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CTM 40th Anniversary

SJM WILL TAKE OVER DIAMOND CASINO'S OPERATION IN ADDITION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF RUNNING A SELF-PROMOTED CASINO IN LISBOETA

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GUANGDONG OPENS 9,464 JOB VACANCIES FOR FRESH GRADUATES FROM HK, MACAU

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FOR THE FIRST TIME, ART MACAO IS ADDING A 'CREATIVE CITY PAVILION' WITH AN AIM TO BRING TOGETHER PARTS OF DIFFERENT UNESCO CREATIVE CITIES

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AP PHOTO



South Korean President Moon Jae-in has decided not to visit Japan for the Tokyo Summer Olympics, citing a failure to set up a summit with Japan's prime minister that would produce meaningful results in improving relations. Moon's office said yesterday that officials from Seoul and Tokyo held talks over longstanding disputes about wartime history and a "future-oriented" development of their relations, but did not find enough common ground to support a summit between their leaders.

AP PHOTO



Thai police used tear gas, rubber bullets and water cannons to disperse hundreds of anti-government protesters who held a rally in Bangkok despite coronavirus restrictions banning gatherings of more than five people. The demonstrators were demanding Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's government step down, insisting the budget of the monarchy and the military be cut during the pandemic, and calling for the importing mRNA coronavirus vaccines that have yet to be brought to Thailand on a large scale to fight a growing surge of the virus.

Pakistan A speeding bus carrying mostly laborers traveling home for a major Muslim holiday rammed into a container truck on a busy highway in central Pakistan yesterday, killing at least 33 people and injuring 40, police and rescue officials said. The bus had left the city of Sialkot and was traveling on Taunsa Road; its destination was the city of Dera Ghazi Khan in eastern Punjab province, said senior police officer Hassan Javed. The exact cause of the accident is still under investigation, he said.

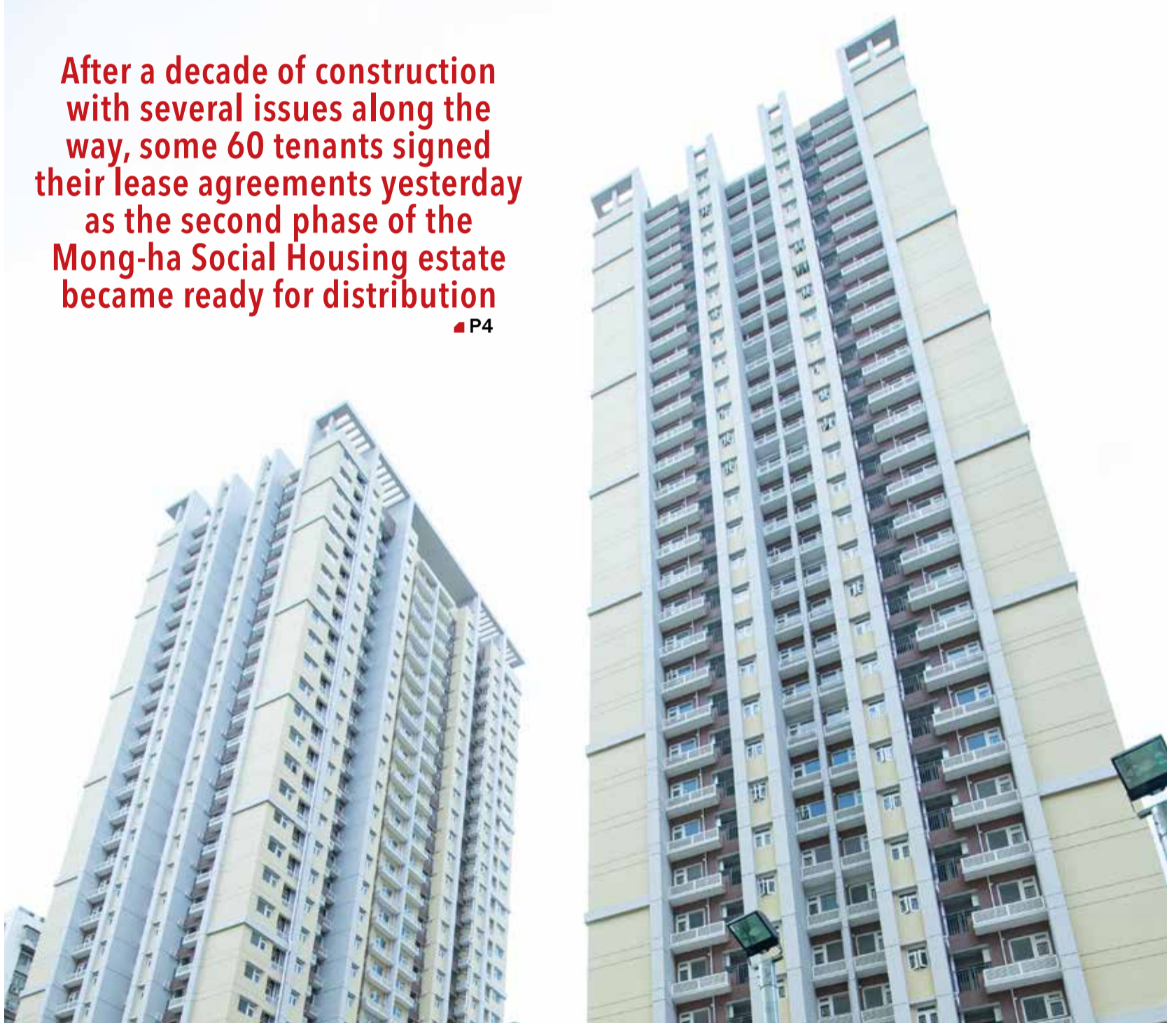
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A DECADE OF WAITING

After a decade of construction with several issues along the way, some 60 tenants signed their lease agreements yesterday as the second phase of the Mong-ha Social Housing estate became ready for distribution

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AP PHOTO

DRIVERS' HEALTH ON THE LINE WITH 4-4 SHIFT, SAYS LAWMAKER AGNES LAM



FREEDOM DAY

UK LIFTS ALL COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

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ABOVE HALF CATERERS, RETAILERS REPORT REVENUE UP IN MAY

May 2021 saw 57% of caterers and 76% of retailers in Macau recording rising revenues year-on-year, the Statistics and Census Service announced. Despite the increase, the figures still saw a drop from those in April: 16% for caterers and 7% for retailers. The Business Performance Index (BPI) values that reflect the trend of year-on-year change is 65.1 for caterers and 78.2 for retailers, with both being higher than 50, implying that the two industries' performances surpassed the year-on-year record.

DSAL ADDS ONLINE COURSES ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY IN PORTUGUESE

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has launched the "Occupational Safety Card for the Hotel and Catering Industries" online course in Portuguese, the bureau announced yesterday. DSAL said the online courses are available in Chinese, English and Portuguese so that the public can choose the appropriate language for independent learning in accordance with their needs, which allows a greater number of workers to learn about occupational health and safety. After completing the course, citizens can register for the public examination to obtain the occupational safety card.

ART MACAO

WYNN EXHIBITION TO WALK PUBLIC THROUGH JOURNEY OF CHINESE ARTISTIC TREASURES

LYNZY VALLES

WYNN is organizing a special exhibition under the theme of "Illusions and Reflections – Through the Eyes of the Masters" as part of the Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2021.

The exhibition, being held at Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace, features around 400 artistic treasures, and showcases a wide range of renowned masterpieces of Chinese modern art. This includes a number of artworks that were overseas for nearly 40 years and have now returned to China, and are being presented in Macau for the first time.

Two large-scale ceramic installations, specially made for Macau, are also presented.

The exhibition is composed of "The Abode of Illusions: The Garden of Zhang Daqian," and "Life Reflection: Contemporary Ceramics of Zhu Legeng."

The former is a photographic work of the last garden designed by Chinese master painter Zhang



Daqian himself. It was taken by renowned photographer Hu Chongxian, with Zhang's inscription and interpretation showing the "wonderful aesthetic mood of the Chinese literati."

The second exhibit features ceramics created by the internationally famous contemporary ceramic artist Zhu Legeng.

During his visit with national leaders, Zhu was inspired to create two environmental ins-

tallations especially for Macau. These art pieces will be displayed at the newly completed Art Gallery at Wynn Palace as well as the existing Art Center, alongside "The Chinese OX Series by Zhu" on display in the hotel lobby at Wynn Macau. This will enable audiences to go through a journey of discovery through Chinese cultural and artistic treasures.

During her speech at the opening ceremony, Linda Chen, vice

chairman and executive director of Wynn Macau, noted that Macau is known as the "Treasure Land of the Lotus", and that the lotus is a relatively prominent theme in the exhibition.

In order to further promote the development of art and culture in Macau, Wynn also hosted an art sharing session, titled "Illusions and Reflections – Through the Eyes of the Masters, A Dialog and Sharing of Art" on Saturday.

Curators Joey Ho and Susanna Ferrell, artist Zhu Legeng, and artist's representative Hu Ching-Tang, were featured as guest speakers to introduce the exhibition.

The event attracted the participation of over 130 representatives from the tourism and cultural sectors, the art and design world, the MICE industry, teachers and students from local higher education institutions, representatives from youth organizations, and art lovers.

The exhibition is open to public for free from now until October 31.

ART MACAO

Creative City Pavilion opens to the public on Friday

RENATO MARQUES

FOR the first time, the Macao International Art Biennale 2021 (Art Macao) is adding a "Creative City Pavilion" this year that aims to bring together parts of different UNESCO Creative Cities.

With Macau representing the City of Gastronomy; Nanjing, the City of Literature; Wuhan, the City of Design; and Linz, the City of Media Arts, the pavilion will kick off a series of exhibitions, with the opening of the exhibition "Macau: City of Gastronomy - Bon Appétit!" at the Macao Con-

temporary Art Center - Navy Yard No. 1.

The exhibition features 15 pieces and sets of works from 16 artists, including Carlos Marreiros and Konstantin Besmertny, who explore the interrelation between food, society, and history. The awarding works of the romantic composition contest will also be exhibited in the same venue.

The thematic exhibitions will also be extended to other venues, such as Tap Seac Gallery and Mong-Há Villas No. 63-71 and No.55-61, featuring each of the cities they represent.

Literature will be the centerpiece at Tap Seac Gallery, featuring the works of dozens of poets, novelists, critics, and artists of Nanjing, including Su Tong and Zhao Benfu.

The displayed works include manuscripts, calligraphies, documentaries, and paintings, among others.

The No. 63-71 of Mong-Há Villas will be the house of Wuhan, featuring several works inspired by pandemic prevention, including photography works by the President of the China Photographers Association, Li Ge, and the artist Luo Xian.

Next door, No. 55-61, will feature nine sets of media artworks based on interfaces, demonstrating the cutting edge of contemporary interactive art that are part of Linz's City of Media Arts.

The exhibitions "Macau: City of Gastronomy - Bon Appétit!" and "Nanjing: City of Literature - Opening Up the Realm" will be held until October 3, while the exhibitions "Wuhan: City of Design - Empathy" and "Linz: City of Media Arts - The Art of Interface" will be held until October 24. Admission to the exhibitions is free of charge.



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DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles SENIOR WRITER_Honey Tsang
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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Drivers' health most prominent factor in '4-4 shift', says Agnes Lam

ANTHONY LAM

IN considering the feasibility of the "4-4 shift" of bus drivers, lawmaker Agnes Lam stressed that the health of drivers should be the most important factor.

The "4-4 shift" is a special shift for bus drivers, so named because it requires drivers to work for approximately four hours in the morning and another four in the afternoon – both periods being peak hours of the day, with several hours of break in between.

The deaths of two drivers on this shift have been recorded so far this year. The link between the deaths and the shift is still unclear. However, Transmac, the concerned bus company, have defended the shift, saying that it has existed for more than two decades.

On the issue, Lam stressed that drivers' health is a significant element in the debate on the existence and continuation of the shift.

RENATO MARQUES



"Because [drivers' health] not only affects drivers themselves, but also other road users, including pedestrians, accidents that happen on the streets due to health problems of a driver affect all users."

Because of this, the lawmaker said the issue of investigating the shift itself, the cause of the deaths

and the link between the two factors is a public matter.

She acknowledged that quite a number of bus drivers support the shift, as drivers on this shift can earn more income. "But I think the government can ask or assist the bus operators to conduct a study on whether drivers on this shift are having enough

rest," Lam told the Times.

"Is it because, due to the pandemic, drivers have become more concerned [with income]?" Lam asked.

That the shift has become a topic of discussion this year may be the result of a missing factor, according to the lawmaker. However, the nature of this factor "is still

not revealed," she said.

In contrast to Lam, both the bus company and its supervising authority, the Transport Bureau (DSAT), have reiterated that drivers on this shift have enough rest.

In a recent reply to Lam's written inquiry on the matter, Chiang Ngoc Vai, acting director of the DSAT, defended the lawfulness of the shift under the terms of the Labour Relations Law.

Chiang noted that the two work sessions in the shift are three to four hours apart, leaving enough time for drivers to have a rest.

The lawmaker hinted that she was not surprised by the reply.

Local online media Macau Concealers reported yesterday that drivers complained about the so-called rest period. "[The period is so short] that I don't know where to go – there is not even enough for me to go home and nap," a driver anonymously told the media.

The driver also complained that sometimes lunches ordered by the company went bad before they made it back to the terminus due to traffic congestion or other conditions.

The media also reported that drivers were warned by their employers "to speak cautiously."



MACAU AND HK GRADUATES CAN COMPETE FOR OVER 9,000 JOBS IN GUANGDONG

HONEY TSANG

FRESH graduates from Hong Kong and Macau are able to apply for a total of 9,464 vacancies set aside in the Human Resources and Social Security Department of Guangdong Province.

These jobs are found across the nine mainland cities in the Great Bay Area (GBA): Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Hui-

zhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing.

The applications for the positions opened from July 19 and will remain open until July 21. Each applicant can only apply for one position.

By segment, the majority (or over 4,000) of the vacancies are related to the medical and health industries. Education positions totaled 2,450, while the other 398 are science and innovation-related jobs.

According to media outlet Wen Wei Po, Guangzhou offers the largest share of the jobs open to Hong Kong and Macau students, totaling 1,398, followed by 952 in Jiangmen, and 886 in Dongguan.

Applicants must meet a set of requirements before being deemed eligible for the application. For instance, they must comply with the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and its regulations, uphold the leadership of the Communist Party of China, help safeguard the nation's safety and unity, and more.

According to official data, the Guangdong Province offered 20,000 jobs in total to fresh graduates this year.

The 9,464 vacancies may come as a lifeline thrown to fresh graduates from both cities who are desperate to secure a job.

According to the latest statistics compiled by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the unemployment rate among local residents in Macau stood at 4.1% from March to May, unchanged from the previous period between February and April.

During the three-month surveyed period, the proportion of new labor market entrants looking for their first jobs climbed by 0.9 percentage points to 6.5% of the total unemployed.

Several media sources have reported on the hardship faced by the city's fresh graduates seeking a job during the pandemic.

GBA CLIMATE

RECORD-BREAKING AMOUNT OF HOT DAYS IN 2020

LAST year, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) recorded a record-breaking number of hot days, at 29.9 days; 17.5 days more than average and the highest number of hot days since 1961.

The 2020 Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area Climate Bulletin was recently published, detailing the complied information from the weather authorities in the three administrative regions.

An average temperature of 23.2 degrees Celsius was recorded in the GBA last year, which was 0.7 degrees Celsius higher than average levels, making it the second hottest year since 1961, only after 2019.

The average temperature in January, July and November all set the highest records since 1961.

Precipitation around the Tuen Ng or Dragon Boat Festival was 36% more than in a normal year, and the most since 2009.

Five typhoons affected the GBA last year, and the overall impact was relatively minor. Typhoon No. 7, "Higos," landed in Zhuhai and brought heavy wind and rain.

In the whole of last year, various meteorological disasters caused direct economic loss of approximately 4.48 billion Chinese yuan in the GBA, and four deaths.

The average number of smoggy days last year was 11.4, a drop of 13.7 days from 2019. Most smoggy days occurred in January and December last year. Macau recorded a total of eight smoggy days last year, a drop of 13 days from 2019. **AL**



TYPHOON CEMPEKA

POSSIBILITY OF T8 LOW, GOV'T CALLS ON INDUSTRIES TO TAKE PRECAUTIONS

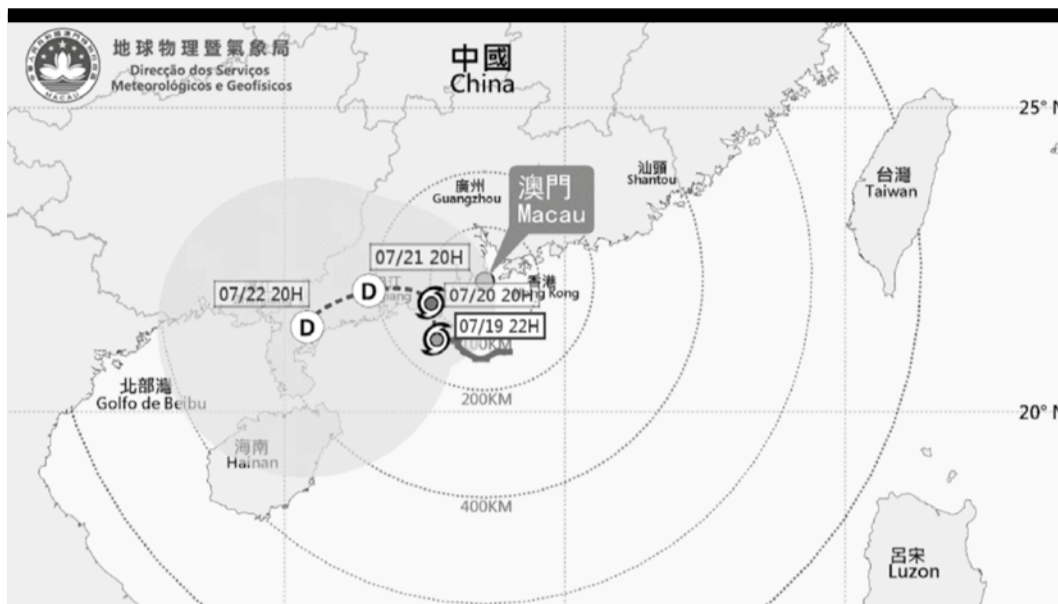
THE Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) announced that the possibility of issuing a higher typhoon signal is low before dawn today, following its earlier announcement that there is a "medium to relatively high" likelihood of Typhoon Signal No. 8 being issued between midnight and morning today.

The SMG issued a Typhoon Signal No.3 at 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

As of 11 p.m. last night, T3 was still in effect. SMG warned that the local winds will strengthen, noting that "Cempaka" is located about 150 km southwest of Macau and was moving toward the western coast of Guangdong province.

Yesterday, the Marine and Water Bureau (DSMA) has urged the maritime industry, and the inner harbor terminals to pay attention to changes in sea conditions and water levels, while ensuring the safety of their vessels, as well as ensuring that the mooring ropes are strong and stable.

Also, the Economic Bureau issued a reminder that companies, especially those located in low-lying areas,



should make preparations and take precautions against flooding and typhoon to avoid loss of goods and equipment.

"For stores that have installed flood barriers, they should check whether the barrier boards and their accessories are complete. They should also be familiar with the assembly and disassembly of those boards, and check whether the water pumps and flood-control platforms are in good working order," the bureau reminded.

Recently, the Land, Pu-

blic Works and Transport Bureau announced that the construction works building a coastal flood prevention barrier in Fai Chi Kei and Ilha Verde are concluding, with the areas to be fully reopened to the public shortly. The works include increasing the height of some walls located along the coastline between the two zones, building a "rotary jet grouting pile water-resisting curtain" and installing floodgates.

Meanwhile, in Hong Kong, the weather bureau said that unless "Cempaka" intensifies

significantly or adopts a track closer to Hong Kong, the chance of gales over the territory generally is not high. The chance of issuing the No. 8 Gale or Storm Signal overnight is not high. The Strong Wind Signal, No. 3 remained in force for some time overnight.

"The track and intensity changes of Cempaka remain uncertain. [...] The rain bands of Cempaka will bring occasional heavy showers and squalls to the territory tonight and tomorrow," the statement read. **LV**

GOV'T URGED TO REFINE APPLICATION FOR ECONOMIC HOUSING

HONEY TSANG

LAWMAKER Leong Sun Iok is urging the government to refine the current application procedures for the economic housing, after some employers have proved uncooperative and unwilling to provide the necessary documents their staff need to apply for the government housing.

In a written query submitted to the government, Leong said it is common for applicants to lose their chance to secure an economic housing apartment because they have failed to hand in documents deemed necessary for the application.

Leong said he has received complaints from applicants because their employers did not provide them with the certificate of income proof, which is one of the crucial documents needed for the application for economic housing.

The government only accepts the income proof submitted by employers, rather than alternatives like bank statements.

Leong emphasized that employers have the obligation to help staff prepare the certificate, even for those who no longer work for them.

In view of this, he urged the government to come up with some support or approaches to assist those aspiring applicants who do not get hold of income proof from their current or former employers.

He also suggested that the government consider requesting employers to provide income proof upon the resignation of employees.

CRIME

MAN SCAMMED IN FAKE INVESTMENT SCHEME WHILE SEEKING PROSTITUTION SERVICES

A 20-year-old local male has been reportedly involved in a false money investment scheme while searching for prostitution services in Macau, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed yesterday.

According to the PJ report, the man was seeking prostitution services online when he met a woman who claimed she would be able to fulfil his request.

After some discussion, she then introduced him to a money investment scheme that she claimed would offer him a high return.

He decided to try the scheme, investing RMB580, which gave him a swift profit of RMB150. Enticed by the earnings, he then decided to increase his investment several times, with the amounts reaching RMB85,618.

He subsequently encountered difficulty in withdrawing his earnings and later realized he had lost contact with the alleged woman. He then presented the case to the PJ claiming to have lost over RMB85,000 in the scam. **RM**

SOCIAL HOUSING

60 tenants eventually get Mong-ha units

AFTER a decade of construction with several issues along the way, the second phase of the Mong-ha Social Housing estate finally became ready for distribution yesterday.

Named by the government as the Mong Tak Building, the project saw the initial 60 or so tenants sign their lease agreements yesterday morning.

Social housing is a type of residential project built and owned by the government, which then acts as a landlord and rents individual units to eligible residents. This differs from economic housing in which government-invested units are sold to residents.

The tenants who got their keys yesterday submitted applications for their units back in 2017.

Among those signing tenancy contracts and receiving their keys yesterday was Mr

Hong, who waited four years for the occasion. Although he had psychologically prepared himself for the wait, he described the period as long. Being the only income-earner in the household, he lives with his sexagenarian mother.

A Putonghua-speaking woman, who revealed she was not an ID holder, suggested that she applied for a one-bedroom unit and that she was accompanying her husband to collect the keys.

Only Macau residents are eligible for social housing.

The social housing project is located on Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira, with 37 floors above ground level and three below. It provides a total of 768 units, with 256 having one bedroom and 512 having two bedrooms. The area of each unit ranges from 36 sqm to 45 sqm. **AL**



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

SJM to run self-promoted casinos at Diamond Casino, Lisboeta Macau

HONEY TSANG

SJM Holdings Ltd (SJM) is going to take over the operation of Casino Diamond, a satellite casino under the group which will go under later this month in addition to the possibility that the group will run a self-promoted casino at its newest property, Lisboeta Macau.

The group's vice-chairman and chief executive, Ambrose So Shu Fai, revealed this plan in an earlier interview with Hong Kong Chinese media Ming Pao.

The current operator of Casino Diamond delivered a memo to employees that the casino is slated to shut down on July 31 due to the financial hardship it has been facing during the pandemic.

So told Ming Pao that SJM will take back the reins to launch a new casino at the original site, in addition to taking charge of all marketing duties.

However, he stated that SJM and the original operators of Casino Diamond will continue to maintain a flexible partnership. This

ANTHONY LAM



is understood to mean it is likely that the collaboration between both parties will be reinstated at an opportune time.

"The Casino Diamond will still continue [its operation], as it is a [gaming] venue in Macau, after all. Without the provision of marketing services by the previous provider, it will be transformed into the group's self-promoted casino," So told the media.

With the addition of Casino Diamond, the number of SJM's self-branded casinos will be increased from four to five, including Lisboa Casino, Casino Oceanus at Jai Alai, Casino Eastern located at Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau, and Casino Taipa.

However, the operation of Casino Taipa is still suspended as the hotel that houses the casino was temporarily shut down.

So also disclosed that the group intends to open a new self-branded and self-promoted casino at a newly-opened attraction, Lisboeta Macau, which opened some of its facilities on July 17.

So said the self-promoted casino at Lisboeta Macau will target different customer groups to those targeted by Grand Lisboa Palace, which SJM mentioned earlier was scheduled to open in the first half

of this year.

According to a release published by SJM on July 15, Grand Lisboa Palace will be launched by the group soon. It will feature a set of dining options that include Taiwan-based hotpot joint Wulao, and Canton tea house, Chalou.

Daisy Ho, chairman of the Board of Directors of SJM, stated that the group's vision is to "develop Grand Lisboa Palace as a gastronomy hub for food lovers worldwide."

So said that SJM has not reached a collaboration agreement with those in charge at the Lisboeta Macau.

Lisboeta Macau, located at Cotai next to Grand Lisboa Palace, is a non-gaming development project under its promoter, Macau Theme Park and Resort Ltd, which is chiefly managed by Arnaldo Ho Yau Heng, a son of Angela Leong On Kei.

Lisboeta Macau is now being employed as a quarantine facility. However, the hotel promoter reassured the public that the hotel and its entertainment attractions are separate.

AD

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CRIME

PJ DETAINS TWO SCAM SUSPECTS AT THE BORDER, ONE WANTED SINCE JANUARY 2019

RENATO MARQUES

THE Judiciary Police (PJ), with the help of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), has detained two scam suspects at the Border Gate checkpoint. The two suspects are a 66-year-old man from the mainland who has been wanted since January 2019 and a 51-year-old woman from Hong Kong.

The announcement of the detentions was made yesterday during the regular joint press conference of the police forces, held at the PJ headquarters.

In the first case, which goes back to 2019, the suspect is accused of scamming a Vietnamese woman and 12 other people she represented, in a fake scheme of job hiring in the neighboring region of Hong Kong.

According to the victim, the man said he would be able to place workers in the Hong Kong cleaning sector, earning a salary of about HKD18,000



per month.

He requested an initial payment of 4,000 patacas per person to process the workers' cards.

The Vietnamese woman introduced 12 people to the suspect and they gave him a combined amount of 48,000 patacas. After that, she said

she lost contact with him and filed a complaint with PJ on January 28, 2019.

The initial stages of the police investigation led them to realize the man left Macau in April 2018, which meant the investigation became idle.

On July 16, when the suspect tried to reenter Macau

through the Border Gate checkpoint, he was detained by the immigration officers and handed to the PJ.

In a separate case, a Hong Kong woman was also arrested while reentering Macau at the same border point.

She became wanted by the PJ after a complaint from a 45-year-old man from the mainland who said that in June, he gave her a watch valued at 500,000 patacas as a guarantee for a loan. However, after she received the watch, he was unable to contact her.

After receiving the complaint, the PJ discovered the woman had left Macau on June 14 for the mainland. When she returned on July 15, she was apprehended and delivered to the police.

Taken into questioning, she confessed to having scammed the man, saying that she had pawned the watch at a local pawnshop for 66,000 patacas. She also said she used this money to repay a debt.

CRIME

WOMAN ACCUSES HOUSEMATE OF SEXUAL COERCION

RENATO MARQUES

A 26-year-old woman of Filipino nationality is accusing her housemate, a 27-year-old man, also from the Philippines, of sexual coercion, the Judiciary Police (PJ) informed yesterday during the regular joint press conference of the police forces.

According to the woman, the case occurred in the early hours of Sunday, July 18 after she had returned home from a house party with friends.

The woman told the police that after arriving home, she went to rest in her bedroom. A few minutes later, the suspect entered her room offering to massage her.

She refused, but he insisted and started to touch her. She said she became scared and asked him to leave. He refused and attempted to forcibly kiss her while inappropriately touching her.

She finally managed to get away from him and ran from the apartment where she called the Public Security Police Force (PSP) for help. The PSP subsequently transferred the case to PJ.

Taken into questioning by the PJ, the man initially refused to cooperate but later admitted to trying to coerce the woman into having sex with him.

The PJ has already forwarded the case to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation and accusation of the suspect.

AD

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ERIC TUCKER, WASHINGTON

THE Biden administration yesterday blamed China for a hack of Microsoft Exchange email server software that compromised tens of thousands of computers around the world earlier this year.

The administration and allied nations also disclosed a broad range of other cyberthreats from Beijing, including ransomware attacks from government-affiliated hackers that have targeted companies with demands for millions of dollars.

China's Ministry of State Security has been using criminal contract hackers, who have engaged in cyber extortion schemes and theft for their own profit, according to a senior administration official. That official briefed reporters about the investigation on the condition of anonymity.

The announcements highlighted the ongoing cyberthreat posed by Chinese government hackers even as the administration has been consumed with trying to curb ransomware attacks from Russia-based syndicates that have targeted critical infrastructure, including a massive fuel pipeline.

Even though the finger-pointing was not accompanied by any sanctions of Beijing, a senior administration official who disclosed the actions to reporters said that the U.S. has confronted senior Chinese officials and that the White House regards the multinational public shaming as sending an importance message.

That hackers affiliated with the Ministry of State Security carried out a ransomware attack was surprising and concerning to the U.S. government, the senior administration official said. But the attack, in which an unidentified American company received a high-dollar ransom demand, also gave U.S. officials new insight into what the official said was "the kind of aggressive behavior that we're seeing coming out of China."

AP PHOTO



US accuses China of Microsoft Exchange email hack

The European Union also blamed China for what it said were malicious cyber activities with "significant effects" that targeted government institutions and political organisations in the EU and its 27 member states, as well as key European industries.

In a statement, the EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the hacking was "conducted from the territory of China for the purpose of intellectual property theft and espionage."

The majority of the most damaging and high-profile recent ransomware attacks have involved Russian criminal gangs. Though the U.S. has sometimes seen connections between Russian intelligence agencies and indi-

vidual hackers, the use of criminal contract hackers by the Chinese government "to conduct unsanctioned cyber operations globally is distinct," the official said.

The Microsoft Exchange hack was first identified in January and was rapidly attributed to Chinese cyber spies by private sector groups. An administration official said the government's attribution to hackers affiliated with

China's Ministry of State Security took until now in part because of the discovery of the ransomware and for-profit hacking operations and because the administration wanted to pair the announcement with guidance for businesses about tactics that the Chinese have been using.

An advisory yesterday from the FBI, the National Security Agency and the Cybersecurity and Infras-

tructure Security Agency laid out specific techniques and ways that government agencies and businesses can protect themselves.

The White House also wanted to line up an international coalition of allies to call out China, according to the official, who said it was the first time NATO had condemned Beijing's hacking operations.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, asked about the Microsoft Exchange hack, has previously said that China "firmly opposes and combats cyber attacks and cyber theft in all forms" and cautioned that attribution of cyberattacks should be based on evidence and not "groundless accusations." MDT/AP

China [...] cautioned that attribution of cyberattacks should be based on evidence and not "groundless accusations"

Gov't to intensify efforts to avoid drastic fluctuations in hog prices

CHINA'S top economic planner said yesterday that it would work with related departments to intensify regulatory measures to avoid drastic ups and downs in hog prices when necessary.

Since the beginning of the year, hog prices in China have fallen sharply due to a significant improvement in supply and the decline in demand, prompting authorities to step in with multiple measures to stabilize the market.

In June alone, the Na-

tional Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) had twice issued warnings for an excessive slump in hog prices, alerting pig farmers to adjust their plans to stabilize supplies.

The NDRC has also started to purchase pork to replenish the reserves at both the central and local levels, as an index monitoring pork prices has dropped below a warning level.

"The excessive drop in prices of live pigs has been

initially curbed as the price has rebounded significantly since late June," said Wan Jingsong, an official with the NDRC.

The current price has recovered by more than 15 percent from the previous decline, Wang said, predicting that the trend will sustain for a while.

Chinese authorities in June released a work plan to improve the mechanism for adjusting pork reserves.

The plan, released by several government or-



gans including the NDRC, detailed multiple measures to avoid drastic movements in the pork market,

with more indicators added for timely warnings of market changes.

While cyclical fluctua-

tions of pork supply and prices are a worldwide phenomenon, such volatilities are especially high in China, partly because the majority of the country's pigs are produced on family farms.

After the African swine fever dealt a heavy blow to hog production and pork prices since 2018, authorities have taken a slew of measures, including handing out subsidies to encourage scale farming, to stabilize prices of the staple meat in China. MDT/XINHUA

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Brooks Oliver
CurlDavid Furman
Maybe, BabyPaula Bastiaansen
Untitled and not
without titleRichard Notkin
Heart Teapot Petrol HostageSergei Isupov
On The WaySergei Isupov
Coffee and Milk

SANDS China is currently running a striking ceramics exhibition for Art Macao titled "Project Sands X: Beyond the Blue – An Exhibition of Ceramic Extraordinaire."

The exhibition that is now showcased at The Venetian Macao's main lobby is one of the special exhibitions of Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2021.

This year, Art Macao is themed "To create for well-being" with an aim to promote the SAR as a world heritage city and reshape the "humanistic spirit in the post-epidemic era."

To resonate with the theme, Sands China's colorful exhibition is displaying not just a group of artworks from around the globe – but artworks that tell stories of hope, resilience and diversity.

Sands China invited internationally famed artist Caroline Cheng to curate the exhibition, who called on the talents of more than 20 world-renowned ceramic artists and institutions to create works on the theme of Beyond the Blue.

The Beyond the Blue theme is faceted in meaning. While traditionally, the exhibition's works

include a diversity of designs and palettes, showcasing how the beauty of ceramics can go beyond those two traditional colors.

Furthermore, with innovative techniques, technologies and designs, the invited artists have created pieces that go beyond all expectations and imagination, in hopes of bringing positivity to the world through art.

And finally, through this exceptional collection of works, the exhibition seeks to elicit joy and inspire visitors to go beyond the blue mood of a pandemic world with optimism for a brighter future ahead.

"This time, where the world around us is under gloom due to the pandemic, we say we're moving beyond the blue," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

"I believe our Project Sands X: Beyond the Blue exhibition will delight and surprise visitors as they discover that ceramics can go far beyond their expectations," he added.

For Wong, it is the company's sincerest pleasure to support Art Macao with this collection of imaginative and innovative ceramic artwork.

Project Sands X: Beyond the Blue showcases a total of 50 artworks, many of which are surprise, looking at the past, present and the future of ceramics.

EXPANDING LIMITLESS BOUNDARIES

In line with the government's initiative of transforming Macao into a canvas through Art Macao installations across the entire city, Sands China echoes the goal of offering a "more in-depth travel experience" to visitors.

Beyond the Blue's works combine technology and ceramics with innovative presentation, and visitors are able to interact with selected pieces via a free augmented reality (AR) smartphone app. Exhibition attendees can create their own virtual artwork or digitally

insert exhibition elements into their selfies.

In this year's biennale, one particularly interesting and unusual aspect of the exhibition is a unique parallel exhibition of Beyond the Blue with the Everson Museum of Art, which contains one of the United States' foremost collections of ceramic art.

As a way to build on themes of interactivity and celebration, the Everson has created a real-time exhibition in the museum that can be viewed in 3D by remote visitors on their smartphones and at an interactive screen at The Venetian Macao main lobby.

Viewers are able to maneuver through the 360-degree space, while translated text and audio-video hyperlinks provide more information in English and Chinese.

In this way, the exhibition is able to make use of technology to connect people across international borders, virtually transporting Beyond the Blue visitors to

the Everson, while also bringing 14 signature works from the Everson to Macao.

"This, in a way, is a cross-regional, cross-boundary exhibition – and it expands the [overall] collection," Wong affirmed.

Curator Cheng explained the idea behind integrating the internet, digital technology and art.

"This exhibition shows how an ancient art like making ceramics can take advantage of techniques unavailable to artisans of the past to now make ingenious creations previously thought impossible," she said.

With modern-day technologies such as augmented reality and livestreaming, viewers can interact with and enjoy art in an entirely new way and connect with each other in real time regardless of geographical distance.

"We hope that, with Beyond the Blue, this interconnectedness and creativity inspires us all with hope and determination for a safe and unified post-pandemic world," the artist added.

Beyond The Blue: stories of hope a



Dennis Parks
±±XX÷÷ Abacus Series



Li Bo
Shine Stone
Language



Karl Yin
「C x 5」Reinvent



Nicholas Lenker
Pale Rider and
The Trickster



Gu Yue
Seventy Two
Changes of
Craftsmen



Del Harrow
Surface, Hole, Shadow



nd resilience

CALL FOR SUSTAINABILITY, STORIES TO TELL

Exhibits made from recycled ceramics promoting sustainability in art are also on display with a vision to create a better world.

Every year, China produces some 18 million tons of ceramic waste.

For artist Karl Yin, the goal is to recycle that waste and redesign it as decorative ceramic sculptures that double as functional furniture.

"These artworks have stories of our history," he says, pointing to some of his ceramic furniture work.

For him, the biennale offers a platform to send a message on a sustainable future.

"Macau is an international city. A lot of people are coming here and will look at this exhibition. It's an honor that I can present my work because I want people to know about the lingering ceramic waste that is produced," he added.

Meanwhile, Gu Yue spent three

months creating a work that expresses his gratitude to the hard work, skills and ancient techniques of ceramic craftspeople in Jiangxi province's Jingdezhen. His paintings on two large ceramic pots tell the story of the 72 steps required to create a piece of ceramic artwork.

"All these paintings here are scenarios of what I have experienced in Jingdezhen. This pot [shows how] people can only see the final result of an artwork but never the work that was put into it.

INTEGRATING WITH THE GREATER BAY AREA

Another element of Sands China's support to Art Macao is the Time Is On My Side – 2021 Greater Bay Area Young Artists Scheme – A Competition of Painting & Photography.

The one-of-a-kind competition is open to young artists from Macau and the Greater Bay Area. Winners receive cash prizes and certificates to encourage

them to continue their art, and their works will be displayed at The Londoner Macao.

"The national plan is to really integrate the Greater Bay Area (GBA)," said Wong.

"We feel that it is important that we embrace this concept and make good use of this opportunity [of Art Macao] to introduce ceramic international arts and artists to China, especially the GBA."

So while the Beyond the Blue exhibition showcases established professional artists, the Time Is On My Side competition provides a platform for art enthusiasts in the GBA to interact with each other through their passion without the hindrance of the pandemic effect.

By accepting entries from throughout the GBA, the contest speaks to the idea that "GBA re-

presents the future," as Wong expressed.

"But the essence is now. What you do now determines what comes in the future. We felt that we should choose a theme [Beyond the Blue] that really reflects this

moment and, really, people should articulate their vision of the future," said the company president.

So just as the exhibition's theme expresses hope for the future, the GBA art competition gives expression to future artists' ideas and imaginations.

A 'MUST-SEE' EXHIBITION

Project Sands X: Beyond the Blue – An Exhibition of Ceramic Extraordinaire is open to the public 10a.m. to 10p.m. daily until October 31.

"It is without exaggeration a must-see exhibition that has to be

Through this exceptional collection of works, the exhibition seeks to elicit joy and inspire visitors to go beyond the blue mood of a pandemic world

seen in person to fully experience the wonder of these remarkable creations," Wong expressed on the launch day of the exhibition, July 15.

After the official opening ceremony, Cheng led guests of honor and VIPs on a personally guided tour of the exhibition, sharing her knowledge and valuable insights on the varied designs and production techniques of the works.

It is Sands China's second time choosing ceramics as the ideal medium for its Art Macao exhibition, in consideration of Macau's centuries-long history as a key port for porcelain export on the Maritime Silk Road.

For the inaugural Art Macao in 2019, Sands China's "All That's Gold Does Glitter – An Exhibition of Glamorous Ceramics" featured over 90 ceramic masterpieces from outstanding contemporary ceramic artists from 13 different countries and regions. It was the largest and highest-level ceramic art exhibition in the Greater Bay Area in 2019.

The gold-themed museum-quality exhibition was seen by over 8 million visitors.

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

U.S. businesses operating in Hong Kong should reassess their operations and decide if the risks of operating there are worth the reward, the president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong said in an interview yesterday with The Associated Press.

Tara Joseph said companies in Hong Kong are caught in the middle of antagonisms between the U.S. and China. Her remarks followed an advisory issued by the U.S. government on Friday warning businesses about risks in the former British colony.

Relations between the U.S. and China have deteriorated amid a trade war and mounting tensions over Chinese moves to curb political dissent in Hong Kong. The Biden administration cited Hong Kong's shifting legal landscape and tightening control by the communist ruled government in Beijing as growing risks.

"The business landscape has certainly become more complex than it used to be, we're definitely in a new normal as far as business goes here," Joseph said.

"What is concerning overall, not just with this advisory, would be a constant tit-for-tat between U.S. and China when it comes to Hong Kong [...] (which) in many

US FIRMS IN HONG KONG FACE RISKS, SAYS AMCHAM

AP PHOTO



ways is caught right in the middle," she said.

The U.S. government advisory said operating in Hong Kong could lead to reputational and legal damage and data privacy risks.

Hong Kong authorities slammed it as "unfounded fear-mongering," accusing the U.S. of hypocrisy and double standards.

Over the past year, Hong Kong authorities have amended electoral laws, arrested most of the city's most prominent pro-democracy activists and banned large-scale protests citing public health risks from the pandemic. Those moves have drawn criticism from the U.S. and other Western governments.

China has hit back, saying Hong Kong matters are part of China's internal affairs and other governments should not interfere.

The American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong represents U.S. business interests in the city. It has doubled down on that commitment, buying a new office to facilitate its work, the organiza-

tion said last week.

Joseph said the Biden administration's advisory might influence the perspectives of U.S. companies not already operating in Hong Kong. But the city remains an important hub for doing business with mainland China.

Hong Kong has a separate customs territory and ostensibly an independent judicial system, though the recent trend to designate many issues as falling under the National Security Law has experts worried that the city's famed "rule of law" is being undermined.

"Right now, rule of law is what makes businesses really tick here in an international environment. Commercial law at this point seems very sound and that's very important to the business community," said Joseph.

"But any signs of that being unwound or any real changes taking place there could cause a lot of concern," she said.

Joseph said she hoped Hong Kong would manage to maintain those global standards.

"So anything that takes away from that can make it harder for Hong Kong to maintain its role, but we hope that there will be an increased understanding and a recognition that it's a win-win for people to maintain their businesses here and for Hong Kong to maintain its position as a gateway," she said. MDT/AP

AD

合夥人 PARTNERS:

- 官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha*
- 山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues*
- 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata*
- 趙魯 Zhao Lu*
- 馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

- 高文軒 Adelino Correia*
- 羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues*
- 白秀蘭 Susana Batalha
- 馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
- 陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
- 白穎怡 Içília Berenguel
- 冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
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- 飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira*
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- 宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção
- 吳永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
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- 巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
- 歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
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- 顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan
- 諾瑪莉 Maria Noras
- 康靜雅 Viviana Hong
- 梁淑嵐 Ana Leon

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

- 黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong
- 張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
- 陳健雄 Eurico Chan
- 吳霆鋒 Ng Teng Fong
- 戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng

法律專家 JURISTS:

- 羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
- 斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
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Macau SAR, China
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YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

A Tokyo court handed down prison terms for the American father and son accused of helping Nissan's former chairman, Carlos Ghosn, escape to Lebanon while awaiting trial in Japan.

Michael Taylor was sentenced yesterday to two years in prison, while his son Peter was sentenced to one year and eight months.

They were charged with helping a criminal in the December 2019 escape of Ghosn, who hid in a big box that was flown on a private jet via Turkey to Lebanon. Lebanon has no extradition treaty with Japan.

In handing down the sentencing, Chief Judge Hideo Nirei said they had committed a serious violation of the law, as now there is next to no chance of putting Ghosn on trial.

"This case enabled Ghosn, a defendant of a serious crime, to escape overseas," he said.

Although the defense argued the two had been merely used by Ghosn, they clearly were involved, regardless of who was making the decisions, he said.

Ghosn was arrested in Japan in November 2018 on charges of underreporting his compensation and of breach of trust in using Nissan Motor Co. money for personal gain. He says he is innocent, and he left because he could not expect a fair trial in Japan.

The Taylors were arrested in Massachusetts in May 2020 and extradited to Japan in March. During their trial they apologized, saying they had been misled by Ghosn about Japan's criminal justice system. Michael Taylor sobbed and said he was "broke," denying they had benefited mo-

AP PHOTO



American father, son get Japan prison terms for Ghosn escape

netarily because the \$1.3 million prosecutors said Ghosn paid them just covered expenses.

But Nirei, the judge, said the court found that the motive was money. The Taylors can appeal within two weeks, he said.

The father and son, both wearing dark suits and flanked by guards, stood before the court in silence.

The Taylors' defense lawyer Keiji Isaji sought a speedy trial. Many Japanese trials last for months, if not years.

The maximum penalty in Japan for helping a criminal is three years in prison. Prosecutors had demanded a sentence of two years and 10 months for Michael Taylor and two years and six months for his son.

The Taylors' defense had argued for suspended sentences for the two, who spent 10 months in custody in the U.S. before their extradition.

But Nirei said the time they were held before and during trial would not count as time served,

saying they were not directly related and should be treated differently. "There is a limit to how much we can consider," he said.

In December 2019, Ghosn left his home in Tokyo and took a bullet train to Osaka. At a hotel there, he hid in a big box supposedly containing audio equipment, that had air holes punched in it so he could breathe, according to prosecutors.

Another man, George-Antoine Zayek, is accused in the escape, but has not been arrested.

Separately, Greg Kelly, a former top Nissan executive, is on trial in Tokyo on charges of falsifying securities reports on Ghosn's compensation. Kelly, arrested at the same time as Ghosn, also says he is innocent.

A verdict in Kelly's trial, which began in September last year, is not expected until next year. More than 99% of Japanese criminal trials result in convictions. Upon conviction, the charges Kelly faces carry the maximum penalty of up to 15 years in prison. **MDT/AP**

Top Olympic sponsor Toyota pulls Games-related TV ads

YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

Toyota won't be airing any Olympic-themed advertisements on Japanese television during the Tokyo Games despite being one of the IOC's top corporate sponsors.

The extraordinary decision by the country's top automaker underlines how polarizing the Games have become in Japan as COVID-19 infections rise ahead of Friday's opening ceremony.

"There are many issues with these Games that are proving difficult to be understood," Toyota Chief Communications Officer Jun Nagata told reporters yesterday.

Chief Executive Akio Toyoda, the company

founder's grandson, will be skipping the opening ceremony. That's despite about 200 athletes taking part in the Olympics and Paralympics who are affiliated with Toyota, including swimmer Takeshi Kawamoto and softball player Miu Goto.

Nagata said the company will continue to support its athletes.

Being a corporate sponsor for the Olympics is usually all about using the games as a platform to enhance the brand. But being linked with a pandemic-era Games may be viewed by some as a potential marketing problem.

Masa Takaya, a Tokyo 2020 spokesperson, said sponsors each make its own decisions on their messages.

AP PHOTO



"There is a mixed public sentiment towards the Games," Takaya said.

"I need to emphasize that those partners and companies have been very supportive to Tokyo 2020. They are passionate about making these Games happen."

Toyota Motor Corp. signed on as a worldwi-

de Olympic sponsor in 2015, in an 8-year deal reportedly worth nearly \$1 billion, becoming the first car company to join the IOC's top-tier marketing program.

The sponsorship, which started globally in 2017, runs through the 2024 Olympics, covering three consecutive Olympics in

Asia, including the Tokyo Games.

The Tokyo Olympics, already delayed by a year, are going ahead despite the Japanese capital being under a state of emergency.

It's already virtually a made-for-TV Olympics with most events, including the opening ceremony, going ahead without fans in the venues. Some dignitaries, such as IOC President Thomas Bach and Emperor Naruhito, are likely to attend.

Toyota is one of the most trusted brands in Japan. The maker of the Prius hybrid and Lexus luxury models prides itself on its quality controls, with its "just in time" super-efficient production

methods praised and emulated around the world.

Public opinion surveys reflect widespread concern among Japanese people about having tens of thousands of Olympic participants enter the country during a pandemic. Some already have tested positive for COVID.

Motoyuki Niitsuma, a manufacturing plant worker who was banging on a bucket in a recent Tokyo protest against the Olympics, said he didn't like the idea of cheering for the national team, and the pandemic has made that message clear.

"The time to compete is over. Now is the time to cooperate," he said. "We should never have gotten the Games." **MDT/AP**

Graft trial resumes for South Africa's jailed ex-president

MOGOMOTSI MAGOME & ANDREW MELDRUM, JOHANNESBURG

THE corruption trial of former South African President Jacob Zuma resumed yesterday, more than a week after his imprisonment for contempt of court in a separate case set off rioting in parts of the country.

Zuma is accused of receiving bribes from the French arms manufacturer Thales related to the country's controversial 1999 arms procurement contracts. The trial is taking place virtually, but Zuma's lawyers may seek to postpone the proceedings so he can appear physically in court.

The former president's imprisonment earlier this month triggered protests that escalated into widespread unrest in KwaZulu-Natal, Zuma's home province, and in Gauteng, the province that includes Johannesburg, South Africa's largest city. Zuma's supporters forced the closure of strategic highways and rioters ransacked malls and shopping centers in poor areas. In KwaZulu-Natal warehouses and factories were looted and then burned by arsonists.



At least 212 people died in the rioting, many of them crushed during chaotic rampages in shops. More than 2,500 people have been arrested for theft and vandalism. Order was restored following the deployment of 2,500 army troops to assist police.

At the time he is alleged to have received the bribes through his former financial advisor, Schabir Shaik, Zuma was a high-ranking official in the ruling African National Congress party and a provincial minister in KwaZulu-Natal.

Shaik was convicted on related charges in 2005, sentenced to prison and later released on medical parole.

Zuma's lawyers are expected to press his application for the lead prosecutor in the case, Billy Downer, to recuse himself from the state's legal team. Zuma's lawyers have argued that Downer is biased against Zuma.

The corruption case is different from Zuma's contempt of court conviction. Zuma had defied court orders to testify before a state inquest into allegations of corruption during his 2009-2018 presidency. The judicial inquest has heard damning testimony of widespread corruption during Zuma's administration.

The Constitutional Court is considering his request to have his 15-month contempt

of court sentence rescinded. Zuma's lawyers have argued that the nation's apex court made errors when convicting and sentencing him.

Assessing the damage done to South Africa's economy by the unrest, President Cyril Ramaphosa said that the nation has already begun recovering from the violence.

"But we are not only rebuilding our country after the destruction of the past week; we are rebuilding after the devastation of decades of dispossession and exploitation," Ramaphosa wrote in his weekly letter to the nation.

"We need to fundamentally transform our economy and our society, deepening our efforts to create employment, lift millions out of poverty and ensure that the country's wealth is shared among all its people," he said. "The events of the last week are a stark reminder of how deep the problems are and how far we still have to go. These events must propel us to act with greater purpose and speed."

Ramaphosa also reiterated that the violence was not spontaneous but allegedly planned.

"Those who lit the tinderbox of this unrest hoped to mobilize our people by exploiting their conditions of hardship. They were counting on citizens falling for crude propaganda designed to turn them not just against the state, but against each other," the South African leader said. "What they were not counting on was the enduring ability of South Africans to unite in the face of a common threat." **MDT/AP**

German officials defend their actions on devastating floods

GEIR MOULSON, BERLIN

GERMAN officials defended their actions ahead of last week's severe floods that caught many towns by surprise and killed 196 people in Western Europe, but they conceded that more lessons can be learned from the disaster.

As floodwaters receded yesterday, authorities continued searching for more victims and intensified their efforts to clean up a sodden swath of western Germany, eastern Belgium and the Netherlands.

So far, 117 people have

been confirmed dead in the worst-affected German region, Rhineland-Palatinate, while 47 were killed in the neighboring state of North Rhine-Westphalia, and at least one in Bavaria, parts of which saw heavy rain and flooding over the weekend. The death toll in Belgium was 31.

Authorities said they were likely to find more victims among destroyed homes.

Weather officials had forecast the downpours that led to even small rivers swelling rapidly, but warnings of potentially catastrophic damage didn't appear to have

made it to many people in affected areas — often in the middle of the night.

Federal and state authorities faced criticism from some opposition politicians over the disaster, which comes as a national election looms in September. But Interior Minister Horst Seehofer dismissed suggestions that federal officials had made mistakes and said warnings were passed to local authorities "who make decisions on disaster protection."

"I have to say that some of the things I'm hearing now are cheap election rhetoric," Seehofer said during a visit

to the Steinbach Reservoir in western Germany, where authorities say they no longer fear a dam breach. "Now really isn't the hour for this."

Seehofer underlined that message during a visit to Bad Neuenahr, in the worst-hit area, but said authorities will have to draw lessons once the immediate relief phase is over.

"Wherever we can improve anything — in alarms, in equipment ... we must do so," he said. "We owe that to the families who have been affected, and above all to the victims."

The head of Germany's civil protection agency said the weather service had "forecast relatively well" and that the country was well-prepared for flooding on its major rivers. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1944 HITLER SURVIVES ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT



Adolf Hitler has escaped death after a bomb exploded at 1242 local time at his headquarters in Rastenberg, East Prussia.

The German News Agency broke the news from Hitler's headquarters, known as the "wolf's lair", his command post for the Eastern Front.

A senior officer, Colonel Claus Schenk von Stauffenberg, has been blamed for planting the bomb at a meeting at which Hitler and other senior members of the General Staff were present.

Hitler has sustained minor burns and concussion but, according to the news agency, managed to keep his appointment with Italian leader Benito Mussolini.

Hermann Goering, Commander-in-Chief of the Luftwaffe and Hitler's designated successor, went to see Hitler when he heard about the attack.

The German News Agency said the German people were deeply grateful that no serious harm had come to their leader and that fate had allowed him to "accomplish his great task".

"The attempt which has failed must be a warning to every German to redouble his war effort," said the newsreader.

And the deputy head of the press, Helmut Suenndermann, stated: "The German people must consider the failure of the attempt on Hitler's life as a sign that Hitler will complete his tasks under the protection of a divine power."

This is the third attempt on Hitler's life and underlines the tension in Germany now faced with a two-front war as the allies take northern France and the Red Army close in on the Reich.

This week has seen the heaviest American bombing of Germany since they entered the war.

The 8th Air Force from Britain and the 15th Air Force from Italy sent about 5,500 heavy bombers and some 4,000 fighter planes to attack oil and aircraft stores in Germany and Austria.

The Soviet Army has made major advances on the front line between Brest-Litovsk and Lvov - a strategic city that is the key to capturing southern Poland.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The following day Adolf Hitler made a radio broadcast to the German nation detailing the failed assassination and thanked fate for allowing him to continue his "work". The planned coup, known as the July plot, was led by senior military leaders like Field Marshal Erwin von Witzleben and General Ludwig Beck. After Claus von Stauffenberg had placed the briefcase under the table next to Hitler, he left the building, heard the bomb explode and assumed Hitler was dead. He flew to Berlin to join Von Witzleben and Beck and take over using the German Home Army. But through a series of lucky circumstances Hitler was only slightly injured, though three other people were killed. Von Stauffenberg was arrested the same day and shot. The rest of the conspirators were tried and hanged or offered the chance to commit suicide. Eight of those executed were hanged with piano wire from meat-hooks and their executions filmed and shown to senior members of the Nazi Party and the armed forces.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

If you are entering a new situation or group today, it might be wise to play it safe. The universe is in a bit of a flux, and pure clarity will be hard to find. It will take you time to get your bearings.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Asking a friend to be honest with you can be tricky. If you are looking for support and end up getting judged, don't blame the friend. Instead talk to someone who knows that no one is perfect.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

When you're riding the tides of life today, be very mindful of the undercurrents—because they are what will actually lead you to your destination. There's not much you can do to change the direction you're traveling



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

It's more important than ever for you to balance your life now. The stars say that there is a great imbalance building, and it could send some bad vibes your way unless you address it.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

It's more important than ever for you to balance your life now. The stars say that there is a great imbalance building, and it could send some bad vibes your way unless you address it.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

All your plans are coming together nicely today, and it looks as though you're going to have a lot of fun! The hard work is over, so you can feel free to kick back and let yourself get distracted.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Every limit is there for a reason, and you need to yield to them. But luckily, there are so many fun things going on around you right now that you won't mind diverting your energies to something else.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

There are many temptations all around you today, but not all of them are healthy for your body and/or spirit. So you should make sure that you are well stocked with self-control!



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Why go along with the crowd when you've got such an original mind and an incredible gift for self-expression? You are no lemming, and you will have a great opportunity to prove that to yourself today.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

One of your most recent failed attempts at matchmaking might be working out after all—okay, so maybe that fixup didn't go as planned, but there is a domino effect at work here, and you should be prepared.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Things are starting to get very complicated between you and a friend. It seems that someone they are interested in is actually more interested in you. The guilty feelings could start to creep up on you today



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

In a group dynamic today, you're going to feel as though someone or something is missing—and you should respect that feeling. It might be time for your group to find a new leader or director.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

7		5	6					
						8	3	
	2	8	4					
	3			8	6			
					1			
6							2	
		4	7					
1								

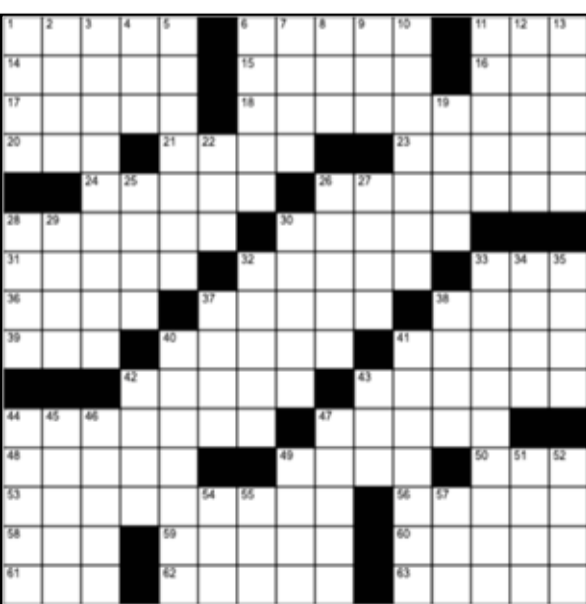
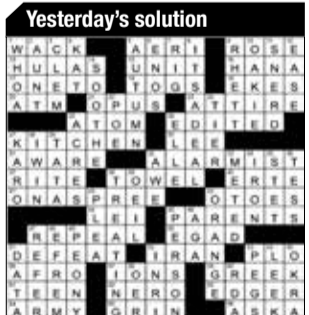
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	23	30	thunderstorms
Harbin	23	31	cloudy
Tianjin	25	35	cloudy
Urumqi	24	32	showers
Xi'an	24	33	rain
Lhasa	23	28	cloudy
Chengdu	27	33	cloudy
Chongqing	24	30	rain
Kunming	26	34	showers
Nanjing	20	28	cloudy
Shanghai	26	32	thunderstorms
Wuhan	27	33	thunderstorms
Hangzhou	23	31	thunderstorms
Taipei	24	33	cloudy
Guangzhou	20	30	fine
Hong Kong	24	33	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	19	30	overcast
Frankfurt	13	24	overcast
Paris	18	29	overcast
London	17	30	overcast
New York	21	29	overcast

CROSSWORDS

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

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



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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HKD 11,200/mth
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Rain Dance Property
 "We dance until it's SOLD!"

Traditional apartment
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HKD 2,680,000
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AD

MIXED FEELINGS, JOHNSON IN QUARANTINE MAR UK'S 'FREEDOM DAY'

SYLVIA HUI & JILL LAWLESS,
LONDON

AP PHOTO

CORKS popped, beats boomed out and giddy revelers rushed onto dancefloors when England's nightclubs reopened yesterday as the country lifted most remaining restrictions after more than a year of lockdowns, mask mandates and other pandemic-related curbs on freedom.

For clubbers and nightclub owners, the moment lived up to its media-given moniker, "Freedom Day." But the big step out of lockdown was met with nervousness by many Britons, and concern from scientists, who say the U.K. is entering uncharted waters by opening up when infections are not falling but soaring.

As of yesterday, face masks are no longer legally required in England, and with social distancing rules shelved, there are no limits on the number of people attending theater performances or big events.

For nightclubs, this is the first time they have been allowed to open in almost 18 months, and from London to Liverpool, thousands of people danced the night away at "Freedom Day" parties starting at midnight.

"It's a most joyous occasion," said Mark Troy, who went to The Piano Works club in London. "I love dancing and all my friend circle loves dancing and we haven't been able to do it for one and a half years approximately so we are really excited about it."

The venue's social media marketing manager, Katie Moorhouse, said people were yearning to "have a good boogie again."

But while entertainment businesses and ravers are jubilant, many others are deeply worried about the British government's decision to scrap restrictions at a time when COVID-19 cases are on a rapid upswing due to the highly infectious delta variant first identified in India. Like the U.K., Israel and the Netherlands both opened up widely after vaccinating most of their people, but had to reimpose some restrictions after new infection surges. The Dutch prime minister admitted that lifting restrictions too early "was a mistake."

In the U.S., many areas abandoned face coverings when the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said fully vaccinated people don't need to wear them in most settings. Some states and cities are trying to decide what to do as cases rise again.

In a reminder of how volatile the situation is, the prime minister was spending "freedom



day" in quarantine. Johnson and Treasury chief Rishi Sunak are both self-isolating for 10 days after contact with Health Secretary Sajid Javid, who tested positive for COVID-19 on Saturday.

They are among hundreds of thousands of Britons who have been told to quarantine because they have been near someone who tested positive. The situation is causing staff shortages for businesses including restaurants, car manufacturers and public transport.

Globally, the World Health Organization says cases and deaths are climbing after a period of decline, spurred by the more contagious delta variant first identified in India. Like the U.K., Israel and the Netherlands both opened up widely after vaccinating most of their people, but had to reimpose some restrictions after new infection surges. The Dutch prime minister admitted that lifting restrictions too early "was a mistake."

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British officials have repeatedly expressed confidence that the U.K.'s country's vaccine rollout — 68.3% of adults, or just over half of the total population, has received two doses — will keep the threat to public health at bay. But leading international scientists described England's "Freedom Day" as a threat to the whole world, and 1,200 scientists backed a letter to British medical journal *The Lancet* that criticized the Conservative government's decision.

For nightclubs, this is the first time they have been allowed to open in almost 18 months

"I can't think of any realistic good scenario to come out of this strategy, I'm afraid," said Julian Tang, a clinical virologist at the University of Leicester. "I think it's really a degree of how bad it's going to be."

Tang said nightclubs in particular are potent spreading grounds. He said their core customer base — people 18 to 25 — is "not fully vaccinated. They're not masking. They're in very close contact, heavily

breathing, shouting very loudly to the music, dancing with different people."

"That's the perfect mixing vessel for the virus to spread and to even generate new variants," he said.

The government wants nightclubs and other crowded venues to check whether customers have been vaccinated, have a negative test result or have recovered from the disease.

There is no legal requirement for them to do so, however, and most say they won't. Michael Kill, chief executive of the Night Time Industries Association, said many owners see the passes as a huge turn-off for customers and accuse the government of "passing the buck" to businesses.

"Either mandate it or don't mandate it," Kill said. "This is putting an inordinate amount of pressure on us."

Johnson's decision to scrap the legal requirement for face masks in indoor public spaces has also sowed confusion. Days after the prime minister said masks would still be "expected and recommended" in crowded indoor places but not compulsory, London Mayor Sadiq Khan announced that passengers on the capital's

subways and buses must continue to wear them.

Some retailers, like the bookstore chain Waterstones, said they would encourage customers to keep their masks on. But many believe implementing such policies will be tricky without the backing of the law.

The end of restrictions in England yesterday is a critical moment in Britain's handling of the pandemic, which has killed more than 128,000 people nationwide, the highest death toll in Europe after Russia. Other parts of the U.K. — Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — are taking slightly more cautious steps out of lockdown.

Salsa instructor Esther Alvero is one of the many who say they're excited but fearful. A co-founder of Cubaneando, a company that ran salsa club nights, classes and performances for gala events before the pandemic, Alvero says she has had next to no income in the past year. Her savings are gone and her dancers have had to survive by taking part-time jobs as cleaners or Amazon delivery drivers.

"I'm scared but we have to survive," she added. "We have no option because the economic consequences could be worse than COVID itself." **MDT/AP**

F1 condemns racist abuse of Hamilton following crash

MERCEDES, Formula One and its governing body the FIA issued a joint statement yesterday condemning the online racist abuse aimed at Lewis Hamilton.

Hamilton was targeted following the Mercedes driver's crash with rival Max Verstappen on the opening lap of Sunday's British Grand Prix that sent the championship leader hurtling out of the race.

"Formula One, the FIA and the Mercedes-AMG Petronas F1 Team condemn this behavior in the strongest possible terms," the statement said. "These people have no place in our sport and we urge that those responsible should be held accountable for their actions."

"Formula One, the FIA, the drivers and the teams are working to build a more diverse and inclusive sport, and such unacceptable instances of online abuse must be highlighted and eliminated."

Hamilton was handed a 10-second penalty following the crash

AP PHOTO



but the seven-time world champion delivered a superb comeback drive to record his eighth win on home soil.

Verstappen was taken to hospital after the 190mph shunt, which registered at 51G, before being released later "without any major injuries", his Red Bull team said.

Red Bull also issued a statement

criticizing the attacks on Hamilton.

"While we may be fierce rivals on-track, we are all united against racism," the team said. "We condemn racist abuse of any kind towards our teams, our competitors and our fans."

"As a team we are disgusted and saddened to witness the racist abuse Lewis endured yesterday

on social media after the collision with Max. There is never any excuse for it. There is certainly no place for it in our sport and those responsible should be held accountable."

It is understood that F1 is compiling a dossier of the offensive posts and will raise them directly with the platforms and call on

them to take action.

Facebook, which owns Instagram, said it tried to remove harmful content as quickly as possible and encouraged people to use the tools it offers to block abuse.

"The racist abuse directed at Lewis Hamilton during and after the British Grand Prix is unacceptable and we've removed a number of comments from Instagram," it said in a statement. "In addition to our work to remove comments and accounts that repeatedly break our rules, there are safety features available, including Comment Filters and Message Controls, which can mean no one has to see this type of abuse."

"No single thing will fix this challenge overnight but we're committed to the work to keep our community safe from abuse."

Last week, Hamilton issued a post after Marcus Rashford, Jadon Sancho and Bukayo Saka were racially abused following England's defeat against Italy in the European Championship soccer final at Wembley.

He wrote: "The racial abuse on social media towards our players after yesterday's game is unacceptable. This sort of ignorance has to be stopped."

"Tolerance and respect for players of color should not be conditional. Our humanity should not be conditional." **MDT/AP**

AD

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OPINION

China Daily

Yao Yuxin, China Daily

'ANXIETY FOR APPEARANCE' BEHIND THE POPULARITY OF HIGH-RISK PLASTIC SURGERIES

China has seen an increase in the number of dangerous plastic surgeries. Some are choosing to undergo calf reduction surgery, which involves cutting nerves that control the calf muscles. When the nerves are cut the lower leg muscles begin to atrophy due to lack of signals and start to reduce in size. Another procedure gaining traction is getting "elf ears" by injecting a massive amount of hyaluronic acid into the outer ears so that they prop out.

On July 13, a female influencer died after undergoing liposuction, a surgery that removes fat from the body. Her death sparked a widespread outcry online over the unqualified plastic surgery clinic, and brought the hot topic "anxiety for appearance" back to the public.

Anxiety for appearance is occupying many people's minds in modern China. Nearly all women say they are not skinny enough. Losing weight and dieting are definitely a big topic of people's discussions. Some resort to plastic surgery, but perfectionists still feel distressed because they think there must be a blemish hidden away somewhere.

The pursuit of beauty reflects a kind of progress as people move up to aesthetic needs after physiological requirements are met.

In addition to enhancing self-confidence, people are increasingly agreeing with the idea that beauty can benefit them in personal and professional prospects. Expenditure on cosmetics, clothing, gym and face-lifting keeps growing, creating the "economy of good looks".

However, plastic surgery procedures such as "elf ears" have gone too far. Sacrificing health for the so-called beauty is just like putting the cart before the horse.

The aspiration to find a shortcut to success and fame by taking advantage of good looks may partly nourish the surge of demands for some ridiculous plastic surgeries. As a woman said to Beijing News, she was well aware of the risks but decided to have her calf nerves cut after weighing the pros and cons. "I am not that kind of person who loves sports...As long as I get the exact look that I want, I can live with the downsides."

Social media has also stoked such anxiety. Surrounded by good-looking people with Photoshop retouching and powerful filters in cyberspace, ordinary people easily get upset: why everyone is so beautiful except me?

Such fiction may mislead some people falling into the trap set by businesses. To maximize the profits, plastic surgery hospitals play up the anxiety and brainwash their potential consumers with advertising slogans all over everywhere, for instance, "Women who don't have plastic surgery are not perfect enough." or "How are you? Needless to say. It is all written on your face."

Some unscrupulous clinics and drug makers even work together to create and peddle some new plastic surgery items regardless of safety. "Elf ears", which were until recently considered ugly but now are leading the fashion of beauty, are such an example. Behind the popularity is the shadow of capital because the program is profitable as it needs the support of abundant hyaluronic acid, and to maintain the shape, repeated injection is required every few months.

People with "anxiety for appearance" should be cautious of who is defining the aesthetic appreciation and encouraging them to take the risk. Good looks at the sacrifice of health may get some benefits for a while, but it won't last long.

There is nothing wrong to pursue external appearance, but the fault is beauty supremacy. Nobody is perfect and nothing is worth sacrificing health.

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) announced yesterday that with the approval of the State Council, Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, Tianjin and Chongqing will take the lead in developing international consumption center cities.

The move is a major strategic decision made by the Communist Party of China Central Committee and the State Council, and will play a significant role in serving the establishment of a new development paradigm, Commerce Minister Wang Wen-

tao said at a meeting.

Efforts will be made to pool quality international market entities, goods and services as well as accelerate the cultivation of local brands, Wang said.

The MOC will work with other related departments to unveil a general plan on building the international consumption center cities and the five cities will formulate their implementation plans to advance the construction tasks, according to Wang.

AP PHOTO



DANGEROUS CONDITIONS COMPLICATE WILDFIRE FIGHT IN WESTERN US

ERRATIC winds and dry lightning added to the dangers for crews battling the nation's largest wildfire yesterday in parched Oregon forests, just one of dozens burning across several Western states.

The destructive Bootleg Fire, one of the largest in modern Oregon history, has already burned more than 476 square miles, an area about the size of Los Angeles. The blaze just north of the California state line was 25% contained.

Meteorologists predicted critically dangerous fire weather through at least Monday with lightning possible in both California and southern Oregon.

"With the very dry fuels, any thunderstorm has the potential to ignite new fire starts," the National Weather Service in Sacramento, California, said on Twitter.

Thousands have been ordered to evacuate, including some 2,000 people who live in rugged terrain among lakes and wildlife refuges near the fire, which has burned at least 67 homes and 100 outbuildings while threatening many more.

Climate change has made the West much warmer and drier in the past 30 years and will continue to make wea-

ther more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive. Firefighters said these conditions in July are more typical of late summer or fall.

Pyrocumulus clouds — literally translated as "fire clouds" — complicated containment efforts Sunday for the Dixie Fire in northern California, where flames spread in remote areas with steep terrain crews can't easily reach, officials said. New evacuation orders were issued in rural communities near the Feather River Canyon.

The Dixie Fire remained 15% contained and covered 29 square miles.

The fire is northeast of the town of Paradise, California, and survivors of that horrific fire that killed 85 people watched warily as the blaze burned.

A growing wildfire south of Lake Tahoe jumped a highway, prompting more evacuation orders, the closure of the Pacific Crest Trail and the cancellation of an extreme bike ride through the Sierra Nevada.

The Tamarack Fire, which was sparked by lightning on July 4, had charred about 28.5 square miles of dry brush and timber as of Sunday night. The blaze was threa-

tening Markleeville, a small town close to the California-Nevada state line. It has destroyed at least two structures, authorities said.

A notice posted Saturday on the 103-mile Death Ride's website said several communities in the area had been evacuated and ordered all bike riders to clear the area. The fire left thousands of bikers and spectators stranded in the small town and racing to get out.

Kelli Pennington and her family were camping near the town Friday so her husband could participate in his ninth ride when they were told to leave. They had been watching smoke develop over the course of the day, but were caught off guard by the fire's quick spread.

"It happened so fast," Pennington said. "We left our tents, hammock and some foods, but we got most of our things, shoved our two kids in the car and left."

About 800 fire personnel were assigned to battle the flames by Sunday night, "focusing on preserving life and property with point protection of structures and putting in containment lines where possible," the U.S. Forest Service said. MDT/AP

Iranian police opened fire amid protests against water shortages in southwestern Iran, a video showed, the latest unrest after days of demonstrations that have seen at least one person killed. The video from the Human Rights Activists News Agency by Human Rights Activists in Iran showed the shooting in Susangerd, which has been an epicenter of demonstrations in Iran's restive Khuzestan province.

AP PHOTO



Jerusalem Hundreds of Jewish pilgrims visited a contested Jerusalem holy site under heavy police guard, shortly after Muslim worshippers briefly clashed with Israeli security forces at the flashpoint shrine. No injuries were reported, but the incident again raised tensions at the hilltop compound revered by Jews and Muslims. Heavy clashes at the site earlier this year helped spark an 11-day war between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

Iran yesterday imposed a week-long lockdown on the capital, Tehran, and the surrounding region as the country struggles with another surge in the coronavirus pandemic, state media reported. The lockdown — the nation's fifth so far — will begin on Tuesday and last until next Monday. All bazars, market places and public offices will close, as well as movie theaters, gyms and restaurants in both Tehran province and the neighboring province of Alborz.

AP PHOTO



Russian military reported another successful test launch of a new Zircon hypersonic cruise missile yesterday. Russia's Defense Ministry said the missile was launched from an Admiral Gorchkov frigate located in the White Sea, in the north of Russia. The ministry said the missile successfully hit a target more than 350 kilometers away on the coast of the Barents Sea.