

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

Vaccination booking system



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

www.rcr-macau.com



FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

N.º 3832 **TUESDAY** T. 26°/30° Air Quality Good  
10 Aug 2021

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

MOP 8.00  
HKD 10.00 2305 4271

**RED ZONE RESIDENT SLAMS GOVERNMENT FOR LACKING COORDINATION IN A PROCESS DEEMED AS 'WAITING AROUND'**

P4

**GOV'T URGED TO ENHANCE INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND VACCINATION PROMOTION**

P2

**MONETARY AUTHORITY WARNS PUBLIC ABOUT ILLEGAL CREDIT CARD SURCHARGES BY VENDORS**

P5

# NOWHERE TO RUN

AP PHOTO



**China** An elephant herd that fascinated locals and people around the world by making a yearlong journey into urbanized southwest China, raiding farms and even a retirement home for food, appears finally to be headed home. Local authorities have deployed trucks, workers and drones to monitor the elephants, evacuated roads for them to pass safely and used food to steer them away from populated areas. No animals or humans have been injured.

AP PHOTO



**Japan** Nagasaki yesterday marked the 76th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of the Japanese city with its mayor urging Japan, the United States and Russia to do more to eliminate nuclear weapons. In his speech at the Nagasaki Peace Park, Mayor Tomihisa Taue urged Japan's government to take the lead in creating a nuclear-free zone in Northeast Asia rather than staying under the U.S. nuclear umbrella — a reference to the U.S. promise to use its own nuclear weapons to defend allies without them.

AP PHOTO



**South Korea** will release billionaire Samsung scion Lee Jae-yong on parole this week after he spent 18 months in prison for his role in a massive corruption scandal that triggered nationwide protests and led to the ouster of the country's previous president. The announcement yesterday by the Justice Ministry extends a history of leniency toward major white-collar crime and preferential treatment for convicted tycoons. It tarnishes the reformist image of President Moon Jae-in, who after winning a presidential by-election in 2017 vowed to curb the excesses of "chaebol," South Korea's family-owned conglomerates.

More on backpage



**UN report says global warming nears limits leading to even more extreme climate episodes**

P12, OPINION

AP PHOTO

**ANIMA DESPERATELY SEEKING MOP4 MILLION TO SURVIVE**

P2

XINHUA



**DELTA VARIANT CASES ENVIRONMENT SAMPLES AT HEALTH BUREAU WORKPLACE TESTED POSITIVE**

P3

### GOV'T SWEEPS AWAY ILLEGAL ROOFTOP STRUCTURES

The government has resumed a cross-departmental operation to dismantle illegal rooftop structures. During a recent operation, three structures, located on Rua das Estalagens and Rua de Nossa Senhora do Amparo, were cleared. The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau reminds the public that occupying public areas of buildings with structures can jeopardize the safety of all users in that building. Owners of illegal structures should, the bureau said, apply for permission to dismantle their structures so as to ensure safety of all.

### VEHICLE EXAMINATION CENTER REOPENS

The Transport Bureau has assessed the safety of its Vehicle Examination Center and decided to reopen it, with operations resuming as of now. Both the Motor Vehicles Inspection Center in Cotai and the Motorcycle Inspection Centre on the Macau peninsula are operating normally. Other external services will remain suspended until further notice. For vehicles that cannot be inspected during the suspension of service, a new booking must be made online. The deadline will be postponed to August 20 for those vehicles with original appointments with an expiry between August 3 and 13, the bureau noted.

### IAM TO CARE FOR PETS OF QUARANTINED HOUSEHOLDS

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) pledged to take care of the pets of local households that need to undergo quarantine due to being a close contact or any other pandemic control reasons. The pets will be sent to the Municipal Kennel in Coloane. The bureau noted that there will be a designated quarantine area for these pets. It added that since epidemic control measures came into place last year, the bureau has so far taken in a dog and six cats. There are currently four cats under quarantine.

# GOV'T URGED TO ENHANCE INTERNAL COMMUNICATION AND VACCINATION PROMOTION

HONEY TSANG

**LAWMAKER** Agnes Lam called Lon Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng, in a written query, to review the handling of the previous three-day citywide mass testing.

She outlined several chaotic scenes that took place since the four Delta cases were reported in Macau on August 3. They include cross-border commuters being forced to sleep on the streets due to a sudden mandate requiring people leaving Macau to present proof of a negative Covid-19 test conducted within 24 hours, and long queues at testing stations on the first day of the mass testing.

Lam ascribed the turmoil on the first day of the mass testing to poor management and a lack of coordination and communication by the government, leading to confusing arrangements such as there being "no limit on the number of appointments", "no segregation between registered and walk-in residents" — and the disorder that ensued.

Earlier, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U said in a media briefing on August 4, that she only became aware of the many mainland workers sleeping on the streets when she received images sent by her friends.

Lam raised doubts about Ao's apparent late awareness of the situation, considering that there were police patrolling at control

COURTESY ALL ABOUT MACAU



points and the city's surveillance cameras abound.

Lam asked whether these scenes of chaos were caused by a breakdown of communication between frontline staff and directors in charge, insufficient communication and coordination be-

tween departments to deal with emergencies, or intrinsic faults in the authorization and decision-making mechanisms within the government.

Lam asked for answers from the CE on how to strengthen the communication between depart-

ments.

Given the current pandemic situation, the government cancelled the CE's question-and-answer session at Legislative Assembly, originally scheduled to be hosted on August 10. Hence, Lam turned to a written query to convey public opinions to Ho.

In a separate query from lawmaker Mak Soi Kun, he urged the government to step up its efforts to promote vaccination.

Mak stated that the vaccination rates among locals and medical staff currently stand at 42% and 66% respectively, still some distance away from the rate required to achieve herd immunity.

Herd immunity is one of the significant ways safeguard public health and revive the economy, he opined.

## MUST SEES 29 VOLUNTEERS FOR PCR TEST SCHEME

**I**N response to the government's call for a citywide polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test, the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) acted swiftly and expanded its testing capacities.

The citywide PCR test started at 9 a.m. on August 4 and ended at 9 a.m. on August 7.

After the announcement, teachers and students from the Faculty of Medicine of the MUST leveraged their medical expertise to serve the society.

According to a statement from the MUST, eight teachers, six administrative staff members and 15 students "proactively and immediately" volunteered

for the scheme. The university described them as showcasing their manifesto by working diligently and without delay day and night.

"This citywide PCR test is the first in history [of Macau] and it has received full support and cooperation from all walks of life at a critical moment," the university noted. "The faculty and students of the Faculty of Medicine of the MUST feel very honored [to have participated in this scheme]."

The university also encouraged local people to stay united and vigilant in the fight against the virus. **AL**

# Anima appeals for financial support of 'at least' MOP4 million

LYNZY VALLES

**A**NIMAL rights protection group Anima Macau is again appealing to the public for financial support, with an urgent need to find "at least MOP4 million."

The group issued a statement, signed by honorary life president Albano Martins, saying that come the end of this month, they

will have no more funds.

"Our budget for 2021 was approved to around MOP10.7 million. However, we have received MOP4.5 million from Macau Foundation and MOP500,000 will only be provided in the beginning of next year," said the animal rights activist.

The group admitted that it had already called on the casino operators for

support but this has been in vain.

"We need to find at least around MOP4 million to survive until we are capable of generating other funds to pay our budgetary expenses. For the next month of September, we may need around MOP800,000," Martins noted.

Anima is currently sheltering around 400 dogs in

its shelter and some 300 cats in the Cats' Paradise.

There are an additional 500 dogs and cats under Anima's Special Protection Program (SPP). Although they do not provide shelter for these animals, the group provides them with food, medication and welfare within their financial capabilities.

"We have some animals in our shelters that have

medical needs, and food is also a priority," Martins added.

Anima has been struck with financial hardship due to the sharp reduction in funding from casino operators last year, as well as the indeterminate timeframe for government financial aid. In January this year, the group disclosed that as a result of the economic fallout of Covid-19, they were given a total of MOP360,000 by four local casino operators, a significant plunge from the MOP2 million it received each year on average, pre-pandemic.

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

# Environment samples at SSM workplace tested positive

HONEY TSANG

**E**IGHT environmental samples taken from the workplace related to the 51-year-old male infected with the Delta variant of Covid-19 have tested positive, the government confirmed yesterday afternoon.

The patient works as a driver of the Health Bureau (SSM), and is responsible for driving medical staff from Coloane Clinic, Seac Pai Van Clinic and Centro Hospitalar Conde de São Januário.

The contaminated samples were found in the man's work vehicle, and a small refrigerator container at Seac Pai Van Clinic, which was used to store lunch boxes. The government said all people who had contact with these facilities are now undergoing medical observation.

Since a family of four was discovered to be infected with the Delta variant, more than 100 environmental samples were obtained from their residential areas, workplaces and other venues they had been to, such as supermarkets, restaurants and libraries.



The SSM noted that a new batch of samples have been collected. The venues will only be reopened when a negative result is obtained.

When questioned by the media about why Seac Pai Van Clinic reopened even after a staff member was confirmed to have contracted Covid-19, Tai said that all affected venues, after undergoing

thorough sanitization, would be put into use again, in line with standard protocol.

"But as to why these environmental samples still tested positive after a thorough disinfection, we are still studying the reasons," he said.

The possible factors, he said, may be associated with higher resilience in the Delta variant.

## 55 UNCOOPERATIVE PEOPLE

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, there were still 4,154 people who had not yet conducted the Covid-19 test, even after the citywide mass test wrapped up last Sunday. Of these, 1,882 were Macau residents, whilst 2,272 were non-Macau residents.

Authorities started reaching out to them via phone from 5 p.m. on August 8, but have yet to make contact with approximately half of this number. Tai said the government will turn to other methods to contact them.

Of the 2,000 people authorities successfully contacted, 1,200 claimed they either completed the nucleic acid tests (NAT), or filled in their personal information mistakenly.

Another 600, mostly toddlers, senior citizens with limited mobility, and patients with chronic diseases, have not yet conducted NATs. "We will arrange outreach NAT services for this group as soon as possible," Tai stated.

However, 55 other people refused to take the NAT regardless of the government's repeated requests. Tai emphasized that if they had not completed the test

as of yesterday, the police force would directly contact them and send them to conduct the test at particular testing stations.

If they still refused to do so, the government would force them to undergo quarantine for 14 days.

## AFFECTED BUS ROUTES

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, the government contacted 149 people who took the three bus routes with the previously confirmed cases.

The authorities identified those who registered the Macau pass with their real names, and are using other means to identify those who had not registered with their names.

Meanwhile, all tours under the domestic travel scheme titled Stay, Dine and See Macao, organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will be suspended until August 17, affecting a total of 4,755 people.

## ENHANCEMENT ON MASS TEST

There is room for improvement in carrying out the second citywide NAT test if it comes to pass, Tai said.

The possible refinements may see three separate waiting zones for people who have already made appointments, walk-in residents, and people with special needs.

A quota system can be applied to the walk-in service so that people can take stock of the waiting time, he suggested.

## CE CONGRATULATES CHINA'S ATHLETES ON VICTORIES AT OLYMPIC GAMES

HONEY TSANG

**C**HIEF Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng sent a note of congratulations to the delegation of Chinese athletes on their "marvelous and sensational achievements" at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games.

Ho's warm message was delivered to the nation's athletes on Sunday, August 8, which coincided with the conclusion of the Olympic Games.

The national team secured 38 gold medals, 32 silver medals, and 18 bronze medals.

Such achievements, Ho stated, had brought great honor to the country, and all Chinese people.

On behalf of all people across Macau, the CE delivered his "utmost respect and sincere congratulations" on all their efforts, triumphs and many breakthroughs.

Their feats "profoundly



spurred the patriotic passion of the Macau public, and excited those Chinese people living overseas," he stated.

In the letter, the CE also said that the residents of Macau will learn from the spirit, determination and steadfastness of the delegation.

"Such a spirit will further bind the Macau community as one, in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic; and in the promotion, with greater confidence, of local eco-

economic diversification, while advancing the implementation of the 'One country, two systems' principle in Macau as part of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation," he emphasized.

According to the official website, China was ranked second in terms of medal count, with a total score of 88.

The U.S. came on top of the list, winning 39 gold medals, 41 silver medals and 33 bronze medals, totaling 113.

## SARS' CHINA OFFICE REITERATES OPPOSITION TOWARDS US INTERVENTION IN HONG KONG AFFAIRS

**H**ONG Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council reiterated its strong opposition and condemned the U.S. intervention in Hong Kong affairs, which are China's domestic affairs.

A spokesperson with the office made the statement in response to a Hong Kong-related memorandum from the U.S. government.

When the U.S. government said that it wanted to stand with people in Hong Kong, it obviously wanted to stand with those few anti-China forces seeking to disrupt Hong Kong, the spokesperson said.

The U.S. government wanted to recreate turbulence in Hong Kong and hoped the anti-China forces seeking to disrupt Hong Kong would con-



tinue working for it, the spokesperson said.

The official added that sponsoring Hong Kong-related organizations, and adopting Hong Kong-related bills and administrative measures, the U.S. government wanted to disrupt Hong Kong and contain China, instead of defending democracy, human rights and freedom or safeguarding the

principle of "One country, two systems."

"External intervention will not weaken the determination and will of the central government and Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to fully enforce the national security law nor will it stop the development of Hong Kong and China," the spokesperson reiterated. **MDT/XINHUA**

RED ZONE RESIDENTS

# FAMILY OF FOUR SLAMS GOV'T FOR LACKING COORDINATION

**H**EALTH measures, self-declaration and making enquiries are part of a long process of uncoordinated waiting around, the father of a family of four, currently under quarantine due to connection with the latest four patients, has hinted.

On August 3, the government announced that a family of four residing in Mei Lin Building was diagnosed with Covid-19. The building was then identified as within the red zone.

Although they are no longer living in the building, the father, surnamed Lei, told All About Macau he was certain that he and his children had passed by that building on July 31. He has previously declared his residential address as the Mei Lin Building, so his health code, alongside those of

his two children, was assigned red as well.

He immediately contacted the health authorities to enquire about his condition. He was told to take a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test as soon as possible. He was wrongly instructed, however, that he could take the test at any station.

For several days, Lei and his sister have been in touch with the Health Bureau to find out how they can get rid of the red code. They were eventually instructed to email the bureau to address their situation.

It was only on August 6 that they were told they would be quarantined. They were also told that they must take a PCR test that same day. At 8 p.m., the police called and told them they would

be fetched at about 9:30 p.m.

They waited until 1 a.m. the next day, when they finally got another call from the police, who urged them to go for the test immediately. At that time, both children were already asleep. Following the test there was another wait. They only arrived at the quarantine hotel at 5:30 a.m.

Though he had two children aged 2 years and 10 months respectively, they were not provided with infant meal options, even after they made a request. The kettle in the room was also not working.

The father disclosed that his family's quarantine period was measured from the day they first left the red zone, meaning that there was an unmonitored window period. **AL**



CRIME

# Kidnappings back in town

RENATO MARQUES

**K**IDNAPPINGS related to loan shark activities around gambling have reappeared after a long period with no reports of such activities.

During the regular joint press conference of the police forces, held yesterday, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported that for the first time after many months, a gambler was held against his will in a hotel room in Cotai after losing all his money in the casino.

According to the report, the man had resorted to a group of three loan sharks who loaned him HKD50,000 for gambling, on the condition that he pay interest at a 20% rate for each winning bet.

Since he did not pay money from any winning bets to the loan sharks and eventually lost all of the original loan, he was taken to a hotel room where he was not allowed to leave until someone repaid his debt.

While contacting his friends and family for help to pay the debt, the man was able to alert them to his situation and, with the help of the hotel staff, he was eventually freed by the police who also managed to detain the loan sharks.

The three men were pre-



sented to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) to be accused of usury and kidnapping.

In a separate case, the PJ announced they had finally detained and brought to justice another man, suspected of committing

a kidnapping back in April 2019.

According to the PJ spokesperson, the alleged loan shark is believed to have kidnapped a gambler in a hotel room to see a large gambling debt repaid. However, with the help of

the hotel staff, the victim managed to inform the police about his situation.

At the time, the suspect was not caught by the police and further investigation revealed he had already crossed the border into the mainland.

On August 3, when he was reentering Macau, he was detained by the local police.

Taken into questioning, he admitted to having committed the crime under the orders of a ring leader who had hired him to perform loan sharking activities.

He said he had received HKD1,500 per day to perform this activity, in addition to checking-in to the hotel where the group was keeping a room to detain those who failed to repay gambling debts.

He was also presented to the MP to respond to the crime of usury and kidnapping.

# WOMAN LOSES RMB160,000 AFTER ACQUIRING ELECTRIC TOOTHBRUSH

**A** local woman has reportedly lost almost RMB160,000 in a scam relating to the acquisition of an electric toothbrush through an online store, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported.

According to the PJ report during yesterday's joint press conference of the police forces, the woman acquired the electric toothbrush through an online store. Approximately two days later, she received a call from an alleged brand representative asking if she was interested in becoming an

agent for the brand's products in Macau.

The woman refused but was later informed that to cancel her application, she needed to pay RMB10,560.

She duly paid the amount, but the same people continued to contact her, requesting several more payments for a variety of reasons, including a supposed fully-refundable deposit of RMB85,000.

When she finally realized that she had been involved in a scam, she had lost a total of RMB159,861, she told the PJ. **RM**

# 2021 POPULATION CENSUS 19,000 HOUSEHOLDS SUBMIT RESPONSES ON FIRST DAY

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE 2021 Population Census officially started last Saturday, August 7. According to information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), 19,000 households immediately submitted their forms online, or 7% of the total population.

In a statement, the DSEC emphasized the overwhelming response from the population submitting online questionnaire responses, noting that this was the highest turnout ever recorded for the first day of this year's population census.

The bureau had previously stated it would aim to enforce this contactless method of form submission as a Covid-19 pandemic prevention measure, having prepa-

red a team to assist with questions from residents via phone.

According to the DSEC, the online data collection system and the telephone interviewing system have been running smoothly and effectively.

According to the bureau, for a household of three members, it would take less than 5 minutes to fill in the online short-form questionnaire, which can be filled and submitted via mobile phone or computer.

For the elderly or households not familiar with the Internet, the simplest way to complete the census is to provide information via telephone interviews.

They may call the Census Hotline on 8809 8809 to conduct a telephone interview.



# Monetary Authority reminds about illegality of credit card surcharges

**V**ENDORS are not supposed to charge their clients any surcharge based on the choice to settle the bill by credit card, the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) said in a reply to an enquiry made by the Times.

Credit card surcharges are not a new practice for many trades in Macau. For example, it has been an open secret that some gadget retailers charge their customers a surcharge between 1% to 2% of the selling price when the customer chooses to pay with their credit card.

On this, the Times sent the same enquiry to three government entities: the Consumer Council (CC), the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) and the AMCM.

The authorities were asked whether this surcharge is illegal, and if so, pursuant to which law?

The enquiry also asked if the entities had regularly conducted checks on such malpractice.

"According to the contract made between banks and vendors, the latter shall not ask cus-



tomers for surcharges on bills settled by credit card," the AMCM noted in its reply.

With regard to whether authorities have conducted regular checks against the malpractice, the AMCM bypassed the question and transferred the responsibilities to the banks.

"The AMCM has always required banks to clarify to vendors about the relevant provision in the contract. If any violation is

found, banks are entitled to issue warnings to vendors or even terminate the service," it disclosed in the reply.

The other two government entities, the CC and the DSED, did not provide a response to the enquiry, nor have they offered supplementary information following the AMCM's response by press time.

However, in an article posted online by the CC in 2012, the Cou-

ncil stated that if consumers were required to pay a surcharge when they pay their retail bills by credit card, they could file a complaint to the CC.

The CC added that pursuant to the Decree-Law No. 16/95/M, such surcharges are prohibited.

The Times asked the CC in the same enquiry to confirm if the contents in this article are still valid, but no response was received by press time. **AL**

## CRIME COUNTERFEIT JEWELRY AND TAKE-AWAY FOOD

**A** local woman has made an unusual report to the PJ in relation to the online acquisition of a piece of jewelry.

According to the report, the woman saw the item online for the price of USD361 (around 2,900 patacas). Since the piece was around 1,000 patacas more expensive in shops, she decided to acquire it online.

When the item arrived, she realized that it was from a different brand and of a low quality, leading her to suspect that it was forged.

She emailed the seller to try and return the item. Upon receiving no response, she decided to file a complaint with the PJ.

At the same time, she said that she started to receive almost daily, several orders of takeaway food at her address that she did not order, nor did she not pay for. She said she suspected that the two cases were somehow connected. **RM**

AD

**合夥人 PARTNERS:**  
官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha °  
山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues °  
馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata °  
趙魯 Zhao Lu °\*  
馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

**大律師 ASSOCIATES:**  
高文軒 Adelino Correia °  
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues \*  
白秀蘭 Susana Batalha  
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques  
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo  
白穎怡 Iclia Berenguel  
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves  
馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins  
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °  
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo  
宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção  
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura  
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos  
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos  
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo  
陳芷喬 Joana Chan  
顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan  
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras  
康靜雅 Viviana Hong  
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon  
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong

**實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:**  
張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong  
陳健雄 Eurico Chan  
吳霆鋒 Ng Teng Fong  
戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng  
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U  
**法律專家 JURISTS:**  
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues  
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo  
潘卡莉 Candice Pun  
陳子健 Kimi Chan  
伍福賢 Domingos Ng

\* 私人公證員 Notary Public \* 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer \* 顧問 Of Counsel



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

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

**A: Av. da Praia Grande 759, 3-5 Floors** Office hours:  
Macau SAR, China **Mon-Thu: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:30**  
地址:澳門南灣大馬路759號3-5樓 **Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00**  
Tel: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623 **Sat: 9:00-13:00**

WWW.CCADVOG.COM

律師事務所



**C&C**  
**LAWYERS**  
**& NOTARIES**  
SINCE 1996



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (left) and former Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott

DIPLOMACY

# AUSTRALIA FLAGS DEMOCRACIES' TRADE SWING FROM CHINA TO INDIA

ROD MCGUIRK, CANBERRA

**A**USTRALIAN special envoy and former Prime Minister Tony Abbott said a free trade agreement between his nation and India would signal the "democratic world's tilt away from China."

Abbott visited New Delhi last week as Australia's special trade envoy for India as the Australian government gives priority to sealing a bilateral trade deal.

In an opinion piece likely to anger Beijing that was published in The Australian newspaper yesterday, Abbott said the "answer to almost every question about China is India."

"With the world's other emerging superpower becoming more belligerent almost by the day, it's in everyone's interests that India take its rightful place among the nations as quickly as possible," Abbott wrote.

"Because trade deals are about politics as much as economics, a swift deal between India and Australia would be an important sign of the democratic world's tilt away from China, as well as boosting the long-term prosperity of both our countries," Abbott added.

Abbott was prime minister when China and Australia finalized a bilateral free trade deal which took effect in 2015. He also hosted a state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping a year earlier.

Relations have since soured over issues including Australia banning Chinese telecom giant Huawei from major communications infrastructure projects, outlawing covert foreign interference in Australian politics and calling for an independent investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Abbott accused Beijing of "capricious boycotts" of Australian exports including coal, barley, wine and seafood that demonstrated Chinese use of trade as a "strategic weapon."

"The basic problem is that China's daunting power is a consequence of the free world's decision to invite a communist dictatorship into global trading networks," Abbott said.

"China has exploited the West's goodwill and wishful thinking to steal our technology and undercut our industries; and, in the process, become a much more powerful competitor than the old Soviet Union ever was, because it's now a first-rate economy that's rapidly developing a military to match," Abbott added.

The Chinese Embassy in Australia did not respond to a request for comment.

Negotiations between India and Australia on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement began in 2011 but were suspended in 2015.

India is particularly concerned by freer trade in Australian farm exports. New Delhi's demands for less restrictive visas for Indian workers is a major sticking point for Australia.

Australia's current Prime Minister Scott Morrison and his Indian counterpart Narendra Modi last year upgraded the bilateral relationship with a raft of agreements that strengthened defense ties and committed both nations to expanding trade.

Abbott visited India last week to "propel our economic relationship to its full potential, to the mutual benefit of the Indian and Australian people," Australian High Commissioner to India Barry O'Farrell said in a statement. **MDT/AP**

COVID-19

# Beijing punishes 30 officials for pandemic failing

**M**ORE than 30 Chinese officials have been fired or received other punishments over accusations they failed to respond properly to the latest surge of the coronavirus in the country.

Among those fired were a vice mayor, heads of city districts and health commissions, and staff in hospital management, airport and tourism departments.

China's National Health Commission yesterday announced 94 new cases of domestic transmission had been recorded over the previous 24 hours, according to the Associated Press.

The latest outbreak is linked to the airport in the eastern city of Nanjing. The highly contagious delta variant spread among airport workers and has since spread from tropical Hainan province in the south to Inner Mongolia in the far north.

The outbreak has prompted renewed travel restrictions, community lockdowns and the sealing off of the entire city of Zhangjiajie, with a population of 1.5 million.

Gao Qiang, China's former health minister, stressed the importance of plugging loopholes in warding off imported infections in an article published last week, saying that the country is capable of eliminating the virus in the same way China swiftly contained the outbreak in 2020, the Global Times has reported. Experts said the "timely punishment for the incompetent officials in the epidemic control work is an appropriate action" as the anti-epidemic battle bears no loopholes, mistakes or neglect by those in charge of the work, the state-controlled tabloid added.

According to the same source, in Nanjing where the latest outbreak started, at least 15 officials received penalties on Saturday, including Hu Wanjin, a vice mayor of Nanjing, Fang Zhongyou, Party chief of the Nanjing Health Commission and Wang Chao, commander of the anti-epidemic control work at Nanjing Lukou International Airport.

The ineffective epidemic prevention and control at the airport was found to have triggered the outbreak, the report reads.

In the Hunan Province tourist city of Zhangjiajie, which was a key spot of COVID-19 infections in the latest outbreak,



20 officials and public post holders "were punished for their slack response in dealing with the flare-up."

According to the Global Times, the long list of punishments includes district officials, hospital management staff, staff with the tourism sector and related personnel to a local performance show for tourists. The performance caused a massive spread of the virus to at least eight provinces and regions across China.

The other two epidemic-stricken cities, Zhengzhou in Henan Province, and Yantai in Shandong Province, also announced disciplinary actions against officials and personnel who "performed ineffectively in their management and supervisory responsibilities" for epidemic prevention and control.

Fu Guirong, secretary of Zhengzhou Health Commission Party group, was removed from her post. The Party chief of Zhengzhou Sixth People's Hospital, a designated hospital for treatment of overseas arrivals who are infected with COVID-19, was also sacked.

Zhengzhou Health Commission was urged to make adjustments to the management of the hospital after many of the confirmed and asymptomatic COVID-19 patients in the city were found to be related to the hospital, including cleaning staff, medical staff, inpatients and their escorts.

The district head of Laishan district in Yantai, among others, was dismissed for failing to fulfill epidemic prevention and control. Yantai launched its second round of citywide nucleic acid testing on Saturday.

Wang Peiyu, a deputy head of Peking University's

School of Public Health, told the Global Times that the outbreak that started in Nanjing and spread rapidly to several provinces has shown the loopholes in the epidemic control work in some places, such as airports, and exposed the mistakes and lapses of some individuals who hold important posts in the overall anti-epidemic work.

"The outbreak is a wake-up call to all of us - the virus may slide in any time when we loosen controls. We must always tighten the string of epidemic prevention," he said.

Officials in the UK and Singapore have explicitly encouraged people to adapt to the virus and live with it.

Zhang Wenhong, a leading infectious disease expert in Shanghai, also said the majority of virologists in the world agree that the world has to learn to live with this virus.

Gao Qiang refuted the idea, saying that it was such pursuit of the so-called "coexistence with the virus" that has led to the resurgence of the epidemic in many countries.

China's anti-epidemic strategy is a "double insurance" strategy of precise epidemic control and widespread vaccination, rather than replacing strict epidemic control with herd immunity, let alone "coexistence with the virus," he said in the article.

The painful lesson of the Nanjing epidemic told us that in the face of widespread vaccination, the central government's policy of normalizing epidemic control remains an important guideline to be followed in China's fight against the epidemic, he said, as quoted by the Global Times. **MDT/AGENCIES**

RAHIM FAIEZ, KABUL

AFGHANISTAN

**T**HE Taliban yesterday took control of another provincial capital in Afghanistan, an official said. The city's fall was the latest in a weeklong, relentless Taliban offensive as American and NATO forces finalize their pullout from the war-torn country.

The militants have ramped up their push across much of Afghanistan, turning their guns on provincial capitals after taking large swaths of land in the mostly rural countryside. At the same time, they have been waging an assassination campaign targeting senior government officials in the capital, Kabul.

The sweep comes despite condemnations by the international community and warnings from the United Nations that a military victory and takeover by the Taliban would not be recognized. The Taliban have also not heeded appeals to return to the negotiating table and continue long-stalled peace talks with the Afghan government.

According to Mohammad Noor Rahmani, the council chief of northern Sar-e Pul province, the Taliban overran the provincial capital after over a week of resistance by the Afghan security forces, after which the city of Sar-e Pul collapsed. The government forces have now completely withdrawn from the province, he said.

Several pro-government local militia commanders also surrendered to the Taliban without a fight, allowing the insurgents to gain control of the entire province, Rahmani added.

The city of Sar-e Pul joins three other provincial capitals now fully under Taliban control: Zaranj, the capital of western Nimroz pro-

# Taliban press on, take another provincial capital



Smoke rises from damaged shops after fighting between Taliban and Afghan security forces in Kunduz city

vince, the city of Shibirghan, the capital of northern Zawzjan province, and Taleqan, the capital of another northern province with the same name.

The Taliban are also fighting on for control of the city of Kunduz, the capital of northern Kunduz province. On Sunday, they planted their flag in the city's main square, where it was seen flying atop a traffic police booth, a video obtained by The Associated Press showed.

Kunduz's capture would be a significant gain for the Taliban and a test of their ability to take and retain territory in their campaign against the Western-backed government. It is one of the country's larger cities with a population of more than 340,000, and was a key area defended against Taliban takeovers by Western troops over the years.

After billions of dollars spent in aiding, training and shoring up Afghan forces, many are at odds

how to explain the surprising Taliban blitz that has threatened — and by now taken — several of the country's 34 provincial capitals.

Rahmani, the council chief in Sar-e Pul, said the provincial capital had been under siege by the militants for weeks, with no reinforcements being sent to the overstretched Afghan forces. A video circulating on social media shows a number of Taliban fighters, standing in front of the Sar-e Pul governor's office and congra-

tulating each other for the victory.

The country-wide Taliban offensive intensified as U.S. and NATO troops began to wrap up their withdrawal from Afghanistan this summer. With Taliban attacks increasing, Afghan security forces and government troops have retaliated with airstrikes aided by the United States. The fighting has also raised growing concerns about civilian casualties.

The insurgents have also taken most of Lashkar Gah, the capital of southern Helmand province, where they took nine of the 10 police districts in the city last week. Heavy fighting there continues, as do U.S. and Afghan government airstrikes, one of which damaged a health clinic and a high school.

The Defense Ministry confirmed airstrikes occurred but said they targeted Taliban positions, killing 54 fighters and wounding 23. Its statement made no mention of a clinic or school being bombed. Deputy provincial council chairman Majid Akhund said the facilities had been under Taliban control when they were struck.

On Saturday, Taliban fighters entered the capital of the northern Jawzjan province after sweeping through nine of 10 districts in the province. And the city of Kandahar, the provincial capital of Kandahar, also remains under siege.

As they rolled through provincial capitals, the Taliban issued an English language statement on Sunday saying that residents, government employees, and security officials had nothing to fear from them.

However, revenge attacks and repressive treatment of women have been reported in areas now under Taliban control. **MDT/AP**

INDONESIA

# Volcano churns out fresh clouds of ash, lava

**A** volcanic eruption on Indonesia's turbulent Mount Merapi churned and boiled yesterday, sending renewed flows of lava and ash down its slopes for a second day.

Pyroclastic flows — avalanches of rock, ash and volcanic gas — burst from the mountain's actively growing lava dome inside the crater.

The 2,968-meter peak is near Yogyakarta, an ancient city of several hundred thousand people embedded in a large metro area on the island of Java. The city is a center of Javanese culture and a seat of royal dynasties going back centuries.

Mount Merapi's last ma-

JOR eruption in 2010 killed 347 people. Villagers living on Merapi's fertile slopes were advised to stay 5 kilometers away from the crater's mouth.

Hanik Humaida, the head of Yogyakarta's Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Center, said the lava dome had been partially collapsing since Sunday, when the latest eruption began. The initial blast sent hot ash 1,000 meters into the atmosphere.

The mountain spewed at least three new pyroclastic flows yesterday, Humaida said.

Mount Merapi is the most volatile of more than

120 active volcanoes in Indonesia, and Humaida said it's one of the most active worldwide. She said it's common for eruptions to last several days.

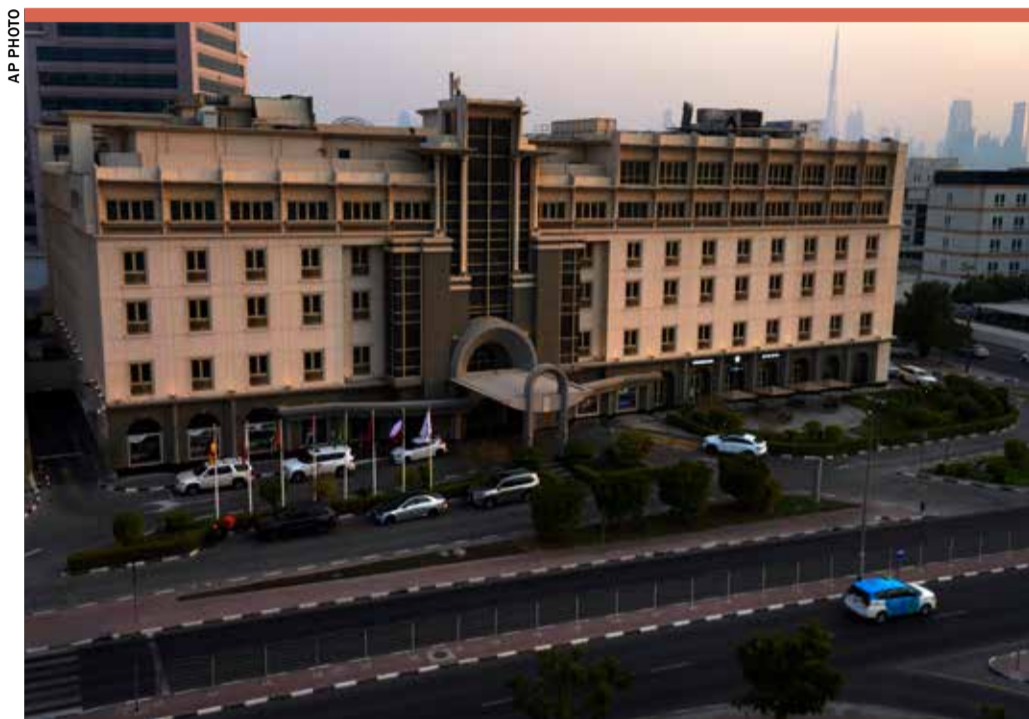
The Volcanology and Geological Hazard Mitigation Center did not raise Merapi's alert status this week. It has been at the second-highest of four levels since the mountain began erupting last November.

Indonesia, an archipelago of 270 million people, is prone to earthquakes and volcanic activity because it sits along the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a horseshoe-shaped series of seismic fault lines around the ocean.

**MDT/AP**



# Contractors who powered US war in Afghanistan stuck in Dubai



The Mövenpick Hotel & Apartments in Dubai

ISABEL DEBRE, DUBAI

**S**OME of the foreign contractors who powered the logistics of America's "forever war" in Afghanistan now find themselves stranded on an unending layover in Dubai without a way to get home.

After nearly two decades, the rapid U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan has upended the lives of thousands of private security contractors from some of the world's poorest countries — not the hired guns but the hired hands who serviced the American war effort. For years, they toiled in the shadows as cleaners, cooks, construction workers, servers and technicians on sprawling American bases.

In the rushed evacuation, scores of these foreign workers trying to get home to the Philippines and other countries that restricted international travel because of the pandemic have become stuck in limbo at hotels across Dubai.

As the U.S. brings home its remaining troops and abandons its bases, experts say the chaotic departure of the Pentagon's logistics army lays bare an uncomfortable truth about a privatized system long susceptible to mismanagement — one largely funded by American taxpayers but outside the purview of American law.

"It's the same situation that affects foreign contractors all over the world, people who have little understanding of where they're going and very uncertain relationships once they arrive determining their legal status and movements," said Anthony Cordesman, a national security analyst at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"The terms of contracts in war can really absolve the employer of major responsibility ... even the right of return can be uncertain."

While it's unclear just how many remain stuck abroad after the evacuation, an Associated Press journalist saw at least a dozen Filipino contractors for engineering and construction company Fluor stranded at the Mövenpick hotel in Bur Dubai, an older neighborhood of the city-state along the Dubai Creek.

The hotel management declined to comment, saying it "has no authority to disclose presence and information of any hotel guests nor hotel corporate partners details due to privacy reasons."

The U.S. military's Central Command declined to comment on private security contractors, referring all questions to their companies. The U.S. military's contracting office and the Philippines Consulate in

Dubai did not respond to repeated requests for comment on the stranded Filipino contractors.

As of early June, 2,491 foreign contract workers remained on American bases across Afghanistan, down from 6,399 in April, according to the latest figures from the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction.

With the U.S. set to formally end its military mission at the month's end, most of these workers have since made it home on flights arranged by their employers — the private military behemoths that over years of war won Pentagon logistics contracts in Afghanistan worth billions of dollars.

But other employees, brought first to Dubai on their way home after an abrupt departure on June 15, weren't so lucky. The Philippines, along with Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka, halted flights to the United Arab Emirates in mid-May over fears of the fast-spreading delta variant of the coronavirus and repeatedly renewed the travel ban.

Thus began a seemingly interminable layover that some Filipino workers described to the AP as one of anxiety and unrelenting boredom. The contractors spoke on condition of anonymity, citing the precariousness of their situation.

Drawn to Afghanistan by the promise of steady employment and wages far higher than in the Philippines, several of the stranded Fluor contractors spent years working in construction, equipment transport, visa processing and other military logistics. Some worked at Bagram Air Base, the largest military compound in the country, and at Kandahar Airfield in southern Afghanistan. They had nothing to do with combat operations but described nonetheless facing rocket attacks and other risks of war on base.

Those who spoke to the AP said they knew of scores more contractors from the Philippines and other countries including Nepal stuck in Dubai, but couldn't provide more specific information.

With their cash dwindling over the two-month layover, most said they couldn't afford to do anything but wait. They while away their time watching TV and video-calling with family in the Philippines from the hotel, where Fluor provides daily meals.

Construction giant Fluor, the Irving, Texas-based firm that was the biggest defense contractor in Afghanistan, did not respond to repeated requests for comment from the AP. The Defense Department has spent \$3.8 billion for Fluor's work in Afghanistan since 2015, federal records show, most of it for logistics services.

With little publicly known about the evacuation process for the war's contractors, it has become increasingly apparent that the Pentagon's long-invisible foreign fleet may remain so.

"Everyone has been so focused on the U.S. troops, and also the Afghans, interpreters and others" who could face revenge killings by a resurgent Taliban, said John Sifton, Asia advocacy director at Human Rights Watch. "About the stranded foreign workers, the Biden administration can say, well, their companies and their governments should have moved heaven and earth to get them home." **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 2003 BRITAIN SWELTERS IN RECORD HEAT



Britain has recorded its hottest day ever as the temperature soared to 38.1C (100.6F) in Gravesend, Kent.

The record has actually been broken twice today. The first place to beat the previous record of 37.1C (98.8F), set in Cheltenham in 1990, was Heathrow Airport where the temperature earlier today registered 37.9C (100.2F).

Then an even higher temperature was recorded in Kent, making today the hottest day since records began about 130 years ago in 1875.

Hundreds of thousands joined the mass exodus to the coast to soak up the sunshine.

Roads to the south and west were jammed as motorists headed out of the sweltering cities.

Resorts such as Clacton-on-Sea in Essex and Tenby in Pembrokeshire said there were no spare beds at all in hotels or guesthouses.

At Bournemouth, in Dorset, the coastline was crammed with about 100,000 sun lovers, and there was said to be no spare space on the sand.

Unfortunately, the hot weather has also had its downside.

Speed restrictions to prevent buckled rails have been in force on the railways from noon each day while temperatures continue above 30C.

Commuters endured delays of up to an hour as trains which normally travel at up to 110 mph (177kph) were brought down to 60mph (96.5kph).

The chief weather forecaster for the Met Office, Nigel Reed, said summers this hot may become routine within 50 or 70 years.

"In the years to come, as the earth's atmosphere does heat up through global warming, we would expect to see these hot weather events happening with greater frequency," he said.

Scientists are saying that this summer's weather fits a global trend which has seen temperatures higher than average in nine out of the past 12 years.

The heatwave in Britain follows the exceptionally high temperatures recorded across Europe, with several countries hitting 40C in the last week.

At least 30 people have died in the hot weather and in the fires which have resulted in some countries.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Met office later admitted the highest-ever temperature was recorded not in Gravesend, but in nearby Brogdale, near Faversham, also in Kent, where the temperature reached 38.5C (101.3F).

Another record was broken the following month, which was the sunniest September since records began with an average of six hours a day across the UK.

Across Europe as a whole, 2003 was the hottest summer for at least 500 years.

A study published in March 2004 showed the weather has veered towards cooler and warmer spells over the last half-century, but reported an "exceptionally strong, unprecedented warming trend" since 1977.

Research is continually being carried out to try to establish why average global temperatures have risen significantly over the past century.

Reports suggest it is a combination of human activity, solar activity and warmer oceans.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 You're looking to hone your skills and bring a fresh, innovative eye to your work, as the hard-working Virgo moon links up with originality-craving Uranus.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 Everything is not what it seems beneath Monday's skies, Taurus. Your ruling planet, romance-craving Venus, finds herself under a dizzying spell, as she dances with ethereal Neptune.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 The universe is pushing you to go big or go home today, Gemini. Your ruling planet, messenger Mercury, locks into an expansive opposition with growth-bringing Jupiter.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 Your mind may feel like it's playing tricks on you today. Magnetic Venus falls into a sleepy opposition with dream-maker Neptune, creating a hazy, but deeply inspired mental atmosphere.

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 Your relationships are getting a welcome wake-up call today, Leo. Communicator Mercury, currently in your sign, finds itself in an eye-opening opposition with growth-giving Jupiter.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 Today's cosmic landscape widens the scope of your world, Virgo. Your ruling planet, expressive Mercury, clicks into a growth-giving opposition with abundant Jupiter.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 This pairing encourages you to dream big but be careful of taking on more than you can handle. Elsewhere, the heady Virgo moon encourages solitude and rest.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 Spend some time with your people today. The moon's presence in down to earth Virgo encourages you to embrace community connections and talk through career blockages among friends.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 The universe is delivering some critical insights to your doorstep today, Sagittarius. Messenger Mercury locks into an eye-opening opposition with your ruling planet, jovial Jupiter.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 The heady Virgo moon's link with electric Uranus breathes fresh life into romantic connections - so long as you're willing to embrace new philosophies.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 Your relationships are on the receiving end of a wake-up call today. Turn to these close commitments to see new developments emerging, as messenger Mercury opposes abundance-bringing Jupiter.

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 Look for these happenings to occur on the work front as you become increasingly aware of the next turn on that road. Meanwhile, the Virgo moon beckons your attention toward partnership matters.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

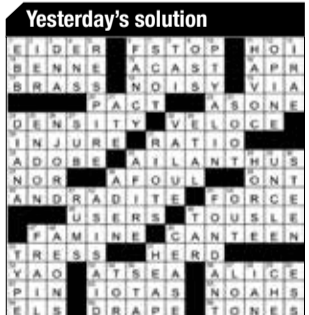
**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	17	30	fine
Harbin	10	19	thunderstorms
Tianjin	18	26	cloudy
Urumqi	16	29	cloudy
Xi'an	18	30	cloudy
Lhasa	16	24	fine
Chengdu	22	32	rain
Chongqing	24	28	rain
Kunming	19	29	cloudy
Nanjing	15	24	cloudy
Shanghai	28	36	thunderstorms
Wuhan	20	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	18	thunderstorms
Taipei	16	28	cloudy
Guangzhou	12	26	fine
Hong Kong	18	31	fine
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	17	31	clear
Frankfurt	8	14	rain
Paris	8	15	rain
London	7	16	cloudy
New York	14	24	cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Latvian, e.g.; 5- Chills and fever; 9- Sault \_\_\_ Marie; 12- Hydrox rival; 13- Unit of magnetic induction; 15- The closest one to us is the sun; 16- Lose one's cool; 17- Prepares for billiards; 18- Enlivens, with "up"; 19- Pirate; 21- One on the run; 23- Responsibility; 24- Unit of corn; 25- Sister of Moses; 28- "Your \_\_\_"; said to a British judge; 33- Silvery fish; 34- Germinated grain used in brewing; 35- Mozart's \_\_\_ "kleine Nachtmusik"; 36- Black bird; 37- Travels on; 38- Friend; 39- Double curve; 41- Zeno's home; 42- More than sufficient; 44- Incitement of rebellion; 46- Like jambalaya; 47- Astronaut Grissom; 48- Cover; 49- Topmost; 53- Ruby-colored; 57- "\_\_\_ She Lovely?"; 58- Deplete; 60- Heart; 61- Leave rolling in the aisles; 62- Art supporter; 63- Editor Wintour; 64- Become firm; 65- Routine; 66- Ultimate;

DOWN: 1- Winter pear; 2- Florence's river; 3- Regan's dad; 4- Garden's necessity; 5- Skylighted lobby; 6- Toothed wheels; 7- Home of the Trojans; 8- Actress Sommer; 9- Footfall; 10- Record with a VCR; 11- Scottish Gaelic; 14- States; 15- Few and far between; 20- Med school subj.; 22- No gentleman; 25- Windows predecessor; 26- Picture; 27- Marry again; 28- Burdened; 29- Olive genus; 30- African wader; 31- Total; 32- Martinique volcano; 34- Actor O'Shea; 37- Publish again; 40- Fourscore; 42- Bedouin; 43- Monetary unit of Mozambique; 45- Calendar abbr.; 46- Pair; 48- Container for oil or vinegar; 49- Sibilate; 50- Land in water; 51- Annoying insect; 52- Nicholas II was the last Russian one; 54- The last Mrs. Chaplin; 55- Samovars; 56- Show to a table; 59- That, in Tijuana;



**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**  
 MORE INFO  
 (853) 2835 2699

**jml property**  
 卓雅物業  
 hello@jmlproperty.com  
 www.jmlproperty.com  
 jmlmacau jmlproperty

**FOR SALE**  
 Taipa Village **HKD 3,780,000**  
 Ref: 2007 6001

**FOR RENT**  
**REDUCED**  
 One Central **HKD 16,500/mth**  
 Ref: 2106 1001

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

AD



Russian tourists gather at the Egyptair check-in desk at the Domodedovo International Airport outside Moscow yesterday

AVIATION

# RUSSIA RESUMES FLIGHTS TO EGYPTIAN RESORTS AFTER SIX YEARS

SAMY MAGDY, CAIRO

**R**USSIA resumed flights to Egyptian Red Sea resorts yesterday, ending a ban that had lasted almost six years following the bombing of a Russian airliner that killed all 224 people onboard.

The local branch of the Islamic State group said it downed the plane over Sinai in October 2015, shortly after the aircraft took off from the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. At the time, Russian officials insisted that security procedures at Egyptian airports were insufficient.

Earlier yesterday, EgyptAir flight MS724 took off from Moscow with 300 tourists. Hours later, the Airbus A300-330 landed in Hurghada, a popular Red Sea destination, Egypt's national carrier said in a statement.

The Russian plane was welcomed by a ceremonial "water salute" on touchdown and Russian

tourists, most of them wearing facemasks, were greeted with flowers and balloons upon disembarking.

The statement said EgyptAir would operate seven flights from the Russian capital to Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheikh, on the tip of the Sinai Peninsula. The first EgyptAir flight from Moscow to Sharm el-Sheikh was scheduled for Tuesday, it said.

Egypt's envoy to Russia, Ihab Nasr, told a local TV station on Sunday that there would be 20 direct flights between Moscow and the two Red Sea resorts every week, and that Egyptian and Russian officials were discussing additional flights.

The Russian state aviation agency, Rosaviatsiya, has cleared eight Russian airlines to operate flights to Hurghada and Sharm el-Sheikh from 43 cities across Russia. However, the list does not include St. Petersburg, the des-

tinuation of the doomed Russian airliner downed over Sinai.

For now, Rossiya, a subsidiary of the Russia's state-owned flagship carrier Aeroflot, appears to be the only Russian airline with scheduled flights to the two Egyptian Red Sea resorts from Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport. Its flight FV5361 landed in Hurghada yesterday afternoon and the flight FV5633 was to land in Sharm el-Sheikh an hour and a half later.

Other Russian airlines cleared to operate flights from Moscow to Hurghada and Sharm El Sheikh — such as Aeroflot's low-cost subsidiary Pobeda and S7 Airlines, Russia's largest privately owned carrier — have no flights scheduled for the coming days, according to their websites.

The development comes a month after Russian President Vladimir Putin canceled his order suspending the flights after the 2015 disaster.

Flights between Moscow and Cairo resumed in April 2018 after Egyptian officials beefed up security at Cairo's international airport, but talks about restoring direct air travel to Red Sea resorts had dragged on. In 2016, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi finally said the downing of the Russian airliner was a "terrorist attack."

Russia's ambassador to Egypt, Georgy Borisenko, said the decision to resume flights was not an easy one for Moscow.

"However, we ascertained that in recent years Egypt's airports and resorts have dramatically increased security measures. Therefore, we expect that Russian tourists, who remember the traditional Egyptian hospitality well and miss the Red Sea very much, will have a safe and comfortable stay," Borisenko was quoted by the state RIA Novosti news agency as saying.

Britain, another major source of visitors to Egypt which had also suspended flights to Sharm el-Sheikh in the wake of the bombing, lifted its restrictions in October 2019.

The 2015 attack was a serious blow to Egypt's vital tourism industry, which was also affected by the unrest following its 2011 Arab Spring uprising. Egyptian authorities have since spent millions of dollars upgrading security at the country's airports, hoping to get Moscow to change its mind.

The resumption of flights will be key for Egypt's tourism sector, which was dealt another blow by the coronavirus pandemic over the past year. Authorities have kept looser restrictions in Red Sea towns, trying to attract foreign visitors. But they have mandated vaccinations for workers in the tourism sector in Red Sea resorts, though a vaccination campaign has been slow elsewhere in Egypt. All foreign visitors, however, have to show a negative PCR test and wear facemasks.

Prior to the ban, Russians were the top visitors to Egypt, numbering about 3 million tourists in 2014. MDT/AP

## CORPORATE BITS



### Sands China hosts Guangdong medical team during mass testing

Sands China provided service arrangements for the medical team from Guangdong province at one of its integrated resorts during their stay in the city.

Guangdong province recently organised a group of more than 300 medical professionals to assist Macau with its mass nucleic acid testing program-

me that ran for three days.

With the city's mass testing programme now complete, a farewell ceremony was held Sunday for the Guangdong medical team, who were given gift bags as a token of appreciation for their hard work.

Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China

Ltd said, "Our deepest gratitude goes to all Macao healthcare workers for their selfless dedication, and to mainland authorities for sending more than 300 medical professionals to Macao for support — together helping the city successfully complete its mass testing programme in three days."

TOKYO2020

# Japan's PM thanks people for safe Olympics during pandemic

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

**J**APAN'S prime minister thanked people for helping the country safely hold the Olympics despite the difficulties of the coronavirus pandemic.

He noted the Games were delayed by a year and held under tight restrictions, but "I believe we were able to fulfill our responsibility as the host nation," Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga said, thanking the people for their understanding and cooperation.

The 17-day Summer Olympics were played mostly without spectators. Athletes stayed in an isolation bubble, quickly donned masks off their field of play and had to leave Japan soon after their competitions ended.

But the Games were a testament to perseverance, and as Suga noted in praising Japa-



Japan's Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga

nese athletes for the nation's record 58 medals, "Some won medals and others didn't, but all their performances were moving."

Suga spoke about the Olym-

pics at a ceremony in Nagasaki yesterday that marked the 76th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of the Japanese city.

Suga has been criticized as

forcing the Games on a Japanese public that didn't want them to be held during the pandemic.

Japan has counted 1 million infections and more than 15,700 deaths from COVID-19, faring better than many countries, but the delta variant is causing many recent cases and accelerating the spread of the virus.

Tokyo's new daily cases have more than doubled during the Olympics, with 2,884 recorded yesterday for a prefectural total of 252,169 cases. With Tokyo hospitals filling up with serious cases, nearly 18,000 people with mild cases are isolating at home.

Surveys of public opinion show support for Suga's government is steadily declining, a trajectory the governing party hopes the end of the Olympics will reverse before elections that are expected in the fall.

MOTORSPORT

## FORMULA 2 CHAMPIONSHIP DRIVER LUNDGAARD MAKING INDYCAR DEBUT

**R**AHAL Letterman Lanigan Racing will field a car for Formula 2 Championship driver Christian Lundgaard in Saturday's IndyCar road course race in Indianapolis.

The Danish driver recently tested an Indy car for the first time with the team at Barber Motorsports Park.

He'll drive the No. 45 Honda for RLL. He has two Formula 2 podiums this season.

"There's been a lot of work to make this happen and prepare as best as possible, and I'm feeling ready for the challenge," he said. "I've actually watched all IndyCar races this year, so to be given the chance to line up on the grid is amazing." MDT/AP

AD

**KTRANZ**  
TRANSLATIONS LIMITED

**ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS**

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

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

**We translate +10,000 words a day**

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

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

**THE ROADHOUSE**  
**MACAU**

**FAST BIKES** **ROCK & ROLL MUSIC** **FOOD AND FUN**

**THE ROADHOUSE MACAU**  
IS MACAU'S MOST POPULAR BAR FOR BLUES, BOOZE AND ROCK.  
COME ON DOWN AND LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL.

**OPINION**

**World Views**

Mathew Barlow, University of Massachusetts Lowell  
 MDT/The Conversation

**WHY MORE INTENSE STORMS AND FLOODING ARE EXPECTED**

The world watched in July 2021 as extreme rainfall became floods that washed away centuries-old homes in Europe, triggered landslides in Asia and inundated subways in China. More than 900 people died in the destruction. In North America, the West was battling fires amid an intense drought that is affecting water and power supplies.

Water-related hazards can be exceptionally destructive, and the impact of climate change on extreme water-related events like these is increasingly evident.

In a new international climate assessment published Aug. 9, 2021, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change warns that the water cycle has been intensifying and will continue to intensify as the planet warms.

The report, which I worked on as a lead author, documents an increase in both wet extremes, including more intense rainfall over most regions, and dry extremes, including drying in the Mediterranean, southwestern Australia, southwestern South America, South Africa and western North America. It also shows that both wet and dry extremes will continue to increase with future warming.

Why is the water cycle intensifying?

Water cycles through the environment, moving between the atmosphere, ocean, land and reservoirs of frozen water. It might fall as rain or snow, seep into the ground, run into a waterway, join the ocean, freeze or evaporate back into the atmosphere. Plants also take up water from the ground and release it through transpiration from their leaves. In recent decades, there has been an overall increase in the rates of precipitation and evaporation.

A number of factors are intensifying the water cycle, but one of the most important is that warming temperatures raise the upper limit on the amount of moisture in the air. That increases the potential for more rain.

This aspect of climate change is confirmed across all of our lines of evidence: It is expected from basic physics, projected by computer models, and it already shows up in the observational data as a general increase of rainfall intensity with warming temperatures.

Understanding this and other changes in the water cycle is important for more than preparing for disasters. Water is an essential resource for all ecosystems and human societies, and particularly agriculture.

What does this mean for the future?

An intensifying water cycle means that both wet and dry extremes and the general variability of the water cycle will increase, although not uniformly around the globe.

Rainfall intensity is expected to increase for most land areas, but the largest increases in dryness are expected in the Mediterranean, southwestern South America and western North America.

Globally, daily extreme precipitation events will likely intensify by about 7% for every 1 degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) that global temperatures rise.

Many other important aspects of the water cycle will also change in addition to extremes as global temperatures increase, the report shows, including reductions in mountain glaciers, decreasing duration of seasonal snow cover, earlier snowmelt and contrasting changes in monsoon rains across different regions, which will impact the water resources of billions of people.

What can be done?

One common theme across these aspects of the water cycle is that higher greenhouse gas emissions lead to bigger impacts.

The IPCC does not make policy recommendations. Instead, it provides the scientific information needed to carefully evaluate policy choices. The results show what the implications of different choices are likely to be.

One thing the scientific evidence in the report clearly tells world leaders is that limiting global warming to the Paris Agreement target of 1.5 C (2.7 F) will require immediate, rapid and large-scale reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Regardless of any specific target, it is clear that the severity of climate change impacts are closely linked to greenhouse gas emissions: Reducing emissions will reduce impacts. Every fraction of a degree matters.

The Australian government says Moderna next month will become the third COVID-19 vaccine available in Australia.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the Australian vaccine regulator approved the Moderna shot yesterday for adults.

The first million doses will arrive in Australia in late September and 10 million Moderna shots are scheduled to be delivered to Australia this year, Health Minister Greg Hunt said.

Australia has a shortage of the Pfizer vaccine and a glut of

locally manufactured AstraZeneca, which many are refusing to take because of the slight risk of blood clotting. New South Wales and Victoria states, where cities are in lockdown due to virus outbreaks, have stockpiles of more than a million unwanted doses of AstraZeneca, media reported.

Only 22% of adults among an Australian population of 26 million people had been fully vaccinated by Monday. The government expects to have provided a vaccine to every Australian adult who wants one by the end of the year.



AP PHOTO

**‘NOWHERE TO RUN’: UN REPORT SAYS GLOBAL WARMING NEARS LIMITS**

**E**ARTH'S climate is getting so hot that temperatures in about a decade will probably blow past a level of warming that world leaders have sought to prevent, according to a report released yesterday that the United Nations called a "code red for humanity."

"It's just guaranteed that it's going to get worse," said report co-author Linda Mearns, a senior climate scientist at the U.S. National Center for Atmospheric Research. "Nowhere to run, nowhere to hide."

But scientists also eased back a bit on the likelihood of the absolute worst climate catastrophes.

The authoritative Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, which calls climate change clearly human-caused and "unequivocal," makes more precise and warmer forecasts for the 21st century than it did last time it was issued in 2013.

Each of five scenarios for the future, based on how much carbon emissions are cut, passes the more stringent of two thresholds set in the 2015 Paris climate agreement. World leaders agreed then to try to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above levels in the late 19th century because problems mount quickly after that. The world has already warmed nearly 1.1 degrees

Celsius in the past century and a half.

Under each scenario, the report said, the world will cross the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming mark in the 2030s, earlier than some past predictions. Warming has ramped up in recent years, data shows.

"Our report shows that we need to be prepared for going into that level of warming in the coming decades. But we can avoid further levels of warming by acting on greenhouse gas emissions," said report co-chair Valerie Masson-Delmotte, a climate scientist at France's Laboratory of Climate and Environment Sciences at the University of Paris-Saclay.

In three scenarios, the world will also likely exceed 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial times — the other, less stringent Paris goal — with far worse heat waves, droughts and flood-inducing downpours "unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades," the report said.

"This report tells us that recent changes in the climate are widespread, rapid and intensifying, unprecedented in thousands of years," said IPCC Vice Chair Ko Barrett, senior climate adviser for the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The 3,000-plus-page

report from 234 scientists said warming is already accelerating sea level rise and worsening extremes such as heat waves, droughts, floods and storms. Tropical cyclones are getting stronger and wetter, while Arctic sea ice is dwindling in the summer and permafrost is thawing. All of these trends will get worse, the report said.

For example, the kind of heat wave that used to happen only once every 50 years now happens once a decade, and if the world warms another degree Celsius, it will happen twice every seven years, the report said.

As the planet warms, places will get hit more not just by extreme weather but by multiple climate disasters at once, the report said. That's like what's now happening in the Western U.S., where heat waves, drought and wildfires compound the damage, Mearns said. Extreme heat is also driving massive fires in Greece and Turkey.

Some harm from climate change — dwindling ice sheets, rising sea levels and changes in the oceans as they lose oxygen and become more acidic — is "irreversible for centuries to millennia," the report said.

The world is "locked in" to 15 to 30 centimeters of sea level rise by mid-century, said report co-author Bob Kopp of Rutgers University. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

**Afghanistan** Taliban fighters seized most of the capital of northern Afghanistan's key Kunduz province on Sunday, and took another neighboring provincial capital after a monthlong siege. The advances were the latest in a series of blows to government forces as U.S. troops complete their pullout after nearly two decades in the country. The militiamen planted their flag in the main square of Kunduz city, where it was seen flying atop a traffic police booth. **More on p7**



AP PHOTO

**Lebanon** Tensions over scarce fuel supplies in Lebanon descended into deadly violence yesterday — including knives, guns and a hand grenade — that killed three men, the country's news agency reported. Lebanon has faced months of severe fuel shortages that have prompted long lines at gas stations and plunged the small country, dependent on private generators for power, into long hours of darkness.

**Russia** resumed flights to Egyptian Red Sea resorts yesterday, ending a ban that had lasted almost six years following the bombing of a Russian airliner that killed all 224 people onboard. The local branch of the Islamic State group said it downed the plane over Sinai in October 2015, shortly after the aircraft took off from the Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. At the time, Russian officials insisted that security procedures at Egyptian airports were insufficient. **More on p10**



AP PHOTO

**Belarus** authoritarian leader yesterday charged that the opposition was plotting a coup in the runup to last year's presidential election that triggered a monthlong wave of mass protests demanding his resignation. President Alexander Lukashenko held his annual press conference on the one-year anniversary of the vote that handed him a sixth term in office but was denounced by the opposition and the West as rigged.