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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

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UM CELEBRATED ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY WITH SECRETARY AO IEONG U SAYING THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS ALWAYS SUPPORTIVE TO EDUCATION DESPITE ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

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Hong Kong's government expressed its "utmost anger" toward a U.S. decision to sanction six officials from the city and China, calling the move "insane, shameless and despicable." The U.S. is attempting to "intervene" in the internal affairs of China and Hong Kong, and "obstruct" their efforts to safeguard national security, the city's government said in a statement on Saturday. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced that the U.S. would sanction the officials as part of President Donald Trump's executive order on Hong Kong normalization.

China will donate 500,000 coronavirus vaccine doses to the Philippines and vowed to accelerate infrastructure investment in the Southeast Asian nation as ties between the two improve. China also agreed to provide a 500 million yuan (\$77 million) grant to finance infrastructure projects among other things, according to the statements.



North Korea displayed new submarine-launched ballistic missiles under development and other military hardware in a parade that underlined leader Kim Jong Un's defiant calls to expand the country's nuclear weapons program. State media said Kim took center stage in the parade celebrating a major ruling party meeting in which he vowed maximum efforts to bolster the nuclear and missile program.

Singapore will require all inbound travelers to take a Covid test upon arrival in the city-state from Jan. 25 amid a resurgence of cases globally, the Ministry of Health said in a statement. Citizens and permanent residents of Singapore who return from either the United Kingdom or South Africa will also be subject to an additional seven-day self-isolation at their place of residence following their 14-day stay at a dedicated facility, according to the statement.

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MENTALLY-CHALLENGED THEATRE BIDS TO OPEN DOOR TO A HIGHER ACCEPTANCE

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UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE GOV'T CONDEMNS US COMMISSION'S REPORT ON MACAU

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MACAU DANCING FESTIVAL TO BE HELD ON JAN 30

The Macau Dancing Festival will take place at The Venetian Theater on January 30. The show follows on from the Music Festival and Full Band Festival held last year, and aims to revitalize the performing arts industry as the sector faces many challenges related to the Covid-19 pandemic. This third show from the series will gather five local professional dance studios that will bring over 200 dancers to the stage.

IAM TO SUSPEND ONE LEISURE AREA, REVAMP FOUR OTHERS

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has recently pledged to revamp four children's playgrounds, two located in lao Hon Market, one on Reservoir avenue and one on Rua dos Pescadores. Meanwhile, in order to facilitate the construction of the aged-care housing, the leisure area next to the sewage treatment plant will be dismantled as it will be part of the construction site. Some 13 public washrooms are still under renovation.

BUILDING INSPECTION FUNDING FOR FIRMS WITH LOWEST PRICE

The Housing Bureau reaffirmed that the funding for the building inspection work has been given to the firms that offer the lowest price. The work is part of the Support Scheme for Building Maintenance, which assists in building inspection and maintenance for buildings over 10 years old with a selected management committee.

UM KICKS OFF RUBY JUBILEE CELEBRATION WITH OPEN DAY

ANTHONY LAM

AN official launch ceremony was held at the University of Macau yesterday to celebrate its 40th Anniversary in the presence of local and mainland government officials, university management, as well as past rectors.

Yesterday was also the annual Open Day of the university's campus on Hengqin Island, which is officially administered by the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government under the laws of Macau.

Inaugurated in the early 1980s, the University of Macau – then named University of East Asia – was the eldest among all local higher education institutions.

Despite being the Chancellor of the university, the Chief Executive was not present at the gala. Instead, he appointed Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, as his representative.

It is pursuant to the Law 01/2006, the legal charter governing the University of Macau, where the Chief Executive is the Chancellor of the university.

On behalf of the government head, Ao Ieong extended “the most vibrant congratulations” on the occasion. Next, she recapped the early days of the university.

She added that the university developed swiftly as time neared the change of sovereignty. “It has achieved the fruits we see today on the pillars of the economic accomplishments of the SAR,” Ao Ieong highlighted.

The relocation to Hengqin, as described by the senior official, has offered the university better conditions to develop. “[The university] is showcasing strengths in aspects such as computer chips research and development, Chi-



nese medicine research, as well as the Internet of Things,” the official noted.

She stressed that the government is always supportive to education, despite the economy experiencing bumps in the past year or so. She recapped that the direction to higher education in Macau will strike balance between nurturing and attracting talents.

She also reminded teachers and students to be patriotic.

On the same occasion, Song

highlighted that the university is following the directions pinpointed by People's Republic of China's President Xi Jinping.

The rector said the university has nurtured “patriotic talents, produced scientific research results, contributed to the diversified and sustainable development of the SAR's economy,” as well as supported the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

Not only so, Song added that

the university has also taken a widely accepted role in educating the community about the constitution of the country and the Basic Law of the SAR.

Song also said that the university will continue to align with the government's policies and directions in higher education and technological innovation.

The University of Macau is a public university mainly supported financially by the SAR government.

FOUR DECADES OF LOCAL HIGHER EDUCATION

In her speech, Ao Ieong highlighted that the predecessor of the current university had debuted higher education in Macau. Indeed, in 1978, three Hong Kong residents applied to the then Portuguese-Macau administration for land to build a university. The campus broke ground the following year on a hill top on Taipa opposite the current Regency Hotel. In 1981, the University of East Asia was officially inaugurated with first admissions in September that year. In 1988, the Macao Foundation bought the university and the then government renamed it to University of Macau in 1991. Some faculties have transformed into the Macao Polytechnic Institute and the City University of Macau.

DIVIDED OPINIONS ON STUDYING IN THE SAR

AT University of Macau's (UM) Open Day, which was held yesterday, graduating high school students have varied opinions on whether or not to study at the university.

Some students think that with preferred majors available at the university, as well as it being among the top-tier universities in Macau, it makes sense to receive higher education in this university.

“The university offers the major I prefer, so I have chosen to study at [UM],” a senior secondary three student who introduced himself as Ho, said. According to him, being among the top students in his high school, he has been directly admitted to two majors of the university.

“I'll be studying computer science,” Ho said. The other major is psychology.

When asked if it was due to the Covid-19 pandemic which led him to not picking a university outside of Macau, his reply was affirmative. However, Ho admitted that external campuses may be even larger.

Another student from the same high school, who is studying in senior secondary two, was considering having higher education in Macau. He attributed the reason to the Covid-19 pandemic.

“My parents will be worried about my safety if I study abroad,” the student explained. “And I'm not familiar with foreign countries.”

Another student who introduced herself as Nora Lao said that she has decided to have higher education in mainland China. She said she will be studying physics and thinks institutions in the mainland has better quality education in the discipline. **AL**

Citywide parking meters reported to have malfunctioned over weekend

NEARLY 1,000 parking meters were reported to have malfunctioned across the city over the weekend and will likely extend into the week, but the

local authority stated that violation tickets will not be issued to vehicles parked in affected spaces.

It first started on Saturday and as of yesterday,

the management company of the city's parking meters have managed to fix about half of them.

The cause of the failure is still being investigated

and the company does not rule out the possibility of the system being hacked. It was unearthed on Saturday by drivers who wanted to pay for their parking.

The machine did not respond and error messages were shown on the screens.

On the other hand, the Transport Affairs Bureau was aware of the incident at 8 a.m. following a report from the management company. The authority also ordered a report to be submitted no later than yesterday. **AL**

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Gov't disproves US commission's report citing lack of universal suffrage progression

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macau government has condemned the findings in the 2020 U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China's report which states that the SAR has not progressed toward universal suffrage.

According to the government statement, "The U.S. report is ignoring facts. The U.S. fails in terms of its own governance, yet attempts brutal interference in the internal affairs of Macau."

Commenting on the city's democracy situation, the commission's annual report is somehow similar to last year's where it noted that local government acted in a manner that stifled calls for democratic development in Macau.

The U.S. body recalled that the city's sole candidate for Chief Executive (CE) in 2019, Ho Iat Seng, had received 392 out of 400 possible votes from the CE Election Committee members, noting, "many of whom were considered to be supporters of the central government."

The commission has expres-



DANIEL BEITLER

sed concerns over an informal poll a local democracy group created, which was New Macau Association, that had a total of 5,698 respondents where 94% of them believed that the CE should be elected by universal suffrage.

However, the poll was cut short after the group's members endured "insults, physical attacks, and threats from unknown indivi-

duals, and their website experienced unspecified abnormalities."

The association previously claimed that although the voting activity was carried out peacefully in full accordance with the law, it was continuously experiencing technological and political threats and attacks.

Another incident that concerned the U.S. body was when local

police authorities banned a rally intended to show support for the ongoing protests in Hong Kong back in 2019.

In the report, the commission also recalled how ahead of President Xi Jinping's December visit to the Macau SAR to celebrate the 20th handover anniversary, border officials separately denied entry to at least two business re-

presentatives, five journalists, and six activists, citing internal security as grounds for denial.

The commission also mentioned that in May 2020, the Municipal Affairs Bureau "revoked authorization for a photo exhibition commemorating the violent suppression of the 1989 Tiananmen protests, departing from its past practice of authorizing the exhibition every year."

The group's last concern was an investigative report published by the South China Morning Post which documented commercial establishments providing sex services.

"Some of the employees came from economically impoverished areas of China under the belief that they would find jobs other than sex work. Macau authorities reportedly investigated only a few sex trafficking cases in 2017," the body noted.

With these statements, the SAR government issued a reply over the weekend, noting, "The practice of such double standards is ludicrous and repulsive. The Macau SAR government expresses its strong opposition to such report's claims."

MP acknowledges 'problems' with demolition works

RENATO MARQUES

THE Public Prosecutions Office (MP) acknowledges problems and hassles resulting from the ongoing demolition works at the Office's former facilities, located at the Dynasty Plaza building in NAPE. In a reply to the Times, the MP clarified that the problems faced by several building tenants were caused by "indoor demolition works."

According to the written reply, such works "are relatively noisier, [and] have been completed by about 80%," adding that, "the remaining demolition works are expected to be completed [this] week."

Nevertheless, the Office calls on affected tenants of the building to have "kind tolerance and understanding" for the inconveniences caused, adding that in early February, "there may be several days [...] where demolition works [will still] need to be



RENATO MARQUES

conducted."

Sources among the tenants of the building have previously reported excessive noise coming from such demolition works as well as

interior damages caused to office units located in proximity of the ongoing works.

The MP further stated "According to the project schedule, the restoration works

will be completed in mid-March 2021," adding that both the MP and Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) "will closely monitor conduction of the works and ensure that noise-causing works will not be carried out outside statutorily allowed time periods [...]. We attach great importance to these complaints and opinions, and will enhance supervision on the works along with DSSOPT, to reduce the impact of the restoration works to a minimum level."

In a reply to the Times on the same topic, the DSSOPT has "asked the contractor for the works located on the 4th floor of the Dynasty Plaza [building] to strictly comply with the noise control legislation into force in Macau, as well as with the guidelines regarding the execution of works defined by the company responsible for the management of the building and minimize eventual impacts and losses, as well as the security risks for the users of the building." The DSSOPT "has been strictly inspecting the works in accordance with the plan and the provisions of the applicable laws."

ANIMAL WELFARE

ADVOCATE SAYS IAM HAS DOUBLE STANDARDS

MORE than four years after the promulgation of the Animal Protection Law, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has not placed enough focus on defending animal welfare, Josephine Lau, Vice President of the Abandoned Animals Protection Association of Macau was quoted saying.

In an interview with local Chinese media All About Macau, Lau accused the IAM of extensively picking on animal advocacy groups and pet owners. "It has not done much on actual animal protection," Lau remarked.

Lau further explained that the authority has previously banned advocacy groups from keeping dogs in cages – one cage per dog – because the IAM regulates that sufficient space should be available for animals.

According to Lau, the authority does not understand that dogs must now be fed separately or they will fight with each other or consume each other's food.

Meanwhile, Lau accused the IAM for treating animals cruelly. Volunteers have reported to the association that the dogs at the Macau Municipal Kennel do not receive enough attention even during the current cold weather.

In addition, she said that injured stray animals will not be taken care of immediately if they are brought to the kennel during the holidays. **AL**

MACAU CARNIVAL 2020 CLOSES WITH TOTAL TRANSACTIONS AMOUNTING TO MOP860M

RENATO MARQUES

THE 2020 Macau Carnival, also known as Consumer Carnival, closed yesterday with a total transaction figure reaching 860 million patacas this year, the Macao Economic Bureau (DSE) informed.

According to DSE, this year, a total of 16,000 stores participated in the Carnival, an increase of about 50% when compared to 2019.

Following the footsteps of the previous edition and due to the Covid-19 restrictions, the Carnival aimed to promote internal consumption this year, helping to revitalize the economy and continuing to promote mobile payment.

Through a range of mobile payment platforms, that

included seven different platforms, citizens were offered electronic consumer coupons which could be used among the participating stores.

According to figures reported by DSE, until January 10, 2021, the number of transactions in the Consumer Carnival in the Peninsula exceeded 740 million patacas, registering a double increase compared to last year.

The seven mobile payment platforms generated a total of 1.64 million electronic consumer coupons, which were worth a total of about 7.1 million patacas.

From these, 4.55 million patacas were already effectively used, injecting it in the market as a form of discount

to incentivize consumers to spend and to return to participant stores.

The DSE recalls that the total figure is not yet known as the deadline for the use of electronic consumer coupons, which were issued until yesterday, will be until the end of February. Hence, the bureau expects the number of coupons used will increase until the end of next month.

The DSE also noted that it will continue to encourage local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to develop mobile business models, creating conditions for innovation and development for SMEs in community neighborhoods and optimize the business environment to boost this type of economy.



Local View Power 2021-2022 open for applications

RENATO MARQUES

IN its 14th edition, the Local View Power (LVP) film contest continues to challenge both emerging and established filmmakers to present new cinematic views of Macau.

The contest, which has become popular over the past 13 years, is now open

to applications for its 2021-2022 edition, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) informed in a statement.

Local directors have until February 19, 2021, to present their new cinematic projects inspired by the city's socio-economic realities, competing for some of the total prize-money of MOP1,320,000 which will

be granted to contenders in three categories (Documentary, Short Story, and Animation).

According to the IC, the upcoming edition will take place over a production period of 16 months before the premiere screenings.

The contest will commission up to 14 projects, across three different experience

levels (Beginner, Open, and Advanced), with the beginner category to be exclusively reserved for young aspiring filmmakers.

Participants will be assessed by a panel of accredited audio-visual professionals.

Those interested in applying for the upcoming edition of LVP can download application forms and

access detailed information at the Macao Cultural Center website (www.ccm.gov.mo).

Launched in 2007, LVP has always presented new local filmmakers' visions of the city.

The last 13 editions have included nearly 600 proposals, resulting in 134 films, several of which have been

awarded prizes overseas, attesting to local filmmakers' quality.

As in previous editions, all selected teams will be provided with technical and financial support to complete their productions, including a mentorship scheme devised and tutored by professionals invited by the IC.

ONE SHOT NEWS



The 21st annual Sinulog Festival was celebrated by the Filipino community yesterday in a different manner. Annually, performers would wear vibrant costumes and perform a series of the festival's traditional dance. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, only a mass was held to commemorate the religious event that hails the image of St. Niño to honor the Infant Jesus.

GOV'T SAYS KIANG WU NURSING BUILDING NEEDS TO BE REVAMPED

THE new nursing college building located at the Islands District Medical Complex has not been handed yet to the Kiang Wu Nursing College, as initially planned, due to the need to "proceed with a revamp and reorganization of the building to give [it] a greater development," the Health Bureau (SSM) said in a statement late last week.

Since 2019, the building has yet to be delivered to the tertiary education institution for academic and training purposes.

The statement from SSM came soon after last Thursday's announcement from the institution acknowledging that the government had suspended its plan of moving the institution to its new campus in the hospital complex.



According to information aired by the institution's head, the reason for not handing the management rights yet to the Kiang Wu Nursing College could be due to an idea that the building could be used for other purposes since the current campus is still able to cope with the demand in the nursing sector.

The delay means that the Kiang Wu Nursing College will continue for an undisclosed period to be hosted at its current college campus located next to Kiang Wu Hospital.

The government initially slated Kiang Wu Nursing College to move to the nursing college building in Cotai last year. RM



MGM Promotes M-Mark to Stimulate Macau Industrial Transformation

As a keen supporter of “Made in Macau”, MGM believes that encouraging local SMEs in attaining recognition from quality accreditation scheme will help stimulate industrial transformation and its sustainable development, and at the same time an ideal way to diversify the local economy.

Hubert Wang, President & Chief Operating Officer of MGM, said, “Established in September 2018, the Macau Product Quality Certification (M-Mark) has showcased many great local brands and specialty products. In order to tap into the Greater Bay Area (GBA) market, it is crucial for Macau products to maintain high quality. Serving this purpose, M-Mark will set a good quality standard for local products and make “Made in Macau” an assuring reputation to consumers from near and afar.”

With the aim of promoting M-Mark to SMEs, MGM partnered with Industrial Association of Macau and Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM) to visit the Company’s SME vendors. These visits enabled the three parties to learn more about the individual business situation of each SME and propose tailored recommendations to those that are interested in applying M-Mark.



PARTICIPATION OF PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRY PRODUCT

Last year, MGM and Charlestrong Café Companhia Limitada signed a co-operation agreement, which made MGM the first large enterprise to purchase organic East Timor specialty coffee from Macau’s original brand Café Diliy. This cooperation exemplified how Macau utilizes its position of Commercial and Trade Co-operation Service Platform between China and Por-

tuguese-speaking Countries.

Charles Shi, Chairman of Charlestrong Café Companhia Limitada, said, “MGM’s visit encouraged us to apply for M-Mark, which will benefit us in expanding our business to the local and GBA market. Our factory was opened in mid-2019 and is equipped with a lineup of state-of-the-art equipment which provides us a solid ground for this application. We applied to the scheme a week after the visit and hoping to be M-Mark certified as soon as possible.”

Simon Leong, Executive Director of Purchasing of MGM, said, “It has been a fruitful visit to Charlestrong Café Companhia Limitada, where we were able to provide suggestions regarding to M-Mark application. It would be helpful to Macau in reinforcing its designation as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy if such Portuguese-speaking Country specialty coffee product could bear M-Mark.”



FIRST LOCAL MASK FACTORY TO APPLY

At the previous Macao International Trade and Investment Fair, MGM signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Macau enterprise Macaufacture Medical Supplies Limited (MMSL) on its purchase of 300,000 locally produced surgical face masks. As the city’s first large enterprise to collaborate with MMSL, MGM has demonstrated its pledge to support emerging industries in Macau.

Chan Chi Meng, Chairman of MMSL, said, “Established in March 2020, our very local brand ‘853 Face Mask’ has passed the testing standards of various testing bodies in Macau, Mainland, Europe and USA. During the visit by MGM, Industrial Associa-

tion of Macau and CPTTM, we were informed that it will not be complicated for us to attain M-Mark with our factory’s existing setup and product certifications. We also learnt that it can help to increase our competitiveness by strengthening the ideology of “Made in Macau”, which is going to be an asset in entering the GBA and Mainland markets. We would like to become the first local mask factory certified by M-mark.”

EXPANDS MACAU PRODUCTS TO THE MAINLAND

Shuen Ka Hung, Director-General of CPTTM, said, “The series of visits has been rewarding, as we have successfully encouraged more than half of the visited vendors to apply for M-Mark. We hope to visit more of MGM’s vendors and push more of them to enhance their businesses via the scheme. Meanwhile, understanding that the standards of M-Mark could take longer to achieve for some SMEs, CPTTM is here to provide technical assistance to get them acquainted with quality management.”

Lei Si Tai, Vice President of the Industrial Association of Macau, said, “Through the series of M-Mark promotional visits, MGM demonstrated practical supports to the scheme, one that would help upgrading local manufacturing and enhancing Macau’s industry competitiveness. While it would be favorable if large integrated resorts could give priority to the procurement of M-Mark products, our goal is to promote Macau products to the Mainland market through popularizing M-Mark among local enterprises.”





HONEY TSANG

Lan (left), one of eight performers starring in the theatre titled "The Never-ending Task of the Moment," is reading a newspaper during a theatric training with the director-cum-creator Jenny Mok

FRINGE FESTIVAL

A THIRST FOR THE MENTALLY-CHALLENGED TO BE HEARD

HONEY TSANG

ON a Sunday afternoon, Tang Kuai Lan was kneeling on the floor. She was so absorbed in taking in new information on a newspaper and putting the gist — or whatever she thought was insightful to her — into writing.

News reading has been part of the Old Court routines she and seven other performers in the troupe have engaged to gear themselves up for the forthcoming theatrical performance in the building.

Lan never knew that arts would have such a huge transformative power to shape her into what she is now today until she signed up to be part of the cast four years ago. Prior to this, she had difficulties expressing herself — she stammered when speaking, and limped when walking.

Lan is an individual with a mental disability. But it was not the inherent unfitness that hindered her everyday expression, it was her total lack of confidence — which had been stripped away for long by societal injustice, oppression and suffering thrown upon her as she is a disabled person.

Jenny Mok, who has been Lan's coach in performing arts for years, beheld the whole journey of Lan's transmutation through arts. The theatrical performance helped Lan regain the faith in herself and the fortitude she needed the most.

"Confidence is a vulnerable

and delicate thing. Many things cannot be achieved once you lose it. But it is regrown and rebuilt, you can pull off many feats with ease," Mok told the Times in an exclusive interview.

It has not been easy for disabled people to live in this city when it comes to inclusive facilities and policies that help them get around the city and safeguard their fundamental rights. Often and most importantly, they find their voices muffled and unheard within society. Having seen that the voices of the city's disabled individuals still largely go ignored, Mok, the director of the Comuna de Pedra Arts and Cultural Association — a local alliance which is dedicated to creating and promoting theatre productions — rallied a troupe four years ago for the disabled people in Macau. This was to create a platform for them to freely convey their thoughts.

This all-inclusive arts endeavor Mok mounted was a joint venture with the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau, a non-profit organization founded in 1992 to offer various types of support to the city's people with cognitive impairment. Through the association's assistance, she enlisted a total of eight performers with mental disabilities.

"We found these eight performers from the Association not by their abilities, but by their interest and passion in performing," Mok stressed.

The troupe made their debut in 2018 and a second performance in 2019 with Swiss performers who are also mentally disabled. The third and upcoming theatre, titled "The Never-ending Task of the Moment," held on January 20 to 21 will be the third theatrical show Lan and the other actors will be performing on stage.

The upcoming theatre aims to kick open the door to a higher acceptance, greater awareness and ultimately to normalization for their opinions to be valued

STRUCTURED IMPROMPTU

Mok, the director, creator as well as performance coordinator of the show, said that she wants to show on stage the perspectives and thoughts that mentally disabled people have regarding big social events, the community, and the world as a whole.

What is more interesting is

that there is no pre-arranged script and movement for the cast in this play. Mok regards the performance as a "structured impromptu" — in which Mok raised questions for eight performers to ponder and digest. Then, it is totally up to their free will to express whatever messages and ways they desire at that moment.

What is "structured" in this performance is the fixed arts element the troupe will present to the theater-goers. It includes a combination of language, dance, music, images and videos.

The underlying concept of bringing the disabled's worldview to showgoers makes the news reading training ever more important. Mok and her colleagues often read and discuss the news with the cast.

To the surprise of many, all members in the troupe love — or are even more than capable — to read the news despite their mental disabilities. Most ordinary people infantilizing mentally disabled individuals is a testament that most, intentionally or unintentionally, box in the competence of the disabled, even before trying to understand them. This is unequivocally the nature of stereotyping.

"To be frank, society may not really care about their worldview, or perhaps there have been very few chances through which they can hear their voices," she pointed out.

The upcoming theatre aims to kick open the door to a higher acceptance, greater awareness and ultimately to normalization

for their opinions to be valued in the community.

"I don't speak for them. We learn and inspire from each other. It is important for the abled persons to respect and learn from their world's view," Mok added.

ACCEPTING AND LEARNING

The heretofore stereotyped and ignored minority can also be a quality performer when it comes to theater as well. "The uniqueness of disabled person lies in their great ability to improvise, which is exactly the most interesting part in performing," Mok explained.

"They never mask and disguise their opinions. They are genuine in expressing what they think and feel, which always result in a candid and heartfelt performance. These traits make the disabled persons "even more stunning than the ordinary performers," Mok commented.

The biggest lessons Mok has learned from the cast are that the line between disability and ability has always been permeable, and that disabled persons have great skills of accommodation. "It's not about how the abled group adjusts themselves for the disabled persons. Disabled individuals have indeed made so many efforts to integrate into society," she added.

Mok also explained that there is no such thing as right or wrong when a person does not perform at a pace you expect. "We have to respect different people have their own pace."

Performing on stage is a cathartic experience that unlocks the potential of Lan, who was once unable to complete a full sentence and hold eye contact with others.

"The biggest change for me after I joined the troupe is that I have more friends now and got chance to learn from classes," Lan told the Times with complete fluency.

"I didn't know how to communicate properly with others, but it is better now [through arts]," Lan added.

When asked whether she feels a bit nervous that the show is on the horizon, Lan said without hesitation that she did not feel even a slight dose of uneasiness.

"But training for six hours a day is a bit taxing to be honest," said Lan. Apart from having their performers' voices heard on stage, the most important thing Mok wants to achieve through theatre is to raise awareness and widen the public acceptance of the city's disabled people.

She wants the audiences to applaud their performance and showing the disabled group a chance to speak for themselves — in real life even after the show.

The show is one of three performances featuring in Todos Fest!, a mini festival held from January 20 to 31. It is hosted under this year's Macao City Fringe Festival.

Beijing strips license of lawyer for Hong Kong activist

HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

A Chinese lawyer who represented a Hong Kong pro-democracy activist was stripped of his license amid efforts by Beijing to crush opposition to its tighter control over the territory.

Lu Siwei, who represented one of 12 Hong Kong activists who tried to flee to Taiwan, had his license revoked by the Sichuan Provincial Justice Department in a formal notice given Friday.

Ten of the 12 activists caught at sea in August were sentenced by a Shenzhen court in December to prison terms ranging from seven months to three years for illegally crossing the border and organizing illegal border crossings.

They are part of an exodus of Hong Kong residents following Beijing's imposition of a tough new security law they say is destroying the territory's Western-style civil liberties. Since the law was introduced in response to anti-government protests that began in 2019, dozens of pro-democracy activists have been arrested or detained.

The law has been denounced by European nations, the U.S. and others.

Beijing says the legislation allows Hong Kong to "enjoy more social stability, economic development and greater freedom." Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua



Ren Quanni, right, and other supporters of lawyer Lu Si Wei pose for a group photo in Chengdu in southwestern China's Sichuan Province

Chunying called the 12 activists "elements attempting to separate Hong Kong from China," not democratic activists.

Beijing, which requires lawyers to swear an oath of loyalty to the ruling Communist Party, has tightened control over the profession. Other lawyers have been stripped of their licenses for representing defendants in politically sensitive cases. Some have been imprisoned.

In a notice last week, the Chengdu office of the Sichuan Justice Department said Lu had violated laws on professional legal conduct. It accused him of making comments online that had a "negative impact on society."

Also last week, Ren Quanni,

another lawyer for one of the 12 activists, was notified by the Zhengzhou office of the Henan Justice Department that he could lose his license. He was told that comments he made in court had caused a "negative impact on society." His hearing is still pending, but is seen as a formality.

On Wednesday, Ren and a small group of supporters showed up at the hearing for Lu's license in Chengdu to back him. They were forcibly separated by police and Lu was taken inside alone, Ren said.

Both Lu and Ren were hired by families of the activists, but were blocked from seeing their clients throughout the legal process.

"They wouldn't even let me in the front door, much less the door

to the administrative area where you deal with the paperwork," Ren said of his attempted first visit to a police station in Shenzhen, where the Hong Kong activists were taken by authorities.

On his second visit, he was told that his client had already agreed to a court-appointed lawyer.

Throughout the case, families of the activists protested that they should be able to use lawyers they selected instead of the court-appointed lawyers.

Lu has been summoned often by the local bureau of the Justice Department in Chengdu for meetings in which the bureau officials told him to leave the case.

Neither Lu or Ren backed down. "Why should I quit when

there's no legal reason for me to quit? How can I explain myself to the family?" Ren told The Associated Press.

A person at the local Justice Department office in Chengdu initially told the AP to call back. Later calls went unanswered. Phone calls to the Justice Department's office in Zhengzhou went unanswered.

The two lawyers both have a history of taking on sensitive cases, and of navigating the fraught and murky waters of defending people who are deemed to be political targets by authorities.

Ren has handled cases related to the Falun Gong, a spiritual movement which China has labeled a cult and is the subject of persecution after its followers protested in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1999. Most recently, he represented citizen journalist Zhang Zhan, who was sentenced to four years in prison for attempting to report on the situation in the city of Wuhan during the onset of the coronavirus pandemic early last year.

Lu, an insurance lawyer by trade, has handled cases in a crackdown on human rights lawyers and activists led by President Xi Jinping which began in 2015. Lu defended prominent human rights lawyer Yu Wensheng, who had criticized Xi.

Still, neither was prepared for how sensitive the case of the 12 activists would be.

"They can't punish anyone else. Can they punish the European media? Can they punish Pompeo? They can only take it out on us because we are lawyers in the mainland," Lu said. AP

Gov't builds hospital in five days after surge in virus cases

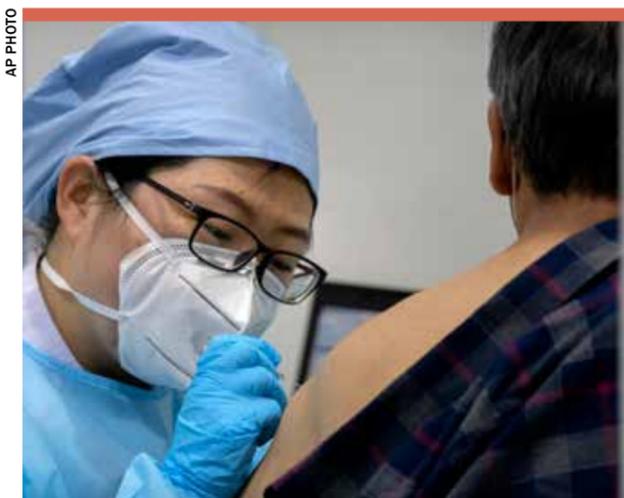
JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

CHINA on Saturday finished building a 1,500-room hospital for COVID-19 patients to fight a surge in infections the government said are harder to contain and that it blamed on infected people or goods from abroad.

The hospital is one of six with a total of 6,500 rooms being built in Nangong, south of Beijing in Hebei province, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

China had largely contained the coronavirus that first was detected in the central city of Wuhan in late 2019 but has suffered a surge of cases since December.

A total of 645 people are being treated in Nangong and the Hebei provincial capital, Shijiazhuang, Xinhua said. A 3,000-room hospital is under construc-



tion in Shijiazhuang.

Virus clusters also have been found in Beijing and the provinces of Heilongjiang and Liaoning in the northeast and Sichuan in the southwest.

The latest infections spread unusually fast, the National Health Commission said.

"It is harder to handle," a Commission statement said. "Community transmission already has happened when the epidemic is found, so it is difficult to prevent."

The Commission blamed the latest cases on people or goods arriving from abroad. It blamed "ab-

normal management" and "inadequate protection of workers" involved in imports but gave no details.

"They are all imported from abroad. It was caused by entry personnel or contaminated cold chain imported goods," said the statement.

The Chinese government has suggested the disease might have originated abroad and publicized what it says is the discovery of the virus on imported food, mostly frozen fish, though foreign scientists are skeptical.

Also Saturday, the city government of Beijing said travelers arriving in the Chinese capital from abroad would be required to undergo an additional week of "medical monitoring" after a 14-day quarantine but gave no details.

Nationwide, the Health

Commission reported 130 new confirmed cases in the 24 hours through midnight Friday. It said 90 of those were in Hebei.

On Saturday, the Hebei government reported 32 additional cases since midnight, the Shanghai news outlet The Paper reported.

In Shijiazhuang, authorities have finished construction of 1,000 rooms of the planned hospital, state TV said Saturday. Xinhua said all the facilities are due to be completed within a week.

A similar program of rapid hospital construction was launched by the ruling Communist Party at the start of the outbreak last year in Wuhan.

More than 10 million people in Shijiazhuang underwent virus tests by late Friday, Xinhua said, citing a deputy mayor, Meng Xian-

ghong. It said 247 locally transmitted cases were found.

Meanwhile, researchers sent by the World Health Organization were in Wuhan preparing to investigate the origins of the virus. The team, which arrived Thursday, was under a two-week quarantine but was due to talk with Chinese experts by video link.

The team's arrival was held up for months by diplomatic wrangling that prompted a rare public complaint by the head of the WHO.

That delay, and the secretive ruling party's orders to scientists not to talk publicly about the disease, have raised questions about whether Beijing might try to block discoveries that would hurt its self-proclaimed status as a leader in the anti-virus battle. AP

USA

Biden to prioritize legal status for millions of immigrants



ELLIOT SPAGAT,
SAN DIEGO

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden's decision to immediately ask Congress to offer legal status to an estimated 11 million people in the country has surprised advocates given how the issue has long divided Democrats and Republicans, even within their own parties.

Biden will announce legislation his first day in office to provide a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants in the United States illegally, according to four people briefed on his plans.

The president-elect campaigned on a path to citizenship for the roughly 11 million people in the U.S. illegally, but it was unclear how quickly he would move while wrestling with the coronavirus pandemic, the economy and other priorities. For advocates, memories were fresh of presidential candidate Barack Obama pledging an immigration bill his first year in office, in 2009, but not tackling the issue until his second term.

Biden's plan is the polar opposite of Donald Trump, whose successful 2016 presidential campaign rested in part on curbing or stopping illegal immigration.

"This really does repre-

sent a historic shift from Trump's anti-immigrant agenda that recognizes that all of the undocumented immigrants that are currently in the United States should be placed on a path to citizenship," said Marieleena Hincapie, executive director of the National Immigration Law Center, who was briefed on the bill.

If successful, the legislation would be the biggest move toward granting status to people in the country illegally since President Ronald Reagan bestowed amnesty on nearly 3 million people in 1986. Legislative efforts to overhaul immigration policy failed in 2007 and 2013.

Ron Klain, Biden's incoming chief of staff, said Saturday that Biden will send an immigration bill to Congress "on his first day in office." He didn't elaborate and Biden's office declined to comment on specifics.

Advocates were briefed in recent days on the bill's broad outlines by Esther Olivarría, deputy director for immigration on the White House Domestic Policy Council.

Domingo Garcia, former

president of the League of Latin American Citizens, said Biden told advocates on a call Thursday that Trump's impeachment trial in the Senate may delay consideration of the bill and that they shouldn't count on passage within 100 days.

Biden's plan is the polar opposite of Donald Trump, whose successful 2016 presidential campaign rested in part on curbing or stopping illegal immigration

"I was pleasantly surprised that they were going to take quick action because we got the same promises from Obama, who got elected in '08, and he totally failed," Garcia said.

Ali Noorani, president of the National Immigration Forum and among those briefed Thursday night, said immigrants would be put on an eight-year path to citizenship. There would be a faster track for those in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, which shields people from deportation who came to the country as young children, and Temporary Pro-

tected Status, which gives temporary status to hundreds of thousands of people from strife-torn countries, many from El Salvador.

Vice President-elect Kamala Harris offered similar remarks in an interview with Univision that aired Tuesday, saying DACA and TPS recipients will "automatically get green cards" while others would be on an eight-year path to citizenship.

More favorable attitudes toward immigration — especially among Democrats — may weigh in Biden's favor this time. A Gallup survey last year found that 34% of those polled favored more immigration, up from 21% in 2016 and higher than any time since it began asking the question in 1965. The survey found 77% felt immigration was good for the country on the whole, up slightly from 72% in 2016.

Noorani said the separation of more than 5,000 children from the parents at the border, which peaked in 2018, alienated voters from Trump's policies, particularly conservatives and evangelicals. He believes a

constantly shifting outlook for DACA recipients also hurt Trump among people who felt he was using them as "political pawns."

"What was seared in their mind was family separation. They took it out on the Republican Party in 2018 and they took it out on Trump in 2020," Noorani said. "To put a really fine point on it, they want to end the cruelty of the Trump administration."

It is impossible to know precisely how many people are in the country illegally. Pew Research Center estimates there were 10.5 million in 2017, down from an all-time high of 12.2 million in 2007.

The Homeland Security Department estimates there were 12 million people in the country illegally in 2015, nearly 80% of them for more than 10 years. More than half were Mexican. AP

this day in history

1991 IRAQI SCUD MISSILES HIT ISRAEL



Iraq has attacked two Israeli cities with Scud missiles, prompting fears that Israel may be drawn into the Gulf War.

Israel's largest city, Tel Aviv, and Haifa, its main seaport, were hit in the attacks, which began at 0300 local time (0100 GMT), when most residents were asleep.

Reports from Tel Aviv say the air was filled with the wail of sirens and minutes later up to eight missiles streaked in and exploded in balls of flame.

Residents scrambled for protective clothing and gas masks, issued to most of the population before the conflict began.

Casualties are believed to have been light - nobody was killed, and only a few people injured.

It is the first time Tel Aviv has been hit in the history of the Israel-Arab conflict.

Initial reports that one of the missiles had a chemical warhead were quickly proved wrong.

Air raid sirens went off again this evening amid fears of a second Scud attack, but they were swiftly followed by an all-clear as it proved to be a false alarm.

Israel has the strongest military forces of any Middle Eastern country, and has said that any attack by Iraq would bring massive "punishment".

The American President, George Bush, issued an appeal to Israel to hold back from retaliation for the attack.

Allied commanders have been ordered to make special sorties to seek out and destroy Iraqi missile sites and mobile launchers which could threaten Israel, and Mr Bush emphasised his determination to protect Israel from further attack.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Shamir, called an emergency meeting of the ministerial defence committee of senior ministers and military officers to decide Israel's response.

After the day-long meeting, the Foreign Minister, David Levy, told journalists no decision had yet been taken on whether to retaliate.

"Israel reserves the right to retaliate in the manner and with the scale and method of its own choosing," he said.

Any Israeli military action could break apart the multi-national coalition against Iraq by provoking the Arab members to withdraw their support.

Meanwhile, the Allied air bombardment of Iraqi military targets is continuing at the rate of 2,000 sorties a day.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Israel decided to leave retaliation to Allied forces, to the relief of the Coalition. Iraq fired Scud missiles at Israeli cities again the next day and throughout the Gulf War, but failed to provoke Israel into unilateral retaliation. After more than a month of intensive air attacks, the Allies launched a land offensive on 24 February. One day later, the Iraqis began retreating. On 28 February, President George Bush declared victory. Kuwait was liberated but Saddam Hussein remained in power in Baghdad. The US and Britain launched a second war against Iraq in 2003. Saddam Hussein was overthrown and captured to be put on trial for war crimes. He was eventually executed in December 2006.



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3 2



Manhattan, Taipa Bright & spacious F unit

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3 2



Taipa Village studio

\$8,500/mth

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1



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Trump's China Inc. onslaught leaves key decisions for Biden

A year ago, President Xi Jinping asked the U.S. to treat Chinese companies "fairly" in a letter read out at the White House to mark the signing of a landmark trade deal between the world's biggest economies.

At the time, President Donald Trump's actions against China Inc. had mostly been aimed at tech giant Huawei Technologies Co., which had become a global leader in the race to set up 5G networks across the world. And even though it was blacklisted, Huawei enjoyed an ample supply of the radio chips critical to maintaining its dominance.

Now, with Trump set to leave office this week, dozens of strategic Chinese companies find themselves in U.S. crosshairs after a year that saw relations nosedive as the coronavirus pandemic took hold. Besides closing loopholes on Huawei, effectively knee-capping its smartphone business, the Trump administration took a wide range of actions to thwart China's efforts to dominate high-tech industries that will drive growth over



BLOOMBERG

the next few decades.

The profile of the companies targeted, including in the latest announcements on Thursday, is staggering. They include China's three biggest telecom firms, its top chipmaker, its biggest social media and gaming players, its top two smartphone makers, its main deepwater energy explorer, its premier military aerospace contractor, its leading drone manufacturer and its primary commercial plane-

maker. At risk is China's ability to produce everything from 5G networks to a passenger jet to compete with Boeing Co. and Airbus SE.

While the scope of Trump's unprecedented actions has roiled markets, the full reckoning of their impact largely hinges on President-elect Joe Biden. His incoming administration will have the power to either keep the restrictions in place, remove them or tighten them

further on companies such as Xiaomi Corp., an Apple Inc. competitor hit this week for alleged ties to China's military - an allegation it denies.

"Biden can't afford to look soft on China, so may end up getting stuck enforcing any measures Trump puts in place on his way out, regardless of whether they are fully consistent with his own administration's ideal policy approach," said Mark Natkin, managing director of Beijing-based Marbridge Consulting, a U.S.-owned firm that helps companies invest in China.

Trump's campaign against Chinese companies accelerated in June, when the Pentagon unveiled a list of Chinese companies it said were effectively controlled by the People's Liberation Army for the first time under a requirement in a 1999 law. In November, shortly after he lost the Nov. 3 election, Trump banned U.S. investment in Chinese companies named on the list, which climbed to 44 on Thursday with the addition of Xiaomi and eight others.

The order said that designated stocks could not be purchased by

Americans from Jan. 11, and that holdings by Americans must be fully divested by November when transactions will be frozen. Nearly \$12 billion worth of Chinese securities will need to be divested by U.S. investors by the November deadline, Morgan Stanley strategists estimated, using the Jan. 13 version of the list.

The New York Stock Exchange this month said it would delist the thinly-traded New York shares of China Mobile Ltd., China Telecom Corp. and China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd., the first time an American exchange removed Chinese companies due to tensions between the two countries. In Hong Kong, where the three stocks are primarily listed, China Mobile fell to its lowest price since 2006 and China Telecom tumbled to a low of more than 17 years.

XIAOMI SINKS

The decision was followed by a series of similar moves from U.S. providers of funds, derivatives and investment products as the ban took effect on Jan. 11. Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Morgan Stanley and JPMorgan Chase & Co. delisted about 500 warrants and callable bull/bear contracts in Hong Kong, the world's largest market for structured products. State Street Corp.'s \$13 billion Tracker Fund of Hong Kong bled \$470 million in a single day - the most since it was founded in 1999. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

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OPINION

World Views

Seth J. Frantzman, MDT/Bloomberg



BIDEN HAS ALREADY CALMED THE MIDDLE EAST

Reconciliation is breaking out across the Middle East. A Saudi-led quartet of Arab states has ended a three-and-a-half-year embargo of Qatar. Turkey is seeking accommodations with France, Greece, Israel, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia after years of tensions. Egypt, Jordan, France and Germany are pressing for new peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians.

There is every prospect other Arab states will join the UAE, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan in normalizing relations with Israel — Oman and Qatar are the likeliest. Even Hamas in Gaza seems open to terms of cohabitation with the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority in Ramallah.

This unprecedented series of pronouncements and meetings in the region comes on the run-up to the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden. It bookends an era of Hobbesian hostility in the Middle East that characterized President Donald Trump's isolationism, and the eagerness of other powers — notably Russia — to upend American global hegemony.

Trump's vow to put America first destabilized traditional U.S. relationships with Europe, NATO, allies in Asia and multi-lateral approaches to various conflicts in the Middle East. He described the Syrian conflict, where the U.S. had successfully built a coalition to defeat Islamic State, as a wasteland of "blood-stained sand." He told the graduating class of West Point that it was "not the duty of U.S. troops to solve ancient conflicts in faraway lands that many people have never even heard of. We are not the policemen of the world."

This was a radical departure from President George H.W. Bush's "new world order" that set the U.S. on course to play a key role in the Middle East in the 1990s and 2000s. Trump's message to countries in the region was that they should go it alone. While there were already wars in the region when he came into office, American inattention allowed the intensification of conflicts, usually involving foreign actors—Turkey, Russia and Egypt in Libya; Saudi Arabia and Iran in Yemen; Turkey, Russia and Iran in Syria.

Even though the Trump administration took a tough approach on Iran sanctions, the Islamic Republic felt free to step up attacks on shipping in the Gulf of Oman, use drones and cruise missiles against Saudi oil infrastructure and traffic men, money and munitions to proxy militias in Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen.

With Biden administration now imminent, many belligerents are softening their tone in anticipation of a more active American role in the region. Even Iran, which has bucked the trend by ratcheting up uranium enrichment and conducting a series of sabre-rattling exercises, is hoping the President-elect will quickly disavow Trump's policies.

Expectations of a return to the pre-Trump order have been heightened by the President-elect's choice of officials with substantial Middle East experience for key cabinet positions: Anthony Blinken (nominee for Secretary of State), Lloyd Austin (nominee for Secretary of Defense) and Jake Sullivan (nominee for National Security Advisor). It is not lost on anyone in the Middle East that Biden himself has had a long, deep engagement with the region, and a personal connection to many of the key players.

So, at the very least, the region's leaders are inclined to ease up on their mutual hostility as they wait to see how the new dispensation in Washington addresses their anxieties and ambitions. It is striking how, after several years in which each week seemed to bring the prospect of fresh confrontation or conflict, a calm has descended over the Middle East.

The existing hostilities won't end with Biden's swearing-in, of course. But it might just end the impression that countries can use any means to get what they want in the absence of an American-led, rules-based international order. That view, fostered by Trump, encouraged a scramble for ungoverned spaces and occupation of weak states or disputed areas. Now that Biden has declared, "America is back," it appears the Middle East is paying heed.

The coronavirus was found on ice cream produced in eastern China, prompting a recall of cartons from the same batch, according to the government.

The Daqiaodao Food Co., Ltd. in Tianjin, adjacent to Beijing, was sealed and its employees were being tested for the coronavirus, a city government statement said. There was no indication anyone had contracted the virus from the ice cream.

Most of the 29,000 cartons in the batch had yet to be sold, the government said. It said 390 sold in Tianjin were being tracked

down and authorities elsewhere were notified of sales to their areas.

The ingredients included New Zealand milk powder and whey powder from Ukraine, the government said.

The Chinese government has suggested the disease, first detected in the central city of Wuhan in late 2019, came from abroad and has highlighted what it says are discoveries of the coronavirus on imported fish and other food, though foreign scientists are skeptical.

AP PHOTO



RIP: MARS DIGGER BITES THE DUST AFTER TWO YEARS ON RED PLANET

MARCIA DUNN

NASA declared the Mars digger dead Thursday after failing to burrow deep into the red planet to take its temperature.

Scientists in Germany spent two years trying to get their heat probe, dubbed the mole, to drill into the Martian crust. But the 16-inch-long (40-centimeter) device that is part of NASA's InSight lander couldn't gain enough friction in the red dirt. It was supposed to bury 16 feet (5 meters) into Mars, but only drilled down a couple of feet (about a half meter).

Following one last unsuccessful attempt to hammer itself down over the weekend with 500 strokes, the team called it quits.

"We've given it everything we've got, but Mars and our heroic mole remain incompatible," said the German Space Agency's Tilman Spohn, the lead scientist for the experiment.

The effort will benefit future excavation efforts at Mars, he added in a statement. Astronauts one day may need to dig into Mars, according to NASA, in search of frozen water for drinking or making fuel, or signs of past microscopic life.

The mole's design was based on Martian soil examined by previous spacecraft. That turned out nothing like the clumpy dirt encountered this time.

InSight's French seismometer, meanwhile,

has recorded nearly 500 Marsquakes, while the lander's weather station is providing daily reports. On Tuesday, the high was 17 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 8 degrees Celsius) and the low was minus 56 degrees Fahrenheit (minus 49 degrees Celsius) at Mars' Elysium Planitia, an equatorial plain.

The lander recently was granted a two-year extension for scientific work, now lasting until the end of 2022.

InSight landed on Mars in November 2018. It will be joined by NASA's newest rover, Perseverance, which will attempt a touchdown on Feb. 18. The Curiosity rover has been roaming Mars since 2012. AP

AP PHOTO



Indonesian rescuers yesterday retrieved more bodies from the rubble of homes and buildings toppled by a strong earthquake, raising the death toll to 77, while military engineers managed to reopen ruptured roads to clear access for relief goods. More heavy equipment reached the hardest-hit city of Mamuju and the neighboring district of Majene on Sulawesi island, where the magnitude 6.2 quake struck.

AP PHOTO



India started inoculating health workers during the weekend in what is likely the world's largest COVID-19 vaccination campaign, joining the ranks of wealthier nations where the effort is already well underway. India is home to the world's largest vaccine makers and has one of the biggest immunization programs.

Afghanistan At least two members of an Afghan militia opened fire on their fellow militiamen in the western Herat province, killing 12, in what provincial police on Saturday described as an insider attack. Herat police spokesman Abdul Ahad Walizada said the attackers fled with the slain militiamen's weapons and ammunition.

Turkey A Russian-flagged cargo ship sank off Turkey's Black Sea coast yesterday and emergency workers were out rescuing the crew, an official said. The Turkish coast guard said the ship was called ARVIN and the ship's crew were on lifeboats, according to official Anadolu news agency.

AP PHOTO



Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel's center-right party chose Armin Laschet, the pragmatic governor of Germany's most populous state, as its new leader. The choice sent a signal of continuity months before an election in which voters will decide who becomes the new chancellor.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Sandra Sebastian



Single file. Honduran migrants walk alongside a highway in Chiquimula, Guatemala. Guatemalan authorities estimated that as many as 9,000 Honduran migrants have crossed into Guatemala in an effort to reach the U.S. border.