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CTMA 49th ANNIVERSARY

**ELECTIONS 2021: CAEAL HAS APPROVED 13 CANDIDATE LISTS SO FAR, WHILE ANOTHER SIX HAVE NOT YET BEEN EXAMINED IN DETAIL**

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**HONG KONG POLICE USED A SWEEPING NATIONAL SECURITY LAW TO ARREST FIVE EDITORS AND EXECUTIVES OF APPLE DAILY ON CHARGES OF COLLUDING WITH FOREIGN POWERS**

P8

AP PHOTO



**China** Three Chinese astronauts arrived yesterday at China's new space station at the start of a three-month mission, marking another milestone in the country's ambitious space program. Their Shenzhou-12 craft connected with the space station module about six hours after taking off from the Jiuquan launch center on the edge of the Gobi Desert. [More on p8](#)

AP PHOTO



**Sri Lanka** A container ship carrying chemicals sank off Sri Lanka's capital yesterday nearly a month after catching fire, raising concerns about a possible environmental disaster. The ship's operator said the wreck of the Singapore-flagged X-Press Pearl "is now wholly sitting on the seabed at a depth of 21 meters." A salvage crew was at the site to deal with any debris and report any spill, said the operator, X-Press Feeders.

AP PHOTO



**Lebanon** Shops, government offices, businesses and banks shuttered their doors yesterday, as part of a general strike to protest deteriorating economic conditions and press for a government to deal with the worsening political and economic crises. The strike, which was accompanied by several roadblocks set up around Beirut and other cities, was ironically supported by the very political parties blamed for the months-long deadlock over forming a government.

[More on backpage](#)

# VACCINE DRIVE WIDENED

Local children as young as 12 will be allowed to take the mRNA vaccine from today as long as they are accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian

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XINHUA

**MGTO CLOSES LISBON OFFICE TO SAVE MONEY**

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**USD12 BILLION CASE FORMER DICJ DIRECTOR TESTIFIES IN COURT**

P2



USD12 BILLION CASE

# FORMER DICJ DIRECTOR TESTIFIES IN LVS-ASIAN AMERICAN CASE

HONEY TSANG

**M**ANUEL Joaquim das Neves, the former director of the Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), who was also one of the Macau Gaming Commission members responsible for selecting tenderers for the city's gaming concessions 20 years ago, took the witness stand at a USD 12 billion court case against Las Vegas Sands Corp (LVS) yesterday afternoon.

The case entered its second day of hearings in the Court of First Instance (TJB) on June 17.

Asian American Entertainment Corp Ltd filed the lawsuit against LVS, accusing the company of violating the contract for a casino license in Macau in the period from 2001-2002.

On the first day of hearing on June 16, LVS' legal team claimed that the link between the two firms ended as early as January 15, 2002, supporting its argument with a letter sent to the then Chief Executive of Macau, Edmund Ho Hau Wah.

In yesterday's afternoon session, lawyers representing both parties continuously wrangled over the exact date when the partnership concluded.

Jorge Menezes, the plaintiff's lawyer, presented a letter delivered on February 1, 2002, by the Venetian Venture Development LLC to the Macau Gaming Commission as an exhibit. The letter

BLOOMBERG



was an announcement made by the company to inform the Commission's members about the termination of its ties with Asian American.

Menezes went on to seek clarification about the letter from das Neves, who answered that he could not remember the details and date of a letter he received almost two decades ago.

Menezes also questioned das Neves as to whether he recalled

the representatives of the Asian American and LVS attending the second consultation meeting convened by the Commission, possibly during the period from January 15-19 in 2002, taking place after January 15, the date alleged by defendant's legal team to be the termination of the partnership.

Das Neves said that he recalled the meeting, but could not remember who attended and who

did not.

Das Neves also pointed out that he did not serve as a legal expert on the Commission; the legal adviser to the Commission would be more familiar with these exhibits, he added.

"I do not remember the details and texts decades ago. But what I remember is that the Commission was trying its best to determine the winning bidders in the fairest and most objective way," das Ne-

ves told the court.

On the other hand, Luís Cavaleiro de Ferreira, the lawyer defending LVS, also presented and verified several documents as exhibits with das Neves, trying to prove that the ties ended on January 15.

In addition, de Ferreira made an application to the judge at the beginning of yesterday's hearing to add several more items of evidence, as part of considering factors in this case. This request was strongly opposed by Menezes, arguing that de Ferreira's request was not made in due course and should not be considered.

Menezes also stressed that these items are corroborative facts but not the essential factors of consideration in the case, adding that the case would be prolonged indefinitely if Ferreira's application were approved. The judge later rejected Ferreira's request.

According to a previous report published by Reuters, Sands and Asian American co-tendered for the city's gaming concession in 2001. However, Sands abandoned Asian American at the end and partnered with Hong Kong group Galaxy Entertainment instead. Eventually, the Sands-Galaxy joint venture secured a gaming license.

Asian American, led by Taiwanese mogul Marshall Hao, is seeking damages of approximately 70% of Sands Macau's profits from 2004 to 2022 — which, Reuters gauged, will add up to around USD12 billion.

The legal dispute between Asian American and LVS has been fought since 2007, when the lawsuit against LVS was first filed in the U.S. It was initially dismissed for exceeding the statute of limitations and other procedural reasons.

## MGTO closes Lisbon office to save money

**T**HE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has closed operations at its office in Lisbon, Portugal, in the hopes of streamlining operations and human resources, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, the MGTO director, has said.

Officially known as the Tourism Information and Promotion Centre, the MGTO Lisbon office was originally intended to be a short-term establishment. The office was opened in 2005, under the adminis-

tration of the Special Administrative Region's first Chief Executive, Edmund Ho.

The office's operation has been extended several times beyond its originally intended duration, as the MGTO had been transferred from the Social Affairs and Culture branch to the Economy and Finance branch.

Macau operates a trade and economic office in Lisbon, currently headed by former Secretary for Social

Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam. Although the trade and economic office is directly under the Chief Executive's administration, it's logical for the trade office to oversee tourism businesses as well.

Furthermore, the MGTO operates an office in London, U.K., which, before the closure of the Lisbon office, oversaw the entire Europe except Portugal. Now, the U.K. office will also oversee tourism promotion in Western Europe. **AL**

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DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF\_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
ASSISTANT EDITOR\_Lynzy Valles SENIOR WRITER\_Honey Tsang  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS\_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS\_Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui  
DESIGNERS\_Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS\_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES\_Associated Press, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua  
SECRETARY\_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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COVID

# Gov't lowers mRNA threshold to 12-year-olds

**T**HE government announced in an Executive Order that it will lower the age limit of eligibility to take the mRNA vaccine to 12 years old from today.

Tai Wa Hou, medical director of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital, reiterated the announcement at the daily health press briefing yesterday.

This new group of vaccine recipients – aged between 12 and 15 years – can get inoculated at three locations: the blood collection room at the public hospital, the Ocean Health Center in Taipa and the Ilha Verde Health Center. The health authorities will provide 800 seats for this group of individuals, for the time being.

In order to take the vaccine, minors must either be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian, or present a statement of informed consent signed by their parent or legal guardian.

Concerns about the safety of the vaccine persist. About a week ago, a medically recovered lung cancer patient fell into a coma one day after taking the mRNA jab. He



is currently in the Intensive Care Unit of the public hospital.

When questioned why the incident was not considered a severe adverse effect following immunization (AEFI), Tai stressed that “those cases which are apparently

clinically unrelated to vaccination will not be announced.”

But a social media post reported to be from a nephew of the patient stated that once the patient arrived at the hospital after events unfolded on the day

following the vaccination, the doctors kept “hypnotizing” them that the event was unrelated to the vaccine, without even checking with the government AEFI taskforce.

In the post, it was said that the

patient started coughing up blood 20 hours after his vaccination.

Responding to a follow-up question, Tai added that the reason for not inoculating cancer patients in Macau is that the immunization reaction may not be satisfactory. He said that chemotherapy will obstruct the development of immunity after vaccination. “It is simply because of this reason,” he said.

He said he could not provide more information because of privacy concerns.

The Public Security Police Force stressed that it operates 16 locations to help residents, particularly those who do not have or do not know how to use a smart device, generate and print the Macau Health Code for use throughout the day.

Responding to a question yesterday, the police pointed out that 15 of the locations are at police stations, and that these operate 24 hours per day, seven days a week. Therefore, even if senior residents need to print Health Code at early hours of the day so that they can take yum-cha, they can do so. **AL**

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RENATO MARQUES



ELECTIONS 2021

# CAEAL APPROVES 13 OF 16 LISTS FOR DIRECT ELECTIONS, SIX ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) has so far analyzed 16 candidate lists submitted for the Legislative Assembly (AL) elections in September.

Of these, 13 have already been approved, while another three have not been approved due to irregularities, the president of CAEAL, Tong Hio Fong, explained yesterday in a media briefing after a meeting of the commission.

According to Tong, two of the lists presented irregularities concerning the number of signatures required (a minimum of 300) and one presented a problem relating to the logo chosen to represent the list.

The president of the CAEAL said that the details will be communicated to these three groups so they can make the necessary

corrections in due time.

Besides these 16 lists being analysed during yesterday's meeting, CAEAL has another six that have not yet been examined in detail.

A final decision on the total number of lists on the ballot for the directly-elected seats of the AL will be known on June 24 at the latest, Tong remarked.

He also revealed that CAEAL has meanwhile received, analyzed and approved five lists to appear on the ballot for indirect election.

Questioned about the number of complaints received about potential irregularities linked to the elections of September 12, Tong said that, so far, CAEAL has only received one complaint related to an activity organized by the Macau Jiangmen Communal Society (MJCS).

Last weekend the association held a promotion, offering su-

permarket vouchers to the value of 100 patacas, allegedly to celebrate the Centenary of the Communist Party of China.

According to the CAEAL president, this activity was not considered by the commission since "This association is not representing any of lists submitted to the AL elections," Tong said.

The MJCS is a well-known local association with numerous members in the political and financial establishment of Macau.

Some prominent MJCS members have stood for AL seats since 2009 under the name of Macau-Guangdong Union. Currently, the group holds two directly-elected lawmakers' seats in the plenary occupied by Mak Soi Kun and Zheng Anting.

When their list was submitted to CAEAL on June 3, the group was represented by lawmaker Zheng Anting and by the president of MJCS, Ian Soi Kun.

GAMING

# JUNE GGR DAILY RATE TO DROP 34.4% MONTH-TO-MONTH: BERNSTEIN

HONEY TSANG

**M**ACAU'S daily gross gaming revenue (GGR) run rate is expected to display a 34.4% month-to-month slump in the first half of June, mainly dampened by the more rigorous cross-border travel requirements mandated during the recent pandemic resurgence in Guangdong Province, Sanford C. Bernstein Ltd stated in its note published June 15.

According to a report by GGR Asia, the brokerage firm stated that the daily GGR from June 1 to June 14 may reach MOP221 million on average, representing a fall of 34.4% from MOP337 million during the same period in the preceding month.

On June 8, the Macau SAR government truncated the validity period for negative SARS-CoV-2 polymerase chain reaction test results from seven to two days, for those entering Macau from Guangdong province to minimize contagion risks locally.

Although the move has been considered necessary, it has been an added impediment discouraging mainland holidaymakers from visiting Macau.

The stringent measures have

led the city's average daily visitor flow, including arrivals to and departures from Macau, to drop by 26% to just 30,000 from June 7 to 13, compared to the previous week from May 31 to June 4, the firm added.

According to the arrival statistics released by the Public Security Police Force on Wednesday at the Covid-19 briefing, Macau saw around 15,900 inbound visitors on June 15, up 57.1% from the previous day.

The cross-border travel restrictions are still largely in place, according to Bernstein, but they suggest any travel relaxation with the mainland would help both visitor arrivals and GGR pick up meaningfully again.

The brokerage concluded that Macau's GGR is likely to remain below normal levels, should the electronic issuance of Individual Visit Scheme visas, group visas, and Hong Kong travel opening remain suspended, and more stringent Covid-19 testing requirements remain.

"We assume a GGR uplift to begin later this summer as travel impediments are removed and visitation increases," the brokerage firm stated.

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A fire system is a vital component of a building for safeguarding people's lives and the property. Being the largest integrated resort operator in Macao, Sands China has set high standards in fire management, system maintenance and monitoring. Moreover, the company considers solid experience and professionalism as key factors when selecting service providers in this field.

Nevertheless, Sands China is more than eager to create opportunities for cooperation with well-positioned enterprises regardless of their operations scale, even though the system operations, employee training, and management of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) might not be in the same league as large international companies. China Fire Fighting Equipment Co. Ltd. is one such organization that has been growing steadily thanks to a partnership with Sands China.

Established in 2003, the company's offerings include fire protection design, construction, maintenance, and the sale of fire protection products such as fire extinguishers, fire retardant paints and fire dampers.

## Sands China keeps open attitude on professional advice from SMEs

Over the years, China Fire Fighting Equipment Co. Ltd. has gradually been expanding its business scope by extending its offerings from fire protection engineering to fire protection designs and maintenance for residential buildings and hotels.

The cooperation between the two organizations began in 2019, when the SME began providing fire system operating service and 24-hour on-site monitoring and maintenance services for Sands Macao.

"For example, when the heat detector in a building is triggered, our staff will immediately be sent to the scene of the incident to deal with and investigate the cause of the alarm," Deep Ao, managing director of China Fire Fighting Equipment Co. Ltd., explained.

Sands China has expressed satisfaction with the local enterprise. Gloria Chio, senior manager of procurement and supply chain for Sands China Ltd., and

Anson Lai, senior officer, said: "The importance of firefighting maintenance services is self-evident. The supplier must have relevant work experience and be familiar with the operation of the system. China Fire Fighting Equipment Co. Ltd. provides similar services as other companies, and it has gained advantages through past experience. They have worked proactively and are attentive to their duties throughout our cooperation."

Given that Sands Macao opened in 2004, the internal fire protection system and equipment have been in use for a considerable period of time. When China Fire Fighting Equipment Co. Ltd. took over in 2019, it spent a good effort assisting with equipment updates and researching system upgrades.

"The personnel of Sands Macao's engineering department are highly coordinated and they provided assistance when

the delivery period of some equipment was extended, and cross-department cooperation in system programming. It is a pleasant cooperation with the engineering team," Ao stated.

Ao believes that his company's advantage lies in its professional qualifications, strong support network, and rich experience in the design of fire protection structures. The SME is also equipped with knowledge of fire protection regulations in different countries and regions, and continues to study and find new and advanced fire protection equipment and products to be introduced to Macau. The SME additionally offers training to their employees to increase their professional knowledge. They also enhance their competitiveness by participating in trade exhibitions and communicating with different exhibitors and suppliers.

Sands China advises SME suppliers to maintain close relationships with clients so both sides can respond quickly in emergencies. "Suppliers' experience is not the only factor that we value," said Chio and Lai. "Professionalism is equally important, especially in firefighting and facilities management. Therefore, we recommend that their staff regularly participate in training courses, which also provides us with a sense of security for future cooperation."

Sands China has maintained

an open attitude toward new ideas and products from suppliers. SMEs are encouraged to submit optimization plans and suggestions so that both parties can keep up with the needs of the market.

China Fire Fighting Equipment Co. Ltd. said that working with a large-scale corporation significantly enhances their competitive advantage. "SMEs keep on improving themselves by learning about document processing, system operation and supervision, employee training, and so on. Taking the cooperation with Sands China as an example, large companies discover the potential capabilities of SMEs, including their experience, resources, and expertise. They maintain an open attitude and take the professional advice from SMEs into account."

In the future, China Fire Fighting Equipment Co. Ltd. plans to delve into intelligent fire protection systems. The SME is currently studying Macau's fire protection regulations and the prospects for city to support the development of intelligent systems. Ao believes the new direction of their business will be efficient in terms of firefighting supervision and will further increase safety. In addition, Ao hopes to take on a greater number of different projects from Sands China and expand the scope of cooperation.





RENATO MARQUES

## LAWMAKERS DEMAND SUPPORT FOR CROSS-BORDER WORKERS, STUDENTS

**LAWMAKERS** Ho Ion Sang, Ella Lei, and Wong Kit Cheng expressed concerns on Wednesday over the recent border-crossing regulations requiring commuters to take Nucleic Acid Tests (NAT) every 48 hours.

Speaking in the Legislative Assembly (AL) in the time before the agenda, the lawmakers united on the issue to call on both government and employers in Macau to pay more support to people who work in Macau but live across the border in the neighboring city of Zhuhai.

The lawmakers voiced their dissatisfaction with the overnight implementation of the regulation which did not give enough time

for affected commuters to adjust. They also expressed concern that these commuters, whom they claim to be "lower-income and so they had to [commute] across the border because they cannot buy a house or even support rental fees in Macau," now face the high costs of NATs in order to travel to Macau for work or to study.

Wong called on the government to extend the eligibility for using temporary NAT stations to parents and guardians of cross-border students, as well as to enforce a reduction or even waive the



Ella Lei

### TO DIVERSIFY IS PATRIOTIC: AU KAM SAN

**LAWMAKER** Au Kam San has attacked the gaming industry, the main pillar of the local economy, accusing it of profiting for two decades at the expense of many lives, families, and bankruptcies in the mainland, the main origin of Macau gamblers. Warning that the "Golden Years" of the gaming industry in Macau might be over, Au said that to push for genuine economic diversification of Macau's economy would be a

patriotic act, since it would eventually reduce several types of crime, social instability, suicides and corruption in the mainland caused by gambling addiction.

Au also said that his ideas are reinforced by legislative changes in the mainland which criminalize the advertising of overseas casinos. While it has been said that these measures would not directly affect Macau, they indicate the intention of the central government to curtail gambling.

NAT fees for specific categories including parents and guardians of cross-border students, students and non-resident workers from the mainland.

Wong also urged the government to call on residents who need to cross the border on daily basis to be vaccinated as soon as possible.

Speaking on the same matter,

Lei, who usually opposes policies that support non-resident workers, also proposed that local companies should provide their cross-border workers with "financial support to alleviate the economic pressure resulting from carrying out the tests, and short-term accommodation support," aiming to reduce the risk for these workers' when they travel be-

tween Macau and Guangdong.

For his part, Ho called for the announcement of new measures – such as the requirement for the presentation of the Health Code on buses and when entering various venues and public services – to be better publicized, so as to prepare the public in advance and avoid unnecessary panic and alarm in the community.

## NG KUOK CHEONG URGES GOV'T TO POSTPONE GAMING LICENSES TENDER FOR ANOTHER TWO YEARS

RENATO MARQUES

**LAWMAKER** Ng Kuok Cheong has urged the government to postpone the public tender for new gaming licenses for a period of two years in a statement delivered at the Legislative Assembly on Wednesday.

Speaking before the agenda, Ng said, "there is less than one year for the six licenses to expire. The government should extend them for another two years so there is enough time to collect and evaluate public opinion and study the optimization of the juridical regime and open the new public tender post-pandemic when the economic environment already stabilized."

During the transition period, Ng proposed that the government reinforce the supervision of the gaming concessionaires, "to ensure they are fulfilling their social responsibilities and guarantee that they raise the proportion of resident workers over 85% and over 90% for the intermediate and upper levels."



Ng Kuok Cheong

Ng also wants the executive to carefully evaluate the allocation of non-resident worker quotas to companies subcontracted by concessionaires for services such as cleaning, security and catering.

The lawmaker also urged the government to consider transferring a larger proportion of the gambling taxes to

the Social Security and Central Provident Funds during the framing of the new regulatory regime for the gaming industry. He hopes this re-portionment during the extension period will be done carefully and with attention, since, he noted, "this will influence the development of this important industry for the next 10 to 20 years."

CRIME

## MAN SECRETLY PHOTOGRAPHS WOMAN IN PUBLIC LIBRARY

ANTHONY LAM

**A** young man was arrested by the Public Security Police Force last Thursday at the Patane Library over allegations that he secretly took a sexually intrusive photograph of a woman.

The suspect, surnamed Leong, was reported to be 19 years old and unemployed. The victim is a woman in her 30s.

The PSP received a report around 5 p.m. last Thursday of an alleged sexual harassment case that took place at the Patane Library. At the scene, the PSP officers spoke to both the suspect and the victim.

According to the victim, she became aware around 4:30 p.m. that the suspect was loitering around her. Later, she observed the suspect taking a seat and starting to read.

At about 4:45 p.m., the victim felt something touch her thigh and noti-

ced that at the same time the suspect had moved away from the scene quickly. She therefore believed that explicit and invasive photographs had been taken of her and promptly requested that security guards stop the suspect from leaving the library.

Following their on-site inquiries, the suspect confessed to the PSP officers that he committed the crime out of attraction to the victim's appearance and had touched the victim's thigh while taking the photographs.

He deleted the four photographs taken.

In another case, the Judiciary Police busted an alleged arson case June 14.

The first report was to the PSP of a fire on the second floor of a residential building on Rua da Praia do Manduco. After preliminary inquiries, the PSP referred the case to the PJ.

PJ inspectors discovered burnt ashes on the ground of the corridor and darkened walls. The victim reported no losses.

The PJ's attention was drawn to a resident living on the same floor.

The 61-year old suspect is surnamed Leong and worked as a security guard. He confessed to committing the crime.

In his confession, the suspect declared that he was back home from an overnight shift that day. He hoped to sleep but his neighbor – the victim – kept making noise, obstructing his rest.

Therefore, he decided to light some newspaper and discard it in the corridor. He also wiped some ash on the walls "as an expression of dissatisfaction."

As such, the PJ arrested him on charges of arson and passed him to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



# Air Macau suffered over MOP1b net loss in 2020

HONEY TSANG

**A**IR Macau, the city's flagship airline, has endured an annual net loss of approximately MOP1.04 billion in 2020, owing to the double blows of the Covid-19 pandemic and ongoing travel restrictions.

The group disclosed its financial performance in the 2020 report of its board of directors,

published in the Official Gazette.

The report reveals that Air Macau generated receipts of MOP847 million from its operations for the full year of 2020, down 81% year-on-year.

However, the group recorded a hefty financial loss of MOP1.04 billion in the same period, a stark contrast to its MOP 150 million profit in 2019.

"In 2020, under the combined effect of the economic downturn

caused by the pandemic and travel restrictions, the group's profitability has declined significantly," the group stated in the report.

Last year, Air Macau off-leased two A319 aircraft from its fleet. By the end of 2020, the group had 21 aircraft in operation, with its fleet age averaging 6.5 years.

The airline reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the

company stays afloat this year.

"To ensure stable operation, the company has made great efforts and formulated a plan to increase capital and expand its share [in the firm], to better tackle the foreseeable financial situation and worsened cash flow caused by the economic downturn," the group said.

On December 7, 2020, the group convened a special meeting with shareholders, in which they approved the plan to ramp up capital.

Air Macau received MOP 1.8 billion in capital in January this year, which the firm stated "has laid a solid bedrock" for the firm's future development and "has substantially rectified the group's financial position and ensured the company can ride out the severe storm the aviation industry is facing now."

Air Macau was founded as a private entity in 1994 and later inked a franchise agreement with the government in March 1995. Its operation officially commenced November 9, 1995.

The majority (66.9%) of shares in Air Macau were bought by China's flag carrier Air China Ltd, which also holds shares in other subsidiary airlines such as Beijing Airlines, Shenzhen Airlines, Dalian Airlines and others, according to the annual report for 2020 released in April this year by Air China.

## CE CONGRATULATES CENTRAL GOV'T ON SPACECRAFT LAUNCH

The Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, sent a congratulatory message to the Central Government regarding the successful launch of the Shenzhou-12 crewed spacecraft, which blasted off at 9:22 a.m. yesterday. According to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, Ho expressed the "greatest respect for the crew of three astronauts sent into space, as well as the scientists and others involved in the mission," wishing the mission ongoing success. Shenzhou-12 is the 19th flight mission in the country's aerospace engineering programme. It is also the first-ever crewed mission for the purposes of constructing China's space station, Tiangong.

## IAM HEAD SAYS TEAM TRIED ITS BEST WITH JUNE 1 HEAVY FLOODS

José Tavares, president of the Executive Council of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, admitted that although he understood the general public was "extremely dissatisfied" with the bureau's performance in dealing with the citywide floods on June 1, his team had tried their best. In the short term, he said, the conditions can only be monitored, as only changing the pipelines will help ease the situation. He also hinted that a new pumping station is needed in Fai Chi Kei North Bay.

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# EDITORS OF HONG KONG NEWSPAPER ARRESTED UNDER SECURITY LAW

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

**H**ONG Kong police used a sweeping national security law yesterday to arrest five editors and executives of a pro-democracy newspaper on charges of colluding with foreign powers — the first time the legislation has been used against the press in yet another sign of an intensifying crackdown by Chinese authorities in the city long known for its freedoms.

Police said they had evidence that more than 30 articles published by Apple Daily played a “crucial part” in what they called a conspiracy with foreign countries to impose sanctions against China and Hong Kong.

Apple Daily said in a statement that the move left it “speechless” but vowed to continue its reporting. The newspaper has long been one of the most outspoken defenders of Hong Kong’s freedoms and in recent years has often criticized the Chinese and Hong Kong governments for walking back promises that the territory could retain those freedoms for 50 years after the former British colony was handed over to China in 1997.

The newspaper has thus found itself a frequent target. Apple Daily founder Jimmy Lai is currently serving a 20-month prison sentence after being convicted



Police officers gather at the lobby of headquarters of Apple Daily in Hong Kong, yesterday

of playing a role in unauthorized protests in 2019, when Hongkongers took the streets in massive antigovernment demonstrations in response to a proposed extradition law that would have allowed suspects to stand trial in China. Protests grew to include calls for broader democratic freedoms, but the movement only appeared to harden Beijing’s resolve to limit civil liberties in the territory, including by imposing the national security law used in yesterday’s arrests.

The legislation outlaws secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign collusion and has been used to arrest over 100 pro-democracy figures since it was first im-

plemented a year ago, with many others fleeing abroad. The result is that it has virtually silenced opposition voices in the city — and drawn sanctions from the U.S. against Hong Kong and Chinese government officials.

Those arrested included Apple Daily’s chief editor Ryan Law; the CEO of its publisher Next Digital, Cheung Kim-hung; the publisher’s chief operating officer; and two other top editors, according to the newspaper.

Police also froze 18 million Hong Kong dollars (\$2.3 million) in assets belonging to three companies linked to Apple Daily, said Li Kwai-wah, a senior superintendent at Hong Kong’s National Security

Department.

Trading in shares of Next Digital was halted yesterday morning at the request of the company, according to filings with the Hong Kong stock exchange.

In an apparent show of force, more than 200 police officers were involved in the search of Apple Daily’s offices, and the government said a warrant was obtained to look for evidence of a suspected violation of the national security law.

Apple Daily published a letter to its readers, saying that police had confiscated many items during the search, including 38 computers that contained “considerable” journalistic material.

“Today’s Hong Kong feels unfamiliar and leaves us speechless. It feels as though we are powerless to stop the regime from exercising its power as it pleases,” the letter read.

“Nevertheless, the staff of Apple Daily is standing firm. We will continue to persist as Hongkongers and live up to the expectations so that we have no regrets to our readers and the times we are in.”

Hong Kong Security Minister John Lee told a news conference that police will investigate those arrested and others to establish if they have assisted in instigating or funding the offenses.

He alleged that the police ac-

tion against the Apple Daily editors and executives is not related to “normal journalistic work.”

“The action targeted the use of journalistic work as a tool to endanger national security,” he said.

In a chilling warning, he said that anyone working with the “perpetrators” would “pay a hefty price.” He added: “Distance yourself from them, otherwise all you will be left with are regrets.”

The Chinese government’s liaison office in Hong Kong said in a statement Thursday that it supported police action, noting that while the city’s mini-constitution, the Basic Law, guarantees the freedoms of speech and press, those rights cannot undermine the “bottom line of national security.”

“Freedom of the press is not a ‘shield’ for illegal activities,” the liaison office said.

Hong Kong Journalists Association Chairman Chris Yeung criticized the arrests and raid in an online news conference, warning that the the national security law was being used as a “weapon to prosecute media executives and journalists for publishing reports and articles that are deemed as a threat to national security.”

He said that the court warrant that allowed police to search the offices of Apple Daily had undermined journalists’ ability to protect their materials, a vital part of upholding press freedom.

“Self censorship will get worse if journalists are not sure whether they are able to protect their sources of information,” said Yeung.

MDT/AP

## EXPLAINER

# The significance of China’s new space station

SAM MCNEIL, JIUQUAN

**A**DDING a crew to China’s new orbiting space station is another major advance for the burgeoning space power.

### WHAT’S THE MISSION’S PURPOSE?

The three-member crew is due to stay for three months in the station’s main living module, named Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony. They will be carrying out science experiments and maintenance, space walks and preparing the facility to receive two additional modules next year.

While China concedes it arrived late at the space station game, it says its facility is cutting-edge. It could also outlast the International Space Station, which is nearing the end of its functional lifespan.

The launch also revives



China’s crewed space program after a five-year hiatus. With yesterday’s launch, China has now sent 14 astronauts into space since it first achieved the feat in 2003, becoming the third country after the former Soviet Union and the U.S. to do so.

### WHY IS CHINA BUILDING THE STATION?

As the Chinese economy was beginning to gather steam in the early 1990s, China formulated a plan for space exploration, which it has carried out at a steady, cautious cadence. While China has been

barred from participation in the International Space Station, mainly over U.S. objections to the Chinese program’s secretive nature and close military connections, it’s likely the country would have built its own station anyway as it sought the status of a great space power.

At a news conference Wednesday, China Manned Space Agency Assistant Director Ji Qiming told reporters at the Jiuquan launch center that the construction and operation of the space station will raise China’s technologies and “accumulate experience for all the people.”

The space program is part of an overall drive to put China on track for even more ambitious missions and provide opportunities for cooperation with Russia and other, mostly Euro-

pean, countries along with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

### POLITICS AND SECURITY

China’s space program has been a massive source of national pride, embodying its rise from poverty to the world’s second-largest economy over the past four decades. That has helped shore up the power of the Communist Party, whose authoritarian rule and strict limits on political activity have been tolerated by most Chinese as long as the economy is growing.

President and head of the party Xi Jinping has associated himself closely with that success, and Ji in his remarks cited Xi as setting the updated agenda for China’s rise to prominence in space. The first mission to the station also coincides with the celebration of the party centenary

next month, an important political milestone.

At the same time, China is modernizing its military at a rapid pace, raising concerns from neighbors, the U.S. and its NATO allies. While China espouses the peaceful development of space on the basis of equality and mutual respect, many recall that China in January 2007 sent a ballistic missile into space to destroy an inactive weather satellite, creating a debris field that continues to be a threat.

### WHAT ELSE IS CHINA DOING IN SPACE?

Along with its crewed space program, China has been moving boldly into exploration of the solar system with robotic space ships. It landed a probe on Mars last month that carried a rover, the Zhurong, which is conducting a range of surveys, looking particularly for frozen water that could provide clues as to whether the red planet once supported life. MDT/AP



# Japan announces easing of virus emergency ahead of Olympics

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

**J**APAN yesterday announced the easing of a coronavirus state of emergency in Tokyo and six other areas from next week, with new daily cases falling just as the country begins final preparations for the Olympics starting in just over a month.

Japan has been struggling since late March to slow a wave of infections propelled by more contagious variants, with new daily cases soaring above 7,000 at one point and seriously ill patients straining hospitals in Tokyo, Osaka and other metropolitan areas.

Daily cases have since subsided significantly, paving the way for Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga to downgrade the state of emergency when it expires on Sunday to less stringent measures. The new measures will last until July 11 — just 12 days before the Games.

Suga said the relaxed mea-



asures will focus on early closures of bars and restaurants.

If another surge occurs and strains hospitals, “we will quickly take action, including strengthening of the measures,” Suga said, addressing concerns by medical experts.

Holding the Olympics before elections in the fall is also a

political gamble for Suga, whose support ratings have tumbled over dissatisfaction with his handling of the pandemic, a slow vaccination drive and a lack of explanation about how he intends to ensure the virus doesn't spread during the Olympics.

Experts at a virus panel

meeting yesterday gave their approval for government plans to downgrade the emergency in Tokyo, Aichi, Hokkaido, Osaka, Kyoto, Hyogo and Fukuoka.

“We must do everything we can, and provide firm financial support as well,” to minimize risks of a resurgence of infections, said Dr. Shigeru Omi, head of a government COVID-19 panel.

Japan does not enforce hard lockdowns and the state of emergency allows prefectural leaders to order closures or shorter hours for non-essential businesses. Those that comply are compensated and violators fined. Stay-at-home and other measures for the general population are only requests and are increasingly ignored.

At a parliamentary Health and Labor Committee last week, Omi cautioned that holding the Olympics in the middle of the pandemic is “abnormal” and warned that it would increase the risk of infections.

A team of experts on Wed-

nesday released a simulation showing a possible jump in cases during the Olympics if the spread of the new variants and people's movements increase after emergency measures are eased.

Health Minister Norihisa Tamura told reporters the government would not hesitate to issue another emergency declaration even in the middle of the Olympics to protect people's lives.

The state of emergency will remain in Okinawa, where hospitals are still overwhelmed, while Hiroshima and Okayama will be taken off the list.

Ryuji Wakita, the director-general of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases who heads a government COVID-19 advisory board, said that infections have decreased in many areas, but the slowing has bottomed out in the Tokyo region. He warned that infections could increase and that signs of a rebound are already seen among younger people.

Even as more people are getting the jabs and most of the country's 36 million senior citizens are expected to be fully inoculated by the end of July, younger people are largely unvaccinated and infections among them could quickly burden hospitals, Wakita said. **MDT/AP**

AD

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# Iran nuclear deal hangs in balance as Islamic Republic votes

JON GAMBRELL, DUBAI

**I**RAN'S tattered nuclear deal with world powers hangs in the balance as the country prepares to vote on today for a new president and diplomats press on with efforts to get both the U.S. and Tehran to reenter the accord.

The deal represents the signature accomplishment of the relatively moderate President Hassan Rouhani's eight years in office: suspending crushing sanctions in exchange for the strict monitoring and limiting of Iran's uranium stockpile.

The deal's collapse with President Donald Trump's decision to unilaterally withdraw America from the agreement in 2018 spiraled into a series of attacks and confrontations across the wider Middle East. It also prompted Tehran to enrich uranium to highest purity levels so far, just shy of weapons-grade levels.

With analysts and polling suggesting that a hard-line candidate already targeted by U.S. sanctions will win today's vote, a return to the deal may be possible but it likely won't lead to a further detente between Iran and the West.

"It's certainly not as complex as drafting a deal from scratch, which is what

the sides did that resulted in the 2015 deal," said Henry Rome, a senior analyst focusing on Iran at the Eurasia Group. "But there's still a lot of details that need to be worked out."

He added: "I think there's a lot of domestic politics that go into this and an interest from hard-liners, including the supreme leader, to ensure that their favored candidate wins without any significant disruptions to that process."

The 2015 deal, which saw Iranians flood into the streets in celebration, marked a major turn after years of tensions between Iran and the West over Iran's nuclear program. Tehran has long insisted that its program is for peaceful purposes. However, U.S. intelligence agencies and International Atomic Energy Agency say Iran pursued an organized nuclear weapons program up until 2003.

In order to ease the threat seen by the West, Iran agreed under the deal to limit its enrichment of uranium gas to just 3.67% purity, which can be used in nuclear power plants but is far below weapons-grade levels of 90%. It also put a hard cap on Iran's uranium stockpile to just 300 kilograms (661 pounds). Tehran also committed to using only 5,060 of its first-

generation centrifuges, the devices that spin the uranium gas to enrich it.

Before the deal, Iran had been enriching up to 20% and had a stockpile of some 10,000 kilograms. That amount at that enrichment level narrowed Iran's so-called "breakout" time — how long it would take for Tehran to be able to produce enough weapons-grade uranium for one atomic bomb.

Prior to the deal, experts estimated Iran needed two to three months to reach that point. Under the deal, officials put that period at around a year. The deal also subjected Iran to some of the most-stringent monitoring ever by the IAEA to monitor its program and ensure its compliance.

What the deal didn't do, however, was involve Iran's ballistic missile program or Tehran's support of militant groups around the region — such as the Lebanese Hezbollah or the Palestinian Hamas — that the West and its allies have designated terrorist organizations. At the time, the Obama administration suggested further negotiations could spring from the deal. However, Trump entered the White House on a promise to "tear up" the accord in part over that, which he ultimately did in 2018.

In the time since, Iran has broken all the limits it agreed to under the deal. It now enriches small amounts of uranium up to 63% purity. It spins far-more advanced centrifuges. The IAEA hasn't been able to access its surveillance cameras at Iranian nuclear sites since late February, nor data from its online enrichment monitors and electronic seals — hobbling the U.N. nuclear watchdog's monitoring abilities. Iran also restarted enrichment at a hardened underground facility and is building more centrifuge halls underground, after two attacks suspected to have been carried out by Israel.

If Iran's nuclear program remains unchecked, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has warned it could shrink Tehran's "breakout" time down to "a matter of weeks." That has worried nonproliferation experts.

"I think for the international community — and specifically for the United States — putting the nuclear program back into a box is critical," said Sanam Vakil, the deputy head of Chatham House's Middle East and North Africa program who studies Iran. "It's important because beyond the nuclear agreement, the negotiators are ultimately hoping to lengthen and strengthen the deal. And so you can't even get there until the current deal is stabilized."

Since President Joe Biden took office, his diplomats have been working with other world powers to come up with a way to return both the U.S. and Iran to the deal in negotiations in Vienna. There have been no direct U.S.-Iran in those negotiations, though separate talks have been underway involving a possible prisoner swap.

In today's presidential election in Iran, hard-line judiciary chief Ebrahim Raisi appears to be the front-runner. He's already said he wants to return Iran to the nuclear deal to take advantage of its economic benefits. But given his previous belligerent statements toward the U.S., further cooperation with the West at the moment appears unlikely.

Meanwhile, it remains unclear when a deal will be reached in Vienna. And while Iran has broken through all the accord's limits, there's still more it could do to increase pressure on the West. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1972 UK's WORST AIR CRASH KILLS 118



All 118 people on board a flight from London Heathrow to Brussels have died when the airliner crashed minutes after take-off.

The British European Airways plane came down in a field in Staines, missing the town centre by just a few hundred yards. It is the worst disaster in British aviation history.

The Trident jet - which had been involved in another accident in 1968 - left Heathrow at 1708 BST and was only three miles (4.8 km) from the airport when witnesses said it "dropped out of the sky".

The airline said it did not know what had caused flight BE548 to crash, but BEA chairman Henry Marking told reporters there was "no reason" to suspect sabotage.

Witnesses said the three-engined plane broke into two as it fell - the fuselage ploughed into trees bordering a reservoir and the tail section landed 50 yards (45.7 m) away.

"I heard the plane circling overhead and there was a spluttering sound as though the engines were cutting out - then there was a thud like a clap of thunder," said 15-year-old Adrian Bailey.

Rescuers pulled two people alive from the wreckage of the airliner - a young girl, who died at the scene, and a Dublin businessman who was taken to a local hospital where he died a few hours later.

Heathrow airport Catholic chaplain Father Peter Knott reached the site of the crash within 10 minutes and said it was a scene of total devastation.

"There was chaos inside the aircraft - it looked as if everybody had been killed instantaneously," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

An inquiry by the Air Accidents Investigation Branch said a speed error had caused the plane to stall. The aircraft was not at a sufficient height for the crew to regain control.

A post mortem examination on pilot Stanley Key found he was suffering from a heart condition which was likely to be causing him some pain immediately prior to the crash.

The investigation concluded this had probably impaired the judgement of the captain which led to him making a fatal error not noticed by the other crew until too late.

It remained the UK's worst air accident until December 1988 when a Pan Am jet was bombed over Lockerbie.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Devote time to the close relationships in your world today, Aries. The moon floats through other-oriented Libra, directing your focus towards your current partnership story.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Don't be afraid to put it to good use today, as you're likely to be in the mood for productive action. The moon floats into balance-seeking Libra, helping you even yourself back out after a couple of indulgent days.



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Let yourself shake off the heavy feelings that have been clinging to your back, Gemini. Today's skies work to help you prioritize fun and pleasure over all else, as the moon meanders into beauty-seeking Libra.



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Cancerians regularly need to withdraw into their cozy shell and recharge themselves. You're in need of some time at home to recuperate today, as the moon wanders into peace-seeking Libra.



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Don't expect yourself to sit still under today's skies, Leo. There are things to do and places to see! The moon floats into logical Libra, helping you tap into your mental health and assess your needs.



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You've got a wealth of talents that are just waiting to be tapped into, Virgo. Today's skies push you to take a look at your abilities and bring them to life, as the moon floats into beauty-seeking Libra.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

As a Libra, you tend to give your energy away to others without thinking of yourself first. Friday's skies encourage you to abandon that mode of action and send attention inwards toward yourself.



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Pull away from the world today, Scorpio. You're probably in the mood to move away to an isolated island without human contact. Rather than be so drastic, just let yourself recharge.



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Reconnect with your people today, Sagittarius. You've been so enmeshed in relationship dramas, both romantic and family, that you're likely in need of some levity.



### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Spend some time delving into your ambitions today, as the balance-seeking Libra moon pushes you to explore a different perspective around your trajectory.



### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Get out of your comfort zone today, Aquarius. You're craving a fresh landscape - one that will re-enliven your inspiration and help you find a fresh perspective.

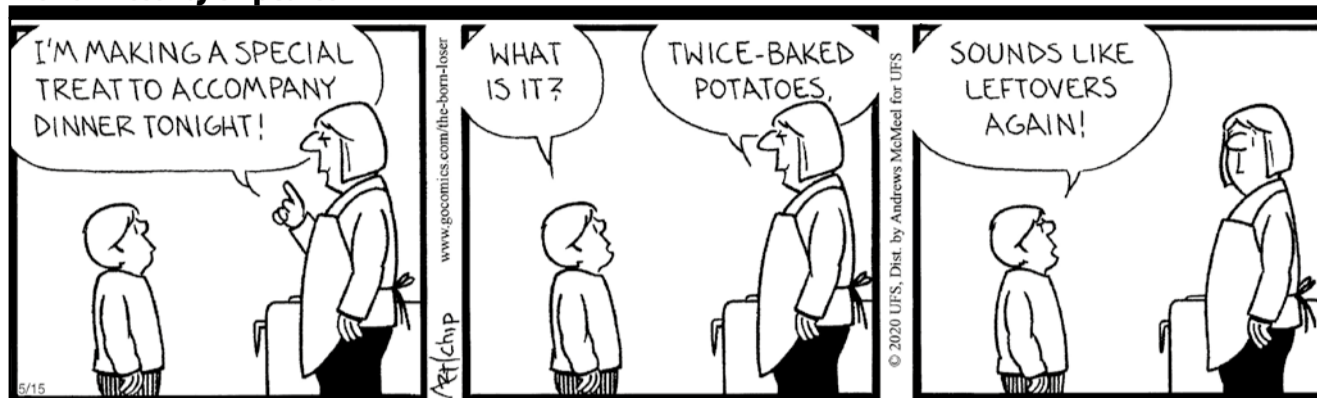


### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Refrain from excessive socialization, as you're more in the mood to be an introvert and do some psychological digging within. Luna's energizing link with Mars offers stamina on any work projects.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



## SUDOKU

### EASY

	3	5		1				8
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### EASY+

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	1				3	6		
9				5				
			3					9
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7					8	5		

### MEDIUM

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### HARD

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1		5						
2								

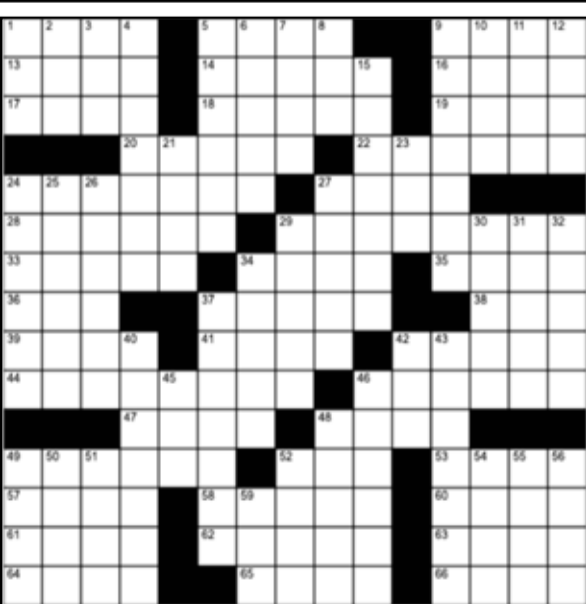
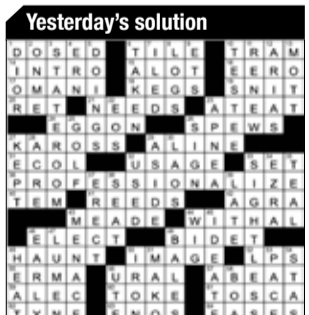
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	20	32	fine
Harbin	18	24	rain
Tianjin	27	36	cloudy
Urumqi	20	25	showers
Xi'an	24	32	rain
Lhasa	18	22	rain
Chengdu	27	36	cloudy
Chongqing	27	34	cloudy
Kunming	27	35	showers
Nanjing	21	28	cloudy
Shanghai	27	36	thunderstorms
Wuhan	24	32	rain
Hangzhou	18	25	thunderstorms
Taipei	24	29	rain
Guangzhou	12	26	fine
Hong Kong	20	25	rain
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	13	24	cloudy
Frankfurt	18	32	cloudy
Paris	21	31	sunny
London	18	29	rain
New York	14	27	sunny

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Polite address; 5- Greek letters; 9- Freeway access; 13- Public exhibition; 14- Conger catcher; 16- Iroquois foe; 17- Roman emperor; 18- Lasso; 19- Animal pelts; 20- Blasting; 22- Trumpet relative; 24- One-piece bathing suit for women; 27- Highest point; 28- Consented; 29- Goalpost part; 33- Tend; 34- \_\_\_ contendere; 35- Gap; 36- MSNBC rival; 37- What girls will be; 38- Jockey Turcotte; 39- "Garfield" canine; 41- Horse of mixed color; 42- It's a steal; 44- Undiplomatic; 46- Turns inside out; 47- Facilitate; 48- Mission control gp.; 49- Need for liquid; 52- Family nickname; 53- Type of tomato; 57- Long time; 58- Cavalry weapon; 60- Impediment; 61- Actress Turner; 62- Root or Yale; 63- Official records; 64- Catchall abbr.; 65- Part of a process; 66- Age unit;

DOWN: 1- Game pieces; 2- Handled tool, terminate; 3- Calendar abbr.; 4- Small satellite; 5- Portion of time; 6- Robbery; 7- Now \_\_\_ me down...; 8- What the sun does in the west; 9- Reinvigorate; 10- Make \_\_\_ for it; 11- Bog; 12- Annoyance; 15- Nocturnal carnivore; 21- Muffin top; 23- Mantric syllables; 24- Symbol; 25- To-do list; 26- Conciliatory; 27- Senator Specter; 29- Unconscious states; 30- Tree insect; 31- High up; 32- Leases; 34- Snare; 37- Use a full nelson, say; 40- Endless; 42- Boob tubes; 43- Rumor; 45- Part of UNLV; 46- Relax; 48- Recess in a wall; 49- Story; 50- Warmth; 51- New Rochelle college; 52- Bad mood; 54- On a single occasion; 55- First name in spydom; 56- Petri dish gelatin; 59- Capp and Capone;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- 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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AD



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

LINDSEY BAHR,  
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

DRIVE IN

# KEVIN HART SHOWS RANGE IN TEARJERKER 'FATHERHOOD'

KEVIN Hart can make us laugh and cry, it seems, even if the vehicle was practically engineered to bring on the waterworks. In "Fatherhood," on Netflix on Friday, he plays a new dad whose wife dies shortly after childbirth and he's left raising their daughter on his own.

To be fair, there's been many built-in tearjerkers that have failed (remember "Life Itself"?). But something has to go very, very wrong for a film to mess up that kind of premise. "Fatherhood" doesn't just succeed on that emotional level, though — it's also a cut above the rest, thanks to a smart and funny and basically authentic script (director Paul Weitz and Dana Stevens) and Hart's inspired casting.

The story is based on Matthew Logelin's memoir, "Two Kisses for Maddy: A Memoir of Loss and Love," about losing his wife after she gave birth to their daughter. Since its publication 10 years ago, it's had a few different lives, first as a Lifetime movie, then as a Channing Tatum vehicle, before finally landing Weitz ("About a Boy") as a director and Hart as his star.

Hart plays Matt, a Boston professional with a beautiful wife.



Kevin Hart (left) and Alfre Woodard in a scene from "Fatherhood."

The film introduces him at her funeral, before cutting back to how it happened. The script does a good job at introducing you to Matt and Liz (Deborah Ayorinde) and making her more than just a bland stand-in for "wife" while you brace for what's coming. And of course, it's not about them but Matt and his baby daughter, Maddy. He doesn't even have time to grieve. He's got a little human to keep alive.

"Fatherhood" smooths out many of the edges of real life. Money does not seem to be a worry for Matt, he has parents and in-laws (Alfre Woodard is terrific as his mother-in-law) who are more than willing to take him and Maddy back to Minnesota, and his early parenting trials are all presented in palatable, bite-sized doses. One day is crib set-up. One day she screams a lot. There's even a "babies are hard

but funny" montage set to Salt-N-Pepa's "Push It," where we breeze through installing a car seat and almost leaving it (with a baby inside) at the grocery store. This is not a "Tully"-style representation of the deep exhaustion of caring for an infant.

The film does a good job balancing the drama with the comedy however, and is helped by a strong supporting cast, including Lil Rel Howery and Anthony Car-

rigan as Matt's best friends.

And within the sitcom dramedy aesthetic, there are moments of truth and grace, from Matt panic-vacuuming to simulate white noise so the colic-y baby can sleep to him pleading with his mother-in-law that he'll never know if he's a good parent if he doesn't get the chance to try. It's never entirely clear why he doesn't want their help or needs to move back to their hometown.

"Fatherhood" skips forward to kindergarten, which is a little jarring, but it's nice to see Maddy (Melody Hurd) with a personality and point of view and to give Hart someone other than a baby to connect with. It also allows the film to introduce a love interest (played by DeWanda Wise). You may never be surprised by where "Fatherhood" is going, but you forgive it, too.

It's all done with a good heart. Even the cliché moments are understandable. Sometimes brutal realism is overrated when it comes to newborns in movies. And, let's be honest, you're much more likely to re-watch "Fatherhood" than "Tully."

"Fatherhood," a Netflix release is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some strong language, and suggestive material." Running time: 109 minutes. ★★★★★

AD

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IRENE SAM, MDT

TASTE OF EDESIA

**O**MNIFOODS, a pioneer in plant-based food innovation, announces its latest game-changer: **OmniSeafood**. Following the worldwide success of its OmniPork series since its debut in 2018, OmniFoods expands its product pipeline to bring revolutionary novelty and excitement to plant-based eating. The new protein line reinforces the brand's commitment to promote a sustainable ecosystem that treats the planet, animals and us, right.

While fish is an essential protein source for 3.3 billion people and provides 17% of the world's animal protein, plant-based seafood currently is less than 1% of the plant-based protein market in the United States. Following the success-

ful launches of the OmniPork series which has impressed 20 markets and is now widely available in through 40,000 points of sale, OmniFoods excites the global palates with innovative and groundbreaking fish products – Omni Classic Fillet, Omni Golden Fillet, Omni Ocean Burger, OmniTuna and soon-to-be-launched OmniSalmon, acting as perfect alternatives that share the same look and feel with their traditional counterpart.

Crafted with a proprietary blend of plant-based protein from non-GMO soy, pea and rice, Omni Classic Fillet, Omni Golden Fillet and Omni Ocean

Burger recreate plant-based versions of different preparations of mild white fishes in plant-based version. Natural and clean, they bring a slightly sweet note just like real fish. Apart from the trio, OmniTuna is the first ambient product of OmniFoods. As a safe alternative to the world's most widely consumed fish, OmniTuna is mercury-free, in the meantime, mimicking the taste and texture of real tuna. Another revolutionary innovation in the pipeline, OmniSalmon, recreates another best-loved fish worldwide. All certified vegan and Buddhist-friendly, these fish alternatives are also pro-

tein sources. They are also free from trans-fat and cholesterol, contain no hormones, artificial colours, MSGs, added antibiotics or preservatives.

OmniSeafood contains omega-3 ALA derived from non-GMO expeller-pressed canola oil, ranging from 302 to 450mg, an essential fatty acid that the human body cannot make on its own which must be taken through diet. The Adequate Intakes (AIs) of omega-3 ALA for adult males and females is 1.6g and 1.1g respectively. It helps reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.

Mr David Yeung, founder and CEO of Green Monday

Group and OmniFoods, said, "We cannot tackle climate change without taking care of the ocean. Overfishing and bottom trawling are the most destructive actions that devastate our marine ecosystems. That explains why since the breakthrough launch of OmniPork in 2018, we started setting our focus on seafood. After years of R&D and dedication, we are thrilled to officially unveil this revolutionary OmniSeafood series on this special occasion of World Oceans Day. Plant-based fish and chips, fillet-no-fish burger or Sichuan spicy boiled fish all become a reality. This breakthrough guarantees not only to wow our taste buds, but also to awaken our consciousness towards the ocean and the planet. With today's milestone launch of OmniSeafood, we believe it is a big leap forward to a real sea change."

## Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



### THE BEACON HILL 1350 METRES SAND 2021-06-19|Sat|18:55

**M**Y very good friend from Macau now residing in Hong Kong is staying in Beacon Hill, Kowloon; looking at this Saturday's card there is a race named after Beacon Hill and by coincident my pick for this week also comes from this race. Hope this association bring our readers luck. **River Unicorn** from S.H Cheong's yard really caught the eyes the other day, his rider leave him galloping freely on the rail without asking for anything, **River Unicorn** pushed himself in front and got third in this trail. His performance in 1350 metres sand has proven solid with 2 wins and 2 second placings under his belt. He also draw barrier one and with the booking of L. Corrales in the modest rating of only 67. If he wins it will make my friend very happy likewise to **River Unicorn's** connection. He is my NAP of the week.

Race 6 Horse no. 6 RIVER UNICORN Win & Place bet







MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# ITALY IMPRESS AGAIN IN 3-0 WIN OVER SWITZERLAND AT EURO 2020

**T**HE wingers sprint forward like Ferraris. The midfielders are just as capable at scoring as the forwards. And the reserves look like starters.

A new-look Italy is impressing with its offensive flair at the European Championship.

Midfielder Manuel Locatelli scored two goals Wednesday and the Azzurri beat Switzerland 3-0 to become the first team to reach the last 16 at Euro 2020, and they did it with a game to spare.

They also did it with their 10th consecutive victory.

"I'm fortunate to have great players who enjoy playing soccer, like to have fun and take some risks — which is the essence of soccer," Italy coach Roberto Mancini said.

As usual — and perhaps the only characteristic carried on from Italy teams of the past — the defense was impenetrable.

It's quite a turnaround for a team that failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

Italy extended its unbeaten streak to 29 matches — one shy of the team record — and kept its 10th clean sheet in that run.

Mancini, however, suggested that Italy still trails France, Portugal and Belgium on the list of tournament favorites.

"One of them is the World Cup

AP PHOTO



champion, one is the European champion and one has been first in the ranking for quite a while," Mancini said. "They've been shaped over time and it's only normal that they're ahead of us. But anything can happen in soccer. It's not such a sure thing."

Locatelli's first goal came following a textbook exchange with Sassuolo teammate Domenico Berardi midway through the first half. His second came with a long, low shot shortly after the break that left

Switzerland goalkeeper Yann Sommer immobile.

Ciro Immobile added the third with another long-range effort in the 89th for his second score of the tournament.

Giorgio Chiellini had a goal waved off by video review early in the match because of a handball. Then the Italy captain exited with a left thigh injury.

Italy leads Group A with a six points after overwhelming Turkey 3-0 in the tournament opener.

Wales is next with four points earlier after beating Turkey 2-0 in Baku.

Switzerland has one point and Turkey has zero.

"They caused us a lot of problems and we weren't (playing)

at 100%," Switzerland coach Vladimir Petkovi said. "We weren't secure on the pitch, which is normally not our character."

Locatelli's first goal was an offensive masterclass.

He started it off with a long pass from within Italy's half to Berardi streaking down the right flank. Berardi then cut inside and crossed back to the onrushing Locatelli, who tapped in from close range.

"Manu and I know each other very well," Berardi said. "He was smart to give me the ball and carry on the run."

Added Mancini: "It was an extraordinary goal."

And to think that Locatelli only gained his starting spot because of an injury to the more experienced Marco Verratti, who is expected back for the next game against Wales.

At age 23, Locatelli became the tournament's youngest scorer so far.

Italy goalkeeper Gianluigi Donnarumma preserved the shutout with a double save on Steven Zuber late in the second half.

The Azzurri have now scored 30 unanswered goals over their last 10 matches.

In the final group games, Italy remains in Rome to face Wales while Switzerland returns to Baku to face Turkey. **MDT/AP**

## LATEST RESULTS

Team	Points	Goals For	Goals Against	Opponent
Turkey	0	2	Wales	
Italy	3	0	Switzerland	
Ukraine	2	1	North Macedonia	

## GROUP STANDINGS

Group A	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Italy	2	2	0	0	6-0	6
Wales	2	1	1	0	3-1	4
Switzerland	2	0	1	1	1-4	1
Turkey	2	0	0	2	0-5	0
Group B	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Belgium	1	1	0	0	3-0	3
Russia	2	1	0	1	1-3	3
Finland	2	1	0	1	1-1	3
Denmark	1	0	0	1	0-1	0
Group C	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Netherlands	1	1	0	0	3-2	3
Austria	1	1	0	0	3-1	3
Ukraine	2	1	0	1	4-4	3
North Macedonia	2	0	0	2	2-5	0
Group D	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Czech Republic	1	1	0	0	2-0	3
England	1	1	0	0	1-0	3
Croatia	1	0	0	1	0-1	0
Scotland	1	0	0	1	0-2	0
Group E	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Slovakia	1	1	0	0	2-1	3
Spain	1	0	1	0	0-0	1
Sweden	1	0	1	0	0-0	1
Poland	1	0	0	1	1-2	0
Group F	PL	W	DRAW	L	GF - GA	PNT
Portugal	1	1	0	0	3-0	3
France	1	1	0	0	1-0	3
Germany	1	0	0	1	0-1	0
Hungary	1	0	0	1	0-3	0

# England-Scotland: Rivalry that started

**U**NIMAGINABLE now, especially with tickets in short supply during the coronavirus pandemic, but when England and Scotland first decided to play each other in a soccer match they weren't sure if there would be much demand.

How wrong they were. The West of Scotland Cricket Club was packed on Nov. 30, 1872.

"It was a big social success and a financial success," soccer historian Andy Mitchell said. "So that was the stepping stone that made them realize that there was a market for football and the potential for them for the game to grow."

More than 2,000 spectators watched the 1-1 draw, generating a profit to fund travel for a return match in England and set international soccer's oldest rivalry in motion.

The 115th installment of the meeting of neighbors within Britain comes on to-

AP PHOTO



England's soccer captain Alan Shearer (right) in action against Scotland's Christian Dailly at Glasgow's Hampden Park, Scotland, during their soccer Euro 2000 qualifier

day at the home of English soccer, Wembley Stadium — 149 years after the first.

"Historically, it's an incredibly important event," Mitchell, the author of "First Elevens — the birth of international football," said by telephone. "It helped football as a game to develop becau-

se even at that time, there were two different styles. Scotland had the passing game, teamwork. England had their sort of dribbling, head down and run kind of game.

"It was quite apparent very soon that the teamwork and passing game was far

superior to what the English were playing."

That was clear within the first decade of encounters with Scotland enjoying five-goal victory margins of 7-2 and 6-1.

"So the Scottish style," Mitchell said, "was soon absorbed by the English game."





MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PREVIEW

# Sweden to throw off shackles against Slovakia at Euro 2020

**S**WEDEN is promising a more expansive approach against Slovakia at the European Championship.

That won't be difficult.

Against Spain in their Group E opener, the Swedes had only 15% possession — the lowest figure on record in the history of the tournament. In terms of passes, they had 161 compared to Spain's 917.

Sweden coach Janne Andersson will say the game plan of hunkering down, defending deeply and compactly, and then attempting to hit on the break worked. After all, the final score was 0-0 — a satisfactory result against the team regarded as the best in the group — and Sweden arguably created the best two chances of the game, for strikers Alexander Isak and Marcus Berg.

"If there's something that we are among the best in the world at, it's accepting a sacrificial game," Sweden midfielder Albin Ekdal said.

That won't be accepted today, though, when they play a less possession-based opponent in Slovakia, a team cut from a similar cloth to Sweden in terms of defensive rigidity and simplicity of its approach.

"Slovakia plays differently [to Spain]," said Kristoffer Olsson, Ek-



Slovakia's Marek Hamsik

dal's central-midfield partner, "and that means we have a different game plan, which means we can reset ourselves."

Indeed, it might be Slovakia which is happy to retreat and soak up pressure on this occasion in the fourth match at Euro 2020 to be played in St. Petersburg this tournament.

The Slovaks opened with an unexpected 2-1 win over Poland and might only need a point from their remaining two group games to advance. That would maintain their 100%

## SLOVAKIA'S VAVRO TESTS POSITIVE FOR CORONAVIRUS

**SLOVAKIA** defender Denis Vavro and a member of the team's coaching staff have tested positive for the coronavirus ahead of the European Championship match against Sweden, coach Stefan Tarkovic said yesterday. They are the first positive tests for COVID-19 to have been announced since Euro 2020 started. Tarkovic said Vavro has no symptoms and is isolating. He didn't disclose the name of the coach. "We started to work with the Russian public health authorities," Tarkovic said through a translator, "and start-

ed to apply the corresponding UEFA protocol. So we took all the steps to avoid the spread of the infection." UEFA protocol states that teams with fewer than 13 players could have their game "rescheduled within the next 48 hours of the date of the relevant match" and possibly at a different venue. "Any additional player called up to meet the minimum of 13 players requires that an equivalent number of quarantined players are definitively withdrawn from the 26 players list," the European soccer body said.

## international soccer

Scotland having such an influence south of the border seems incongruous in the modern game.

A gulf between their domestic leagues has also grown over this century as the Premier League in England has cemented its status at the world's richest league and the second-division Championship is even able to offer salaries comparable with — or exceeding — those on offer in the Scottish Premiership.

"They've got a population of 55 million, we've got a population of 5 million," Scotland midfielder John McGinn said. "They've got worldwide superstars all through their squad, so we'll always be underdogs. But hopefully that will suit us."

While 2018 World Cup semifinalist England opened Euro 2020 with a win over Croatia, Scotland lost to the Czech Republic on home soil in Glasgow in its first men's tournament game of the 21st century.

The Scottish men last qualified for a European Championship in 1996 but didn't advance from the group stage after losing to England at Wembley — a match memorable for the incredible goal scored by Paul Gascoigne. They haven't been back to a World Cup since 1998, missing out on five in a row.

"We are forever searching for a place on the world stage," said West of Scotland Tartan Army group spokesman Hamish Husband, who will be going to his 28th match against England today. "We live in the shadow of England. So our job is just to prick the bubble."

Husband said he has only missed three of the derbies since his first in 1966 — the same year England won its only major title at the World Cup.

One of the most cherished Scottish victories came in 1967 when the northerners came to Wembley, won 3-2 and declared themselves

unofficial champions of the world. That was a time when England and Scotland played at least once annually in an unbroken run from 1947 to 1989 — when the rancor was bitter and the hooliganism was rampant.

There was a memorable 2-1 victory for Scotland in 1977 at Wembley when fans poured onto the field, ripping up pieces of turf to take home and tearing

down the goals. It reflected the Scottish euphoria of the time when they were qualifying for World Cups — five in a row from 1974 to 1990 — while England was missing from the FIFA party in 1974 and 1978.

"Scotland games," reminisced former England captain Terry Butcher, who played for his country from 1980-90, "they always stick out in your mind because of the sheer energy of the game, around the game, on the pitch and off the pitch."

Only twice in three de-

CADES have England and Scotland met at a time of their own choosing — playing friendlies in 2013 and 2014 — rather than being paired in qualifying or tournaments. Both those games were contested without any of the fan violence of the past — as will be the hope around Wembley today with only 3,500 members of the Tartan Army ticketed in the pandemic-reduced capacity of 22,500.

"There's not the animosity any more," Husband said. "What we feel is patronized."

There's little desire in England or Scotland for the resumption of annual matches that would be more about sentimentality rather than a strong commercial proposition attractive to fans. England wants to face more illustrious opponents, while Scotland is focused on just trying to qualify for more tournaments.

"As important as the England game is, we still miss the world stage," Husband said. "The complication of the England game is not what we want." **MDT/AP**

## UPCOMING GAMES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	City	ODDS
<b>Fri</b>	Jun 18	0:00	Denmark	Belgium	Copenhagen	H 4.4, D 3.35, A 2.06
<b>Fri</b>	Jun 18	3:00	Netherlands	Austria	Amsterdam	H 1.7, D 4.1, A 6
<b>Fri</b>	Jun 18	21:00	Sweden	Slovakia	Dublin	H 1.86, D 3.5, A 5.3
<b>Sat</b>	Jun 19	0:00	Croatia	Czech Republic	Glasgow	H 2.24, D 3.4, A 3.7
<b>Sat</b>	Jun 19	3:00	England	Scotland	London	H 1.35, D 5.5, A 11.5
<b>Sat</b>	Jun 19	21:00	Hungary	France	Budapest	H 13, D 5.6, A 1.36
<b>Sun</b>	Jun 20	0:00	Portugal	Germany	Munich	H 3.35, D 3.4, A 2.4
<b>Sun</b>	Jun 20	3:00	Spain	Poland	Bilbao	H 1.43, D 5.2, A 10
<b>Mon</b>	Jun 21	0:00	Italy	Wales	Rome	H 1.51, D 4.35, A 9.4
<b>Mon</b>	Jun 21	0:00	Switzerland	Turkey	Baku	H 1.79, D 4.2, A 5



**OPINION**

**World Views**

James D. Long, University of Washington  
 MDT/The Conversation

**WHY NOBODY WILL EVER  
 AGREE ON WHETHER COVID  
 LOCKDOWNS WERE WORTH IT**

As an increasingly vaccinated world emerges from lockdowns, lots of people are talking about whether the fight against the pandemic was too strong or too weak. Some people argue restrictions did not go far enough; others maintain the attempted cures have been worse than the disease.

One reason for these conflicting views is that the answer depends on both facts and values.

Relevant facts include features of the virus like transmission rates and deaths. Government policies were often guided by scientific findings to reduce the spread of the virus and the resulting illnesses and deaths.

Relevant values include health and longevity, but also prosperity, opportunity, equality and freedom. Different people weigh those values differently.

Our research on the study of how fair and reasonable discussion helps citizens reach political decisions suggests there will never be widespread agreement on whether lockdowns, the most controversial coronavirus policy, were worthwhile.

**Costs versus benefits**

In a perfect world, policymakers' decisions are based on evidence. But which science and data matter to some people is different from the science and data that matter to others. Should the government prioritize public health at the expense of the economy? Should individuals sacrifice liberty for the social good?

In principle, the U.S. could have devoted all of society's resources to fighting coronavirus – but doing so would have meant ignoring all other illnesses and the personal priorities that make life worth living, like hugging Grandma on July 4th.

Cost-benefit analyses offer one way to ensure that various trade-offs are explicitly considered rather than left unstated. These analyses rely on well-established methods to estimate how much society is implicitly willing to pay to save one life.

Based on those estimates, the number of deaths prevented by coronavirus mitigation policies could be converted into dollars for the "benefit" side of the ledger. The associated "costs" include direct government expenditures now and into the future, along with lost wages and revenues for individuals and businesses.

With both benefits and costs denominated in dollars, it's potentially possible to determine a policy's net social effect: It's a simple math problem.

**Lockdowns are hard to evaluate**

But even if we could cleanly compare costs to benefits, it's impossible to definitively measure the effects of lockdowns. Communities that had longer and more extensive lockdowns were often those likely to be more vulnerable to the spread of disease, or with less access to medical care.

For example, some denser places with more intergenerational households introduced severe lockdowns – but were also more likely to suffer high levels of virus transmission and death. This would artificially make it seem like lockdowns didn't work, because those places still suffered many deaths – just fewer than they would have without the lockdowns.

**The range of costs and benefits**

Even if it were possible to isolate the number of deaths prevented through a lockdown, it's hard to measure other costs and benefits associated with coronavirus policies.

Confining people to their homes may have reduced their odds of spreading the virus. But staying home may have raised other risks, such as domestic abuse, addiction and mental health problems and the harms from delayed treatments for other medical conditions.

Among children, the lack of in-person schooling can hurt learning and raised rates of anxiety, depression and sleep disorders. Other potential costs can be measured only in the future – such as smaller expected earnings among people whose learning was slowed down.

[Abridged]

The United States will soon have a new federal holiday commemorating the end of slavery.

The House voted 415-14 yesterday (local time) to make Juneteenth, or June 19th, the 12th federal holiday. President Joe Biden is scheduled to sign the bill into law today (local time).

Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers brought the news of freedom to enslaved Black people in Galveston, Texas — two months after the Confederacy had surrendered. That was also about 2 and a half years after the Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in the Southern states.

It's the first new federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was created in 1983.

"Our federal holidays are purposely few in number and recognize the most important milestones," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y. "I cannot think of a more important milestone to commemorate than the end of slavery in the United States."

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, D-Texas, speaking next to a large poster of a Black man whose back bore massive scarring from being whipped, said she would be in Galveston this Saturday to celebrate along with Republican Sen. John Cornyn of Texas.



AP PHOTO

**INTERNET OUTAGES  
 BRIEFLY DISRUPT ACCESS  
 TO WEBSITES, APPS**

A wave of brief internet outages hit the websites and apps of dozens of financial institutions, airlines and other companies across the globe yesterday.

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange said in a post on Twitter yesterday afternoon Hong Kong time that its site was facing technical issues and that it was investigating. It said in another post 17 minutes later that its websites were back to normal.

Internet monitoring websites including ThousandEyes, Downdetector.com and fmg.com showed dozens of disruptions, including to U.S.-based airlines.

Many of the outages were reported by people in Australia trying to do banking, book flights and access postal services.

Australia Post, the country's postal service, said on Twitter that an "external outage" had impacted a number of its services, and that while most services had come back online, they were continuing to monitor and investigate.

Many services were up and running after an hour or so but the affected

companies said they were working overtime to prevent further problems.

Banking services were severely disrupted, with Westpac, the Commonwealth, ANZ and St George all down, along with the website of the Reserve Bank of Australia, the country's central

**Internet monitoring websites including ThousandEyes, Downdetector.com and fmg.com showed dozens of disruptions, including to U.S.-based airlines**

bank. The Reserve Bank cancelled a bond-buying operation due to technical difficulties facing several banks that were to participate.

Services have mostly been restored.

Virgin Australia said flights were largely operating as scheduled after it restored access to its website and guest contact center.

"Virgin Australia was one of many organizations to experience an outage with the Akamai content delivery system today," it

said. "We are working with them to ensure that necessary measures are taken to prevent these outages from reoccurring."

Akamai, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, counts some of the world's biggest companies and banks as customers. The company said in a

statement yesterday that it was aware of the issue and working to restore services as soon as possible.

The disruptions came just days after many of the world's top websites went offline briefly due to

a problem with software at Fastly, another major web services company. The company blamed the problem on a software bug that was triggered when a customer changed a setting.

Brief internet service outages are not uncommon and are only rarely the result of hacking or other mischief. But the outages have underscored how vital a small number of behind-the-scenes companies have become to running the internet. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

**Russia** Authorities in four regions made coronavirus vaccines mandatory this week for people working in retail, education and other service sectors, part of an effort to boost the country's low immunization rates as Covid-19 cases continue to soar. Moscow first announced the requirement Wednesday, and the surrounding Moscow region, the Siberian region of Kemerovo and the Far East region of Sakhalin promptly followed.

**Germany** Two people were killed in a shooting in yesterday, police said. The circumstances were unclear but authorities said there appeared to be no danger to the general public. The incident took place in Espelkamp, a town of about 26,000 near the city of Bielefeld. There was no immediate information on who the perpetrator was, whether they had been caught, or a possible motive.

**Turkey** A gunman killed one person yesterday during an attack on the office of a pro-Kurdish party in western Turkey, authorities said. The Peoples' Democratic Party, or HDP, said a gunman entered the building in Izmir province, fired shots and attempted to set the office on fire. The provincial governor's office said one person was killed. The office said a suspect, a former health worker, was detained.



AP PHOTO

**Greece** The European Union yesterday endorsed a pandemic recovery plan for Greece worth 30.5 billion euros, providing vital relief for the eurozone member's shaken economy. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen formally announced the approval of Greece's "recovery and resilience" plan at a ceremony under the Acropolis in Athens, providing 12.7 billion euros in loans and 17.8 billion euros in grants through 2026.