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CTM

MACAU'S ROAD DESIGN AND PAVING STANDARDS FAIL TO MEET A SURGING NUMBER OF VEHICLES ARISING FROM THE CITY'S ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT, SAYS ELLA LEI

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CONTRACTOR DEFRAUDS ANOTHER BY MOP500,000 IN FAKE LOAN SCHEME

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THE NUMBER OF APPLICANTS SIGNING UP FOR THE VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM WITH SUBSIDY IS ON THE RISE, THE LABOUR AFFAIRS BUREAU NOTED

P3

AP PHOTO



Indonesia Parts of the country lack oxygen supplies as the number of critically ill Covid-19 patients who need it increases, the nation's pandemic response leader said yesterday, after dozens of sick people died at a public hospital that ran out of its central supply. The government is asking oxygen producers to dedicate their full supply to medical needs and will import it if needed. Pandjaitan said at a virtual news conference.

AP PHOTO



Thailand A massive explosion at a chemical factory on the outskirts of Bangkok yesterday killed at least one person, injured dozens more and damaged scores of homes, while prompting the evacuation of a wide area over fears of poisonous fumes and the possibility of additional denotations. Dense clouds of black smoke continued to billow from the site late in the afternoon. Winds shifted and started blowing toward the city's center, and evacuation centers were set up in a school and a government office for those forced from their homes.

AP PHOTO



Malaysia's government announced yesterday that Parliament will resume July 26, caving into pressure from the king to lift the legislature's suspension under a coronavirus emergency imposed in January. Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin obtained royal assent in January to declare an emergency until Aug. 1 to curb a spike in coronavirus cases, but critics slammed the decree as a ruse to help him stay in power amid challenges to his leadership from both the opposition and within his coalition.

More on backpage



LONG SHOT

At least 80% of the population needs to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, according to health authorities, adding that more time is needed for the Hong Kong-Macau travel bubble

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AP PHOTO



LAS VEGAS

SIN CITY IS BOUNCING BACK, SO IS THE VIRUS

P10

GOV'T URGED TO ENHANCE ROAD QUALITY

HONEY TSANG

MACAU'S road design and paving standards fail to meet a surging number of vehicles arising from the city's accelerating development, and it is imperative that the government updates roads to create a road system that services the needs of the people, lawmaker Ella Lei noted.

Drivers encountering rugged roads is quite commonplace in Macau — some road sections have large potholes or lumpy surfaces, even though many were recently repaved.

In a written query submitted yesterday to the government, Lei attributed this to the longstanding mediocre quality of road construction projects, the standards of which are not sufficiently rigid to withstand the current flow of traffic.

"This [problem] may pose a serious hazard to the public," she warned.



Earlier in March, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário warned the general public that Macau will be transformed into a "huge construction site," and advised locals to accordingly prepare

themselves.

With do Rosário's caution and the forthcoming summer holiday as a habitual peak season for roadway excavation, it is anticipated that the city's traffic situation may stay "not optimistic,"

according to Lei.

The Macau government acknowledged that the quality of road projects has room for improvement. Authorities have been engaging in conversations with related construction companies

to impel them to raise the construction standards.

In early May, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) mounted a field trip into mainland China to study the feasibility of applying the nation's most advanced asphalt-paving technology in Macau, in the hope of enhancing the durability of Macau roadways.

Secretary for Administration and Justice Cheong Weng Chon, noted in March that the government is planning to establish administrative regulations to ensure future construction projects will be carried out to a more satisfactory standard.

Lei requested a reply from the government to indicate what metrics will be put into the administrative regulations and when will they put into force.

She also urged the government to be more forward-thinking and better prepared when it comes to paving projects in a bid to avoid unnecessary excavation and ensuring congestion problems.

LAWMAKER CALLS FOR EARLY STUDY ON SENIOR RE-EMPLOYMENT

LAWMAKER Lei Chan U recently asked the government to make early preparations for a labor market proportionate to an aging population, through measures such as refining foreign worker policies, as he expects an aging population will have a definite impact on the employment market.

According to last year's data released by the government's Statistics and Census Service, 16% of the local population was aged 65 years or above. The median age of the working population was 43 years, which is a higher age to the previous year's median age.

A local study by the government estimated that in 2031, the city will become an ultra-aged society, with 23% of the population aged 65 years or above. In 2036, the percentage will rise further to 24%.

The lawmaker sees this as a potential challenge to the city. He pointed out that an aging population will shrink the size of the labor force, making the shortage of human resources more severe.



Chan said the topic of re-hiring retired senior residents will become a significant social issue in the future.

For the first concern, he forecasts that the importation of non-resident workers will expand in order to cope with the decreasing local workforce. Despite the forecast, he stressed that non-resident workers should always act as a supplementary workforce, as a change to this approach will create other issues.

For the second concern, he pointed out that many senior residents, although already

retired from work, still possess strong physicality and mental acuity, citing the scientific estimate of life expectancy at 84 years.

Nonetheless, he stressed, not many companies have been willing to re-integrate these residents into the labor market. He also criticized the existence of age discrimination, even though it is forbidden by local labor legislations.

Chan added that the government should provide more vocational training in order to extend the employment period of the local population. AL

FIRE BILL PROPOSES DIVISION OF AUTHORITIES TO GOVERN OBSTRUCTIONS

A bill under discussion at a parliamentary committee proposes division of authority between the Fire Services Bureau (CB) and the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) when it comes to potential hurdles in evacuation.

A committee discussion was held yesterday on "The Legal Regime Governing Fire Safety at Buildings and Sites."

President of the committee, lawmaker Chan Chak Mo, disclosed after the session that the latest version of the bill has clarified the delegation of responsibilities across the authorities over obstructions placed on or along evacuation passages.

Chan revealed that when it comes to illegal gates or doors which



are not registered in the original construction blueprints of the premises, the DSSOPT will have foremost authority as the bill considers them "static facility".

In contrast, as far as movable objects, hurdles or obstructions are concerned, the CB will have authority in these situations. For example, when furniture pieces are discarded in the staircase, the CB will be legally authorized to issue a fine.

The bill also proposes that Fire Safety In-charge, a managerial position, can be held by CB-trained security guards. If the individual fails to fulfil their duty, they will be fined between MOP500 and 2,000.

If a fire safety management company violates the law, premises residences will be vested with the rights to terminate the service contract. AL

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COVID-19

80% vaccinated population required for herd immunity

HONEY TSANG

UNLESS at least 80% of the population in Macau are fully vaccinated, or the city will not achieve herd immunity, Tai Wa Hou, coordinator of the Health Bureau's (SSM) Covid-19 Vaccination confirmed yesterday in a media briefing.

The expert explained that the efficiency rate of the vaccine, rather than the antibody level in individuals, should be taken as a more accurate "yardstick" to gauge a person's immunity against coronavirus.

According to the official data, the two available types of vaccine in Macau, the inactivated and mRNA vaccine, were proven to have over 80% and 90% respectively in prevention efficacy.

Generally speaking, herd im-

munity will be reached if 70% of the population are inoculated. However, this proportion is not enough in Macau when taking into account the efficacy rates for the city's two vaccines type, he explained.

As such, it is safer for Macau to aim for 80% of residents to be fully vaccinated, Tai added.

However, the current benchmark for herd immunity may differ from 80% immunization in the future if new and more contagious variants, such as Delta variant, appear in some regions.

MORE TIME NEEDED FOR HONG KONG TRAVEL BUBBLE

Regarding the much-anticipated reopening with Hong Kong, the authorities yesterday confirmed that they need "more time" to observe Hong Kong's in-

fection numbers.

This decision came after the neighboring city reported a new confirmed case which is currently classified as a case with unknown source, Tai said.

This means that it will take more time for the Hong Kong-Macau travel bubble to reach its commencement date.

On July 1, Tai unveiled a new requirement for Hong Kong to see no cases with unknown sources for 14 days, shortened from the previous requirement of 28 days, as an eased precondition to open the Hong Kong-Macau travel bubble.

However, the Hong Kong government announced a new local case the next day, a 41-year-old woman working as a part-time cleaner at a designated quarantine hotel in Yau Ma Tei.

In yesterday's Covid-19 briefing, several journalists expressed concerns about the actual starting date of the Hong Kong-Macau travel bubble. In response to this, Tai said the authorities will keep monitoring whether this case has transmission risk in Hong Kong's community.

He also stressed that the Macau SAR government must discuss and collaborate closely with the mainland authorities on the entry regulations for Hong Kong travelers to enter Macau.

Should a concrete timeframe or date for the border reopening between the two cities be determined, the government will announce in due course, he added.

ELECTIONS 2021

GROUP PROMOTING 'SPIRIT OF BASIC LAW' SUBMITS CANDIDATE LIST TO CAEAL

THE Alliance for the Promotion of the Basic Law of Macao was the last group to submit their candidate list and political platform to the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL).

Yesterday, the group, running for the first time in the Legislative Assembly (AL) elections, delivered a list composed of a total seven members, led by Chow San Cheng, with Wang Yi Leong as number two.

All the list members are first-time participants in the elections and have no prior known political participation.

After the delivery of the official documents to CAEAL, Chow briefed the media, explaining that the

group's main objective is to promote the spirit of the Macau Basic Law, striving for the reform of the AL and a society built on the rule of law.

A total of 19 nomination lists for the direct elections have been confirmed by the CAEAL to participate in the elections this September after the initial submission of 20 nomination lists.

Simultaneously, the indirect elections will take place for sectorial seats that include five nomination lists to represent the Industrial, Commercial, and Finance sectors, the Work sector, the Professional sector, the Education and Social Services sectors, and the Cultural and Sports sectors. **RM**

APPLICATIONS FOR DSAL TRAINING PROGRAM INCREASING



HONEY TSANG

THE number of applicants signing up for the Vocational Training Program with Subsidy is on the rise, the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) noted.

According to a report by TDM yesterday, the authorities will institute a first-come-first-serve basis if the applicant numbers exceeds the quota of the course. However, it will consider organizing more classes to accommodate a higher interest, if possible.

The previous round, the 10th edition of the scheme, received a total of 535 applications, double the number of the preceding round.

The application for the 11th edition of Skill-oriented Training Program, a sub-program under the scheme, commenced yesterday and will last until July 9.

Head of the Vocational Training Department, Cheung Wai, addressed the media yesterday and

noted that it is rare for this sub-program to experience over-enrollment.

In order to save public resources, the DSAL will cancel some scheduled courses that have a final number of applicants below 80% of capacity. The authorities will also consult relevant individuals about their interest in taking other courses.

The application tally for the Employment Oriented Training Program, another sub-program, has been largely the same as the preceding year. However, some courses are particularly sought after, such as those related to engineering and food and beverage industries.

In accordance with the new relaxation implemented by the government, eligible residents can now enroll in both of these sub-programs twice.

The DSAL vows to continue to monitor the number of candidates to make needed adjustments.

NO PLAN YET TO REINSTATE THE PHUKET FLIGHT

SINCE July 1, Phuket is allowing fully vaccinated tourists from particular countries and regions, including Macau, to enter the island without the need to observe quarantine, for the first time since March 2020.

However, the representative of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) affirmed yesterday to the media's query that the government has not received any announcements from airlines regarding the reinstatement of the Macau-Phuket flight

at this time.

In response to the rumor circulating online that a casino operator is indirectly forcing its employees to receive vaccinations by linking this with the staff bonus, Tai confirmed that every person has the right to choose whether or not to be inoculated. The government will not object to any appropriate approaches encouraging more employees to get vaccinated, but the casino operators cannot impose it as a mandatory measure.

SMG CONSIDERS ISSUING T1 TODAY

The Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau (SMG) is considering the issuance of a tropical cyclone signal no.1 between midnight and this morning as another low pressure system over the central part of the South China Sea is expected to gradually intensify into a tropical depression and moving towards Hainan. There will be more showers and stronger winds over the coast of Guangdong starting from tomorrow, SMG warned. It also stated that the low-pressure system to the east of the Philippines has intensified into a tropical depression which is moving towards the eastern Guangdong and Fujian regions.

CHINESE ORCHESTRA TO PRESENT SEASON CLOSING CONCERT

The Macao Chinese Orchestra (OCHM), will present the 2020-2021 Season Closing Concert, "Inheritance, Development" – 100 Years of Chinese Music, on July 30 at 8p.m., at the Macao Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium. Led by its music director and principal conductor, Liu Sha, the Orchestra will count with the cooperation of Huqin performer Jiang Kemei and young yangqin performer Wang Yujue. In the concert OCHM will present the commissioned work "Macao Sketch" by Li Bochan. This national orchestral work set against the backdrop of Macau's inclusive cultures "portrays the humanistic spirit of Macau through a flowing melody," as cited in a statement from the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

CRIME

CONTRACTOR DEFRAUDS ANOTHER BY MOP500,000 IN FAKE LOAN SCHEME

RENATO MARQUES

A 41-year-old local civil construction contractor is being accused of fraud over an alleged false money-lending scheme for construction works, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed today during the regular joint press conference of the police forces.

According to PJ, the suspect and the victim, another local civil construction contractor, worked together several times between December 2019 and April 2020, primarily cooperating on larger works that their own small companies could not do on their own.

One of these such construction works contracted to the victim allegedly stopped in June 2020 because he lacked financial resources to continue, which the suspect knew because he was also part of the project.

In August last year, the suspect knew the victim had won a tender for governmental construction work and approached him, claiming to be aware of an entity

HENRY CO



that could loan the money needed for the stopped project by offering the governmental construction work he had just secured as a loan guarantee.

The victim believed that such a scheme was real and also agreed to hand his collaborator a cheque for 500,000 patacas that would serve as a guarantee depo-

sit for the loan he sought; a total of HKD1.5 million.

After giving the suspect the 500,000 patacas, the victim started questioning the suspect about the loan, but the suspect offered several excuses to justify the delay in the full loan amount coming through.

At the end of August 2020, the victim realized he has been scammed and filed a complaint with the PJ.

On July 2 this year, the PJ called the suspect to provide testimony on the case at the PJ headquarters.

He then confessed the crime, admitting that there was no loan scheme and he had taken and spent the 500,000 patacas from the victim.

He has been sent to the Public Prosecutions Office to be accused of the crime of fraud of a relatively high amount.

SEPTUAGENARIAN ACCUSED OF UNLAWFUL APPROPRIATION OF MOBILE PHONE

A 73-year-old local man is being accused of having unlawfully appropriated a mobile phone that he found on the street, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) reported yesterday during the joint press conference of the police forces.

The case occurred on May 4 when a 14-year-old girl mistakenly left her mobile phone at a public leisure area in the area nearby the Alameda da Tranquilidade in the northern district.

The girl, accompanied by her father, reported to the PSP that the girl had left the phone behind and just a few minutes later when they returned to where she had left it upon realizing, it was gone.

The PSP started to investigate the case and, making use of the street surveillance cameras, they spotted and identified the suspect.

On July 2, the police took the man into custody and during the investigation, he admitted to having found and kept the mobile phone.

According to the victim's testimony at the time of the complaint, the phone had a value of around 2,500 patacas.

The septuagenarian is now being accused of "unlawful appropriation of found thing" according to Article 200 of the Macau Penal Code, and is facing a sentence of up to 1 year of imprisonment, or a fine of up to 120 days. **RM**

PJ REPORTS EIGHT NEW CASES OF CREDIT CARD FRAUD IN THREE DAYS

THE PJ has added eight new cases to the long and growing list of unlawful use of credit cards by third parties. The new cases were reported by the victims between July 2 and 4 and involved credit cards from seven local residents, and one from a non-resident worker. According to the PJ, the unlawful transactions totaled 78,441 patacas. The PJ spokesperson added that these transactions were made online as well as in shops located abroad and involve different currencies such as British pounds, American dollars, Canadian dollars, and patacas. The highest transaction reported was USD2,133 (over 17,000 patacas).

CRIME

Four arrested in regional anti-human smuggling joint operation

ON Sunday evening, law-enforcement authorities from Macau and Zhuhai apprehended a human smuggling syndicate and arrested a total of four suspects, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced yesterday.

It was disclosed that some illegal immigrants paid 55,000 Chinese yuan to the syndicate to "char-

ter" a boat ride across the water to gamble in Macau.

The authorities are still trying to dismantle the syndicate.

At 11 p.m. on Sunday, the PJ and Macao Customs (SA) awaited the boat on Avenida Panorâmica do Lago Sai Van, under the Macau overpass of the Sai Van Bridge. Once

the boat berthed, the authorities took action and arrested a 29-year-old suspect surnamed Luo, who, in June this year, had been banned for two years from entering Macau.

The SA also intercepted a 19-year-old suspect, surnamed Liu, who is a boatman. He was also arrested and charges were

pressed against him.

On the other side of the river, the Zhuhai Police arrested two individuals who are believed to be a backbone member of the syndicate and the guarantor of Luo respectively.

Investigation is still ongoing and authorities are attempting to trace down the heads of the syndica-





MUST pledges to integrate into GBA development

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) pledged to actively integrate into the development of the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Greater Bay Area.

MUST principal Liu Chak Wan recently noted that the university will continue to generate more "high-quality scientific research results, cultivate more outstanding patriotic and Macau-loving talents, and strive to promote and

facilitate the industrialization of the results."

Liu was speaking during the recent meeting with Chen Xingchao, member of the Standing Committee and Minister of United Front Work Department of Jiangxi Province, who visited the university.

Chen praised the university's "fruitful research achievements" and expressed the hope that Jiangxi province and MUST would further strengthen their cooperation

and friendly relationship in the future, as cited in a statement.

"We will learn from each other, cultivate top research talents, promote industrialization, and contribute to national development and construction," he said.

According to same statement, after the meeting, the guests visited the State Key Laboratory of Quality Research in Chinese Medicines and the State Key Laboratory of Lunar and Planetary Sciences. **MDT**

RESIDENTS' DEPOSITS AND LOANS INCREASED IN MAY, TOTAL DEPOSITS DROP 0.2%

OFFICIAL statistics released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) referring to May this year show an increase in both residents' deposits and loans from the previous month.

According to the same statistics, residents' deposits increased 0.7% month-on-month from April to MOP683.8 billion.

Rising by the same percentage (0.7%) were deposits from the public sector that reached MOP265.9 billion in May.

By contrast, deposits from non-residents registered a drop of 2.7% month-on-month to MOP351.4 billion.

As a result, total deposits in the banking sector decreased 0.2% from a month earlier to

MOP1,301.1 billion.

Also increasing were domestic loans to the private sector which registered an increase of 0.5% month-on-month when compared to April this year to MOP544.0 billion.

External loans rose further (2.5%) to MOP757.4 billion.

As a result, total loans to the private sector climbed 1.6% from a month earlier to MOP1,301.4 billion.

In terms of currency, HKD continues to be the currency with a larger market share for both deposits and loans, scoring 37.3% and 51.8%, respectively.

The second most used currency is USD which in May registered a market share of 29.2% on deposits and 21.0% on loans. **RM**







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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

CHINESE RIDE SERVICE DIDI TOLD TO TAKE APP OFF ONLINE STORES

RIDE-HAILING service Didi Global Inc., which made its U.S. stock market debut last week, was ordered Sunday by Chinese regulators to remove its app from online stores while the company overhauls its handling of customer data.

Dozens of social media and e-commerce companies have been told to handle customer information more carefully as the Communist Party tightens control over their influential industries. Some have been told to collect less information.

An investigation found "serious violations" in how Didi collected and used personal information, the Cyberspace Administration of China announced. A statement said the company was told to "rectify problems" but gave no details.

Didi said it would "strictly comply" but gave no details. A statement on its social media account said customers who downloaded the Didi app before Sunday's order can keep using it normally.

Didi shares fell 5.3% on Friday after the Cyberspace Administration of China announced an inves-



tigation. The agency said Didi was barred from accepting new customers until the investigation was completed.

Didi raised \$4 billion from investors in its New York stock offering.

The company was founded in 2012 as a taxi-hailing app and has expanded into other ride-hailing options including private cars and buses. It says it also is investing in electric cars, artificial intelligence and other technology development.

The ruling party began tightening control over China's fast-

-changing internet industries last year, launching anti-monopoly and other investigations.

Chinese leaders are concerned about the influence of e-commerce, social media and other companies that pervade the lives of China's public. Most are privately operated.

In April, Alibaba Group, the world's biggest e-commerce platform, was fined \$2.8 billion on charges of violating anti-monopoly rules. Other companies have been penalized on charges they violated rules on privacy, censorship and disclosure of acquisitions. **MDT/AP**



ELECTRONIC INFORMATION MANUFACTURING SECTOR MAINTAINS FAST EXPANSION

CHINA'S electronic information manufacturing sector continued to steadily expand over the first five months of the year, data from the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) shows.

The added value of electronic information manufacturers with annual operating revenues of at least 20 million yuan (about 3.1 million U.S. dollars) jumped 21.5% year on year, with a compound annual growth rate of 12.2% over the past two years, according to the MIIT.

The export delivery value of major enterprises in the sector rose 21.3% year on year in the

January-May period, while fixed-asset investment into the sector went up 27.6% from a year earlier.

MIIT data also shows that the operating revenue of major electronic information manufacturers soared 31.2% year on year to 4.06 trillion yuan in the first four months, while their combined profits in the period totaled 193.5 billion yuan, surging 86.2% year on year.

In May alone, China's smartphone output climbed 9.6 percent year on year to 100 million units, while the output of microcomputers rose 10.8 percent to 36.14 million units. **XINHUA**

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HUIZONG WU, TAIPEI

AT the end of May, Chen Pei-je, a member of an expert committee in Taiwan to evaluate COVID-19 vaccines for use on the island, resigned.

Chen's resignation came after he learned that Taiwan's Food and Drug Administration planned to take a regulatory shortcut in approving two vaccines being developed in Taiwan. The shortcut would allow the shots to be given to people for emergency use before the vaccines have finished the final stage of testing.

The proposed shortcut comes as Taiwan scrambles to get vaccines amid its worst outbreak of the pandemic, and has also recorded its first cases of the highly contagious delta variant originally found in India. Supporters say the shortcut is needed because Taiwan is in a real crunch, and they argue that the move could soon become more common worldwide. That's because as more vaccines roll out, it's getting increasingly difficult to conduct the usual tests of a vaccine's efficacy.

But as Chen's resignation shows, the proposed move has also raised concerns about the risks, chiefly regarding whether people might be given a vaccine that ultimately is shown not to work.

"This is a shortcut, and this has to do with President Tsai (Ing-wen) — we don't have enough vaccines, and the ruling party is very anxious," said Chen, referring to the president's remarks in May saying the first batch of domestically made vaccines would be ready in July. Those remarks were viewed by some as putting pressure on regulators before interim data was even analyzed.

Tsai has since revised her comments to say July is a goal, and she hopes the first batch will be ready by then.

Chen, a member of Taiwan's Academia Sinica, a top government-backed research institute, said he resigned because he felt politics had interfered with what should be an independent, scientific process. He also felt the proposed shortcut didn't have enough scientific evidence or global recognition to justify it.

Vaccines that are in use globally have gone through a final stage of clinical trials — large, carefully designed studies in which the vaccine is given to people who are monitored against a non-vaccinated group to see if the former are more protected from the disease.

Taiwan's shortcut would give emergency-use approval to two vaccines before those studies, although the two shots have gone through first and mid-stage testing just like other vaccines. Instead, the makers would have to demonstrate that the vaccines generate antibodies against CO-

AP PHOTO



COVID-19

Taiwan's push to shortcut vaccine approval sparks debate

VID-19 at the same level as the AstraZeneca vaccine, which has already been approved for use in Taiwan.

There is growing evidence that the level of antibodies in a person's blood means a certain level of protection from COVID-19, but it is not definitive.

Taiwanese experts who support the approach say there's sufficient evidence and urgency as the island battles an ongoing outbreak. It has vaccinated just 4% of its population of 24 million people and has struggled to get doses because of a global supply crunch. As of Sunday, the COVID-19 death toll has jumped to 686 people, from only about a dozen prior to the current outbreak.

"Now with COVID-19 you can't do it that way, where you wait until a randomized clinical trial — people are dying," said Ho Mei-Shang, a vaccine expert in Taiwan who has also worked for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "In the short term we are not going to get our sufficient amount of vaccines."

At least three countries have allowed early use of vaccines even without the final testing. Russia and China started giving shots last year before finishing their last stage of trials, leading to global criticism. India's early approval of a vaccine sparked anger and mistrust in its medical community.

Elsewhere, most countries and the WHO have only granted approval after the final study. Authorities like the U.S. FDA and the European EMEA, which are often looked to globally for their regulatory decisions, have said they would approve vaccines based on antibody data if an already approved vaccine is being redeveloped for a variant. They have not said the same for a new vaccine.

The U.K. is looking at possibly doing the same as Taiwan. The

As more and more people get access to vaccines, the ethics and difficulty of doing one of these trials — in which one group gets the vaccine and the other gets a placebo — becomes more complex

British government's National Institute for Health Research is testing a new vaccine developed by French company Valneva to see if it generates antibodies comparable to the AstraZeneca vaccine in 4,000 volunteers.

If the approach works in the U.K. and Taiwan, it could be a life-saver for vaccine developers and countries badly in need of doses.

As more and more people get

access to vaccines, the ethics and difficulty of doing one of these trials — in which one group gets the vaccine and the other gets a placebo — becomes more complex.

"Who would accept a placebo if they knew they can get a vaccine?" said Jerome Kim, the head of the International Vaccine Institute, a U.N. agency.

Giving a volunteer a placebo and subjecting them to the risk of possibly getting infected when proven vaccines are available may be considered unethical by some regulators, he added.

Taiwanese regulators have said they would grant emergency use approval to two vaccines in development, if they pass the antibody test. One is being developed by Taiwanese firm Medigen, the other by an American company Vaxxinity, which is testing the vaccine in Taiwan.

Medigen said this month that it had submitted an application for emergency use to Taiwan's FDA and planned to conduct the third and final stage clinical trials after approval.

"The reasons are the difficulty to execute the conventional phase 3 study and also the ethical challenge," the company said in an email response to questions.

Vaxxinity announced in June they signed a deal of 1 million doses with Paraguay, one of Taiwan's

remaining diplomatic allies, to be delivered once the Taiwanese FDA gives their vaccine emergency-use authorization. The company is finishing mid-stage testing.

Taiwan has been considering taking this path since at least last fall, when it seemed they would be unable to do the last stage of clinical trials because the virus was under control and people weren't getting infected anyway.

"It doesn't mean it's an unusual decision or a crazy decision, it's relevant to circumstances," said Nikolai Petrovsky, a vaccine expert at Flinders University in Australia.

Opposition parties in Taiwan have seized on the issue, criticizing the government for pushing ahead with a standard not yet accepted globally, and wondering if the government was playing favorites with domestic companies.

K. Arnold Chan, a clinical trials expert at National Taiwan University and a member of the expert panel in Taiwan, said that there are lot of uncertainties with vaccine development. He pointed to CureVac, a German company, which recently announced disappointing results from a large late-stage study for its COVID-19 vaccine of that found efficacy was below 50%.

"You can imagine the ramifications that someone is thought to be protected, but is not [...] and it's not stopping the chain of infection," Chan said. "The risk is we spent a lot of money, (and) we purchased a very expensive placebo." **MDT/AP**

Israel looks to renew law that keeps out Palestinian spouses

JOSEPH KRAUSS

ISRAEL'S parliament was set to vote yesterday on whether to renew a temporary law first enacted in 2003 that bars Arab citizens of Israel from extending citizenship or even residency to spouses from the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Critics, including many left-wing and Arab lawmakers, say it's a racist measure aimed at restricting the growth of Israel's Arab minority, while supporters say it's needed for security purposes and to preserve Israel's Jewish character.

The law creates an array of difficulties for Palestinian families that span the war-drawn and largely invisible frontiers separating Israel from east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, territories it seized in the 1967 war that the Palestinians want for a future state.

Israel's dominant right-wing parties strongly support the law, and it has been renewed every year since being enacted. But Israel's new government includes opponents of the measure, and the right-wing opposition led by former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — aiming to embarrass the government — has warned it won't provide the votes needed to renew the law.

The Citizenship and Entry into Israel Law was enacted as a temporary measure in 2003, at the height of the second intifada, or uprising, when Palestinians launched scores of deadly attacks inside Israel. Proponents said Palestinians from the occupied West Bank and Gaza were susceptible to recruitment by armed groups and that security vetting alone was insufficient.

The law has been renewed even after the uprising wound down in 2005 and the number of attacks plummeted. Today, Israel allows more than 100,000 Palestinian workers from the West Bank to enter on a regular basis.

"It was passed in the middle of the intifada, and now we are in a very different period in time," said Yuval Shany, a legal expert at the Israel Democracy Institute.



Not only are attacks far rarer, but Israel has vastly improved its technological abilities to monitor Palestinians who enter, he said. "I don't think the security argument is very strong at this point in time."

Because of the law, Arab citizens have few if any avenues for bringing spouses from the West Bank and Gaza into Israel. The policy affects thousands of families.

Male spouses over the age of 35 and female spouses over the age of 25, as well as some humanitarian cases, can apply for the equivalent of a tourist permit, which must be regularly renewed. The holders of such permits are ineligible for driver's licenses, public health insurance and most forms of employment. Palestinian spouses from Gaza have been completely banned since the militant Hamas group seized power there in 2007.

The law does not apply to the nearly 500,000 Jewish settlers who live in the West Bank, who have full Israeli citizenship. Under Israel's Law of Return, Jews who come to Israel from anywhere in the world are eligible for citizenship.

Israel's Arab minority,

which makes up 20% of the population, has close familial ties to Palestinians in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and largely identifies with their cause. Arab citizens view the law as one of several forms of discrimination they face in a country that legally defines itself as a Jewish nation-state.

"This law sees every Palestinian as an enemy and as a threat, just because of his ethnic and national affiliation," said Sawsan Zaher, a lawyer with Adalah, an Arab rights group that has challenged the law in court. "The political message is very racist and very dangerous."

Palestinians who are unable to get permits but try to live with their spouses inside Israel are at risk of deportation. Couples that move to the West Bank live under Israeli military occupation. If their children are born in the West Bank, they would be subject to the same law preventing spouses from entering Israel, though there is an exception for minors.

The citizenship law also applies to Jewish Israelis who marry Palestinians from the territories, but such unions are extremely rare.

Human Rights Watch pointed to the law as an

example of the widespread discrimination faced by Palestinians — both inside Israel and in the territories it controls — in a report earlier this year that said such practices amount to apartheid.

Israel rejects such allegations and says Jewish and Arab citizens have equal rights. It says a controversial 2018 law, which defines Israel as the nation-state of the Jewish people, merely recognizes the country's character and does not infringe on individual rights.

Arab citizens have the right to vote, and the new government for the first time includes an Arab faction, which is opposed to the citizenship law.

But even as Defense Minister Benny Gantz, a political centrist, recently urged the opposition to support the law on security grounds, he also evoked demographic concerns.

"This law is essential for safeguarding the country's security and Jewish and democratic character, and security considerations need to be put before all political considerations," Gantz said in a statement. "Even in difficult times politically, we put Israel before everything." MDT/AP

this day in history

2005 BOMB ATTACKS ON LONDON



A series of bomb attacks on London's transport network has killed more than 30 people and injured about 700 others.

Three explosions on the Underground left 35 dead and two died in a blast on a double-decker bus.

The first three bombs went off at 0850 on underground trains just outside Liverpool Street and Edgware Road stations, and on another travelling between King's Cross and Russell Square.

The final explosion was around an hour later on a number 30 double-decker bus in Tavistock Square, not far from King's Cross.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the bombings had "the hallmarks of an al-Qaeda-related attack".

Prime Minister Tony Blair promised the "most intense police and security service action to make sure we bring those responsible to justice".

Mr Blair, who flew back to London from the G8 summit in Gleneagles, condemned the terrorists and paid tribute to the stoicism and resilience of the people of London.

"They are trying to use the slaughter of innocent people to cow us, to frighten us out of doing the things that we want to do," he said in a televised statement from Downing Street.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In total 52 people lost their lives in the London bombings, 700 people were injured. The attacks were carried out by four suicide bombers.

The presumed ringleader, Mohammed Siddique Khan, had recently visited Pakistan and was later found to have made a video message in which he claimed British foreign policy was oppressing Muslims.

Al-Qaeda issued a videotaped statement in September claiming it was behind the London bombings.

On July 21 there were four more attempted bombings in London. None of the devices exploded.

On 22 July 2005, police shot dead a man, Jean Charles de Menezes, they mistook for one of the bombers.

Five men were later arrested and are due to face trial in September 2006.

A decision is still awaited on whether any charges will be brought over the de Menezes shooting.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Today's skies encourage you to step back and realistically review your current relationship story, as lover Venus locks into a dampening connection with limit-setting Saturn.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 You may feel as if you've hit a wall today, Taurus. Your ruling planet, magnetic Venus, finds herself in an uncomfortable stare-down with stifling Saturn.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Bond-building Venus locks into a difficult contact with realistic Saturn today, asking you to explore any blockages you've been experiencing on the romantic front.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Your ruling planet, the shape-shifting moon, meanders through reflective Gemini. This placement encourages the prioritization of rest, recuperation, and solitude.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 It's an ideal day for realistic conversations, rather than engaging in daydreamy playfulness. Use this energy to sort out fact from fiction and get on the same page with love interests or partners.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You're dealing with some charged romantic material behind closed doors today. Let your old relationship wounds resurface today, despite how uncomfortable they may be to confront.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 You may feel like you've run headfirst into a wall today, Libra. Your ruling planet, magnetic Venus, locks into a tense opposition with stifling Saturn today.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Today's cosmic landscape seems to pump the brakes around your current career trajectory, Scorpio. Value-setting Venus locks into an unsettling opposition with heavy Saturn today.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Storm clouds may be gathering around your mind today, Sagittarius. Rather than succumb to their heavy presence, aim to slow down and pinpoint what's standing in your way.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Send your attention to the story brewing deep within your heart, Capricorn. Something about the way you approach intimate partnerships has been in a state of transition.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Keep a close eye on your partnership stories today, Aquarius. Romantic Venus locks into an unsettling opposition with your ruling planet, limit-setting Saturn.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 As a Pisces, staying grounded in reality is one of your toughest tasks. This time of year encourages you to straighten out your routines and regimens in order to make that process easier.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

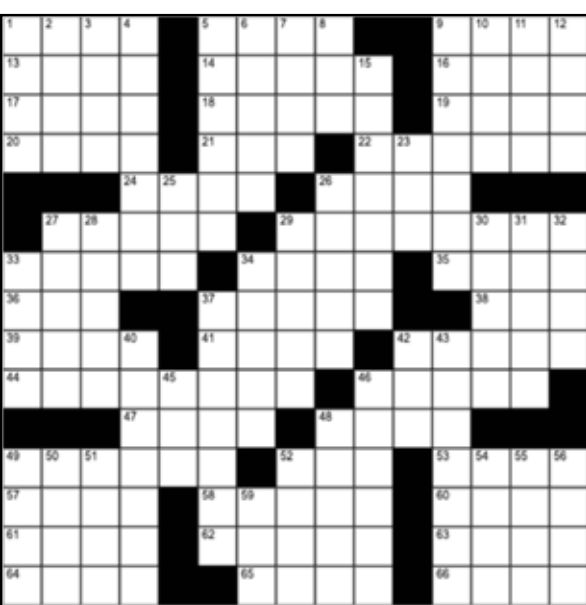
WEATHER

	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- Zinger; 5- Latin lesson word; 9- Small dam; 13- Baseball family name; 14- Outer coat of a seed; 16- Writer Bombeck; 17- All-male; 18- Low cards; 19- Purim month; 20- Yemen's capital; 21- Lyricist Gershwin; 22- Comfort in misfortune; 24- Cover with earth; 26- Crux; 27- Bullwinkle, e.g.; 29- Most distant; 33- Ruin; 34- Big East team; 35- Edible roots; 36- Bordeaux buddy; 37- Income source; 38- Patsy; 39- Actress Foch; 41- Employs; 42- Glasses, briefly; 44- Intensified; 46- Bottle; 47- Kon-Tiki Museum site; 48- Delights; 49- Sickness at the stomach; 52- Occupational suffix; 53- Recipe amt.; 57- Egyptian Christian; 58- Photo finish; 60- Charged particles; 61- Indigo source; 62- Treaties; 63- Island in central Hawaii; 64- Actor Auberjonois; 65- At the drop of ___; 66- Energy units;

DOWN: 1- Low in pitch; 2- Neighbor of Sask.; 3- Horse of mixed color; 4- Bugbear; 5- Dress; 6- Joyous; 7- In the Black?; 8- Messy place; 9- Affluent; 10- Mother of the Valkyries; 11- Apple product; 12- Hard to find; 15- Declares positively; 23- Cereal grass; 25- Home of the Trojans; 26- Ships' officers; 27- Jackie's predecessor; 28- Sheeplike; 29- Put away papers; 30- Relaxes; 31- Slap; 32- Dosage abbr.; 33- Clock pointer; 34- Stroll; 37- Tanning salon purchase; 40- Peter or Paul, but not Mary; 42- Wily; 43- Hobby; 45- Wind dir.; 46- Land covered with trees; 48- Volkswagen model; 49- Tenn. neighbor; 50- Tops; 51- ___ arms (angry); 52- Need a scratch; 54- Male swine; 55- Cozy; 56- Greek letters; 59- Penlight battery;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

LAS VEGAS IS BOUNCING BACK, BUT THE VIRUS IS ON THE RISE TOO

MICHELLE L. PRICE, LAS VEGAS

FIFTEEN months after the pandemic transformed Las Vegas from flamboyant spectacle to ghost town, Sin City is back.

Tourists are streaming in again, gambling revenue has hit an all-time high, the Las Vegas Strip has its first new casino in a decade, and big concerts are starting at a gleaming new stadium. Plexiglass panels installed to separate gamblers at the poker and blackjack tables have largely been removed, the world-famous buffets are reopening, and nightclub dance floors are packed.

Vice President Kamala Harris was set to visit Saturday for what the White House is calling the "America's Back Together" tour celebrating progress against the virus.

But that progress is threatened: Nevada this week saw the highest rate of new COVID-19 cases in the country, hospitalizations are on the rise again, and the highly contagious delta variant has become the most prevalent form of the vi-



rus in the state, adding urgency to the campaign to get more people vaccinated.

Still, in a place where the economy runs on crowds and uninhibited behavior, a return to pandemic-related restrictions and mask requirements seems to be off the table.

Inside the casinos, guests are not required to wear masks if they are fully vaccinated, but em-

ployees do not appear to be asking anyone for proof.

"It seems like everything is opening back up, getting back to normal," Teresa Lee, a 47-year-old tourist from Nashville, Tennessee, said Thursday as she stood on the Strip, looking out over the fountains in front of the Bellagio casino.

Lee said she is vaccinated and felt safe in Las Vegas because she

read about the casinos' efforts to get their workers and their families vaccinated.

Tyler Williams, a 22-year-old from Eugene, Oregon, said it didn't feel as if there was a pandemic anymore because "people are everywhere." He said he had seen hardly anyone with a mask apart from a few foreign tourists and felt no need to wear one himself, because he is vaccinated.

Las Vegas fully reopened and lifted restrictions on most businesses June 1, though many casino-resorts had already returned to 100% capacity before that with approval from state regulators. Visitor numbers, while not at their pre-pandemic highs, have grown by double digits four months in a row.

Shows and fireworks are scheduled for the July 4 weekend, and the new 65,000-seat Allegiant Stadium where the NFL's relocated Raiders will kick off their season this fall was set to host its first major concert Saturday, by electronic dance music star Illenium. It will be followed by a full-capacity show from Garth Brooks next weekend.

Over the past two weeks, Nevada's diagnosis rate of 190 new cases per 100,000 people was higher than that of Missouri, Arkansas and Wyoming -- all states with lower vaccination levels -- and the state public health lab found the delta variant in almost half the COVID-19 cases it analyzed.

Also, the number of patients hospitalized with the virus has grown 33% over the past week, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, though the levels are far below what they were in December, when hospitals were near capacity. **MDT/AP**

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



SEMI-FINALS

Only four teams remain at Euro 2020, which is headed to Wembley

THE European Championship is coming to Wembley Stadium for the final three games of the tournament.

Italy will take on Spain on Tuesday in the first semifinal match and Denmark will face England on Wednesday in the other.

The Euro 2020 final is scheduled for next Sunday.

ITALY

After failing to qualify for the last World Cup, Italy has set a national team record of 32 unbeaten matches.

Five of them have come at Euro 2020.

The team earned victories over Turkey, Switzerland and Wales in the group stage, but then was taken to extra time before beating Austria in the round of 16.

An impressive 2-1 victory over top-ranked Belgium followed, giving Italy a record 13th consecutive win.

Italy has reached the semifinals with a mixture of attacking flair and solid defense, which has seen it concede only two goals at the tournament.

SPAIN

Lacking the ruthlessness and hard edge of the country's title-winning team from 2008 and '12, Spain's class of 2021 has shrugged off its imperfections to move within two wins of being European champion again.

History is on its side, too. Each time the Spanish have advanced from the quarterfinals, they have gone on to win the trophy, having also won the European Championship in 1964.

In Luis Enrique, Spain has a perhaps the tournament's most proven coach to come out of the club game — his Barcelona team achieved the Spanish league-and-cup double in 2015 and '16, and also won the Champions League in 2015 — and his young team's current unbeaten run is at 13 matches.

There are concerns, though.

Spain might be the highest-scoring team at Euro 2020 but has unconvincing strikers in Alvaro Morata and Gerard Moreno. Central defense is also an issue, with Aymeric Laporte still settling in after switching nationalities from France in May.

DENMARK

Denmark's passage to the semifinals has evoked memories of the country's unexpected title-winning campaign at the European Championship in 1992.

That year, the Danes weren't even supposed to be playing in the tournament but got called up 10 days before the opening game following Yugoslavia's disqualification as a result of sanctions by

the United Nations amid the war in the Balkans.

Denmark qualified on its own this time but wasn't among the favorites — especially after midfielder Christian Eriksen collapsed during the team's opening group game against Finland after suffering cardiac arrest. He had to be resuscitated with a defibrillator on the field.

That prompted an outpouring of support and the team has been riding that emotional wave ever since, with Eriksen constantly in the thoughts of the players and coach Kasper Hjulmand.

Emotions aside, Denmark actually has a very good team — it was the last one to beat England at Wembley Stadium — and has exciting players to watch in

wing back Joakim Maehle and playmaker Mikkel Damsgaard, Eriksen's replacement.

ENGLAND

England is the only team remaining to have also made the semifinals at the last World Cup.

Gareth Southgate is still the coach but with a much changed squad. Only nine of the 23 players from 2018 made the 26-man cut for Euro 2020.

Of England's five games so far, only the quarterfinal victory over Ukraine was played away from Wembley Stadium. And it's back to Wembley for the semifinals with England yet to concede a goal at the tournament.

While Harry Kane didn't score in the group stage, the striker now has three goals in two games. Raheem Sterling also has three.

Among the decisions for Southgate are whether to stick with a four-man defense or go with three at the back, and whether to bring Bukayo Saka back into the starting lineup in place of Jadon Sancho if the winger has recovered from a minor injury. **MDT/AP**

UPCOMING GAMES

	Date	Time	Home	Away	City	ODDS
Wed	Jul 7	3:00	Italy	Spain	London	H 2.56, D 3.25, A 3.15
Thu	Jul 8	3:00	England	Denmark	London	H 1.75, D 3.7, A 5.9

ODDSCHECKER.COM



OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

REJUVENATION WILL MAKE
COUNTRY A GREAT PARTNER

The grand gathering in Tian'anmen Square in Beijing on Thursday morning to celebrate the centenary of the Communist Party of China naturally drew the world's attention.

Those hoping the event would indicate the direction in which the country is heading under the guidance of the CPC will not have been disappointed. In his centerpiece speech, Xi Jinping, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, China's president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, set out the course ahead in an unequivocal way.

Noting that the Party always represents the fundamental interests of the people, he said it will continue to stay true to its original mission of seeking happiness for the Chinese people and the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

Having accomplished its first centenary goal of building a moderately prosperous society in all respects, the Party has fulfilled the solemn promise it made to the Chinese people, and the country is "closer, more confident, and more capable than ever before of making the goal of national rejuvenation a reality".

But this has not come easily. It is the Party's ingrained roots in the people, and its perseverance and adaptability to changing times that have secured for the country the more developed institutional guarantee and more solid material foundation it enjoys as it strives to realize the second centenary goal of becoming a great modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious and beautiful by 2049, the 100th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

Xi's speech clearly showed that the Party, well aware of the costs the Chinese people have paid over the past 100 years to realize the first centenary goal, will not let grass grow under its feet and take a moment to rest on its laurels. It has wasted no time in setting foot on the path to attain the second goal.

In saying so, Xi also offered insight into why the Party is always able to self-adjust, and why it can grow from being a small political organization of over 50 members when it was founded to be the largest governing party in the world, with more than 95 million members.

Confidence was a key word in his speech; and he declared that national rejuvenation has become a "historical inevitability". In doing so, he sent a clear-cut message to those trying to sow discord between the Party and the people that their attempts are doomed to failure.

To some extent, it is such attempts that have spurred the Party to constantly improve itself, and to make sure its policies and actions remain in line with the interests of the people and the trends of the times.

In stressing that the Chinese nation has achieved the tremendous transformation from standing up and growing prosperous to becoming strong, he made it clear that it will never allow any external powers to bully, oppress, or subjugate it. Whoever tries that will collide with a great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people.

But while the country will resolutely defend its development interests, it is not in the nation's culture and history for it to bully, oppress or subjugate. The tremendous sufferings the country has endured have made it an ethical and behavioral code for the Party and the people that China should do unto others as it would have done unto itself.

That is why Xi once again assured like-minded countries of China's reliability as a partner for safeguarding world peace, contributing to global development and preserving international order.

He left no doubt that under the leadership of the CPC, China is a firm supporter of multilateralism, openness and justice, and that the country has no desire for hegemony.

A sculpture symbolizing Britain's complex colonial ties and an artwork featuring the faces of 850 transgender people are set to go on display in Trafalgar Square, one of London's highest-profile venues for public art.

City officials yesterday announced the next two works to occupy the "fourth plinth," a large stone pedestal in the central London square.

From 2022 to 2024 the plinth will display Malawi-born artist Samson Kambalu's "Antelope," a sculpture of Pan-Africanist leader John Chilembwe beside European missionary John Chorley. Based on a 1914 photograph, it depicts Chilembwe as the much larger figure, "revealing the hidden narratives of un-

der-represented peoples in the history of the British Empire in Africa and beyond," City Hall said.

Mexican artist Teresa Margolles' "850 Imprints (850 Imprint)," featuring casts of the faces of transgender people from around the world, will be installed in 2024. City Hall said "the 'life masks' will be arranged round the plinth in the form of a Tzompantli, a skull rack from Mesoamerican civilizations" of what is now Central America and Mexico.

The current occupant of the fourth plinth is Heather Phillipson's sculpture "The End" — a giant swirl of whipped cream topped with a cherry, a fly and a drone. It's due to stay on display until September 2022.

AP PHOTO



JAPAN SEARCHES FOR
DOZENS MISSING IN
RESORT TOWN MUDSLIDE

KANTARO KOMIYA
& MARI YAMAGUCHI,
ATAMI

RESCUE workers slogged through mud and debris yesterday looking for dozens feared missing after a giant landslide ripped through a Japanese seaside resort town, killing at least three people.

Eighty people were still unaccounted for, according to Shizuoka prefectural disaster management official Takamichi Sugiyama. Officials were preparing to release their names, hoping to reach some who might not have been caught in the landslide.

Initially, 147 of those people were unreachable, but that number was revised downward after city officials confirmed some had safely evacuated or were away when the disaster struck, it said.

The disaster is an added trial as authorities prepare for the Tokyo Olympics, due to start in less than three weeks, while Japan is still in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic.

Prime Minister

Yoshihide Suga told reporters that rescue workers, including police, self-defense troops, firefighters and coast guard personnel, are doing their utmost "to rescue those who may be buried under the mud and waiting for help as soon as possible."

At least 20 were initially described as missing. Since Atami is a vacation city, many apartments and homes are unoccupied for long parts of the year, with their listed residents living in other places.

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Takamichi Sugiyama

Others may be away visiting relatives or friends or not answering the phone, officials said. They hope to get in touch with more of those unaccounted for yesterday.

The landslide occurred Saturday after several days of heavy rains. Witnesses heard a giant roar as a small stream turned into a torrent,

carrying black mud, trees, rocks and debris from buildings.

Bystanders were heard gasping in horror on cell phone videos taken as it happened.

Like many seaside and mountain towns in Japan, Atami is built on steep hillsides, its roads winding through bits of forest and heavy vegetation. With other parts of the country expecting heavy downpours in what is known as Japan's rainy season, authorities elsewhere were also surveying hillsides. NHK carried a program yesterday about risk factors and warning signs that might precede a landslide.

Three coast guard ships, and six military drones were backing up the hundreds of troops, firefighters and other rescue workers toiling in the rain and fog in search of possible survivors.

The mudslide struck Atami's Izusan neighborhood, known for its hot springs, a shrine and shopping streets. Atami, which has a population of 36,800, is about 100 kilometers southwest of Tokyo. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Malaysia's government pledged yesterday to take steps to eliminate forced labor after the country was downgraded by the U.S. to the worst level in an annual report on human trafficking. Human Resources Minister M. Saravanan said the government is taking the downgrade seriously and has ramped up efforts to battle human trafficking, including increased prosecution for companies involved in forced labor.

New Zealand has recorded its warmest June since recordkeeping began, as ski fields struggle to open and experts predict shorter southern winters in the future. A range of factors led to the record, including more winds coming from the milder north rather than the Antarctic south, and unusually warm ocean temperatures, said Gregor Macara, a climate scientist at the government-owned National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research.

AP PHOTO



Egypt The Suez Canal Authority said it has reached an agreement to settle a financial dispute with the owners of a hulking container ship that blocked the crucial waterway for nearly a week earlier this year. The authority did not reveal details on the settlement deal with the Shoeni Kisen Kaisha Ltd., the Japanese owner of the Ever Given. It said the deal will be signed in a ceremony in the Suez Canal city of Ismailia today.

AP PHOTO



British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to unveil plans to scrap mandatory mask-wearing and social distancing in England in two weeks' time, despite surging coronavirus infections driven by the highly contagious delta variant. Johnson said he would set out how the country would "learn to live with this virus" — a major shift in tone from a leader who has previously painted COVID-19 as an enemy to be vanquished.