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RULES THAT WILL REGULATE THE NEW PUBLIC TENDER FOR THE FUTURE GAMING CONCESSIONS ARE LIKELY TO BE PUBLISHED THIS MONTH

P5

TAIWAN REJECTS CLAIMS OF COVID-CONTAMINATED MANGOES

P2

GBA: NANSHA TO DELIVER FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES UP TO RMB120,000 TARGETING HONG KONG AND MACAU'S YOUTH

P5

AP PHOTO



Lebanon's caretaker prime minister yesterday criticized the militant group Hezbollah for sending three unmanned aircraft over an Israeli gas installation last week, saying it was an unnecessarily risky action. Najib Mikati's comment came two days after Hezbollah launched three drones over the Karish gas field in the Mediterranean Sea.

AP PHOTO



German Chancellor Olaf Scholz gathered top employer and labor union representatives at his Berlin office yesterday to seek ways of addressing the impact of rising prices while preventing a spiral of inflation in Europe's biggest economy. The government billed the meeting as the first in a series aimed at finding a broad alliance for solutions as Germany's annual inflation rate stands at 7.6%, close to a half-century high. The head of Germany's central bank was also on the guest list.

AP PHOTO



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said yesterday the reconstruction of his war-battered country is the "common task of the entire democratic world," as his prime minister laid out a \$750 billion recovery plan once invading Russia's guns fall silent. As Russian forces continued their crushing advance in Ukraine's eastern Donbas region, Zelenskyy spoke by video message to the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Switzerland about the needs of the country that has been on an up-and-down march toward democracy since the end of the Cold War.

More on p8

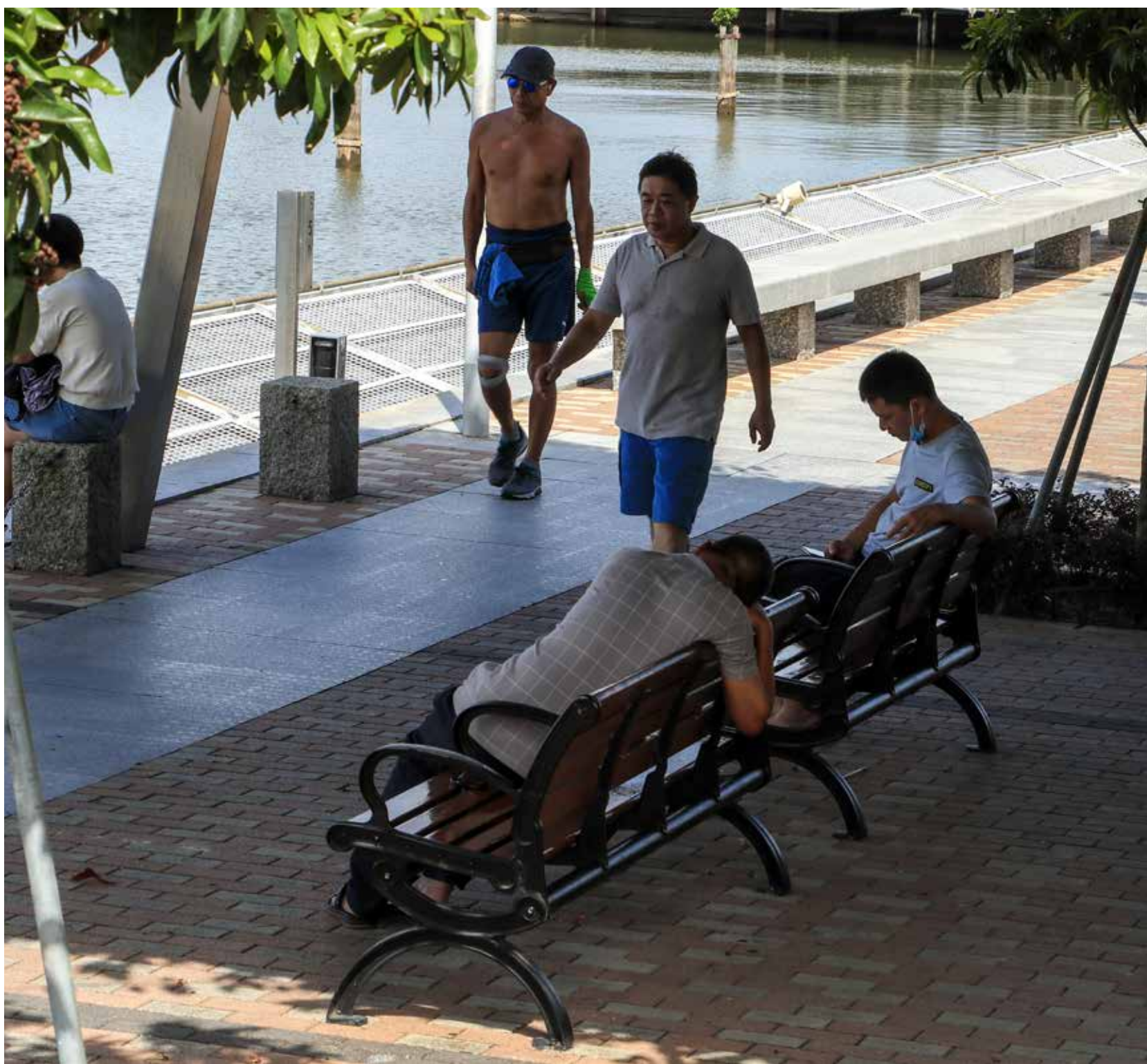
More on backpage

TRACKING OFF

Itineraries of positive cases will no longer be published unless they are multiple trips

P3

RENATO MARQUES



ONLINE SHOPPING PLUNGES OVER LOGISTICS DELAY

P4

21 MEDICAL STAFF TEST POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

AS of yesterday, 21 staff at the public hospital have tested positive for SARS-CoV-2, namely a doctor, six nurses, a security guard and 13 from the cleaning team. The latter 14 people were hired by third-party vendors.

Public health doctor Leong Iek Hou of Health Bureau (SSM) assured the public that no trace had been found to prove an intra-hospital outbreak.

Moreover, all staff at the public hospital and Health Centers are required to take SARS-CoV-2 rapid antigen test (RAT) every workday before work starts. They are also required to possess negative SARS-CoV-2 nucleic acid test (NAT) results from the previous 24 hours.

N95 or KN95 masks must be worn at all times unless a staff member needs to eat or drink. Eating and drinking will only be permitted in an independent area and individually. Staff are also not permitted to participate in any events in which mask wearing is not possible.

Those in high-risk positions, meanwhile, are all in close-loop

management. They will be handled by the SSM daily during their commute between work and temporary residences. They are also required to dine individually.

On reports that pregnant medical staff have been assigned to work at frontline positions, the public health doctor denied the claim, saying that all pregnant medical staff were working in low-risk positions.

The public health doctor said that high-risk positions include those that will be in contact with positives, such as the Special A&E at the public hospital and the England Marina Hotel. "We will definitely not assign our pregnant colleagues to these positions," the public health doctor emphasized.

In the best case, she added, pregnant staff will be put on holidays when there are enough other staff. Then, she appealed once again to the busy conditions of the SSM, hinting that the best-case scenario could not happen recently.

Therefore, she said, pregnant staff at SSM will be assigned to lower-risk positions

LYNZY VALLES



On the resumption of certain medical services after the two-week suspension, she said that the specialist medical team had, in the past two weeks, constantly kept up with their patients' development.

Medicines have been distributed to patients who need them,

the public health doctor said.

"While [undergoing] special treatment, such as obstetric examinations, which cannot be delayed, our medical team has been conducting these treatments for patients," Leong said, adding that only non-emergency medical services had been halted in the last

two weeks.

In addition, a patient's family currently is not be allowed to visit the patient in the hospital. In response to a question about the matter, Leong pledged that she would refer the questions to the public hospital to alert them so as to find a resolution.

Taiwan refutes SAR's reports of Covid samples in mangoes

RENATO MARQUES

TAIWANESE authorities have urged Macau to follow international rules and standards in regards to both trade and the testing of goods for Covid-19, the local Council of Agriculture (COA) said in a statement, which was also backed by Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, a ministry-level government agency handling matters involving mainland China, Macau and Hong Kong.

"Macau should follow proper risk control protocols that comply with international standards to ensure unfettered trade," the COA statement said, also urging local authorities to deal with the matter professionally, "given that there is currently no

scientific evidence that Covid-19 can be transmitted via packaged produce."

On the line is the destruction of 150 kilograms of mangoes from Taiwan, and mostly the imposing of two consecutive import bans for the product brand, which the Taipei authorities consider as being in breach of international trade regulations.

Nonetheless, Taiwanese authorities also noted that they have not been officially notified of the existence of such bans, which, according to the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), started on June 30 (in the first case) and July 2 (in the second case).

In two recent reports, IAM informed that two different batches of imported mangoes originating from

Taiwan tested positive for Covid-19 upon their arrival in Macau.

According to statements, a total of 25 boxes of the fruit, with a total weight of 150 kilograms, was destroyed before entering the market, with the bureau also informing that it had "suspended the application for import from the brand concerned for one week starting from today [statement's date]."

Noting that the matter is of a political nature, the COA also pointed out that China had imposed Covid-19-related restrictions on international trade with many countries in recent years and should provide scientific data to substantiate those measures, noting that several countries including Canada, the Eu-

ropean Union, India, and the United States of America, among others, have raised concerns over the matter during meetings of the World Trade Organization's Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures Committee.

In the July 2 statement, the IAM also noted that it was the second time in just three days that mangoes imported from Taiwan had tested positive for novel coronavirus nucleic acid, reaffirming their compliance with "national technical standards."

"IAM has always referenced the national technical standards regarding sample testing of cold-chain food products for novel coronavirus nucleic acid and strictly implemented measures for 'thorough disinfection of



the external packaging and thorough testing of the internal packaging' of goods," the bureau stated.

"So far, cold-chain and dairy products imported from Argentina, Poland, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Hong Kong and their external and internal packaging have successively tested positive for novel coronavirus nucleic acid," the bureau stated, adding,

"The implementation of these measures is aimed at protecting the public of Macau from novel coronavirus infection and is not targeted at any country or region."

According to statements from the World Health Organization, there is "currently no evidence that people can catch Covid-19 from food, including fruits and vegetables."

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COVID-19 OUTBREAK

Gov't to only issue 'complex' footprints of positives from Case 501 onwards

ANTHONY LAM

FROM Case 501 onwards, itineraries of positive cases will no longer be published unless they are "complex trips," public health doctor Leong Iek Hou of Health Bureau (SSM) announced yesterday.

Justifying the change, the public health doctor said that the health agency considered that, given the relatively large number of cases in Macau, most of their footprints had been across the city.

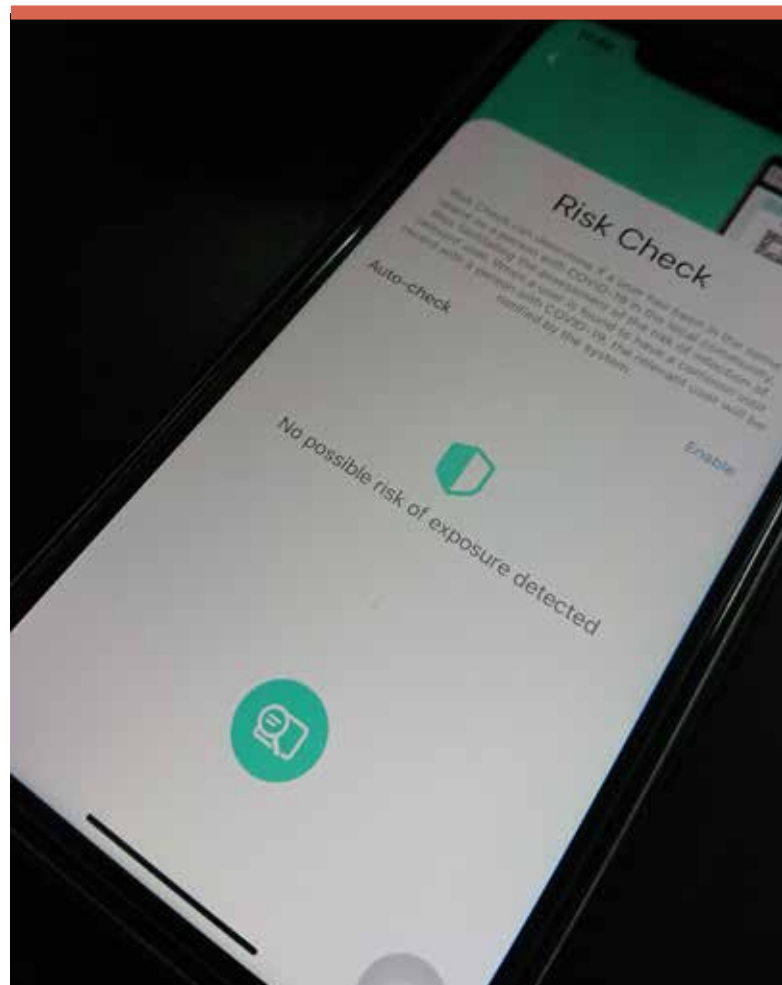
"During the early phase of this round of outbreak, we would like to [release footprint details] so that residents could compare them with their own," Leong said. "However, this has become less required."

Following Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng's order to "not [lie] flat" but to keep tracing and quarantining or treating positive cases, the public health doctor added that SSM will continue its work in following up and controlling the situation.

"After Case 501, if the footprint details reported are simple, we will not release them to the public, unless there are complexities," Leong concluded.

Before answering a question about the definition of a complex footprint record, the public health doctor did not forgo the chance to compliment local people for their obliging attitude.

"A majority of people are living a lifestyle in compliance



with the government's disease control and prevention measures, with many of them staying at home most of the time," Leong said. "Accordingly, many positive cases have contracted the virus within their households."

To answer the question, the public health doctor said that those who mainly stayed in their households would be considered simple itineraries. This, she pointed out, will no longer be disclosed publicly.

"However, if a set of itinerary

concerns a relatively large number of public venues – which means not only their household

or their independent workplace – this kind of itinerary will be announced," the public health doctor added.

If a positive case has visited any casinos, this record will also be published, unless the SSM is not in possession of it, the public health doctor said.

On the fact that a cluster is related to the Shoppes at Four Seasons in the namesake hotel, Leong admitted that quite a significant number of cases have been detected as originating from there. The cases involve salespersons, security guards and cleaners. Leong added that as there are positives, there are close contacts and other related people.

"We have requested the mall owners to ask concerned shops to shut down for the time being," the public health doctor added.

The public health doctor was then asked whether the Four Seasons would be identified as a Red zone, given the reportedly eight cases found inside or related to the premises.

"Let's consider this," the public health doctor said. "There the doors have been closed – you can go take a look there."

"What is the reason for cordoning the place off?" She questioned, before answering the question herself. "To control people inside [an area] to not spread across the community."

"However, it is a commercial venue," she argued, "There is nobody inside. They are closed, which equals to being cordoned off."

As the health official answered the question, social media users were criticizing her for not knowing the situation. They said that the shopping mall at the Four Seasons was operating normally.

To this, the public health doctor appealed to the large size and complexity of the Four Seasons premises. She pledged that further investigations as to whether increase the size of the shut-off area would be needed.

Leong did not give a definite answer to a question on whether disease control measures should be further tightened.

She also reminded elderly people and those with chronic diseases to be more vigilant than others because data showed that they are more vulnerable.

TOTAL TALLY OF POSITIVES

June 18-July 3

852

New positives on July 3

68

47 from community
21 from quarantine

*THE GOVERNMENT NOTED THAT SOME POSITIVES DETECTED IN THIS ROUND HAVE BEEN RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL OR QUARANTINE, BUT DATA WAS NOT AVAILABLE AT YESTERDAY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

ELDERLY POSITIVES SINCE JUNE 18

Age	Quantity
60-69	92
70-79	39
80-89	10
90-100	2 (deceased)

Cotai shopping mall ordered to close due to 40 Covid-19 cases

THE Shoppes at Four Seasons was ordered by the government to close until July 10, following the discovery of 40 Covid-19 cases.

The closure concerns the first floor of the shopping mall, according to report issued by TDM last night.

Retail employees, security and maintenance staff are not permitted to go to work.

The relevant employees are also required to undergo four nucleic acid tests, and shops will only reopen once all staff present a negative result.

The government has called

on the public to stay at home and avoid unnecessary errands, and the use of public transportation to deter the spread of the virus.

It has considered this week crucial to contain the outbreak.

The outbreak is being driven by the omicron sub-variant BA.5.

Meanwhile, 10 mixed samples were found positive during the mass testing as of 9 p.m. yesterday.

A total of 330,042 samples have been collected, of which 134,726 yielded negative results. **LV**



ONLINE SHOPPING

LOGISTICS SECTOR SEES 72% DROP AS GOODS FACE DELAY AMID OUTBREAK

STAFF REPORTER

The logistics industry, which transports goods from the mainland to Macau, has seen a 72% reduction in transported items amid the surge of cases in the city.

This is because of the increased control of Zhuhai-Macau logistics as part of pandemic prevention measures, which has led to many goods that cannot be transited to Macau and are instead stranded in Zhuhai.

Also, the delivery time will increase by three to five days with additional surcharges for transit through Macau courier collection stores.

The delay occurred throughout China's 618 Shopping Festival, which is the second-largest and most important shopping festival in China, as the country e-commerce landscape is filled with large-scale promotional activities and discounts on a wide series of products.

Figures provided by the E-commerce Logistics Development Promotion Association of Macao shows that the average

FLORA TANG



daily quantity of goods for online shopping was about 70,000 to 80,000 pieces prior to the current outbreak.

However, it has been reduced

to some 20,000 to 30,000 items, showing a plunge of some 72%.

As for the surcharges, the association's chairman, Cheang Hang Tai told local media outlet Exmoo,

"So far, the employees of Zhuhai storehouse must be in self-isolation at home in order to cooperate with Zhuhai's pandemic prevention policy, which reduces the

manpower of the storehouse."

"Moreover, the reported disinfection fee and other fees [have] greatly increased as well as the operating costs of the logistics industry. This is why they have added an additional fee," he added.

Cheang also noted that the inspection of goods in the neighboring region has increased, making wait times longer for the goods to arrive in the city.


Furthermore, due to the impact of the pandemic, some goods that were set to be delivered to Macau from high-risk areas in mainland China are concerning Macau shoppers who fear the packages may be contaminated with the virus.

Meanwhile, a staff member from the courier pick up store gave assurances that, according to guidelines set forth by pick up stores like theirs, "all the goods must be disinfected before being transferred to Macau."

"In addition, when the collection store receives the goods, they are recommended to disinfect [the goods] again to ensure safety," the staff member told the Times.

The representatives of the logistics industry have expressed their hope that the authorities will pay more attention to the issue of e-commerce logistics and transportation, so as to provide protection for people and maintain the operation of the logistics industry.

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Teens propose sustainable city mascot in CESL Asia contest

STAFF REPORTER

CESL Asia and the Macau Youth Art Association recently co-organized the "CESL Asia Social Investment Initiative Teen's Design Contest 2022," receiving more than 100 artworks as entries from students aged 12 to 17.

Themed "Sustainable City Mascot," the competition invited Macau to design a "creative and meaningful Mascot that personifies what a sustainable city represents [to become] its ambassador," according to a statement CESL Asia issued.

"We could see that many of the Mascots submitted in this contest were created using digital graphics. This provided an opportunity for teenagers to experiment with technology in the art fields," the judges remarked.

The Golden Creative Award was awarded to Wong Hou (Escola Hou Kong), the Golden Visual



Award to Lam Nok Hei (Escola Secundária Lou Hau), and the Silver Creative Award to Wong Si Weng (Colégio de Santa Rosa de Lima - Secção Chinesa).

The Silver Visual Award was given to Cheok Ka Him (Escola Secundária Lou Hau), and the Bronze Award to Yang Qi Cheng (Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School). Thirty Merit Awards and the Online Popularity Award were also awarded.

António Trindade, president and CEO of CESL Asia, hopes this contest encouraged students to

explore the key concepts of lifestyle urban sustainability (Business Diversification, Eco-Innovation, Eco-Friendly Technological Solutions, Renewable Energy, Inclusion and Sustainable Food).

CESL Asia Social Investment Initiative (CSII) regularly organizes social welfare activities in different fields, namely children and youth education, inclusive sports, environmental protection and public welfare, aiming to invest in local talent development and other activities that contribute to a more sustainable and inclusive community.

NEW GAMING LICENSES

Public tender rules this month, licenses attributed in December

RENATO MARQUES

THE rules that will regulate the new public tender for the future gaming concessions are likely to be published this month, TDM Radio reported yesterday.

According to the report, the media outlet has learned that the tender regulations that were being prepared by the government are nearing completion and will be published this month so the international tender can be launched.

As commonly happens, the publishing of the rules anticipates the launch of the tender setting the details, and documentation, and defining the timing for the submission of the proposals by the contenders.

The news comes after reports of talks between the government and the current gaming operators at the time of the signing of the extension of the current licenses up to December 31 this year.

According to the same source, in such talks, progress was made as part of the process, which should be fully concluded before the celebration of the anniversary of Macau's handover, on December 20 this year.

RENATO MARQUES



As the Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, also said during a special press conference held on June 23 – the same day that the extension of the contracts was inked with the gaming concessionaires – this will be the last extension of the current licenses, reaffirming that from January 1, 2023, the new gaming concessions will enter into force.

The regulations for the tender will follow the new gaming law, which was unanimously approved by all lawmakers on its final reading at the Legislative Assembly on June 21.

The tender regulation soon to

be published will also contain all the criteria that the tender jury will take into account to evaluate the bids submitted.

As the government already announced, there will be a maximum of six gaming concessionaires to be granted and no sub-concessions will be allowed in this tender.

Citing anonymous sources familiar with the process, TDM Radio said that although the current pandemic outbreak could cause some delay to this process, the rulebook should still be ready to be officially announced in a press conference from the Executive Council and then published before

the end of the month.

After the publication of the rules, the process will be followed by the official launch of the tender, which will include the appointment of a group of experts with the role of evaluating all the bids, which, according to the same media outlet, should happen in August this year. The deadline for the submission of bids is likely to be extended until September, allowing some three months for the consequent procedures before the final concessions are officially announced and the final contracts with the government are signed.

LUÍS LEONG NEW PJ DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Luís Leong has been inaugurated as the new Judiciary Police (PJ) deputy director in a ceremony held yesterday at the force headquarters. Formerly chief inspector, Leong joined the PJ in 1993 and, in the years between 2006 and 2017, was, respectively, functional head of the Information Division, head of the Special Investigation Division, head of the Investigation Division of Crimes Related to Gaming and advisor to the Office of the Secretary for Security. In the period between 2018 and 2021, he was appointed head of the Department of Investigation of Gambling and Economic Crimes and head of the Department of Criminal Investigation. He has been acting in the role of deputy director since June 1 this year in replacement of the previous official, and from now officially assumes the position. Leong graduated with a law degree.

JULY'S SUMMER ACTIVITIES CANCELED

The Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) has decided to cancel all the activities included in the Summer Activity program for the whole month of July, the DSEDJ has reported in a statement. The decision was justified by the bureau with reference to the current situation of the Covid-19 epidemic evolution and in order to comply "with the work of prevention and control of the epidemic, carried out by the government." All classes of the programs scheduled to take place from now until July 31 are canceled. The organizing entities will notify the participants, by SMS, about the eventual reimbursement of the amounts paid, the DSEDJ said, adding that it is still evaluating those events scheduled to take place in August.

CARGO FLIGHT HOLDS EMERGENCY LANDING DUE TO MALFUNCTION

An air freighter flying from Macau to Kuala Lumpur made an emergency landing at the Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) due to loss of cabin pressure early yesterday morning. The cargo flight WW816 took off from Macau International Airport at 2:04 a.m., according to reports. After two hours, at around 4 a.m., the pilot of contacted Hong Kong Air Traffic Control Centre and requested to divert to the HKIA. No one was injured from the flight. The air freighter belongs to Malaysia's Kargo Xpress airline.

GBA

Nansha to deliver subsidies up to RMB120,000 targeting SARs' youth

LYNZY VALLES

FINANCIAL measures targeting residents of Hong Kong and Macau have been taken by Nansha, meaning each youth can receive a one-time employment reward of up to RMB120,000, and an additional monthly salary subsidy of up to RMB5,000 for three consecutive years.

The measures encourage Hong Kong and Macau youth to find employment in Nansha, build a broader "dream-chasing stage," thereby kicking off its measure called "Ten New Measures for Supporting Hong Kong and Macau Youth Entrepreneurship and Employment."

Employers of the-

XINHUA



se young people will be rewarded with a maximum RMB200,000 for recruitment and employment, and a maximum RMB100,000 will be given to human resource service enterprises, organizations and institutions that pro-

mote employment among both SARs in Nansha.

Also, in a bid to support the housing concerns of these youth, the measures clearly stipulate that eligible Hong Kong and Macau youths will be provided apartments or an accom-

modation subsidy of up to MOP20,000 per person, per year.

In the measure guideline, it noted that Nansha will support eligible Hong Kong and Macau youth to purchase co-owned properties, and issue "Hong

Kong and Macau Youth Talent Cards" to these residents.

In addition, the Guangzhou district pledged to provide no fewer than 1,000 internship positions in the district every year, and set up special internship subsidies of no less than RMB2 million.

"It encourages Hong Kong and Macau youth in Nansha to participate in various vocational skills training," according to a statement issued by the government of Guangdong Province. The maximum subsidy for Hong Kong and Macau youths is RMB80,000.

Further, a Hong Kong and Macau Youth Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund will be set up to encourage venture capital funds to invest in Hong Kong and Macau youth entrepreneurship projects in the region, and will be rewarded up to RMB10 million according to the investment amount.

HONG KONG

Fishermen keep old ways, 25 years after handover

NG Koon-yau calmly pilots his small fishing boat through the azure waters of the South China Sea. The 79-year-old has been fishing ever since he can remember.

Ng and his 76-year-old brother Ng Koon-hee came to Hong Kong from Taishan in Guangdong province, across the border in the Chinese mainland, as youngsters in the 1950s. So did many others who settled in Hong Kong after the 1949 communist revolution, when the territory was a colony of Great Britain.

The move to Hong Kong was so long ago that the Ngs don't remember exactly when they arrived in Tai O, a remote and scenic fishing village on the west side of Hong Kong's Lantau Island.

They've worked side-by-side all along, largely unaffected by decades of political change, including campaigns that sometimes spilled into the territory from the Chinese mainland.

Many in Hong Kong worry that communist-ruled China is exerting ever more control over semi-autonomous Hong Kong, contrary to promises from Beijing to respect Hong Kong's civil liberties and its semi-autonomous status for 50 years after Britain handed the city to China 25 years ago, on July 1, 1997.



But Ng Koon-yau is fine with Beijing being in charge.

"Hong Kong is part of China, and I've never thought of moving anywhere else," he said. "I hope that China will make Hong Kong a better place, where everyone can prosper. For us in Tai O, we wouldn't think of moving away to live anywhere else."

Tai O's homes perched on stilts above its small harbor, are a picturesque remnant of skyscraper-studded Hong Kong's past. Hundreds of years ago, before the British colonists arrived in the mid-1800s, fishing was a way of life here and in other villages in the Pearl River Delta region.

But small-scale coastal fishing is a dying industry in Hong Kong.

The Ngs used to ply the seas in a big vessel, netting thousands of fish a day. Now they keep only a small boat and haul in small catches.

"Now there are fewer and fewer fish for us to catch. The waters in the Pearl River Delta and around Guangdong are so polluted, so there are fewer fish," Ng Koon-yau said.

Younger Hong Kongers are moving on.

"In the 1960s, there were more than 10,000 people living here, but the population has

been gradually falling, with the young people going off to work in the city," Ng said.

"My sons have gone off to work in the city. Now it's just us old people, and only about 2,000-3,000 living here," he said.

Tourism is now a big business for Tai O's remaining residents: Selling dried fish snacks and prawn sauce to visitors and running sightseeing boats. One of the attractions is to catch a sight of a pink dolphin. Dwindling like the Tai O villagers, some of the special dolphins are still left, sometimes breaking the sea's surface within view of the skyscrapers of the city. **MDT/AP**

JAPAN SIGHTS CHINA, RUSSIA WARSHIPS NEAR DISPUTED ISLANDS

MARI YAMAGUCHI, TOKYO

JAPAN protested to Beijing after spotting Chinese and Russian warships just outside its territorial waters around the disputed East China Sea islands yesterday.

Japan's Defense Ministry said a Chinese frigate sailed inside the "contiguous zone," just outside Japanese territorial waters around Senkaku Islands, which Beijing also claims and calls the Diaoyu, for several minutes yesterday morning.

The Chinese warship's presence was confirmed about 40 minutes after a Russian frigate had entered the waters for more than an hour, the ministry said.

It was not immediately clear what was behind the latest Chinese-Russian military activity in the area. Japanese defense officials mentioned a possibility that the ships may have been there to avoid a typhoon.

Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiji Kihara said Japan lodged a protest expressing "grave concern" to Beijing over the incident.

"The Senkaku islands are an inherent part of Japan's territory historically and under international law. The government will deal with the matter calmly but firmly to protect the Japanese land, territorial waters and air space," Kihara said.

There was no violation of the territorial waters, he said.

In Beijing, China justified the frigate's entry and criticized Tokyo's protest. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said the islands are Chinese territory.

"The activities of Chinese vessels in waters nearby are lawful and justified," he said at a regular news conference. "Japan has no right to make such irresponsible remarks." **MDT/AP**



TROPICAL STORM CHABA

Searchers rescue fourth person from China ship, 12 bodies found

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

RESCUE teams searching for missing crew members from a Chinese engineering ship that sank over the weekend saved a fourth person yesterday and recovered 12 bodies, Chinese maritime authorities said.

Officials said the crew member rescued by a Chinese navy ship yesterday was in stable condition. Three other members of the 30-person crew were rescued on Saturday.

The bodies were found about 50 nautical miles



southwest of the area in which the vessel Fujing 001 sank, authorities in the southeastern province of Guangdong said.

Officials were attempting to identify the bodies.

The search for the remaining crew members was continuing.

The China-registered floating crane was involved in building several offshore wind farms. It had been sheltering from tropical storm Chaba, but dragged its anchor and the anchor chain then broke, maritime authorities said.

The vessel then snapped into two and sank Saturday during the storm, which had maximum sustained winds of 110 kilometers an hour and was upgraded to a typhoon before making landfall in Guangdong.

The ship sank about 300 kilometers southwest

of Hong Kong. Authorities said the vessel was close to the center of the storm, making rescue operations difficult.

Hong Kong sent two fixed-wing aircraft and four helicopters on Saturday for the rescue effort. The search continued Monday, though Hong Kong authorities said the chances of rescuing the remaining crew members alive were slim.

Elsewhere in China, eight people sheltering from a rainstorm in Shijiazhuang, the capital of the northern province of Hebei, were killed Saturday when a decorative building structure fell from about 12 meters, the official Xinhua New Agency said. Another person who was also hit by the structure was hospitalized in stable condition, it said. **MDT/AP**

Myanmar hosts first regional meeting since army takeover

MYANMAR'S military government yesterday hosted the first high-level regional meeting since the army took power last year with China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi and counterparts from Mekong Delta nations.

State broadcaster MRTV reported that Wang met with his colleagues from Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam at the Lancang-Mekong Cooperation group meeting held under the theme "Solidarity for Peace and Prosperity" in the central city of Bagan, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

The TV report showed Wang and the other foreign ministers bumping elbows in a show of solidarity before the start of the meeting, but did not provide further details.

The grouping is a Chinese-led initiative that includes the countries of the Mekong Delta.

China has built 10 dams along the upper stretch of the Mekong, the part it calls the Lancang.

China has been criticized for the dams upstream on the Mekong River which affect water levels and downstream fisheries that are important to several Southeast Asian nations' economies.

Military government spokesman Maj. Gen. Zaw Min Tun said

AP PHOTO



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, center, is welcomed by Myanmar Foreign Ministry representatives and Chinese embassy officials upon his arrival at Nyaung U Airport in Bagan, Myanmar, Saturday

last Friday that the ministers were expected to sign several agreements. He said that the presence of the foreign ministers was a recognition of Myanmar's sovereignty and its government.

China is Myanmar's biggest trading partner and an old ally. Beijing has invested billions of dollars in Myanmar's mines, oil

and gas pipelines and other infrastructure and is its major arms supplier, together like Russia.

Many in Myanmar suspect China of supporting the military takeover, and Beijing has refused to condemn the army's power grab. China says it follows a policy of non-interference in other countries' affairs.

Myanmar's shadow National Unity Government, which opposes the ruling military council, protested the Bagan meeting, saying any such efforts in partnership with Myanmar's military violate the will of the people and undermine community building.

It said that holding the meeting in Myanmar is in direct opposi-

tion to a peace plan by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Myanmar's rulers have stymied ASEAN's efforts to organize a meeting with ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who was recently moved to solitary detention.

Suu Kyi's ouster in February 2021 triggering widespread peaceful protests that soon erupted into armed resistance, and the country slipped into what some U.N. experts characterize as a civil war.

A statement by China's Foreign Affairs Ministry said that Wang met Sunday with Cambodian Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn — who is also the ASEAN special envoy to Myanmar.

The statement said Wang told Prak Sokhonn that China expects to work with ASEAN to push Myanmar in pursuit of political reconciliation and encourage it to restart the democratic transition process and realize the vision of returning power to the people. It said that China supports

Myanmar in exploring the development path that suits its own national conditions.

The state-run newspaper Myanma Alinn Daily reported that Wang also met Sunday with Myanmar Foreign Minister Wunna Maung Lwin to discuss the implementation of bilateral projects and closer collaboration.

Wang told Wunna Maung Lwin that China will assist Myanmar in safeguarding its legitimate interests and national dignity in the international arena, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency. **MDT/AP**

JAPAN

Outages disrupt services at telecoms carrier

MARI YAMAGUCHI,
TOKYO

MANY users of Japan's No. 2 mobile carrier KDDI Corp. were still having trouble making calls yesterday after a massive outage throughout the weekend that affected nearly 40 million people, disrupting deliveries, weather reports and other services across the country.

The company said data transmission had largely been restored by yesterday morning, but service restrictions were still causing many users to have trouble with making phone calls and sending short messages.

The outage started in the early hours of Saturday during a scheduled maintenance work at a facility in

AP PHOTO



western Tokyo.

It disabled text messaging, phone calls and other services for more than 39

million users of KDDI's mobile services. Parcel deliveries also were disrupted.

Over the weekend, the

Meteorological Agency was unable to send weather data at hundreds of stations, dozens of cash

machines were disabled in central Japan, and Tokyo and other municipalities had trouble reaching COVID-19 patients subject to health monitoring at home.

The major outage came just ahead of a July 10 parliamentary election and was seen as embarrassment for Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government, which has been promoting digitization of the world's No. 3 economy.

The government was quick to address public concern over the problem.

"It is extremely regrettable that mobile phone service, which is a crucial infrastructure for social and economic activity, has been unusable for such a long time," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Seiji Kihara told reporters on yesterday.

He said the government was taking the situation "seriously" and urged KDDI to provide a thorough explanation. Kihara said he expected KDDI to "sincerely" consider compensation for possible damage claims from users.

On Sunday, KDDI President Makoto Takahashi apologized and provided an initial explanation about what happened and the outlook for resumption of disrupted services.

"We consider this a severe incident," Internal affairs and communications minister Yasushi Kaneko said on Sunday. The outage was especially unfortunate because it disrupted emergency calls at a time when people were facing increased risks of COVID-19 and heat strokes and potential emergencies due to an approaching typhoon.

An outage last year by rival NTT DoCoMo affected nearly 13 million people. **MDT/AP**



Russian President Vladimir Putin listens to Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu's report during their meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, yesterday

PUTIN'S WAR

Russia declares victory in embattled Donbas region of Luhansk

FRANCESCA EBEL,
POKROVSK

RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin yesterday declared victory in the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk, one day after Ukrainian forces withdrew from their last remaining bulwark of resistance in the province.

Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin in a televised meeting yesterday that Russian forces had taken control of Luhansk, which together with the neighboring Donetsk province makes up Ukraine's industrial heartland of Donbas.

Shoigu told Putin that "the operation" was completed on Sunday after Russian troops overran the city of Lysychansk, the last stronghold of Ukrainian forces in Luhansk.

Putin, in turn, said that the military units "that took part in active hostilities and achieved success, victory" in Luhansk, "should rest, increase their combat capabilities."

Putin's declaration came as Russian forces tried to press their offensive deeper into eastern Ukraine

after the Ukrainian military confirmed that its forces had withdrawn from Lysychansk on Sunday. Luhansk governor Serhii Haidai said yesterday that Ukrainian forces had retreated from the city to avoid being surrounded.

"There was a risk of Lysychansk encirclement," Haidai told the Associated Press, adding that Ukrainian troops could have held on for a few more weeks but would have potentially paid too high a price.

"We managed to do centralized withdrawal and evacuate all injured," Haidai said. "We took back all the equipment, so from this point withdrawal was organized well."

The Ukrainian General Staff said Russian forces were now focusing their efforts on pushing toward the line of Siversk, Fedorivka and Bakhmut in the Donetsk region, about half of which is controlled by Russia. The Russian army has also intensified its shelling of the key Ukrainian strongholds of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, deeper in Donetsk.

On Sunday, six people, including a 9-year-old girl,

were killed in the Russian shelling of Sloviansk and another 19 people were wounded, according to local authorities. Kramatorsk also came under fire on Sunday.

An intelligence briefing yesterday from the British Defense Ministry supported the Ukrainian military's assessment, noting that Russian forces will "now almost certainly" switch to capturing Donetsk. The briefing said the conflict in Donbas has been "grinding and attritional," and is unlikely to change in the coming weeks.

Ukrainian forces had retreated from the city to avoid being surrounded

While the Russian army has a massive advantage in firepower, military analysts say that it doesn't have any significant superiority in the number of troops. That means Moscow lacks resources for quick land gains and can only advance slowly, relying on heavy artillery and rocket batteries to soften Ukrainian

defenses.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has made capturing the entire Donbas a key goal in his war in Ukraine, now in its fifth month. Moscow-backed separatists in Donbas have battled Ukrainian forces since 2014 when they declared independence from Kyiv after the Russian annexation of Ukraine's Crimea. Russia formally recognized the self-proclaimed republics days before its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine.

In his nightly video address, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged the withdrawal, but vowed that Ukrainian forces will fight their way back.

"If the command of our army withdraws people from certain points of the front where the enemy has the greatest fire superiority, in particular this applies to Lysychansk, it means only one thing: We will return thanks to our tactics, thanks to the increase in the supply of modern weapons," Zelenskyy said.

Since failing to take Kyiv and other areas in Ukraine's northeast early in the war, Russia has focused on Donbas, unleashing fierce shelling and engaging in house-to-house combat that devastated cities in the region.

Russia's invasion has also devastated Ukraine's agricultural sector, disrupting supply chains of seed and fertilizer needed by Ukrainian farmers and blocking the export of grain, a key source of revenue for the country.

In its intelligence report yesterday, Britain's defense ministry pointed to the Russian blockade of the key Ukrainian port of Odesa, which has severely restricted grain exports. They predicted that Ukraine's agricultural exports would

reach only 35% of the 2021 total this year as a result.

As Moscow pushed its offensive across Ukraine's east, areas in western Russia came under attack Sunday in a revival of sporadic apparent Ukrainian strikes across the border. The governor of the Belgorod region in Western Russia said fragments of an intercepted Ukrainian missile killed four people Sunday. In the Russian city of Kursk, two Ukrainian drones were shot down, according to the Russian Defense Ministry. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1991 INTERNATIONAL BANK CLOSED IN FRAUD SCANDAL



The Bank of England has closed down UK branches of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) over allegations of fraud.

The bank's 120,000 UK customers were stunned by the speed of the closure.

Even BCCI staff were not prepared for the largest ever intervention of this kind by the Bank of England, as deposits worth £250m were frozen.

Over the weekend liquidators from accountants Touche Ross will be entering all 25 branches to carry out detailed examinations of their finances.

The Bank of England also intends to stay open and set up a telephone hotline to help worried investors.

They are advising that the UK Deposit Protection Fund will guarantee investments up to £15,000 but investigators need to find out exactly how much is left in BCCI coffers.

London is at the centre of a global operation to investigate the activities of Luxembourg based BCCI, which is one of the biggest privately owned financial companies in the world.

Last year they were fined \$15m for laundering drug money for former President of Panama General Noriega. At the time there were calls to shut down the bank, as six of its former executives were also jailed.

Speaking today, the Governor of the Bank of England Robin Leigh-Pemberton explained: "We had no clear evidence under which we could act, under the Banking Act, until earlier this year."

There are already rumours that the bank made a huge operating loss last year and probably would have collapsed within weeks anyway.

Opposition MPs are demanding to know why action was not taken sooner but BCCI's controlling shareholder - the Abu Dhabi government - has accused the British Government of acting too quickly.

Today's closure comes in the wake of a report commissioned by the Bank of England and published by BCCI's auditors, Price Waterhouse, in June.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Touche Ross reported that BCCI had a £5.6bn deficit at the time of closure. It was the largest financial fraud in the world to that date.

The Abu Dhabi government tried to rescue the bank with a £1.8bn cash injection proposal.

It later emerged that BCCI had stolen £1bn from the personal account of Sheikh Zayed of Abu Dhabi.

Up to 30 local authorities in the UK lost around £82m after investing in BCCI on the basis of approval by the Bank of England.

In 2001 the liquidators, Deloitte & Touche, were given unprecedented permission to sue the Bank of England for almost £1bn on behalf of 6,500 UK depositors who lost savings when BCCI collapsed.

The lawsuit began in January 2004 and was the first the Bank had faced in its 300-year history.

Deloitte dropped the case in November 2005 after a reserve judgement from the High Court said the case was no longer in the best interest of creditors.

In March 2004 the Bank of India was ordered to pay \$82m (£45m) in compensation by a British High Court judge after investigations revealed insider knowledge of deposits were used to defraud BCCI creditors.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You need a change and you need to earn more cash. Concentrate on work or make changes to yourself. Unexpected bills will leave you a little short.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You need a change and you need to earn more cash. Concentrate on work or make changes to yourself. Unexpected bills will leave you a little short.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You may need a physical outlet that will help you relieve your tension. You can meet potential new mates, but make sure that they aren't already committed to someone else.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You are best to avoid confrontations. Do not let in-laws upset you. Your ability to stand out in a crowd will bring you the recognition you desire.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. Female colleagues may be able to help you get the job done. You can't live your life for others.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Expressing yourself in novel ways should lead you down new avenues. Finish overdue paperwork and catch up on letter writing and reading.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

One of your female friends may try to disrupt your day. Stand up for your rights. Avoid any confrontations with colleagues. Empty promises will cause confusion.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

There's lots to be done and if you meet your deadline you'll be in your boss's good books. Problems with colleagues are likely. Try to keep ahead of the game.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Insincere gestures of friendliness are likely to occur. Travel will initiate new friendships or love connections. Be prepared to have relatives or close friends introduce you to new and exciting individuals.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Concentrate on home improvement. Small details will make a difference. Try to enlist the support of your coworkers first. Problems with in-laws may cause friction in your personal relationship.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Be careful not to come on too strongly. Those you care about may oppose your ideas. Try to stay calm, and whatever you do, don't nag.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Avoid lovers who already have a relationship, even if it is a bad one. Don't let your mate talk you into going somewhere you'd rather not go.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	29	rain
Changchun	22	29	cloudy
Chengdu	23	34	cloudy
Chongqing	25	34	cloudy
Fuzhou	26	33	rain
Guangzhou	24	29	rain
Guiyang	20	28	showers
Haikou	25	35	cloudy
Hangzhou	26	34	overcast
Harbin	22	32	cloudy
Hefei	25	32	thunderstorms
Nanjing	26	33	cloudy
Shanghai	26	33	cloudy
Taipei	25	29	rain
Wuhan	26	31	rain
Hong Kong	26	28	thunderstorms

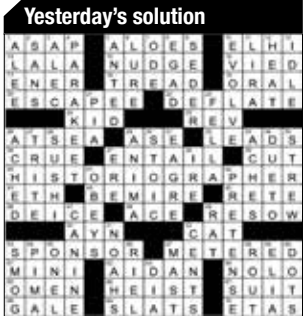
WORLD

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Moscow	18	28	overcast
Frankfurt	9	20	showers
Paris	16	21	overcast
London	15	20	overcast
New York	17	27	showers

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Streamlined; 6- Pen's inferior, they say; 11- Blast; 14- Brown; 15- Shinto temple gateway; 16- Nipper's co.; 17- Everglades bird; 18- Met highlights; 19- Use, consume; 20- Due (to); 22- Musical drama; 24- Warship; 28- Rouse; 29- Left-compliment; insult; 30- Trick; 32- Commedia dell'arte; 33- Twilled fabric of silk; 35- Othello villain; 39- Bridle strap; 40- Semi; 41- Rushed, drove too fast; 42- Dissolve; 43- It's a plus; 45- Nailed obliquely; 46- Gilder; 48- Last car?; 50- 39th president of the U.S.; 53- Go in again; 54- Follows orders; 55- Salty; 57- Dr. Dre's genre; 58- Brought into being; 60- Money spent; 65- glance; 66- Mindlessly stupid; 67- Like non-oyster months; 68- "Conquest of Space" writer Willy; 69- Enthusiastic; 70- Kett and James;

DOWN 1- Compass pt.; 2- Fall back; 3- Where it's at; 4- Hot time in Paris; 5- Monosaccharide; 6- Flight segment; 7- Threadbare; 8- Not a dup.; 9- Narrow inlet; 10- Repudiate; 11- Ancient tongue; 12- Without ___ in the world; 13- The devil; 21- Ties the knot; 23- Republic in S Asia; 24- Amulet; 25- Street show; 26- Before; 27- State of exact likeness; 28- Satisfied sound; 30- Rainbow maker; 31- Anger; 34- Bear up there; 36- Opposite astarboard; 37- Farm birds; 38- More bizarre; 43- ___ Lingus; 44- At that point; 47- Blues great Smith; 49- Pooh pal; 50- Reef material; 51- Ease up; 52- Settle a loan; 53- Bill attachment; 55- Boast; 56- Actress Russo; 59- One ___ million; 61- Nth: Abbr.; 62- Asian holiday; 63- Fed. purchasing group; 64- Old spy org.;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	



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TRAVEL

HOLIDAY GETAWAY PUSHES US AIRPORT TRAFFIC TO PANDEMIC HIGH

MICHAEL LIEDTKE, BERKELEY

The Fourth of July holiday weekend is jamming U.S. airports with their biggest crowds since the pandemic began in 2020.

About 2.49 million passengers went through security checkpoints at U.S. airports Friday, surpassing the previous pandemic-era record of 2.46 million reached earlier in the week, according to figures released Saturday by the Transportation Security Administration.

The escalating numbers show leisure travelers aren't being deterred from flying by rising fares, the ongoing spread of COVID-19 or worries about recurring flight delays and cancellations.

Friday's passenger volume marked a 13% increase from July 1 last year, which fell on the Thursday before Fourth of July. This year's number of passengers going through U.S. airports also eclipsed the 2.35 million screened at security checkpoints on the Friday before the Fourth of July in 2019, but that was nearly a week ahead of Inde-

AP PHOTO



pendence Day.

In a more telling sign of how close U.S. air travel is reverting back to pre-pandemic conditions, an average of 2.33 million passengers have passed through security checkpoints at domestic airports during the seven days ending July 1.

That was close to the seven-

-day average of roughly 2.38 million passengers during the same 2019 period, according to the TSA.

But airlines have struggled to keep up with the surging demand amid staffing shortages and an assortment of other issues that have resulted in recurring waves of exasperating flight delays

and cancellations that have been transforming some vacations into nightmarish ordeals.

Many airlines, including Delta, Southwest and JetBlue, have responded to the challenge by curtailing their summer schedules in an effort to reduce the inconveniences — and backlash — caused by flight delays and can-

cancellations. They are using larger planes on average to carry more passengers while they scramble to hire and train more pilots.

The headaches continued Friday, although they weren't as bad as they have been at other times in recent months. There were more than 6,800 flight delays and another 587 flight cancellations affecting U.S. airports Friday, according to the tracking site FlightAware.

The trouble spilled into Saturday, too, with thunderstorms complicating things on the East Coast and parts of the Midwest. By late Saturday, nearly 4,000 flights had been delayed and more than 600 had been canceled at U.S. airports, according to FlightAware.

Besides the flight delays and cancellations, travelers also have had to pay higher prices for tickets driven up by soaring fuel costs and other inflationary factors, as well as navigate around the health risks posed by continuing COVID-19 infections.

The travel bug is also congesting highways, even with the national average price for gasoline hovering around \$5 per gallon — and above \$6 per gallon in California and all its popular tourist attractions. AAA predicts that nearly 48 million people will travel at least 50 miles or more from home over the weekend, slightly fewer than in 2019. **MDT/AP**

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Ferrari driver Carlos Sainz of Spain celebrates after winning the British Formula One Grand Prix at the Silverstone circuit, in Silverstone, England, Sunday

FORMULA ONE

Sainz wins first career race with British GP victory

CARLOS Sainz Jr. won his first career Formula One race on Sunday with a victory at the British Grand Prix — the most dramatic race so far this season. It began with a frightening first-lap crash and ended with inten-

se wheel-to-wheel battles for the podium positions.

Sainz was in the lead with Charles Leclerc close behind and, while Ferrari at first said they were “free to fight,” the Italian team then asked Sainz to let Leclerc past to avoid losing time

to Lewis Hamilton.

But a safety car came out and Ferrari brought Sainz into the pits for fresher, grippier soft tires. Leclerc was left on older, hard tires and Sainz soon passed his teammate to regain the lead and pull away for his first victory in

his 150th F1 start.

“Today the win does feel a bit of a relief,” said Sainz. “Honestly, I never stopped believing that this dream was going to come, even though this year has been tough for me.” He had finished second or third 11 times before winning and was a frustratingly close second to Verstappen at the last race in Canada.

Sergio Pérez passed Hamilton and Leclerc after the restart and finished second behind Sainz. Hamilton was briefly second after passing both Pérez and Leclerc in a three-wide move, but he couldn't hold position and dropped back to fourth.

Hamilton then surged past Leclerc in a fierce fight for third place. He also led laps Sunday for the first time this season.

“I gave it everything,” said Hamilton, who was third in Canada two weeks ago and hoped Mercedes is on a comeback. The team has been unable to challenge Red Bull and Ferrari for wins this season, but an added upgrade to the Mercedes ahead of this weekend was promising.

“We've got some improvements to make but this is a huge bonus for us to be on the podium,” Hamilton added.

Leclerc was later seen being spoken to privately by Ferrari team principal Mattia Binotto. Leclerc said he was “very, very disappointed” with the result and had

discussed with Binotto why the team had left him out on old tires.

“We could have (changed the tires) but I was asked to stay out on track. So that's what I did,” he told French broadcaster Canal Plus.

Max Verstappen, the defending F1 champion and current standings leader, dropped out of the lead with damage to his Red Bull after running over debris. He struggled for grip and finished seventh.

Pérez said his race was a “great comeback” after he dropped to the back early in the race following damage to his front wing while racing Leclerc and Verstappen.

The race was red-flagged almost as soon as it began when a crash at the first corner left Zhou Guanyu and Alex Albon needing medical treatment.

Zhou's car flipped upside-down and cleared a tire barrier before smashing into a fence. Pierre Gasly had knocked George Russell's Mercedes into Zhou's back wheel, flipping the Chinese driver's Alfa Romeo. As drivers tried to avoid that crash, Albon was knocked sideways into the pit wall.

Zhou was treated at the circuit's medical center, and Alfa Romeo said he was not badly injured, while Williams said Albon had been taken to hospital by helicopter for “precautionary checks.”

Russell, who left his car to rush to Zhou's aid, was also unable to restart the race. **MDT/AP**

AD



BENFICAMACAU
ACADEMY
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FOOTBALL

BASKETBALL

DAILY TRAININGS

生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE

MACAUCLOSER

可持續的生活
LIVING SUSTAINABLY

認識正在為城市綠化努力的澳門人

MEET MACAU LOCALS MAKING AN EFFORT TO GREEN UP THE CITY

MACAU CLOSER TO THE GREATER BAY AREA

橫琴 就是未來
THE FUTURE IS HENGQIN

可持續的生活
LIVING SUSTAINABLY

現在發售
NOW ON SALE

OUR GREATER BAY AREA SUPPLEMENT INSIDE
本期雜誌加入了大灣區特刊，不容錯過

OPINION

China Daily
Xinhua Commentary

SCIENCE SERVES AS BEDROCK OF CHINA'S TARGETED EPIDEMIC CONTROL

Science-based and targeted epidemic control has been playing a key role in China's endeavors to protect its people's health and strike a balance between epidemic control and economic and social development.

The Chinese mainland on Sunday reported 41 locally-transmitted confirmed COVID-19 cases.

If China adopts a hands-off approach against COVID-19, the consequence could be disastrous for a country with 1.4 billion people, including 267 million aged 60 or above and more than 250 million children.

China has carried out prevention and control measures based on scientific principles, as science has always played a vital role in the guidelines and policies issued by the central and local governments.

The dynamic zero-COVID policy has been proven effective in China's efforts to fight against the epidemic. The essence of the approach is early detection and quick response based on the characteristics of the virus variants, with aim of curbing flare-ups in the shortest possible time and at the lowest social costs.

According to China's newly-updated COVID-19 control protocol, the ninth edition released on June 28, close contacts and inbound travelers will be under medical observation in isolation at designated sites for seven days followed by three days of in-home health monitoring, significantly reducing the quarantine time.

Sub-close contacts will undergo seven days of medical observation under home quarantine, instead of seven days of medical observation in isolation at designated sites.

An expert with the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention said the new edition was based on the latest prevention and control practices as well as the research outcomes, which found the average incubation period of Omicron variants was shortened to two to four days in most cases, and most of the Omicron infections could be detected within seven days.

The updated national-level protocol is the latest example of how China's anti-COVID efforts are based on science.

Scientific and technological breakthroughs, such as the development of rapid test reagents, vaccines and anti-virus drugs, have provided China with adequate tools for its prevention and control efforts against COVID-19.

They have aided the country in conducting quick rounds of nucleic acid testing, carrying out precise epidemiological investigations, effectively treating and curing the patients, and minimizing the impact of epidemic prevention and control on people's normal work and daily life.

DUTCH FARMERS BLOCK ENTRANCES TO SUPERMARKET WAREHOUSES

Dutch farmers angry at government plans to slash emissions used tractors and trucks yesterday to block roads and supermarket distribution centers, sparking fears of store food shortages in the latest actions through a summer of discontent in the country's lucrative agricultural sector.

The Netherlands' busiest aviation hub, Schiphol Airport, urged travelers to use public transport to get to its terminals amid fears that the blockades also would target airports. Fishermen acting out of solidarity with farmers also blocked a number of harbors.

The unrest among Dutch farmers was triggered by a government proposal to slash emissions of pollutants like nitrogen oxide and ammonia by 50% by 2030. Provincial governments have been given a year to formulate plans to achieve the goal.

A group of farmers in the province of North Holland held talks with two senior officials in the city of Haarlem.

The reforms are expected to include reducing livestock and buying up some farms whose animals produce large amounts of ammonia. Farmers argue they are being unfairly targeted and are being given no perspective for their future.

AP PHOTO



Rocket Lab's Electron rocket waits on the launch pad on the Mahia peninsula in New Zealand

NASA SATELLITE BREAKS FROM ORBIT AROUND EARTH, HEADS TO MOON

NICK PERRY,
WELLINGTON

A satellite the size of a microwave oven successfully broke free from its orbit around Earth yesterday and is headed toward the moon, the latest step in NASA's plan to land astronauts on the lunar surface again.

It's been an unusual journey already for the Capstone satellite. It was launched six days ago from New Zealand's Mahia Peninsula by the company Rocket Lab in one of their small Electron rockets. It will take another four months for the satellite to reach the moon, as it cruises along using minimal energy.

Rocket Lab founder Peter Beck told The Associated Press it was hard to put his excitement into words.

"It's probably going to take a while to sink in. It's been a project that has taken us two, two-and-a-half years and is just incredibly, incredibly difficult to execute," he said. "So to see it all come together tonight and see that spacecraft on its way to the moon, it's just absolutely epic."

Beck said the relatively low cost of the mission

— NASA put it at \$32.7 million — marked the beginning of a new era for space exploration.

"For some tens of millions of dollars, there is now a rocket and a spacecraft that can take you to the moon, to asteroids, to Venus, to Mars," Beck said. "It's an insane capability that's never existed before."

If the rest of the mission is successful, the Capstone satellite will send back vital information for months as the first to take a new orbit around the moon called a near-rectilinear halo orbit: a stretched-out egg shape with one end of the orbit passing close to the moon and the other far from it.

Eventually, NASA plans to put a space station called Gateway into the orbital path, from which astronauts can descend to the moon's surface as part of its Artemis program.

Beck said the advantage of the new orbit is that it minimizes fuel use and allows the satellite — or a space station — to stay in constant contact with Earth.

The Electron rocket that launched June 28 from New Zealand was carrying a second space-

craft called Photon, which separated after nine minutes. The satellite was carried for six days in Photon, with the spacecraft's engines firing periodically to raise its orbit farther and farther from Earth.

A final engine burst Monday allowed Photon to break from Earth's gravitational pull and send the satellite on its way. The plan now is for the 25-kilogram (55-pound) satellite to far overshoot the moon before falling back into the new lunar orbit Nov. 13. The satellite will use tiny amounts of fuel to make a few planned trajectory course corrections along the way.

Beck said they would decide over the coming days what to do with Photon, which had completed its tasks and still had a bit of fuel left in the tank.

"There's a number of really cool missions that we can actually do with it," Beck said.

For the mission, NASA teamed up with two commercial companies: California-based Rocket Lab and Colorado-based Advanced Space, which owns and operates the Capstone satellite. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Vatican Pope Francis has dismissed rumors he plans to resign anytime soon and that he hopes to visit Moscow and Kyiv after traveling to Canada later this month. Francis also told Reuters in an interview published yesterday that the idea "never entered my mind" to announce a planned retirement at the end of the summer, though he repeated he might step down some day as Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI did in 2013.

French President Emmanuel Macron rearranged his Cabinet yesterday in an attempt to adjust to a new political reality following legislative elections in which his centrist alliance failed to win a majority in the parliament. The latest government reshuffle comes six weeks after Macron appointed Elisabeth Borne to lead a new government coalition at the outset of the president's second term. It's partly a result of rules that Macron — and French presidents before him — had set ahead of the parliamentary vote: Only ministers who retain their seats will remain in government posts.

AP PHOTO



Brazil If President Jair Bolsonaro is to have any hope of securing a second term, he needs more female support — and fast. Yet a man famed for macho bravado hasn't shown any concerted strategy to do so. With the election just three months off, some polls show only one in five women will vote for the tough-talking, pro-gun, motorcycle-riding former Army captain. If that holds true Oct. 2, Bolsonaro could lose outright to his nemesis, former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, without need for a runoff. Almost half of Brazilian women say they will vote for the president's opponent.