

Arriving SAR Macao from Zhuhai
Steps to Make Health Declaration



澳門健康碼
Macao Health Code

Before leaving Zhuhai:
1. Generate a "Quarantine Health Code" by scanning QR code or using WeChat mini program "Maohangma" (碼行碼)
2. Apply "Macao Health Code" (Only green code is accepted to enter)

Upon arrival at a Macao border checkpoint:
Present Macao Health Code + valid Nucleic Acid Testing information + traveling document

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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THE EDUCATION AND YOUTH AFFAIRS BUREAU LEARNED OF THE MOST RECENT CASE OF TEACHER DISMISSAL ONLY FROM A COURT DECISION P2

HEALTH AUTHORITY HINTS COVID-19 IS HERE TO STAY IN THE LONG-TERM P2

CASINO OPERATORS GALAXY AND MELCO REPORTED STEEP DECLINES IN FIRST QUARTER REVENUE CAUSED BY THE ONSET OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS P4

AP PHOTO



WHO An official said the debate between protecting health and reviving economies is a "false dichotomy" and that countries must remain vigilant as they lift restrictions. Takeshi Kasai, WHO's Western Pacific director, said the reopening of economies shouldn't be rushed and must be done cautiously. He said the world must "create a new normal in which we don't have to choose between health and livelihood." WHO also said yesterday that "this virus may never go away." More on p6-7

Australia says it will continue to push for an inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus even if it hurts trade relations with China. Prime Minister Scott Morrison had been accused of playing "deputy sheriff" to the United States after calling for the inquiry. But he brushed off the criticism. "We have always been independent, we have always pursued our national interests, and we always will," he told reporters.

AP PHOTO



Japan Experts on Japan's coronavirus task force approved a government plan to lift a state of emergency in most areas ahead of schedule except for Tokyo and several other high-risk areas. Economy Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura said after the task force met that the experts approved lifting the emergency in 39 of the country's 47 prefectures. Emergency measures would remain for eight others, including Tokyo, Osaka, Kyoto and Hokkaido, where risks still remain high.

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DOUBLE STANDARDS

Zhuhai is charging its own residents for Covid-19 tests but footing the bill for Macau ID holders on the mainland. Why? P3



BLOOMBERG



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WHY OPEN A STORE? CHINESE MERCHANTS GO LIVESTREAMING INSTEAD P10

HEALTH AUTHORITY HINTS COVID-19 IS HERE TO STAY IN THE LONG-TERM

ANTHONY LAM

MACAU must adapt its coronavirus response for the long-term, Dr. Alvis Lo Iek Long, medical director of the public Conde São Januário Hospital, said at yesterday's daily health briefing in reference to the comment of a WHO expert, who said that Covid-19 was here to stay, like HIV/AIDS.

"Let's assume that the disease may remain in existence like the flu with fluctuating severity," Lo said. "That's the reason why we have to change our mentality to long-term infection containment."

"[But] we shouldn't be too pessimistic" the doctor added, because "there may be a vaccination emerging." Virologists, epidemiologists and scientists around the world have been working to invent a vaccination that is effective on the virus and safe to use.

The stance comes as primary education is due to resume soon. The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) was represented at yesterday's briefing by Leong I On, chief of the Division for Secondary, Technical and Vocational Education of the bureau. Leong explained that the border control measures affecting pri-



mary school students residing in Zhuhai but studying in Macau will be identical to those levied on secondary school students in a similar situation.

Currently, students in possession of a Macau ID card, Zhuhai or Zhongshan Residence Card, or student ID card, as well as a Green Health Code and a negative Covid-19 test result from the last seven days can cross the border freely without being quarantined for 14 days on either side of the border.

Student must undergo certain procedures to acquire this

quarantine waiver status. "These students and an accompanying guardian should register their personal particulars with our bureau in advance," Leong stated. "[With their consent], the information will be passed to the Unitary Police Service and the Macao Customs Service [to facilitate the border crossing]."

Leong stressed that the accompanying guardians should possess a verification document issued by their children's schools to prove their relationship.

In addition, the DSEJ is again urging students currently outsi-

de of their regular residences in Macau, Zhuhai or Zhongshan to return to their residences in these cities as soon as possible.

Meanwhile, the authorities have been in constant communication with their counterparts in Zhuhai and Zhongshan to ensure that all primary school students have a place to undergo mandatory Covid-19 viral testing on the mainland.

With regards to incoming tourists from Jilin Province, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center has been closely monitoring the situation in the

province. Recently, the province reported some new Covid-19 cases which were believed to be the result of community transmission, causing another lockdown.

Replying on behalf of the Center, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, said that the authority had tightened health supervision measures on tourists from the province.

"As far as we know, the only affected cities are Jilin and Shulan," the coordinator said. "We have coordinated with border control [authorities] to gain information on whether tourists have been to the two cities."

As border control measures were tightened during the start of the outbreak in Macau in late January and early February, causing a relatively long Lunar New Year holiday period, many had already arranged or even left on holiday. These individuals may still be overseas.

When asked whether these people have any means of renewing their Macau ID, Lo referred to the information posted on the website of the Identification Bureau (DSI), before explaining that "the DSI has online channels for inquiry and even document renewal."

RENATO MARQUES

EDUCATION

THE director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), Lou Pak Sang, has acknowledged that the DSEJ has so far received six complaints from teachers in relation to the payment of compensation for contract termination without cause.

Lou made the acknowledgment yesterday as he addressed the media on the sidelines of the plenary meeting of the Youth Affairs Committee.

According to the director, the six reports were not related to the recently disclosed case of the same kind.

In the recent case, a teacher from a local private school won an

At least six cases of teacher dismissal counted by DSEJ

appeal in the Court of Second Instance (TSI) regarding the school's improper use of the teacher's pension funds. The school had used the teacher's co-participation payments to the school's private welfare fund to pay due compensation for the dismissal. This latest instance brings the number of cases up to at least seven.

According to Lou, it was only after the TSI's decision was published that the DSEJ became aware that there were

more cases of this kind.

Lou also said that the DSEJ is currently gathering more information on all the cases reported and will soon "issue guidelines to schools [on the topic]."

The director stressed schools must always respect the labor law and follow its provisions.

Meanwhile, also at the plenary meeting of the Youth Affairs Committee, the head of DSEJ's Department of Youth, Cheong Man Fai, said that a new plan for Ma-

cau's Youth Policy was being prepared following an evaluation of the previous plan (Macau Youth Policy 2012-2020) which ends this year.

According to Cheong, those present at the meeting discussed the contents of the new plan, which will have a public consultation period in the last quarter of this year (Q4).

"The policy is going to be submitted for public consultation in the fourth quarter of 2020," Cheong said. "We hope



DSEJ Director Lou Pak Sang

for the active presentation of opinions on it from all social sectors so we can have comprehensive strategies and solu-

tions for the Youth Policy."

The new 10-year plan will run from 2021 to 2030.

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BLOOMBERG



Zhuhai residents unhappy with test price double standards

JULIE ZHU

ZHUHAH local residents have been dissatisfied with the double standards applied to Macau and Zhuhai residents by the Zhuhai government for some time now.

Earlier this week, the Zhuhai Hygiene and Health Department announced that six types of Macau local residents could undergo Covid-19 testing free-of-charge in Zhuhai. These groups are also exempt from Zhuhai's 14-day quarantine policy if their Covid-19 test results are negative.

According to the policies, people from the Macau SAR are eligible to enjoy the mainland financial privileges, but not people from Zhuhai. As of yesterday, the Zhuhai government granted the same benefits to some Zhuhai local residents, but more Macau people are still benefiting.

Questioned about which government was paying for the Zhuhai tests for Macau residents, Alvis Lo Iek Long, medical director of the Conde São Januário Hospital (CHCSJ), avoided giving a straight answer and only commended the measure.

"We have noticed the situation according to mainstream media. Personally, I feel that this [free-of-charge measu-

re] is good news for those in need," said Lo.

Lo did not reveal which government was paying for Zhuhai's tests for Macau local residents.

Earlier this week, mainland workers were finally able to return to mainland China without having to undergo the 14-day quarantine period, but only if they were in possession of proof of a negative Covid-19 test.

However, some Zhuhai residents felt the situation was unfair. The Zhuhai government provides free tests for the abovementioned Macau residents, but not for Zhuhai residents.

"The Zhuhai government's measures exclude Zhuhai local residents, but still provides free tests for Macau residents?" one user complained on Weibo.

"Are people born into different levels?" another user complained.

"Be satisfied Macau people, you get a free test every six days, I pay 160 yuan for each test," a third person mocked.

The measure has not only angered local Zhuhai residents, mainland residents from other parts of China are also irritated.

"Why [is it] free for Macau residents but mainlanders have to pay?" another person questioned.

Amid the outrage from Zhuhai residents, the Zhuhai government suddenly made changes to the policies yesterday, including Zhuhai residents working in Macau in the free scheme.

This Covid-19 test policy marks the second major controversy in the neighboring region of the Macau SAR. The first incident which garnered the disapproval of mainland residents was Guangdong's sudden announcement that they were enforcing a 14-day quarantine

policy at the end of March.

Two days after the Guangdong government announced the policy, the province granted Macau residents who lived in Zhuhai a conditional exemption. At the time, no exemptions were given to Zhuhai local residents.

"We are finally synchronizing with some countries now, we also have double standards now," another person commented online.

According to Zhuhai's policies, the test is free permanently for those eligible. Those who qualify must be tested every six days and testing will always be free. An individual can only have one free test every six days. The Zhuhai government will cancel the qualification for anyone who takes two or more tests within six days.

Currently, only nine hospitals in Zhuhai are providing free tests for qualifying individuals.

DEAD DOLPHIN FOUND IN COLOANE WATERS

Following the sighting of a dolphin off the coast from the Kun lam Statue in the city's NAPE District two days ago, the Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) was notified by the Macao Customs Service yesterday afternoon that a dead dolphin of the same species had been found near the coast off the Tam Kung Temple area in Coloane. The DSAMA then notified the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) to arrange a body retrieval operation. In a related statement from the DSAMA, the bureau did not disclose any conclusions as to the cause of death. Usually the IAM conducts an autopsy on animal bodies found in Macau. In response to an inquiry made by the Times, the DSAMA stated it did not see any "evidence to suggest that is the same [dolphin from two days ago]."

FIRE BURNS ON ALLEGEDLY ILLEGAL ROOF STRUCTURE NEAR BORDER GATE

Videos showing an iron structure on the roof of a low-rise residential building on fire near the Border Gate went viral yesterday. The incident was authenticated by the Fire Services Bureau (CB) when inquired about by the Times. The CB received a report about the incident at 4:36 p.m. The report was made by a member of the public, according to the bureau. Although a significant amount of smoke and a fuming blaze were captured in the videos, the extinguishing operation by the CB took about half an hour. Due to the fire, 55 people were evacuated from the building. There were no casualties or injuries following the incident. The CB declined to comment on whether the structure was illegal.

FOREX RESERVES CLIMB 1.4% TO 179 BILLION PATACAS

The preliminary estimate of the Macau SAR's foreign exchange reserves amounted to 179 billion patacas (\$22.43 billion) at the end of April 2020, according to data released yesterday by the Monetary Authority of Macao. In a statement, the Monetary Authority said that the reserves had increased by 1.4% over the revised value of 176.6 billion patacas for the previous month. At the end of April 2020, the territory's foreign exchange reserves represented 10 times the currency in circulation. Meanwhile, the trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca rose 0.96 points month-to-month and 3.52 points year-on-year to 109.4 in April 2020. This implies that, overall, the exchange rate of the pataca grew against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners.

THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR FREE TESTING IN ZHUHAI

Macau resident	Business personnel; civil servants for urgent matters
Macau resident	Working or studying in Zhuhai but living in Macau
Macau resident	Working or studying in Macau but living in Zhuhai
Macau resident	Seeing a doctor in one of the three designated hospitals in Zhuhai and returning to Macau on the same day
Macau resident	Drivers of cross-border vehicles
Macau resident	Parents accompanying Macau students to cross the Macau-Zhuhai border
Zhuhai resident	Enlisted Zhuhai residents or Zhuhai residence card holders working in Macau

HENGQIN GAS SUPPLY TO MACAU SURGED IN MARCH AND APRIL

Hengqin's natural gas supply to Macau increased 80% in March and April compared to the same period last year, according to Gongbei's customs authority. In the first month of 2020, Hengqin supplied Macau with over 23,000 metric tons of natural gas, representing minor growth in year-on-year terms. Hengqin's natural gas supply pipeline to Macau is 12.9 kilometers long. It starts in Hengqin, crosses the Cross Gate Waterway and ends in Taipa. In December last year, Hengqin's natural gas supply pipeline to Macau was launched. The two pipelines connect to the University of Macau campus. Both pipelines serve as backup supply channels for Macau.

DISTRIBUTION OF TAX REFUNDS START TODAY

Starting from today, the SAR government will refund professional tax to eligible Macau residents, according to a statement released by the Financial Services Bureau. Pursuant to law No.3/2020, which is the 2020 budget law, the SAR government will refund the tax corresponding to the year of 2018. Over 160,000 Macau residents are expected to receive the refund. The refund is part of the government's Covid-19 economic relief package. The tax refund percentage has grown from 60% to 70%, or from 14,000 patacas to up to 20,000 patacas. Qualified taxpayers who have already registered for the tax refund program will receive the refund on May 15. Others will receive their refunds after May 22. In the same statement, the bureau said that the SAR government was expediting works in order to distribute financial subsidies to employees, freelancers and other concerned individuals.

FREE ENTRY TO COMMUNICATION MUSEUM FOR THREE DAYS

The Communication Museum will open to the public for free between May 15 and May 17. Free-of-charge entry is being offered to celebrate World Telecommunication and Information Society Day on May 17. Between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. on May 17, the General Post Office, and the Post, Telegraph and Telephones Office (CTT) will distribute memorial postmarks and memorial post stamps for free to celebrate telecommunication and information society. In addition to CTT, the city's telecommunication service operators will also launch various promotions for their users. The bureau recommends that the public learn about these promotions directly from the operators.

GAMING

GALAXY REPORTS 61% REVENUE CRUNCH, WHILE MELCO'S FALLS 41%

DANIEL BEITLER

MELCO Resorts & Entertainment reported its unaudited financial results yesterday showing revenue fell 41% in year-on-year terms to \$810 million (MOP6.4 billion) in the first quarter of 2020. Meanwhile, its adjusted earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortization (adjusted EBITDA) fell by 82% year-on-year to \$75.3 million.

The news follows the financial disclosure of Galaxy Entertainment Group, which showed revenue dropped 61% in the first quarter to HKD5.1 billion (\$658 million), while the adjusted EBITDA plummeted 93% to HKD283 million over the same period.

The Macau concessionaire's flagship property, Galaxy Macau, saw revenue fall by 62% year-on-year to HKD3.5 billion, while StarWorld Macau registered a 66% decrease in revenue to HKD1 billion. Mass market project Broadway Macau saw net revenue drop 65% in the first quarter to just HKD53 million.

These financial results were disclosed in a summary filed with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on Wednesday.

In the summary, Galaxy

said that it remains "well-capitalized" amid the current business environment and that it is able to "effectively control costs." The casino operator also said it has sought to "spread the impact of Covid-19 fairly across all team members as we prefer not to engage in redundancies."

Last month, analysts at JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) estimated that Galaxy had enough financial liquidity to weather up to six years with "near-zero revenue."

In the filing, Galaxy said it had cash and liquid investments worth HKD51.9 billion, and their net cash was HKD47.5 billion as of March 31, 2020. Meanwhile, Melco CEO Lawrence Ho assured that his casino operator continues to "manage its balance sheet in a prudent manner" with some \$1.2 billion in cash and cash equivalents (HKD9.3 billion).

Macau casino operators have all had significant drops in revenue in the first quarter of 2020, caused by the onset of the novel coronavirus and the travel restrictions that followed.

Gross gaming revenue for the entire territory was down 60% year-on-year in the first quarter, down to just 30.5

billion patacas, according to data provided by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. At the same time, visitor arrivals have fallen nearly 70% to 3.2 million.

January accounted for the vast majority of first quarter gaming revenue and visitor arrivals.

At the start of February, local casinos were ordered to suspend operations for 15 days to help curb the transmission of the virus. Since reopening, customers from mainland China, the largest source market for Macau gamblers, have mostly kept away because of quarantine requirements for re-entering Guangdong Province.

In the filing, Galaxy noted that the "outlook for the foreseeable future is difficult to forecast."

"This is due to a lack of certainty around immigration, travel and quarantine restrictions associated with Covid-19. The Individual Visit Scheme and group tours to Macau are still suspended, and on returning to the mainland, visitors are required to undergo 14 days of quarantine. Until we have visibility on these variables it is difficult to predict the shorter-term outlook for Macau," Galaxy explained in the report.

GAMING

DEAL BETWEEN SJM AND GRAND EMPEROR EXTENDED FOR 2 YEARS

A satellite casino arrangement between gaming concessionaire SJM Holdings Ltd and the Grand Emperor Hotel has been extended for another two years.

The service agreement was signed by Tin Hou Ltd, a Macau firm indirectly wholly-owned by Emperor Entertainment Hotel Ltd, which is in turn indirectly owned by Emperor International Holdings Ltd.

The agreement allows the hotel firm to continue to be able to use SJM's gaming concession to conduct casino activities on site under a system widely but informally known as "satellite properties."

The Hong Kong Stock Exchange was notified of the agreement-extension on Wednesday.

According to the filing, Tin Hou will also reimburse SJM for both "costs and expenses concerning the resources allocated [by the license holder] to the gaming area."

The deal also states that Tin Hou will be entitled to a share of the gross wins and losses of the monthly operating performance of the gaming area located within the hotel. **RM**

RENATO MARQUES

STANLEY Au's Delta Asia Financial Group (Banco Delta Asia) has achieved a partial victory in its dispute against the U.S. Treasury Department of Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

According to a report from local media outlet Jornal Tribuna de Macau, which cites a court decision from the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, the U.S. court approved a request by the Macau-based bank to access documents with "improperly withheld materials" and "confidential information" about the case.

The case led the U.S. government to impose sanctions on the bank from 2007 for allegedly

Banco Delta Asia scores in the battle against FinCEN

supporting operations to finance North Korea's nuclear program.

Additionally, the same court had rejected a request from the department that was pursuing an end to the legal dispute, which has been ongoing since 2007.

According to the decision, the U.S. court gave the bank permission to call upon several high-ranking officials from the U.S. administration to testify in the case. These officials were those involved in making the 2007 decision.

In September 2005 when the impending

imposition of sanctions by the U.S. government was announced, the bank suffered following a mass bank run. This led the Macau government to replace the bank's board with government appointees in an attempt to stabilize the institution.

As a result of the sanctions, several North Korean companies in Macau, which had accounts with the bank, had their accounts frozen.

A negotiation between the U.S. administration and the companies affected by the

freezing of assets attempted to resolve the dispute in exchange for the disarming of North Korea's nuclear arsenal.

An audit of the bank was ordered by the Macau government and assigned to U.K. accounting firm Ernst & Young, in early 2007. They found no evidence that the bank had facilitated money-laundering.

However, a few days later the U.S. Treasury Department ordered all American banks and companies to cut their commercial relations with Delta Asia Financial Group. This was af-

ter an 18-month investigation which concluded with then Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Stuart Levey stating that the investigation had confirmed that the bank had a "willingness to turn a blind eye to illicit activity, notably by its North Korean-related client."

Later that year, the Monetary Authority of Macao ended its intervention in the bank board and returned it to the ownership of Au. No criminal charges were ever filed in Macau over the alleged illicit activities of the institution. However, the bank continues to be blacklisted by U.S. authorities and is unable to perform transactions in U.S. currency.



Hong Kong's economic crisis just keeps getting worse

ENDA CURRAN, JINSHAN HONG & ERIC LAM

ON the ninth floor of a building near Hong Kong's old Kai Tak airport, Kung Fu master Lam Shu-shing teaches the Wing Chun technique to students, something he's been doing since 1978. A banner on the wall nods to a legacy that traces back to his teacher's master, who also trained Bruce Lee.

Passing on this cultural touchstone to the next generation is proving to be Lam's biggest challenge yet as the number of students has dwindled to a handful. "This is the toughest moment in the past 40 years that I am teaching Kung Fu," said Lam, who at almost 70 had to give up his gym when he couldn't afford the rent. "I don't see any improvement in Hong Kong any time soon."

First came months of protest in 2019 and then the coronavirus outbreak, sending Hong Kong spiraling. Now, just as other economies around the world look to a recovery as their virus restrictions ease, Hong Kong's reprieve appears fleeting: clashes between police and protesters are resuming and worries about another virus wave remain. It's a dual threat that has businesses and shoppers on edge and raises fundamental questions about how - or if - one of the world's most storied finance hubs will regain its past prominence.

Financial Secretary Paul Chan has described Hong Kong's econo-

mic challenges as unprecedented. In the first quarter, the city had its worst slump on record.

Even pillars of the economy that had been holding up, like finance and real estate, are showing signs of softening.

In the property market - the world's priciest - the political deadlock is eroding demand from buyers based in mainland China, according to Simon Smith, head of research and consultancy at Savills Plc.

"Obviously, the outbreak really reduced mainland visitors to almost nothing and the return of the unrest will continue to keep them away," he said. Wealthy individuals from China had dominated the high-end home market, with about 60% of international buyers hailing from the mainland over the past 10 years, according to Savills.

In a sign of weakness, a plot of land near the former Kai Tak airport failed to sell at auction.

Banks are feeling the strain, too. Loan risks loom for lenders including HSBC Holdings Plc as the city's recession grinds on, according to Francis Chan, a senior analyst at Bloomberg Intelligence. Insurance agents and private bankers have been hurt by the virus outbreak as travel curbs blocked potential customers from the mainland.

At the same time, deteriorating relations between the U.S. and China will squeeze the city's port if trade tensions resume. U.S. lawmakers routinely threaten to punish China for its actions against Hong Kong's democracy

protesters.

The biggest strain so far has been on retailers, hotels, bars and restaurants. Tourism to Hong Kong has dried up amid virus-related travel restrictions, and for months before that mainland visitors stayed away because of the political unrest. Retail sales by value slumped by more than 40% for an unprecedented second straight month in March as inbound visitors sank by 99%.

To ease the pain, Hong Kong's government has announced about HK\$287.5 billion (\$37 billion) of direct virus-related aid this year, or about 10% of GDP, including a wage subsidy program and a cash handout of HK\$10,000 to all permanent residents age 18 or older.

Elaine Cheung, who runs Elaine Beauty House not far from the central finance district, recently reopened her beauty salon after a 28-day compulsory shutdown to contain the virus. She is racing to make the most of pent-up demand, while it lasts.

"My WhatsApp just kept popping up messages from clients. I'm rushing to serve as many customers as possible when the situation is relatively safe," she said. "Who knows what will happen next?"

Government officials warn the city may see its worst full-year economic performance on record, with a contraction of as much as 7%, after the economy shrank 1.2% last year. It contracted 8.9% in the first quarter from year-ago levels. Unemployment has risen

for six straight months while industry barometers including small business sentiment and Markit PMI hover near record lows.

It's an outlook overshadowing Hong Kong's success in containing the virus, with cases in the city slowing to a trickle. Hong Kong has confirmed just 1,051 cases and four deaths, and hasn't recorded a virus-related death since March. Yet the risk of another wave became real in recent days as health officials confirmed two new local cases, bringing to an end a 23-day streak without a locally transmitted case.

As authorities take a more aggressive approach to rein in protesters with little sign of compromise to meet their demands, the unrest is expected to heat up again in coming months.

On Friday, May 8, in the city's popular bar district, the mask wearing staff at the Honi Honi Tiki Cocktail Lounge were hustling to prepare for reopening after the enforced shutdown. Just 30 minutes after the doors opened, customers began trickling in, adjusting to the temperature checks and rules on spacing as they ordered tropical cocktails in Polynesian tiki mugs.

Bar owner Max Traverse has had to reduce staff. A rental discount has helped tide him over. Conditions had been improving earlier this year before the virus hit yet now, like others, he's worried what will happen if either the protests or another virus outbreak returns.

"If the city has to close again, it

would be a ghost city," he said.

That concern is widespread across the bar and restaurant sector. Alan Lo, co-founder of the Classified Group of eateries as well as the Michelin-starred restaurant Duddell's, said the political logjam could be a blow that shrinks the city's food and beverage industry, with owners "down to their last drop of capital."

Hong Kong's bustling lifestyle, low tax rates and gateway-to-China status have long attracted expatriates. There are anecdotal signs that the appeal is waning after months of home schooling and travel restrictions, though much will depend on what happens in coming months.

"I think many companies are still taking a wait-and-see approach to matters," said Lee Quane, regional director for Asia with expat consultancy ECA International. "If you see two years of continued disruption and no real solution in sight, a lot of companies will think twice about it."

To navigate a way out, the government will need to shake up the economy by playing to its strengths in health care and financial services, along with a renewed focus on high-end manufacturing that would offer new opportunities, according to Christopher To, chairman of the Hong Kong Institute of Directors.

Yet such solutions seem a long way off for those struggling to keep their businesses alive now.

Back at the gym, while demonstrating the flowing movements and quick arm-and-leg attacks of Wing Chun, Lam worries that things may never return to the way they were, for him and for Hong Kong.

"I won't be able to go back to the past where I have my own center," Lam said. "I will continue to roam around with my students." **BLOOMBERG**

OPINION

RISING TO CHALLENGES

Wang Huiyao*

The novel coronavirus has become a catalyst for change. Shocking death tolls and severe economic headwinds have compelled countries and world leaders to reflect on the state of our multilateral institutions.

We have found that the United Nations, the central postwar global institution tasked with maintaining peace and sustainable development for humankind, has been limited in its capacity to shape efforts to cope with the global pandemic. After 75 years, the UN has become stuck in a difficult situation from which it is hard to reform the organization. This deadlock has compromised the UN's ability to deal with 21st-century challenges, in turn undermining its authority.

For example, the World Health Organization, the specialized agency of the UN responsible for international public health, should have been the core institution to coordinate international efforts to fight the pandemic. However, in some areas, it has lacked the power to galvanize a unified response and mobilize global resources. What is worse, some now seek to make the WHO a scapegoat on which to pin blame for the crisis.

The international free trade system has also come under fire. There are signs that the pandemic will spur trade protectionism. While it is understandable that countries may want to safeguard domestic supplies of essential goods such as medical equipment and food by using export restrictions, we should ensure this does not slide into more long-term and harmful forms of protectionism. It is important to remember that trade will serve as a key engine for the post-pandemic recovery of the world economy. This highlights the need for countries to work together to strengthen the free trade system by continuing to lower tariffs and non-tariff barriers.

Now, with the rising anti-globalization sentiment and calls to restore key productive activities, the pandemic has exacerbated the pressure on global value chains. Serious decoupling is unlikely and unfeasible due to the deep and complex linkages that bind countries together. Shifting factories back home would incur high costs at a time of economic difficulty. Nevertheless, we do need to find ways to strike a balance between costs and potential risks to ensure that the global value chains are resilient and inclusive and generate wealth for all. One possible outcome is an acceleration of regional integration.

Despite the difficulties outlined above, the novel coronavirus also offers an unparalleled opportunity for countries to work together to innovate global governance, which had already fallen behind global realities long before the novel coronavirus outbreak.

Faced with the current challenges, the international community should be more active in multilateral cooperation and put forward ways to innovate the global governance system and institutions. For example, we need to advance reform of the World Trade Organization to protect and promote international free trade.

In the short term, multilateral institutions such as the G20 should play a bigger role in the post-pandemic economy recovery. The International Monetary Fund projects that world GDP will contract 3 percent in 2020 and the WTO predicts that the world trade volume may decrease by around one-fifth. For example, the G20 could set up a secretariat to coordinate members and shape meeting agendas.

The Belt and Road Initiative can be a further shot in the arm for global governance and post-pandemic recovery. Encouraging more countries to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative would enable the initiative to evolve into a more comprehensive multilateral mode of cooperation. Regarding investment, on top of infrastructure construction such as building roads, railways and ports, "new infrastructure" projects could also be a potential area to promote international cooperation.

Last but not least, we should not lose sight of the other looming transnational challenges we face, such as climate change and environmental degradation.

Despite the pains and challenges brought by the COVID-19, there remains hope for future global development if countries can nurture a spirit of cooperation. With its growing international role, China has the ability and responsibility to contribute to and lead reform of global governance, so we can come out of the current crisis and forge a more inclusive and balanced form of globalization. [Abridged]

*The author is the president of Center for China and Globalization

TEDROS

UN health agency chief unbowed

JAMEY KEATEN, GENEVA

THE World Health Organization's director-general has faced many challenges during the coronavirus pandemic: racial slurs, death threats, social media caricatures — he was once depicted as a ventriloquist's dummy in the hands of Chinese President Xi Jinping — and U.S. funding cuts.

Through it all, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has endeavored to rise above the troubles with a focus on one main task: Building international "solidarity" against an outbreak whose confirmed death toll is nearly 300,000 and that quelled economic activity in countries rich and poor. Many health policy experts have praised his handling of the outbreak overall, despite criticism of the U.N. health agency by the Trump administration.

Next week, Tedros' track record and background will come under intensified scrutiny as WHO holds its biggest annual event — the World Health Assembly — in a "virtual" and abbreviated version that focuses on Covid-19.

Critics and some analysts cite his background as a government minister in Ethiopia, with its history of authoritarian regimes. Not long after taking office in 2017, Tedros appointed Zimbabwe's then president, Robert Mugabe, who often traveled abroad to receive health care, as a WHO "goodwill ambassador," only to revoke the appointment after a wave of outrage erupted.

Most recently, Trump has faulted WHO for being too accepting and praising of China's handling of the early outbreak, wedging Tedros personally in the tense political standoff between

AP PHOTO



the U.S. and China. He has shied away from criticizing the two powerful U.N. members, and has praised both President Donald Trump and Xi — even while leaving hints seemingly directed at Beijing and Washington.

"Don't use this virus as an opportunity to fight against each other or score political points. It's dangerous," he said recently, appealing to the world. "It's the political problem that may fuel further this pandemic."

Tedros, 55, knows about the punishing sides to both politics and pandemics: A malaria expert with a doctorate in microbiology from the University of Nottingham in Britain, he served as health minister and foreign minister in Ethiopia before his election in 2017 in one of WHO's most competitive races.

He's the first WHO chief from Africa, and the first who doesn't have a medical degree — seen as a hole in his resu-

Mass testing to begin in Wuhan amid fear

AT least one community in the Chinese city of Wuhan was to begin testing residents for the new coronavirus yesterday after officials were given 10 days to test everyone in the city where the pandemic began, Chinese media reports said.

About 1,000 residents of a compound in Qiaokou district were to be tested in groups, according to a website of Hubei TV, the official provincial broadcaster.

No official announcement has been made, but district officials have confirmed receiving mass testing orders from the city's coronavirus task force, the reports said. It remained unclear if everyone in the city of 11 million people would actually be tested and how such a monumental campaign would happen.

The short order came after

AP PHOTO



the discovery last weekend of a cluster of six infected people at a residential compound in the city, the first new cases in more than a month. China has moved quickly to snuff out new outbreaks wherever they pop up, even as it relaxes restrictions on the movement of people and reopens public at-

tractions to limited numbers of visitors.

Jilin province, which borders North Korea in China's northeast, has suspended all public transport and imposed other restrictions as it battles a fresh outbreak. In neighboring Heilongjiang province, which dealt with its own outbreak

recently, the city of Harbin is quarantining anyone coming from Jilin for 14 days and banning them from hotels.

The sudden order appeared to confuse local officials. A man who answered the mayor's hotline in Wuhan said that districts have 10 days to arrange the testing in their

ed amid attacks, Trump criticism



as a rising star of health policy by Melinda Gates, whose charitable foundation has become WHO's No. 2 donor. He has been credited for helping expand Ethiopia's health care workforce as health minister from 2005 to 2012.

Tedros often uses wit, feigned ignorance and charm to disarm or sidestep critics. He has drawn on the star power of Lady Gaga and garnered support from European leaders, and called Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez "mi hermano": my brother. He bills himself "Dr. Tedros," leaning on his doctorate, and actively tweets to a million followers.

No stranger to the personal anecdote, Tedros once said it was "pure luck" for him to aspire to the top WHO job, noting that when he was 7, his younger brother died from a childhood disease — and it could just as easily have been him.

Dr. Lia Tadesse, Ethiopia's current health minister, who worked with Tedros when he had her job, said he was known for showing calm, patience and a good ear.

"While he was a minister, he was known to really care for people who are considered at the lowest level of the strata, like the cleaner, the security guard and so on," she said by phone. "He takes time to listen to their problems, and really recognize their efforts."

Tedros has played down death threats against him, but has stood

up to defend Africa. He has blasted the government of Taiwan, which isn't a U.N. member state, for allegedly condoning "racial slurs" against him. Taiwan's current government has faced intense political pressure from rival China, and has been appealing for admission as an observer to the World Health Assembly on Monday and Tuesday.

Political sniping between the US and China, and Tedros' own political baggage, can make it tough to cut through the noise during a pandemic

Political sniping between the U.S. and China, and Tedros' own political baggage, can make it tough to cut through the noise during a global health emergency.

"If you criticize the WHO and Tedros, you're somehow seen as a supporter of the Trump administration and their clearly self-serving attacks to shift blame from their own failure," said Jeffrey Smith, director of Washington-based Vanguard Africa, a promoter of democracy. "On the other hand, if you defend Dr. Tedros and the WHO, you're seen as somehow endorsing his comfort level with the world's despots and dictators."

"Yes, Dr. Tedros is the product of a deeply authoritarian regime. And he has long displayed an affinity for dictators," Smith said. "The WHO does critical work and deserves support. And yes, the WHO also needs reform. All of these things can be true."

David Shinn, a U.S. ambassador to Ethiopia in the 1990s, said Tedros had a good relationship with both Beijing and Washington while Ethiopia's foreign minister. Shinn cited a "cau-

tionary note:" Tedros had the job when Ethiopia relied heavily on China for economic and political support, as it does today.

"As a result, he probably was willing to accept at face value what he was being told by China with perhaps not questioning as strongly as he might have what the situation really was," said Shinn, an adjunct professor at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs.

Tedros appears to have learned one key thing from his predecessor, Dr. Margaret Chan of China: Be reactive to outbreaks. Amid the Ebola outbreak in eastern Congo that's now seemingly on its last legs, Tedros traveled over a dozen times to the region. With Covid-19, he has been omnipresent.

"Dr. Tedros has been very much at the helm in terms of being in almost every single press conference, communicating directly with the public, tweeting — really speaking directly to people," said Suerie Moon, co-director of the Global Health Center at Geneva's Graduate Institute.

"He's able to really humanize a situation that's quite frightening for most people and be a reassuring presence," she said. **AP**

me by some critics.

Tedros was born in the city of Asmara, before it and the rest of Eritrea split from Ethiopia. Like many Ethiopians, he goes by his first name. A father of five, he has tweeted about riding bikes with his daughter. A few years ago, he tried out the saxophone, but give it up because of a heavy workload.

Years ago, Tedros was spotted

rs of virus comeback

respective jurisdictions. But a woman who answered later Wednesday said the tests must be done in the next 10 days.

A major state-owned news website, Jiemian, said it had obtained an implementation plan for the city's Wuchang district that said all residents should be tested by May 20.

Wuhan was the area hit hardest by the coronavirus in China. Of the 4,633 reported deaths nationwide, 4,512 were in Hubei province, including 3,869 in Wuhan, the provincial capital.

China imposed a lengthy lockdown on most of Hubei in late January to stem the spread of the virus.

People were forbidden from entering or leaving the province, public transportation suspended and residents were mostly restricted to their homes.

The lockdown was lifted outside of Wuhan after two months, and in Wuhan itself on April 8, after 2 1/2 months.

The new cases appear to have shocked city officials into action. They dismissed the Communist Party secretary of the neighborhood where the cluster was found for poor management of the residential community, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The order said the testing should focus on the elderly, densely po-

pulated areas and those with mobile populations, according to the media reports. It wasn't clear if that meant only some people would be tested or if they would be prioritized.

One expert at Wuhan University told the Global Times newspaper that 3 million to 5 million residents have already been tested, which could leave 6 to 8 million others for a citywide test.

In Beijing, a shorter-than-usual ban on drone use in the Chinese capital is being interpreted as a signal that China will curtail its major political meeting of the year because of continuing concern about the outbreak. **AP**

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FBI says Chinese hackers might be targeting virus researchers

ORGANIZATIONS conducting research into COVID-19 may be targeted by computer hackers linked to the Chinese government, according to the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security.

Neither agency cited any specific examples yesterday [Macau time], but they warned that institutions and companies involved in work on vaccines, treatments and testing for the novel coronavirus should take additional security measures to protect data and be aware of the potential threat.

"China's efforts to target

these sectors pose a significant threat to our nation's response to COVID-19," said a statement from the U.S. Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. "This announcement is intended to raise awareness for research institutions and the American public and provide resources and guidance for those who may be targeted."

It comes amid heightened tensions between the two countries over the source of the outbreak and Trump administration complaints that China did not adequately alert the world to the danger posed by the new coronavirus.

The warning also echoes long-standing U.S. complaints that China has engaged in the wholesale theft of technology and trade secrets to build its economy.

Institutions that have received media attention for their efforts related to COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, should assume that they would be targeted and should take precautions, the Department of Justice said.

"The potential theft of this information jeopardizes the delivery of secure, effective, and efficient treatment options," it said.

The FBI and the cybersecurity agency said they were

issuing the alert to raise public awareness of the potential threat and said additional technical details would be released in the coming days.

China has defended its response to the virus, and Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian denied the government was involved in any attempt to steal virus-related data on Monday, after some media reported on the warning in advance.

"We are leading the world in COVID-19 treatment and vaccine research," Zhao told reporters. "It is immoral to target China with rumors and slanders in the absence of any evidence." AP

Virus spikes could emerge weeks after US economic reopenings

U.S. states are beginning to restart their economies after months of paralyzing coronavirus lockdowns, but it could take weeks until it becomes clear whether those reopenings will cause a spike in COVID-19 cases, experts said yesterday [Macau time].

The outbreak's trajectory varies wildly across the country, with steep increases in cases in some places, decreases in others and infection rates that can shift dramatically from neighborhood to neighborhood.

"Part of the challenge is although we are focused on the top-line national numbers in terms of our attention, what we are seeing is 50 different curves and 50 different stories playing out," said Thomas Tsai, assistant professor at the Harvard Global Health Institute. "And what we have seen about COVID-19 is that the story and the effect is often very local."

A handful of states started easing their lockdowns about two weeks ago, allowing reopenings by establishments ranging from shopping malls in Texas to beach hotels in South Carolina to gyms in Wyoming. Sparsely populated Wyoming, which has some of



the lowest infection numbers in the United States, plans to reopen bars and restaurants Friday. Georgia was one of the first states where some businesses were allowed to open their doors again, starting April 24 with barber shops, hair salons, gyms, bowling alleys and tattoo parlors.

But it may be five to six weeks from then before the effects are known, said Crystal Watson of the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security.

"As we saw early in the

year, epidemics of COVID-19 start slow and take some time to build and become evident," Watson said in an email.

The outbreak's trajectory can vary greatly around the country, according to an Associated Press analysis of confirmed cases. For instance, steep increases in daily new cases are occurring in Hennepin County in Minnesota and Fairfax County in Virginia, while in others, such as Bergen County, New Jersey, and Wayne County, Michigan,

there's been a steady decline.

The AP analyzed case counts compiled by Johns Hopkins University, using a rolling seven-day average to account for day-to-day variability in test reporting.

In Geneva, meanwhile, a top World Health Organization official warned that it's possible the new coronavirus may be here to stay.

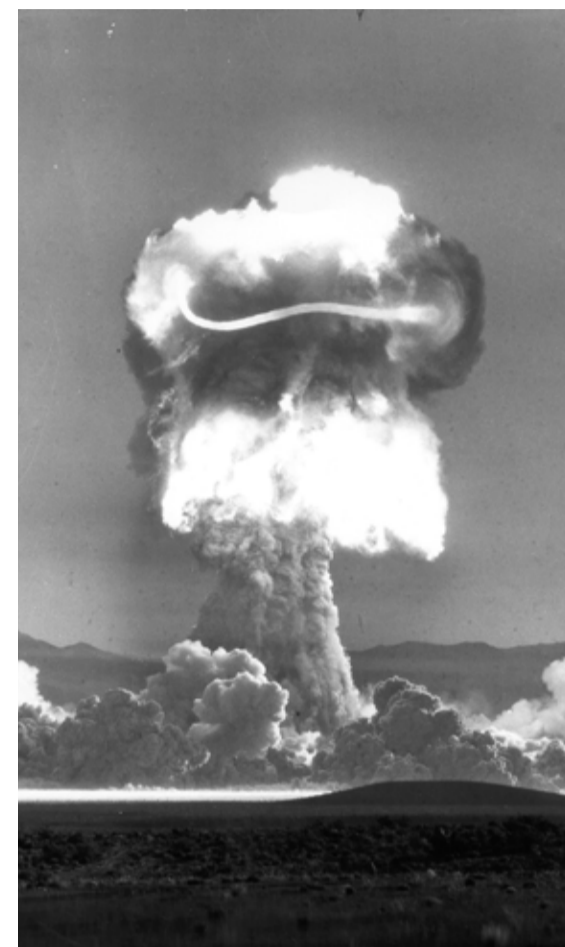
"This virus may never go away," Dr. Michael Ryan said at a press briefing. Without a vaccine, he said, it could take years for the global population to build up sufficient levels of immunity.

"I think it's important to put this on the table," he said. "This virus may become just another endemic virus in our communities" like other previously novel diseases, such as HIV, which have never disappeared, but for which effective treatments have been developed.

"If you are doing adequate testing, it will take two to three weeks" to spot an increase, Dr. Ashish Jha, director of Harvard's Global Health Institute, said as he prepared to speak to a congressional subcommittee on the crisis.

He urged a dramatic increase in testing. AP

this day in history



1957 BRITAIN DROPS ITS FIRST H-BOMB

Britain has exploded its first hydrogen bomb as part of a series of tests in the Pacific, the Ministry of Supply has announced.

Details of the bomb, described only as a "nuclear device", are sketchy. The term "device" indicates that it was an experimental explosive rather than a fully developed weapon.

It was almost certainly part of the thermo-nuclear weapons programme which was started in December 1954 to develop the megaton hydrogen bomb, which is as powerful as one million tons of TNT.

The test was carried out at high altitude over the largely uninhabited Christmas Island to minimise nuclear fall-out.

This is the most important range of tests carried out by Britain, developed with limited resources and in a remarkably short space of time.

Scientists have taken two years to develop the tests compared with their American counterparts who took seven years before exploding their first device.

The bomb was dropped by a four-engined jet, Valiant of No 49 Squadron RAF Bomber Command, normally based at RAF Wittering, Northants.

The Minister of Supply, Aubrey Jones, was informed of the Pacific nuclear trials by Air Vice-Marshal WE Oulton, commander of the task force and WRJ Cook, scientific director of the program.

Scientists are evaluating the results of the testing and will make a further statement in the next few days.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The tests raised a major debate about the dangers of nuclear weapons and led to the founding in 1958 of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament which pressed for British, and ultimately international, abandonment of nuclear weapons. The Cold War and the arms race between the superpowers reached a peak by the 1960s. Then relations thawed and in 1963 the Soviet Union, the UK, the USA and many other countries agreed a Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Uncertainties about your home may cause tension. Be prepared to jump quickly if you wish to stay in the forefront of your industry today. Take time to catch up on overdue correspondence.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
You can meet potential new mates, but make sure that they aren't already committed to someone else. Controversial subjects should be avoided at all costs. Only bite off what you can chew.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
Beware of colleagues who don't have your best interests in mind. Think twice before you volunteer information. You can expect to experience delays or additional red tape if you deal with institutions.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Lend an ear to children; it can make a difference. You can offer your mate a commitment or promise that will help stabilize your personal life. Call a good friend.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Don't overextend your self in order to add luxury items to your entertainment center. New methods and innovative technology will make your job far easier than you anticipated.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
You will not impress others by being foolishly generous. Be innovative. However, you should be concerned about what they want in return. Trust in your close friends and family.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Secret information will be eye opening. You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence. Socially, you need a fast paced form of entertainment.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Visitors may relieve the tension. Don't let your emotions interfere with completing your chores. Things will be hectic and family members will be erratic.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Use your creative abilities to come up with new ideas and directions. Your willingness to help others can and will lead to fatigue if you don't learn to say no.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Go over their important documents and take the time to suggest alternatives. You may find that you are a little lucky today. If you're already in a relationship, use this added energy passionately.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Your stubbornness coupled with your mate's jealousy don't make for a favorable time. Love could develop with someone of a different cultural background. Get involved in groups

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You should get out and meet some of those clients that you only speak to on the phone. You will communicate easily and should be able to accomplish all that you set out to do.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

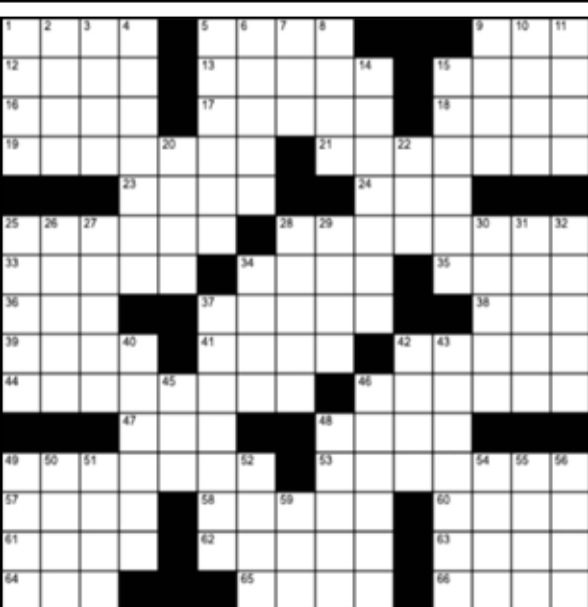
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	14	22	cloudy
Harbin	0	15	cloudy
Tianjin	14	21	overcast
Urumqi	15	26	shower
Xi'an	20	36	cloudy
Lhasa	8	17	cloudy
Chengdu	22	31	drizzle
Chongqing	23	31	drizzle
Kunming	14	27	clear
Nanjing	23	33	cloudy
Shanghai	23	32	clear
Wuhan	23	34	cloudy
Hangzhou	22	35	cloudy
Taipei	23	27	cloudy
Guangzhou	24	34	clear
Hong Kong	25	31	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	12	21	drizzle
Frankfurt	6	18	drizzle
Paris	10	19	clear
London	7	15	drizzle
New York	11	25	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Speed ratio; 5- Pianist Peter; 9- Legal matter; 12- Glow; 13- Peace goddess; 15- Remedy; 16- Hang around; 17- Counterfeit; 18- Opera set in Egypt; 19- Spider's traps; 21- Chest related; 23- Wight or Man; 24- Diamond authority; 25- Disinclined; 28- Thankful; 33- Scuffle; 34- Laugh heartily; 35- Chuck; 36- Neither Rep. nor Dem.; 37- Crowd together; 38- Doo-wop syllable; 39- Hard fatty tissue; 41- Actress Swenson; 42- Attack on all sides; 44- Sing for; 46- Passenger ships; 47- Direct a gun; 48- Titanic's undoing; 49- Mafioso; 53- Without bound; 57- Writer Wiesel; 58- Dictation taker; 60- About; 61- ___ well...; 62- Conger catcher; 63- Arrest; 64- ___ kwon do; 65- Fill to surfeit; 66- Hard, in Havana;

DOWN: 1- Not fem.; 2- Mercury or Saturn; 3- Kvetch or whinge; 4- Out of control; 5- Bite gently; 6- Uneven; 7- Rule, for short; 8- Weight; 9- Undoing; 10- Mother of the Valkyries; 11- Authenticating mark; 14- Tidal river; 15- Floor covering; 20- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 22- CPR giver; 25- Off-track; 26- Locale; 27- Senior; 28- Small canyon; 29- ___ avis; 30- "Damn Yankees" choreographer; 31- Doorkeeper; 32- Atty.-to-be exams; 34- Rip apart; 37- Like some cats; 40- Tantalizes; 42- Feathered creature; 43- Division of the United Kingdom; 45- It may be picked; 46- Poe maiden; 48- "John Brown's Body" poet; 49- Crux; 50- Earthen pot; 51- Ill humor; 52- Hwys.; 54- Biblical birthright seller; 55- Agitate; 56- Go it alone; 59- Guido's high note;



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- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



FOR SALE

Fragrant Court, Ocean Gardens
HK\$24,000,000 3,500 ft² 4 3/4 3 1/2

FOR RENT

Buckingham, Taipa
\$15,900/mth 1,100 ft² 2 1/2 1 1/2

FOR SALE

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

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

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

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

FOR RENT

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

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

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

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

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Why open a store? Chinese merchants go livestreaming instead

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

AT the height of China's coronavirus outbreak, the skincare-products maker Forest Cabin closed more than half of its 300 stores across the nation as shoppers stayed home. With sales plunging, founder Sun Laichun decided it was time to reach his customers more directly.

"We knew it was time for us to focus on an online strategy to survive," Sun said. But the company didn't launch an online ad blitz or announce big giveaways. Instead, it trained hundreds of its salespeople to begin hosting live video streams where viewers could get skincare tips and buy products without ever cutting away from the online patter. Within just a month, Sun said, Forest Cabin's February sales were up by 20% compared to a year earlier, despite a plunge in store sales.

These days, shoppers are making their way back to once deserted malls and shops as China emerges from its long winter of coronavirus shutdowns. But so many of the region's retailers ended up embracing livestreaming that they've kicked off a new boom in Chinese "shoppertainment" that lets retailers interact with distant customers in real time.

Some of China's largest e-commerce companies are betting big on livestreaming. Alibaba's Taobao Live platform saw more than a sevenfold increase in first-time business customers in February, while Pinduoduo's livestreaming sessions grew fivefold from February to March. Overall, livestreaming e-commerce revenue will likely double this year to 961 billion



Song Huiyan shows her fashion dresses for her online clients while live-streaming at her clothing shop in Beijing

yuan (\$136 billion), according to Chinese market intelligence firm iiMedia Research.

Livestreaming has also created a profitable new niche for existing livestream stars who are now reaping hefty commissions as their shows draw millions of viewers. The trend might even suggest alternatives for battered retailers in the U.S. and Europe as those regions cope with stay-at-home orders and customers remain wary of crowds.

Commercial Chinese livestreaming goes well beyond the American formula pioneered by the Home Shopping Network and QVC, which play infomercials around the clock, said Michael Norris, research and strategy manager at the marketing firm AgencyChina.

In China, "there's actually education about products and how to use them, and elements of entertainment wrapped up in the

livestreaming," he said. That plus instant sales makes livestreaming an excellent marketing tool, he added.

Some Chinese retailers host their own streams. Others hire livestreaming celebrities with large followings. Viya Huang and Li Jiaqi, for instance, are full-time livestreamers with tens of millions of followers who boast hundreds of millions of dollars in sales via livestreaming each year.

Both go live on the platform for about four hours, five to six nights each week. Millions of viewers tune in to catch their suggestions on skincare, snacks and household products.

On a recent evening, Huang's live online audience had reached nearly 20 million people when she lifted a box of spicy duck necks — a specialty of Wuhan, the Chinese city where the coronavirus was first reported. "These will be prepared fresh and shipped to

you, it's the most popular flavor," Huang said, holding up a piece to the camera before biting into one.

Within seconds, viewers snatched up 70,000 boxes, their purchases benefiting a Wuhan recovery charity initiative. By the end of her four-hour stint, Huang had hawked everything from sugar-free cookies and Hello Kitty-branded mints to sanitary napkins and pairs of white Skechers sneakers, almost all of which sold out their limited inventories.

For viewers, the fast pace of celebrity livestreams provide a constant sense of urgency that they'd be missing out on great deals if they don't act quickly.

"It's really exciting to watch," said Coco Lu, a civil servant in Chongqing, a city roughly 400 miles (643.74 kilometers) west of Wuhan, who is still avoiding stores. "The hosts are very persuasive and there are giveaways, plus deals are only available for a very

short period of time."

Adam An, who works in marketing in Hangzhou, finds them a relaxing form of retail therapy. Watching a Li livestream "feels almost as if a friend is chatting with me, recommending me great products to buy," he said.

Livestream sales are a godsend for small entrepreneurs like Dou Ma, who sells discount clothing, mostly costing less than 50 yuan (\$8), from the comfort of her home in the southwestern city of Kunming. After putting her two young children to bed, she hops online and streams from her living room for about three hours.

All Dou needed to get started was her mobile phone. Her earliest streams in late March drew fewer than 20 viewers a night, but recently, they've begun drawing more than 100. Dou streams at a leisurely pace, warmly welcoming every viewer who joins and thanking them for their support.

"It's okay if you don't buy anything from me today, you're welcome to just chat with me if you want," Dou told nearly 100 viewers in a recent stream, as she held up a winter coat priced at just 59.90 yuan (about \$8.50) with shipping.

When a viewer asks about the sizing of a dress via the comments section, Dou whips out her measuring tape, rattling off measurements. During her streams, she chats with her viewers, talking about everything from parenting tips to previous vacations she's taken.

"Because of this pandemic, livestreaming has become a good option," she said. "It's no longer practical for newcomers like me to open an offline store anymore." AP

CORPORATE BITS

SCL volunteers help with school sanitization



A group of Sands Cares Ambassadors (SCA) has helped to clean and sanitize Concordia School of Special Education as part of Sands China's cleaning initiative for local schools and its ongoing Covid-19 re-

lieff efforts in Macau.

Sands China and the Macau Autism Association organized the school-cleaning initiative, which aims to provide a clean learning environment for children with

special needs. This is in line with the government's policy to provide a child-friendly environment for special education schools. The SCA operation will continue over the next several weeks to benefit 1,500 teachers and students in total.

"Sands China is very pleased to be able to offer our team member volunteers' cleaning services and our donation of masks for local schools," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

To date, Sands China has donated nearly 600,000 sanitization items and provided financial support for 500 families in need and 34 local organizations.

Staycation offers from Sheraton, The St. Regis



The Sheraton Grand Macao and The St. Regis Macao, Cotai Strip are offering Staycation packages for locals from now until June 30, 2020.

The packages include a one-night stay in a Deluxe King or Twin Room with

breakfast for two included, MOP200 hotel dining credit and access to the hotels' swimming pools, as well as early check-in and late check-out.

The package is available for booking on the hotels' we-

sites from MOP988 for the Sheraton or from MOP1,528 for The St. Regis.

The packages for both hotels share some elements, such as accommodation for two in a Deluxe King or Twin Room, a complimentary room upgrade to the next category, daily breakfast for two, early check-in at noon and late check-out at 6 p.m., as well as an additional 1,000 Marriott Bonvoy points-per-stay for bookings made through the official website.

The packages also include MOP200 of dining credit daily which can be used at different restaurants, depending on which hotel the package is purchased from.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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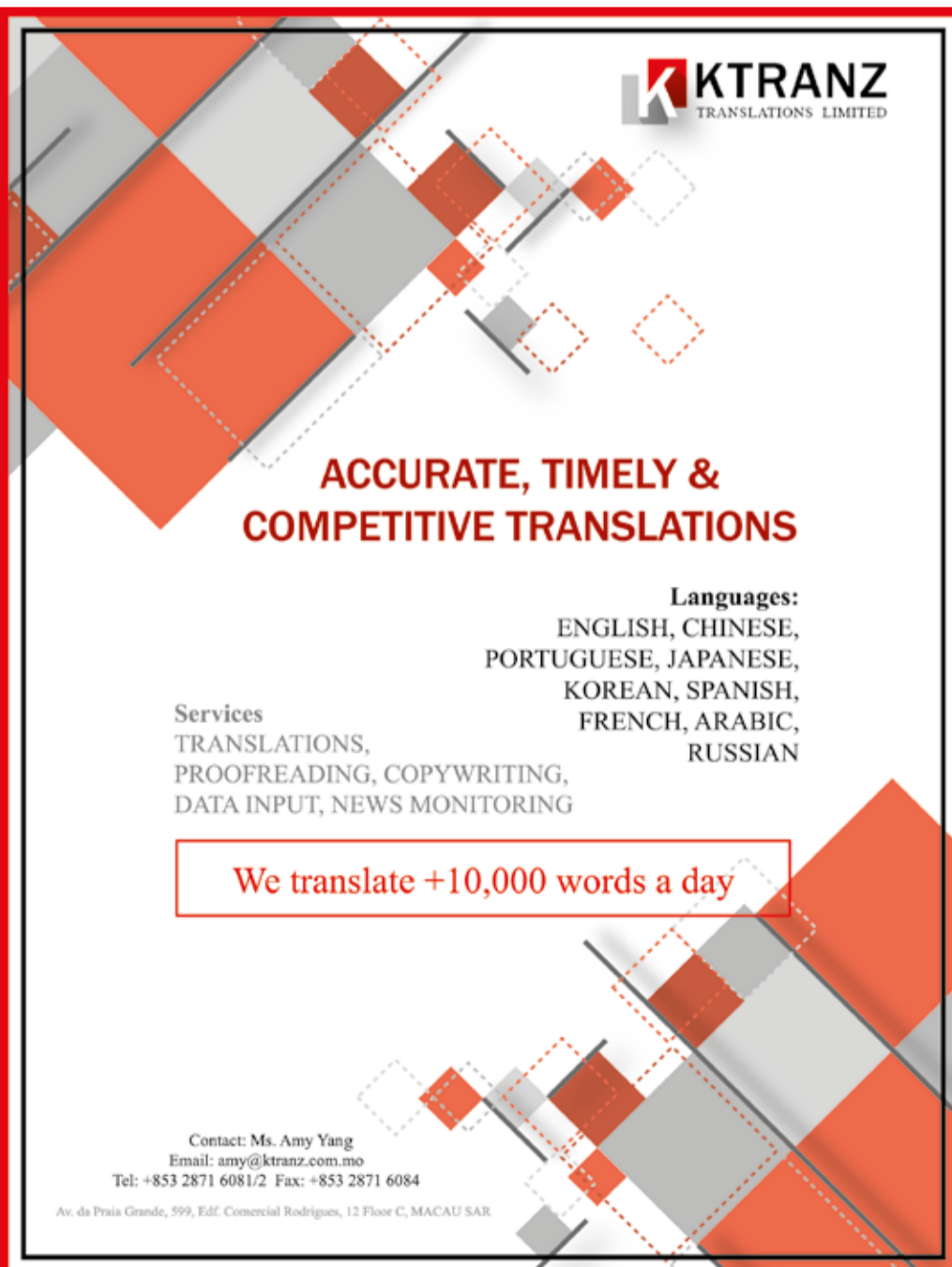
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OPINION

World Views

Bloomberg

VAST NUMBERS OF UNEMPLOYED WILL UNDERMINE CHINA'S RECOVERY ON NPC'S WATCH

Millions of Chinese people are being thrown out of work by the collapse in global demand and a slow restart of the domestic economy. A lack of clarity about exactly how many is making it harder to gauge the chances for recovery.

From the amount of coal burned to the length of traffic jams in Beijing, signs are emerging that an industry-led rebound is underway. More loans are being extended, and auto sales are up.

But whether those signs can translate into a domestic economy strong enough to withstand the downward forces coming from the stopped global economy depends a lot on whether factories and shops can keep workers employed and able to spend their earnings. As China heads toward its annual political centerpiece next week, the true state of the labor market is obscured by incomplete official data.

The surveyed urban unemployment rate, due for release Friday along with April industrial production and retail sales data, leaves out about half of the nation's workforce. Though the official rate is forecast to decline to 5.8% for April, analysts from BNP Paribas SA said the real unemployment rate including non-urban residents could have reached 12% in the first quarter, and as many as 130 million people could have suffered some kind of job disruption.

The outlook for the labor market is "not optimistic" as the recovery in some sectors will have to wait until a global reopening, and the official jobless data leaves a considerable part of the workforce off the radar, said Liu Peiqian, a China economist at Natwest Markets in Singapore. "The current recovery is largely policy-driven. The repair pulled by the economy's inner strength hasn't started."

UBS Group AG is forecasting the worst job market for China in more than two decades, with the number of jobs shrinking by more than 10 million this year. That's in contrast to the usual government target to create a net increase of at least 10 million jobs a year.

Aside from job creation being a key political concern for the Communist Party, it has knock-on effects through the economy.

"We think weaker employment and income growth will weigh on consumption," UBS economist Wang Tao wrote in a recent note. While the impact will likely be temporary and recover from the second half, Wang still expects private consumption to contract in 2020.

If that's the case, it'd mean the nascent recovery seen in energy use and infrastructure-related sectors can hardly last, indicating more stimulus will be necessary to blunt the shocks. The government will offer some clarity on that front at the upcoming National People's Congress meeting starting from May 22. Bloomberg reported the government is considering dropping a numerical growth target, giving policy makers more freedom in setting the size of stimulus.

This month the People's Bank of China pledged to roll out "more powerful" monetary stimulus, and fiscal authorities are expected to issue a record amount of special-purpose bonds. The latter is expected to help drive infrastructure investment. Data for fixed-asset investment in the first four months of the year is also due Friday.

"The recovery so far has been largely driven by supply," Larry Hu, head of China Economics at Macquarie Securities Ltd in Hong Kong, wrote in a note. "It might continue for another couple of months, but the demand headwinds, especially from exports and deflation, could cause the recovery to stumble later."

The Chinese Super League is reportedly set to kick off in the last week of June, two weeks after lower-tier leagues are scheduled to begin in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic that has shut down sports globally.

Chinese state media report the top-flight season could begin June 24 if case numbers continue to subside, while the People's Daily newspaper reported the proposed starting date as June 27 in a Twitter post yesterday.

The 16-team league is likely to play a compressed, conference-style competition to make up for the time lost while China was locked down after being the epicenter of the virus outbreak.

The number of new cases of COVID-19 in China has been on the decline and domestic travel restrictions are being gradually eased. But the borders remain closed to non-citizens, meaning some of the high-profile foreign players and coaches could be absent when the league gets underway.

There has been speculation that fans will be allowed into stadiums from when the league commences.

VONGFONG

STRONG TYPHOON SLAMS INTO PANDEMIC-HIT PHILIPPINES

JIM GOMEZ

A strong typhoon slammed into the eastern Philippines yesterday after authorities evacuated tens of thousands of people while trying to avoid the virus risks of overcrowding emergency shelters.

The first typhoon to hit the country this year rapidly gained force as it blew from the Pacific then barged ashore in San Policarpio town in Eastern Samar province around noon, weather agency administrator Vicente Malano said.

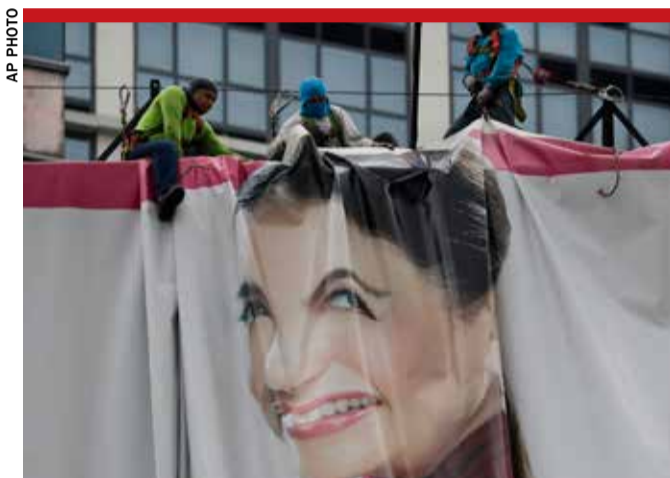
The typhoon came as the Philippines is trying to fight COVID-19 outbreaks largely by locking Filipinos in their homes and prohibiting gatherings that can set off infections. More than 11,600 infections, including 772 deaths, have been reported in the country.

Typhoon Vongfong, which was packing maximum sustained winds of 150 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 185 kph, was forecast to blow northwestward and barrel across densely populated eastern provinces and cities before exiting in the north Sunday.

Overcrowding in emergency shelters is a common scene in the archipelago hit by about 20 typhoons and storms annually and regularly experiencing volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

Many officials faced a difficult dilemma on how to shield villagers from the double threats. Video showed fierce rain and wind swaying coconut trees, rattling tin roofs and obscuring visibility in Eastern Samar, where some towns lost power.

"This is very complicated," Mayor Benjamin Ver of a town in the typhoon's path told The Associated Press by telephone.



Workers fold up a billboard to prepare for the coming of typhoon Vongfong, in Manila, yesterday

Far-flung Jipapad is prone to landslides and flooding. The town in Eastern Samar province is surrounded by mountains and planked by two rivers that often swell in storms. The only evacuation centers for its 8,000 villagers are a gymnasium and the town hall where residents could be sheltered from the typhoon. Ver, who also is the town's only doctor, said he has secured enough face masks to protect his villagers from the virus in the town hall when the typhoon hits.

All emergency shelters have been turned into quarantine facilities in case of outbreaks but may have to be rearranged back into evacuation centers

Observing social distancing "is almost impossible" if all the villagers are cramped in the town hall, but Ver said he would see what else can be done.

Jipapad and the entire Eastern Samar, a province of half a million people, fortunately remain free of coronavirus infections unlike neighboring regions, provincial Gov. Ben Evardone said. All emergency shelters have been turned into

quarantine facilities with medical equipment in case of outbreaks but may have to be rearranged back into evacuation centers if large numbers of people need shelter, Evardone told The AP.

Northern Samar provincial Gov. Edwin Ongchuan said he has asked for twice the usual number of school buildings to be turned into typhoon shelters to accommodate about 80,000 residents who were being forcibly evacuated from high-risk coastal villages.

"If we used 10 school buildings before, we now need 20 to accommodate the evacuees with social distancing," Ongchuan said by telephone.

The government weather agency warned that "along with large swells, this storm surge may cause potentially

life-threatening coastal inundation" and added that sea travel would be dangerous in regions expected to be battered by Vongfong, a Vietnamese word for wasp.

Metropolitan Manila will not be hit directly by the storm but may be lashed by strong winds. Officials were advised to remove many medical quarantine tents set up outside hospitals that could be blown away, Malano said. AP



India The Indian army is considering a proposal to offer civilians a voluntary three-year term of military service, Press Trust of India reported. The proposal being considered is seen as an answer to unemployment as well as a shift from permanent military service toward a temporary experience. The home ministry has asked all Central Armed Police Forces to sell only Indian-made goods in their canteen store departments, an effort that is seen to promote local products.



South Korea has confirmed 29 more coronavirus cases over the past 24 hours as it battles a spike linked to nightlife spots in Seoul. The additional cases pushed the national total to 10,991 with 260 deaths. Most of the new cases were people infected locally while three came from overseas. South Korea's caseload has climbed in the past week, with new cases linked to nightclubs in Seoul.



Israel Mike Pompeo met with Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday to discuss the country's plans to annex parts of the West Bank, as Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian teen in a clash with stone-throwers in the occupied territory. The visit came at a tense time, as Israeli troops searched for the killers of a soldier killed a day earlier by a rock dropped from a rooftop during an army raid of a West Bank village.