



CENTRAL, LOCAL GOVERNMENTS REJECT US COMMENTS ON MACAU ELECTION FOR DISQUALIFYING PRO-DEMOCRACY CANDIDATES P5

CHINA ORDERS MASS TESTING IN WUHAN AS COVID CONTAGION SPREADS P6

LAWMAKER NG KUOK CHEONG CALLS ON GOVERNMENT TO POSTPONE GAMING CONCESSIONS TENDER FOR TWO YEARS P4

Afghanistan The Taliban pressed ahead with their advances in southern Afghanistan yesterday, capturing nine out of 10 districts of the Helmand provincial capital, residents and officials said. Afghan government forces launched airstrikes, backed by the U.S., in a desperate effort to defend the city of Lashkar Gah. The fall of Lashkar Gah would be a major turning point in the offensive the Taliban have waged over the past months as U.S. and NATO forces complete their pullout from the war-torn country.

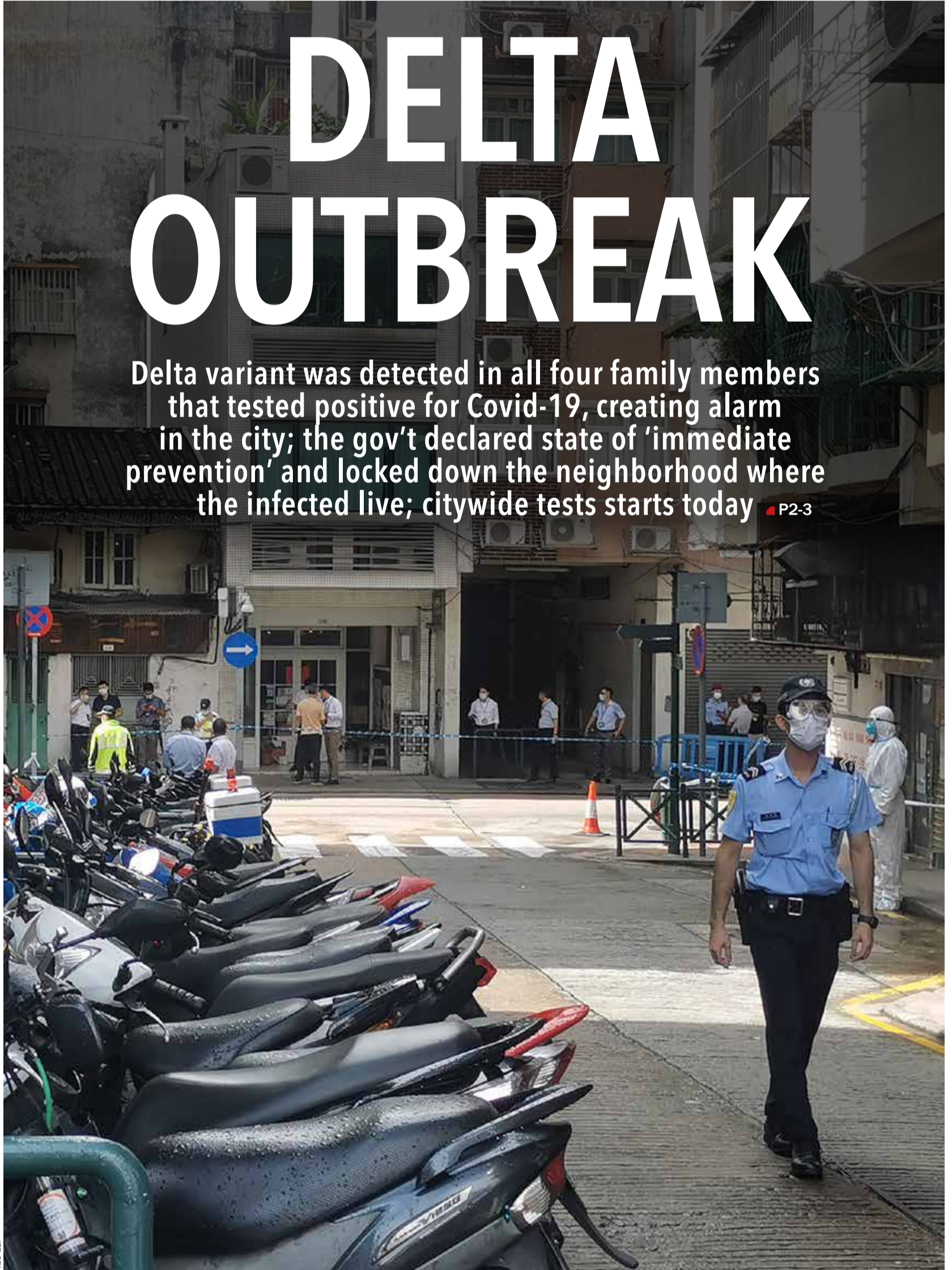
Iraq Over 17,000 looted ancient artefacts recovered from the United States and other countries were handed over to Iraq's Culture Ministry yesterday, a restitution described by the government as the largest in the country's history. The majority of the artefacts date back 4,000 years to ancient Mesopotamia and were recovered from the U.S. in a recent trip by Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi.



Iran's supreme leader officially endorsed his hard-line protégé as the nation's next president yesterday, just two days ahead of the inauguration of Ebrahim Raisi at a sensitive time for Iran and the wider Middle East. The country is reeling from crushing U.S. sanctions that have devastated the economy, led to the crash of the Iranian riyal and hit ordinary Iranians hard.

Israel's Supreme Court has floated compromises that would block the evictions of dozens of Palestinians in the east Jerusalem of Sheikh Jarrah, where attempts by Jewish settlers to expel them from their homes helped spark an 11-day war between Israel and Gaza militants in May. The cases examined Monday involve four Palestinian families, numbering a total of about 70 people.

More on backpage



DELTA OUTBREAK

Delta variant was detected in all four family members that tested positive for Covid-19, creating alarm in the city; the gov't declared state of 'immediate prevention' and locked down the neighborhood where the infected live; citywide tests starts today P2-3

INES LEI

Health system strong enough to tackle

HONEY TSANG

AS of 3 p.m. yesterday, Macau entered "immediate prevention status" soon after the government reported that a family of four locals tested positive in the afternoon.

Given the cases, the government proclaimed that Macau is now facing an "extremely high" contagion risk within the local community.

To prevent the spread of Covid-19 in Macau, a set of mandates has been enforced, including the requirement for all people leaving Macau to present proof of a negative Covid-19 test result conducted within the 24 hours since yesterday afternoon and the classification of the residential building inhabited by the family as a "red-code zone."

The officials have cordoned off the building. No residents are permitted to leave the area until they test negative for Covid-19 or until further notice. They will also have their health code changed from green to red.

It is suspected that the daughter of the family was the source of the group's infection, Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention stated in yesterday's Covid-19 media briefing.

The daughter went to Xi'an from Zhuhai via flight CZ3761, together with 29 other members, to engage in dance-related activities organi-



zed by Hou Kong Middle School on July 19.

It was found that the flight she took was associated with the two confirmed cases reported earlier in Zhuhai and Zhongshan, with both cases found to be connected with the mainland's new Covid-19 epicenter at Nanjing Lukou Internatio-

nal Airport, director of the Health Bureau (SSM) Alvis Lo said.

The daughter developed symptoms, such as coughing and loss of taste and smell, on July 22 in Xi'an, but had not sought medical treatment. She went to Zhuhai from Xi'an via flight CZ 3762 and returned to Macau on the same day: July 25.



On July 28, the son of the family developed a fever, and found himself losing his sense of taste and smell the next day.

It appears that the virus had been transmitted to their parents, the 51-year-old father and 43-year-old mother, who developed similar symptoms on August 1 and 2 res-

pectively. All four family members have tested positive for Covid-19.

The SSM identified the daughter as an imported case, whilst the other three family members as cases associated with the imported case.

The father works as a driver for the Health Bureau, mostly working

DEMAND FOR AGRICULTURE PRODUCTS INCREASES DUE TO COVID-19

HONEY TSANG

LOCAL demand for agriculture products has increased during the pandemic, as more locals are less inclined to cross the border and purchase fresh produce in the mainland, the CEO of the Tai Fung Supermarket chain stated on the sidelines of a recent event.

The supermarket group registered an increase of nearly 20% in sales of agricultural products during the pandemic, the CEO said.

On August 2, Tai Fung and Tianning District of Changzhou, a city in Jian-

gsu province, inked a long-term cooperation agreement which will usher in a direct supply chain of 'Cui-guan' pears cultivated from Changzhou's Jiaoxi Village to Macau. In the first phase of this agreement, Tai Fung is set to receive a total of six tons of the pears from Changzhou.

The collaboration will help save around 10% of previous costs, which used to go to intermediaries. As such, locals can purchase the fruit at a lower cost.

When asked if the recent resurgence of Covid-19 within Jiangsu province will affect the supply of agricultural goods shipped

from Changzhou into Macau, Tai Fung's CEO confirmed that as of now, the impact is not significant as the pandemic situation in Changzhou is considered less severe than that in Nanjing.

Besides, mainland governments have long adopted stringent control measures on their agricultural products, he said.

The signing ceremony was also attended by an official from Changzhou, who reaffirmed his commitment to better promote Tianning's quality fresh produce to Macau's residents.



Residents flock to supermarkets following the government's announcement of new Covid cases in Macau

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

current cases: Alvis Lo



CHAN KA CHON

at the Seac Pai Van Clinic and Coloane Health Clinic, while the mother works in a fruit stall at Rua da Emenda.

The government identified 29 other members of Hou Kong Dance Group, three other staff members in the fruit stall where the mother worked, and six others who un-

derwent Covid-19 testing at the same time as the parents in Zhuhai as close contacts of the family. The government is arranging Covid-19 tests for these individuals.

Henceforth, the city's five Covid-19 test centers will operate on a 24-hour basis. The government calls on all residents who display

symptoms to seek medical attention and be tested for Covid-19 as soon as possible.

When asked why the daughter was permitted to enter Macau even after developing symptoms, Leong said that the government is investigating whether she truthfully declared her health status upon arrival.

The daughter claimed that she only had mild symptoms and no fever at the time, and recovered on July 27.

Although the parents are vaccinated, the officials did not specify which vaccine they received, while their two children are yet to be vaccinated.

The Public Security Police Force has begun reaching out to 29 members of Hou Kong Dance Group and arranging Covid-19 and serology tests for them at the Pac On Covid-19 test station.

As of last night, 18 members of the troupe tested negative after the nucleic acid test. They are, however, under medical observation.

The authorities call on anyone who took the same flights as the daughter (CZ3761 and CZ3762) to report themselves to the SSM.

FAMILY'S WHEREABOUTS

Health officials have published the itineraries of the family over the past few days. The family were at Federal Restaurant on July 25 from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. and at Ah Ga Restaurant from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on July 27.

Their son stayed at home most of the time but went to Wong Ieng Kuan Library in Luís de Camões Garden on July 26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The daughter claimed that after returning to Macau she has not gone out, except to dine out on the two occasions with the family.

CONFIDENCE IN HEALTH SYSTEM

Alvis Lo stated that the SSM has made plans, which have been partially enacted, to increase medical resources for the worst-case scena-

rios since last year.

Even if there are positive cases found among the close contacts of the family, the capacity of the local health care system is still sufficient to accommodate the new cases, he said.

OTHER REGULATIONS

Given the severity of the current situation, the government has again designated two hotels, Metropole Hotel and Sheraton Grand Macao, as quarantine facilities today and tomorrow, which will offer 112 and 2,000 hotel rooms, respectively.

A local water tour as part of the MGTO's domestic travel scheme "Stay, Dine and See Macao," which was originally scheduled to set sail yesterday night, was also canceled.

Hordes of people flocked to supermarkets to purchase supplies since the announcement. The authorities urged the public not to stockpile goods as local food supplies are still adequate.

Since the government announced that all people must present negative Covid-19 test results obtained within 24 hours upon departure, many commuters flooded to the control points, queuing at nearby Covid-19 test stations in order to cross the border.

Since yesterday, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has deployed great resources to carry out large-scale disinfection works in certain high-risk areas, such as the family's workplace and residential buildings.

Many offline government events have also been suspended following the discovery of the four new cases.

COVID-19

Delta variant confirmed in four new cases

ANTHONY LAM

THE four new Covid-19 patients in the city have contracted the Delta strain of the coronavirus, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced last night.

A recent New York Times news report cited an internal document of the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, saying that the strain is "as contagious as chickenpox." As far as information available, the strain is the most contagious among all SARS-CoV-2 variants.

In response to the new infections recorded, the authorities have cordoned off part of the Rua de Coelho do Amaral as a tactic in the Precise Epidemic Control Scheme.

Eight buildings, meanwhile, located within the cordoned area,



CHAN KA CHON

are identified as either Red Zone or Yellow Zone.

Mei Lin Building, in which the four patients live, alongside the two buildings adjacent to it, has been identified as the Red Zone. Residents are not allowed to leave the building until the Health Bureau considers appropriate.

To facilitate the lockdown, the Municipal Affairs Bureau has distributed two days of food supplies to the

affected residents.

In addition to that, the five other buildings located in the cordoned area, namely Lin Seng Building, Chun Cheong Building, Wo Heng Building, Wa Keong Building and Kin Keong Building, are identified as the Yellow Zone. Residents in the Yellow Zone will be tested for the virus at a later date.

The area between Wing Fat Building, the workplace

of the mother, and Avenida de Horta e Costa has also been identified as the Red Zone.

Dr Lei Wai Seng, medical director of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital, admitted that an unconfirmed number of residents from 11 households were not at home

when the lockdown commenced, meaning that their secretion samples were not taken.

He said that the authorities will wait for them to return home and if they do not, the authorities will consider other strategies. He added that some of these individuals have gone to

the public hospital themselves to take the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test.

The authorities have previously announced that the daughter was on a school excursion with 29 other individuals. Lei revealed that the authorities managed to trace back 18 of them. They have all been tested negative for the virus.

The remaining 11 have left Macau prior to the onset of the family.

CITYWIDE PCR TEST COMMENCES

LA TE last night, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced that citywide PCR test would commence at 9 a.m. today. There will be 41 sample collection points across the city, which will operate 24 hours a day. The authority expects to conclude the operation in three days.

The sample collection points mainly fall in schools and activity centers of local associations. Certain gambling concessionaires will also make inputs in leading out part of their properties for the operation. Macau Peninsula will have 27 collec-

tion points and 14 in Taipa and Cotai.

Arrangement details will be announced in due course, the authorities added.

The five existing sample collection points will remain in service with 24-hour daily operations.

The authorities also remind members of the public that the city is now in the "state of immediate prevention, which criminalizes the spreading of rumors. As such, members of the public are discouraged from spreading unverified information, but encouraged to rely on the centralized announcement by the government. **AL**

27 BIDS FOR COMPLEX'S RENOVATION PROJECT

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has received 27 bids for the planned renovation of the office areas at the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries Commercial and Trade Service Platform Complex. The project is scheduled to commence in the third quarter this year and be completed within 150 days. It is also expected to create 70 jobs. The renovations will not affect the exhibition hosted at the complex.

FERRY ROUTE SUSPENDED AFTER STRONG WIND SIGNAL ANNOUNCED

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) has temporarily suspended the ferry route between the Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal and Zhuhai Jiuzhou Port yesterday after a strong wind warning was issued. The bureau urged the maritime industry, operators of terminals in the inner harbor and members of the public prepare for a potential typhoon. Those planning to use maritime transport are advised to pay close attention to weather conditions and changes to ferry routes. "As it is summer vacation now, there should be more beach users, but as the wind and waves have gradually become stronger, Hac Sa Beach and Cheoc Van Beach have changed their flags to yellow and red flags respectively," the DSAMA stated.

NG KUOK CHEONG CALLS ON GOV'T TO POSTPONE GAMING CONCESSIONS TENDER FOR TWO YEARS

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKER Ng Kuok Cheong has again called on the government to postpone the public tender for the new gaming licenses that are due in June 2022.

In a spoken inquiry delivered yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL), Ng reaffirmed the need for the government to postpone the licensing tender until the economic situation in Macau improves. The lawmaker, who has raised several questions on this topic in the past, urged the government to postpone the date for at least two more years. This request was made on the second day of a plenary session dedicated to questions answered by the government on a range of topics.

A response from the government was made by the director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), Adriano Ho, who did not definitively confirm whether the government would consider such a possibility. The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, was noted as absent.

Instead, Ho said that the government was focusing on improvements to the legal framework that regulates the gaming industry, aiming to "strengthen supervision, promote the development of gaming and non-gaming elements, and create favorable conditions for the continuous and healthy development of the gaming industry."

The DICJ director also remarked that the government is currently carrying out preliminary



work for the new licenses bid, namely preparing amendments to the gaming industry legal regime.

Ho reaffirmed that the government will consider perspectives from lawmakers and industry in establishing the new regime, which he said will require the gaming concessionaires "to perform a role with greater social responsibility."

In response, Ng said, "It seems that the government has not yet made any decision on this matter," adding, "I hope that, at least, these works can be well organized and planned and that the government does not insist on opening the tender in a time of economic recession."

In the same inquiry, Ng also urged the government to pay special attention to the ratio of resident workers who are working within the gaming concessionaires, ur-

ging the government to ensure that the rules that prescribe a ratio of 85% of residents are followed and, calling this ceiling to be raised up to 90%.

For Ng, it is essential to call for a higher percentage by default, "so we don't see a regression in the future," he said.

According to figures quoted by the director of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), until June this year, there were 105,000 local workers within the gaming concessionaires, accounting for 77% of the total.

Lawmaker Leong Sun Lok noted that the 85% ratio is very far from being fulfilled across several positions.

"We need to find ways to ensure that this proportion is achieved in all areas and not just in croupiers and directors' posts," he added.

Ella Lei provided an example from the Food and Beverage sector, where she noted, "It is very important for the concessionaires but there are no opportunities for these workers to have a career promotion [in this sector]. We know that there are a lot of managers and supervisors who are non-resident workers and, in most cases, this makes no sense." She called on the DSAL to be more attentive and provide clearer information, rather than reporting generalized statistics that may not reflect the human realities of individual situations.

Like Ng and Au Kam San before her, Lei also called for a larger allocation of the profits of the casinos towards "socially relevant projects."

Lawmaker Davis Fong dissented, presenting a viewpoint in favor of the gaming concessionaires by calling for less pressure on the casinos.

"What is on the line here is size. The DSAL director mentioned that there are already over 100,000 workers in the concessionaires. What happens now is that we can't predict what will happen. We can't know the size [of the gaming industry] in the future. Not having this prospective data, we can't predict how many workers this sector can take," he said.

He also expressed that it is not possible to know whether the gaming industry in Macau will ever recover to historical highs.

The DICJ reaffirmed that the government will present the draft for public consultation this year.

Central Library discussed at AL, flyover to be considered

RENATO MARQUES

ON the initiative of lawmaker Wong Kit Cheng, an inquiry was put to the government concerning the Central Library project, noting concerns regarding the price, timing for construction, and accessibility planning.

At the Legislative Assembly (AL) session yesterday, the director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Mok Ian Ian, said that the government is paying attention to the project's development as well as public opinion gathered thus far.

The vice president of IC, Deland Leong, added that the IC is now considering including an access flyover (not considered in the original plans) to improve accessibility to the new library.

"IC did not originally consider the flyover to improve access to the new library. But we now are considering the possibility of integrating such a structure in the project to ensure safety for citizens while crossing the road," Leong said in response to several questions from lawmakers.

Lawmaker Sulu Sou wanted to know what

solutions would be available for other facilities that were originally intended to be included in the now-abandoned Youth Activity Center project. This project was abandoned with the decision to relocate the new Central Library from the Old Court Building to the former Estoril Hotel land plot at Tap Seac Square.

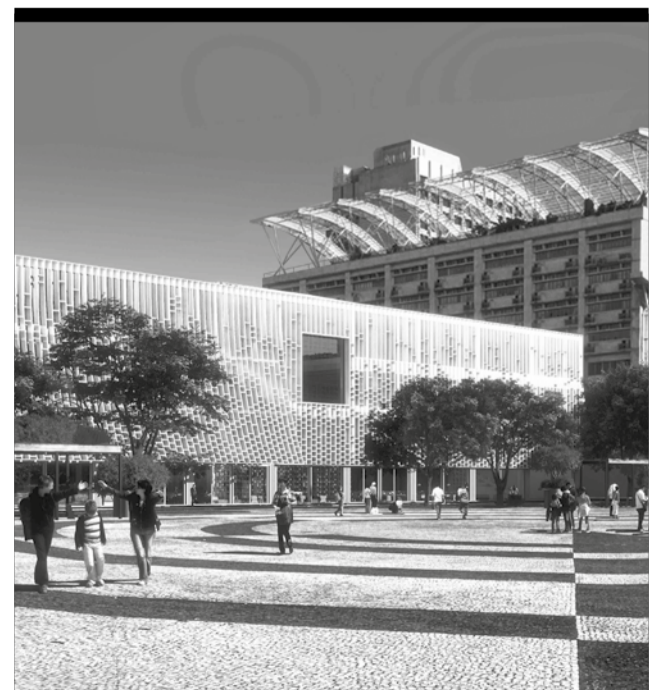
According to Mok, solutions are being considered for such schools, saying that the construction of the facilities in "other land spaces" is the most likely solution.

While the majority of the lawmakers urged the

government to ensure that the project moves forward without delay or exceeding the budget, lawmaker Mak Soi Kun had a very different opinion.

Mak said that the IC should "communicate with the Land and Public Works Bureau and consider starting construction of the new Central Library at a later stage."

The lawmaker fears that there will be too many ongoing public works projects in progress at the same time, potentially resulting in a shortage of manpower within the construction sector.



National, SAR gov'ts reject US comments on Macau election

BOTH mainland Chinese and local authorities have denounced the remarks by US State Department Spokesperson Edward Price on the disqualification of 21 individuals from the upcoming parliamentary election.

The Legislative Assembly Election is set to take place on September 12.

The Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) has disqualified 21 individuals from the original 20 candidate lists. On Monday, CAEAL announced it has accepted 14 lists, of which 128 candidates will run for 14 seats in the direct election constituency.

"The Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) Government resolutely rejects remarks made recently by a spokesperson for the United States Department of State, concerning the Legislative Assembly Election of the MSAR," the local government said in a statement.



"The decision of the [CAEAL] to exclude some individuals from the upcoming election has its basis in a power vested with the Commission under the Legislative Assembly Election Law. This decision has been confirmed in a ruling by the Court of Final Appeal of the MSAR," it added.

Meanwhile, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesper-

son reiterated, "We deplore and reject it that relevant sides, in grave violation of international law and basic norms governing international relations, have time and again made wanton comments on the affairs of China's Hong Kong and Macau SARs."

The national authority added that "supporting the Basic Law of the MSAR of the People's Republic of China and

pledging allegiance to the SAR are the legal requirements for members of the Legislative Assembly."

Last week, the EU issued a brief statement to comment on the CAEAL's decision. Price tweeted his remarks, citing the EU statement and saying that "the U.S. stands with the European Union in opposing Macau's disqualification of 21 legislative candidates."AL

ELECTIONS 2021

CAEAL DRAWS FOR BALLOT POSITIONS, DISCOURAGES 'WHITE BALLOTS'

THE Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) conducted a draw yesterday to determine the order of candidate lists in the upcoming parliamentary election, while at the same time expressing disapproval of the practice of casting "white ballots."

Now that the order of the 14 lists has been determined, the election has entered the campaign-free period, meaning that no campaign rallies may be conducted. The campaign-free period will end on August 28.

The CAEAL previously disqualified 21 individuals across six different lists from the election. Certain members of the public were unhappy with the decision and pledged to cast blank votes to express their dissatisfaction.

President of the CAEAL, Tong Hio Fong, said that the commission disapproves of any "actions that intentionally or unintentionally disturb the electoral procedures." He, however, added that voters are free to make their own choice.

Despite a smaller number of lists being accepted, the budget and arrangements for the election will remain largely unchanged, the CAEAL head said, adding that "money that ought to be spent shall be spent."

The order of the lists has been posted at the Public Administration Building and on the CAEAL website. AL

LRT SEES RECORD DAILY PASSENGER HIGH OF 2,600 IN JULY

HONEY TSANG

THE average number of daily passengers of the Taipa Line of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) has reached a record high – totaling 2,600 in July – since it began collecting tolls in February 2020, the operator Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation revealed yesterday.

The July tally represents an increase of 900 when compared to the 1,700 recorded in the previous month, and an rise of 36.8% year-on-year.

The Taipa Line commenced a trial operation on December 10, 2019. The operator initially planned to offer free rides for all passengers until December 31, 2019, but the toll-free period was extended until January 31, 2020 due to three glitches occurring in less than three weeks since the opening.

During the toll-free period, the LRT registered the highest average daily passenger number at 33,000 in the first month



of operation in December 2019, followed by 16,000 in January 2020.

Immediately after it started charging passengers, the average daily passenger number plunged to 1,100 in February last year, dropping by a remarkable 14,900. Ever since, the average daily passenger number has hovered between 1000 and 2000.

In the plenary session of the Legislative Assembly (AL) on August 3, some lawmakers criticized the low profitability of the LRT and its minimal contribution to the local job market.

Several lawmakers including Agnes Lam and Au Kam San suggested that the government consider other ways to reduce losses, such as reducing the frequency of LRT services, especially during the evening and off-peak hours.

In response, Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Arrais do Rosário, said, "Reducing frequency will not save a lot, so we hope to continue to operate in the same way and try, instead, to attract more passengers [over time] to use the system instead of reducing operations."

仁德 CENTRO MEDICO 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

MAO PINS WORN BY CHINESE ATHLETES MAY TEST OLYMPIC RULES

GRAHAM DUNBAR
& JOE MCDONALD, TOKYO

THE image of Communist China's founding leader, Mao Zedong, made an unscheduled appearance at the Tokyo Olympics, and the International Olympic Committee said yesterday it is "looking into the matter."

The gesture — Mao pin badges worn by two Chinese gold medalists at their medal ceremony — risks being judged a breach of Olympic Charter Rule 50, which prohibits political statements on the podium at the Tokyo Games — and at the upcoming 2022 Beijing Winter Games.

After winning the women's sprint in track cycling Monday, Bao Shanju and Zhong Tianshi wore pin badges of Mao. The communist leader who proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949 remains an iconic figure in China 45 years after his death in 1976.

The incident came one day after American shot-put silver medalist Raven Saunders crossed the wrists of her raised arms on the podium. She was standing next to the gold medalist from China.

It was unclear yesterday if the Mao pins were a response to the shot-put medal ceremony.

"We have contacted the Chinese Olympic Committee, asked

AP PHOTO



Shanju Bao (left) and Tianshi Zhong, of China, celebrate Monday their gold medals wearing Mao Zedong pins

them for a report about the situation," IOC spokesman Mark Adams said at the daily news conference at the Tokyo Games.

Badges showing Mao's profile were worn by hundreds of millions of people in the 1960s to show their loyalty to the Communist Party chairman and the ultra-radical Cultural Revolution he launched in 1966. China's current party chief, Xi Jinping, has invoked Mao's image as he tries to promote his own status as a history-making Chinese leader.

At a July 1 event, Xi appeared

on Tiananmen Square in central Beijing in a gray Mao jacket identical to one worn by the former leader in a nearby portrait overlooking the square. Other party leaders at the same event dressed in blue business suits.

At a Tokyo Olympics, where athlete activists were expected to draw attention, Saunders pushed at the limits of Rule 50 by crossing her wrists to make the shape of an X. "It's the intersection of where all people who are oppressed meet," Saunders said when asked to explain it.

Saunders turned toward photographers at the Olympic Stadium to make the gesture seconds after she stood facing the Chinese flag during the national anthem playing for Gong Lijiao. The U.S. Olympic body is taking no action against Saunders, who it said late Monday "was respectful of her competitors and did not violate our rules related to demonstration."

The IOC has asked U.S. team officials for more details, Adams said yesterday, adding it noted public opinion in the case. There

has been wide support for Saunders, who is Black and gay.

Saunders said at the Olympic track her aim was "to show younger people that no matter how many boxes they try to fit you in, you can be you and you can accept it."

The IOC has long claimed it is politically neutral and must maintain that stance to allow more than 200 national teams to arrive and compete at an Olympic Games as equals. Still, the rule prohibiting all athlete protests in Olympic venues was eased slightly in the weeks before the opening ceremony in Tokyo where athletes were expected to test its limits.

Gestures and statements are now allowed inside the field of play at the start line or before a game, though not during competition or at medal ceremonies. Several women's soccer teams, for example, knelt on the field before kickoff on the first day of Olympic action on July 21.

The Mao pins, though, were an unexpected twist on the Rule 50 debate. The wearing of such badges declined after 1970 due to complaints producing them used up scarce supplies of metal required by Chinese industry. The original Cultural Revolution-era ones are sought after by collectors, both in China and in the West.

Mao images became popular again in the 1990s to express complaints that ordinary Chinese gained too little from wrenching economic changes that caused inflation and layoffs at state companies. **MDT/AP**

China orders mass testing in Wuhan as Covid outbreak spreads

CHINA suspended flights and trains, canceled professional basketball league games and announced mass coronavirus testing in Wuhan yesterday as widening outbreaks of the delta variant reached the city where the disease was first detected in late 2019.

While the total number of cases is still in the hundreds, they are far more widespread than anything China has dealt with since the initial outbreak that devastated Wuhan in early 2020 and over time spread to the rest of the country and the world.

China has not eliminated but largely curbed COVID-19 at home with quick lockdowns and mass testing to isolate infected people whenever new cases pop up. Most previous outbreaks didn't spread far beyond a city or province. This time, cases have been confirmed in more than 35 cities in 17

AP PHOTO



People scan health check codes with their smartphones to show to a security guard at a tourist shopping street in Beijing

of China's 33 provinces and regions.

The cities of Nanjing and Yangzhou have canceled all domestic flights, and Beijing has halted long-distance trains from 23 stations. The

Chinese Basketball Association said that matches of its men's professional league would be suspended because of the pandemic.

Wuhan, a provincial capital of 11 million people in

central China, is the latest city to undergo city-wide testing. Three cases were confirmed there on Monday, its first non-imported cases in more than a year.

They were among 90 new

cases confirmed nationwide the previous day, the National Health Commission said yesterday. Of those, 61 were locally spread ones and 29 among people who had recently arrived from abroad.

Most of the local cases are still in Jiangsu province, where an outbreak started at the airport in Nanjing, the provincial capital, and has spread to other parts of the province and beyond. Authorities reported 45 new cases, five in Nanjing and 40 in the city of Yangzhou, 105 kilometers away, where a second round of mass testing was underway.

Five other provinces and the cities of Beijing and Shanghai reported new local cases in the single digits. In Shanghai, the nation's largest city, a driver working at one of its two main airports tested positive. Beijing has reported a total of five cases in recent days.

The Nanjing outbreak,

which has been traced to the delta variant, is the source of the cases in most other places. Separately, delta variant outbreaks in two other places have been linked to neighboring Myanmar, which has seen a sharp rise in infections.

An outbreak in Zhengzhou, a city hit by flooding that killed about 300 people last month, started with people who arrived from Myanmar by air. A third outbreak, the one that started the earliest, spilled into Yunnan province from its border with Myanmar.

Government-affiliated scientists have said that Chinese vaccines are less effective against the new strains of the coronavirus but still offer some protection. Only Chinese vaccines are currently being given in China, where authorities say more than 1.6 billion doses have been administered. **MDT/AP**

MYANMAR

UN calls military actions moves away from democracy

EDITH M. LEDERER,
UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations yesterday (Macau time) called the Myanmar military's election delay and extension of the state of emergency a move in the wrong direction from international calls for the restoration of democracy.

Six months after seizing power from the elected government, Myanmar's military leader, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, declared himself prime minister Sunday and said he would lead the country during the extended emergency until elections are held in about two years.

"It's not taking us in the right direction," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said when asked about the military's announcement.

"It's moving us further away from what we have been calling for, member states have been calling for, which is a return to democratic rule, a release of all [...]



Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar's armed forces, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

political prisoners, a halt on the violence and the crackdown," 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 takeover was met with big public

protests that has resulted in a lethal crackdown by security forces who routinely fire live ammunition into crowds.

The military government officially annulled the November 2020 election results on July 27 and appointed a new election commission to take charge of the polls. It claimed Suu Kyi's landslide election victory was achieved

through extensive voter fraud but offered no credible evidence.

A roadmap published by the military after the takeover had called for holding new elections in a year.

Hlaing said Sunday the state of emergency will achieve its objectives by August 2023 and pledged "to hold the multiparty general election without fail."

Armed resistance to the military is growing in both urban and rural areas. As of Sunday, 939 people have been killed by the authorities since Feb. 1, according to a tally kept by the independent Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, while casualties are also rising among the military and police.

The U.N. spokesman called the situation six months after the takeover "precarious" and worsening as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, with wider implications "threatening regional stability."

"The protracted crisis has impacted humanitarian access to people in need, as well as educa-

tion, health, and the fight against COVID-19," Dujarric said. "It has also, of course, affected the basic rights of the people of Myanmar to express themselves and have a government that represents them."

"For us, a unified international response remains paramount," he said.

Moves by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to broker talks between the military government and its opponents have stalled after an agreement at an April summit in Jakarta. At the ASEAN summit, leaders issued a plan calling for a halt to violence, constructive dialogue, appointment of an ASEAN special envoy as mediator, humanitarian aid and the mediator's visit to Myanmar.

ASEAN foreign ministers were expected to discuss Myanmar in virtual meetings this week hosted by Brunei, the current chair of the 10-nation bloc.

India's U.N. ambassador, T.S. Tirumurti, the current Security Council president, told reporters yesterday that the ministers are expected to discuss the selection of an ASEAN envoy. "I think we will have to give the ASEAN initiative a fair chance," he said, adding that India hopes it will be "expedited."

Tirumurti said the council will definitely take stock of the situation in "maybe a week or two to see where we go." MDT/AP



BOOK NOW!

info@lugardasletras.com
Mobile: +351 917921 320
Praça de Gouvães, apartado 20,
5085-242 Gouvães do Douro, Sabrosa
CASA DE GOUVÃES - DOURO - PORTUGAL
TURISMO NO ESPAÇO RURAL

HOLIDAY RENTAL HOUSES

Lugar das Letras Lugar das Letras

Casa de Gouvães

Casa de Gouvães

BOOK NOW!

info@casadegouvães.com
Mobile: +351 917921 320
Praça de Gouvães, apartado 20,
5085-242 Gouvães do Douro, Sabrosa
CASA DE GOUVÃES - DOURO - PORTUGAL
TURISMO NO ESPAÇO RURAL



The houses are set in the heart of the World Heritage Site of the Douro Valley and its famous winery landscape where the worlds Ports are produced. Both restored relics overlooking the Rio Douro, these eight rooms houses have been blessed with gorgeous wooden floors, plush queen beds and marble baths; the best have dazzling river views. But it is the welcome that makes this place stand out from the crowd.



visit us at www.lugardasletras.com

visit us at www.casadegouvães.com



NORTH KOREA

Military releases army rice reserves amid shortage: Seoul

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

NORTH Korea is releasing emergency military rice reserves as its food shortage worsens, South Korea's spy agency said yesterday, with a heat wave and drought reducing the country's supply.

North Korea's reported food problems come as its moribund economy continues to be battered by the protracted COVID-19 pandemic. While mass starvation and social chaos have not been reported, observers expect a further deterioration of North Korea's food situation until the autumn harvest.

Seoul's National Intelligence Service told a closed-door parliamentary committee meeting that North Korea is supplying rice reserved for wartime use to citizens with little food, other laborers and rural state agencies, according to Ha Tae-keung, one of the lawmakers who attended the session.

Ha cited the NIS as saying an ongoing heat

wave and drought have wiped out rice, corn and other crops and killed livestock in North Korea. The NIS said North Korea's leadership views fighting the drought as "a matter of national existence" and is focusing on increasing public awareness of its campaign, Ha said.

Another lawmaker, Kim Byung-kee, quoted the NIS as saying that North Korea normally needs about 5.5 million tons of food to feed its 26 million people but is currently short 1 million tons. He said the NIS told the lawmakers that North Korea is running out of its grain stockpiles.

The price of rice, the most important crop in North Korea, once doubled from early this year. The price briefly stabilized in July before soaring again, Kim cited the NIS as saying.

Ha said North Korea is trying to control the price of grains to which its public is most sensitive.

Kwon Tae-jin, an expert at the private GS&J Institute in South Korea, said North Korea is likely releasing

the military reserves to sell at a cheaper price than at markets to stabilize prices. He said rice prices are "considerably unstable" in North Korea because the government has a limit in how much rice it can supply.

It isn't the first time that North Korea has released state rice reserves, but the assessment that it doesn't have much left in its grain stockpiles is worrisome, Kwon said.

North Korea had similar food shortages in past years before the pandemic, according to Kwon, but its needs were met by the smuggling of rice and other grains via its porous border with China. But North Korea's ongoing pandemic-caused border closure makes it extremely difficult for such smuggling to happen, worsening this year's food shortage, Kwon said.

The NIS has a spotty record in confirming developments in North Korea, one of the world's most secretive countries. But its current assessments come after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un admitted his

country faces the "worst-ever" crisis due to the pandemic and other difficulties and even a possible dire food shortage.

During a key ruling party meeting in June, Kim urged officials to find ways to boost agricultural production, saying the country's food situation "is now getting tense." Earlier, he even compared the ongoing pandemic-related difficulties to a 1990s famine that killed hundreds of thousands of people.

Chinese data show North Korea's trade with China, its last major ally and biggest trading partner, nosedived by about 80% last year — a result of the North's strict border closure. South Korea's central bank said last week that North Korea's economy is estimated to have shrunk 4.5% last year, the biggest contraction since 1997.

Kwon said North Korea's current food problem will continue until it harvests corn, rice and other grains in autumn. But he said North Korea isn't likely to suffer a humanitarian disaster like the 1990s famine, during which he said there was grain remaining at most markets. Currently, North Korean citizens can still buy grain at expensive prices if they have money, he said.

Other experts say China isn't likely to allow a massive famine to occur in North Korea. They say China worries about North Korean refugees flooding over the border into China or the establishment of a pro-U.S., unified Korea on its doorstep.

According to the NIS, North Korea wants the United States to relax some of the newer U.N. sanctions imposed over its high-profile weapons tests as a precondition for returning to talks on its nuclear program. They are bans on exporting mineral resources and importing refined oil and high-end liquors and suits. Kim Jong Un, in particular, needs those liquors and suits to distribute to elites in North Korea, Ha cited the NIS as saying.

The two lawmakers said the NIS also believes there is no indication that Kim Jong Un has a health issue, following recent photos that appeared to show a bandage on the back of his head. The NIS said Kim has been actively making public appearances and his movements have appeared normal. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1964 THREE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS FOUND DEAD



The bodies of three civil rights workers missing for six weeks have been found buried in a partially constructed dam near Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation found the three young men - two white and one black man - about six miles from the town in a wooded area near where they were last seen on the night of 21 June.

They were Michael Schwerner, aged 24, Andrew Goodman, 20, both from New York and James Chaney, 22, from Meridian, Mississippi. All were members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) dedicated to non-violent direct action against racial discrimination.

As soon as the men were reported missing, the case was made top priority and codenamed Miburn (Mississippi burning). FBI agents headed by Major Case Inspector Joseph Sullivan were sent down to Mississippi to investigate the matter.

After a tip-off they found the mens' burnt-out car two days after their disappearance.

The bodies have been taken to Jackson, Mississippi, for further examination into the cause of death. It is believed all three had been shot and the finger of blame is pointing at the Ku Klux Klan white supremacist group.

The three young men had left the CORE office in Meridian six weeks ago to investigate the destruction of a black congregation church in Longdale, Neshoba County because it was used as the site for a "freedom school".

The school was set up by Mr Schwerner as part of a wider civil rights campaign in Mississippi teaching black children, among other things, black history and the philosophy of the civil rights movement.

The Mount Zion Church was burned down on 16 June by members of the KKK searching for Mr Schwerner.

His wife, Rita, made an emotional statement to newspapers today.

She said: "My husband, Michael Schwerner, did not die in vain. If he and Andrew Goodman had been negroes, the world would have taken little notice of their deaths.

"After all, the slaying of a negro in Mississippi is not news. It is only because my husband and Andrew Goodman were white that the national alarm had been sounded."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 13 October 1964 James Jordan, a member of the Ku Klux Klan, told FBI agents he had witnessed the murder and was willing to testify. A total of 19 men were arrested and charged.

On 24 February 1967 Judge William Cox dismissed 17 of the 19 indictments but he was overruled by the Supreme Court and the so-called Mississippi Burning trial took place in October 1967.

It emerged that the three young men had been arrested by Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price on 21 June, then released from Neshoba jail in the middle of the night and attacked and killed by the KKK as they drove out of town.

Among those convicted were Deputy Sheriff Price, who got six years in jail. Ku Klux Klan leader Sam Bowers and KKK member Wayne Roberts were sentenced to 10 years each. A film based on the FBI investigation was made in 1988 called Mississippi Burning.

In June 2005 Edgar Ray Killen, 80, was convicted of recruiting the killers. Killen was sentenced to 60 years in jail for the three manslaughters.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The universe has been changing the terrain for you in recent days. Today's skies make it easy to embrace a sense of optimism and stillness, as the thoughtful Gemini moon aligns with faith-instilling Jupiter.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

The moon's presence in versatile Gemini sends your focus toward your abilities and talents, while her smooth link with capable Jupiter makes it easy to broadcast your skills on a larger platform.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

It's all too easy for you to get lost in your own mental busy state, Gemini. Wednesday's skies work to ground you down to foster a deeper self-awareness and respect for your health and body.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

The moon's presence in heady Gemini sends your focus towards hazy visions full of fantasy and feeling, which is exactly where you need to be as you cultivate rest and recuperation.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Honor your mood changes today, Leo. The moon spends the first part of the day trekking through playful Gemini and forming a supportive connection with visionary Jupiter.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Don't be shy about making bold moves on the career front today, Virgo. All eyes are on your career trajectory, as the versatile Gemini moon sweetly aligns with visionary Jupiter.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Think big under Wednesday's skies, Libra. You're hungry for self-expansion into new territories, and the fact-collecting Gemini moon's sweet connection with optimistic Jupiter can help you get there.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

The reflective Gemini moon's smooth alignment with optimistic Jupiter makes it easy to form powerful intimate bonds and to heal any unsettled family connections.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Today's skies are brimming with cosmic activity, Sagittarius. The illuminating sun merges with expressive Mercury, bringing potent insights to your current big-picture view of life.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

This aspect is ideal for reaching new heights on the work front. Later, your focus turns to the current state of your romantic relationships when the moon dips into soft-hearted Cancer.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

This mood-boosting aspect helps keep things light and restores a sense of confidence. Later, Luna dives into feelingful Cancer, pushing you to seek equilibrium in mind, body, and soul.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

It's easy to get blocked emotions off your chest today and make headway on long-standing issues. Later, Luna's entrance into sensitive Cancer brightens the mood and increases your craving for fun.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	31	cloudy
Harbin	20	28	thunderstorms
Tianjin	27	36	rain
Urumqi	25	34	cloudy
Xi'an	28	40	fine
Lhasa	23	30	overcast
Chengdu	26	30	rain
Chongqing	27	35	rain
Kunming	29	38	cloudy
Nanjing	21	32	cloudy
Shanghai	28	32	thunderstorms
Wuhan	26	32	rain
Hangzhou	19	27	thunderstorms
Taipei	25	34	thunderstorms
Guangzhou	14	29	cloudy
Hong Kong	24	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	14	24	overcast
Frankfurt	13	19	cloudy
Paris	13	22	overcast
London	12	20	overcast
New York	19	27	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Dupe; 6- OPEC units; 10- Stuffed shirt; 14- Slip; 15- Hip bones; 16- Atlantic mackerel; 17- Had dinner at home; 18- Coarsely ground corn; 19- Listen to; 20- Yr.'s end; 21- Luau greeting; 23- Move sideways; 24- Kind of kitchen; 26- Groundwork; 27- Showy pretense; 29- Play chords; 31- Not tricked by; 32- Herbert Hoover, for one; 33- Prefix meaning "beneath"; 36- Make a trade?; 40- Sun. talk; 41- Tablets; 42- How sweet ___!; 43- Roman name of Demeter; 44- Grasshopper; 46- Rocky debris; 48- Decaf brand; 49- Seine spot; 50- Practice; 52- Asian holiday; 55- ___ impasse; 56- Hurler Hershiser; 57- Africa's most populous city; 59- Squealed; 60- Author James; 61- At ___ for words; 62- Dagger of yore; 63- Actress Harper; 64- Leases;

DOWN: 1- Went through, as the paper; 2- Art Deco artist; 3- Cantor; 4- Louis XIV, e.g.; 5- Flowery; 6- North American buffalo; 7- Ho-hum; 8- Peru's capital; 9- Plant juice; 10- Disunion; 11- ___ say more?; 12- Ph.D. hurdles; 13- Dullard; 22- Like Abner; 23- Hot spot; 25- Beginning; 26- Fiber source; 27- Outstanding; 28- Memo opener; 29- Defiles; 30- Terrible time?; 32- It's deserted in fantasies; 33- Location; 34- Israeli weapons; 35- Of the highest quality; 37- Sporting blades; 38- Paddock papa; 39- Prepare a stamp; 43- Cover; 44- Fall behind; 45- Kind of garage; 46- The devil; 47- Large wading bird; 48- Income source; 49- Bridge option; 50- Inner drive; 51- Goes out with; 53- Formerly, formerly; 54- Throw; 56- Muesli morsel; 58- Bar order;

Yesterday's solution

A	L	E	G	A	S	H	E	N	B	A	T	T
R	O	T	A	P	E	A	L	E	E	L	I	O
A	R	A	B	A	G	R	E	E	D	O	L	L
M	I	S	B	E	C	O	M	E	T	I	T	L
A	A	H										
M	O	N	G	R	E	E	L	I	G	H	T	
S	L	E	E	P	A	S	E	T	T	O	D	O
D	I	G	A	B	I	D	E					
O	V	E	R	P	E	R	T	S	T	E	M	S
S	E	V	E	R	A	L						
D	E	A	L	T	S	H	A	R	P	N	E	S
D	E	S	I	S	T	E	N	O				
A	R	K	S	R	E	A	T	A				
Y	O	S	T									
O	T	T	E	R								
I	T	E	M									

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

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

MORE INFO
(853) 2835 2699

jml 卓雅物業
property since 1994

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty

FOR SALE

NEW

Hellene Gardens **HKD 10,880,000**
Ref: 2107 6005 1,707 ft² 4 2 1

FOR RENT

NEW

Hellene Gardens **HKD 14,800/mth**
Ref: 2107 1003 2,073 ft² 3 2 1

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

Traditional apartment **HKD 2,680,000**
Ref: 2103 6001 788 ft² 2 1 1



CHINA'S TENCENT LIMITS GAMING FOR MINORS AFTER MEDIA OUTCRY

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

CHINA'S biggest gaming company Tencent Holdings said yesterday it would limit gaming time for minors and ban children under 12 from making in-game purchases after a state media article called games "spiritual opium."

Tencent's pledge to curb gaming for minors came hours after the company's stock plunged as much as 11% following a critique published by the Economic Information Daily, a newspaper affiliated with China's official Xinhua News Agency.

The newspaper article had named Tencent's wildly popular Honor of Kings game as one that minors were addicted to, and cited a student saying that some played the game for eight hours a day. The online article was removed

hours later.

"'Spiritual opium' has grown into an industry worth hundreds of billions," the newspaper said, adding that no industry should be allowed to develop in a manner that will "destroy a generation."

Tencent said in a statement it would further limit gaming time for minors, reducing gaming time to one hour a day from an hour and a half, and to three hours a day from two hours during holidays. Children under the age of 12 are also prohibited from spending within the game, the company said.

Tencent also called for the industry to control the gaming time for minors and discuss the possibility of banning students younger than 12 from playing games.

It was not clear if Tencent issued the curbs in light of the article. The company did not immediately comment.

diately comment.

The critique of the gaming industry sparked a selloff of stocks in Chinese gaming companies, including companies like NetEase, amid fears that the gaming industry could be the next to see a clampdown.

Chinese authorities in recent months have targeted sectors like e-commerce and online education, implementing new regulations to curb anti-competitive behavior after years of rapid growth in the technology sector.

Last month, Chinese authorities banned companies who provide tutoring in core school subjects from turning a profit, wiping out billions from online education companies such as TAL Education and Gaotu Techedu.

Tencent's stock price closed down 6.11% at 446 Hong Kong dollars yesterday. **MDT/AP**

AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY

BMW reaps \$5.7b in profit, warns on parts shortages

BMW reported 4.8 billion euros (\$5.7 billion) in net profit in the second quarter, rounding out a strong earnings season for Germany's three big automakers as global auto markets continue to recover from the pandemic — particularly when it comes to luxury cars.

The company warned, however, that shortages of electronic parts could make production and sales for the rest of the year "volatile."

The Munich-based automaker said yesterday it benefited from strong pricing during the quarter and a predominance of more-profitable vehicles in its sales mix. It reaped fat operating profit margins of 15.8% for its luxury cars and SUVs. The BMW result follows strong profits at competitor Mercedes-Benz, a division of Daimler, and at Volkswagen's premium Audi and Porsche divisions, all of which also turned in double-digit operating profit margins.

The company more than doubled its sales of cars with electric motors and said it had made over the air software updates for 2.5 million vehicles this year through improved vehicle connectivity.

BMW CEO Oliver Zipse said the company had benefited from "strong customer demand" but added that "in light of a number of prevailing risks, including raw materials prices and a shortage of semiconductors, the second six-month period is likely to be more volatile for the BMW Group."

The entire auto industry is struggling with a shortage of semiconductors used for vehicle electronics.

Earnings in the quarter rebounded from a loss of 212 million euros in the same quarter a year ago, when the initial wave of the pandemic led to factory shutdowns. **MDT/AP**



CORPORATE BITS

MGM to bring back Macanese dishes to Rossio



MGM announced in a statement that they are the first Integrated Resort in town to support the Macao Government Tourism Office

in promoting the city's Macanese cuisine at the Shanghai Macao Week roadshow last month. Together with its sister

company Diaoyutai MGM Hospitality, MGM hosted a two-week Taste of Macao Food Promotion at Bellagio Shanghai, bringing an array of signature Macanese and Portuguese classics to the vibrant city.

The menu showcased in Shanghai was designed by Rossio's Chef de Cuisine Tiago Reis and Chef Redo Lo, to "intrigue the city with flavors that showcases the perfect blend of East and West." To celebrate the success of this collaboration, starting from August 9, MGM Macau will bring back some of the heartiest dishes of Macau's culinary culture to Rossio.

SJM awards scholarships to children of staff



SJM Resorts, S.A. (SJM) has recently awarded scholarships to 34 children of staff members at the 17th SJM Scholarship Award Ceremony, the gambling concessionaire announced. The ceremony saw new

scholarships awarded to ten outstanding students in 2021, and the renewal of scholarships for 24 recipients in prior years.

The ten outstanding students were selected from 35 applicants by the SJM Scho-

larship Selection Committee this year. Each recipient will be awarded MOP20,000 per year until they complete their university studies.

The recipients are Wong Ian Kit, Lei Cheng In, Ouyang Lam Cheong, Chan Ka Wa, Chu Hou Chong, Sun Weng, Chan Ka Hon, Cheong Chi Kei, Loi Seong Hei and Kuok Sio In.

Meanwhile, the 24 existing recipients were awarded MOP20,000 each for the new academic year. Among them, Zheng Libin and Tam Hou In were named the best performing students in the past academic year, and were granted an additional award of MOP5,000.

TUESDAY'S OLYMPIC MEDALISTS

ATHLETICS

Men's 400m Hurdles
GOLD_Karsten Warholm, Norway
SILVER_Rai Benjamin, United States
BRONZE_Alison dos Santos, Brazil

Women's Long Jump

GOLD_Malaika Mihambo, Germany
SILVER_Brittney Reese, United States
BRONZE_Ese Brume, Nigeria

BOXING

Men's Welter (63-69kg)

GOLD_Roniel Iglesias, Cuba
SILVER_Pat McCormack, Britain
BRONZE_Andrei Zamkovi, ROC
BRONZE_Aidan Walsh, Ireland

Women's Feather (54-57kg)

GOLD_Sena Irie, Japan
SILVER_Nesthy Petecio, Philippines
BRONZE_Karriss Artingstall, Britain
BRONZE_Irma Testa, Italy

CANOE SPRINT

Men's Canoe Double 1000m

GOLD_Cuba (Serguey Torres Madrigal, Fernando Dayan Jorge Enriquez)
SILVER_China (Hao Liu, Pengfei Zheng)
BRONZE_Germany (Sebastian Brendel, Tim Hecker)

Men's Kayak Single 1000m

GOLD_Balint Kopasz, Hungary
SILVER_Adam Varga, Hungary
BRONZE_Fernando Pimenta, Portugal

Women's Kayak Single 200m

GOLD_Lisa Carrington, New Zealand
SILVER_Teresa Portela, Spain
BRONZE_Emma Aastrand Jorgensen, Denmark

Women's Kayak Double 500m

GOLD_New Zealand (Lisa Carrington, Caitlin Regal)
SILVER_Poland (Karolina Naja, Anna Pulawska)
BRONZE_Hungary (Danuta Kozak, Dora Bodonyi)

CYCLING TRACK

Men's Team Sprint

GOLD_Netherlands (Jeffrey Hoogland, Harrie Lavreysen, Roy van den Berg, Matthijs Buchli)
SILVER_Britain (Jack Carlin, Jason Kenny, Ryan Owens)

BRONZE_France (Florian Grengbo, Rayan Helal, Sebastien Vigier)

Women's

Team Pursuit

GOLD_Germany (Franziska Brausse, Lisa Brenner, Lisa Klein, Mieke Kroeger)
SILVER_Britain (Katie Archibald, Neah Evans, Laura Kenny, Josie Knight, Elinor Barker)
BRONZE_United States (Chloe Dygert, Megan Jastrab, Jennifer Valente, Emma White, Lily Williams)

DIVING

Men's 3m Springboard

GOLD_Siyi Xie, China
SILVER_Zongyuan Wang, China
BRONZE_Jack Laugher, Britain

ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS

Men's Horizontal Bar

GOLD_Daiki Hashimoto, Japan
SILVER_Tin Srbic, Croatia
BRONZE_Nikita Nagornyy, ROC

Men's Parallel Bars

GOLD_Jingyuan Zou, China
SILVER_Lukas Dauser, Germany
BRONZE_Ferhat Arican, Turkey

Women's Balance Beam

GOLD_Chenchen Guan, China
SILVER_Xijing Tang, China
BRONZE_Simone Biles, United States

SAILING

Men's Skiff - 49er

GOLD_Britain (Dylan Fletcher, Stuart Bithell)
SILVER_New Zealand (Peter Burling, Blair Tuke)
BRONZE_Germany (Erik Heil, Thomas Ploessel)

Men's One Person Dinghy (Heavyweight) - Finn

GOLD_Giles Scott, Britain
SILVER_Zsombor Berecz, Hungary
BRONZE_Joan Cardona Mendez, Spain

Women's Skiff - 49er FX

GOLD_Brazil (Martine Graef, Kahena Kunze)
SILVER_Germany (Tina Lutz, Susann Beucke)
BRONZE_Netherlands (Annemiek Bekkering, Annette Duetz)

Mixed Multihull - Nacra 17 Foiling

GOLD_Italy (Ruggero Tita, Caterina Banti)
SILVER_Britain (John Gimson, Anna Burnet)
BRONZE_Germany (Paul Kohlhoff, Alica Stuhlemmer)

AP PHOTO



Xie Siyi of China claims gold in men's diving 3m springboard

TOKYO 2020

Another gold, 1-2 finish for China in diving

PAUL NEWBERRY, TOKYO

BEFORE his final bounce off the board, Xie Siyi felt like he was in a movie.

The scenes of his life flashed before him.

Then, he pulled off the dive of his life.

Xie led another 1-2 finish for China in Olympic diving, claiming gold in men's 3-meter springboard yesterday. Teammate Wang Zongyuan held off Jack Laugher of Britain for the silver.

The Chinese divers held the top two spots after both the preliminaries and the semifinals, and it was more of the same in the finals.

Xie broke down in tears when the scores for his final dive were posted, a string of 9.0s and 9.5s that clinched the victory with 558.75 points. Wang came over to give his teammate a hug.

"I felt like I was in a movie," Xie said through an interpreter. "All the scenes of my life were flashing in my mind."

He couldn't remember being so emotional after a competition. There were a few tears after he won the first of two straight 3-me-

ter world titles in 2017, but nothing like this.

"It was very stressful," he said. "I feel like it was all a dream."

The biggest drama was for the silver, but Wang nailed his final dive to finish with 534.90 points.

Laughter was only 2.05 points behind Wang going to the final round but over-rotated his entry a bit on his highest-difficulty dive, a forward 2 1/2 somersaults with three twists. The telltale splash left him with 518.00 points and the bronze.

Wang sliced through the water, barely rippling the surface.

"I'm happy with my silver," he said.

Laugher has won a medal on the springboard at the last two Olympics, having claimed a silver at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games. But it was hardly an easy road to another medal.

At the 2019 world championships, while leading on the springboard, Laugher was suddenly stricken with the same issue that plagued gymnastics star Simone Biles at the Tokyo Games.

Suddenly losing a sense of where he was while flipping and spinning through the air, he slipped to

third behind Xie and another Chinese diver.

"This medal is redemption for my past mistakes," Laugher said. "Getting on the podium is everything."

Long the world's dominant diving nation, China has been near-perfect at the Tokyo Aquatics Centre with five gold medals in six events. The only slip came in men's 10-meter synchronized, where Chen Aisen and Cao Yuan settled for silver in an upset win by the British team of Tom Daley and Matty Lee.

Otherwise, the Chinese have captured every medal available to them. They won the other three synchronized events and have gone 1-2 in the first two individual events of the Tokyo Games.

Xie and Wang added to the gold they won in 3-meter synchronized.

"In my country, the gold medal is important," the 25-year-old Xie said.

The most touching moment came when Ken Terauchi of Japan, just four days shy of his 41st birthday, completed the final dive of his sixth Olympics.

He failed to win Japan's first diving medal ever, finishing last in the 12-man final. Still, Terauchi bowed reverently toward the pool and received a standing

ovation from all the coaches and competitors in the nearly empty arena.

Afterward, he hung around to pose for pictures with everyone who wanted one.

"A lot of people were watching today," Terauchi said through an interpreter. "I feel sad and disappointed with the results."

Rommel Pacheco also bid farewell to the board after his fourth and final Olympics.

The 35-year-old Mexican, who first competed at the 2004 Athens Games, plans to go into politics after his sixth-place showing in Tokyo. Over his long career, he won three medals at the world championships along with three golds at the Pan American Games, the first in 2003.

The Americans were hoping to claim their fourth medal of the Tokyo Games, which would match their best output since 1988. But Andrew Capobianco, a silver medalist in 3-meter synchro, finished 10th.

"It didn't go as well as I hoped," said Capobianco, who has battled a back injury but did manage a silver in the 3-meter synchronized. "It was a little bit of a struggle mentally and physically." **MDT/AP**

OPINION

China Daily

Ikenna Emewu, China Daily

FALSE CLAIMS THAT CHINA IS LAYING A DEBT TRAP IN AFRICA

In 2020, while documenting the Abuja integrated transport project, which includes the metro, intercity railway and the Abuja airport, and is handled by China Civil Engineering Construction Corp, I read in detail how China developed its high-speed railways.

Cooperation between countries is important for improving infrastructure and boosting economic development, and it is cooperation that China is offering African countries through loans.

Yet, when some vested interests talk about China's loans to African countries, they don't mention that every international loan agreement is vetted by the International Monetary Fund for compliance with its Loan Viability Assessment obligations. Which means loan agreements between China and African countries, based on standing IMF rules, are not riddled with pitfalls that would push the latter into a debt trap.

Early this year, at an event to mark 50 years of Nigeria-China diplomatic relations, I asked Nigerian Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama about the so-called Chinese debt trap. He said that before taking loans from China, Nigeria approached some other countries and agencies but almost always found Chinese creditors offering the best terms and conditions.

According to a document issued by Britain-based Jubilee Debt Campaign in October 2018, China's loans to African countries between 2000 and 2017 amounted to \$143 billion. But the JDC explained that the actual loan liability of Africa according to the IMF and World Bank data are: China-\$100 billion (24 percent); Paris Club-\$40 billion (10 percent) World Bank-\$66 billion (16 percent); IMF\$18 billion (4 percent); other multilateral institutions\$61 billion (15 percent); the private sector (excluding China's private sector)\$132billion (31 percent). That is a total of \$417 billion.

According to the data, China is Africa's largest creditor country. But what about the other creditors? The Paris Club is made up of the US and major European economies apart from Japan, Australia and the Republic South Korea. And the World Bank, the IMF and the other multilateral institutions all belong to the West.

Therefore, the Western countries and their agencies are bigger creditors of Africato the tune of 76 percent. So if someone is laying a debt trap for African countries, it is not China but the West.

While some claim the volume of China's loans to African countries is huge, they ignore the fact that China has also been the largest investor in Africa over the past 12 years, which shows that apart from loans, Chinese investment in Africa is also benefiting African nations.

Yet Chinese investments in Africa are not comparable with the amount it has invested in Europe and Latin America. China's 5 percent foreign direct investment stock in Africa in 2017 was too low compared with what it had in European countries. Between 2016 and 2018, China's total FDI in African countries was 12 percent more than the combined figure for the European Union in Africa. Which proves China's interest in Africa is beyond loans.

[...] And the US Institute of Peace admitted in 2018 that contrary to claims that the Chinese companies bring most of the workers for their projects in Africa from China, the ratio of Chinese to local African workers in Chinese-led projects is 1:20, heavily favoring the locals. This assessment was in relation to Nigeria's Abuja-Kaduna railway project, which I documented.

However, the possibility of China and some developed countries working in cooperation for the good of Africa is slim. First, because forging such a partnership between the two sides will take a long time. And second, China and the West have different foreign policies toward Africa, and harmonizing the two will not be easy.

The only possibility is through an intergovernmental agency or agencies. And the only known multilateral body that includes the developed economies is the G20, and I would not hazard a guess on the diplomatic likelihood of the G20 leaving aside its agenda, which is mainly about the benefits to the state parties, to discuss and implement pro-Africa projects.

[Abridged]

LITHUANIA TO TURN MIGRANTS CROSSING IN FROM BELARUS AWAY

THE BUZZ

Lithuania has ordered its border guards to turn away, by force if needed, migrants attempting to enter the Baltic country as the rapidly growing number of immigrants illegally crossing from neighboring Belarus has emerged a major foreign policy issue to the small European Union nation.

The Interior Ministry distributed a video footage shot from a helicopter as a proof that large groups of immigrants were being escorted to the European Union border by vehicles be-

longing to Belarus' border guard authority. Lithuania says the migrant influx in the past months is an act of retaliation by President Alexander Lukashenko to increased sanctions by the EU toward his country over an air piracy incident.

Lithuania's Interior Ministry said yesterday that at least three large migrant groups were stopped in thick woods in the border area between the two countries, and Lithuanian border guards commanded them to return back to Belarus.

ANTHONY LAM



MIECF 2021

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM TO BE HELD ONLINE

ANTHONY LAM

DUE to the sudden appearance of four new Covid-19 cases in Macau, this year's Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (MIECF), to run from August 5 to 7, will be held online only.

Yesterday morning, the organizing entities, the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA), held a joint press conference to announce the new arrangements and programs for this year's event.

Under the theme "Towards a Green and Low Carbon New Era", this year's MIECF is designed to further integrate online and offline elements, helping enterprises break through geographical boundaries and together explore green business opportunities.

However, as disease control measures step up in the city, the organizing entities announced yesterday evening that all the offline sessions and events in this year's program will be cancelled. Only online events and sessions will be retained.

The online section of the MIECF 2021 will see the return of the Green Matching sessions, which are an important part of the event. This year's MIECF will promote green co-operation among enterprises through online business matching,

the mobile application Scan2Match, and the "Online Business Matching Service Platform" (<https://bm.ipim.gov.mo>).

A 14-day online business matching service will be offered before the event, from now to August 7, helping exhibitors and buyers establish business contact and negotiate online to explore business co-operation opportunities.

Originally, one of the offline events was a keynote speech on "The transformation of manufacturing industry under the 'double carbon' target" by Dong Mingzhu, chairperson and president of Gree Electric Appliances, Inc. of Zhuhai and the UN's "Messenger of Sustainable Urban Development" at the opening ceremony.

The organizing entities confirmed yesterday evening that this session will not be moved online, meaning that it will be cancelled.

With the original opening date just around the corner, booths were set up at the Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo. The sudden cancellation of the event will result in the termination of the existing set up.

For the first time, the offline expo was set to include a section showcase electric vehicles. As of yesterday, manufacturers such as Tesla, BMW and MINI had set up part of their booths.

Also missing this year's event will be a Government Guided Tour and a Government Procurement

Matching Session, which were set to be held on the second day of the event. These sessions were originally targeted to allow government departments to be better informed of the latest environmental technologies, products and developments, as well as to enhance co-operation and exchange between the government and industry on environmental protection matters. Moreover, green matching sessions on "electric vehicles" and "eco-friendly tableware" were originally planned to bring in more eco-friendly products to Macau.

As was originally planned, on the first two days of the MIECF 2021, there will be four sessions of the Green Forum covering four topics, in which nearly 30 guests from different municipalities, provinces, and regions are invited as moderators and guest speakers.

They were set to share their views on "Accelerating Commercialisation of Technological Innovation, Mainstreaming Green Manufacturing and Lifestyles", "The '14th Five-Year' Environmental Plan and the Path to the Future", "Pan-Pearl River Delta Environmental Protection Industry Conference for Co-operation and Exchange", and "Clean Energy, Clean Air: an Investment for the Future", in order to enhance the industry's understanding of sustainable development and environmental protection in relevant industries.

EU and the NATO military alliance yesterday joined a growing chorus of international condemnation of Iran's alleged attack on a merchant ship in the Arabian Sea last week and urged Tehran to respect its international obligations. Last Thursday's drone strike on the MV Mercer Street killed a British national and a Romanian. It was the first known fatal strike on commercial shipping in the region after years of tensions over the tattered nuclear deal between western nations and Iran.

Germany With less than two months before the election, the environmentalist Green party announced a 10-point plan yesterday that puts the Paris climate accord's goal at the heart of its election program. Among the measures proposed is the creation of a dedicated Climate Ministry that would have the power to veto government decisions which don't comply with the 2015 Paris Agreement, which aims to keep global warming well below 2 degrees Celsius.

AP PHOTO



Turkey As fire crews pressed ahead yesterday with their weeklong battle against blazes tearing through forests and villages on the country's southern coast, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's government faced increased criticism over its apparent poor response and inadequate preparedness for large-scale wildfires. Fed by strong winds and scorching temperatures, the fires that began Wednesday have left eight people dead, forced thousands of residents and tourists to flee homes or vacation resorts in boats or convoys of cars and trucks.

AP PHOTO



Haiti Police have detained more than 40 suspects in the killing of President Jovenel Moïse, but many people fear Haiti's crumbling judicial system could result in the assassination going unpunished. Interrogations are continuing, while dozens of suspects, including an ex-Haitian senator and former justice official, are still at large. But the judicial process has already hit significant snags, among them death threats and allegations of evidence tampering.