

The Macao SAR Government urges:

- Implement regular epidemic prevention measures;
- Wash hands frequently and wear a mask;
- Keep a distance and avoid crowd gathering;
- Convert health code for boundary crossings;
- Stay within the Greater Bay Area if leaving Macao.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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Hong Kong reported nine local coronavirus infections yesterday, with officials saying a new wave of infections may be under way. The nine were classified as locally transmitted cases because the patients did not have recent travel history. “Since last weekend, the local epidemic situation has changed quickly. The situation is very critical,” said Wong Ka-hing, controller of Hong Kong’s Center for Health Protection. He called for a tightening of social distancing restrictions.



China Almost 11 million students began taking China’s university entrance exam yesterday after a delay as the country worked to bring down coronavirus infections. The grueling four-day exam known as “gaokao” can be a key determinant of a student’s future and was pushed back weeks from its scheduled date. The exam is believed to be the first mass gathering event since the virus outbreak.

Philippines A commuter railway line in Manila will be shut for five days starting yesterday after nearly 200 employees, including 15 ticket sellers, tested positive for the coronavirus, officials said. The shutdown of the 13-station MRT Line 3, which runs nearly 17 kilometers from north to south in metropolitan Manila, further complicates a transport shortage caused by virus restrictions. The government is allowing the use of more shuttle buses to ease the shortage.



India’s death toll from the coronavirus pandemic has crossed 20,000 and its cases have passed 700,000. The country reported 467 new deaths in the last 24 hours, taking the toll to 20,160. It also recorded 22,252 new infections, increasing the total to 719,665. The rate of new virus infections and deaths in India are now rising at the fastest pace in the last four months.

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MACAU PHOTO AGENCY

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PANDA 'SUM SUM' CELEBRATES 13TH BIRTHDAY

Sum Sum, one of the four pandas kept at the Seac Pai Van Park in Coloane, has just celebrated her 13th birthday with a party organized by the Municipal Affairs Bureau. A group of parents and children had the chance to take part in the party by registration. The bureau said it hoped to promote the parent-child relationship and knowledge on pandas. A "birthday cake" made of ice with fruits has been given to the panda as a gift, with participants singing along to "Happy Birthday." Currently, the panda weighs 125 kilograms and is healthy judging from her diet and excrement. The average life expectancy for pandas ranges between 15 and 20 years.

CONCRETE MIXER TRUCK STUCK UNDER RESERVOIR OVERPASS

The driver of a concrete mixer truck ignored the height clearance of the Estrada do Reservatório and ran straight into the downslope track before getting stuck under an overpass on Monday. The incident has not caused any injuries. The Public Security Police Force obtained a report on the incident at 10:48 a.m. that same day. The police investigation revealed that the driver is a local man, aged 49. The driver was tested with no blood alcohol level. A social media video showed the truck driver accelerated, allegedly in an attempt to squeeze through the gap. The authorities, however, have not disclosed whether the incident has caused structural damage to the bridge.

TRAFFIC ON AV. ALMIRANTE LACERDA OBSTRUCTED FOR DRAINAGE WORK

In an attempt to reduce the regular flooding in San Kio District, drainage work will be conducted on Avenida do Almirante Lacerda in four phases. The first runs will be conducted from now until July 26. The overall work period, meanwhile, consists of 145 workdays. New pipes will be laid underground in the hopes of aiding the flow and drainage of rainwater. The first phase covers the intersection of Travessa do Almirante Lacerda and Avenida do Almirante Lacerda. More precisely, work will be conducted at the corner opposite Estrada do Repouso's exit and the Dragons Cantonese Restaurant. Traffic will change from two directions to one only.

MACAU SCORES POORLY IN REAL ESTATE TRANSPARENCY

DANIEL BEITLER

MACAU continues to perform poorly in terms of real estate transparency, according to a new report authored by real estate firm Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL), with the territory weighed down in particular by its sustainability score.

The Macau SAR ranked 58 in the 2020 Global Real Estate Transparency Index Rankings, showing only a minor improvement over last year. Overall, the local property market was deemed slightly less transparent than Saudi Arabia (57) and Vietnam (56), and slightly more transparent than Argentina (59) and Egypt (60).

Macau's latest ranking in the report puts it well behind Hong Kong (15), Taiwan (23) and the Chinese cities of Shanghai and Beijing (32).

Analyzed by category, Macau scored highly in terms of "market fundamentals," "regulatory and legal matters" and "transaction processes." However, the city scored less well in the categories of "investment performance," "listed vehicles" and "sustainability."

Last year, residential property transactions in Macau fell by 23.5% in year-on-year terms, while transaction values plunged 26.5%.

The mixed bag result meant

EVA BUCHO



Macau climbed only two places from the previous report and continues to be classified as a "semi-transparent" jurisdiction.

JLL's guidance for countries and territories in this transparency bracket is to address issues around corporate governance and regulatory enforcement.

The neighboring territory of Hong Kong was placed 15 in the ranking and scored highly in all of the categories except for sustainability. Along with Singapore and Japan, Hong Kong remains on the cusp of becoming a "highly transparent" jurisdiction, according to the JLL assessment.

Notably, the 2020 report found that mainland China's leading cities are transitioning to the "transparent" tier. The two cities of Shanghai and Beijing together ranked 32 on the most recent list, just behind Luxembourg, but ahead of Thailand. According to JLL, the ranking reflects continual advances in the property markets of these two cities, highlighted by their improved market fundamentals data and more coordinated land-use planning.

However, the same report noted that there remains a large disparity in real estate transparency levels within the country.

Assessing the change in transparency for the 99 coun-

tries and territories surveyed in the 2020 Index, JLL Chief Executive Officer Christian Ulbrich said that "improvements to real estate transparency are being made across the globe, but overall progress is still not fast enough for a society demanding higher ethical standards."

"As governments, businesses and communities grapple with the impacts of Covid-19, the pandemic has brought the issues of transparency and trust into even sharper focus. During times of such uncertainty, the need for transparent processes and accurate, timely data becomes more important than ever," Ulbrich noted in the report.

AFTER being accused of retracting a promised donation of MOP100 million, the Jiangmen Communal Society responded by saying that "helping is an act of goodwill [and the help seekers] should not make the good-doers shiver in fright." Jiangmen association blames Covid-19 for 'donation retraction'

Ased of retracting a promised donation of MOP100 million, the Jiangmen Communal Society responded by saying that "helping is an act of goodwill [and the help seekers] should not make the good-doers shiver in fright."

The group issued a statement to explain its stance. In the statement, it stressed that it has "patiently explained through various channels to the Sin Fong Garden Management Committee, but in vain," implying that the management committee did not accept the communal society's explanation.

According to the leaders of the management committee, the heads of the communal society have stopped paying the money widely understood to be a donation because the society no longer has money as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The communal society reiterated that stance in the statement. "In a meeting, the heads of the communal society have clearly stated

that the original advance payment cannot be settled due to the 'recent economic downturn', on top of this year's Covid-19 pandemic."

It stressed that the communal society has expressed its willingness to search for other plans with the management committee. "At the meeting, two suggestions were proposed to the management committee," the com-

munal society noted in the statement. "First, the management committee will determine its financing and the communal society will pay for the interest."

The interest payment, however, will only cover those within the construction period. It means that if the debt cannot be fully repaid during the construction period, the outstanding interest will be borne by individual owners.

The second option will also involve the flat owners looking for their sources of funds. "Second, the communal society will offer a one-off donation of MOP8 million. The remainder will have to be concluded by the management committee," the statement pointed out.

Previously, the communal society held a "donation ceremony" for the sum of MOP100 million. **AL**

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DANIEL BEITLER

COVID-19

100 days without a new locally-transmitted case

YESTERDAY marked the 100th consecutive day without a new case of Covid-19 in Macau, according to the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, even as two people connected to the SAR have tested positive for the coronavirus in the last two weeks.

Macau has registered 46 cases of Covid-19 since the virus first spread to the SAR in late January. The territory has just one active case, while the other 45 people have been cured.

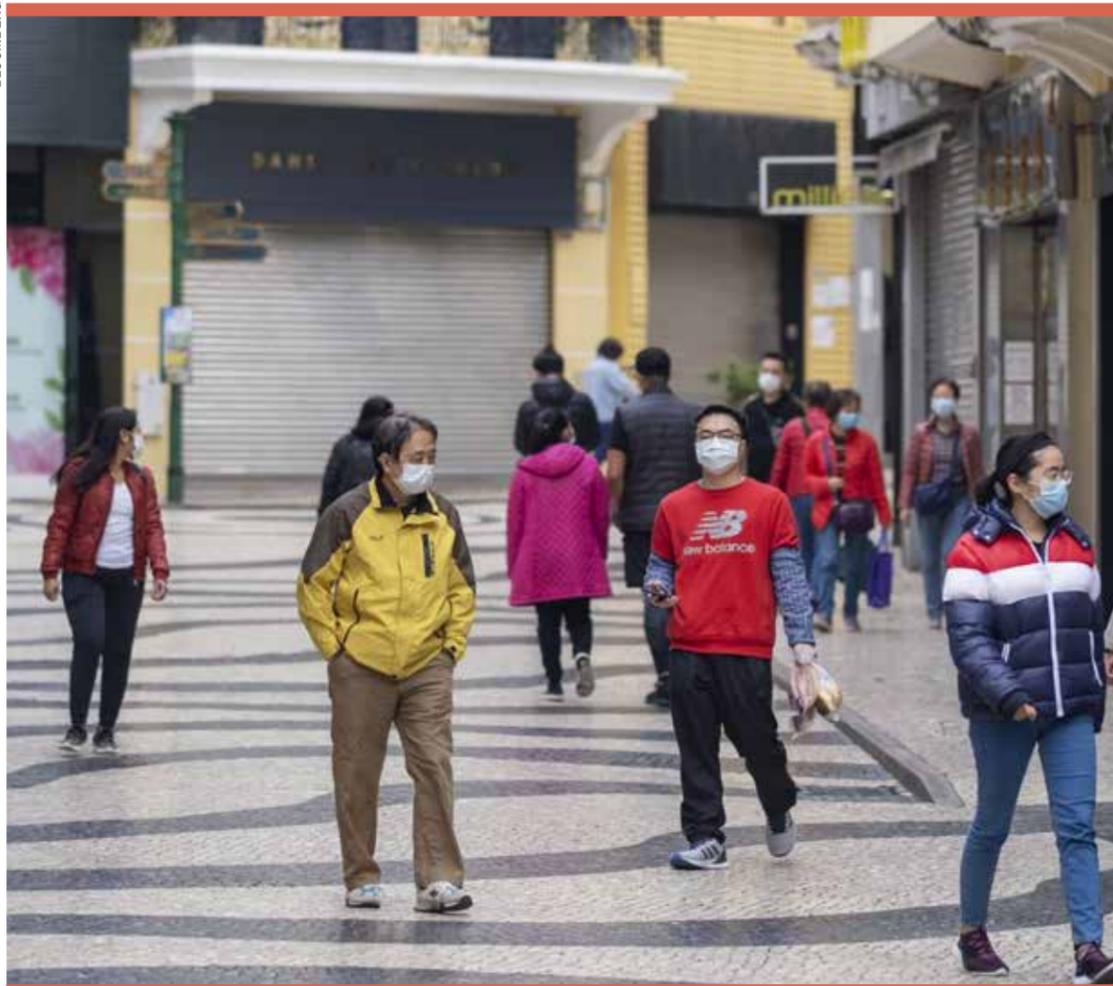
Last month, the Times reported that the SAR was one of just 15 countries and territories to have reportedly eliminated Covid-19, with most of the others being small island nations that are distant from Covid-19 epicenters. That is a view shared by local health authorities, who yesterday marked 100 days since the last non-imported case was registered in the city.

The Health Bureau (SSM) told Macau Daily Times yesterday that the count excludes cases that are being treated as imported. An official representative said that the criteria used to determine local and imported cases in Macau adhere to World Health Organization guidelines.

The last non-imported case was confirmed on March 28. The individual, a 32-year-old male resident of Portuguese nationality, was confirmed as the 37th case of the coronavirus in Macau.

He was the fiancé of the 11th case, a non-resident worker of Korean nationality, and both

BLOOMBERG



had visited relatives in the northern Portuguese city of Porto, before returning to Macau via Dubai and Hong Kong. Initially, upon his entry to Macau, the

fiancée had tested negative for the coronavirus. Accordingly, the SSM treated his later infection as a local case, while his partner was considered to be

an imported case.

The following nine cases to be reported in Macau have all been categorized as imported cases and therefore do not

count towards the SSM's 100-day tally.

The most recent case recognized by Macau health authorities concerns a 57-year-old resident who arrived in Macau on June 25 via the special ferry service from Hong Kong International Airport. He is currently receiving treatment at the public hospital.

On Sunday, news broke of a Macau-based migrant worker from the Philippines who had tested positive for Covid-19 in her home country about two weeks after departing the Macau SAR.

Health authorities in Macau say that, judging from the timeline and the current virus conditions in the Philippines, "it is not likely she contracted the virus in Macau."

Foreign Affairs Undersecretary for the Philippines, Dodo Dulay, mistakenly wrote on his Twitter account yesterday that the former migrant worker was "the only active Covid case in Macau at present." The Consul General at the Philippine Consulate General in Macau, Lilybeth Deapera, promptly corrected Dulay, to note that the single outstanding case is another individual who happened to return from vacationing in the Philippines.

The Southeast Asian nation had recorded more than 46,000 cases and 1,300 deaths from Covid-19 as of Monday night.

Nobody has died from Covid-19 in Macau to date, and there is no record of any infection among healthcare professionals and other frontline staff.

Air Macau crew face hefty pay cut for remaining outside SAR

LYNZY VALLES

AIR Macau staff that have remained outside of the Macau SAR have seen the pay cut by up to 90%, according to company insiders.

First reported by Jornal Tribuna de Macau, many of these workers have been staying outside of Macau for months. Some 50 pilots are believed to be affected.

Prior to the implementation of salary reduction, these crew members were already encouraged to take their annual leave during the peak of the pandemic, the Times has learned from an insider. Later, their base salary was cut by 90%.

Back in May, the chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, Simon Chan,

said that the flag carrier would reduce salaries to avoid dismissals during the pandemic crisis, as the Covid-19 outbreak has significantly affected the aviation sector due to border and travel restrictions.

According to the insider, those who stayed in Macau need to take seven days of unpaid leave per month, about one-third of the month in terms of working days.

As cited in the Jornal Tribuna de Macau report, co-pilots that remain outside of the city are only receiving about 11,000 patacas, inclusive of the housing allowance. The salary for pilots in command fell to 16,000 patacas, along with their accommodation allowance.

ANTHONY LAM



Flight attendants, meanwhile, are experiencing a more challenging situation as 10% of their base salary only amounts to 460 patacas. They are receiving another 4,000 patacas as an accommodation allowance.

During the beginning of the outbreak in late Ja-

nuary, the airline had already cancelled over 100 of its flights to and from mainland China, Taiwan and Macau in a bid to prevent and control the spread of Covid-19.

It was only in March that it gradually resumed operations.

Due to the economic

downturn, many crew members have already been suffering from a 90% cut in their basic salary for four months.

This remains problematic for them, as they are required to pay high rent in Macau as well as in the cities where they stay when flying out of Macau.

The media outlet also noted that it is aware of four pilots from Brazil who were forced to resign at the end of June as they started to count flight time earlier than when they were supposed to in order to raise their remuneration.

In a meeting with the Macau International Airport Company Limited last month, the airline said that that active planning is being carried out to resume more flights in due course.

The Times contacted Air Macau for comment yesterday, but no reply was received by press time.

Official data shows that Macau International Airport's number of passengers fell 99.7% year-on-year to 1,836 in June.

FESTIVAL TO CELEBRATE WORLD HERITAGE LISTING PLANNED FOR THIS WEEKEND

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will host a festival this weekend to celebrate the 15th Anniversary of the Inscription of the Historic Centre of Macau on the World Heritage List.

Supported by the IC, the Macao Government Tourism Office and a number of cultural heritage associations, the festival aims to provide information about the Historic Centre of Macau in an interactive and interesting way. This helps to better inform the public of the city's cultural heritage and its protection, the IC said.

According to an announcement yesterday, the festival will feature a variety of activities, including song and dance performances, thematic exhibitions, workshops and the sale of cultural and creative products.

In addition, the IC will also hold a number of activities connected with the World Heritage Open Day in July,



sharing with the public interesting facts about the Historic Centre of Macau, through unique visual experiences. Registration for the activities "Ascent to the Guia Lighthouse" and "Secret Magic Circle of the Senado Library" will also be available here.

To safeguard the health of participants, the IC will implement appropriate measures, according to the

anti-epidemic guidelines of the Health Bureau. All participants must wear face masks, undergo body temperature checks, present a "Macao Health Code" on the day and follow crowd control measures on site, including admission being restricted to a maximum of 100 visitors to the Mandarin's House and a maximum of 30 visitors in each indoor

space. The activities may be adjusted based on the pandemic situation.

The festivities will be held on July 11 and 12, from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the World Heritage Youth Education Base, located in the Mandarin's House and Lilau Square. The opening ceremony will be held on Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Mandarin's House. **DB**

INSTITUTIONS COLLABORATE TO CREATE SMART CITY

THE University of Macau (UM) and Nam Kwong Petroleum & Chemicals Co., Ltd (NKOIL) have signed a strategic cooperation framework agreement in the joint pursuit of creating a smart city in the SAR.

According to a statement, both parties will cooperate in four areas, namely gas pipeline network optimization, the internet of things, the comprehensive utilization of distributed energy, and special equipment safety monitoring.

They also plan to establish a mechanism for regular communication and strengthening cooperation in nurturing talent in the these areas of smart city development.

Back in 2018, UM obtained approval from the state government to establish a state key laboratory dedicated to solving key scientific and technical problems related to internet of things for smart city development by proposing fundamental and general theories, algorithms, and systems.

Since its establishment, the lab has been focusing on five areas, namely the development of a smart sensor and communication network, urban big data and smart technology, smart energy, smart transport, as well as urban public security and disaster prevention.

According to the SAR's Five-Year Development Plan, which kicked off in 2016, Macau aims to expedite smart city development and facilitate the integration of industries and the internet. **LV**

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COURTS | IPIM

Judge orders court to confirm if Hunan Engineering actually served supposed clients



RENATO MARQUES

YESTERDAY'S session at the Court of First Instance saw the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) investigator who previously testified continue to answer questions from both the presiding judge and the defense lawyers regarding the CCAC's decision not to pursue some of the evidence in the case.

The session focused on reexamining previous comments and the exhibition of the same documents that formed part of the testimony of several others involved, and was punctuated by doubts from lawyers Rui Velez de Moura and Kuong Kuok On regarding parts of the CCAC investigation.

Kuong wanted to know if the CCAC had ever requested confirmation from the clients of Hunan (Macao) Engineering Equipment Installation Company Limited over whether the declarations issued by the firm and signed by Ng Kuok Sao were false.

The documents have been classified as false on the suspicion that the company was without staff and yet was involved in large construction projects such as the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) project and the Phase 2 of Galaxy Macau.

The CCAC investigator replied that the companies were never questioned on the topic,

since the Commission had figured that "the company had no employees and so it could not participate in any construction works of such size."

The lawyer's doubts and the investigator's acknowledgment that such procedures were never undertaken during the investigation prompted Judge Leong Fong Meng to order the court to confirm Hunan Engineering's involvement in the works with the companies.

"I think it is important for the unveiling of the truth," Leong said, adding that they will be notified to provide such information to the court within a period of 10 days.

INVESTIGATION CUT SHORT TOO EARLY

The lawyer representing the ninth defendant, Crystal Chang, daughter of the former president of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), wanted to know why the investigation from CCAC did not bother to ascertain exactly what benefits were allegedly granted to Miguel Ian as retribution for his assistance on the residency applications of Liang Weiqiang and Lu Mei Lei. According to the theory presented by the prosecution, in exchange for his participation in the process, Ian should have received the option of acquiring up to

five apartment units in Heng-qin's development "Star Tower" at a below-market price.

On Monday, the same CCAC investigator who is also a witness in the trial admitted that the investigation has not found any documentary proof that Ian had, in reality, acquired any of the housing units, and that the allegation was based only on the conversations between Ian and Ng in which he expressed some interest in acquiring at least one unit.

The lawyer questioned the CCAC investigator on why the investigation, which had included several proceedings in the mainland, was not continued to determine who had actually acquired the units.

LEGAL VALIDITY OF 'FALSE' DOCUMENTS

While questioning the CCAC investigator, Kuong raised the fact that the registry of Hunan Engineering states that the company can only be legally represented by the signature of two out of its three administrators, Ng Kuok Sao, Tang Zhang Lu, and Kevin Ho. Kuong noted that all the documents submitted to IPIM and that were tendered as evidence in the courtroom contained the signature of only one person, namely Ng's. Kuong questioned whether the documents should have been even

accepted by the IPIM in the first place.

Such inquiry remained without reply as the CCAC investigator asserted not to be in a position to comment on such legal matters, noting that the matter should be raised with IPIM staff members instead.

MORE OF NG'S COMPANIES INVOLVED IN PROBLEMS

In the second part of yesterday's trial session, the court began hearing the testimony of another CCAC investigator going by the alias KM1.

According to the information provided, the work of the investigator focused on the residency applications of Liang Weiqiang.

Back in 2011, Liang was allegedly hired to work at Fok Hong Medical Center, a clinic that was 30% owned by Ng Kuok Sao. According to the company registry, Ng was the general administrator.

The application was initially submitted to IPIM under "technical staff," claiming that Liang was going to serve as vice director of the clinic.

After a long process that ended with the final approval of Liang's temporary residency (which was also extended to his wife and daughter and in which CCAC claims the interference of Miguel Ian was decisive), the application was approved under a different category. The application was finally approved under the category of "managerial staff," after a series of changes aimed at increasing the chances of obtaining residency, including an increase in his monthly salary from 35,000 patacas to 45,000 patacas.

In court, the CCAC investigator showed documents that prove that Fok Hong was also a troubled company and had several problems with the Health Bureau. For example, in March 2012, its operation license was canceled by the health authorities.

The witness also tried to prove with documentation that Liang never worked in the company and that he had stayed in Macau in 2012 for only 12 days.

The session was then adjourned to resume tomorrow morning.

SCIENCE CENTER RESUMES NORMAL SCHEDULE

The Macao Science Center has resumed its normal operating hours due to the stabilizing Covid-19 situation in Macau, the public leisure and educational venue has announced. The venue's normal operation hours are between 10 in the morning and 6 in the evening. It remains open during lunch hours. It is closed on Thursdays only but remains open if the regular holiday falls on a public holiday. It also remains open on public holidays. Visitors are required to wear their own masks, have their body temperatures measured, clean their hands with alcohol sanitizers, and obtain a Green Macau Health Code. Despite these measures, certain exhibits and the entirety of Hall 6 will remain closed.

COUGH SYRUP SMUGGLERS BUSTED BY AUTHORITIES OF MACAU, ZHUHAI

A group that smuggled cough syrup from Macau to the mainland has recently been busted in a joint operation by the Customs Services and Police Forces in both Macau and Zhuhai. In the operation, the authorities uncovered and subsequently seized 752 bottles of syrup. In addition, seven people have been arrested. Some of the suspects confessed that they were commissioned by a buyer in Shenzhen, who requested the syrups to be brought into Zhuhai by individual smugglers in small quantities each time. The authorities pointed out the unrestricted consumption of the syrup will cause addition, hallucination, and even death.

WOMAN REPORTEDLY KILLS HERSELF IN A FAST FOOD CHAIN OUTLET

The Judiciary Police received a report yesterday afternoon of a woman who is suspected to have committed suicide in the toilet of a McDonald's restaurant near the Border Gate. The incident was discovered by an employee at the restaurant who went into the toilet for a regular check at about 1:30 p.m. and discovered the woman there. Paramedics confirmed the death of the woman on site and notified the police to follow up. The police believe that the woman hung herself. The police found no other suspicious wounds except the one on the woman's neck. The name of the woman was unknown as of press time. She was about 60 years old.

SOCIAL MEDIA GIANTS MULL LEAVING HONG KONG AFTER SECURITY LAW WORRIES

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

TIKTOK said yesterday it will stop operations in Hong Kong, joining other social media companies in warily eyeing ramifications of a sweeping national security law that took effect last week.

The short-form video app's planned departure from Hong Kong comes as various social media platforms and messaging apps including Facebook, WhatsApp, Telegram, Google and Twitter balk at the possibility of providing user data to Hong Kong authorities.

The social media companies say they are assessing implications of the security law, which prohibits what Beijing views as secessionist, subversive or terrorist activities or as foreign intervention in the city's internal affairs. In the communist-ruled mainland, the foreign social media platforms are blocked by China's "Great Firewall."

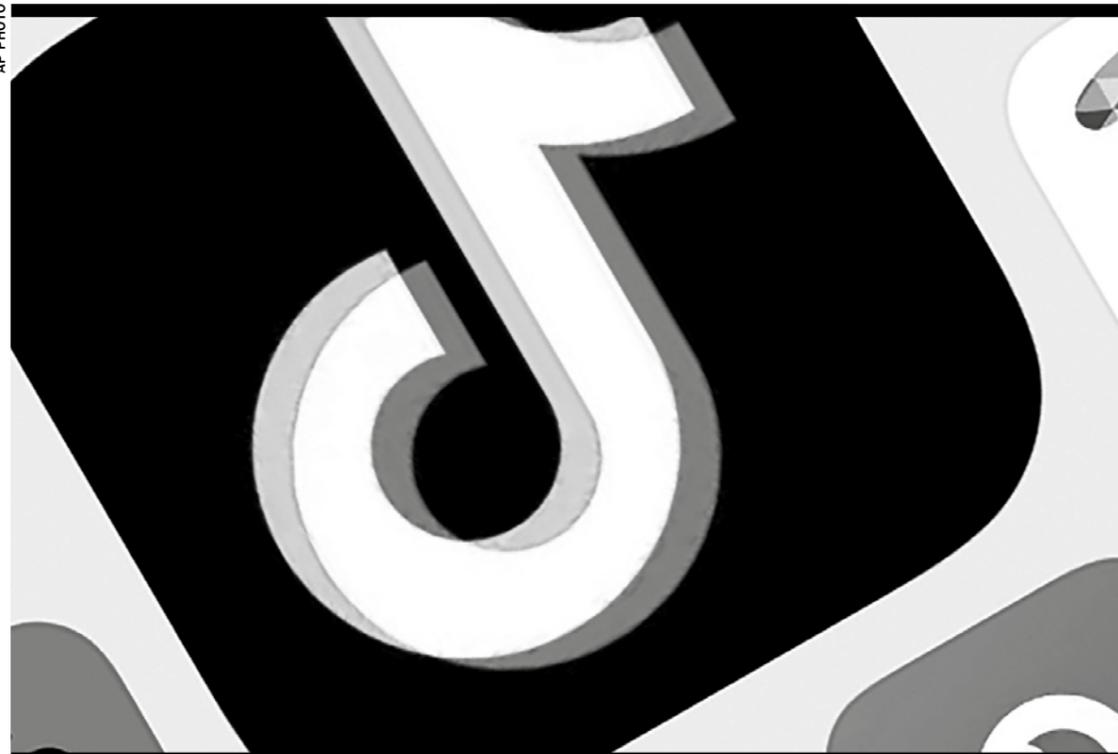
Critics see the law as Beijing's boldest step yet to erase the legal divide between the former British colony and the mainland's authoritarian Communist Party system.

TikTok said in a statement that it had decided to halt operations "in light of recent events."

Facebook and its messaging app WhatsApp said in separate statements Monday that they would freeze the review of government requests for user data in Hong Kong, "pending further assessment of the National Security Law, including formal human rights due diligence and consultations with international human rights experts."

Hong Kong was convulsed with massive, sometimes violent anti-government protests for much of last year as the former British colony's residents reacted to proposed extradition legislation, since withdrawn, that might have led to some suspects facing trial in mainland Chinese courts.

The new law criminalizes some



pro-democracy slogans like the widely used "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our time," which the Hong Kong government says has separatist connotations.

The fear is that it erodes the special freedoms of the semi-autonomous city, which has operated under a "one country, two systems" framework since China took control in 1997. That arrangement has allowed Hong Kong's people freedoms not permitted in mainland China, such as public dissent and unrestricted internet access.

Telegram's platform has been used widely to spread pro-democracy messages and information about the protests. It understands "the importance of protecting the right to privacy of our Hong Kong users," said Mike Ravdonikas, a spokesperson for the company.

"Telegram has never shared any data with the Hong Kong authorities in the past and does not intend to process any data requests related to its Hong Kong

users until an international consensus is reached in relation to the ongoing political changes in the city," he said.

Twitter also paused all data and information requests from Hong Kong authorities after the security law went into effect last

the full intention of this law," the company said in a statement.

Google likewise said it had "paused production on any new data requests from Hong Kong authorities."

Though social platforms have yet to be blocked in Hong Kong, users have begun scrubbing their accounts and deleting pro-democracy posts out of fear of retribution. That retreat has extended to the streets: Many shops and stores that publicly stood in solidarity with protesters have removed the pro-democracy sticky notes and artwork that had adorned their walls.

Under implementation rules of Article 43 of the national security law, which give the city's police force sweeping powers in enforcing the legislation, platforms, publishers and internet service providers may be ordered to take down any electronic message published that is "likely to constitute an offence endangering national security or is likely

Facebook, WhatsApp, Telegram, Google and Twitter balk at the possibility of providing user data to Hong Kong authorities

week, the company said, emphasizing that it was "committed to protecting the people using our service and their freedom of expression."

"Like many public interest organizations, civil society leaders and entities, and industry peers, we have grave concerns regarding both the developing process and

to cause the occurrence of an offence endangering national security."

Service providers who do not comply with such requests could face fines of up to 100,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$12,903) and receive jail terms of up to six months.

Individuals who post such messages may also be asked to remove the message, or face similar fines and a jail term of one year.

Hong Kong authorities moved quickly to implement the law after it took effect on June 30, with police arresting about 370 people.

The rules allow Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam to authorize police to intercept communications and conduct surveillance to "prevent and detect offences endangering national security."

Police can conduct searches for evidence without a warrant in "exceptional circumstances" and seek warrants requiring people suspected of violating the national security law to surrender their travel documents, preventing them from leaving Hong Kong.

Written notices or restraining orders also may be issued to freeze or confiscate property if there are "reasonable grounds" to suspect that the property is related to an offense endangering national security.

TikTok, operated by Chinese internet giant Bytedance, has sought to distance itself from its Chinese roots while striving for global appeal. It recently hired former Walt Disney executive Kevin Mayer to be its CEO.

The company has said all its data is stored in servers in the U.S. and insisted it would not remove content even if asked to do so by the Chinese government. Even so, TikTok has still been regarded as a national security risk, with U.S. secretary of state Michael Pompeo saying Monday that it was looking at banning certain social media apps, including TikTok. **AP**

China-HK bond links pegged for further expansion

CHINA will look to add more trading platforms to its Bond Connect information platform launched in support of the Greater Bay Area initiative, covering Macau, Hong Kong and nine mainland cities.

The Bond Connect program, which was opened in July 2017, allows investors from the mainland and abroad to trade in

each other's bond markets, using Hong Kong as a conduit.

Hong Kong, where the Bond Connect program has its market infrastructure linkage, will continue to play a key role as the gateway in and out of China, especially in the financial realm, monetary authorities said.

China plans to reduce

the trading fees, extend trading hours and further improve the services in the primary bond market, said Pan Gongsheng, vice-governor of People's Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank.

"The Bond Connect has become an embodiment of embracing international market standards and practices, while fully com-

plying with the rules and regulations of the Chinese market. It has also become an important bridge for the opening-up of China's financial market," said Pan.

"To the mainland, Hong Kong is a major financial center that can be trusted to pioneer its capital market liberalization program. To the global inves-

tors, Hong Kong offers a familiar legal and regulatory environment in which they can operate and access the mainland bond market," the PBOC noted in a statement.

China's bond market has a total value of 108 trillion yuan (122 trillion patacas) now and is the second largest in the world.

By the end of June,

about 900 foreign institutions from more than 60 countries and regions had accessed the interbank bond market, investing in 2.6 trillion yuan of bonds denominated in Chinese yuan. Foreign investors hold 2.4% of all the bonds in China, and their share of treasury bonds is 9 percent, the official data showed.

MDT/CHINA DAILY

ZEN SOO & ELAINE
KURTENBACH, HONG KONG

HONG Kong's leader Carrie Lam offered scant reassurance yesterday over a new national security law that critics say undermines liberties and legal protections promised when China took control of the former British colony.

A year ago, Hong Kong residents felt secure enough in their freedoms under the territory's "one-country, two-systems" regime to bring their children to mass protests. Now, after the June 30 implementation of the security law, some are worrying they might be punished for what they post in their Facebook or Twitter accounts.

The legal system left in place when the British left Hong Kong on July 1, 1997, allowed the city's 7 million residents a free press and other freedoms forbidden in the communist-ruled mainland, for at least 50 years.

Many of Hong Kong's older generations fled political upheaval on the Chinese mainland. Younger Hong Kongers grew up expecting to achieve more democracy in their lifetimes. All are struggling to understand the implications of the new law, which prohibits what Beijing views as secessionist, subversive or terrorist activities or as foreign intervention in the city's internal affairs.

"I didn't have a strong view against formalizing a national security law but the way it was implemented is intrusive and disrespectful," said Jen Au, who works in the banking industry. "It's basically just bullying. Hong Kong has come a long way in the last 20 years to warm up to China and this really just backfired."

Lam, the city's Beijing-backed chief executive, said the work of the Committee for Safeguarding National Security she chairs, which oversees enforcement of the law, will not be made public. So implementation rules giving police sweeping powers to enforce it won't be subject to judicial review.

Asked if she could guarantee that media can still report freely in Hong Kong without facing censorship, Lam said, "If the Foreign Cor-

AP PHOTO



Chief Executive Carrie Lam at a press conference in Hong Kong yesterday

Hong Kong grappling with future under national security law

respondents Club or all reporters in Hong Kong can give me a 100 percent guarantee that they will not commit any offences under this national legislation, then I can do the same."

Hong Kong was convulsed with massive, sometimes violent anti-government demonstrations for much of last year.

Initially, the protests were against extradition legislation, since withdrawn, that might have led to some suspects facing trial in mainland Chinese courts. But they expanded to encompass calls for greater democracy and more police accountability.

Critics see the security law as Beijing's boldest move yet to erase the divide between Hong Kong's western-style system and the mainland's authoritarian way of governing.

The new law criminalizes some

pro-democracy slogans like the widely used "Liberate Hong Kong, revolution of our time," which the Hong Kong government says has separatist connotations.

Under the new law police can order social media platforms, publishers and internet service providers to remove any electronic message published that is "likely to constitute an offence endangering national security or is likely to cause the occurrence of an offence endangering national security."

Service providers failing to comply could face fines of up to 100,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$12,903) and jail terms of up to six months.

Individuals who post such messages may also be asked to remove the message, or face similar fines and a jail term of one year.

Under the new law, the Hong Kong chief executive can authori-

ze police to intercept communications and conduct surveillance to "prevent and detect offences endangering national security."

Police can conduct searches for evidence without a warrant in "exceptional circumstances" and seek warrants requiring people suspected of violating the national security law to surrender their travel documents, preventing them from leaving Hong Kong.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo described as "Orwellian," changes such as the removal of books critical of the Chinese Communist Party from library shelves, a ban on political slogans deemed to be subversive and a requirement that schools enforce censorship.

"Until now, Hong Kong flourished because it allowed free thinking and free speech, under an independent rule of law. No

more," Pompeo said in a statement.

Hong Kong authorities moved quickly to implement the law after it took effect on June 30, with police arresting about 370 people.

Social media platforms, shut out of the mainland by China's "Great Firewall," have yet to be blocked in Hong Kong. But users have begun scrubbing their accounts and deleting pro-democracy posts out of fear of retribution.

The retreat has extended to the streets: Many shops and stores that publicly stood in solidarity with protesters have removed the pro-democracy sticky notes and artwork that had adorned their walls.

Many experts say they do not expect the new law to have a big effect on companies that already operate in both Hong Kong and the Chinese mainland. AP

Australia warns of 'arbitrary detention' risk in China

AUSTRALIA yesterday warned its citizens that they may be at risk of "arbitrary detention" if they visit China.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade said in an updated travel advisory for China that "authorities have detained foreigners because they're 'endangering national se-

curity," adding that "Australians may also be at risk of arbitrary detention."

It is not clear what prompted the warning, which comes as bilateral relations between the free trade partners have plummeted over Australia's calls for an independent investigation into the coronavirus pandemic. The pandemic

is believed to have started in China late last year.

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison revealed last week that his government was considering an offer of safe haven to Hong Kong residents threatened by Beijing's move to impose a tough national security law on the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

Australia has also criticized China for formally charging Chinese-Australian spy novelist Yang Hengjun with espionage in March.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that he wasn't aware of the new travel warning, but that China guarantees the safety and legal rights of fo-

reigners in the country.

"As long as foreigners in China abide by the laws and regulations, there is no need to worry at all," he said at a daily briefing in Beijing.

The new advisory is unlikely to affect travel plans since Australia had already banned its citizens from leaving the country because of the pandemic. Australia

lians in China who wish to come home were advised to do so as soon as possible.

An Amnesty International report last year said China had "legalized arbitrary and secret detention." The report also said there was an increased risk of torture and other ill-treatment and forced "confessions" in China. AP

AP PHOTO



Thermometers in hand, Dubai opens for tourists amid pandemic

JON GAMBRELL, DUBAI

FROM French soccer jerseys to slick online campaigns, Dubai is trumpeting the fact that it reopened for tourism yesterday — but what that means for this sheikhdom that relies on the dollars, pounds, rupees and yuan spent by travelers remains in question.

With travel uncertain and the coronavirus still striking nations Dubai relies on for tourists, this city-state wants to begin coaxing people back to its beaches and its cavernous shopping malls. By instilling the idea that Dubai is safe, authorities likely hope to fuel interest in the sheikhdom ahead of its crucial winter months for tourism.

But all that depends on controlling a virus that the United Arab Emirates as a whole continues to fight. Armed with thermometers, mandatory face masks and hand sanitizer, Dubai is waging it is ready.

"I think that will give people confidence — when they're ready to travel — to come to Dubai," said Paul Bridger, the corporate director for operations at Dubai-based Rove Hotels. "It will take time to come back. ... We are expecting to be one of the first markets to be back because of the confidence that we can give to people that are traveling."

That Dubai is a tourist

destination at all is largely thanks to its ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who used the state-owned long-haul carrier Emirates to put this one-time pearling post on the map. Attractions like the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, and the sail-shaped Burj Al-Arab luxury hotel draw transit passengers out of Dubai International Airport, the world's busiest for international travel.

In 2019 alone, Dubai welcomed 16.7 million international guests, up from 15.9 million the year before, according to the Dubai Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing. The top seven tourist-sending nations were India, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, Oman, China, Russia and the U.S. The city's 741 hotels saw around 75% occupancy for the year, with visitors staying on average 3½ days.

Those travelers also fuel Dubai's vast restaurant, bar and nightlife scene. Though drinking is illegal in the neighboring emirate of Sharjah and the nations of Iran, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, alcohol sales remain a crucial part of Dubai's economy. Though bars only briefly reopened to quickly close again, alcohol-serving restaurants abound.

But even before the pandemic, lower global energy prices, a 30% drop in the city's real estate market value

and trade war fears have led employers to shed staff. The virus outbreak accelerated those losses, especially as Dubai has postponed its Expo 2020, or world's fair, to next year over the pandemic.

That makes reopening for tourism that much more important, even though Dubai's top three tourist-feeding countries remain hard-hit by the virus, said Rabia Yasmeen, a consultant at the market-research firm Euromonitor International. Even retail sales are affected by tourism, with some 35% of all revenue coming from tourists, she said.

"It's good for them to go ahead and announce because there needs to be a call for the confidence to come back," Yasmeen said. "Someone has to take that step first to show the world."

And Dubai has, in typical headline-baiting fashion, taken those steps. French football club Olympique Lyonnais, under a sponsorship with Emirates, wore "Dubai Is Open" jerseys at a recent match. Dubai airport controllers have begun putting stickers on foreigners' passports reading in English and Arabic: "A warm welcome to your second home."

But there's a risk, particularly in allowing more travel as the virus stalks other countries. Emirates stopped flying to Pakistan over virus fears. Across the seven sheikhdoms that form the

United Arab Emirates, there have been 52,600 confirmed cases of the virus among the 9 million people living here, and 326 deaths.

At Rove Hotels, a new budget chain run by state-linked firms Emaar and Meraas, thermometer-carrying staffers check the temperature of everyone coming inside. Cleaners fog disinfectants over rooms and wipe down tables and chairs. Even a camel statue and an oversized stuffed animal wore a mask. The chain, like others in Dubai, also has sought outside certification over its cleaning routines on top of fulfilling government regulations.

"It's kind of the icing on the cake to give people comfort that we're following those standards," Bridger said.

There are still risks. In order to travel, tourists must take a COVID-19 test within 96 hours of their flight and show the airline a negative result. Otherwise, they will be tested on arrival and required to isolate while awaiting the results, which travelers say typically takes a few hours.

Travelers must also have health insurance covering COVID-19 or sign a declaration agreeing to cover the costs of treatment and isolation.

"A key question comes in: Is the traveler ready to come to Dubai?" Yasmeen asked. "That's a big question mark." AP

this day in history



2000 NEW HARRY POTTER MOST MAGICAL YET

The latest story about boy wizard Harry Potter has broken all publishing records.

The fourth instalment of JK Rowling's series has been released simultaneously on both sides of the Atlantic with an initial print-run of 5.3m - 1.5m in the UK and 3.8m in the US.

In Britain the usual run for children's books is 20,000.

The content of the new story has been closely guarded - no review copies were issued - but the author revealed someone close to Harry dies.

Many bookshops opened specially in the middle of the night and laid on wizard-related entertainments so that fans could buy Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire as soon as it was released for sale at midnight.

Others waited for the 640-page book to arrive through the letterbox after ordering online.

Internet bookseller Amazon sold 400,000 copies worldwide and expected to deliver 53 tonnes of the book to British readers.

Staff in the distribution centre in Milton Keynes worked overnight to ensure all orders went out yesterday.

Priced £9.99 for paperback and £14.99 for hardback the book is being widely distributed across the UK - including to roadside restaurants - but booksellers still think it will sell out.

The first three books - beginning with Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone in 1997 - have sold 35m copies in 31 languages.

Last year the Edinburgh-based author, a single mother, earned £14.5m in royalties, advances and film rights.

JK Rowling left King's Cross Station at 1127 BST today on a specially created Hogwarts Express - the fictional train to wizard school - on a promotional tour to Scotland.

Her previous story, Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, was shortlisted for the Library Association's Carnegie Medal - the top award for children's writing - but the prize went to Aidan Chambers and Postcards From No Man's Land at the ceremony last night.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ms Rowling published one book each year until 2001 when the first film - Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone - was released in November.

The film cost £110m and was directed by Christopher Columbus. It became the second most popular film of all time - behind Titanic - grossing £649m (\$926m) at cinemas around the world.

Born on the Welsh borders, Joanne Kathleen Rowling moved to Edinburgh with her baby daughter, after her first marriage ended and began writing whilst she was on the dole.

She dreamt up Harry Potter when she was stuck on a train between London and Manchester in 1990.

Seven books have been written altogether but not all have been published.

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix was published in 2003. Five million copies were sold within 24 hours of its release.

The sixth, Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince was released on 16 July 2005.

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You have the power to succeed today — even if it feels like you're losing ground. Just keep pushing yourself. Things may look dark early in the morning, but by tonight you should see a glimmer of hope.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Your earthy nature asserts itself in a big way today, but that may put off those with their heads in the clouds. You should just ignore them and let them enjoy their silly fantasies — you've got work to do!

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
You rely on others to help get your own business done, but today you may be on your own. Things aren't terrible just yet, but you may want to take extra time for all your important tasks.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You feel a new sense of balance today — though it might come at a cost. See if you can just enjoy what you've got and worry about the consequences when they actually start to affect you.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You're making great progress toward some personal goal — but you need to keep it personal for now. Let others take center stage, and they will have more time and attention for you later.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Your romantic world is spinning a little faster — so take a chance or nuzzle up with your sweetheart! All that great energy needs to be shared with someone, and you can feel it when it's right.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Be wary of new situations — something isn't quite right, though that's not to say you need to avoid dealing with it entirely! Just make sure you're careful to see the bad as well as

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Your potent energy is the driving force behind today's big mission — so make sure that you're talking it up or inspiring others to the cause. Things should start to look really good this evening.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You are firmly committed to doing it all yourself today, whether it's making your own lunch or building your own shed. Whatever it takes to get it done is readily available in your skill

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You need to deal with all this energy in a positive way — which isn't such a hard task for you! Just make sure that you're actively engaged with everything that needs to happen by tonight.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You're more tired than you feel you ought to be, so go easy on yourself and make sure that you're delegating responsibilities as much as you can. There's not much point in driving yourself to exhaustion!

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Your assistance is needed in a big way — so ask around or look for opportunities to save the day. Things may move slowly at first, but once you enter the picture, the pace picks up considerably.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	21	33	cloudy
Harbin	16	29	cloudy
Tianjin	25	32	clear
Urumqi	17	31	clear
Xi'an	24	37	cloudy
Lhasa	15	27	cloudy
Chengdu	25	33	shower
Chongqing	25	30	overcast
Kunming	18	25	shower
Nanjing	26	31	thundershower
Shanghai	25	29	drizzle
Wuhan	22	30	moderate rain
Hangzhou	24	28	moderate to heavy rain
Taipei	26	32	overcast
Guangzhou	28	35	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	33	thundershower
WORLD			
Moscow	19	31	drizzle
Frankfurt	15	20	overcast
Paris	12	23	clear
London	14	15	drizzle
New York	24	25	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Camaro model; 5- Madame de ___; 10- Radio switch; 14- Unit of currency in Iran and Yemen; 15- Cleave in two; 16- Han ___ was a "Star Wars" character; 17- What's more; 18- Girder; 19- Bad time in the Senate; 20- Lounges; 22- Kernel of a filbert, e.g.; 24- "___ Alibi"; Sella film; 25- 17th letter of the Greek alphabet; 26- Satan; 29- Female bovine; 32- Skirt; 36- Netman Nastase; 37- Most cunning; 39- Limb of a felled tree; 40- Make urban; 43- Bambi's aunt; 44- Capital of Lesotho; 45- Nights before; 46- Chip dip; 48- Hall or Byrnes; 49- Hound's trail; 50- Howe'er; 52- Tibetan beast; 53- Shining; 57- Ululant; 61- Shake ___ (hurry); 62- Measured with a watch; 64- Sunburn soother; 65- Skelton's Kadiddlehopper; 66- Idolize; 67- Support for a broken limb; 68- I could ___ horse!; 69- Flower segment; 70- Organs used for sight;

DOWN: 1- Some nest eggs; 2- Stir up; 3- Kiln for drying hops; 4- Suit and dress retailer; 5- Less outgoing; 6- Bar bills; 7- Pub choice; 8- Author Hunter; 9- Ring-tailed primate; 10- "I, Robot" author; 11- Method; 12- Type of market; 13- The majority of; 21- Grown elver; 23- Iota preceder; 26- Small change; 27- Actress Verdugo; 28- Key; 29- Shut; 30- Greased; 31- Off-the-wall; 33- In play; 34- Group of 12; 35- Discharge; 37- Hot tub; 38- Poker legend Ungar; 41- City on the Missouri; 42- Love beads' locale; 47- Stain; 49- Tool with teeth; 51- Scheduled; 52- Warble; 53- Speed contest; 54- ___ breve; 55- Insect-repelling chemical; 56- It may turn; 57- Mother of Ares; 58- Now ___ me down...; 59- Centrepiece of the human face; 60- Comprehends; 63- Bon ___;



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



<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Taipa Village Two connected apartments HK\$8,380,000 1,404 ft² 4 2 2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Manhattan Apartment, Taipa \$18,800/mth 1,626 ft² 3 2 2</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Wa Bao</i> 2 2 2 1,071 ft² \$7,995,000 (ref: 18115568)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Chun Fok apartment</i> 2 2 2 834 ft² \$8,998,000 (ref: 20036002)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>Unique Loft</i> 2 2 2 2,200 ft² \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>One Central Stylish</i> 2 2 2 1,349 ft² \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Macau] <i>Lakeview Mansion Car Park</i> 1 \$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Delightful 1 Bed</i> 1 1 1 820 ft² \$9,500/mth (ref: 20051001)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>One Central</i> 2 2 2 1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Great View Apartment</i> 4 2 2 2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)</p>	<p>jml 卓雅物業 property SINCE 1994</p> <p>(853) 2835 2699 hello@jmlproperty.com www.jmlproperty.com</p> <p>f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty</p>
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

SINGAPORE'S STAYCATIONS CAN'T FILL \$20 BILLION TOURISM GAP

LOW DE WEI &
FARIS MOKHTAR

IN Indonesia, locals can soon fly from Jakarta to the beaches of Bali for a domestic vacation. Tokyo residents can escape the pandemic stress with a hike in the mountains, and New Yorkers can head to the Hamptons on Long Island.

Residents of Singapore, a city-state smaller than New York City, have few such options, presenting a massive problem for its battered tourism industry. With borders closed to foreigners, hotels and tourist attractions need to count on 'staycationers' to plug the gap in an industry that brought in almost \$20 billion in revenue last year. It's a tall order.

"Unless we have a return to international business, the hotel industry is going to be decimated as up to 90% of our bookings come from international travelers," said Michael Issenberg, chief executive officer of Accor SA's Asia Pacific unit, the largest hotel operator in Singapore.

While tourism everywhere has been hammered by the pandemic, the gradual opening of some domestic travel has given a shot in the arm to airlines and hotels in places like Australia and Vietnam. Rosewood Hotel Group has seen occupancy rates as high as 70% at some of its China properties as leisure travel picks up, said CEO Sonia Cheng.

Singapore's tourism sector faces a tougher challenge, as the hotels were just given a green light last week to request approval to welcome domestic tourists. Many locals like teacher Najeeb Yusof prefer to save their money and wait for travel to resume in nearby



hotspots like Thailand and Malaysia rather than spend it on a hotel down the street.

"There's more to see and experience overseas at a cheaper cost," said Yusof. There's also the "awe factor - getting to see or experience something I won't otherwise be able to in Singapore, like the mountains and national parks in Indonesia and activities like diving and surfing."

Though the country of 5.7 million people has reopened its economy after a lockdown of more than two months, its borders are still largely closed. It recorded a historic low of just 750 foreign visitors in April, down from 1.6 million in the same month last year. May's numbers weren't much better, at 880.

"In the short-term, hotels, eateries and attractions can re-orientate to draw interest to staycations, attractions or food dis-

counts," said Selena Ling, head of treasury research and strategy at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. "However, our inherent small domestic market size implies it may not be a longer-term sustainable solution."

GDP BOOST

Tourism has been an increasingly important industry for Singapore, helping to diversify the economy from its traditional strengths of finance, oil refining and shipping. Attractions including the Marina Bay Sands hotel and casino, the Universal Studios theme park and the Singapore Zoo have drawn tourists from around the world.

Last year, Singapore hosted a record 19.1 million visitors, while tourism receipts rose to S\$27.7 billion (\$19.8 billion), from S\$26.9 billion the year before. Singapore's tourism sector, which employs

about 65,000 people, contributes about 4% to gross domestic product. The Singapore Tourism Board doesn't track the share of local versus international tourism.

The border closure means Singapore needs to persuade locals to spend more money at home. Even with overseas travel off limits, Singapore residents will still want to venture out, said Tourism Board CEO Keith Tan.

"They may therefore be open to take time off in their own city and rediscover all that Singapore has to offer," he said in an emailed statement.

Singapore has set aside S\$90 million for the tourism sector and a task force is developing domestic and international recovery plans to be shared soon, Tan added.

The board also aims to strengthen Singapore's brand abroad by spending S\$2 million to encourage content creators to produce

compelling stories about the city-state, Tan said.

EXPATS RETURN

Hotels including the Shangri-la are also getting a small boost from the thousands of Singaporeans and expats who had been traveling abroad and are slowly being allowed back in. When they arrive, most are being forced to quarantine for 14 days in a hotel, at a cost of about S\$2,000.

With occupancy running at just 15% for August, the iconic Raffles Singapore is offering a two-night special for about S\$795, complete with a complimentary Singapore Sling, free breakfast, city tour and spa discounts.

Some tourist spots are also offering price cuts to attract residents who've been cooped up in their apartments for weeks. Sentosa Development Corp., which manages a resort island with attractions including Madame Tussauds and Universal Studios, has waived admission fees until the end of September, said Lynette Ang, the chief marketing officer.

Lo & Behold Group, which operates the Tanjong Beach Club just 15 minutes from the financial district, is launching a new concept called "Dine In Nature," which includes curated gourmet picnic baskets. It hopes this "will fulfill a growing demand from local residents for polished, thoughtful dining experiences," said Chief Operations Officer Andrew Ing.

For Singapore's tourism industry, a full recovery isn't likely before 2022, and largely depends on countries avoiding additional waves of the virus and the development of a vaccine, said Wong King Yin, a lecturer in marketing at Singapore's Nanyang Technological University.

"Although domestic travel can be a solution at the beginning during the recovery stage, the tourism industry cannot rely on staycations to survive," she said. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands Macao extends MICE promotion until end of year



Sands Resorts Macao has extended its "More Than Just Meetings" package booking period until the end of 2020, with added benefits. The meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions

(MICE) are available in all the hotels and resorts from the Sands group, including The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, Four Seasons Hotel Macao, Conrad Macao, Sheraton Grand Macao

Hotel, and The St. Regis Macao.

The promotion comprises a range of benefits that include a 5% discount on master bills, one complimentary room for every 25 rooms booked, one complimentary room upgrade for every 25 rooms booked, a 15% discount on gondola rides and a 50% discount on the Eiffel Tower experience as well as discounts of up to 50% on selected in-house entertainment.

According to Sands Macao, event planners can enjoy all the above benefits when reserving over 200 rooms on a minimum of one of the nights within their stay period.

Grand Lapa and Grand Coloane launch 'Hello Summer' eyeing locals



The Grand Lapa and Grand Coloane Resort Hotels have launched a special campaign aimed at attracting local re-

sidents to enjoy the summer in Macau.

The hotels are featuring rooms with a kids' well-

ness program and BBQ dinners included, starting from MOP600.

Grand Lapa focuses its attentions on culinary attractions with its summer berries tea set and market semi-lunch buffets, featuring its signature Portuguese roasted suckling pig and seafood risotto with prawn and other restaurant offers.

Meanwhile, the program aimed at children includes cooking, yoga, dance, and painting activities, as well as private swimming lessons.

Grand Coloane Resort is also offering a Friday Island seafood BBQ and Saturday night, with pork spit roast and free flow of beers and sangria, among many other food and beverage offers.

ROB HARRIS, LONDON

FOOTBALL

WHEN Tottenham captain Hugo Lloris confronted Son Heung-min on the field at halftime, Jose Mourinho was far from annoyed.

The manager renowned for his own flashpoints and volatility was delighted to see tensions between teammates erupting in public view.

"It was beautiful," he said. "Probably it's a consequence of our meetings."

Angered by the timidity of a 3-1 loss at Sheffield United in the previous English Premier League round, Mourinho saw the passion he wanted as Tottenham this time secured a 1-0 victory over Everton yesterday [Macau time].

Just before the break, with Tottenham leading, Son lost the ball which led to Richarlison having a chance to equalize but striking wide of Lloris' post.

"I think to concede a chance a few seconds before halftime because we don't make the pressing properly," Lloris said, "that annoys me but it's part of football. Move on."

Only, Lloris didn't when the whistle blew for halftime, shouting as he raced over to Son. Gio-

vani Lo Celso and Harry Winks intervened to split the clashing teammates before they headed into the dressing room.

Son had created the goal in the 24th minute. The South Korea forward knocked the ball forward to Harry Kane who squared for Lo Celso to strike on the turn and Everton defender Michael Keane deflected the ball into his own net.

"An amazing kid that everyone loves like Sonny, a team boy," Mourinho said. "But in that situation the captain thought the last minute of the first half you have to do more for the team. You have to give a different effort than you give. A couple of bad words but I think it's something very important for the team to grow up."

In the dressing room, Mourinho told them: "I have no doubt you will stick together until the end."

Mourinho delighted by Lloris-Son clash during Tottenham win



Tottenham's Son Heung-min (left) duels for the ball with Everton's Seamus Coleman

van Lo Celso and Harry Winks moved up to eighth place with its second victory from the four games since the league resumed after a three-month suspension.

But it's not only the hopes of returning to the Champions League that are in the balance

for Spurs. Even qualifying for the Europa League is uncertain with five games remaining.

"If you want to blame someone for that it is me," Mourinho said. "I was critical of my boys because they are not enough critical of themselves (in Sheffield)

... I ask them to demand more from each other. That pressure to give for everyone."

Mourinho was hired in November to rescue the season after Mauricio Pochettino was fired with a team that reached the 2019 Champions League final in 14th place.

"When you play a season like this one it is very easy to fall apart as a team," Mourinho said. "Today we showed we are still together and ready to compete and ready to fight until the end."

At the end of the game, Lloris and Son embraced on the pitch — despite the need for social distancing to be maintained due to the coronavirus pandemic which means no fans are allowed into games.

"What happened between me and Sonny is just something that is part of football sometimes," Lloris said. "But there is no problem at all." AP

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OPINION

World Views

Shuli Ren, Bloomberg

DEAR CHINA, ENJOY THIS
BULL MARKET. LOVE,
DONALD

As a diplomatic tit-for-tat escalates between Washington and Beijing, millions of Chinese investors — defiant and patriotic — are once again engineering a fast and furious bull market on their home turf. The theme? Self-reliance.

Two years ago, when the trade war first hit, China's \$8.5 trillion stock market sank into one of its deepest bear episodes, as worries about the economic damage of decoupling took root. This time, tension with the U.S. hasn't even made a dent. Rather, mainland shares are on fire. The benchmark CSI 300 Index has rallied 14% this year, to trade at a five-year high. The S&P 500 Index, by comparison, is still in the red. Daily trading volume has exceeded 1 trillion yuan (\$142 billion) for three consecutive trading days.

The latest frenzy began right after Beijing imposed its national security law on Hong Kong, despite U.S. opposition. Now, investors have renewed their faith that China is finally recognizing the importance of self-sufficiency. Bullish sell-side analysts are tossing around buzz words like national champions, import substitutes and capital market reforms; ultimately, these boil down the idea that turning inward is good for stocks.

There are many examples. Consider Shanghai-based Semiconductor Manufacturing International Corp., a chip foundry that counts Huawei Technologies Co. as its largest client. Rather than languishing as Huawei gets boxed out of U.S. technology, SMIC's Hong Kong-listed shares are up over 200% this year.

On the financing front, SMIC is behaving every bit like a national champion already. On May 15, the day Huawei got slapped with further sanctions, the state-owned China Integrated Circuit Industry Investment Fund, which held close to 20% of SMIC as of December 2019, said it would co-invest about \$2.5 billion into one of its wafer plants. Meanwhile, securities regulators have fast-tracked the company's plans to raise as much as \$7.5 billion in Shanghai, the largest mainland initial public offering in a decade. Beijing is well aware that chip manufacturing is a capital-intensive business, and it must provide financial support as SMIC races to catch up on technology.

In the industrial space, global supply-chain disruption is already benefiting Chinese players. For instance, Sany Heavy Industry Co., China's largest excavator maker, has seen its domestic market share jump to 27% from 8% in 2010, at the expense of foreign brands, data provided by HSBC Holdings Plc show. No surprise, Sany's stock is up 24% this year, while Caterpillar Inc., whose mainland market share shrank to 11% from 14% in 2016, is down 13.5%. Jiangsu Hengli Hydraulic Co., a large manufacturer, tells a similar story. It's up 55% this year.

Washington's attempt to block mainland businesses' access to U.S. money — from the delisting of Chinese American depository receipts in New York, to forbidding federal pension funds from investing in mainland companies — is only forcing Beijing to speed up its capital markets reform. Regulators are already rewriting equity financing rules, including the launch of new registration-based IPOs, and opening new funding venues for young startups. As a result, we can expect China's stock market to grow to 100% of its gross domestic product in the next five to 10 years, from 60% now, estimates CICC Research.

When it comes to stock investing, China and the U.S. face the same set of problems. A slowing economy inevitably eats into corporate earnings growth, narrowing any justification for a further bull run.

But President Donald Trump is giving China's stock market a second wind. Huawei may prefer chips made by Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. — after the U.S. sanctions, though, it may have no choice but hold its nose and buy domestic. Meanwhile, industry consolidation, which benefits domestic firms, is only accelerating now that Beijing is openly supporting its national champions. Trump is always looking at the stock market for validation. This time, he's looking at the wrong one.

North Korea yesterday said it has no immediate intent to resume a dialogue with the United States as U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun arrived in South Korea for discussions on stalled nuclear diplomacy.

In a statement released through the North's official Korean Central News Agency, senior North Korean foreign ministry official Kwon Jong Gun also ridiculed "nonsensical" calls by South Korea for revived negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea, saying it has lost its relevance as a mediator.

The State Department said Biegun, who is also President Donald Trump's special representative for North Korea, will discuss cooperation on a range of issues in meetings this week with officials in South Korea and Japan, including the "final, fully verified denuclearization" of North Korea.

Kwon's statement came hours before Biegun arrived at a U.S. air base near Seoul. The U.S. Embassy said Biegun, members of his delegation and the military air crew were being tested for COVID-19 at the base and would proceed to Seoul after confirmation that all had negative test results.

COVID-19

TOM HANKS 'HAS NO RESPECT' FOR PEOPLE NOT WEARING MASKS

TOM Hanks, who recovered from Covid-19 earlier this year, has said he "has no respect" for people who decline to wear a mask in public during the pandemic, he told Associated Press.

The actor and his wife Rita Wilson tested positive for coronavirus while filming in Australia in March.

Many governments now recommend face coverings, but they are not mandatory in most places.

Hanks said: "I don't get it, I simply do not get it, it is literally the least you can do."

The actor was speaking to the Associated Press about face coverings while promoting his latest film.

"If anybody wants to build up an argument about doing the least they can do, I wouldn't trust them with a driver's license," he said.

"I mean, when you drive a car, you've got to obey speed limits, you've got to use your turn signals [indicators], you've got to avoid hitting pedestrians. If you can't do those three things, you shouldn't be driving a car.

"If you can't wear a mask and wash your



hands and social distance, I've got no respect for you, man. I don't buy your argument."

The refusal of some members of the public to wear masks is a particular issue in the US, which leads the world in coronavirus deaths and infections.

US President Donald Trump had previously voiced his opposition to them, but he changed his tone last week, telling Fox News he is "all for masks".

Hanks is a two-time Oscar winner, taking home the best actor prize for both Philadelphia and Forrest Gump in the 1990s.

His new film, Greyhound, was originally due to be released in cinemas but will now be screened on Apple TV instead.

Many cinemas around the world remain closed to slow the spread of infections amid the pandemic, but they are now allowed to open in the UK, BBC has reported.

"We are all heartbroken that this movie is not playing in cinemas," Hanks told AFP. "But with that removed as a possibility, we were left with this as a reality."

In another interview with Reuters, Hanks said Greyhound was made for "a big, massive, immersive experience that can really only come out when you're in a movie theatre with at least 100 other people".

But with the coronavirus pandemic, "we've got to roll with these punches" and put it online for home viewing, he said. MDT/AGENCIES



Australia's second-largest city of Melbourne has been ordered into lockdown for a second time as coronavirus cases surge. Victoria state Premier Daniel Andrews (pictured) told reporters that residents will be prohibited from leaving the metropolitan area for six weeks except to go to work or school, for care or care giving, for daily exercise, and for food and other essentials. He said 191 more cases have been detected, the most in a single day.



South Korea confirmed 44 new cases of the coronavirus, a continuation of an uptick in new infections beyond the greater Seoul area. The additional cases took the national tally to 13,181 with 285 deaths. It says 20 of the newly reported cases were locally infected patients, 12 of them in the Seoul metropolitan area and the rest eight from two central cities. The agency says 24 cases came from overseas.



Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro (pictured, left) says he has tested positive for COVID-19 after months of downplaying the virus' severity. Bolsonaro confirmed the test results while wearing a mask and speaking to reporters in the capital of Brasilia. "I'm well, normal. I even want to take a walk around here, but I can't due to medical recommendation," Bolsonaro said.

BUS IN ANSHUN CITY PLUNGES INTO A LAKE, KILLING 21

AUTHORITIES say 21 people were killed yesterday when a bus ran through a roadside fence and plunged into a lake in a southwestern Chinese city.

Surveillance video posted by state broadcaster CCTV on its social media account show the bus suddenly race across six lanes of traffic and through the fence. The cause of the accident was unclear.

The Anshun city government in Guizhou



province said in a statement that 15 people were rescued and sent to hospitals with injuries. The bus was hauled out of Hongshan Lake in a large

rescue operation.

The passengers included high school students taking nationwide university entrance exams that began yesterday.