

POLICE IN MACAU AND HONG KONG HAVE BUSTED AN ONLINE SCAM SYNDICATE, ARRESTING A TOTAL OF SEVEN SUSPECTS

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FITCH AFFIRMS THAT MGM'S RATING OUTLOOK REMAINS NEGATIVE

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LAWMAKER AGNES LAM SUGGESTED THAT THE GOV'T PROVIDE A SPECIAL AVENUE TO ALLOW MACAU PATIENTS TO TRAVEL TO HONG KONG WITHOUT QUARANTINE

▲ P2

AP PHOTO



China's most popular social media service has deleted accounts on LGBT topics run by university students and nongovernment groups, prompting concern the ruling Communist Party is tightening control over gay and lesbian content. WeChat sent account holders a notice they violated rules but gave no details, according to the founder of an LGBT group, who asked not to be identified further out of fear of possible official retaliation. She said dozens of accounts were shut down, all at about 10 p.m. on Tuesday.

AP PHOTO



Chinese authorities locked down a city bordering Myanmar yesterday, shutting most businesses and requiring residents to stay at home as a fresh outbreak of Covid-19 expanded. Another 15 cases were found in Ruili in the last 24 hours, on top of six in the previous two days, health authorities in southwestern Yunnan province said. In addition, two people without Covid-19 symptoms have also tested positive for the virus.

AP PHOTO



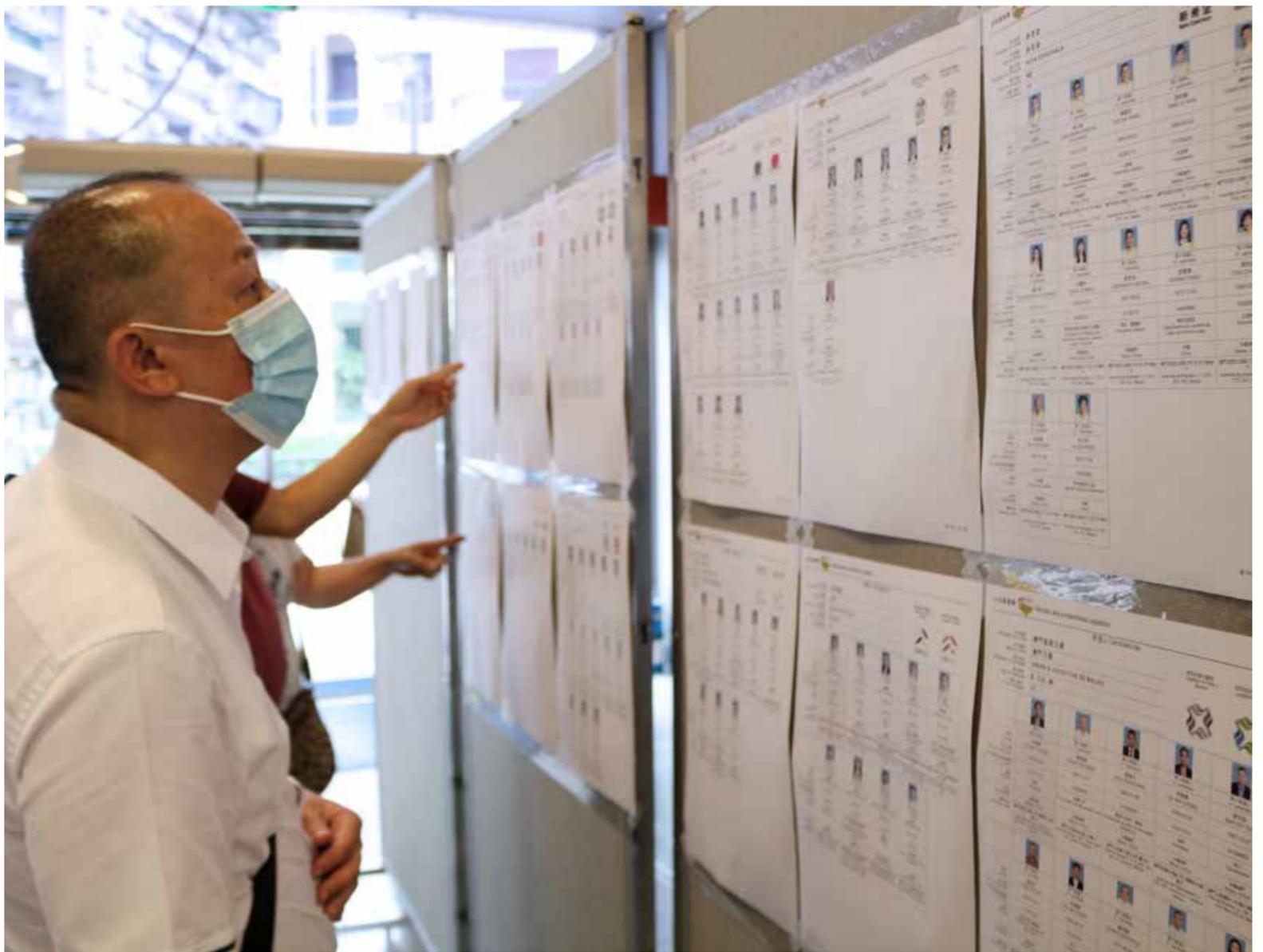
Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday appointed a lawmaker from his allied party as his deputy, in what is seen as a calculated bid to dissuade the largest party in his ruling alliance from withdrawing its support for his leadership. The announcement came just hours ahead of the meeting of a top decision-making body of the United Malays National Organization, or UMNO, which has long been unhappy at playing second fiddle to Muhyiddin's Bersatu party and is expected to decide whether to quit the government.

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SPECULATIONS CLEARED

Lingering doubts on candidate lists for the upcoming election have now been clarified, following the Electoral Affairs Commission's publication of the 24 lists running for the seventh AL term ▲ P3

RENATO MARQUES



CROUPIERS WORRIED ABOUT HONG KONG PATRONS

▲ P4

BLOOMBERG



PJ HEAD PROMOTED TO CHIEF INSPECTOR

Sit Chong Meng, director of the Judiciary Police (PJ), was promoted yesterday from First-tier Inspector to Chief Inspector, a position crucial to holding the directorship pursuant to Law No 17/2020, promulgated last year. The position is the highest on the career ladder of a PJ inspector. It carries several responsibilities, such as "leading investigations of exceptionally complex and difficult cases, as well as planning and directing joint policing operations. Sit underwent an exam-based promotion procedure last year to attain this position.

'INITIAL TRAINING PLAN' SEES UP TO 60 REGISTRANTS IN FIRST WEEK

According to the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), the number of applicants for the "Initial Training Plan" for young people has increased, noting that 50 to 60 people have signed up within the first week of the application period this year. The training courses have been expanded from two to three this year. Also, in this edition, Chinese and Western catering technology courses have been launched. The scheme is accepting applications from June 28 until July 17.

FITCH: MGM RATING OUTLOOK REMAINS NEGATIVE

FITCH Ratings has confirmed that the Issuer Default Ratings (IDRs) for MGM Resorts International and MGM China Holdings are at 'BB-'.

The agency said that the Rating Outlook remains Negative.

"The affirmation reflects Fitch's expectation that the gross consolidated leverage will decline to 6.0x (the negative rating sensitivity) by 2023 (i.e. within the rating horizon) pro forma for the announced transactions as well as Fitch's more positive view on Las Vegas' recovery to pre-pandemic levels," said the group in a statement.

The Negative Rating Outlook, according to Fitch, reflects the risks and uncertainty the global gaming industry is facing due to the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly jurisdictions that rely on international visitation.

The ratings agency said that it could revise the Rating Outlook to Stable when the trajectory of the gaming industry's recovery has a greater degree of confidence and MGM has the ability and willingness

BLOOMBERG



to de-lever back to 6.0x adjusted gross leverage (on a consolidated basis).

"MGM's 'BB-' IDR reflects the issuer's strong liquidity, diversified operating footprint and de-levering path back to moderate consolidated gross-adjusted leverage metrics," explaining that this is offset by weaker financial flexibility as a result of sale-leaseback tran-

sactions over the past few years and higher rent costs.

The IDR takes into consideration MGM's multiple liquidity sources to withstand the lingering coronavirus disruptions such as travel restrictions, particularly in Macau, and potential de-levering path back to 6.0x consolidated gross-adjusted leverage amid a moderate recovery in global gaming.

Fitch links MGM China's IDR to MGM Resorts International's. MGM China is strategically and operationally important to MGM Resorts International, and MGM China does not have material ring-fencing mechanisms in its financing documentation that would limit MGM Resorts International's access to MGM China's cash flows, it said. LV

LAWMAKER CALLS FOR SPECIAL MEASURES FOR PATIENTS SEEKING TREATMENT IN HONG KONG

HONEY TSANG

LAWMAKER Agnes Lam has suggested that the government provide a special avenue to allow Macau patients seeking medical treatment to travel to Hong Kong without needing to undergo quarantine.

In a written query submitted to the government, Lam stated that there have been a "considerable number of Macau residents" seeking her help because they are cut off from medical services in the neighboring city due to the border closure.

Owing to this dilemma, "they have no choice but to seek help from their relatives and friends in Hong Kong to purchase the medi-

cine on their behalf, which, however, may not be delivered into Macau due to Macau's control measures on imported drugs," she added.

Therefore, the lawmaker suggests the governments of both sides collaborate and establish an exemption system exclusively for this particular group. The scheme would allow them to observe quarantine in Hong Kong hospitals upon arrival and undergo medical treatments at the appropriate time, she explained.

Lam added that the returnees should undergo the mandatory medical observation period after seeking medical treatments in Hong Kong.

Meanwhile, the govern-

ment should consider giving permission to these people to receive necessary medicine shipped from Hong Kong, she urged.

In the statement, Lam asked for the government to provide relevant statistics, including the number of applications filed by the patients for an exemption from quarantine, and how many were approved.

This week, the governments of both Hong Kong and Macau already affirmed that they have not yet decided upon a commencement date for the Hong Kong-Macau travel bubble.

The timeframe for the intercity reopening has been derailed by the recent occurrence of several confirmed cases in Hong Kong.

CE, AS UM CHANCELLOR, REMINDS UNIVERSITY TO FOLLOW NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS

CHIEF Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng, who is also the Chancellor of the University of Macau (UM), has impressed upon the university's management that the institution should play an important role in the future development of Macau.

At a recent Joint Meeting of the University Assembly (UA) and University Council (UC) for the 2020/2021 academic year, the university chancellor remarked that this year marks the beginning of the implementation of the 14th Five-Year Plan of China and the SAR

government is working hard on the preparation of the Second Five-Year Plan of Macau in line with the national plan.

Besides supporting Macau's development in accordance with the development strategies of the nation and the SAR, Ho also stressed that the UM should continue enhance its comprehensive strength in order to achieve a quantum leap, while staying in line with the SAR government's goal of developing Macau through science and education.

Meanwhile, UM

Rector Yonghua Song reported on the university's efforts in nurturing world-class talent, promoting technology transfer, serving the local community, developing a world-class faculty team, and adhering to the principle of frugality during the normalization of the pandemic.

According to the rector, in the past year, new academic programs such as Doctor of Public Administration, Doctor of Education, Master of Microelectronics, and Master of Financial Technology, have been launched. AL

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ELECTIONS 2021

CAEAL publishes candidate lists for September elections, few surprises

RENATO MARQUES

THE Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) yesterday published the 24 lists that are running for seats in the seventh term of the Legislative Assembly (AL), which will start later this year and run until 2025.

Across the 19 lists running in the direct elections and the five running for the indirect sectorial election there are not many surprises, although some lingering doubts have now been clarified.

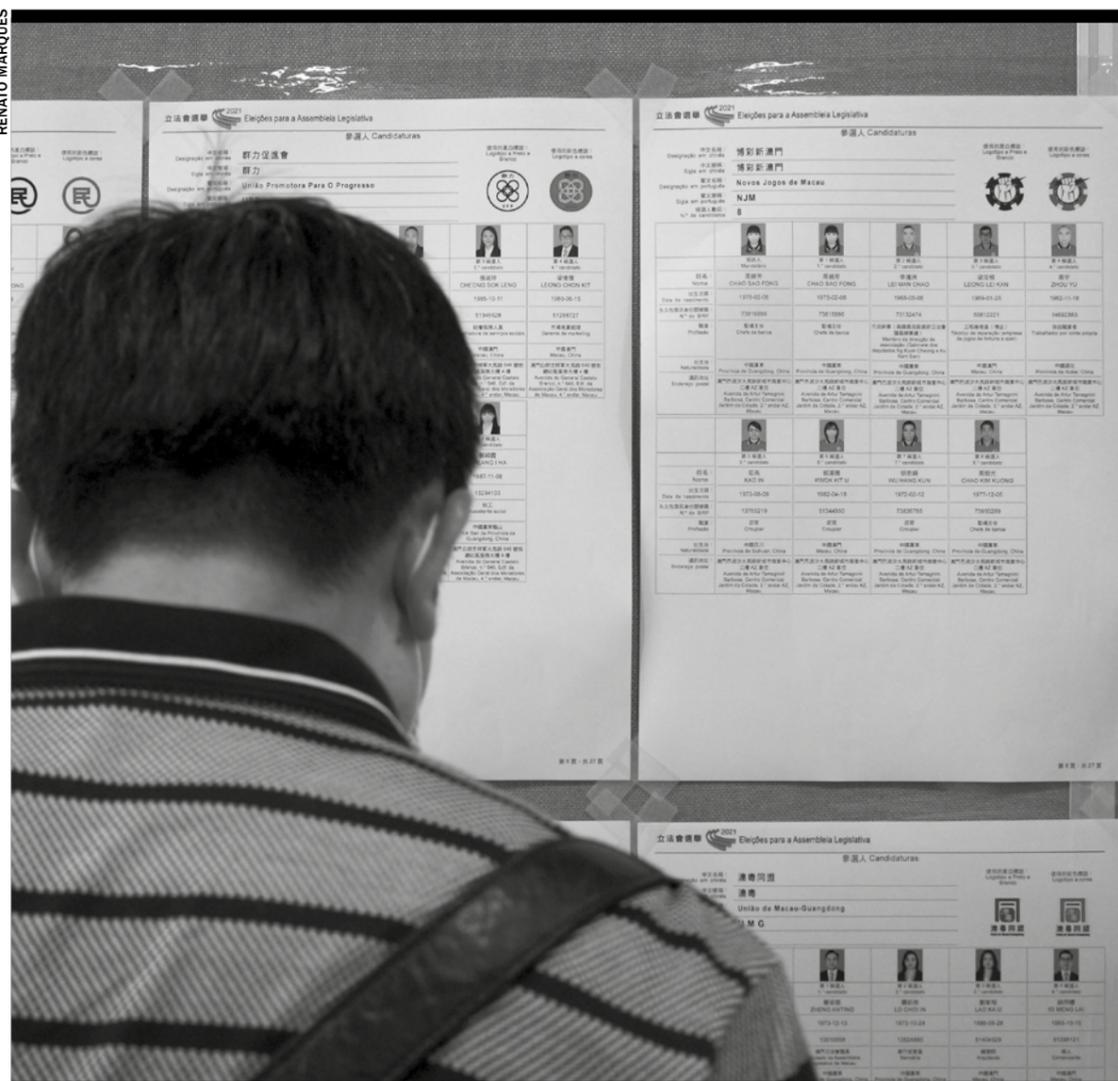
One of the most noted revelations is the confirmation of the retirement from political life of the candidate who won most votes in previous elections, Mak Soi Kun.

This fact, foreshadowed by Mak's absence at the presentation of the Macau-Guangdong Union (UMG) list to the CAEAL, as well as at the announcement of the candidate list and political platform, is now confirmed with Mak's name removed from the candidates' list.

The retirement of Mak results in the promotion of the second candidate from 2017, Zheng An-ting, who now leads the list.

As second candidate for this year's election, UMG presents a new face, Lo Choi In: a banking industry staff member. UMG's third candidate is another woman, an architect named Lao Ka U.

It was also confirmed that the former New Macau Association member Scott Chiang will head the Association for Prosperous Democratic Macau's (APMD) candidate list, pushing the incumbent legislator Ng Kuok Cheong into the second position. Candi-



date number three of the APMD list is another new face: an Information Technology professional, Leong Pok Man.

An election veteran from the democratic camp, Paul Chan Wai Chi, is once again running for an AL seat. Although Chan has attempted this several times, this year will be the first time that he is running as the lead candidate for

the New Macau Progress Association (APNM), another of the lists representing the pro-democracy camp.

Lei Kuok Keong, who ran with Chan in two previous elections, is running as number two on the APNM list. In 2013, he was part of incumbent lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong's list. In 2017, Lei joined forces with Sulu Sou at the Asso-

ciation of the New Progress of Macau (ANPM).

With Paul Chan running on his own, the ANPM list led by incumbent lawmaker Sou has promoted Rocky Chan, one of the most active members and vice president of the New Macau Association, to the number two spot.

Incumbent lawmaker Agnes Lam, is running with an almost

completely new list. Lam, who heads the list of the Civil Watch, continues to court votes from the professional sector. Her name is followed on the list by physician, Zhao Yunqiao and engineering consultant, Chu Kar Kit.

In the indirect elections, the only news is the inclusion of former directly elected lawmakers Angela Leong and Ho Ion Sang on the indirect election lists.

Ho is running as sole candidate of the list of the Association for the Promotion of Social Work and Education [Associação de Promoção do Serviço Social e Educação] (APSSE) for the seat hitherto occupied by lawmaker Chan Hong.

As for Leong, she will be joining Chan Chak Mo running under the sports sector through the Rising Sun Cultural and Sports Union [União Cultural e Desportiva Sol Nascente] as candidate number two.

Leong's position arises from the promotion of Chan to the first candidate after the retirement of lawmaker Victor Cheung Lup Kwan, notorious for having the worst attendance record of all lawmakers at AL sessions, including the plenary meetings.

The 19 lists for direct election comprise 159 candidates in total, competing for the 14 directly-elected seats; while an equal number of candidates compete for another 12 seats in the indirect elections.

According to election regulations, the trustees of each candidate list can make last-minute amendments to the current lists until Friday, July 9.

The final list of the elections will be published on July 26.

Election group trustee suspects targeted attack

Lo Chun Seng, trustee of Land the first candidate in Macau Victory's candidate list for the upcoming Legislative Assembly Election, complained yesterday to the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) about an alleged "injustice" to his list.

He submitted a complaint letter at the CAEAL headquarters in the Public Administration Building yesterday.

The candidate is close to incumbent lawmaker Au Kam San and is reportedly

a volunteer at Au's office. According to a reliable source who requested to remain anonymous, Lo is a member of Au's association, the New Energy for Community Development.

It was said that a candidate from the list had withdrawn from the election, citing objections from their family as the reason. Another candidate from this list, Lo said, was planning to withdraw as well. He claimed that he is part of the democratic camp but "with no 'lethality'."

Because of these withdrawals, Lo suspected there were external forces influencing them. "Is there any justice in this world?" he asked.

He asked CAEAL yesterday morning if he could still continue with the list despite having fewer than four candidates but he did not receive an official answer. "So, I'm putting the matter under the sun to get the CAEAL's attention," he claimed. "If anyone else from my list plans to withdraw from the election, I'll call the police." AL



ASSOCIATION URGES REINSTATEMENT OF SEVEN-DAY VALIDITY PERIOD FOR COVID-19 TEST

HONEY TSANG

REPRESENTATIVES of the New Macau Gaming Staff Rights Association delivered a petition letter to Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng yesterday, calling on him to moderate stringent cross-border regulations and address the unconfirmed case in which a casino operator forced its staff to get vaccinated.

When addressing the media yesterday, the president of the association Cloee Chao said that the shortened validity period for the negative Covid-19 test (reduced from seven days to two days since June 8 due to a fresh coronavirus outbreak in Guangdong Province) has been a financial burden for most cross-border employees and their households.

As such, she suggested that the government relax the measure and return to the previous policy, namely, to recognize the validity of results for seven days, particularly for fully vaccinated individuals.

This will not only take the edge off the additional financial pressure, but it might also motivate people to be vaccinated voluntarily, she added.

"The new measure means that they have to undertake Covid-19 testing every two days. We gauged that it is going to cost each cross-border staff [member] around MOP1,000 monthly, just for conducting the test," Chao told the Times earlier.

CALL TO SAFEGUARD FEMALE CASINO WORKERS

The association also took the opportunity to raise awareness of the alleged case in which a casino operator inappropriately coerced some of its employees to be inoculated.

It is alleged that even the pregnant and breastfeeding female workers were asked to submit medical proof just to get an exemption from vaccination. In another alleged incident, the same operator even urged the breastfeeding females to stop breastfeeding to take the vaccine as early as possible, she added.

On July 7, local news reports claimed that Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd (Melco) was the operator concerned. However, the director of Melco refuted these accusations, speaking to the

HONEY TSANG



media on June 6 at the sidelines of an event.

Despite the rebuttal, Chao urges the authorities to step in to address the issue.

She claimed that the association has no objection to operators implementing incentive policies to encourage staff to be vaccinated to help build herd im-

munity.

However, she hopes the government can do more to safeguard the rights of female casino workers.

CROUPIERS WORRIED ABOUT HONG KONG PATRONS

IN its petition, the New Macau Gaming Staff Rights Association also expressed safety concerns about the upcoming flow of Hong Kong patrons should the intercity border reopen.

The president of the association Cloee Chao told the media yesterday that the croupiers, who interact with bettors within a 1-meter radius at gaming tables for extended periods, are particularly at risk of contagion.

She urged the government to give more details of the regulations designed for gamblers coming from Hong Kong.

The situation has worried not only ca-

sino staff, but the mainland patrons at the casinos have also been distressed about the possible interaction between Hong Kong bettors in the area, she pointed out.

"We think [the government] should dedicate a special area to only cater to the people holding blue health codes [Hong Kong travelers], and should prohibit them from entering other zones accessible for people with green health codes," she suggested.

The association recently received complaints from some croupiers working in VIP rooms that the management bribed them with MOP300 to not report some gamblers

breaking the regulation and smoking in the room without their masks on.

On July 1, the Macau government unveiled a set of proposed "mask-on" restrictions imposed on Hong Kong visitors. They include hotel floors designated exclusively to accommodate Hong Kong tourists, a ban on entering swimming pools, bars and karaoke parlors, and other measures.

However, the authorities said there have not finalized the measures for hosting Hong Kong gamblers on casino floors, but they are negotiating with casino operators on the details for allowing Hong Kong tourists to enter casino areas safely.

CONSUMER COUNCIL TO INCREASE STAFF FOR NEW CONSUMER PROTECTION LAW

HONEY TSANG

THE government intends to amend the legislation to enable the Consumer Council (CC) to hire more staff to prepare for the forthcoming consumer protection bill, slated to come into effect in January next year.

The remarks were delivered yesterday by Wong Hon Neng, president of the Executive Committee of the CC.

The authorities are now laying the foundations for the promotion of the upcoming new law, he added.

The new bill is considered to strengthen and safeguard consumer rights in Macau.

The government has been preparing to enact



the new consumer protection law since 2012. The public consultation was carried out in 2014. Fast forward to June this year, the second reading of the amended version of the bill was passed by the Le-

gislative Assembly.

Over the past two years, the council received an average of 3,000 complaints per year, with a closure rate of over 90%. Most cases were related to disputes in the beauty, taxi and

catering sectors.

Considering the increasing number of complaints concerning online shopping and second-hand purchases, Wong urged the public to pay more attention when conducting these transactions, since it is difficult for authorities to investigate non-local shopping websites.

The council has been forging collaboration agreements with mainland cities to better handle cross-border consumer disputes.

Meanwhile, the government has already reached agreements on related matters with foreign jurisdictions such as Portugal and Brazil, and is negotiating deals with Mozambique and East Timor as well.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL EXPO KICKS OFF TOMORROW

STAFF REPORTER

THE 9th Macau International Travel (Industry) Expo will be held from July 9 to 11 at Cotai Expo Halls A and B of the Venetian Macau in an online and offline format.

The Macao Government Tourism Office requires the public to register for admission through the reservation system on the exhibition website.

"This year's Travel Expo will once again be held in an online and offline format, creating five highlights to help the tourism and related industries promote exchanges and cooperation, and explore business opportunities," the annou-

ncement read.

The bureau also said that a number of tourism promotion activities, forums and symposiums will be held during the three-day event in order for participants to learn more about the tourism industry and tourism resources around the world.

As for the online format, Macau live stream anchors will stream on site for promotion and branding, while mainland celebrity anchors will be online to promote the products of Macau exhibitors to the mainland through recognized e-commerce platforms.

The three-day expo is open to the public and admission is free.

CRIME

Police bust online gangs in joint SAR operations

ANTHONY LAM

POLICE in Macau and Hong Kong have busted an online scam syndicate, arresting four suspects in Macau and three in Hong Kong, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced yesterday.

It was estimated that the case involved more than HKD20 million.

The four suspects arrested by the PJ include a Malian man, surnamed Mamadou. The other three are his girlfriend, an Indonesian surnamed Pujiati, a Burmese man surnamed Aung and a local woman surnamed Lei. Their ages range from 29 to 43 years.

They were charged by the police for conducting a scam of a relatively large amount and money laundering.

The arrests took place on July 6 in various locations around the city. While conducting the arrests, the PJ found and seized a number of items at Mamadou's residence,

including MOP300,000 in cash, two ATM cards, a dozen or so cellphones, a computer and several SIM cards. Similar materials were also found and seized at residences of the other two suspects.

At least five cases of online scams, according to the PJ, are related to this syndicate, involving at least seven victims and about MOP400,000. During their investigation, the police also uncovered more than 100 bank transfers amounting to approximately MOP1.1 million from unexplained sources. This leads police to believe that there are further victims who have not reported their loss to the authorities.

According to the police, Mamadou refused to cooperate with the investigation, following his arrest, neither could he explain the source of the funds.

By contrast, Aung admitted to the crime and confessed that he provided his bank account to receive the funds at Mamadou's request.

Pujiati's role was to look for suitable banks at which to open accounts to deposit the scammed funds.

Meanwhile in Hong Kong, the Hong Kong Police Force seized cash, bank account details, electronic equipment, and other items. The syndicate, which is not connected to the one in Macau, is linked to at least 10 cases involving HKD20 million of funds. The group is linked to at least three cases in Macau, involving HKD1.8 million.

The PJ justified the need for this joint operation, saying that such crimes have become more common recently, and concern multiple Asian jurisdictions. The joint aspect of the operation was mainly the exchange of crucial intelligence.

ARREST FOR DRIVING ON SUSPENDED LICENSE

In another case, a local male student, aged 20, has been accidentally discovered for driving



ANTHONY LAM

while under a suspension.

On Tuesday morning, the student had a collision when he rode his heavy motorbike to school while his driving license had been suspended by a local court.

The man crashed into a public bus on Amizade Bridge and was stopped by police officers as part of the investigation, during which all parties present their driver's licenses to the officer as a matter of routine.

The reason for his suspension was that he was involved in another car accident, which caused

an injury to another person. The local court sentenced him to 10 months suspension from driving from February to December this year.

When police officers questioned him, he confessed that he took the risk of driving that morning because he was in a rush to get to the university. In order not to arrive late, he decided to ride his motorbike.

He was charged with aggravated disobedience and is now at the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation.

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Aussie treasurer: National interests come first with China

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

AUSTRALIA will always put its national interests ahead of economic interests in its troubled relationship with China, a senior Australian lawmaker said yesterday after a White House official predicted Sino-Australian tensions will persist.

Treasurer Josh Frydenberg, deputy leader of Australia's ruling conservative Liberal Party, said China remained a "very important economic partner" despite bilateral disputes that have disrupted tens of billions of dollars in trade in Australian commodities including coal, wine, beef, barley, wood and lobsters.

"We will not put economic interests first," Frydenberg told reporters.

"We will put the broader national interest first and that means standing up with a very clear and consistent sense of where our national interest is and that is what we have done," he added.

Frydenberg spoke after White House Coordinator for the Indo-Pacific Kurt Campbell said

AP PHOTO



there was a "harshness" in China's approach to Australia that "appears unyielding."

"I would have thought we were basically settling in for the long-haul in terms of tensions between China and Australia," Campbell told an Asia Society webinar late Tuesday.

A clash over vaccine diplomacy this week was the latest rift in bilateral relations, which plummeted

last year when Australia called for an independent investigation into the origins of and responses to COVID-19.

Australia on Tuesday denied Chinese government and state-media allegations that it was interfering in the rollout of Chinese vaccines in Papua New Guinea.

Meanwhile, Campbell said China appeared to have attempted to "cut Australia out of the herd and

to try to see if they can effect Australia to completely change how it both sees itself and sees the world."

"The United States [...] have tried to make clear that we're not going to leave Australia on the field. That's just not going to happen," Campbell said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin dismissed Campbell's characteri-

zation of Chinese policy toward Australia and denied Beijing was interfering in other countries' internal affairs.

"China welcomes all constructive suggestions and well-intentioned criticisms, but will never accept any condescending, preaching or lecturing and will resolutely follow its own path," Wang said.

Frydenberg said Australia was "definitely living with a different China than we've seen in years prior."

He said Australia had protected its national interests by barring Chinese communication giant Huawei from involvement in the nation's 5G networks, outlawing covert foreign interference in domestic politics and canceling deals struck by an Australian state government under Beijing's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative.

Frydenberg has also personally blocked Chinese investment applications in Australia on national interest grounds.

"I've increasingly seen foreign investment applications that have been pursued not necessarily for commercial objectives but for strategic objectives and, as you know, I've said 'no' to applications that in the past may have been approved," Frydenberg said.

Wang accused Frydenberg of "hyping the 'China threat theory' and making irresponsible remarks" for his own political interests. **MDT/AP**

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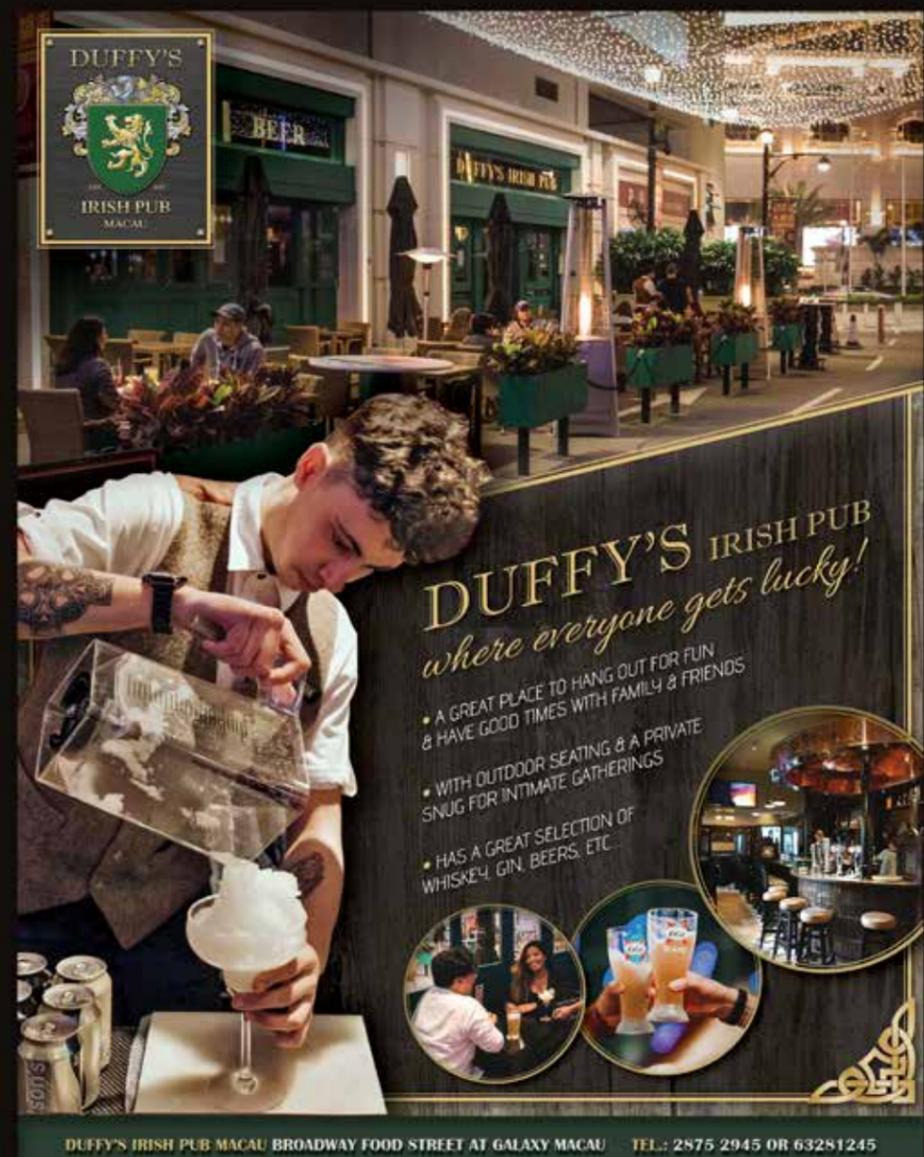
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THE choice is in our hands and the responsibility falls on our shoulders.”

That was what Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, said during the CPC and World Political Parties Summit held via video link on Tuesday, as he called on political parties in the world to shoulder their responsibility for the pursuit of people's wellbeing and progress of mankind.

Xi's speech is "visionary and insightful," said Argentine President Alberto Fernandez, also president of the country's Justicialist Party.

The cloud summit, which gathered leaders of more than 500 political parties and organizations from over 160 countries, was the latest of an array of diplomatic occasions where the Chinese leader offered China's solutions to daunting challenges facing humanity.

By attending six important multilateral events, and engaging in nearly 100 phone calls, messages and virtual meetings in the form of "cloud diplomacy" this year, Xi has made such pledges and proposals on the anti-pandemic fight, common development, environmental governance and multilateralism that keep resonating across the world.

ANTI-PANDEMIC FIGHT

In a phone conversation held on Jan. 28 with his Bolivian counterpart, Luis Arce, Xi said China is willing to strengthen cooperation with Bolivia on COVID-19 vaccines.

Recalling that China has provided Bolivia with material and technical assistance to fight the epidemic through various channels, the Chinese president said his country will continue supporting Bolivia in the anti-epidemic fight within its capacity.

Some 27 days later, Chinese Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccines arrived at Viru Viru International Airport in the Latin American country.

Ever since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Xi has repeatedly stressed on the importance of global anti-pandemic cooperation.

Xi, in late May at the Global Health Summit, made a five-point proposal at the summit, namely putting people and their lives first, following science-based policies and ensuring a coordinated and systemic response, sticking together and promoting solidarity and cooperation, upholding fairness and equity to close the immunization gap, and addressing both the symptoms and root causes to improve the governance system.

China has provided more than 480 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines to nearly 100 countries, and pledged to provide the first



XIPLMACY

Xi calls on political parties to pursue 'wellbeing and progress of mankind'

batch of 10 million doses of vaccines to the World Health Organization (WHO)-led COVAX.

"COVID-19 has shown how a small virus has actually frozen us globally, our movement, our activities, [and] our interaction," former Malaysian Ambassador to China Abdul Majid Ahmad Khan told Xinhua.

"So the only way to combat this is through cooperation, through the sharing of common interest, I think that is the way forward."

As the whole world is facing unprecedented challenges, mutual respect, mutual help, reaching consensus through consultation and close cooperation have become more urgent than ever, said Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic.

COMMON DEVELOPMENT

From May 7-10, the first China International Consumer Products Expo (CICPE) was held in Haikou, the capital of south China's Hainan Province.

A total of 70 countries and regions attended the four-day expo, and 2,628 brands of 1,505 enterprises from home and abroad participated in the exhibitions.

In his congratulatory message to the expo, Xi said the expo, serving as a global platform of displaying and trading high-end consumer products, is conducive to all countries sharing opportunities provided by the Chinese market and conducive to global economic recovery and growth. It will also enable China to offer

the world more quality consumer products.

Apart from the CICPE, other high-end international expos such as the decades-old Canton Fair and the 3-year-old China International Import Expo have also demonstrated China's commitment to wider opening-up and mutual benefits. China has done its best to promote South-South cooperation and provide assistance for developing countries, Xi said in a phone conversation with United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in early May, adding that this is China's consistent practice as well as its moral responsibility.

Since the first China-Europe freight train left southwest China's Chongqing Municipality in March 2011, China has launched the service in more than 60 cities domestically, connecting them with major European countries, which has recorded more than 40,000 trips.

Just as Xi said in late April at the opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2021, "the BRI is a public road open to all, not a private path owned by one single party."

"Going forward, we will continue to work with other parties in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation," Xi said, adding, "We will act in the spirit of openness and inclusiveness as we work with all willing participants to build the BRI into a pathway to poverty alleviation and growth."

ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE

"Faced with unprecedented challenges in global environmental governance, the international community needs to come up with unprecedented ambition and action.

We need to act with a sense of responsibility and unity, and work together to foster a community of life for man and Nature," Xi said in late April at the virtual Leaders Summit on Climate.

Through various similar occasions, Xi has reiterated the importance of closer cooperation in green development.

On May 19, Xi and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, witnessed the groundbreaking ceremony of a bilateral nuclear energy cooperation project of Tianwan nuclear power plant and Xudapu nuclear power plant, via video link. It is necessary to promote the building of a global energy governance system featuring justice, equity, balance, inclusiveness, openness and shared benefits, and contribute more solutions to global energy governance, Xi said at the ceremony, adding, "Responding to climate change is a common task for all countries."

China is ready to work with Europe to ensure positive outcomes at the COP15, and the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, Xi said Monday during a virtual summit with French President Emmanuel Macron

and German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

UPHOLDING MULTILATERALISM

On June 28, Xi and Putin issued a joint statement, in which the two heads of state pledged to protect global strategic security and stability, support and practice true multilateralism, oppose interference in other countries' affairs under the guise of "democracy" and "human rights," and resist unilateral coercive sanctions.

In the eyes of Xi, upholding and practicing genuine multilateralism is the only right way toward solving global challenges.

"The problems facing the world are intricate and complex. The way out of them is through upholding multilateralism and building a community with a shared future for mankind," Xi said in late January when addressing the World Economic Forum Virtual Event of the Davos Agenda.

All countries should follow the principles of extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits, uphold true multilateralism, and make the global governance system more fair and equitable, Xi said later at the Boao Forum.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the restoration of the lawful seat of the People's Republic of China in the UN, the 20th anniversary of China's accession to the World Trade Organization, and the 20th anniversary of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. MDT/XINHUA



Nissan CEO tells Tokyo court Carlos Ghosn had too much power

YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

NISSAN Chief Executive Makoto Uchida told a Japanese court yesterday that the company's former chairman, Carlos Ghosn, had held too much power, failed to listen to others, and stayed on for too long.

Uchida said yesterday that those were factors that led to financial misconduct charges for Ghosn. He was testifying as a witness for Nissan Motor Co., which as a corporate entity is standing trial on charges of having falsified securities reports in under-reporting Ghosn's compensation. It does not contest the charges.

Greg Kelly, an American former executive vice president at Nissan, also is on trial

on charges of failing to fully report Ghosn's compensation. Both he and Ghosn have adamantly insisted they are innocent.

Ghosn was arrested in 2018, but fled to Lebanon while out on bail. Lebanon does not have an extradition treaty with Japan.

"I felt ashamed and miserable when I learned that something this outrageous was happening," Uchida told the Tokyo District Court about the allegations against Ghosn and Nissan.

"The Nissan brand was tarnished, the workers were demoralized, and trust for management has been lost," he said.

Uchida said an atmosphere of fear prevailed at the company, with staff believing that challenging Ghosn

carried serious risks.

"We were only trying to play melodies that sounded good to our boss," he said. "I've been working to try to change that since becoming CEO."

Ghosn was sent to Nissan by its French alliance partner Renault about two decades ago, helping to revive a company on the brink of bankruptcy. From about 2014, he became less collaborative and the company began to chase sales volume, setting overly ambitious goals, Uchida said.

While some at Nissan may have felt Ghosn stayed at the helm for too long, in his testimony Kelly has insisted issues over reporting of his compensation arose because the company was trying to find legal ways to improve

his pay to prevent him from leaving for a rival automaker. Ghosn took a huge pay cut when the disclosure of big executive salaries became required in Japan in 2010.

Uchida became chief executive and president in 2019. He worked at major Japanese trading company Nissho Iwai Corp. before joining Nissan in 2003, when Nissho Iwai merged with another trading company, Nichimen, later becoming Sojitz Corp.

Uchida's predecessor, Hiroto Saikawa, resigned after he became embroiled in a scandal of his own, also related to under-reported compensation. Saikawa has not been charged.

Nissan has promised to strengthen its corporate governance and audits to prevent a recurrence of any financial wrongdoing.

Ghosn has accused other top Nissan executives of plotting to force him out of the company due to fears he might push for Renault, which owns 43% of Nissan, to gain more control over the Japanese automaker.

Nissan executives have testified at the trial that this was a concern.

The alliance of Renault, Nissan and smaller automaker Mitsubishi Motor Corp. shares technology, auto parts and production plants. That makes Nissan and Renault nearly inseparable, according to industry experts.

It's unclear when the panel of three judges will hand down their verdict in the trial. It could take months. The maximum penalty Kelly could face is 15 years in prison. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

2003 CONJOINED TWINS DIE IN SEPARATION OP



Conjoined Iranian twins who volunteered to go ahead with a major operation to separate them have both died during surgery.

Laleh and Ladan Bijani suffered a fatal loss of blood within a couple of hours of each other as surgeons tried to separate their brains.

During the marathon three-day operation it became clear that the brains of the 29-year-old sisters had become fused together.

Surgeons spent about 21 hours cutting the twins' brains apart "literally millimetre by millimetre" - something they had not expected to have to do.

The two women were separated after 53 hours, but half an hour later, Ladan's circulation began to fail. Despite the efforts of the team of 28 doctors and 100 medical assistants, she died.

Surgery continued on Laleh but her circulation also dropped away, and she died 90 minutes later.

The chairman of Raffles Hospital, Dr Loo Choon Yong, said, "When we undertook this challenge we knew the risks were great, and one of the scenarios was that we might lose both of them.

"Ladan and Laleh knew that too."

The twins were told they only had a 50-50 chance of surviving the operation, but decided to go ahead anyway.

The operation marked the first time surgeons had tried to separate adult twins conjoined at the head.

The operation has been successfully performed since 1952, but only on children, who recover more easily.

German doctors had already turned away the twins in 1996, saying the operation would be too risky.

Both Bijani twins were national figures in Iran for their courage and academic success - both graduated after studying law.

One of their last acts was to send a message of thanks to well-wishers, published on the Raffles Hospital website.

"Both of us have started on this journey together," they wrote, "and we hope that the operation will finally bring us to the end of this difficult path and that we may begin our new and wonderful lives as two separate persons."

Courtesy BBC News

ROD MCGUIRK,
CANBERRA

SYDNEY'S two-week lockdown has been extended for another week due to the vulnerability of an Australia population largely unvaccinated against COVID-19, officials said yesterday.

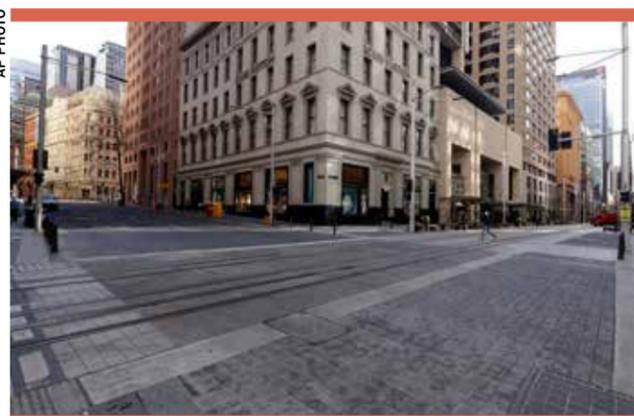
"The situation we're in now is largely because we haven't been able to get the vaccine that we need," New South Wales state Health Minister Brad Hazzard said.

The decision to extend the lockdown through July 16 was made on health advice, state Premier Gladys Berejiklian said.

"The reason why we've extended the lockdown is because of a number of cases still infectious in the

COVID-19

AUSTRALIA'S LARGEST CITY SYDNEY LOCKS DOWN FOR THIRD WEEK



community and we extended the lockdown to give us the best chance of not having another lockdown," Berejiklian said.

The extension of the

lockdown, which covers Australia's largest city and some nearby communities, means most children will not return to school next week following their mi-

dyear break.

Of 27 new infections of the delta variant reported in latest 24-hour period yesterday, only 13 had been in isolation while infectious, officials said. The delta variant is considered more contagious than the original coronavirus or other variants.

Only 9% of Australian adults are fully vaccinated, heightening fears that the delta variant could quickly spread beyond control.

Berejiklian expected lockdowns would no longer be necessary once a large majority of Australians were vaccinated. **MDT/AP**

IN CONTEXT

Ladan and Laleh Bijani were buried in separate graves in their home village four days later. Hundreds of people paid their respects, and there was widespread mourning in Iran and in Singapore. The death of the twins triggered a debate on the ethics of this type of operation, with some experts voicing concern over the motives behind such risky surgery.

On 6 March 2004 an inquest in Singapore cleared doctors of criminal responsibility, and returned a verdict of misadventure.

In October 2003, a similar operation was carried out in Texas on two-year-old Egyptian twins Mohamed and Ahmed Ibrahim.

Like the Bijani sisters, they were joined at the head, but their operation was successful.

They left hospital in March 2004, although they will have to return for reconstructive surgery for some years to come.

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Luna's healing link with buoyant Jupiter makes for an uplifted, but deeply introspective mood. Elsewhere, lover Venus' square with erratic Uranus creates a strong need for relationship renovation.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
As a Taurus, you all too easily get bogged down in routine. today's skies work to awaken you from this slumber, as electric Uranus squares off with your ruling planet, bond-building Venus.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Today's cosmic landscape is ripe for relationship revelations, Gemini. Lover Venus locks into an electrifying square with freedom-seeking Uranus today.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
This uplifting aspect puts all eyes on you and buoys your self-expression. Elsewhere, lover Venus duking it out with change-demanding Uranus, offering electric relationship revelations.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Honor your need for solitude today, Leo. The moon crawls into cozy Cancer this morning, prompting you to disconnect from social media and to reconnect with your spiritual center.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Pull back from needing to push ahead, Virgo. The moon floats into docile Cancer this morning, directing your focus towards your sense of belonging among friendships.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Let yourself embrace the wild energy you're picking up on today, Libra. Your ruling planet, peace-seeking Venus, locks into an electrifying square with change-demanding Uranus.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Elsewhere, magnetic Venus duking it out with authenticity-demanding Uranus. This unsettling aspect can bring potent relationship revelations to the surface.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
As a Sagittarius, it's not always easy for you to be present with your emotions. Rather than chase some distant horizon, aim to venture inward, and examine your feelings today.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Direct your focus towards your close relationships today, Capricorn. The moon wades through sentimental Cancer and immediately meets up with big-hearted Jupiter.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
The waning moon's entrance into initiative-hungry Cancer helps you direct energy towards completing projects and crossing things off your to-do list.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Let yourself do just that under Saturday's skies, as the soulful Cancer moon encourages you to reconnect with your creative capacity and sense of play.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

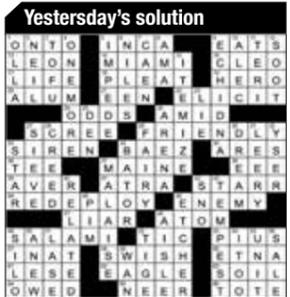
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	15	31	cloudy
Harbin	14	30	clear
Tianjin	15	21	rain
Urumqi	16	24	rain
Xi'an	20	26	cloudy
Lhasa	15	27	sunny
Chengdu	23	27	rain
Chongqing	25	31	rain
Kunming	18	23	rain
Nanjing	14	19	overcast
Shanghai	27	37	cloudy
Wuhan	17	23	rain
Hangzhou	13	30	cloudy
Taipei	14	23	overcast
Guangzhou	10	24	cloudy
Hong Kong	17	28	clear
WORLD			
Moscow	17	31	clear
Frankfurt	8	14	rain
Paris	8	15	rain
London	7	16	cloudy
New York	14	24	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- H.S. exam; 5- Cold mold; 10- Defeat decisively; 14- Not ___ many words; 15- Currency unit in Nigeria; 16- A single time; 17- Autopsy; 19- Ill humor; 20- It may come before long; 21- Helps; 22- Kingdom in the Himalayas; 24- Keep possession of; 26- Female rabbits; 27- Threatening; 33- Residence; 36- Reason for a raise; 37- Stephen of "The Crying Game"; 38- Architect Mies van der ___; 39- Sleep issue; 40- Support for a broken limb; 41- Doctrine; 42- Collect; 43- Cut partner; 44- Transformation of food into body tissue; 47- Flaky mineral; 48- Help; 52- Alberta's home; 55- Torn clothing; 57- Poker legend Ungar; 58- Not a dup.; 59- Confederate general; 62- Hamlet, e.g.; 63- Potato pancake; 64- Scott of "Charles in Charge"; 65- ____, poor Yorick; 66- Clear the boards; 67- Operation memento;

DOWN: 1- Scottish musician; 2- Night noise; 3- It's a plus; 4- Wee one; 5- Apply chrim; 6- Reddish-brown gem; 7- Mines; 8- Anger; 9- Republic in SE Asia; 10- Vigorous; 11- Put a lid ___; 12- Arthur Ashe's alma mater; 13- High schooler; 18- New Brunswick neighbor; 23- Warmth; 25- Adjutant; 26- Most desperate; 28- Classic Chevy; 29- Brainy bunch; 30- Some nest eggs; 31- Hotbed; 32- Movable barrier; 33- Melody; 34- Manager; 35- Units of resistance; 39- Friendly; 40- Metal containers; 42- Among; 43- Deputised group; 45- Mental pictures; 46- Ditto!; 49- Stern with a bow; 50- Ridge; 51- English royal house; 52- Conclusion; 53- Sea east of the Caspian; 54- Actress Foch; 55- Pro follower; 56- Diving sea birds; 60- Unit of corn; 61- "Pygmalion" monogram;



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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Ref: 2005 1002 1,269 ft² 2 2 2

Rain Dance Property
"We dance until it's SOLD!"
Traditional **HKD 2,680,000**
Ref: 2103 6001 788 ft² 2 1 1

BIDEN: US DAMAGE APPEARS MINIMAL IN BIG RANSOMWARE ATTACK

FRANK BAJAK & ZEKE MILLER, WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden said yesterday (local time) that damage to U.S. businesses in the biggest ransomware attack on record appears minimal, though information remained incomplete. The company whose software was exploited said fewer than 1,500 businesses worldwide appeared compromised but cybersecurity experts caution that the incident isn't over.

Also yesterday, a security researcher who chatted online with representatives of the Russia-linked REvil gang behind the attack said they claimed to have stolen data from hundreds of companies, but offered no evidence.

Answering a reporter's question at a vaccine-related White House event, Biden said his national security team had updated him in the morning on the attack, which exploited a powerful remote-management tool run by Miami-based software company Kaseya in what is known as a supply-chain attack.

"It appears to have caused minimal damage to U.S. businesses but we're still gathering information," Biden said. "And I'm going to have more to say about this in the next several days." An official at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, speaking on condition they not be further identified, said no federal agencies or critical infrastructure appear to have been impacted.

On Wednesday, Biden and



Vice President Kamala Harris will lead an interagency meeting to discuss the administration's efforts to counter ransomware.

White House spokeswoman Jen Psaki held out the prospect of retaliatory action. What Biden told President Vladimir Putin in Geneva last month still holds, she said: "If the Russian government cannot or will not take action against criminal actors residing in Russia, we will take action or reserve the right to take action on our own."

What sort of action that would be is unclear.

Biden has said repeatedly

that the Kremlin bears responsibility for giving ransomware criminals safe harbor, even if it is not directly involved. There is no indication that Putin has moved against the gangs. Psaki said Russian and U.S. representatives were meeting next week and would discuss the matter.

Further underscoring the geopolitical stakes in cyberspace, the Republican National Committee that it had been informed over the weekend that one of its contractors had been breached, though it was not immediately clear by whom. The RNC said no data was accessed.

The contractor, Synnex, initially said that the action "could potentially be in connection with the recent cybersecurity attacks of Managed Service Providers," a likely reference to the breaches last week. But it backed away from that claim in a second statement yesterday.

Friday's attack hobbled businesses in at least 17 countries. It shuttered most of the 800 supermarkets in the Swedish Coop chain over the weekend because cash registers stopped working, and reportedly knocked more than 100 New Zealand kindergartens offline.

Kaseya said it believes only

about 800 to 1,500 of the estimated 800,000 to 1,000,000 mostly small business end-users of its software were affected. They are customers of companies that use Kaseya's virtual system administrator, or VSA, product to fully manage their IT infrastructure.

Cybersecurity experts said, however, it is too early for Kaseya to know the true impact given its launch on the eve of the Fourth of July holiday weekend in the U.S. They said many targets might only discover it upon returning to work yesterday.

Ransomware criminals infiltrate networks and sow malware that cripples them by scrambling all their data. Victims get a decoder key when they pay up. Most ransomware victims don't publicly report attacks or disclose if they've paid ransoms. In the U.S., disclosure of a breach is required by state laws when personal data that can be used in identity theft is stolen. Federal law mandates it when healthcare records are exposed.

Security researchers said that in this attack, the criminals did not appear to have had time to steal data before locking up networks. That raised the question whether the motivation behind the attack was profit alone, because extortion through threatening to expose sensitive pilfered data betters the odds of big payoffs.

But Ryan Sherstobitoff, threat intelligence chief of the cybersecurity firm Security Scorecard, said REvil representatives claimed Saturday to have stolen data from hundreds of companies and were threatening to sell it if ransom demands of up to \$5 million for bigger victims — they were seeking \$45,000 per infected computer — were not met. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

MGM and DSAL launch trainings for different professionals



In view of providing more targeted trainings for different types of professionals, MGM collaborated with the Macau Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) again to launch the "Professional Workforce

Development Series" for its team members. Categorized into three divisions, namely "Occupational Quality Training", "Professional Certification" and "Career Development Pro-

gram", these series will offer professional trainings for an estimate of over 7,000 MGM team members, the gaming operator said in a statement.

Through providing this series of training to its team members, MGM hopes to equip them to cope with challenges in their career path, so as to enhance the overall quality of local talent.

Hubert Wang, president & chief operating officer of MGM said, "This year, the trainings extend to more areas of professions, which is expected to help elevating the company's overall soft power by nurturing more team members."

Galaxy co-hosts activities promoting responsible gaming



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) and the Macao Gaming Industry Employees Home Integrated Services Centre (MGIEH) have joined hands on organizing a series of activities to promote responsible gaming to GEG team members

and the community.

Among the initiatives that have been launched, GEG worked with the Youth Volunteers Association of Macao and the Macao Catholic Family Advisory Council on hosting a "Relaxation Workshop

for Working Women" that introduced sources of stress and coping strategies to female team members, and taught them how to manage their emotions positively to improve their health and mental well-being.

Launched in the end of May, the "Stay Rational When Having Fun" campaign will run for nearly two months, aimed at encouraging the public to be rational when engaging in games and related entertainment during major sports events. Meanwhile, GEG has also supported MGIEH to help raise the wider community's awareness of responsible gaming by distributing relevant pamphlets.



SEMI-FINALS | REVIEW

Italy beats Spain on penalties, reaches Euro 2020 final

FACING a wall of nervous blue-and-white clad Italy fans behind the goal, Jorginho took his trademark hop and skip before calmly stroking in the winning penalty.

So much for the pressure of a shootout in the European Championship semifinals.

A dash of Italian panache completed a 4-2 penalty-shootout win over Spain at Wembley Stadium on Tuesday, setting up a title match against either England or Denmark back at the same stadium on Sunday.

The match finished 1-1 after extra time and provided Italy with its toughest test of the tournament, with Spain controlling possession for long periods. Federico Chiesa scored for Italy with a curling shot in the 60th minute but substitute Alvaro Morata equalized for Spain in the 80th.

Morata, dropped from the starting lineup for the first time in a tournament during which he has received verbal abuse and even death threats from his own fans, will go down as Spain's scapegoat once again after having a penalty saved by Gianluigi Donnarumma in the

next-to-last kick of the shootout.

As he walked back to the center circle with his head bowed, Jorginho made the opposite journey and didn't make the same mistake.

The Chelsea midfielder has his own style when it comes to taking penalties and he didn't abandon it when it mattered most, sparking a throng of celebrations as Italy's players sprinted from the halfway line.

Jorginho was mobbed. Italy coach Roberto Mancini was hugged by the rest of coaching staff. The players lined up on the edge of the area and ran together, holding hands, toward the fans.

Leonardo Bonucci went further, leaping over the advertising hoardings to get even closer to the crazed supporters whose loud cheering had lifted the team in their most difficult moments.

"We're delighted we could provide this wonderful entertainment to the Italian people," Mancini said. "One game to go."

Riding a national record unbeaten run of 33 games, Italy will play in its fourth European final and look to win the title

for a second time, after 1968.

It's quite the redemption story for a country which failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup.

"This group is amazing," Mancini said. "Everyone wants to win, but this group of players wanted to do something special."

They have had the aura of champions since Day 1 of the tournament and they'll be sticking around until the last day, too. But it's at the home of English soccer where the team has had its toughest matches. Against Austria in the round of 16, the Italians were taken to extra time at Wembley and they had to go the distance, too, against Spain.

Spain's striker-free formation initially flummoxed the Azzurri, who have become a more progressive team under Mancini but were given a clinic at times in ball possession and movement in midfield.

Experienced center backs Giorgio Chiellini and Bonucci looked uncertain at times, not knowing whether to drop back or follow deep-lying forward Dani Olmo — who started ahead of Morata — into the center of midfield.

Spain's pressing also drew some rash clearances from the back from Italy. That created the team's best chance in the first half with Ferran Torres' shot requiring a low save from Donnarumma.

The Italians had even more problems when Morata came on as a substitute but, by then, Chiesa had put them ahead after latching onto a loose ball, cutting inside and curling a shot into the far corner. It was his second goal at Wembley in this tournament, having scored just as impressively against Austria.

Morata's movement stretched Italy's defense to set up chances for Mikel Oyarzabal and Olmo. Then he scored for the third time at Euro 2020.

For a player often accused of wasting chances when he has too much time in front of goal, Morata showed calmness to sidefoot in a left-footed shot after exchanging passes with Olmo at the edge of the area.

Morata grabbed a camera behind the goal and thrust his

face into it. But he had nowhere to hide after becoming the second Spain player to miss in the shootout — after Olmo — following 30 minutes of extra time.

"He really has a lot of personality," Spain coach Luis Enrique said of Morata. "He wanted to take a penalty even though he's been through some tough times in this competition."

Italy started the shootout with Manuel Locatelli's shot saved by Unai Simon, but Andrea Belotti, Bonucci and Federico Bernardeschi all scored before Jorginho.

Spain, a three-time European champion, beat Switzerland in a penalty shootout just to get to Wembley. Having also been taken to extra time by Croatia in the last 16, the Spanish certainly took the long route to the semifinals but their journey ended there.

"Everyone made Italy big favorites," Spain midfielder Sergio Busquets said, "but we demonstrated we were superior to them." **MDT/AP**

LATEST RESULTS

Italy

4

2

Spain

OPINION

China Daily
Editorial, China Daily

WORLD NEEDS CONSULTATION, NOT CONFRONTATION

When Communist Party of China Central Committee General Secretary Xi Jinping said in his speech on July 1 that “we will never allow any foreign force to bully, oppress or subjugate us. Anyone who would attempt to do so will find themselves on a collision course with a great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people”, quite a few interpreted it as an “assertive” China declaring a fresh round of confrontation with a no-longer-friendly West.

But anyone who bothered to view that remark within the context of the entire speech he delivered at the ceremony to mark the centenary of the CPC would know that is the last thing the Party wants. In fact, nearly everything China-haters in the West cite as a cause for “decoupling” from China — the pandemic, the economy and global security — the CPC leadership views to the contrary as being cause for a more interconnected world. Just as President Xi indicated in his speech, China and the rest of the world have become too profoundly interwoven to be “decoupled”.

In his speech, Xi sought to tell outsiders that, despite the smear campaign being waged against it, the CPC is not only wholeheartedly devoted to the welfare of the Chinese people, but aspires to do greater good in global governance. Equality, mutual respect and win-win cooperation are the CPC’s prescription for the post-pandemic world, and the path it has identified for building a community with a shared future for humanity.

Xi’s talks via video link with French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday were illustrative of the Chinese leadership’s enthusiasm for cooperative ties with foreign countries, as well as what it considers the country’s responsibilities for global peace and prosperity.

The present state of China-European Union relations is far from ideal, with the EU having recently shelved the approval procedure for the bilateral investment agreement between the two sides that had been long-negotiated, and the two sides skirmishing over affairs in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and the South China Sea. But the frequent China-EU dialogue tellingly reflects the political mutual trust and close strategic communication between the two sides.

That China and EU countries have maintained such exchanges under the present circumstances is first and foremost because they don’t have a fundamental conflict when it comes to their respective practical interests. Decades of constructive engagement and the ever-growing economic ties have served both parties well, and it would be self-defeating to ignore such benefits when both sides need them more than ever. Xi’s proposal for the two sides to safeguard and adhere to “true multilateralism” embodies the Chinese understanding of an outstanding need of the post-pandemic world.

If major countries handle global concerns together on the basis of consultation, global governance would be measurably better than it is.

One of the Netherlands’ best known crime reporters was shot Tuesday evening in a brazen attack in downtown Amsterdam and was fighting for his life in a hospital, the Dutch capital’s mayor said.

Peter R. de Vries, who is widely lauded for fearless reporting on the Dutch underworld, was shot after making one of his regular appearances on a current affairs television show. It was an unusually brutal attack on a journalist in the Netherlands.

“Peter R. de Vries is for all of us a national hero, an unusually cou-

rageous journalist, tirelessly seeking justice,” Mayor Femke Halsema said at a news conference at the city’s police headquarters.

“A brutal, cowardly crime has been committed,” Halsema added. Police Chief Frank Paauw said two suspects were detained, “including a possible shooter” in a suspected getaway car stopped on a highway some 50 kilometers south of the city. A third suspect was detained in Amsterdam, he said.

De Vries had long been considered a possible target of the criminals he doggedly reported on.

BODIES OF PLANE CRASH VICTIMS FOUND IN RUSSIA’S FAR EAST



AP PHOTO

DARIA LITVINOVA, MOSCOW

RESCUERS have found the bodies of 19 victims a day after a plane crash in a remote area in Russia’s Far East, the authorities said.

An Antonov An-26 carrying 28 people crashed Tuesday near its destination town of Palana in the region of Kamchatka, apparently as it came in for a landing in bad weather. The plane was en route from the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky to Palana on Tuesday morning when it missed a scheduled communication and disappeared from radar.

Wreckage was found Tuesday evening on a coastal cliffside and in the sea, and the search and rescue operation was suspended until Wednesday morning after night fell, as the crash site was difficult to access in the dark.

The governor of Kamchatka, Vladimir Solodov, told the state Tass news

agency that the “first bodies are being pulled out (of the water).” Russia’s Emergency Ministry said that remains of 19 victims have been found so far, and one of them has been identified already.

Russian media reported Tuesday that none of the six crew members or 22 passengers on board had survived. The head of the local government in Palana, Olga Mokhireva, was among the passen-

Police are investigating the incident, looking at three possible causes of the crash — bad weather, equipment malfunction or pilot error

gers, spokespeople of the Kamchatka government said.

Solodov said Tuesday that a group of government officials including Transport Minister Vitaly Savelyev will head to Palana on Wednesday.

In the aftermath of the

crash, the authorities in Kamchatka have declared three days of mourning. Officials said that families of the victims will receive payments of more than 3.5 million rubles (about \$47,200) that will include compensation from the airline, an insurance payment and a subsidy from the regional government.

Police are investigating the incident, looking at three possible causes of the crash — bad weather, equipment malfunction or pilot error.

President Vladimir Putin yesterday morning extended his condolences to the families of the victims.

In 2012, an Antonov An-28 plane belonging to Kamchatka Aviation Enterprise crashed into a mountain while flying the same route as Tuesday’s flight. A total of 14 people were on board and 10 of them were killed. Both pilots, who were among the dead, were found to have alcohol in their blood, Tass reported. MDT/AP



AP PHOTO

Thailand Two German men arrested in Thailand are expected to be extradited to Germany on suspicion of being part of a European drug trafficking gang, immigration police said yesterday. Police Maj. Gen. Phanthana Nuchanart identified the two suspects as 42-year-old Alex Kartun, a dual German-Russian national, and 38-year-old Alexander Wolfien, a German citizen.

Egypt Suez Canal authorities announced Wednesday the release of a hulking shipping vessel that blocked the crucial east-west waterway for nearly a week earlier this year. The Ever Given was seen leaving the Suez Canal after its Japanese owner, Shoeni Kisen Kaisha Ltd., reached a settlement with the canal authorities over a compensation amount after more than three months of negotiations and a court standoff.

Britain’s High Court has granted the U.S. government permission to appeal a decision that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange cannot be sent to the United States to face espionage charges. The judicial office said yesterday that the appeal had been granted and the case would be listed for a High Court hearing. No date has been set.

Spanish police said yesterday that they had arrested two people for their alleged responsibility in the deaths of more than 20 migrants who perished last month while trying to cross the Atlantic Ocean to the Canary Islands. Police said in a statement that they detained the suspected human trafficker and the suspected captain of the craft that was reached by Spanish rescue services on June 30 after 13 days adrift.

Cyprus Authorities at a British military base on Cyprus have hired 50% more customs officers and procured detection equipment to better thwart illegal immigration from the breakaway north of the ethnically split island. The addition of 24 new officers and four SUVs — two with thermal imaging cameras — allows authorities to patrol around-the-clock along a 45-kilometer boundary. Customs and Immigration Chief Adam Chatfield said.