

13
Y·E·A·R·S
A·C·H·A·N·G·I·N·'
Double Down!
ADVERTISE WITH US
+853 287 160 81

3世2週1卡GO
"321" Monthly Plan FREE
Mainland China Mobile No.
service for 12-month
Details
Note: CTM reserves the right to make the final decision in case of any disputes.
CTM 40th ANNIVERSARY

THE PANDEMIC OUTBREAK HAS USHERED IN AN ECONOMIC CRISIS IN THE CITY CAUSING A GDP DECLINE OF 56.3% IN THE WHOLE OF 2020 P2

GOV'T REFUTES US-BASED REPORT ON ECONOMIC FREEDOM INDEX P3

FAOM: 73% OF SURVEYED WOMEN REPORTED WORRIES ABOUT THEIR FUTURE EMPLOYMENT AND ARE FACING FINANCIAL STRESS P2

AP PHOTO



China's foreign minister warned the Biden administration yesterday to roll back former President Donald Trump's "dangerous practice" of showing support for Taiwan, the island democracy claimed by Beijing as its own territory. The claim to Taiwan, which split with the mainland in 1949, is an "insurmountable red line," Wang Yi said at a news conference.

AP PHOTO



Thailand Demonstrators from student-led pro-democracy movement held a peaceful protest outside Bangkok's Criminal Court to bring public attention to the plight of several of their detained leaders. The movement, a coalition of several groups, was launched last year with demands for Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha and his government to step down, the constitution to be amended to make it more democratic and the monarchy to be reformed to make it more accountable.

AP PHOTO



India The Dalai Lama, the 85-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader, was administered the first shot of the coronavirus vaccine at a hospital in the north Indian hill town of Dhamsala. After receiving the injection, he urged people to come forward, be brave and get vaccinated.

India Authorities in Indian-controlled Kashmir have sent at least 168 Rohingya refugees to a holding center, police said yesterday, in a process that they say is for the deportation of thousands of the refugees living in the region. The move began the previous day following a directive from the region's home department to identify Rohingya living in the southern city of Jammu.

More on backpage

A TRIBUTE TO FALLEN COMPATRIOTS

RENATO MARQUES



Myanmar nationals in Macau held a candlelight vigil to mourn the victims of the military coup, which saw at least 56 protestors fighting for democracy shot P3,12

TWO SESSIONS WORK HAS BEEN CONDUCTED TO ENSURE THAT MACAU IS GOVERNED BY PATRIOTS P4

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



GRAND PRIX F3 RACE SUBJECT TO UNCERTAIN FUTURE: REPORTS P5



XINHUA

OVER 70% LOCAL WOMEN WORRIED REGARDING EMPLOYMENT PROSPECTS

ANTHONY LAM

OUT of 1,186 valid responses received in a survey, 73%, or 869, respondents reported worries across two different levels about their future employment, the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) said yesterday.

The FAOM ran the survey by random sampling on various social media platforms, as well as through FAOM members between February 27 and March 4. A

total of 3,900 questionnaires were distributed.

Only 80, or about 7%, of respondents reported no worry at all.

Lawmaker Ella Lei, who is also an executive at the FAOM, pointed out that nearly half of the respondents work in culture and entertainment, gambling or retail industries. Under the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic, they were forced to take unpaid leave or have their commissions deducted, if not resign or get dismissed.

As such, they have been facing financial stress.

About a half of the respondents reported working "normally," otherwise understood as being employed. About a quarter, meanwhile, reported jobless. Nearly 120 respondents reported having unpaid leave or suspended from work, while 111 respondents were waiting or looking for another job.

In terms of average monthly income in the past 12 months,

most respondents reported earning between MOP10,000 and MOP14,999 per month, with 17% having reported so. A similar percentage of respondents reported an average monthly income between MOP15,000 and MOP19,999.

Similar percentages – about 17% – were recorded for each of the groups earning less than MOP4,350 and above MOP20,000.

More than 90% respondents agreed that a third phase of fi-

nancial support from the government is needed. Considering the situation, the lawmaker took the chance to request another phase of financial support from the government.

Lei added that the survey showed that respondents are happy to see the third phase of consumption vouchers conducted again.

In terms of livelihood stress, about 67% respondents reported significant level of pressure, with 417 respondents reporting heavy pressure and 379 extremely heavy pressure.

Comparatively, 72 respondents reported minor stress, with 45 respondents reporting light stress and 27 extremely light stress.

Nearly 70% of the respondents cited financial condition as the major source of stress. About a quarter attributed the source to family relations.

Meanwhile, lawmaker Leong Sun Iok, who is also an executive at the FAOM, called for a more woman-friendly workplace by offering more flexible schedules, as well as improving support for children's education and protection.

The survey was released yesterday, a day ahead of the annual International Women's Day that is celebrated today.

March 8 marks the annual celebration of the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women.

ECONOMY

GDP decline in line with Lei Wai Nong's forecast of over 50%

LYNZY VALLES

THE pandemic outbreak has ushered in an economic crisis in the city, causing a gross domestic product (GDP) decline of 56.3%, of which the gross domestic product amounted to MOP194.4 billion patacas.

The downturn was in line with the forecast of Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong, who predicted during his Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting in November that the estimates on GDP for this year suggest that it may decrease by approximately 56.8%, "a shrinking rate of over 50%."



Previously, during the height of the sluggish economy due to the outbreak, the government forecast that Macau's GDP would

fall by 60.9% this year.

In 2020, the domestic demand shrank by 10.3% year-on-year; while gross fixed capital formation fell

by 15.1%, resulting from a decline in private construction investment.

Private consumption decreased by 16.3% year-on-year as residents went out less and made fewer trips abroad amid the pandemic and uncertain economic outlook.

The GDP decline was, however, lower than the forecast of economist Albano Martin, who believed that the year-to-year GDP real decrease would be between 61% to 64%. "In the future, I think that the first quarter of 2021 may see a decrease because of the 'strong' [GDP in] January and [...] February of 2020. But in the next

quarters, the growth will almost duplicate," Martins previously told the Times, yet adding that the city may see a two-digit growth next year.

Another economist, José Luís de Sales Marques, also previously said that "Macau would not have a V-shaped recovery," as the Chinese outbound tourism market, despite its strong recovery speed, is behaving cautiously towards Macau.

Meanwhile, in response to the pandemic, the SAR government has scaled up the procurement of protective gear and medical supplies, rented hotels to be used as quarantine facilities and introduced econo-

mic relief measures, which drove up government final consumption expenditure by 11.4%.

With respect to external demand, visitor arrivals to Macau dropped by 85.0% due to travel restrictions imposed on different places; hence, exports of services slid by 74.9% year-on-year, with exports of gaming services and other tourism services falling by 80.4% and 73.4% respectively. On the other hand, the export of goods soared by 128.9%.

GDP contracted by 45.9% year-on-year in real terms in the fourth quarter of 2020, a lesser decline than in the preceding quarter (-63.8%).

www.macaodailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+20,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaodailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR Lynzy Valles SENIOR WRITER Honey Tsang
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaodailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAODAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAODAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaodailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaodailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaodailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaodailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

RENATO MARQUES



Luis Yureh

Burmese in town mourn victims of military coup, call for international attention

RENATO MARQUES

A large group of Myanmar nationals in Macau have held a candlelight vigil to mourn the victims of the military coup on-going in their home country.

According to the organizers, the Myanmar Social Club of Macau, a group of more than 300 Burmese participated in the vigil paying tribute to those who have lost their lives over the last month as a result of confrontations between the citizens and the military forces, which took control of the country by force last February 1.

To the Times, two of the participants in the vigil shared their views and personal experiences about the current events in their home country.

Han Zaw, a first-year student at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) said, "We are here to commemorate the fallen brothers and sisters that gave up their lives in the fight with the military [forces] and also [in] their quest for democracy," he said, adding, "We are deeply saddened by this devastating tragedy."

According to Zaw, the people of Myanmar are in shock, as the military coup happened unpredictably,

representing a big step back on the democratic path of the country that has seen, in the last decade, the first democratically-elected government in a long time.

Questioned as to how he is living and feeling the events in Myanmar from Macau, Zaw said, "I feel great pain for all that is happening and also for the fact I am not able to be present in person. I feel [somewhat powerless] and irresponsible for being here and not being there together with my people. Over 50 people have already lost their lives."

Luis Yureh, also a student in Macau, added that the reports he has been receiving from family and friends in Myanmar are different according to the various areas of the country.

"In the countryside, people are less educated and they do not experience so much of the situation [military coup]. In the [big] cities, things are different and there are protests staged everywhere with people following the civil disobedience movement (CDM) in which they are not going to work or to the office, or even to schools, and they gather to protest against the government takeover," Yureh said, adding that the ones leading the

protests and calling for the restoration of a legitimate government are mostly the younger generations.

Questioned by the Times as to whether vigils like the one done in Macau and that are happening also in other countries and regions by the Burmese abroad can help with the process of restoring the country's normalcy, Yureh, said, "We hope that [with such events] we can help to pass the message and alert the world [international authorities] for what is happening in Myanmar. I hope that what we are doing can work as a useful method to put pressure [on the military]."

TO GATHER IN PUBLIC SPACE 'WOULD BE BETTER'

Questioned as to the fact that the Macau police force has disallowed public demonstrations from the Burmese, claiming that only residents of Macau were entitled to do so by law, Zaw said, "If it was possible and if we were allowed, it would be better if could gather in a public space and have more people and [more] visibility. But we also can do it in a private space like we are doing here and we still can do it. That's the most important."

The candlelight vigil took place

at the Sisters of the Good Shepherd shelter facility, located at Estrada da Vitória in the peninsula.

During the vigil, participants gathered for prayers conducted according to the rituals of several belief systems, namely Catholic and Buddhist.

Participants also held posters expressing support for the Committee Representing Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (CRPH), a group of elected Myanmar lawmakers who were prevented from taking their seats in Parliament by last month's coup as well as messages calling for the "Rejection of the Dictatorship."

In the surroundings of the venue where the vigil took place, the Times observed several groups of police officers from the Public Security Police Force standing in streets leading to the venue.

Some elements of the police, wearing plain clothes, could also be seen in the same area. While entering or exiting the Sisters of the Good Shepherd shelter venue, several of the participants in the vigil were requested to present their identification to the officers, who took note of their names and non-resident work permits (blue cards).

GROUP OF RESIDENTS DELIVERED A NOTICE FOR A DEMONSTRATION ON WEDNESDAY

A group of local residents last Friday delivered a notice to the Public Security Police Force (PSP) relating to their hosting of a demonstration related to the situation in Myanmar. According to the group, the notice is related to a gathering to be hosted on Wednesday (March 10) at the Rotunda Carlos da Maia, commonly known as "three lamps," in central Macau. The notice was signed and delivered by Wu Shao Hong, a known political

activist and one of the leaders of the Association of Macau Activism for Democracy, which unsuccessfully ran in 2017 for a seat in the Legislative Assembly elections. Speaking to the media while exiting the PSP facilities, Wu admitted that there is a high possibility of the gathering being disallowed by the police. In that case, he admitted that the alternative is to host an "online event."

Gov't refutes US-based report on economic freedom index

LYNZY VALLES

THE SAR government has refused to comment on the recent economic freedom index published by the Heritage Foundation, which noted that both Hong Kong and Macau's economic policies are controlled by Beijing.

In a statement issued Friday, the government stated that it "will not issue any comment regarding acts by the Heritage Foundation. [...] The government notes the foundation had, since 2009, included Macau [by] its own initiative on its Index of Economic Freedom."

The government re-

iterated that the administration has abided by the Basic Law of Macau in the maintenance of, respectively, the "One country, two systems" principle, the "Macau people governing Macau" principle and the exercise of a high degree of autonomy.

It added that the city has seen its economic de-

velopment thrive with the support of the central government.

"The Macau SAR Government strongly opposes the spreading of groundless and baseless claims via the issuance of self-styled reports by overseas bodies," they added.

The Washington-based

think tank dropped both Hong Kong and Macau from the list this year – of which Hong Kong has topped the list for 25 years until 2019.

The institution claimed that while Hong Kong and Macau residents benefit from policies offering greater economic freedom than on the mainland,

"developments in recent years have demonstrated unambiguously that those policies are ultimately controlled from Beijing." Developments in the two SARs that are relevant to economic freedom would be considered in the context of China's evaluation within the index, the report added.

TWO SESSIONS

CORE WORK FOR 'PATRIOTS GOVERNING MACAU' UNDERWAY: GOV'T

STAFF REPORTER

WORK has been conducted to ensure that Macau is managed by patriots, the government has reiterated in a statement, following a similar message being announced at the Two Sessions.

The Two Sessions, which are now in operation in Beijing, is the name for the annual plenaries of the National People's Congress of China (NPC) and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC). "Ensuring that the powers stemming from a high degree of autonomy are in the hands of patriots is a crucial principle concerning the implementation of 'One country, two systems,'" the Macau government wrote in the statement.

"It is a shared responsibility for people across Macau to safeguard the city's social stability and to consolidate the foundation for 'patriots governing Macau,'" the government added.

Deemed to be a tradition by the local government, patriotism has been upheld by the government itself and people from all walks of life since the city's sovereignty changed in 1999, the government stated.

"The government and people from all walks of life in Macau have been paying great attention to the promotion of Macau's patriotic tradition, the unswerving



adherence to the sense of national identity and love for the country, and the maintenance of the core values of loyalty to the country and to Macau, as the mainstays of the community," the government wrote.

It added that the government has advanced democracy in the city "in accordance with the Chinese Constitution and Macau's Basic Law [by] establishing processes, in line with Macau's practical needs, for electing, respectively, successive Chief Executives and members of the Legislative Assembly," it said. "These factors

ensure that the implementation of the "One country, two systems" principle is on the right track, and moving forward."

The government also stressed that such efforts help protect local residents' exercise of their democratic duty, while maintaining sound conditions for "patriots governing Macau."

Speakers at a recent seminar about One country, two systems have proposed that Macau evaluate whether changes to the city's election rules are required to ensure that Macau is governed by patriots.

One of the ideas the seminar calls for is an assurance that only those who are patriotic should govern Macau – implying that candidates for the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections should be patriotic.

At the seminar, Wai Kin Lok, director of Center for Constitutional Law and Basic Law Studies of the University of Macau (UM) and deputy director of the organizing body for the seminar, the Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macau Studies, deemed it necessary that Macau review its election rules to foster patriotism.

LIAISON OFFICE BACKS NPC

Meanwhile, the Liaison Office of the Central People's on Friday voiced firm support to the NPC, China's top legislature, in deliberating a draft decision on improving the electoral system in the Hong Kong SAR.

The draft decision provides solid institutional guarantee for fully implementing the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong," a spokesperson of the office said.

The principle is fundamental to national sovereignty, security and development interests as well as the lasting prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, the spokesperson said, stressing that it is also the core meaning and bottom line of "one country, two systems" principle.

The NPC deliberating the draft decision is a major move for adhering to and improving the "one country, two systems" principle, safeguarding the constitutional order stipulated in the Constitution and the HKSAR Basic Law and implementing the fundamental principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong," said the spokesperson.

The move is significant to promoting the steady and sustained development of "one country, two systems" and maintaining the lasting prosperity and stability of Hong Kong, added the spokesperson.

The electoral system is a major component of HKSAR's political system. Improvement of the electoral system must be led by the central authorities, who has the decision-making power, said the spokesperson.

TWO SESSIONS

14th Five-Year Plan supports SAR's development initiatives

STAFF REPORTER

THE National People's Congress (NPC) Plenary, which is now taking place in Beijing, has shown support for the development of leisure tourism, traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) production, and financial services with special characteristics, among others.

The note was made when the plenary was presenting the country's 14th Five-Year Plan.

A wide range of areas have been covered in the draft plan, namely Macau's position as a world leisure and tourism center, Guangdong-Macau co-development of Hengqin, the expansion of Macau as a platform for China-Lusophone collaborations, the

construction of a base celebrating both Chinese and multi-faceted cultures, as well as the support for Macau in developing TCM manufacturing, financial services, high-technology and economic diversification.

The draft also mentioned that Macau and Hong Kong will be integrated into the overall national development master plan, while complementing the advantages of the mainland and developing coordinated mechanisms.

As proposed, the two Special Administrative Regions (SAR) will be supported in the participation and assistance in the country's quest to fully open-up and its establishment of a modern economic system, as well as creating a functional platform for the joint cons-

truction of the "Belt and Road."

Economic, trade, science and innovative cooperation, as well as the interconnection of the financial markets between the mainland and the SARs, will be deepened. The construction of major cooperation platforms such as Shenzhen's Qianhai, Zhuhai's Hengqin, Guangzhou's Nansha, and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Loop, will also be promoted.

Meanwhile, Han Zheng, Deputy Premier, who is in charge of SAR affairs, suggested Macau residents "think more" about the city's collaborations with neighboring Hengqin.

The senior official made that comment when he was meeting with NPC Macau Representatives.

Representative Chui Sai Peng disclosed that the central government is about to reveal policies supporting Macau-Hengqin collaborations.

In addition, Representative Kevin Ho pointed out that Han did not mention to which area the policies will relate, but stressed that Macau should lower the proportion of GDP generated by the gambling industry. Representative Lai Sai Kei said that Han reminded Macau residents to prioritize the positive development of Macau while striving to integrate into the national master plan.

FOCUS ON GBA, ELDERLY CARE

Macau's integration into the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and regional elder-

ly care are two main topics of proposals made by Macau Representatives at the NPC Plenary.

Some of the 12 Macau representatives in the NPC proposed to the national parliament in the hopes of synergizing the supply of elderly care services within the GBA, alongside starting research into a GBA elderly care database and improving, on different levels, the quality of elderly care services.

The same group of representatives also raised suggestions in terms of residence and insurance purchase by Macau residents on Hengqin. An experimental operation may be started so that when the plan goes well, the same initiative can be

expanded to other cities within the GBA.

As for the other political body, the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), six members made a joint proposal, suggesting to build a "Big Health Industrial Park" in Hengqin, collaboratively managed by Guangdong and Macau. It is hoped that a chain of "Big Health" industry can be built, incorporating medicine, livelihood, healthcare, management, tourism and food.

At the same time, Macau mogul and CPPCC member David Chow proposed that the central government support Macau in establishing a trade market for international goods.

GRAND PRIX

Macau's F3 race subject to uncertain future

RENATO MARQUES

THE return of the Macau Grand Prix to the pre-pandemic format seems to be encountering difficulties, as local organizers and the automobile international federation (FIA) have different perspectives on how the event will look like this year, media reports show.

Following on comments made last November by FIA's high ranked officials, including the president Jean Todt, which anticipated the return in 2021 of the major international events and namely the FIA Formula 3 (F3) World Cup, FIA's World Motor Sport Council announced last Friday that the F3 World Cup has been confirmed on the International Sporting Calendar and was scheduled to take place on November 21, 2021, in Macau.

Nevertheless, the motorsports governing body noted that such a date and event was subject to a contract with the promoter.

Oposing the idea of the resumption of normality for the GP, the event organizer, Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC), started conversations from the end of last year with Euroformula and Japanese Super Formula Lights (the F3 successor in Japan), to find a way to have such formula cars racing together in 2021 in Macau, the motorsport-specializing website Formula Scout reported.

The idea of merging the two championships in the event in Macau is due to the fact that they both use the new Dallara 320 car, which replaced European F3's Dallara F317.

Such an idea gained even more form when Euroformula announced its 2021 calendar back in February, which purportedly left room for the trip to Macau in November.

Sources among the teams told the same motorsport website, both in Europe and in Japan, that they supported the idea, saying that they were "confident of racing in Macau



[this year]."

Since the new Dallara 320 car has different specifications that cannot meet the current FIA F3 regulations, this can only mean that the F3 World Cup race could never take place with such cars, pointing the efforts of FIA and the MGPOC in totally different directions.

For the time being,

the scenario that seems more prospective is the one being followed by the MGPOC, since, according to the calendar announced for the FIA F3 Championship, the racing season will come to an end at Austin's racetrack in the USA on October 24.

This means that there will be less than one month's gap between the FIA F3 season finale and the Macau GP, a fact which, due to current restrictions and delays in shipping and traveling, makes teams believe that is not possible to have the cars and con-

tants ready to race in Macau by November 19, the date on which the local GP kicks off.

In 2020, and due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the F3 World Cup was canceled, being replaced by a race in the Chinese Formula 4 category.

WYNN OFFERS EXTRA TWO DAYS LEAVE FOR VACCINATED STAFF

LYNZY VALLES

GAMING operator Wynn Macau is offering two extra days of leave to team members who are willing to be vaccinated in the city's vaccination scheme against Covid-19.

According to an internal memo from the New Macau Gaming Staff Rights Association, the leave will be applied to team members working in its properties in the amount of one day per vaccinated dose.

Each vaccine recipient is required to undergo two doses to develop full immunity – which need to take place three to four weeks apart.

The leave can be taken on the day of the vaccination or the next day.

The Times is aware that several hotel operators are encouraging their team members to undergo the vaccination scheme – par-



ticularly those who are in service departments such as housekeeping or food and beverage.

The most up-to-date data from the Health Bureau shows that a total of 46,333 bookings have been made for vaccination, with 21,056 residents already vaccinated with either the Sinopharm or BioNTech vaccine.

Vaccination for the general population began at Conde S. Januario Hospital on February 22, following the vaccination of priority groups including frontline personnel and groups with a high risk of occupational exposure, among others.

Vaccination in Macau is taking place on a voluntary basis.

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆



We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

PRO-BEIJING COMMITTEE TO ELECT SOME HONG KONG LEGISLATORS

ZEN SOO
& KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

A largely pro-Beijing committee that elects Hong Kong's leader will also choose a large part of the legislature, a top Chinese official announced Friday as part of a major revamp that will increase central government control over Hong Kong politics.

The changes are part of a draft decision submitted on the opening day of the weeklong meeting of the National People's Congress which will all but certainly endorse it.

The Election Committee will participate in the nomination of candidates for Hong Kong's legislature and also elect "a relatively large share" of its members, said Wang Chen, vice chairman of the NPC Standing Committee.

He did not say how many legislators would be chosen by the committee. The South China Morning Post, citing unidentified sources, said it would be 30 seats in an expanded 90-seat legislature.

That would be a significant rollback of democracy in Hong Kong, a semi-autonomous territory that has greater freedoms than mainland China but has seen them sharply cut back in the past year.

The Election Committee selected up to 10 members in earlier versions of the city's legislature, but hasn't done so since the 2000 election.

Wang added that the size, composition and selection of the 1,200-member Election Committee will also be adjusted, and the city's leader will continue to be elected by the committee.

Currently, half of the city's now 70-member Legislative Council is directly elected by voters. The other half is elected by professional or special interest groups from sectors such as insurance, engineering and



Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, top, and former Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa arrive at the opening session of China's National People's Congress

agriculture.

With the largely pro-Beijing election committee nominating all candidates for the legislature, opposition figures could be barred from running in elections.

The draft changes came after the top Beijing official overseeing Hong Kong, Xia Baolong, declared that Hong Kong must be governed

only by "patriots."

In his speech, Wang said that "clear loopholes and shortcomings" in Hong Kong's electoral system had allowed "anti-China" forces to undermine the overall stability in Hong Kong and jeopardize national sovereignty, security and development interests.

The draft decision to revamp

Hong Kong's electoral system comes after Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement gained traction in recent years as Beijing tightened its control over the city.

Ko Wing-man, a former Hong Kong health secretary who is in Beijing for an advisory body that meets in parallel with the congress, said the changes would marginalize radical forces in Hong Kong politics.

He acknowledged the right of people to ask for more liberty and political autonomy, but said the pro-democracy movement has been driven overboard by radicals seeking self-determination and independence.

"The whole thing becomes unconstitutional," he said in an interview with the AP. "I think you would believe that in any country. Unconstitutional behaviors are serious matters."

Pro-democracy supporters say Beijing's increasing control over the city's political system violates its pledge to give Hong Kong 50 years of autonomy under a "one country, two systems" framework when the city was handed over to China by the British in 1997.

The legislation criminalizes secession, subversion, collusion with foreign forces to intervene in the city's affairs and terrorism, and has since been used to charge about 100 people in the city, including 47 pro-democracy activists last week.

The activists were charged with conspiracy to commit subversion over their involvement in an unofficial primary election last year, aimed at selecting candidates that could give the pro-democracy camp a legislative majority.

If the pro-democracy camp had won a majority, at least some members of the camp had plans to vote down major bills, which would eventually force Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam to resign. Authorities said the activists' participation in the primary was part of a plan to paralyze the city's legislature and subvert state power. **MDT/AP**

BUSINESS SECTOR VOICES SUPPORT FOR IMPROVING ELECTORAL SYSTEM OF THE HKSAR

HONG Kong's business sector has highlighted the significance and urgency of improving the electoral system of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) and implementing the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong."

They said improving the electoral system and implementing "patriots administering Hong Kong" is a must to ensure the steady and sustained implementation of "one country, two systems," Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability, and people's wellbeing.

The Chinese General Chamber of Commerce of Hong Kong vowed to fully support the draft decision of the NPC and stressed improving the electoral system will guarantee Hong Kong's prosperity and stability and promote the development of Hong Kong's democratic system.

Yuen Mo, chairman of the chamber, said improving Hong Kong's electoral system is cru-

cial to implementing the principle of "patriots administering Hong Kong" and safeguarding the national development interests and Hong Kong's prosperity and stability.

If those not genuinely willing to serve Hong Kong enter the power structure, the effective administration of the HKSAR government will be obstructed and the so-called "Hong Kong independence" will be incited, which will damage the law and order, people's livelihood and Hong Kong's international image, the Chinese Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong said.

Allen Shi Lop-tak, president of the association, believed an improved electoral system of the HKSAR will reduce infighting and let Hong Kong refocus on economic development.

The Hong Kong Chinese Enterprises Association said the rioting and turbulence that occurred in the Hong Kong society reveals that the existing electoral system of the HKSAR has obvious loopholes and deficiencies, which the

anti-China, destabilizing elements jumped on to take into their hands the power to administer the HKSAR.

Necessary measures must be taken to improve the electoral system and remove existing institutional risks to ensure the administration of Hong Kong by Hong Kong people with patriots as the main body, the association said.

Chairman of the Hong Kong Association of China Business Wong Ping said improving the electoral system is another significant move by the central authorities after the national security law in the HKSAR to safeguard Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability.

Tan Yueheng, permanent honorary president of the Chinese Securities Association of Hong Kong, stressed under "patriots administering Hong Kong," Hong Kong remains a society inclusive of diverse opinions and Hong Kong residents still enjoy democratic rights with Hong Kong characteristics. **MDT/XINHUA**

HONG KONG

Court puts off release of pro-democracy activists



Clarisse Yeung (center) one of the 47 pro-democracy activists charged with conspiracy, gestures outside a court after being released in Hong Kong, Friday

A group of 11 Hong Kong pro-democracy activists accused of subversion will stay in jail for at least another five days while judges consider whether to release them on bail, a court said over the weekend.

The group, which includes three former legislators, will have hearings Thursday and on March 13, the High Court said. A court agreed this week to release them but prosecutors appealed the decision.

They are among 47 peo-

ple who were charged under a national security law imposed on the Chinese territory last year by the ruling Communist Party after pro-democracy protests.

They were arrested after opposition groups held an unofficial vote last year to pick candidates for elections to the territory's Legislative Council.

Some activists planned, if elected, to vote down major bills in an attempt to force Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam to resign.

The national security law was imposed following months of rallies that began over a proposed China extradition law and expanded to include demands for greater democracy.

The law prompted complaints Beijing is undermining the "high degree of autonomy" promised when the former British colony returned to China in 1997, and hurting its status as a business center.

People convicted of subversion or other offenses

under the law can face penalties of up to life in prison.

Hong Kong traditionally grants bail for non-violent offenses but the new law says bail cannot be granted unless a judge believes the defendant "will not continue to commit acts endangering national security."

On Friday, four of the 47 people charged were released on bail after prosecutors dropped a challenge to the decision.

The group due to appear in court Thursday includes former legislators Helena Wong, Jeremy Tam and Kwok Ka-ki.

The next hearing for the 47 defendants is May 31. **MDT/AP**

NPC

China sets growth target 'over 6%', raises military spending

CHINA'S No. 2 leader set a healthy economic growth target and vowed to make the nation self-reliant in technology amid tension with the U.S. and Europe over trade and human rights.

The ruling Communist Party aims for growth of "over 6%" as the world's second-largest economy rebounds from the coronavirus, Premier Li Keqiang said in a speech to the National People's Congress (NPC) on Friday. About 3,000 delegates gathered for its annual meeting, the year's highest-profile political event, under intense security and anti-virus controls. It has been shortened from two weeks to one because of the pandemic.

Premier Li also said Beijing wants to "safeguard national security" in Hong Kong (see text on p6).

The party is shifting back to its longer-term goal of becoming a global competitor in telecoms, electric cars and other profitable technology. That is inflaming trade tension with Washington and Europe, which complain Beijing's tactics violate its market-opening commitments and hurt foreign competitors.

Li promised progress in reining in climate-changing carbon emissions, a step toward keeping President Xi Jinping's pledge last year to become carbon-neutral by 2060. But he avoided aggressive targets that might weigh on economic growth.



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang delivers a speech during the opening session of China's National People's Congress at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

Also Friday, the government announced a 6.8% rise in military spending to 1.4 trillion yuan (\$217 billion) amid territorial disputes with India and other neighbors and ambitions to match the United States and Russia in missile, stealth fighter and other weapons technology.

That is less than the double-digit increases of earlier years but a marked rise in real terms when inflation is close to zero. Foreign analysts say total military spending is up to 40% more than the reported figure, the world's second-highest after the United States.

China became the only major economy to grow last year, eking out a multi-decade-low

2.3% expansion after shutting down industries to fight the virus. Growth accelerated to 6.5% over a year earlier in the final quarter of 2020 while the United States, Europe and Japan struggled with renewed virus outbreaks.

The 6% target is higher than expectations for the United States and other major economies but less than the 7%-8% forecasters expected Li to announce.

That suggests Beijing is "shifting focus from quantity to quality of economic growth," said Chaoping Zhu of J.P. Morgan Asset Management in a report.

Beijing might allocate resources to environmental protection and other initiatives "to boost China's long-term growth poten-

tial," Zhu said.

Li vowed to "work faster" to develop tech capabilities seen by Communist leaders as a path to prosperity, strategic autonomy and global influence. Those plans are threatened by conflicts with Washington over technology and security that prompted then-U.S. President Donald Trump to slap sanctions on companies including telecom equipment giant Huawei, China's first global tech brand.

The ruling party's latest five-year development blueprint says efforts to make China a self-reliant "technology power" are this year's top economic priority.

The party sees "technological self-reliance as a strategic support for national development," Li said.

Li promised to pursue "green development" following Xi's pledge last year to ensure China's carbon emissions peak by 2030 and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060. That will require sharp increases in clean energy in an economy that gets 60% of its power from coal and is the world's biggest source of climate-changing industrial pollution.

He promised to reduce carbon emissions per unit of economic output by 18% over the next five years. That is in line with the previous five-year period's goal, but environmentalists say Beijing needs to do more.

"It defers some of the most important questions to the future," said Li Shuo of Greenpeace.

Li repeated official promises to promote "peaceful growth of relations" with Taiwan but announced no initiatives toward the self-ruled island that split with the mainland in 1949 after a civil war.

Beijing claims Taiwan as its territory and has threatened to invade if it tries to make its de facto independence official. Li said the mainland will "resolutely deter" any activity "seeking Taiwan independence."

This year's legislative meeting is being held mostly by video links to keep Chinese leaders, delegates and reporters separate as an anti-virus measure.

The ruling party earlier announced it achieved its goal of doubling economic output from 2010 levels by last year, which required annual growth of 7%. Xi has talked about doubling output again by 2035, which would imply annual growth of about 5%, still among the highest for any major economy.

The ruling party's desire for the prosperity produced by free-market competition also clashes with its insistence on playing a dominant role in the economy and strategic goals of reducing dependence on other countries.

Beijing will promote "domestic circulation," Li said, a reference to official pressure on industries to use more Chinese-supplied components and technology and rely less on foreign inputs, even if that increases costs.

That emphasis on self-reliance and the conflict with Washington has fueled fears the world might split into separate U.S., Chinese and other industrial spheres with incompatible technologies, less competition and higher costs.

The goal of "decoupling them from foreign technology" is "more likely to harm productivity than help it," Mark Williams of Capital Economics said in a report this week. **MDT/AP**

ECONOMY

Chinese exports surge as global demand recovers from virus

CHINA'S exports surged 60.6% over a year earlier in the first two months of 2021, after factories reopened and global demand started to recover from the coronavirus pandemic.

Exports rose to \$468.9 billion, customs data showed yesterday, accelerating from December's 18.1% gain and nearly double the growth expected by forecasters. Imports jumped 22.2% to \$365.6 billion, up from December's 6.5% increase.

Chinese authorities combine trade data for the first two months to com-

pensate for fluctuations due to the Lunar New Year holiday, which falls at different times each year in January or February. Factories shut down for up to two weeks, then restock after they reopen.

Exporters benefited from the relatively early reopening of China's economy after the ruling Communist Party declared victory over the disease last March while foreign competitors still face anti-virus controls.

Forecasters say the Chinese export surge should decelerate as demand for masks and other medical

supplies eases and overseas competitors return to global markets. Trade officials have warned that the global situation still is "grave and complex."

Exports to the United States soared 87.3% over last year to \$80.5 billion in January and February despite former President Donald Trump's tariff hikes imposed in a fight over trade, technology and security. They have been left in place by his successor, Joe Biden, who took office in January.

On Friday, China's top economic official, Premier Li Keqiang, announced

plans to accelerate technology development and reduce reliance on other countries. That threatens to worsen strains with Washington and Europe, which complain Beijing violates its market-opening pledges by shielding its suppliers from competition.

The latest trade figures look especially dramatic compared with early 2020, when the ruling party shut factories to fight the virus and trade plunged.

Then, global exports tumbled 17.2% in 2020's first two months from the previous year. Exports to the United

States plunged 27.7%.

Li announced an economic growth target of "over 6%" this year, which should help to propel demand for foreign oil, iron ore, food, consumer goods and other imports.

Beijing promised to buy more American soybeans, natural gas and other exports in the "Phase 1" agreement last January aimed at ending the tariff war. The two sides agreed to postpone more tariff hikes, but penalties on billions of dollars of each other's goods remain.

China fell behind on meeting those commitmen-

ts but started to catch up as demand rebounded.

This year, China's global trade surplus for January and February was \$103.3 billion, compared with a \$7.1 billion deficit in the same period last year.

Imports of U.S. goods rose 66.4% to \$29.3 billion. China's trade surplus with the United States narrowed by 17.7% from the same time last year to \$20.9 billion.

Exports to the 27-nation European Union rose 62.6% over January and February last year to \$73.7 billion. Imports of European goods gained 32.5% to \$45.9 billion. **MDT/AP**

US

Biden marking 'Bloody Sunday' by signing voting rights order

AAMER MADHANI,
WASHINGTON

A new executive order from President Joe Biden directs federal agencies to take a series of steps to promote voting access, a move that comes as congressional Democrats press for a sweeping voting and elections bill to counter efforts to restrict voting access.

His plan was being announced during a recorded address on the 56th commemoration of "Bloody Sunday," the 1965 incident in which some 600 civil rights activists were viciously beaten by state troopers as they tried to march for voting rights in Selma, Alabama.

"Every eligible voter should be able to vote and have it counted," Biden says in his prepared remarks to yesterday's Martin and Coretta King Unity Breakfast. "If you have the best ideas, you have nothing to hide. Let the people vote."

Biden's order includes several modest provisions. It directs federal agencies to expand access to voter registration and election information, calls on the heads of federal agencies to come up with plans to give federal employees time off to vote or



AP PHOTO

volunteer as nonpartisan poll workers, and proscribes an overhaul of the government's Vote.gov website.

Democrats are attempting to solidify support for House Resolution 1, which touches on virtually every aspect of the electoral process. It was approved Wednesday on a near party-line vote, 220-210.

The voting rights bill includes provisions to restrict partisan gerrymandering of congressional districts, strike down hurdles to voting and bring transparency to a murky campaign finan-

ce system that allows wealthy donors to anonymously bankroll political causes.

Democrats say the bill will help stifle voter suppression attempts, while Republicans have cast the bill as unwanted federal interference in states' authority to conduct their own elections.

The bill's fate is far from certain in the closely divided Senate. Conservative groups have undertaken \$5 million campaign to try persuade moderate Senate Democrats to oppose rule changes needed to pass the measure.

With his executive order, Biden is looking to turn the spotlight on the issue and is using the somber commemoration of Bloody Sunday to make the case that much is at stake.

Bloody Sunday proved to be a conscious-shocking turning point in the civil rights movement that led to passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Similarly, Biden is hoping the Jan. 6 sacking of the U.S. Capitol by a pro-Donald Trump mob will prove to be a clarion call for Congress to take action to improve voter protections.

"In 2020 — with our very democracy on the line — even in the midst of a pandemic — more Americans voted than ever before," Biden says in his prepared remarks. "Yet instead of celebrating this powerful demonstration of voting — we saw an unprecedented insurrection on our Capitol and a brutal attack on our democracy on January 6th. A never-before-seen effort to ignore, undermine and undo the will of the people."

Biden's remarks also pay tribute to the late civil rights giants Rev. C.T. Vivian, Rev. Joseph Lowery and Rep. John Lewis. All played critical roles in the 1965 organizing efforts in Selma and all died in within the past year. AP

S. KOREA, US SCALE BACK DRILLS OVER VIRUS, N. KOREA DIPLOMACY

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

THE South Korean and U.S. militaries are scaling back their annual exercises this month due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to support diplomacy focusing on North Korea's nuclear program, officials said yesterday.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement that the allies decided to start the nine-day drills on Monday after reviewing factors like the status of the pandemic and diplomatic efforts to achieve denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

It said the drills are defensive in nature and are mostly tabletop exercises and si-

mulations that won't involve field training.

Last year, the allies canceled their springtime drills after some of their troops were infected with the coronavirus. In recent years, the countries have also suspended or downsized many of their regular training to create more space for the now-stalled U.S.-led diplomatic drive to convince North Korea to denuclearize in return for economic and political incentives.

U.S.-South Korea drills have been a major source of animosities on the peninsula, with North Korea viewing them as invasion rehearsals and responding with its own weapons tests. In January,

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un urged the U.S. to withdraw its hostile policy and South Korea to end drills with the U.S., warning the fate of their relations with North Korea depends on how they behave.

Some experts have said Kim may resume high-profile missile tests and raise tensions if he feels provoked by the upcoming drills, one of the two major military exercises between Seoul and Washington along with their summertime training.

The nuclear negotiations have been stalled for about two years since a February 2019 summit between Kim and then President Donald Trump collapsed due

to wrangling over U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea. The government of South Korean President Moon Jae-in, which facilitated the early part of the U.S.-North Korea talks, has been calling for the diplomacy's restart and greater inter-Korean ties.

A South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff officer said that Seoul and Washington decided to "minimize" the number of troops participating in this month's drills because of the pandemic.

The officer, who requested anonymity citing a department rule, said the allies have been staging field exercises throughout the year to maintain their readiness, rather than holding them intensively in certain periods, in an apparent reference to the spring and summer drills. AP

this day in history

1971 POST STRIKE ENDS WITH PAY DEAL



British postal workers have gone back to work today after seven weeks on strike.

The 200,000 postmen and women voted by 14-1 yesterday in favour of a deal hammered out after more than 13 hours of talks at the Department of Employment on Friday.

They had been demanding a 13% pay rise - but they have settled for a complex package which will award them wage increases after an inquiry into the efficiency of Post Office staff and management.

Strikers are disappointed because they are being asked to return to work without even the 8% rise offered when the walk-out began on 20 January.

The strike has cost the average postal worker about £150 in lost earnings over the seven weeks. It has cost the Post Office an estimated £25m in lost revenue.

Post union general secretary Tom Jackson had urged his members to return to work saying it would be unable to make any more "hardship payments" to the 30-40,000 members who had no income at all.

At a rally in Hyde Park on Friday, Mr Jackson was jeered when he announced the terms of the deal. Members called "Sell out" and "Hey, hey, Tommy J. how about our £3 pay?"

Under the terms of the deal, the outcome of an agreed independent investigation would be binding on the Post Office and the union.

Mr Jackson hopes any pay increase will be backdated to January.

But the deal represents a defeat for Mr Jackson who had set his face against arbitration.

He said: "If we had had more money, the strike would have gone on. Facing the reality, this is the best way out of a bad position."

Postal services have resumed today but it is expected to take some time before the backlog is cleared.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Post union submitted a claim for a minimum £3 a week rise or 15-20% on 30 October 1970. If implemented, it was estimated it would have cost the Post Office £50m. Management made an offer of 8% on 14 January. Members walked out on 20 January at the beginning of the first national post strike. Some post offices opened for a few hours each week to allow pensions and other benefits to be paid. By the time the deal was announced on 4 March, the workers had reduced their claim to 13% while the management offer was increased to 9% with conditions attached. Decimal currency was introduced on 15 February, so when postal services resumed the minimum rate for first-class was set at 3p (equivalent to 7.2d) compared with 5d prior to the strike.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

 ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Try to visit a country that excites you. This is a great day to beautify your living quarters or to entertain at home. Come to your own conclusions rather than taking the word of someone else.	 TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20 Regardless of your first reaction, the outcome will be favorable. New romantic partners will evolve through group endeavors; however, the association may not be likely to last.
 GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21 Make money using your ingenuity and creative talent. Be aware that you don't get anything for nothing. Don't evade important issues; you may find yourself backed into a corner.	 CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Hard work will payoff if you refrain from expressing your opinion to superiors. You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully today.
 LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Someone you care about may let you down or criticize your methods. Try to avoid functions that will bring you in contact with those you find difficult to get along with.	 VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Consider the source before you believe what you hear. Look at your options before making commitments that could jeopardize your financial position. Voice your opinions and contribute to the debate.
 LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Your ideas may be good, but they aren't necessarily right for everyone. Try not to lend or borrow money today. Get proper medical attention and confront your situation decisively.	 SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home. Someone you like may be receptive and actively seeking your company. Travel will also be very informative.
 SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You'll be able to discuss your ambitions with your mate. If you keep busy you won't feel the personal pressures you are going through. You may find that your boss is not delighted with your work lately.	 CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Don't let coworkers interfere with your objectives. Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do. Problems with colleagues are likely. You have a tendency to think that no one else will do things properly.
 AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You will communicate easily and should be able to develop new friendships. You will have to do a lot of running around, so be prepared to fall short of your expectations.	 PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20 You may want to talk to your boss about your future goals. Include friends and family members in your redecorating plans. Your colorful conversation may attract new mates.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-2	10	cloudy
Harbin	-13	6	clear
Tianjin	1	13	cloudy
Urumqi	-4	3	clear
Xi'an	6	13	cloudy
Lhasa	0	13	cloudy
Chengdu	10	17	cloudy
Chongqing	12	20	cloudy
Kunming	10	22	cloudy
Nanjing	5	12	drizzle
Shanghai	9	13	drizzle
Wuhan	6	10	drizzle
Hangzhou	6	13	drizzle
Taipei	17	19	drizzle
Guangzhou	16	24	cloudy
Hong Kong	19	22	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	-7	-2	sleet
Frankfurt	-3	5	clear
Paris	-1	6	clear
London	1	6	overcast
New York	-3	5	clear

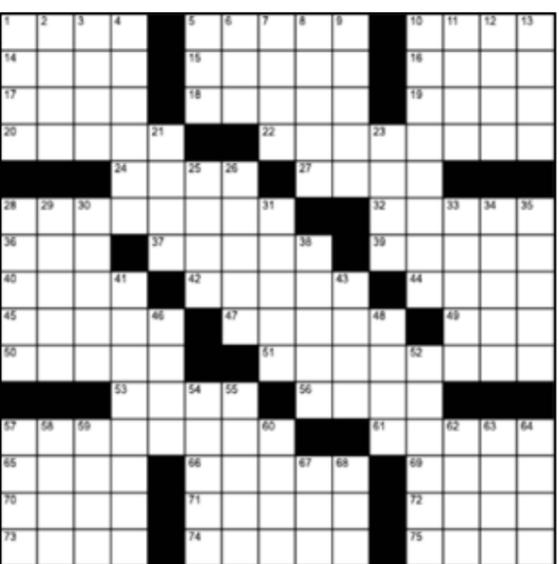
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Blown away; 5- Leg up; 10- IRS IDs; 14- Rescue; 15- Bellowing; 16- Cad; 17- The wolf ___ the door; 18- Have a feeling about; 19- Operatic solo; 20- Sleep issue; 22- Gathering; 24- Staff leader?; 27- North Sea feeder; 28- Foreign film feature; 32- Misplaces; 36- Half a fly; 37- Animal life; 39- Barely enough; 40- Attention getter; 42- Fungal infection of the skin or nails; 44- Acclaim; 45- Kidney-related; 47- Pertaining to the Netherlands; 49- Oui's opposite; 50- Upright; 51- Barbaric; 53- Summer coolers; 56- Dynamic beginning; 57- Two pairs; 61- Next after the second; 65- Woody's son; 66- Grain stores; 69- Wings; 70- City in Western Nevada; 71- Author Calvino; 72- Wife of Osiris; 73- Pearl Buck heroine; 74- Hawaiian state birds; 75- Wife of a rajah;

DOWN 1- Bhutan's continent; 2- Flying stinger; 3- Author Hunter; 4- Sense; 5- ___-relief; 6- Source of iron; 7- The last Mrs. Chaplin; 8- Pert; 9- Long lock of hair; 10- Trifoliate plant; 11- Belgrade native; 12- Singer Young; 13- Kill; 21- First Arabic letter; 23- Electric fish; 25- Coup d'___; 26- Capable of flowing; 28- Gaze intently; 29- Doorkeeper; 30- Designer Geoffrey; 31- Affectation of sophisticates; 33- Sweatbox; 34- Finish with; 35- Rock; 38- MetLife competitor; 41- Cookie; 43- Twinge; 46- Old Fords; 48- Injure; 52- Angora fleece; 54- Red fluorescent dye; 55- Strike hard; 57- Casino game; 58- Hurler Hershisser; 59- Radius neighbor; 60- Gusto; 62- Rick's love in "Casablanca"; 63- Picnic spoiler; 64- He played Ricky; 67- Corrida cry; 68- Mayday!;

Friday's solution

STAR	RISE	IDES
PANE	LUGER	NERO
ELKS	ABOVE	HERR
WEAPON	REC	APSE
IRKS	RTES	
MIGRAINE	SETTER	
ERIE	SONS	SEALE
TER	ROOMS	REB
ENTER	GLOW	BONE
REHASH	AROMATIC	
STAS	ELAN	
ANTI	VEE	LIQUID
MERE	INANE	UNTO
EXES	NOTON	EDEN
STET	GRAM	TOME



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



 YOUR PROPERTY HERE Call us for more info	 (853) 2835 2699 hello@jmlproperty.com www.jmlproperty.com f jmlmacau i jmlproperty	<p style="text-align: center;">FOR SALE</p>  Delightful Residence Remarkable Patio Space HK\$16,900,000 4,080 ft ² 2 2 3	<p style="text-align: center;">FOR RENT</p>  One Oasis, Coloane \$15,500/mth 1,112 ft ² 2 2 2	<p style="text-align: center;">Rain Dance Property "We dance until it's SOLD!"</p>  Manhattan E Unit, Taipa \$17,500/mth 1,626 ft ² 3 2 2
---	---	---	---	--



+853 2835 2699
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

Avenida da Praia Grande No.599, Edf. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 andar C, Macau
澳門南灣大馬路599號羅德禮商業大廈12樓C座



Juliet Risdon
+853 6680 9804
juliet@jmlproperty.com



Elda Lemos
+853 6226 8566
elda@jmlproperty.com



Sam Lee
+853 6611 0975
sam@jmlproperty.com



Kitty Lou
+853 6630 0730
kitty@jmlproperty.com

Property of the Week



LEARN MORE

Delightful Residence With Remarkable Patio Space
HK\$16,900,000 4,080 ft² 2 3



SCAN ME

A fabulous and spacious apartment measuring more than 4,000 square feet in a quieter upscale area in Taipa.

Originally designed in a 4 bedroom + plus maid quarters layout, the updated open plan configuration creates different living areas whilst at the same time bringing the space together.

This apartment is an entertainers dream, it must be viewed to be fully appreciated in its current form or as the new owners blank canvass.

Viewing by appointment. Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com

Rain Dance Property "We dance until it's SOLD!"



Manhattan E Unit, Taipa
\$17,500/mth
1,626 ft²
3 2



SCAN ME

Property Hotlist



Macau, ZAPE
Stylish Two Bedroom Apartment
\$7,600,000
720 ft²
2 1



SCAN ME



One Oasis, Coloane
\$15,500/mth
1,112 ft²
2 2



SCAN ME



Ocean Gardens, Taipa
\$14,500/mth
1,030 ft²
2 2



SCAN ME

More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Duplex apartment 2 1 1,100 ft² **\$4,940,000** (ref: 20116003)
- [Taipa] Chun Fok apartment 2 2 834 ft² **\$8,998,000** (ref: 20036002)
- [Macau] Unique Loft unit 2 2 2,200 ft² **\$9,990,000** (ref: 15115464)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 2 1,420 ft² **\$10,900,000** (ref: 20016004)
- [Taipa] Manhattan luxury 3 2 1,720 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096006)

For Rent

- [Taipa] Designer apartment 2 1 900 ft² **\$11,500/mth** (ref: 20121001)
- [Taipa] Macau Riviera 2 2 866 ft² **\$15,000/mth** (ref: 20111001)
- [Taipa] Manhattan spacious 3 2 1,720 ft² **\$18,800/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Split Level Commercial space 2,000 ft² **\$42,000/mth** (ref: 20121004)
- [Taipa] Commercial office-BCM building 4,100 ft² **\$85,000/mth** (ref: 21011001)

Recent Movements

Sold Raindance property SOLD!
Apartment in the Historical Centre

Rented
Hellene Gardens, Coloane

Rented
Houston Court, Coloane Village

JML Events



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team



Macau Golf Masters

LET'S CONNECT



jmlmacau



jmlproperty

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

+853 2835 2699

TWENTY20 CRICKET

NZ beats Australia by 7 wickets, wins T20 series 3-2

ISH Sodhi led a concerted attack by New Zealand's spin bowlers before Martin Guptill smashed a quickfire 71 runs to set up a seven-wicket win over Australia in the fifth Twenty20 international yesterday and a 3-2 win in the five-match series.

Leg spinner Sodhi came into the match as the leading wicket-taker in the series with 10 at an average of 18 and improved to 13 at 11.8, taking 3-24 as Australia was held 142-8 after choosing to bat on winning the toss.

New Zealand surpassed that total with 27 balls to spare, steered by Guptill and Devon Conway who put on 106 for the first wicket in 11.5 overs.

Sodhi was supported during Australia's innings by left-armers Mitchell Santner who took the new ball and bowled his four overs at a cost of only 21 runs. Having noted the influence of spin in the previous match in the series, New Zealand also used part-time spinners Mark Chapman, who took 1-9 from two overs, and Glen Phillips

AP PHOTO



New Zealand's Ish Sodhi bowls to Australia during their 5th T20 cricket international match at Wellington Regional Stadium in Wellington, New Zealand, yesterday

whose two overs cost 21 runs.

The spinners shared 12 of New Zealand's 20 overs, more than in any of the Black Caps' previous T20 internationals. That followed Australia's record in the fourth match when Aston Agar, Adam Zampa and Glenn Maxwell bowled 11 overs.

The drop-in pitch at Sky Stadium hosted the last three matches of the series in the space of six days. Australia made 208-4 in the

third match, winning by 64 runs, but in the fourth on a pitch which had slowed considerably and favored spin it defended a total of just 156-6, winning by 50 runs.

Until yesterday, each match in the series had been won by the team batting first. New Zealand won the first two by 53 runs and four runs but hadn't previously been able to put together a substantial innings when chasing in Wellington.

It needed a stronger foundation from its openers: Guptill and Tim Seifert put on only 20 in the third match and 21 in the fourth as Australia fought back to level the series.

Conway was promoted to open with Guptill yesterday the new opening pair immediately struck gold, reaching their century partnership in the 12th over.

Guptill posted his 17th T20 from 33 balls and moved to se-

cond place behind Virat Kohli on the list to top run-scorers in T20 internationals.

The partnership finally was broken by Riley Meredith in the 12th over when Conway was caught in the deep for 36. There was a flicker of hope for Australia when New Zealand captain Kane Williamson fell lbw to Meredith first ball.

Guptill was out in the 15th over, having made 71 from 46 balls with seven boundaries and four sixes, and having set the foundation on which New Zealand's win depended.

Phillips finished the job, hitting 34 from 15 balls with five fours and two sixes including a six for the winning runs in the 16th over off Adam Zampa.

"The other night we took a backward step and today we wanted to not back down from the fight and we showed that with a good opening stand," Guptill said. "Today Devon (Conway) was brilliant out there."

"I wouldn't say I went after them from ball one. But it was just good to spend a bit more time out there and create a partnership with Devon. He got off to a good start, I caught up and pushed on and the best part about it was we got the win."

While Australia couldn't contain Guptill, New Zealand managed to mostly neutralize Australia's big hitters. AP

DUFFY'S IRISH PUB
where everyone gets lucky!

- A GREAT PLACE TO HANG OUT FOR FUN & HAVE GOOD TIMES WITH FAMILY & FRIENDS
- WITH OUTDOOR SEATING & A PRIVATE SNUG FOR INTIMATE GATHERINGS
- HAS A GREAT SELECTION OF WHISKEY, GIN, BEERS, ETC.

DUFFY'S IRISH PUB MACAU BROADWAY FOOD STREET AT GALAXY MACAU TEL.: 2875 2945 OR 63281245

KTRANZ
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

Languages:
ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

Services
TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

OPINION

World Views

Eli Lake, MDT/Bloomberg



SO FAR, BIDEN'S IRAN POLICY ISN'T TRUMP'S — OR OBAMA'S

When it comes to President Joe Biden's Iran policy, the safest thing to say is that it's a work in progress.

On the one hand, the Biden administration is trying to quietly induce Iran to re-enter negotiations over the 2015 nuclear accord the previous president abandoned in 2018. On the other, the administration authorized air strikes last week in Syria against facilities it said were associated with Iranian-backed militias that launched rocket attacks last month against a U.S. base in northern Iraq.

One way to divine Biden's true intentions is to examine the records of his foreign-policy nominees — specifically, Colin Kahl and Wendy Sherman. Veterans of former President Barack Obama's administration, both played important roles in negotiating the nuclear deal. Once out of government, both predicted that the decision to withdraw from that deal would prove to be disastrous.

This is why it's worth noting that both Kahl and Sherman — he is nominated for undersecretary of defense for policy, she for deputy secretary of state — have gone out of their way in their confirmation hearings to placate concerns about the deal from both Republicans and centrist Democrats. Both have said that Biden intends to address the deal's many flaws, not simply to restore it.

When pressed this week by Senator Mitt Romney on the nuclear bargain she helped negotiate, Sherman was more conciliatory than she was six years ago. Since the agreement's limits on uranium enrichment expire over time, Romney argued, the nuclear deal does not prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon so much as delay it.

As a member of the Obama administration, Sherman might have simply brushed off this criticism. This week, she said that while she still viewed the objective of the agreement as preventing Iran from obtaining a weapon, "I do completely understand" why many members of Congress did and do not. "If Iran continued to make fissile material, the stuff that goes inside the nuclear weapons," she said, "having that ability gives them the option should they choose to go there."

Sherman herself has said repeatedly since leaving government that there was no real chance of getting a better deal than the one she helped negotiate. She has now promised to work with Congress to eventually strengthen that deal.

Kahl's hearing was also instructive. Outside of government, Kahl was a prolific tweeter. Many Republican senators reminded him of some past tweets that have aged poorly — from predicting that moving the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem would make Israeli-Arab cooperation much harder to his warning that the 2020 air strike that killed Iranian General Qassem Soleimani would lead to a regional war.

On Thursday, Senator James Inhofe asked if Kahl believed the world was a better place without Soleimani in it. "I think it probably is," Kahl responded. At the time of the strike, he explained, he "was concerned about the escalatory dynamics." Later in the hearing, Kahl praised U.S.-Israeli cooperation and said he did not favor moving the U.S. embassy from Jerusalem.

Of course, Kahl and Sherman have an incentive to be conciliatory right now. In a 50-50 Senate, if Biden loses even a single Democrat, their nominations could be scuttled. That's what happened to Neera Tanden, Biden's choice to run the Office of Management and Budget.

At the same time, progressive foreign policy groups are beginning to worry about Biden's intentions on Iran. This week 32 progressive organizations wrote Biden and urged him to reverse course and drop his demand that Iran return to compliance before lifting nuclear sanctions. Prominent arms control analyst Joe Cirincione tweeted this week that he hoped Sherman's response to Romney was just an effort to win confirmation and lamented that she "refuses to defend the Iran deal she negotiated."

How much is Biden willing to defend the 2015 nuclear deal as his administration seeks to both deter Iran's regional escalations and lure Iran back to nuclear negotiations? It will be a delicate balancing act — one that was previewed this week in Kahl and Sherman's confirmation hearings.

SYDNEY'S LGBTQI MARDI GRAS GOES AHEAD, WITH RESTRICTIONS

THE BUZZ

Sydney's annual iconic Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras went ahead during the weekend, only in a different format due to coronavirus restrictions.

It was being held at the Sydney Cricket Ground, where people can socially distance in their seats rather than on the traditional route down Oxford Street.

Up to 23,000 spectators will be allowed in the stands while the performers will be on the pitch.

Organizers say this year's parade will move away from the traditional large floats and instead focus on the outlandish pageantry of costumes,

puppetry and props. Face masks will be mandatory for participants and there will be temperature checks and screening at entry points.

Meanwhile, LGBTQI rights protesters have been given the green light to march down Oxford Street in a separate event before the parade. Health officials in New South Wales state agreed to make an exception to the 500-person limit on public gatherings after organizers agreed to enhanced contact-tracing processes.

The marchers are protesting social issues including transphobia, the mandatory detention of asylum-seekers and the criminalization of sex work.

MYANMAR

POLICE FIRE ON PROTESTERS IN ANCIENT FORMER CAPITAL

POLICE in Myanmar's ancient former capital, Bagan, opened fire yesterday on demonstrators protesting last month's military takeover, wounding several people, according to witness accounts and videos on social media.

At least five people were reported wounded as police sought to break up the Bagan protest, and photos showed one young man with bloody wounds on his chin and neck, believed to have been caused by a rubber bullet. Bullet casings collected at the scene indicated that live rounds were also fired.

The city, located in the central Mandalay region, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site in recognition of the more than 2,000 pagodas or their remnants still situated there, dating from the ninth to 13th centuries, when it was the capital of a kingdom that later became known as Burma and is now Myanmar.

Bagan is best known for being one of the country's top tourist attractions, but it has also been the scene of large protest marches against the military's Feb. 1 seizure of power.

Large protests have occurred daily across many cities and towns in Myanmar, and security forces have responded with greater use of lethal force and mass arrests. At least 18 protesters were shot and killed on Feb. 28 and 38 on Wednesday, according to the U.N. Human Rights Office. More than 1,500 have been arrested, the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners said.

Protests elsewhere yesterday, including in the two biggest cities of Yangon and Mandalay, were also met with the use of force by police firing warning shots, and variously employing tear gas, rubber bullets and stun grenades.

Multiple reports from Yangon said there were also police raids Saturday night



seeking to seize organizers and supporters of the protest movement. A ward chairman from Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, which was ousted from power in the coup, was found dead in a military hospital yesterday morning by fellow residents of his Pabedan neighborhood, according to a post on Facebook by NLD lawmaker Sithu Maung.

Suspicion was rampant on social media that Khin Maung Latt, 58, died due to a beating in custody after being taken from his residence, but no official cause of death was immediately announced.

In Yangon and elsewhere, raids are carried out nightly after an 8 p.m. curfew by police and soldiers. The arrests are often carried out at gunpoint, without warrants.

In videos taken Saturday night and posted online, sporadic fire from heavy weapons could be heard in some neighborhoods.

The escalation of violence has put pressure on the global community to act to restrain the junta. The coup reversed years of slow progress toward democracy in Myanmar, which for five decades had languished under strict military rule that led to international isolation and sanctions.

Suu Kyi's party led a return to civilian rule with a landslide election victory in 2015, and with an even greater margin of votes last year. It would have been installed for a second five-

-year term last month, but instead Suu Kyi and President Win Myint and other members of the government were placed in military detention.

A rare light note was struck Saturday when demonstrators in the central city of Monywa poured cans of beer over their feet and those of passers-by to show their contempt for the brewery's owners — the military. Myanmar Beer is one of a number of business concerns in the country that are linked to the generals and has seen its sales plummet in the weeks following the coup. It also has lost its Japanese partner, Kirin, which announced it was pulling out of the joint venture as a result of the power grab.

In neighboring Thailand, several thousand people, Thai as well as from Myanmar, rallied yesterday outside the regional office of the United Nations to bring attention to the crisis and their desire for international action to end the junta's violence.

"I have a good life here, but I'm fighting for my relatives and families and friends in Myanmar. Since Day One (when) the military took our leader, we are here," said 26-year-old Aye Nanda Soe, who works in digital marketing and lives in Bangkok with her mother and brother while her father resides in Yangon. "We want the U.N. to protect our people first, then help our leader. My people are not safe anymore." AP

Myanmar has asked India to return several police officers who crossed the border following a coup in their country. The deputy commissioner in Champai district in the northeastern state of Mizoram, Maria C.T. Zuali, said she received a letter from her Myanmar counterpart, asking India to return the officers in order to "uphold the friendship between Myanmar and India." She said she informed India's Ministry of Home Affairs and is awaiting instructions.



Nepal's government and a communist rebel group formally signed a peace agreement aimed at ending violent attacks, extortion and bombings by the rebels. Rebel leader Netra Bikram Chand, better known by his guerrilla name Biplav, emerged out of hiding after the government lifted a ban on his Nepal Communist Party group so it could take part in the public signing of the peace agreement.

Pakistan Gunmen ambushed a vehicle transporting security forces killing a sailor and wounding two others in the coastal town of Jewni in southwest Pakistan, officials said yesterday. The Pakistan Navy vehicle came under attack while traveling from Jewni to the Ganz area, said Zahoor Buledi, a Baluchistan provincial minister. The insurgent group Baluchistan Liberation Army claimed responsibility for the attack.

Qatar was still committed to bidding for the 2032 Olympics despite the IOC heading into exclusive talks with top choice Brisbane. The International Olympic Committee used its new, more flexible bidding process last week to name the Australian coastal city its preferred choice more than 11 years before the Games. That decision seemed to surprise other expected candidates including Qatari capital Doha and Budapest, Hungary.

Spain Several hundred protesters marched Saturday in Spain's northeastern city of Barcelona against the authorities' crackdown following a violent outcry over the imprisonment of Pablo Hasél, an anti-establishment artist. The march took place amid a heavy police presence, winding through several avenues of the Catalan regional capital. Protesters walked behind a banner that called for the release of Hasél and his jailed supporters. AP