

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

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

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LIBERALIZING ONLINE GAMING HAS BEEN DEEMED UNACHIEVABLE DESPITE IT BEING A WAY TO DIVERSIFY THE CITY'S GAMING OPTIONS, EXPERTS SAY P2

LAI CHI VUN SHIPYARDS, IEC LONG FACTORY TO PARTIALLY OPEN TO PUBLIC P3

HONG KONG ARRESTED 15 SUSPECTS FOR MANIPULATING THE STOCK PRICE OF JIMMY LAI'S NEXT DIGITAL, MAKING MILLIONS IN PROFIT P7



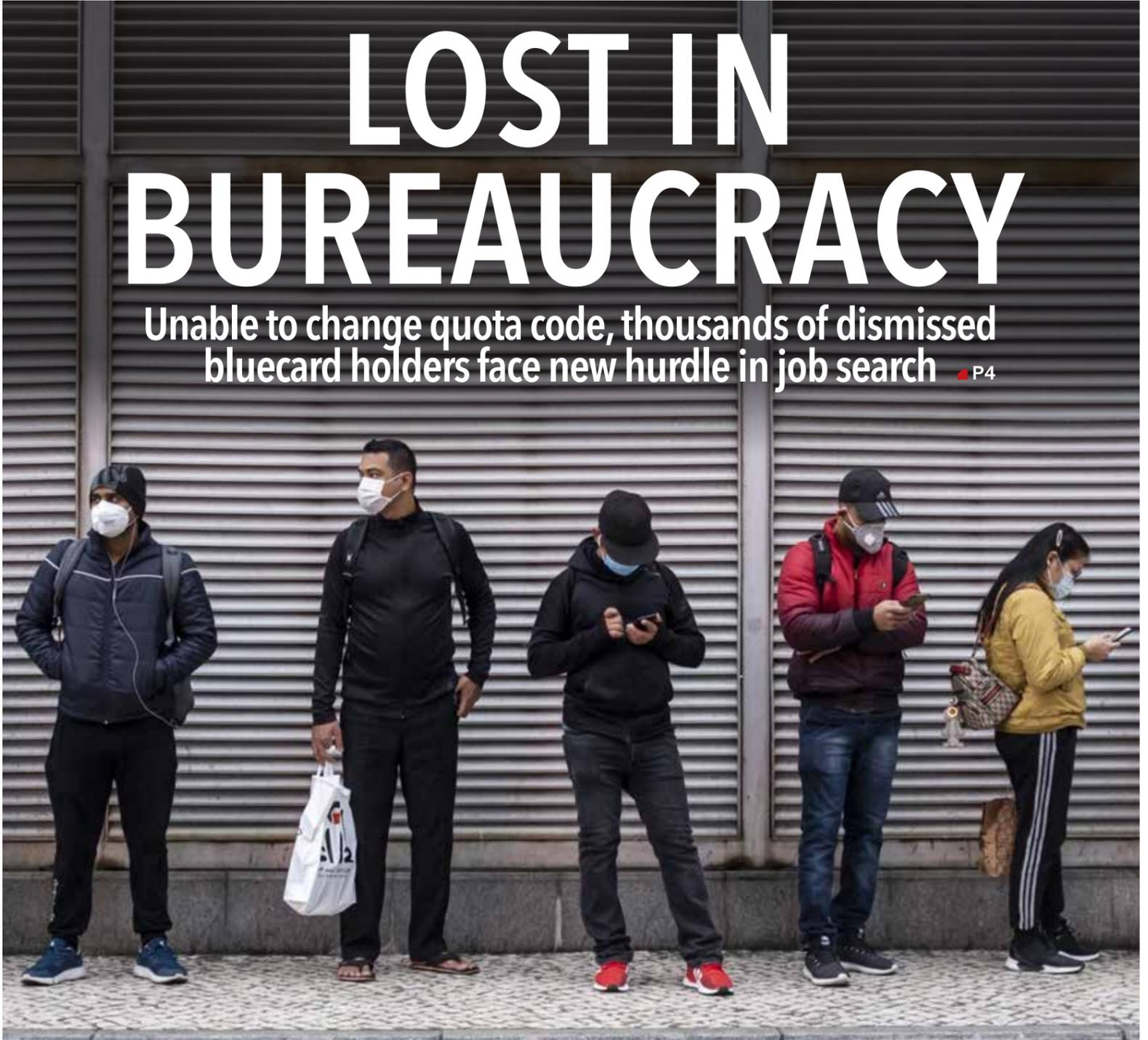
Russia Chinese and Russian forces will take part in joint military exercises in southern Russia later this month along with troops from Armenia, Belarus, Iran, Myanmar, Pakistan and others, China's defense ministry announced yesterday. The "Caucasus 2020" drills will deploy wheeled vehicles and light weaponry to be flown to the drill location by China's latest transport aircraft, the ministry said in a statement.

China A Chinese couple has been prevented by coronavirus health restrictions from traveling to the U.S. to take custody of their newborn child, who remains with her surrogate mother in Idaho. Emily Chrislip gave birth to the healthy girl at a Boise hospital May 18, but her biological parents in Beijing have waited months for their first embrace with the infant, The Idaho Statesman reported, because of the coronavirus, travel restrictions to and from China took effect Feb. 2.



Myanmar The overwhelming control of the economy by the military through some of its biggest companies means its foreign and domestic business partners are likely supporting military units and leaders suspected of human rights abuses, critics say. A report by Amnesty International released yesterday details some of those links with Myanmar Economic Holdings PLC, a huge conglomerate that was set up by the military in 1990. The human rights group is urging Myanmar's government "to break the link between the armed forces and the economy."

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LOST IN BUREAUCRACY

Unable to change quota code, thousands of dismissed bluecard holders face new hurdle in job search P4

CENTRAL LIBRARY PROJECT BACK TO OLD HOTEL ESTORIL



P3

GAMING

EXPERTS SAY THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY OF ONLINE CASINO LIBERALIZATION

LYNZY VALLES

LIBERALIZING online gaming in the Macau SAR has been labeled unachievable despite it being a possible way to diversify the city's gaming options, gaming experts have noted.

In an online talk titled "Macau Gaming: Reality Check" presented by MB.tv Debates and the Rui Cunha Foundation, Jorge Costa Oliveira, former commissioner for legal affairs of the Macau Gaming Commission, recalled that the city's first Chief Executive Edmund Ho had intentions to open the market to online gaming.

Ho was said to have always shown strong support for the liberalization of online gaming.

However, the timing had not been right for liberalization. After the arrest of former Secretary for Transport and Public

Works Ao Man Long on corruption charges in late 2006, Ho had chosen not to communicate the matter to both the central government and the Legislative Assembly.

"At that time, the Chief Executive had lost significant power over the scandal of Ao Man Long. He did not want to risk any negative directives from Beijing and he could not risk having a complicated discussion at the AL," said Oliveira, who was part of the development of the gaming legislation enforced in 2001.

"I don't think we are going to have other [types of] gaming in Macau, although there should be. We should have more competition for [current operators to work] more efficiently and be more law-abiding," he added.

Since diversifying gaming offerings from casino to online is not a possibility due to political

reasons, Oliveira noted that it is important for the market to target clients from South Asia and Southeast Asia, and not just having a large focus on urban China.

Meanwhile, the city's current gambling model will likely remain the same despite the upcoming renewals in 2022, with no new addition to the city's current six gaming operators.

Gaming experts including Ben Lee, managing partner of IGamiX Management & Consulting, and David Green, Newpage Consulting founder, opined that the renewal of gaming concessions that is set to take place next year should be postponed as the Macau SAR's economy has not yet been stabilized.

"While the outcome is likely to be determined, I don't believe that there is going to be an expansion of the existing conces-

sions, primarily because the game plan is already set in place," said Lee.

"In terms of what the desired outcome would be, objectives are pretty much set and the operators will have to come in and specify what non-gaming amenities they will commit to invest in," he added.

Meanwhile, for Green, the city has had 20 years to look at the volatility of the market and could learn from facts that can influence the sector.

For the gaming expert, the city's current six gaming operators are enough to continually run the industry.

"It would be a very difficult to make decision when you have already got the best operators [...] on the ground in Macau. Would you award it to a state-owned enterprise in the PRC? Or to a large listed public company from China?" he questioned.

CRIME

Police arrest man accused of serial sex harassment

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has arrested a 24-year-old Macau recidivist for another sexual harassment case, with the victim in this case a male student.

Yesterday, the PJ sent out a statement reporting the man's apprehension. According to the PJ, on September 4, a middle school reported a sexual harassment case to the bureau, notifying that a male student was harassed by a man who had touched the boy's

ankle. The police department identified the suspect on the same day.

The suspect, surnamed Lam, is current unemployed and is a re-offender of sexual harassment. Previously, Lam sexually harassed people in mainland China and was imprisoned for one year.

According to the PJ, Lam admitted to the charge and confessed that the harassment was performed intentionally in order to satisfy his fetish.

After he was released from the mainland prison and returned to Macau, he committed the same type of offenses in the northern district of the Macau Peninsula on about 10 different occasions.

The PJ is currently following up on an investigation to learn about whether there are more students who were victims of Lam. The suspect is facing charges of sexual harassment and the prosecution authority is

currently handling the case.

Earlier in May, the PJ caught a 39-year-old unemployed Macau man who was also accused of sexual harassment against students.

The cases were all reported soon after the resumption of high-school class. The man had lingered around a middle school in the northern district and allegedly harassed a total of 38 female students by touching their legs, backside and hands. The perpetrator got close to the victims while the girls were gathering or in a queue.

The PJ has urged Macau youth not to tolerate any sexual harassment situations and to report relevant incidents. **JZ**

SSM DENIES ACCUSATION OF SPONSORING NON-LOCAL'S HEALTHCARE

THE Health Bureau (SSM) has denied sponsoring a Malaysian national who is said to have received a medical service in the Macau SAR.

According to a statement released by the SSM, an online rumor alleged that a blue-card holder from Malaysia had been receiving treatment at Conde S. Januário Hospital (CHCSJ) and that the hospital did not have the extracorporeal circulation machine the patient needed.

Thus, the patient applied to the SSM for a subsidy to access a machine in Kiang Wu Hospital.

According to the statement, a false rumor accused the SSM of approving the Malaysian's application while refusing to grant the

subsidy to Macau residents.

The SSM has denied all accusations. The bureau said the CHCSJ has been equipped and using an extracorporeal circulation machine for many years.

The health authority also clarified that only Macau residents are eligible for healthcare subsidies and only in circumstances where such Macau residents meet all requirements. The bureau has never approved any subsidies to non-local people to receive medical treatment in Kiang Wu hospital, said the SSM.

In addition to the clarification, the SSM also made remarks regarding the online rumor, urging members of the public not to release fake information. **JZ**

GOVERNMENT SAYS FOUR CENTIMETER BUILDING CRACK NOT ABNORMAL

THE Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has indicated that there is no abnormality in the building where a gaping four centimeter-wide crack suddenly appeared.

Recently, residents of Mei Lok Garden, a 33-year-old government-sponsored house located in the Ilha Verde area, have been complaining about various cracks suddenly appearing on the building.

There are cracks on the rooftop and on the façade of the building, as well as in hallways and on ceilings of certain houses.

The biggest crack is as wide as four centimeters, visibly marking a line on the external wall of one side of the building.

According to building residents, the cracks started appearing only after construction work had started

at a nearby land plot. The construction company in question is building the premises for the fire services department.

The DSSOPT, the department responsible for the matter, had a meeting with representatives of the building in order to explain the causes of the fissures. Despite them being large-scale and abundant and only appearing recently, the DSSOPT argued that the cracks had been intentionally constructed when the building was built back in 1987.

The bureau claims that these fissures constitute expansion joints (EJ), the primary function of which is to allow expanded movement in the longitudinal direction. The relatively large joint width makes an EJ more vulnerable to peeling damage. **JZ**

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Times

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Design concepts for the Central Library project from the Netherlands (left) and Finland (right)

Central Library project back to old Hotel Estoril

RENATO MARQUES

THE new Central Library will be built on the land plot of the former Hotel Estoril at Tap Seac Square, returning to its original chosen location after a public consultation process held by the government back in 2009, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) announced yesterday during a press conference.

According to the president of the IC, Mok Ian Ian, the return to the old location was a decision made by the new administration, taking into account the feasibility of the location and its accessibility, the ease of construction, and the price of the project which, according to Mok, will stand at just around 500 million patacas, almost 45% less than what the government had last forecasted as the cost of the construction at the Old Court Building in central Macau (MOP900 million).

Another of the advantages in favor of this location, according to Mok, is the fact that there is more consensus among the population.

"The government has been taking into account the different opinions of the public regarding the selected location of the new Central Library, some of which expressed interest in reassessing the feasibility of building it on the land plot of the former Hotel Estoril. After analysis and evaluation, it was found that the construction of the new Central Library in the land plot of the

former Hotel Estoril is more rational and effective," Mok said. "After a comprehensive analysis, the land plot of the former Hotel Estoril for building the new Central Library may attain a gross construction area of more than 10,000 square meters. In technical architectural terms, the construction will [also] be less difficult and will have a relatively low construction cost."

For the IC, locating the library at Tap Seac Square also renders it a more iconic cultural building, as the location already includes several cultural facilities, including the current Central Library, and hosts many civic activities.

The location also adds several advantages in terms of proximity to residential areas, is better served by public transport, and has several schools in the surroundings, vice president of the IC, Leong Wai Man, also added.

For the new library project, the IC is now evaluating a total of four design proposals submitted by renowned and experienced international architecture and design companies, from which the government expects to pick the final design of the new Central Library.

"Four internationally renowned architectural design teams from the Netherlands, Finland, Ireland, and Switzerland, were invited, from an initial shortlist of 15, to submit proposals of a conceptual design according to the requirements of having an iconic exterior design, preserving

the existing mosaics, including parking space, focusing on the interactive relationship with the Square and making full use of the landscape of the Estoril swimming pool," the vice president noted in her presentation. "The proposals provide a scientific and more specific reference basis for the selection of the location of the new Central Library."

To help the government decide upon the best solution, the IC is also calling for the opinions of the public, which will be included in a full review to be done by the government "with the help of specialists."

Questioned by the media as to when it would be possible to open the new Central Library to the public, Mok said that the construction time would take between one and two years, and that it is expected that the facility could open as early as 2024.

Also questioned on the costs of the new library, taking into account the abandonment of the former projects at the Old Court Building and the Youth Centre project designed to occupy the land plot of Hotel Estoril, the government may save as much as 2 billion patacas in total.

"Although it is still too early to address the budget, as we did not decide yet which project will be built, we can advance that we expect to spend around 500 million patacas on the new project, which is significantly less than the previous one," Mok said. However, Leong added that this is, for the time being, only a reference, as the design proposals requested

by the government do not include an accurate cost of the project.

Questioned about the future of the Youth Center project, Leong said that although the idea would be dropped, several of the spaces and facilities planned for the center are still included in the plans of the new Central Library, such as the parking lot, the reading rooms and several multifunctional areas.

"The big difference will probably be that of the Macao Conservatory, which will not move to the new Central Library venue and for which we need to find another relocation solution," Leong said.

When questioned about the future of the current building where the Central Library operates, the IC official added that it would be dedicated to the Macau Historical Archives where there will be a section dedicated to historical documents in consultation with researchers and scholars undergoing studies on Macau's history.

LAI CHI VUN SHIPYARDS, IEC LONG FACTORY TO PARTIALLY OPEN TO PUBLIC

RENATO MARQUES

AFTER revitalization works, the old Lai Chi Vun Shipyards in Coloane and the site of the former Iec Long Firecrackers Factory in Taipa will partially open to the public, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has informed.

According to IC officials, the bureau is currently studying the future revitalization and use of the site of the former Iec Long Firecrackers Factory in Taipa to make good use of the land and the area's existing ecological and cultural resources.

According to IC President Mok Ian Ian, the bureau is preparing to partially open the site to public visitation without carrying out major work on the existing structures, which will keep their original layout.

During this phase, the IC work will be focused

on paving lanes to connect areas inside the site, and establishing several recreational facilities and signs that will allow visitors to explore the area and learn about the history of the former factory.

When questioned as to what date the site will open to the public, Mok said that the IC cannot advance a concrete date at the moment, since the land plot is still undergoing some administrative work regarding ownership, adding, "As soon as such a problem is solved, we will move forward with the necessary works and opening to the public," she said.

As for the Lai Chi Vun shipyards, the bureau has earmarked one area to be repurposed into a space of cultural and creative markets. It will include a leisure square, a multifunctional activity space as well as an exhibition hall, which features an old lime factory.



MACAU PHOTO AGENCY

DISMISSED BLUE CARD HOLDERS FACE NEW HURDLE IN JOB SEARCH

LYNZY VALLES

SOME non-resident workers who were forced to give up their blue cards due to the closure of companies caused by the economic downturn are facing difficulties in finding new work, as they are required to find a job that has the same quota code as their former employment.

According to the Law for the Employment of Non-Resident Workers, a new stay permit may be issued to the same migrant worker if they carry out, within six months, a new job identical to the occupation authorized under the last employment permit.

Applications for the employment of a non-resident worker who will be employed under a different quota code will not be

approved.

This is another challenge that some non-residents are facing – particularly now that many of them are seeking direct employment before the new employment law concerning them comes into effect in October.

This new amendment was formerly dubbed by a labor law expert as a nuisance, as it will only make it more difficult for non-skilled applicants and employers to go through the process, given that the city has been relying on a supply-and-demand system.

Meanwhile, although some of the dismissed workers have been hired directly by new companies, the Times is aware of cases in which, during the visa application stage, these applications were denied.

“I was already hired by a factory that produces masks, but the [visa application] was denied by [immigration] authorities as the quota is not similar to my previous one. This really adds a challenge to us as we continue to seek ... employment,” said a non-resident worker who has been terminated due to the closure of an SME.

Since direct flights from Macau to Manila are still unavailable, these recently laid-off workers have been receiving consideration from immigration regarding the visas given to them.

Normally, workers in this situation only have eight days to leave the Macau SAR.

Last month, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) disclosed that 13,000 non-resident worker quotas were deducted in a bid to show

up employment opportunities for local workers.

The Times contacted the bureau to enquire as to which industry had cut the largest number, and ask whether it was planning to halt the issue of work permits to non-resident workers amid the struggle of many local residents to find employment. However, no reply was received by press time.

Previously, when reviewing extensions to non-resident working permit applications, the DSAL said that it would check whether local workers were willing to fill the position first.

The migrant worker interviewed by the Times was offered 7,500 patacas to work in a mask factory – a salary that is not attractive to most Macau residents.

It is also worth noting that the-

re are jobs that would be difficult for local residents to fill, as some may refuse to change career or take on such roles.

Also, terminated non-resident workers are chasing time to seek new employment as they are bound by a six-month ban if they fail to find one due to an unfinished contract.

The six-month ban, under the existing Law for the Employment of Non-Resident Workers, has been a significant issue for these workers as the ban can be applied to migrant workers who quit their jobs without finishing their contracts. This is also likely applied to the workers who have been unemployed due to closures of business.

“It is worrying for us, mostly because of the six-month ban once our visa is over. It's extremely a challenge to find another job that has the same quota code as the former job,” said the migrant worker.

He added that he had already been contacted by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, a Philippine government agency, regarding whether he would join the repatriation flight on September 26.

Another migrant worker is facing a similar issue. He had a work trial, yet was rejected when the potential employer found out that his former quota code does not match with what the employer has.

Some employers and companies in the SAR have shown initiative and canceled quotas that could not be used due to the closure of the border and other reasons. The city still has entry bans on foreigners in place, which cover blue card holders and tourists from outside the greater China region.

Meanwhile, since the new employment law is set to take effect next month, many of these migrant workers refused to go back home – despite repatriation flights – as they would face another hurdle in seeking employment in the city once the border reopens and in finances, due to agency fees.

Street sales to face stricter regulations

JULIE ZHU

THE Macau SAR government intends to establish stricter regulations against street selling in order to protect consumers.

Yesterday, the local government presented the fourth version of the amendment of the Consumer Protection Law for the hearing of the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The government has

accepted the opinions of AL legal advisors and lawmakers in regard to some of the prescriptions of the law.

The lawmakers' major concern during yesterday's hearing was related to two kinds of sales: infrequent sales and sales taking place outside of an establishment. The former includes business events such as exhibition sales and stalls sales and the latter refers to instantaneous marketing

and street sales without a vendor, stall, facility, location or physical premises for the business. A sale made by promoting personnel inside people's houses falls within the second category.

The aforementioned two categories were not independent chapters in the first three versions of the law amendment. In this latest version of the law, these two categories are prescribed in independent chapters.

In respect of sales taking place outside of an establishment (street sales and door-to-door sales), the government is requiring goods and services providers to give more background information to the government when registering their businesses.

Buyers in the case of street sales and door-to-door sales can nullify a contract of sale with suppliers within seven days without restriction, mea-

ning buyers can refund a service or good within one week without having to give a reason.

In regards to infrequent sales, such as exhibitions and vendor sales, product suppliers must inform the government about imminent business. However, the restrictions will be lenient compared to street sales.

In addition, the law also dictates that once consumers purchase coupons or vouchers from any product supplier, the two parties are considered to be involved in an effective consumer relationship and any related

behaviors are law-binding.

The Chairman of the AL committee Ho Ion Sang said that the government does not want to set up unnecessary restrictions toward infrequent sales, especially exhibition sales, because Macau is attempting to develop the relevant industry.

The consumer protection law was preliminarily passed at the AL in March last year. Following yesterday's AL hearing, the committee will continue meeting with government representatives regarding further articles.

MGM Community Care Campaign Enlightens the Younger Generation



As part of MGM's effort to build a diverse and inclusive society, the "MGM Community Care Campaign" was held for the 9th consecutive year to spread warmth and care to people of different communities. This year the campaign collaborated with 20 community associations and has benefited over 300 youth and children. The Golden Lion Team spent a total of almost 1000 volunteering hours in this campaign to encourage the younger generation to give

back to society and develop a closer relationship with their family and the community.

Wendy Yu, Executive Vice President of Human Resources of MGM, explained why the Company decided to hold the "MGM Community Care Campaign" as scheduled despite the pandemic. She said, "MGM realizes that Macau communities, particularly the youth and children, need extra care at the moment. The pandemic has affected their regular school

schedule and they may need to stay home most of the time, which has been quite a challenge for them. In support of their growth and development, MGM launched an array of meaningful events to broaden their mind and get their social life back on track. Besides, as both parents and children might have been distressed by school suspension, we purposely introduced more parent-child activities to infuse positive energy into different families."



EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING AT MGM

A program to give teenagers hands-on work experience at an integrated resort, "The MGM Experience" program attracted 52 participants. They came from Young Men's Christian Association of Macau, General Union of Neighborhood Associations of Macau, winners of the fifth Macau Outstanding Teenagers Award; and children or siblings of MGM team members. The teenagers joined art tours and visited back-of-house areas of MGM properties. They also experienced the day-to-day operations at over 10 departments under the instruction of veteran MGM team members.

The program also guided the teenagers to volunteer in the community. Some of them joined members of Macau Special Olympics (MSO)—Ngai Chun Center to make cookies. Others either created decoupaged works of art with Fuhong Society of Macau members or learned how to clean wheelchairs at the Macau Assistive Technology Resources Center.

Daisy Lu, the daughter of an MGM team member, said, "I have the opportunity to learn the daily operations at the Hotel Reception. This is more than merely a front desk for check-in and checkout. Now I realize that team members working here have to fully understand the entire hotel's operations and to fulfil the needs of every guest in order to create great moments for them. This program also took me to the community where I really enjoyed making cookies with MSO members, which was an immensely rewarding experience."

MGM FLORAL DESIGN WORKSHOP

Besides, the Company also organized "MGM Floral Design Workshop" for young female teenagers from Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office. They learned the hidden meaning of flowers along with the techniques for floral and bonsai design from members of MGM Floral Department, who also guided them to create their first flower arrangement. The "instructors" and "apprentices" then collaborated to make bonsai on the theme of "Together, we fight the pandemic", which were later presented to 9 social welfare organizations for spreading warmth in the community.

Lydia Chang from MGM Floral Department said, "It's great to pass our skills and knowledge of floral design down to the young ones. I'm happy to see they made their flower artworks with rapt attention, which would give them a sense of accomplishment."



SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN'S HEALTH

In support of Macau SAR government's policy of "A sound healthcare system, putting prevention first", the Company held "MGM Children's Health Day" for the first time. Professionals from Worker's Medical Clinic of Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) were invited to conduct free check-ups of eyes, oral cavity and spine for 200 children aged between 6 and 12. They came from 5 different community associations as well as children of MGM team members. MGM volunteers also did exercise with the children and imparted health knowledge to them through playing games.

Leong Lok Wa, Consultant of FAOM, noted that this event raised the parents' awareness of the need to monitor their children's health, so they would not overlook a potential risk that might impair children's physical development. This thoughtful event also created a relaxing atmosphere for children to learn how to build a healthy diet and lifestyle, which will help to reduce the burden on Macau's medical system in the long run.

COVID-19 TEST STILL NEEDED FOR SOME EVENTS, SAYS HEALTH BUREAU

ANTHONY LAM

THE Health Bureau, on behalf of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, reiterated at yesterday's press conference that the requirement for Covid-19 nucleic acid testing in the case of certain events has been stipulated in one of its guidelines.

The guidelines give instructions regarding measures implemented at collective festive or ceremonial, cultural and entertainment events, as well as recreational and sports activities. It was published on May 6 and amended on August 28.

Item 1.3 of the guidelines stipulates: "In the event that the nature of the activity does not favor the contestants or performers to wear a mask (e.g. physical trainings, sports competitions, performances), and a minimum distance of 2 meters cannot be maintained during the activity, a nucleic acid test for Covid-19 should be performed before participating in such collective training



or rehearsal."

The government notified journalists participating in the National Day celebration on October 1 to obtain a negative Covid-19 nucleic acid test in order to facilitate their entry to the event.

Meanwhile, the Sports Bureau yesterday notified athletes competing in the Mid-Autumn Dragon Boat Races to take the test.

There are concerns as to whether a negative test result is really essential, judging from

the city's current risk level.

Dr Alvis Lo of the Coronavirus Center said that the decision was being driven by safety concerns. He reiterated that if all goes well, the mainland travel endorsement to Macau would resume on September 23.

Regarding the National Day Reception, he pointed out that testing is necessary because the event will be held in an indoor venue. It is also inevitable that guests will take off their masks for drinks and refreshments.

As for the Dragon Boat racers, Dr Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, pointed out that the proximity of racers and impossibility of mask-wearing will pose a risk of infection.

However, racers told the Times that the Sports Bureau, the organizer of the event, has been vague about the requirement during the registration process, if it had been mentioned at all.

Athletes at the Mid-Autumn Dragon Boat Races, however, are required to pay for their test

if they have used up their first-time free-of-charge quota. In addition, they will have to book their own slots.

Preliminary data shows that more than 1,000 athletes, coaches and supporting personnel will be required to take the test.

Meanwhile, the Coronavirus Center has announced good news for families with children. After reviewing its stocks, the Center announced that from today, a Macau child ID will render one eligible to purchase 30 children's facemasks in each round of the centralized mask supply scheme. It is crucial to clarify that the ID's owner must be at least 3 years old and not older than eight years old. The masks will be sold at MOP24 per 30 pieces.

Currently, the authority is running the 21st mask supply round. The Coronavirus Center noted that if parents have already purchased a combination of adults' and children's facemasks in the current round, and decide to exchange the adults' facemasks for children's facemasks, they may do so at any Government Health Center. Facemasks will be exchanged upon presentation of the adults' facemasks purchased in Round 21, as well as their children's ID cards.

AD

2020-21

Macao Orchestra Concert Season

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20/10 /2020

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China denounces US visa revocations as racial discrimination

U.S. move to revoke the visas of about 1,000 Chinese students amounts to "outright political persecution and racial discrimination," China's foreign ministry said yesterday.

The statement from spokesperson Zhao Lijian came a day after Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf said his department was blocking visas for "certain Chinese graduate students and researchers with ties to China's military fusion strategy to prevent them from stealing and otherwise appropriating sensitive research."

China was "abusing student visas to exploit American academia," Wolf said, offering a long list of alleged Chinese bad behavior but few details.

A State Department spokesperson later put the number of visas to be revoked at 1,000.

Zhao said the move damaged the "legitimate rights and interests of Chinese students stu-

dying in the U.S."

"It is outright political persecution and racial discrimination, and seriously violated the human rights of Chinese students studying there," Zhao said. "China reserves the right to make further responses to this matter."

U.S.-China relations have hit their lowest ebb in decades amid frictions over trade, technology, intellectual property and a myriad of other issues.

Along with graduate students, the Trump administration has accused some journalists working for Chinese state media outlets in the U.S. of spreading pro-regime propaganda or outright spying.

Chinese students make up the largest group of foreign students at American colleges and universities, with about 370,000 enrolled. New visa restrictions and the global coronavirus pandemic have already created considerable uncertainty about their academic future in the U.S. AP



HONG KONG

Police arrest 15 on suspicion of stock manipulation

HONG Kong police have arrested 15 people on suspicion of manipulating the stock price of media tycoon Jimmy Lai's company Next Digital and making millions in profit.

The arrests yesterday come after Next Digital's stock price surged over 1,000% within a span of days last month following the arrest of Lai, an outspoken pro-democracy figure, and a raid on Next Digital headquarters. The arrest and raid were made under the city's new national security law, which outlaws secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces.

Calls to support Next Digital by buying its stock appeared on a popular Hong Kong forum, and Next Digital's stock price started surging.

The 15 suspects were arrested for conspiracy to defraud and money laundering, police Chief Superintendent Chung Wing Man said.

Chung said they traded over 14,000 times, involving 1.69 billion shares, amounting to nearly 24% of the entire



Hong Kong police press conference yesterday

market activity over a span of three days. The suspects also offered to sell stocks, but before the selling order could be executed, they bought back the shares immediately, she said.

"We have reasonable grounds to believe that this is not ordinary market speculation activities, but rather an intention to push up the trade volume to distort the market situation and to attract innocent members of the public

to invest in a particular stock," she said at a news conference.

One of the suspects allegedly gained 25 million Hong Kong dollars (\$3.2 million), while another made 700,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$90,318), she said.

After news of the arrests went public yesterday, Next Digital's stock price surged again, at one point nearly doubling its opening price. It closed at 0.41 Hong Kong dollars, up 36.6%. AP

BEIJING SAYS AMBASSADOR HACKED IN 'LIKE' OF PORNOGRAPHIC TWEET

THE Chinese Embassy in the United Kingdom has demanded that Twitter investigate after its ambassador's official account liked a pornographic post on the social media platform.

A human rights advocate on Twitter posted a screenshot on Wednesday showing that Chinese Ambassador Liu Xiaoming had liked the post.

The embassy responded quickly, sharing a statement Wednesday night saying, "Recently, some anti-China elements viciously attacked

Ambassador Liu Xiaoming's Twitter account and employed despicable methods to deceive the public. The Embassy has reported this to Twitter company and urged the latter to make thorough investigations and handle this matter seriously."

Twitter declined to comment on the incident.

The ambassador's official Twitter account currently shows only two likes, both of which are the ambassador's own tweets.

Like most popular

overseas social media platforms, Twitter is blocked in China, while Chinese social media such as Weibo, China's version of Twitter, steer well clear of controversial topics to avoid repercussions from the authorities.

However, Chinese officials, particularly in the foreign ministry, have recently taken to Twitter and other social media to advocate for China's official positions, denigrate critics and counter criticisms over human rights, foreign policy and other issues. AP



In this file photo, Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom, Liu Xiaoming (left) speaks with Britain's Prince William

9/11

In a year of social distancing, virus alters remembrance of attack, too

JENNIFER PELTZ,
NEW YORK

IN a year when the coronavirus pandemic has reshaped countless American rituals, even the commemoration of 9/11 could not escape unchanged.

The 19th anniversary of the terror attacks will be marked by dueling ceremonies at the Sept. 11 memorial plaza and a corner near the World Trade Center, reflecting a divide over the memorial's decision to suspend a cherished tradition of relatives reading victims' names in person. Vice President Mike Pence is expected at both those remembrances in New York, while President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden plan to attend a truncated ceremony at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania.

In New York, the double beams of light that evoke the fallen twin towers were nearly canceled in the name of virus safety, until an uproar sparked a change of heart. The Fire Department has cited the virus in urging members to stay away from any observances of the 2001 attacks that killed nearly the 3,000 people, among them almost 350 firefighters.

Some victims' relatives say they understand the ground zero observance had to change in a year when so much else has. Others fear the pandemic is making plain what they have feared was happening unspoken: that the commitment to "Never Forget" is fading.

"It's another smack in the face," says Jim Riches, who lost his son Jimmy, a firefighter.

The father is staying home on the anniversary for the first time this year because he doesn't want to take chances with the coronavirus after a prior illness. But he feels others should have the option of reciting the names of the dead on the memorial plaza, instead of listening to a recording.

Memorial leaders said



The Tribute in Light illuminates in the sky above the Lower Manhattan area became a topic of controversy this year

they wanted to avoid close contact among readers, who are usually paired at the podium. But to Riches, a retired fire battalion chief and frequent critic of the memorial organization, the decision sounds like an excuse for sidelining the families' role in commemorating 9/11.

"I wish they wouldn't forget, but they're trying to," he says.

But Anthoula Katsimatides sees the differences this year as an effort to ensure victims' relatives feel comfortable attending — including her mother, who hasn't left home since March because health issues make her especially worried about the virus. But she is determined to go in honor of her son John, a bond trader, her daughter said.

In a year when many events have been called off, "this wasn't canceled. It's just been changed in such a way where we still get to pay tribute to our loved ones in a respectful and safe way," said Katsimatides, who's on the memorial board. She says the change wasn't motivated by anything except a public health emergency.

"Who expected COVID-19? ... It was completely unforeseen. As was 9/11," she said.

This year's plans have been a balancing act at the sites where hijacked planes crashed on Sept. 11, 2001: New York, the Pentagon

and a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

The Flight 93 memorial near Shanksville is trimming its usual 90-minute ceremony, partly by eliminating musical interludes. Memorial spokeswoman Katherine Cordek said the names of the 40 people killed there would be read, but by one person instead of multiple family members.

The Pentagon hasn't yet detailed its plans for the anniversary.

In New York — where the nation's deadliest coronavirus spike early happened this spring but has since been fairly well contained — leaders of the National Sept. 11 Memorial & Museum said their plan for a no-reading ceremony would honor both virus precautions and 9/11 families' attachment to being at ground zero on the anniversary.

But another 9/11-related organization, the Stephen Stiller Tunnel to Towers Foundation, quickly arranged its own simultaneous ceremony a few blocks away, saying victims' relatives could recite names while keeping a safe distance.

"We need to keep letting America know what happened 19 years ago. And they need to see that emotion of the day, not a recording," says chairman Frank Siller. He says he may attend both observances to honor the brother he lost, firefighter Stephen.

Meanwhile, Fire Com-

missioner Daniel Nigro told current firefighters in a memo last month that the department "strongly recommends" members not participate in 9/11 observances. The department did hold a limited-attendance ceremony Wednesday to add names to a memorial wall recognizing members who died after exposure to toxins unleashed in the wreckage.

Tensions over anniversary plans flared anew when the memorial announced last month it was nixing the Tribute in Light, twin blue beams that shine into the night sky over lower Manhattan. While there's no official gathering to view the lights, the memorial cited virus risks to the installation crew.

The cancellation outraged some victims' relatives, police and fire unions and politicians, who noted that construction sites around the city were deemed safe to reopen months ago. After the Tunnel to Towers foundation said it would organize the display on its own, Gov. Andrew Cuomo and former Mayor Mike Bloomberg, the memorial's billionaire chairman, stepped in to keep the memorial-sponsored lights on. (Tunnel to Towers is now stationing lights at the Flight 93 memorial and the Pentagon.)

Memorial President Alice Greenwald later said the organization "should have approached this issue differently." AP

this day in history



2001 US ROCKED BY DAY OF TERROR

The United States is in a state of shock after a day of attacks which have left thousands dead and New York's World Trade Center destroyed.

The Pentagon was also severely damaged by one of the three civilian airliners which hijackers turned into flying bombs. A fourth plane crashed in a field near Pittsburgh.

A state of emergency has been declared in Washington D.C. and the US has closed its airspace and its borders with Mexico and Canada.

American forces are on one of their highest states of alert and the Pentagon has deployed a naval battle group off the country's east coast to bolster air defences.

American Airlines Flight 11 was hijacked at 0825 Eastern Daylight Time (1225 GMT) and 18 minutes later crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center.

United Airlines Flight 175 - which had been hijacked within minutes of the first plane - was flown into the south tower at 0903 EDT (1303 GMT) causing another devastating explosion.

The second crash was captured live on news cameras trained on the burning north tower.

At 0940 EDT (1340 GMT) a third hijacked airliner - American Airlines Flight 77 - was flown into the side of the Pentagon in Washington.

An hour after the Boeing 767 slammed into the south tower of the World Trade Center the 110-storey building collapsed.

The north tower followed minutes later, compounding the destruction and loss of life.

Witnesses reported seeing people jumping from the towers just before they collapsed.

President Bush was reading to pupils at a Florida school when his chief of staff whispered news of the attacks to him.

He was flown to the US Strategic Command Centre at Nebraska - where the country's nuclear weapons are controlled - but is now on his way back to Washington.

He is expected to address the nation later this evening.

New York mayor Rudy Giuliani said the final number of dead may be "more than any of us can bear".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The final number of people killed in the suicide attacks on 11 September was about 3,000.

It took almost nine months to clear the millions of tons of rubble at "Ground Zero" where the World Trade Center had stood.

The biggest criminal investigation in history quickly identified the hijackers, and linked them to al-Qaeda - the Islamic militant group set up by Osama Bin Laden.

President Bush declared a worldwide war on terror, and on 8 October the United States and Britain hit targets in Afghanistan, where Bin Laden was believed to be hiding.

The regime in Afghanistan fell quickly in the face of American military might, but Osama Bin Laden remained at large for years.

President Bush extended his global campaign against terror to Iraq in March 2003, when a coalition dominated by US and UK forces invaded.

Already under the Barack Obama administration, Osama bin Laden was killed in Abbottabad, Pakistan, on May 2, 2011 by a US military special operations unit.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

It is time for you to experience a few new things in your life. Your day-to-day routine is losing some of its excitement, and you run a slight risk of getting too complacent - and lazy!



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You can't let other people push you around, no matter how insistent or powerful they might be. If these folks are in such a hurry, let them speed off on their own without you.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

The negative feelings you had for someone have improved so much that you are starting to feel like you'd join their fan club if they had one! The exciting part is that they are singing your praises just as loudly.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You don't want to push too hard and make them appear to have caved in to your demands. Help them protect their reputation, and they'll be in your corner forever and helping you in future situations.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Getting too obsessed about learning something new about your latest crush is not wise right now. There are other people in your life, and frankly they deserve your time and energy more than this cutie does.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

The details of your day could be confusing, so it's best to get a head start on things. Fortunately, you have a great deal of clarity and you can get organized early enough to avoid most of the headaches.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Let your selfless side come out today. It's eager to help make the world a better place. You have the time and you have the energy, so all you need is the cause.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You've been working awfully hard to avoid getting into any conflicts with someone you care about, but today it could start to feel like the effort required to keep doing that might be more than you can bear.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There is too much disarray in your life right now, and it's going to be very easy to get distracted if you don't have your priorities set. Take time today to sort through the details. Put things in the right order.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today, it's advisable for you to reserve your energy for your own issues and concerns and don't worry about other people too much. So what if folks complain that you are being selfish by not putting them first?



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Whatever you're feeling, you gotta let it out today! Happy or sad, jealous or proud, envious or territorial, it doesn't make any difference. Just let folks know what's going on in your heart.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Having love in your life is important to you, but right now you may find yourself having some strong anti-romance feelings. You should try to avoid any new couples.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	18	26	cloudy
Harbin	12	21	cloudy
Tianjin	19	23	cloudy
Urumqi	11	18	clear
Xi'an	17	32	cloudy
Lhasa	13	24	cloudy
Chengdu	21	27	shower
Chongqing	23	28	drizzle
Kunming	17	23	moderate rain
Nanjing	23	28	cloudy
Shanghai	24	28	heavy rain
Wuhan	20	29	clear
Hangzhou	25	30	drizzle
Taipei	25	31	drizzle
Guangzhou	26	33	thundershower
Hong Kong	27	31	thundershower
WORLD			
Moscow	9	15	clear
Frankfurt	8	21	cloudy
Paris	14	24	cloudy
London	8	18	cloudy
New York	21	26	heavy rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Burn slightly; 5- 1980s attorney general; 10- Brood; 14- Clinton's birthplace; 15- Calamity Jane's surname; 16- Over-50 org.; 17- Nest eggs, briefly; 18- Bellowing; 19- Earthbound bird; 20- Christmas song; 22- Holdup; 24- Coarse file, angry tone of voice; 27- Electric fish; 28- Nares; 32- Lover of Juliet; 35- Bard's "before"; 36- First letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 38- Fortune-telling cards; 40- Fit to be tried; 42- Follows orders; 44- Captain of the Nautilus; 45- Rock; 47- Rascal; 49- ER procedure; 50- Eat away; 52- Furtive; 54- Loaded; 56- Polo of "Meet the Parents"; 57- King Arthur's palace; 60- Licorice-like flavor; 64- Cab; 65- "_____ by any other name..."; 68- Environmental sci.; 69- Apartment, e.g.; 70- Point in question; 71- Acting part; 72- Like pie?; 73- Pine sap; 74- Dagger of yore;

DOWN: 1- Smart; 2- Israeli round dance; 3- On _____ with; 4- A place for vacationers; 5- Exec's degree; 6- Where it's at; 7- Piccadilly Circus statue; 8- Glide along smoothly; 9- More spine-tingling; 10- Person who shoots well; 11- Island of Hawaii; 12- Type of school or cook; 13- Clean air org.; 21- Pasternak heroine; 23- Thicken; 25- Silage storage tower; 26- Common people; 28- Capone foe; 29- Declaim; 30- Spanish Mister; 31- Glasses, briefly; 33- Establish; 34- Pizazz; 37- Hilton competitor; 39- Member of the Conservative Party; 41- Immensity; 43- "Peter Pan" pirate; 46- Pop singer Brickell; 48- Graph prefix; 51- Cream cake; 53- Passenger ships; 55- Stallion, e.g.; 57- Injectable diazepam, in military lingo; 58- Line of symmetry; 59- Chuck; 61- Desktop image; 62- One and only; 63- Gen. Robert _____; 64- Calendar col.; 66- _____ generis (unique); 67- Dusk, to Donne;

Yesterday's solution

ELSA	LATCH	SPEC
WOOD	ADELA	HERA
ECHO	RETAG	IAMS
SHORTENED	CARAT	
NEG	LOT	
EMPEROR	LOOSENS	
VERDI	ASEA	ULEE
ALA	JIHAD	LET
DOWN	USES	CREDO
ENNOBLE	TEHRAN	
NEWSY	DUST	PROOF
EDIT	SARAH	UNA
RENO	STATE	ILET
ONKP	TELER	TARE

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE	FOR RENT	FOR SALE	FOR RENT
<p>Renovated Duplex, Macau with Amazing View HK\$4,200,000 817 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>Traditional Apartment Old Taipa Village \$9,900/mth 600 ft² 2 1/2 1 1/2</p>	<p>[Macau] Retail space, Areia Preta 170 ft² \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)</p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 1/2 2 1/2 1,404 ft² \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)</p> <p>[Taipa] Chun Fok apartment 2 1/2 2 1/2 834 ft² \$8,998,000 (ref: 20036002)</p> <p>[Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,344 ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)</p>	<p>[Taipa] Studio apartment 1 1/2 1 1/2 650 ft² \$9,000/mth (ref: 20061003)</p> <p>[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2 710 ft² \$20,460/mth (ref: 20021002)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2 2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)</p>

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HONG KONG'S SUN HUNG KAI SEES MORE HEADWINDS AMID PANDEMIC

SHAWNA KWAN

SUN Hung Kai Properties Ltd., Hong Kong's biggest developer, reported earnings that missed analysts' estimates and said it sees more economic headwinds from the pandemic and rising U.S.-China tensions.

Underlying earnings, which exclude property revaluations, dropped 9% to HKD29.4 billion (\$3.8 billion) for the year ended June 30, Sun Hung Kai said in a filing Thursday. That missed the average estimate of HKD30.2 billion from 11 analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

Sun Hung Kai, part of the billionaire Kwok family property empire, said the results reflect the economic slowdown in the city, driven by the pandemic along with rising trade tensions and pro-democracy protests. The developer sees more



challenges ahead as travel restrictions hamper its hotel and retail businesses.

"The local economy will continue to face internal and external headwinds," the company said in the statement. "The operating environment for tourism remains tough, causing continued severe disruptions

to travel-related businesses."

The firm said its medium-term earnings prospects are expected to be "uncertain," depending on the development of the pandemic and easing of restrictions.

"Global economic activities are expected to remain

subdued in the short to medium term as containment measures are likely to linger for a while," the company said. "This, together with intensified Sino-US tensions, increased trade protectionism and continued geopolitical risks, will pose further challenges."

Despite the gloomy economic outlook, Sun Hung Kai remains optimistic about Hong Kong's future, even amid growing concerns that a security clampdown by China may erode the city's status as a financial hub for Asia.

"The group firmly believes that Sun Hung Kai Properties as well as Hong Kong have a solid foundation and good long-term prospects," it said in the statement. "Our economy and society will prosper as in the past on the back of the enduring success and unique strength of 'One Country, Two Systems.'" **BLOOMBERG**

HUAWEI REVS UP ANDROID SUBSTITUTE AS US CURBS HIT PHONE SALES

HUAWEI Technologies Co. introduced a more polished and expansive iteration of its HarmonyOS, the operating system it's developing to replace Android and help China's largest technology company navigate increasingly strict U.S. sanctions. It also announced plans to offer the software for other phone makers to put on their devices.

Speaking at the Huawei Developer Conference in Dongguan, consumer group chief Richard Yu said that Huawei will have beta versions of HarmonyOS 2.0 available for smart TVs, watches and car infotainment systems from today, to be followed by smartphones in December.

Huawei's pitch to developers revolved around the open, secure and distributed nature of the latest OS, making it easy to deploy across devices and screen sizes. The first handsets to support it can be expected next year, Yu added. In a world increasingly split along U.S.-China trade lines, Huawei presented HarmonyOS as a potential go-to operating system for its home market.

The world's biggest smartphone maker admitted that U.S. curbs on its chip supply have impacted smartphone shipments, which were 105 million units in the first half of 2020 after reaching 240 million in 2019, according to company data.

Still, Yu focused on expanding the Huawei Mobile Services ecosystem, which now counts 1.8 million developers and 490 million active users. It now supports roughly 96,000 apps and is the third-largest mobile ecosystem after Apple Inc.'s iOS and Google's Android, according to Yu. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD

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SINCE 1996

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

LINDSEY BAHR,
AP FILM WRITER

DRIVE IN

Live-action 'Mulan' is gorgeous but short on magic

OUT of all of Disney's animated films, "Mulan" was the one that made the most sense as a live-action remake. Not that there haven't been good and charming live-action remakes over the past decade — Kenneth Branagh's "Cinderella" being at the top of the pack — but with most of them no matter how expensive or carefully executed or reverent to the source material, I usually walk out wishing I'd just watched the animated version instead.

Part of that might be age. I was in the generation who got to experience Disney's animated renaissance in real time in the theaters — unaware of course that it was a renaissance, but simply that the films I got to see in the theater and then on home video were something special. Perhaps it didn't crystalize just how special they were and are until the live-action remakes became a regular part of the release calendar. Many just weren't as enchanting or effective as their predecessors. That is mostly a compliment to the gold standard that is the animation. It would be shocking for a live-action version to somehow be better



Yifei Liu in the title role of "Mulan"

or even equal. Just look at the animated Hakuna Matata next to the "real" one. There is a reason most of these stories were animated in the first place.

"Mulan" was different, though. The animated tale is wonderful and full of fantastic songs, but it's a war epic. The story, about a young Chinese woman

who steps in to serve the army in her aging and ailing father's place, is naturally and fundamentally suited for the format.

And make no mistake, director Niki Caro's "Mulan" is without a doubt one of the best of the remakes. It is stunning to look at from beginning to end. The crisp landscapes (shot

by cinematographer Mandy Walker), the brightly colored and divinely intricate costumes (from Bina Daigeler), the elaborate fight sequences and the actors faces — especially Liu Yifei, who plays Mulan — are so beautiful that it will take your breath away. It's abundantly evident that Caro ("Whale Rider") had a grand and sweeping vision for "Mulan" and for the most part she pulls it off.

"Mulan" falters on the story level, however, feeling both rushed, overlong and oddly light on character development. We barely even get to know Mulan. She's introduced as a child, wild and carefree running through her village. But she's not just free-spirited in this version: She actually has magical powers that make her a natural acrobat and, later, warrior.

"Mulan" has so much going for it, including a roster of amazing Chinese and Chinese-American actors including Jet

Li, as the Emperor, Tzi Ma, as Mulan's father, Rosalind Chao as Li, Donnie Yen as Commander Tung and Jason Scott Lee as the big bad villain Bori Khan. It also decides to introduce a female witch villain played by Li Gong, which doesn't quite work and distracts from Mulan's own journey.

There is more good than bad in "Mulan," and we should be so lucky to get a gorgeous and inspiring war epic that is suitable for children to watch. "Mulan" might even inspire some kids to dip their toes into all that Asian cinema has to offer, which would be the best possible outcome. But something has to give in this blind fealty to the animated films, because it's getting in the way of greatness.

"Mulan," a Disney+ release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "sequences of violence." Running time: 115 minutes. ★★☆☆

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

For more information scan the QR code

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OPINION

Editorial

Paulo Coutinho



AIRPORT 2020

In November 1995, on a very windy day, the Macau International Airport was inaugurated with pomp and fanfare in the materialization of a long-time dream of Macanese people to have their own aviation industry back: part of a process of asserting the autonomy in what would be one of the two Special Administration Regions under the formula “one country, two systems.”

However, apart from a failed initial attempt to establish a route to Europe and Portugal by TAP (the Portuguese flag-carrier), neither the airport authority, Air Macau or the government made any real effort to diversify the destination-network, especially concerning long haul routes.

The ephemeral link to Portugal in the late nineties was but a political decision rather than a commercial one. I remember an interview with TAP-Macau’s head in 1998 where he said bluntly, “Not even if we carry passengers on the wings” would the flight be profitable. But the industry executive explained that the reason for the monetary drainage was because the aircraft serving the route was poorly chosen, confirming that commercial considerations were irrelevant to the Lisbon flight – that transported the last governor back to Portugal in the early hours of December 20, 1999.

In the decade that followed, the airport and the flag-carrier prospered from the non-existence of direct flights between mainland China and the “renegade province” of Taiwan.

Over the years, cozy Macau airport became the prime choice of both mainlanders and islanders, and partially replaced the role of Hong Kong as a transit terminal for the abundant niche of cross-strait air traffic, profiting heavily from that situation.

Meanwhile, from the turn of the millennium Beijing and Taipei engaged in talks to put aside differences and signed an agreement for cross-strait charters to reunite families during the Lunar New Year.

The goose of the golden egg had its days numbered: From 2003 onwards, mainland Chinese and Taiwanese airlines flew dozens of charter flights over the Formosa Strait, ending an over half-century blockade. And in April 2009, an agreement was reached to allow cross-strait flights to be regularly scheduled instead of chartered.

Little was done during this decade of abundance to diversify markets and the discussion about inter-continental flights would remain quasi-dormant for another decade, while the network of routes to mainland China mushroomed – and again our airport and carrier made a fortune surfing the wave of astronomical gambling growth overlooking the diversification of routes once again.

Apart from that, a few regional flights beyond the country-continent to Southeast Asian destinations were established.

This year, with the Covid-19 pandemic, Macau’s dependence on Hong Kong for long haul flights became critically evident, and when the neighboring authorities shut down a temporary “travel corridor” for Macau, people were stranded here – many, especially among the non-Chinese communities, have experienced the longest period ever without leaving the city.

Not only in exceptional times, this isolation from the world is bad for business.

The lack of a true international airport hampers the much sought-after diversification of the economy, not only for diversifying inbound gaming tourism markets, but, worse, in terms of Macau having a real shot at the MICE industry and hospitality in general, which is central to the whole idea of the development of Cotai and the integrated resorts.

In an interview this week with the Times, Helena de Senna Fernandes stated it clearly: “Unfortunately, [diversification of visitors] is not just up to the tourism department because it has to do with aviation among other things.”

The MGTO director recognized the complexity of establishing commercially viable long haul routes, but as on many other occasions in Macau... money seems to be the usual obstacle to implementing a vision to move the city forward.

A Department of Homeland Security official said in a whistleblower complaint that he was pressured by more senior officials to suppress facts in intelligence reports that President Donald Trump might find objectionable, including information about Russian interference in the election and the rising threat posed by white supremacists.

The official, Brian Murphy, alleged that senior DHS officials also pressed him to alter reports so they would reflect administration policy goals and that he was demoted for refusing to go along with the changes and for filing confidential internal complaints

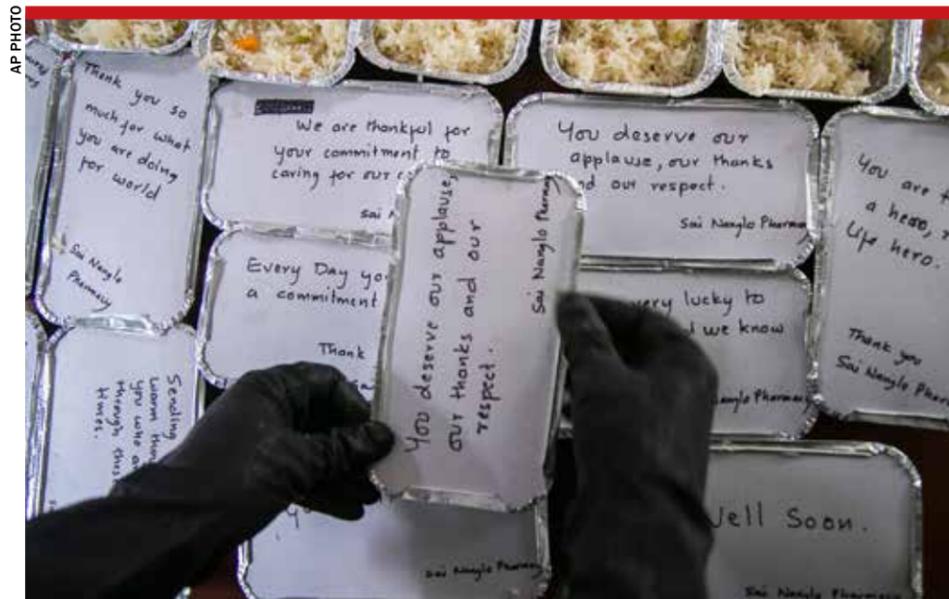
about the conduct.

Murphy, a former FBI agent and Marine Corps veteran, was demoted in August from his post as principal deputy under secretary in the Office of Intelligence and Analysis. He is seeking to be reinstated in a complaint filed with the DHS Office of Inspector General.

Rep. Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, yesterday [Macau time] released the complaint, which he said contained “grave and disturbing” allegations. More on macaudailytimes.com

ONE GOOD THING

VOLUNTEERS FEED COVID-19 PATIENTS, DOCTORS IN NEPAL HOSPITAL



A volunteer packs food for doctors and Covid-19 patients in Kathmandu

BINAJ GURUBACHARYA, KATHMANDU

FROM his pharmacy outside Tribhuvan University Teaching Hospital, Bikram Bhadel saw what happened when coronavirus lockdowns closed the facility’s cafeteria and nearby cafes.

“Every day I watched the patients, their families, doctors and other health workers struggling to get a good meal,” Bhadel said. “They were already having

a tough time and the food situation was making it worse. This is where I decided that I need to step in and help out.”

He took 1 million rupees (\$8,333) out of his family’s savings. And with the help of his friend Indra Kumar Newar -- a taxi driver who had no work in recent months due to the lockdowns -- he rented a vacant restaurant across the street from the hospital, bought groceries and hired a few helpers.

Now, at one of Nepal’s largest hospitals, more than 200 Covid-19 patients, doctors, nurses and workers get hot, tasty and nutritious food three times a day.

“I have heard there is no medicine for the Covid-19 patients and the only thing to do is to take care of them and give them health food to help recover and regain their immunity. This is what we are trying to do to help,” Bhadel said.

The meals are vegetarian, prepared after consulting with nutritionists. They offer a combination of rice, lentil, beans, vegetables, fruit and salad for brunch and dinner, and snacks in afternoon.

Now, at one of the largest hospitals, over 200 Covid-19 patients, doctors, nurses and workers get hot, tasty, and nutritious food

They begin their day early in the morning, preparing hundreds of meals. Food is packed in disposable packets and carried by Bhadel and Newar to the hospital reception area, where the staff eagerly awaits.

“The doctors and health workers have been working risking their own lives and away from their families. It was time to do something for them when they need

them,” Newar said.

Staffers work and stay at the hospital for a week on duty and then another week in quarantine before they are allowed to return home for a week off work. While they are at the hospital, their only access to hot meals has been what the team delivers.

Nepal - which has 49,219 confirmed cases of the coronavirus and 312 deaths - first imposed a lockdown in March, which lasted for four months.

A second lockdown was set last month in nearly half the country when the numbers kept rising.

Bhadel and Newar estimate they spend about 50,000 rupees (\$416) a day for groceries. They have hired 11 cooks and helpers,

all of them paid minimum wage and are regularly tested for the virus.

Families, friends and neighbors have donated food, money and supplies. Bhadel and Newar have paid the rent for three months.

“We are hopeful the situation will get better in three months,” Bhadel said, “but if that does not happen, we will continue our work.” AP

USA The suspension of a huge COVID-19 vaccine study over an illness in a single participant shows there will be “no compromises” on safety in the race to develop the shot, the chief of the National Institutes of Health told Congress yesterday [Macau time]. AstraZeneca has put on hold studies of its vaccine candidate in the U.S. and other countries while it investigates whether a British volunteer’s illness is a side effect or a coincidence.



9/11 In a year when the coronavirus pandemic has reshaped countless American rituals, even the commemoration of 9/11 could not escape unchanged. The 19th anniversary of the terror attacks will be marked by dueling ceremonies at the Sept. 11 memorial plaza and a corner near the World Trade Center, reflecting a divide over the memorial’s decision to suspend a cherished tradition of relatives reading victims’ names in person. More on p8



Greece Fire struck again in Greece’s notoriously overcrowded refugee camp on the island of Lesbos, a day after a blaze swept through it and left thousands in need of emergency shelter. The fires caused no injuries, but they renewed criticism of Europe’s migration policy. The fires broke out inside the parts of Moria camp that had not burned in the first blaze, sending people streaming from the camp with their belongings.

Germany has confirmed the first case of African swine fever on its territory, after a wild boar cadaver found in the eastern state of Brandenburg tested positive, the country’s agriculture minister said yesterday. African swine fever is usually deadly for pigs but doesn’t affect humans. It has previously been confirmed in several European countries, leading to large-scale culls of wild boars and farmed pigs they have come into contact with.