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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN"

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AIR MACAU'S 25-YEAR CONCESSION. DUE TO EXPIRE THIS NOVEMBER, HAS BEEN EXTENDED FOR THREE **YEARS ON ACCOUNT OF COVID-19**

TRAVEL ASSOCIATION HOPEFUL **MACAU VISITORS WILL CLIMB TO 26 MILLION THIS YEAR**

SCUFFLES BROKE OUT IN HONG KONG'S PARLIAMENT AS SECURITY **GUARDS EJECTED SEVERAL PRO-DEMOCRACY LAWMAKERS**

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South Korea's capital has shut down more than 2,100 nightclubs, hostess bars and discos after dozens of coronavirus infections were linked to club goers who went out last weekend as the country relaxed social distancing guidelines. The measures imposed Saturday by Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon came after the national government urged entertainment venues around the nation to close or otherwise enforce antivirus measures.



Japan The coronavirus has brought not just an epidemic of infections, but also an onslaught of bullying and discrimination against the sick, their families and health workers. A government campaign to raise awareness seems to be helping, at least for medical workers. But it's made only limited headway in countering the harassment and shunning that may be discouraging people from seeking testing and care



Belarus The eastern European nation of Belarus held a full-fledged military parade Saturday to mark Victory Day, shrugging off safety concerns during the coronavirus pandemic that led Russia to curtail its own long-planned 75th anniversary observances. Tens of thousands of spectators lined the parade route as some 3,000 soldiers and 185 military vehicles passed by in the capital, Minsk. More on p8

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GOV'T REVERSES JUNE 4 EXHIBITION DECISION



20,000 **ZHUHAI WORKERS** TO AVOID MEDICAL **OBSERVATION** WHEN HEADED **TO MACAU**



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GOV'T EXTENDS AIR MACAU'S CONCESSION AGREEMENT FOR THREE MORE YEARS

LYNZY VALLES

IR Macau's 25-year conces-Asion agreement, which was set to expire this November, has been extended for three years, the Civil Aviation Authority of Macau (AACM) announced in a statement.

The announcement contradicted an earlier statement from January 2019 when it said that the concession agreement will not be renewed as the government is aiming to liberalize the market.

In 2008, the SAR government decided not to extend the exclusive rights in the contracts upon their expiry. Air Macau holds an exclusive concession that permits it to operate certain routes without competition.

"To cope with the amendment of the relevant legislation for the liberalization of Macau's air transport market, as well as to maintain the stability of the industry operations currently affected by the outbreak of the Novel Coronavirus Pneumonia, the SAR government will extend the concession con-



tract of Air Macau for three years," the AACM announced in a statement.

Currently, the government is working on the administrative procedures for the extension of the contract. More details will be published after the signing is concluded.

Lawmaker Lao Chi Ngai believes that the decision made by the government is appropriate as the current global pandemic has meant stringent travel restrictions that have largely hit the aviation industry.

For Lao, even if the air traffic concessions and market were opened, the timing is not convenient, and therefore airlines may not be interested in launching routes to and from Macau.

"I feel that it is more appropriate for the government [to renew] Air Macau's concession agreement for three years," Lao told Macao Daily News.

After three years, it is thought that the city's aviation industry will become an open market, allowing any airline to apply for any routes to and from Macau without the need for AACM to consult Air Ma-

Any foreign airline wishing to operate scheduled flights to Macau will be able to file their flight application to AACM for approval on the condition that the airline is

designated by the aeronautical authorities of the contracting party and flies the route in accordance with the provisions laid down in the bilateral air services agreement between Macau and the contracting area.

AACM has previously mentioned that it hired an international consultancy firm to study the future development of the air transport market for Macau in 2017. However, the authority did not disclose what plan will be implemented, noting that the Basic Law required the local government to communicate with the Central Government when devising the plan.

Although Air Macau's concession agreement will end in three years, the airline will still continue to operate flights as an air operator registered in the SAR.

Currently, the airline operates routes to a total of 36 countries and regions, although most destinations are in mainland China.

The local airline reported that its profits last year stood at about 127.6 million patacas, representing a 37% drop from a year earlier.

TOURISM

Travel association hopeful visitor arrivals will climb to 26 million this year

LYNZY VALLES

THE Pacific Asia Travel ▲ Association (PATA) is forecasting that the Macau SAR will receive a total of 26.42 million visitors this year, according to information accessed by Portuguese newspaper Tribuna de Macau. That implies the city should welcome over 2.8 million visitors per month in the final eight months of the year.

Macau recorded 3.2 million visitors during the first quarter of the year, 68% fewer than in the same period of 2019. The territory received little more than 200,000 visitors in April.

The plunge was due to the global travel restric-

tions amid the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly the central government's halt in issuing individual visas and group tour permits for its citizens, who represent Macau's top source market.

From January to March 2019, the SAR recorded nearly 10.3 million visitors, which itself showed a 21.2% decrease year-on-year.

PATA, an association the Macao Government Tourism Office has been part of since 1958, predicts that 18.46 million tourists will arrive from mainland China, while 4.97 million of the city's tourists will come from Hong Kong. Some 660,000 are expected from Taiwan.

Last year, there were 27.9

million, 7.3 million and nearly 1.1 million tourists arriving from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan respectively.

Currently, the central government is still not issuing group tour visas or individual visas to its citizens, while the recent halt in the public operations of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and ferry services has hindered Hong Kong tourists from coming in.

However, despite the possibility of the Individual Visit Scheme resuming later this month, most analysts expect tourist spending will be lower than normal as mainland tourists are also recovering from the economic effects of Covid-19.

Meanwhile, PATA also estimates that about 470,000 tourists are expected to arrive from South Korea, 360,000 from the Philippines, 150,000 from Thailand, 220,000 from Japan and 190,000 from the U.S. this year.

Aside from the expectations of an imminent and strong recovery this year, PATA also predicts that Macau will record some 46.69 million tourist arrivals in 2021. By comparison, Macau welcomed just under 38 million at its peak last year, when concerns of overtourism were at their height and the local tourism board agreed to study the introduction of a tourist tax.



Meanwhile, PATA's CEO Mario Hardy said that there still remains a significant volume of visitors expected into Asia Pacific through 2020, despite obvious reductions in arrivals.

"We can only hope that this pandemic is brought under absolute control quickly and effectively, enabling the global travel and tourism industry to

get back on its feet, re-employ the millions of people who lost their positions and create even more employment opportunities both directly and for the upstream and downstream sectors that rely on it," said Hardy.

PATA stated that Asia is predicted to spearhead a return to visitor growth across Asia Pacific in 2021.

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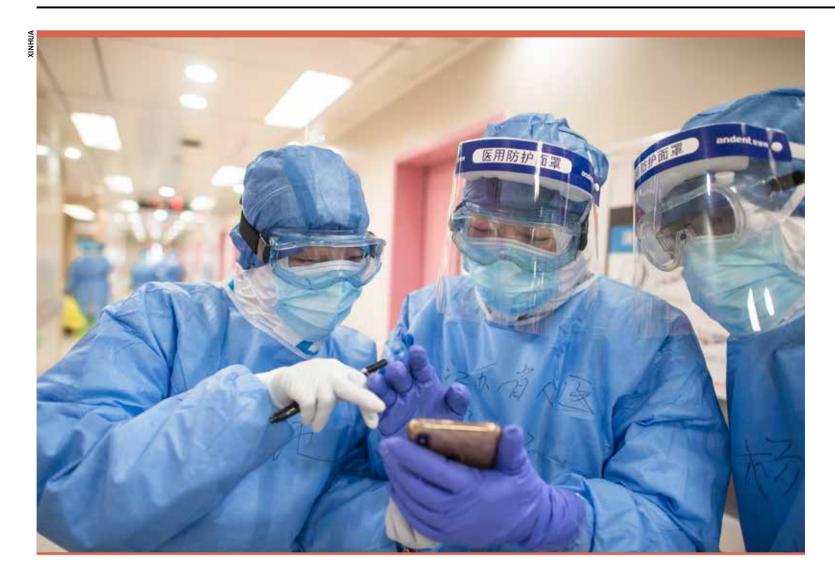
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Over 20,000 TNR to be exempted from medical observation

RENATO MARQUES

ROM today, some 20,000 non-resident workers (TNR) from Zhuhai will be exempted from underdoing a medical observation period when reentering Macau. The representative of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, Ma Chio Hong, advanced the figure during yesterday's daily press conference.

"More than 20,000 TNR meet the requirements to be exempted from the medical observation. We hope we can continue to ease on some restrictions but always prioritize the health of the population," Ma said in reply to a question from the media.

The new measures, aiming to ease the access of such workers to both sides of the border, where they live and work, were presented by the authorities on Saturday, entering into force from 6 a.m. today.

The exemption is extended to all TNR from Zhuhai who possess a valid certification of a negative test for Covid-19, which will be accessible to the authorities on both sides of the border via the health declaration application, the

health authorities explained.

To facilitate this, the Macau health declaration form has been upgraded with a color scheme as enforced in the mainland, and the addition of a new button that allows the transference of data including medical history, travel history and tests results made on both sides of the border.

Leong recommended that people transfer the data from the Guangdong health declaration to the one for Macau and vice-versa before reaching the border control checkpoint, "because the system needs a stable internet connection and around the border, this is sometimes difficult and can cause problems and delays," she said.

The coordinator added that the new system has been operating since 10 a.m. yesterday but not many people have used it.

It is important to note that the Covid-19 negative tests which allow the applicants to cross the border have a validity of seven days, after which the tests should be repeated.

In another reply to a media question, Dr Alvis Lo from the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center added that the first tests to be performed for these workers will be free of charge but the subsequent ones will cost MOP180 each.

Lo noted that such a price could be only achieved with the support of the government and in partnership with a third-party entity that is collaborating with the government on the testing.

"Before only the health bureau was doing the test. We managed to find a third-party entity to help and increase our daily capacity to 6,000 tests," he said. "This amount of MOP180 is well below the real cost and the prices in other regions For example, in Hong Kong this test costs between HKD2,000 and HKD3,000 and in Taiwan it is around TWD6,000 [around MOP1,600]."

The doctor believes the prices charged are fair and does not expect to see any decreases or exemption from payment soon.

MACAU JOURNALISTS EXEMPT FROM US GOVERNMENT'S NEW VISA RULES

Journalists in the semi-autonomous territories of Macau and Hong Kong will be exempt from new rules adopted by the U.S. government to tighten visa guidelines for Chinese journalists. The move comes in response to the treatment of U.S. journalists in China, as tensions flare between the two nations over the coronavirus. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security has issued new regulations, set to take effect today, that will limit visas for Chinese reporters to 90 days. There is a potential to extend the visa. The agency noted what it called China's "suppression of independent journalism, "including "an increasing lack of transparency." It was the latest strike in a tit-for-tat over media rights between the countries. In March, China said it would revoke credentials of all American journalists at three major U.S. news organizations, in effect expelling them from the country, in response to U.S. restrictions on Chinese statecontrolled media.

LOCAL MAN SUSPECTED OF INDECENT OFFENSE

A local unemployed man has been arrested and transferred to the public prosecution over suspicion of committing indecent offenses to 38 secondary school students, the Judiciary Police (PJ) has announced. The case was received by the PJ on May 6 through the "Campus Safety Network". A school reported that a same man had allegedly been harassing 38 female students since May 4, when senior secondary education resumed. It was reported that the man touched the bottom and legs of the students. After viewing surveillance camera footage, the PJ spotted a 39-year-old suspect, surnamed Lok. Although the suspect has denied the accusation, several students have already come forward with their

MAN PROSECUTED FOR SEXUALLY HARASSING 10-YEAR-OLD

A non-resident security guard originally from Nepal has recently been prosecuted for alleged sexual harassment of a 10-year-old girl in the reservoir leisure area. The guard is surnamed Gurung and in his 40s. The incident occurred last Wednesday evening when the girl was walking with her mother in the leisure area. The suspect is said to have approached the girl and touched her bottom twice. The first time, the girl thought it was an accident, but the second time alerted her otherwise. When the man attempted the third time, the girl evaded the harassment. She informed her mother of the harassment. The suspect, who was arrested soon after, explained his actions by saying he missed his daughter who was back in Nepal.

HOSPITALIZATION TIME LONGER IN MACAU

In response to media questions on the topic, Lo admitted that the average time of hospitalization for the Covid-19 patients in Macau is longer than in most parts of the world.

The acknowledgment was made in reply to a question related to the discharge yesterday of a 19-year old patient who had been kept in treatment and observation for 50 days, which will be followed by another 14-days of quarantine.

"We have patients in hospitalization for as long as seven or eight weeks," the official said yesterday. "The [hospitalization] time in Macau

is, in fact, longer than in other regions because we are monitoring all the health conditions. Our criteria to discharge [Covid-19 patients] is very rigorous."

The doctor added that, for the time being, local authorities do not expect to make any changes to the requirements for a patient to be discharged.

"This may be only considered if there is another wave of infection, and we decide to make changes based on the previous experience," he concluded. **RM**

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Pan-democratic legislators Raymond Chan Chi-chuen (left picture) and Eddie Chu Hoi Dick (right picture) are taken away by security guards

LAWMAKERS EJECTED IN SCUFFLES AT HONG KONG'S LEGISLATURE

Scuffles broke out at Hong Kong's legislature Friday, with security guards ejecting several pro-democracy lawmakers including one carried out on a stretcher by medics after he was injured.

Tempers flared when a pro-Beijing lawmaker inserted herself as chair of a committee meeting to try to end a months-long impasse that has resulted in a backlog of legislation, including a controversial bill that would criminalize abuse of the Chinese national anthem in the semi-autonomous city.

Pro-Beijing lawmakers have accused pro-democracy

lawmaker Dennis Kwok, the deputy chair of the House Committee, of stalling its work by blocking the selection of a new chair for more than six months. China publicly rebuked Kwok last month for holding up matters that affect public interest, sparking protests that it was meddling in Hong Kong's internal affairs.

On Friday, pro-Beijing lawmaker Starry Lee, saying she has the authority as the previous chair to preside over the meeting, occupied the seat more than an hour before the meeting's scheduled start. Security staff and other pro-Beijing lawmakers sur-

rounded the bench to try to keep a large group of pro-democracy lawmakers at bay.

The two sides shouted at each other, with each camp holding up placards condemning either Lee or Kwok. Scuffles broke out when Lee called the meeting to order, with pro-democracy lawmakers rushing the bench as security guards shoved back. The guards carried out several pro-democracy lawmakers, including Eddie Chu and Ray Chan, who were ordered to leave due to disorderly conduct.

"I have not seized power, I am the incumbent chairperson of the House Committee," said Lee, urging lawmakers to take their seats.

Pro-democracy lawmaker Claudia Mo called Lee a "vicious Beijing little worm," and others chanted "Starry Lee, step down." Pro-Beijing lawmakers countered that Kwok was abusing his

Most of the pro-democracy lawmakers eventually walked out of the meeting of the committee, which normally scrutinizes bills and determines when they can be put to a final vote. The session was later briefly suspended after pro-democracy politician Kwok Wing-kin, who was watching from the public viewing balcony,

was dragged away by security guards after he threw a stack of papers down into the chamber.

In rebuking Kwok last month, China's liaison office in Hong Kong called for him to be prosecuted for misconduct in public office. The legislature's legal adviser, Connie Fung, who said last year that Lee does not have the authority to preside and a new chair must be elected, reversed her position Friday. She said Lee could preside because of the abnormal condition of a chair not being elected for six months.

It wasn't clear whether Lee's move ended the impasse, with pro-democracy lawmakers saying they would continue to fight. Dozens of anti-government protesters gathered in a nearby shopping mall in the evening, shouting pro-democracy slogans.

Beijing's criticism of Kwok sparked debate over whether it has the power to intervene in Hong Kong's internal affairs under the Basic Law, Hong Kong's constitution.

The former British colony was handed back to China in 1997 under a "one-country, two-systems" framework in which Hong Kong was given freedoms not enjoyed on the mainland and promised a high degree of autonomy in its affairs for 50 years.

Differences between the pro-Beijing and pro-democracy camps were sharpened after months of sometimes violent protests sparked by an attempt to pass legislation — later withdrawn — that would have allowed suspects to be extradited to China to face trials.

Previously, the legislature had passed a motion allowing a bill that extended maternity leave to bypass the House Committee, and was criticized by pro-democracy lawmakers as setting a bad precedent for bills to pass without the scrutiny of the committee. MDT/AP

'CRUCIAL VENUE' FOR NATIONAL EDUCATION TO BE LAUNCHED NEXT YEAR

A pavilion featuring multimedia exhibits and training tools on the subject of national education will be launched next year.

Lou Pak Sang, director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), unveiled the project in his response to the written interpellation by lawmaker Lam Lon Wai. The lawmaker had questioned the DSEJ about its progress on national education, otherwise known as the

study of the country.

The DSEJ described the pavilion as a "crucial venue" for national education.

With regards to content to be expected in the pavilion, Lou anticipates it to feature Chinese history and culture, and the development of the People's Republic of China, as well as major thematic exhibitions periodically.

Lou revealed that contents of the pavilion will be supplementary to the formal curriculum. Re-

gular exhibits, such as pictures and replicas of relics, will be used to present Chinese history and culture.

According to Lou, parts of existing government venues will be used to set up the pavilion. For the time being, the bureau is working on planning and preparing for the pavilion.

Multimedia materials and thematic events will be held to complete the experience at the pavilion. **AL**

BRITCHAM RE-ELECTS KEITH BUCKLEY AS CHAIRMAN

THE British Chamber of Commerce in Macao (Britcham Macao) has elected Keith Buckley as Chairman for the fourth successive year.

The chamber held its annual general meeting last week, during which it elected members of the committee.

The meeting saw the appointment of Simon Carrington, a captain and Senior Safety Officer with Air Macau, as Co-Vice Chairman to Britcham Macao's Management Committee, supplementing his existing role as Treasurer.

Carrington takes his place

alongside re-elected committee members Eileen Stow (Co-Vice Chairman), Virgil Chan, Jill Rigg, Andrew Evans, Maggie Chan and Saj Fernando.

Daniel Beitler, Managing Editor of Macau Daily Times, was newly elected to the management committee.

Meanwhile, Professor Kevin 'Kit' Thompson stepped down after five years on the committee.

During the meeting, Buckley praised members' continuing enthusiasm to promote and represent British trade interests in Macau along with their sharing

of good practice, innovation, fresh insights and new opportunities.

Britcham Macao was formerly known as the British Business Association of Macao.

The rebranding effort sought to better position the chamber of commerce to capitalize on two geo-economic initiatives; the development of the Greater Bay Area in southern China, and the anticipated departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union.

Macau Daily Times is the principal media partner of Britcham Macao. LV

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



This 2018 file photo shows a scene at the annual June 4 vigil in Senado Square

IAM reverses earlier Tiananmen exhibition authorization

RENATO MARQUES

HE Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has reversed its decision to allow the display in public spaces of an exhibition organized by lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong's group Union for Democracy Development relating to the events that occurred in Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

The exhibition is normally held alongside an annual vigil in Senado Square in the evening of June 4. The event calls on the public to remember Beijing's violent crackdown on pro-democracy activists in 1989.

The IAM's new decision contradicts a previous one from last month when the bureau authorized the use of public spaces to host the event which has been held in Macau for many years.

According to organizers, the IAM did not provide any justification for its change of position.

Questioned by TDM Radio, António Katchi, a legal expert and law professor responded that the change of position by the IAM constitutes an illegal decision.

"If the authorization had already been given [by the IAM to host the exhibition] it could not be revoked afterward unless the IAM considered, with plausible reasons, that the decision was invalid for violating the law and that it should be revoked to restore legality," Katchi said.

"Since it is obvious that the interested parties did not consent the revoking of the authorization, the act can only be considered invalid and illegal."

For Katchi, the back-pedal on the decision by the IAM has political motivations and it carries a bad omen as it might indicate that the annual vigil hosted on the same day to recall the events could also be canceled this year for the first time.

On the topic, Ng stated that he did not yet have confirmation of whether the vigil, hosted every year can be held this year since the introduction of new rules approved by the Legislative Assembly. These changes moved such powers from the authority of IAM to that of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) and state that all demonstrations and public assembly events should be communicated to the PSP between a minimum of three days and a maximum of 15 days before the wanted date.

Katchi also added that he believes that the vigil may be at risk, given that last year authorities disallowed a demonstration that aimed to protest against the alleged use of violence by police forces in the neighboring region of Hong Kong. The justifications given by the PSP were later validated by the Court of Final Appeal.

Legislature committee comes to agreement on Labor Law review

ANTHONY LAM

THE Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) has agreed to the amendments to the Labor Relations Law. In order for the amendments to take effect, the draft must now return to the AL plenary where lawmakers are expected to approve it.

The amendment procedure began in 2018, when the first draft of the amendment was delivered to the legislature. During the process, the committee, as well as other stakeholders made comments on the draft.

Subsequently, the government has made changes to the draft and presented it to the committee again.

At a press conference held after a committee's meeting, the president of the committee, lawmaker and lawyer Vong Hin Fai, announced the consensus reached on the latest draft.

In the latest draft, the government has proposed four major amendments to the law.

First, a change to the length of maternity leave is proposed. Currently, maternity leave in Macau lasts for 56. The proposed length is 70 days of maternity leave.

Second, paternity leave is proposed as a legal entitlement for the first time in Macau. The proposed paternity leave is five days.

In principle, the leave should be enjoyed when the baby is born. However, the latest draft proposes that the father-to-be can enjoy part of the leave from three months into the pregnancy until 30 days after the baby is born.

In order to take the leave prior to the birth of the baby, the father must present to his employer certification issued by a registered doctor or a hospital. Furthermore, the proposal requires the father to save at least one day of the leave to be taken after the baby's birth.

Although the draft is proposed to take immediate effect after the announcement, there will be a brief window period between its approval at the AL and publication in the Official Gazette. During this period, the old Labor Relations Law will prevail,

but the committee reasserted that the Civil Code ensures the more advantageous stipulations should apply.

Third, it has long been proposed that regular day-offs should be compensated when they overlap with a public holiday. This latest draft includes the proposal. The compensated date should be determined by negotiation but, if an agreement cannot be made, it will be determined by the employer. The proposal requires three days prior notice to the employees.

Finally, with regards to dismissal without cause, the salary ceiling for calculation of compensation will be raised by MOP1,000, to MOP21,000 per month.

FIRST LOCALLY-BORN TEST TUBE BABIES REGISTERED AT KWH

MACAU has seen its first test tube babies born at Kiang Wu Hospital (KWH) as the result of the hospital's special project to help with local fertility issues.

For a long time, couples who had fertility issues had to get medical assistance in neighboring cities if they wanted to get in vitro fertilization (IVF).

Aiming to respond to the demand for local services, Kiang Wu Hospital set up its assistive fertility center in November 2018, after negotiation and communication with the Health Bureau. Preparation work for the center had started in 2017.

So far, the hospital has helped more than 100 couples with their fertility issues. The average age of the hospital's patients is 36 years, with the oldest one 45 years old.

Some of them, the hospital disclosed, approached Kiang Wu Hospital after failed attempts in neighboring cities and eventually succeeded at the Macau institution.

Kiang Wu Hospital has highlighted a local case in which the mother delivered a baby right after New Year's Day this year.

Fertility issues are becoming a major medical concern in Mainland China, with about 1 out of 8 couples reporting to suffer from associated problems. The main causes include environmental pollution, mental stress and late motherhood. AL

MACALI'S LEADING NEWSDADED

More slog than snapback is outlook for Europe

JEANNETTE NEUMANN, JILL WARD & ALESSANDRA MIGLIACCIO

OR Javier Vazquez, business as usual will be a faint prospect even when he does get to reopen his two Madrid restaurants shuttered by the coronavirus.

"When are we going to get back to 100%?" asks Vazquez, wondering about the revenue he can bring in once Spain allows him and his staff to get back to work serving tapas and Galician--style octopus. "I think about it. And I think, probably never."

Vazquez's plight is one shared by businesses across Europe as governments this week from Spain to Switzerland allow further easing of lockdowns that they had imposed to keep the outbreak at bay. Rather than auguring the snapback in growth once touted by officials, those tentative steps look likely to herald a tough slog - particularly as long as the pandemic remains a threat to public health.

LOCKDOWNS LIFTED

That bleak outlook was underscored by the European Commission's May 6 forecast for an unprecedented 7.4% economic contraction in the European Union this year, the worst slump



in its history. Even that dire prediction assumes lockdowns across the continent will gradually ease with the virus under control

"There's a widely accepted view that this is the bottom and

we're going to fly back in terms of growth," said HSBC economist James Pomeroy. "The growth rate will probably bottom out in the second quarter, but don't expect things to get back to normal any time soon." The wreckage to economies around Europe is already obvious, most emphatically in southern countries particularly hit from the outbreak and whose ability to respond is limited by wide budget deficits and large

piles of debt. The Commission forecasts slumps exceeding 9% this year in Italy, Spain and Greece, compared to a 6.5% drop in Germany.

That gloomy outlook still factors in an impending pickup in

UK expected to stick to lockdown as Johnson outlines future

PAN PYLAS, LONDON

Taking a different tack than most other nations, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to extend the bulk of the country's coronavirus lockdown restrictions for three weeks or so when he speaks to the nation Sunday evening.

Following a week of mixed messages that started with Johnson indicating that there will be changes to the lockdown beginning Monday, the government has sought to douse speculation that they will amount to much. That's because the U.K., which has recorded the most coronavirus-related deaths in Europe at 31,662, is still seeing a relatively high number of infections.

"Extreme caution is actually the watchword on this," Transport Secretary



Grant Shapps said Saturday.

His comments came as British police warned they are "fighting a losing battle" as Londoners headed out to parks, families descended on the pebble beaches of Brighton in southern England and many drivers set out on what are considered unessential journeys amid the lockdown.

"It's vital that we don't throw away essentially the great work of seven weeks of people respecting very impressively the rules and the guidelines, by throwing it away because it happens to be sunny outside this weekend," Shapps said. "That would be absolutely tragic."

The worry is that the U.K. lockdown, which began March 23 and has clearly reduced the transmission of the virus, will need to be extended for longer than envisioned. Johnson has voiced worries of a second spike in infections and deaths something that infectious disease experts say will happen as nations ease their lockdowns. Johnson's Conservative government has also faced wide criticism for being too slow to react to the pandemic and for not supplying medical workers with enough protective gear.

Johnson, more than other world leaders, has seen the virus up close. He returned to work only two weeks ago following a hospitalization for CO-VID-19 that nearly cost the 55-year-old his life.

Johnson is to announce a "roadmap" of how the U.K. can start relaxing some of the lockdown measures, notably on how mothballed sectors of the economy and schools can reopen in an era of social distancing.

Throughout the crisis, the four nations of the U.K. — England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — have moved in lockstep. Changes may include being able to exercise more than once a day and the reopening of garden centers.

There's also widespread speculation that Johnson will announce a 14-day quarantine for all travellers coming to the U.K. bar those from Ireland, as part of measures aimed at avoiding a second peak of the pandemic. Any quarantine announcement has the potential to wre-

ck summer holiday plans and prove another devastating economic hit to the aviation industry.

Industry group Airlines U.K. said it had been told by the government that the plan will be in place by the end of the month or early June.

"We will be asking for assurances that this decision has been led by the science and that government has a credible exit plan, with weekly reviews to ensure the restrictions are working and still required," the organization said.

Karen Dee, the chief executive of the Airport Operators Association, said she has not received any details about any quarantine plan but warned that it would have a "devastating impact" on the U.K.'s aviation industry as well as the wider economy. AP

e's virus recovery

activity that will begin this month as lockdowns start to thaw. Spain will allow social gatherings of as many as 10 people in some regions this week and limited seating at restaurants' outdoor terraces and patios, while France and Switzerland also experiment with easing restrictions. Italy and Germany

have taken cautious steps toward resuming economic

"It would be naive to assume that once we stop the lockdown, everything will be just back to normal," said Guntram Wolff, the director of the Bruegel think tank in Brussels. "We are looking here at the resumption of some economic activity. But a lot of businesses, a lot of sectors will remain heavily affected, including tourism, restaurants, everything in the service sector where you have personal interactions."

An overarching problem facing officials is that until a vaccine is

cing measures without forsaking a significant portion of revenue.

"For many shops and restaurants, it's a big problem," said Rainer Neusius, who runs Zaemae, a sustainable fashion boutique in Zurich. "The rules mean fewer customers, and that's not lucrative."

There's a widely accepted view that this is the bottom and we're going to fly back in terms of growth ... Don't expect things to get back to normal any time soon.

> JAMES POMEROY **HSBC ECONOMIST**

Neusius is still "mega happy" about being able to reopen on Monday, when Switzerland will allow all clothing stores and restaurants to resume business, but is unsure whether to expect many customers at first.

That's been the struggle in Denmark and Sweden, where demand has stayed sluggish even as governments there lift restrictions that were already much looser than elsewhere. HSBC's Pomeroy notes

that Swedish restaurants are seeing a 70% drop in sales.

"If that's the dream, essentially, that other countries are aiming to get back to in June, it's still an economy that's having a massive recession," he said.

WINTER IS ENDING

Italy's lockdown started lifting on May 4, when construction and manufacturing resumed. Shops may reopen on May 18, or even

> sooner. Bars and restaurants might resume business on

Spain began easing confinement measures this month. Restrictions will loosen in four stages, province by province, depending on medical criteria being met. Some restaurants can sit a limited number of clients outside as soon as this week.

France's restrictions gradually begin loosening on Monday. Restaurants, bars and cafes will be shut until at least early June.

Germany allowed some small shops, hardware stores and car dealerships to open since late April. Restaurants and hotels reopened on May 9.

In the U.K., Prime Minister Boris Johnson is poised to keep businesses shut until June after infections increased. Such a move will deepen the economy's contraction this year, which is now predicted by the Bank of England to turn out as the worst in three centuries.

The prospect of a second wave of infections remains a risk to businesses everywhere wondering whether to reopen doors and re-employ staff. Some provinces in China have had to reintroduce lockdowns, while Singapore, which was considered the global standard-bearer for taming the virus, recently had to tighten restrictions after cases spiked.

More damage may follow in the wake of businesses that choose not to bother reopening even if they're allowed to. That's the situation facing Sergio Coppola and his wife Franca, who own and let out a restaurant in Monterotondo, north of Rome, which will stay shut for the foreseeable future because of social-distancing restrictions.

"We'd have to cut the number of tables in half, and don't even know how many people would actually come," he said. "For some, the best option is to close everything to cut costs, and hope you'll be able to reopen someday."

Back in Spain, where the hostelry business had been riding high before the pandemic amid robust growth and record tourism numbers, entrepreneurs face similar tough choices on whether or not to resume operations. Fernando Lasala reckons social distancing will keep his small restaurant in Madrid shut for months to come.

"For me to turn a profit, I have to have the bar full at lunch and dinner," he said. "In such a small place, it's impossible to open."

AUSTRALIA

MOST POPULOUS STATES START TO EASE VIRUS LOCKDOWNS

AUSTRALIA'S two most populous states, responsible for 65% of the nation's coronavirus cases, are edging toward easing social-distancing restrictions after Prime Minister Scott Morrison urged them to start reopening the crippled economy.

New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian told reporters in Sydney yesterday that the state would ease its lockdown from May 15. This would include permitting indoor gatherings of 10 people, which will enable retailers, small cafes and restaurants to allow access to some customers, albeit with strict social-distancing rules.

"We need to fire up our economy, we need to get people back into jobs, we need to see some semblance of normality come back," she said. While the state reported just two new virus cases in the past 24 hours, down from highs of about 200 a day about a month ago, Berejiklian said "we have to keep our vigilance" and holidays within the region would remain banned.

In Victoria, Premier Daniel Andrews is expected to announce some easing of restrictions on Monday, News Corp. reported Sunday.

Australia's three-stage plan for reopening, announced by Morrison on Friday, is designed to be implemented by the eight states and territories at their own pace. Western Australia state on Sunday said that from May 18 it will allow indoor gatherings, including in restaurants, of up to 20 people.

Morrison is aiming for completion of the three steps by the end of July, putting the nation at the vanguard of developed economies emerging from the crisis. Australia has avoided the scale of sickness and death that's ravaged countries including the U.K., U.S. and Italy.

New South Wales and Victoria, the engine rooms of the country's economy, have been more hesitant to announce relaxations of lockdown measures than smaller states and territories, some of which have gone for days without recording new cases.

The two most populous states have been more cautious amid recent outbreaks in a Sydney aged-care home and a Melbourne meat plant, which have been responsible for most of the nation's new infections this month. Australia recorded 16 new cases of the virus on Saturday, a daily rise of 0.2%, bringing the total to 6,929.

The lockdown has taken a heavy economic toll: unemployment is poised to double by July to about 10% and the nation is veering toward its first recession in almost three decades. Morrison is seeking a balance of containing the virus and lifting restrictions that are costing the economy AUD4 billion (\$2.6 billion) a week.

Health Minister Greg Hunt said on Sunday the Australia's strict social-distancing measures, border closures and strong testing-and-tracing regime had put the nation in a good position to combat expected clusters of new virus cases as the lockdown eases.

"As we move back to work, to normality, some things cannot change," he said in a Sky News interview. "We shouldn't be near people and we have to get the advice and encourage people to have the testing." BLOOMBERG



CORONAVIRUS CONCERNS

found and administered, people are likely to keep avoiding each other and will consume less. In Europe's five largest economies, 40% or more of respondents in a You-Gov survey said they're fearful of catching the virus. Many businesses also can't enforce social-distan-

Europe agrees on \$260 billion CREDIT LINES TO STEM FALLOUT

 $E_{\rm agreed\ to\ allow\ the\ region's}^{\rm uro\text{-}area\ finance\ ministers}$ bailout fund to extend credit lines to each of the bloc's governments on concessionary terms, paving the way for countries including Italy to draw cheap liquidity amid an unprecedented spending

The deal struck at a video conference on Friday forms a key part of the bloc's response to the crisis brought on by the coronavirus pandemic, that's put the European Union on track for the steepest recession in its history. Italian bonds rallied, with yields on 10-year notes dropping 8 basis points to 1.84%.

Under the emergency support instrument, euro-area governments will have access to cheap funds worth up to 2% of their 2019 output, without any of the onerous belt-tightening terms that were attached to the loans granted during the sovereign debt crisis. The European Stability Mechanism will be able to lend to countries on terms normally reserved for sovereigns with a pristine credit rating, and with few questions asked.

For Italy, this means it could receive 36 billion euros in ultra cheap loans - a sum that could conceivably increase should there be a major need.

Backed by Germany's creditworthiness, the ESM borrows money at negative yields, which it then lends to euro-area member states after charging small service fees. In current terms, the interest rate on such loans could be around 0.1%, ESM Managing Director Klaus Regling said.

With borrowing costs in the euro-area periphery creeping up over the past few months amid a virus-induced economic slump, cash-strapped governments could benefit from billions in much-needed interest savings for the outlays needed to cushion the blow.

Under the ministers' agreement, the loans countries would be able to receive would have a maximum average maturity of 10 years. Requests can be made until the end of 2022, and the initial availability period for each credit facility will be 12 months, which could be extended twice for 6 months. MDT/BLOOMBERG

MacauDaily френта ©

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



Russia, Belarus mark Victory Day in contrasting events

JIM HEINTZ, MOSCOW

USSIAN President Vladimir Putin marked Victory Day, the anniversary of the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II, in a ceremony shorn of its usual military parade and pomp by the coronavirus pandemic.

In neighboring Belarus, however, the ceremonies went ahead in full, with tens of thousands of people in the sort of proximity that has been almost unseen in the world for months.

Putin on Saturday laid flowers at the tomb of the unknown soldier just outside the Kremlin walls and gave a short address honoring the valor and suffering of the Soviet army during the war.

Victory Day is Russia's most important secular holiday and this year's observance had been expected to be especially large because it is the 75th anniversary, but the Red Square military parade and a mass procession called The Immortal Regiment were postponed as part of measures to stifle the spread of the virus.

The only vestige of the conventional show of military might was a flyover of central Moscow by 75 warplanes and helicopters.

The ceremony was the first public appearance in about a month for Putin, who has worked remotely as the virus took hold.

In his speech, he did not mention the virus — Russia has nearly 200,000 confirmed cases — or how its spread had blocked the observances that were to be a prestige project for him.

But he promised that full commemorations would take place.

"We will, as usual, wi-

dely and solemnly mark the anniversary date, do it with dignity, as our duty to those who have suffered, achieved and accomplished the victory tells us," he said. "There will be our main parade on Red Square, and the national march of the Immortal Regiment — the march of our grateful memory and inextricable, vital, living communication between generations."

The sharply reduced observances this year left a hole in Russia's civic and emotional calendar. The war, in which the Soviet Union lost an estimated 26 million people including 8.5 million soldiers, has become a fundamen-

tal piece of Russian national identity.

Beyond the stern formalities of the Red Square military parade and smaller parades in other cities, Russians in recent years have turned out in huge numbers for the Immortal Regiment processions, when civilians crowd the streets displaying photographs of relatives who died in the war or endured it. Russian officials routinely bristle at criticism of the Red Army's actions in the war, denouncing the comments as attempts to "rewrite history."

An online substitute for the processions took place Saturday, showing streams of photos of veterans submitted by relatives.

A full military parade of some 3,000 soldiers was held Saturday in Minsk, the capital of Belarus, which has not imposed restrictions to block the virus' spread despite sharply rising infection figures. Tens of thousands of spectators, few of them wearing masks, watched the event.

President Alexander Lukashenko, who has dismissed concerns about the virus as a "psychosis," said at the parade that Belarus' ordeal in the war "is incomparable with any difficulties of the present day."

Belarus's more than 21,000 recorded infections is higher than in neighboring Ukraine and Poland, both with populations about four times the size.

The former Soviet republic of Turkmenistan, which has not reported any coronavirus infections, held a large parade and procession late Saturday in the capital Ashgabat — the first time the country has marked Victory Day with a large public display.

Among the guests was deputy Russian Defense Minister Alexander Fomin, whose speech at the ceremony underlined Russia's sensitivity about interpretations of World War II.

"Now, unfortunately, in a number of countries we see attempts to revive Nazi ideology, falsify the common history, exalt traitors and revise the role of the Soviet people in the victory over fascism," he said.

None of those at the parade wore masks or observed social distancing.

In the capitals of Latvia and Estonia, both former Soviet republics with large ethnic Russian populations, small groups were seen arriving throughout the day to lay flowers on Soviet war memorials. AP

this day in history





1963 Moscow Jails British 'spy'

A British businessman accused of spying for the West has been sentenced to eight years' detention by a Moscow tribunal.

The President of the Court declared Greville Wynne, aged 44, would serve three years in prison and five in a labour camp. Spectators in the crowded courtroom applauded and some shouted: "Not enough, not enough."

His co-accused, 43-year-old Soviet scientific official Oleg Penkovsky, was given the death sentence. There were loud cheers when his sentence was read out.

He has also been stripped of his rank of colonel and all his medals

Wynne's sentence began last November when he was arrested in Budapest, Hungary, and handed over to the Soviet authorities.

During the four-day trial, the court heard both men had spied for British and American intelligence. Most of the evidence based on confessions given by the two men.

Both men pleaded guilty - Wynne "with certain reservations"

The prosecution said Wynne had acted as a go-between passing on "information about Soviet rockets" provided for him by Penkovsky during secret meetings in London, Paris and Moscow.

After sentencing, the court also named British and American officials in Moscow who were said to have helped Wynne in his espionage activities.

British sources continue to deny Wynne was involved in spying.

After the trial, Wynne embraced his wife Sheila in a side room before being driven to the Lubyanka Prison where he has spent the last six months.

It is not known where he will spend the rest of his sentence. Mrs Wynne later told reporters her husband had joked he was not expecting "a Butlin's holiday camp".

Nikolai Borovik, Wynne's Soviet lawyer, said the businessman would appeal.

There are also hopes that he may be exchanged for Soviet spy Gordon Lonsdale, currently serving 25 years in a British prison.

Courtesy BBC News

In context

Two days later, the Russians expelled British diplomat Gervase Cowell - one of the Britons named in the trial as supporting Wynne in his spying efforts.

Oleg Penkovsky was executed by firing squad one week after the trial.

The Wynne-Penkovsky case came at the height of the Cold War when relations between the superpowers were particularly strained.

The Soviet authorities rejected appeals by Greville Wynne's lawyer but 17 months into his sentence, they agreed to exchange Wynne for Soviet spy Gordon Lonsdale, serving 25 years in the UK.

On his release, Wynne was in a poor state of health. He had lost a lot of weight and doctors said his time in prison had left him "emotionally and mentally exhausted". He spent 12 days in hospital before returning to his Chelsea home to be with his wife and son. He died in 1990.

page 9



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES





Invite friends over. Do not invest in ventures that only appear to be lucrative. People you live with will not be terribly happy with you regardless of what you do



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Don't let your jealous imagination play games with you. Confusion regarding other people's money and joint ventures will come to a head. You're on to something tangible and need to act fast.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Mingle with those who can further your goals. Don't be too quick to spend money. Family may not want to get involved but an entrepreneur



LIBRA

Sep.23-Oct. 22

If you are not already, think about going into business for yourself. Your charm will mesmerize members of the opposite sex today. Try not to lend or borrow money today.



Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your temper could get the better of you if you confront personal situations. Problems with relatives and friends could surface. You will be extremely sentimental, and if pushed by others you may hold a lasting grudge.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Put your efforts into being creative. It is best not to upset the apple cart if you learn information that may damage a colleague's reputation. Read between the lines when signing contracts.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Your lover may feel rejected. Opportunities for new romantic encounters will unfold through the social events you attend. Communication will be your



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You may feel a need to make changes to your legal documents. Try to put your money away for a rainy day. You can visit clients and make a big impression just by giving them some hands-on help.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You can't win and they won't listen. You will not be able to contain your emotions today. Don't shy away from potential mates they want to introduce you to.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Use your ingenuity to manipulate things to get what you want. Someone you live with will be impossible. You can come up with future trends in creative fields.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Call siblings or old friends to catch up on recent news. Do not get involved in joint financial ventures. Female colleagues may be able to help you get the job



PISCES

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often. Try to avoid any drastic decisions concerning personal legal matters. Don't let others bait you into arguments.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



9

SUDOKU

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EASY

EASY+

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| CHINA - | | | |
| Beijing | 14 | 28 | clear |
| Harbin | 10 | 19 | thundershower |
| Tianjin | 13 | 27 | clear |
| Urumqi | 18 | 29 | clear |
| Xi'an | 15 | 24 | clear |
| Lhasa | 5 | 19 | cloudy |
| Chengdu | 17 | 25 | cloudy |
| Chongqing | 20 | 27 | overcast |
| Kunming | 14 | 29 | clear |
| Nanjing | 15 | 27 | cloudy |
| Shanghai | 18 | 28 | cloudy |
| Wuhan | 14 | 28 | clear |
| Hangzhou | 18 | 28 | cloudy |
| Taipei | 23 | 26 | drizzle |
| Guangzhou | 25 | 30 | thundershower |
| Hong Kong | 26 | 30 | cloudy |
| WORLD - | | | |
| Moscow | 6 | 19 | clear |
| Frankfurt | 8 | 24 | moderate rain |
| Paris | 6 | 23 | moderate rain |
| London | 4 | 18 | cloudy |
| New York | 10 | 1.0 | drizzlo |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Diner orders; 5- Flower segment; 10- Mideast gulf; 14- Actress Singer; 15- Main artery; 16- Composer Schifrin; 17- Up and ___!; 18- Leg joints; 19- Additional; 20- Two-piece bathing suit; 22- Reclusive; 24- Fleur-de-__; 25- Son of Aphrodite; 26-Beholden; 30- ___ware (Japanese porcelain); 35- Prizm maker; 36- Tack on; 37- Reddish dye; 38-Teachings; 41-Exceed; 43-Playwright Clifford; 44-Russian space station; 45-Tee follower: 46- Watering holes; 47- Specialist in city planning: 50-____ to differ: 53- Bordeaux buddy: 54- Snack bar; 58- Super Bowl III MVP: 62- Neighbor of Cambodia; 63- Maker of Pong; 66-Vigor; 67-Switch back?; 68-Adjust to zero; 69-Lip-curling facial expre Department store department; 71- Hang with cloth; 72- Acquire through work;

DOWN: 1- Spill the beans; 2- Monetary unit of Lesotho; 3- Journey; 4- Figure of speech with "like" or "as"; 5- Republic in S Asia; 6- Many moons; 7- It's past due; 8- Shed _____9- Dogie catcher; 10- A Baldwin brother; 11- Spanish surrealist; 12- Socialite Maxwell;

13- Christmas; 21- Pen point; 23- Willow; 25- Hall or Byrnes; 26- Dome home; 27- I vacation!; 28- Prescribed amounts; 29-Begley and Wynn; 31- Swab; 32- Japanese beer brand; 33- Ascends; 34- Atlas feature; 39- Canonized Mlle.; 40- Actor Davis; 41-Highly respectful way of addressing a man; 42- Resident of a city; 44- Make a face; 48-Doctors' org.; 49- Agile; 51- Facial hair; 52-Computer key; 54- Skelton's Kadiddlehopper; 55- Bern's river; 56- Midday; 57- General ____ chicken; 59- Bailiwick; 60- Wedding cake feature; 61- Word with French or English; 64-Al Jolson's real first name; 65- Agent;



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Fire department 28 572 222

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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

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FOR SALE



Fragrant Court, Ocean Gardens HK\$24,000,000 3,500 ft2 4 km 3 6

FOR RENT



FOR SALE

[Macau] Retail space, Areia Preta 170 ft2 \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)

[Macau] One Central 1,269 ft² \$12,000,000 (ref: 19070000)

[Macau] One Central lakeview 2 1 2 4 1,269 ft2 \$12,500,000 (ref: 19070002)

[Taipa] Manhattan 3 km 2 km 1,720 ft2 \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096006)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] Delightful 1 Bed 1 1 1 2 820 ft² \$9,500/mth (ref: 20051001)

[Macau] Vai Fung Triplex, Macau 2 🛏 2 🖢 1,065 ft2 \$14,000/mth (ref: 19121001)

[Taipa] Buckingham 2 km 1 km 1,100 ft2 \$15,900/mth (ref: 20031002)

[Taipa] Manhattan 1,626 ft² **\$20,800**/mth (ref: n/a)



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Property of the Week



Fragrant Court, Ocean Gardens

HK\$24,000,000 3,500 ft² 4 🛌 3 💺

A rare opportunity to purchase one of Macau's original premier apartments. These are apartments have a fabulous layout with wonderful balconies at the front and rear of the property, allowing a fresh breeze to blow through the apartment all year round.

Four bedrooms, all doubles with 3 bathrooms. Large kitchen with adjacent balcony for laundry as well as housekeepers quarters and separate entrance. Viewing by appointment only.

Property Hotlist



One Central, Macau

\$12,000,000 1,269 ft²

2 🛌 2 💺





Waterfront Duet Brand New Studio Apartment

\$4,980,000

469 ft²





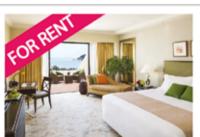
Buckingham, Taipa

\$15,900/mth

1,100 ft²

2 🛌 1 💺





Grand Coloane Resort Short Term Special!

\$10,000/mth 710 ft²

1 🛌 1 💺



More Listings

For Sale

170 ft² \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003) [Macau] Retail space, Areia Preta [Macau] Lakeview Tower 2 \(2 \) 1,497 ft² \$11,826,300 (ref: 19015572)

2 1,269 ft² \$12,000,000 (ref: 19070000)

[Macau] One Central lakeview 2 = 2 1,269 ft² \$12,500,000 (ref: 19070002) [Taipa] Manhattan 3 = 2 1,720 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096006)

For Rent

[Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park

[Taipa] Delightful 1 Bed

[Macau] Vai Fung Triplex

[Taipa] Manhattan

[Taipa] Ocean Garden

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\$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)

820 ft² \$9,500/mth (ref: 20051001)

2 1,065 ft² \$14,000/mth (ref: 19121001)

3 = 2 1,626 ft² \$20,800/mth (ref: 20031001)

4 4 4 3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)

Recent Movements

Sold Hellene Garden, Coloane, 3 beds

Rented Buckingham, Taipa, 2 beds



Rented Hellene Garden, Coloane, 3 beds



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Court: 'Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee' is Seinfeld's show

LARRY NEUMEISTER, **NEW YORK**

'ERRY Seinfeld's "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" was his creation despite copyright claims by a one-time collaborator who helped direct the first episode, an appeals court said Thursday.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Manhattan ruled against writer Christian Charles in a five-paragraph written order upholding a decision by Judge Alison J. Nathan.

It concluded a case over a popular show that debuted in 2012, originating as an online streaming program that was distributed by Sony Pictures Television through Crackle before being sold to Netflix in 2017.

Days ago, Seinfeld told reporters while promoting his new Netflix special, "Jerry Seinfeld: 23 Hours to Kill," that he might be finished with it after 11 seasons and 84 episodes.

Charles said in his February 2018 lawsuit that he worked with Seinfeld on projects for nearly two



decades, including on American Express commercials and the documentary "Comedian."

He said the concept of "Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee" arose as they filmed the documentary with a scene of Seinfeld and friend Barry Marder driving across the George Washington Bridge in Seinfeld's vintage Volkswagen Beetle.

Charles said he suggested in November 2001 that they create a television show featuring two friends driving and talking in a car that could be titled "Two Stupid Guys In A Stupid Car Driving To A Stupid Town." He said Seinfeld rejected it.

He said the comedian told him a decade later during a meeting conversation at a Southampton diner that he wanted to create a show about comedians driving in a car to a coffee place and just "chatting."

He said Seinfeld was difficult during the first episode, grumbling that he "did not know what the idea was anymore" and that the idea "maybe wasn't good after

But he said Seinfeld liked the pilot episode.

The lawsuit sought \$150,000 for each infringement of a copyright Charles obtained with a slightly different title: "Comedians in Cars Going for Coffee."

Seinfeld's lawyers said Charles only sued after learning Netflix had allegedly paid \$750,000 per episode.

"This is precisely the type of belated tactical and opportunistic strike suit the statute of limitations is designed to stamp out," the lawyers wrote.

They said Charles waited beyond the three-year statute of limitations to sue even though he had been paid over \$100,000 and after Seinfeld said in 2012 that the show was his idea.

In her September ruling, Nathan agreed, saying: "Because Charles was on notice that his ownership claim had been repudiated since at least 2012, his infringement claim is time-barred."

Seinfeld's lawyers said the show wasn't particularly unique, noting that British newspapers once called it a "rip off" of Robert Llewellyn's web series, "Carpool."

They said dozens of similar shows shared common elements, including "Carpool Karaoke," "Jay Leno's Garage," "Too Many Comedians in Cars Getting Coffee," "Comedians on Bikes Getting Soup," "Comedians Walking & Getting Mani-Pedis" and "Cougars in Cars Getting Cosmos."

"These shows are proof positive that the Show's concept is generic and stock, that it belongs to the world, and that it is not subject to copyright protection," they said. AP

AD









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OPINION

World Views

Michael Petrilli, Bloomberg

HALF-TIME HIGH SCHOOL **MAY BE JUST WHAT** STUDENTS NEED

As the coronavirus pandemic continues, Bloomberg Opinion will be running a series of features by our columnists that consider the long-term consequences of the crisis. This column is part of a package on transformations in the way in which education is structured and delivered. For more, see Clara Ferreira Marques on the promise of online learning.

The shutdown of America's high schools has deprived millions of students of rites we previously took for granted. Coursework can be transferred online to some degree, but no virtual environment can replace football games, choir concerts, musicals and so much more that's part of the American high school experience. We may continue to yearn for such things well into the autumn, especially in communities that face additional closures, and where public officials want students and educators to stay "socially distant" even when at school. Say goodbye to Friday Night Lights.

Yet while there's much to rue about what the pandemic has taken away, it's possible to glimpse a future in which technology liberates high school students — or at least some of them — from the six or seven-hour school day that has been crushing teenage souls for generations. That's worth celebrating because so much of the school day amounts to wasted time.

Students only learn when they are focused, engaged and putting in effort. Yet surveys have long shown that teenagers spend most of their day bored, zoned out and only pretending to listen. For many students — especially the most motivated ones — they'd be better off, not to mention happier, if they spent much more of their time reading, writing and completing projects than going through the motions in our industrial-style schools.

For decades, the organization of the school day has followed a stultifying routine. High school seniors force themselves to get up at the crack of dawn and sleepwalk their way to first-period by 7:30 or 8:00 a.m. They then slog through six or seven forty-five minute classes, and finally leave school at 2:30 or 3:00, ready at last to do something self-directed: play sports, head to band or theater or go to jobs. In theory, everyone tackles at least some homework before falling asleep and then repeating the

But then something wonderful happens in the lives of teenagers: they go to college and the chains drop away. Their in-person class time drops to 15 hours a week, even with a full course load. Just three hours a day! But in return, they're expected to do loads of independent work, participate in group projects and show up for office hours if they need additional help. In recent years, college students have also been watching some lectures online so class time can be spent on small-group discussions and doing hands-on laboratory work.

All this raises an obvious question: Why can't our high schools look more like college? Does every high school course really need to meet in person, every day, given the technology available to us? What if kids could choose an every-other-day schedule, where they attend class in person on even days and stay home (or work from the school library or computer lab or do an apprenticeship) on odd days? Or they select a morning or afternoon schedule ra ther than attending all day long?

At least for the upcoming fall semester, moving to Half--Time High will be a necessity. The only way for schools to maintain social distance in crowded buildings is to operate well below capacity. This may mean running two shifts a day, morning and afternoon, or asking kids to show up in person every other day. If we don't want kids to learn half as much, that means continuing with online learning and lots more independent study — while at home.

If done right, these disruptions could introduce some long-overdue reforms in the way high school is structured.

This pre-college model would undoubtedly work best for the most motivated students and those who enjoy working independently. At first, schools might offer teenagers the opportunity to apply for an alternative schedule, and select those whose teachers think they can handle it. If schools let the class size for these hybrid courses be a bit larger than average, it could allow more personal attention for lower-achieving students who continue with the traditional schedule, or for students with disabilities or English language learners. All without adding any cost to the school. [Abridged]

COLOMBIAN COMPANY CREATES BED THAT CAN DOUBLE AS COFFIN

A Colombian advertising company is pitching a novel if morbid solution to shortages of hospital beds and coffins during the coronavirus pandemic: combine them.

ABC Displays has created a cardboard bed with metal railings that designers say can double as a casket if a patient dies.

Company manager Rodolfo Gómez said he was inspired to find a way to help after watching events unfold recently in nearby Ecuador. Families in the coastal city of Guayaquil waited with dead loved ones in their homes for days last month as COVID-19 cases surged. Many could not find or were unable to afford a wood coffin, using donated cardboard ones instead.

"Poor families don't have a way of paying for a coffin," Gómez said. Gómez said he plans to donate 10 of his new beds to Colombia's Amazonas department, where resources are in short supply. So far there is no indication whether the beds will be put to use and no orders have been placed.

The beds can hold a weight of 330 pounds (150 kilograms) and will cost about \$85 each, Gómez said. He said he worked with a private clinic on the design, which he hopes will be put to use in emergency clinics that might become short on beds.

Obama blasts Trump's VIRUS RESPONSE AS 'CHAOTIC DISASTER'

FORMER President Barack Obama delivered a blistering attack on Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, calling it "an absolute chaotic disaster" as well as "anemic."

Obama's remarks, first reported by Yahoo News, came in a leaked call as the former president exhorted members of his administration to rally behind presumptive 2020 Democratic nominee Joe Biden. The comments were perhaps the most scathing criticism Obama has yet delivered of his successor in the White House.

Critics have said the U.S. government wasted precious time in February by failing to ramp up testing and stockpile supplies as the coronavirus spread in Europe. The U.S. now leads the world in confirmed Covid-19 infections, with nearly 1.3 million as of Saturday. More than 78,000 have died in the U.S. from the virus.

However, Trump has defended his handling of the pandemic, repeatedly highlighting his Jan. 31 decision to impose travel restrictions barring most non--U.S. citizens from entering the U.S. after recent visits to China.



"President Trump's coronavirus response has been unprecedented and saved American lives," White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany said in a statement on Saturday.

"While Democrats were pursuing a sham witch hunt against President Trump, President Trump was shutting down travel from China. While Democrats encouraged mass gatherings, President Trump was deploying PPE, ventilators, and testing across the country."

Obama, in Friday's remarks, cast the U.S. response to the virus as an outgrowth of tribalism as he sought to emphasize the urgency of the November election.

"What we're going to be

battling is not just a particular individual or a political party. What we're fighting against is these long-term trends in which being selfish, being tribal, being divided and seeing others as an enemy - that has become a stronger impulse in American life" as well as internationally, Obama said.

"And it's part of the reason why the response to this global crisis has been so anemic and spotty," he said.

Obama endorsed Biden in April and promised to hit the campaign trail in support. He's generally shied from delivering sharp attacks against Trump, but that tone may change as Obama becomes a more visible cheerleader and surrogate for Biden. MDT/BLOOMBERG

has seen a rapid rise in coronavirus cases over the past few weeks. Health officials predict that more than 77,000 people — or a fourth of those currently living in the country — could become infected. Official figures updated Saturday showed 766 cases, including 743 that are still active.

Arctic Dozens of scientists are waiting in quarantine for the all-clear to join a year-long Arctic research mission aimed at improving the models used for forecasting climate change, just as the expedition reaches a crucial phase. For a while, the international mission looked like it might have to be called off, as country after country went into lockdown because of the virus, scuppering plans to bring fresh supplies and crew to the German research vessel Polarstern that's been moored in the high Arctic since last year.

CHINESE CITY NEAR NORTH KOREA PARTLY CLOSED AS CASES RISE

• the northeastern province of Jilin bordering North Korea, was ordered to partially close some facilities after a surge in the number of coronavirus

Jilin ordered stringent curbs in Shulan city, closing all but most essential services and requesting residents to stay at home, the province said in a statement on its website. The city raised its virus threat alert level to high risk from medium, the province

There were 11 new coronavirus cases in Shulan yesterday, local health authorities said. The city is investigating the source of the infection down with Covid-19, the South China Morning Post said in a separate report Saturday.

Yesterday, China reported an increase in both new and asymptomatic cases. There were 14 new coronavirus cases on May 9, including those in Shulan, the largest daily increase this month for the nation, according to Bloomberg calculations based on official data. As of Saturday, Jilin province has reported a total of 105 locally transmitted Covid-19 cases and 19 imported

The 12 locally transmitted cases reported on May 9 were the highest since March 11, Mi Feng, a spokesman for

CHULAN, a Chinese city in after a police employee came National Health Commission, said at a briefing yesterday. The commission said the country should keep stay on high alert and avoid gatherings.

Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed his willingness to provide support to North Korea in fighting the epidemic in reply to a verbal message from North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, state--run Xinhua News Agency reported Saturday.

North Korea has so far claimed to have no coronavirus infections in the country, but reported more than 5,400 people were released from quarantine as of March. **BLOOMBERG**

Kashmir say Indian troops across the disputed border opened fire with automatic rifles yesterday, shooting a women dead. Shauzia Akhtar was shot in the head and chest as she prepared breakfast in her home along the border, said Chaudhry Zulqarnain, a senior police officer for the border district of Rawalakot, where the shooting took place

Pakistan Police in the

Pakistan-ruled part of



Indian police on Friday filed charges of culpable homicide, includina negligence in handling toxic substances, against a South Korean-owned chemical factory where a gas leak killed 12 people and sickened more than a thousand. The chemical styrene, used to make plastic and rubber, leaked Thursday from the LG Polymers plant, owned by LG Chem, while workers were preparing to restart the facility after a coronavirus lockdown was eased.



Ocean archipelago nation