

For your health and the health of others
Get vaccinated against COVID-19

Vaccination booking system



Please scan QR code or visit website
<https://eservice.ssm.gov.mo/covidvacbook>
Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



N.º 3820

FRIDAY
23 Jul 2021

T. 26°/34°

Air Quality Moderate

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

MOP 8.00
HKD 10.00



MELCO RESORTS STRESSED THAT THE INSTALLATIONS AT ITS WATER PARK WERE ‘CHECKED BEFORE OPENING AND DURING OPERATION EVERY DAY’

P5

LEI WAI NONG CONFIDENT CITY WILL ACHIEVE MOP130 BILLION GAMING REVENUE

P4

CHINA SAID IT CANNOT ACCEPT WHO’S PLAN FOR FURTHER STUDY OF COVID-19 ORIGINS, DISMISSING THEORY THAT THE VIRUS MIGHT HAVE LEAKED FROM A CHINESE LAB

P9

AP PHOTO



China The bodies of all 14 workers trapped when a tunnel under construction was flooded last week have been recovered, authorities in southern China said yesterday. A brief statement on the Zhuhai city government’s social media site gave no further information about the cause of the July 15 disaster or the deaths.

AP PHOTO



Hong Kong police yesterday arrested five trade union members over children’s books they described as seditious, and a court denied bail for four editors and journalists held on charges of endangering national security, as part of a widening crackdown on dissent in the city. The five who were arrested are members of the General Association of Hong Kong Speech Therapists, according to local media reports. The association published three children’s books that Li Kwai-wah, a senior superintendent of the national security department, said have seditious intent.

AP PHOTO



India More than 200 farmers demonstrated yesterday near India’s Parliament to mark eight months of protests against agricultural laws they say will devastate their livelihoods. The protesters waving white, green and orange flags arrived in police-escorted buses from an expressway outside New Delhi where thousands of farmers have hunkered down since late November to voice their anger against three laws passed by Parliament last year.

More on backpage

‘NEVER BEEN NARROWED’

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng assured that the city’s freedom of speech exists, refuting public discussions over disqualified candidates

第12屆國際基礎設施投資與建設高峰論壇

**FLOOD RELIEF SUPPORT
GAMING OPERATORS
PLEDGE
MOP10M EACH
TO HENAN**

XINHUA



P5,9



CE RESPECTS CAEAL'S DECISION, VOWING FREEDOM OF SPEECH ISN'T COMPROMISED

HONEY TSANG

CHIEF Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng assured the public yesterday that the city's freedom of speech — a privilege enjoyed by every resident — “has never been narrowed.”

The Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) recently decided to disqualify a group of 21 candidates in six groups from running in the coming Legislative Assembly (AL) election, as they were proven not to uphold Macau's Basic Law or maintain faithfulness to the SAR region. Ever since, some residents have expressed concerns that this may undermine freedom of speech.

This was the first time the CE has made public remarks in response to the disqualifications. He commented on the matter to the media on the sidelines of the 12th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (12th IICF) yesterday.

“There is no problem [with residents] criticizing the government. The government should take criticism if it does not perform well. This is [a principle] we are sticking to,” Ho emphasized.

When asked if residents can mention “universal suffrage,” Ho affirmed that residents will not be held accountable for making any such statements. However, regarding remarks made by lawmakers, Ho said that it depends on the occasion.

He also stressed that he did not oppose universal suffrage, which is a broad policy direction that cannot be achieved immediately.

The city's leader refuted public discussions, confirming that “no candidates are disqualified simply because they condemned the government. This [alleged] criterion has never existed.”

Ho stressed he respects the decisions of CAEAL, and also the judicial independence of Macau.

When asked whether it is contradictory for two existing lawmakers to be disqualified from the AL election, Ho said there is no contradiction as “different stages will see different systems formulated.” The next round [of AL election] will also have different yardsticks too, he said.

As such, if an aspiring candidate meets the requirements set by CAEAL for the coming AL

election, they will be entitled to qualify as a candidate.

He confirmed CAEAL singled out the disqualified candidates based on seven criteria. Among others, the requirements stipulate that all candidates must safeguard the constitutional order established by the Constitution and the Basic Law, safeguard national unity and territorial integrity, and safeguard the ban on the collusion of candidates with foreign countries or forces in infiltrating the governing bodies of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

The CE also emphasized that the fundamental principle of being Chinese is to comply with the nation's Constitutional Law and uphold the principles of “One country, two systems.”

Ho stated the disqualification issue will finally come down to the decision of the Court of Final Appeal, and vows that he respects the decision to be laid down by the court. Those three lists, with their appeal requests rejected by CAEAL, have the right to file judicial appeals to the highest court by July 22.

On Wednesday, the appeals of the three disqualified lists were rejected by CAEAL.

ELECTIONS 2021

DISQUALIFIED DEMOCRAT LISTS APPEAL TO TUI



RENATO MARQUES

THE leaders of three pro-democracy lists running for the Legislative Assembly (AL) elections are said to be appealing the decision of the Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL), which disqualified them from the electoral run.

Head of the Association for Prosperous Democratic Macau, Scott Chiang, Paul Chan Wai-Chi for the New Macau Progress Association, and first candidate of the Association of the New Progress of Macau (ANPM), Sulu Sou, have said they are all appealing the CAEAL's decision to the Court of Final Appeal (TUI).

The three lists have previously presented administrative appeals to the CAEAL that were rejected by the authority earlier this week.

The leaders, together with 19 other candidates, have been accused by the CAEAL of not upholding the Basic Law and being disloyal to the Special Administrative Region.

Exercising their right to appeal that expired yesterday, the three lists have submitted judicial appeals to the top court in a final attempt to reverse the CAEAL's decision and gain the ability to run in the elections on September 12.

On Wednesday, Chiang and Chan confirmed to TDM that they had submitted the appeals to TUI, while Sou announced yesterday that he had done so later that afternoon.

According to the leaders of the three lists, the appeal was an inevitable last resort, as it was never expected that CAEAL would revert from its own decision.

FLOODING AT TEMPLE INEVITABLE BUT WILL BE MANAGED: MOK IAN IAN

THE Sin Fong Temple was built sunken, and has therefore flooded whenever there is heavy rain. However, work has been done with the temple's management to resolve the problem, Mok Ian Ian, president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, said Wednesday.

The temple is located on an alleyway near the Sacred Heart Canossian College.

Mok stressed that the bureau has been in touch with the temple management to discuss the situation. The bureau has also regularly conducted inspections on

all temples across the city.

Some have noted that installing a floodgate is not feasible at the temple. Mok revealed that bureau officers have been working to find a solution suitable for the temple's physical location.

On the third batch of evaluated historical premises, Mok said that most opinions that the bureau received showed support for listing these premises as legal relics. The evaluation of these sites is therefore proceeding subject to the processes prescribed by the law. **AL**

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+20,500

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

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

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

12TH IIICF

Gov't vows to continually deepen China-Portuguese ties in infrastructure

HONEY TSANG

As a pivotal bridge between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, Macau will continue to tap into its cultural past and foster commercial ties between the nation and the global infrastructure and investment realms, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng proclaimed yesterday at the 12th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (12th IIICF).

In his opening speech, Ho regarded the 12th IIICF as a "key collaboration platform" for the international infrastructure industry. It plays an active role in advancing construction projects in the Belt and Road (B&R) countries, and tightening the partnerships between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

"The forum also plays an active role in accelerating the integration of cross-border infrastructure within the Greater Bay Area (GBA) and the construction of large-scale



transportation hubs, and giving the cities a facelift," he said.

This year's forum primarily focussed on eco-friendly development and Macau's industries, mainly the city's growing financial sector.

Chairman of the China International Contractors Association Fang Qiuchen said, at an earlier media briefing, that the forum aims to promote green development by exploring new opportunities arising from the "dual carbon" goals. These are China's goals to reach its peak carbon emissions by 2030, and be "carbon neutral" by 2060, as announced by President Xi Jinping in September 2020.

Echoing Fang's remarks, Ho vowed that the SAR government will press ahead with endeavors to meet the nation's dual carbon targets. The efforts contributing to these goals will see the government stepping up efforts in formulating the master urban plan, striving to shape Macau into a "liveable" and "green" city.

In the opening ceremony, representatives from Pakistan, Malaysia, and Nigeria reaffirmed their commitments to long-standing infrastructure collaborations with China.

REBOUND IN B&R COUNTRIES

The Belt and Road Infrastructure Development Index Report 2021,

which offers detailed infrastructure-related information of the B&R markets, was also released yesterday.

According to the report, Indonesia is ranked No.1 among the 71 B&R countries in the infrastructure development index, retaining the position from last year. It was followed by Malaysia in second place and the Philippines in third.

Among all Portuguese-speaking countries, Brazil was the most outstanding country, ranking 15th on the list, followed by Portugal and Angola ranking 28th and 33rd respectively.

The researchers stated that there has been an "increasingly obvious trend" that B&R countries in 2021 were back on track in their infrastructure construction and development. The accelerating global vaccination rate is the key driver behind these positive signs.

Given the ongoing impacts of the pandemic, coupled with inflationary pressures, rising costs and other unfavorable factors, the in-

frastructure development among B&R countries is still a long way from their previous pre-pandemic levels.

Meanwhile, several pronounced trends emerged during the pandemic. One is that infrastructure development among B&R countries displayed a "strong resilience" in the post-pandemic era.

This is proven by many B&R countries launching infrastructure-centered construction projects as economic stimuli since 2020 — including Indonesia upping its national budget for infrastructure projects, and Bangladesh upping its budget for railway constructions.

Green development has been another up-and-coming trend since 2020. Most countries are devising policies to combat climate change, such as refining energy structures, eliminating fossil fuels, and developing eco-friendly energy sources. This global developmental trend will have a far-reaching impact on infrastructure development in B&R countries, the report said.

AD

The Largest Sale Event in Macao

2021 金沙物美

Sands Shopping Carnival 嘉年華

Opening Hours
23-25/07
12:00-22:00

Cotai Expo Halls A & B,
The Venetian Macao

Free Admission
Free Parking

Karaoke Competition

Little Chef Workshop

560+ Booths
Up to 90% Off
Lucky Draw

Organized by: Sands China Ltd.

Co-Organized by: 澳門中華總商會 ASSOCIAÇÃO COMERCIAL DE MACAU MACAU CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Supporting Sponsors: 經濟及科技發展局 Macau Economic and Technology Development Bureau

Partners: 澳門貿易發展局 Macau Trade Development Bureau

Partners: 中國銀行 澳門分行 BANK OF CHINA (HONG KONG BRANCH) ICBC 工銀澳門 BNU 交通銀行 澳門分行 BANK OF COMMUNICATIONS MACAU BRANCH

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REMAINS CONFIDENT IN THIS YEAR'S GGR FORECAST

ANTHONY LAM

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said that the government has not changed its forecast on this year's gross gambling revenue (GGR).

The current forecast made by the government is MOP130 billion.

Additionally, the senior official informed the general public that, in lieu of "having a superstition on figures", members of society should get together and work hard to prevent the spread of infection amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was taken as a hint to encourage members of the public to work diligently towards achieving the target.

The government has reiterated that, in order to attract more tourists from the mainland, the city needs to be free from risk and infections.

When new cases broke out in mainland China, entrants from affected areas were required to enter centralized quarantine facilities when they arrived in Macau, which discouraged tourists from those areas from visiting Macau.

The city's GGR for the first half of the year is MOP49 billion, a 25% drop from forecasts. This means that the city's casinos need to earn MOP81 billion in the second half of the year in order to achieve the government's forecast.

Besides reaffirming the forecast on the yearly GGR figure, Lei is also confident about the economy's performance in the second half of the year, which he referred to as the "Golden Period."

For example, he said that in the second half of the year there will be the National Day Golden Week and the annual Macau Grand Prix.

Moreover, the government will continue its efforts in attracting more tourists to Macau, with events such as the Macao Week pop-up roadshows in different cities in mainland China. Although the tourist arrival figures in June have registered a 40% decrease, tourist arrivals have bounced back since the start of July — especially on July 16 and 17, when more than 30,000 tourist arrivals were recorded each day.

In addition, tourists have stayed longer in Macau, boosting the occupancy rate of local hotels and resorts.

The government will continue to promote Macau in mainland cities with direct flights to Macau. Furthermore, it will strengthen its efforts in Tourism+, Meeting, Incentive, Convention and Exhibition (MICE), as well as electronic businesses.

Previous efforts have yielded positive outcomes, the senior official stressed.

He recalled that some main-



land vloggers have previously made videos to promote Macau, necessitating an overhaul to the marketing strategy in the city. Lei said that the government has proactively followed up on the strategy.

Lei also took the opportunity to encourage local business operators to be innovative and creative, because "business owners and operators cannot only

be responsive" — it is important they be proactive as well.

He reminded local businesses to continuously update and upgrade their products and services to entice tourists to return.

Lei said that the government has achieved stabilization of the local economy by pushing forward infrastructure projects and the e-consumption subsidy scheme.

He added that the quantity of cargo imports in the first quarter has doubled year-on-year, affirming that local demand has been robust.

In response to rumors about the suspected closure of the casino at the Holiday Inn Macau, Lei refuted the rumors, stressing that the opening and closing of local casinos requires government approval.

GAMING

Sands China posts 10% increase in Q2 revenue

HONEY TSANG

SANDS China Ltd continues to turn its finances around, posting a total of USD849 million in net revenue in the second quarter (Q2) of 2021 — a 10.1% uptick from the \$771 million in preceding quarter.

According to the latest quarterly financial report released by the group yesterday, Sands China also registered a narrowed net loss in Q2 2021, totaling \$166 million. This is a stark difference compared to its net loss of \$549 million in the second quarter of 2020.

Meanwhile, the adjusted property earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) stood at US\$132 million for Q2 2021, far outperforming the EBITDA loss of \$312 million for the second



quarter of 2020.

"We remain enthusiastic about the opportunity

to welcome more guests back to our properties as greater volumes of visitors

are eventually able to travel to Macau and Singapore," Robert G. Goldstein, chair-

man and chief executive officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp, the parental company of Sands China, stated in its financial report.

Among Sands China's properties, The Venetian Macao reported net revenue of \$391 million, contributing the largest portion of the group's total revenue in the reported quarter. The lion's share of all revenue made by the property came from a total of \$307 million from casinos. This was then followed by \$49 million in profits from the mall and US\$24 million from hotel rooms.

Meanwhile, The Londoner Macao registered a net revenue of \$189 million, US\$133 of which came from casinos. However, it posted an EBITDA loss of US\$5 million.

Meanwhile, The Parisian

Macao, The Plaza Macao and Sands Macao reported their net revenues of \$101 million, \$125 million, and \$42 million respectively.

"Demand for our offerings from customers who have been able to visit remains robust, but pandemic-related travel restrictions in both Macau and Singapore continue to limit visitation and hinder our current financial performance," Goldstein added.

For the group's business in Singapore, Marina Bay Sands posted a net revenue of \$327 million in Q2 2021, showing a drop from the US\$426 million reported in the preceding quarter. The resort's adjusted property EBITDA also fell from US\$144 million in Q1 2021 to US\$112 million in Q2 2021.

Melco defends safety of aquatic facilities

LOCAL resort operator Melco Resorts and Entertainment stressed that the installations at its Studio City Water Park were “checked before opening and during operation every day,” the operator told the Times.

On July 19, a social media post alleging that an accident took place at the Cotai aquatic theme park went viral. The user said that she sustained a bone fracture while playing on a slide at the theme park.

The slide in question has a whirlpool bowl in the middle of the ride. At one point in the ride, the riders, seated in large safety rings, are flushed through an opening in the center of the whirlpool. The user stated that she was injured in this facility and claimed that others have sustained various injuries on the same ride.

She added that she was not well taken care of by the



Amusement installations at the Studio City Water Park

resort team after she reported her injury.

In a reply to the enquiry by the Times, Chimmy

Leung, executive director of Corporate Communications of Melco, reiterated that “the Water Park has

gone through a number of safety checks prior to licensing and opening.”

Meanwhile, the executive pointed out that the installations at the theme park “are used in the largest water parks around the world, and in Asia specifically.”

Regarding the claim that the victim was not well-cared-for, Leung defended the resort team by stating that they offered immediate assistance to the victim. She also said that the company has been in contact with the victim.

According to a report by local public broadcaster Radio Macau, the Macao Government Tourism Office has acknowledged the receipt of a relevant complaint. Along with following up with the resort, the office has also shared the case with other competent government entities.

The Municipal Affairs Bureau — the licensing department of the facility — has inquired with the resort about the situation. The bureau stressed that the licensing procedure involved several government entities, and a third-party safety report was taken into account. **AL**

GAMING OPERATORS DONATE MOP60M TO HENAN TO HENAN

EACH of the six local gambling operators has announced that they will donate MOP10 million — amounting to a total of MOP60 million — to Henan Province to aid the province’s flooding relief efforts.

The donations will be made under the coordination of the Liaison Office of the Central People’s Government in the Macao Special Administrative Region.

The heads of the six concessionaires stressed that their hearts are with the people of Henan Province. They extended their compassion and sympathy to the victims and their families.

Through the donation, they hope to help the province and the people rebuild their lives as soon as possible.

A recent torrential downpour has affected about three million people in central China’s Henan Province. A total of 376,000 local residents have been relocated to safe places due to the natural disaster. Rainwater has damaged more than 215,200 hectares of crops, causing direct economic loss of about 1.22 billion Chinese yuan.

Local junket owner Levo Chan and his wife, artiste Ady An, have also announced a personal donation of 2 million Chinese yuan to contribute to flood relief.

The couple’s donation will be made through the Red Cross of Zhengzhou, provincial capital of Henan.

Chan stressed that the donation is aimed at preventing post-disaster economic hardship and illness. He also thanked frontline workers for their hard work. **AL**

AD

仁德 CENTRO MÉDICO PEDDER
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

Lei n.º 13/2020
Nova Lei da habitação económica

A habitação económica tem sempre de manter a mesma natureza

FOR SALE Após a aquisição da habitação económica, esta pode apenas ser vendida ao **Instituto de Habitação**.

O preço de venda é igual ao preço pago no momento da compra, deduzidas as despesas com as obras de reposição das condições de habitabilidade da fracção, entre outras.

Para mais informações, queira consultar a Lei n.º 10/2011 (Lei da habitação económica), alterada pelas Leis n.ºs 11/2015 e 13/2020 e republicada pelo Despacho do Chefe do Executivo n.º 200/2020, ou a página eletrónica do Instituto de Habitação

www.ihm.gov.mo

A habitação económica não é produto de investimento

澳門特別行政區政府
Governor of the Macao Special Administrative Region
房屋局
Instituto de Habitação

Support Unit
Department of Publicity and Culture of the Liaison office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR
Macao Government Tourism Office
Cultural Affairs Bureau

Producer
Guangzhou Committee of the Communist Party of China
Guangzhou Municipal Culture, Radio, Television and Tourism Bureau
MGM

Performer
Guangzhou Song and Dance Theatre



MGM

AWAKENING LION

醒獅 美高梅

Dance Drama
Residency Show

A revisualized performance integrating
spectacular lighting technologies

Embrace the glamorous culture of
Lingnan and Greater Bay Area

RESIDENCY SHOW DATE

2021 10 / 8-10 | 12 / 19-25

2022 2 / 6-12

MGM THEATER, MGM COTAI

Buy tickets now



(853) 8802 2666 mgm.mo

第十一屆中國舞蹈
“荷花獎”舞劇獎
The 11th Lotus Awards
(Dance Drama)



舞劇獎作品



Every corner at MGM COTAI awaits an immersive multi-sensory experience that uses living artistry and innovative technology, to lead you into a story of artistry and passion. Starting from July 16, Special Exhibition "Awakening" for "Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2021", draws from the imagery and cultural symbolism of the lion, is going to showcase the artistic cultural treasures in a whole new light.

MGM has specially introduced the "Awakening- MGM Chairman's Collection" Art Tour for all art enthusiasts to immerse in the magnificently expansive art which seamlessly integrated with MGM's public spaces. Stepping into the Lion Lobby, numerous works from the collection which have never been shown before awaits, including important works by such outstanding contemporary artists as Liu Guofu, and Xue Song who create the new works with inspiration from the "Lions". While at the Emerald Lobby, you will find The MGM Chairman's Collection, featuring the "Five Lions", an imperial carpet from the Qing Dynasty. All are here to explore the old and new artistic tradition with you and broaden your mind and sight of the future.



甦醒

MGM Special Exhibition "Awakening"



Moving on to the Spectacle, the open space is transformed into an artistic playground, fused with "Mr. and Mrs. Lion" and other twelve colorful animal sculptures of famous sculptor Hung Yi, and turned the Spectacle to "MGM Lion Party". It is the happiest place for family and kids to spend fun-filled moments together. You can also enjoy an interesting art experience with AR technology, awaken the sculptures by using your smartphone voice control and interact with them! With the lovely artworks the adorable animal sculptures and their colorful baked enamel pattern provide you all an exciting way to engage with China's traditional culture, signs, stories and totems.



What's more? Join our "Kids Imagination: MGM Lion Party" workshop to explore the animal ecology along with stories of the Eastern and Western cultures and delve the multifaceted dynamics and positivity with the public. A series of activities is also introduced to fit art enthusiasts of all ages. Spend quality time with your children at the "Lion Mask Painting Workshop" and the parent-child activity – "Kids Imagination: 1, 2, 3 Rock Paper Scissors" to bring out the infinite possibilities in art and life through endless imagination.

Come over to MGM COTAI, explore the astounding artworks and create wonderful moments together.

For more details,
please visit
awakeninglion.mgm.mo



COMMITTEE OF RULES AND MANDATES PASSES 'HOT POTATO' TO NEXT TERM

RENATO MARQUES

THE Committee of Rules and Mandates of the Legislative Assembly (AL) decided in a meeting yesterday that the discussion about whether AL Committee meetings should be open to the public will be held during the AL's upcoming seventh term.

This decision was conveyed by committee chairman Chui Sai Peng to the media in a press briefing after the session.

Chui justified the decision to the media by observing that the current AL mandates that terms are to be drawn to a close in less than one month's time. This matter involves changes to important rules and procedures that will require lengthy discussion and a consensus to be reached.

"As this is a process that requires a lot of time [and other conditions that we do not have at the moment], we will leave a note for the future committee to take this into account," Chui said. He added that, "Of course we cannot require that the [next committee] will address this matter, so what we are doing



RENATO MARQUES

is leaving a suggestion so the committee can address potential changes to the rules in the future."

The chairman also explained that the petition submitted to the AL by a local resident was very precisely outlined, and called for amending the AL procedures so that several committees' meetings, that are by default held behind closed doors like the plenary meetings, should be carried out publicly. This would allow the media and

members of the public to have access to the full content of the meetings and discussions.

Chui also said that another factor that would contribute to the lengthy process is the fact that the Committee of Rules and Mandates thinks that a matter of such importance should not be decided only by the committee members.

According to them, the discussion should be broader and involve all the legis-

lators who compose the AL.

Previously, several lawmakers — namely José Pereira Coutinho and Sulu Sou — urged the AL to open the committees' meetings to the public as a matter of transparency from the AL and the government.

Late last month, while submitting his political platform to the elections, incumbent lawmaker Pereira Coutinho said that this matter would continue to be one of his political battles.

TWO NEW CASES OF BELL'S PALSY REPORTED AFTER COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

RENATO MARQUES

TWO local women, aged 35 and 60 years old, are the most recent cases of Bell's palsy diagnoses after a Covid-19 vaccination, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center has said.

The two women were inoculated with Sinopharm vaccines on June 21. In the case of the 60-year-old woman, this was her second dose of the vaccine.

Both reported similar symptoms, such as abnormal paresthesia on the left side of their faces, crooked corners of the mouth, and an inability to completely close their left eyelids.

The 35-year-old woman sought medical assistance at the emergency department of the Kiang Wu Hospital on July 20, where she received the diagnosis. The 60-year-old was diagnosed at the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center on July 19.

Both patients have received treatment and left the hospital on the same day, without the need for hospitalization.

As onset of the medical condition occurred after immunization, the two cases were considered potential adverse events after immunization (AEFI) and forwarded for review to the Evaluation Taskforce on AEFI of Covid-19 Vaccination for further analysis.

In the same statement, the center also stressed that Bell's palsy is a common medical condition in Macau and that, according to the most current data, there has been no increase in the incidence of the Bell's palsy due to Covid-19 vaccination.

The center also notes that — according to the experiences observed — the majority of patients can achieve an almost-full recovery from the condition in a period of about three to six months.

MUST survey finds decrease in employees' confidence in job market

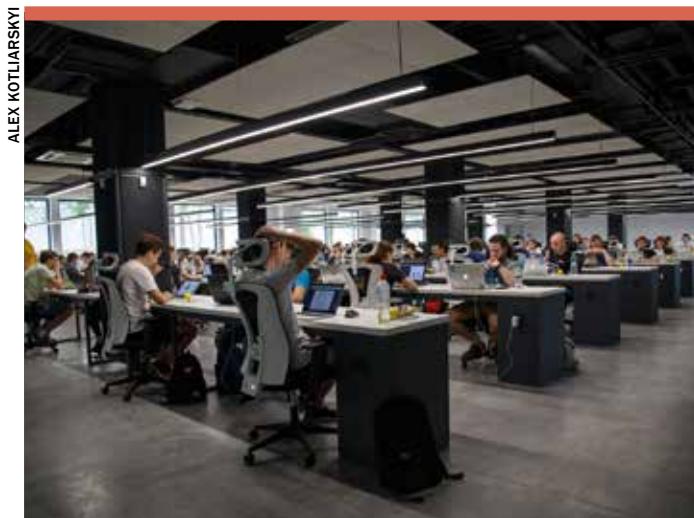
A survey by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) found that local employees were 7% less satisfied with their job than in the previous year.

The survey was conducted by questionnaire between April 16 and May 24 this year by the Institute of Sustainable Development at the MUST in order to gather the data used in calculating the 2021 Macao Employee Confidence and Satisfaction Index.

By the end of the survey period, a total of 803 valid responses from Macau resident workers were received.

This year, the overall employee confidence index in Macau has fallen by 5.5% year-on-year, while the total employee satisfaction index fell by 7%.

The survey also showed that the sub-index of employees' confidence in the



ALEX KOTLIARSKY

employment market in Macau fell by 6.7%, the sub-index of employees' confidence in their company by 4.5%, and the sub-index of employees' personal confidence by 5.4%.

In addition, the job satisfaction sub-index fell by 14.1%, the job quality satisfaction sub-index by 6.4%, the personal development sa-

tisfaction sub-index by 4.1%, and the job stability satisfaction sub-index by 3.7%.

The survey team believe that the impact of the pandemic on employee confidence is reflected in the declines recorded in employees' confidence in the Macau job market, company prospects, and personal development.

The pandemic's impact on employee satisfaction, meanwhile, is reflected in the overall impact on Macau employees' work benefits, job quality, personal development and job stability.

The researchers suggested that Macau society draw upon public opinion to direct employees' perceptions and understanding, so that they do not retreat in the face of difficulty, but rather turn crisis into opportunity.

When the economy is weak, employees must use their time and seek opportunities to broaden their vocational knowledge and improve their vocational skills, the group explained. Companies should also strengthen employee training, provide opportunities for employees to recharge, as well as enhance confidence and reduce uncertainty. **AL**

STUDENT ARRIVING FROM UK IS THE 56TH CASE OF COVID-19

A 21-year-old local resident who arrived in Macau from the U.K on Wednesday (July 21) tested positive in a nucleic acid test (NAT) upon arrival, and has since been classified as the 56th case of Covid-19 in Macau.

The woman, who was previously studying in the U.K., was vaccinated with her first dose of the Covid-19 Moderna mRNA vaccine on June 24. She declared that she has never tested positive for the Covid-19 virus.

Before boarding the flight to Macau, she tested negative as part of a NAT in the U.K. on July 18, flying from the UK to Singapore on July 19.

According to the health authority's notice, she departed the UK on the Singapore Airlines flight SQ319, traveling in seat number 42A, and made a stopover in Singapore before traveling to Macau.

She arrived in Macau via a Scoot airlines flight TR904 on July 21 in seat number 23F.

She has been sent for treatment in isolation at the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center. **RM**

CHINA cannot accept the World Health Organization's plan for the second phase of a study into the origins of COVID-19, a senior Chinese health official said yesterday.

Zeng Yixin, the vice minister of the National Health Commission, said he was "rather taken aback" by the call for a further into the pandemic's origins and specifically, the theory that the virus might have leaked from a Chinese lab.

He dismissed the lab leak theory as a rumor that runs counter to common sense and science.

"It is impossible for us to accept such an origin-tracing plan," he said at a news conference called to address the COVID-19 origins issue.

The search for the origins of the virus has become a diplomatic issue that has worsened China's relations with the U.S. and many of its allies. The U.S. and others say that China has not been transparent about what happened in the early days of the pandemic. China accuses critics of politicizing an issue that should be left to scientists.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the director-general of WHO, acknowledged last week that it was premature to rule out a potential link between the pandemic and a leak from a Chinese government lab in Wuhan, the city where the disease was first detected in late 2019.

Tedros said he hoped for better cooperation and access to data from China, adding that getting access to raw data had been a challenge for the international expert team that

Gov't rebuffs WHO's terms for further Covid-19 origins study



Zeng Yixin, Vice Minister of China's National Health Commission

traveled to China this year to investigate the cause of the outbreak.

He also says there had been a "premature push" to rule out the theory that the coronavirus might have escaped from a Chinese government lab in Wuhan.

"I was a lab technician myself, I'm an immunologist, and I have worked in the lab, and lab accidents happen," Tedros said.

Tedros' words were echoed by Germany's health minister, Jens Spahn, who urged Chinese officials to allow the investigation into the origins of the virus to proceed.

Zeng said the Wuhan lab has no virus that can directly infect humans.

He noted that a WHO-coordinated team of international experts who visited the lab earlier this year concluded that a

lab leak was highly unlikely.

The team stated the virus most likely jumped from animals to humans, with speculation focusing on it originating in bats, which may have transmitted it to pangolins that were traditionally sold in Chinese wet markets as a delicacy.

The highly politicized debate centers on whether a lab leak is so unlikely that the theory should be ruled out as a possi-

bility, or if it merits further study.

Zeng also said reports that staff and graduate students at the Wuhan Institute of Virology had become sick with the virus and might have transmitted it to others were untrue.

He said China has "always supported scientific virus tracing," and wants to see that extended to multiple countries and regions worldwide.

"However, we are opposed to politicizing the tracing work," Zeng said.

The second phase of virus tracing should be based on the conclusions of the first phase after "full discussion and consultation by member states," Zeng said.

China has frequently sought to deflect accusations that the pandemic originated in Wuhan.

Government spokespeople have called for an investigation into whether it might have been produced in a U.S. military laboratory, a theory not widely held in the scientific community.

China has largely ended local transmission of the virus through lockdowns, masking requirements and the distribution of more than 1 billion doses of vaccine.

Just 12 new local cases were reported yesterday and China's death toll from the virus remains unchanged at 4,636. **MDT/AP**

33 dead, eight missing in flood-hit Henan

MORE cities in China's Henan Province have been hit with torrential rains that have left 33 dead and eight missing.

At 11 a.m. yesterday, Henan's provincial meteorological observatory reissued a top-level red alert for heavy rains in the cities of Anyang, Hebi, Xinxiang and Jiaozuo.

The accumulated precipitation in certain areas of the four cities has exceeded 50 mm and will exceed 100 mm in the next three hours.

As of 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, over 470,000 people have been affected by flooding in Xinxiang alone.

The meteorological observatory in Hebei Province has also recorded torrential rains, renewing a

red alert at 9:29 a.m. Thursday as heavy downpours continued to lash the cities of Handan, Xingtai and Shijiazhuang. The accumulated rainfall in parts of the three cities was estimated to be as high as 350 mm at noon on yesterday.

Over the past few days, record rainfalls in Henan have caused extensive waterlogging, with approximately 3 million people affected.

A senior meteorologist has commented on the possible causes of the record rainfall.

According to Chen Tao, chief forecaster of the National Meteorological Center (NMC), the ongoing rainstorms have a number of causes, including the local topography and



Typhoon In-fa, which is currently over the Pacific Ocean and has been heading for landfall since Sunday.

Speaking at a Beijing press conference on Wednesday, Chen said that water vapor has been arriving in Henan from the sea

ahead of Typhoon In-fa, which is the sixth this year.

Other factors including high pressure systems and the region's special terrain have also contributed to the continuous severe rain in Henan, Chen said.

Torrential rains have swept large areas of He-

nan Province since last Saturday, leaving dozens dead and injured, and causing severe waterlogging in many cities, especially Zhengzhou, the provincial capital.

Hourly precipitation in Zhengzhou, the center of this round of heavy rainfall, has hit a record high for the Chinese mainland, according to meteorologists.

Zhengzhou registered 201.9 mm of precipitation from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, the highest figure on record.

Meanwhile, from 8 a.m. Saturday to 8 a.m. on Wednesday, the accumulated precipitation in parts of Zhengzhou exceeded the city's annual average of 641 mm.

The record rainfall and

resulting damage have taken many by surprise, with netizens commenting that such downpours only happened "once in a thousand years."

However, Chen said it is hard for meteorologists to draw such a conclusion without the help of reliable long-time meteorological data, adding that there was no rigorous precipitation record available before 1951.

The NMC predicts that Henan will see more rain over the next three days, and it will likely abate today.

Experts have warned of an extremely high risk of disasters caused by the continuous rainfall, calling for local governments to enhance prevention and control of floods and geological disasters and strengthen epidemic prevention work in advance. **MDT/XINHUA**

DIPLOMACY

US, SOUTH KOREA SAY THEY'LL PUSH NORTH TO RETURN TO NUKE TALKS

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

TOP U.S. and South Korean officials agreed yesterday to try to convince North Korea to return to talks on its nuclear program, which Pyongyang has insisted it won't do in protest of what it calls U.S. hostility.

U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman was in Seoul as part of her regional tour that will take her to China this weekend. She'll be the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit China since President Joe Biden took office in January.

Yesterday, she met South Korean Foreign Minister Chung Eui-yong for talks on North Korea, the military alliance between Seoul and Washington and other regional issues.

The two decided to continue close consultations to get North Korea to return to talks and agreed dialogue is essential to the complete denuclearization and permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula, Chung's ministry said in a statement.

During her separate meeting with President Moon Jae-in, Sherman said she hopes North Korea will soon respond to a U.S. offer for dialogue. She said she wants to have in-depth talks on North Korea with Chinese officials when she visits the northeastern Chinese city of Tianjin on Sunday, Moon's office said.



man said she hopes North Korea will soon respond to a U.S. offer for dialogue. She said she wants to have in-depth talks on North Korea with Chinese officials when she visits the northeastern Chinese city of Tianjin on Sunday, Moon's office said.

While there are questions about its influence on North Korea, China

is still North Korea's last major ally and economic pipeline. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said earlier this month he'll further upgrade his country's ties with China, as he's struggling to overcome deepening pandemic-caused economic shocks.

U.S.-led diplomacy aimed at

stripping North Korea of its nuclear program in return for economic and political benefits has been stalled for about 2 1/2 years. A major sticking point is North Korea's calls for the United States to abandon policy Pyongyang considers hostile — an apparent reference to punishing U.S.-led sanctions imposed over its

past nuclear and missile tests.

Last month, Kim's influential sister, Kim Yo Jong, dismissed prospects for a restart of the nuclear diplomacy, saying U.S. expectations of talks would "plunge them into a greater disappointment." After her statement, Kim Jong Un's foreign minister said North Korea wasn't even considering the possibility of any contact with the Americans, noting it "would get us nowhere, only taking up precious time."

The blunt back-to-back statements have dampened hopes that were raised when Kim said North Korea was ready for both dialogue and confrontation — though more for confrontation.

Some experts say North Korea will likely find the urgent need to return to talks if its current pandemic-related economic difficulties further worsen.

Also during Thursday's meeting, Chung asked Sherman to strive to bolster the South Korean-U.S. alliance. Sherman responded she would do so, saying the alliance is key to peace, security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and Northeast Asia, according to the statement.

Sherman also met South Korean presidential national security director Suh Hoon to discuss ways to restart U.S.-North Korea diplomacy and other stalled talks between the two Koreas, the South Korean presidential office 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 Isó de Azeredo, 白穎怡 Içília Berenguel, 冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves, 薛明恩 Maria Antónia Giestas, 飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira, 杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo, 宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção, 莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura, 安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos, 巴慧雅 Vera Bastos, 歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo, 陳芷喬 Joana Chan, 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, 潘卡莉 Candice Pun, 陳子健 Kimi Chan, 伍福賢 Domingos Ng



To protect the health and safety of our Clients and Staff, we continue implementing prevention measures at the office entrance, as recommended by the local Authorities.

為了保護客戶和員工的健康和安全，我們將繼續按照本地政府的建議在辦公室入口處實施預防措施。

A: Av. da Praia Grande 759, 3-5 Floors Macau SAR, China Office hours: Mon-Thu: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:30; Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00; Sat: 9:00-13:00

WWW.CCADVOG.COM

律師事務所



C&C LAWYERS & NOTARIES SINCE 1995

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

Olympic opening ceremony director fired for Holocaust joke

THE Tokyo Olympic organizing committee fired the director of the opening ceremony yesterday because of a Holocaust joke he made during a comedy show in 1998.

Organizing committee president Seiko Hashimoto said a day ahead of the opening ceremony that director Kentaro Kobayashi has been dismissed. He was accused of using a joke about the Holocaust in his comedy act, including the phrase "Let's play Holocaust."

"We found out that Mr. Kobayashi, in his own performance, has used a phrase ridiculing a historical tragedy," Hashimoto said. "We deeply apologize for causing such a development the day before the opening ceremony and for causing troubles and concerns to many involved parties as well as the people in Tokyo and the rest of the country."

Tokyo has been plagued with scandals since being awarded the Games in 2013. French investigators are looking into alleged bribes paid to International Olympic Committee members to influence the vote for Tokyo. The fallout forced the resignation two years ago of Tsunekazu Takeda, who headed the Japanese Olympic Committee and was an IOC member.

The opening ceremony of the pandemic-delayed Games is scheduled for today. The ceremony will be held without spectators as a measure to prevent the spread of coronavirus infections, although some officials, guests and media will attend.

"We are going to have the opening ceremony tomorrow and, yes, I am sure there are a lot of people who are not feeling easy about the opening of the Games," Hashimoto said. "But we are going to open the Games tomorrow under this di-

AP PHOTO



fficult situation."

Earlier this week, composer Keigo Oyamada, whose music was to be used at the ceremony, was forced to resign because of past bullying of his classmates, which he boasted about in magazine interviews. The segment of his music will not be used.

Soon after a video clip and script of Kobayashi's performance were revealed, criticism flooded social media.

"Any person, no matter how creative, does not have the right to mock the victims of the Nazi genocide," said Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean and global social action director of the Simon Wiesenthal Center, a Los Angeles-based human rights group.

He also noted that the Nazis gassed Germans with disabilities.

"Any association of this per-

son to the Tokyo Olympics would insult the memory of 6 million Jews and make a cruel mockery of the Paralympics," he said.

Kobayashi is a former member of a popular comedy duo Rahmens and known overseas for comedy series including "The Japanese Tradition."

Japan is pushing ahead with the Olympics against the advice of most of its medical experts. This is partially due to pressure from the IOC, which is estimated to face losses of \$3 billion to \$4 billion in television rights income if the Games were not held.

The official cost of the Olympics is \$15.4 billion, but government audits suggest it's much more. All but \$6.7 billion is public money.

"We have been preparing for the last year to send a positive message," Hashimoto said. "Toward the very end now there are so many incidents that give a negative image toward Tokyo 2020."

Toshiro Muto, the CEO of the Tokyo organizing committee, also acknowledged the reputational damage.

"Maybe these negative incidents will impact the positive message we wanted to deliver to the world," he said.

The last-minute scan-

dals come as Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's government faces criticism for prioritizing the Olympics despite public health concerns amid a resurgence of coronavirus infections.

Koichi Nakano, who teaches politics at Sophia University, wrote on Twitter that the opening ceremony chaos underscores a lack of awareness in Japan about diversity.

Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike said she learned of Kobayashi's comments from Hashimoto.

"I was astonished," she said.

Kobayashi's Holocaust joke and Oyamada's resignation were the latest to plague the Games. Yoshiro Mori resigned as organizing committee president over

sexist remarks. Hiroshi Sasaki also stepped down as creative director for the opening and closing ceremonies after suggesting a Japanese actress should dress as a pig.

Also this week, the chiropractor for the American women's wrestling team apologized after comparing Olympic COVID-19 protocols to Nazi Germany in a social media post. Rosie Gallegos-Main, the team's chiropractor since 2009, will be allowed to finish her planned stay at USA Wrestling's pre-Olympic camp in Nakatsugawa, Japan. **MDT/AP**

"Maybe these negative incidents will impact the positive message we wanted to deliver to the world."

TOSHIRO MUTO
CEO OF THE TOKYO
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Two more Olympic athletes among 91 total Tokyo virus cases

TWO athletes were among four residents of the Olympic Village who were added to the tally yesterday of people accredited for the Tokyo Games who have tested positive for COVID-19 this month, bringing the number to 91.

Skateboarder Candy Jacobs of the Netherlands and table tennis player Pavel Sirucek of the Czech Republic tested positive and had to leave the village to enter a quarantine hotel in ca-

ses announced Wednesday.

Two additional "Games-concerned personnel" — a category that includes team coaches and officials — staying in the village overlooking Tokyo Bay were included in the 91 total cases listed by organizers since July 1.

That number does not include athletes who tested positive at home before their scheduled travel to Tokyo for events they will now miss. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Mobile internet disruptions seen in Iran amid water protests

JON GAMBRELL, DUBAI

MOBILE phone internet service in Iran is being disrupted a week into protests in the country's southwest over water shortages, a monitoring group said yesterday, unrest that has seen at least three people killed.

Internet-access advocacy group NetBlocks.org attributed part of the disruption to "state information controls or targeted internet shutdowns." It identified the outages as beginning July 15, when the protests began in Khuzestan amid a drought affecting the oil-rich region neighboring Iraq.

While landline service continues, NetBlocks warned its analysis and user reports were "consistent with a regional internet shutdown intended to control protests."

The effects represents "a near-total internet shutdown that is likely to limit the public's ability to express political discontent or communicate with each other and the outside world," NetBlocks said.

There was no acknowledgement of an internet shutdown in Iranian state media. Iran's mission to the United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment.



Activist groups abroad have described internet disruptions in the region in recent days as well. Since the country's 2009 disputed presidential election and Green Movement protests, Iran has tightened its control over the internet.

Tehran deployed a complete shutdown of the nation's internet in November 2019 during protests over gasoline prices. That both limits demonstrators' ability to communicate with each other, as well as the spread of videos of the protests with the wider world.

Protests took place across eight cities and towns in Khuzestan early yesterday, according to the group Human Rights Activists in Iran. Security forces fired tear gas, water cannons and clashed with demonstrators, the group said.

Iranian state media have reported the killing of a police officer and two others amid the protests, highlighting videos it alleged showed demonstrators with firearms. However, Iran has in the past blamed protesters for deaths occurring amid heavy-handed crackdowns by security forces.

Iran's government up to its Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei have acknowledged people's anger over the drought, as actors, athletes and activists also call attention to the protests. Iran's outgoing President Hassan Rouhani described the protests as "the people's right."

"People who are living in 50 degrees Celsius with water shortage problems have a natural right to speak out and protest, even to take to the streets," Rouhani said

in comments aired by state television.

U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price told journalists on Wednesday that Washington was following closely reports that Iranian security forces fired on protesters.

"We support the rights of Iranians to peacefully assemble and express themselves [...] without fear of violence, without fear of arbitrary detention by security forces," Price said.

Water worries in the past have sent angry demonstrators into the streets in Iran. The country has faced rolling blackouts for weeks now, in part over what authorities describe as a severe drought. Precipitation had decreased by almost 50% in the last year, leaving dams with dwindling water supplies.

The protests in Khuzestan come as Iran struggles through repeated waves of infections in the coronavirus pandemic and as thousands of workers in its oil industry have launched strikes for better wages and conditions.

Iran's economy also has struggled under U.S. sanctions since then-President Donald Trump's 2018 decision to unilaterally withdraw America from Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers, crashing the value of the Islamic Republic's currency, the rial. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1986 PRINCE ANDREW WEDS SARAH FERGUSON



Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson have married at Westminster Abbey.

Thousands of people lined the streets of London and a worldwide TV audience of 500 million tuned in to catch a glimpse of the pageantry.

Miss Ferguson arrived at the 900-year-old church at 1130 BST - only a couple of minutes late - after riding from Clarence House in the Glass Coach with her father, Sir Ronald.

Inside, 2,000 people, amid 30,000 flowers, watched the bride make her four-minute walk up the blue-carpeted aisle, sweeping a 17-foot train behind her.

As well as the families of the bride and groom, guests included 17 members of foreign royalty, US First Lady Nancy Reagan and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

The Queen conferred Prince Andrew with the title Duke of York - last held by King George VI and traditionally reserved for the sovereign's second son - just 90 minutes before the ceremony.

Prince Edward was best man to his 26-year-old brother and Prince Charles read the lesson in a service conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

As the couple exchanged their vows cheers could be heard from the crowd outside.

The new Duchess of York mistakenly repeated Prince Andrew's middle name, Christian, and agreed to obey her husband - a clause omitted by Princess Diana in her 1981 marriage to Prince Charles.

After they had signed the register the couple rode in the open-topped 1902 State Landau to Buckingham Palace.

The Duchess looked radiant in her ivory duchesse satin dress, next to the Duke - four months her junior - in the ceremonial day dress of a naval lieutenant.

A crowd of 100,000 clamoured to see their first public kiss as man and wife on the balcony of the Palace.

Courtesy BBC News

COMMEMORATIONS

Have begun yesterday to mark 10 years since Norway's worst ever peacetime slaughter.

On July 22, 2011, right wing extremist Anders Breivik set off a bomb in the capital, Oslo, killing eight people, before heading to tiny Utoya island where he stalked and shot dead 69 mostly teen members of the Labor Party's youth wing.

Events took place around the country, including a service in Oslo Cathedral that will end with bells ringing in churches throughout Norway.

Around the country, people listened as emotional survivors read aloud the names of the 77 victims at a memorial event that was broadcast on television.

Some parents of the victims reflected on the way

Norway mourns 77 dead a decade after extremist attack

the country coped with the slaughter, and said that "time does not heal all wounds."

"[The victims] would be proud of how we reacted after the terror and how the rule of law stood strong," said Lisbeth Roeyneland, whose daughter Synne was murdered by Breivik. Roeyneland now runs the national support group for victims and families.

Astrid Hoem, a survivor from Utoya, who now leads the Labor Youth, said "we have not stopped the hatred" and urged the country to continue facing up to the racism in the country. **MDT/AP**



IN CONTEXT

The Duke and Duchess of York had two daughters - Princess Beatrice in August 1988 and Princess Eugenie in March 1990.

They divorced in 1996, but they were living together again a year later at the family home in Sunningdale, Berkshire, for the sake of the children.

In an attempt to recover from large debts Sarah Ferguson published children's books about Budgie, the helicopter she learnt to fly in.

She has courted additional publicity with cameo appearances on British and American TV.

In 2001 Sarah Ferguson admitted to an American magazine her marriage began to break down within a week of the state wedding because of Prince Andrew's naval duties.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The connection you've got cookin' with someone else is getting more complicated right now, and today you might want to step back and look at things from an outsider's perspective.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

If you want to have a unique day, all you need to do is take a unique approach. All you need to do is see things from another perspective—try seeing the world as an audience you must entertain.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Try. This one little word could mean big things for you today. You see, there is a tremendous amount of value to be gained when you at least attempt things.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Things are going to work out differently than the way you assumed they would. And whether you'll respond really well or really badly is still up in the air.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Sure, you know that you are supposed to look before you leap, but do not forget that you also need to listen before you leap! Take in all the instructions that are given before you act today.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It's the perfect day for you to stop what you're doing and take a moment to reach up and pat yourself on the back! It took you a lot of hard work to get to where you are right now.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Step out and do what you want to do today - take advantage of a great bargain, a wonderful dinner invitation or some other opportunity that is just too good for you to pass up!



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Think about your audience - what is most important to them? Focus on that, and show them how they can get what they want out of your plan, too. You have a lot of great sales skills that you don't always use.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There is a very simple solution to your complex financial problem - stop spending money for a while! Try to think more like a fiscal conservative and hold on to your wallet like it's your lifeline.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Displaying too much aggression will do you more harm than good right now, so try hard to play nice - especially with the people who just love pushing your buttons!



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If something confusing is starting to build between you and another person, don't try and fight it today. Even if you know this is definitely not what you want, one more day of experiencing it won't hurt anybody.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You are going to get a lot of positive attention very soon—get ready to have a permanent blush! If a group is looking for a leader, you should step up and nominate yourself for the job.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

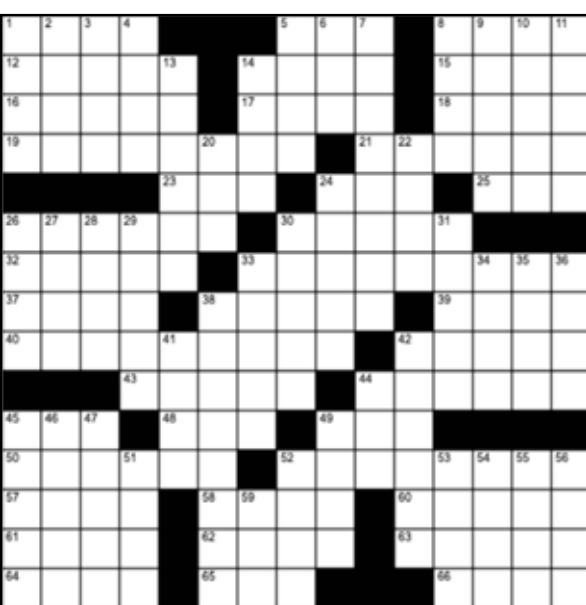
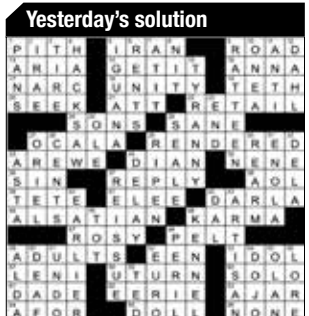
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	23	31	cloudy
Harbin	23	33	cloudy
Tianjin	26	35	cloudy
Urumqi	24	33	showers
Xi'an	26	36	thunderstorms
Lhasa	23	29	fine
Chengdu	25	34	thunderstorms
Chongqing	25	35	cloudy
Kunming	27	35	cloudy
Nanjing	21	29	cloudy
Shanghai	26	29	rain
Wuhan	26	29	rain
Hangzhou	24	33	cloudy
Taipei	24	31	cloudy
Guangzhou	19	29	overcast
Hong Kong	24	31	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	14	22	overcast
Frankfurt	14	27	overcast
Paris	17	29	sunny
London	15	28	sunny
New York	19	29	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Sibilate; 5- Portable bed; 8- Peek follower; 12- Body of values; 14- Hawaiian outdoor feast; 15- Belgrade native; 16- Not easily broken; 17- Env. notation; 18- Away from the wind; 19- Unnaturally delicate; 21- Hire; 23- Fast flier; 24- 2001 biopic; 25- Lion tail?; 26- 3.26 light years; 30- Stalks; 32- Sallow; 33- Wayfarer; 37- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 38- Easy gaits; 39- Swiss river; 40- Absence of sense of pain; 42- A&M student; 43- Rescued; 44- Bivalve mollusk; 45- It's for two, in song; 48- Lux. neighbor; 49- Cpl.'s superior; 50- Make beloved; 52- Exemption from obligation; 57- ___ contendere; 58- Beige cousin; 60- Scuffle; 61- Actress Lena; 62- Yonder thing; 63- Currency unit in Nigeria; 64- Apprehends; 65- ___ Quentin; 66- Duo;

DOWN: 1- 8th letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 2- Langston Hughes poem; 3- Close; 4- [Oh, well]; 5- Pleasingly pretty; 6- Cereal grass; 7- Unmusical; 8- PDQ; 9- Pretty girl; 10- Cream-filled cookies; 11- Follows orders; 13- Selected; 14- Ultimate; 20- Home of the Trojans; 22- Jester; 24- Puzzled; 26- Graph prefix; 27- Z ___ zebra; 28- Earthbound bird; 29- Vends; 30- Flavorful; 31- Catches; 33- Difficult question; 34- Jokes; 35- Buffalo's county; 36- Winder for holding flexible material; 38- Young hares; 41- Infatuated; 42- Fall; 44- "The Wizard of Oz" studio; 45- Mortise insert; 46- ___ Gay; 47- Improvise; 49- Brown-bag stuff; 51- Seemingly forever; 52- Teheran's country; 53- Type of tide; 54- Hip bones; 55- Actress Hatcher; 56- Age unit; 59- Ballroom dance, when doubled;



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



SELL INVEST RENT

卓雅物業
jml property

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

MORE INFO
(853) 2835 2699

FOR SALE

Heng Tai
Ref: 2107 6002

HKD 3,980,000
950 ft² 1 1/2 1 1/2

FOR RENT

Jardim Lamerias
Ref: 2106 1003

HKD 11,200/mth
747 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2

Rain Dance Property
"We dance until it's SOLD!"

Traditional apartment
Ref: 2103 6001

HKD 2,680,000
788 ft² 2 1/2 1 1/2

AD

'SNAKE EYES' DOESN'T PLAY ITS CARDS RIGHT

LINDSEY BAHR AP FILM WRITER

HENRY Golding has undeniable screen presence. He's handsome, sure. Lots of actors are. But Golding also has that effortless charisma that the biggest movie stars possess. It's no wonder that he was catapulted from relative, travel show host obscurity to film fame with just one role in "Crazy Rich Asians" and that his name often pops up as a fan choice for the next James Bond. If the powers in Hollywood don't mess it up, he's going to be around for quite some time.

It's also not surprising that the industry would capitalize on his breakthrough moment and come knocking with some piece of Intellectual Property for him to star in. Unfortunately that IP piece is "Snake Eyes," an origin story about a G.I. Joe character that completely misunderstands its star's appeal. Golding is simply not the right actor for the part. He's not exactly bad, just miscast and misused. And despite the novel trimmings and flash around him, his character is woefully generic.

"Snake Eyes" has some things



AP PHOTO

going for it. For one, the names Cobra and G.I. Joe aren't even uttered for almost an hour. Credited screenwriters Evan Spiliotopoulos, Anna Waterhouse and Joe Shrapnel seem to have some understanding that a mere G.I. Joe association isn't enough to get regular moviegoers into theaters. And after seeing Atlanta and Vancouver destroyed over and

over again in superhero films it is a breath of fresh air to be transported to Tokyo, where director Robert Schwentke (RED, R.I.P.D.) makes sure to lovingly shoot both the neon and the ancient. He even takes our burgeoning hero to the Golden Gai and creatively utilizes the tiny alleyways for a fun fight.

In fact, if you can make it to

the Tokyo section, which takes almost a half hour to get to, you'll be in for a fairly fun ride as Snake Eyes starts to train with an ancient Japanese clan called the Arashikage. In the unnecessarily dull first part, we learn that Snake Eyes' father was murdered in front of him when he was a boy, he's spent his life since as a loner living on the streets and stuffing

fish with weapons for the Yakuza and he also saves the life of the Arashikage heir, Tommy (Andrew Koji).

Is he just naturally a good fighter? Did he have training? You won't learn that answer in "Snake Eyes," but pretty soon both the Arashikage and another well-established crime syndicate are using him as their go-to muscle and brains. In other words, his ascent through these established ranks is alarmingly swift.

The IP comes around to take over the story eventually and we meet a Cobra agent Úrsula Corberó's Baroness, and a "Joe," Scarlett, played by Samara Weaving who as usual does wonders with a no expectations role. Although, like many toy-based movies, "Snake Eyes" might be betting too much on audiences caring about the connections to a broader universe of Joes more than the story in front of them.

"Snake Eyes," a Paramount Pictures release in theaters Friday, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for, "sequences of strong violence, brief strong language." Running time: 122 minutes. ★★☆☆

AD

ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

Languages:
ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

Services
TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

We translate +10,000 words a day

K **KTRANZ**
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

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



IRENE SAM, MDT

TASTE OF EDESIA

Summer explorations

JOURNEY to the Mediterranean Sea dinner buffet at **Urban Kitchen** highlights different ethnic flavors. Focusing on the dynamic gastronomies of the intercontinental sea, the culinary team features two highlighted dishes every month, as well as rotational dishes every two weeks. Guests are also invited to savour the exotic spread with the new peach and orange flavoured mocktail that provides relief from the summer heat, and evokes the imagery of the sunrise on the gorgeous Mediterranean coast.

The "Mediterranean Cruise" kicks off in this month, with the first route transpor-

ting guests to Portugal, Spain and Southern France under the theme of a Journey to Coastal Cities. The culinary team specially sourced the "True Born" beef from Portugal for the Slow Cooked Beef Cheeks with Port Wine, and Grilled Skirt Steak served with Flatbread as well as the Grilled Flat Iron Steak with Salsa Verde and more. The beef is cultivated with no growth hormones or antibiotics, and the cattle is grain fed to achieve excellent tenderness and marbling in addition to

lowered saturated fat levels. While "True Born Beef" takes centre stage, the month's highlighted dishes also feature varieties seafood-focused: rich and nutritious Bouillabaisse Fish Stew with Rouille from Marseille, France, and Paella with Lobster and Crab which is an authentic tribute to the Valencians of Spain, where one uses seafood instead of meat and beans to make paella. The lobster and crab are served in the shell atop piping hot rice.

August's Dinner Buffet

further the cruise journey to an Ionian Sea Adventure, with gourmet delights from Italy and Greece. Available daily, the Star Dishes of the Month are Osso Bucco with Gremolata and Lobster Pasta in Sea Urchin Sauce, a duo that encapsulates the theme. Osso Bucco is a specialty of Italian Lombard cuisine, made with cross-cut veal shanks braised with vegetables, white wine and broth. While Osso Bucco is meat-focused, the other star dish of Lobster Pasta with Sea Urchin Sauce

features the luxurious taste with jewels of the sea. Another tribute to Italian cuisine is the Mediterranean Whole Fish en Papillote, which features the seasonal catch and baked with bright fruits and herbs in a folded parchment parcel to capture the umami flavour.

September spotlights an Arabian Cultural Exploration, introducing ingredients such as aubergines, lemons, saffron, and pine nuts. The highlighted dishes of September are: Turkish Chicken Kebabs, and Moroccan Beef and Prune Tagine with Couscous. The former showcases the beautifully caramelised layers of chicken, while the latter is cooked with traditional Middle East tagine.

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE QINGDAO 1510 METRES SAND

2021-07-23 | Fri | 20:15

ABOUT 4 years ago I visited MJC with a riding mate of mine. I was well received by trainer K.H Leong, we had a tour of his yard. The memory came back when I was watching a video replay on one of his horse that race this Friday evening. Let's hope Master Leong would end his drought and get more winners for this season. I am keen on **Qian Hua** who ran a big sand race for Master Leong 9th July. Before this race no one knows this son of Cape Blanco could run well on the sand track, but he proved himself that he is a versatile galloper, not just good on turf but on sand as well. **Qian Hua** race again this Friday night with his winning jockey S.Nakano on. There is no reason to doubt he cannot run another big race for his connection again. I am confident to put my money on him and hope Master Leong could add one more in the MJC's trainer's log.



Race 3 Horse No 1 QIAN HUA Win & Place bets

OPINION

China Daily

Takatoshi Ito, China Daily

POLITICAL GAMES TO FOLLOW TOKYO GAMES

On July 8, the Japanese government declared a state of emergency in Tokyo until Aug 22, owing to the COVID-19 pandemic. That means the Tokyo Olympic Games (July 23-Aug 8) will be subject to strict limits on spectators for large events.

The new restrictions doubtless come as a disappointment to Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Suga, who has been eager to showcase the Games as a symbol of Japan's ability to overcome the difficulties it has faced since the 2011 earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear disaster. As such, there will be no roaring cheers at any of the races or other larger competitions. The festive mood in Tokyo has quickly evaporated, as has any hope of a boost to the local economy.

True, a state of emergency in Japan is much softer than the lockdowns imposed in many Western countries over the past 16 months. People can still carry on with an almost normal life of shopping and eating out, albeit with more restrictions on restaurants and large retailers' hours of operation. But this is the fourth declaration of a pandemic-induced state of emergency in Tokyo since April 2020, and restrictions on serving alcohol in restaurants have been added since the last one, because loud conversations without face masks are a suspected cause of the spread of COVID-19 clusters.

Although the Suga government has "requested" that people eschew unnecessary travel, and work from home during the state of emergency, it has proved effective only during the first emergency in April-May 2020. Since then, the government has tried different approaches. Last fall, for example, it actually encouraged people to travel by offering subsidies to stimulate the tourism industry. But, following a big surge of infections toward the end of 2020, a second state of emergency was imposed from Jan 8 until March 21, which was soon followed a third from April 25 to June 20.

These stop-and-go emergency declarations indicate either a lack of will or an inability, on the part of the public, to learn from previous episodes. The Japanese experience thus stands in stark contrast with that of New York, which was regarded as a global epicenter of infections back in the spring of 2020. After maintaining an extended semi-lockdown, it was able to reopen gradually this year without backtracking.

Not surprisingly, the Japanese public has become increasingly critical of the government for its inability to forecast and control infections, and there is growing frustration with the slow pace of the country's vaccination rollout. The critics are right: the vaccination rate in Japan lags far behind most other advanced economies. As of July 11, Japan was administering doses at a rate of 48 for every 100 people, compared with 88 in France, 98 in Germany, 100 in the United States, and 119 in the United Kingdom. With television and YouTube images now showing the cheerful return to mask-free normal life in New York and other cities, many Japanese are envious.

Yet the Japanese public is divided between those demanding a cancellation of the entire Olympic-Paralympic Games and those (particularly in the restaurant business) objecting to strong restrictions on social and economic activities. Obviously, the government cannot satisfy both sides at the same time, so it has settled on the narrow middle path of holding the Games without spectators.

On the economic front, overall consumption has been dampened this year by the intermittent surges of infections in Tokyo and the stop-and-go emergency declarations. In April-June of this year, the Nikkei 225 performed worse than any other major advanced economy's stock index. Given that a weak economy is always politically damaging to the ruling party, Suga is under immense pressure to achieve a strong reopening and recovery.

[Abridged]

MAN WITH CORONAVIRUS DISGUISES AS WIFE ON INDONESIAN FLIGHT

THE BUZZ

Indonesian man with the coronavirus has boarded a domestic flight disguised as his wife, wearing a niqab covering his face and carrying fake IDs and a negative PCR test result.

But the cover didn't last long.

Police say a flight attendant aboard a Citilink plane traveling from Jakarta to Ternate in North Maluku province on Sunday noticed the man change the clothes in the lavatory.

"He bought the plane ticket with his wife's name and brought the identity card, the PCR test result and the vaccination card with his wi-

fe's name. All documents are under his wife's name," Ternate police chief Aditya Laksimada said after arresting the man upon landing. He was only identified by his initials.

Police took him for a COVID-19 test, which came back positive.

The man is currently self-isolating at home and police said the investigation will continue.

Indonesia is in the grip of the worse coronavirus surge in Asia with 33,772 new confirmed cases and 1,383 deaths in the last 24 hours. The total number of reported cases is 2.9 million with 77,583 fatalities.



AP PHOTO

COVID-19

THAILAND TO JOIN COVAX, ACKNOWLEDGING LOW VACCINE SUPPLY

CHALIDA EKVITAYAVECHNUKUL, BANGKOK

THE head of Thailand's National Vaccine Institute apologized Wednesday for the country's slow and inadequate rollout of coronavirus vaccines, promising it will join the U.N.-backed COVAX program to receive supplies from its pool of donated vaccines next year.

Thailand is battling a punishing coronavirus surge that is pushing new cases and deaths to record highs nearly every day. There is fear that the numbers will get much worse because the government failed to secure significant vaccine supplies in advance of the onslaught.

The spread of the highly contagious delta variant of the virus has exacerbated the situation, as Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha's government seeks to buy vaccines to supplement the modest amounts it has on hand of Sinovac and Sinopharm from China and locally produced AstraZeneca.

In addition to failing to buy enough vaccine, Prayuth's government has come under severe criticism because some studies show the Chinese vaccines are less effective against the delta variant than those produced by Pfizer and Moderna.

"I apologize to the people that the National Vaccine Institute has not mana-

ged to procure a sufficient amount of vaccines appropriate for the situation, although we have tried our best," vaccine institute director Nakorn Prem Sri said at a news conference. "The mutations (of the virus) were something that could not be predicted, which have caused a more rapid spread than last year. The vaccine procurement effort did not match the current situation."

He said Thailand is in the process of joining COVAX, a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines directed by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations and the World Health Organization. Nakorn said he expects Thailand will be able to receive vaccines from COVAX by the first quarter of next year.

Thailand is the only country in Southeast Asia that did not join COVAX. The government explained in February that since Thailand is categorized as a middle-income country, it would not get free or cheap vaccines from the program. It claimed it would have to pay high prices in advance without knowing which vaccines it would get and when it would get them.

"Buying vaccines directly from the manufacturers is an appropriate choice [...] as it's more flexible," government spokesperson Anucha Buraphachaisri said at the time.

That explanation was

later criticized when the government urgently imported Sinovac at a high price even though questions had already arisen about its efficacy.

Thailand planned to administer 100 million inoculations this year and has reserved 105.5 million doses from several companies. Of those, 61 million doses were to be AstraZeneca vaccine produced by Siam Bioscience, a company owned by Thailand's king, 19.5 million doses from Sinovac, 20 million doses from Pfizer and 5 million doses from Johnson & Johnson.

Last week, however, new doubts were cast on the plan when it was revealed that Siam Bioscience is unlikely to be able to deliver its full share until May 2022 because of production problems.

Supakit Sirilak, chief of the Department of Medical Sciences, said at the same news conference that Thailand is still negotiating with other vaccine makers to secure additional supplies.

"Our target to inoculate 100 million doses this year is still possible," he said.

Thailand reported 13,002 new COVID-19 cases on Wednesday, another record high, bringing its total to 439,477 cases.

It has administered around 14.8 million vaccine doses, including 10.7 million doses since June. Around 11.3 million people, or 16% of the country's 69 million population, have received at least one dose. MDT/AP



AP PHOTO

Gaza Strip An explosion tore through a house in a popular market in the Gaza Strip yesterday, killing one person and wounding 10, the Palestinian territory's interior ministry said. It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion. The blast in the Al-Zawiya area collapsed large parts of the house and damaged dozens of buildings and shops nearby, according to the statement.



AP PHOTO

Germany Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday defended her decision to end Germany's use of nuclear power next year, but acknowledged that it will make it harder to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the short term. The decision, taken in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear disaster 10 years ago, is regarded as one of the pivotal moments during Merkel's 16 years in office. Critics have said the move places a double burden on Germany as it seeks to cut carbon emissions to zero by 2045.



AP PHOTO

French President Emmanuel Macron held an emergency cybersecurity meeting yesterday to weigh possible government action after reports that his cellphone and those of government ministers may have been targeted by spyware. Macron changes his phones regularly and is "taking the matter very seriously," government spokesman Gabriel Attal said on France-Inter radio.

Tunisia At least 17 migrants from Bangladesh drowned and more than 300 were rescued by Tunisian and Libyan naval units after their boat sank in the Mediterranean, according to aid groups. Survivors said all those who died had been in the hold of the boat because they had paid smugglers less than others, and were suffocated by smoke when the engine caught fire, according to Mongi Slim, head of the Tunisian Red Crescent.