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A SPEEDBOAT CARRYING ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS 'BERTHED' RISKILY AT CHEOC VAN BEACH AFTER A MARINE CHASE WITH THE MAINLAND COASTAL GUARD

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AP PHOTO



Japan Torrential rain triggered a mudslide and more floods across Japan yesterday, leaving three people presumed dead and forcing the evacuation of dozens of residents. A mudslide early Sunday hit a house in Okaya City in the central Japanese prefecture of Nagano, burying eight residents. Three of the people were presumed dead when rescue workers found them, and two others were injured, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. The other three people were safely rescued.

AP PHOTO



Malaysia With his last-ditch plan to seek opposition backing for his government rejected, embattled Malaysian Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday appeared set to resign after failing to cobble up majority support. Mohamad Redzuan Mohamad Yusof, a minister in the Prime Minister's Department, said Muhyiddin will submit his resignation to the king today.

AP PHOTO



India will soon launch a \$1.35 trillion national infrastructure plan that will boost the country's economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced yesterday as part of independence day celebrations. Wearing a flowing bright saffron-colored turban, Modi addressed the nation from New Delhi's 17th century Mughal-era Red Fort to mark the 74th anniversary of India's independence from British rule. He said the infrastructure plan will create job opportunities for millions of Indian youth.

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TALIBAN TAKE KABUL

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AP PHOTO

TAIWAN-MACAU GAY MARRIAGE SPARKS THRILL, REFLECTION ON LOCAL PROGRESS

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ANDREW LEU



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LAWMAKER CALLS FOR CLEAR PLAN TO REOPEN ENTERTAINMENT VENUES

Following the government-ordered shutdown of certain entertainment and leisure venues amid the city's latest four cases of Covid-19 infection, lawmaker Ho Ion Sang called for details about reopening, such as the conditions and timeline, which the government has not announced. With the closures in place and a decrease in tourist arrivals, these businesses are facing strong financial challenges. The lawmaker recommended the government extend current support measures to help affected businesses pass through this difficult time and keep the community stable.

QINGMAO BORDER BUILDING READY FOR OPERATIONS

The installation of auxiliary facilities around the newly built Qingmao Border Building is mostly complete. The new border checkpoint will operate 24 hours a day. With its relative proximity to the city's main district of Fai Chi Kei, it is expected to ease the burden on the Border Gate. The building is connected with supporting facilities, such as the bus terminus at the new Ilha Verde Economic Housing Estate. The border checkpoint will be home to 100 automatic and four manual immigration clearance channels.

FOREX RESERVES AMOUNT TO MOP210 BILLION

The preliminary estimate of Macau's foreign exchange reserves amounted to MOP209.9 billion at the end of July, the SAR's monetary watchdog stated. The latest statistics from the Monetary Authority of Macao indicate that the reserves increased by 0.1% from the revised value of MOP209.8 billion for the previous month. The city's foreign exchange reserves as at the end of July represented 11 times the currency in circulation or 86.2% of pataca M2 at the end of June. The trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca rose 0.85 points month-on-month but fell 3.92 points year-on-year to 103.3 in July.

GAMING

SANDS CHINA POSTS 91% INCREASE IN NET REVENUE FOR H1

HONEY TSANG

SANDS China Ltd. raked in aggregate net revenue of HKD12.58 billion in the first half (H1) of 2021, representing a remarkable 91% increase compared to HKD6.57 billion in the first half of 2020.

The group announced the encouraging six-month financial result in a statement last Friday August 13.

Sands China also registered a smaller loss in the first half of this year compared to the previous year, recording HKD2.96 billion in losses in the first six months, a noticeable improvement from losses of HKD5.55 billion in the same period last year.

Meanwhile, the adjusted property earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) for the group were HKD1.82 billion in H1, a sharp turnaround from an adjusted property EBITDA loss of HKD1.90 billion in H1, 2020.

"All of our operating segments and business categories in the first half of 2021 saw a modest recovery from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic due to relaxed travel restrictions during the



period, resulting in increased visitation to our properties," the statement said.

These relaxations include the lifting of the negative Covid-19 test proof requirement for entry to casinos on March 3 this year, and a return to full-swing gaming operations in the first half of this year.

The gaming sector of Sands China had been forced to suspend operations from February 5 to 19 last year in accordance with a mandate of partial lockdown implemented by the government at the time. In H1 this year, the group's gaming operations remained open.

However, the group stated in the report that the economic and regulatory environments in the city and globally continue to evolve due to uncertainties around the pandemic, "which could significantly alter the group's current operations."

The gaming operator is affected not only by the pandemic, but also the uncertainty regarding the renewal proceedings for the city's gaming licenses.

The city's three gaming concessions and three sub-concessions expire on June 26, 2022. Venetian Macau Limited (VML), a subsidiary of Sands China Ltd, holds one of the sub-

-concessions.

If the group's gaming license is not extended or renewed after the expiration date, VML will be barred from engaging in the gaming business, with its gaming-related equipment required to be transferred to the government without compensation.

"The company is actively monitoring the renewal process and continues to believe its sub-concession will be extended or renewed; however, it is possible the Macau government could change or interpret the associated gaming laws in a manner that could negatively impact the group," the group stated.

CE pushes for strengthened efforts against cyberattacks

HONEY TSANG

THE government must commit itself to fortifying efforts against cyberattacks to ensure national security amidst the increasingly intense digital threats facing the world, according to the city's Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng.

In a plenary meeting convened by the Cyber Security Committee on August 12, Ho, who is also the committee's president, explained that cybersecurity risks in the first half of this year were severe, with global governments and

enterprises, including in Macau, subject to serious digital attacks.

Given this, the government must act proactively to lay a more solid foundation to protect the city against the heightened level of cyberattacks.

He added that the city is now facing a "complicated" security situation, especially as Macau will see the Legislative Assembly Election in September.

Ho's pledge will see the government elevate its cybersecurity regime to a "strategically high level," which will actively connect with the nation's di-

gitalization plan. The government will continue to strike a balance between ensuring cyber safety and the city's development, and engage all parties to actively participate in the construction of a bolstered digital shield.

In conclusion, Ho affirmed that the government will embark on this endeavor in three key directions: strengthening efforts to supervise and support operators, tailoring relevant requirements for operators based on their needs, and cultivating talent in network security.



He directed the Cyber-security Incident Alert and Response Centre, coordinated by the Judiciary Police, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau and the Macau Post and Telecommunications Bureau, to continue to enhance capabilities to

detect and guard against cyberattacks.

The meeting was also attended by other top officials, including Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak and Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon.

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Taiwan-Macau gay marriage sparks thrill, reflection on local progress

RENATO MARQUES

NEWs of the legal marriage of Taiwanese man Ting Tse-yan and Macau's Guzifer Leong in Taiwan late last week has sparked joy and feelings of hope locally, local LGBT rights association Rainbow of Macau told the Times.

After a lengthy process, and two years after Taipei's Zhongzheng District Household Registration Office rejected their first application, the same-sex couple were finally able to legally register their marriage in an unprecedented court victory.

According to Rainbow of Macau, the couple's marriage is the first of its kind in Taiwan involving an inter-jurisdictional relationship.

"Their case is an exceptionally distinguishing example both domestically and globally, [because under] Taiwanese marriage law, the side of a same-sex couple who is non-Taiwanese must be from a jurisdiction that recognizes same-sex marriage for the procedure to [be permitted] in Taiwan," the local non-governmental organization said, adding, "in Guzifer's case, he is from Macau where same-sex marriage is neither recognized nor registe-

red, so getting married in Taiwan was barely possible."

The same-sex marriage was only possible since a ruling in May this year from Taipei's High Administrative Court, which considered that "the legal jurisdiction for civil matters must be based on a person's place of habitual residence." Taking into account the fact that Leong had moved to and had been residing in Taiwan since 2017, it was not necessary to consult the laws and regulations on the matter in Macau. Only the Taiwanese laws and regulations required consideration.

Rainbow of Macau also noted that the breakthrough achieved by the couple is particularly important as it constitutes jurisprudence that might help to resolve many other similar cases that are currently stalled.

"This will encourage people in Taiwan in similar situations to file a judicial appeal," Rainbow of Macau said.

NO STEPS FORWARD IN MACAU

Questioned on the topic, the local organization said that no progress has been seen so far in Macau in the area of same-sex marriage.

Although the issue has been

raised at times over the last few years, including at the Legislative Assembly, Rainbow of Macau thinks that the lack of progress on the topic is related to the lack of understanding about how a legal bond can make a real difference.

"There is not enough dialogue on the issue and even the local gay community does not show enough interest in the matter," a Rainbow of Macau representative told the Times, adding, "they cannot visualize that a legal marriage can make a difference in many situations, such as on an application for economic housing. If you apply as a single person, your chances of getting economic housing are very slim, but if you apply as a married couple there [is a higher] chance."

For the NGO, marriage is both a right and an option. "Each individual has the freedom to determine if they want to get married but, in terms of rights, they should be able to when they desire to," the representative said.

A legal registration of marriage is also highly relevant when granting the power to decide on behalf of one's partner, such as when providing emergency medical consent or in other situations.

HONG KONG OFFICIAL BACKS SANCTIONS LAW AS NPC TALKS ON NATIONAL LAWS FOR SARS APPROACH

LYNZY VALLES

HONG Kong Financial Secretary Paul Chan is backing local legislation to include Beijing's anti-sanctions law in Hong Kong's constitution.

In his blog, Chan wrote that the anti-sanctions law is aimed at "restoring the normal order of the market and protecting the development interests of normally operating enterprises."

The Secretary said that Hong Kong has a constitutional responsibility to implement the anti-sanctions law that was passed in China in June by the Standing Committee of China's National People's Congress (NPC).

Chan wrote that the law can "provide more diversified countermeasures in the policy toolbox, which can counterbalance [sanctions] and respond with commensurate strength."

Late last month, the state-run news agency Xinhua reported that the NPC will meet in a closed-door session to be held from August 17 to 20 in Beijing.

China's highest legislative body is set to discuss adding national laws to the annexes of the charters of both Hong Kong and Macau. According to the proposed agen-



da, lawmakers will consider a draft decision to include additional national laws in the list of statutes in Annex III to the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and a similar resolution concerning Annex III to the Basic Law of the Macau Special Administrative Region. No further specifics of the legislation were disclosed.

The anti-sanctions law aims to counteract unilateral sanctions imposed against China by foreign countries, safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests as well as to protect the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens and organizations.

SPEEDBOAT WITH ALLEGED ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS INVADES CHEOC VAN BEACH

A speedboat carrying alleged illegal immigrants "berthed" riskily yesterday at Cheoc Van Beach after a marine chase with the mainland coastal authorities, Macao Customs Service announced.

Upon the boat's arrival in Macau, Macao Customs deployed its own boats to commence a chase that resulted in four people being placed under arrest.

Yesterday morning, Macao Customs, using its smart supervision system, spotted a speedboat gliding fast on the surface of the South China Sea off the coast of Zhuhai and Macau.

Customs deployed its boats in an attempt to intercept the speedboat and also deployed drones for support. Meanwhile, the Zhuhai coastal authorities were on

the chase as well.

Seeing the odds for escape narrowing, the captain of the speedboat turned towards the coast of Macau and dangerously slid up the sand of Cheoc Van Beach before making an order to abandon the boat.

Macao Customs officers saw four people fleeing the scene.

The officers immediately requested assistance from the Public Security Police Force, which has law enforcement authority on land, to intercept the four individuals, who were later apprehended.

Amid the tension, the officers maintained disease prevention measures and conducted temperature checks on the four while wearing protective gear. **AL**





PJ CONFIRMS COMPLETION OF COVID PATIENT'S ITINERARY

ANTHONY LAM

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has confirmed that the brother in the family recently diagnosed with Covid-19 has made a complete disclosure of his pre-diagnosis itinerary, Dr Leong Iek Hou, doctor of public health at the Health Bureau (SSM), announced.

Information on movements had been released by the SSM in bits and pieces, with new details emerging every couple of days. Members of the public were not happy about the drip-feeding of information about the family's whereabouts, with heated commentary on social media platforms including claims that the brother had not made complete disclosures.

Leong confirmed that the SSM has made enquiries to the family again. The bureau was assured that complete disclosures had been made. The PJ was also invited to help confirm that the brother was not involved in any group activities other than those disclosed.

52 PEOPLE ON FOLLOW-UP LIST

The parents in the family had paid visits to the CTM shop in Fai Chi Kei and the Hutchi-

son shop near San Kio District.

The SSM announced that both shops have undergone sanitization and since reopened to the public.

In response to public concerns, the SSM explained that if the sanitization was conducted using a bleach solution of suitable strength and in an appropriate manner, the areas will be safe for public use.

Employees from both shops, totaling 52 people, have been put under a three-day quarantine period and will go through two PCR tests. The first test is already complete, with negative results returned.

Environmental sampling is not required, Leong added, because positive results do not mean there is a sufficient contagion risk.

SCAM CALLS ABOUT DOCUMENT PICK-UP

Claims have recently re-emerged that the SSM made phone calls to residents, asking them to pay visits to the bureau to collect some documents. The scam calls instruct the recipients to press "1" on their phone for further information.

The SSM clarified that it has not made any call that requested the recipients to press pho-

ne keys to obtain further information or pick up documents. The bureau reminds residents in Macau to be vigilant against this type of call.

The PJ previously issued a press release to educate residents on the handling of such calls.

Residents should be on alert when receiving suspicious calls and should verify the authenticity of such calls through reliable channels. They must never disclose personal information or make bank transfers to strangers.

In addition, they should share anti-scam information compiled by the police with their friends and relatives. The PJ reminds residents to call the police right away if they suspect they may be falling victim to a scam.

BLOOD TRANSFUSION CENTER TO PROVIDE JOBS

The SSM announced that blood donors will be able to take a Covid-19 vaccine at the Blood Transfusion Center. Donors can take their jabs after they give blood.

Due to the size of the center, only blood donors who are eligible for free jabs will be serviced.

DSEDJ CALLS ON STUDENTS, TEACHERS TO RETURN TO MACAU EARLIER



RENATO MARQUES

THE Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) has called on all non-higher education students and teachers to return to Macau earlier, ahead of the start of the new academic year.

The announcement was made by the deputy director of DSEDJ, Kong Chi Meng, during last Friday's Covid-19 press briefing.

Kong explained that to guarantee a seamless start to the new school year, all students and teachers currently staying or residing in the mainland must return to Macau at least 14 days ahead of the start of the school year.

Members of the school communities that reside across the border in the cities of Zhuhai and Zhongshan should return to those cities before the same 14-day period.

Those who have returned from anywhere outside Guangdong province after August 6 will have

to undergo nucleic acid testing within five days of the start of the new academic year, Kong said.

He also noted that the same rules apply to any other school staff members, not just students and teachers.

Although schools have full autonomy to decide when their school year will start, information previously announced shows that most will kick off the year in the first week of September.

In the same briefing, the DSEDJ deputy director also remarked on the rules that apply to higher education institutions.

The only difference for these is the possibility that online classes will be required through the end of this month and into the start of September, as the Times has previously reported.

This rule applies almost exclusively to the University of Macau, which is starting some classes this week. Other local institutions are only expected to start their school year in mid-September.

OVER 80,000 HOUSEHOLDS COMPLETE CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE

THE 15-day data collection process for the Population Census covering all households in Macau has passed its halfway point, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) announced last night.

By August 14, over 80,000 households in Macau had completed and submitted the census questionnaire, accounting for about 38.5% of total households.

More than 90% of these households completed the census online, with the rest completing the questionnaire via telephone interview or paper form. Although this online completion rate surpasses that of the previous census, the overall response rate is not as high because door-to-door data collection has been suspended as a result of the pandemic prevention and control measures.

In view of an increase in demand for the hotline service of the Population Census, DSEC has increased the capacity of the Cen-



sus Hotline to 90 lines, which will enable staff to handle enquiries, telephone interviews and applications for access to the online questionnaire more efficiently.

DSEC has also set up 12 census questionnaire collection points in different districts in the city. Households may return their completed short-form paper questionnaire to any of the collection points. LV



Economic association predicts recovery to slow amid new cases

FOLLOWING the latest round of disease control and prevention measures across the city, the Macau Economic Association predicts that the economic revival will be slower than in previous stages.

According to various sources of published economic data, the economic

prosperity index of Macau in June and July was approximately 3.3-3.4 points, down from 3.7 points in May due to the repeated impacts of the pandemic. This score is classified as being "under-satisfactory" in the indicator system.

Taking all factors into consideration, the research team downgraded the fo-

recast value of the Macau Prosperity Index for the August-October period to the "under-satisfactory" level of 3.1-3.4 points.

The current round of disease control and prevention measures was implemented after the city saw four new Covid-19 infections. The measures include tightened border controls,

shorter polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test result validity periods for border crossings, as well as the closure of leisure venues such as cinemas, theaters and libraries.

As well as causing a plunge in the number of visitor arrivals to the city, the measures also put a stop to residents' movements, the association pointed out. The closures have been challenging for businesses as they lack income during this period, but are still required to pay rent.

As such, the association predicts that the upcoming prosperity index of the city will drop compared with the previous indices released this year.

The association sees the latest four cases as more impactful on the city's prosperity than the previous imported cases and the earlier outbreak in Guangdong.

Local small- and medium-sized enterprises are going to suffer further from the unclear and fluctuating economic performance and outlook, the association added. The good news is that the city-wide PCR test recorded an all-negative result, suggesting that a community outbreak is, for the time being, absent. **AL**

ELECTIONS 2021

CAEAL DISQUALIFIES SOME VOTERS IN REPRESENTATION OF ASSOCIATIONS

THE Legislative Assembly Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) has published the list of those who are legally recognized as voters in the representation of associations and groups in the September 12 elections for the Legislative Assembly (AL).

According to a statement from CAEAL, several voters have been temporarily disqualified due to irregularities and will have until August 18 to appeal the decision.

The CAEAL did not explicitly state the reasons which led to the exclusion of some voters from the lists, but did note that according to the rules, "each voter cannot represent more than one legal person [and as such,] anyone who has signed more

than one Declaration of Acceptance of Voting Rights in the Indirect Suffrage in Representation of a Legal Person cannot represent any of the entities in the voting." The commission explained that in such cases these people are disqualified.

Additionally, the CAEAL reiterated that, in order to vote, group representatives must collect their voting credentials by September 10.

The lists have been published in the lobby of the Public Administration Building at Rua do Campo last Friday, although the building has been closed to the public for cleaning and disinfection after it was identified as site visited by one of the recent Covid-19 cases before their infection was detected. **RM**

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HUIZHONG WU

TWO men were detained this weekend on suspicion of sexual assault in a case that shook Alibaba Group, the world's biggest e-commerce company, Chinese police announced.

The men, identified by the surnames Wang and Zhang, were suspected of the crime of "forcible molestation," police in the eastern city of Jinan said in a statement. It said they were under "coercive measures," a euphemism for detention.

There was no evidence to indicate the men committed rape, a different charge under Chinese law, the police statement said.

Alibaba was shaken last week after a female employee's complaint on an internal company website that she was sexually assaulted by a manager surnamed Wang became public. The woman complained Alibaba failed to act after she reported the incident to its human resources department.

The woman, surnamed Zhou, had flown into Jinan on July 27, the police statement said. Her team successfully signed a deal with Jinan Hualian Supermarket and decided to celebrate that night with a banquet. They invited a man surnamed Zhang from the supermarket as well as his colleagues.

The first assault took place at the dinner, after Zhou had to leave the room to throw up from drinking too much. Zhang from the supermarket chain accom-

POLICE DETAIN TWO IN ALIBABA SEXUAL ASSAULT CASE

AP PHOTO



panied her and molested her on the way back to the banquet room, police said.

Later, Wang, the woman's manager at Alibaba, went with another female dinner guest to take the drunken Zhou back to her hotel. After dropping her off in her room, they went to call for taxis.

However, instead of leaving and going back to his hotel, Wang went back inside. He went to the front desk, holding Zhou's national ID card, and had a key made

for himself, police said. The hotel had called Zhou to get her consent before giving him the key.

Wang entered her room a total of four times that night. Police said he assaulted her after returning to her room alone. According to the investigation, he then ordered condoms online, but they did not arrive until later.

The next morning, after the woman, Zhou, had woken up she allegedly made a phone call to Zhang from the supermarket and

told him her room number. Police said he came over to her hotel and assaulted her, taking her underwear and leaving a box of unused condoms in the room.

Zhou reported the assaults to Jinan police the same day after having checked out from the hotel. On July 29, the day after, police in Jinan said they had to extend the review period another 30 days before they could formally file a case, owing to its complexity.

After Zhou went public with

her accusations and her story went viral, the police listed her case formally in the system as a sexual assault case.

Alibaba did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Women in China face a very steep uphill battle in trying to get justice for any form of sexual violence. Whether it's sexual harassment or rape, victims often face the burden of evidence in court.

"It's hard for many victims to win a sexual assault case in court," said Li Ying, a lawyer and director of the Yuanzhong Gender Development Center, told state-owned China Daily. "Even if the victims have the evidence, they have to prove the perpetrator acted against their will."

Still, some have been heartened, after a limited #MeToo movement emerged in China in 2018. Then, young women went public with accusations against the men who had assaulted or harassed them, opening up the public conversation in a way that had not been seen before.

However, the movement faced a tremendous amount of pressure from local and central authorities, as well as extensive censorship, and was obstructed.

In response to the #MeToo movement, China codified sexual harassment in its civil code last year, but did little to lay out guidelines for enforcement. While the law provides protection for women against any form of sexual violence, enforcement remains difficult. **MDT/AP**

HONG KONG

Democracy group behind massive protests disbands

A pro-democracy group that organized some of the biggest protests during months of political upheaval in Hong Kong in 2019 is dissolving, the group said yesterday.

The Hong Kong Civil Human Rights Front, made up of a slew of member organizations, said it could no longer operate. The decision comes as the group faces a police investigation for possible violation of a national security law, according to local media.

The group, which also organized an annual protest march marking the semiautonomous territory's handover to China in 1997, is the largest to disband amid a sweeping crackdown on dissent in the city. Earlier this week, the city's largest teachers' union disbanded in light of what it said were drastic changes in the political environment.

Rights group Amnesty International expressed its concern over "the pattern of self-censorship seen this week." The London-ba-

AP PHOTO ARCHIVE



sed organization said in a statement this "signals a concerning domino effect, as Hong Kong's draconian national security law has triggered an accelerating disappearance of independent civil society groups from the city."

The crackdown follows Beijing's imposition of the national security law on Hong Kong last year. The legislation outlaws secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign collusion and has

been used to arrest more than 100 pro-democracy figures since it was first implemented a year ago, as well as the closure of pro-democracy newspaper Apple Daily.

The crackdown has virtually silenced opposition voices in the city — and drawn sanctions from the U.S. against Hong Kong and Chinese government officials.

Former leaders of the Civil Human Rights Front, Figo Chan and Jimmy Sham, are currently in jail

on charges related to their activism.

While authorities have said the law would not be applied retroactively, a recent interview with a Hong Kong police commissioner suggested the group was being investigated for holding rallies in the past year.

A statement by Hong Kong police yesterday said they would continue to spare no effort to investigate whether any organization or individuals violated the national security law and other local laws. It said they would pursue individuals regardless of a group's disbandment.

Police asked the group to hand over information on its members and activities as well as funding back in April.

Since the national security law was enacted, many unions, associations and political organizations have disbanded amid concerns that the law could be used to target them.

"Although the Civil Human Rights Front no longer exists today, we believe that different groups will continue to stick to their ideals, who will not forget their original intentions, and continue to prop up civil society!" the group said in a statement. **MDT/AP**

FLOODED COAL MINE IN QINGHAI KILLS ONE, 19 TRAPPED

A team of 200 Chinese police, emergency workers and experts yesterday were trying to reach 19 coal miners trapped in a flooded mine in the northwestern Qinghai province.

Rescuers have retrieved two workers already from the mine in Gangca county, one of whom has died, state media Xinhua News Agency reported Saturday.

The mine was ordered by the province to stop operating and fix safety hazards on August 2, local authorities said in a press conference on Sunday, with work still underway.

A flood in April at a coal mine in the northwestern Xinjiang region left over two dozen miners trapped.

China's coal mines are among the world's deadliest, regularly suffering explosions and gas leaks despite repeated safety crackdowns. **MDT/AP**



Powerful quake adds to Haiti's misery, killing at least 304

REGINA GARCIA CANO
& EVENS SANON

A powerful magnitude 7.2 earthquake added to the misery in Haiti yesterday [Macau time], killing at least 304 people, injuring a minimum of 1,800 others and destroying hundreds of homes. People in the Caribbean island nation rushed into the streets to seek safety and to help help rescue those trapped in the rubble of collapsed homes, hotels and other structures.

The earthquake struck the southwestern part of the hemisphere's poorest nation, almost razing some towns and triggering landslides that hampered rescue efforts in two of the hardest-hit communities. The disaster also added to the plight of Haitians, who were already grappling with the coronavirus pandemic, a presidential assassination and deepening poverty.

The epicenter of the quake was about 125 kilometers (78 miles) west of the capital of Port-au-Prince, the U.S. Geological Survey said. The widespread damage could worsen by early next week, with Tropical Storm

Grace predicted to reach Haiti late Monday or early Tuesday.

Aftershocks were felt throughout the day and late into the night, when many people now homeless or frightened by the possibility of their fractured homes collapsing on them stayed in the streets to sleep — if their nerves allowed them.

In the badly damaged coastal town of Les Cayes, under darkness that was only punctured by flashlights, some praised God for surviving the earthquake.

"We are alive today because God loves us," said Marie-claire Jean-Pierre, whose home collapsed a moment after she and her son stepped outside when they felt the ground begin to shake.

Prime Minister Ariel Henry said he was rushing aid to areas where towns were destroyed and hospitals overwhelmed with incoming patients. A former senator rented a private airplane to move injured people from Les Cayes to Port-au-Prince for medical assistance.

Henry declared a one-month state of emergency for the whole country and said he would not ask for international help until the extent of the damages was known.

"The most important thing is to recover as many survivors as possible under the rubble," said Henry. "We have learned that the local hospitals, in particular that of Les Cayes, are overwhelmed with wounded, fractured people."

Jerry Chandler, director of Haiti's Office of Civil Protection, told reporters that the death toll stood at 304 yesterday. Rescue workers and bystanders were able to pull many people to safety from the rubble.

Chandler said a partial count of structural damage included at least 860 destroyed homes and more than 700 damaged. Hospitals, schools, offices and churches were also affected.

On the tiny island of Ile-a-Vache, about 6.5 miles (10.5 kilometers) from Les Cayes, the quake damaged a seaside resort popular with Haitian officials, business leaders, diplomats and humanitarian workers. Fernand Sajous, owner of the Abaka Bay Resort, said by telephone that nine of the hotel's 30 rooms collapsed, but he said they were vacant at the time and no one was injured.

"They disappeared — just like that," Sajous said.

People in Les Cayes tried to pull guests from the rubble of a collapsed hotel, but as the sun set, they had only been able to recover the body of a 7-year-old girl whose home was behind the facility.

"I have eight kids, and I was looking for the last one," Jean-Claude Daniel said through tears. "I will never see her again alive. The earthquake destroyed my life. It took a child away from me."

The reports of overwhelmed hospitals come as Haiti struggles with the pandemic and a lack of resources to deal with it. Just last month, the country of 11 million people received its first batch of U.S.-donated coronavirus vaccines, via a United Nations program for low-income countries.

The earthquake also struck just over a month after President Jovenel Moïse was shot to death in his home, sending the country into political chaos. His widow, Martine Moïse, who was seriously wounded in the attack, posted a message on Twitter calling for unity among Haitians: "Let's put our shoulders together to bring solidarity."

As he boarded a plane bound for Les Cayes, Henry said he

wanted "structured solidarity" to ensure the response was coordinated to avoid the confusion that followed the devastating 2010 earthquake, when aid was slow to reach residents after as many as 300,000 Haitians were killed.

U.S. President Joe Biden authorized an immediate response and named USAID Administrator Samantha Power as the senior official coordinating the U.S. effort to help Haiti. USAID will help to assess damage and assist in rebuilding, said Biden, who called the United States a "close and enduring friend to the people of Haiti."

Argentina and Chile also were among the first nations to promise help.

Humanitarian workers said gang activity in the seaside district of Martissant, just west of the Haitian capital, also was complicating relief efforts.

"Nobody can travel through the area," Ndiaga Seck, a UNICEF spokesman in Port-au-Prince, said by phone. "We can only fly over or take another route."

Seck said information about deaths and damage was slow coming to Port-au-Prince because of spotty internet service, but UNICEF planned to send medical supplies to two hospitals in the south, in Les Cayes and Jeremie.

People in Port-au-Prince felt the tremor and many rushed into the streets in fear, although there did not appear to be damage there.

Haiti, where many live in tenuous circumstances, is vulnerable to earthquakes and hurricanes. It was struck by a magnitude 5.9 earthquake in 2018 that killed more than a dozen people.

By late Saturday, the island had experienced six aftershocks stronger than 5.0 and nine above 4.0.

Claude Prepetit, a Haitian civil engineer and geologist, warned of the danger from cracked structures.

"More or less intensive aftershocks are to be expected for a month," he said, cautioning that some buildings, "badly damaged during the earthquake, can collapse during aftershocks." **MDT/AP**





Smoke rises next to the U.S. Embassy in Kabul yesterday

AFGHANISTAN

Taliban enter Kabul, await 'peaceful transfer' of power

AHMAD SEIR, KABUL

TALIBAN fighters entered Kabul yesterday and sought the unconditional surrender of the central government, officials said, as Afghans and foreigners alike raced for the exit, signaling the end of a 20-year Western experiment aimed at re-making Afghanistan.

The beleaguered central government, meanwhile, hope for an interim administration, but increasingly had few cards to play. Civilians fearing that the Taliban could reimpose the kind of brutal rule that all but eliminated women's rights rushed to leave the country, lining up at cash machines to withdraw their life savings. Helicopters buzzed overhead, some apparently evacuating personnel at the U.S. Embassy. Several other Western missions were also preparing to get staff out.

In a stunning rout, the Taliban seized nearly all of Afghanistan in just over a week, despite the hundreds of billions of dollars spent by the U.S. and NATO over nearly two decades to build up Afghan security forces. Just days earlier, an American military assessment estimated it would be a month before the capital would come under insurgent pressure.

Instead, the Taliban swiftly defeated, co-opted or sent Afghan security forces fleeing from wide swaths of the country, even though they had some air support from the U.S. military.

The insurgents entered the outskirts of Kabul but apparently remained outside of the city's downtown. Sporadic gunfire echoed at times though the streets were largely quiet.

Workers fled government offices, and smoke rose over the city as embassy staff burned important documents.

Taliban spokesman Suhail Shaheen told Qatar's Al-Jazeera English satellite news channel that the insurgents are "awaiting a peaceful transfer of Kabul city." He declined to offer specifics on any possible negotiations between his forces and the government.

But when pressed on what kind of agreement the Taliban wanted, Shaheen acknowledged that they were seeking an unconditional surrender by the central government.

Taliban negotiators headed to the presidential palace yesterday to discuss the transfer, said an Afghan official who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. It remained unclear when that transfer would take place.

The negotiators on the go-

vernment side included former President Hamid Karzai and Abdullah Abdullah, the head of the Afghan National Reconciliation Council, an official said. Abdullah long has been a vocal critic of President Ashraf Ghani, who long refused giving up power to get a deal with the Taliban.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of the closed-doors negotiations, described them as "tense."

Acting Defense Minister Bismillah Khan sought to reassure the public that Kabul would remain "secure." The insurgents also tried to calm residents of the capital, insisting their fighters wouldn't enter people's homes or interfere with businesses. They also said they'd offer an "amnesty" to those who worked with the Afghan government or foreign forces.

"No one's life, property and dignity will be harmed and the lives of the citizens of Kabul will not be at risk," the insurgents said in a statement. But they also warned no one to enter the area around the capital.

Despite the pledges, panic set in as many rushed to leave the country through the Kabul airport, the last route out of the country as the Taliban now hold every border crossing. Rapid shuttle flights of Boeing CH-47 Chinook

helicopters near the U.S. Embassy began a few hours later after the militants seized the nearby city of Jalalabad — which had been the last major city besides the capital not in Taliban hands. Diplomatic armored SUVs could be seen leaving the area around the post.

The U.S. State Department did not immediately respond to questions about the movements. However, wisps of smoke could be seen near the embassy's roof as diplomats urgently destroyed sensitive documents, according to two American military officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the situation. The smoke grew heavier over time in the area, home to other nation's embassies as well.

Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters, which typically carry armed troops, later landed near the U.S. Embassy. The U.S. decided a few days ago to send in thousands of troops to help evacuate some personnel from its embassy.

At Kabul International Airport, Afghan forces abandoned the field to Western militaries, said a pilot who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss security matters.

Ghani, who spoke to the nation Saturday for the first time since the offensive began, appeared increasingly isolated. Warlords he negotiated with just days earlier have surrendered to the Taliban or fled, leaving Ghani without a military option. Ongoing negotiations in Qatar, the site of a Taliban office, also have failed to stop the insurgents' advance.

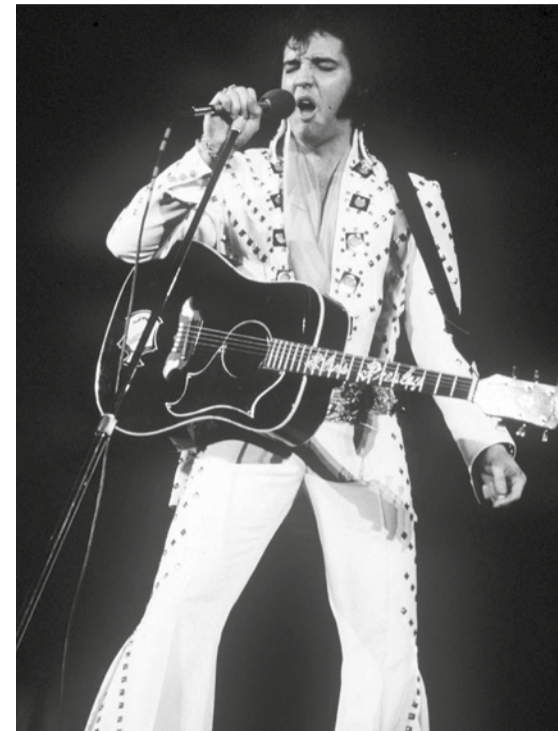
Earlier in the day, militants posted photos online showing them in the governor's office in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province.

AbRARULLAH Murad, a lawmaker from the province told The Associated Press that the insurgents seized the city after elders negotiated the fall of the government there. Murad said there was no fighting as the city surrendered.

The militants also took Maidan Shar, the capital of Maidan Wardak, yesterday, Afghan lawmaker Hamida Akbari and the Taliban said. Another provincial capital in Khost also fell to the insurgents, said a provincial council member who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. Afghan officials said the capitals of Kapisa and Parwan provinces also fell. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1977 ROCK AND ROLL 'KING' PRESLEY DIES



Elvis Presley, whose singing and style revolutionized popular music in the 1950s, has died.

Presley, 42, was discovered slumped in a bathroom at his mansion in Memphis, Tennessee on Tuesday.

He was rushed to the Baptist Memorial Hospital in Memphis but was pronounced dead on arrival.

The Tennessee state pathologist, Dr. Jerry Francisco, said a post mortem examination of the singer's body had revealed he died of cardiac arrhythmia - a form of heart attack.

"The precise cause has not yet been determined for the cardiac arrhythmia," Dr Francisco said.

"It may take several days to several weeks to determine that specific cause and in some cases it never is determined."

The three-hour examination uncovered no sign of any other diseases or any drug abuse, Dr Francisco added.

Presley was divorced from his wife Priscilla in 1973 but it was rumoured that he had recently become engaged to Ginger Alden, 20.

She was reportedly spotted wearing a \$50,000 (£20,315) diamond engagement ring from Presley.

Ms Alden and other members of his entourage were at Graceland when he collapsed.

There had been indications of Elvis Presley's declining health for some time.

Earlier this year the singer had cancelled several performances in Louisiana and returned to Memphis suffering what his doctors termed "exhaustion".

No arrangements have been announced yet for his funeral which is scheduled for Friday.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Thousands gathered to file past Elvis Presley's body which lay in state at his mansion, Graceland, the day after his death.

Although it was officially stated that he died of heart failure there has always been speculation that an overdose of cocaine and barbiturates also played a part.

Since his divorce from Priscilla in 1973 he had relied heavily on prescription drugs and was known to be a junk-food addict, gaining a considerable amount of weight. During his lifetime he sold over 300 million albums and made 33 films.

His death has been lucrative for the "Elvis industry". In 2001 he came top in US magazine Forbes' poll of "Richest Deceased Celebrities".

It put Elvis estate's earnings in 2000 at \$35m (£23m) - \$15m (£10m) of it from Graceland admission fees.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Take your time. Partnerships with creative people could lead to financial gains. Don't let your partner goad you into wearing your heart on your sleeve.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You may find it difficult to communicate with someone at work. Your social skills with people may be more than just helpful. Your ability to work with detail will bring recognition.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Don't evade important issues; you may find yourself backed into a corner. Your pilgrimage may end up being fruitless. Depression may result if you don't get to do things your own way.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire. You could be cornered, so be prepared to tell the truth. Keep calm. Someone around you is bouncing off the walls.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your tendency to dramatize may be a little much for your partner to take constantly. Don't ruffle the feathers of those you care about most. You should meet individuals who stimulate you.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Take care of the needs or responsibilities of elders. Dig deep to find out how costly a new venture will be before you sign on the dotted line. Proceed with caution if operating equipment or vehicles.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You will do extremely well if you get involved in competitive activities today. For now just do the best you can. You have to feel free to come and go as you please to achieve happiness.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You will be popular and will easily attract members of the opposite sex. Payoff all your debts before you go out and celebrate. Someone close to you will get upset easily if you are insensitive to their needs.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You will be popular and will easily attract members of the opposite sex. You can come up with future trends in creative fields. Hard work will payoff if you refrain from expressing your opinion to superiors.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You can make financial deals that will bring you extra cash. Your added discipline will enable you to complete some of those unfinished projects. Concentrate on work.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You will have an interest in foreigners and their cultures. You may find that children are not as accepting as you have been. You will learn easily if you put forth an effort.

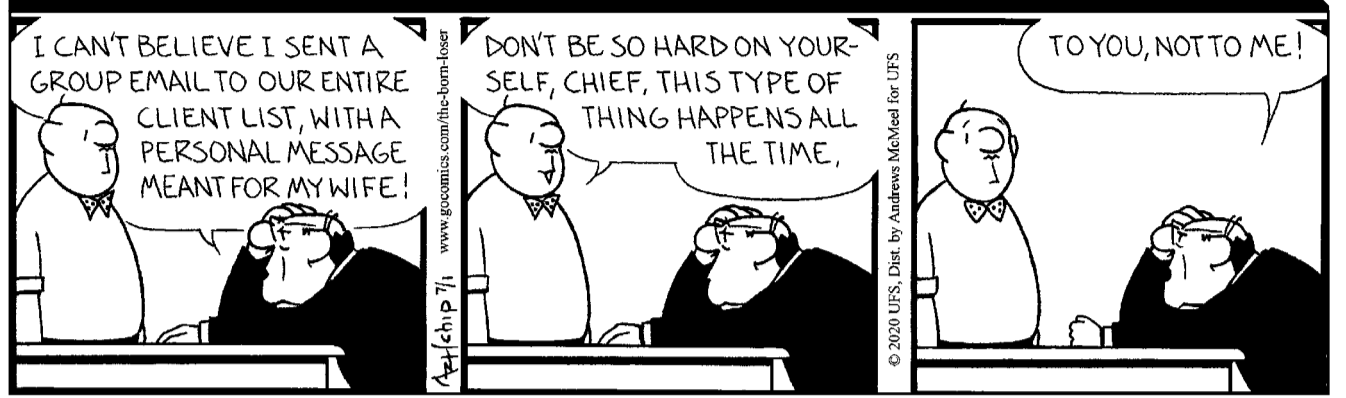


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

A little rest will do wonders for both your mental and physical health. You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. Someone you work with may be withholding valuable information.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	29	cloudy
Harbin	17	25	thunderstorms
Tianjin	24	29	rain
Urumqi	22	25	showers
Xi'an	24	33	cloudy
Lhasa	23	28	thunderstorms
Chengdu	26	34	cloudy
Chongqing	26	33	thunderstorms
Kunming	25	32	cloudy
Nanjing	19	27	cloudy
Shanghai	24	33	rain
Wuhan	24	28	rain
Hangzhou	17	26	cloudy
Taipei	22	29	thunderstorms
Guangzhou	16	30	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	30	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	16	28	overcast
Frankfurt	17	29	cloudy
Paris	17	31	overcast
London	13	22	overcast
New York	21	30	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Prefix with -drome; 5- Bar bills; 9- Ladies of Spain; Abbr.; 13- Elude; 15- Oodles; 16- Made tracks; 17- Tears; 18- Olympic event; 19- Pearl Mosque city; 20- CD earnings; 21- Abound; 23- Debt that remains unpaid; 25- Electric fish; 26- Wise guy; 27- Professoriate; 30- The Crystals' "___ a Rebel"; 31- Rainbow maker; 32- Astonishment; 37- Minute opening; 38- What you don't know; 40- ___ Three Lives; 41- Abnormal protuberance; 43- Short literary composition; 44- Id's counterpart; 45- Discloses; 47- Places of contest; 50- Breezes through; 51- Boot part; 52- Image; 53- Thrive, in prescriptions; 56- Cube creator Rubik; 57- Phnom ___; 59- Fish covering; 61- Bibliography abbr.; 62- ___-majesté; 63- Church instrument; 64- Cut-price retail event; 65- Earth Day subj.; 66- 1952 Winter Olympics setting;

DOWN 1- Ethereal; Prefix; 2- Flat; 3- Tirade; 4- Strange; 5- "Honor Thy Father" author; 6- Homecoming guest; 7- Wet spongy ground; 8- Soft-shell clams; 9- Fab Four name; 10- Man of many words; 11- Marshal; 12- Scorch; 14- Prize; 22- "Slippery" tree; 24- Coarse file, angry tone of voice; 25- Ford flop; 26- Steer clear of; 27- Computer programs, for short; 28- Brag; 29- Yorkshire river; 32- Droop; 33- Ascends; 34- Ingrid's "Casablanca" role; 35- Authenticating mark; 36- Ice cream brand; 38- Nickname for New York City; 39- Seth's son; 42- Actress Olin; 43- Nevertheless; 45- Jacob's favorite wife; 46- Author Umberto; 47- Trunkline; 48- Of the kidneys; 49- French school; 51- Driving aids; 52- Not ___ many words; 53- License plates; 54- Airline to Tel Aviv; 55- "All The Way To ___", song by REM; 58- Common Market abbr.; 60- ___-Magon;

Friday's solution



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- 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
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750 ft² 2 1

Ref: 2108 6001

FOR SALE

Nam Long **HKD 8,380,000**
1,404 ft² 4 2

Ref: 1909 6006

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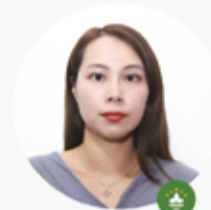
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Juliet Risdon
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Property of the Week



Nam Long
HKD 4,888,000 750 ft² 2 1

Nam Long is located on the street leading to Old Taipa village from the main town of Taipa, three doors down from CuppaCoffee.

The apartment was originally two bedrooms, having been converted to a one bedroom 10 years ago, making the living dining area much larger. The kitchen is compact with plenty of built in storage cabinets, a large double fridge, built in washing machine and five ring gas stove with electric oven. A small balcony off the living area is a perfect place to enjoy morning coffee or afternoon tea as the sun arrives in the mid afternoon. A delightful property good for both an investor or homeowner.



SCAN ME
Ref: 2108 6001

Viewings by appointment.
Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com

Property Hotlist



Taipa Village
HKD 8,380,000

1,404 ft²
4 2



SCAN ME
Ref: 1909 6006



Nam Long
HKD 3,780,000

650 ft²
1 1



SCAN ME
Ref: 2007 6001



Nam Long
HKD 3,480,000

590 ft²
1 1



SCAN ME
Ref: 2108 6002

More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Lun Vo 2 1 770 ft² **HKD 5,700,000** Ref: 2107 6001
- [Macau] Jardim do Dragao 2 1 840 ft² **HKD 6,680,000** Ref: 2106 6001
- [Taipa] Chun Fok 2 2 868 ft² **HKD 7,988,000** Ref: 2106 6002
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft² **HKD 12,980,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Taipa] Nova Taipa 1 3 2 1,880 ft² **HKD 15,000,000** Ref: 2103 6004

For Rent

- [Taipa] Old Taipa Studio 1 470 ft² **HKD 7,800/mth** Ref: 2106 1004
- [Taipa] Jardin Lamerias 2 2 747 ft² **HKD 11,200/mth** Ref: 2106 1003
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft² **HKD 16,500/mth** Ref: 2005 1002
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 2,158 ft² **HKD 20,000/mth** Ref: 2105 1002
- [Taipa] One Central 3 3 2,332 ft² **HKD 29,800/mth** Ref: 2010 1001

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BOXING

Ali's grandson wins in pro debut

NICO Ali Walsh made a successful pro debut yesterday (Macau time) in the first round and then paying homage to his grandfather, Muhammad Ali.

Wearing trunks made for his grandfather, Ali Walsh knocked down his outmatched opponent midway through the first round before the middleweight fight was finally stopped at 1:49 of the round with Ali Walsh landing unanswered punches to the head.

"It's been an emotional journey, this whole ride," Ali Walsh said. "Obviously, my grandfather, I've been thinking about him so much. I miss him."

The fight between Ali Walsh, a 21-year-old college student, and Jordan Weeks was notable not because of anything the two had done in the ring, but because Ali Walsh was trying to follow in his grandfather's large footsteps



Nico Ali Walsh celebrates after defeating Jordan Weeks during a middleweight boxing bout

into boxing.

Still, Ali Walsh looked competent for a relative novice and displayed good hand speed and power against Weeks, an MMA fighter who had been stopped in his last boxing match.

Ali Walsh celebrated with family members in the ring afterward along with 89-year-

-old promoter Bob Arum, who promoted 27 of Muhammad Ali's fights.

"I'm a believer in genes," Arum said.

Ali Walsh said the white trunks with black lining were made for his grandfather, who gave them to him.

"I'm never wearing these trunks again," he said. MDT/AP



FOOTBALL

GOAL FEAST FOR FANS AS MAN U, LIVERPOOL, CHELSEA WIN IN EPL

THE return of near-capacity crowds fueled a barrage of goals and a bunch of home wins on the first Saturday of the English Premier League season.

Fans at Old Trafford particularly enjoyed themselves.

More than 72,000 spectators — Britain's biggest soccer crowd since the pandemic — saw Bruno Fernandes' hat trick and Paul Pogba's four assists sweep Manchester United to a 5-1 thrashing of fierce rival Leeds, a statement of intent from a team whose last of its record 20 top-flight titles came in 2013.

It was the highest-scoring encounter on a day featuring 25 goals across seven matches, at an average of 3.57 — much higher than a typical season's average. The presence of fans may also have contributed to there being five home wins, an immediate

swing from last season when there were more away wins (40% compared to 38% for home teams).

Chelsea, the European champion and a big title contender like United, flexed its early-season muscles by overwhelming Crystal Palace in a 3-0 win that could have been heavier in front of nearly 39,000 fans.

Liverpool was the other expected title challenger to begin its league campaign and Mohamed Salah set up two goals before scoring himself — the fifth straight season he has netted in the opening round — in a 3-0 win at promoted Norwich.

There were also wins for promoted team Watford and Everton, who beat Aston Villa 3-2 and Southampton 3-1 respectively, and Leicester, which defeated Wolverhampton 1-0 thanks to a goal by 34-year-old striker Jamie Vardy. MDT/AP

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OPINION

World Views

Kayla Harris, University of Dayton
 MDT/The Conversation



THE INTERNET ARCHIVE HAS BEEN FIGHTING TO KEEP WHAT'S ON THE WEB FROM DISAPPEARING - AND YOU CAN HELP

This year the Internet Archive turns 25. It's best known for its pioneering role in archiving the internet through the Wayback Machine, which allows users to see how websites looked in the past.

Increasingly, much of daily life is conducted online. School, work, communication with friends and family, as well as news and images, are accessed through a variety of websites. Information that once was printed, physically mailed or kept in photo albums and notebooks may now be available only online. The COVID-19 pandemic has pushed even more interactions to the web.

You may not realize portions of the internet are constantly disappearing. As librarians and archivists, we strengthen collective memory by preserving materials that document the cultural heritage of society, including on the web. You can help us save the internet, too, as a citizen archivist.

People and organizations remove content from the web for a variety of reasons. Sometimes it's a result of changing internet culture, such as the recent shutdown of Yahoo Answers.

It can also be a result of following best practices for website design. When a website is updated, for example, the previous version is overwritten - unless it was archived.

Web archiving is the process of collecting, preserving and providing continued access to information on the internet. Often this work is done by librarians and archivists, with assistance from automated technology like web crawlers.

Web crawlers are programs that index web pages to make them available through search engines, or for long-term preservation.

The Internet Archive, a nonprofit organization, uses thousands of computer servers to save multiple digital copies of these pages, requiring over 70 petabytes of data. It is funded through donations, grants and payments for its digitization services. Over 750 million web pages are captured per day in the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine.

Archiving the internet is a monumental task, one that librarians and archivists cannot do alone. Anyone can be a citizen archivist and preserve history through the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine. The "Save Page Now" feature allows anyone to freely archive a single, public website page. Bear in mind, some websites prevent web crawling and archiving through special coding or by requiring a login to the site. This may be due to sensitive content or the personal preference of the web developer.

Local cultural heritage institutions, such as libraries, archives and museums, are also actively archiving the internet.

Over 800 institutions use Archive-It, a tool from the Internet Archive, to create archived web collections. At the University of Dayton we curate collections related to our Catholic and Marianist heritage, from Catholic blogs to stories of the Virgin Mary in the news.

Through its Spontaneous Event collections, Archive-It partners with organizations and individuals to create collections of "web content related to a specific event, capturing at risk content during times of crisis."

Similarly, it created the Community Webs program, in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services, to help public libraries create collections of archived web content relevant to local communities.

The websites of today are the historical evidence of tomorrow, but only if they are archived. If they are lost, we will lose crucial information about corporate and government decisions, modern communication methods such as social media, and social movements with significant online presences, such as Black Lives Matter and #MeToo.

Together with librarians and archivists, you can help ensure the survival of this evidence and save internet history.

[Abridged]

CHINA TO RELEASE TWO CODERS WHO BUILT VIRUS NEWS ARCHIVE

Two amateur Chinese computer coders who were jailed after archiving deleted news articles about the pandemic's initial outbreak are set to be released next week after more than a year behind bars, one of their relatives said this weekend.

The two men, Chen Mei and Cai Wei, are set to be released Sunday, said Chen's brother Chen Kun. They were taken away by Chinese police in April last year.

He said the Wenyuhe People's Court on Friday handed down a sentence of one year and three months, to be applied retroactively,

on the charge of "picking quarrels and stirring up trouble." The vague catch-all charge is often used for politically sensitive cases.

The two young men, who became friends when they were both teenagers, built an archive called Terminus2049 where they kept hundreds of censored articles that had been deleted from the Chinese internet. They also built a forum where people could discuss sensitive issues, including the anti-government protests in Hong Kong and the ruling Communist Party.



AP PHOTO

JAPAN MARKS 76TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII DEFEAT; NO SUGA APOLOGY

MARI YAMAGUCHI

JAPAN marked the 76th anniversary of its World War II surrender yesterday with a somber ceremony in which Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga pledged for the tragedy of war to never be repeated but avoided apologizing for his country's aggression.

Suga said Japan never forgets that the peace the country enjoys today is built on the sacrifices of those who died in the war.

"We will commit to our pledge to never repeat the tragedy of the war," he said in his first speech at the event since becoming prime minister.

Suga did not offer an apology to the Asian victims of Japanese aggression across the region in the first half of the 20th century — a precedent set by the country's previous leader, Shinzo Abe, who was frequently accused of trying to whitewash Japan's brutal past.

In a largely domestic-focused speech, Suga listed damage inflicted on Japan and its people, including the U.S. atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the firebombing of Tokyo and other cities and the fierce battle of Okinawa, and mourned for them.

Emperor Naruhito, in contrast, expressed "deep remorse" over his coun-

try's wartime actions in a carefully nuanced speech that followed the footsteps of his father, who devoted his 30-year career to making amends for a war fought in the name of Hirohito, the current emperor's grandfather. Naruhito also said he hoped that people can put their hearts together to overcome the difficulty of the pandemic while seeking happiness and peace for all.

Amid Tokyo's surging coronavirus infections, about 200 participants, reduced from about 6,000 before the pandemic, mourned for the dead with a minute of silence. Masks were required, and there was no singing of the national anthem.

Suga vowed to cooperate with the international community in tackling global issues under "proactive pacifism," a vision that Abe promoted to allow Japan to play a greater military role in international conflicts.

Beginning 2013, Abe stopped acknowledging Japan's wartime hostilities or apologize in his Aug. 15 speeches, scrapping a nearly 20-year tradition that began with the 1995 apology of Socialist leader Tomiichi Murayama.

Before attending the ceremony at Tokyo's Budokan hall, Suga laid flowers at a nearby nation-

al cemetery for unknown soldiers. While Suga stayed away from controversial Yasukuni shrine, he did send a religious offering to the shrine, Japanese media reported.

Victims of Japanese actions during the first half of the 20th century, especially the Koreans and China, see the shrine as a symbol of Japanese militarism because it honors convicted war criminals among about 2.5 million war dead.

Abe, who stepped down as prime minister last year, prayed at the shrine yesterday, and so did three other members of Suga's Cabinet. Two other ministers visited the shrine Friday.

The visits sparked criticism from China and South Korea.

Yesterday, South Korea's Foreign Ministry in a statement urged Japanese officials to show "sincere remorse through action" so that the countries could develop "future-oriented ties."

China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs also said they had lodged "stern representations" with the Japanese side in Tokyo and in Beijing over the visits to the Yasukuni shrine, noting Suga's religious offering. Spokeswoman Hua Chunying called on Japan to take actions that would "win the trust" of its neighbors. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

Pakistan The death toll from an overnight grenade attack on a truck carrying women and children in Karachi rose to 12 yesterday. Attackers targeted the truck on Saturday evening as it shuttled an extended family from a wedding ceremony in a western Karachi neighborhood, killing nine people and wounding nine others. Dr. Qarar Abbasi at the city's main Dr. Ruth Pfau Civil Hospital said three of the injured died during treatment, raising the death toll to 12.



AP PHOTO

Lebanon A warehouse where fuel was illegally stored exploded yesterday, killing 20 people and burning dozens more in the latest tragedy to hit the Mediterranean country in the throes of a devastating economic and political crisis. It was not immediately clear what caused the explosion near the border with Syria. Fuel smuggling operations have been ongoing for months.

Russian emergency officials said yesterday over 800 people have been evacuated from a summer camp in Russia's southern Urals because of a forest fire that raged just one kilometer away. A total of 750 children and 87 personnel were evacuated from the camp in the Bashkortostan republic 1,180 kilometers east of Moscow, Russia's Emergency Ministry said.



AP PHOTO

France Thousands of people, from families to far-right sympathizers, marched in cities across France for a fifth straight Saturday to denounce a Covid-19 health pass that is now needed to enter French restaurants, bars and sports arenas or use long-distance trains, planes or buses. Some 1,600 police were deployed for three separate marches in Paris, a week after the health pass went into effect.