



**LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITIES HAVE STOPPED REPORTING LIGHT ADVERSE EVENTS FOLLOWING IMMUNIZATION AND WILL ONLY REPORT SEVERE INCIDENTS FROM NOW ON** P3

**SUSPECT LINKED TO BODY PARTS FOUND IN TAIPA GRANDE APPREHENDED** P2

**SECRETARY LEI SAID THE GOVERNMENT IS STRIVING FOR FREE CROSS-BORDER MONEY FLOW AND INVESTMENT FACILITATION POLICIES** P5

AP PHOTO



**Philippines** A fire and a powerful blast ripped through a small cargo ship docked to refuel in the Philippine capital of Manila, injuring at least six people and igniting a blaze in a nearby riverside slum that gutted dozens of shanties, officials said. It was not immediately clear what triggered the fire, which raged for about seven hours aboard the MV Titan 8 and forced its crew to jump in panic into the Pasig River.

AP PHOTO



**Thailand** Some restrictions to protect against the spread of Covid-19 will be lifted in the Thai capital of Bangkok beginning early next week, the country's prime minister announced yesterday. Enterprises allowed to reopen today are museums and historical sites, parks and botanical gardens, beauty parlors, nail salons, massage parlors and tattoo parlors.

AP PHOTO



**India** A heated gunbattle between militants and Indian police broke out yesterday in the disputed region of Kashmir, killing at least two police and two civilians, officials said. Anti-India protests later erupted during the civilians' funerals in Sopore, the northwestern town where the fighting took place, after local residents alleged police had shot and killed one of the civilians after the militants fled the scene.

More on backpage

# CHANGING LANES

**Directly-elected lawmakers Ho Ion Sang and Angela Leong are speculated to be indirectly-elected in the upcoming Legislative Assembly elections - with the 12 seats in the functional constituency already decided** P5

RENATO MARQUES



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**DRAGON BOAT 2021  
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# FIRST DAY OF DRAGON BOAT RACES AFFECTED BY THUNDERSTORM, HEAVY RAIN

**F**OLLOWING a relatively calm morning yesterday, the first race day of this year's Macao International Dragon Boat Races saw an unsettled afternoon with thunderstorm warning and heavy rainfall.

The changing weather left the races suspended for about an hour, due to safety reasons, before it could resume at about 3:15 p.m.

The first race day focused on small-boat 200-meter races. It saw University, Public Entity, Women and Open categories.

University of Macau - A was crowned in the University Category, with a time of 0'53.867. Following the champion were Macau University of Science and Technology - A and Macau Polytechnic Institute.

In the public entity category, the Fire Services

Bureau won the race with an astonishing time of 0'50.091. The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) and the Public Security Police Force followed behind.

It is worth mentioning that the DSAMA director, Susana Wong Soi Man, competed in the runner-up team. Another team of the bureau unfortunately got its boat capsized near the finish line in the semi-final race.

The Macau Youth Development Association topped the Women's Category with a time of 0'56.912, with MGM-A and Baía do Mar Canoeing Club - Friendship as runners-up.

The Fire Services Bureau also topped the Open Category with an even better time of 0'47.561 - two seconds faster than first runner-up CTS - with SJM Jubilee - B at third place. **AL**



## CRIME

# Suspect linked to body parts found in Taipa Grande apprehended in Zhongshan

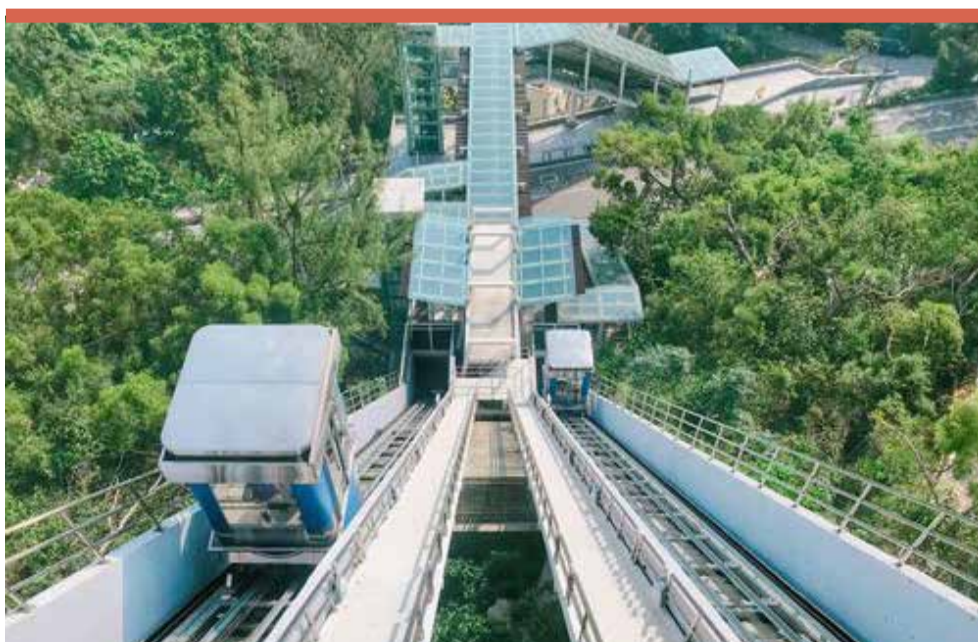
ANTHONY LAM

**A** man was apprehended early yesterday morning in Zhongshan on suspected link with human body parts found in Taipa Grande on Saturday.

The suspect will be heard in court in mainland China.

Around noon on Saturday, the police and the Fire Service Bureau received reports of human body parts found along the trail in Taipa Grande near the CEM warehouse.

Arriving at the scene, the law-enforcement entities discovered several bags of human body parts wedged under tree trunks. The Judiciary Police (PJ) moved its



investigations towards the direction of homicide.

It immediately locked

down the location and conducted a search of the neighborhood.

The PJ found 10 pieces of human body parts, as well as a backpack with

blood-stained clothes and identification documents. After cross-referencing, the PJ confirmed that the ID documents belonged to the late victim.

Preliminary forensics discovered that the pieces of body parts were a match for one another, and estimated that the victim had been dead for about 12 hours. It supports the PJ's analysis that the suspect has discarded the body parts between Friday night and early Saturday morning.

Further investigation uncovered a suspicious-looking man who took a taxi with a suitcase and alighted in central Taipa. The suitcase looked heavy in surveillance camera footage.

In other footage, he was recorded taking the same suitcase back to the Cotai hotel. The suitcase looked lighter. Several hours after this, the man was recorded disposing the suitcase at a Taipa garbage disposal point.

The PJ found out that on June 11 at 4 p.m., the man had led the victim into a Cotai hotel room that he rented. The victim was never seen leaving the room. At 4:30 p.m., the man left the room, and returned with a suitcase and some knives.

The search in the room found no trace of crime visible to bare eyes but the PJ forensic team found signs of blood through UV fluorescence in the toilet of the room.

Moreover, the PJ believes the man is capable in counter-investigation as he took detours on the route to disposing the body parts.

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COVID-19

# Health authorities change strategy, stop reporting light AEFI

RENATO MARQUES

**F**ROM last weekend, local health authorities have stopped reporting light adverse events following immunization (AEFI), the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center informed in a statement.

According to the same statement, only severe AEFI, including death, will be reported from now on. The authorities noted that cases of light AEFI will only be reported "in case there is an unusual increase."

The change in strategy from the health authorities was said to be in accordance with current practices from around the world regarding the matter.

Health authorities note that, according to the definition of the World Health Organization, adverse events after vaccination include all post-vaccination events with a negative effect on health. These events are time-

ROGER STARNES



-related to the inoculation, but there is not necessarily a cause-effect relationship.

Common AEFI caused by the vaccine include: redness, heat

and pain, allergic reactions, and others. Psychological factors such as anxiety and coinciding events such as other medical conditions — or even errors in

the process of production, storage, and administration of the vaccine — can play an important role which can be difficult to ascertain immediately and

require expert analysis to locate the cause.

The authorities note that, so far, neither of the two vaccines administered in Macau have presented significant safety problems.

They also claim that, as the rate of vaccination grows, more people may need to see a doctor for a wide range of reasons that are unrelated to the vaccine but coincidentally occur soon after inoculation.

Since the start of the vaccination process, there have been, to date, 978 reports of adverse events in Macau, including 975 light and three of a serious kind from around 245,000 doses of the vaccine.

According to several reports internationally, the reportage of light and common AEFI like pain, headaches, nausea, diarrhea, and other common side-effects that result from inoculation with Covid-19 vaccines has been regarded as having a dampening effect on people's willingness to get vaccinated, especially in countries and regions where the vaccination rate is very low.

At this time, local authorities did not disclose if the change of strategy also aims to reduce the effect caused by the fear of AEFIs, aiming to foster trust among residents to ensure they get vaccinated as soon as possible.

COVID-19

## GOV'T MULLING EXTENDING MRNA VACCINATION TO YOUNG CHILDREN

HONEY TSANG

**T**HE government is planning to extend the mRNA vaccination to adolescents aged 12 or above, said Tai Wa Hou last Friday. Tai, who is the coordinator of the Health Bureau's Covid-19 Vaccination Operation, hinted that the option is "feasible."

"The statistics [of mRNA vaccination for children] compiled in different parts of the world proved that it is safe and efficient. We are planning to lower the age for mRNA vaccination to 12," he added.

The Macau government is now studying the feasibility and operation of such a proposal, he stated.

Its counterpart Hong Kong has already allowed children as young as 12 to be booked for mRNA-based BioNTech shots since June 11. The debut inoculation rollout for these age groups commenced on June 14.

However, spordiac reported cases of children, especially boys, suffering from heart inflammation after having mRNA vaccines raised public concerns.

On June 10 the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated that there is a higher-than-expected number of young men (16- to 24-year-olds) who have experienced heart inflammation after their second dose of the mRNA shots manufactured by Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna.

In addition, the Health Ministry of Israel also announced that it found a possible association between heart inflammation in young men and Pfizer shots.

In response to this, Tai said that he is also aware of the adverse events. However, he gave reassurance to the public that there is demonstrably no solid scientific evidence to prove there is

a link between vaccination and heart inflammation.

"Some of these cases are found to be caused by bacterial infection and have nothing to do with the [mRNA] vaccination itself," he stressed.

He also stressed that the symptoms of heart inflammation normally recede and most patients have not developed any ongoing symptoms afterward.

Considering the recently increasing number of residents returning to Macau from foreign countries, the government has designated Sheraton Grand Macao as a quarantine facility starting from today. It will offer up to 2,000 rooms.

In addition, the vaccination quota has been ramped up to 2,000 daily at the Macau Forum since June 12. The respective quotas of Kiang Wu Hospital and University Hospital will also be increased to 550 and 330 daily from June 15.

## RESTAURANT FORCED TO CLOSE AS EMPLOYEE WAS SECOND-LEVEL CLOSE CONTACT

**A** local restaurant has had to suspend its operations when one of its employees became a second-level close contact with a current Covid-19 patient in Guangzhou, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced.

The employee is a non-resident worker from mainland China.

The restaurant is located at No. 61, Avenida do Almirante Lacerda, and is called U Lon Tin Cantonese Restaurant.

The closure was enforced after the local authority were notified by its Zhuhai counterparts yesterday morning.

According to the information given by the Zhuhai authorities, the employee in question took the High-speed Train D2803 from Zhaoqing to Guangzhou with a close contact on June 4.

The employee has been taken for centrali-



zed medical observation by the Health Bureau. Meanwhile, other employees are required to take Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction test and have their Health Code changed to yellow color.

The Health Bureau now asks individuals who have been to the

restaurant on June 12 and 13 to call 2870 0800 to register their details.

A video has gone viral on social media platforms, in which individuals believed to be employees of the restaurant are seen leaving the establishment and boarding a coach. **AL**

# NEW PRISON GUARD CAREER STATUTE IN FORCE BY SEPTEMBER 15

STAFF REPORTER\*

**T**he new career statute for prison guards in Macau will likely come into force by September this year, the chairman of the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly Vong Hin Fai announced late last week.

According to the chairman, the new law will likely take effect by mid-September as the government has requested a change to the original date for the enforcement of the law.

"We have discussed this matter and we decided that it's best if this law does not enter into force on the first day of the first month after its publication, as it was originally designed. The government requested this change as they still need to prepare some complementary administrative regulations to match the new law — so it was



RENATO MARQUES

decided it that will enter into force on September 15," Vong said. "If approved by mid this month, this means that the government will have three months to [compose] and update the necessary administrative regulations," he explained.

Vong was speaking to the media in a briefing after a committee meeting where the members concluded

the discussion on the details of the new law and issued its final assessment.

Questioned by the media on what topics need further updating through administrative regulation, Vong said they were "mostly about details regarding the training courses, and evaluation performance regime, among others."

According to the com-

mittee, the amendments were intended to improve the system for training and promoting prison guards, to boost staff morale, and to improve the retention of staff by making the career path more attractive, especially for young people.

The restructuring of the statute created three new career levels up to 10 from the current seven, matching it to the Macau Security Force, and adding training courses similar to those that police officers are offered by the Academy of Public Security Forces, the chairman of the committee summarized.

The bill will now be sent to the plenary, which has already scheduled a session to take place on June 16 (Wednesday) when it will be finally voted on.

\*WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING FROM RENATO MARQUES

# FOREIGN GUARDS LEFT OUT IN CAREER PROGRESSION MECHANISM

RENATO MARQUES

**T**he new career statute of the prison guards does not include any mechanism for the progression of foreign prison guards. They will continue to be limited to responsibilities and tasks at the entry-level regardless of their skills and capabilities, the chairman of the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly, Vong Hin Fai confirmed.

"This was one of the topics that raised some discussion during the analysis of the bill. Many committee members wanted to know how [well] the government will do in terms of recruitment, and also in terms of the career[s] of the foreign prison guards," Vong acknowledged.

He further explained that, in terms of career progression, the new statute does not consider any significant changes to recruitment, which will be conducted according to the same procedures for foreign

workers as any other applicant — but without the possibility of attaining positions in higher tiers.

Wong recalled that there are currently 450 residents in prison guard career posts and an additional 155 foreigners that are not eligible for the officials' roles.

"They can only be guards," Vong remarked.

It was also noted that quotas for the foreign workers will tentatively remain at a similar rate, about one-third of the local ones, and the government is able to stipulate the exact number anytime a new tender opens.

The government has been known, for many years, for resorting to the recruitment of foreign laborers for these positions, as there is a lack of interest among residents for this work.

The new career statute for prison guards also aims to increase the number of staff in this job ahead of the expected opening of the new prison facility in Ka H6.

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# Gov't pushes for free cross-border money flow

HONEY TSANG

**S**ECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong pledged in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area (GBA) Finance Forum on June 11 that the Macau SAR government is striving for free cross-border money flow and investment facilitation policies, in order to foster financial cooperation with the mainland partnering regions.

Free capital flow between Macau and the mainland itself provides as a solid financial foundation to assist various industries from both sides to gain ground, Lei said.

To this end, Lei confirmed that the government would continue to liaise with financial ministries of the Central Government to make these measures happen.

He unveiled the government's strategic undertakings last Friday at the GBA Financial Forum held at Wynn Palace.

Lei also outlined a set of national development directions stipu-



lated in China's 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025), including the "dual circulation" development pattern. In this strategy, the domestic economic cycle plays a steering role while the international economic cycle remains an extension and supplement to forge a synergy to propel the nation's economy.

Developing the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation

Zone in Hengqin is another key strategic focus, he added.

"The Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin is a crucial gateway for Macau to integrate into the development of the GBA. President Xi Jinping asked Guangdong Province and Macau to robustly facilitate the construction of cooperation zones, carving out conditions for the de-

velopment of emerging industries and furthering the city's economic diversification," he outlined for the audience.

Yao Jian, deputy director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau Special Administrative Region also spoke at the event.

Yao stated that the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin will offer an extended platform for Macau to integrate more closely into the nation's development.

Macau is now at the transition period of economic recovery. The government will narrow in on developing the health, modern financial, technological and cultural industries to reshape the city's economic structure, Lei said.

The government is also enhancing the city's financial and legal infrastructures so as to speed up, with the help of financial technologies, the development of key markets, such as the bond and wealth management markets. The move is designed to "progressively enrich Macau's financial industry, and provide various financing channels for different emerging industries," he stressed.

This year's GBA Finance Forum was in its second edition. It was organized by the Macau Association of Banks.

## LAWMAKER SUGGESTS ID, MACAU PASS AS SUBSTITUTES FOR HEALTH CODE

Lawmaker Agnes Lam, taking cues from mainland China, suggests that the government allows the use of Macau ID cards or Macau Pass cards to replace the Health Code for individuals who do not have or know how to use smart devices. She cited registration figures for the consumption subsidy to prove that smart devices are not as popular as the government thought – about 56% of locals opted for the physical Macau Pass card even if mobile payment platforms offered extra benefits.

## DISEASE CONTROL MEASURES CONTINUE TO TIGHTEN

Entrants who fly directly to Macau from Wenzhou City of Zhejiang Province are now required to bear negative Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction test results issued within 72 hours prior to their flights in order to board. Those who have been to Wanchuan Town, Pingyang County, Wenzhou City, in the 14 preceding days shall be quarantined for 14 days upon arrival in Macau. Travelers are reminded that 14 days of quarantine-upon-arrival will be levied at those who have been to certain areas in Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Moulming and Zhanjiang, all in Guangdong Province.

## FOREIGN LIZARD SPECIES SPOTTED IN COLOANE

Following days of resident sightings of an American species of lizard in Coloane Hilltop, the Municipal Affairs Bureau conducted an operation and managed to catch the lizard. The reptile measures 1.3 meters in length and weighs 2.9 kg. It has been relocated to the bureau's property for quarantine after being checked by a veterinarian. It was of poor health condition and lean body. It also suffers from skin problems and oral ulcers, among other health conditions. The bureau reminds pet keepers to unleash their pets in a responsible manner, otherwise the animal may impact the biodiversity of Macau.

# Two directly-elected lawmakers may find future in functional constituencies

**L**AWMAKERS Ho Ion Sang and Angela Leong On Kei may change lanes from the direct election constituency to indirect election, also known as the functional constituency, in this upcoming parliamentary election.

The speculation was reported by the Chinese media organization All About Macau.

According to the "consolidated information from the pro-establishment camp," the 12 seats in the functional constituency, "representing" five sectors,



Ho Ion Sang (left) and Angela Leong

have been decided.

The indirectly elected seats in the parliament have, for a long period of time, been held by the pro-establishment camp. Usually in this constituen-

cy, when a candidate is decided, the result is confirmed.

Of the 12 lawmakers in this constituency, 10 will remain unchanged. The changes will be in the so-

cial service and education sector, as well as the culture and sports sector.

The media organization reports that Ho will replace incumbent Chan Hong, vice rector of Hou Kong Middle School, to run for the social service and education sector.

Meanwhile, Leong will replace incumbent Victor Cheung Lup Kwan to run for the other sector. Cheung holds the title of the eldest lawmaker in the current Legislative Assembly. He is 83 years old.

The decision to sub-

stitute Cheung with Leong was made by "competent entities," according to the news report.

The culture and sport sector has two lawmakers. The other incumbent is Chan Chak Mo. He will remain in the parliament.

It is unclear, according to the press, if Chan will become a designated lawmaker. Besides the two elected constituencies, the local parliament has another constituency, in which the Chief Executive has seven votes to pick his preferred lawmakers.

The news organizer also reported hints by some pro-establishment personages. They criticize Ho for squeezing in because he is lacking confidence in winning a seat this time. **AL**

# BUS WITH LOCAL TOURISTS CRASHES IN YUNNAN; ONE SERIOUSLY INJURED

RENATO MARQUES

**A** tour bus has reportedly crashed and rolled over during a tour at Yunnan province. Onboard was a tour group that included 10 local residents.

According to sources in the Macau Government

Tourism Office (MGTO) following up on the case, at least two of the local tourists were injured in the accident, with one of them seriously injured.

In a statement, the MGTO noted that the accident occurred on June 10 and the residents on

board were part of an exchange delegation from the Yunnan Youth Friendship Association of Macau.

The MGTO also cited official sources on the ground who said that the accident occurred as "it was drizzling on the day

and the rain caused the bus tires to skid on the road, leading to slow rollover of the bus."

The seriously injured resident was admitted to a hospital in the city of Shangri-La for medical treatment, and was transferred to another hospital in Kunming the next day (June 11).

He is currently hospitalized and under observation; his condition consi-

dered stable.

The other injured resident was sent to the hospital in Shangri-La for treatment and immediately discharged after the wound was treated.

According to the MGTO, several of the tour group members decided, following the accident, to suspend the trip and have returned to Macau, while others chose to continue the tour itinerary.



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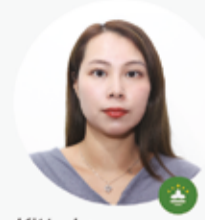
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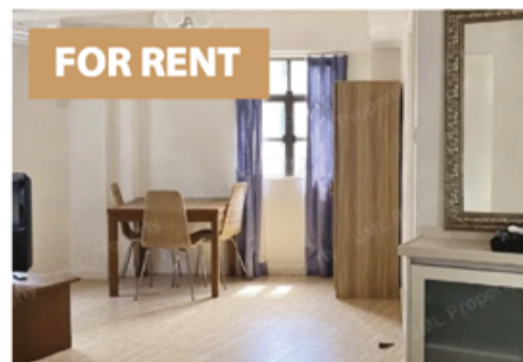
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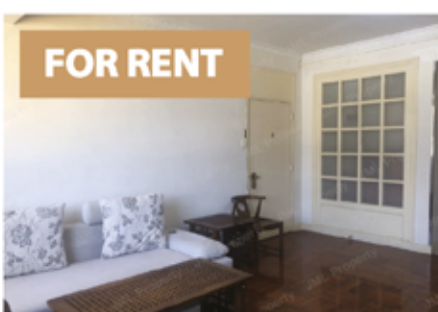
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# China, US diplomats clash over human rights, pandemic origin

**T**OP U.S. and Chinese diplomats appear to have had another sharply worded exchange, with Beijing saying it told the U.S. to cease interfering in its internal affairs and accusing Washington of politicizing the search for the origin of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Senior Chinese foreign policy adviser Yang Jiechi and Secretary of State Antony Blinken held a phone call Friday that revealed wide divisions in a number of contentious areas, including the curtailing of freedoms in Hong Kong and the mass detention of Muslims in the northwestern Xinjiang region.

Calls for a more thorough investigation into the origin of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 are particularly sensitive for China because of suggestions that it might have escaped from a laboratory in the central city of Wuhan, where cases were first discovered.

Yang said China was "gravely concerned" over what he called "absurd" stories that the virus escaped from the Wuhan lab.

China "firmly opposes any despicable acts that use the epidemic as an excuse to slander China and to shift blames," Yang was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

"Some people in the United States have fabricated and peddled absurd stories claiming Wuhan lab leak, which China is gravely concerned about," Yang

AP PHOTO



said. "China urges the United States to respect facts and science, refrain from politicizing COVID-19 origin tracing and concentrate on international anti-pandemic cooperation."

The State Department said Blinken "stressed the importance of cooperation and transparency regarding the origin of the virus, including the need for (World Health Organization) Phase 2 expert-led studies in China."

The U.S. and others have accused China of failing to provide the raw data and access to sites that would allow a more thorough investigation into where the

virus sprung from and how it initially spread.

Equally contentious were the issues of Hong Kong, Xinjiang, Taiwan and accusations that China has arbitrarily detained two Canadian citizens in retaliation for Canada's arrest of an executive of Chinese communications technology giant Huawei, who is wanted by U.S. law enforcement.

The U.S. has "fabricated various lies about Xinjiang in an attempt to sabotage the stability and unity in Xinjiang, which confuse right and wrong and are extremely absurd. China is firmly

opposed to such actions," Yang said.

"Hong Kong affairs are purely China's internal affairs," and those found in violation of a sweeping national security law imposed on the former British colony "must be punished," Yang said.

Blinken, on the other hand, underscored U.S. concern over the deterioration of democratic norms in Hong Kong and the ongoing "genocide and crimes against humanity against predominantly Muslim Uyghurs and members of other ethnic and religious minority groups in Xinjiang," the State Depart-

ment said.

He also urged Beijing to ease pressure against Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy China claims as its own territory, to be annexed by force if necessary.

According to Xinhua, Yang said Taiwan involves China's "core interests" and that Beijing "firmly defends its national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

The tone of the phone call seemed to echo contentious talks in March in Alaska, when the sides traded sharp and unusually public barbs over vastly different views of each other and the world in their first face-to-face meeting since President Joe Biden took office.

At that meeting, the U.S. accused the Chinese delegation of "grandstanding," while Beijing fired back, saying there was a "strong smell of gunpowder and drama" that was entirely the fault of the Americans.

Relations between them have deteriorated to their lowest level in decades, with the Biden administration showing no signs of deviating from the established U.S. hardline against China over trade, technology, human rights and China's claim to the South China Sea.

Beijing, meanwhile, has fought back doggedly against what it sees as attempts to smear its reputation and restrain its development.

On Thursday, its ceremonial legislature passed a law to retaliate against sanctions imposed on Chinese politicians and organizations, threatening to deny entry to and freeze the Chinese assets of anyone who formulates or implements such measures, potentially placing new pressure on foreign companies operating in the country. **MDT/AP**

## Japan says ties with Taiwan are only unofficial

MARI YAMAGUCHI,  
TOKYO

**J**APAN'S relations with Taiwan are nongovernmental and practical and are based on Tokyo's recognition of China as the sole legitimate government, a top Japanese official said Friday, following Beijing's protest over a recent reference to the island as a country.

As China flexes its muscle in the Taiwan Strait and the Asia-Pacific region, the issue of Taiwan is a sensitive topic, especially as Japan, the United States and other democracies develop closer ties with the self-ruled island that Beijing regards as a renegade territory to be

AP PHOTO



Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato speaks during a committee at the lower house in Tokyo, Friday

united by force if necessary. Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato told a regular news conference Friday

that "Japan's position is to maintain working relations with Taiwan at the non-government level," in line

with the 1972 Japan-China Communique, when Tokyo switched the diplomatic recognition from Taiwan to China. "That's our basic policy and there is no change to that."

Kato's remark came a day after China protested Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's reference to Taiwan as a country during a parliamentary debate on Wednesday.

Suga, while answering a question about pandemic measures, made a passing reference to Taiwan, New Zealand and Australia as "three countries."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Thursday the comment violated Japan's

"solemn promise to not regard Taiwan as a country."

"We strongly deplore Japan's erroneous remarks and have lodged solemn complaints with Japan, demanding that Japan immediately make clear clarifications to eliminate the adverse effects caused by relevant remarks, and to ensure that such situations will not happen again," Wang said.

On Friday, Japan's upper house of the parliament adopted a resolution calling on the World Health Organization to include Taiwan in its general meetings, saying its expertise on coronavirus measures is indispensable.

China has so far blocked the move, and has increa-

sed Taiwan's diplomatic isolation, leaving it with just over a dozen formal diplomatic allies. Taiwan still operates a network of trade offices around the world that act as de-facto embassies, including in the United States, Japan and most other major nations.

Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi carefully referred to Taiwan as "a region" in his brief remark emphasizing the importance of including the island for the benefit of international public health.

Japan also has donated 1.24 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Taiwan as it battles its largest outbreak of infections amid a shortage of jabs. Taiwan has blamed China for interfering in a potential deal for another vaccine. **MDT/AP**

# As summit ends, G-7 urged to deliver on vaccines, climate

JILL LAWLESS,  
SYLVIA HUI & DANICA  
KIRKA, FALMOUTH

**T**HE Group of Seven leaders aim to end their first summit in two years with a punchy set of promises yesterday, including vaccinating the world against coronavirus, making huge corporations pay their fair share of taxes and tackling climate change with a blend of technology and money.

They want to show that international cooperation is back after the upheavals caused by the pandemic and the unpredictability of former U.S. President Donald Trump. And they want to convey that the club of wealthy democracies — Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States — is a better friend to poorer nations than authoritarian rivals such as China.

But it was uncertain how firm the group's commitments will be on coronavirus vaccines, the economy and the environment when the leaders issue their final communique. Also unclear was whether all of the leaders would back the United States' call to chastise China for repressing its Uyghur minority and other abuses.

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson, the summit's host, wanted the three-day meeting to fly the flag for a "Global Britain," his government's initiative to give the midsized country outsized influence when it comes to global problem-solving.

Brexit cast a shadow over that goal during the summit on the coast of southwest England. European Union leaders and U.S. President Joe Biden voiced concerns about problems with new U.K.-EU trade rules that have heightened tensions in Northern Ireland.

But overall, the mood has been positive: The leaders smiled for the cameras on the beach at cliff-fringed Carbis Bay, a village and resort that became a traffic-clogged fortress for the meeting. The last G-7 summit was in France in 2019, with last year's event in the United States scuttled by the pandemic.

The leaders mingled with Queen Elizabeth II at a royal reception on their first eve-

AP PHOTO



ning, and were served steak and lobster at a beach bar-becue after watching an aeronautic display by the Royal Air Force Red Arrows on their second.

America's allies were visibly relieved to have the U.S. back as an engaged international player after the "America First" policy of the Trump administration.

"The United States is back, and democracies of the world are standing together," Biden said as he arrived in the U.K. on the first foreign trip of his 5-month-old presidency. After the G-7 summit, the president will have tea with the queen yesterday, attend a NATO summit in Brussels on Monday and hold talks with Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Geneva on Wednesday.

At the G-7, Johnson described Biden as a "breath of fresh air." French President Emmanuel Macron, after speaking one-to-one with Biden, said, "It's great to have a U.S. president part of the club and very willing to cooperate."

The re-energized G-7 made ambitious declarations during their meetings about girls' education, preventing future pandemics and using the finance system to fund green growth. Above all, they vowed to share vaccine doses with less well-off nations that urgently need them. Johnson said the group would pledge at least 1 billion doses, with half of that coming from the United States and 100 million from Britain.

Public health advocates said much more than just doses was needed, including money and logistical help to get shots delivered in poorer countries.

World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus com-

mended the vaccine pledge but said it's not enough. To truly end the pandemic, he said, 11 billion doses are needed to vaccinate at least 70% of the world's population by mid-2022.

"We need more and we need them faster," Tedros said.

Climate change is a key focus of the leaders' final day of talks yesterday and the group is expected to announce new financing measures to help poorer countries reduce carbon emissions.

The "Build Back Better for the World" plan will promise to offer financing for infrastructure — "from railways in Africa to wind farms in Asia" — to help speed up the global shift to renewable energy. The plan is a response to China's "belt and road" initiative, which has increased Beijing's influence around the world.

Climate activists and analysts have said filling a \$100 billion annual fund to help poor countries tackle the effects of global warming should be at the top of the G-7's list.

All G-7 countries have pledged to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050, but many environmentalists say that will be too little, too late.

Naturalist David Attenborough, who was to address the leaders by video, warned that humanity is "on the verge of destabilizing the entire planet."

"If that is so, then the decisions we make this decade — in particular the decisions made by the most economically advanced nations — are the most important in human history," Attenborough said.

Max Lawson, head of inequality policy for Oxfam International, welcomed plans to boost investment to help

poor countries reduce their carbon footprints. But he said "it doesn't help the poor people that are being hit by climate change right now."

"So, yes, it's probably a good thing but is it enough? Absolutely not," he said.

Large crowds of surfers and kayakers took to the sea in a mass protest Saturday to urge better protections for the world's oceans, while thousands chanted and beat drums as they marched outside the summit's media center in Falmouth.

"G-7 is all greenwashing," the protesters sang. "We're drowning in promises, now's the time to act."

The leaders' final communique is also expected to formally embrace placing a global minimum tax of at least 15% on large multinational companies to stop corporations from using tax havens to avoid taxes.

The minimum rate was championed by the U.S., and dovetails with the aim of Biden — and Johnson — to focus the summit on ways the democracies can collaborate to build a more inclusive, fair global economy and to compete with rising autocracies like China.

White House officials also said that Biden wants the G-7 leaders to speak in a single voice against the forced labor practices targeting China's Uyghur Muslims and other ethnic minorities. Biden hopes the denunciation will be part of a joint statement yesterday, but some European allies are reluctant to split so forcefully with Beijing.

Non-G-7 nations India, South Korea, Australia and South Africa were invited to attend as guests to bolster the group's support for fellow democracies. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1991 IRAQI KURDS FEAR US TROOP WITHDRAWAL



More than a thousand Kurds have besieged a US military base near the northern Iraqi city of Dohuk, pleading with American troops not to withdraw.

Kurdish leaders have called on allied forces to remain in the country indefinitely, fearing retaliation from the Iraqi army.

US and European forces have been safeguarding Kurdish enclaves from attack by Saddam Hussein since the end of the Gulf war.

But now they have begun to depart, leaving the fate of the Kurds in the hands of a lightly armed UN protection force they fear will offer inadequate protection.

Dohuk, an important Kurdish centre 25 miles south of the Turkish border, lies outside the safety zone set up by the allies in northern Iraq for Kurdish refugees.

The Kurds have been assured the Iraqi army has agreed not to move in when allied soldiers leave. But they remain anxious.

Belgian troops, which have been in eastern Iraq for six weeks, will be gone in 12 days, along with their trucks and equipment.

Forces from Holland and France are also due to go, but their UN replacement forces have yet to arrive.

Medical units from Italy, Spain and France have started to leave because their governments believe their job is complete.

Although there has been no official announcement from the American camp, there are signs that US troops have begun their withdrawal, to the consternation of the local Kurdish population.

Many Kurds say their families and friends who fled to Iran will not return until the future seems more certain, but their protests are unlikely to have any effect.

A US military officer said there was no firm date for a full allied departure from northern Iraq, but Kurds fear the handover to the UN is a forerunner of an imminent total withdrawal.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Allied troops agreed to remain in northern Iraq until a deal had been reached on Kurdish autonomy and a Western strike force was ready in south east Turkey to respond to any Iraqi aggression. But all the American, British, French and Dutch soldiers who had occupied Dohuk soon departed, leaving its population of about 180,000. They were initially replaced by a dozen UN guards. An Iraqi Kurd faction, the KDP, later took control of the area.







MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# FINLAND BEATS DENMARK AT EURO 2020 AFTER ERIKSEN'S COLLAPSE

**J**OEL Pohjanpalo scored and Lukas Hradecky saved a penalty to give Finland a 1-0 victory over Denmark on Saturday in a European Championship game overshadowed by Christian Eriksen's collapse on the field.

The game was suspended for about 90 minutes after Eriksen needed urgent medical treatment near the end of the first half before being taken to a hospital. The Danish soccer federation said Eriksen was awake and in stable condition.

"Of course you can't play a game with such feelings," Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said. "What we tried to do was incredible. It's incredible that the players managed to go out and try to play the second half and still be dominant. I'm very affected myself."

When play resumed, Pohjanpalo put Finland ahead against the run of play in the 60th minute when he rose above Joakim Maehle to head home a cross from Jere Uronen. Goalkeeper Kasper Schmeichel got his hands on the ball but couldn't keep it out.

It was Finland's only effort on goal in the entire game as Denmark dominated throughout and finished with 23 total shots, although only six were on target.

The Danes' best chance came when they were handed a penalty

AP PHOTO



Finland's Joel Pohjanpalo scores the opening goal for his team

after Yussuf Poulsen went down under a challenge from Paulus Arajuuri. But Hradecky dived to his left to stop a tame effort from Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg in the 74th.

Finland was making its debut at a major tournament but what should have been the biggest win in the country's soccer history was completely overshadowed by Eriksen's medical emergency.

"It's been definitely one of the most difficult games of my career," Finland forward Teemu Pukki said. "We decided to do what the Danish team decided to do. [...] It

wasn't easy to come back to the pitch. But once we heard everything seemed to be fine we started concentrating again on the game. And in the end we are proud of the victory. But the atmosphere after the game is definitely not as glorious as usual."

Eriksen was given urgent medical attention on the field for about 10 minutes before he was carried off on a stretcher. The teams held an emergency meeting and decided to continue the match after it became clear that Eriksen was in stable condition.

Hjulmand said he was given the option of finishing the game on Saturday or resuming on Sunday.

"The players couldn't imagine not being able to sleep tonight

and then having to get in tomorrow, get on the bus and play a game," Hjulmand said. "Honestly, it was best to get it over with."

Denmark captain Simon Kjaer, who is close friends with Eriksen, couldn't go on for long, though. He was substituted in the 63rd minute.

"Simon was very, very affected," Hjulmand said. "I can't imagine playing a football game myself after that. He was overwhelmed, they are very good friends."

Denmark had dominated the first half until the incident, and forced three decent saves from Hradecky in the opening 20 minutes. Jones Wind first tried a hard shot from the edge of the area, before Hradecky tipped a header from Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg over the bar and then palmed away a dipping long-distance shot from Eriksen in the 19th.

The Danes then failed to test Hradecky again until the penalty save.

At the final whistle, Finland's players celebrated loudly in front of their fans, while Denmark's hugged on the field.

Top-ranked Belgium beat Russia 3-0 in the other Group B match at Euro 2020. MDT/AP

## LATEST RESULTS

Turkey	0	3	Italy
Wales	1	1	Switzerland
Denmark	0	1	Finland
Belgium	3	0	Russia
England	1	0	Croatia

## GROUP STANDINGS

Group A	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Italy	1	1	0	0	3-0	3
Switzerland	1	0	1	0	1-1	1
Wales	1	0	1	0	1-1	1
Turkey	1	0	0	1	0-3	0
Group B	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Belgium	1	1	0	0	3-0	3
Finland	1	1	0	0	1-0	3
Denmark	1	0	0	1	0-1	0
Russia	1	0	0	1	0-3	0
Group C	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Netherlands	0	0	0	0	1-0	3
Austria	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
North Macedonia	0	0	0	1	0-1	0
Group D	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
England	1	1	0	0	0-0	0
Croatia	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
Scotland	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
Group E	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Spain	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
Poland	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
Slovakia	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
Sweden	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
Group F	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Germany	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
Portugal	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
France	0	0	0	0	0-0	0
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0-0	0

## ERIKSEN SENDS 'HIS GREETINGS' TO TEAMMATES AFTER COLLAPSE

**C**HRISTIAN Eriksen remained in stable condition in a Copenhagen hospital yesterday and "sent his greetings to his teammates" as he recovers from his collapse, the Danish soccer federation said.

The rest of the Danish team was being given crisis management assistance as they process the incident that happened during Saturday's game against Finland in Copenhagen. Eriksen fell face-forward to the ground late in the first half and needed CPR from medical staff before regaining consciousness.

"This morning we have spoken to Christian Eriksen, who has sent his greetings to his teammates," the Danish federation wrote on Twitter. "His condition is stable, and he continues to be hospitali-

zed for further examination. The team and staff of the national team has received crisis assistance and will continue to be there for each other after yesterday's incident."

The Danish team canceled all planned media activities at its base camp yesterday and also postponed a training session.

The 29-year-old Eriksen was being treated at Rigshospitalet, one of Denmark's top hospitals which is less than a mile away from Parken Stadium, where the game was played.

The Danish federation, known as the DBU, also thanked fans and other teams for their outpouring of support for the Inter Milan midfielder who earned a reputation as one of the world's top playmakers during his seven years in the Premier

League at Tottenham.

Denmark coach Kasper Hjulmand said after Saturday's game that the Danish players would be offered any assistance needed as they try to focus on the rest of the tournament.

"We will spend the next few days processing this as best we can," Hjulmand said. "And of course we are surrounded by professional people. [...] It's not normal to play such a game and then see one of your friends suffer with a heart issue."

The incident cast an immediate pall on what had been a party-like atmosphere in Copenhagen as Denmark hosted a major tournament game for the first time. The players had been talking about the possibility of repeating the country's upset win at the 1992 European

Championship, with Eriksen the centerpiece of the team in his attacking midfield role.

Now the team will have to focus on just getting through the next game against top-ranked Belgium on Thursday in Group B. And Hjulmand praised his players for not being afraid to show their emotions both on the field and in the dressing room.

Hjulmand said he had experienced a similar situation during his career as a club coach "where we almost lost someone on the field."

"And now I can see how everyone is reaching out to their families right now and tries FaceTiming them," Hjulmand said during his post-game news conference. "So that's what a situation like this does. It's a tough night." MDT/AP



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PREVIEW

# Scotland back at last, takes on Czech Republic at Euro 2020

**T**HE Scots haven't competed in a major men's soccer tournament since the 1998 World Cup in France, but that will change on today when the team takes on the Czech Republic at the European Championship.

It's been a long time coming for the Tartan Army. And although there isn't much expectation for a serious run at Euro 2020, the Scottish fans are happy to be here.

That was evident on Saturday night with Glasgow in full party mode just a week after the city's restaurants and pubs were allowed to reopen indoor seating areas.

Dozens of fans sang near the main George Square, and street stalls sold "No Scotland, No Party" flags. There was no sign of the sectarianism that has blighted club soccer in this city.

The main objective for Scotland coach Steve Clarke will be to get at least a draw against the Czech Republic, and hope they can advance to the next round from Group D.



Scotland head coach Steve Clarke

"The Czech Republic give us different problems to England and Croatia, so that can have a bearing on selection, but I am pretty settled [on the team]," Clarke said.

One of the biggest headaches for Scotland ahead of the tournament was that two of his best players, captain Andy Robertson and Kieran Tierney, normally play in the same position at left back.

But Clarke has found a way to make it work, with both playing on the left — Tierney in a back

three and Robertson in a more advanced role at left wingback. And the coach also has to decide

whether to start 20-year-old Billy Gilmour, who has impressed of late.

"The good thing for me is that no matter who I select, I expect them all to be fantastic for their country," Clarke said. "As a manager or a coach, that's a big thing that you can trust all your players."

There have been some bumps along the way. Scotland had to set up its training camp in northeast England because the team qualified for the postponed tournament one year after its group rivals.

That allowed Croatia and Czech Republic to book Scotland's premier training bases at St. An-

drews and the national training center in Edinburgh. But then last month they canceled plans to use them, citing UEFA concerns about local COVID-19 rules in Scotland.

But Clarke has said that there are benefits, with less distractions than if the team's camp was based in Scotland.

The Czechs know their opponents well after losing twice to Scotland in the Nations League last year.

"Scotland are sturdy, tough, and have a good defense. Big, strong, aggressive," Czech Republic coach Jaroslav Šilhavý said. "They break fast."

One of the key players Šilhavý will be relying on to break up Scotland's attack is box-to-box midfielder Tomáš Souček, who had a standout season with West Ham along with club teammate Vladimír Coufal.

The team will be looking for goals from Bayern Leverkusen forward Patrik Schick, who will be looking to impress at the tournament. **MDT/AP**

## UPCOMING GAMES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	City	ODDS
Mon	Jun 14	0:00	Austria	North Macedonia	Bucharest	Played
Mon	Jun 14	3:00	Netherlands	Ukraine	Amsterdam	Played
Mon	Jun 14	21:00	Scotland	Czech Republic	Glasgow	H 3, D 3, A 2.9
Tue	Jun 15	0:00	Poland	Slovakia	Dublin	H 1.83, D 3.4, A 5.75
Tue	Jun 15	3:00	Spain	Sweden	Bilbao	H 1.42, D 4.9, A 11

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**OPINION**

**World Views**

Emily J. Blanchard, Dartmouth College,  
 MDT/The Conversation

**WHAT'S THE G-7?  
 AN INTERNATIONAL  
 ECONOMIST EXPLAINS**

The Group of 7 is an informal group of seven powerful democracies: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. The presidents of the European Commission and European Council also attend G-7 meetings because several of Europe's largest countries are also members.

Membership, which is decided internally, hasn't changed much since the group's founding in 1975. At the time, it included only six countries, all of which still belong. Canada joined a year later. Russia joined as an eighth member in 1998, temporarily changing the group's moniker to the G-8, but Russia was ousted after it annexed Crimea in 2014.

Together, these seven wealthy nations form the foundation of the modern global economy and the cooperative rules-based system on which it is built.

**Why the G-7 matters**

The G-7 countries make up about 40% of the world economy, down from nearly 70% a few decades ago.

Despite the decline, the economic might of G-7 nations remains undeniable, not least due to their collective position as countries at the forefront of technological innovation and industrial know-how. Moreover, G-7 economies are inextricably interwoven with global supply chains, which means that a policy change or economic shock in one G-7 country will, for better or worse, have ripple effects across the globe.

Ultimately, the G-7 may be the best hope for quick, decisive and meaningful policy action on pressing global problems.

While the G-7 doesn't have the institutional clout of the United Nations, the World Trade Organization or NATO, it also doesn't have their institutional red tape or bureaucracy.

And although the G-7 is a subset of the ascendant G20 – which also includes rising economic powerhouses China, India and Brazil – the G-7 has another advantage: it's much easier to achieve consensus in an intimate group of similar nations than it is to find common ground among diverse nations with very different economic and political priorities.

**What the G-7 does**

The world is facing profound challenges, from the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change to authoritarianism and attacks on democracy.

None of these issues colors neatly within the lines of national borders. Countries need to cooperate to find solutions that do not simply kick the can to their neighbors.

An example of meaningful action by the G-7 is its June 5, 2021, announcement of an agreement on global minimum corporate tax rates, which marked a watershed moment in international taxation. If successful, the agreement could mean the end of tax havens and a dramatic shift in how companies record their profits around the world.

Israel swore in a new government yesterday that sent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu into the opposition after a record 12 years in office and a political crisis that sparked four elections in two years.

Naftali Bennett, the head of a small ultranationalist party, took over as prime minister. But if he wants to keep the job, he will have to maintain an unwieldy coalition of parties from the political right, left and center.

The eight parties, including a small Arab faction that is making history by sitting in the ruling coalition, are united in their opposition

to Netanyahu and new elections but agree on little else. They are likely to pursue a modest agenda that seeks to reduce tensions with the Palestinians and maintain good relations with the U.S. without launching any major initiatives.

Netanyahu, who is on trial for corruption, remains the head of the largest party in parliament and is expected to vigorously oppose the new government. If just one faction bolts, it could lose its majority and would be at risk of collapse, giving him an opening to return to power.



AP PHOTO

**HONG KONG TO CENSOR  
 FILMS 'ENDANGERING  
 NATIONAL SECURITY'**

**ZEN SOO, HONG KONG**

**H**ong Kong censors now have the power to ban films that endanger national security, prompting concerns that freedom of expression is being further curtailed in a city once known for its vibrant arts and film scene.

Authorities are cracking down on criticism of Chinese Communist Party rule, arresting many pro-democracy activists in the city and implementing a sweeping national security law last year that criminalizes actions such as the calls for independence made during months of anti-government protests in 2019.

The Hong Kong government announced Friday that it has amended the guidelines for censors in the city's Film Censorship Ordinance to include vigilance against any "portrayal, depiction or treatment of any act or activity which may amount to an offense endangering national security."

Censors have the power to ban films from exhibition to "prevent or suppress any act or activity endangering national security," it said in a statement.

"The film censorship regulatory framework is built on the premise of a

balance between protection of individual rights and freedoms on the one hand, and the protection of legitimate societal interests on the other," the government said.

The amended ordinance takes Hong Kong a step closer to the censorship of films on the Chinese mainland, which are closely vetted for themes and scenes critical of the Communist Party's leadership or that do not align with values that the government seeks to espouse.

On Friday, organizers of the 15th Fresh Wave International Short Film Festival canceled the screening of "Far From Home," a short about political divisions in Hong Kong following the 2019 anti-government protests, after it did not receive approval from censors.

"This film censorship system shows how freedom of expression is disappearing from Hong Kong," said Anders Hammer, director of "Do Not Split," an Oscar-nominated documentary about the 2019 protests. "In 2021 we have seen how the situation is deteriorating further where activists and pro-democracy politicians are put in prison, charged under the new draconian national

security law," he said.

"And unfortunately, it looks like the local government and Beijing only want to continue with this dissolution of basic democratic rights in Hong Kong," he said.

In March, organizers canceled the screening of the documentary "Inside the Red Brick Wall" which portrays clashes between pro-democracy protesters and police at a local university, following an editorial in a pro-Beijing newspaper that said the movie spreads messages of subversion and may breach the national security law.

Censors in May also issued warnings to a hospital workers' union over the screening of two films related to the crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989, stating that it had not sought approval and that one of the films had not been rated.

Earlier this month, Hong Kong authorities banned for a second year the annual candlelight vigil held in remembrance of victims of the Tiananmen Square crackdown.

Authorities have also ramped up efforts to overhaul the school system to instill "patriotism" in students. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

**Afghanistan** The Islamic State group has claimed responsibility for bombing two minivans in a mostly Shiite neighborhood in the Afghan capital that killed seven people. Among the dead were two employees of Afghanistan's state-run film company, a colleague said yesterday. In a statement issued late Saturday, Afghanistan's IS affiliate said its operatives blew up two minivans carrying "disbeliever Shiites" using sticky bombs.

**Syria** Missiles hit a hospital in a northern town controlled by Turkey-backed fighters on Saturday, killing at least 13 people, including two medical staff, and putting the facility out of service, activists and an aid group said. It was not immediately clear who was behind the shelling, which came from areas where government troops and Kurdish-led fighters are deployed.

**North Macedonia** Police say officers discovered 82 migrants hidden in vehicles in two separate operations last week. Police said a joint team of border officers from North Macedonia and Slovenia found 62 people hidden in a truck on the main north-south highway near the border with Greece and arrested two Serbian nationals.

**Spain** Thousands of people in Madrid are protesting the Spanish government's plan to issue pardons to a dozen separatist leaders who were convicted for their roles in a failed push for the Catalonia region's independence, the biggest challenge to the country's unity in recent history. The demonstration yesterday was organized by a civil society group to promote a united Spain and took place at a central square that has become a symbol for far-right political rallies.

**HOLIDAY TIMES**  
 Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Wednesday June 16. 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.