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THE OPERATOR OF CLUB CUBIC SAID THAT IT HAS FAILED IN ITS ATTEMPT TO SEEK RENT REDUCTIONS FOR ITS SPACE CAUSING IT TO HALT OPERATIONS

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Indian police on Saturday arrested the son of a junior minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government as a suspect days after nine people were killed in a deadly escalation of yearlong demonstrations by tens of thousands of farmers against contentious agriculture laws in northern India, a police officer said. Four farmers died yesterday when a car owned by Junior Home Minister Ajay Mishra ran over a group of protesting farmers in Lakhimpur Kheri, a town in Uttar Pradesh state, officials and farm leaders said. Farm leaders alleged that Mishra's son was in the car when it ran over the protesters, but Mishra denied it.

Iran has produced more than 120 kilograms of 20% enriched uranium, the country's nuclear chief said, far more than what the U.N. nuclear watchdog reported last month. Mohammad Eslami said in an interview with state TV late Saturday that under the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers, the other signatories were to provide Iran with 20% enriched uranium needed for its research reactor.

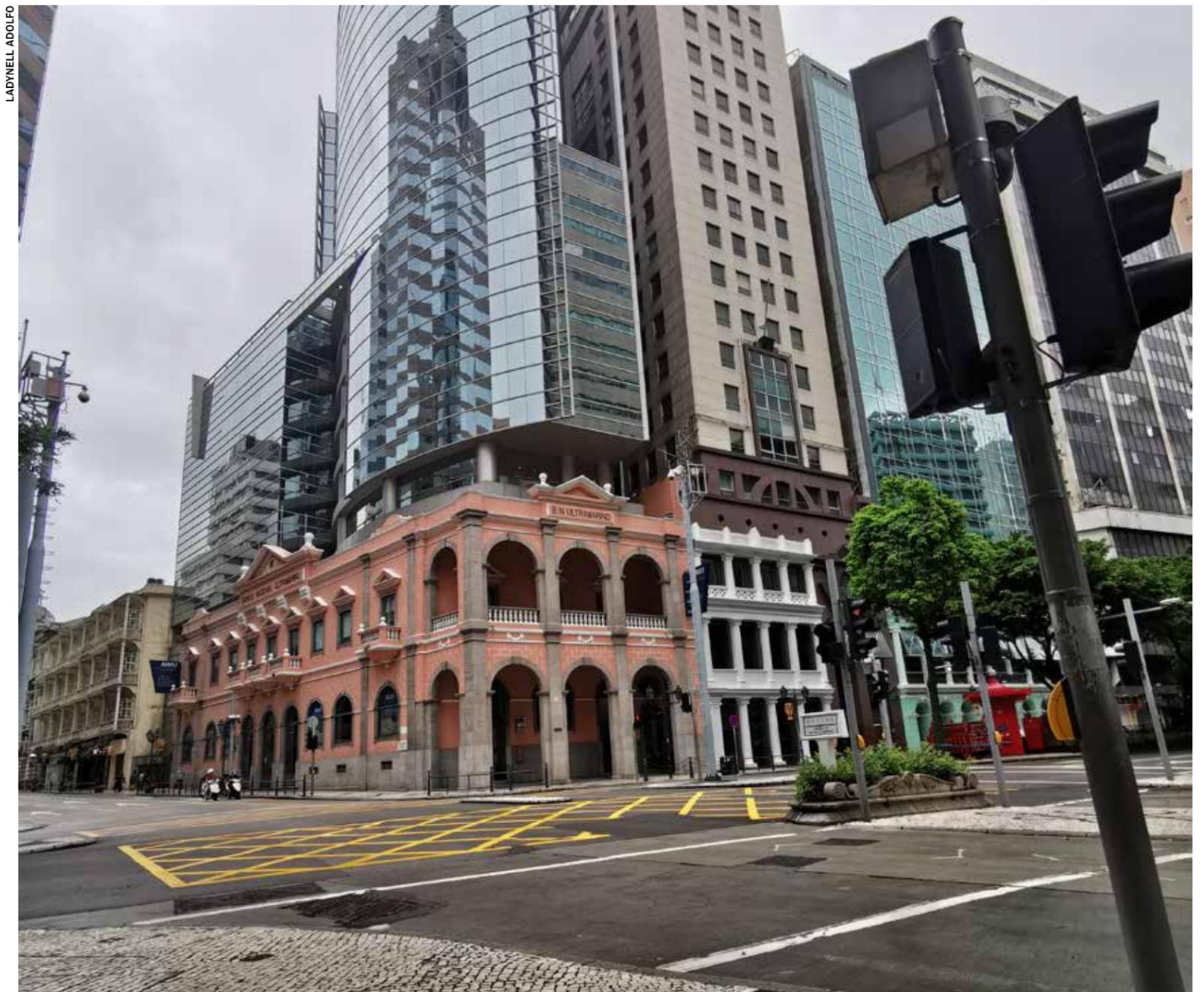


Libya Guards at a detention center for migrants shot and killed at least six people amid chaos in the overcrowded facility, U.N. officials said Saturday as they again condemned widespread abuses against migrants in the North African country. The development comes a week after authorities rounded up more than 5,000 migrants in a massive crackdown and after U.N.-commissioned investigators said abuses and ill treatment of migrants in Libya amount to crimes against humanity.

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CITY AT A STANDSTILL

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HAO VS LVS

DAVID GREEN: LVS EXPERIENCE MORE RELEVANT THAN PARTNERS ON MACAU BID

RENATO MARQUES

FORMER government gaming consultant David Green said in court Friday that the experience which the Las Vegas Sands Corporation (LVS) has gathered over the years — specifically in its operations in Las Vegas — carries greater weight in the consultancy team's evaluation made regarding the company's potential gaming concession than any of the partners who had joined forces with it at different stages of the tender.

Green was a former member of the consultant team hired by the Macau government to assess the bids for the first gaming licenses proffered under the gaming liberalization era.

Green testified as a defense witness for the three subsidiaries of LVS (the parent firm of local gaming operator Sands China), which has been sued in a lawsuit filed with the Court of First Instance

(TJB) by the Asian American Entertainment Corporation (AAEC), headed by Marshall Hao.

At the TJB, last Friday, Green said that one of the tasks requested by the government was the evaluation of each bidder by the consultant team concerning their experience not only in gaming, but in other components of the integrated resort's system that includes hotels, food and beverages, and other forms of entertainment.

He explained that the five-member team conducted in-depth research into both the corporate and personal history of the tender bidders, as well as the people heading each company.

Green said that the conclusions drawn in both the initial evaluation when LVS was partnering with AAEC, and the most recent, when the ties were severed and LVS joined forces with Galaxy Entertainment Group, were very similar or equivalent. They placed

PHOTO ARCHIVE



the focus on the experience of the LVS itself as an experienced operator, with less concern for the undertakings of their partners.

During the court session, Green

explained that both the AAEC and Galaxy Entertainment Group-assisted bids were evaluated and classified with similar scores, emphasizing that the change of LVS's partner did not significantly influence the outcome.

When questioned by both the judge and the defense lawyer, Green also said that the order for LVS to replace their partner in the tender came from government officials, and was authorized by the then secretary for Economy and Finance Francis Tam. Green noted that this was done "verbally."

He also said that he did not recall if any documents that provided proof of the new partnership

for LVS were given to the consultants' team.

After that, the consultants' team put forward a report to the gaming commission with the evaluation and ranks of the bidders, as requested, in February 2002.

Green noted that the submitted report went on to inform the commission's final ranking, which he said raised the scores previously attributed to some of the bidders — namely Galaxy Entertainment Group, Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM), and Wynn Resorts.

The final results were then announced a few days later.

Green is considered a key witness for the defense in the civil case filed by the AAEC, in which Hao's company is claiming compensation amounting to an equivalent to USD12 billion (MOP96.2 billion). The claims are made on the grounds of the role the AAEC claims to have played ensuring in the granting of LVS's casino operator license in Macau almost 20 years ago.

After the Covid-19 pandemic interrupted proceedings for several months, the trial resumed on Friday. Green purportedly flew in from Australia, undergoing quarantine in medical observation for almost a month in order to testify on the case.

The TJB will continue to hear from Green on the case, with the next session to be held this afternoon.

WE CORRECT Clarification on the news article about the LVS lawsuit

In regard to the Macau Daily Times article titled "LVS to bring in David Green as key witness in multi-billion-dollar case" published on Friday, Oct. 8, in our newspaper, we clarify that David Green has never been an employee of Sands China Limited - as it was wrongly stated in said article. The correction was promptly made on our online edition, last Friday.

For this unfortunate but honest error, we sincerely apologize to Sands China Limited, Las Vegas Sands, Mr. Green and the readers.

David Green arrived in Macau on August 30. After a month-long quarantine, last Friday, he gave his testimony in regard to a lawsuit, filed in a Macau court, by Asian American Entertainment Corporation against Las Vegas Sands. **PC**

COD to manage Club Cubic following 'unfruitful' talks on rent reductions

LYNZY VALLES

THE operator of Club Cubic Macau said that it has failed in its attempt to seek rent reductions for its space with City of Dreams, causing it to halt its operations.

In a filing at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, operator Luk Hing Entertain-

ment Group implied that the negotiation for rent reduction for the club was motivated by the effects of the city's lockdowns.

In a statement, the firm said that the operations of Club Cubic Macau have been "materially and adversely impacted by lockdowns, closure of business and social distancing mea-

sures" due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The Group had attempted to liaise with COD Resorts Limited (COD), the cooperation partner of Club Cubic Macau for rent reductions or concessions, but the result was not very fruitful."

"Due to disputes between COD and the Group

in relation to the operation of Club Cubic Macau at the Boulevard, City of Dreams, Macau, the Group would be unable to continue to operate Club Cubic Macau from October 8, 2021," it added.

On October 8, Melco Resorts & Entertainment announced in a statement that City of Dreams Macau

has taken over the management and operation of its nightclub, declaring the cessation of operations at Club Cubic.

The nightclub will reopen as soon as the current precautionary health measures are lifted by the Macau government, and will be operated under a new name.

According to the gaming operator, "all local employees will be offered the option to continue to be involved in the operation of the nightclub."

Last week's announce-

ment that the entertainment venue and facilities should close is the second time the government has issued such a mandate following the increasing number of Covid-19 cases in the SAR.

There is as yet no date for when these venues and facilities are allowed to resume operations.

The first lockdown was initiated in August following the discovery of a cluster of Delta variant cases in a family of four. The closures of these spaces lasted two weeks.

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'Lionrock' broke duration records; first T8 of 2021

RENATO MARQUES

OVER the weekend, Macau had its first tropical cyclone reach Signal 8 in 2021. The "Lionrock" also broke duration records — it was the longest recorded period of a severe typhoon affecting the region, with the Signal 8 hoisted for a total of 20 hours from October 9 at 6 a.m. until 2 a.m., October 10.

At the typhoon's peak, the Ci-

vil Protection Operations Centre (COPC) registered a total of 30 incidents, including 22 cases of the collapse of building plaster, concrete parts or tiles, shops of street signage, windows, awnings, and other objects.

In some cases, assistance with the removal of objects at imminent risk of falling and causing harm or damage was provided by the Fire Services on behalf of the COPC.

The COPC also registered six cases of residents sustaining injuries caused by the tropical storm. The COPC has noted that all of the cases were considered minor injuries.

A total of 21 people solicited help and made use of shelter facilities provided by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS).

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) also reported five illegal acts committed by taxi drivers

during the peak period of the typhoon were reported. Four cases involved illicit attempts at fare negotiation, and one case of refusal to provide transport.

During the 20-hour Signal 8 hoisting, the COPC hotline received a total of 26 calls for help or support, concerning traffic accidents, nucleic acid testing, and others.

Flooding was also registered in many areas of the Peninsula and the islands, largely in the low-lying areas.

According to reports from residents, even after the Signal 8 was lowered in the early hours of the morning on Sunday, several cases of flooding and landslides occurred, mostly as a consequence of three days of heavy rain.

The authorities have also noted that they will put in extra effort to clear the damage caused by the passage of Lionrock. They will do so at the time as another tropical storm named "Kompasu" approaches, which has been spotted east of the Philippines.

Kompasu is forecast to move across the Luzon Strait into the northern part of the South China Sea in the next one-two days.

According to the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau, it is expected that rainbands brought on by Kompasu will generate unsettled weather in Macau in the coming days. Winds will continue to be strong, and heavy showers are expected to return mid-week.

BOXER IN CRITICAL CONDITION AFTER MATCH

STAFF REPORTER

A local boxer is currently in a life-threatening condition after a sparring match at a boxing ring, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced.

The victim was brought to Conde São Januário Hospital, where he was diagnosed with a hematoma in the right brain lobe and severe cerebral hemorrhaging. He underwent brain surgery and has been transferred to the Intensive Care Unit.

Investigation revealed that the victim and suspect are friends. Both have several years of boxing experience, having entered and won competitions each.

Days before the incident, the suspect invited the victim to practice. They met up on October 4 at a boxing gym in Taipa.

There were several witnesses on site, including a qualified coach who was the referee for the match. Seven minutes into sparring, the victim received a punch to the left cheek and sat down immediately after.

The coach then put a stop to the match. The victim suddenly fainted while resting. The police were called to the site, and the fire department then brought the victim to the hospital.

According to witness statements, the pair agreed to only wear mouth guards, boxing gloves and protective foot gear before the match. They did not wear head gear.

After questioning the suspect, he admitted that the two did not wear enough protective gear to spar, which led to the victim becoming severely injured.

The case was transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office.

The judge of the criminal prosecution court decided to take the following compulsory measures against the suspect: provide access to his identity data and residential address, post a cash bail of MOP10,000, and submit regular reports at the police station every 15 days.

COVID-19

Gov't enforces NAT tests for certain occupation, racial groups following new cases

ANTHONY LAM

CERTAIN occupational and racial groups of individuals — identified as key groups by the Health Bureau (SSM) — have been ordered to take four nucleic acid tests (NAT) in eight days.

The new series of tests concerns workers in construction, laundry and security trades, as well as non-resident workers from Nepal and Vietnam. They are required by the SSM to take a test every two days for eight consecutive days as soon as possible.

Neurosurgeon Tai Wa Hou, medical director of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital, defended the scheme, saying that these groups of individuals were picked because they have higher risk of infection. The aim

is to detect any infection as early as possible.

"These individuals are only identified as key screening targets," Tai stressed. "They are neither suspicious cases nor diagnosed. They don't even hold a yellow health code."

Regarding the parameters defining these groups, Tai said that those who have conducted "long-hour interior construction works after September 24" are included. In the security trade, only security guards are included.

Moreover, all individuals who work in a laundry plant, regardless of their specialization or position, are included.

When questioned whether there is a deadline for the high-frequency NAT scheme, Tai said that the authorities hope that these individuals can conclude the test series as

soon as possible.

He added that they did not have to commence their own test series yesterday or the day before, although he added that they should start today at the very latest. The key is that they conclude four tests within eight days, with a test every two days.

"We hope these groups

of individuals can finish the test series on October 17 at the latest," Tai eventually specified.

Tai hinted that the SSM has no means of pinpointing construction workers who fit the definition for this test series. He added that the test series is advantageous for these individuals. "Early detection

results in early treatment," Tai said.

"If they fail to get tested two times consecutively, they will get yellow health codes," Tai warned.

Tai did not confirm whether the SSM is preparing for the fourth round citywide NAT test, although the authorities are always making evaluations.

QUARANTINE MEASURES UPON ARRIVAL

WITH effect from October 7, prior to boarding a non-stop flight or the first flight of an interline itinerary for Macau from overseas places:

- Individuals travelling from extremely high-risk countries (**Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Turkey**) must present a proof of three negative COVID-19 nucleic acid tests within seven days (each at least 24 hours apart, with the last test performed no earlier than 48 hours before boarding).

- Individuals travelling from other countries must present a proof of negative COVID-19 nucleic acid test taken within 48 hours.
- Individuals aged 12 or above must also present a certificate certifying that they have completed the whole course of COVID-19 vaccination for 14 days, or that they are unfit for COVID-19 vaccination. Relevant certificates must be issued for the purpose of international travel or recognized by the Chinese Embassies/Consulates.



COVID-19

GOV'T ISSUES ITINERARIES OF CASES 76 AND 77

STAFF REPORTER

AUTHORITIES have disclosed the itineraries of the city's two latest Covid-19 patients, including routes taken to local supermarkets and a restaurant.

The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre confirmed on Saturday that two more Covid-19 cases were registered, bringing Macau's tally to 77.

Patient 76, a 53-year-old man, is a mainland non-resident worker who lived in the same building as case 75. Nucleic acid tests (NATs)

carried out on September 27, October 5, 6, and 7 were all negative. However, the test done on October 8 returned a positive result.

The patient had been under medical isolation since October 4, as he was deemed a close contact of case 75.

Patient 76 had been vaccinated with one dose of Sinopharm's inactivated vaccine on May 31 in Macau, and had a fever on October 8.

On October 4, the patient boarded bus no. 17 (MX-15-52) bound to Cultural Center at Jardim

S. Francisco bus stop. He met up with a friend outside Praça Kin Heng Long and boarded the same bus route at Alameda Dr. Carlos D'Assumpção stop before getting off at Amal.

He had dinner at Jardim Triangular at 7:16 p.m. and left home by 8:12 p.m.

Meanwhile, patient 77 is a 49-year-old Vietnamese woman, also a non-resident worker. She is friends with patient 75. NATs done on September 25, October 4, 5, 6, and 7 all yielded negative results. However, the NAT done on Oc-

tober 8 came back positive.

The woman had been under medical observation since October 5 as she was a close contact of patient 75.

Patient 77 had been vaccinated with two doses of Sinopharm inactivated on July 1 and July 30, and showed no symptoms.

She stayed at The Bayview (Tower 3) in the morning of October 4. She went to

Sunsco Supermarket nearby at 4:22 p.m. and to Cheang Chong Kei Frozen Food Ltd at 4:48 p.m. before returning home.

Both patients have been brought to the Public Health Clinical Center for further diagnosis and treatment.

771 RESIDENTS TESTED

The center has reported that all NAT testing at The Bayview, where patient 77 had stayed, was completed October 9.

A total of 771 residents were tested, along with 102 environmental samples collected from common areas of the building. All results came back negative, and building control measures were lifted that same day. The building was not set as a red zone due to it being considered a low-risk infection site.

From 8 a.m. yesterday, residents of Edificio San Mei On inhabitants were transferred to a hotel to continue their medical observation, as case 76 resides in this building.

According to the standards of the National Health Commission, of the 12 cases related to case 64, four of them are considered asymptomatic infections and eight are related to imported cases.

Bayview NAT test-takers quarantined, but not residents

ANTHONY LAM

CERTAIN individuals that took part in the citywide nuclei acid tests (NATs) at the Bayview Building have been quarantined, while the building's residents have not been, public health doctor Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, admitted to the regular health press briefing yesterday.

Certain citywide NAT test takers who had their samples collected at the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) facility on the ground floor of the Bayview Building received calls from the Health Bureau (SSM), asking them to prepare for mandatory quarantine. This situation came to li-

ght amongst the press yesterday afternoon, before the briefing.

The press was also made aware that the 77th patient, who is a domestic helper working and living in the Bayview's Block 3, took her citywide NAT test on October 4.

Prior to these disclosures, members of the public had not been satisfied with the SSM's "double-standard" in handling of the Bayview Building. The prime residential estate was neither identified as Red nor Yellow Zone, to the chagrin of some.

It also came to the attention of the Times that residents of the Bayview's Block 3 were only required to obtain two negative NAT test results before

they were allowed out.

Coincidentally, the previous red or yellow zones consisted of traditional low-rise buildings, which are also known as "tong-lau."

Leong admitted that the 20 individuals in the queue at the citywide NAT test station – specifically the 10 in front of and the 10 behind the diagnosed domestic helper – were told to undergo centralized quarantine.

She added that, epidemiologically speaking, the patient was not highly contagious on October 4, given that she was diagnosed in the early morning of October 9. "She got negative results in the NAT tests done on October 4, 5, 6 and 7," Leong said.

Leong disclosed that the residents in the building who have shared the same elevator trip with the patient are conducting their quarantine "under arrangement."

It has also come to netizens' attentions that the employer of the 77th patient is allegedly a head nurse at the private Kiang Wu Hospital, who provided help in the citywide NAT test. The fact that her employee was diagnosed has, according to netizens, prompted the private hospital to regularly test its team.

On the question of whether the alleged head nurse was prone to or took any risks at the citywide NAT test, Leong stressed that all medical staff at this past citywide NAT test

were ordered to wear a full protective suit.

Meanwhile, during the employer's breaktime at the NAT test, interactions and conversations were conducted with other medical staff. These members of staff, according to Leong, have been quarantined.

When questioned as to why the authorities did not disclose the occupation of the employer, Leong said that it has not been a regular practice.

As to the connections between the recent infections, Leong disclosed that the 72nd to 75th patients had contracted the Delta variant of the virus. Meanwhile, the DNA patterns of these virus samples are 99.99% similar to those collected from the 64th to 66th and the 68th to 71st patients.

The SSM has ruled that the source of the infections was the returnee from Turkey.

STRANDED STUDENTS MAY RETURN HOME TO ZHUHAI

CCROSS-BORDER students under 14 years of age currently stranded in Macau may gradually return to their homes in Zhuhai with quarantine-upon-arrival, Wong Ka Ki, chief of the Department of Non-tertiary Education of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ), said at yesterday's regular health press briefing.

Wong disclosed that authorities in Zhuhai have decided to allow these stranded students to cross the border to go home, although quarantine will be required upon arrival in Zhuhai.

"If their residents in Zhuhai meet disease control requirements — with the confirmation, communications and awareness of their District Committee management — then qualified cross-border students under the age of 14 who are now stranded in Macau may return to Zhuhai with an accompanying adult," Wong announced. "Home-quarantine will be conducted."

Wong further explained that the DSEDJ will communicate with schools to identify the students concerned. They will return to Zhuhai on either October 11 or 12. There are about 500 qualified students and parents or guardians.

The group of individuals have undergone NAT testing in Macau. Upon arrival in Zhuhai, they will take another NAT test at a designated hotel. When a negative result is obtained, they will be sent home for quarantine.

As online classes are set to return in the coming week, the education official was asked by the press about the allegations that certain schools force their students to turn the webcam on during class, which raises privacy concerns.

Wong believes that students can have online classes in a less revealing corner of their homes. He also suggests students to try blurring the backgrounds or changing them using augmented reality technology. **AL**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

ADVERTORIAL



Golden Week arrivals dip in blow to city

THE just-concluded week-long National Day holiday often dubbed Golden Week was an extraordinary one for the Macau Special Administrative Region (SAR) – a city highly dependent on tourism — due to the blows dealt by Covid-19.

Since September 24, the SAR has reported 10 Covid-19 cases. From September 26, travellers who enter neighboring Macau from the mainland city of Zhuhai via the land border have been required to undergo 14 days of quarantine.

As a result, the city was quiet during the Golden Week holiday, in sharp contrast to the period in previous years. Few people were seen at famous tourist spots such as the Ruins of St. Paul and the Senado Square, which were once known to be crowded with tourists.

Official figures showed that there were only 8,159 tourist arrivals recorded during the holiday, typically one of the city's busiest times.

Average daily tourist arrivals were 1,166, a stunning decline of 94% compared to last year — a disappointment for local retailers and the tourism sector generally.

Figures from the Public Security Police noted that in 2020 visitor arrivals were some 156,300 between October 1 and October 8.

Nevertheless, the average daily number of visitors during the holiday last year dropped by 86% compared to the same period in 2019.

Fong Kin Fu, board chairman of the Federal General Commercial Association of Macao Small and Medium Enterprises, said business owners had expected this holiday to make up for the losses they suffered earlier this year due to the recent epidemic.

However, the new cases re-

ported at the end of September and again on October 4 and 5 caused their plans to fall through. Some small and micro businesses have had to close temporarily, or even permanently.

"This was the most painful Golden Week holiday for Macau," Fong said.

The local government conducted two rounds of mass testing for Covid-19 on September 26 and October 4, with the population-wide results coming out negative.

Lei Choi Chu, a doctor at the public hospital in Macau, said medical workers have been working round the clock during the past days as part of the mass testing, and as part of the frequent testing of residents in areas where the confirmed cases live or had travelled to.

"Each round of testing took over 10 hours," Lei said. He added that medical staff would have to work for six hours straight, and only took short breaks before starting their next shifts.

Epidemiologists said they had to overcome language barriers in order to conduct the surveys, because several of the confirmed cases were people from foreign countries.

The public has voiced hope that this epidemic can be over soon and that the SAR government will take measures to relieve pressure on businesses and people's livelihood, so as to assist with economic recovery.

"The most important thing is to make Macau a really safe place for tourists," Fong said, suggesting that the government should speed up the vaccination of the public.

Official figures showed that, as of Friday, about 385,000 people of the SAR's total population of around 680,000 have been inoculated with at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine. LV/XINHUA

Create A Better
TOMORROW TODAY
今天開創明天



MGM Inaugurates Second High School Diploma Program



Dedicated to promoting lifelong learning among its team members, MGM strives to provide a diverse range of training and opportunities, in view of helping them unlock new achievements and career advancement. In 2016, the Company launched the MGM High School Diploma Program — a continuing education scheme designed to let team members attain their secondary school diplomas while working. Riding on the success of the first edition of the Program, which helped 41 team members attained their middle and high school diplomas, with seven of them advanced to universities, MGM launched the second edition this year for 65 spirited learners.



The MGM High School Diploma Program is fully supported by the Company. To help team members sail through their studies, MGM hosts the classes taught by the school's teachers at its properties, and the relevant departments also re-arrange their rosters to fit in the class schedules. With all of these convenient measures, team members are able to juggle work and study with ease, making the graduating class of first edition of the Program the largest group among all integrated resorts

operators. With proven track record, this year MGM partners with Escola Seong Fan da Associação Comercial de Macau — together with the support of the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) — to offer high school curriculum to 65 team members from seven departments.

Mr. Wong Ka Ki, Head of the Department of Non-tertiary Education of the DSEDJ, said, "The DSEDJ strives to promote continuing education which benefits all Macau residents. It is not easy for an employee to engage in study during leisure time. But thanks to the strong backing of MGM, its team members can enjoy a smooth learning journey. I wish them a bright future and witness their graduation ceremony in the future."



Mr. Cheang Hong Kuong, Principal of Escola Seong Fan Da Associação Comercial De Macau, said, "The Program embodies a great accomplishment achieved by the synergy between MGM, DSEDJ and our school. I want to express my gratitude to MGM which continually seeks to offer an enhanced learning environment to help its staff upskill themselves."

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TAIWAN REJECTS CHINA'S 'PATH' AMID SHOW OF MILITARY FORCE

HUIZONG WU, TAIPEI

TAIWAN'S leader yesterday vowed to defend the island from China's rising pressure for reunification, after a week of unprecedented tensions with Beijing.

Speaking at the island regime's founding celebrations, a rare show of Taiwanese defense capabilities in the annual parade underlined Tsai Ing-wen's promise to resist Chinese military threats.

"We will do our utmost to prevent the status quo from being unilaterally altered," Tsai said.

"We will continue to bolster our national defense and demonstrate our determination to defend ourselves in order to ensure that nobody can force Taiwan to take the path China has laid out for us," the Taiwanese leader added.

China claims Taiwan as part of its national territory although the island has been self-ruled since it split from the communist-ruled mainland in 1949 after a long civil war.

"The path that China has laid out offers neither a free and democratic way of life for Taiwan, nor sovereignty for our 23 million



people," Tsai said.

A choir of singers from Taiwan's various indigenous tribes opened the ceremony in front of the Presidential Office Building in the center of the capital, Taipei.

Surveys show Taiwanese overwhelmingly favor their current de-facto independent state and strongly rejects unification with China, which has vowed to bring the island under its control, by military force if necessary.

Tsai rarely singles out China in

her public speeches, but in this speech acknowledged the increasing tensions that Taiwan faces as Chinese military harassment intensified in the past year. Since September of last year, China has flown fighter jets more than 800 times towards Taiwan.

Since last Friday, China has sent a record-breaking number of fighter jets towards international airspace close to Taiwan.

The island has strengthened its unofficial ties with countries like

Japan, Australia and the U.S. in the face of these perceived threats.

"But the more we achieve, the greater the pressure we face from China," Tsai said in her speech.

Following the address, Taiwan's Ministry of Defense showed off a range of weaponry including missile launchers and armored vehicles while fighters jets and helicopters soared overhead. These included a formation of F-16, Indigenous Defense Fighters and Mirage 2000's, which left wide white contrails in

their wake.

The show of air power was followed by a group of CM32 tanks, followed later by trucks carrying missile systems.

Tsai said Taiwan wanted to contribute to peaceful regional development, even as the situation becomes "more tense and complex" in the Indo-Pacific.

On Saturday, China's leader Xi Jinping said that reunification with Taiwan "must be realized", while claiming "peaceful" reunification was possible.

"No one should underestimate the Chinese people's strong determination, will and capability to safeguard national sovereignty and territorial integrity," President Xi declared.

The parade yesterday in Taipei also featured Taiwan's Olympic athletes who won medals at the Tokyo summer games, as well as public health officials, including those who staff a daily press conference about the pandemic, wearing their distinctive neon yellow-edged vests.

Tsai also called on other legislative parties to put aside politics in order to push for the reform of the island's constitution, a document created by the then-ruling Nationalist Party in 1947 before it lost power and fled China ahead of the Communist takeover two years later. **MDT/AP**

AD

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ELECTIONS

S. Korea's ruling party nominates maverick politician in race

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

SOUTH Korea's ruling liberal party yesterday nominated its candidate for next year's presidential elections, selecting a maverick politician known for his outspoken views who is likely to be the race's front-runner.

Lee Jae-myung's nomination as the Democratic Party presidential candidate comes despite his rivals' efforts to depict him as a dangerous populist and link him to a snowballing real estate scandal.

Lee has vowed to fight economic inequality, introduce a universal basic income and resume reconciliation projects with North Korea.

In his acceptance speech, Lee bowed deeply several times and said he'd want to carry out what he called a public call to "root out unfairness, inequality and corruption" and carry out other sweeping reform steps.

"I'd restrain the excessive desires by the strong and protect the lives of the weak. I'd protect the people's jobs, income and welfare," Lee said.

Party officials announced Lee had collected about 50.3% of all votes cast during the race, defeating three challengers in a Demo-



Gyeonggi Gov. Lee Jae-myung, left, elected as the ruling Democratic Party's candidate for next year's presidential election, shakes hands with former Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon

cratic Party primary that ended yesterday.

Lee, 56, is the governor of South Korea's most populous Gyeonggi province that surrounds the capital of Seoul. He is known as a tough-speaking liberal who has built up an image as an anti-establishment figure. He's also well-known for his self-made success

story as he worked as a boy laborer at a factory, a time that left him an arm disability before he taught himself law, passed the country's notoriously difficult bar exam and worked as a human rights lawyer.

Before becoming governor in 2018, Lee worked as mayor of Seongnam, a city inside Geyon-

ggi, for eight years. Previously a political outsider, he rose sharply amid public anger over an explosive 2016-17 corruption scandal that eventually led to the ouster of the conservative President Park Geun-hye.

Lee has said that if elected, he would focus on easing South Korea's deep-rooted economic polarization and inequality that he says causes other social problems, as well as hurting South Korea's economic growth.

Some of his actions and campaign pledges have drawn accusations from critics that they are populism-driven ideas. Among them are his provision of COVID-19 relief fund to all Gyeonggi residents, contrary to the central government's decision to give such money to only 88% of the country's population; a promise to adopt a universal basic income to give all citizens at least 1 million won (\$840) every year; and a push to not levying toll fees from cars using a bridge in Gyeonggi.

Lee has also faced an escalating political offensive by his opponents over a dubious property development project in Seongnam when he served as mayor there. One former senior city official has been arrested over the scandal. A small asset

management firm and its affiliates made massive profits from the project and there are suspicions about possible corruptive links among them, city authorities and other high-profile figures.

Next year's March 9 election will likely be a two-way race between Lee and whoever wins the main conservative People Power Party's nomination in November. Most recent surveys put Lee ahead of either of the two main conservative presidential hopefuls, though some indicated they were in a neck-and-neck competition.

The election is meant to find a successor of current President Moon Jae-in, a Democratic Party member whose single five-year term has been marked by dramatic tensions with North Korea, a worsened conservative-liberal divide at home and varied economic woes.

On North Korea, Lee said he would take a similar appeasement policy as Moon's. He said he would seek a relief of international sanctions on the North to resume stalled inter-Korean cooperation projects. To resolve the North Korean nuclear crisis, Lee said he would propose that each of North Korea's denuclearization steps be matched with the easing of sanctions that can be restored if the North fails to implement its disarmament pledges.

Those proposals weren't something new and it's unclear if they could be realized. The U.S. has said the sanctions will stay in place unless North Korea takes concrete steps toward denuclearization. **MDT/AP**

INDIA

Police detain hundreds amid violence in Kashmir

GOVERNMENT forces have detained at least 500 people in a sweeping crackdown in Indian-controlled Kashmir, local officials said yesterday, following a string of suspected militant attacks and targeted killings in the disputed region.

Assailants fatally shot three Hindus and a Sikh person in the region's main city of Srinagar this week in a sudden rise in violence against civilians that both pro- and anti-India Kashmiri politicians widely condemned.

Local police blamed the spate of killings on militants fighting against Indian rule in the region for decades. Officials said they had detained in the last three days over 500 people across the Kashmir Valley for question-



In this Oct. 8, 2021 file photo, Sikh community members carry the body of slain Satinder Kaur, a government school teacher during her funeral procession in Srinagar, India.

ing, with the majority of detainees from the main city of Srinagar.

Police say militants belonging to The Resistance Front, or TRF, rebel group have shot and killed seven people since last week, pushing up the death toll

from such attacks this year to 28 people. While 21 of those slain were Muslims, seven of them belonged to Hindu and Sikh minority communities.

Speaking with reporters recently, the region's top police officer Dilbag Singh

described the killings as a "conspiracy to create terror and communal rift."

On Thursday, TRF in a statement on social media claimed the group was targeting those working for Indian authorities, and was not picking targets based

on faith. The rebel group's statement could not be independently verified.

Indian officials say TRF is the local front for Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group that is based in Pakistan. The cell was formed after India stripped in 2019 the region of its semi-autonomous status, scrapped its statehood, and undertook a massive security and communications lockdown for months. Kashmir has remained on edge ever since as authorities also put in place a slew of new laws, which critics and many Kashmiris fear could change the region's demographics.

This last week's killings appeared to trigger widespread fear among minority communities, with many Hindu families opting to leave the Muslim-majority

Kashmir Valley. Those killed included a prominent Kashmiri Hindu chemist, two schoolteachers of the Hindu and Sikh faiths, and a Hindu street food vendor from India's eastern state of Bihar.

According to police, those detained in the ensuing crackdown include members of religious groups, anti-India activists and "overground workers," a term Indian authorities use for militant sympathizers and collaborationists.

The Himalayan territory of Kashmir is divided between India and Pakistan. Both the nuclear-armed arch-rival powers claim it in its entirety.

Rebels in the Indian-controlled portion of Kashmir have been fighting New Delhi's rule since 1989. Most Muslim Kashmiris support the rebel goal of uniting the territory, either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country. **MDT/AP**



Maria Ressa (left) and Dmitry Muratov

Nobel Peace Prize awarded to journalists Ressa and Muratov

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV,
KIKO ROSARIO &
VANESSA GERA, MOSCOW

JOURNALISTS Maria Ressa of the Philippines and Dmitry Muratov of Russia won the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for their fight for freedom of expression in countries where reporters have faced persistent attacks, harassment and even murder.

Ressa and Muratov were honored for their "courageous" work but also were considered "representatives of all journalists who stand up for this ideal in a world in which democracy and freedom of the press face increasingly adverse conditions," said Berit Reiss-Andersen, chair of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

Ressa in 2012 co-founded Rappler, a news website that the committee noted had focused critical attention on President Rodrigo Duterte's "controversial, murderous anti-drug campaign" in the Philippines.

She and Rappler "have also documented how social media is being used to spread fake news, harass opponents and manipulate public discourse," it said.

Muratov was one of the founders in 1993 of the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta, which the Nobel committee called "the most independent newspaper in Russia today, with a fundamentally critical attitude

de towards power." "The newspaper's fact-based journalism and professional integrity have made it an important source of information on censurable aspects of Russian society rarely mentioned by other media," it added, noting that six of its journalists were killed since its founding.

Ressa, the first Filipino to win the peace prize and the first woman to be honored this year with an award by the Nobel committee, was convicted last year of libel and sentenced to jail in a decision seen as a major blow to press global freedom.

Currently out on bail but facing seven active legal cases, Ressa, 58, said she hopes the award will bolster investigative journalism "that will hold power to account."

"This relentless campaign of harassment and intimidation against me and my fellow journalists in the Philippines is a stark example of a global trend," she told The Associated Press.

She also pointed to social media giants like Facebook as a serious threat to democracy, saying "they actually prioritized the spread of lies laced with anger and hate over facts."

"I didn't think that what we are going through would get that attention. But the fact that it did also shows you how important the battles we face are, right?" she said. "This is going to be what our elections are going to be like

next year. It is a battle for facts. When you're in a battle for facts, journalism is activism."

Muratov, 59, said he sees the prize as an award to Novaya Gazeta journalists and contributors who were killed, including Anna Politkovskaya, who covered Russia's bloody conflict in Chechnya.

"It's a recognition of the memory of our fallen colleagues," he said.

"Since the Nobel Peace Prize isn't awarded posthumously, they came up with this so that Anya could take it, but through other, second hands," Muratov said, referring to Politkovskaya.

According to the Committee to Protect Journalists, 17 media workers were killed in the Philippines in the last decade and 23 in Russia.

Muratov said he would use part of his share of the 10 million Swedish kronor (over \$1.14 million) prize money to help independent media as well as a Moscow hospice and children with spinal muscular problems. He said he wouldn't keep any of the money himself.

Former Soviet leader and 1990 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mikhail Gorbachev used some of his award to help fund what would become Novaya Gazeta. He congratulated Muratov, calling him "a wonderful, brave and honest journalist and my friend."

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also praised Muratov as a "talented and brave"

person who "has consistently worked in accordance with his ideals."

But Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia's envoy to international organizations in Vienna, tweeted that Novaya Gazeta's editorial policy "has nothing to do with strengthening peace" and that "such controversial decisions diminish the value of the Prize."

Moscow-based political analyst Abbas Gallyamov said the award marked "a painful strike to the Russian authorities [...] because the freedom of speech and the principles of independent journalism are an evil in the eyes of Russian authorities."

As part of a new crackdown on independent journalists in Russia under President Vladimir Putin, the government has designated some of them "foreign agents," saying they received funding from abroad and engaged in undescribed "political activities." Muratov said he asked government officials who congratulated him if he would now also receive that designation, but received no reply.

The state RIA Novosti news agency quoted lawmaker Alexander Bashkin as saying the Nobel wouldn't fall under the definition of foreign funding under the bill on foreign agents. Hours after the prize announcement, the Russian Justice Ministry added nine more journalists to its list of foreign agents.

Media rights group Reporters Without Borders celebrated the announcement, expressing "joy and urgency."

Director Christophe Deloire called it "an extraordinary tribute to journalism, an excellent tribute to all journalists who take risks everywhere around the world to defend the right to information."

"Journalism is in danger, journalism is weakened, journalism is threatened. Democracies are weakened by disinformation, by rumors, by hate speech," said Deloire, whose group has worked with Ressa and Muratov to defend journalism in their countries and comes under regular criticism from authoritarian governments.

U.S. President Joe Biden congratulated Ressa and Muratov for the "much-deserved honor."

"Ressa, Muratov, and journalists like them all around the world are on the front lines of a global battle for the very idea of the truth, and I, along with people everywhere, am grateful for their groundbreaking work to 'hold the line,' as Ressa so often says," Biden said in a statement. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1976 CHINA'S 'GANG OF FOUR' ARRESTED



The new chairman of China's Communist Party, Hua Guofeng, has ordered the arrest of four leading radicals in Peking.

It is a sign that China is changing political direction following the death last month of Chairman Mao Zedong.

The so-called Gang of Four is led by Chairman Mao's widow Jian Qing, and includes Wang Hongwen, Yao Wenyuan, and Zhang Chunqiao.

They were active proponents of the Cultural Revolution instigated ten years ago by Chairman Mao.

This was a political and ideological campaign aimed at reviving revolutionary fervour and resulted in enormous social, economic and political upheaval.

Ideological cleansing began with attacks by young Red Guards on so-called "intellectuals" to remove "bourgeois" influences. It is believed millions were forced into manual labour, and tens of thousands were executed.

Mr Zhang rose up the ranks during the first year of the Cultural Revolution in Shanghai and was until recently chief political commissar of the armed forces.

Mr Wang had less power but was regarded a wonderboy - he rose to number three in the party in 1973 while still only in his late thirties, relatively young by Chinese standards.

Mr Yao, also a member of the Politburo standing committee, is regarded as dedicated, if not fanatical, in his belief in Maoist ideals of social development.

Jian Qing, formerly an actress, became Chairman Mao's third wife in 1939. She is regarded as a radical and active proponent of Maoist principles but in the years before his death, had led an independent life from her husband.

News of the arrests have not been confirmed by China's officials but it is believed the four were attempting a coup in the wake of the death of Chairman Mao on 9 September.

Some reports say Jian Qing was in the process of forging Chairman Mao's will placing her as Mao's successor, when she and her associates were surrounded by Hua Guofeng's personal bodyguards and placed under house arrest.

They are being questioned about their campaign against former prime minister Zhou Enlai, who died in January.

Commentators say the arrests might lead to a liberalisation of foreign, cultural and economic policy - the Times newspaper editorial calls this latest move "the most potent sign of a new political direction" following 27 years of Maoist dogma.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Gang of Four were kept under house arrest and, following a propaganda campaign against them, were expelled from the Communist Party in July 1977.

By the end of 1978 reformist Deng Xiaoping had effectively wrested power from Hua Guofeng - although he did not assume the title of premier of China and chair of the CCP until 1982.

On 20 November 1980 all members of the Gang of Four were put on trial charged with attempting to overthrow the government and establish a hardline Communist dictatorship.

They were sentenced to death, later commuted to long-term imprisonment. After a period of political indoctrination Jian Qing was released in 1991 and died soon after - some reports say she committed suicide.

Wang Hongwen died in 1992, Zhang Chunqiao died in April 2005 and Yao Wenyuan died in December 2005.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 You will learn a great deal from other people. Your relationship appears to be stressed out and depleted. You can bet that someone in a higher position is watching to see how busy you are.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 You have your own family to consider as well. Go after your professional goals. This is a great day for a trip. You will meet new friends and enjoy a multitude of new activities.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 Be cautious and use your head wisely in situations that deal with the use of machinery or vehicles. Major job changes or opportunities to get ahead professionally are apparent.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Keep an open mind when dealing with youngsters. Problems with skin, bones, or teeth may mess up your schedule. Your talents are likely to be discovered.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Rethink your motives and make the necessary changes to yourself. Anger might lead to carelessness and minor injuries. A little overtime may help you reduce the workload.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Spending too much time talking to friends or relatives could easily turn into a debate that could lead to estrangement. You'll be surprised how much you can accomplish.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Personal alterations will be in your best interest. Don't let yourself get rundown. Sudden changes at home will affect family members more than you anticipated.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Be sure not to reveal private information to the wrong individuals. Beware of someone who is trying to make you look bad. Most partner problems are a result of both people not living up to their promises.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 You will have to face each issue separately and in person. You will be in the doghouse if you are being. Don't let your personal problems interfere with your professional responsibilities.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Deception and confusion regarding your status in society is likely. You will get bored quickly, so make sure that you have scheduled enough activity to hold your interest.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Be cautious when dealing with coworkers. Someone you work with may be emotional. You need to concentrate on solving existing problems.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Entertainment should include the whole family or a lot of your friends. Your emotional reaction will be dependent upon your partner's responsiveness.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	6	18	fine
Harbin	2	15	fine
Tianjin	17	19	cloudy
Urumqi	13	17	cloudy
Xi'an	15	16	overcast
Lhasa	12	17	fine
Chengdu	25	31	rain
Chongqing	23	29	cloudy
Kunming	18	22	cloudy
Nanjing	12	16	overcast
Shanghai	24	29	thunderstorms
Wuhan	20	21	rain
Hangzhou	5	16	fine
Taipei	13	19	cloudy
Guangzhou	22	26	overcast
Hong Kong	26	27	overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	14	overcast
Frankfurt	3	13	rain
Paris	11	16	fine
London	10	14	rain
New York	16	21	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Big brass; 5- Actor Stoltz; 9- Coarse file, angry tone of voice; 13- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 14- Change a song; 16- Airline to Tel Aviv; 17- Dudley Do-Right's love; 18- Elude; 19- Merlin, e.g.; 20- Barbershop request; 21- Marshal at Waterloo; 22- Elevated; 24- Earth Day subj.; 26- Beethoven's birthplace; 27- Good ___; 29- Like a close neighbor; 33- Aristotle's teacher; 34- Cut-price retail event; 35- Remain; 36- Gobble up; 37- Groundwork; 38- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 39- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 41- Kitchen addition; 42- Unties; 44- Lay beneath; 46- Watch over; 47- Actor Connery; 48- Prefix for small; 49- "That ___ help"; 52- Joplin song; 53- One of the Simpsons; 57- Ticklish doll; 58- Checking out; 60- Desire; 61- Son of ___; 62- Satan; 63- Lab gel; 64- Miss; 65- Step; 66- Eastern discipline;

DOWN 1- Portable shelter; 2- Manipulator; 3- Java neighbor; 4- Illness; 5- Before this time; 6- Have a ball; 7- If ___ be so bold...; 8- Spain's El ___; 9- Causes to remember; 10- Woe is me!; 11- Wise; 12- Answered a charge; 15- Copies; 23- Tiny toiler; 25- Corp. honcho; 26- Contradict; 27- Actor Delon; 28- Satisfied; 29- Beastly; 30- Different; 31- Paddled; 32- Cereal grasses; 33- Andean country; 34- The devil; 37- Detained; 40- Teachings; 42- Enjoyable; 43- Railroad; 45- Stimp's pal; 46- Snicker; 48- Frenzied; 49- What's the big ___?; 50- Gymnast Korbut; 51- Big birds; 52- 1972 Kentucky Derby winner ___ Ridge; 54- Emilia's husband; 55- Hitch; 56- Gillette brand; 59- "Sure thing";

Friday's solution

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

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- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
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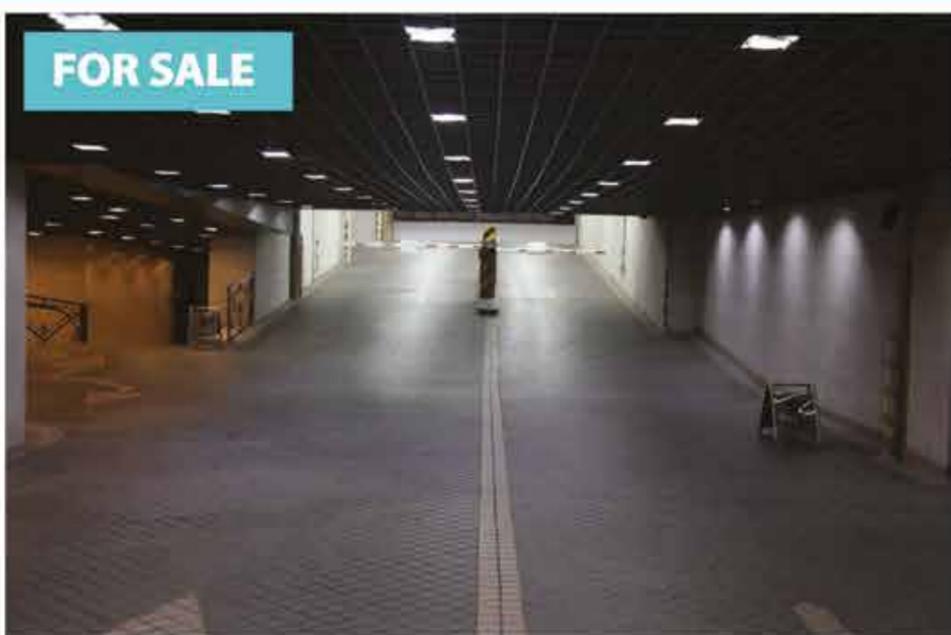


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Property of the Week



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Property Hotlist



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1



Ref: 2108 6004



One Oasis Carpark HKD 3,100/mth

1



Ref: 2107 6004



Va Fat HKD 10,900/mth

740 ft²

1
1



Ref: 1910 1006

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- [Taipa] Taipa Village 4 2 1,404 ft² **HKD 8,380,000** Ref: 1909 6006
- [Macau] Unique apartment 2 2 2,200 ft² **HKD 9,990,000** Ref: 1511 5464
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 1 2 2 1,707 ft² **HKD 10,880,000** Ref: 2107 6005
- [Taipa] Panorama 4 4 4,038 ft² **HKD 24,800,000** Ref: 2103 6003

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

TENNIS

Top-seeds Medvedev, Pliskova roll to wins at Indian Wells

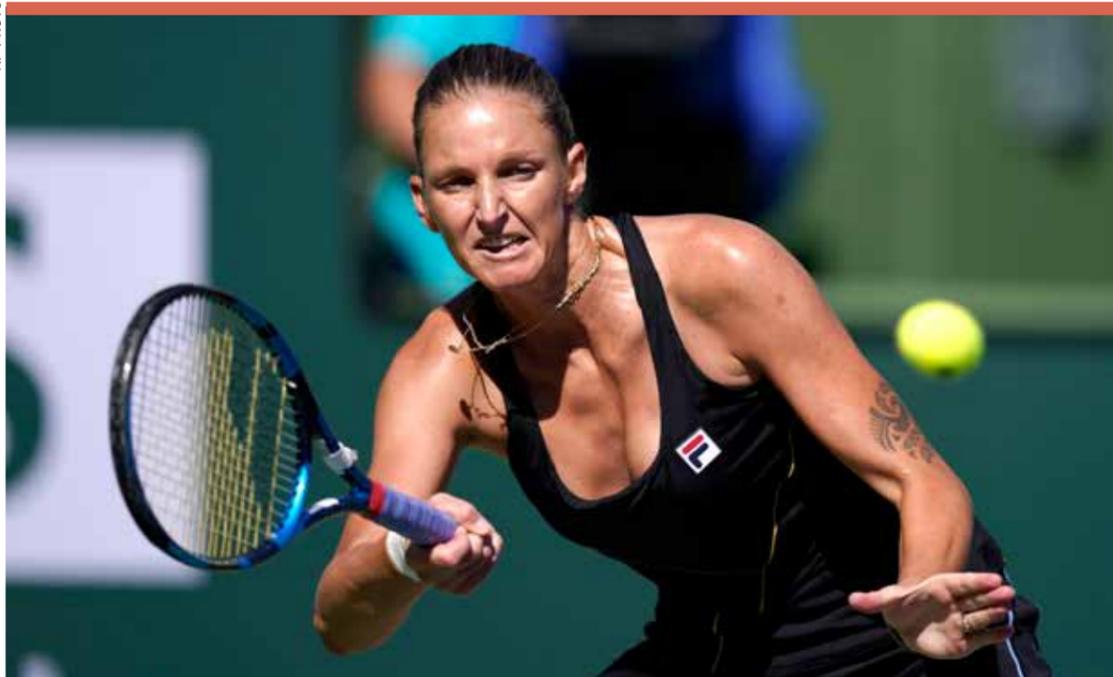
TOP seeds Daniil Medvedev and Karolina Pliskova rolled to straight-set victories at the BNP Paribas Open on Saturday, when several lower-seeded players were knocked out.

Medvedev beat American Mackenzie McDonald 6-4, 6-2, extending his winning streak to eight matches dating to his U.S. Open championship last month. Medvedev never faced a break point against McDonald, who was broken three times.

"I'm actually really pleased because usually I haven't played well in Indian Wells and I haven't been playing that well in practices," Medvedev said. "I'm really happy with my performance. That's the most important thing no matter how I played before the tournament."

Pliskova advanced to the third round with a 7-5, 6-2

AP PHOTO



win over Magdalena Frech at the combined ATP and WTA event. Pliskova fired six aces, giving her a Tour-leading 387 this year, and converted five

of her six break points.

Bianca Andreescu, the 2019 champion, beat Alison Riske 7-6 (2), 7-5.

Fifth-seeded Garbine Mu-

guruza was the highest-seeded woman to lose.

Muguruza, who won last week's event in Chicago, lost to Ajla Tomljanovic 3-6, 6-1,

6-3. It was Tomljanovic's first win in seven tries over a Top-10 player this year. She was a quarterfinalist at Wimbledon in July.

Anna Kalinskaya outlasted No. 28 Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-3, 4-6, 6-2 and American Amanda Anisimova defeated No. 30 Camila Giorgi 6-4, 6-1.

No. 12 seed Ons Jabeur, who lost to Muguruza in the Chicago final, advanced with a 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3 win over Anastasija Sevastova for her Tour-leading 45th match victory of the year.

Coco Gauff, seeded 15th, outlasted Caroline Garcia 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-1, offsetting 12 aces with seven double faults.

No. 18 Anett Kontaveit retired trailing 6-3, 5-2 against Martina Trevisan. No. 22 Danielle Collins advanced when Lauren Davis retired trailing 6-1.

On the men's side, No. 8 Hubert Hurkacz, No. 11 Diego Schwartzman, No. 16 Reilly Opelka and No. 18 Daniel Evans won.

No. 9 Denis Shapovalov was leading 3-0 when Vasek Pospisil retired. Tommy Paul defeated No. 28 Dušan Lajović 6-3, 6-3 and Frances Tiafoe beat No. 32 Sebastian Korda 6-0, 6-4. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

China Daily

Wang Shushen, in China Daily

TAIWAN'S FUTURE LIES IN REUNIFICATION

On Saturday President Xi Jinping delivered a speech at a gathering to mark the 110th anniversary of the Revolution of 1911. One hundred and ten years ago, revolutionaries led by Sun Yat-sen overthrew the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), putting an end to the absolute monarchy that had dominated China for several thousand years.

The 1911 Revolution reflected the desire of the Chinese people to achieve political independence, realize the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and promote social change in the country.

The significance of the 1911 Revolution has been recognized by both sides of the Taiwan Straits, and Chinese people across the Straits should commemorate the historic achievement together.

In the important speech, President Xi emphasized national reunification by peaceful means best serves China's interests. He said that the Taiwan question arose out of the weakness and chaos of the Chinese nation, and it will be resolved as national rejuvenation becomes a reality.

Sun Yat-sen called for efforts to revitalize the Chinese nation and safeguard the integrity and unity of the country, and hoped that China would keep pace with the times and rank among the world's top nations in the future.

Over the past 70-odd years, cross-Straits relations have seen tense confrontations, thaw and peaceful exchanges. But healthy cross-Straits relations are of fundamental interest to people on both sides of the Straits and to the benefit of the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.

The Chinese mainland will stick to the path. Upholding the idea that people on both sides of the Straits are one family, the mainland has been creating opportunities of growth for Taiwan, and giving the mainland and island residents and enterprises the same treatment.

Irrespective of the difficulties, cross-Straits exchanges should never be stopped. Despite the attempts of Taiwan's ruling Democratic Progressive Party to undermine cross-Straits ties, the mainland has kept offering preferential policies in a bid to garner the support of more Taiwan residents, especially those who study, work, and live on the mainland, to realize the national rejuvenation.

But since assuming power in May 2016, the pro-independence DPP has been advancing its political agenda of "Taiwan independence" and has thus deteriorated cross-Straits relations and harmed the interests of Taiwan residents.

There is only one China, and Taiwan is a part of China. This fact can never be changed, and the international community including the United Nations acknowledged it.

The commemoration of the 1911 Revolution will enhance the idea across the Straits that reunification is in the fundamental interest of the Chinese nation and people on both sides should oppose the secessionist forces on the island and work for peaceful reunification.

China has undergone great political changes since the 1911 Revolution, and the Chinese people today will not allow any power to interfere in the internal affairs of the country and check the rise of the Chinese nation.

The key to achieving national reunification is to prevent foreign forces from meddling in the Taiwan question. In the pursuit of "Taiwan independence" in order to fulfill its narrow political interests, the DPP has refused to acknowledge the 1992 Consensus that there is only one China and is serving as a pawn of the United States against the mainland. And the US has used this as an excuse to intensify efforts to heighten tensions across the Straits.

History shows that Taiwan's future depends on the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation rather than on foreign forces. And the DPP's attempts to seek "independence" with the help of the US is doomed to failure, because the mainland will never let that happen.

The commemoration of the 1911 Revolution will help refresh the common memory of compatriots on the both sides of the Straits and boost their emotional connection. Taiwan compatriots should realize the island's future lies in reunification and national rejuvenation. That is also the call of history.

[Abridged]

A case of Ebola has been confirmed in eastern Congo, according to the country's Health Ministry and the National Institute of Biomedical Research, about five months after the country declared an end to the last outbreak that killed six people in the region.

A child of nearly 3 years old was sent to the Butsili hospital in Beni after presenting various symptoms related to Ebola. He died on Oct. 6 and tested positive for Ebola, according to the research institute and the ministry.

"This is certainly concerning given the toll of infectious diseases in this region including COVID and beyond and high-

lights the need for continual surveillance and preparedness even with highly efficacious vaccines," said Jason Kindrachuk, assistant professor and virologist at the University of Manitoba in Canada who has worked on Ebola in Africa.

"The vast prior experience with Ebola response in the (Congo) will hopefully allow for quick identification of contacts and rapid deployment of vaccines where possible," he added.

A 2018 outbreak in Eastern Congo was the second deadliest in the world killing nearly 2,300 people.

It was not immediately known if this case is related to that outbreak, which ended in 2020, or to the cases earlier this year.

AP PHOTO



IRAQIS VOTE FOR NEW PARLIAMENT HOPING FOR CHANGE

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA, BAGHDAD

IRAQ closed its airspace and scrambled its air force yesterday as voters headed to the polls to elect a parliament that, despite widespread skepticism, some Iraqis hope will deliver reforms after decades of conflict and mismanagement.

The vote was originally scheduled for next year but

was brought forward in response to a popular uprising in the capital Baghdad and southern provinces in late 2019. Tens of thousands of people took to the streets to protest endemic corruption, poor services and rising unemployment. They were met with deadly force by security forces firing live ammunition and tear gas. More than 600 people were killed and thousands injured within just a few months.

Although authorities gave in and called the early elections, the death toll and the heavy-handed crackdown prompted many young activists and demonstrators who took part in the protests to later call for a boycott of the polls.

A series of kidnappings and targeted assassinations that killed more than 35 people has further discour-

aged many from taking part. Apathy is widespread amid deep skepticism that the independent candidates stand a chance against established parties and politicians, many of them backed by armed militias.

"I voted because there needs to be change. I don't want these same faces and same parties to return," said Amir Fadel, a 22-year-old car dealer, after casting his

A series of kidnappings and targeted assassinations [...] has further discouraged many from taking part

ballot in Baghdad's Karradah district.

A total of 3,449 candidates are vying for 329 seats in the parliamentary elections, which will be the sixth held since the fall of Saddam Hussein after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the sectarian-based power-sharing political system it produced.

More than 250,000 security personnel across the country were tasked with protecting the vote. Soldiers, police and anti-terrorism forces fanned out and deployed outside polling stations, some of which were ringed by barbed wire. Voters were patted down

and searched.

Iraq's President Barham Salih and Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi urged Iraqis to vote in large numbers.

"Get out and vote, and change your reality for the sake of Iraq and your future," said al-Kadhimi, repeating the phrase 'get out' three times after casting his ballot at a school in Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, home to foreign embassies and government offices.

The 2018 elections saw just 44% of eligible voters cast their ballots, a record low, and the results were widely contested. There are concerns of a similar or even lower turnout this time.

By midday, turnout was still relatively low and streets mostly deserted. In a tea shop in Karradah, one of the few open, candidate Reem Abdulhadi walked in to ask whether people had cast their vote.

"I will give my vote to Umm Kalthoum, the singer, she is the only one who deserves it," the tea vendor replied, referring to the late Egyptian singer beloved by many in the Arab world. He said he will not take part in the election and didn't believe in the political process. MDT/AP

Lebanon's two main power plants were forced to shut down after running out of fuel, the state electricity company said Saturday, leaving the small country with no government-produced power. Lebanon is grappling with a crippling energy crisis made worse by its dependency on fuel imports. Erratic power supplies have put hospitals and essential services in crisis mode. The Lebanese increasingly depend on private operators that also struggle to secure supplies amid an unprecedented crash of the national currency.

US The new U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Ken Salazar, said Saturday the United States has asked the Mexican government to allow agents, including those from the Drug Enforcement Administration, to work in Mexico. Last year, Mexico pulled foreign agents' immunity from prosecution and imposed strict limits on their contacts with their Mexican counterparts. Analysts say that inevitably affects the DEA's ability to do intelligence gathering on Mexican drug cartels.

Russia A plane carrying skydivers crashed yesterday shortly after takeoff in, killing 15 of the 22 people aboard. The L-410, a Czech-made twin-engine turboprop, crashed near the town of Menzelinsk, about 960 kilometers east of Moscow. The Emergencies Ministry said seven people were extracted from the wreckage alive, at least one of them with severe injuries. The cause of the crash was not immediately determined.

AP PHOTO



Rome Thousands of demonstrators marched down Rome's famous Via Veneto and other streets on Saturday, some smashing their way into a union office and clashing with police as they protested Italy's new "Green Pass" vaccination requirement for employees to enter their offices. The certification is mandatory beginning on Oct. 15 and applies to public and private workplaces. Both employees and employers risk fines if they don't comply.