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CORRUPTION WATCHDOG EXPOSES A CASE OF CORRUPTION AND DOCUMENT FORGERY INVOLVING A CONSTRUCTION JOB WORTH MOP220 MILLION FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MACAU

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HQ COOPERATION ZONE CIVIL, COMMERCIAL LAWS TO ALIGN WITH MACAU: GOV'T

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PFIZER SAID ITS COVID-19 VACCINE WORKS FOR CHILDREN AGES 5 TO 11 AND THAT IT WILL SEEK US AUTHORIZATION FOR THIS AGE GROUP SOON

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China Harry Potter fans came dressed as wizards as Universal Studios opened its first theme park in Beijing yesterday under anti-virus controls. The opening went ahead despite coronavirus outbreaks in China's southeast that prompted the government to tighten travel controls in some areas.



North Korea has criticized a U.S. decision to provide nuclear-powered submarines to Australia and threatened unspecified countermeasures if it finds the deal affects its security. State media yesterday published comments from an unidentified North Korean Foreign Ministry official who called the arrangement between U.S., Britain and Australia an “extremely” dangerous move that would destroy the security balance in the Asia-Pacific. The official said it would set off a nuclear arms race.



Lebanese lawmakers convened yesterday to confirm the country's new government following a power outage and a broken generator that briefly delayed the start of the parliament session. It took some 40 minutes before electricity came back on. The incident, which underscored the deep crisis roiling the small Mediterranean country amid an unprecedented economic meltdown, was derided on social media, with some saying they were glad politicians were getting a taste of their suffering.

More on backpage



A SEA CHANGE 'IS SILENTLY TAKING PLACE'

Edmund Li Sheng, a scholar from the University of Macau who recently published a book titled 'How Covid-19 Reshapes New World Order: Political Economy Perspective', puts the changing global order in perspective in an exclusive interview with the Times

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EDMUND LI SHENG

Pandemic reveals 'uncertainty for global governance', stalled globalization process

LYNZY VALLES

A sea change is silently taking place as the current Covid-19 pandemic has revealed so much uncertainty for the international community and global governance, political economy and international affairs scholar Edmund Li Sheng has suggested.

Just recently, the scholar from the University of Macau published a book titled "How Covid-19 Reshapes New World Order: Political Economy Perspective." The book covers the theoretical account of the international order shift in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak from an interdisciplinary perspective.

Covid-19 has hit the global public health system unprecedentedly and unexpectedly in the context of globalization, making it very different to several large-scale epidemics in history.

Among the most interesting elements of this global upheaval, according to Li, is the possible power transition between the United States and China.

"In this book, I analogize Covid-19 to America's 'Suez moment', symbolizing the relative exhaustion of the U.S. and the rise of China visible in the anti-pandemic struggle on both sides," said Li, who is also the associate dean (Academic Affairs) of Faculty of Social Sciences.

"The American democratic system and the Chinese model or authoritarian system performed divergently in response to the outbreak. The underlying trend towards a crisis of democratic decay in the United States in a sense epitomized the eastward shift in a global balance of power," he explained to the Times.

For him, the vacuum of leadership is in global public health coordination, international organizations which have not performed well in guiding the temporarily stalled globalization process, including the free trade and international cooperation agenda.

In the face of the fragmentation of global governance and the rise

of nationalism and geopolitical competition, Li's book focuses on how three regional international organizations, the European Union, NATO, and ASEAN, have responded to the challenge of the [growth] of regionalist forces.

Li is also the director of the Russian Centre and programme coordinator of the Master of Arts in European Studies at UM.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – How has the pandemic changed the political economy in the city?

Edmund Li Sheng (ELS) – According to relevant data, Macau's GDP dropped 56.3% year-on-year in 2020. But thankfully, a series of public policies launched by the government during the same period, including the issuance of e-consumer vouchers to residents to encourage consumption, have guided and assisted the market to maximize its self-resilience, in a sense serving as an empirical evidence to update the definition of the diametrically opposed relationship between politics and economy that has always been held by Western liberal economics.

So far it has been obvious that Macau's political economy is moving in a positive direction, based on the government's decision not to arbitrarily interfere with the economy but to assist the economy in recovering from the downturn.

After this battle, it is believed that Macau's political and economic self-resilience will be raised to a higher level. However, from the perspective of the global economy, international trade has been severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

MDT – And in global terms?

ELS – The global industrial chains, supply chains and value chains of North America, Europe, and East Asia have also encountered serious challenges. Covid-19 also has had a serious impact on the labor market, resulting in a decline in the global employment rate and a decrease in income. The suspension of production by



multinational companies due to the disruption of the global industrial chain and supply chain caused by the pandemic will force countries to reflect on globalization and strengthen anti-globalization measures.

After this battle, it is believed that Macau's political and economic self-resilience will be raised to a higher level

Countries such as the United States, Japan and South Korea begin to return to manufacturing in areas that are related to their national economy and people's livelihood, and in industries that provide competitive advantages to their own development. The spread of this pandemic has led to the prevalence of nationalism, xenophobia, and protectionism.

Although this will not change the direction of globalization, it may slow down the pace of globalization and make economic globalization more regionalized to neighboring countries and countries with similar values.

MDT – How will the concept of global political economy be newly articulated after the pandemic?

ELS – The frequency of interaction and interdependence between the political and economic spheres will increase dramatically compared to the past. The highly interconnected nature of the global economy derived from globalization dictates that the economic contraction brought about by the pandemic is no longer a concern for one country or region, but rather a common destiny for the entire world.

From an economic perspective, countries need to build a new open economic system that is coordinated internally and externally to prevent the transformation and retrogression of economic globalization.

From a political perspective, this means that states must seek to maximize communication through the platform of international organizations to assist the global political economy in hedging against the negative effects of the pandemic.

MDT – Are we seeing significant changes in how governmental authorities have set aside other social issues due to the pandemic?

ELS – There is a limit to the number of social resources that the government can mobilize, and therefore the allocation of public resources must follow rational decision-making priorities. This means that the government has to make trade-offs in the face of a major public crisis like the Covid-19 pandemic.

In some Western countries, anti-pandemic strategies address the social impact of the pandemic's aftermath. [...] Some states in the United States initially did not give due priority and attention to the urgent issues of public health care and livelihood security. They therefore missed the best period to curb this pandemic.

But then the United States [federal government] tried to remedy the situation by passing the Covid-relief, which included expanding unemployment benefits, providing financial assistance to states, [as well as the assistance for] medical facilities and other public services, support-

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DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR Lynzy Valles
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

ting the hardest-hit industries, and issuing loans to small and medium-sized enterprises.

Most European (EU) countries responded slowly at first because they did not know how to deal with such an emergency. Although the response was slow, it did become an important priority for most EU governments later. However, the recurrence of the epidemic has also intensified social conflicts.

For the Chinese government, public health security is an absolute priority at the moment and is considered a fundamental guarantee for subsequent economic development. However, it must be admitted that although China's strategy to combat the pandemic has been successful in phases, this hierarchical prioritization has consumed significant national resources and come at the expense of some citizens' social rights, including freedom of assembly. For the time being, there are still too many uncertainties about the long-term scope of these two strategies. But the only certainty is that issues such as public health safety and health care will take on an exponentially larger role in the social sphere, forcing governments to consider how to engage more reasonably in social prioritization decisions.

MDT – Has China's role politically changed amid this crisis?

ELS – As China's comprehensive national power continues to grow, China's international political status is in a dynamic process of change, which is somewhat accelerated by the Covid-19 pandemic as a catalyst. When China's rise is placed in a broader international context, the global geopolitical balance of power is shifting from the Western Hemisphere to the East, with China at its core. Realists have long been pessimistic about the changing balance of power and the potential for a hegemonic transition between China and the United States, arguing that a Thucydides trap [a resultant tendency toward war] at the cost of violent conflict is inevitable.

Yet after the trials and tribulations of the Covid-19 pandemic, China appears to have seized a window of opportunity in global governance: a vacuum of leadership in providing global public goods in the face of resurgent U.S. unilateralism and isolationism.

dership in providing global public goods in the face of resurgent U.S. unilateralism and isolationism.

MDT – How has other countries' view of China changed?

ELS – The EU's leading representative for foreign policy questioned the motives of Chinese government and its corporate efforts to donate protective medical equipment to countries around the world, believing that China is gaining international influence through the "politics of generosity." However, in contrast to the behavior of some countries intercepting medical equipment, developing countries will be less offended by the politics of generosity. By optimizing resource mobilization, China became the first economy to recover from the pandemic and delivered nearly one billion doses of Covid-19 vaccine globally, giving it a leading edge in the race for global governance leadership.

While China's model has garnered a certain international recognition for economic achievements over the past three decades, the authoritarian system at the forefront of the China model has continued to be criticized by Western liberal democracies in the battlefield of narratives.

The political significance of the China model has been widely noted and discussed in the context of this pandemic, especially in light of the potential crisis of democratic decay in American-style democracy, which has further elevated the political status occupied by the China model.

In general, China is actively leading international cooperation in the pandemic outbreak, but the controversy over China's ability to become a benign imperium as an authoritarian state has not diminished, especially in relation to the intentions of vaccine diplomacy.

However, due to the potential for a Great Depression-like Kindleberger trap [a failure to provide global public goods following an ascension to global power] resulting from the absence of global governance leadership, China's political role in the global system will possibly transition from being a paste-maker in the current system to a bellwether in guiding systemic transformation.

COOPERATION ZONE

Gov't assures Hengqin civil, commercial laws to align with Macau and world

ALTHOUGH mainland China's civil and commercial laws will prevail in the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin (Cooperation Zone), they will gradually "converge" with Macau and global standards, the local government emphasized in a statement.

The Macau government has announced that mainland laws will be prevalent in the Cooperation Zone. Immigration, border control and even commercial matters will be bound by mainland jurisdictions and jurisprudence.

Questions were raised as to which legal system commercial disputes will be bound.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong stated that the territorial principle will be upheld, so such disputes will be resolved pursuant to mainland laws.

In the statement, the government admitted that differences existed between mainland, Macau and global laws and regulations.

"Macau residents and international talents living, working or starting businesses in the Cooperation Zone may experience incompatibility in terms of regulations and practices," the local government added.

In response to this potential situation, the government referred to the Master Plan on the Development of the Cooperation Zone.

"The Master Plan proposes that civil and commercial laws and regulations in the Cooperation Zone should converge with those in Macau and in the world, so as to construct an institutional environment suitable for working and living to those of Macau and the world," the government noted.

The local government also reassured, following the earlier comments by the financial secretary, that there will be reliable mediation and arbitration channels for the resolution of disputes.



"The Master Plan requires the strengthening of judicial exchanges and collaborations between Guangdong and Macau to establish reliable systems for resolving com-

mercial disputes, including lawsuit, arbitration and mediation," the Macau government stated.

The Master Plan has also proposed "improvements on the courts of

Hengqin so as to provide efficient and convenient judicial services and protection to the construction of the Cooperation Zone," the government added. AL

AD

Master Plan of the Development of the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin



Mutual Discussion, Joint Construction, Joint Administration and Shared Benefits

New Prospects

Facilitate Aggregation of Talented People:

- High-end talented people will enjoy a high level of convenience to travel to and from the Cooperation Zone, and are subject to a maximum personal income tax rate of 15%.
- Support attracting globally renowned universities.
- Establish a national-level off-shore innovation and venture hub for overseas talented people.

Support for Professionals:

- Qualified Macao financial, architectural, planning and design professionals will be allowed to provide services in the Cooperation Zone, and their working experience abroad can be regarded the same as local working experience.
- Facilitate medical and healthcare professionals to obtain their qualification for practice in the Cooperation Zone.



Master Plan (full version)



Corresponding Contents

NEGATIVE COVID-19 RESULT ON DRAGON FRUIT PACKAGING: IAM

Following news reports on the existence of SARS-CoV-2 on dragon fruit packaging from Vietnam, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) recently tested the packaging of the local stock of the fruit. Although all samples yielded negative results, the IAM has ordered wholesalers to suspend the distribution of the batches of fruit originating from Vietnam. The local authority added that the World Health Organization found insufficient evidence about the transmission of the virus through food. Given that the virus is spread mainly by respiratory droplets, the IAM reminds relevant workers to be mindful of personal protection and hygiene.

'LIGHT UP MACAU DRONE GALA' REPLACES FIREWORKS COMPETITION

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will hold the "Light up Macau Drone Gala" at Nam Van Lake from October 1 to 23. There will be a total of 10 sessions of drone shows, at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. on October on 1, 3, 9, 16, and 23. In each show, 300 drones will light up the sky for 10 to 15 minutes. The event comes from the cancellation of the Macao International Fireworks Display Contest which was also cancelled last year as pyrotechnic teams outside Mainland were not allowed to enter the city due to border restrictions.

MONETARY AUTHORITY HOSTS BIENNIAL STATISTICS CONFERENCE

The Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) recently hosted the 11th Statistics Conference of the Central Banks of Portuguese-speaking Countries (virtually), which is a biennial international statistical event. Themed "From Survival to Innovation: Central Banks' Statistical Functions in the Post-pandemic Era," the chairman of the Board of Directors of the AMCM, Chan Sau San, stated that due to the uncertainty of the Covid-19 pandemic, the statistical function of central-banking institutions would take on a more proactive role in providing indispensable and objective basis for policy research, formulation and subsequent monitoring.

GUIA HILL CABLE CAR SUSPENDED

In order to ensure safe operation of the facilities of the Guia Hill Cable Car, the Municipal Affairs Bureau regularly maintains the Guia Hill Cable Car and conducts annual safety inspections. During the annual inspection this year, some parts were found to be worn out and must be replaced. Accordingly, the operation of the facilities of the Guia Hill Cable Car will be suspended from today until further notice.



XINHUA

COVID-19 GOV'T TO KEEP TWO-DOSE JAB ON TEENAGERS

ANTHONY LAM

TEENAGERS in Macau getting the Covid-19 mRNA vaccine will get two doses, in contrast to the one dose being administered in Hong Kong, Dr Leong Iek Hou, coordinator for the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said yesterday.

The University of Hong Kong has found linkage between post-job Inflammatory Cardiomyopathy and the Covid-19 mRNA vaccine, prompting the Hong Kong authorities to change tactics and administer only one dose of the vaccine to recipients aged between 12 and 17.

Leong stressed that there is not enough data to support this practice, adding that data

showed protection from the first dose is 75% and the second offers 100% protection. Citing other data, she said that with only one dose of the mRNA vaccine, protection against the Delta variant may only reach 40%.

On the matter of taking blood pressure measurement before vaccination, Dr Tai Wa Hou, medical director of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital, stressed that the evaluation on suitability for the vaccine focuses on two areas: contradictions and existing medical conditions. Tai suggested that taking blood pressure measurement is not crucial, although it was previously a mandatory pre-jab question.

Some individuals have been barred from vaccination when their blood pressure was higher than the acceptable level.

Tai was asked what would happen if jab recipients were not aware of allergies. First, Tai said that allergy to vaccine ingredients is rare in Chinese populations. He added that the assessment for allergy relies on the recipient's previous vaccine allergy history.

"When we have uncertainty, we'll need further evaluation by specialist doctors, especially dermatologists," Tai said.

Symptoms of such significant allergy include severe acute hives, swollen larynx and difficulty breathing. "When it happens, it can kill within a short

time," Tai said.

He explained that is why the Health Bureau (SSM) requires all recipients to remain at the vicinity for observation for half an hour after the jab.

609 VACCINE WAIVER OR DEFERMENT NOTES ISSUED

Tai disclosed that as of 4 p.m. yesterday, the SSM has issued 609 certificates that indicate ineligibility – whether temporary or permanent – for the Covid-19 vaccines. Of which, he added, 190 were issued on the grounds of pregnancy.

The SSM announced a new guideline to require all working population to either get vaccinated or obtain a negative SARS-CoV-2 result at least every seven days. Only individuals who do not need to interact physically with others will have this requirement waived.

Seen by many internet users as vaccination-boosting tactic, the new guideline has doubled recent vaccination bookings citywide.

Despite the issuance of deferment certification to 190 mothers-to-be, Leong cited international data to support vaccination for breastfeeding mothers. "Similar to other vaccines, vaccine-triggered antibodies will be transmitted through milk to the infants," Leong added.

Referring to the administration manual of the two types of vaccines, Leong said that BioNTech confirms the compatibility for breastfeeding mothers. Meanwhile, SinoPharm confirms its compatibility for individuals with higher risks of infection.

Therefore, she said that breastfeeding mothers have the freedom to choose either type.

Sulu Sou promises continuous supervision on government



DESPITE not being able to retain a seat in the parliament, outgoing lawmaker Sulu Sou stressed that he will continue his supervision on the government as an ordinary citizen.

With less than a month of his term remaining, Sou held a press conference to review his and the Legislative Assembly's (AL) work.

He was expelled from the election as both the election management body and

the court found him disloyal to the city and its mini-constituent.

Sou is the leader of the New Macau Association (ANM), an entity founded in the summer of 1992 by a group of intellectuals, including outgoing lawmakers António Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San.

Au did not run for re-election and Ng, like Sou, faced expulsion on the same ground. Both Au and Ng have withdrawn from the association

due to undisclosed internal reasons.

On the future of the ANM, Sou said that it would retain its position as a civil and pressure group.

Given that this is the first time without a parliamentary seat, the ANM is faced with "unprecedented danger," according to Sou. He said that meetings would be held internally to determine how the group can survive with virtually zero budget.

During the previous four years, he found there was a lack of lawmaker proposals, as all 85 bills passed were proposed by the executive branch. **AL**



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WATCHDOG INVESTIGATES CORRUPTION INVOLVING UM CONTRACTS

LYNZY VALLES

THE corruption watchdog revealed a case of corruption and document forgery involving a construction works contract of approximately MOP 220 million for the University of Macau (UM).

According to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), the main suspect involves a then-administrative officer of UM's Construction and Engineering Section of the Campus Management and Development Office.

In the process of awarding a residential college construction contract, the suspect assisted one of the tenderers in the preparation of tender, forged tender documents and participated in part of the tender evaluation.

Eventually, the tenderer was awarded the contract.

Subsequently, a newly established construction company, of which the then-ad-



ministrative officer was one of the shareholders, was subcontracted by the contractor to carry out some of the works as compensation for the employee's assistance in winning the contract.

The value of the construction contract involved was around MOP220 million.

In late June 2020, the CCAC received a report letter from the UM and subsequently placed the case on file for investigation.

The CCAC said that it discovered that the suspect participated in the project initiation proposal, the tender process, and the tender evalua-

tion, but he never made any declaration of a conflict of interest, or applied to the UM for recusal.

"Familiar with the amount of the budget set by the UM, the suspect suggested the contractor involved set the price similar to the amount, assisted it in the preparation of the tender documents by using the computer of the university and falsely claimed that it had experience in carrying out two campus construction works for education institutions," the CCAC explained.

In addition, the suspected also participated in the construction works involved.

In return, after winning the contract, the contractor subcontracted part of the works to a new company that was established for this contract and the suspect was one of the shareholders.

Following further investigations, the watchdog also discovered that the suspect unlawfully revealed the confidential data of other works of the university to another construction company and helped the latter win the contract for rain shelter construction offered by the university.

The case has been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office.

UM, MELCO ORGANIZE GBA COMPETITION ON HOSPITALITY

THE University of Macau (UM) and Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited are jointly organizing the first competition on hospital management, targeting Business Administration students from the Greater Bay Area.

The "2021 Guangdong Hong Kong Macau Greater Bay Area Integrated Resort Sustainable Business Case Study Competition - 'Start Young' Hospitality Management Professional Challenge" aims to enhance understanding and awareness of business knowledge among students.

Explored through the theme of sustainability developments at integrated resorts, the competition is also aimed at helping students better understand on-the-ground business operations and identify sustainable optimization solutions through field visits.

Akiko Takahashi, executive vice president and chief of staff to chairman & CEO of Melco, said, "We are confident that the collaboration will help students from Macau and the rest of the Greater Bay Area understand the value of sustainability and obtain real life business examples on how sustainable development is being achieved, whilst inculcating creativity and innovation by encouraging students to push boundaries and think outside of the box." LV

AD



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HONG KONG

New electors chosen, with only one opposition member

ALICE FUNG & ZEN SOO,
HONG KONG

THE 1,500-member panel that picks Hong Kong's next leader will have only one opposition-leaning member, according to results yesterday from a tightly controlled selection process amid a crackdown on dissent in the city.

Separately, Hong Kong national security police arrested three student members of one of the city's last remaining pro-democracy political organizations on suspicion of conspiracy to incite subversion.

On Sunday, select Hong Kong residents voted for members of the Election Committee that will choose the city's leader and nearly half of the legislature in the first polls following reforms aimed at ensuring that candidates are loyal to Beijing.

Results were expected to be announced by midnight, but due to several delays they were only announced at 8 a.m. on Monday. Authorities said there were problems with the ballot verification papers, and that it was likely that officials were filling in paperwork incorrectly, causing the delays.

The Election Committee will select 40 of 90 lawmakers in the city's legislature during elections in December, as well as elect Hong Kong's leader during voting in March next year.

In May, the legislature amen-



Erick Tsang (second left), Secretary for Constitutional and Mainland Affairs Bureau, helps officials pour out ballots from a box

ded Hong Kong's electoral laws to ensure that only "patriots" — people who are loyal to China and the semi-autonomous territory — will rule the city. The committee also was expanded to 1,500 members, from 1,200, and the number of direct voters for committee seats was reduced from about 246,000 to less than 8,000.

The restructured electoral process guarantees a vast majority of the Elections Committee will be largely pro-Beijing candidates, who are likely to choose a chief executive and nearly half of lawmakers who are aligned with the ruling Chinese Communist Party.

The changes are part of a broad

crackdown on Hong Kong civil society following mass pro-democracy protests in 2019. Authorities have tightened control over the former British colony with a sweeping national security law

imposed by China's Communist Party that effectively criminalized opposition to the government. The law and other changes have forced several civil organizations to disband or seen their leaders arrested.

The only opposition-leaning candidate was elected in the social welfare sector. Of the more than 400 candidates who were running for seats Sunday, just two were friendly to the opposition camp in Hong Kong, with the rest

being pro-Beijing candidates.

Candidates in the elections were vetted by a small but powerful committee headed by Chief Secretary John Lee to ensure that they meet the requirements for office, which include upholding the city's Basic Law, its mini constitution, and pledging allegiance to Hong Kong.

"After improving the electoral system, the new Election Committee consists of a number of sub-sectors and is broadly representative," the Hong Kong government said in a statement Monday.

"This new constitutional function will facilitate rational interaction between the executive authorities and the legislature, and

effectively enhance governance efficiency," it said.

"Today's Election Committee elections are very meaningful as it is the first elections held after we have improved the electoral system to ensure that only patriots can take office," Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said Sunday. It's not yet known if Lam will seek reelection in March.

Separately, Hong Kong national security police on Monday arrested three members of the political organization Student Politics. The three were arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to incite subversion, according to Li Kwai-wah, senior superintendent of the police national security division.

They are accused of using social media and setting up street booths to disseminate messages that endangered national security, even after the national security law came into effect last year.

The messages incited hatred toward the government and urged others not to obey the laws of Hong Kong, police said.

The student group, which was set up in May last year, is one of the few pro-democracy political organizations left in Hong Kong. Many political and opposition groups have ceased to operate following the implementation of the national security law.

Critics say the national security law and electoral changes restrict freedoms Hong Kong was promised it could maintain for 50 years following the territory's 1997 handover to China from Britain, which ruled the city as a colony beginning in 1841.

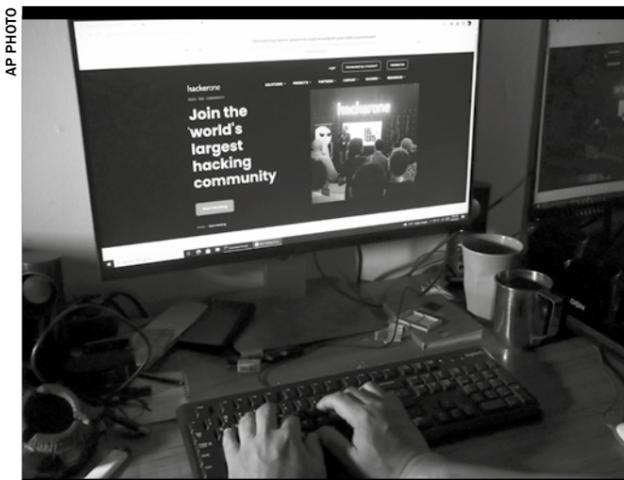
More than 140 people have been arrested under the security law, which outlaws secession, subversion, terrorism and foreign collusion to intervene in the city's affairs. **MDT/AP**

Indonesia says no evidence of alleged Chinese intel hack

DAVID RISING & NINIEK
KARMINI, JAKARTA

INDONESIAN authorities have found no evidence that the country's main intelligence service's computers were compromised, after a U.S.-based private cybersecurity company alerted them of a suspected breach of its internal networks by a Chinese hacking group, an official said.

The Insikt Group, the threat research division of Massachusetts-based Recorded Future, said it discovered the hack in April when it detected malware servers operated by the "Mustang Panda" group communicating with hosts inside Indonesian government networks.



The activity targeted the Badan Intelijen Negara, or BIN, intelligence agency as well as nine other Indonesian government agencies, Recorded Future said.

"We assess that this ac-

tivity is very likely linked to the Chinese state-sponsored threat activity group Mustang Panda based on our continued tracking of Chinese state-sponsored cyberespionage activity," the company said in an

e-mail to The Associated Press.

Chinese government offices were closed yesterday for the Mid-Autumn Festival and could not be reached, but authorities have consistently denied any form of state-sponsored hacking and said China itself is a major target of cyberattacks.

Recorded Future said its experts traced the hack back to as early as March, and the last observed date of the intrusion was Aug. 20.

"We have not seen additional activity targeting BIN since that date," the company said.

After being notified by Recorded Future, BIN investigated the suspec-

ted breach together with other agencies and related stakeholders, but found "our server is safe and under control, there is no indication that it was hacked by suspected Chinese hackers," said Wawan Hari Purwanto, a deputy chief and spokesman for the agency.

BIN coordinates information sharing and operations for Indonesia's other intelligence agencies, as well as conducting its own operations. Because of its work, Purwanto said BIN's computers are an attractive target for hackers, and the agency conducts regular checks and maintenance on its systems as a precaution.

He said BIN cooperated

with Indonesia's National Cyber and Encryption Agency, the Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and other government agencies to ensure "our network is safe and free from hacking."

The Cyber and Encryption Agency referred all questions to BIN.

Purwanto dismissed the Insikt Group's findings and urged people not to worry that the agency's data had been compromised.

"BIN calls on people to not believe the rumors of hacking of BIN and other government institutions, and to keep checking, re-checking and cross-checking information circulating on internet and social media," he said. **MDT/AP**



U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW

UN chief warns China, US to avoid Cold War

EDITH M. LEDERER,
UNITED NATIONS

WARNING of a potential new Cold War, the head of the United Nations implored China and the United States to repair their “completely dysfunctional” relationship before problems between the two large and deeply influential countries spill over even further into the rest of the planet.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke to The Associated Press this weekend ahead of this week’s annual United Nations gathering of world leaders — a convening blemished by COVID, climate concerns and contentiousness across the planet.

Guterres said the world’s two major economic powers should be cooperating on climate and negotiating more robustly on trade and technology even given persisting political fissures about human rights, economics, online security and sovereignty in the South China Sea.

“Unfortunately, today we only have confrontation,” Guterres said Saturday in the AP interview.

“We need to re-establish a functional relationship between the two powers,” he said, calling that “essential to address the problems of vaccination, the problems of climate change and many other global challenges that cannot be solved without constructive relations within the international commu-

nity and mainly among the superpowers.”

Two years ago, Guterres warned global leaders of the risk of the world splitting in two, with the United States and China creating rival internets, currency, trade, financial rules “and their own zero-sum geopolitical and military strategies.”

He reiterated that warning in the AP interview, adding that two rival geopolitical and military strategies would pose “dangers” and divide the world. Thus, he said, the foundering relationship must be repaired — and soon.

“We need to avoid at all cost a Cold War that would be different from the past one, and probably more dangerous and more difficult to manage,” Guterres said.

The so-called Cold War between the Soviet Union and its East bloc allies and the United States and its Western allies began immediately after World War II and ended with the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. It was a clash of two nuclear-armed superpowers with rival ideologies — communism and authoritarianism on one side, capitalism and democracy on the other.

The U.N. chief said a new Cold War could be more perilous because the Soviet-U.S. antipathy created clear rules, and both sides were conscious of the risk of nuclear destruction. That produced back channels and forums “to guarantee that things

would not get out of control,” he said.

“Now, today, everything is more fluid, and even the experience that existed in the past to manage crisis is no longer there,” Guterres said.

He said the U.S.-Britain deal to give Australia nuclear-powered submarines so it could operate undetected in Asia “is just one small piece of a more complex puzzle ... this completely dysfunctional relationship between China and the United States.”

The secretly negotiated deal angered China and France, which had signed a contract with Australia worth at least \$66 billion for a dozen French conventional diesel-electric submarines.

In the wide-ranging AP interview, the secretary-general also addressed three major issues that world leaders will be confronting this week: the worsening climate crisis, the still-raging pandemic and Afghanistan’s uncertain future under its new Taliban rulers. They took power Aug. 15 without a fight from the government’s U.S.-trained army as American forces were in the final stage of withdrawing from the country after 20 years.

What role will the United Nations have in the new Afghanistan? Guterres called it “a fantasy” to believe that U.N. involvement “will be able all of a sudden to produce an inclusive government, to guarantee that all human rights are respected, to gua-

rantee that no terrorists will ever exist in Afghanistan, that drug trafficking will stop.”

Though the United Nations has “limited capacity and limited leverage,” he said, it is playing a key role in leading efforts to provide humanitarian aid to Afghans. The U.N. is also drawing the Taliban’s attention to the importance of an inclusive government that respects human rights, especially for women and girls, he said.

“There is clearly a fight for power within different groups in the Taliban leadership. The situation is not yet clarified,” he said, calling it one more reason why the international community should engage with the Taliban.

While former U.S. president Donald Trump was wedded to an “America First” policy, President Joe Biden — who will make his first appearance as chief executive at the General Assembly’s high-level meeting Tuesday — has reaffirmed U.S. commitment to multilateral institutions.

Guterres said Biden’s commitment to global action on climate, including rejoining the 2015 Paris climate agreement that Trump withdrew from, is “probably the most important of them all.”

He said there is “a completely different environment in the relationship” between the United Nations and the United States under Biden. But, Guterres said, “I did everything — and I’m proud of it — in order to make sure that we would keep a functional relationship with the United States in the past administration.”

Guterres also lamented the failure of countries to work together to tackle global warming and ensure that people in every country are vaccinated.

Of the past year of COVID-19 struggles, he said: “We were not able to make any real progress in relation to effective coordination of global efforts.”

And of climate: “One year ago, we were seeing a more clear movement in the right direction, and that movement has slowed down in the recent past. So we need to re-accelerate again if we are not going into disaster.”

Guterres called it “totally unacceptable” that 80% of the population in his native Portugal has been vaccinated while in many African countries, less than 2% of the population is vaccinated.

“It’s completely stupid from the point of view of defeating the virus,” he said. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1998 CLINTON’S GRAND JURY TESTIMONY RELEASED



Bill Clinton’s testimony about his relationship with a young female assistant has been released to the United States public.

The video of the American president’s 17 August interview in front of the Grand Jury was taken to a television station at 0910 local time (1410 BST) and broadcast immediately by many US networks.

During the examination President Clinton was questioned by prosecutors about the exact nature of his affair with Monica Lewinsky - and whether he had previously lied under oath.

The president’s defence against the accusations relied on elaborate definitions of certain words.

The interview was originally taped on the insistence of the investigating team for the benefit of a jury member who could not attend the hearing.

But members of the House of Representatives justified the release of the tape by saying the public had the right to see all the evidence of the Starr Report.

“It’s not a pretty sight... But the key thing we’ve all got to focus on is what is the truth”, said Charles Canady - a republican on the House Judicial Committee.

A visibly uncomfortable President Clinton was forced to defend previous statements about his affair with Miss Lewinsky by quibbling over the precise definition of his words.

In particular he said “sexual relations” did not to him mean “sexual intercourse” - which he denied having with the former White House intern.

Challenged later in the hearing, he argued the meaning of the smallest of words contained in one of his lawyers’ statements.

“It depends upon what the meaning of the word ‘is’ is. If ‘is’ means ‘is and never has been’ that’s one thing - if it means ‘there is none’, that was a completely true statement,” he said.

After facing the Grand Jury, the president now awaits the verdict of the American people.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 9 December 1998 the House Judiciary Committee proposed four articles of impeachment against the president.

Ten days later - after a bitter debate between republicans and democrats - the House of Representatives voted to confirm the recommendation.

Bill Clinton became only the second president in American history to face such an indictment, but he refused to resign.

His trial began on 7 January 1999 and ended on 12 February when senators voted to acquit him of the impeachment charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Meanwhile, messenger Mercury squares off with brooding Pluto. This aspect implores you to look beneath the surface and openly dismantle any tensions between your career and close relationships.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 Communicative Mercury butts heads with truth-telling Pluto. This aspect is likely to expose any dormant tensions existing between your dream job and your day job.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 Tuesday's cosmic landscape finds Mercury locked into a tense square with transformation-demanding Pluto, which is likely to drag you into some dark and stormy moods.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Expressive Mercury clashes with truth-revealing Pluto. This potent aspect will likely provoke dormant tensions existing between your living environment and your current relationship story.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Let yourself cultivate movement today, Leo. You're probably feeling restless when it comes to your day-to-day routine as the moon roams through adventure-hungry Aries.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You're likely to be running extra sensitive beneath Tuesday's skies, Virgo. Your ruling planet, messenger Mercury, finds itself locked into a tense clash with transformation-demanding Pluto.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 On this narrative as self-concerned Mars forms an energetic alignment with Saturn. This pairing makes it easy to speak your truth in romantic relationships and form firm commitments for the future.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 It's important to find someone to confide in or journal your thoughts to give buried feelings an outlet. Elsewhere, the eager Aries moon focuses your attention on your current work/life balance.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 You may find yourself seesawing between two different modes of action today, Sagittarius. On the one hand, the giddy Aries moon increases your need for romance and care-free creative endeavors.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 As a Capricorn, it can be difficult for you to recognize when to pump the brakes. Tuesday's skies give you a gentle nudge towards retreat as the moon marches through solitary Aries.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Tuesday's skies thrust you into a busy atmosphere, Aquarius. The moon's presence in energetic Aries has you returning calls, completing errands, and jumping through hoops.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 As a Pisces, it can be difficult for you to share your feelings with others. Tuesday's skies gently encourage you to speak your truth, as mental Mercury butts heads with transformation-seeking Pluto.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	20	28	thunderstorms
Harbin	11	21	cloudy
Tianjin	25	33	cloudy
Urumqi	22	26	showers
Xi'an	23	30	rain
Lhasa	20	26	cloudy
Chengdu	26	36	cloudy
Chongqing	27	37	cloudy
Kunming	28	37	fine
Nanjing	20	29	cloudy
Shanghai	26	33	cloudy
Wuhan	23	26	rain
Hangzhou	11	17	thunderstorms
Taipei	22	30	thunderstorms
Guangzhou	16	27	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	32	fine
WORLD			
Moscow	11	23	rain
Frankfurt	12	25	overcast
Paris	17	26	overcast
London	14	19	cloudy
New York	21	31	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Swedish auto; 5- Burning; 10- Classic autos; 14- Free from contamination; 15- Braid; 16- Med school subj.; 17- Somewhat; 18- Blow with the fist; 19- Spillane's "___ Jury"; 20- Thief; 22- Membrane in the ear canal; 24- Craft in the tabloids; 25- The Ponte Vecchio crosses it; 26- Lazy person; 30- European ermine; 35- Hole number?; 36- Cedar Rapids college; 37- ___ nous; 38- Disorder; 41- Oriental; 43- Actress Shire; 44- Not to mention; 45- Actress Charlotte; 46- Agave fiber; 47- Ball-game target; 50- Urn; 53- Cattle call; 54- Like some cats; 58- Helix; 62- Not pro; 63- Mouthlike opening; 66- Ad word; 67- Surgery reminder; 68- Art supporter; 69- Breakfast brand; 70- Having a sound mind; 71- Inscribed pillar; 72- Faculty head;

DOWN: 1- Box; 2- Mercury or Saturn; 3- Bedouin; 4- It bites you in your sleep; 5- To come nearer to; 6- Stomach, Asian, or Hong Kong; 7- McKellen or Holm; 8- Kitchen gadget; 9- One of the Allens; 10- Incursion; 11- ___'acte (intermission); 12- Honolulu's island; 13- Meerschaum part; 21- Alphabetical trio; 23- Derby prize; 25- Summer drink; 26- Tiffs; 27- Polynesian porch; 28- Russian range; 29- Siegfried's partner; 31- Big bang cause; 32- Alamogordo's county; 33- Hand woven wall hanging; 34- Belief; 39- Inlet; 40- Have a cow?; 41- Ambient music pioneer; 42- Water, facetiously; 44- Era; 48- Cut (off); 49- Self-assured; 51- Donkeys; 52- Assail; 54- Lip; 55- Quechua speaker; 56- ___ impasse; 57- Bog; 59- Go ballistic; 60- Pond organism; 61- Boxer Spinks; 64- Sugary suffix; 65- Singer Torme;



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- Fire department 28 572 222
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- 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
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AD

HEALTH

PFIZER SAYS COVID-19 VACCINE WORKS IN KIDS AGES 5 TO 11

LAURAN NEERGAARD,
MEDICAL WRITER

PFIZER said yesterday its COVID-19 vaccine works for children ages 5 to 11 and that it will seek U.S. authorization for this age group soon -- a key step toward beginning vaccinations for youngsters.

The vaccine made by Pfizer and its German partner BioNTech already is available for anyone 12 and older. But with kids now back in school and the extra-contagious delta variant causing a huge jump in pediatric infections, many parents are anxiously awaiting vaccinations for their younger children.

For elementary school-aged kids, Pfizer tested a much lower dose -- a third of the amount that's in each shot given now. Yet after their second dose, children ages 5 to 11 developed coronavirus-fighting antibody levels just as strong as teenagers and young adults, Dr. Bill Gruber, a Pfizer senior vice president, told The Associated Press.

The kid dosage also proved safe, with similar or fewer temporary side effects -- such as sore arms,



fever or achiness -- that teens experience, he said.

"I think we really hit the sweet spot," said Gruber, who's also a pediatrician.

Gruber said the companies aim to apply to the Food and Drug Administration by the end of the month for emergency use in this age group, followed shortly afterward with applications to European and British regulators.

Earlier this month, FDA chief Dr. Peter Marks told the AP that once Pfizer turns over its study results, his agency would evaluate the data "hopefully in a matter of weeks" to

decide if the shots are safe and effective enough for younger kids.

Many Western countries so far have vaccinated no younger than age 12, awaiting evidence of what's the right dose and that it works safely in smaller tots. But Cuba last week began immunizing children as young as 2 with its homegrown vaccines and Chinese regulators have cleared two of its brands down to age 3.

While kids are at lower risk of severe illness or death than older people, more than 5 million children in the U.S. have tested positive for COVID-19 since the pan-

demic began and at least 460 have died, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. Cases in children have risen dramatically as the delta variant swept through the country.

"I feel a great sense of urgency" in making the vaccine available to children under 12, Gruber said. "There's pent-up demand for parents to be able to have their children returned to a normal life."

In New Jersey, 10-year-old Maya Huber asked why she couldn't get vaccinated like her parents and both teen brothers have. Her mother, Dr. Nisha Gandhi, a critical care physician at Englewood Hospital, enrolled Maya in the Pfizer study at Rutgers University. But the family hasn't eased up on their masking and other virus precautions until they learn if Maya received the real vaccine or a dummy shot.

Once she knows she's protected, Maya's first goal: "a huge sleepover with all my friends."

Maya said it was exciting to be part of the study even though she was "super scared" about getting jabbed. But "after you get it, at least

you feel like happy that you did it and relieved that it didn't hurt," she told the AP.

Pfizer said it studied the lower dose in 2,268 kindergartners and elementary school-aged kids. The FDA required what is called an immune "bridging" study: evidence that the younger children developed antibody levels already proven to be protective in teens and adults. That's what Pfizer reported yesterday in a press release, not a scientific publication. The study still is ongoing, and there haven't yet been enough COVID-19 cases to compare rates between the vaccinated and those given a placebo -- something that might offer additional evidence.

The study isn't large enough to detect any extremely rare side effects, such as the heart inflammation that sometimes occurs after the second dose, mostly in young men. The FDA's Marks said the pediatric studies should be large enough to rule out any higher risk to young children. Pfizer's Gruber said once the vaccine is authorized for younger children, they'll be carefully monitored for rare risks just like everyone else.

A second U.S. vaccine maker, Moderna, also is studying its shots in elementary school-aged children. Pfizer and Moderna are studying even younger tots as well, down to 6-month-olds. Results are expected later in the year. **MDT/AP**

AD

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FOOTBALL | EPL

MAN U WINS AFTER PENALTY CALL BACKFIRES; CHELSEA BEATS SPURS

ROB HARRIS, LONDON

WEST HAM 1, MAN U 2

SEEING West Ham win a penalty deep into stoppage time, and presented with an unexpected chance to equalize against Manchester United, David Moyes made a bold call.

Having left Mark Noble on the bench throughout the 90 minutes, the West Ham manager decided now was the moment to deploy his captain.

Noble's first touch of the ball was taking the penalty, striking it low toward the corner of the net. Then something of a rarity happened — the ball was pushed away by David De Gea. After conceding 40 spot kicks in a row, it was the first time since 2016 that the United and Spain goalkeeper had saved a penalty.

United held on to complete a 2-1 victory in the Premier League this weekend after a comeback sparked by Cristiano Ronaldo cancelling out Said Benrahma's deflected strike, by reacting after his initial shot was saved. Even



Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo reacts after he failed to score a goal

more galling for Moyes than the penalty miss, the scorer of the winner in the 89th minute was Jesse Lingard. He was on loan at the Hammers from United last season but wasn't allowed to come back to the east London club.

"I was laughing," Moyes recalled of his exchange with Lingard after the curling strike. "I wish he hadn't scored, but we had a chance to get a draw out of it and we missed our chance."

Not that Moyes had any regrets

about bringing Noble on after Luke Shaw handled.

"Mark Noble is one of the best penalty kick takers we've got," Moyes said. "We had time to think, time to make that choice, my choice, my decision. That's what happens in management. You have to make big decisions, sometimes they go (right), sometimes they don't and maybe the job's for some people and maybe not for other people."

Moyes used to have the United job, for less than a season after Alex Ferguson's retirement in 2013. No United manager since Ferguson has lifted the Premier League trophy.

Now United is among the pace-setters on 13 points along with Liverpool and Chelsea, which beat Tottenham 3-0.

"We've got to keep our feet grounded, dig out the points like we did today," United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer said.

TOTTENHAM 0, CHELSEA 3

Chelsea continued matching each of Liverpool's results through the first five rounds of the

season.

The European champions took the lead four minutes into the second half after Thiago Silva darted into space to meet a corner from Marcos Alonso with a header.

The goal was more fortuitous in the 57th minute after N'Golo Kante saw a shot heavily deflect off Eric Dier and go into the net off the post. Kante had replaced Mason Mount at halftime.

"It was perhaps a bit more defensive, but I wanted to give the sign I was not happy with the energy," Chelsea manager Thomas Tuchel said. "For me it was about second balls and sending signals, to let the confidence grow by a higher work rate and closing players down."

Tottenham goalkeeper Hugo Lloris was kept busy to prevent Chelsea adding to its score until Antonio Rüdiger struck from distance in stoppage time.

The match at Tottenham's stadium was preceded by a minute's applause to remember Jimmy Greaves, a former striker for the north London club and Chelsea, who died Sunday at the age of 81.

The most unexpectedly strong start to the season is from Brighton, which is only a point behind Chelsea, Liverpool and United after beating Leicester 2-1 thanks to a penalty from Neal Maupay and header from Danny Welbeck. **MDT/AP**

AD

合夥人 PARTNERS:
官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha
山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues
馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata
趙魯 Zhao Lu
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大律師 ASSOCIATES:
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OPINION

World Views

Brian Jackson, Boise State University
MDT/ THE CONVERSATION

HOW MANY STARS ARE THERE IN SPACE?

Exactly how many stars are in space? – Mee-Song, Brookline, Massachusetts

Look up at the sky on a clear night, and you'll see thousands of stars – about 6,000 or so.

But that's only a tiny fraction of all the stars out there. The rest are too far away for us to see them.

The universe, galaxies, stars

Yet astronomers like me have figured out how to estimate the total number of stars in the universe, which is everything that exists.

Scattered throughout the universe are galaxies – clusters of stars, planets, gas and dust bunched together.

Like people, galaxies are diverse. They come in different sizes and shapes.

Earth is in the Milky Way, a spiral galaxy; its stars cluster in spiral arms that swirl around the galaxy's center.

Other galaxies are elliptical – kind of egg-shaped – and some are irregular, with a variety of shapes.

Before calculating the number of stars in the universe, astronomers first have to estimate the number of galaxies.

To do that, they take very detailed pictures of small parts of the sky and count all the galaxies they see in those pictures.

That number is then multiplied by the number of pictures needed to photograph the whole sky.

The answer: There are approximately 2,000,000,000,000 galaxies in the universe – that's 2 trillion.

Astronomers don't know exactly how many stars are in each of those 2 trillion galaxies. Most are so distant, there's no way to tell precisely.

But we can make a good guess at the number of stars in our own Milky Way. Those stars are diverse, too, and come in a wide variety of sizes and colors.

Our Sun, a white star, is medium-size, medium-weight and medium-hot: 27 million degrees Fahrenheit at its center (15 million degrees Celsius).

Bigger, heavier and hotter stars tend to be blue, like Vega in the constellation Lyra. Smaller, lighter and dimmer stars are usually red, like Proxima Centauri. Except for the Sun, it's the closest star to us.

Red, white and blue stars give off different amounts of light. By measuring that starlight – specifically, its color and brightness – astronomers can estimate how many stars our galaxy holds.

With that method, they discovered the Milky Way has about 100 billion stars – 100,000,000,000.

Now the next step. Using the Milky Way as our model, we can multiply the number of stars in a typical galaxy (100 billion) by the number of galaxies in the universe (2 trillion).

The answer is an absolutely astounding number. There are approximately 200 billion trillion stars in the universe. Or, to put it another way, 200 sextillion.

That's 200,000,000,000,000,000,000!

The number is so big, it's hard to imagine. But try this: It's about 10 times the number of cups of water in all the oceans of Earth.

Think about that the next time you're looking at the night sky – and then wonder about what might be happening on the trillions of worlds orbiting all those stars.

Hello, curious kids! Do you have a question you'd like an expert to answer? Ask an adult to send your question to CuriousKidsUS@the-conversation.com. Please tell us your name, age and the city where you live.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson has insisted that Britain's relationship with France is "ineradicable," despite fury in Paris over a U.S.-U.K.-Australia submarine deal.

A meeting between French Defense Minister Florence Parly and her British counterpart, Ben Wallace, has been postponed as the agreement roils relations between France and major allies.

The two had been due to meet and address a meeting organized this week by the Franco-British Council. Peter Ricketts, the council's co-chairman, told The Guardian yesterday that the meeting had been "postponed to a later date."

The submarine deal, announced last week, will see Australia cancel a contract to buy diesel-electric French subs and acquire nuclear-powered vessels from the U.S. instead. The U.S., Australia and Britain say the deal bolsters their commitment to the Indo-Pacific region, and has widely been seen as a move to counter an increasingly assertive China.

The French government appears to have been blindsided by the agreement.

France did not, however, recall its envoy to London. French Europe Minister Clement Beaune said Britain, the third player in the "AUSUK" deal, was a "junior partner" and a vassal of the U.S.

SHOOTING AT RUSSIAN UNIVERSITY LEAVES EIGHT DEAD, 28 HURT

JIM HEINTZ, MOSCOW

A gunman opened fire yesterday at a university in Russia, leaving eight people dead and 28 hurt, officials said.

The suspect was detained after being wounded in an exchange of fire with police, the Interior Ministry said. There was no immediate information available on his identity or possible motive.

During the attack, students and staff at Perm State University locked themselves in rooms, and video posted on Russian news sites showed some students jumping out of second-story windows.

In some footage, a black-clad, helmeted figure could be seen striding on a campus sidewalk cradling a long-barreled weapon. Russia's Investigative Committee said the gunman fired a smoothbore hunting weapon. That could indicate he used a shotgun.

A traffic police unit was the first to reach the scene, and the suspect opened fire on them, according to the Interior Ministry. He was wounded when poli-



ce returned fire and then was disarmed, the ministry said.

Although firearms laws are strict in Russia, many people obtain permits for hunting weapons. News reports cited officials as saying the suspect had a permit for a pump-action shotgun, although it was not clear if it was for the weapon used.

In May, a gunman opened fire at a school in the city of Kazan, killing seven students and two teachers, with a registered weapon.

The university, which has 12,000 students enrolled, said about 3,000 people were on the campus at the time of the shooting. The school is in the city of Perm, which is about 1,100 kilometers (700 miles) east of Moscow with a population of about 1 million.

The Investigative Committee said 28 people were injured, some of them hospitalized, but did not give details. The Health Ministry said 19 of them were shot; it was not clear how the others were injured. MDT/AP



Russia's ruling party was on course yesterday to retain the super majority needed to ensure President Vladimir Putin's continued grip on power after parliamentary elections that most opposition politicians were barred from and that were marred by multiple reports of violations. The vote has been watched closely as key to the runup to the 2024 presidential election. It's not yet clear whether Putin will run again, choose a successor or outline a different path — but he is expected to keep his hand on the tiller whatever he decides, and an obedient State Duma, or parliament, is crucial to those plans.

Polish government officials said yesterday that they are sending 500 additional army troops and special vehicles to the border with Belarus to strengthen it against increasing migrant pressure that they say is orchestrated by Belarus and Russia to destabilize the European Union. "We are dealing with a well-organized action directed from Minsk and Moscow," Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki told a news conference.

Greece A fire broke out at a soon-to-be-closed migrant camp on the Greek island of Samos, forcing its evacuation. No injuries or major damage were reported. Authorities said the fire started in some abandoned buildings inside the camp and had been brought under control. The evacuation of the 550 migrants to an empty plot near the camp's entrance was underway.



Canadians began voting yesterday in an election that threatens to knock Justin Trudeau (pictured) from power. Trudeau gambled on an early election in a bid to win a majority of seats in Parliament. Polls indicate Trudeau's Liberal Party is in a tight race with the rival Conservatives: It will likely win the most seats in Parliament, but still fail to get a majority, forcing it to rely on an opposition party to pass legislation.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Luca Bruno



Heads up. Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain collides with Red Bull driver Max Verstappen of the Netherlands during the Italian Formula One Grand Prix, at Monza racetrack, in Monza, Italy.