

Arriving SAR Macao from Zhuhai
Steps to Make Health Declaration



澳門健康碼
Macao Health Code

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

Upon arrival at a Macao border checkpoint:
Present Macao Health Code + valid Macao AxiT Testing information + travelling document

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

CTM 5G New Era is Coming

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CTM SAID IT IS COMMITTED TO FURTHER INVEST 2 BILLION PATACAS IN CONTINUALLY OPTIMIZING ITS 5G NETWORK SERVICE

GOV'T GUIDELINES FOR CLASS RESUMPTION DISCOURAGE SPORTS

SECRETARY OF STATE MIKE POMPEO WARNED CHINA AGAINST INTERFERING WITH THE WORK OF US JOURNALISTS IN HONG KONG



India recorded its biggest single-day surge in coronavirus cases yesterday, attributed largely to migrant workers returning home after losing their jobs in India's population centers. The 5,242 new cases and 157 deaths due to COVID-19 in the last 24 hours took the country's infection tally to more than 96,000, the most in Asia. It now has 3,029 fatalities.

China The central government petition offices in Beijing, where people come from across China to register complaints, will remain closed for the time being as a virus control measure, state media reported. As its virus cases have declined, China has moved to restart schools and reopen businesses and industries. But government offices that tend to attract large numbers of people in restricted spaces have largely remained closed.

Philippines Crowds and vehicular traffic surged back to shopping malls in the Philippine capital after a two-month coronavirus lockdown was eased. Police warned of possible arrests and mall closures if crowds aren't regulated. Presidential spokesman Harry Roque said the quarantine in the main northern Luzon region is slowly being eased to revitalize the economy "and not because we are safe."



Indonesian President Joko Widodo said yesterday he will not relax nationwide restrictions during Eid-al-Fitr, the Muslim holiday marking the end of Ramadan when millions of people normally return to their home villages. "I emphasize, there is no relaxing policy of large-scale social restrictions yet," Widodo said.

More on backpage

PANDEMIC PROBE

China releases \$2 billion to the WHO, under pressure from a hundred countries for an independent investigation into the epidemic



MELCO TO SHOULDER EXPENSE OF CHARTERED FLIGHT FOR STAFF, STRANDED FILIPINOS



GOVERNMENT EXPANDS ZHUHAI HEALTHCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAM

The Macau SAR government has decided to expand a subsidy program in order to help more Macau residents who live in Zhuhai and want to sign up for Zhuhai's healthcare insurance. Yesterday, the SAR government published a dispatch announcing its decision. Since July 1 last year, Macau residents were given access to Hengqin's public healthcare insurance system. Under the policy, students and minors pay 180 yuan per year to obtain medical insurance, whereas other qualifying Macau residents will pay 410 yuan annually to enjoy Zhuhai's medical insurance. The Zhuhai government will provide 590 yuan for each of the aforementioned Macau residents, the same amount given to Zhuhai residents. For children aged 10 or below, primary and secondary school students, and people aged 65 or above, the local government will bear all the insurance fees.

HENGQIN DATA CENTER ATTACKED 6.86 MILLION TIMES IN FIRST QUARTER

A major data center in Hengqin suffered 6.86 million cyberattacks in the first quarter of 2020, according to the Administrative Committee of Hengqin New Area. The attacks were mostly high-risk attacks and the number of attacks has been increasing month to month. Internet security services at the data center blocked or warned against all attacks and prevented the unit from being implanted with illegal content and other network security incidents.

NO COVID-19 FAKE TEST TRADE FOUND IN ZHUHAI

The Zhuhai Municipal Health Commission says it has not found any irregularities related to fake Covid-19 test results. Recently, online reports said that some people were trading fraudulent Covid-19 test results in Zhuhai. The Zhuhai health authority claimed to have conducted a preliminary inspection where it found no such irregularities. The hospital under accusation of issuing these certificates is the Zhuhai Hospital of Integrated Traditional Chinese and Western Medicine. According to the authority, the hospital investigated CCTV surveillance camera recordings and inspected healthcare professionals working at the test scene and security guards. No signs of forging Covid-19 test results were found. To calm down the public's concern, the department will be stricter in terms of testing services.

GOVERNMENT TO MONITOR COVID-19 EFFECT ON CRIME RATE

JULIE ZHU

SECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak said that the government is closely monitoring the impact of Covid-19 on Macau's security situation and the crime rate.

Yesterday, the security authority published a work report with crime statistics concerning the first quarter of 2020.

The Secretary concluded that the crime statistics indicate a continuously stable and satisfactory security status in the first three months. However, the recent developments as a result of Covid-19 is deserving of some attention. The security authority reiterates that the aftereffect of Covid-19 will bring threats to Macau's economy and livelihood as well as create a number of other conflicts.

"The impact of its aftermath on Macau's security stability should not be neglected," the report reads.

In the first quarter, a total of 530 mainland residents were involved in 421 criminal cases. Forty-five of these people held an Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) visa. In mid 2018, mainland China unified travel policies for both IVS and package tour visas by implementing identical travel conditions. However, the names of the visas remained unchanged.

IVS visas are issued by provincial capitals and some other

RENATO MARQUES



major mainland cities.

The report revealed that 515 mainland tourists became victims of crimes in the first quarter of this year. Over the same period, mainland residents amounted to 4.7 million entries, a 65.3% decrease year-on-year.

In the first quarter, Macau recorded 2,412 crime cases, a 28.3% decrease compared to the same period in 2019.

Although mainland China has not hinted at any sign of reopening visa applications to the SARs, changes to immigration restrictions in Macau's nei-

ghoring regions have alarmed the local security authority.

"As the pandemic gradually becomes under control, Macau's, and its neighboring regions', entry and exit policies may be adjusted. Additional uncertain factors that could have an impact on social security may arise then," the report predicts.

Macau's gaming industry stumbled in recent months due to the decline in tourist arrivals. Consequently, the security authority has not made an evaluation on the gaming industry's effect on Macau security.

Taxi violations diminished much more than the relative number of tourist arrivals and the overall crime rate. The Public Security Police Force recorded 77 taxi violations, a 95.5% decrease yearly. Only three cases of overcharging were reported.

There were 11 arson cases, a 21.4% drop, mostly related to the littering of cigarette butts. Drug trafficking was down 32.1%, with 19 cases registered. Fourteen drug traffickers were Hong Kong residents. Crimes committed by juveniles decreased from ten to seven cases.

Different charges proposed for insurance supervision

MEMBERS of the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) have proposed that the local government charge different insurers a fee to pay for the Monetary Authority of Macao's supervision service.

Yesterday, the committee met with government representatives to discuss the insurance

business law.

On January 24, 2019, the AL passed law No. 27/97/M related to the insurance business. Overall, the amendment established a higher requirement for local insurers' capital and funding. The amendment also suggests that insurers pay a higher fee for the supervision mechanism.

According to the bill,

companies providing general insurance should have a minimum capital of 30 million patacas to set up a fund in Macau, whereas life insurance companies must have at least 60 million patacas.

The law currently in effect suggests that the monetary authority charge between 20,000 and 100,000 patacas for its oversight. The new

amendment increased this range to between 30,000 and one million patacas.

Some members of the Standing Committee think that larger-size insurance companies require more resources and efforts for the authority to supervise them and should be charged more. They recommended the SAR government charge its fee based on the size of each insurer.

Government representatives logged the suggestions.

The amendment also recommends that the insurer administration in Macau should consist of at least three members who are qualified to hold the positions, one of whom should be a Macau resident. Additionally, at least one Macau resident shall be among the company's trustees.

The committee's chairman, Vong Hin Fai, said that the relevant regulations are necessary to facilitate the Monetary Authority's communication with the insurer. **JZ**

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DSEJ guidelines for class resumption discourage sports

RENATO MARQUES

THE guidelines issued by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) to local schools for class resumption discourage sports practice during physical education (PE) classes, the head of Division for Secondary and Vocational Education of the DSEJ, Leong I On said yesterday during the daily press conference of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

In reply to a question from the media asking if the DSEJ had is-

sued any guidance to schools regarding the practice of sports related to the use of facemasks, Leong said that the bureau had issued recommendations to schools not to perform sporting activities while students are wearing facemasks, adding that other types of activities and sports education of a more theoretical kind would be preferred.

"Schools can use these classes [PE] to teach something more theoretical and knowledge related with the subject and to health," Leong said. "We recommend learning about how to practice

sports and also how to engage in physical [fitness activities] while at home."

According to Leong, PE classes should be also to teach information about Covid-19 and how to prevent its spread.

"This is also part of the curriculum so we do not think there is any problem. We have disclosed some guidelines and contacted schools suggesting not to practice any sports while using masks. We already issued all these recommendations to schools," he concluded.

The instruction to local schools comes in line with the outcry in

the mainland after the recent death of two students aged 14 and 15-years-old in the provinces of Hunan and Henan in Central China, which occurred in late April and early May. Both reportedly died from breathing problems while running with an N95 mask during a physical test.

Experts suggest there is no need for students in low-risk regions to wear masks when classes are held in broad and open spaces. The DSEJ seems to have adopted a different strategy, appealing to schools to swap all physical activities for others of a

more intellectual kind, keeping the use of facemasks mandatory at all times inside school facilities.

Another of the measures implemented by some schools to avoid the transmission of Covid-19, according to Leong, is related to students' meals.

According to Leong, schools have found different solutions for the issue with a number of them organizing the canteen in a way so that students will not be facing each other while eating.

"Some schools will also enforce rules such as students will all turn in one direction, facing the wall side during lunch," Leong said, admitting that the DSEJ will not allow schools to provide hot meals from the school canteen during this period of pandemic outbreak.

"We have some strict rules on this topic. They cannot sell lunches [complete hot meals] in schools, they can only sell snacks, sandwiches, and similar pre-packed foods," Leong said in response to the concerns of some parents about the fact that students, especially from primary school levels, would be deprived of proper meals when the classes resume on May 25 and June 1, for lower and higher primary levels respectively.

Leong acknowledged that the DSEJ is aware of some cases in which students might not be able to have their meals as they would expect, promising to communicate with schools to find a solution within the week.

He also noted that the current situation is a very special one, and he asked for parents' understanding regarding the difficulties that institutions are facing in complying with the rules, while also trying as much as possible to provide children with lunch opportunities.

Melco to shoulder expense of chartered flight for staff, stranded Filipinos

LYNZY VALLES

MELCO Resorts & Entertainment is chartering a flight to the Philippines today for its workers and some stranded Filipinos wishing to return home.

A source familiar with the matter told the Times that the gaming operator is paying 100% of the flight cost via Philippine Airlines.

Since there are still available flight seats, the gaming operator has offered the seats to the Philippine Consulate General in Macau who then contacted stranded Filipinos under special circumstances such as those with disabilities,

elderly people, or pregnant women.

"The seats on the plane will not be used by the company so the remaining seats will be used by the Philippine Consulate," said the insider, who requested anonymity.

It remains unclear whether the Filipino nationals who work for the gaming operator are on work leave or have been laid off due to the economic downturn caused by the impact of Covid-19. The insider declined to comment on the matter.

A request for clarification from the Macau gaming operator went unanswered yesterday.

Last week, the gaming operator reported an operating loss of \$149.9 million for the first quarter of this year, compared with an operating income of \$191.1 million over the same period last year. In a statement, the group noted that operating revenues plunged 41% year-on-year to \$810 million.

The special flight is scheduled to depart Macau at around 4:30 p.m., according to a passenger who will be on the flight tomorrow.

Joseph Concepcion, a stranded Filipino in the SAR, said he was contacted by the Consulate to inform

him that a flight back home will be made available. He was then asked to sign a statement promising that he will be on it.

The Consulate acquired Concepcion's contact details as he had previously applied for financial assistance and relief packs from the office.

Concepcion is one of the few hundreds of stranded Filipinos in the SAR who wishes to go back home after he suffered a stroke and underwent surgery in the city's public hospital.

"Today [yesterday] they confirmed to me that I will be joining the flight. They said that I have to be at the

airport 1:30 p.m. because the flight will be at 4:30 p.m.," Concepcion told the Times.

The Times also contacted the Philippine Consulate General to enquire how many slots were given to them by the gaming operator. No reply was given by press time.

The Philippine Consulate General conducted a survey in April to determine the number of nationals stranded in the city due to the pandemic outbreak.

The first repatriation scheme was held in early March and brought home 148 Filipinos from the SAR. These Filipino nationals

were mostly tourists stranded in the SAR in the wake of the Philippine government's decision to restrict travel between the Philippines and China and its SARs after news of the Covid-19 epidemic broke.

Currently, there are still no flights connecting Manila to Macau as Philippine Airlines, Cebu Pacific Air and AirAsia, the three airlines who run the routes, have not yet resumed operations.

Manila's airport re-opened on May 11 allowing inbound international charter and commercial flights to land at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport. However, these flights have yet to be assigned landing days.

Passengers arriving the country are subjected to mandatory quarantine for 14 days.



Pan-democratic legislator Lam Cheuk-ting is taken away by security

HONG KONG LAWMAKERS CLASH AS PRO-BEIJING CAMP ELECTS CHAIR

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

CLASHES broke out in Hong Kong's legislature yesterday for a second time this month as a pro-Beijing lawmaker was elected as chair of a key committee that scrutinizes bills, ending a prolonged struggle for control with the pro-democracy camp.

The legislature's House Committee, which vets bills and decides when to present them for a final vote, had been without a chair-

person for more than six months. The central government in Beijing criticized deputy chairperson and pro-democracy lawmaker Dennis Kwok for deliberately delaying matters and causing a backlog of bills that affect public interest.

Kwok was replaced Friday by Chan Kin-por, who was appointed by the legislature's president to preside over yesterday's election. After scuffles and shouting matches, leading to Chan ejecting most of the pro-democra-

cy lawmakers, the election took place with pro-Beijing lawmaker Starry Lee winning easily.

Her election will likely speed up the passing of a controversial bill that would criminalize abuse of the Chinese national anthem. Hong Kong's chief executive Carrie Lam said last week that passing the bill was a priority for the government, and the bill will be presented to the committee on May 27.

At yesterday's meeting, pro-de-

mocracy lawmakers held up placards that read "Abuse of Power" and "CCP tramples HK legislature," referring to the China's ruling Communist Party. Within minutes, at least five lawmakers were ejected for disorderly behavior, with at least one lying injured on the ground as the meeting was briefly suspended.

"Hong Kong is marching towards the beginning of the end of 'one country, two systems,'" said pro-democracy lawmaker

Claudia Mo after the meeting ended.

The former British colony was returned to China in 1997 under a one country, two systems framework that gives Hong Kong its own legal system and greater rights than in the mainland.

Mo urged the Hong Kong people to vote out those who "don't care about Hong Kong's future" in the legislative elections in September.

Pro-democracy lawmaker Tanya Chan accused security guards of Hong Kong's legislature of "losing their impartiality," after the security guards surrounded the bench where the chairperson was seated and prevented pro-democracy lawmakers from getting close.

Pro-Beijing lawmaker Martin Liao said the opposition camp had "assaulted some of the security officers," and disrupted "legitimate" election proceedings.

Lawmakers clashed over the same issue on May 8, when Lee occupied the chairperson's seat more than an hour before the meeting was scheduled to start, saying that external legal counsel had advised that she had the power to preside over House Committee meetings.

Pro-democracy lawmakers accused her of abusing her power and staged a walkout, leaving Lee and the pro-Beijing camp to clear several bills.

Also yesterday, 15 pro-democracy figures, including media tycoon Jimmy Lai, appeared in court to face charges relating to anti-government protests last year over a controversial extradition bill that has since been withdrawn. The bill would have allowed residents of the semi-autonomous Chinese territory to be sent to mainland to stand trial and sparked months of protests. AP

POMPEO TELLS CHINA NOT TO INTERFERE WITH US MEDIA IN HK

SECRETARY of State Mike Pompeo warned China against interfering with the work of U.S. journalists in Hong Kong, and said actions there could damage diplomatic relations.

"These journalists are members of a free press, not propaganda cadres, and their valuable reporting informs Chinese citizens and the world," Pompeo said a statement.

Pompeo said without offering details that "it has recently come to my attention that the Chinese government has threatened to interfere with the work of Ameri-

can journalists in Hong Kong."

The U.S. and China are escalating disputes across several fronts, including trade and responsibility for the coronavirus pandemic. The flow of information has been a source of contention, with dozens of journalists expelled from both countries in recent months. Beijing warned of further retaliation last week after the U.S. reduced work visas for Chinese media staff to 90 days.

Pro-democracy demonstrations in Hong Kong have resumed recently, as protesters hope to regain mo-

mentum with the coronavirus showing signs of subsiding in the financial hub. Beijing is growing increasingly assertive over its role in Hong Kong, looking to tighten its supervision over politics ahead of elections for the city's Legislative Council in September.

"Any decision impinging on Hong Kong's autonomy and freedoms, as guaranteed under the Sino-British Joint Declaration and the Basic Law, would inevitably impact our assessment of One Country, Two Systems and the status of the territory," Pompeo said. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

NUMBER OF SOLD RESIDENTIAL UNITS DROPS 44% IN APRIL

RENATO MARQUES

THE number of housing units sold in Macau registered a drop of 43.7% in April when compared with the same month a year earlier, data disclosed by the Financial Services Bureau shows.

According to the same data, last month only saw transactions for 443 housing units, a significant drop from the 787 traded in the same period last year.

The average price per square meter also registered a year-on-year drop of 9%, to 97,800 patacas per square meter.

The Peninsula continues to be the location in Macau where more housing units

are traded, as 78% of all transactions registered last month were there.

In terms of price, the Peninsula is the second most expensive location per square meter (98,000 patacas), only surpassed by Coloane, which registered an average of 112,000 patacas per square meter.

Taipa Island continues to be the location with the less expensive price per square meter and also the only one below average at just under 95,000 patacas per square meter.

The drop in sales and prices continues to follow the trend of recent years, which has been intensified by the effects of Covid-19 and consequent economic instability.

In 2019, the sales of housing units had already dropped by 14.6% from the previous year, the Statistics and Census Bureau informed, with just 8,277 units being traded in the market for the whole year. At the same time, the average prices for square meters registered a drop, although it was by less than 1%.

Far from the exponential hikes registered in the past, several real estate experts and investment companies have considered the market in the last two years "more stable" and "healthy."

By comparison, in 2016 the real estate market saw a full-year hike of 142% in the number of sales and an increase in the average of price per square meter by 32%.

CIVIL PROTECTION MEETS AHEAD OF TYPHOON SEASON

RENATO MARQUES

THE members of the Civil Protection structure have assembled to start the relevant preparatory work for the typhoon season of 2020, which begins this month.

The meeting, held at the Pac On Immigration Building where the headquarters of the structure is located, was attended by the representatives of the 30 public entities that are part of this structure and addressed several topics related to the prevention work done in previous years and work that can be done for this year.

At the event, Commander Leong Man Cheong from the Unitary Police Service noted that the Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau forecast expects Macau to be affected by four to six tropical storms this year, with some of them expected to be severe.

Such acknowledgment also led Leong to announce that after considering the current epidemic situation, it was decided that "Crystal Fish 2020," the code name given to annual drills related to typhoons, will take place until the end of June.



The operation aims to test the response capacity of the involved security forces as well as their equipment, and to test their interdepartmental communication. It is designed to improve the response to such natural catastrophes.

Evaluating the work concluded and measures enforced since the occurrence of two major typhoons (Hato in 2017 and Mangkhut in 2018), Leong noted that

expansion of the sound alert system for flooding and storm surge, the mechanism of suspension of the transportation service on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, the increase in the number of shelters, as well as the enhancement of the command platform for the response to emergencies, tested for the first time during the passage of the tropical storm "Wipha" in 2019, were the most relevant measures.

CTM TARGETS FULL 5G OUTDOOR COVERAGE BY NEXT MONTH

LOCAL telecom operator CTM said it is committed to further invest 2 billion patacas in continually optimizing its 5G network service, following its announcement that the firm aims to attain full outdoor coverage of the network by next month.

The investment for the first phase of the 5G construction – which kicked off in March – costed over 600 million patacas. The first phase is to be completed by the end of June.

Field tests for coverage and speed have been conducted at various districts, which revealed that the highest network speed exceeded 1 Gbps.

This will make Macau the first city in Asia to have full outdoor coverage, according to the company's press briefing.

"Within five years, 2 billion patacas will be invested to continuously optimize network facilities, enhance 5G service capabilities, and support the development of Digital Macau," the company stated.

A standalone network will be completed during the second phase of the project next year,

which will introduce technologies such as network slicing, ultra-low latency and massive connectivity, according to the company.

According to the firm, the shortage of land resources in Macau has created challenge for operators to locate 5G cell sites.

"The challenge of 5G popularization is cost control relating to equipment, site rental, power consumption, spectrum fee, which will affect the cost of 5G and whether 5G can be popularized within a short period of time," the firm added.

CTM also said that it has phased out the 2G network and gradually upgraded customers from 3G to 4G in order to return spectrum resources to the SAR Government.

CTM has proposed that the government review the spectrum fee and allocation mechanism, and made an appeal to the authority to release government owned properties for industry to have enough site location optimizing coverage and capacity.

Currently nearly 7,000 customers have registered for a 5G service trial. LV



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U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross testifies before the House Appropriations Subcommittee

US-CHINA FIGHT OVER CHIP KINGPIN RATTLES TECH INDUSTRY

DEBBY WU & IAN KING

SINCE its founding more than three decades ago, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. has built its business by working behind the scenes to make customers like Apple Inc. and Qualcomm Inc. shine. Now the low-profile chipmaker has landed squarely in the middle of the U.S.-China trade war, an incalculably valuable asset that both sides are vying to control.

The Trump administration opened up a new front in the conflict on Friday by barring any chipmaker using American equipment from supplying China's Huawei Technologies Co. without U.S. government approval. That means TSMC and rivals will have to cut off Huawei unless they get waivers from the U.S. Commerce Dept. TSMC has already stopped accepting new orders from Huawei, the Nikkei newspaper reported yesterday.

The move threatens to wreak havoc throughout the complex ecosystem that produces technology for consumers and companies around the world. An attack on Huawei threatens not just its workers and its standing as a world leader in making smartphones and telecom equipment, but also hundreds of suppliers. The Chinese government has vowed to protect its national champion, with threats of retribution against U.S. companies that depend on China

like Apple Inc. and Boeing Co.

"China likely will retaliate, and investors should brace themselves for a possible trade war escalation," Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. analysts led by Mark Li wrote in a research note on Friday.

Huawei suppliers across Asia fell yesterday, with AAC Technologies Holdings Inc., Q Technology Group Co., Sunwoda Electronic and Lens Technology all sliding 5% or more. TSMC, which gets an estimated 14% of its revenue from Huawei, dropped as much as 2.5%.

The U.S. already blacklisted Huawei last year, preventing American companies from supplying the Chinese company unless they got a license. The latest move tightens those restrictions to prevent chipmakers - American or foreign - from working with Huawei and its secretive chip-design unit HiSilicon on the cutting-edge semiconductors they need to make smartphones and communications equipment. The Trump administration sees Huawei as a dire security threat, an allegation the company denies.

"We must amend our rules exploited by Huawei and HiSilicon and prevent U.S. technologies from enabling malign activities contrary to U.S. national security and foreign policy interests," Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said in a tweet.

Huawei countered by accusing the U.S. of ulterior motives.

"The so-called cybersecurity reasons are merely an excuse," Richard Yu, head of the Chinese tech giant's consumer electronics unit wrote in a post to his account on messaging app WeChat. "The key is the threat to the technology hegemony of the U.S." posed by Huawei, he added.

The U.S. decision is likely to hurt not just Huawei and TSMC, but also a clutch of American players including gear-makers Applied Materials Inc., KLA and Lam Research Corp. themselves, Morgan Stanley analysts wrote. Disruptions to Huawei's production will also hurt U.S. customers from Micron Technology Inc. and Qorvo Inc. to Texas Instruments Inc., they said. But "it bears repeating that any escalation of trade tensions is negative for the stocks overall," they wrote in a research report.

It would have been impossible to imagine TSMC becoming such a coveted chit between the world's great powers when it was founded in 1987. Morris Chang, born in China and trained in the U.S., started the company as a so-called foundry, manufacturing semiconductors for any customer that didn't want to construct its own fabrication facility, or fab.

At the time, the business wasn't nearly as glamorous as making chips yourself. Dominating the industry at the time were companies like Intel Corp. and Advanced Micro Devices

Inc., which made processors for personal computers. "Real men have fabs," AMD co-founder Jerry Sanders would say, making clear that was an insult.

But in the intervening years, the foundry industry has become far more strategic for the technology industry. Customers from Apple and Huawei to Qualcomm and Nvidia Corp. have found they can innovate more quickly if they focus on chip designs and then turn to foundries like TSMC to produce them. Innovators in emerging technologies like artificial intelligence or the internet of things also depend on foundries to crack open new markets.

Today, many of the chips for mobile phones, autonomous vehicles, artificial intelligence and any other key technology are made at foundries. TSMC has become the leading foundry in the world by investing heavily in ever more advanced fabs, with annual capital spending of about \$16 billion this year.

It can now manufacture at 5 nanometers, about twice the width of human DNA, while China's top foundry, Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp., or SMIC, is at 14 nanometers. That makes TSMC's chips far more powerful and energy efficient.

Huawei and HiSilicon will have few good options if they are cut off from TSMC. One possibility is to procure off-the-shelf chips from Taiwan's MediaTek

Inc. and South Korea's Samsung Electronics Co., an option Huawei's rotating Chairman Eric Xu mentioned in late March. But even that may no longer be viable under the new Commerce restrictions.

SMIC itself is keen on moving up the technology ladder, eyeing a secondary share listing that could raise more than \$3 billion on top of a large capital infusion from the state.

But that's a longer-term endeavor and Huawei's products meanwhile are likely to suffer, putting them at risk of falling behind those of rivals like Apple or Xiaomi Corp.

For TSMC, it's growing ever more difficult to remain neutral amid the growing tensions between the U.S. and China. The company brands itself "everybody's foundry," effectively the Switzerland of the tech industry. It supplies Chinese customers like Huawei and the American military, while relying on U.S. producers of semiconductor-making equipment like Applied Materials and Lam Research.

TSMC did take one step closer to the U.S. last week, saying it would build a \$12 billion chip plant in Arizona. The Department of Defense has expressed concern that overseas fabs may be vulnerable to cyberattacks and domestic manufacturing would assure a more reliable supply of chips.

The proposal appears to be carefully calculated to address such security issues without too much damage to profits or its political balancing act. Suppliers to the military, such as Xilinx Inc., would be able to use the U.S. fab, but the facility would likely account for less than 5% of revenue so margins won't be compromised.

It's not clear if the plans for a U.S. plant will win TSMC leniency in supplying Huawei, however.

"TSMC will not be granted or granted a license based on their intent to build a 5 nanometer fab here in the United States. That's not part of it at all," Keith Krach, undersecretary for economic growth, energy and the environment at the State Department, told reporters on a call. "There's no assurance on that and we don't anticipate that."

Meanwhile, China appears to be preparing to retaliate for the new restrictions on Huawei. On Friday, the Global Times - a Chinese tabloid run by the flagship newspaper of the Communist Party - reported Beijing was ready to initiate countermeasures, including imposing restrictions on Apple, suspending the purchase of Boeing airplanes and putting U.S. companies on an 'unreliable entity list.'

The list will cover "foreign entities that cause actual or potential damage to Chinese companies and industries," the newspaper said. **BLOOMBERG**

China announces \$2 billion in virus help at WHO assembly

JAMEY KEATEN & MARIA CHENG, GENEVA

CHINA will provide \$2 billion over two years to fight the coronavirus pandemic and the economic fallout from it, President Xi Jinping said last night, rallying around the World Health Organization even as the United States has slashed funding for the U.N. health agency and sought to undermine its credibility.

The European Union's 27-member bloc and other countries, meanwhile, called for an independent evaluation of WHO's initial response to the coronavirus pandemic "to review experience gained and lessons learned."

In a speech to the World Health Assembly, Xi said China had provided all relevant outbreak data to WHO and other countries, including the virus's genetic sequence, "in a most timely fashion."

"We have shared control and treatment experience with the world without reservation," Xi said. "We have done everything in our power to support and assist countries in need."

The \$2 billion over the next two years will support COVID-19 response efforts, including economic and social development, particularly in developing countries, Xi said.

The EU resolution proposes that the independent evaluation should be initiated "at the earliest appropriate moment" and should, among other issues, examine "the actions of WHO and their timelines pertaining to the COVID-19 pandemic."

U.S. President Donald Trump has in recent weeks repeatedly attacked WHO, claiming it helped China conceal the extent of the coronavirus pandemic in its early stages. Several Republican lawmakers have called on the WHO chief to resign.

In his address to the annual meeting of WHO's member countries, director-general Tedros Adha-

nom Ghebreyesus warned there is still "a long road to travel" before the pandemic is contained, noting that the majority of the world's population remains susceptible to the virus.

Tedros said the pandemic has exposed critical fault lines between countries that could jeopardize stopping the virus.

"Science has been hailed and scorned, nations have come together as never before and geopolitical divisions have been thrown into sharp relief," he said.

Tedros emphasized that WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak to be a global health emergency on Jan. 30, its highest level of alert, at a time when there were fewer than 100 cases outside of China. In the following weeks, WHO warned countries there was a narrowing "window of opportunity" to prevent the virus from spreading globally.

Tedros added that WHO was committed to "transparency, accountability, and continuous improvement" and welcomed the proposal for an independent evaluation of the global response to COVID-19, including WHO's coordinating role.

"I will initiate an independent evaluation at the earliest appropriate moment," he said.

During the first few months of the outbreak, WHO officials repeatedly described the virus's spread as "limited" and said it wasn't as transmissible as flu; experts have since said COVID-19 spreads even faster. It declared the outbreak to be a pandemic on March 11, after the virus had killed thousands globally and sparked large epidemics in South Korea, Italy, Iran and elsewhere.

Xi said he also supports the idea of a comprehensive review of the global response to COVID-19.

"This work should be based on science and professionalism, led by WHO and conducted in an objective and impartial manner," he said. AP

PANDEMIC PROBE

Russia, Australia join growing support for coronavirus inquiry

AUSTRALIA'S foreign minister yesterday welcomed international support for an independent investigation of the coronavirus pandemic, a proposed inquiry that has been condemned by China and blamed for a bilateral trade rift.

The European Union has drafted a resolution, cosponsored by a hundred countries including Russia and Australia, that has been gaining support and is expected to be approved in a vote at the World Health Assembly in Geneva this week. The resolution before the assembly, the decision-making body of the World Health Organization, calls for an evaluation of the origins of the pandemic and responses to it.

Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne said her government had been keen to ensure that the resolution stipulates the inquiry be "impartial, independent and comprehensive."

"We're very encouraged by the growing levels of support for this comprehensive World Health Assembly motion," Payne told reporters. "We look forward to seeing hopefully a positive outcome later this week."

Australia has been seen as a leader in rallying global support for such an inquiry, attracting Chinese criticism that it is parroting the United States and inviting a Chinese boycott of exports and services. Australian government critics have argued that Prime Minister Scott Morrison's conservative administration should have gathered allies before antagonizing Australia's most important trading partner.

Payne did not see the level of international support for the inquiry as a win for Australia.

"It's a win for the international community and Australia as a strong and active part of that international community would certainly see it that way," Payne said.

The motion comes as Australian Trade Minister Simon Birmingham struggles to resolve a dispute with China over Australian beef imports.

Birmingham said that he had failed for six days to arrange to speak with his Chinese counterpart about China's ban on meat from Australia's four largest abattoirs over labeling issues.

Australia expects China will soon announce whether new tariffs will be placed on Australian barley, a crop China argues is subsidized by the Australian government.

Australia's most lucrative exports to China — iron ore and coal — have



Australian Foreign Minister Marise Payne comments in Penrith yesterday

not been affected by the dispute.

Birmingham said Australia was prepared to take China to the World Trade Organization over both the beef and barley issues.

"In the end, Australia uses the independent umpire where it's appropriate," Birmingham told Seven Network television.

"I hope China will come on board at the World Health Assembly, joining many, many other nations in supporting the obvious need for an inquiry into COVID-19, its origins, its handling right across the world," he added.

The trade dispute is the first time Beijing has used access to its huge markets as leverage in its campaign to deflect blame for the outbreak. But it has used the tactic regularly against governments from Norway to Canada in political disputes over the past decade.

Chinese officials routinely refuse to confirm a trade disruption is related to a political clash but make it clear Beijing wants concessions.

TAIWAN PROTESTS 'TWO-FACED BEHAVIOR'

Taiwan will not press for participation at the World Health Assembly beginning today [Macau time], but will continue to donate medical supplies abroad and protest China's "two-faced behavior" that excludes it from such forums, the island's foreign minister said.

Joseph Wu told reporters the shortened agenda for this year's WHA requires time be devoted to concentrating on ways to control the coronavirus pandemic. Taiwan agreed with suggestions that the issue of its participation be discussed instead at meetings later this year once the outbreak had been better

contained, Wu said yesterday at a news conference.

"After careful deliberation, we have accepted the suggestion from our allies and like-minded nations to wait until the resumed session before further promoting our bid," Wu said.

Taiwan's United Nations seat was handed to China in 1971 and Beijing insists the self-governing island republic it claims as its own territory has no right to diplomatic relations or membership in U.N. bodies. Taiwan had been an observer at the WHA in past years when its relations with China were warmer, but China has taken a hard line since the 2016 election of independence-leaning Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen. Taiwan insists China has never been authorized to represent it.

Wu said his ministry expressed "deep regret and strong dissatisfaction that the World Health Organization Secretariat has yielded to pressure from the Chinese government and continues to disregard the right to health of the 23 million people of Taiwan."

Despite its exclusion from the WHO, Taiwan is working closely with the United States and many European countries to develop rapid testing kits, vaccines and medicines for COVID-19 and has donated 27.5 million face masks, 131 infrared thermal imaging cameras, 35,000 thermometers and 250 automatic body temperature detection systems to foreign countries, Wu said.

Plans call for the donation of another 23.5 million surgical masks, 1.16 million N95 masks, 170,000 protective gowns, 600,000 isolation gowns, 70 respirators, 34 PCR test devices, and 500,000 quinine tablets, Wu said. MDT/AP

Trump aide accuses China of using travelers to 'seed' virus

STEVE GEIMANN

THE Trump administration stepped up its campaign of blaming China for the deadly coronavirus pandemic, with a top aide suggesting Beijing sent airline passengers to spread the infection worldwide.

"The virus was spawned in Wuhan province, patient zero was in November," White House trade adviser Peter Navarro said on ABC's "This Week."

"The Chinese, behind the shield of the World Health Organization, for two months hid the virus from the world and then sent hundreds of thousands of Chinese on aircraft to Milan, New York and around the world to seed that."

Milan and New York went on to become hot spots for the pandemic. However, researchers at New York University determined last month that the explosion of Covid-19 cases in the New York City area resulted largely from infected patients who flew in from Europe, including the U.K., France, Austria and the Netherlands.

"They could have kept it in Wuhan," Navarro said. "Instead, it became a pandemic. That's why I say the Chinese did that to Americans and they are responsible."

Navarro's comments add to the almost daily barrage of U.S. attacks on China, including suggestions that the virus escaped from a laboratory in the central city of Wuhan. Chinese diplomats and state media have waged

their own campaign pushing back against Trump's claims that Beijing kept the world in the dark, while raising doubts about whether Wuhan was even the place where the virus first made the jump to humans.

A social media posting published by the Communist Party-run People's Daily newspaper on Saturday cited Trump's comments a day earlier that American scientists started work on a coronavirus vaccine as early as Jan. 11 as evidence that the U.S. had existing infections. "This proves that the coronavirus had spread earlier than Jan. 11," the posting said, adding that "Trump and some U.S. politicians and media outlets have been lying."

Trump's date, if accurate, wouldn't rule out the possi-

bility that the U.S. received the necessary genetic data from China. While China didn't release the virus's genome sequence to World Health Organization until Jan. 12, the Shanghai Public Health Clinical Center reportedly published similar information on open platforms a day earlier. Trump also qualified his remarks to say that vaccine work was begun "within hours of the virus' genetic code being posted online" - a line Chinese media omitted.

Last week, Trump said that while he still suspects the outbreak may be connected to the Wuhan virology lab, he said it was unlikely that the Chinese deliberately unleashed the pathogen. "I think more likely it got out of control," he said. **BLOOMBERG**

BRAZILIAN President Jair Bolsonaro greeted hundreds of supporters — and joined some in a series of push-ups — who gathered before the presidential offices yesterday [Macau time] to back his open-the-economy drive even as the coronavirus pandemic sweeps across the country.

Demonstrators in Brasilia and Sao Paulo defied local stay-at-home orders to join the pro-Bolsonaro rallies at a time when the president is facing increasing pressure over his handling of the pandemic, which has killed more than 15,000 Brazilians.

"We hope to be free of this question soon, for the good of all of us," Bolsonaro told the crowd in Brasilia. "Brazil will come back stronger."

Bolsonaro later invited a group of about 20 paratroopers, who were taking part in the protest, to join him on the stoop of the presidential office.

BRAZIL

Praise and push-ups for embattled Bolsonaro



The men, wearing camouflage trousers, black Bolsonaro t-shirts and red berets, swore allegiance to the president and his family, stretching their right arms, before some joined him in a series of push-ups.

Supporters have

gathered daily at the presidential residence, with larger crowds turning out on weekends.

Among the protesters were members of "the 300 from Brazil," a group of fierce Bolsonaro supporters who have been camping out-

side the presidential offices to defend the president against a possible coup since the beginning of May.

In an interview with BBC News Brasil, the group's spokesperson, known as Sara Winter, acknowledged the presence

of arms on the site for members to "protect themselves." In their convocation message, members wrote: "You are not a militant, you are a military man."

Prosecutors in Brasilia, denouncing the presence of "armed militias" outside the presidential offices, have asked that a judge order for the group to be removed. So far, the campsite has been allowed to remain.

Some displayed banners denouncing Congress and the Supreme Court, which they believe are part of a plot to derail Bolsonaro's presidency.

Others have called for broader release of chloroquine, an antimalaria drug touted by Bolsonaro as a coronavirus treatment despite a lack of scientific evidence.

"Chloroquine [...] I know you save me, in the name of Jesus!," some sang during Saturday's gathering at the residence.

Health Minister Nelson Teich resigned on Friday. **AP**

this day in history



2004 ANGRY DADS HIT BLAIR WITH PURPLE FLOUR

Protesters have hurled condoms full of purple flour at British Prime Minister Tony Blair as he addressed MPs in the House of Commons, prompting an urgent review of security.

The PM was speaking at the despatch box during his weekly question and answer session soon after midday when father-of-two Ron Davies threw two missiles from the front of the public gallery normally reserved for VIPs.

A second man, Guy Harrison, shouted and held up a poster, before police rushed in and arrested the men.

As one missile hit the PM's back and another landed at his feet, Mr Blair turned around and looked bemused.

The Speaker, Michael Martin, ordered all MPs to leave the chamber while the powder was examined and found to be safe.

Campaign group Fathers 4 Justice said they had orchestrated the incident to demand equal rights for divorced fathers trying to gain access to their children.

The attack has led to calls for improved security at Westminster.

Only last month a £600,000 security screen was installed in front of the public gallery to prevent such an incident.

But the front three rows - normally reserved for ambassadors and guests of MPs and peers - are not protected.

In a later statement to the House of Lords, Labour peer Baroness Golding said the two protesters were guests of hers and she offered "unreserved apologies" to the Speaker, MPs and fellow peers.

It is believed the two men got tickets to the VIP section of the gallery at a charity auction.

Mr Blair's spokesman said the prime minister wanted to know when he could return to finish question time - but the Speaker vetoed the move.

Commons business recommenced at 1330 BST.

Home Secretary David Blunkett said a security review had already been launched at Westminster after recent breaches at Buckingham Palace.

The security services will bring forward recommendations "very quickly indeed", but it could mean there will be more restrictions on access to Parliament, he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ron Davis and Guy Harrison were both convicted of disorderly behaviour and fined £500 and £600 respectively.

A cross-party group of MPs condemned the media coverage of the flour bomb attack saying it had "rewarded" Fathers 4 Justice for their actions.

Fathers 4 Justice continued to organise various stunts climbing onto well-known landmarks, such as York Minster, Buckingham Palace and St Paul's cathedral, dressed as superheroes to highlight their cause.

Their membership increased by thousands and branches were opened in other parts of the world.

A security review of the House of Commons led by MI5 did not prevent further intrusions into Parliament.

In September 2004, five protesters broke into the Commons chamber to demonstrate against the ban on foxhunting.

In January 2006, Fathers 4 Justice disbanded following reports linking the group to a plan to kidnap Tony Blair's five-year-old son Leo. It re-formed following a protest stunt on the BBC's National Lottery Show in May 2006.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 You're usually not a very impetuous person, but would it do you any harm to be more spontaneous? The answer is definitely not! You can achieve your goals just as efficiently when you just run out and act on them.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 You have great insight into the major events going on right now, and people are depending on you for help. You have the answers that can illuminate their minds and get them moving in the right direction.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 It's about being honest and trusting other people to hear you without judging you. When you tell it like it is, people are impressed and want to listen even more.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 It's the perfect time to sign up for an online class, begin a challenging novel, or try your hand at learning a new hobby. But while mental tasks will be no challenge, you might trip up when it comes to physical activities.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 If you're working at creating new change, you have to understand that everyone else doesn't necessarily move on your timetable. Just take a deep breath and wait.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Let your curiosity guide you today. Be open-minded and follow wherever said curiosity leads. You could find that it's so much fun to push things in a new direction that you just might want to make it a habit.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Make sure you have some breathing room. Let your imagination ignite and take you to new places. Now is the best time to put things back together in an entirely new way. You'll have a blast doing it!

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 You aren't about to let the other person win, but you don't have to be ruthless either. Think about what you could accomplish as a team rather than individually. Don't put so much pressure on yourself.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Someone who has power over your schedule is willing to make certain adjustments that will make you very happy, and today is a great day to connect with them and make it happen. Get to it as early as you can.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 The best way to ensure that you have more money later is to start saving more of it now! This simple rule seems logical, but logic usually flies out the window when you see a new gadget you want.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Instead of using up all your energy getting stressed out, use it to envision the accolades you'll receive. It will help you get back in touch with your confidence.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Sure, your energy may be lagging a little bit now, but so what? Give yourself a break and stop pushing so hard to be so much to so many people. All you really need right now is some rest.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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3 2								
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9		1 6						

HARD

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	1			7 5				
			2	6				

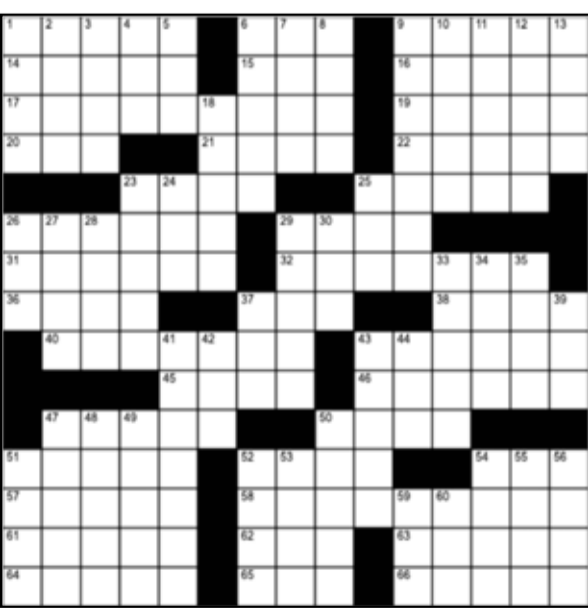
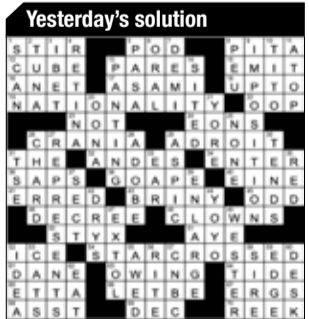
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	15	29	clear
Harbin	9	19	cloudy
Tianjin	16	27	clear
Urumqi	18	29	cloudy
Xi'an	14	28	cloudy
Lhasa	9	19	cloudy
Chengdu	20	31	cloudy
Chongqing	22	35	cloudy
Kunming	14	29	clear
Nanjing	14	29	clear
Shanghai	17	29	cloudy
Wuhan	14	29	clear
Hangzhou	17	30	clear
Taipei	22	25	rainstorm
Guangzhou	23	31	thundershower
Hong Kong	24	28	heavy rain
WORLD			
Moscow	6	14	drizzle
Frankfurt	10	23	clear
Paris	8	22	clear
London	11	21	cloudy
New York	13	21	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Protection; 6- Battery size; 9- Plant firmly; 14- Inventory; 15- Hit on the head; 16- Informative; 17- Ace; 19- Orange container; 20- Break off; 21- Above; 22- Queues; 23- Classic railroad name; 25- Little bits; 26- Buffoons; 29- Old Fords; 31- Religious dissent; 32- Declares positively; 36- Antiquing agent; 37- Point of no return?; 38- "My fault!"; 40- Small bone; 43- Anemic; 45- Collars; 46- Separates metal from ore; 47- Gives a 9.8, say; 50- ___ on first?; 51- Juice of the rubber tree; 52- Turkish bigwig; 54- ___ kwon do; 57- Florida citrus center; 58- Blooming; 61- Museum piece; 62- Fam. reunion attendee; 63- ___ evil...; 64- Establish; 65- Any person; 66- Donkeys;

DOWN: 1- Tennis great Arthur; 2- School founded in 1440; 3- Yellow metallic element; 4- Hot diamonds; 5- Snow runner; 6- Overhead; 7- Bang-up; 8- Copycat; 9- Shut in; 10- Worth; 11- African sir; 12- Politico Kefauver; 13- Turns red, say; 18- Clamorous; 23- Pitchers; 24- "ER" extras; 25- Bartender's requests; 26- When doubled, a dance; 27- Building block brand; 28- Minerals; 29- Shoe ties; 30- Literary monogram; 33- Actor's parts; 34- Damage done; 35- Roasting rod; 37- Long-sleeved linen vestment; 39- Radical '60s grp.; 41- Not precise; 42- ___ in Charlie; 43- Balderdash; 44- Latin I verb; 47- One on track?; 48- ___ of Two Cities; 49- Tending to a definite end; 50- Entire; 51- Learning; 52- Bushy hairdo; 53- Singer Campbell; 54- Rail supports; 55- Diarist Frank; 56- Self-images; 59- Conductor ___-Pekka Salonen; 60- ___ judicata;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- 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

Unique Ground Floor Loft, Central Macau
HK\$9,990,000 2,200 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

Manhattan Apartment, Taipa
\$20,800/mth 1,626 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2

FOR SALE

- [Macau] Apartment Historical Centre 2 1/2 1 1/2
840 ft² **\$4,580,000** (ref: 20016003)
- [Taipa] Wa Bao 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,071 ft² **\$7,995,000** (ref: 18115568)
- [Coloane] Hellene Gardens 1 1/2 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,663 ft² **\$8,200,000** (ref: 19025577)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,420 ft² **\$10,900,000** (ref: 20016004)

FOR RENT

- [Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1 1/2
\$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2
710 ft² **\$10,000/mth** (ref: 20021002)
- [Macau] Vai Fung Triplex, Macau 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,065 ft² **\$14,000/mth** (ref: 19121001)
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 1/2 1 1/2
1,100 ft² **\$15,900/mth** (ref: 20031002)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

FAMED DESIGNER DRAWS UP PLAN TO SAVE RESTAURANTS THROUGH OUTDOOR DINING

THE sprawling sidewalk café lifestyle is prevalent in cities around the world, from Rome to Miami. New York, not so much.

But the Big Apple's cityscape might be changing in response to the ruinous effects of the coronavirus on the restaurant industry. Last week, Polly Trottenberg, commissioner of New York's Department of Transportation commissioner announced that an interagency group was looking at how the city could expedite the permitting process to enable outdoor dining for restaurants, giving them additional space for socially distanced dining.

In response, noted architect David Rockwell has created a template for outdoor dining that he is making public for establishments to use if they receive permits. Restaurants who would like to use the template can reach out to his team through his firm's website. Rockwell—who has designed everything from Broadway shows to KAOS Nightclub in Las Vegas—is especially well known for his work in restaurants such as New York's Avra Madison and Catch Steak.

Rockwell determined that the



BLOOMBERG

pandemic offered a moment to create an outdoor model that could be recreated by many different places, depending on the dictates of their sidewalks and streets. The plans, based on a kit-like module, take into account social distancing space between tables, as well as all-important sanitation stations. They allow for varying numbers of seats, and include sidewalk fencing and planter benches to create a sense of separation.

"We've been exploring adaptable and portable designs that extend the inner dining space to

sidewalks and beyond," says Rockwell. "We've been inspired by work across the country and globe. Mostly, we've tried to utilize designs and materials that can be adapted to reflect the diversity of streetscapes in the City."

Among the restaurateurs Rockwell is working with is Melba Wilson, president of the NYC Hospitality Alliance and chef and owner of Melba's in Harlem. "Restaurant operators across the city are nervous about how we can get back to business while protecting the health and safety of our guests

and staff," says Wilson. "Our small businesses are anchors in their respective neighborhoods and are key links in the city's economy."

Most restaurants expect that they will have to operate at 50% capacity when they reopen, a projection based on restrictions put in place in New York by Governor Andrew Cuomo before their closures were mandated. That's not enough customers for most places to survive, and the potential for outdoor seating could help increase volume.

Rockwell's designs also serve

to make restaurants more visible and enticing to passersby.

"We're excited about these preliminary designs, because they weave us into the community during this time of need," adds Wilson. "How we utilize space is paramount to success."

Rockwell worked with Wilson's restaurant to develop a test fit for various outdoor seating options, based on the place's specific site conditions. There are options for restaurants at corners of intersections, adjacent to bike lanes, and even alongside parking lanes.

Rockwell, whose projects generally run big-budget, such as the Equinox Hotel at Manhattan's \$25 billion Hudson Yards, developed these plans to be adaptable, inexpensive, and easy to implement while addressing safety concerns. Components such as the sidewalk decks, aren't hard to find or construct, and the plans are scalable for restaurants that are scrambling to open and expand their space.

"There is not one easy solution right now to the challenges faced by restaurants here," says Rockwell. "But it's clear we need to rethink how we utilize outdoor public spaces." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Sri Lanka newlyweds cancel wedding party, help poor instead

AS couples do all over the world, Darshana Kumara Wijenarayana and his fiancée, Pawani Rasanga, spent months planning a grand wedding.

And everything was on course for the Sri Lankan couple — until the coronavirus struck the island nation off India's southern tip, leading to an indefinite lockdown.

"By that time, we had made all the arrangements. Clothes, rings and cakes had been ordered. The reception hall was booked. We had planned to invite 250 guests," Darshana told The Associated Press by phone from his home in Malimbada, a small town about 160 kilometers (100 miles) south of the capital Colombo.

Family and friends urged them to postpone their April 27 wedding.

Instead, the couple chose to celebrate their love by feeding the poor.

The first COVID-19 patient in Sri Lanka was a Chinese tourist who fell sick in January during her vacation. She was discharged in February.

Until the first week of March, there was little panic about the disease. Then on March 11, the first Sri Lankan — a tour guide — tested positive for the virus, triggering fear and the closure of schools and universities and many businesses.

The ongoing curfew has cur-



Darshana Kumara Wijenarayana and his bride Pawani Rasanga walk with packets of food to distribute in the small town of Malimbada, about 160 kilometers south of the capital Colombo

bed the spread of the virus, but also dealt a severe blow to many who survive on a daily wage.

As the couple's wedding day approached, the local curfew was lifted during daytime hours, so they were free to host the wedding as planned, albeit under strict so-

cial distancing guidelines.

But they'd hatched another plan.

Darshana, the 30-year-old owner of a small retail shop, and Pawani, 25, a lab assistant at a state-run school, decided to share their wedding day with some of

their neediest neighbors.

After registering the marriage with a few close family and friends, the couple cut the wedding cake and fed each other a piece before getting to work.

The groom wore a dark blue, three-piece, Western-style suit

with an ivory tie and boutonniere, and the bride was in a white lace sari and a jeweled wedding headpiece with pink and purple flowers pinned above her chignon.

Both wore masks as they delivered plastic bags of goods to each home, some built of uneven wooden planks on mud floors. Little girls and their mothers beamed at the bride as she distributed colorful plastic headbands; they offered the couple blessings for a happy married life.

Darshana and Pawani presented children with toy cars. They even offered slices of their cake. Then, they applied hand sanitizer and moved on to the next home.

They have since received a flood of phone calls and visits at their home and shop from strangers who praised them for their generosity.

"By doing this, we got a great satisfaction," Darshana said. "When you see the happiness on the face of these people, especially the kids ... you see ... I don't have words to explain that happiness." AP

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OPINION

World Views

Sarah Green Carmichael, Bloomberg

GOOGLE AND TWITTER ARE RIGHT. WORKERS SHOULD STAY HOME

The more I read and hear about what offices will be like as they reopen, the more dystopian it sounds: empty desks, no meetings, everyone keeping their distance from one another. I miss the thrum and hum of the workplace, but the need to maintain social distancing means reopening won't bring that back.

And for all that offices will be quieter and emptier, they may not be much safer. Erin Bromage, a biology professor at UMass Dartmouth, compiled a useful list of several known Covid-19 super-spreading events that highlights the danger of being cooped up inside with a sick person. If a 90-minute restaurant meal, 120-minute choir practice or 180-minute birthday party is enough for one person to infect a roomful, how much more risk is in a 540-minute workday, even with precautions?

Rather than bring employees back anytime soon, organizations should settle into remote work for the long haul — as some are beginning to do. Google and Facebook have gone this route, telling employees to work from home for the rest of 2020. Microsoft is green-lighting WFH through October. Twitter has said employees can continue to log in from home indefinitely.

It's a strategy that could be broadly popular. In an informal poll Bloomberg Opinion conducted across our social media channels, 52% to 63% of respondents said they'd rather keep working from home than return to the office. That mirrors Gallup's findings: About half of people surveyed want to continue working remotely.

And why not? Allowing remote work is cheaper than arranging for office upgrades. By now, organizations and employees have already invested in essential remote-work gear: computer monitors, ergonomic chairs, sweatpants.

That's just the hardware. Companies have invested in virtual collaboration apps like Slack, Zoom and their rivals. Teams that have grown accustomed to them will probably continue to use them.

Supporting work from home long-term requires a shift in the way many companies think, explains Jennifer Kaufmann-Buhler, an assistant professor at Purdue University who studies office design.

Since the start of the shutdowns, many cities have seen slower internet speeds. Upgrading is tricky, however, explains Bhaskar Chakravorti, dean of global business at the Fletcher School at Tufts University and director of its Digital Planet initiative, because most connection problems occur between the curb and your house. Those problems are expensive to fix, and internet service providers have little incentive to fix them because there is so little competition at the local level. But if more people work from home, high-speed internet access will become a greater necessity.

In the meantime, companies with employees working from home will need to find solutions that use less bandwidth, whether it's for communication or data sharing or something else.

I know that not everyone can work from home indefinitely. It's much easier for those in what's broadly known as the knowledge transfer business — a category that includes technologists, journalists, researchers, consultants and lawyers. Still, that's a lot of people. In one survey, as many as a third of workers who once commuted say they're now working from home. Compare that with only about 3% of American workers who previously worked from home.

Those of us who can comfortably work from home should keep doing so. And that's where managers should put their energies — not in reopening office buildings for people who don't need to be there.

They should consider it the first step toward keeping employees safe. As Joseph Allen, director of the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, emphasized in a recent interview, the only employees who should be asked to return to the building are those who need to be there to keep the business functional.

By working from home as long as possible, we do more to fight Covid-19. The fewer people who return to work, the safer the workplace will be for those who do. [Abridged]

The FBI has found a link between the gunman in a deadly attack at a military base last December and an al-Qaida operative, a U.S. official said yesterday.

Attorney General William Barr and FBI Director Chris Wray were set to hold a news conference to announce developments in the shooting late last year at the Pensacola Naval Air Station, in which a Saudi Air Force officer killed three U.S. sailors and injured eight other people.

The FBI declined to comment ahead of the news conference.

The contacts between the shooter, Mohammed Alshamrani, and the al-Qaida operative were discovered on the shooter's phone, according to the official, who was not authorized to discuss the case by name and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Alshamrani, who was killed by a sheriff's deputy during the rampage at a classroom building, was undergoing flight training at Pensacola, where members of foreign militaries routinely receive instruction.

FACEBOOK SURVEY SHOWS 31% OF SMALL BUSINESSES STOPPED OPERATING

ONE-third of U.S. small businesses have stopped operating, while another 11% expect to fail in the next three months if Covid-19 conditions persist, according to an April survey.

"The numbers are devastating," said Sheryl Sandberg, the chief operating officer of Facebook Inc., which helped conduct the survey of 86,000 business owners and employees, in partnership with the Small Business Roundtable.

Most of the closed businesses don't know how they will find the money to reopen, and don't expect to rehire employees that they had to cut. "That's because they think they can't - it's not that they don't want to," Sandberg said in an interview. In normal times, small businesses account for two-thirds of U.S. job growth, she said.

Facebook and the Small Business Roundtable planned to do the monthly survey before coronavirus hit, expecting it to paint a much brighter picture of their impact on the economy. The vast majority of Facebook's advertisers are small businesses, using Facebook, Instagram and WhatsApp to communicate with their customers.

Now, those companies are increasingly relying on



the internet. More than one-third of the businesses surveyed say their sales have moved completely online. Facebook has raced to build new tools for them, such as digital gift cards and food delivery buttons, so that they can recover more quickly.

Businesses that are still operating have had to become creative about their strategy, as well. Restaurants are selling to-go cocktails, grocery stores are building plastic shields to protect their workers at the checkout counter, and hair stylists are providing home cutting tips over video chat. Of the businesses that are closed, 19% are still paying at least partial wages to employees who can't work.

The survey shows the majority of small business owners and employees are

still optimistic about the future. Meanwhile, 29% of workers and owners of small businesses were concerned about bringing the coronavirus home, as the vast majority of small business employees don't have access to paid sick leave or paid time off. Among hotel, cafe and restaurant employees, more than 90% lack paid leave.

The struggle has been especially acute for women, who still shoulder the majority of the household work in addition to their businesses, and have had to stop working at a higher rate than men in order to balance it.

"If we don't have equality in the household we're not going to have equality in the workforce," Sandberg said. "Crises exacerbate trends."

MDT/BLOOMBERG



South Korea reported 15 new cases of the coronavirus and one more death, bringing its totals to 11,065 cases and 263 fatalities. South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention yesterday said it believes 10 of the new cases are linked to passengers arriving from abroad. Only two new cases were reported in the Seoul metropolitan area, where tens of thousands were tested in recent weeks.

Scotland First Minister Nicola Sturgeon says Scotland could begin easing its lockdown measures by the end of the month. Scotland has clashed with the government in London over the lifting of restrictions, with Sturgeon taking a stricter approach on topics including when to reopen schools.



Germany's foreign minister says European countries will work over the next two weeks on criteria that would help make international vacations on the continent possible this summer. Foreign Minister Heiko Maas consulted yesterday with counterparts from 10 countries that are popular with German tourists, most in southern Europe.



EU A senior official is warning European Union countries that they face legal action if they do not lift restrictive measures on the movement of medicines and food products inside Europe's single market. Internal Market Commissioner Thierry Breton (pictured) told EU lawmakers that he is "concerned by recent measures introduced by certain member states, notably on food products and medicines."

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Claudio Furlan/LaPresse via AP



Breakfast in Milan. Two girls have breakfast served at a bar in front of the gothic Cathedral in Milan, Italy, yesterday, as European countries attempt to resume a 'new normal' life.