



MGTO WILL SOON EMBARK ON A MASS COMMUNICATION REGARDING THE NEW ENTRY MEASURES FOR HONG KONG TRAVELERS

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A 22-YEAR-OLD STUDENT FROM THE UK IS THE CITY'S 55TH COVID-19 CASE

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A NON-RESIDENT WORKER HAS RECENTLY BEEN ARRESTED BY AUTHORITIES FOR ALLEGEDLY ADMINISTERING SKIN WHITENING INJECTIONS

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AP PHOTO



Japan Voters in the capital are electing the Tokyo city assembly amid worries about health risks during the Olympics, opening in three weeks, as coronavirus cases continue to rise. In Sunday's balloting, 271 candidates are vying for 127 seats. Eligible voters total 9.8 million people in the megacity with a population of nearly 14 million. Public opinion surveys show about 60% of respondents want the Games canceled or postponed again.

AP PHOTO



Japan More than 1,000 soldiers, firefighters and police yesterday waded through a giant mudslide that ripped through a resort town southwest of Tokyo, killing at least two people and leaving about 20 missing as it swept away houses and cars. Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga told reporters 19 people had been rescued, and 130 homes and other buildings were damaged in Atami.

AP PHOTO

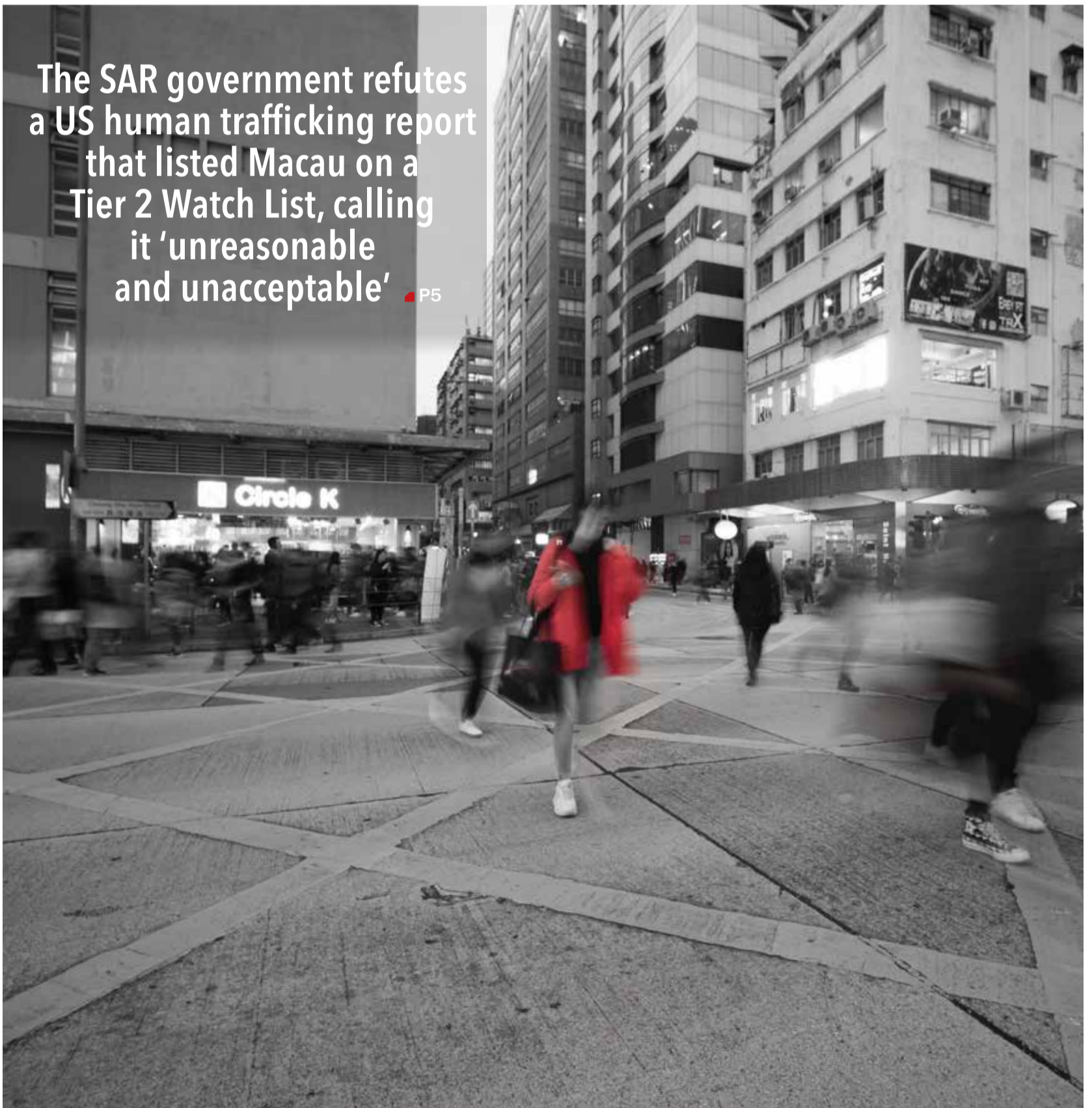


India More than a million people yesterday began planting 250 million saplings in India's most populous state, part of an annual mass tree planting campaign to reduce carbon emissions and mitigate the effects of global climate change. Lawmakers, government officials and volunteers from social organizations swarmed riverbanks, farms, forests, schools and government buildings, planting saplings at designated spots. The effort spans 68,000 villages and 83,000 forest sites in northern Uttar Pradesh state.

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ON A WATCHLIST

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ARRON CHOI

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ELECTIONS 2021

FOUR PARTIES SUBMIT LISTS OF CANDIDATES TO RUN FOR AL

STAFF REPORTERS

As the deadline for submission of candidate lists and election platforms draws closer, the intensity of the elections went up significantly — with four groups handing in their respective lists and platforms on Friday.

The four groups include: Aliança de Bom Lar (Alliance of Good Homes), “Poderes do Pensamento Político” [The Powers of Political Thought], “Força do Diálogo” [Strength of Dialogue] and “Associação do Progresso de Novo Macau” [Association for the Progress of New Macau].

All English names are translations by the Times, as the Legislative Assembly (AL) Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) are not legally bound to take English names.

The submission period will come to an end today.



ALLIANCE OF GOOD HOMES

The first candidate on the list, incumbent lawmaker Wong Kit Cheng, said her team focuses on protecting the rights of women and children,

fighting for the implementation of family-friendly policies, and promoting economic recovery and diversified development. There are 11 candidates on the list.

THE POWERS OF POLITICAL THOUGHT

Kot Man Kam, ranked first in the list, said his team is primarily concerned with administrative reform, civil service

career optimization and the development of the gaming industry. They also hope to implement an accountability system for senior officials. It has a dozen candidates.

STRENGTH OF DIALOGUE

First candidate Choi Man Cheng said that their team is mainly concerned with youth career development and housing issues. They hope that the government will implement the sandwich class housing scheme as soon as possible. The group also calls for increasing spaces for youth development. The group has nine candidates.

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROGRESS OF NEW MACAU

First in the list of candidates, Chan Wai Chi, who was a member during the fourth AL term, said that his team is mainly concerned with residents' rights. The team will fight for better policies and plans to improve people's livelihood, as well as promote social development. It submitted a list of five candidates.

MGTO TO COMMUNICATE NEW ENTRY MEASURES TO HONG KONG TOURISTS

HONEY TSANG

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will soon embark on a mass communication regarding the new entry measures for Hong Kong travelers once the Hong Kong-Macau travel bubble commences.

MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes addressed the media about the plan on the sidelines of an event on July 2.

Fernandes said the authorities need to gear themselves up to prepare for the reopening of the intercity border. One of the key efforts is to publicize hotel booking information for Hong Kong visitors, such as rounding up a list of Macau's hotels able to accommodate them, the new booking procedures, and more.



Apart from this, the MGTO will reach out to tourism-related venues to clarify the details of the regulations once the Health Bureau has finalized all the guidelines, to ensure a robust implementation of policies designed for Hong Kong tourists.

On July 1, the government announced that the Hong Kong-Macau travel bubble is set to kick off, should Hong Kong see no

cases with unknown sources for 14 days.

Hong Kong holidaymakers will endure a roster of constraints that prohibit them from engaging in “mask-off” activities upon arrival in Macau, and they will be given a unique blue health code.

The MGTO will carry out explanatory work regarding the particulars for handling people with blue health codes, Fernandes said.

NON-RESIDENT FALLS ILL AFTER RECEIVING UNLICENSED SKIN WHITENING INJECTIONS

A non-resident worker from the Philippines has recently been arrested by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) for allegedly administering three injections on fellow Filipino woman, causing bacteremia to the latter.

The case was first identified by the hospital about a Filipina feeling unwell after receiving a skin whitening injection. Preliminary diagnosis was bacteremia, or bacteria in the blood. Under normal circumstances, blood should be germ-free.

Due to this diagnosis, the hospital notified the PSP.

Details were uncovered that the victim received “whitening therapies” on June 6, 13 and 19 at the suspect's place of residence. Each session lasted about 15 minutes and cost



MOP200. Five minutes after the last session, the victim felt dizzy and started vomiting. She was sent to the hospital.

When interrogated by the police, the suspect, who is in her 30s, confessed on the deeds and the fact that she had no medical knowledge while administering any job.

While investigating the case, the PSP accidentally

unearthed a fraudulent employment and arrested three individuals from both Macau and Hong Kong.

The police discovered that the suspect has allegedly paid a Hong Kong middleman MOP10,000 to obtain a non-resident worker ID so as to remain in Macau. The “employer” was later paid MOP8,000 for the “convenience.” AL

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Court rejects MP appeal, acquitting quarantine breacher of charges

RENATO MARQUES

THE Court of Second Instance (TSI) has rejected an appeal by the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) against the decision by the Court of First Instance (TJB) to acquit a defendant accused of the crime of infringing preventive sanitary measures.

According to the ruling from the TSI, the judge from TJB acted well and in accordance with the law by acquitting the defendant of all charges. This acquittal was on the grounds that the health authorities failed to comply with the basic legal requirements while enforcing the quarantine measure in the first place, the office of the president of the Court of Final Appeal noted in a statement.

The case goes back to September 27, 2020, when the person entered Macau via the Border Gate without any Nucleic Acid Test (NAT) certificate.

At the time, authorities transported him to the Public Hospital to perform the NAT, and, while doing so, asked him to sign a notification of a "Notice of a Short-term Medical Observation."

In the notice, it was stated that



the person should subject himself, voluntarily, to home isolation for a period of 24 hours, otherwise he would be forced to register at a medical observation venue indicated by the authorities.

In the early hours of September 28, with about 14 hours to go before the medical observation terminated, staff of the Health Bureau (SSM) from the immigration hall of the Border Gate found and detained the suspect and handed him to the Police authorities.

He was then accused by the MP of intentionally breaching the provisions of Article 30 paragraph 2 of

the Law 2/2004 - Infectious Disease Prevention and Control Law - in conjunction with the violation of the epidemic prevention measures stipulated in Article 14, number 1 paragraph 1 of the same law.

Upon his trial, the TJB decided in favor of the defendant, noting that, according to the Law 2/2004 provisions, the decision to put a person under medical observation in isolation is an exclusive competence of the director of SSM or a physician legally authorized and accredited on the matter and acting under the guidance of the director of SSM.

Moreover, such a decision needs to be clearly explained in writing and supported with evidence and analysis, including a complete description of the disease and the expected period in which isolation is necessary.

The judge added in the sentence that, only after these conditions have been legally fulfilled, and if the person does not comply, can they then be accused of a crime based on said disobedience. This decision was backed up completely by the collective of judges of TSI, dismissing the appeal from the MP.

GOV'T TO 'SPARE NO EFFORT' TO FULFILL XI'S ASPIRATIONS

The Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, said the government would spare no effort in realising aspirations outlined by General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Xi Jinping, at the grand ceremony held in Beijing to mark the CPC's centenary. Ho made the remarks during a session in Macau for various sectors of the community to mark the CPC's 100th anniversary. Ho noted that history had proven that the principle was the "best proposal for solving the historical issues in relation to Hong Kong and Macau and the best systemic framework for Macau" to maintain long-term stability and prosperity after returning to the motherland.

NEW IO DIRECTORS TAKE OFFICE

Last Friday, Leong Pou leng and Chan Iat Hong took office as director and deputy director of the Printing Bureau (IO) respectively. Secretary for Administration and Justice Cheong Weng Chon and leaders of other government departments attended the inauguration ceremony. Cheong expressed gratitude for the effort of the IO during recent years, publishing official statements in a timely and conscientious manner. He said that the authorities of the IO are "unsung heroes." Under the new leadership of Leong and Chan, the staff under the IO will continue to catch up to the pace of modern society and advances in digitized services.

POPULATION CENSUS TO BE HELD IN AUGUST

The 10-yearly census of Macau will be held from August 7 to 21, according to an announcement from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The census covers all units for residential, commercial and other purposes in Macau, as well as individuals living or staying in these units. All census respondents will receive an advance notification letter from the DSEC early next month. The DSEC also announced the use of short- and long-form questionnaires in the upcoming census, which can be completed by census respondents via mobile phone or computer, or by providing information to the visiting census officers.



COVID-19

MACAU REPORTS 55TH CASE, ONE DISEASE RELAPSE ADDED

RENATO MARQUES

THE Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center reported that it had identified one more case of Covid-19 infection yesterday.

The imported case is related to a 22-year-old resident studying in the U.K. who returned to Macau last Saturday.

The infection was detected through a Nucleic Acid

Test (NAT) performed, as per the norm, before entry into Macau. The result turned out positive and the resident was immediately taken to isolation to initiate treatment, health authorities informed in a statement.

The patient traveled from the U.K. via Singapore, having presented at negative NAT on July 2 prior to her flight from the U.K., performed one day before.

Before arriving in Macau, she took the Scoot flight TR904 from Singapore, having traveled in seat number 26D, authorities noted.

Additionally, the center reported that another resident traveling on the same flight from Singapore to Macau, originally coming from Switzerland, also tested positive in the NAT upon arrival in Macau.

Unlike the first case, this second resident has been reported as a disease relapse, as he was already reported to have been infected with and recovered from the disease in January while in Switzerland.

According to the center, he also presented a negative NAT when boarding the first flight from Switzerland on July 2 before departing to Singapore. He traveled to Macau on the Scoot flight TR904 on seat number 8D.

Both residents have been transferred to the Public Health Clinical Center from the Health Bureau in Coloane, where they are undergoing further diagnosis and treatment in isolation.

COVID-19

ANOTHER BELL'S PALSY REPORTED AS AEFI

A local Bell's palsy case recorded after the patient received their first Covid-19 jab has been categorized as an adverse event after immunization (AEFI), the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced.

The patient is a local man aged 58. He took his first dose of the Covid-19 vaccination on June 12. The inoculation type he was administered was the inactivated vaccine manufactured by Sinopharm.

At the end of the month, symptoms of weak bite force on the left side of his face, tilted left corner of the mouth, dripping of saliva and incomplete closure of the left eyelids started to appear. He then sought out medical assistance at

the Accident and Emergency Department of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital.

At the hospital, he was diagnosed as experiencing Bell's palsy, which is also known as acute facial palsy of unknown cause.

Following treatment at the hospital, he was released from the medical facility and did not need to be hospitalized.

His case, according to the Response and Coordination Center, has been passed to the Evaluation Taskforce on AEFI of Covid-19 Vaccination for discussion. The center also stressed that, in Macau, the frequency of Bell's palsy after Covid-19 jab has not been higher than the non-vaccinated group of individuals. **AL**

MACAU PUBLISHING UNAFFECTED BY COVID-19 PANDEMIC

According to data compiled by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, a total of 759 books were scheduled for publication in Macau in 2020, down just 30 books from 2019. This suggests that local publishers have not been significantly impacted by the pandemic. Additionally, 766 publications were submitted to the Macao Central Library under the Legal Deposit Regime, including 696 printed books, 68 e-books, and 2 books in other media formats.

IPIIM MOUNTED TRAINING SESSIONS TO HELP ENTERPRISES IN MICE

The Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIIM) launched a total of four sessions of the "Exhibitor Training Course for Macau Enterprises," which was attended by 270 participants across industries. During the training, the participants acquired the central knowledge of the convention — such as preparation know-how and marketing skills — as delivered by industry representatives.

CAREGIVER SUBSIDY PILOT SCHEME

LAWMAKER LAMBASTS SCHEME AS 'STRICT AND NARROW-MINDED'

HONEY TSANG

SINCE the implementation of the Caregiver Subsidy Pilot Scheme in November 2020, the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has approved barely more than 51 applications out of a total of 196. Such a large number of applications awaiting approval may leave those under great financial pressure hanging for a long time, lawmaker Sulu Sou said.

In a written query submitted to the government, Sou said that the scheme has set its application threshold too high. An added problem is that the scheme's outline and parameters are too vague for the public to fathom.

These intrinsic problems have led to a large number of applications still being reviewed or not reviewed at all.

The IAS launched the Scheme in November last year, with its application period set to last until November 2021. The project is intended to offer financial relief — a monthly subsidy of MOP2,175, for each caregiver.

However, Sou said the bar for potentially eligible applicants is set too high. According to the IAS, only the two types of caregivers — who are tending to either long-time bedridden patients or people with serious intellectual disabilities — can be granted the allowance. Moreover, their household finances will be factored

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



in as one of the assessment standards.

These narrow definitions, Sou asserted, have excluded the families with children in need of special education needs (SEN), and double-aging families with seniors as both caregivers and patients. These two groups have long called on the government for help.

"Up to now, the bureau (IAS) has still not clarified whether the Scheme is positioned as an alleviation policy to help take the edge off of some households based on their financial situation, or if it

is a supporting measure to complement other policies to strengthen caregivers' social status and contribution in the long run," the lawmaker said.

Earlier, the IAS confirmed that it would review the direction of the scheme after its conclusion in November this year. However, Sou said there is a clear lack of transparency of how the authorities gauge the efficiency and success of the pilot project.

The unclear and uncertain factors have left many caregivers and their family members wait-

ing without a light at the end of the tunnel.

As such, the lawmaker urges the government to re-clarify their intentions for the scheme and provide information for those who have been rejected and are appealing their applications.

More importantly, he called for the IAS to clearly list out the project's evaluation criteria and ask the authorities to conduct a full assessment as soon as possible, so that the pilot scheme can be extended to benefit children with SENs and senior caregivers as well.

Survey estimates average weekly use of five plastic bags per person

ANTHONY LAM

A "conservative estimate" made by the General Union of Neighborhood Associations (UGAMM) in a recent survey showed that on average, each Macau resident used between 4.07 and 4.94 plastic bags per week, or between 0.58 and 0.71 pieces per day.

The UGAMM recommends the government review the policy of plastic bag charges, given it has been in place for some time already. The group suggests the government scrutinize the effectiveness of the policy, if it has met the government's and the society's expecta-

tions and if any adjustment or extension is needed.

A total of 1,090 Macau residents of age 18 years or above were interviewed on the streets last month. The survey discovered that 65% of the respondents were in the habit of carrying their own reusable shopping bag.

Meanwhile, 57% would carry their own drink bottle and nearly 40% food containers or dining utensils.

It was discovered that respondents were generally supportive of the policy banning the importation of styrofoam containers. They were also supportive of banning single-use non-biodegradable straws and

stirrers.

On suggestion made to the government prior to banning the latter two tools, the UGAMM pointed out that replacements and promotions must be well planned. If no consensus is achieved, a ban on non-biodegradable stirrers can prevail, so as to implement ecological policies with the least impact on users.

In another area, the survey also discovered that 41% of respondents considered trash categorization as the most urgent initiative which the government should enhance.

Approximately 37% of the respondents found

BLOOMBERG



restricting single-use non-biodegradable straws and stirrers the most urgent. Several other initiatives,

such as pushing forward the use of natural gas, electric stoves, electric vehicles, battery and kitchen waste

recycling, were considered urgent by approximately the same percentage of respondents.

US HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORT

MSAR on watchlist for second consecutive year, gov't says unacceptable

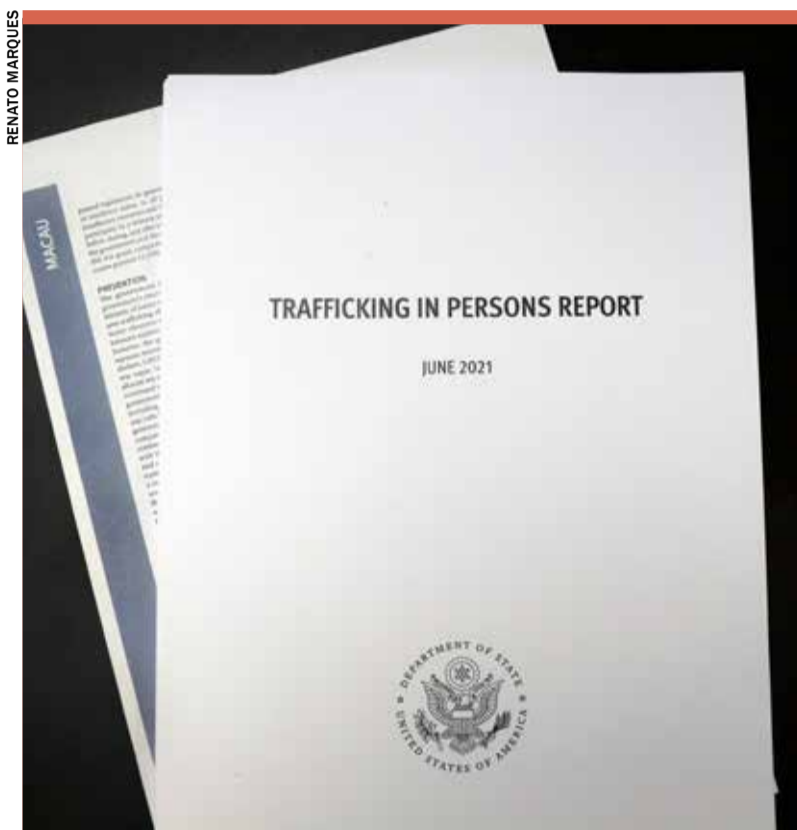
RENATO MARQUES

FOR the second consecutive year, the Department of State of the United States of America included Macau on the Tier 2 Watch List of its Trafficking in Persons Report.

Once again, the report concluded that local government "does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so."

Among said efforts cited, the U.S. Department of State says the most notable were: the training of numerous police, customs, and social welfare officials; the increase of funding for governmental anti-trafficking efforts; holding labor rights seminars for migrant workers vulnerable to exploitation; and enacting legislation to deter practices of debt-based coercion among employment agencies.

However, the U.S. Department also notes that, over the past year, the government did not demonstrate any will to improve the mat-



ters reported on the previous year, "even considering the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on its anti-

trafficking capacity."

According to the department, local authorities also "did not

identify or provide assistance to any victims for the second consecutive year," and condemned the government for failing to "initiate any trafficking investigations or prosecutions or convict any traffickers. The government has never identified a victim of forced labor."

In response, the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak issued a statement in which he expressed strong opposition to the assessment made about Macau in the report, as well as its Tier 2 Watch List classification.

"The report ranked the Macau SAR as on the Tier 2 Watch List. The Macau security authorities found such references to Macau in the report extremely unreasonable and unacceptable," Wong said. He added that the efforts from the local government to combat trafficking in persons have been ceaseless.

Besides the government work, the Security Chief also noted on the work done in partnership with non-governmental organizations in coordinating the protection of

victims and the formulation of preventive and combative measures.

Wong also remarked that Macau has laws and regulations on the issue, (Law 6/2008 - Combat the Crime of Trafficking in Persons), in which "international standards have been followed."

"The self-styled report, nonetheless, has for years continuously ignored objective facts by giving wrong interpretations, false deductions, and unreasonable speculation. This is especially seen by the bias against Macau's legal system and independent judiciary system, and the false accusations about the efficacy of Macau's governance," Wong stated. He went on to conclude that local "security authorities will closely collaborate with the judicial authorities to carry out necessary preventive and investigative work, as well as step up the international and regional exchange and cooperation, to explore joint strategies to prevent and combat any form of human trafficking and exploitation."

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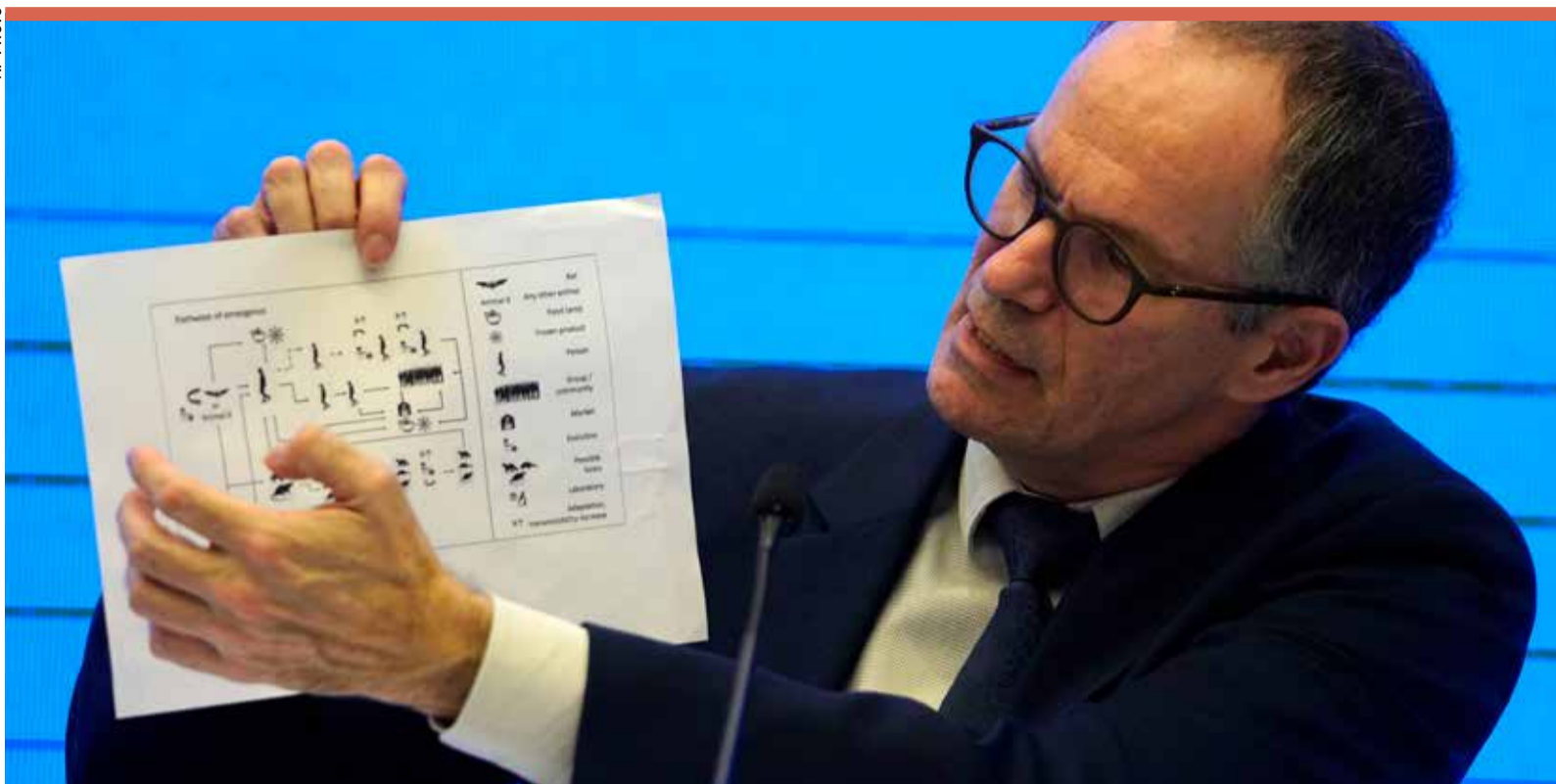
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COVID-19

EXPERTS QUESTION IF WHO SHOULD LEAD PANDEMIC ORIGINS PROBE

MARIA CHENG
& DAKE KANG, BEIJING

AS the World Health Organization draws up plans for the next phase of its probe of how the coronavirus pandemic started, an increasing number of scientists say the U.N. agency isn't up to the task and shouldn't be the one to investigate.

Numerous experts, some with strong ties to WHO, say that political tensions between the U.S. and China make it impossible for an investigation by the agency to find credible answers.

They say what's needed is a broad, independent analysis closer to what happened in the aftermath of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

The first part of a joint WHO-

-China study of how COVID-19 started concluded in March that the virus probably jumped to humans from animals and that a lab leak was "extremely unlikely." The next phase might try to examine the first human cases in more detail or pinpoint the animals responsible — possibly bats, perhaps by way of some intermediate creature.

But the idea that the pandemic somehow started in a laboratory — and perhaps involved an engineered virus — has gained traction recently, with President Joe Biden ordering a review of U.S. intelligence within 90 days to assess the possibility.

Earlier this month, WHO's emergencies chief, Dr. Michael Ryan, said that the agency was working out the final details of the next phase of its probe and that

The first phase of WHO's mission required getting China's approval not only for the experts who traveled there but for their entire agenda

because WHO works "by persuasion," it lacks the power to compel China to cooperate.

Some said that is precisely why a WHO-led examination is doomed to fail.

"We will never find the origins relying on the World Health Organization," said Lawrence Gostin, director of the WHO Collaborating Center on Public Health Law and Human Rights at Georgetown University. "For a year and a half, they have been stonewalled by China, and it's very clear they

won't get to the bottom of it."

Gostin said the U.S. and other countries can either try to piece together what intelligence they have, revise international health laws to give WHO the powers it needs, or create some new entity to investigate.

The first phase of WHO's mission required getting China's approval not only for the experts who traveled there but for their entire agenda and the report they ultimately produced.

Richard Ebright, a molecular

biologist at Rutgers University, called it a "farce" and said that determining whether the virus jumped from animals or escaped from a lab is more than a scientific question and has political dimensions beyond WHO's expertise.

The closest genetic relative to COVID-19 was previously discovered in a 2012 outbreak, after six miners fell sick with pneumonia after being exposed to infected bats in China's Mojiang mine. In the past year, however, Chinese authorities sealed off the mine and confiscated samples from scientists while ordering locals not to talk to visiting journalists.

Although China initially pushed hard to look for the coronavirus's origins, it pulled back abruptly in early 2020 as the virus overtook the globe. An Associated Press investigation last December found Beijing imposed restrictions on the publication of COVID-19 research, including mandatory review by central government officials.

Jamie Metzl, who sits on a WHO advisory group, has suggested along with colleagues the possibility of an alternative investigation set up by the Group of Seven industrialized nations.

Jeffrey Sachs, a professor at Columbia University, said the U.S. must be willing to subject its own scientists to a rigorous examination and recognize that they might be just as culpable as China.

"The U.S. was deeply involved in research at the laboratories in Wuhan," Sachs said, referring to U.S. funding of controversial experiments and the search for animal viruses capable of triggering outbreaks.

"The idea that China was behaving badly is already the wrong premise for this investigation to start," he said. "If lab work was somehow responsible [for the pandemic], the likelihood that it was both the U.S. and China working together on a scientific initiative is very high." MDT/AP

Chinese astronauts make first space walk outside new station

TWO astronauts made the first space walk on yesterday outside China's new orbital station to work on setting up a 15-meter long robotic arm.

Liu Boming and Tang Hongbo were shown by state TV climbing out of the airlock as Earth rolled past below them. The third crew member, commander Nie Haisheng, stayed inside.

The astronauts arrived June 17 for a three-month mission aboard China's third orbital station, part of an ambitious space program that landed a robot

rover on Mars in May. Their mission comes as the ruling Communist Party celebrates the 100th anniversary of its founding.

The station's first module, Tianhe, or Heavenly Harmony, was launched April 29. That was followed by an automated spacecraft with food and fuel. Liu, Nie and Tang arrived June 17 aboard a Shenzhou capsule.

Yesterday, Liu and Tang were completing installation of a robotic arm that will be used to assemble the rest of the station, according to state media. Sta-

te TV said their space suits are designed to allow them to work in the vacuum of space for up to six hours if needed.

The space agency plans a total of 11 launches through the end of next year to add two more modules to the 70-ton station.

Liu is a veteran of the Shenzhou 7 mission in 2008, during which Zhai Zhigang made China's first space walk. Nie is on his third trip into space while Liu is making his first. All are military pilots. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



AP PHOTO



HONG KONG

Police officer's condition improves after stabbing

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

A Hong Kong police officer who was stabbed in the back has been moved from critical to serious condition, officials said Friday, indicating a likely recovery from the incident in which the assailant later stabbed himself and died.

Authorities were still looking into the motivation behind Thursday night's attack, which followed annual commemorations of Hong Kong's handover from British to Chinese control in 1997, as well as the centenary of the founding of China's ruling Communist Party.

The attack comes amid a sweeping crackdown on political dissent, with authorities banning large-scale demonstrations and arresting scores of pro-democracy activists over the past year.

Authorities said that the assailant was a 50-year-old man, but did not identify him. He allegedly stabbed the police officer in the back with a knife, and then turned the knife on himself.

Hong Kong Security Secretary Chris Tang said it appeared to be a "terrorist act" committed by a single individual that he described as a "lone wolf," but said others were guilty of egging-on such violence.

"I would like to state that it was not just the assailant who was responsible. There are also many people who have encouraged violence and incited hatred toward society and the country, and have beautified these violent acts," he said Friday.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam said it was "very regrettable that this has come at a time when everyone in Hong Kong sets great store by the peaceful situation we have achieved."

The officer was attacked outside the Sogo department store in the busy Causeway Bay shopping district where police were standing guard to prevent demonstrations.

Michael Gazeley, a Hong Kong resident who was at the scene when the attack happened, said that there was heavy police presence in the shopping district and that the situation seemed "peaceful" before the attack happened.

"As soon as the attack happened, a mass of police ran to help their colleague," said Gazeley.

Hong Kong's hospital authority on Friday confirmed the improvement in the condition of officer, who has not been identified apart from that he was a 28-year-old member of the elite Police Tactical Unit.

Hong Kong has protected the identities of police officers since the onset of increasingly violent demonstrations in 2019 led by pro-democracy protestors opposed to the semi-autonomous region's Beijing-backed government.

Demonstrations largely ended after opposition figures won big in elections for local councilors, but the central government swiftly moved to punish those behind the protests and stamp out any challenges to its authority.

That was spearheaded by the imposition last year of a sweeping national security law and followed this year by alternations to representation in the city's Legislative Council to ensure a strong pro-Beijing majority. Both measures were enacted by China's ceremonial legislature, the National People's Congress, without Hong Kong voters being given a say.

On Friday, pro-democracy activist Chow Hang Tung — known for helping to organize the annual June 4 candlelight vigils in commemoration of the 1989 crackdown in Beijing's Tiananmen Square — was charged in court for inciting others to join an unauthorized assembly.

Chow was first arrested on June 4 and then released on bail, but was rearrested this week a day ahead of the handover anniversary. She was not given bail on Friday.

Large-scale independent political gatherings have been banned and most opposition figures have been imprisoned, intimidated into silence or fled abroad.

Last month, police arrested seven journalists and executives of the now-defunct Apple Daily, a pro-democracy newspaper that was a vocal critic of Hong Kong and China's governments. Authorities also froze \$2.3 million in assets linked to Apple Daily, forcing it to cease operations last week. **MDT/AP**

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MGM and Macao Chamber of Commerce Co-organizes Seminar on Food Safety for SMEs

MGM recently joined hands with Macao Chamber of Commerce to organize the third edition of "MGM SME Seminar – Food Safety", an explanatory session for local small and medium-sized food suppliers to better understand the latest measures for food safety in Macau, as well as MGM's respective criteria amid the pandemic.

The heads of Department of Food Safety of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) and Risk & Safety Management of MGM were invited to share with more than 140 participants from SMEs in the fields of catering and food supply. The seminar was held with the objective of raising overall awareness on the issue of cold-chain food safety in Macau, as well as helping to enhance the service and competitiveness of local SMEs that are crucial for the growth of the industry.



Kenneth Feng, President, Chief Strategic & Financial Officer of MGM, said, "There has been a growing concern over food safety among customers in the midst of the pandemic. As Macau's tourism industry is on the road to recovery, MGM is determined to protect the health and safety of its customers. Food safety is certainly a cornerstone in promoting Macau's position as a Creative City of Gastronomy. We hope this seminar will help SMEs and industry peers to keep raising their awareness of food safety, which will further reduce the related risks to Macau, bringing about infinite possibilities under the canopy of 'Tourism + Gastronomy'."

Cheong Kuai Tat, Head of Department of Food Safety of IAM, introduced the Food Safety Law, food safety related work and services of the bureau, related resources for supporting the industry and the city's anti-pandemic measures for maintaining the safety of cold-chain food products. After explaining IAM's authorities and functions that uphold its enforcement of Food Safety Law, he spelled out the obligations and responsibilities of food producers and operators along with the penalties for violating the law. Cheong has especially addressed on a series of measures enforcing in Macau regarding the sanitization, inspection and traceability of imported frozen meat, seafood and related products to ward off the threat of virus transmission, as well as the anti-pandemic guidelines for industry practitioners. It also propelled the food industry to increase their anti-pandemic awareness.



Winston Yeung, Executive Director of Safety of MGM, spoke about the points to note for suppliers in MGM's food safety management system. He shed lights on the Company's standards and procedures for inspecting suppliers as well as its criteria for food procurement and receipt of goods, allowing participants of the seminar to understand MGM's standards on food safety and help raise the quality of service of the entire industry.

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COVID-19

Europe in vaccination race against delta variant

BARRY HATTON, LISBON

COUNTRIES across Europe are scrambling to accelerate coronavirus vaccinations and outpace the spread of the more infectious delta variant, in a high-stakes race to prevent hospital wards from filling up again with patients fighting for their lives.

The urgency coincides with Europe's summer holidays, with fair weather bringing more social gatherings and governments reluctant to clamp down on them. Social distancing is being neglected, especially among the young, and some countries are scrapping the requirement to wear masks outdoors.

Incentives for people to get shots include free groceries, travel and entertainment vouchers, and prize drawings. The president of Cyprus even appealed to a sense of patriotism.

The risk of infection from the delta variant is "high to very high" for partially or unvaccinated communities, according to the European Centre for Disease Control, which monitors 30 countries on the continent. It estimates that by the end of August, the variant will account for 90% of cases in the European Union's 27 nations.

"It is very important to progress with the vaccine rollout at a very high pace," the ECDC warned.

The World Health Organization is also concerned. The variant makes transmission

growth "exponential," according to Maria Van Kerkhove, its technical lead on COVID-19.

Daily new case numbers are already climbing sharply in countries like the United Kingdom, Portugal and Russia.

In the U.K., cases of the delta variant have increased fourfold in less than a month, with confirmed cases Friday up 46% on the previous week.

Portuguese health authorities this week reported a "vertiginous" rise in the delta variant, which accounted for only 4% of cases in May but almost 56% in June. The country is reporting its highest number of daily cases since February, and the number of COVID-19 patients in hospitals has surpassed 500 for the first time since early April.

Reports of new infections in Russia more than doubled in June, topping 20,000 per day this week, and new deaths hit 697 on Saturday, the fifth day in a row that the daily death toll set a record.

Still, "no one wants any lockdowns," said Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov at a briefing, although he admitted that the virus situation in a number of Russian regions is "tense."

In some countries, the virus is spreading much faster among younger people. In Spain, the national 14-day case notification rate per 100,000 people rose to 152 on Friday. But for the 20-29 age group, it shot up to 449.

Those numbers have triggered alarm across the continent.

The Dutch government is extending its vaccination program to those aged 12-17 to help head off a feared new surge. Greece is offering young adults 150 euros (\$177) in credit after their first jab. Rome authorities are mulling the use of vans to vaccinate people at the beach. And Poland last week launched a lottery open only to adults who are fully vaccinated, with new cars among the prizes.

Portuguese authorities have extended the hours of vaccination centers, created new walk-in clinics, called up the armed forces to help run vaccination operations, and reduced the period between taking the two doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine from 12 weeks to eight weeks.

"We're in a race against the clock," Cabinet Minister Mariana Vieira da Silva said.

In the fight against vaccine hesitancy across Europe, the appearance of variants has fed public uncertainty about how effective the shots are. In Madrid this week, Claudia Aguilar, a 58-year-old archaeologist, got her second Pfizer-BioNTech jab at an auditorium that is expanding its working hours overnight.

Nevertheless, she said she is "not sure I'll really be immune" against future variants.

"I mean, I'm a bit skeptical that this is going to do any good," Aguilar said.

Bartender Yevgeniya Chernyshkova lined up for a shot at Moscow's GUM department store just off Red Square after the Russian government required vaccinations for workers in some sectors.

"Now, it's becoming mandatory and we all understand why — because the third wave of the pandemic has started here," she said.

Fifteen months after WHO declared COVID-19 a pandemic, some governments appear more open to rewarding public patience than thinking about bringing back restrictions.

Some 40,000 fans went to England's European Championship soccer match against Germany at London's Wembley Stadium last week. In Portugal, new restrictions have been half-hearted, such as limiting restaurant opening hours on weekend nights.

In Moscow, however, restaurants, bars and cafes on Monday began admitting only customers who have been vaccinated, recovered from COVID-19 in the past six months or can provide a negative test in the previous 72 hours.

France lifted the last of its major restrictions Wednesday, allowing unlimited crowds in restaurants, at weddings and most cultural events despite fast-rising cases of the delta variant.

Tiago Correia, an associate professor at Lisbon's Institute of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, detects a mood of public impatience, especially among young people keen to enjoy warm summer nights.

"People want to return to normal more quickly than the vaccination rollout is happening," he said.

The emerging variants have shone a light on the unprecedented scale of the immunization programs. The ECDC says in the countries it surveys, 61% of people over 18 have had one shot and 40% are completely vaccinated.

But Dr. Hans Kluge, the head of the WHO's Europe office, cautioned this week that the delta variant is poised to become dominant by August in the 53-country region his office covers. And he notes that 63% of people in that region haven't had a first jab.

"The three conditions for a new wave of excess hospitalizations and deaths before the (fall) are therefore in place: New variants, deficit in vaccine uptake, increased social mixing," Kluge said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1954 BBC LAUNCHES DAILY TV NEWS



The BBC has broadcast its first daily television news programme.

The 20-minute bulletin was introduced by Richard Baker as an "Illustrated summary of the news... Followed by the latest film of events and happenings at home and abroad."

The present Television Newsreel programme, which is to be discontinued, is prepared in advance and contains news items which are often days old.

The new service is intended to be more up-to-date and will also eventually include studio interviews.

Tonight's edition began with news of truce talks being held near Hanoi and an item on French troop movements in Tunisia.

While the news was read, a series of headlines, still photographs and maps were shown on the screen.

BBC Director General Sir Ian Jacob acknowledged last week there had been significant difficulties producing the new television bulletins.

"News is not at all an easy thing to do on television. A good many of the main news items are not easily made visual - therefore we have the problem of giving news with the same standards that the corporation has built up in sound."

He added that the format of the programme was likely to change, but said the BBC was committed to television news.

"This is a start on something we regard as extremely significant for the future," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The first television news bulletin was not met with universal approval.

The programme was variously described as "absolute ghastly", "crazy" and "as visually impressive as the fat stock prices".

BBC Radio was also very sceptical of the new service and insisted it retain editorial control over the headlines and story content.

But between 1954 and 1955 the amount of television time devoted to news was doubled and in September 1955 Independent Television News launched its first service.

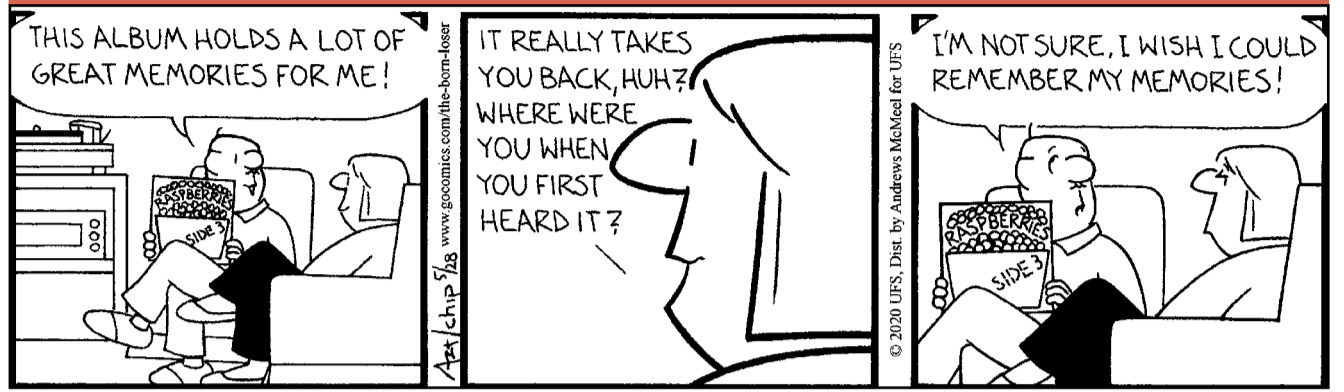
BBC television news has expanded considerably since its early days and is now available round-the-clock on BBC News 24. In July 2004, the corporation celebrated 50 years since the first daily 20-minute bulletin.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

<p>ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your mind will be on matters that deal with secret affairs. You may meet that special person if you attend fundraising functions. Get ready to discover love, passion, and the desire to enjoy all that life has to offer.</p>	<p>TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20 Involvement in fitness clubs will be conducive to engaging romantic connections. You can get a lot done if you get your hands on the right equipment. Exercise discipline when it comes to controlling bad habits.</p>
<p>GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21 Reevaluate your motives. This is a turning point. Minor health problems may flare up if you haven't been taking care of yourself or have been burning the candle at both ends.</p>	<p>CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Empty promises are evident; therefore, get it in writing, to be safe. Moneymaking ventures may just turn your life around. You may be confused regarding your love life.</p>
<p>LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Only bite off what you can chew. You can make extra cash by moonlighting. Your health may suffer if you don't control your present situation.</p>	<p>VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Stretch the truth, and you may get blamed for something you didn't do. Only bite off what you can chew. Adventure will result in added knowledge.</p>
<p>LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You can meet new friends who will let you know just how valuable you are. Trouble could be brewing at home. Beware of individuals who are not that reliable or well known to you.</p>	<p>SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Try not to hang out with coworkers if you wish to avoid problems later. Someone you live with may cause drastic alterations in your usual routine. You can clear up important legalities and sign contracts today.</p>
<p>SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You have made an accurate assessment of the situation and have come up with ideas that will save money. You may be emotional if you allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature.</p>	<p>CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Travel will be favorable. Real estate investments will be profitable. This is a great day for a trip. You could come into extra cash.</p>
<p>AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You will be emotional with regard to your personal life. Favors will be offered readily. You will easily charm members of the opposite sex.</p>	<p>PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Some situations may be blown out of proportion. You'll be angry if those you live with aren't pulling their weight. Be sure that you lay your cards on the table.</p>

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY					EASY+						
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3		7		8							
	1	9			2		3				
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MEDIUM					HARD						
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	9	1			4						
4	3			5	1						
7			8	2							
9		4	7								
1		3									
4		9									

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	21	30	thunderstorms
Harbin	18	26	rain
Tianjin	26	35	cloudy
Urumqi	23	31	showers
Xi'an	25	29	rain
Lhasa	21	27	cloudy
Chengdu	26	36	cloudy
Chongqing	27	35	thunderstorms
Kunming	26	34	cloudy
Nanjing	22	28	cloudy
Shanghai	26	35	cloudy
Wuhan	25	34	fine
Hangzhou	18	25	thunderstorms
Taipei	23	28	rain
Guangzhou	17	28	thunderstorms
Hong Kong	24	35	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	16	23	cloudy
Frankfurt	14	26	thunderstorms
Paris	15	22	thunderstorms
London	13	20	rain
New York	19	26	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- One of the Baldwins; 5- Adlai's running mate; 10- Small amounts; 14- Den of wild animals and dragons; 15- Everyday; 16- Brio; 17- Longfellow's bell town; 18- Actress Witherspoon; 19- Delhi wrap; 20- Takes care of; 22- Most strange; 24- AOL, e.g.; 25- ___ silly question...; 26- Unfinished detail; 30- Golf clubs; 35- 1970 Jackson 5 hit; 36- Battery size; 37- Singer Yma; 38- Ryot; 41- Run; 43- More wan; 44- Eight-time Norris Trophy winner; 45- Photographer Goldin; 46- Apportion; 47- Digital tool; 50- Japanese wrestling; 53- Done, to Donne; 54- Shut in; 58- Checked; 62- Make angry; 63- Part of Hispaniola; 66- St. Petersburg's river; 67- Final Four org.; 68- Director Lubitsch; 69- Singer Stefani; 70- The ___ the limit!; 71- Irritable; 72- Gas burner or Sicilian volcano;

DOWN: 1- Dear, dear!; 2- Overdue; 3- Green land; 4- Turning point; 5- Continental inhabitant; 6- Compass dir.; 7- Datebook abbr.; 8- Relaxes; 9- Streamlined; 10- Ricky's portrayer; 11- Winglike parts; 12- Keeps out; 13- Agitated state; 21- Half a fly; 23- Elevate; 25- Nabokov novel; 26- Reindeer herders; 27- Belief involving sorcery; 28- Florida citrus center; 29- Writer Hentoff; 31- Capek play; 32- Muscat native; 33- Birth-related; 34- View; 39- Sun. talk; 40- You ___ right!; 41- Man-mouse connector; 42- Precedence; 44- Lennon's love; 48- Bruce ___ was a famous kung-fu movie star; 49- Outer edge; 51- Doorkeeper; 52- Funny Anne; 54- Sea eagles; 55- Small notch; 56- Pottery material; 57- Grazing sites; 59- Salamander; 60- Level; 61- Comic Carvey; 64- Officeholders; 65- Medicinal amt.;

Friday's solution

S	T	A	R	T	A	T	A	R	A	R	O	O
A	U	R	A	S	T	O	M	P	D	O	R	A
I	T	A	T	A	B	R	A	M	A	P	E	S
L	U	T	H	E	R	A	N	E	G	E	S	T
A	N	I	O	N	R	O	S	I	M	A	L	I
B	O	M	B	S	A	E	R	I	E	O	L	E
A	L	A	E	U	R	L	I	T	R	I	G	A
B	A	G	S	P	A	I	N	M	E	S	A	S
A	N	E	C	H	O	I	G	A	S	V	E	T
L	O	I	O	N	G	P	S	S	T			
L	O	I	R	E	W	A	I	T	R	E	S	S
A	L	E	C	S	T	E	R	N	A	T	E	E
M	E	R	L	H	A	I	K	U	I	T	E	R
A	G	E	E	A	R	R	A	S	N	A	D	A

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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
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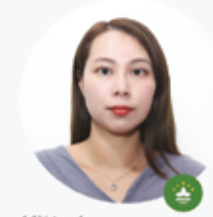
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Property of the Week



Hellene Gardens
HKD 7,980,000 1,663 ft² 3 2 1

Super apartment with fabulous views. Three bedroom standard layout however the kitchen has been made larger by opening the store room and making it open plan.

Fantastic opportunity to renovate and make a beautiful home.

Asking price including one parking space.

Viewings by appointment.
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Ref: 2106 6005

Property Hotlist



Hellene Gardens
HKD 14,980,000

2,305 ft²
4
2
1



Ref: 2106 6003



One Central
HKD 18,500/mth

1,269 ft²
2
2



Ref: 2005 1002



Chun U Villa
HKD 17,500/mth

1,979 ft²
4
3



Ref: 21046 1001

More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Old Taipa studio 1 1 650 ft² **HKD 3,780,000** Ref: 2007 6001
- [Taipa] Taipa Village 2 1 750 ft² **HKD 4,680,000** Ref: 2103 6002
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 2 1,439 ft² **HKD 11,770,000** Ref: 1904 5004
- [Taipa] Chun U Villa 4 3 1,979 ft² **HKD 12,880,000** Ref: 2104 6001
- [Taipa] Panorama 2 4 4 5,700 ft² **HKD 23,000,000** Ref: 1909 6006

For Rent

- [Taipa] Jardin Lamerias 2 2 450 ft² **HKD 11,200/mth** Ref: 2106 1003
- [Taipa] Taipa Village 2 1 900 ft² **HKD 11,500/mth** Ref: 2012 1001
- [Coloane] One Oasis 2 2 1,112 ft² **HKD 15,500/mth** Ref: 2102 1004
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,626 ft² **HKD 17,500/mth** Ref: 2003 1001
- [Cotai] One Oasis 3 2 2,100 ft² **HKD 30,000/mth** Ref: 2011 1002

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Traditional, Macau
HKD 2,680,000

788 ft²
2
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Ref: 2103 6001

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Kane carries England past Ukraine, into Euro 2020 semifinals

ENGLAND is going back home — with something to play for.

Harry Kane scored twice and England overwhelmed Ukraine 4-0 Saturday to reach the European Championship semifinals.

It was the only match of Euro 2020 that England had to play away from Wembley Stadium and it was the team's most dominant performance of the tournament.

"I've said it all along it's all about peaking for the right time," Kane said. "We are on the right track."

Harry Maguire and Jordan Henderson also scored as England kept a clean sheet for the fifth straight match of the competition.

It marked the first time that England scored four goals in the knockout stage of a major tournament since beating West Germany 4-2 in the 1966 World Cup final.

England now goes back to London to face Denmark on Wednesday. The Danes beat the Czech Republic 2-1 in Baku.

"We haven't done nothing yet," Kane said. "We've got a semifinal at Wembley. ... What a moment for us as a team, as a nation. It's there for us, it's an opportunity for us. We have to grab it with both hands."

Italy will face Spain in the other semifinal match on Wednesday (Macau time), with the final next



England's Harry Kane

weekend also to be played at Wembley.

The last time England made it to the last four of the European Championship was in 1996. But the bigger goal at this point is to duplicate the success of the 1966 England team that won the World Cup on home soil.

Kane scored on England's first opportunity in the fourth minute, using one touch to redirect a through ball from Raheem Sterling for his second goal in as many matches. The ball went in off the shoulder of goalkeeper Georgiy Bushchan inside the near post.

England also scored early in the

second half after Kane was fouled about 10 seconds. A free kick from Luke Shaw set up a header from Maguire. Four minutes later, Kane got his second by heading in another cross from Shaw on a play that included a backheel pass from Sterling as England dazzled.

After failing to score in the group stage, Kane now has three goals in two matches after also scoring in the 2-0 win over Germany in the last 16.

"Sometimes as a striker it falls your way, sometimes it doesn't," Kane said. "That's just part and parcel of being a striker."

Kane won the Golden Boot

with six goals the 2018 World Cup, when England also reached the semifinals. He exited to a standing ovation at the Stadio Olimpico when he came off midway through the second half.

Ukraine coach Andriy Shevchenko, a former standout forward, appreciated how Kane

took advantage of all of his opportunities.

"That's all a striker has to do," Shevchenko said.

Henderson's goal — his first for England after a decade with the national team — also came with a header as Ukraine's defenders had no answers to England's aerial prowess.

"We wanted to be better at attacking set plays," Maguire said. "We hadn't scored from one at this tournament and we've got two tonight."

Ukraine, which was coming off a 2-1 extra-time win over Sweden, had relied on occasional counterattacks in the first half and produced a series of chances just before the break. Otherwise, England was in control.

The Italian government had explicitly warned Britain-based England fans to stay away from the match unless they could prove they had observed five days of quarantine since arriving.

Still, there were clearly more England supporters than Ukraine fans inside the partially filled stadium. But a pocket of yellow-clad Ukraine fans made plenty of noise by banging on drums and chanting.

Because of the pandemic, the Olimpico could only be 25% full with about 16,000 fans.

Ukraine residents also faced restrictions for travel to Italy. **MDT/AP**

LATEST RESULTS

Switzerland	1	3	Spain
Italy	2	1	Belgium
Czech Republic	1	2	Denmark
Ukraine	0	4	England

Italy's players serenade Spinazzola on flight home after win

THE in-flight entertainment turned out to be the Spinazzola Serenade.

The loud singing and enthusiastic cheering on Italy's plane home wasn't for either of the two players who scored, but for the defender who prevented a goal in the team's 2-1 victory over Belgium at the European Championship.

"Ole, ole, ole, Spina! Spina!" they sang to Leonardo Spinazzola, some banging on the overhead lockers to keep the beat.

The Italians had plenty to celebrate after reaching the Euro 2020 semifinals with the victory in Munich, but they had also something to commiserate because of the man of the hour who was carried off the field on a stretcher and may not be able to play against Spain on Wednesday (Ma-



Italy's Leonardo Spinazzola

cau time) in London.

"It's a big loss for us," said Lorenzo Insigne, who scored Italy's second goal on Friday. "It's very sad to see and we're all trying to get behind him."

The Italian soccer federation said Saturday that Spinazzola was checked by doctors in Rome.

"If the diagnosis is confirmed (clinical signs of an injury to the left Achilles

tendon emerged yesterday), the player will return directly to his club," the federation said in a statement on its website.

A torn Achilles would mean several months out.

The 28-year-old Spinazzola, who plays for Roma in the Italian league, blocked a second-half chance from Romelu Lukaku on the line with the score 2-1. His teammates hugged and kissed him as if he had scored a goal.

But his game ended a few minutes later after he pulled up sharply while chasing the ball. He was carried off the field in the 79th minute with his hands over his face.

Spinazzola took some time to blossom into one of Italy's best players. Growing up, his hero was Brazilian great Ronaldo, and he star-

ted playing forward like his idol. He was 16 when a youth coach at Siena suggested his best chance of progress was at fullback. Spinazzola didn't agree but he gradually moved further back.

He spent his youth career at Siena and then Juventus. He didn't make his debut for Juventus' senior squad until January 2019 after loan spells at six different clubs.

It was in Spinazzola's second stint at Atalanta that he really began to shine under coach Gian Piero Gasperini, who is responsible for developing several players impressing at Euro 2020.

Spinazzola tore the cruciate ligament in his right knee towards the end of his two-year stay at Atalanta, and that delayed his Juventus debut. He only made

one start and four substitute appearances for the Bianconeri before he was sold to Roma at the end of the season. Juventus reportedly had concerns over his physical condition.

A proposed transfer to Inter Milan collapsed last year when the Nerazzurri noted that one of Spinazzola's legs was slightly shorter than the other. So Spinazzola stayed at Roma and made 27 Italian league appearances and 11 in the Europa League last season.

On Saturday, he tried to stay positive in a post on Instagram.

"Unfortunately we all know how it went but our blue dream continues and with this great group nothing is impossible," Spinazzola wrote. "I can only tell you that I will return soon! I am sure!" **MDT/AP**

OPINION

World Views

Jennifer Watling Neal, Michigan State University
 MDT/The Conversation

FAR MORE ADULTS DON'T WANT CHILDREN THAN PREVIOUSLY THOUGHT

Fertility rates in the United States have plunged to record lows, and this could be related to the fact that more people are choosing not to have children.

But just how many "child-free" adults there are has been tricky for researchers to pin down.

National fertility data provided by the U.S. Census and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention lump together all adults who aren't parents, making it difficult to understand how many people identify as child-free.

As social scientists, we think it's important to distinguish child-free individuals from those who are childless or not yet parents. People who are child-free make the conscious decision not to have kids. They're distinct from childless individuals – adults who want children but can't have them – and from people who plan to have children in the future.

In a recent study of 1,000 people, we found that over 1 in 4 Michigan adults did not want biological or adopted children and were, therefore, child-free. This number was much higher than those reported in the few past national studies that have attempted to identify child-free people, which placed the percentage between 2% and 9%.

Child-free by choice

Although we can't be sure why we identified more child-free people in our study, we suspect it may have something to do with how we determined who was child-free.

Past studies that attempted to estimate the prevalence of child-free individuals often focused only on women and have used criteria based on fertility. These studies left out men, older adults and biologically infertile people who nonetheless didn't want children.

In our study, we used a more inclusive approach. We looked at both women and men, asking three yes-no questions that allowed us to determine who was child-free based on the desire to have children, rather than fertility:

-Do you have, or have you ever had, any biological or adopted children?

-Do you plan to have any biological or adopted children in the future?

-Do you wish you had or could have biological or adopted children?

Those who answered "no" to all three questions we classified as child-free.

Just like everyone else?

In addition to examining how many child-free people there are, we also examined whether child-free people differed from parents, not-yet-parents and childless individuals in life satisfaction, personality or political views.

We found that child-free people were just as satisfied with their lives as others, and there were few personality differences. However, child-free people were more liberal than parents.

Although child-free people were pretty similar to everyone else, we did find that parents were less warm toward child-free people. This finding suggests that child-free individuals may be stigmatized in the United States.

Looking ahead

Our study suggests that the number of people who choose not to have children may be larger than previously thought. Although our study focused on Michigan residents, the state's population is similar to the overall U.S. population in terms of age, race, income and education. So we'd expect to see similar numbers of child-free people in other states.

We hope to continue our research by collecting data over time across the country to determine whether it's becoming more common to be child-free – and to understand how and why people make the choice not to have children.

A deadly fungal infection known as "black fungus" that first surfaced in Indian Covid-19 patients has been detected in Afghanistan, which is in the middle of a brutal third wave of the coronavirus, Health Minister Wahid Majroh said Saturday.

Afghanistan has recorded one death from the fungus, which has been detected in two other patients, he said.

In Afghanistan, where people rarely wear masks and there is no social distancing, the numbers of new cases have been steadily rising, with 1,272 new cases in the past 24 hours and 92 deaths. The testing rate in Afghanistan is barely 4,000 a day.

Since the pandemic began last year, Afghanistan has recorded 124,757 cases and 5,199 deaths though the figures are believed to be wildly underreported.

In the capital Kabul the health ministry has added hundreds of new beds for the increase in patients, yet the capacity rate is still at nearly 100 percent. Afghanistan is also running short on oxygen and poor Afghans wait sometimes for days for oxygen cylinders to be filled at the few production plants in Kabul.

The fungal condition caught global attention in India and has surfaced in Egypt.

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES

MILITARY PLANE CRASHES, 45 DEAD, 49 RESCUED

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

A Philippine air force AC-130 aircraft carrying troops crashed in a southern province after missing the runway yesterday, killing at least 45 military personnel while at least 49 were rescued from the burning wreckage, officials said.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said rescue and recovery efforts were ongoing. The aircraft had 92 people on board, including three pilots and five crew and the rest were army personnel, military officials said. The pilots survived but were seriously injured.

The Lockheed C-130 Hercules was one of two ex-U.S. Air Force aircraft handed over to the Philippines as part of military assistance this year. It crashed on landing shortly before noon Sunday in Bangkal village in the mountainous town of Patikul in Sulu province, military chief of staff Gen. Cirilito So-

bejana said.

Initially, Sobejana said at least 40 people on board were brought to a hospital and troops were trying to save the rest.

Initial pictures released by the military showed the tail section of the cargo plane. The other parts of the plane were burned or scattered in pieces in a clearing surrounded by coconut trees. Soldiers and other rescuers with stretchers are seen dashing into and from the smoke-shrouded crash site.

The aircraft had 92 people on board, including three pilots and five crew and the rest were army personnel

The plane was transporting troops from southern Cagayan de Oro city for deployment in Sulu, Sobejana said. Government forces have been battling Abu Sayyaf militants in the predominantly Muslim province of

Sulu for decades.

It was not immediately clear what caused the crash. Regional military commander Lt. Gen. Corleto Vinluan said it was unlikely that the aircraft came under fire and cited witnesses as saying that it appeared to have overshot the runway.

"It's very unfortunate," Sobejana told reporters. "The plane missed the runway and it was trying to regain power but failed and crashed."

Initial pictures showed that the weather was apparently fine in Sulu although other parts of the Philippines were experiencing rains due to an approaching tropical depression. The airport in Sulu's main town of Jolo is located a few kilometers from a mountainous area where troops have battled the Abu Sayyaf. Some militants have aligned themselves with the Islamic State group. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Iran announced yesterday it was reimposing coronavirus restrictions on major cities, as the spread of the highly contagious delta variant spurs fears of another devastating surge in the nation. After over a year battling the worst virus outbreak in the Middle East, Iran ordered the closures of non-essential businesses in 275 cities, including the capital of Tehran.

Serbian police yesterday said they have discovered an illegal migrant camp near the borders with Hungary and Romania, and detained suspected people smugglers. The makeshift camp was discovered in the village of Srpski Krstur, by the bank of the Tisa river, a police statement said. It didn't specify how many migrants were found at the site.

AP PHOTO



Lithuania has declared a state of emergency due to an influx of migrants in the last few days from neighboring Belarus, as tensions between the European Union and Belarus escalate. Lithuania's Interior Minister Agle Bilotaite said last week that the decision, proposed by the State Border Guard Service, was necessary not because of an increased threat to the country but to put a more robust system into place to handle migrants coming in.

AP PHOTO



Cyprus search crews discovered the bodies of four people outside a fire-swept mountain village yesterday in what the government minister called the "most destructive" blaze in the east Mediterranean island nation's history. Interior Minister Nicos Nouris said that Civil Defense volunteers discovered the remains just outside the village of Odou on the south-central edge of the Troodos mountain range.