFTER SCORING TWO IN PORTUGAL VS SWEDEN MATCH**

P11

AP PHOTO



**India** added another 89,706 coronavirus cases to the second-highest tally in the world, and the government said schools would reopen later this month for senior students after more than five months closed. India's famed white marble Taj Mahal in the northern city of Agra will also reopen Sept. 21 with access restricted to 5,000 tourists daily to prevent overcrowding. According to the Health Ministry, India's total caseload yesterday reached 4.37 million.

**South Korea** The number of new coronavirus infections has stayed below 200 for the 7th straight day. The 156 cases added in the past 24 hours took the country's tally to 21,588 with 344 deaths. 100 of the new cases were locally transmitted patients in the Seoul area, which has been at the center of a viral resurgence since early August. Authorities in the Seoul area have ordered the shutdown of churches, night establishments and after-school academics.

AP PHOTO



**USA** In 2016, Donald Trump tore down Democrats' "blue wall," winning the White House with surprise victories in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. This year, Joe Biden is trying to rebuild. The Democratic presidential nominee's first pandemic-era campaign trips beyond his home in Delaware are taking him to all three states, an indication of how closely Biden's electoral prospects are tied to his ability to flip those political battlegrounds.

More on macaudailytimes.com

More on backpage

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



# LOST SEOUL

P4

Flights to Seoul, South Korea will be halted late September further isolating Macau from the world outside greater China

AP PHOTO



**MISS MACAU RUNNER-UP SLAMMED FOR POST ABOUT MULAN FILM**

P2,10

ALEC FAVALE



**LEGISLATION MAY ALLOW CAPSULE HOTELS IN TOWN**

P3

# MACAU PAGEANT PARTICIPANT SLAMMED FOR POST ABOUT MULAN FILM



林裕人  
6 September at 13:30 · 🌐

「花木蘭」(如圖所示)是北朝女英雄的傳說故事,所以花木蘭應該是鮮卑兒女,當時的鮮卑就是中原北方的蒙古,因此花木蘭應該是長得跟館長一樣雄壯威武的模樣,絕不可能長得像南方小姑娘一樣瓜子臉,身材嬌小卻能上戰場。中國人的歷史認知非常錯亂,晉朝被匈奴滅了,才會有所謂的匈奴鮮卑輪流先後統治的南北朝亂世,北朝是蒙古人的天下,所以木蘭自是幫蒙古人打天下、鎮壓漢人,中國人竟然反而把她看成了漢人的女英雄,這就好像川島芳子明明是滿州愛新覺羅直系權貴,最後卻被中共以漢奸的名義處死一樣荒謬啊。



JULIE ZHU

A participant in last year's 2019 Miss Macau pageant faced hundreds of comments online mocking her knowledge about history after she reposted a comment about Hollywood movie "Mulan."

The pageant participant being criticized is Dinelle Wong, who placed third in Miss Macau 2019. The original post was written by a user with the name of Lin Yu-Ren.

On September 6, Lin wrote on his Facebook page that the real Mulan comes from a Mongolian ethnic background and had physical features different from those of actress Liu Yifei, who played the character in the recent movie. "It is absolutely impossible for Mulan to look like a southern girl who can fight in the war with a small body," the post reads.

In the same paragraph, the film is scrutinized and accused of interpreting history wrongly.

The next day, Dinelle Wong

posted a screenshot of the post on her Instagram accompanied by the comment, "My knowledge improved." Aside from that, Wong did not make any other remarks about Lin's post or the movie. However, despite the fact that Wong's opinions on this topic remain unclear, some mainland netizens condemned her.

A Weibo account with over 2.3 million followers, which only uploads patriotic content, made a post featuring Wong's Instagram feed along with the comment "former bronze winner of Miss Macau uses 'Mulan' to mock Chinese." The Weibo account is verified as belonging to a military affairs blogger and translator, and only makes posts related to politics.

As of 6 p.m. Wednesday, the post has received over 2,100 likes and 400 comments.

One of the top comments recommends the country place more effort on directing the soft power trend in Taiwan, Hong

Kong and Macau. The same commenter wrote, "Studying in Taiwan, the U.K. and Australia was the trend ten years ago and many roots [students] are now crooked consequently." The commenter is likely referring to Wong's exchange study in Britain and other western countries.

"A knowledge-blind pretends to be knowledgeable," one user commented.

While most of the comments deplored Wong's post, some remained calm and spoke from the opposite perspective. "She is disagreeing with the post. She was being sarcastic with her remark. Comment after you read her post," one user said, defending Wong.

Unlike most of the people who were debating about or abhorring Wong's post, one Weibo user said that the film was merely "an artistic expression, not a copy of history" and that Liu was a proper choice for a role that requires fighting.

## Suicide cases up 20% this year

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macau SAR registered a total of 36 suicides between January to July, an increase of six compared to the same period last year.

According to a statement issued by the Health Bureau (SSM), the increased number of cases was probably due to the psychological and economic pressures caused by Covid-19.

"A single case of suicide is already too much and that is why cooperation between all sectors of society is necessary, so that we can all protect life," the bureau noted in the statement.

The causes of suicide are complex and often involve several factors. Therefore, SSM reminds those suffering or facing difficulties to seek

help from health professionals.

During June, police authorities reported that five suicides and attempted suicides had occurred within a span of 10 days.

As previously reported by the Times, Stella Cheong, president of the Macau Society of Registered Psychotherapists, has said that stress for many people has worsened due to the pandemic. However, in general, Cheong says that the government has been doing "good work" to strengthen its social community services.

Data from the suicide prevention and emotional aid hotline Life Hope Caritas shows that the number of suicide cases for the whole year may be more or less the

same as last year, however. The hotline receives an average of 20 calls per month related to suicide, depression or personal matters such as marital problems.

The city's health centers offer external mental health consultations, where patients sometimes need to wait a month for their initial consultation. The Times is aware that follow-up consultations for some patients are done every two weeks depending on the situation of the person and the availability of the psychologist.

Data from the World Health Organization shows that 800,000 people commit suicide every year. Today marks World Suicide Prevention Day 2020, themed "Working Together to Prevent Suicide." The SSM is calling on residents to light a candle at 8 p.m. to remember the deceased and raise awareness of the prevention of suicide.

AP PHOTO



## ANN HUI WINS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AT VENICE FESTIVAL

HONG Kong director Ann Hui paid tribute to her home city as she received a lifetime achievement award from the Venice International Film Festival.

The acclaimed director said she wanted to "revert this honor back to Hong Kong," the city where she grew up.

"It has given me an education and a scholarship to study in London. It has given me my life experiences. And my chances to work and find fulfillment. I treasure even my sufferings there and all those crazy cool people. And now I will go home and try to help the younger filmmakers so that they will also get life

achievement prizes in the future," she said at a news conference.

Hui's impact on the Hong Kong film industry and Asian cinema is second to none.

The 73-year-old director has had a career spanning five decades which officially started in 1979 when she released her debut feature film "The Secret." The movie quickly elevated her to join the key figures in Hong Kong cinema including Tsui Hark, John Woo and Patrick Tam, among others.

She has worked with major Asian film stars including Maggie Cheung ("Song of the Exile"), Tang Wei ("The Golden Era") and Chow Yun-fat ("Love in a Fallen City") and produced nearly 30 films.

Hui's films have been screened at major international film festivals including Cannes, Berlin and Venice. She's a five-time winner of Best Director at the Hong Kong Film Awards.

Jury President Cate Blanchett presented the award Tuesday to Hui, who finished her acceptance speech with a rousing "Long live cinema!" **MDT/AP**

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An example of the interior of a capsule hotel in Japan

# Capsule hotels to create market balance in Macau

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE potential introduction into Macau of low-budget lodging facilities known as capsule or pod hotels is likely to promote some market balance in an industry that has relied on the high-end market for decades, a professor at the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) and director of IFTM's Tourism Research Center, Leonardo Dioko, has told the Times.

"Considering that most of the accommodation development in Macau over the years has favored the higher end of the market spectrum, pod hotels may bring some degree of market balance to Macau, especially since bed-and-breakfasts, pensions, inns and two-starred accommodations have had a challenging time meeting ever-increasing standards of quality, comfort, safety, and service," Dioko said.

"Depending on the value they deliver and the level of service, pods will probably be attractive to individual travelers familiar with and routinely visiting Macau," he added.

For the scholar, Macau shares, to some extent, the conditions that led to the creation of these businesses some years ago in Japan.

"Capsule hotels were innovatively introduced in Japan and something that emerged out of environmental necessity: high land premiums, low availability of land for accommodation purposes and the restrictive initial cost of establishing full-service accommodation," Dioko said.

**Depending on the value they deliver and the level of service, pods will probably be attractive to individual travelers familiar with and routinely visiting Macau**

He explained that if Macau combines those conditions with the increasing frequency of repeat travelers, the rise of low-cost fares and tolerance for tight spaces, as well as readiness to trade

a high level of comfort for good value, "then you have the perfect conditions for a new category of accommodation, similar to that which gave rise to capsule hotels."

For the tourism researcher, more than interfering with the business of the local high-end hotels, the inclusion of this new accommodation category in Macau, "might 'squeeze' existing players [in the hostels and inns business] unless they upgrade their game level by enhancing

services and offerings, thereby protecting their traditional segments, which I reckon should start gravitating more to families."

The licensing process and location will play a major role in the process of installing such facilities in Macau, according to Dioko.

"I am concerned more about licensing and location as I am not sure if the new law being contemplated would include zoning as a consideration. Depending on the size of pod projects and limits to approvals, their appearance in already congested parts of the city may raise new challenges or aggravate existing ones," he said.

The rise of such lodging will also necessitate frequent inspections to ensure the quality of service and the maintenance of high standards of safety and hygiene, he noted. Dioko expressed hope

that this would also be contemplated by the new Hotel Business Law.

The law, which is currently reaching its final stage of discussion at the Legislative Assembly, includes the possibility of the establishment in Macau of capsule or pod hotels as the director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, has confirmed to the Times.

"In the current law [in force] we can't have things like capsule hotels but in the new law, there is a way to handle that," Senna Fernandes said, adding that the MGTO has been finding ways to overcome the difficulties presented to the industry due to laws that do not reflect the current situation and are not adjusted to the industry's new developments.

## WHAT IS A CAPSULE HOTEL?

A capsule hotel is a type of hotel developed in Japan that features many small bed-sized rooms known as capsules.

A typical capsule includes a TV and Wi-Fi Internet access, as well as power sockets for mobile and laptop charging. Sheets, blankets, and pillows are also provided, and each capsule also comes fitted with a built-in light, alarm clock and radio unit.

Fitted with 1.2-meter-wide and 2-meter-long beds, pods are usually one meter high, being stacked on two levels like bunk beds.

Included in the rate is access to shared lavatory facilities and other common areas like entertainment rooms, internet kiosks, lounges or libraries.

Usually, they also provide vending machines and self-use laundry facilities. Some have cafés or restaurants on the premises.

In Japan, this type of lodging facility is usually found in the vicinity of major train stations in large cities such as Tokyo, Osaka, and Kyoto. The hotels target people looking for low-budget single-night stays.

Capsule hotels provide their guests with enclosed beds and basic amenities for prices equivalent to 200 to 300 patacas per night.

Although capsule hotels in Japan have traditionally targeted business people traveling alone, the latest reports show that some of these places are now going after other demographics. For instance, they have been offering different areas aimed at women or foreign travelers. Regarding the latter, some of the hotels have been increasingly offering English language websites and booking systems. **RM**



## MORE AIR MACAU FLIGHTS TO THE MAINLAND AS KOREA LINK AXED

RENATO MARQUES

**L**OCAL carrier Air Macau is resuming flights to many mainland cities later this month, the airline informed through an announcement on its official website.

In the company's latest update, which includes flights scheduled for September 1 and October 24, it is advised that many of the flight

routes that have been completely or partially suspended due to Covid-19 are to return to operations.

Beijing, Shanghai (Pudong), Hangzhou, Nanjing, Changzhou, Chengdu, Xiamen, Nanning, Jieyang (Chaoshan), Tianjin, Taiyuan, Zhengzhou, Qingdao, Ningbo, Wenzhou, Chongqing, and Guiyang are the cities with flight resumptions. Major destinations to be served by flights on

a daily basis.

The resumption comes at a time when China is preparing for its first National Day Golden Week holiday since Covid-19, which officially runs from October 1 to October 7.

The date also coincides with the extension of the reissuing of visas under the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) for tourists to the whole country.

According to the same notice, the airline will increase the current 54 scheduled flights per week to a total of 230 during October.

Other destinations will also be included in Air Macau's flight resumption with a slight increase in flight frequency to Taipei, Taiwan and Tokyo, Japan.

After September 25, flight NX822/821 to Seoul, South Korea

will stop operating until at least October 24, according to the information provided.

The Times sought confirmation from the airline about this, as well as the decision to suspend that flight, but did not receive a reply from the company as of press time.

Nevertheless, the information was confirmed to the Times by a source in the aviation sector who requested to remain anonymous.

According to the source, Air Macau cutting off its Seoul link will leave Macau even more isolated for non-Chinese people, since foreigners have been disallowed from entering the mainland according to rules established to contain the spread of Covid-19.

The Seoul route operated by Air Macau was one of the last routes that would allow non-Chinese residents to exit the region and access long haul flights to other parts of the world, namely in Europe, through South Korea and without the need to undergo 14 days of mandatory quarantine, for example by traveling to Hong Kong.

For the time being, the only route linking Macau and Europe without mandatory quarantine is via Taiwan and an EVA Air flight that links the island to Paris, France.

According to comments made by Air Macau to the Chinese media outlet Macao Daily News, the decision from the airline to increase flights to mainland cities is in line with calls from the local government for local businesses to take the opportunity arising from the IVS resumption to attract more mainland tourists, in a bid to tackle the city's economic downturn of the past eight months.

## Former MGM CEO Jim Murren mulls next move into entertainment

**F**ORMER casino chief Jim Murren is preparing for his next act.

Murren, who led MGM Resorts International for more than a decade, has teamed up with former Morgan Stanley veterans Edward King and Daniel Feters to pursue potential deals in online gaming, live events and other entertainment-related businesses.

"We're going to be thoughtful and do our homework," Murren said in an interview. "I've got a lot of good contacts in the financial industry and there is a lot of opportunity."

The trio are evaluating options including raising \$300 million or more through a blank-

-check company, and have held preliminary talks with potential underwriters, according to people with knowledge of the matter. The initial public offering of a new special purpose acquisition company, or SPAC, could occur in coming months, said one of the people, who asked not to be identified because the deliberations are private.

The discussions are in their early stages and could involve partnering with institutional investors or buying a small company and building a bigger one through acquisitions, said Murren, who was a Wall Street analyst earlier in his career.

Andrew Pascal, a for-

mer Wynn Resorts Ltd. executive who is also the nephew of Elaine Wynn, has held talks to join the three but his involvement hasn't been finalized and may not happen.

King and Feters declined to comment, while Pascal didn't immediately respond to a message.

Murren said he re-evaluates the field of SPACs, where investors raise cash through a publicly traded vehicle to acquire a company they have yet to identify, was getting crowded, but believes his track record could make such an investment stand out.

Murren stepped down as CEO of MGM in March, after leading the lar-

gest casino operator on the Las Vegas Strip since 2008. He built the \$9.2 billion CityCenter project there and other casinos in Macau, Massachusetts and Maryland.

He launched MGM's online business and pushed the company into broader entertainment with the T-Mobile Arena. He also repositioned MGM as an "asset light" operator of casinos after selling or spinning off much of the company's real estate to others.

The executive, 58, said his noncompete agreement with MGM expires in March and he didn't foresee any conflict with his new investment plans. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## GEG CLARIFIES IT HAS NO AFFILIATIONS WITH ONLINE GAMBLING

**G**ALAXY Entertainment Group Limited (GEG) and its properties have clarified in a statement that they have no affiliations with any online gambling or betting sites.

As posted on its website, GEG said that they have never directly or indirectly authorized any websites or related companies to carry out any form of online gambling and betting activities for or on behalf of the group.

GEG then called on the public to report to authorities if they suspect any fake gambling and betting websites, or if they are scammed or approached by "any suspicious persons claiming to be in any way connected with GEG relating to such fake illegal gambling and betting websites."

Rumors circulating on social media last week state that the SAR government is considering a Mark Six lottery in a bid to boost revenue amid the economic downturn caused by Covid-19.

However, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau refuted the rumor, clarifying that it had not authorized the operation of any online lotteries in Macau.

The regulator highlighted that online gaming activities or "Macau Mark Six" websites claiming to operate on behalf of the government were fake and illegal.

The bureau has reported the case to police authorities.

Currently, only Macau Slot Co Ltd. is licensed by the bureau to take bets on basketball and football. **LV**

# MUST TEAM WINS AWARD FOR BARRIER-FREE PARK WALKING SYSTEM

A team of four from the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has been conferred with a first-class award for their design for the Mong Há Hill Municipal Park walking system.

Between July and August, the team participated in the Architectural Concept Design Competition – Barrier-free Walking System for Mong Há Hill Municipal Park, jointly organized by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) and the Architects Association of Macau.

The MUST team consists of an assistant professor, one lecturer and two students.

According to the IAM, winning the prize means that the team will be invited to participate in the Barrier-free Walking System for Mong Há Hill Municipal Park Design Tender.

If the team's design is selected to become Mong Há Hill's walking system, the perimeter in question will be transformed into a combination of local and contemporary elements. It will integrate a cowshed cultural space, oyster shell wall, Pombal-style paving and concrete elements.

The core of the MUST design is to make a walking trail that takes walkers on a wander through the different aspects of Macau's identity: its history and

culture, and nature and contemporary urban elements.

Mong Há Hill is the fifth tallest hill on the Macau Peninsula, occupying about 38,560 square meters. The park currently has a central fountain square, observation deck, experimental farm, children's playground, fitness facilities, health trails, a dog walking area and more.

The park is situated close to high-density residential areas, including Areia Preta, Avenida de Horta e Costa and Fai Chi Kei.

The team's design aims to enhance the convenience of travel to Mong Há Hill, optimize its connectivity through re-planning, and introduce barrier-free access and facilities.

The IAM requested that the designers place two new access points on the hill: one in the south-west of Mong Há Hill at the back of the heritage building to connect to the central fountain of the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies, and a second one on the east side.

This barrier-free walking system will create a direct link between the two sides through Mong Há Hill. **JZ**





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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.




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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AP PHOTO



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison

SOCIAL MEDIA

# AUSTRALIAN PRIME MINISTER CRITICIZES TIKTOK SUICIDE VIDEO

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN regulators have ruled out prosecuting TikTok over an apparent suicide video under tough new laws prohibiting some forms of violent online images, but the prime minister urged social media companies yesterday to take more responsibility for offensive content.

The Chinese-owned social media platform says it is working to remove videos of a man apparently taking his own life with a

gun and banning users who keep trying to spread the clips through the app.

It's the latest example of the ongoing struggle by big tech companies to police their platforms for harmful content amid increasing pressure from regulators.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said eSafety Commissioner Julie Inman Grant, Australia's online watchdog, is taking "strong action" against what he described as a "disgraceful video."

"Those who run these organi-

zations have a responsibility to those who are watching and particularly when it comes to children," Morrison said in a video released by his office.

"My message to those social media companies is, yes, your products are changing the world, but with that comes a great responsibility and you need to be accountable and you need to be responsible for making sure that your product does not harm Australians, and my government will be making sure that we do every-

thing to hold you to account for that," he said.

Australia last year took extraordinary legislative steps to remove violent content from internet platforms.

Social media executives can be imprisoned if their platforms stream real violence under the new laws. The legislation was a response to an Australian gunman who used a helmet-mounted camera to broadcast live on Facebook as he murdered 51 worshippers in two mosques

in the New Zealand city of Christchurch.

But the eSafety Commissioner's office said TikTok could not be prosecuted under the laws.

"The video is not considered abhorrent violent material — because it is not violent terrorism, murder or attempted murder, rape, torture or kidnapping," the office said in an email.

The office is working with social media companies to "to remove content and monitor the situation," Inman Grant said in a statement.

"Social media companies need to use the tools at their disposal to detect and remove this content much more quickly," she said.

Morrison's criticism of TikTok comes after he distanced Australia from the U.S. stance on the company behind it, ByteDance.

President Donald Trump's administration has threatened to ban TikTok by mid-September and ordered ByteDance to sell its U.S. business, claiming national security risks due to the Chinese ownership.

Morrison told the Aspen Security Forum in the United States last month that TikTok did not compromise Australia's security interests, a move that pleased China.

He took the extraordinary step of attacking TikTok in a video a day after the last two Australian journalists working for Australian media left China for fear of detention and the Chinese foreign ministry announced Australian citizen Cheng Lei, a Chinese state media journalist, had been detained because she was "suspected of carrying out criminal activities endangering China's national security." AP

# Beijing alleges Australia raided homes of Chinese reporters

AUSTRALIAN agents in June raided the homes of four journalists working for Chinese state media and seized their electronics, citing possible violations of Australia's anti-foreign interference law, China's foreign ministry said yesterday.

There have been no previous reports about the alleged Australian actions. The accusation by ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian came one day after the last two Australian journalists working for Australian media left China for fear of detention and the Chinese foreign ministry announced Australian citizen Cheng Lei, a Chinese state media journalist, had

been detained on suspicion of national security crimes.

There was no immediate Australian government comment on the allegation.

Zhao said the four Chinese journalists have since returned to China and denied any connection with the flight of the two Australian journalists, who took refuge in Australian diplomatic missions in China after agents barred them from leaving China and demanded they answer questions about Cheng's case.

China is Australia's biggest trading partner but relations have come under heavy strain after

Australia outlawed covert interference in politics and banned Chinese communications giant Huawei from supplying critical infrastructure. They have worsened since the Australian government called for an independent inquiry into the origin of the coronavirus pandemic and international responses to it.

Zhao said the four journalists represented Xinhua News Agency, China Central Radio, state broadcaster CCTV and China News Agency.

Their work computers, cellphones and "even children's tablets and electronic toys" were seized in the raids, Zhao told reporters at a daily news

briefing.

"As far as I know, the Australian side has so far not given a reasonable explanation for the raid and has not returned all the items seized to the journalists," Zhao said.

He said China has lodged "solemn complaints with Australia."

"We urge the Australian side to immediately stop the barbarous and irrational behavior, stop using any excuses to harass and suppress the Chinese citizens in Australia, ensure their safety and legal rights and interests, and stop doing anything that would obstruct cultural exchanges between the two countries," Zhao said. AP

# CHINESE POLICE DENY USE OF FORCE, DETENTION OF US REPORTER

LOCAL authorities in China's Inner Mongolia region have denied they used force or detained an American reporter when she was questioned at a police station last week.

The Los Angeles Times said last week that one of its reporters was grabbed by the throat and pushed into a cell and held for more than four hours before being forced to leave the area in northern China.

"There's no instance of the police using both hands to pinch the neck or being detained in a police cell, nor was there any instance of being detained or expelled," the press office for Hohhot, the provincial capital, said in a written response to questions from The Associated Press.

The statement, dated Tuesday, said the reporter was interviewing a pedestrian and accused her of filming or photographing the person without the interviewee's permission. It said the reporter chose to go back to Beijing voluntarily.

The newspaper's Beijing bureau chief, Alice Su, who is the journalist in question, declined to comment. She was covering protests and class boycotts that had broken out in Inner Mongolia over a move to increase the use of Chinese in schools where Mongolian has been the main language of instruction.

The incident came at a time of growing pressure on foreign journalists in China. MDT/AP

# ASEAN talks tackle pandemic, sea feud amid US-China rivalry

HAU DINH  
& YVES DAM VAN, HANOI

**S**OUTHEAST Asia's top diplomats held their annual talks by video yesterday to discuss the immense crisis wrought by the coronavirus pandemic and rising tensions in the South China Sea amid the escalating rivalry between Washington and Beijing.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations ministerial meetings, delayed by a month, were held online due to continuing health risks posed by COVID-19. The 10-nation bloc's foreign ministers were to meet Asian and Western counterparts, including those from the U.S. and China, later in the week, capped by an annual security forum.

Vietnam is hosting the talks as this year's chairman of the diverse group. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc called for regional solidarity amid the headwinds in an austere opening ceremony attended by a few dozen diplomats in the capital, Hanoi.

"The valuable fruits of our cooperation are being tested in an environment full of volatility and unprecedented challenges, especially the COVID-19 pandemic," Phuc said.

The pandemic has delayed or canceled dozens of meetings and shut out the colorful ceremonies, group handshakes and photo-ops that have been the trademarks of ASEAN's annual gatherings.



ASEAN foreign ministers watching Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc (center) delivering a speech during the opening of ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting yesterday

The talks focused on combating the pandemic and ways to help member states recover economically. The contagion has devastated the region's manufacturing, export, travel and tourism industries and sparked the worst economic recessions in decades across the region of 650 million people.

Southeast Asian nations have been impacted by the pandemic differently, with hard-hit Philippines grappling with more than 245,000 confirmed COVID-19 infections, including nearly 4,000 deaths, and the tiny socialist state of Laos reporting just 22 cases. The

Philippines and Indonesia each have more than double the infections reported by China, where the outbreak started late last year.

A senior Southeast Asian diplomat said a key project is establishing a COVID-19 response fund to help ASEAN member states buy medical supplies and protective suits. The diplomat said Thailand has pledged to contribute \$100,000 and ASEAN partners, including China, Japan and South Korea, were expected to announce contributions.

A regional stockpile of medical supplies has also been approved, and a study to be financed by Ja-

pan will research the possibility of establishing an ASEAN center on public health emergencies, according to the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak publicly.

A long-thorny issue on the agenda is the territorial disputes in the South China Sea involving China, Taiwan and ASEAN members Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

When the territorial conflicts were discussed, "concerns were expressed by some ministers on the land reclamations, activities and serious incidents in the area

which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region," the ministers said in a draft communique, a copy of which was seen by The Associated Press.

In July, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo declared that Washington regards virtually all of China's maritime claims in the disputed offshore region outside of its internationally recognized waters to be illegitimate. Although it remains neutral in territorial disputes, the Trump administration was in effect siding with the four ASEAN claimant states, along with Indonesia, which have opposed China's claims to virtually the entire waterway.

China then accused the U.S. of sowing discord in the strategic region and last month, its military reportedly test-fired two missiles in the South China Sea during exercises.

China has pushed for the resumption of negotiations with ASEAN on a code of conduct aimed at preventing armed clashes in the disputed waters. But Hoang Thi Ha of the ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore said major differences between China and rival claimant states would stymie any breakthrough or an early agreement.

"Given the recent developments both on the lawfare front and tensions at sea, I don't see much silver lining," she told The Associated Press.

Pompeo and his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, have confirmed their attendance at the ASEAN Regional Forum on Saturday, Asia's largest security forum, which will also be done by video. North Korea's foreign minister will skip the forum but its representative to ASEAN will participate, according to Vietnam's foreign ministry. **AP**

## WINTER OLYMPICS

# Beijing accuses human rights groups of politicizing sports

**BEIJING** is to host the 2022 Winter Olympics with rumblings of a boycott and calls to move the games because of alleged human rights violations.

A coalition of human rights groups delivered that demand to International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach ahead of the body's executive board meeting in Switzerland yesterday. In a letter, the group asked the IOC to "reverse its mistake in awarding Beijing the honor of hosting the Winter Olympic Games in 2022."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian accused the groups of trying to politicize sports, which he said is against the spirit of the Olympic Charter.

China has repeatedly denied human rights abuses. It at first said the camps for Uighurs didn't exist, and then said they were job training centers to combat terrorism.

"Through vocational education and training, Xinjiang has taken preventive counter-terrorism and de-radicalization measures, effectively contained the once frequent terrorist

activities, and protected the right to life, health and development of all ethnic group," another spokesperson, Hua Chunying, said last week. "Over the past four years there hasn't been a single terrorist attack in Xinjiang."

These are precarious times for the Swiss-based IOC. Its finances — and those of 200 national Olympic committees and dozens of Olympic-related sports federations — have been shaken by the postponement of the Tokyo Olympics until 2021 because of COVID-19.

Bach warned two months ago against boycotts but said he was not referring specifically to Beijing. The Swiss-based body generates 73% of its revenue from selling television rights and 18% from sponsors and has seen its income stalled by the Tokyo delay.

After European cities such as Oslo and Stockholm dropped out, the IOC was left with only two bidders for 2022: Beijing and Almaty, Kazakhstan. Beijing won by four votes, taking the Winter Olympics to a country with no tradition — but a giant, untapped market.



Juan Antonio Samaranch Jr., the IOC member who oversees the Beijing Games, declined to answer questions from The Associated Press about reported human rights violations in Xinjiang and referred to comments from the IOC.

"Awarding the Olympic Games to a national Olympic committee does not mean that the IOC agrees

with the political structure, social circumstances or human rights standards in the country," the IOC said in an email to the AP.

The IOC said it has "received assurances that the principles of the Olympic Charter will be respected in the context of the games." It added it must remain "neutral on all global political issues." **MDT/AP**

GREECE

# Fire sweeps through refugee camp on virus lockdown

DEREK GATOPOULOS,  
ATHENS

A major overnight fire swept through Greece's largest refugee camp, which had been placed under COVID-19 lockdown, burning through container housing and leaving more than 12,000 migrants yesterday in emergency need of shelter on the island of Lesbos.

In dramatic night-time scenes, migrants at the overcrowded Moria refugee camp fled fires that broke out at multiple points and were fanned by gale-force winds, gutting much of the camp and surrounding hillside olive groves. Protests also broke out involving migrants, riot police, and firefighters. There were no reports of injuries.

Aid agencies have long warned of dire living conditions at Moria, where more than 12,500 have been living in and around a facility built to house just over 2,750.

A state of emergency was declared on the island starting yesterday for public health reasons and will be in effect for four months, Greece's civil protection authority announced.

"It has been a very difficult night," Greek government spokesman Stelios Petsas said, adding that all possible causes of the fire, including arson, were being examined.

Petsas said those who had been living in Moria would not be allowed to leave the island to prevent the potential spread of the coronavirus.

The camp was put under lockdown after a Somali man was found to have been infected with the virus. A major testing drive was ordered, and 35 people who tested positive had been quarantined in a separate facility that was not affected by the fire, officials said.

Greece's interior and migration ministers, along with the head of the country's public health organization, were heading to Lesbos following an emer-

AP PHOTO



gency meeting convened yesterday morning by Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis. The commander of Greece's intelligence service, the civil protection head and the chief of defense general staff participated in the meeting.

European authorities, who have often come under criticism for not doing enough to ease the migration burden on countries at Europe's southern borders such as Greece, Italy and Spain, were quick to offer assistance.

"What's happening in Moria is a humanitarian catastrophe," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas tweeted. "In cooperation with the EU Commission and other EU member states willing to help we need to sort out as quickly as possible how we can support Greece. This includes the distribution of refugees among those in the EU that are willing to take them."

The United Nations' refugee agency said it had deployed its staff on the ground and offered assistance to Greek authorities.

European Commission Vice President Margaritis Schinas, who is responsible for migration matters, tweeted that he had been

in touch with Mitsotakis and "assured him that the European Commission is ready to assist Greece immediately at all levels at this difficult time."

EU Home Affairs Commissioner Ylva Johansson said she had "already agreed to finance the immediate transfer and accommodation on the mainland of the remaining 400 unaccompanied children and teenagers" who had been living in the camp.

"The safety and shelter of all people in Moria is the priority," Johansson tweeted.

The fires broke out overnight, police and fire officials on the island told The Associated Press, adding the cause of the blazes, as well as the full extent of the damage, remained unclear. They did not confirm local reports that the fires had been set deliberately in protest at the lockdown measures but said firefighters had "met resistance" from some camp residents.

Regional fire chief Konstantinos Theofilopoulos told state-run ERT television that the fire broke out at more than three places in quick succession, and that firefighters were

hampered by protesting residents from battling the flames.

The main blaze was out by yesterday morning, but the fire chief said some containers still had small slow-burning fires inside.

Before dawn, riot police set up cordons along a highway near the camp to restrict the movements of migrants.

Lesbos was Europe's busiest crossing point in 2015-16 for illegal migration during a massive westward movement of refugees, many fleeing war in Syria and Iraq and traveling through Turkey.

After that wave of migration, Greece set up camps on Lesbos and four other islands, with help from European Union funding, and more recently also set up a network of camps on the mainland.

Migrant arrivals in Europe have declined consistently since their peak in 2015, when more than 1 million people entered irregularly, primarily from Turkey to Greece. According to the U.N. refugee agency about 50,000 migrants have arrived in southern Europe so far this year, including 20,000 in Italy, 15,000 in Spain and 12,000 in Greece. AP

## this day in history

### 2000 DARING RESCUE FREES JUNGLE HOSTAGES



One British paratrooper has been killed and 11 injured during a bold mission to rescue six hostages being held in the Sierra Leonean jungle by a rebel group.

All the hostages are safe and aboard a Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel moored in the country's capital.

The captured soldiers - from the Royal Irish Regiment - were ambushed 16 days ago and were being held by the "West Side Boys" in a camp approximately 50 miles (80.5 km) from Freetown.

At least 20 of the rebels were killed in the attack which involved over 150 troops from the British army, including members of the Parachute Regiment and special forces.

The rescue began at 0630 local time (0730 BST) when British troops launched a simultaneous assault on the militia's hide-out in Rochel Creek and on the nearby village Magbeni - also held by the rebels.

The hostages were freed within 20 minutes, but a fierce fire-fight with the West Side Boys continued for another hour.

Some of the rebels were captured, including their 24-year-old leader, Foday Kallay.

UK Prime Minister Tony Blair announced news of the rescue to reporters in Downing Street.

"This was an operation carried out in circumstances of immense danger in face of armed resistance," he said.

He also praised the professionalism of the armed forces involved and confirmed there had been British casualties.

Britain's High Commissioner in Sierra Leone, Alan Jones, said there was no choice but to use force.

He told reporters the negotiation strategy adopted by the West Side Boys indicated the captured soldiers were at extreme risk.

General Sir Charles Guthrie, the Chief of Defence Staff, said there had also been fears the hostages would be moved.

"We worked hard to find out exactly where they were being detained and we did not want to lose that and go back to square one," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

UK forces were originally sent to the Sierra Leone to help with the evacuation of foreign nationals. They were needed to bolster the UN peacekeeping force and Sierra Leonean army as rebel forces advanced on the capital of the former British colony. The West Side Boys were a small but dangerous maverick group, and not connected to the country's biggest rebel force - the Revolutionary United Front. British soldiers remained in the country to help train the Sierra Leonean army. When this mission ended in September 2001 they withdrew leaving just a small force to act as military observers for the UN.



## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

One of your closest relationships is going through a power shift right now, and you are waking up to an imbalance that doesn't make you feel very good. Just realize that you are upset with the imbalance.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Petty dramas and gossip can be annoying, but they can also be rather entertaining if you can open your mind to that option. When people act silly, you can't get frustrated.



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You have to spill your real feelings for someone before it's too late. The mixed signals you've been sending could be making this person think you're not as interested as you really are!



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If you start to feel wary of someone or something today, there is probably nothing you really need to worry about. Your sensors are finely tuned, and you could be sensing things that aren't really there.



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You might be bursting with energy or you might be feeling quite calm today, but however much energy you have, you should conserve as much of it as you possibly can today.



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It's not that they're greedy; it's just that there is a lot of uncertainty in the air. And when people are uncertain, they get panicky. And since it can be hard to say no, you shouldn't even offer in the first place.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You know how to take care of yourself, but lately you may have turned inward a bit too often. You need to quell these more selfish urges and put other people first, at least for a little while.



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Your health is on your mind, and today is a good time to start a new fitness routine or make a few changes in your diet. You never knew you were capable of making such strides, but you're full of surprises!



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Combine a positive attitude with a little of your legendary creativity, and you can get just about anything done today. Stuck doing a boring task? Turn it into a game.



### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Getting outside at some point today will also help keep your mood high. The fresh air will help you think more clearly and see things in the proper perspective.



### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

The kind and generous compromiser inside of you is taking over and filling your heart with altruism and your mind with the urge to help other people in a more significant way.



### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

While self-doubt is natural from time to time, you need to remember that you can fix things if you just keep working at them and thinking positively.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



## SUDOKU

### EASY

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

### EASY+

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

### MEDIUM

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

### HARD

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

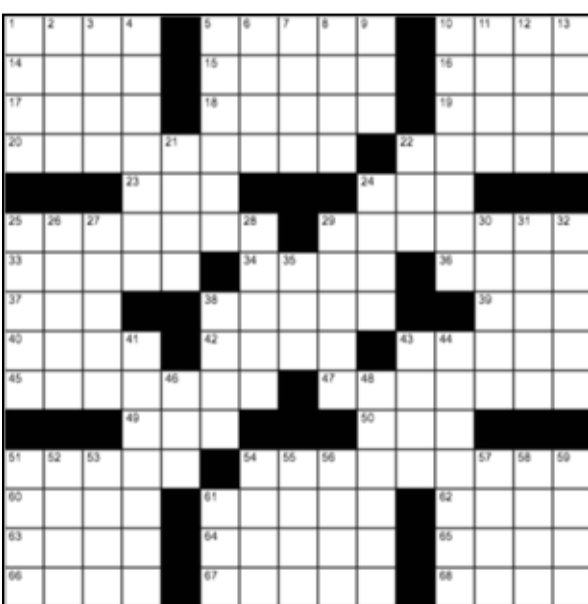
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	18	25	drizzle
Harbin	15	21	shower
Tianjin	21	27	shower
Urumqi	12	20	cloudy
Xi'an	20	29	cloudy
Lhasa	12	24	cloudy
Chengdu	22	28	cloudy
Chongqing	25	31	drizzle
Kunming	17	25	shower
Nanjing	23	30	overcast
Shanghai	24	32	drizzle
Wuhan	22	29	drizzle
Hangzhou	24	32	cloudy
Taipei	24	28	drizzle
Guangzhou	26	33	thundershower
Hong Kong	27	31	thundershower
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	10	17	drizzle
Frankfurt	11	19	drizzle
Paris	17	25	cloudy
London	10	20	clear
New York	21	27	drizzle

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Socialite Maxwell; 5- Gate fastener; 10- Blueprint detail, for short; 14- Timber; 15- Journalist \_\_\_ Rogers St. Johns; 16- Mother of Ares; 17- Reflected sound; 18- Put a new price on; 19- Alpo alternative; 20- Abbreviated; 22- 3 grains troy weight; 23- Homer's TV neighbor; 24- Auction unit; 25- High ruler; 29- Gives slack; 33- "Otello" composer; 34- In the Black?; 36- Peter Fonda title role; 37- Menu words; 38- Holy war; 39- Permit; 40- Feathers; 42- Employs; 43- Words to live by; 45- Dignify; 47- Mideast capital; 49- Negative vote; 50- Summer Games org.; 51- Informative; 54- Impervious to fine airborne dirt; 60- Prepare a book or film for release; 61- Mother of Isaac; 62- It parallels a radius; 63- City in Western Nevada; 64- Ohio, e.g.; 65- Belinda Carlisle's "Should \_\_\_ You In?"; 66- Peeling potatoes, perhaps; 67- Conger catcher; 68- Shipping deduction;

DOWN: 1- More than one female sheep; 2- Scottish body; 3- London district; 4- Decked out; 5- Texas border city; 6- Yemeni port; 7- Mal de \_\_\_; 8- Decked out; 9- Crone; 10- Japanese massage technique; 11- Fleshy fruit; 12- Writer Bombeck; 13- Support for a broken limb; 21- Actress Hatcher; 22- Dove's sound; 24- Mutual fund fee; 25- Skirt; 26- Breakfast fruit; 27- Shrimp; 28- Bring up; 29- Smallest; 30- "Oklaoma!" aunt; 31- \_\_\_ vacation; 32- Attack; 35- Pronoun for a ship; 38- Seventh month of the year; 41- Without interruption; 43- Hew; 44- New member; 46- Sea arm; 48- One or the other; 51- Pianist Peter; 52- Garden spot; 53- Blink; 54- Go out with; 55- Orenburg's river; 56- Fill to surfeit; 57- Spicy stew; 58- Doozy; 59- Kismet; 61- Compass dir.;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



**FOR SALE**

Renovated Duplex, Macau with Amazing View  
HK\$4,200,000 817 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1/2 2 1/2

**FOR RENT**

Traditional Apartment Old Taipa Village  
\$9,900/mth 600 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1/2 1 1/2

**FOR SALE**

- [Macau] Retail space, Areia Preta  
170 ft<sup>2</sup> \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 1/2 2 1/2  
1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] Chun Fok apartment 2 1/2 2 1/2  
834 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,998,000 (ref: 20036002)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 1/2 2 1/2  
1,344 ft<sup>2</sup> \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)

**FOR RENT**

- [Taipa] Studio apartment 1 1/2 1 1/2  
650 ft<sup>2</sup> \$9,000/mth (ref: 20061003)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2  
710 ft<sup>2</sup> \$20,460/mth (ref: 20021002)
- [Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2  
1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2  
2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)

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DISNEY VIA AP



## MULAN, ONCE A SURE THING, BECOMES A PROBLEM FOR DISNEY

IT was supposed to be another \$1 billion blockbuster for Walt Disney Co. - a live-action remake of a 1998 animated hit featuring an all-star Asian cast, breathtaking cinematography and plenty of martial arts.

Instead, the new "Mulan" is proving to be a political hot potato, reflecting the U.S.'s fraying ties with China, and the choices companies face when operating in the highly politicized, but lucrative environment that is modern-day China.

The \$200 million film, which was made available for purchase online in the U.S. and Europe last week and is set to open in China on Friday, has seen a string of controversies - all while the coronavirus knocked out its chances of getting a successful run in theaters.

An online boycott that began last year, when one of the stars spoke supportively of the crackdown on anti-China protesters in Hong Kong, has continued. Now, Disney is facing heat for filming in a part of China where the government has detained up to 1 million

ethnic Uighurs in camps called "voluntary education centers," and then thanking that region's authorities in the movie's credits.

Disney is the latest U.S. business to be embroiled in a political controversy involving China. Last year, the National Basketball Association was plunged into turmoil after a team manager tweeted in support of the Hong Kong demonstrators, triggering a backlash and a blackout of games in China. DreamWorks Animation's movie "Abominable" stirred up a storm in Asia after the film featured a map reflecting China's maritime claims disputed by its neighbors.

### 'ADDICTED TO CHINA'

Senator Tom Cotton, a Republican from Arkansas, slammed Disney on Twitter Tuesday, saying the entertainment giant is "addicted to Chinese cash and will do just about anything to please the Communist Party."

Disney has a lot at stake in China. The company spent \$5.5 billion developing its Shanghai Disneyland resort and has been

expanding its smaller park in Hong Kong. The movie market there is also on track to become the world's largest. But with both Republicans and Democrats focusing on China trade and cultural issues leading up to the presidential election, the company could continue to find itself in the political crossfire.

"I wouldn't be surprised if they're called before Congress," said Stanley Rosen, a political-science professor and specialist on China at the University of Southern California.

### HIGH HOPES

It certainly didn't begin this way when Disney started work on the film more than five years ago.

The company sought to address cultural and social concerns about the earlier picture, which featured Donny Osmond and Harvey Fierstein voicing Asian characters. For the new picture, they were replaced with a largely Chinese or Chinese-American cast, including Liu Yifei as the heroine who dresses as a male sol-

dier to save her father, and Jet Li, as her emperor.

Disney chose a female director, New Zealander Niki Caro, because "she has a long tradition of going into very specific communities and telling a story," said "Mulan" producer Jason Reed. He pointed to films she had done, such as "North Country," about Minnesota iron miners, and "McFarland, USA," about a Latino track team in California.

"Mulan," which is based on a centuries-old Chinese folk song, incorporates traditional Chinese architecture, costumes and spirituality.

"We spent a great deal of time with scholars, consultants and various creative people really listening to how they look at the world," Reed said.

### CONTROVERSIAL COMMENTS

Then Liu, the film's star, voiced her support for the mainland Chinese government during Hong Kong pro-democracy protests last year. A #BoycottMulan movement began trending on Twitter.

After the film's release last Friday, others began to notice that the credits included thanks to local authorities in Xinjiang for letting the company film there. The region is where members of China's Muslim minority are being held in camps as part of a crackdown that followed a series of Uighur attacks on civilians in 2013, including a flaming car attack in the heart of Beijing: Tiananmen Square.

International criticism has been building over the camps for several years, with the U.S. sanctioning officials from the region and European governments condemning the repression of Uighurs. China has sought to defend them by calling them "education" camps that Uighurs attend voluntarily, even though a visit to one last year showed dormitories featuring bars on the windows and doors that only lock from the outside.

### MARKETING MUSCLE

The financial impact of the controversies on "Mulan" remains to be seen. The movie already faced a steep climb to profitability because so many theaters were closed by the coronavirus and Disney took the unusual step of releasing it online for \$30 on its Disney+ streaming service.

The company also spent tens of millions of dollars marketing "Mulan," over and above its production budget. Given the state of the movie-theater business, it will be tough to make back its investment.

Disney hasn't released numbers on online purchases of the film, although data from third parties suggest there was a lot of interest. Box-office results from China, currently the world's second-largest movie market, won't be available until the weekend.

The bigger problems for "Mulan" could be ones that studios are more accustomed to: piracy, for example, because the movie is already available online. The reviews have also been less than unanimous - 76% of critics and 54% of the audience gave it a thumbs up, according to Rotten Tomatoes. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## CORPORATE BITS

### GEG sponsors event conveying responsible gaming messages

Galaxy Entertainment Group recently sponsored the Bosco Youth Service Network (BYS) in organizing the "Parent-Child Day Out in Adventures 2020" event at the Healthy Life Education Centre of the Social Welfare Bureau of Macau.

The event, which included various parent-child activities and seminars, delivered key responsible gaming messages and promoted

parent-child learning by encouraging parents to work together with their children in overcoming their challenges as part of different indoor activities.

The event is aimed at deepening the participants' understanding of responsible gaming in a simple and clear way to prevent gambling disorders, and reduce the negative impacts that gambling disorders may have on socie-

ty, the gaming operator noted in a statement.

Buddy Lam, Senior Vice President of Public Relations of GEG, said, "To provide more comprehensive responsible gaming education, this year GEG expanded its responsible gaming promotion to the community and established long-term partnerships with different social service organizations by supporting and working with them on organizing a series of promotional activities that focuses on healthy family relations."

### The St. Regis Macao launches staycation package for couples

The St. Regis Macao is launching an "Exquisite Celebration for Him and Her" staycation package until January 2.

The package includes a HKD500 food and beverage dining credit per room per night, a complimentary signature cocktail for two and a complimentary one-hour personal training session for two at The Athletic Club.

As cited in a statement, during their stay, couples will feast on a sumptuous breakfast selection in-room, featuring an array of savory and sweet delights crafted by its team of expert chefs.

For lunch, The Manor offers a set-lunch menu, as well as an extensive a-la-carte selection. Guests can also laze by

the pool enjoy the pool-side lunch menu.

As the day turns to evening, couples can celebrate with a romantic dinner at The Manor, with signature dishes including a succulent aged Miyazaki Wagyu beef striploin served with potato mille-feuille, matsutake mushroom and black truffle, as well as a luxuriously tender Brittany lobster poached with Oscietra caviar and sea urchin sauce.

## FOOTBALL

# Ronaldo reaches century of international goals for Portugal

SWEDEN 0, PORTUGAL 2

**A**dd 100 international goals to the extraordinary list of milestones achieved by soccer superstar Cristiano Ronaldo.

The 35-year-old Ronaldo became just the second male player to reach a century of goals for a national team when he curled a free kick into the top corner from 25 meters for the first of his two strikes in Portugal's 2-0 away win against Sweden in the Nations League yesterday [Macau time].

Scoring one of the best goals of his international career was a fitting way to enter the "100 Club," where he joins former Iran striker Ali Daei, and he wheeled away in delight in an empty Friends Arena in Stockholm before performing his trademark celebration — the mid-air pirouette.

Ronaldo, who was playing in his 165th game for Portugal, then added a second goal — another curler into the top corner — and needs nine more to surpass the international record of 109 sco-



red by Daei from 1993-2006. The five-time world player of the year already holds the record for goals in the Champions League with

131 — 16 more than nearest rival Lionel Messi — and has now scored an international goal for the 17th straight calendar year.

Portugal has won its two opening group games after beating Croatia 4-1 on Saturday, when Ronaldo was absent because of a

toe infection.

Belgium and France also have maximum points. The top-ranked Belgians beat Iceland 5-1 and France defeated Croatia 4-2 — the same scoreline as the 2018 World Cup final.

England drew 0-0 at Denmark in Copenhagen.

### CIRCUS WITHOUT CLOWNS

In the after-match flash interview, Cristiano Ronaldo compared empty soccer stadiums to a circus without clowns.


"It's like going to a circus without clowns, going to a garden without flowers," Ronaldo said. "We don't like that as players, but I'm already used to it. I do my pre-match meditation already knowing that the stadium will be empty."

Ronaldo said he even missed opposing fans.

"It's sad," the Juventus forward said. "I like when I'm jeered in away matches, it motivates me. But health has to come first and we need to respect that. But it's sad."

Ronaldo said he hoped that "within a few months" fans could be back because they are the "joy" of the game.

With his goals against Sweden, Ronaldo became only the second male player to reach the century mark in international soccer. He trails only former Iran striker Ali Daei, who scored 109 goals for his national team. **MDT/AP**



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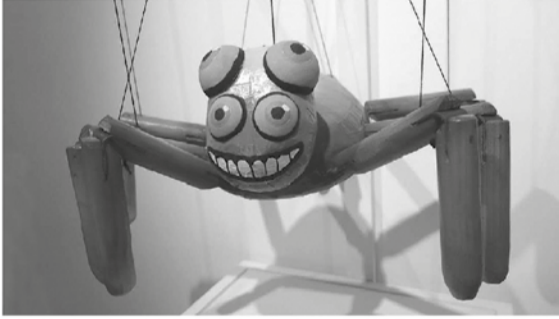
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OPINION

World Views

Cathy O'Neil, Bloomberg

**MUTANT ALGORITHMS ARE COMING FOR YOUR EDUCATION**

Bad algorithms have been causing a lot of trouble lately. One, designed to supplant exam scores, blew the college prospects of untold numbers of students attending International Baccalaureate schools around the world. Then another did the same for even more students in lieu of the U.K.'s high-stakes "A-level" exams, prompting Prime Minister Boris Johnson to call it a "mutant" and ultimately use human-assigned grades instead.

Actually, I would argue that pretty much all algorithms are mutants. People just haven't noticed yet.

The foibles of algorithms usually go unseen and undiscussed, because people lack the information and power they need to recognize and address them. When, for example, computers issue scores that decide how much people pay for mortgage loans or insurance policies, or who gets a job, the victims of mistakes typically don't know what's going on. Often, nobody even tells them their score, let alone how it was calculated or how to compare it against a benchmark. This makes it difficult for them to identify one another, band together and complain — or to compel authorities to come in and fix things.

The situation with the student-grading algorithms was an exception. Tens of thousands of students were assessed at the same time. They had "ground truths" with which to compare their scores — for example, how they were doing before the assessment and what grades their teachers expected them to receive. They were well equipped to share and inspect their results for consistency and fairness — and to see, for example, bias against kids from disadvantaged neighborhoods and schools. And they had a powerful weapon — outraged parents — to push politicians and university administrators to discard the flawed results.

So an unusually public scandal shed some light on how bad most algorithms really are. But it didn't fix or eliminate them. On the contrary, as the coronavirus crisis and pre-existing trends force budget cuts, computers are likely to be replacing human judgment even more, particularly in American higher education. Many admissions and student-services offices already use algorithms, typically to supplement humans. Now that's likely to flip, with a few humans overseeing a fleet of algorithms that essentially replace bureaucracy. And there's no reason to expect those algorithms to be better than Boris Johnson's mutant.

Worse, institutions around the world tend to buy their algorithms from the same third-party data companies. So those algorithms' weaknesses and biases — which tend to perpetuate and amplify the racial and gender biases baked into the historical data — have the potential to proliferate broadly through the entire process of admitting students, distributing financial aid, grading, recommending classes or majors and surveilling students for Covid-19 or other risks. This doesn't bode well for kids who happen to be born in places with failing schools, poor health care, toxic environments and few successful college graduates.

The companies and institutions that deploy high-stakes algorithms tend to rely on plausible deniability — if they don't know what's going on in the black box, they can't be held responsible. That's not good enough. All algorithms should be seen as untrustworthy until proven otherwise. Until we as a society acknowledge this, and insist on the transparency required for the public to assess reliability and fairness, we're not ready to use them.

Key European Union leaders have a video conference scheduled with Chinese President Xi Jinping next week to discuss issues ranging from climate change to the coronavirus pandemic.

The EU said in a statement yesterday that Council President Charles Michel will chair Monday's conference with Xi, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany, which currently holds the EU's rotating presidency.

The video summit will also include trade issues. Many EU

member nations are seeking access to the Chinese market for their companies.

In the past months, EU officials have stressed the need to maintain good ties to China, a growing economic, political and military power, as relations with the EU's old ally, the United States, have been strained during the Trump presidency.

Germany had planned to host a summit in September with all EU leaders and China, but that event was recently postponed due to the pandemic.

**SOUTH AFRICAN PARTY REJECTS ALLEGED TRUMP COMMENT ON MANDELA**



ANDREW MELDRUM, JOHANNESBURG

THE report that U.S. President Donald Trump made crude, disparaging remarks about Nelson Mandela, South Africa's Nobel Peace Prize-winning former leader, has drawn an angry response from South Africa's ruling party and others.

According to a book written by Michael Cohen, Trump's former personal lawyer, Trump said that Mandela, who guided South Africa in its politically fraught transition from a racist apartheid government to a democracy, was a terrible leader.

Cohen wrote that after Mandela's death in 2013, Trump said: "Mandela f---ed the whole country up. Now it's a s---hole. F--- Mandela. He was no leader."

Mandela, who won the Peace Prize in 1993 along with apartheid leader Frederik Willem de Klerk, is widely revered by all racial groups in South Africa. Internationally, he generally has a glowing reputation as a skilled statesman who avoided a nationwide bloodbath as the country abandoned apartheid.

The report about Trump's comments could also impact the U.S. presidential election in November in which Trump is seeking a second term in

office, angering not only Black Americans but white voters who see Mandela as a peace icon.

South Africa's ruling African National Congress party said yesterday [Macau time] that Trump is not fit to comment on Mandela's accomplishments.

"All freedom-loving people of the world are appalled by these insults, which come from a person who himself is not a model of competent leadership," said the ANC statement, adding that Trump is the most "divisive, misogynistic and disrespectful person" ever to be president of the United States.

**Cohen wrote that after Mandela's death in 2013, Trump said: 'Mandela f---ed the whole country up'**

Mandela's dedication to "peace and a just society" stands in "stark contrast" to Trump's policies, said the ANC.

"The mark of a true leader is not how many enemies you create but how many friendships you cultivate, even where strong differences of opinion exist," said the ANC, adding that if Mandela were alive today, he would reach out to Trump to discuss international issues.

The Nelson Mandela

Foundation also criticized Trump for the insulting remarks about Mandela attributed to him by Cohen, who has been convicted of fraud and perjury.

"We do not believe that leaders who conduct themselves in the way Mr. Trump does are in a position to offer authoritative commentary on the life and work of Madiba (Mandela's clan name)," the foundation said in a statement.

Trump could learn from Mandela, said the foundation, quoting South Africa's first Black president as saying: "A good leader can engage in a debate frankly and thoroughly, knowing that at the end he and the other side must be closer, and thus emerge stronger. You don't have that idea when you are arrogant, superficial, and uninformed."

The U.S. ambassador to South Africa, Lana Marks, responded to the controversy with a diplomatically worded statement.

"I have discussed South Africa with President Trump many times, and he has only ever spoken positively about the country," said Marks. "The U.S. remains committed to working together with South Africa to realize the promise of a more peaceful, more productive, more prosperous 21st century Africa." AP



Sri Lanka A fresh fire on a large oil tanker drifting off Sri Lanka's coast was extinguished yesterday after burning for two days, the navy said, as experts prepared to salvage the vessel. A new blaze broke out Monday on the MT New Diamond, which was carrying nearly 2 million barrels of crude oil, and reached the magnitude of last week's fire, only a day after a three-day blaze was extinguished.



Norway A far-right Norwegian lawmaker said yesterday that he has nominated U.S. President Donald Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts in the Middle East. Christian Tybring-Gjedde, a member of the Norwegian Parliament for the far-right Progress Party, said Trump should be considered because of his work "for a peace agreement between the United Arab Emirates and Israel which opens up for possible peace in the Middle East." More on macaudailytimes.com

UK The British government has sought to tighten its grip on the coronavirus in England, banning gatherings of more than six people and launching a new public information campaign. The new limits on social gatherings in England are set to stay in place for the "foreseeable future," potentially until or even through Christmas, British Health Secretary Matt Hancock said yesterday.



Zimbabwe's government says it has banned mining in its national parks, but an environmental group that had taken court action to stop the development of a coal mine in an elephant-rich park said on Wednesday that it will insist on "more than just words." Reports that a Chinese firm had started exploratory work to mine coal within Hwange National Park alarmed environmental and wildlife groups, who took legal action to stop it.