

DATA SCIENTIST: ECONOMY HEAVILY CENTERED ON GAMING BUSINESS IS PART OF THE REASON THE CITY IS 'STAYING STILL' WHEN IT COMES TO INNOVATION AND DIGITALIZATION

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ANOTHER 200,000 DOSE BATCH OF SINOPHARM-INACTIVATED VACCINE IS SET TO BE DISPATCHED TO MACAU BY MID-AUGUST

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North Korea The powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un warned yesterday that next month's annual military drills between South Korean and U.S. troops will undermine prospects for better ties between the Koreas, just days after the rivals reopened their long-dormant communication channels. Kim Yo Jong's statement carried by state media targets only South Korea, and this could add credence to a theory that North Korea's decision to restore the communication lines is aimed at pushing Seoul to convince Washington to make concessions while nuclear diplomacy remains deadlocked.



Indonesia Two rare Sumatran tigers at the zoo in the Indonesian capital are recovering after being infected with Covid-19. Nine-year-old Tino became ill with shortness of breath, sneezing, and a runny nose on July 9. He also lost his appetite. Two days later, 12-year-old Hari was showing the same symptoms. Swabs were taken and results came back positive for Covid-19.



Afghanistan A mortar shell struck a taxi in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province yesterday, killing at least five civilians including two children, an Afghan official said. Provincial police spokesman Jamal Naser Barezai blamed the Taliban for the attack, although the militants denied responsibility.

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CLASHING REMARKS

ANTHONY LAM



The SAR and the central government slammed the EU for interfering with Macau's electoral affairs as the EU called for 'protected rights and freedoms' following the top court's ruling against the democrats' appeal

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THE LEGEND OF THE MACAU GRAND PRIX

Local film nominated at the International Motor Film Awards 2021

P2



RENATO MARQUES

DIRECTED by local filmmaker Sérgio Basto Perez, "The Legend of the Macau Grand Prix" was officially selected as one of six nominees in the "Best Event Film" category at the International Motor Film Awards 2021.

Produced by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) in a joint effort with a team of local Macau talents, the film features a journey through the history of the Macau Grand Prix event, guided by the voices of drivers and riders from different generations.

The film was developed by MGTO to be displayed in Ultra-high-definition (4K) in the new Grand Prix Museum screening room.

According to MGTO, the film is ready for its debut at the Museum, with its premiere scheduled for this Thursday (August 5).

From then on, "The Legend of the Macau Grand Prix" can

MACAU GP FILM NOMINATED AT MOTOR FILM AWARDS 2021



be seen twice daily from Monday to Friday (except Tuesday) at noon and 4 p.m. The screening

frequency will be increased on the weekends to four daily screenings — at 11 a.m., noon, 4 p.m.,

and 5 p.m.

The International Motor Film Awards is considered by some to

be the most prestigious awards event for the automotive film and television industry.

The automobile industry film festival recognizes directorial and production talent from high-end films and commercials, with the inclusion of student and independent production categories. The festival — commonly known as the Oscars of the motoring world — is supported by authorities in the automotive sector, and brands within the film and television industry.

All nominated films are eligible for the nominations for the "Technical Achievement Awards" (Best Cinematography, Best Stunts, Best Sound and Best Editing), as well as the "Grand Prix Award," which attributes honors to the best overall production of the year.

The festival takes place as part of a gala that will take place on September 15 at The Clapham Grand in the city of London, the U.K.

Unemployment and underemployment rates stable in Q2

RENATO MARQUES

THE unemployment and underemployment rates in Macau have dropped marginally during the second quarter (Q2) of this year, information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) noted.

According to the release, the general unemployment rate for the period of April to June 2021 was 2.9%, and the unemployment rate of local residents was 3.9%, down by 0.1 and 0.2% respectively, when compared to the previous period (March-May 2021).

During the same period, the underemployment rate dropped by 0.7% to 3.5%.

At the end of June, the labor force living in Macau totalled 387,000 people, with a labor force participation rate of 68.3%.

Although the unemployment rate was reported as generally marginally dropping, it is possible to ascertain from the DSEC release that the total

number of people employed at the end of June was 375,900, 2,800 less than at the end of May.

Following the same trend, the number of employed residents totalled 276,400, a drop of 2,200 people from the previous month.

According to the official data, the number of unemployed decreased by 800 from the previous period to 11,100.

Among the unemployed population searching for a new job, most were previously engaged in Gaming & Junket Activities and the Construction sector.

The number of the underemployed dropped by 2,700 from the previous period to 13,600, with the majority also working in Gaming & Junket Activities, along with the Transport & Storage sector.

Meanwhile, the proportion of new labor market entrants seeking their first job increased by 1%, to 7.5% of the total unemployed.

The Employment Survey covered residential units in the Peninsula, Taipa, and Coloane, excluding collective living quarters such as dormitories and elderly homes.

Based on the cross-border movement records, it is estimated that an average of 84,300 residents and non-resident workers were working in Macau from April to June, but lived outside the territory. The DSEC noted that, if these people are included in the survey, the total labor force is raised to 471,300 - a decrease of 2,900 people from the previous period.

Median monthly employment earnings of the employed in the Q2 increased MOP200 quarter-to-quarter to MOP15,500, with those working in Gaming & Junket Activities and the Construction sector earning MOP19,800 and MOP15,000, respectively.

The median earnings of the employed residents remained consistent with the previous quarter, at MOP20,000.

SJM TO REALLOCATE 118 GAMING TABLES TO GRAND LISBOA PALACE

LYNZY VALLES

SJM Holdings Ltd is set to reallocate 118 gaming tables from other properties to its newly opened resort in Cotai, Grand Lisboa Palace, the company's chairman of the board of directors Daisy Ho has said, as cited in a TDM report.

Ho was speaking on the sidelines of the new resort's opening on Friday.

The executive previously announced that the government granted the new property 150 gaming tables. She clarified that these newly-granted tables are for the mass market.

One tower of the Grand Lisboa Palace hotel opened its doors to the public Friday, giving access to 300 rooms, while the other 350 rooms will open by the end of the year if conditions permit.

Developed by SJM Resorts in Cotai, the



integrated resort represented an investment of approximately HKD39 billion — a milestone project for SJM.

A Chinese Bai Sun blessing ceremony was held to celebrate the opening.

The occasion was officiated by SJM's chairman of the board of directors Daisy Ho; managing director Angela Leong; and directors Dr. Ambrose So, Maisy Ho

and Arnaldo Ho.

They were joined by management representatives of SJM and Grand Lisboa Palace, together performing the Bai Sun rituals of cutting the pig and dotting the eyes of the lions.

The second phase opening will depend on the pandemic and travel restrictions. Current hopes are that the full opening will take place by the end of this year.

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ELECTIONS 2021

Top court rules against democrats' election appeal

ANTHONY LAM

THE Court of Final Appeal has ruled against appeals filed by three groups of candidates originally running in the September parliamentary election regarding their disqualification, as decided by the Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL).

The appeals concerned incumbent lawmakers Sulu Sou and António Ng, former full-attendance lawmaker Paul Chan, and advocates Rocky Chan, Scott Chiang and Lei Kuok Keong.

In the judgment, the court noted that, "according to the information provided by CAEAL, the Court of Final Appeal has taken for granted [the individuals had] participated at least in activities to support 'June 4' and/or 'Constitutional Charter 08' and/or 'Jasmine Revolution.'"

Based on this, the court supported the decision of the CAEAL.

Member of the panel of judges, Justice José Maria Dias Azedo included his voting declaration after the ruling.

He stated that he was skeptical about whether the CAEAL was vested by the lawmaking stakeholders with the authority to proactively ask the police to "search and collect information related to the personal and social life of the concerned individuals."

He saw the principle of prior hearings for stakeholders having been violated in this case, because

ANTHONY LAM



se the concerned individuals had not been given "an appropriate opportunity to make a stand towards 'information gathered [in this manner].'"

He added that — although the time is constrained as the election date has been set — it is unreasonable that the action and response period was tightened so.

Sou and Rocky Chan, citing their legal team, describe the situation as switching off the light in an already dim room. They also describe their disqualification as a

political decision, in the attempt to mute pluralism in the parliament.

Meanwhile, Chiang encouraged local residents to keep their voices in society heard, because "supervision is everybody's work."

SAR, BEIJING SUPPORT THE JUDGMENT

The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council said, in a statement, that "the ruling is based on a solid legal foundation and facts." The statement noted that upholding the "patriots administering Macau" principle is fundamental to ensuring the full and faithful implementation of "one country, two systems."

Meanwhile, in another statement, the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) Government expressed its respect and support for the court's ruling. It also described the CAEAL's disqualification decision as "[a] duty [that] seeks to ensure the constitutional order enshrined in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China and the Basic Law of Macau."

SAR, CENTRAL GOV'T CONDEMN EU'S REMARKS ON RULING

THE SAR government and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in the Macau SAR on Saturday opposed the comments made by the European External Action Service, under the European Union, on the Legislative Assembly election of the SAR.

This comes after the EU swiftly issued a short statement in response to the court ruling.

"This is a detrimental step that runs counter to the rights guaranteed in Macau's Basic Law," the statement reads. "It undermines political pluralism and curtails democratic debate," the EU stated.

"The European Union calls for protected rights and freedoms to be upheld in Macau Special Administrative Region and for the

September Legislative Assembly elections to be open to candidates from across the political spectrum," it added.

On this, the SAR government issued a statement to object the EU's remarks.

"The Macau SAR government expresses strong opposition to [the] remarks made by a spokesperson of the European External Action Service concerning the upcoming Macau SAR Legislative Assembly Election," the local government asserted.

It added that the "Legislative Assembly Election is purely an internal affair of Macau, and no foreign institutions have [the] right to interfere [with] it."

"The law enables the Electoral Affairs Commission to review candidate lists regarding each team intending to take part in

the Legislative Assembly Election," the government further stressed in its statement. "The Electoral Affairs Commission's decision has been confirmed in a ruling by the Court of Final Appeal of the Macau SAR."

Voicing strong dissatisfaction with and resolute objection to the EU comments, the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China in the Macau SAR said in a statement that the comments were blatant interference in Macau affairs and China's internal affairs more broadly.

Furthermore, the office said that the EU seriously violated international law and the basic norms governing international relations. "Any attempt to interfere in the SAR's affairs is doomed to fail," it added.

GAMING

MOP8.4b GGR in July lower than expected

MACAU reported an aggregate MOP8.44 billion in gross gaming revenue (GGR) in July, an increase of 29.2% from the previous month.

Despite the increase, the accumulated gaming revenue was lower than expected by analysts, as the median analyst forecast was a 540.5% increase year-on-year, as cited in a Bloomberg report.

However, data from the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau shows that July's figures only recorded a surge of 528.1%.

The GGR is down 65.5% from pre-pandemic level

BLOOMBERG



in 2019.

The SAR government has reinforced strict cross-border measures due to a flare-up of Covid cases in mainland China.

While Macau has remo-

ved quarantine requirements for visitors from the neighboring mainland province of Guangdong since July, the government imposed stringent testing requirements for visitors arriving

by air from Liaoning, Jiangsu and Sichuan.

When new cases broke out in mainland China, entrants from affected areas were required to enter centralized quarantine facili-

ties when they arrived in Macau, which discouraged tourists from those areas from visiting Macau.

Late last month, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said that the government has not changed its forecast on this year's GGR was MOP130 billion.

By attaining this figure, the city should maintain a GGR of MOP10.83 billion per month to meet the forecast.

Last month, the city only garnered MOP6.54 billion, down 37.4% from the period's peak of MOP10.45 billion in the preceding

month — also the lowest monthly figure in the first half of the year.

Gaming revenue is expected to reach a post-pandemic high in August during the summer school holidays, JP Morgan analyst DS Kim wrote in a note on July 19.

Analysts are expecting a full recovery in the mass segment to be achieved approximately within a year, by the third quarter of 2022. The optimistic forecast was based on a strong demand shown in mass-market and non-gaming segments, which was substantiated by outstanding mass-market GGR — around 70% of pre-pandemic levels — during the May Golden Week, and record-highs in retail sales at many casinos.

MGTO TO GRANT THREE-DAY LRT PASSES TO TOURISTS ARRIVING VIA AIR MACAU

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has announced it will grant three-day travel passes for the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) to tourists arriving at Macau via Air Macau flights. According to a statement from MGTO, the scheme began on August 1 and allows visitors to obtain a special LRT pass at the Macau International Airport upon presenting their valid travel document and boarding pass. With this special LRT pass, visitors can enjoy unlimited rides on the LRT system for a period of three days. "The scheme aims to offer visitors a wider convenient choice of transportation to spur spending in local communities for further tourism and economic revival," MGTO said.

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE GIVES GREEN LIGHT TO COLLECTING BIOMETRIC DATA

A parliamentary committee has given an approval to the government's proposal to collect visitors' biometric data. The current version is the outcome of several amendments by the government, upon the committee's request. This version has waived the collection of biometric data from minors. The committee has questioned the need for iris and retinal data, which was not stipulated in the laws in the mainland or Hong Kong referenced by the government. The security branch justified the stipulations, as optical data does not change over the lifetime, and is crucial to crime investigation.

COVID-19

200,000 NEW DOSES OF SINOPHARM SET TO ARRIVE BY MID-AUGUST

HONEY TSANG

ANOTHER 200,000 dose batch of Sinopharm-inactivated vaccine is set to be dispatched to Macau by mid-August — but the city will still see it out of stock for two to three days prior to its arrival.

In response to queries from the media, coordinator of the Health Bureau's Covid-19 Vaccination Operation Tai Wa Hou that Macau, as of July 30, still had 42,000 doses of Sinopharm vaccine in stock, as of last Friday at the media briefing. This would suffice for two weeks of use, based on the current rate of 3,000 doses administered per day.

It is expected that stock will run out for two to three days before the next batch arrives in Macau, during which the inoculation service will be temporarily suspended.

The authorities will liaise with the supplier to ensure the new batch will arrive in time, he added.

There are still around 80,000 doses of BioNTech vaccine in stock. Given its current vaccination rate of 400 to 500 doses per day, Tai said the mRNA vaccine is projected to last for five to six months more. Among the existing supply, there are 2,800 doses of mRNA vaccine expected to be used up before their expiry on August 4.

Another two batches of mRNA vaccine, containing over 30,000 doses and 40,000 doses, are set to land in Macau in early November and mid-November, respectively.

From today onwards, all residents aged 60 or above can enjoy walk-in inoculation services at all vaccination centers, without the need for online registration.



NO TIMEFRAME FOR HK-MACAU TRAVEL BUBBLE

Tai reiterated that there is decidedly no timeframe for the reinstatement of the Hong Kong-Macau travel bubble scheme. Reinstatement of the plan necessitates communication between Macau and mainland authorities.

Earlier on July 20, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U unveiled to the media the government's plan to invite experts from the National Health Commission (NHC) of the People's Republic of China to conduct a site visit in Macau. The invitation is a bid to gain their advice regarding the arrangement of more convenient intercity and cross-border travel regimes with Hong Kong and mainland China.

Tai said last Friday that no timeframe has been set for when they will come to Macau.

The study of the administration of boost shots is still un-

derway. However, he said this program is still not yet approved by international watchdogs and lacks sufficient data.

RESPONSES TO COVID-19 RESURGENCE

Given the Delta-driven Covid-19 resurgence in China, the government announced last Thursday a set of rigorous measures to contain contagion risks.

Since the announcement, residents and the media have expressed concerns about an apparent loophole in one measure. This measure requires flight passengers from all mainland provinces, but not arrivals from land and sea ports, to present proof of a negative test for Covid-19 conducted within 48 hours before boarding. Some pointed out that arrivals from high-risk areas could have come to Macau through Zhuhai and Guangzhou, without the need to take direct flights.

In response, Tai said Zhuhai

and Guangzhou municipal governments already had strict control measures in place to deal with arrivals from high-risk areas.

"In addition, the current pandemic situation of Guangdong (GD) Province is very stable. Thus, we think we should sustain the seven-day validity for the Covid-19 test certificate for arrivals from GD Province through land ports," he explained.

Moreover, over 100 people who had been to Zhangjiajie since July 17 either left Macau or were admitted to quarantine facilities for 14 day medical observation, Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, stated.

To clarify ambiguities concerning the required Covid-19 testing dates for people who had been to specific high-risk mainland areas, Leong stated that they have to undergo a total of five tests — to be conducted on the first, second, fourth, seventh and 12th days of observation.

However, the number of tests will vary by person, as they no longer need to undergo testing once it has been over 14 days since they left these areas.

From July 31 onwards, arrivals who had been to high-risk regions in Chongqing since July 24, or those areas in Yangzhou, Xiamen and Zhuzhou cities from July 25, must undergo mandatory quarantine upon arrival until have cleared over 14 days since leaving these areas.

On July 31, the government further tightened measures, requiring all arrivals who had been anywhere in the whole of Xiamen city from July 25 to conduct several tests upon arrival, with their health code also changed to yellow.

Sulu Sou wants to see Macau athletes in the Olympics

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou wants more facilities and better conditions for local youth so that local athletes can soon be featured in the biggest international sporting competitions, including the Olympic Games.

Sou's call was delivered in a spoken inquiry to the government, delivered in the period before the agenda of last Thursday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary session.

The lawmaker used the ongoing Olympic Games of Tokyo to recall past failures

that led to the non-acceptance of Macau's applications to be part of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Putting aside that it is no longer possible for Macau to be a member of the IOC, the lawmaker still thinks that there is enough talent among local sportspeople that — properly supported — could still fly the Macau flag high in sports competitions. He identified the Asian Games and the road to the Olympics paved by national team competitions.

For Sou, Macau's sports performance could raise

boost the morale of local athletes, and also contribute to a growth in the sense of pride and of belonging to Macau among the younger generations.

Sou called on the government to perfect the contract regime for full-time athletes: "ensuring identical treatment to the individual and team sports; increasing salaries and benefits; strengthening sports medicine services; and [providing] retirement guarantees. Namely, [to] encourage retired athletes to pursue studies, [and] to continue working for the sports sector by taking on different posts

to integrate into the labor market."

He also called on the government to create a systematic training regime in which the sports and education sectors would work together to "create a favorable environment for the training of young athletes."

Lastly, Sou wants the government to put extra effort into including more and improving existing sports facilities while planning the use of the new and reclaimed land, so that athletes do not have to compete for space with the general public within public sports facilities.



Macau should turn to data science to diversify economy: expert

HONEY TSANG

THE fact that Macau's economy is so heavily centered on its gaming business is part of the reason the city is "staying still" when it comes to innovation and digitalization, according to Xavier Mathieu, data scientist and chief executive officer of Modwise-Macau Consulting: a consultancy founded by him to help businesses gain quantitative skills.

Mathieu delivered his insights and observations at the breakfast gathering last week hosted by the France Macau Chamber of Commerce (FMCC).

He pointed out that Macau has several specific issues, including a low level of digitalization, little effort in innovation, low personal motivation, lack of talents and perspectives — which are several hurdles hindering the city's development.

A deficiency in economic diversification, or the over-reliance on the gaming industry, is the ultimate cause of several problems



faced by the city.

According to the official data compiled by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), Macau in 2019 saw its gaming & junket sector contributing the largest share, or 50.9%, of its overall economy.

Mathieu regarded Macau's gaming business as "an oligopoly on a 14-billion market [in China]," and thus have long been able to generate hefty and "guaranteed" profits readily.

Given the economic structure, some entrepreneurs and business operators tend to think that "optimizing the already very

profitable business is not essential," he stated.

Such a deep-rooted mentality has made most businesspeople go on an easier path and not seek digitalization and innovation through the use of data, said Mathieu, who had worked for BNP Paribas since 1997 and led data teams in Paris, Tokyo, and Hong Kong.

Besides, the fear of patron data being breached is one of the factors behind their reluctance to digitalize.

"Behind every business, there is data," he said.

To strive for innovation, the

data veteran suggests operators draw on data science which is conducive to helping them make better business decisions, optimize their products and services, be more innovative and scalable at the same time.

However, Mathieu warned local entrepreneurs not to fall into the common pitfalls of exploiting data science. Some of their counterparts, he observed, had embarked on data science projects without sufficient knowledge, and mistakenly conceived of data science as a money-making machine, and had eventually gone astray.

RED MARKET REFURBISHMENT DRAFT AMENDED TO BETTER PRESERVE STRUCTURE

José Tavares, President of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, has recently disclosed that drafts for the revamp project on the Almirante Lacerda Municipal Market (more commonly known as the Red Market) were amended again. The update was necessary as it is crucial to ensure the peripheral walls can stand during and after the refurbishment, as the building is a relic. "We don't want any mistakes," Tavares said. Due to the amendment, the tender opening date was delayed once again. Tavares said the bureau is striving to call for bids by end of this year.

MAN APPREHENDED FOR REPEATED ARSON

A 72-year-old local man, who was recently released from prison, has been arrested by the Judiciary Police for two alleged arson cases. No injury has been reported. The man was sentenced to 18 years' imprisonment on 11 allegations of arson in 2009. He served 12 years, and was allowed out on parole in May. Recently, he was suspected of committing arson in a Lao Hon shopping center and a Lao Hon residential building. The police found the clothing that the suspect was wearing when he committed the action in his home.

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HONG KONG

PROTESTER GIVEN NINE-YEAR TERM IN FIRST SECURITY CASE

KATIE TAM & JANICE LO,
HONG KONG

A pro-democracy protester was sentenced Friday to nine years in prison in the closely watched first prosecution under Hong Kong's national security law.

Tong Ying-kit, 24, was convicted of inciting secession and terrorism for driving his motorcycle into a group of police officers at a July 1, 2020, rally. He carried a flag bearing the banned slogan, "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our times."

President Xi Jinping's government imposed the law on the former British colony last year following protests that erupted in mid-2019.

Tong's sentence was longer than the three years requested by the prosecution. He faced a possible maximum of life in prison.

Tong's sentence is a "hammer blow to free speech" and shows the law is "a tool to instill terror" in government critics, Amnesty International's Asia-Pacific regional director, Yamini Mishra, said in a statement.

Chinese officials reject the criticism and say Beijing is restoring order and instituting security protections like those of other countries. More than 100 people have been arrested under the security law.

The law "lacks any exemption for legitimate expression or protest," Mishra said. "The judgment at no point considered Tong's rights to freedom of expression and protest."

The U.S. government, in a statement, criticized the "unjust outcome" of Tong's trial and said the security law was used "as a political weapon to silence dissenting voices." It said China is undermining rights guaranteed by Hong Kong's mini-constitution, the Basic Law, and by the 1984 Chinese-British Joint Declaration on the territory's return.

It called on Beijing to "stop targeting individuals exercising their rights and freedoms."

Defense lawyers said Tong's penalty should be light because the court hadn't found

the attack was deliberate, no one was injured and the secession-related offense qualified as minor under the law.

Tong nodded but said nothing after Judge Esther Toh announced the sentence for a three-judge panel in the Hong Kong High Court. The former restaurant waiter wore a black shirt and tie with a blue blazer as he had throughout his trial.

Tong was sentenced to eight years for incitement to secession and six and a half years for terrorism, with some time to be served concurrently for a total of nine years, said Toh, the judge.

Tong expressed remorse but that didn't count toward reducing his sentence because he failed to plead guilty, the judges said in a written ruling. They said he had "good character" and no criminal record but due to the "serious offenses" those would not mitigate the penalty.

The sentence reflects "the abhorrence of society," the ruling said. **MDT/AP**

GOV'T REGRETS 'IRRESPONSIBLE' REMARKS BY US, EU OFFICIALS

THE Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government on Saturday expressed regret as some officials of the U.S. State Department and the European Union (EU)'s office on foreign affairs and security policy made remarks on the conviction and sentencing by the High Court of the HKSAR against an offender under the national security law in Hong Kong.

The HKSAR government deeply regretted and rejected remarks by officials from the United States and the EU which were blatantly trampling on Hong Kong's judicial strengths, let alone their usual politically motivated interference into the internal affairs of China's HKSAR, a spokesman of the HKSAR government said.

Every country has a right to safeguard national security and take resolute actions

against any offenses, the spokesman said, adding that officials in the United States and EU repeatedly smeared the national security law since its enactment, alleging that the legislation was being abused in Hong Kong without any evidence or substantiation.

Their unjustified stance on Hong Kong affairs clearly shows their arrogance and double standards, the spokesman said.

The national security law clearly stipulates four types of offenses endangering national security and the penalties and law-abiding people will not unwittingly fall foul of the law, the spokesman said.

The official added that after the implementation of the national security law, Hong Kong people's rights and freedoms under the HKSAR Basic Law as well as the relevant provisions of International Covenant on Civil and

Political Rights as applied to Hong Kong continue to be protected.

Among others, the media and the general public continue to exercise their right to monitor the government's work and the freedom of criticizing policies, the spokesman said, noting that there is no basis for the officials in the United States and the EU to suggest that Hong Kong people's rights and freedom have been undermined.

The spokesman urged the United States and EU authorities to respect the rule of law and refrain from making any attempt to influence Hong Kong's courts in exercising their independent judicial power.

Such behaviors are detrimental to relationships with the HKSAR on a wide range of subjects of mutual concern and benefits, the spokesman said. **MDT/XINHUA**

U.S. warns China is building more nuclear missile silos

HUIZHONG WU
& JON GAMBRELL, TAIPEI

THE U.S. military is warning about what analysts have described as a major expansion of China's nuclear missile silo fields at a time of heightened tension between Beijing and Washington.

Researchers at the Federation of American Scientists estimate that China has approximately 250 underground missile silos under construction after they used satellite imagery to identify a new field being built in western China.

U.S. Strategic Command tweeted a link Wednesday to a story in The New York Times on the federation's findings, which were published last week.

"The public has discovered what we have been saying all along about the growing threat the world faces and the veil of secrecy that surrounds it," said Strategic Command, which oversees America's nuclear arsenal.

The field in the Xinjiang region is the second one reported this summer. In June, researchers at the James Martin Center for

Nonproliferation Studies in California identified another field under construction in neighboring Gansu province.

China has not commented on the reports. Asked about the latest one, the Foreign Ministry said Friday that it was not aware of the situation.

The reports come at a time when relations between the U.S. and China have plunged to their worst level in decades. The two nations remain sharply at odds over a range of issues, including trade, technology and cybersecurity.

The editor of the state-owned Global Times newspaper said this week that U.S. institutions and the media are hyping the reports about the missile fields to pressure China, but that the nation shouldn't be cowed.

"Look at what American politicians are saying about China and look at the provocative actions of their warplanes and warships near China," Hu Xijin said. "China must fully step up construction of its military force and nuclear deterrence as the cornerstone of its national security." **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO



China, India miss UN deadline to update emissions targets

FRANK JORDANS, BERLIN

CHINA and India have missed a U.N. deadline to submit fresh plans for cutting their greenhouse gas emissions in time for the global body to include their pledges in a report for governments at this year's global climate summit, officials said Saturday.

The world's two most populous countries are among dozens that failed to provide an update on their targets for curbing the release of planet-warming gases to the U.N. climate change agency by July 31.

China is the country with the world's highest emissions, while India is third. The United States, which submitted its new target in April, is the second-biggest global emitter.

U.N. climate chief Patricia Espinosa welcomed that 110 signatories of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change had met the cut-off date, which was extended from the end of 2020 due to the pandemic. But she said it was "far from satisfactory" that only 58% had submitted their new targets in time.

Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syria and 82 other nations also failed to update their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) in time to include them in a report Espinosa's office is preparing for the U.N. climate change conference in November.

Espinosa noted that a previous report found countries were doing too little to meet the goal of keeping global warming below 2 degrees Celsius by the end of the

century compared with pre-industrial times, let alone the more ambitious target of capping warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius.

"Recent extreme heat waves, droughts and floods across the globe are a dire warning that much more needs to be done, and much more quickly, to change our current pathway," said Espinosa. "This can only be achieved through more ambitious NDCs."

Under the 2015 Paris climate accord, countries set their own emissions reduction goals but are required to be transparent about them and jointly raise their targets over time to ensure that global warming remains at agreed acceptable levels.

China did announce last year that it aims for its emissions of carbon dioxide — the main greenhouse gas — to peak before 2030, and to achieve carbon neutrality before 2060. The target has yet to be formally included in its submission to the U.N., however, meaning it can't yet be counted toward the global effort.

Earlier this month, the chair of the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Alok Sharma of Britain, met with environment ministers from more than 50 countries, including the U.S. and China. Speaking to reporters after the meeting — the first physical meeting of its kind since the start of the pandemic — Sharma said participants had agreed the 1.5 degrees C goal must stay "within reach."

"Between now and COP26 we must, and I promise you we will, make every single day count," he said. **MDT/AP**

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MGM Provides Training for Student Reporters of Olympic & Paralympic Winter Games



With the aim of nurturing future journalism talents in Macau, MGM organized a Winter Olympics-themed training "MGM Interview Training Session" for the participating students of the "Selection of Student Reporters for Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games – Macau Station". Under the supervision of the MGM's Public Relations team, the session offered the finalists of the competition a hands-on experience on interviewing and news reporting as an actual reporter, as well as an opportunity to present their work on the stage of MGM Theater.

Practicing Interview Skills on the Stage of MGM Theater

As a co-organizer, MGM lent its full support to the event and co-organized a training session at MGM COTAI. The event took more than 150 student reporters from local elementary and secondary schools onto an experience tour around the property. Led by team members from the Public Relations team and art docents, they visited and experienced the arts, cultural and entertainment offerings in the property. Students learnt about the latest trend of the local tourism industry, through getting a glimpse of how an integrated resort hotel incorporates elements such as sports, arts and culture into its offerings. Then, they proceeded to each of their training and practice session, where they were given the task to promote MGM COTAI through interview questions, stories, videos and social media content. Some of the outstanding students were selected to present their work on the grand stage of MGM Theater in front of their peers and tutors at the end, where they were able to strengthen their skills in interviewing, communication and public speaking.



One of the participating students, Chu Nga Ki from Pui Ching Middle School shared her experience. "I discovered that being a reporter could be challenging as they are always given a very limited timeline to create informative content that have to be attractive and relatable to the audiences. That being said, I was able to obtain the skill of completing a task efficiently from this exercise. I genuinely hope to take part in more activities like this one to expand my horizons."

Finalists Get Opportunity to Enter Olympic Newsroom



"Selection of Student Reporters for Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games" is the only official youth educational program under the Beijing Organizing Committee for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Co-organized by the Department of Media and Communications of the Committee and Beijing Radio & Television Station, the program aims to promote the knowledge and spirit of the Olympic to the young generation in the nation, as well as providing training to student reporters with excellent multilingual capability. The 40 finalists of Macau Station will take part in the nation-wide selection and compete with other student reporters from all over China. Winners will have the opportunity to enter the newsroom of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games and cover this major international sports event along with other professional reporters from around the world.

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US

Justice Department says Russians hacked federal prosecutors

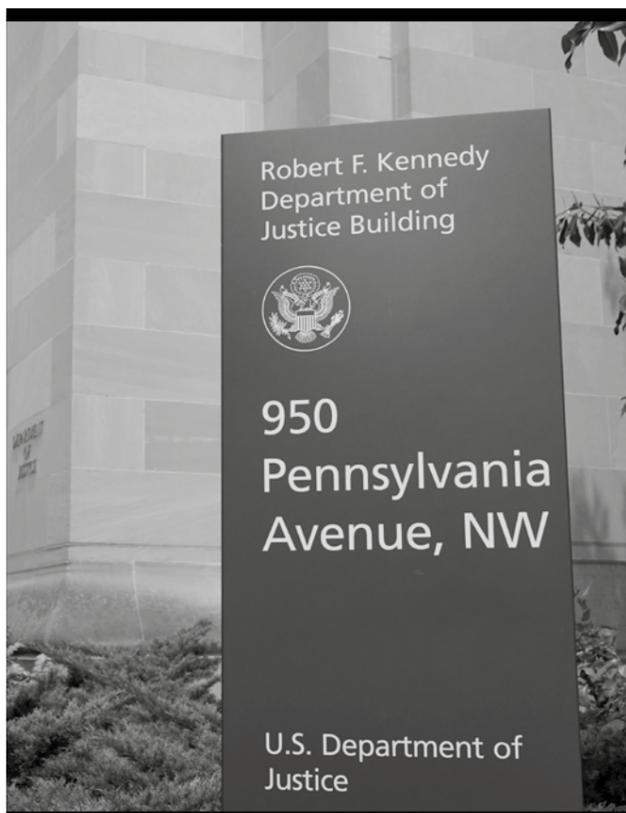
ALAN SUDERMAN & ERIC TUCKER, WASHINGTON

AP PHOTO

THE Russian hackers behind the massive SolarWinds cyberespionage campaign broke into the email accounts of some of the most prominent federal prosecutors' offices around the country last year, the Justice Department said.

The department said 80% of Microsoft email accounts used by employees in the four U.S. attorney offices in New York were breached. All told, the Justice Department said 27 U.S. attorney offices had at least one employee's email account compromised during the hacking campaign.

The Justice Department said in a statement Friday that it believes the accounts were compromised from May 7 to Dec. 27, 2020. Such a timeframe is notable because the SolarWinds campaign, which infiltrated dozens of private-sector companies and think tanks as well as at least nine U.S. government agencies, was first discovered and publici-



zed in mid-December.

The Biden administration in April announced sanctions, including the expulsion of Russian diplomats, in response to the SolarWinds hack and Russian interference in the 2020 U.S. presidential election. Russia has denied wrongdoing.

Jennifer Rodgers, a lecturer at Columbia Law School, said office emails frequently contained all sorts of sensitive information, including case strategy discussions and names of confidential informants, when she was a federal prosecutor in New York.

"I don't remember ever having someone bring me a document instead of emailing it to me because of security concerns," she said, noting exceptions for classified materials.

The Administrative Office of U.S. Courts confirmed in January that it was also breached, giving the SolarWinds hackers another entry point to steal confidential information like trade secrets, espionage targets, whistleblower reports and arrest warrants.

The list of affected offices include several large and high-profile ones like those in Los Angeles, Miami, Washington and the Eastern District of Virginia.

The Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, where large numbers of staff were hit, handle some of the most prominent prosecutions in the country.

"New York is the financial center of the world and those districts are particularly well known for investigating and prosecuting white-collar crimes and other cases, including investigating people close to the former president," said Bruce Green, a professor at Fordham Law School and a former prosecutor in the Southern District.

The department said all victims had been notified and it is working to mitigate "operational, security and privacy risks" caused by the hack. The Justice Department said in January that it had no indication that any classified systems were affected. **MDT/AP**

He pointed to the country's 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, which saw Iran agree to limit its enrichment of uranium in exchange for the lifting of economic sanctions. However, that deal now sits in tatters after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the accord in May 2018.

Rouhani blamed many of Iran's current problems on Trump's decision, which saw the value of the Islamic Republic's rial currency crash. The president said that while Iran had plans to upgrade its armed forces after the expiration of a U.N. arms embargo in October 2020, it couldn't due to its financial woes.

"We did not have the money to buy due to sanctions and not selling oil, but the contract is completely ready," he said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1984 EURO COURT CONDEMNS PHONE-TAPPING



A Surrey businessman who accused the police of illegally tapping his phone is celebrating after a ruling by the European Court of Human Rights.

James Malone, a former antiques dealer from Dorking in Surrey, claims that while he was on trial for handling stolen goods in 1977, the police intercepted his telephone calls and his post.

In 1979, Mr Malone, who was acquitted on all charges, unsuccessfully tried to sue the Metropolitan Police in the High Court but the court said it had no jurisdiction in the matter.

Following a six-year campaign, Mr Malone's case was finally referred to the European Courts in May last year and a panel of 18 judges ruled today that the UK government was in breach of the European Convention.

Mr Malone was delighted by the decision although he is not convinced the practice will stop.

He said: "I am very pleased but I think that all that will happen is that the police or the government will not be caught with their trousers down again.

"Any safe-guard they bring in will just be to ensure that no-one will catch them doing it."

The British government has been told by the European Court to change its 'obscure' regulations.

Ministers had argued that post and telephone interceptions were justified in the interests of crime prevention and it was not necessary to incorporate regulations into the law.

Up to now, police have been allowed to carry out up to 400 phone-taps and 100 mail interceptions a year with authorisation from the home secretary.

There are also fears that the introduction of new electronic telephone exchanges will make the practice of phone-tapping even easier.

Campaigners have now called for new legislation which would require a judge to authorise all phone-taps.

The Home Office confirmed tonight the regulations will be revised and legislation will be introduced to take into account the European Court's judgement.

Courtesy BBC News

IRAN

Outgoing president says gov't not always truthful

IRAN'S outgoing president yesterday acknowledged his nation at times "did not tell part of the truth" to its people during his eight-year tenure, as he prepares to leave office with his signature nuclear deal with world powers in tatters and tensions high with the West.

President Hassan Rouhani's comments, aired on state television, come as officials in his government have appeared rudderless in recent months amid a series of crises ranging from the coronavirus pandemic to parching droughts fueling public protests.

After appearing just days

earlier to be lectured by Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei about their failures in the nuclear negotiations, Rouhani's remarks appeared aimed at acknowledging the problems his government faced in its waning hours. President-elect Ebrahim Raisi, a protégé of Khamenei, will be inaugurated Thursday.

"What we told people was not contrary to reality, but we did not tell part of the truth to people," Rouhani said at his last Cabinet meeting as president. "Because I did not find it useful and I was afraid it would harm national unity."

He did not elaborate on what he meant by his remarks. However, during his tenure, Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard mistakenly shot down a commercial airliner and killed 176 people onboard in January 2020, which the government refused for days to acknowledge until Western nations went public with their suspicions.

Rouhani, a relative moderate within Iran's theocracy, insisted he and his officials did their best.

"If we have a defect, we apologize to the people and ask them for forgiveness and mercy," Rouhani said.

IN CONTEXT

In 1985 the government introduced the Interception of Communications Act which allowed the police and security services to tap phone lines or intercept paper mail, after obtaining a warrant from the Home Secretary (or the First Minister in Scotland), the Foreign Secretary, or the Northern Ireland Secretary.

But the boom in electronic communications made the situation extremely complex because the law failed to take into account methods of communication such as email, texting and pager messages.

The Regulation of Investigatory Powers (RIP) Act, which came into force in July 2000, aimed to stop criminals using the internet by giving police the power to intercept computer traffic.

But the law was criticised by civil liberties campaigners who said the 'ordinary' user's privacy was under threat. The debate continues.



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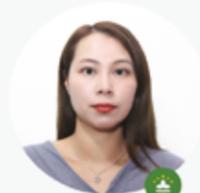
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Property of the Week



Hellene Gardens
HKD 10,880,000 1,707 ft² 2 2 1

With a generous sea-facing balcony to the front and a large mountain-facing window to the back, this property will never lack natural light. It has been renovated to a high standard in a minimalistic, modern style. Two large suites have been created from the original layout, both benefitting from en-suite bathrooms. However, the buyer could turn the apartment back into a 3 or 4-bedroom unit without much difficulty. The living space is both comfortable and inviting for the residents of the apartment to spend time together. With an open kitchen and an adjacent laundry area, this apartment comes with no wasted space.

Viewings by appointment.
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Property Hotlist

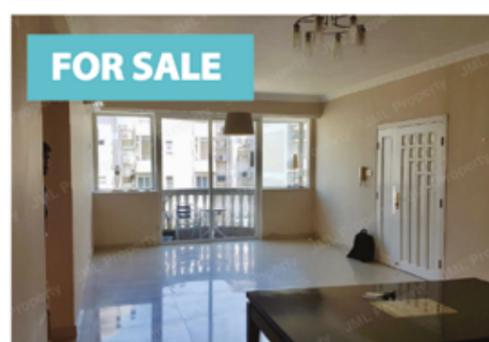


Hellene Gardens
HKD 14,980,000

2,305 ft²
4
2
1



Ref: 2106 6003



Hellene Gardens
HKD 7,980,000

1,663 ft²
3
2
1



Ref: 2106 6005



Hellene Gardens
HKD 14,800/mth

2,073 ft²
3
2
1



Ref: 2107 1003

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- [Macau] Jardim do Dragao 2 1 840 ft² **HKD 6,680,000** Ref: 2106 6001
- [Taipa] Taipa Village 4 2 1,404 ft² **HKD 8,380,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Macau] Basement style 2 2 2,200 ft² **HKD 9,990,000** Ref: 1511 5464
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 2 1,439 ft² **HKD 11,770,000** Ref: 1904 5004
- [Taipa] Manhattan 4 2 2,305 ft² **HKD 17,980,000** Ref: 1807 5558

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- [Taipa] Jardin Lamerias 2 2 747 ft² **HKD 11,200/mth** Ref: 2106 1003
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft² **HKD 16,900/mth** Ref: 2106 1002
- [Taipa] Chun U Villa 4 3 1,979 ft² **HKD 17,500/mth** Ref: 2104 1001
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TOKYO 2020

Shi Tingmao of China completes Olympic 3-meter diving sweep

BETH HARRIS, TOKYO

HEARING the start of her introduction, Chinese diver Shi Tingmao put one foot on the top spot of the podium. She sheepishly stepped back down and waited for the announcer to finish.

It was the only mistake she made all day.

Shi easily won the women's 3-meter springboard title yesterday, earning her second diving gold medal of the Tokyo Olympics.

Once on the podium, a smiling Shi raised both arms in triumph.

"I've waited so long for this moment," Shi said through a translator. "There were a lot of expectations. I feel satisfied."

Shi added the individual 3-meter title to the springboard synchro gold she earlier won with Wang Han, successfully defending both of her titles from five years ago in Rio de Janeiro.

AP PHOTO



The Chinese have won four of the first five diving events. They took silver in men's 10-meter platform synchro.

"They're so consistent," bronze medalist Krysta Palmer of the

United States said. "They have a lot of pressure, but I think they handle it pretty well."

Shi led all five rounds, totaling 383.50 points. Wang earned silver with 348.75.

Shi earned her highest score of 78.00 points on her last dive, a forward 2 1/2 somersaults with one twist pike. She knifed through the water with barely a splash. After climbing out of the pool, Shi buried her face in her yellow chamois, hiding her tears.

"One year ago I was not doing that well," Shi said. "I'm very thankful that I didn't give up."

Since arriving in Tokyo, Shi had struggled with the food and cardboard beds at the athletes village. The diver, who turns 30 at the end of the month, felt pressure to defend her titles.

"My age has never been the biggest problem," she said. "Whether I want it or don't want it, that's the most important thing. My original goal of wanting the gold medal has never changed."

Shi enjoyed herself behind the scenes, posing for photos with her gold medal and four fingers held up, signaling her career medal total.

Palmer finished with 343.75 points. She's the first American medalist in 3-meter since Kelly McCormick won the same color medal at the 1988 Seoul Olympics. It's also the first individual medal won by the United States since Laura Wilkinson's platform gold at the 2000 Sydney Games. **MDT/AP**

AD

An advertisement for The Roadhouse Macau. The background is a dark wood panel with a decorative border. At the top, a red banner reads "THE ROADHOUSE". Below it is a graphic of a green and white electric guitar with a silver engine block behind it. A red banner below the guitar reads "MACAU". Below this are three smaller banners: "FAST BIKES", "ROCK & ROLL MUSIC", and "FOOD AND FUN". At the bottom, there are three circular images: a motorcycle, a band performing on stage, and a hand holding a Guinness beer. At the very bottom, text reads "THE ROADHOUSE MACAU IS MACAU'S MOST POPULAR BAR FOR BLUES, BOOZE AND ROCK. COME ON DOWN AND LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL."

TOKYO 2020

HAUGHEY WINS RARE MEDALS FOR HONG KONG; OUT OF 50 FREE SWIM

BETH HARRIS, TOKYO

SIOBHÁN Haughey had already made history at the Tokyo Olympics. Then she went out and burnished her legacy in the pool.

The 23-year-old swimmer from Hong Kong earned a silver medal in the 100-meter freestyle on Friday, to go with the silver she won in the 200 free two days earlier. They are the first swimming medals won by Hong Kong.

"This is crazy and surreal," Haughey said. "The 200 free is always my main event, so the 100 is more like a bonus for me. My goal is just to go in and have fun and swim a best time and I did that."

Her time of 52.27 seconds in the 100 free was topped only by Emma McKeon of Australia, who set an Olympic record of 51.96 to win.

"I didn't have a lot of experience going into this race," Haughey said. "I went another best time. It's so surreal."

Hundreds of people crowded a shopping mall in Hong Kong on Friday to watch Haughey. Her two silvers are

AP PHOTO



among six medals won by the country since it first competed in the Summer Games in 1952.

"I'm just here having a good time," she said, "and if that also means having great results it is so much fun."

Haughey withdrew from the semifinals of the 50 free on Saturday morning because of a hip injury, according to her coach, Rick Bishop. He said it first bothered her during the 100 free, but she kept going. She finished 15th in the 50 free prelims.

Five years ago in Rio de Janeiro, Haughey finished 13th

in the 200 free. She has won multiple medals at the Asian Games, East Asian Games, and Summer Youth Olympics.

"I feel like I was always so close," she said, "so now finally being able to medal means so much."

Born four months after Britain handed the sovereignty of Hong Kong back to China in 1997, she was raised there until leaving for the U.S. to attend the University of Michigan. She graduated in 2019 with a psychology degree and was a 15-time Big Ten Conference champion. **MDT/AP**

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**BETTER TOO MUCH
 THAN TOO LITTLE**

The tragic loss of dozens of lives in the floods in Zhengzhou, capital city of Henan province, has taught the whole country a hard-learned lesson of the need to be better prepared to respond to extreme weather incidents.

Despite the persistent red alerts issued by local meteorological departments and warning of heavy precipitation, administrative authorities in the Central China city failed to take proper precautions.

Despite national and local regulations suggesting businesses and schools be closed and various non-essential activities be suspended, everything carried on as usual in Zhengzhou on July 20, until floodwaters caused by torrential rainfall inundated Line 5 of the city's metro system as well as the Jingguang tunnel, stranding hundreds inside subway cars and vehicles inside the tunnels. As of Monday noon, more than 50 people had been confirmed to have drowned in the city.

While the severity of the rainfall on July 20 was indeed beyond anticipation for the otherwise dry central city, with some calling it as a "once in a millennium" tragedy, it was a tragic natural disaster made worse by a belated emergency response.

If the municipal authorities had followed the advice of meteorological regulations and enforced the proposed suspensions, people would not have been traveling on the roads. If the subway operator suspended services as soon as the flooding began, and the ground traffic authorities closed the tunnel before it was too late, the outcome might have been very different.

But everybody was waiting for orders so that they wouldn't be blamed for making the decision. When the municipal emergency response command did initiate the highest level of disaster response, it was too late to make any difference.

Although those ifs and buts come after the fact, local authorities in other places seem to have learned a quick lesson from the Zhengzhou tragedy, initiating efficient and resolute emergency responses to the arrival of Typhoon In-Fa in the past few days.

Premier Li Keqiang on Monday ordered local governments not to hesitate in even overdoing their precautions in the face of similar emergencies. And on the same day, the National Development and Reform Commission also called for "resolute" measures to respond to severe weather events and maximum endeavors to protect public safety.

Hopefully, such clarity will suffice to make a difference in local governments' approach to similar emergencies. We are just half way into this year's flood season. And Henan may not be the only victim of nature's wrath considering the global temperature rise has yet to be tamed.

**HONG KONG POLICE ARREST MAN
 FOR BOOING NATIONAL ANTHEM**

**THE
 BUZZ**

Hong Kong police have arrested a man accused of booing the Chinese national anthem while watching an Olympic event at a mall.

The 40-year-old man was allegedly waving colonial-era Hong Kong flags and booing, while urging others to join him in insulting the national anthem, according to a police statement posted on Facebook.

Hong Kong passed a law in June last year that criminalized any actions that insult the national anthem. Violating the law can

mean a fine of up to \$6,400, and up to nine years in prison.

China's central government criminalized actions that insult the national flag and emblem in amendments to the law last October, which is also applicable to Hong Kong, a former British colony.

The suspect was standing in a crowd with others on Friday to watch Hong Kong fencer Edgar Cheung in a match that would win him gold, local media reported.

The booing started at the medal ceremony, when the national anthem began playing.

AP PHOTO



MYANMAR

**MILITARY LEADER
 SAYS ELECTIONS WILL
 BE IN TWO YEARS**

SIX months after seizing power from the elected government, Myanmar's military leader yesterday repeated his pledge to hold fresh elections in two years and cooperate with Southeast Asian nations on finding a political solution for his country.

"We must create conditions to hold a free and fair multiparty general election," Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said during a recorded televised address. "We have to make preparations. I pledge to hold the multiparty general election without fail."

The military authorities would "accomplish the provisions of the state of emergency by August 2023," he said.

The state of emergency was declared when troops moved against the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi on Feb. 1, an action the generals said was permitted under the military-authored 2008 constitution. The military claimed her landslide vic-

tory in last year's national elections was achieved through massive voter fraud but it has produced no credible evidence.

The military government officially annulled the election results last Tuesday and appointed a new election commission to take charge of the polls.

The military takeover was met with massive public protests that resulted in a lethal crackdown by security forces who routinely fire live ammunition into crowds.

As of yesterday, 939 people have been killed by the authorities since Feb. 1, according to a tally kept by the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners. Casualties are also rising among the military and police as armed resistance grows in both urban and rural areas.

Moves by The Association of Southeast Asian Nations to broker a dialogue between the military government and its opponents have stalled

after an agreement at an April summit in Jakarta to appoint a special envoy for Myanmar.

The envoy still hasn't been named amid criticism of lack of commitment from Myanmar's rulers, and reluctance by its neighbors to interfere in a member's affairs.

Ahead of a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers hosted by Brunei this week, Min Aung Hlaing pushed back at the criticism, saying Myanmar "is ready to work on ASEAN cooperation within the ASEAN framework, including the dialogue with the ASEAN special envoy in Myanmar."

The country is also struggling with its worst COVID-19 outbreak that has overwhelmed its already crippled health care system. Limitations on oxygen sales have led to widespread allegations that the military is directing supplies to government supporters and military-run hospitals. **MDT/AP**

Egypt Islamic Sate group militants ambushed a checkpoint in the restive northern part of Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on Saturday, killing at least five troops from the security forces, officials said. At least six other troops were wounded in the attack in the town of Sheikh Zuweid and taken to a military hospital in the Mediterranean city of el-Arish, they said.

Croatia A German couple have been detained in Croatia for leaving their two children and a dog in a locked car with closed windows in sweltering heat, police said yesterday. A statement said that citizens in the northern coastal town of Porec on Friday evening alerted police after seeing the children and the dog in the car with German license plates. Local media said the children were both girls, ages 6 and 8.

AP PHOTO



Turkey Wildfires in the Turkish holiday beach destinations of Antalya and Mugla raged yesterday as firefighters worked to battle the blazes for a fifth day. As some residents boarded boats to flee the danger, coast guard ships waited in the sea in case a bigger evacuation was needed. Police water cannons, usually used to control riots, assisted helicopters and fire trucks in a village of Mugla's popular district of Bodrum to fight fires. Turkish television showed fires had reignited after being extinguished earlier, with blazes and smoke approaching a village.

AP PHOTO



UK Restaurants, ride-hailing apps and food delivery services are backing Britain's Covid-19 vaccination drive, offering discounts and even free slices of pizza to persuade young people to roll up their sleeves and get the shot. The program, announced yesterday by the Department of Health and Social Care, is designed to boost the vaccination rate among adults under 30 as Britain races to inoculate as many people as possible before colder weather arrives.