

PHOTO NEWS

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<TRANSLATED BY CHANG HO-MING/ 台北時報專譯>

On the sidelines of the 2020 Baishatun

Matsu Pilgrimage

三〇三〇白沙屯媽祖進香花絮



↑ Taoist priests perform a traditional ritual in front of Gongtian Temple on July 13 following the return of the Matsu statue from a nine-day journey, joined by over 50,000 pilgrims this year. PHOTOS: PAUL COOPER, TAIPEI TIMES

七月十三日，媽祖神像回宮安座之後，道教法師在拱天宮舉行傳統儀式。今年為期九天的進香活動吸引超過五萬名香燈腳參加。
照片：台北時報記者古德謙攝



Women rest inside Chaotian Temple in Yunlin County's Beigang Township on July 8. The 2020 Baishatun Matsu pilgrimage arrived at the temple, its destination, earlier that day. This year the pilgrims had to deal with the stifling summer heat, as the event had to be postponed due to the pandemic.

七月八日，兩名女性在雲林縣北港鎮的朝天宮裡稍事休息。當天稍早，二〇二〇白沙屯媽祖徒步進香抵達此處，也就是這場進香的目的地。由於今年活動受到疫情影響延期，「香燈腳」們（註：參與白沙屯媽祖進香活動的信徒）必須忍受炎熱的夏日高溫。



A man and his friends throw *jiaobei* divination blocks as passersby look on in the main courtyard of Chaotian Temple in Yunlin County's Beigang Township on July 8, the day of the arrival of the Baishatun Matsu. The Matsu pilgrimage was to leave early in the morning of the next day to make the return journey to the Baishatun Gongtian Temple in Miaoli County's Tongshiao Township.

七月八日，也就是白沙屯媽祖抵達雲林北港朝天宮當天，一名男性和他的朋友們在朝天宮的中庭擲筊杯，旁邊路過的人也在看。隔天清晨，媽祖進香隊伍將離開朝天宮，返回苗栗縣通霄鎮的白沙屯拱天宮。



↓ Pilgrims and a police officer watch the preparation of the palanquin bearing the statue of the goddess Matsu on the night of July 4 in the Baishatun Gongtian Temple in Miaoli County's Tongshiao Township. The palanquin left the temple at 2:15am on July 5 for a nine-day pilgrimage that would take it to Yunlin County's Chaotian Temple and back. This year, the pilgrimage was postponed due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Although the government has given the green light for large gatherings such as temple festivals, participants were still advised to wear masks, and the central section of the temple was cordoned off, obliging people to pack into the spaces either side.

七月四日晚間，信徒們和一名警察在苗栗縣通霄鎮的白沙屯拱天宮，觀看媽祖神像登轎安座的準備工作。神轎隊伍於七月五日凌晨兩點十五分從拱天宮出發，展開為期九天、徒步將神轎扛到雲林縣朝天宮來回的進香活動。今年由於武漢肺炎（新冠病毒，COVID-19）持續肆虐，進香被迫延期。儘管政府日前已開放宗教慶典等大型群眾活動，廟方仍建議參加者戴上口罩，並把廟中央圍起來，呼籲信徒往兩側的空間移動。