



THE MACAU SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY UNVEILED A NEW RESEARCH CENTER TO FOSTER ACADEMIC PROGRESS ON CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION

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CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO NOMINATE CANDIDATES TO RUN FOR AL: NETO VALENTE

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HK'S INCOMING BISHOP STEPHEN CHOW CALLS FOR RESPECT FOR DIFFERENT VIEWS AS HE PREPARES TO LEAD POLARIZED DIOCESE

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Indonesia Pro-Palestinian protesters marched to the heavily guarded U.S. Embassy in Indonesia's capital yesterday to demand an end to Israeli airstrikes in the Gaza Strip. Waving Indonesian and Palestinian flags and signs that read "Free Palestine," several hundred demonstrators gathered along a major street in Jakarta that runs outside the embassy. More than 1,000 police were deployed around the compound, which is blocked off by concrete road separators.



Sri Lanka's top court has decided that some provisions of legislation to set up a powerful economic commission in a Chinese-built port city violate the constitution and require approval by a public referendum to become law. At the center of the dispute are fears that the \$1.4 billion port city, part of China's sweeping Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, could become a virtual Chinese outpost or colony. The government is looking to the project as a lifeline for an economy hard stricken by the pandemic.



Indian navy is working to rescue crew members from a sunken barge and a second cargo vessel that was adrift yesterday off the coast of Mumbai after a deadly cyclone struck the western coast. The navy said it has rescued 177 of the 400 people on the two barges in the Arabia Sea. Three warships, maritime patrol aircraft and helicopters joined the rescue operations and were scouring the sea, the navy said.

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ONE MORE CARD

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SJM CEO APPEALS FOR EXTENSION OF GAMING CONCESSIONS FOR 'AT LEAST ONE YEAR'

HONEY TSANG

THE vice-president and chief executive officer of SJM Holdings Ltd, Ambrose So, is calling on the SAR government to consider prolonging the six current gaming concessions for at least one year, and hold off seeking license tender until the global pandemic and economy have stabilized.

These moves can "buy Macau's government more time", to collect more data to put together new tender standards and requirements, he explained.

So's recommendations were mentioned in a news report published on May 17 by the Hong Kong Economic Journal: a Hong Kong-based Chinese language daily newspaper primarily covering economic news.

Inviting tenders to compete for gaming concessions before the global epidemic is under control may be unfair for overseas entities, which are interested in bidding for Macau's gaming licenses but unable to conduct on-site visits in Macau due to travel restrictions, he said.

"Eventually, only existing gaming concessionaires [would be] left running for the tender, which exactly contravenes the original



objective of re-bidding for gaming licenses," he explained.

The extension of current gaming licenses for "at least one year" can offer a much-needed breather for Macau's six gaming operators, which have been financially hard-hit by economic fallout, as well as made many significant contributions in stabilizing the city's job market during the pandemic, So pointed out.

He believes that the moratorium will not affect Macau's economy, nor incur any losses to the government; on the contrary, it will offer more time for the authorities to collect data to determine the bidding standards.

According to Economic Journal, the president of Sands China Ltd, Wilfred Wong, hopes that the government will release the relevant details as

soon as possible.

When asked whether it is considered feasible and reasonable to extend the six gaming concessions for one or two more years, Wong said he has faith in the government to consider the whole picture and make the best decision in favor of the city's interests.

Pursuant to the existing gaming law (Law No. 16/2001), the Chief Executive has the authority to extend the validity of gaming concession by one period or multiple times, with an aggregate period not exceeding five years.

Macau's six gaming concessions and sub-concessions are due on June 26, 2022.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng stated clearly in his 2021 Policy Address that the effort to amend the current gaming law is one of the nine pieces of legislation he is trying to pass during his tenure. He promised to employ a public consultation process to make the most appropriate modifications to the city's gaming law — which will also lay the legal foundation for the fresh public tender for gaming concessions.

The public consultation was originally scheduled to take place last year, but was postponed

to the second half of 2021 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Earlier this month, the director of the Gaming Inspection, and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) Adriano Marques Ho reaffirmed in a written reply that the public consultation will commence in the second half of this year.

The delayed consultation prompted many commentators to question whether the government has enough time to analyze public comments, compose a summary report, and amend the relevant law by the end of 2021.

Lawmaker Ho Ion Sang said he remains doubtful as to whether the draft legislation can be submitted to the Legislative Assembly this year.

On May 17, executive director of Macau Legend Development Ltd Melinda Chan Mei Yi told the media in a briefing that she also thinks it would be hard for authorities to wrap up the required legislative works prior to the expiry of gaming licenses.

According to a statement released on May 2 by JP Morgan, the brokerage anticipates that the Macau SAR government will announce the extension of gaming licenses next month in June, a year before their expiry.

GAMING

Galaxy cancels IR plans in Yokohama

LYNZY VALLES

GALAXY Entertainment Group will no longer participate in developing a proposed integrated resort (IR) in the city of Yokohama, south of Tokyo, in another blow for the Japanese city following Las Vegas Sands and Wynn's earlier withdrawals.

In a statement, Francis Lui, GEG chairman, attributed the withdrawal to the Covid-19 pandemic, noting that they have "decided to not participate at this time."

Initially, the group aims to enter the IR business in Japan jointly with Monte-Carlo Société des Bains

de Mer, which operates casinos in Monaco, noting that they have been actively pursuing negotiations for several years with the Japan government and local communities, including Yokohama.

"The world and business climate continues to evolve, which has been exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic," said Lui.

"We are honored to have learned a tremendous amount about the people, culture, and ambitions of Yokohama and highly value the relationships that we have developed with the government, business associations and local com-

munity, including Kanagawa over the past few years. We greatly appreciate the opportunity to play an active role in Yokohama's IR selection process but have decided to not participate at this time," he added.

However, Lui pledged that the gaming operator would continue its dialogue to support Japan in achieving its goal to "develop a sustainable and world-class IR industry."

GEG had been in talks with local Japanese authorities over the past few years regarding such opportunities, but also decided to withdraw its plan for Osaka in February 2020.

Japan legalized the operation of casinos at integrated resorts (large commercial complexes including hotels and conference centers) in 2018, allowing gaming concessionaires in the city to apply in order to operate.

Last year in May, as the pandemic spread, Las Vegas Sands said it would stop pursuing integrated resort developments in the country, while Wynn Resorts closed its office in Yokohama last year.

Recently, the junket Sun-city Group backed off from competing for the development of an IR in Wakayama. The group has also at-



tributed the withdrawal to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The departures of Galaxy, Las Vegas Sands, and Wynn from the Yokohama race could hurt the city's chances of claiming a gaming license, according to reports.

Japanese policymakers were eyeing companies that were experienced in operating high-end resorts in the Asia-Pacific region — implying that the withdrawal of the three gaming operators was a loss to the city, since the three run 10 gaming properties in the SAR.

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Civil servants should be allowed to nominate candidates: Neto Valente

ANTHONY LAM

JORGE Neto Valente, President of the Macau Lawyers Association, said yesterday that civil servants should have the right to nominate candidates at parliamentary elections, although he thinks that their participating in a candidate's campaign is a matter for debate.

The veteran lawyer made the comment on the sidelines of the press conference for Lawyer's Day, which has been organized by the association.

Previously, the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Committee (CAEAL) deemed that signing nomination for a potential candidate implies political representation, which may violate the duty to political neutrality of part of the civil servant team.

When questioned about this interpretation, Valente affirmed the civil servants' duty of political neutrality at work, while stressing that he was speaking only for himself.



"Because they work to serve the population – all the residents of Macau – and not a particular one," the experienced legal professional explained. "[When they perform their duties,] they

cannot take sides. They should not like or dislike a particular resident because they think differently."

As for nominating a candidate, in contrast, the lawyer thinks

civil servants should be allowed to do so.

"I don't think there is any law that forbids public servants from proposing candidates [or] signing [nomination forms]," Va-

lente pointed out. "I don't know any law that says that."

While considering it legitimate for civil servants to nominate candidates in the parliamentary election, the veteran lawyer has the opposite view when it comes to campaigning for a candidate.

"I think it desirable that civil servants do not get involved directly in pushing for one side or the other," Valente said, confirming his stand against civil servants campaigning for a candidate or taking a position in a candidate's campaign.

On earlier occasions, the Macau Civil Servants Association has revealed that some workers in the public sector were told not to sign nominations for any candidate. The Civil Servants Association found this to be a denial of civil servants' rights in election.

Meanwhile, the CAEAL has expressed the view that civil servants, while they are not at work, "have the rights to participate in [an] election to a certain extent," although the scope of that participation has not been described.

In a statement issued by the CAEAL on April 30, the entity affirmed that certain public sector workers governed by special laws and regulations, such as judges and law-enforcement officers, should remain politically neutral.

FREE LEGAL ENQUIRIES TO RETURN TO LAWYER'S DAY THIS YEAR

THIS year, the Macau Lawyers' Association will retain the tradition of offering free legal consultations at Lawyer's Day, the association announced yesterday at a press conference.

The consultation sessions will run between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. on both days of this coming weekend at the Tourism Information Centre of the Macao Government Tourism Office, which is located at the Ritz Building – the yellow building at the side of the Senado Square.

Free legal consultation was not offered last year due to problems of crowd control.

Based on the participation of previous years, the association estimates that about 200 people will make enquiries at the consultation session.

Questions asked at previous sessions concerned both local and mainland Chinese jurisprudence. About 20% of questions related to mainland laws. However, the association



pointed out that more questions were asked about mainland laws.

Meanwhile, this year's Lawyer's Day will be held almost completely indoors. Usually, the AAM tends to hold the opening ceremony of the day at the Senado Square. The association disclosed that it had considered doing so at this year's event, but at the end it did not receive the green light.

The association did not explain on what ground the approval was not offered.

Instead, the association will hold the opening

ceremony at the MGM Cotai, where an exhibition on the three-decade history of the association will be held.

Also to be held this weekend is a two-afternoon forum titled "Cyberworld and Law." It will be held at the Cultural Centre of the City University of Macau. Local government officials and legal personages from the Greater Bay Area will speak at the forum.

A sports day, with the core activity being a 5-km run, will be held early Saturday morning at the Macau Dome. **AL**

CHINA'S HK, MACAU AFFAIRS OFFICE COMMENDS HKSAR CIVIL SERVANTS FOR TAKING OATHS

HONG Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council recently commended civil servants in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) who have taken oath or signed declaration, pledging to uphold the HKSAR Basic Law and bear allegiance to the HKSAR.

The HKSAR government has, in accordance with relevant laws, completed the arrangement for civil servants to take oath or sign declaration, while the HKSAR Legislative Council (LegCo) has adopted the Public Offices (Candidacy and Taking Up Offices) (Miscellaneous Amendments) Bill 2021, said a spokesperson for the office.

This marks the establishment and implementation of a systematic oath-taking system in the HKSAR that covers civil servants at all levels and departments, including the chief executive, LegCo members, judges and District Council members.

Hong Kong's civil servan-



ts not only serve Hong Kong residents, but also shoulder the responsibilities of safeguarding the national sovereignty, security and development interests, as well as Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability, the spokesperson said.

Improving the oath-taking system of civil servants strengthened the political principle that Hong Kong must be governed by patriots, the spokesperson said.

So far, a total of 170,000 civil servants in the HKSAR have signed declaration or taken oaths, said the spokesperson.

This fully shows that the majority of Hong Kong's civil servants support the policy of "One country, two systems," abide by the constitutional order of the HKSAR, safeguard the authority of the Constitution and the HKSAR Basic Law, and are willing to serve Hong Kong residents and work hard for Hong Kong's long-term prosperity and stability, the spokesperson noted.

It is hoped that Hong Kong's civil servants will keep their promises, carry out their duties, and work for a brighter future of Hong Kong. **MDT/XINHUA**

NANJING-MACAU BUSINESS MATCHING ATTRACTS OVER 90 FIRMS

The "Nanjing-Macau Business Matching Session" has attracted over 90 enterprises, an increase of 5% compared to the recent business matching session in Hangzhou. The session is part of the five-day event "Macao Week in Jiangsu," which was concluded on May 17. During the event, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) organized the "Jiangsu-Macao Tourism and MICE Promotion Session," in which around 120 representatives of tourism and MICE sectors from Jiangsu and Macau took part.

INTERNATIONAL ASSETS UP NEARLY 6%

At end-March 2021, Macau's total international assets increased by 5.9% from last quarter and by 10.0% from the year before to MOP2,001.4 billion (USD249.9 billion), according to data from the Monetary Authority of Macao. Within this total, external assets increased by 11.2% year-on-year to MOP1,526.7 billion, while local assets in foreign currencies also increased by 6.1% to MOP474.7 billion. As a major component of international assets, external non-bank loans increased by 16.1% to MOP705.8 billion. Meanwhile, total international liabilities increased by 5.7% from three months ago and by 10.1% year-on-year to MOP1,932.3 billion (USD241.3 billion).

CHINESE ORCHESTRA TO PRESENT FAMILY MUSICAL IN JUNE

The family musical theatre concert "Music Adventure III" by the Macao Chinese Orchestra (OCHM), which was originally scheduled to be held on June 6, will be replaced with the family musical theatre concert "Musical Magic Wand Prequel." The change was made because Singapore conductor Quek Ling Kiong is unable to travel to Macau due to local anti-pandemic measures. In this concert the OCHM will join with young conductor Bei Di to present a number of famous musical theatre works, including The Fight between the Ox and the Tiger by Wang Guojie, Kung Fu by Li Bochan and Ebullient Plucked Strings by Wang Danhong.

GOV'T URGES TAIWAN TO HELP MACAU STUDENTS AMID WORSENING PANDEMIC

HONEY TSANG

THE SAR government is seeking assistance from the Taiwan government to help the "several thousand Macau residents studying in Taiwan" amidst the worsening pandemic situation on the island.

The government's plea for help was delivered on May 17 to Taiwan authorities via a letter sent by the Macao Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan.

As stated in the letter, the worsening epidemic condition in Taiwan "had caused anxiety and perplexed the several thousand Macau residents studying in Taiwan, as well as their parents."

Some Macau students in Taiwan expressed concerns that some problems regarding schooling, healthcare and everyday life may go unaddressed.

The Macau government is calling on Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council to "pay close attention to ensure Macau residents'



demands were dealt with properly and to protect their rights while in the Taiwan region."

Yesterday, on May 18, Taiwan registered 240 domestically transmitted cases of Covid-19 and two additional deaths. It marks the fourth consecutive day of Taiwan recording a daily locally-transmitted tally of over 100. Taipei City and New Taipei City were the most affected regions.

The rapidly surging number of cases prompted the Taiwan government to suspend schooling across all institutions from today until May 28.

807 STUDENTS TO RETURN IN MAY-AUG

The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) is now proactively collecting up-to-date data and examining the

intention of Macau students in Taiwan to return to the city, deputy director of the DSEDJ Teng Sio Hong informed the media yesterday.

According to the latest statistics compiled by the bureau, around 807 Macau students in Taiwan claimed they are planning to return to Macau between May and August. Among them, 300 are intending to return in June and July. Approximately 260 Macau students have already purchased air tickets to the city on their own.

Teng pledged that the DSEDJ would continue to closely monitor the pandemic situation in Taiwan and liaise with corresponding government departments and organizations in order to offer assistance to affected students.

Another cohort of some 300 Macau students overseas, most of whom are in the U.K. and Portugal, plan to return to Macau in June and July.

CRIME

Teenager commits arson to relieve stress

ANTHONY LAM

A 17-year-old male junior secondary school student has been arrested on allegations of committing four counts of arson, confessing to the Judiciary Police (PJ), that he did it to relieve stress.

The four separate incidents took place on March 9, 11, 14 and May 16. Following the final incident in the early morning of May 16, the suspect was arrested that afternoon at his residence within the building, where he lives with his father.

The suspect told police that he felt stressed and unhappy as a result of his parents' divorce and the pressures of academic study. He began burning objects in the staircase as a means to reduce his anxiety: he said that the sight of fire relieved his stress.

On each occasion, the Fire Services Bureau alerted the PJ to the suspicious circumstances of the fires that took place in the staircase of a residential building on Avenida da Longevidade.

The fires broke out on three different floors: the

sixth, eighth and tenth. The police did not disclose whether these fires burned simultaneously on multiple floors or not.

Damage was caused to a signal light, a fluorescent light, two trash bins, three notices and some miscellaneous objects. Smoke from the fire has also stained the walls of the staircase. Some fiber-optic cables for internet services installed by telecommunications workers were also burned.

Prior to these four incidents, there was another fire on March 5, according

to the report PJ received from the management committee of the building. On that occasion the police were not notified because, according to the report, no damage was caused.

After viewing the surveillance camera footage, the PJ's attention was drawn to a teenager living on the seventh floor of the building.

The PJ has pressed charges against the teenager, referring him to the Public Prosecutions Office. The Education and Youth Development Bu-

reau has also been notified.

According to the PJ, the teenager does not smoke: he possessed a lighter when he is alleged to have committed the crime, but no tobacco products.

In February this year, the PJ and the education bureau held joint training sessions for nine student counseling organizations to teach them to manage emergencies on campus. The training covered matters such as interventions in the cases of individuals with emotional difficulties.

NEW REGULATIONS APPROVED FOR NATIONAL SYMBOLS

HONEY TSANG

THE proposed amendments to Law No. 5/1999 — "The use and protection of the National Flag, Emblem and Anthem" — were almost unanimously approved by the Legislative Assembly (AL) on May 17.

The revisions received 28 votes in favor and only one abstention.

The approved modifications offered clearer guidelines for the use of the national flag, including unequivocal guidelines to encourage Macau residents to use the national flag when appropriate and to wear a badge featuring a national emblem on solemn occasions.

Such ratifications are intended to allow locals to "convey their patri-

tism," Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong said at the AL.

Other modifications legislated particular rules for the dimensional ratio of the national flag, flagpole, and national emblem; and the adjustment of their sizes to fit the purpose, venue, and the surroundings.

New consent will be given to designated deca-

sed individuals to cover their remains with a national flag.

The approved amendments introduced some new prohibitions as well, such as a ban forbidding people from using the national flag or national emblem on registered designs and new forms, and a prohibition on hanging or inserting the national flag upside down and dis-

posing of it at will.

The last regulation was enacted to enhance the city's education on nationalism, including the inclusion of national flags and emblems in Macau's primary and secondary education, and a new standard to require the local media to cooperate with the promotion of national flags and emblems.

Two universities open strategic research centers

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) and the City University of Macau (CityU) yesterday unveiled two research centers to foster academic progress, one in cultural heritage preservation and the other in Chinese culture.

Named the Macao Cultural Heritage Conservation and Development Research Centre, the MUST research entity is led by distinguished guest professor Meng Jian Min, who is also an academic of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

Under the leadership of Meng, the research facility will dedicate itself to sustainable artifact restoration techniques, architectural and urban landscape conservatory planning and design, as well as research on cultural heritage history, among other disciplines.

Meanwhile, the new facility will focus on the interac-



Opening ceremony of the Macao Cultural Heritage Conservation and Development Research Centre at MUST

tions between cultural heritage and social development across the Greater Bay Area in architecture, environmental and material science, urban and rural planning, design, landscape architecture, history, sociology, relic restoration, and more.

The research center has a team of professionals inside and outside of the Greater China Region.

Meng said that the preservation of cultural he-

ritage is becoming more important in urban development. He foresees that the establishment of the research center will make significant contributions to the preservation of local cultural heritage sites.

Yesterday also saw the establishment of the Macao Chinese Cultural Research Institute at the CityU. Its operations will, according to Rector Jun Liu, "help deepen local students' understand-

ing [of] quality Chinese culture and tradition, [and] will present the 'Macao Story' and the 'China Story'."

One of the foremost missions of the research institute will be to develop knowledge in four main areas: humanity, technology, the economy and trade, as well as society generally. The institute will fund such endeavors as intercultural communications, Big Data and special financial services. **AL**

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE CONCLUDES DISCUSSION ON HOTEL DRAFT LAW

THE parliamentary committee considering the bill governing hotel operations and related affairs has concluded its discussion, meaning that the bill will be discussed and voted upon at the plenary, Chan Chak Mo, president of the committee, revealed yesterday.

It has rarely occurred in the history of the Special Administrative Region that the plenary has not passed a bill submitted by the Executive branch.

One major proposal revealed yesterday is that the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will be authorized to void the operational license of a hotel on receipt of an application from the owner of the land upon which the hotel stands, in conjunction with evidence proving the hotel operator no longer pos-

sesses the rights to use the venue provided to the MGTO.

In a previous draft of the bill, the government proposed authorizing MGTO officers to enter rented hotel rooms without the consent of hotel guests.

Chan revealed that the government had agreed to reverse its decision on the matter.

The current draft proposes that MGTO officers, while conducting their legal professional duties, have the right to enter all public areas or service facilities. This will not include hotel rooms.

Inspection of or in the rooms shall require the consent of the guest occupying the room.

The bill also proposes to allow the establishment of budget hostels, which are rented per bed instead of per room. **AL**

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OPINION

China Daily

Zhang Zhouxiang, China Daily

ONE APPLE DAILY KEEPS YOUR IQ AWAY

Tuesday saw Apple Daily in Taiwan suspending its print edition.

It's such a relief to see a major source of rumors and brazen lies finally disappear. During the riots that ravaged the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in 2019, the tabloid that once snapped photos of celebrities for blackmail suddenly turned political.

When the flames of the riots still singed the region, Apple Daily was the only media outlet that reported on rioters' lies about nonexistent police violence in Prince Edward Station or fabricated rapes by police officers. They continued to peddle falsehoods even as the government repeatedly refuted them.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, Apple Daily repeatedly pushed misinformation, such as falsely claiming that domestically produced vaccines were of poor quality, or that the DNA of Hong Kong residents was being sent to the Chinese mainland after nucleic acid tests. At a time when the whole world was fighting against the novel coronavirus, Apple Daily sided with the virus and against the people, those in Hong Kong included.

Apple Daily had engaged in such egregious wrongdoing that Chris Tang Ping-keung, head of the Hong Kong police, criticized it twice on April 16 and 17. According to reports, they even sent over 130 letters to the newspaper and Hong Kong Press Council, which agreed with the police, but Apple Daily failed to answer.

For over 20 years, Apple Daily has been poisoning the minds of Hong Kong youth, victimizing more than one generation there. Those deceived by Apple Daily became the cannon fodder for riot organizers, who took advantage of these hoodwinked Hong Kong residents in their attempts to overthrow the local HKSAR government. One Apple Daily is enough to keep a rational mind away.

Fortunately, their plots are doomed to fail and the majority of the people Hong Kong could distinguish right from wrong. The pacification of the riots stands as the best evidence of who people in Hong Kong trust, and the fact that Apple Daily suspended its printed edition due to bad business decisions further strengthens that conclusion.

Now Apple Daily in Taiwan has stopped its print edition, but the website still remains. Here's hoping the day will soon come when this mendacious outlet disappears for good.

HONG KONG

LAM DEFENDS FREEZING OF LAI'S ASSETS AS SAFETY MEASURE

HONG Kong leader Carrie Lam yesterday defended the freezing of pro-democracy publisher Jimmy Lai's assets as a necessary move under the city's new national security law to protect the safety of all Chinese people.

Lam told reporters the move was authorized under the sweeping law that was imposed on the city by Beijing last year and empowered authorities to "freeze suspicious assets involved that would undermine national security."

"It means the Hong Kong government is very serious and rigorous when dealing with national security matters, because it involves something that endangers national security, not just the safety of Hong Kong society, but also the safety of 1.4 billion Chinese people," Lam said.

Critics say the national security law is meant to snuff out dissent in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory, while defenders say it intends to ensure those running the city are Chinese patriots committed to public order and economic development.

Lam has been the face of the crackdown on dissent, although



she is believed to be acting entirely on orders from Beijing, whose Communist Party leaders have long regarded Hong Kong as a potential incubator of opposition that could spread through the country.

The freezing of Lai's assets led the Hong Kong stock exchange to halt trading of shares in Next Digital on Monday. The company founded by Lai, who owns a 71% stake and is its controlling shareholder, publishes pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily, which has seen advertisers abandon it as the government ratchets up pressure on dissenting voices in the city at the urging of

leaders in Beijing.

Lai has been a high-profile voice in the territory's pro-democracy movement and is serving a 14-month sentence for his role in two unauthorized assemblies in 2019 when Hong Kong residents were involved in mass anti-government protests. Lai was among 10 people who pleaded guilty Monday to taking part in another unlawful assembly in 2019.

Last week, Apple Daily's Taiwan version said it would move online because "pro-China forces" had blocked access to advertising for its flagship Apple Daily and other publications in Hong Kong.

In recent months, police have arrested most of the city's pro-democracy activists and have put prominent activists such as Joshua Wong and Agnes Chow behind bars. Most of the pro-democracy activists arrested are still in police custody, while others have sought asylum abroad.

Lai has long been a unique figure in Hong Kong's media landscape, overwhelmingly dominated by corporations whose outlets took a largely neutral view

on politics while relentlessly chasing news about celebrities, the ultra-rich and their scandals.

While his outlets also chased salacious topics, they were often critical of Beijing and its representatives in Hong Kong.

That drew the ire of the city's pro-China establishment, which has not only avoided discussing politically sensitive topics concerning the mainland and Hong Kong, but has become increasingly critical of what Beijing terms foreign interference in the city's affairs, whether through outreach to opposition figures by the U.S. Consulate or Britain's offer of a passage to citizenship for holders of the British National (Overseas) passport that many Hong Kongers possess.

Hong Kong's media outlets are now almost completely dominated by pro-Beijing business groups and even independent booksellers have become rare. The national security law has also given authorities broad powers to monitor speech online, making it difficult to organize opposition gatherings or even express views critical of the government or Beijing. **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

New bishop wants differing views respected

HONG Kong's incoming Roman Catholic bishop Stephen Chow called for respect for different views as he prepares to lead a diocese that has been polarized by the city's deteriorating political situation.

Chow said while he had "no big plan" on how to unify a Catholic community divided since months of anti-government protests in 2019, he believed that God wanted them to be united.

"Unity is not the same as uniformity," Chow said at a news conference yesterday, one day after Pope Francis named him to head the Hong Kong diocese. "One thing I've always mentioned recently in schools is unity is plurality."

"We need to respect plurality," he said.

Chow, whose appointment won't be effective until Dec. 4, will replace



Rev. P. Stephen Chow Sau-Yan

Bishop Michael Yeung, who died in 2019. A Hong Kong native, the 62-year-old Chow was educated in the U.S. and Ireland and is a school supervisor at the city's Wah Yan College.

The Catholic community in Hong Kong comprises about 404,000 people, or about 5.3% of the city's population. The Catholic communi-

ty is split between those who see Beijing's control over Hong Kong as an attack on the city's freedoms, and pro-establishment figures who prefer a less confrontational approach.

Hong Kong's largely pro-Beijing chief executive, Carrie Lam, is also a Roman Catholic.

Chow has headed the Chinese Province of the

Society of Jesus since 2018, and led the Jesuit order in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan as China and the Vatican signed a landmark deal in 2018 that gave both sides a say in the appointments of bishops in the Chinese church.

China's Catholics are legally only allowed to worship in churches approved by the Chinese government, but many attend underground churches led by bishops loyal to Rome.

Chow said that there should not be the assumption that Beijing and the Chinese church are enemies since both churches believe in the same faith, and should try to seek understanding together.

However, he reiterated that the Latin Church does not have a formal diplomatic relationship

with China, and therefore operates independently.

When asked about his thoughts on calls to commemorate the Tiananmen Square crackdown in 1989 this year, Chow said that whether public commemoration is possible this year depends on legal requirements.

He had participated in past public commemorations in Hong Kong, which last year for the first time did not allow public gatherings to mark the June 4 anniversary of the crackdown in which Chinese troops moved against student-led, pro-democracy demonstrations in Beijing, killing hundreds, possible thousands, of protesters.

He said that there are different means of commemoration. "I pray for all those who have passed in 1989, in all aspects, from all walks of life," Chow said. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

Mexican president apologizes for 1911 massacre of Chinese

MEXICO'S president presented an apology for a 1911 massacre in which over 300 Chinese people were slaughtered by revolutionary troops in the northern city of Torreón.

The apology is the latest in a series of ceremonies in which President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has sought to make amends for the mistreatment of Indigenous and minority people in Mexico in past centuries.

López Obrador said the point of the apology was to ensure "that this never, ever happens again," noting that during the period, Chinese were mutilated or hung from telegraph poles.

"The discrimination was based on the most vile and offensive" stereotypes, López Obrador said, adding "these stupid ideas were transferred to Mexico, where extermination was added to exclusion and mistreatment."

Many Chinese laborers had emigrated to Mexico in the 1800s, in some cases to work on the expansion of the nation's rail network. But many set up businesses, farms and in Torreón, even a bank.

The 1911 killings of 303 Chinese men, women and children occurred during the chaotic period of the Mexican Revolution, when revolutionary troops overran Torreón, sealing the fate of long-time

AP PHOTO



ruler Porfirio Díaz. The loss of the city led Díaz to resign and leave for exile.

Like most racial killings, it was fed by suspicion, hatred, fear, envy and lies. Torreón was a booming railway town, and control of it was key to rail lines north to the United States. Some Mexicans grumbled that Chinese were taking jobs or depressing wage rates; others were envious of the Chinese community's economic success.

Between May 13-15, 1911, the revolutionary troops took control of the city from Díaz's army and once inside the city, slaughtered

many of its Chinese inhabitants, though some others hid or were saved by local residents.

The victorious revolutionary government of President Francisco I. Madero agreed to pay reparations for the massacre, but Madero himself was overthrown in 1913 and the payment was never made.

"It is during the most convulsive moments of history when these (racist ideas) get twisted into genocidal killings," said Coahuila Gov. Miguel Ángel Riquelme. López Obrador, who usually lavishes praise on the 1910-1917

revolutionary movement noted that the movement also expressed anti-Chinese sentiments.

Historian Monica Cinco Basurto said the massacre was far from the only anti-Chinese act in Mexico. Looting of Chinese-owned businesses and the expulsion or forced departure of Chinese — often without recognizing their Mexican citizenship or that of their children or wives — extended throughout northern Mexico into the 1930s.

López Obrador was accompanied during the apology ceremony by Chinese Ambassador Zhu Qingqiao.

Mexico has relied on Chinese brands for about 10.5 million of the 29.1 million coronavirus vaccine doses received so far, or about 36% of all shots. Zhu said the vaccines and medical equipment from China "have left a strong imprint on the history of relations between our two countries."

López Obrador said "we will never forget the brotherhood of the Chinese during the bitter and anguishing months of the pandemic."

As in the United States, racism against Asian Americans has been an ugly thread of Mexican history. In fact, many Chinese came to Mexico because they could not get into the United States.

In the U.S., the Chinese Exclu-

sion Act of 1882 was designed to prevent Chinese American laborers from entering the U.S. as a result of widespread xenophobia. That law made it illegal for Chinese laborers to immigrate to America and limited the Chinese population in the U.S. for more than 60 years.

It is part of a series of apologies by the Mexican president to those wronged in the past.

In early May, López Obrador apologized to the Maya Indigenous group that inhabits Mexico's southeast, mainly on the Yucatan peninsula.

During the 1800s, Mayas were forced to work in serf-like conditions on sisal plantations. Sisal and henequen were fibers used in making rope. Some were even tricked into virtual slavery in sugar cane fields in Cuba.

Weary of taxation and exploitation, the Mayas fought an 1847-1901 rebellion against Mexican settlers and the government known as "the War of the Castes". The rebellion was put down brutally by government troops.

López Obrador said he plans to offer a similar apology to the Yaqui Indigenous group of the northern state of Sonora.

Perhaps best known abroad for the mystical and visionary powers ascribed to them by writer Carlos Castaneda, the Yaquis stubbornly fought the Mexican government's brutal campaign to eliminate the tribe in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

But they were largely defeated by 1900, and Díaz began moving them off their fertile farmland to less valuable territory or to virtual enslavement on haciendas as far away as the far eastern state of Yucatan. **MDT/AP**

BELT & ROAD

China-built Colombo Port City commission needs public assent: Court

SRI Lanka's top court has decided that some provisions of legislation to set up a powerful economic commission in a Chinese-built port city violate the constitution and require approval by a public referendum to become law.

At the center of the dispute are fears that the \$1.4 billion port city, part of China's sweeping Belt and Road infrastructure initiative, could become a virtual Chinese outpost or colony.

The government is looking to the project as a lifeline for an economy hard stricken by the pandemic.

Parliament Speaker

Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena read out the Supreme Court's ruling on the Colombo Port City Economic Commission Bill yesterday. The court said the bill could undermine the exclusive lawmaking powers of Parliament by empowering the proposed five-to-seven member commission, appointed by the president, to set and enforce rules within the port city.

That provision, and proposed heavy fines and long prison terms for those found breaching those rules, will require a two-thirds approval in the 225-seat Parliament and public approval through a referen-

dum, the court said.

It pointed to other problems, such as sections exempting companies operating within the port city, which is due to be a special economic zone, from various laws on the grounds the businesses are strategically important.

Such laws include those related to taxes, customs, betting and gaming levies, employee terminations, entertainment taxes, foreign exchange and casino business laws.

Some other provisions don't require a referendum but do need approval by a two-thirds majority in Parliament, the court said. The

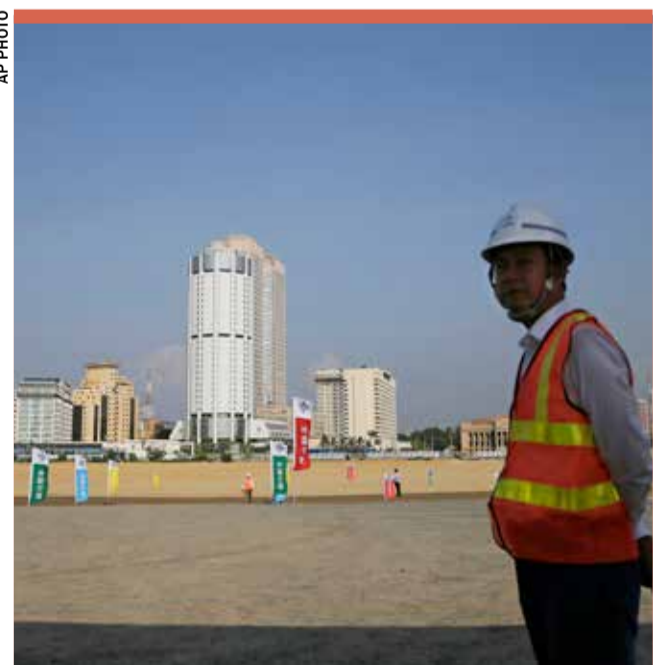
government can amend the bill to conform with that and submit it for debate on Wednesday, with a vote expected on Thursday.

Approval is likely since the government has mustered the two-thirds majority to gain approval of constitutional amendments in the past.

Opposition parties say they want the port city project to succeed but fear Sri Lanka would lose control of the territory.

CHEC Port City Colombo, a unit of China Communications Construction Company (CCCC), invested \$1.4 billion for reclamation of land and construction of

AP PHOTO



infrastructure adjacent to the Port of Colombo. In return it obtained the right to use 62 hectares of marketable land on a 99-year lease from the Sri Lankan government, according to the project's website.

The project includes an

integrated resort, or casino and conference center zone, a marina, residential developments, a financial zone and green space.

China has provided billions of dollars in loans for Sri Lankan projects over the past decade. **MDT/AP**



The Bastion anti-ship missile systems take positions on the Alexandra Land island near Nagurskoye

RUSSIA

Northernmost base projects its power across Arctic

KOSTYA MANENKOV,
NAGURSKOYE

DURING the Cold War, Russia's Nagurskoye airbase was little more than a runway, a weather station and a communications outpost in the Franz Josef Land archipelago.

It was a remote and desolate home mostly for polar bears, where temperatures plunge in winter to minus-42 Celsius and the snow only disappears from August to mid-September.

Now, Russia's northernmost military base is bristling with missiles and radar and its extended runway can handle all types of aircraft, including nuclear-capable strategic bombers, projecting Moscow's power and influence across the Arctic amid intensifying international competition for the region's vast resources.

The shamrock-shaped facility — three large pods extending from a central atrium — is called the "Arctic Trefoil" and is painted in the white-red-and-blue of the national flag, brightening the otherwise stark vantage point on the 5,600-kilometer Northern Sea Route along Russia's Arctic coast. Other buildings on the Island, which is called Alexandra Land, are used for radar and communications, a weather station, oil storage, hangars and

construction facilities.

Russia has sought to assert its influence over wide areas of the Arctic in competition with the United States, Canada, Denmark and Norway as shrinking polar ice from the warming planet offers new opportunities for resources and shipping routes. China also has shown an increasing interest in the region, believed to hold up to one-fourth of the Earth's undiscovered oil and gas.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has cited estimates that put the value of Arctic mineral riches at \$30 trillion.

Tensions between Russia and the West will likely loom large over today's meeting of the Arctic nations' foreign ministers in Reykjavik, Iceland, where Moscow is set to take a rotating chairmanship in the Arctic Council.

The base, which sits about 1,000 kilometers south of the geographic North Pole, was built using new construction technologies as part of Kremlin efforts to bolster the military amid spiraling tensions with the West following Russia's 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula.

The following year, Russia submitted a revised bid for vast territories in the Arctic to the United Nations, claiming 1.2 million square kilometers of Arctic sea shelf, extending more than 350 nautical miles from shore.

While the U.N. pondered that claim and those from other nations, Russia has said it sees the Northern Sea Route as its "historically developed national transport corridor," requiring authorization from Moscow for foreign vessels to navigate along it. The U.S. has dismissed Russia's claims of jurisdiction on parts of the route as illegitimate.

Moscow has declared its intention to introduce procedures for foreign ships and assign Russian pilots for guidance along the route, which runs from Norway to Alaska.

As part of that effort, Russia has rebuilt and expanded facilities across the polar region, deploying surveillance and defensive assets. A base in the similar trefoil shape and patriotic colors to the one in Nagurskoye is on Kotelnny Island, between the Laptev Sea and the East Siberian Sea on eastern end of the shipping route, also with missiles and radar.

Adm. Alexander Moiseyev, chief of Russia's Northern Fleet, said last week that Moscow has the right to set navigation rules along the shipping lane.

"Practically the entire Northern Sea Route goes through Russia's territorial waters or the country's economic zone," Moiseyev told reporters aboard the Peter the Great missile cruiser. "The complex ice conditions

make it necessary to organize safe shipping, so Russia insists on a special regime of its use."

NATO is increasingly worried about the growing Russian military footprint in the Arctic, and Washington sent B-1 bombers to Norway this year.

"Increased Russian presence, more Russian bases in the High North, has also triggered the need for more NATO presence, and we have increased our presence there with more naval capabilities, presence in the air, and not least, the importance of protecting transatlantic undersea cables transmitting a lot of data," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said.

Moiseyev fretted about the U.S. military assets in Norway, saying it has led to an "increase of the conflict potential in the Arctic."

The Russian Foreign Ministry last week fumed at a U.S. nuclear submarine calling at a Norwegian port, saying it reflected what it described as "Oslo's course for the militarization of the Arctic."

On the sidelines of this week's Arctic Council meeting, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is set to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken -- an encounter intended to lay the groundwork for Putin's meeting with U.S. President Joe Biden planned for next month.

Blinken has pointed out that with the Arctic warming at twice the rate of the rest of the global average, Russia has moved to increase its presence in the region.

"Russia is exploiting this change to try to exert control over new spaces," he said last month. "It is modernizing its bases in the Arctic and building new ones."

Since Putin visited the Nagurskoye base in 2017, it has been strengthened and expanded. It now houses a dedicated tactical group that operates electronic surveillance, air defense assets and a battery of Bastion anti-ship missile systems.

A runway has been extended to accommodate all types of aircraft, including Tu-95 nuclear-capable strategic bombers, said Maj.-Gen. Igor Churkin, who oversees air force operations at the base.

"The modernization of Arctic airfields significantly increases the potential of the Northern Fleet's aviation to control the airspace in the area of the Northern Sea Route and allows to ensure its security," he said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

2004 ANGRY DADS HIT BLAIR WITH PURPLE FLOUR



Protesters have hurled condoms full of purple flour at British Prime Minister Tony Blair as he addressed MPs in the House of Commons, prompting an urgent review of security.

The PM was speaking at the despatch box during his weekly question and answer session soon after midday when father-of-two Ron Davies threw two missiles from the front of the public gallery normally reserved for VIPs.

A second man, Guy Harrison, shouted and held up a poster, before police rushed in and arrested the men.

As one missile hit the PM's back and another landed at his feet, Mr Blair turned around and looked bemused.

The Speaker, Michael Martin, ordered all MPs to leave the chamber while the powder was examined and found to be safe.

Campaign group Fathers 4 Justice said they had orchestrated the incident to demand equal rights for divorced fathers trying to gain access to their children.

The attack has led to calls for improved security at Westminster.

Only last month a £600,000 security screen was installed in front of the public gallery to prevent such an incident.

But the front three rows - normally reserved for ambassadors and guests of MPs and peers - are not protected.

In a later statement to the House of Lords, Labour peer Baroness Golding said the two protesters were guests of hers and she offered "unreserved apologies" to the Speaker, MPs and fellow peers.

It is believed the two men got tickets to the VIP section of the gallery at a charity auction.

Mr Blair's spokesman said the prime minister wanted to know when he could return to finish question time - but the Speaker vetoed the move.

Commons business recommenced at 1330 BST.

Home Secretary David Blunkett said a security review had already been launched at Westminster after recent breaches at Buckingham Palace.

The security services will bring forward recommendations "very quickly indeed", but it could mean there will be more restrictions on access to Parliament, he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ron Davis and Guy Harrison were both convicted of disorderly behaviour and fined £500 and £600 respectively. A cross-party group of MPs condemned the media coverage of the flour bomb attack saying it had "rewarded" Fathers 4 Justice for their actions.

Fathers 4 Justice continued to organise various stunts climbing onto well-known landmarks, such as York Minster, Buckingham Palace and St Paul's cathedral, dressed as superheroes to highlight their cause. Their membership increased by thousands and branches were opened in other parts of the world.

A security review of the House of Commons led by MI5 did not prevent further intrusions into Parliament. In September 2004, five protesters broke into the Commons chamber to demonstrate against the ban on fox-hunting.

In January 2006, Fathers 4 Justice disbanded following reports linking the group to a plan to kidnap Tony Blair's five-year-old son Leo. It re-formed following a protest stunt on the BBC's National Lottery Show in May 2006.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Today's first quarter moon in expressive Leo highlights the current adjustments needing to be made between the awareness of your talent and your ability to give that talent physical form.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

In order to get where you want to be, adjustments must be taken. Today's first quarter moon in heart-healing Leo points to changes needing to be made concerning your current home and family dynamics.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

On the other, it offers powerful inspiration, rose-colored glasses, and the need to escape the norm. Let yourself drift rather than demand clear forward movement.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Today's first quarter moon in show-stopping Leo highlights the current divide between your ambitions and the raw material you're working with to get there.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Today's first quarter moon arrives in your sign, highlighting the inner, individual-based changes needing to be made that stand between you and your dreams.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You have what it takes to make it happen, but you need to let go of some self-sabotaging behaviors in order to get there. Today's first quarter moon in heart-healing Leo centers around this delicate narrative.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

This time of year always puts your relationship energy to the test, Libra. Single or taken, you're asked to face some of your biggest fears around building honest bonds.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Today's first quarter moon in expressive Leo highlights the current divide between your partnership energy and the demands of your personal ambitions.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Today's first quarter moon in playful Leo highlights the current changes needing to be made between your day job and your dream job. Meanwhile, bond-building Venus aligns with stabilizing Saturn.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

This time of year is all about returning to what brings you joy, Capricorn. In that process, you've also found new ways to reconnect with your sex life and need for romance.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

The beauty-seeking Libra moon compels you to shake things up and find a way to bring excitement into your day to day. Getting out of the norm can do you good.

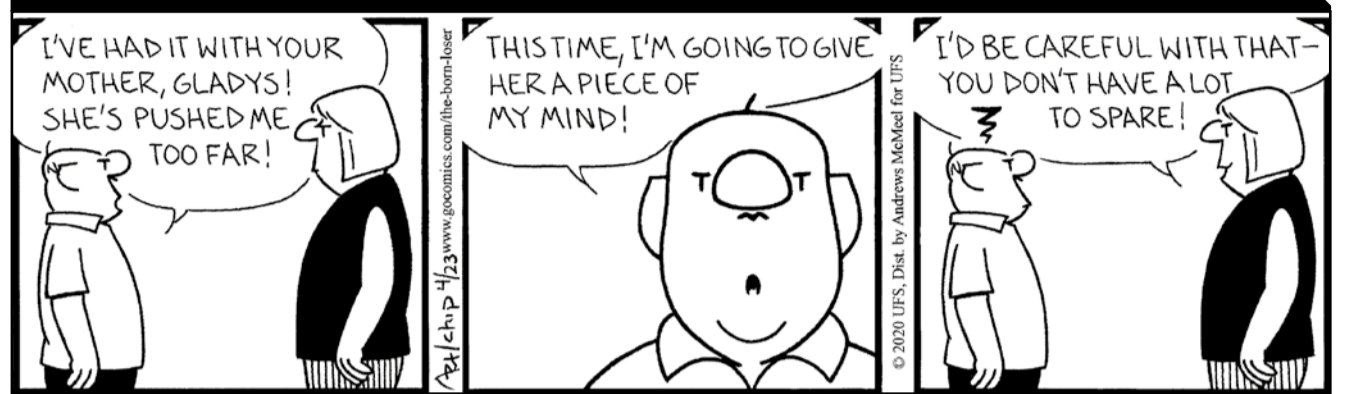


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Today's first quarter moon in fiery Leo highlights the adjustments needing to be made between your mental world and your working world. How can you continue to advocate for yourself?

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

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			9		5			
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MEDIUM

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HARD

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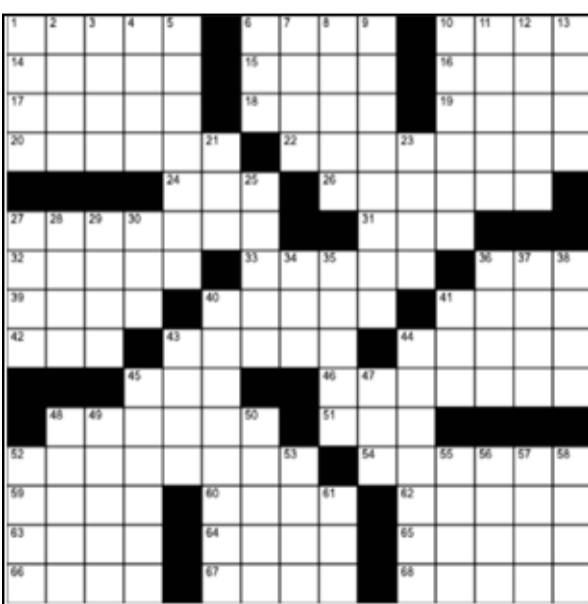
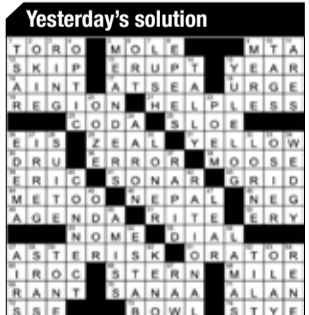
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	19	32	cloudy
Harbin	17	30	clear
Tianjin	16	18	rain
Urumqi	17	25	overcast
Xi'an	20	28	cloudy
Lhasa	16	26	clear
Chengdu	23	30	rain
Chongqing	26	33	cloudy
Kunming	18	26	rain
Nanjing	15	19	showers
Shanghai	18	21	rain
Wuhan	15	25	cloudy
Hangzhou	15	21	rain
Taipei	10	22	rain
Guangzhou	18	27	cloudy
Hong Kong	27	37	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	16	25	rain
Frankfurt	7	17	rain
Paris	7	14	rain
London	6	16	rain
New York	17	30	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Fine fiddle; 6- Wheel parts; 10- Blueprint detail, for short; 14- Devoutness; 15- Unwritten; 16- Submarine; 17- Negatively charged particle; 18- Voodoo amulet; 19- Some nest eggs; 20- Highway divider; 22- Long story writer; 24- Brit's raincoat; 26- Fix, as a shoe; 27- Money handler; 31- ___ degree; 32- Pertaining to the eye; 33- Functional; 36- Silent bid; 39- Take note of; 40- In a fresh manner; 41- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 42- Meal crumb; 43- From head ___; 44- Tie; 45- Airline to Oslo; 46- Reclusive; 48- Imperfections; 51- Friend of Fidel; 52- Three-headed dog of Greek myth; 54- Plant swellings; 59- Mars' Greek counterpart; 60- Aviation pioneer Sikorsky; 62- ___ Mio; 63- Hamlet, e.g.; 64- Put aboard; 65- Strong Australian horse; 66- Blind part; 67- Ladies of Sp.; 68- Family tree member;

DOWN: 1- Junk e-mail; 2- Fork feature; 3- Nevada senator Harry; 4- Yours, in Tours; 5- Energetic; 6- CD-___; 7- Tiger's choice; 8- Captain's superior; 9- Untidy; 10- Civil War battle site; 11- Jeopardy; 12- Rub out or remove from memory; 13- Damage, so to speak; 21- Dundee denial; 23- Ferrara family; 25- Container for oil or vinegar; 27- Silver salmon; 28- Copycat; 29- Editorial notation; 30- Secreted; 34- Snake eyes; 35- Pertaining to the small intestine; 36- Words of denial; 37- Killer whale; 38- James and the Giant Peach author; 40- Nares; 41- Mannerism; 43- Story, often rooted in folklore; 44- Dancing party; 45- Group that is part of a larger group; 47- Female pronoun; 48- Untamed; 49- Sports area; 50- Sucrose; 52- Scoundrels; 53- Fizzy drink; 55- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 56- Yard tunneler; 57- One of the Baldwins; 58- Withered; 61- ___ judicata;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Taipa 3 bedroom apartment
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AD

The Art of Giving

Lurdes de Sousa *



IT'S JUST A DIVORCE

MELINDA and Bill Gates, two of the world's most powerful philanthropist couples who have reshaped philanthropy over two decades, recently announced that they were ending their relationship.

It would be just another billionaire divorce had the couple not been the founders of one of the most powerful philanthropist foundations, with an endowment of some \$50 billion, and active in such different fields as global health and early-childhood education, empowerment of women and the fight against malaria. Together with their longtime friend, billionaire Warren Buffet, the couple (who are credited with a \$130 billion fortune) have been at the forefront of new philanthropist trends and initiatives such as the "Giving Pledge": a campaign encouraging wealthy people to give away the majority of their fortune.

In a statement announcing the split, the couple went on to say that they had "built a foundation that works all over the world to enable all people to lead healthy, productive lives" and that they "continue to share a belief in that mission," but they "no longer believe [they] can grow together as a couple in this next phase of [their] lives."

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is credited as the most important and influential philanthropic entity in the world today, and beyond all the fuss and buzz around why the couple are divorcing after a 27-year marriage and three children, it is important to understand what it will mean for the world of philanthropy and the future of their foundation. With 1,600 staff members in offices around the world, the Gates Foundation gives away roughly \$5 billion each year.

Why is Bill and Melinda Gates' divorce creating such global anxiety? Bill and Melinda Gates' divorce could be an earthquake for philanthropy or simply a drama-free divorce, time will tell. However, the issue this high-profile divorce raises, for all of us and ultimately for the causes the couple support, is what Stanford University professor Rob Reich identified: "If philanthropy is the direction of private assets toward some public influence, then this private decision has huge public ripple effects." In other words, it is an indication that a single foundation has too much impact because, ultimately, it is too powerful and plays a disproportionate role in society. It brings us to the equation of Philanthropy versus Democracy and how the wealthy (and their foundations) influence public policy without any real accountability.

It is well-known that the couple have had differences in the past concerning the foundation's strategies. Melinda Gates, an advocate for the empowerment of women, may well be a driving philanthropic force on her own in the years to come. Ultimately, what creates public value in society is more about the kind of person you are than societal conditions. To act for the common good always starts with one's own inspiration. For now, it's just a divorce.

*President, Associação Internacional de Filantropia (Macau)
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Macau Daily Times is the official media partner of the Associação Internacional de Filantropia (Macau).

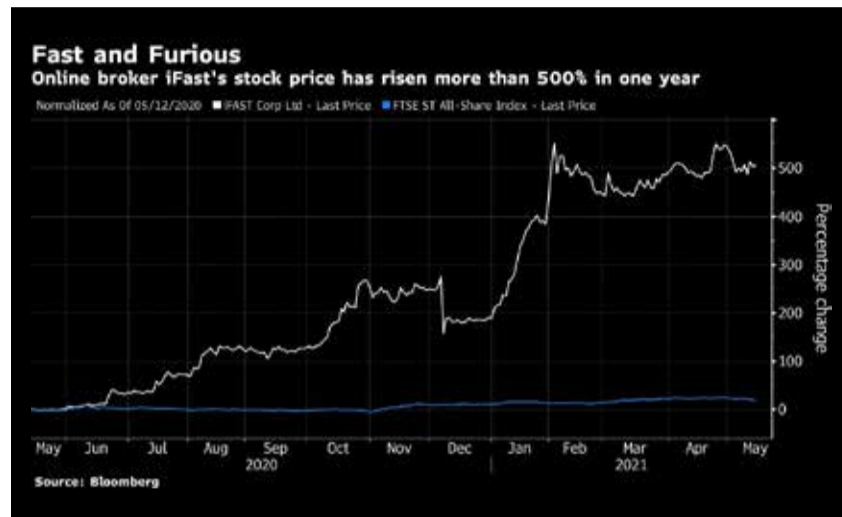
SINGAPORE BROKER UP 552% IN A YEAR, EYES CHINA FOR MORE GAINS

IFAST Corp., an online brokerage that's been Singapore's best-performing stock over the past year, is betting on China and a retail-trading frenzy to help it grow assets by more than fivefold by 2028.

Although the firm's Chinese operations are loss-making, Chief Executive Officer Lim Chung Chun said the nation is poised to become the wealth-management platform's fastest-growing market and is key to the group's goal of reaching S\$100 billion (\$75 billion) of assets under administration by 2028. Investors have bought into that vision, with iFast shares soaring more than 550% in the past 12 months - beating all members of the FTSE ST All-Share Index.

"The potential of the China market is immense, and the kind of losses we are generating today are a very manageable amount considering the size of the market," Lim said in an interview. iFast's shares rose 5.5% yesterday.

Singapore-based iFast has benefited from a surge in retail trading by stuck-at-home investors trying their hands at equities, which helped the firm more than double net income last year. But to achieve the S\$100-billion goal, first stated in 2018, assets will need to expand at a compounded annual rate of 27% through 2028, Lim said. That compares with an annualized rate of 34% the past two years.



"The group continues to be in investment mode which it expects will help reap benefits at a later stage," Krishna Guha, an analyst at Jefferies Financial Group LLC, wrote in a note last month, referring to iFast's China business.

iFast has good "growth momentum" in China, Lim said, though it reported S\$4.9 million in losses in that market last year. The CEO said there is "no timeline for breaking even."

iFast, which counts Singapore as its biggest market, initiated private-fund management in China this past February. The broker relies on other businesses including financial advisers and internet firms to sell its funds in the large Chinese market, Lim said, adding that about 80 such companies are being used to make those connections.

The broker remains focused on expansion. In addition to being registered as a private-fund manager in China, iFast also won a contract for Hong Kong's pension fund platform and started stockbroking activities in Malaysia over the past year. It's also applying as part of a consortium for a digital-banking license in Malaysia - though the firm lost out on getting one in Singapore last year.

Even after the market-leading rally the past year, iFast shares are poised for further gains, according to analysts who cover the stock. All five of them have a buy rating and their consensus price target implies a gain of about 23% more over the next 12 months, compared with an estimated 13% rise in the broader FTSE gauge, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

Elon Musk loses world's second-richest ranking as Tesla dips

ELON Musk's Twitter Eposts keep sending Bitcoin prices tumbling. His own fortune is heading in the same direction.

On Monday, Tesla Inc.'s chief executive officer lost his spot as the world's second-richest person to LVMH Chairman Bernard Arnault as the electric vehicle-maker's shares fell 2.2%. That was on top of last week's slump amid a rout in technology stocks and fresh signs of trouble in its China business.

Musk, who held the top spot in the Bloomberg Billionaires Index as March, now has a fortune of \$160.6 billion, down 24% from its January high.



The drop follows a turbulent period for Musk, who sent Bitcoin tumbling as much as 15% last week after posting a statement on Twitter that Tesla was no longer accepting the digital currency as

payment. He also whipped sawed Dogecoin prices after tweeting he's working with developers of the Shiba Inu-themed token to improve transaction efficiencies.

Over the weekend,

Musk wreaked havoc again when he seemed to imply that Tesla may sell or has sold its Bitcoin holdings before later clarifying in a tweet that the company had done no such thing.

Musk, 49, became the world's richest person in January after Tesla's shares surged almost 750% last year amid a boom in technology-driven stocks. Despite reporting record first-quarter profit, the Palo Alto, California-based company's shares have since fallen by about a fifth amid a global semiconductor shortage and increasing competition from traditional automakers. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

RUGBY

Medical career beckons for Japan star player Kenki Fukuoka

STEVE MCMORRAN

THE final of Japan's Top League club competition on Sunday will mark the end of one of world rugby's most distinguished and influential recent playing careers.

Japan winger Kenki Fukuoka will retire after the final between his Panasonic Wild Knights and Suntory Sungoliath, ending his playing career at its zenith to pursue a career as a doctor.

Fukuoka retired from international 15-a-side rugby after the 2019 World Cup in Japan and hoped to end his career by representing his country in sevens at the Tokyo Olympics. But the postponement of the Tokyo Games last year made that impossible.

In March, he announced he'd passed the entrance exam for the Juntendo University School of Medicine in Tokyo. He began his studies in April, forcing his withdrawal from the Japan rugby sevens program.

Instead, Fukuoka decided to

AP PHOTO



play to the end of the Top League season before calling time on his playing career aged only 28. As if to demonstrate what Japan and world rugby is losing, Fukuoka scored three tries in the Wild Knights' 48-21 semifinal win over Toyota Verblitz last weekend.

Fukuoka is a superstar of Japanese rugby, one of the main

catalysts for its recent growth in profile and popularity. The Top League now attracts some of the world's best players, not any longer at the end of their careers, and Fukuoka bears favorable comparison with any of those global stars.

He is by nature quiet, thoughtful and self-effacing. But his in-

fluence on Japanese rugby hardly can be overstated. He scored four tries in Japan's historic drive to the World Cup quarterfinals in 2019, including two against Scotland and another against world heavyweight Ireland.

Fukuoka would have been a star in any national team with his blazing pace and balanced

running. He owns a greater place in the hearts of rugby fans for his humility and perpetual smile.

Making the decision to end his rugby career at a relatively young age and to give up his goal of playing at a home Olympics would have been a difficult one for any player. Fukuoka took the decision with quiet resignation.

"Life is a journey," Fukuoka told The Associated Press. "I have had setbacks and changes from the dreams and goals I first set myself.

"Still, I think I am the person I am today from making choices that I do not regret with continuous effort to give it all out into the things in front of me. I have no regrets about my own choices. I am very proud of it."

Medicine is a natural choice for Fukuoka. His father is a dentist and his grandfather is a doctor.

"I always had the idea that I wanted to become a doctor," he said. "My grandfather was a doctor and that gave me the insight to become a doctor."

Fukuoka regards the World Cup in Japan as the highlight of his career and the match against Scotland in which Japan qualified for the quarterfinals as the individual high point.

"We had built up to that moment for a long time so there was a lot of pressure," Fukuoka said. "The whole world was watching."

MDT/AP

AD



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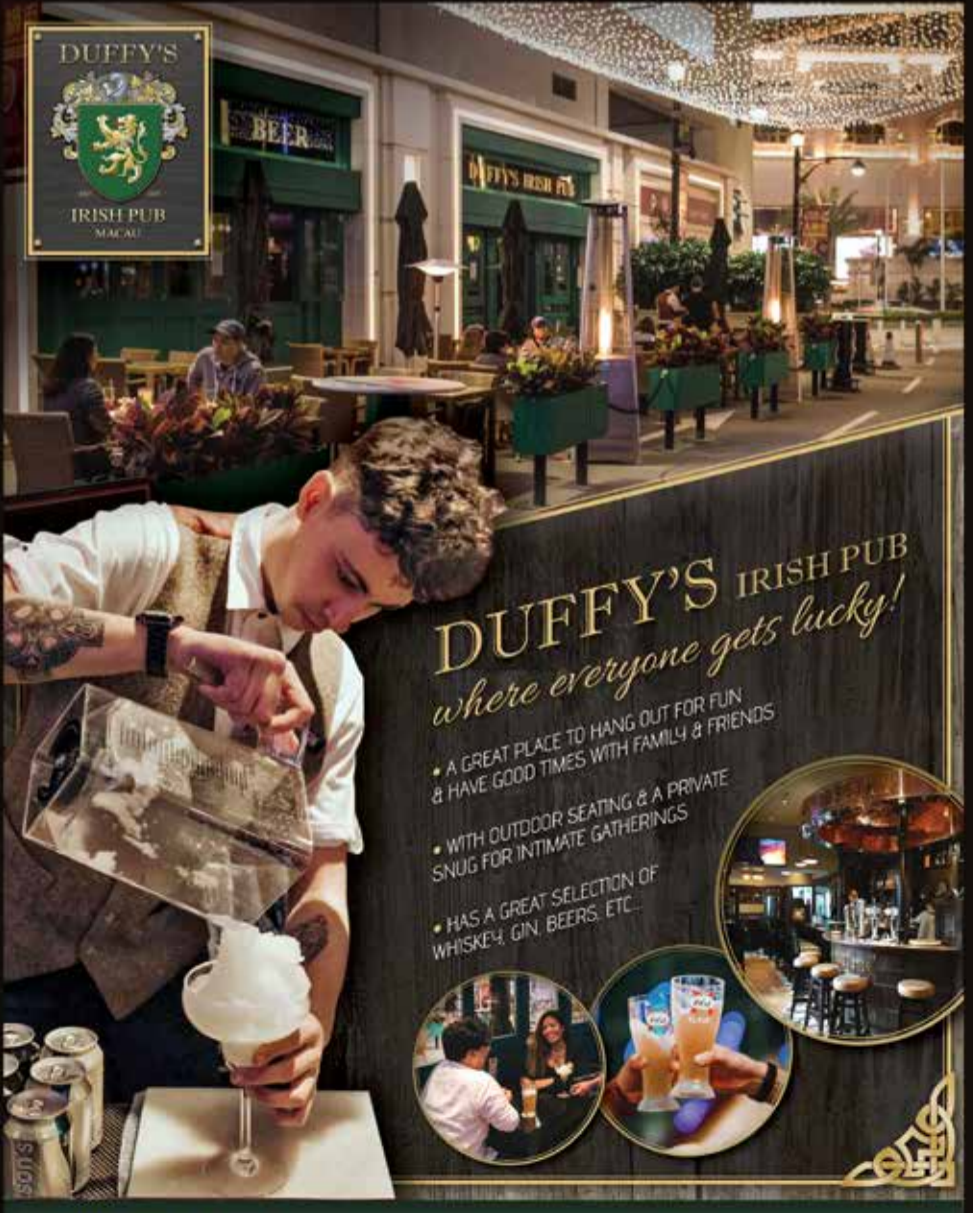
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OPINION

Animal Farm

Albano Martins, MDT



PRAGMATISM

1. **Macau** will have to increase its efforts, and China must show greater openness, in order to reach 130 billion per year in gambling revenue in 2021, as predicted by the Government; something like 118.4 percent more than what was collected last year; something like a 40 percent increase on the December 2020 figure, to be replicated every month.

For this goal to be achieved, it would be necessary, on average, to reach gaming revenue of 10,833 million patacas a month!

This is the first time, as I recall, and I have been around for 40 years, the Macao Government is not being conservative in its predictions.

As a rule, a golden rule is followed when budgeting to avoid embarrassing deficits later.

The rule is to underestimate revenues and overestimate expenses, but without exaggeration.

Exaggeration was normal practice in Macau, especially after the transition, where come August, revenues collected would already exceed those expected to be collected by the Administration for the entire period under management.

Let's recap the whole script unfold to April.

In January, revenue was only 8,024 million patacas.

In February, it stood at just 7,312 million patacas, once more below the crucial level of 10,833 million patacas.

In March, the figure was 8,303 million patacas!

In April, it was again below the threshold with 8,401 million patacas.

The mission has thus become much more difficult, though not impossible.

Everything depends on The Motherland.

Starting from May, gaming will need to produce 12,245 million patacas per month to reach the goal of 130 billion by the end of the year.

Is this possible?

Sure, but not as easily as it was in the past, especially after the new gambling regulations imposed by China regarding VIP gambling.

I believe that the Government had privileged information, or else it was led by Morgan Stanley's forecasts, but fortunately it was much more restrained than the analyst.

Morgan Stanley reduced their initial forecast for 2021 by 10 percent, then fixed it at something like 184.9 billion patacas, or 206 percent more than 2020!

But by the end of April the cumulative growth in gaming revenue in Macau had been only 2.56 percent!

Not everything is black and white. The storm does not subside. The waves are large and there is no prospect of a safe haven.

Many people merely wait for a turnaround in gaming fortunes, without which the local economy will see no recovery, knowing that diversification is just a pipe dream and maybe there are no legs beyond the gaming industry.

Those who decide on these great policies are unreachable: they live way beyond reach at the top of the mountain.

And it has been proven that not one millimeter will be shifted to please any "second system".

2. Deflation has already knocked at the door and entered, but few people want to recognize it.

It was recorded in March and is likely to continue for a few more months.

For those who do not believe it, the question remains, black and white, how much would the CPI (Consumer Price Index) have to grow so that in April we will not record deflation?

Well, you see, in absolute terms the CPI (General) would have to grow something like 4.1 points for inflation to be only 0.01%!

The possibility of this is miniscule.

Suffice to say that the biggest growth in CPI, above an absolute point, happened only in February 2016 and February 2018, alongside Chinese New Year!

The CPI grew by mere 1.03 and 1.04 absolute points in those two months!

Now, we are asking for something like 4.1 points of increase in absolute terms so that April does not continue in deflation.

My prediction is that we will have deflation again in April, probably somewhere between -0.32% and -0.35%, maybe -0.34%!

Anyway, -0.3% it will be, if one should use the hackneyed shortcut used by many people.

President Joe Biden expressed support for a cease-fire between Israel and Gaza's militant Hamas rulers in a call to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but he stopped short of demanding an immediate stop to the eight days of Israeli airstrikes and Hamas rocket barrages that have killed more than 200 people, most of them Palestinian.

Biden's carefully worded statement, in a White House readout yesterday [Macau time] of his second known call to Netanyahu in three

days as the attacks pounded on, came with the administration under pressure to respond more forcefully despite its determination to wrench the U.S. foreign policy focus away from Middle East conflicts.

Biden's comments on a cease-fire were open-ended and were similar to previous administration statements of support in principle for a cease-fire.

That's in contrast to demands from dozens of Democratic lawmakers and others for an immediate halt by both sides.

AP PHOTO



ENERGY AGENCY: END NEW FOSSIL FUEL SUPPLY INVESTMENTS

FRANK JORDANS, BERLIN

A report by the International Energy Agency says immediate action is needed to reshape the world's energy sector in order to meet ambitious climate goals by 2050, including ending investments in new coal mines, oil and gas wells.

The Paris-based agency said in a report released Tuesday that it has determined there is a narrow but viable pathway for building a global energy sector with net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Several countries, including the United States and the European Union, have pledged to achieve net zero emissions — meaning only as much planet-warming gas is released into the atmosphere as can be absorbed — by mid-century.

The IEA report sets out 400 steps needed to transform how energy is produced, transported and used. These include no investment in new fossil fuel supply projects, an end to the sale of new internal combustion engine passenger cars by 2035 and a four-fold increase in the deployment of solar and wind power by 2030 compared to last year's record level.

The IEA's executive director, Fatih Birol, said the transformation would create millions of new jobs and boost economic growth

worldwide.

But he warned that while countries and companies have begun to set bold targets targets for cutting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases in the coming decades, actual emissions continue to rise substantially. The IEA said last month that 2021 will see the second-largest annual increase in emissions since 2010 as the world economy bounces back from the pandemic.

“There is a growing gap between the rhetoric we hear from govt’s and industry leaders, and what it happening in real life.”

FATIH BIROL
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY

“There is a growing gap between the rhetoric we hear from governments and industry leaders, and what it happening in real life,” Birol said.

The agency, whose 30 members are mostly in North America, Europe and East Asia, said the power sector needs to lead the way, with electricity generation achieving net zero by 2035 in advanced economies and worldwide five years later.

“Beyond projects already committed as of 2021, there are no new oil and gas fields approved for development in our pathway, and no new coal mines or mine extensions are required,” it said.

Dave Jones, an analyst at the energy think tank Ember, said the report's recommendation mark a turnaround from the IEA's past position and were “truly a knife into the fossil fuel industry.”

Large developing countries such as China, India and South Africa will require help to achieve the report's suggestion of closing down the most polluting coal-fired power plants by 2030.

Laura Cozzi, one of the IEA report's main authors, said that in addition to a huge increase in renewable power sources and electric car sales, energy efficiency must be increased significantly over the next decade.

Power grids and EV charging networks should also be expanded to cope with the shift from fossil fuels to electricity, she said.

Her co-author, Timur Gul, said that while the technologies exist to decarbonize the energy sector, they aren't yet available for sectors such as aviation or heavy industry.

“We need to bring them into the market,” said Gul, adding that such future technologies may need to include effective and scalable ways of capturing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. **MDT/AP**

Pakistani police said yesterday they foiled an attempt by a mob to lynch a blasphemy suspect recently arrested on charges of insulting Islam. The mob stormed the Golra police station on the outskirts of Islamabad, after police refused to hand over the suspect to the crowd outside for punishment, local police chief Asim Ghaffar said.

Kosovo police seized a record 400 kilograms of cocaine that originated in Brazil, and arrested seven people suspected of drug trafficking offenses, authorities said. In a joint operation with Albanian and Italian police, officers raided a truck transporting imported meat from Brazil that had passed previously through Italian and Albanian ports, a Kosovo police statement said.

EU foreign ministers are meeting to discuss how to use the 27-nation bloc's political clout to help diplomatic efforts to end the fighting between the Israeli armed forces and Palestinian militants. The EU has been united in its calls for a cease-fire and the need for a political solution to end the latest conflict, but the nations are divided over how best to help.

AP PHOTO



Spain deployed its military to the Moroccan border yesterday after thousands of Moroccans took advantage of their government's relaxed border controls to swim or paddle in inflatable boats onto European soil. Live footage on Spain's public broadcaster TVE showed dramatic scenes of soldiers carrying children in their arms and Red Cross personnel helping migrants who were emerging from the water exhausted and cold. One unconscious woman laid on the sand before she was carried away on a stretcher.

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Friday May 21. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.