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TOURISTS MAY GET A JOB IF THEY PLAN DIRECTLY WITH PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYERS, EXPLORING A LOOPHOLE IN THE NEW LAW P2

A 15-YEAR-OLD BOY HAS DIED IN MONGOLIA OF BUBONIC PLAGUE P12

GAMING: JAPAN LAWMAKER OF THE RULING LDP ADMITS SHENZHEN PROMOTER COVERED CHIPS IN MACAU P5

China is further easing restrictions on domestic tourism after reporting no new local cases of Covid-19 in nine days. Tourist sites could allow 50% of their daily visitor capacity, up from 30%, and that interprovince group tours can resume. The National Health Commission said six new cases were recorded Tuesday, all in people who had arrived from overseas. It has not reported any domestic cases since an outbreak in Beijing.



Philippines The number of travelers who entered and left the Philippines dropped 95% under its coronavirus quarantine. Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente predicted the travel slump would remain dire. “We do not foresee these statistics to rise in the near future while the entire world is still fighting to defeat this coronavirus,” Morente said. The government was forced to ease a lockdown in Manila and quarantine restrictions elsewhere last month to reopen the faltering economy.



New Zealand Jacinda Ardern (pictured) outlined her government plans to contain future community outbreaks in the South Pacific nation that has not recorded a locally spread case in 75 days. Its two new cases recorded yesterday and all 27 of its active cases are people quarantined after foreign travel. Ardern said a system of local or regional lockdowns would be used and a national lockdown would be a last resort. Local lockdowns might involve buildings, suburbs or a city.

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COVID-19 TEST ON CASINO WORKERS EXPECTED FROM TODAY

The Covid-19 nucleic acid test for frontline casino workers will roll out gradually from today, the government says

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MACAU UNIVERSITY STUDENT DROWNS IN TAIWAN

ANTHONY LAM

A university student from Macau who studied in Taiwan drowned near a waterfall on the island, Taiwanese media reported.

The 22-year-old male student of Pingtung University of Science and Technology, surnamed Chao, was on a countryside tour with a fellow student of Indonesian nationality.

At the time of his rescue from the water, Chao was in cardiac arrest, meaning that his cardiac mechanical activity had ceased, and signs of circulation were absent.

According to Taiwanese media reports, the rescue team was fast in pinpointing Chao's location and rescued



COURTESY LIBERTY TIMES

him just as quickly. Nonetheless, emergency help proved futile.

On Tuesday afternoon, with

facsimile confirmation from Chao's parents in Macau, the medical team detached Chao from life support facilities

and declared him dead.

The Higher Education Bureau of Macau expressed its condolences to Chao's family.

The bureau revealed that it has obtained a notice from the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office in Macau about the accident.

As follow-up action, the bureau immediately contacted Caritas Macau to assist the family of the student, who will travel to Taiwan. The Social Welfare Bureau has also been notified to provide necessary help.

The accident happened as the two students were playing in the water at the Wutan Waterfall in the island's Taiwu Town, Pingtung County.

The Indonesian student said that he did not know Chao could not swim.

The waterfall is the source of the Wutan Stream, where the water can become deep during rainy seasons.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, stricter border control measures, such as mandatory quarantine, are in place in most places in the world. As such, Macau students who study in Taiwan are spending their summer on the island.

The island has a richer rural environment compared with Macau, therefore Macau students should be more vigilant when undertaking activities across the landscape, the head of a Macau-Taiwan teenage association said.

The association head reminds Macau students not to play in the water marked with "no swimming" and "deep water" signs or water that looks unclear. Students should also be vigilant against sudden changes of weather or the risk of landslide. Furthermore, watery areas are slippery and winding, so it is best to follow certified personnel.

Job agency association addresses new law loophole

TOURISTS may still get a job if they make arrangements directly with their prospective employers under a new employment law, the Association of Macau Philippines Employment Agencies (AMPEA) has pointed out in a statement.

On June 23, the parliament of the city, the Legislative Assembly, passed an amendment to the previous version of the Law on Non-resident Worker Employment, of which the first edition was enacted in 2009.

The new law, meanwhile, was officially published by the government on July 6 and will be enacted 90 days after that, on October 3.

Under the new provisions, non-residents who want to come to Macau for work purposes should secure a work visa prior to the commencement of their journey. In other words, they will not be allowed to enter Macau as tourists and acquire a non-resident worker permit during their stay in Macau.



BLOOMBERG

However, the association pointed out that there is a loophole. They can utilize a grey area in the law and wait for a job confirmation and other required documentation in neighboring cities, such as Hong Kong or Zhuhai.

Therefore, the association recommends that the government set a three-month minimum gap between leaving Macau as a tourist and returning under a non-resident worker permit.

Meanwhile, the association also considers the new law insufficient to eradicate non-

-residents trying to get a job directly from people who are hiring. In its opinion, the stipulation is actually hurting the interests of lawful job agencies because they can no longer register for or enlist tourists.

During the discussions-in-detail on the law review, the committee responsible disclosed that at least three private entities have submitted petitions to express their opinions on the matter. Head of the committee, Vong Hin Fai, has stated that the government will arrange meetings with the entities. AL

TERRIFIC 12 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT NOW CANCELED

RENATO MARQUES

THE 2020 edition of the Terrific 12 basketball tournament has been canceled, Chinese news agency Xinhua reported.

The event, scheduled to be held in Macau this September, was earlier reported to have been moved forward despite the Covid-19 restrictions. However, it has now been canceled because of existing travel restrictions, according to Xinhua.

The Terrific 12 has been running since 2018 in a six-day long format, featuring three teams from each of the four participating leagues.

Last year's edition reportedly drew the attention of 117 million viewers over the different broad-

casting channels. The figure was an enormous increase from the first edition held in 2018 that registered 21 million viewers.

The event cancellation is a blow to basketball fans in Macau and also for the local government that co-organized the tournament and had earlier announced an ambitious plan to hold at least one major international sporting event per month during the second half of this year.

Meanwhile, event organizer East Asia Super League (EASL) has released two new digital series about basketball, named "BALLERIFIC" and "Fresh in Macau."

They comprise a total of eight episodes that have been seen by over 7 million people in

the first month after launch, proving incredibly popular on social media platforms such as IGTV and Facebook.

The series, released on a weekly basis, show 15-minute long highlights featuring top players and key opinion leaders (Ballerific) as well as footage of top players training and roaming around Macau captured during last year's event (Fresh in Macau).

The decision to cancel this year's edition of the tournament comes after the decision from the central government not to stage any international sports events this year, apart from the trials for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games scheduled for the city of Beijing and the nearby city of Zhangjiakou.

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Covid-19 tests for casino workers to roll out starting today



ANTHONY LAM

THE Covid-19 nucleic acid testing for frontline casino workers will likely roll out gradually from today, Dr Leong Iek Hou, coordinator at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, disclosed.

"Testing is expected to start July 16 at the earliest," Leong told yesterday's Covid-19 press conference. "The government and casino operators are in close discussions to ensure work rolls out in an orderly fashion."

She added that the two parties will evaluate the number of workers at each casino operator and deploy teams to collect samples accordingly. "Work will be done in an orderly way," she reiterated.

As the number of frontline casino workers is considerable, testing can only be carried out in phases. Following effective requirements and measures, untested

staff will still be allowed to work. They will be updated on the time of their tests.

The Covid-19 nucleic acid test is now required for anybody who wants to enter a casino. A negative result is required alongside a green Macau health code.

However, non-Chinese Macau ID holders have been having difficulties booking tests because the Home Visiting Permit, more commonly known as the home-going card, has been required as part of the booking form.

Leong referred to the field concerned on the booking form and pointed out that an alternative option has been provided. "Under the concerned field, there is a note that reminds people without a home-going card to type in a code," the medical doctor pointed out. According to Leong, the code is "M99999999", or "M" followed by eight "9"s.

She explained that the field was included because the platform

was initially set up to cater to cross-border travelers. Their test result has to be linked to the Guangdong health code platform with their home-going card number.

The medical director of the public Conde São Januário Hospital, Dr Alvis Lo, added that the Social Welfare Bureau is offering help to people who have difficulties signing up for the test.

Finally, Leong reminded staff working in the catering and retail industries to wear a mask during their work period. This is to protect them from potential risks, as their duties require them to face customers, especially as an increase in tourist arrivals is expected due to the relaxed border control measures.

From 6 a.m., when the border control restrictions were relaxed, until 4 p.m. yesterday, the four border checkpoints connecting with Zhuhai saw about 1,600 visitor arrivals. Compared with same period Tuesday, it was about a

60% increase, the Public Security Police Force announced.

When questioned on the matter, the police expressed their confidence in maintaining order and security in the city amid anticipated increases in visitor arrivals to Macau.

To embrace the new quarantine-free reciprocal measures between Macau and Guangdong, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will soon resume advertising and promotions in the province to attract tourists to Macau. The main focus will be on Guangdong Province for the time being, the MGTO added.

On the other hand, with regards to the inquiry into the possible extension of the special ferry service to and from the Hong Kong International Airport, the MGTO put off any anticipation and proposed that people can consider taking transit flights so that they can depart from or arrive in Macau directly.

TELEMARKETER FINED FOR DATA PRIVACY BREACHES

A company named Hoi Sheung Sociedade Unipessoal Limitada has been fined 1.08 million patacas by the personal data watchdog for data privacy breaches that occurred during its telemarketing activities. The Office for Personal Data Protection recorded a total of 26 law infractions which were said to have been committed by Hoi Sheung, including failing to obtain consent from the people targeted by the telemarketing campaign. The Times has learned of a growing number of telemarketing calls from beauty salons in the last few weeks. According to the Office for Personal Data Protection, there are several other cases with similar details still under investigation.

GOV'T SPENDS 1 BILLION PATACAS ON RESEARCH OVER 5 YEARS

In reply to lawmaker Pereira Coutinho's inquiry, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau disclosed that between 2015 and 2019, the government spent nearly MOP1 billion on commissioning private entities and universities – public or private – to conduct research or survey, and to provide consultative services. Transparency has been an issue, however, as only 12% of all commissioned projects were published or announced on government websites. It means that the general public did not have access to the remaining majority of projects. In addition, the extent to which these projects were useful in public administration is still unknown or undisclosed.

LAWMAKER CALLS FOR CRIMINALIZATION OF SHAM MARRIAGES

The crime of sham marriage has been on the rise in previous years, with more cases being disclosed by the law-enforcement authorities. However, the city has no specified law to guard against these kinds of acts. In response to the situation, a functional constituency lawmaker, Chan Hong, is urging the government to specifically criminalize the act by making a law against it. The lawmaker considers that due to the secrecy of the act and the absence of a specific law, it has been difficult for the police to conduct investigations. The administration proposed to specifically criminalize the act in 2018. Since no update has been given since that time, the lawmaker has inquired with the government as to its progress on the legislation.

HONG Kong ordered gyms and bars to close for a week, restored strict limits on public gatherings and introduced fines for anyone refusing to wear a mask on public transport in a fresh bid to prevent the resurgent coronavirus from spiraling out of control.

The tougher measures that took effect yesterday include drastically limiting the number of people gathering in public back to four. The limit had just been raised to 50 in mid-June.

Virus rules return in Hong Kong

Among other measures: Hong Kong will require inbound travelers who have been to high-risk regions in the last 14 days to pass a virus test before boarding their flights; restaurants will be allowed to offer only takeout from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m.; and the number of patrons at a table at other times is limited to four. Amusement parks, gyms and 10 other types of venues are to close for

seven days. Lam said the city will allow civil servants flexibility on working hours, and urged companies to let staff work from home.

People who refuse to wear a mask on public transport face a potential HKD5,000 (\$645) fine.

As part of the clampdown, Hong Kong Disneyland will close on July 15. Hotels serving the resort will remain open, Walt Disney Co.

said in a statement.

"They have put in place enhanced health and safety measures that reflect the guidance of health and government authorities, such as social-distancing measures and increased cleaning and sanitization," the company said.

Hong Kong reported 48 local coronavirus cases on Tuesday, another record daily high as the resurgence of infections looks set to

grow into the city's biggest wave yet. That brought the total to 1,570 cases in a city of more than 7 million people.

The significant proportion of cases with unknown origins over the past few days suggests that hidden chains of transmission have been circulating in the Asian financial hub for some time as people returned to work and social activities. **DB/AGENCIES**

INT'L CULTURE, FOOD FESTIVAL OPENS REGISTRATION FOR 100 BOOTHS

LYNZY VALLES

THE 11th edition of the International Culture and Food Festival will be held from September 25 to October 4 at the Macau Fisherman's Wharf, featuring a total of 100 booths. The booths are now open for registration.

The event is themed "Celebrating the Festival and Relaunching the Economy" as it coincides with China's National Day on October 1.

Hoping to provide a platform for SMEs to showcase their products, the festival will include booths presenting catering, retail and tourism products among others.

This year the festival has cooperated with banks and multiple payment platforms including Macau Pay, Mpay, Alipay, WeChat and others to provide discounts for participants' transactions.

Ip Weng Fat, chairman of the organizing committee and the director general of Macau Association of Retailers & Tourism Services, believes that by the time the festival is held, there will be more



Ip Weng Fat, chairman of the festival's organizing committee

visitors coming in, which could lead to more attendance at the festival.

"There are still few months to go so I believe that there will be more visitors from different places that can enter Macau by that time. I think the travel restrictions will be gradually released," Ip told the press on the sidelines of the event.

Until August 14, the festival is

calling on local SMEs to register for the event.

Last year, the event attracted 115 exhibitors, however, it has slightly lowered its expectations this time.

Ip said the committee expects that there will be around 100 exhibitors this edition, as it is more difficult to find exhibitors since they need to manage both the store and booth, and many SMEs are

operating on reduced manpower.

He added that some migrant workers from SMEs are already not working for these companies, making it a challenge for local firms to operate with adequate resources.

Meanwhile, asked about his expectations after the relaxation of the 14-day quarantine required for those entering Guangdong province via Zhuhai, Ip said that

the measure would not yet have a significant effect on Macau.

"The Macau government has been doing a lot to coordinate with Guangdong Province but I believe the lifting of the quarantine measure won't have a great effect in Macau in the short term, since tourists will also need Individual Visit Scheme [visas] in order to visit Macau," Ip explained.

Ip also reiterated that the volume of business in the upcoming months would not be as good as last year.

"We consider that the situation won't be the same as the past. [Guangdong borders] have reopened and we hope that the industries will not continually lose too much money," said Ip.

Ip further explained that the economic situation of the city also depends on the situation in mainland China. Both regions are holding out for economic recovery, especially now that the pandemic has stabilized in the two regions.

With the easing of the entry restrictions, Ip believes that SMEs will no longer need the government to support them, referencing the financial measures that the government rolled out during the peak of the pandemic to assist local firms, including the distribution of a total of 8,000 patacas in e-vouchers to each resident.

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CRIME

Dinner among friends ends in rape report

RENATO MARQUES

A home dinner among friends ended badly when the property owner accused her guest of raping her, a Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson revealed during yesterday's joint press conference.

The case occurred last Friday when a local couple hosted a guest for dinner at their house.

After dinner, during which the victim said they all had a lot of wine, the husband fell into a deep sleep in the living room.

At that time, the woman in her twenties went to the couple's bedroom to check on their child, who had been sleeping there.

According to her testimony, the guest, a 38-year-old male resident, appeared in the room and started to touch her body and eventually forced her into sexual intercourse.

The woman says she did not consent to the actions of the man, although she told the PJ that she did not offer any resistance to the man because she was afraid that he would harm the child that was sleeping next to her.

The next day, she told her husband what had happened and they filed a complaint with the PJ, who started to investigate the case and search for the suspect.

The suspect, who was found on the same day, denied the accusations of rape but the PJ spokesperson said that the police believes there is strong evidence against him, as the house had several surveillance cameras installed to check on the baby. In the footage taken from those cameras, it is possible to see that before that moment in which the woman claims that the rape occurred, the suspect had purposely turned the cameras to face different directions, allegedly so his actions would not be recorded.

He was presented to the Public Prosecutions Office on July 11.

In a separate case also reported by the PJ at the same press conference, the police force reported a case of breach of trust by a human resources recruitment agent.

The case was uncovered after a contractor received a report that 13 workers who had been hired to work at his construction site had filed a complaint with the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) claiming that they had outstanding wages from their work.

Questioned by the DSAL, the man claimed to have paid all the salaries through a recruitment agent, a 52-year old woman named Wu, stating that he had given to the agent a total of MOP85,610 for the purpose.

The case was then transferred to the PJ, who began the investigation and the search for Wu.

When finally caught by the police, on July 13, she admitted to having received the money from the contractor and failing to pay the salaries of the workers, explaining that she had spent all the money on personal expenses and gambling activities.

In another case reported by the PJ, a local woman claimed to have been swindled out of RMB36,660 in an online-scam.

The woman reported that she had met purported U.S. soldier online, with whom she had been conversing for a while.

One day the man told her that was sending her a parcel containing the amount of USD200,000 that he could not keep at his place for security reasons.

To receive the parcel on his behalf the woman would have to pay only for the freight and some taxes.

She agreed and proceeded to transfer money to accounts indicated by the man on three occasions.

After sending the money, she said she immediately lost contact with the man and that she also never received any parcel, leading her to believe she had been involved in a scam.

ALICE PASQUA



GAMING

Japan lawmaker admits Shenzhen promoter covered chips in Macau

DANIEL BEITLER

A second member of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to become embroiled in an alleged bribery scandal has admitted to receiving cash and favors from a Shenzhen-based online gambling promoter called 500.com.

According to the Japan Times, lawmaker Takaki Shirasuka confessed to having received 1 million yen

(74,000 patacas) from the Chinese gambling promoter said to be interested in joining Japan's nascent casino market.

Shirasuka visited the headquarters of Chinese company 500.com Ltd. in Shenzhen and a casino in Macau in 2017, accompanied by then fellow LDP lawmaker Tsukasa Akimoto, 48, who was later indicted on bribery charges. 500.com is said to have also covered his gambling chips

while in the Macau SAR.

Citing unnamed sources, the Japan Times said that prosecutors will not build a bribery case against Shirasuka "as the 45-year-old, who was a member of a cross-party group of lawmakers promoting casino resort projects, had no authority over the matter [of deciding which companies would be offered casino licenses]."

The lawmaker's office said on Tuesday that Shi-

rasuka had "cooperated sincerely with investigators and explained during his interviews with them that none of his actions constitute anything illegal."

Japan's parliament passed the controversial Integrated Resorts Implementation Bill into law two years ago, opening the door for casino investors to a lucrative market worth an estimated \$25 billion annually. The government hopes that inte-

grated resorts can attract more foreign tourists to invigorate the economy after the now-postponed 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

However, according to Bloomberg, the recent scandal involving the Shenzhen promoter has dealt a blow to the already unpopular plans to open the country to gambling.

The market has long drawn the interest of overseas casino investors, including, at one time, all six Macau concessionaires or their parent companies.

However, some of that initial enthusiasm is now wearing off. A growing number of casino executives say that the process in

Japan has been more difficult compared with other markets that have built gaming industries.

In May, Las Vegas Sands dropped its pursuit of a license in Japan, citing the proposed 10-year concession term as one of the biggest stumbling blocks.

MGM Resorts International is the favorite to win a license in Osaka after Malaysian tourism giant Genting Bhd and Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. dropped out of the race for Japan's second city. Genting and Galaxy have said they are still interested in a location elsewhere in Japan, as are Wynn Resorts and Melco Resorts & Entertainment.

Lebanon looks to China as US, Arabs refuse to help in crisis

BASSEM MROUE, BEIRUT

FACING a worsening economic crisis and with little chance of Western or oil-rich Arab countries providing assistance without substantial reforms, Lebanon's cash-strapped government is looking east, hoping to secure investments from China that could bring relief.

But help from Beijing risks alienating the United States, which has suggested such a move could come at the cost of Lebanese-U.S. ties.

A tiny nation of 5 million on a strategic Mediterranean crossroads between Asia and Europe, Lebanon has long been a site where rivalries between Iran and Saudi Arabia have played out. Now, it's becoming a focus of escalating tensions between China and the West.

In recent months, the Lebanese pound has lost around 80% of its value against the dollar, prices have soared uncontrollably, and much of its middle class has been plunged into poverty. Talks with the International Monetary Fund for a bailout have faltered, and international donors have refused to unlock \$11 billion pledged in 2018, pending major economic reforms and anti-corruption measures.

Left with few choices, Prime Minister Hassan Diab's government — supported by the Iran-backed Hezbollah and its allies — is seeking help from China, an approach that the Shiite militant group strongly supports.

He is walking a tightrope. "Our move toward China is very serious but we are not turning our back to the West," a ministerial official told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to talk to the media. "We are passing through extraordinary circumstances and we welcome whoever is going to assist us."

He said China has offered to help end Lebanon's decades-long



Violent anti-government protests occurred in Beirut, Lebanon, in June

electrical power crisis through its state companies, an offer the government is considering.

In addition, Beijing has offered to build power stations, a tunnel that cuts through the mountains to shorten the trip between Beirut and the eastern Bekaa Valley, and a railway along Lebanon's coast, according to the official and an economist.

The U.S., which has historic relations with Lebanon and is a strong backer of its army, said such a move could come at the expense of Beirut's relations with Washington.

The China overtures come at a time when Hezbollah and its allies are increasingly portraying the crisis in Lebanon, which stems from decades of corruption and mismanagement, as one fomented by the U.S. administration. They accuse the U.S. of imposing an informal "financial siege" on Lebanon, partly to put pressure on Hezbollah which Washington and its Gulf Arab allies consider a terrorist organization.

"We know well that there is a big decision to besiege the country. They are preventing any assistance

to Lebanon," Diab told a July 2 government meeting, according to his office.

Diab said, without naming any country, that "they are preventing transfers to the country and blocking credit lines to import fuel, diesel, medicine and flour to cut the electricity, starve the Lebanese and make them die without medicine."

"Trying to blame Lebanon's economic crisis on U.S. sanctions is misguided and false," U.S. State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus said in response to the accusations.

Earlier this month, Diab received

"Our move toward China is very serious but we are not turning our back to the West."

LEBANESE OFFICIAL

China's ambassador to Lebanon, Wang Kejian, after which Lebanon's industry minister was asked to follow up on possibilities of cooperation. Kejian declined to comment.

Hezbollah has advocated for a bigger role for China and other allies in Lebanon. The group had opposed an IMF program to get Lebanon out of its crisis, fearing it would come with political conditions. But it begrudgingly accepted that Lebanon engage in the negotiations as long as the IMF didn't dictate policy.

Seventeen rounds of talks between the government and the IMF since mid-May have failed to make any progress.

A person familiar with the discussions said it was not an "either-or" choice between China and the IMF, adding that the talks with the IMF are about covering the immediate fiscal deficit, injecting dollars and developing a framework for structural reform, while the discussions with Beijing are about infrastructure projects. The person spoke on condition of anonymity in order to describe the negotiations.

Lebanon defaulted on its sovereign debt in March, and economist Hasan Moukalled said most Western companies will be reluctant to invest there as long as the country does not reach a deal

with the IMF. This is what makes Chinese companies different, he said.

Moukalled, who visited China several times in 2018 and 2019, said the projects that China has offered to work on are worth \$12.5 billion.

The investments can be mutually beneficial. China can gain from close relations with Lebanon, with the country serving as a launch pad for the reconstruction of neighboring Syria, another Beijing ally.

Lebanon's northern port of Tripoli has been expanded in recent years and could be a terminal in China's trillion-dollar "Silk Road" project that's carving a trade route from east Asia to Europe.

Iran has also offered to sell Lebanon oil for Lebanese pounds, but officials in Beirut have been concerned about deals with Tehran because of Western sanctions. The government is in talks with Iraq's government, which is offering to give fuel to Lebanon in return for agricultural products.

"We understand Lebanon is in desperate need for an infusion of cash. They need investors," U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Dorothy Shea told Saudi-owned TV station Al-Hadath. After Lebanon's default in March, "investors are not lining up at the door."

Some people have talked about Lebanon turning east "as if that's the answer to all of Lebanon's economic woes," she said, warning that Chinese investments might come "at the expense of the country's prosperity, stability or fiscal viability, or, of course, on the long-standing relations with the United States."

Russian Ambassador Alexander Zasyupkin told the daily al-Joumhouria that Russia, China, Syria, Iran and Iraq can help Lebanon. He added that when the West refused, "the alternative to look east became more persistent."

During a visit to Lebanon last week, Gen. Kenneth McKenzie, head of the U.S. Central Command, was asked about Lebanon and other regional countries looking to China for resources and financing.

"You get what you pay for. That's all I have to say," McKenzie said. **AP**

Beijing says progress made in latest border talks with Delhi

CHINA and India made progress in their latest talks on a long-running border dispute that turned deadly last month, a Chinese spokesperson said yesterday.

Top commanders from the two sides held their fourth round of talks on Tuesday, a month after the deadly clash between their soldiers in the Galwan

Valley, where India is building a strategic road connecting the region to an airstrip close to China.

India says that 20 of its soldiers were killed in the June 15 clash and that there were casualties among the Chinese as well. China hasn't confirmed any casualties on its side.

"The two sides have made positive progress on

pushing forward the disengagement of the front-line troops on the western section of the border and easing the border tension," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said at a daily briefing on Wednesday.

Hua called for concrete actions by India to implement the consensus the two countries have

reached and jointly safeguard peace and tranquility along the border.

There was no immediate comment by India's defense ministry or the army.

Last week, India's India's external affairs minister, Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, said Indian and Chinese troops were disengaging from the

standoff along the countries' undemarcated border.

It's very much a work in progress, Jaishankar said, adding that both sides agreed on the need to disengage because troops are deployed very close to each other.

The disputed border, known as the Line of Actual Control, covers about

3,500 kilometers (2,175 miles) of frontier and stretches from Ladakh in the north to the Indian state of Sikkim in the northeast.

India and China fought a border war in 1962 that also spilled into Ladakh. The two countries have been trying to settle their border dispute since the early 1990s, without success. **AP**

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

HONG KONG

YOUNG activists and localist candidates dominated Hong Kong's unofficial pro-democracy primaries over the weekend, with hundreds of thousands of people voting despite warnings the election could violate the territory's new security law imposed by Beijing.

Candidates who topped the polls were in their 40s or younger in every constituency and included prominent pro-democracy activists Joshua Wong and Jimmy Sham, who helped organize many of last year's anti-government protests that had alarmed the central government in Beijing.

Incumbent lawmakers such as Ted Hui and Eddie Chu, known for their vocal and outspoken criticism in legislative meetings, also took top spots.

The polls were held to whittle the pro-democracy camp's candidates to field a unified slate in a legislative election in September in hopes of achieving a "35-plus" majority in the 70-seat legislature.

The pro-democracy camp has pledged to vote down the budget if they attain majority. Under Hong Kong's mini-constitution, known as the Basic Law, the city's leader – currently Carrie Lam – must resign if an important bill such as the budget is vetoed twice.

"The victory of movement activists in the primary implies the continuation of the spirit of our resistance against China's growing curbs over the city's freedoms," Wong wrote in a Facebook post earlier this week.

"In the eyes of voters, candidates' spirit of resistance overrides other traditional elements like

Young activists, localists top pro-democracy primaries



policy platforms, academic and professional backgrounds," he said.

Lam on Monday warned organizers and candidates of the primary that the event could be considered subversive under the city's tough new national security law if the objective is to resist every policy initiative of the government.

The sweeping law Beijing enacted on June 30 in response to last year's often violent protests calling for greater democracy and

police accountability outlaws secessionist, subversive and terrorist activities, as well as collusion with foreign forces to intervene in the city's affairs. The maximum punishment for serious offenders is life imprisonment.

"I am not saying it has breached it, but I have to put forward a warning that if that's going to be proven to be the case, then it's certainly a case to be answered," Lam said.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo congratulated the pro-

-democracy camp on their "successful" primary election, saying that the 600,000 Hong Kongers who voted have "demonstrated their desire to make their voices heard."

He also said that the U.S. will monitor developments closely as the legislative elections in September draw near.

"We note with grave concern Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam's threat that this primary may have violated Beijing's new 'national security' law for the ter-

ritory, once again demonstrating the Chinese Communist Party's fear of democracy and its own people's free thinking," he said.

Beijing's Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office said the primary "blatantly challenges" the Basic Law. It also said it violated the national security law, singling out the organizer Benny Tai and accusing him of subversive activities and advocating for the independence of Hong Kong.

Beijing's liaison office in Hong Kong also accused the organizers of planning the event "with the support of foreign forces," and said that the primaries collected a large amount of personal information from the people and may violate privacy regulations.

Yesterday, one of the organizers, former lawmaker Au Nok-hin, ended his association with the primary election and said in a statement posted on Facebook that he is withdrawing "due to the accusation from the Liaison Office and Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office recently."

He said that even though the pro-democracy camp had emphasized repeatedly that the primary election was legal, there have been accusations otherwise, which has created a "risk of personal safety."

"It is a hard decision ... I hope everyone could understand my limitations," he said, apologizing for his withdrawal. AP

China accuses Britain of helping Washington hurt Huawei

CHINA accused Britain yesterday of colluding with Washington to hurt Huawei after the Chinese tech giant was blocked from working on a British next-generation mobile phone network.

A government spokesman said Beijing will protect Chinese companies but gave no indication of possible retaliation.

Washington accuses Huawei Technologies Ltd., the biggest maker of switching gear for phone and internet companies, of being a security risk, which the Chinese company denies. The Trump administration wants European and other allies to exclude Huawei as they upgrade to fifth-generation, or 5G, networks.

On Tuesday, the British government announced Huawei would be excluded from work on the network because U.S. sanctions made it impossible to ensure the security of Chinese-supplied equipment.

"Without any concrete evidence, the United Kingdom took unfounded risks as an excuse and cooperated with the United States to discriminate, suppress and exclude Chinese companies," said the foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying.

Washington last year imposed curbs on Huawei's access to American components and other technology. In May, the Trump administration tightened controls by blocking non-U.S. companies from

using American technology to produce processor chips and other components for Huawei without Washington's approval.

Chinese officials accuse Washington of misusing national security concerns to block a rising competitor to U.S. tech suppliers.

"China will fully and seriously evaluate this incident and take all measures to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese enterprises," said Hua.

Huawei is at the center of U.S.-Chinese conflicts over technology development and possible spying. The company's chief financial officer is under house arrest in Canada and fighting extradition to the United States to face charges rela-



ted to possible violations of trade sanctions on Iran.

Hua said Beijing would warn Chinese companies "to attach great importance to the increasing political security risks" they face in Britain.

On Tuesday, Huawei reported its revenue grew 13.1% in the first half of 2020 compared with a year earlier despite U.S. pressure

and the coronavirus pandemic.

Huawei is, along with Nokia Corp. of Finland and Sweden's LM Ericsson, a leader in development of fifth-generation technology.

5G is meant to expand networks to support self-driving cars, remote surgery and other futuristic applications. That makes

the technology more intrusive and sensitive politically.

U.S. officials have suggested Washington might provide financing so that other countries can buy Nokia or Ericsson technology instead of Huawei's lower-priced gear.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government agreed in January to allow Huawei to supply some equipment for the 5G network while it would be barred from providing core components.

London reversed course after the Trump administration threatened to end an intelligence-sharing agreement due to concern Huawei's involvement might allow Beijing to infiltrate British networks. AP

AP PHOTO



First Covid-19 vaccine tested in US poised for final testing

LAURAN NEERGAARD, AP MEDICAL WRITER

THE first COVID-19 vaccine tested in the U.S. revved up people's immune systems just the way scientists had hoped, researchers reported yesterday [Macau time] -- as the shots are poised to begin key final testing.

"No matter how you slice this, this is good news," Dr. Anthony Fauci, the U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, told The Associated Press.

The experimental vaccine, developed by Fauci's colleagues at the National Institutes of Health and Moderna Inc., will start its most important step around July 27: A 30,000-person study to prove if the shots really are strong enough to protect against the coronavirus.

But researchers reported anxiously awaited findings from the first 45 volunteers who rolled up their sleeves back in March. Sure enough, the vaccine provided a hoped-for immune boost.

Those early volunteers developed what are called neutralizing antibodies in their bloodstream -- molecules key to blocking infection -- at levels comparable to those found in people who survived COVID-19, the research team reported in the New England Journal of Medicine.

"This is an essential building block that is needed to move forward with the trials that could actually determine whether the vaccine does protect against infection," said Dr. Lisa Jackson of the Kaiser Permanente Washington Research Institute in Seattle, who led the study.

There's no guarantee but the government hopes to have results around the end of the year -- record-setting speed for developing a vaccine.

The vaccine requires two doses, a month apart.

There were no serious side effects. But more than half the study participants reported flu-like reactions to the shots that aren't uncommon with other vaccines -- fatigue, headache, chills, fever and pain at the injection site. For three participants given the highest dose, those reactions were more severe; that dose isn't being pursued.

Some of those reactions are similar to coronavirus symptoms but they're temporary, lasting about a day and occur right after vaccination, researchers noted.

"Small price to pay for protection against COVID," said Dr. William Schaffner of Vanderbilt University Medical Center, a vaccine expert who wasn't involved with the study.

He called the early results "a good first step," and is optimistic that final testing could deliver answers about whether it's really safe and effective by the beginning of next year.

"It would be wonderful. But that assumes everything's working right on schedule," Schaffner cautioned.

Moderna's share price jumped nearly 15 percent in trading after U.S. markets closed. Shares of the company, based in Cambridge, Massachusetts, have nearly quadrupled this year.

Tuesday's results only included younger adults. The

first-step testing later was expanded to include dozens of older adults, the age group most at risk from COVID-19. Those results aren't public yet but regulators are evaluating them. Fauci said final testing will include older adults, as well as people with chronic health conditions that make them more vulnerable to the virus -- and Black and Latino populations likewise affected.

Nearly two dozen possible COVID-19 vaccines are in various stages of testing around the world. Candidates from China and Britain's Oxford University also are entering final testing stages.

The 30,000-person study will mark the world's largest study of a potential COVID-19 vaccine so far. And the NIH-developed shot isn't the only one set for such massive U.S. testing, crucial to spot rare side effects. The government plans similar large studies of the Oxford candidate and another by Johnson & Johnson; separately, Pfizer Inc. is planning its own huge study.

Already, people can start signing up to volunteer for the different studies.

People think "this is a race for one winner. Me, I'm cheering every one of them on," said Fauci, who directs NIH's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.

"We need multiple vaccines. We need vaccines for the world, not only for our own country."

Around the world, governments are investing in stockpiles of hundreds of millions of doses of the different candidates, in hopes of speedily starting inoculations if any are proven to work. AP

this day in history



1969 APOLLO 11 TAKES OFF FOR THE MOON

The Apollo 11 space rocket has taken off successfully from Cape Kennedy, Florida, at the start of the first attempt to land a man on the Moon.

An estimated one million people gathered from all over the state to see the giant Saturn 5 booster rocket blast off.

The launch was on schedule, at 1432 BST (1332 GMT).

Nine seconds before lift-off, the rocket's five engines ignited, sending a sheet of flame over the launch pad and about 20 acres of the surrounding marshland.

Then with an immense roar, the booster rocket took off into the sky, taking Apollo 11 and the hopes of the world with it.

It is the first time human beings have attempted to land on another heavenly body.

Almost 12 minutes later, Apollo 11 went into orbit around the Earth.

On board are three astronauts, Neil Armstrong, Michael Collins, and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. All have already flown in space during the Gemini manned space missions, and have been intensively training as a team for many months.

They carry with them goodwill messages from the heads of the member states of the United Nations and their flags.

Two hours and 44 minutes after take-off, the engine of the third-stage booster was fired for five minutes and 47 seconds, and the speed increased to 24,545mph (39,500 km/h) to take the astronauts out of orbit and shoot them off to the Moon.

Neil Armstrong, the flight's commander, reported: "We have no complaint with any of the three stages on that ride. It was beautiful."

The launch was watched by US Vice-President Spiro Agnew, who said it marked a "new era of civilisation".

"With the lift-off of Apollo 11, America enters a new age of discovery," he said.

Apollo 11 is scheduled to touch down on the Moon on Sunday 20 July if all goes well.

Speaking at a news conference before the launch, Neil Armstrong said the landing on the Moon and the take-off from it were "the big unknowns".

The lunar module, known as Eagle, is scheduled to land on the Moon at 2100 BST (2000 GMT).

Courtesy BBC News

WORLD MARKETS MOSTLY HIGHER ON HOPES FOR CORONAVIRUS SHOT

SHARES advanced in global markets yesterday as investors took heart from news that an experimental COVID-19 vaccine had revved up people's immune systems just as desired.

Benchmarks rose in Paris, Frankfurt and Tokyo and U.S. futures also saw solid gains.

Upbeat corporate earnings were helping support markets. "But the cherry on top has to be the positive virus vaccine update as optimism on the vaccine is more than a show stopper. Its the ultimate recession stopper." Stephen Innes of AxiCorp said in a commentary. "The positive coverage on a potential Covid-19 vaccine represents a rotating carousel of positive news that is over-

whelming rising virus cases in the U.S.," he said. Germany's DAX climbed 0.9% to 12,811.26 while the CAC 40 in Paris advanced 1.1% to 5,060.96. Britain's FTSE 100 picked up 0.6% to 6,219.06. The future for the S&P 500 gained 0.8% while that for the Dow industrials rose 1%. News about the vaccine came after the end of trading for U.S. markets on Tuesday. Tokyo's Nikkei 225 advanced 1.6% to 22,945.50 after the Bank of Japan kept its ultra-easy monetary stance unchanged as it wrapped up a policy meeting. It forecast that the economy would improve later in the year, assuming there is no major "second wave" of outbreaks of the new coronavirus.

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Negative energy has been growing in your circle, and today it will still be unclear as to what you can do to fix it. You need to stop examining the tension so closely and try to put it out of your mind.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
It certainly won't be difficult for you to make new contacts today! Your values are shared by most of the people you'll be dealing with, and there is a strong harmonious energy around you.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
To show doubt is to start a domino effect that would only create more issues. Changing your mind over and over again is a bad idea, and it could really negatively affect your reputation.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
You are likely to spend a lot of time today daydreaming about the future, but it will be time well spent! It's never too early to make a plan, especially one that you think could help you achieve a major goal.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Be a little bit more tight-lipped when you're brainstorming today, and hold your cards a little bit closer to your chest. Let the plotters find out what you're planning when everyone else does.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
The relationship you've been building with one of your friends is getting so intense right now that people are starting to think that you're twins joined at the hip!

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Are you getting the distinct impression that someone at work thinks that you're a pushover? Today, give them a surprise and show them that you know how to stick to your guns and get the job done!

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
As long as you're not hurting anyone's feelings or doing damage to someone's belongings, you've got a green light for fun times. You have a few friends who would love to get in on the good times, too.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
For a while now, you've been overthinking things a bit too much, and this has been keeping you from moving forward. Stop worrying whether or not you'll fall on your face. Just move forward!

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Whether they need assistance with a work project, home repair, relationship drama, or they just want a shoulder to cry on, you should do what you can to be there for them.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Today, when you see someone you don't like very much struggling with a task or embarrassed in a public forum, try not to gloat. Instead, decide to be compassionate.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Keeping your goals a secret isn't a very wise decision, especially since right now there are so many people around you who could help you get at least one step closer to where you want to be.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	32	cloudy
Harbin	22	32	cloudy
Tianjin	24	34	cloudy
Urumqi	21	31	clear
Xi'an	21	28	drizzle
Lhasa	13	24	shower
Chengdu	23	27	shower
Chongqing	26	30	drizzle
Kunming	19	27	cloudy
Nanjing	19	26	thundershower
Shanghai	21	26	drizzle
Wuhan	24	28	drizzle
Hangzhou	21	24	drizzle
Taipei	27	32	cloudy
Guangzhou	28	36	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	13	17	drizzle
Frankfurt	15	21	drizzle
Paris	15	21	cloudy
London	16	20	cloudy
New York	22	27	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Island off the SE coast of China; 7- Animal foot; 10- Haunted house sound; 14- Preserve, as fodder; 15- ___ dreaming?; 16- French friend; 17- Introduction; 18- Canterbury can; 19- Able was ___; 20- Ate too much; 23- Floored; 26- Lennon's lady; 27- Approaches; 28- Stand; 29- RR stop; 30- ___ Lingus; 31- Pull out; 33- Nest egg letters; 34- Not sweet; 37- Genealogy word; 38- Definite article; 39- Votes against; 40- Musical syllable; 41- Paranormal letters; 42- Solo of "Star Wars"; 43- From dawn to dusk; 45- Increase, with "up"; 46- Title of a knight; 47- Fencing sword; 48- John of "The Addams Family"; 51- Limb of a felled tree; 52- Large and dense; 53- Up-to-date; 56- Follow; 57- Acceptable score for a professional golfer; 58- Foreigners; 62- Novel ending; 63- Manipulate; 64- Guard; 65- Flat sound; 66- Actress Charlotte; 67- Mediterranean arm;

DOWN: 1- ___ Avir; 2- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 3- This ___ stickup!; 4- Man who has lost his wife; 5- Still in the game; 6- Branta sandvicensis; 7- Film on copper; 8- Acid type; 9- Stream of air; 10- Protective envelope; 11- Last letter of the Greek alphabet; 12- Broadcaster; 13- Food and water; 21- Putrid; 22- Insecure; 23- Peace goddess; 24- Vetoes; 25- ___ in the right direction; 29- Chilled soup; 30- Bellowing; 32- Goddess of wisdom; 33- Blue dye; 34- Halts; 35- Sea eagles; 36- Shrewd; 44- Directing; 45- Plunders; 46- Evening party; 48- Pays to play; 49- Chairs; 50- Nincompoops; 51- Potala Palace site; 52- Scuffle; 54- Boot attachment; 55- Mission control gp.; 59- Hot time in Paris; 60- Heston's org.; 61- Equivalent wd.;

Yesterday's solution

Y	O	D	E	L	C	U	R	E	C	A	R	S
T	M	E	T	A	R	E	E	K	A	L	E	E
P	A	C	E	R	A	L	A	E	H	I	D	E
E	N	O	V	I	P	E	R	O	B	E	Y	S
N	E	A	R	S	O	Z	O	N	E			
D	E	G	R	E	E	S	E	D	A	N		
A	D	E	S	E	N	D	O	W	G	E	T	
H	I	S	T	O	R	I	O	G	R	A	P	H
E	S	T	T	H	R	O	E					
A	N	E	A	R								
L	I	S	P									
E	T	T	A									
C	A	S	T									

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	

FOR SALE

Buckingham, Taipa High floor & Large terrace
HK\$11,770,000 1,439 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

Views of Nam Van & Macau Tower
\$21,800/mth 1,900 ft² 3 3/4 3 1/2 1 1/2

FOR SALE

[Taipa] **Taipa Village (2 units)** 4 1/2 2 1/2
1,404 ft² **\$8,380,000** (ref: 19096006)

[Taipa] **Manhattan D unit** 4 1/2 2 1/2
2,305 ft² **\$15,980,000** (ref: n/a)

[Macau] **2 Shops downtown**
1,404 ft² **\$20,800,000** (ref: 19015573)

[Cotai] **One Grantai** 4 1/2 2 1/2
2,556 ft² **\$25,600,000** (ref: 19096001)

FOR RENT

[Taipa] **Old Taipa Village Apartment** 2 1/2 1 1/2
600 ft² **\$9,900/mth** (ref: n/a)

[Coloane] **Grand Coloane Resort** 1 1/2 1 1/2
710 ft² **\$13,200/mth** (ref: 20021002)

[Macau] **One Central** 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,269 ft² **\$25,000/mth** (ref: n/a)

[Taipa] **Private house** 2 3 1/2 3 1/2
4,266 ft² **\$45,000/mth** (ref: 190550065T)

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BANKERS SHOCKED BY 45% CHINA TAX RATE MULL LEAVING HONG KONG

FEARS of a Hong Kong brain drain are increasing after China moved to tax its citizens' global income, undermining the financial hub's appeal to thousands of bankers and other white-collar workers from the mainland.

Faced with a tax rate as high as 45% - up from about 15% previously - Chinese professionals across Hong Kong are considering moving back home to avoid getting squeezed by both the new levy and sky-high living costs in the former British colony, according to interviews with workers and recruiters.

The prospect of an exodus has upended expectations that mainland talent would help offset any outflow of locals and foreign expatriates from Hong Kong, many of whom are looking to escape the city's controversial new national security legislation.

While questions remain about how broadly Chinese authorities will apply the new tax rules in Hong Kong, professionals of all stripes now have reasons to leave a city that not long ago was viewed as one of the world's most attractive places to build a career. That risks weighing on Hong Kong's battered economy and further undermining its status as a premier financial center.

The focus on Chinese taxes has intensified in recent weeks after state-owned enterprises in Hong Kong told workers who transferred from the mainland to declare their 2019 income so they can start paying taxes at home. Chinese SOEs are also informing employees in other locations such as Singapore, Bloomberg News reported last week.

While Chinese authorities revised the nation's tax rules in January 2019, they only recently disclosed detailed instructions on how to comply - a move that caught many workers off guard.

For now, it appears that only SOE employees who transferred from China have been explicitly instructed to pay taxes on their

BLOOMBERG



2019 income. It's unclear how Chinese authorities will apply the tax laws to citizens who were hired overseas or who don't work for state-owned companies. China's Liaison Office in Hong Kong and the State Taxation Administration didn't respond to faxes seeking comment.

Some companies may act to soften the blow by boosting salaries, particularly for high-ranking executives, but most employees will likely have to absorb the hit to their take-home pay, according to Feng Ao, president of Wosheng Law Quotient Academy, a consultancy that advises China's banks, insurers and trusts on tax laws.

"For the vast majority of employees, the chance of giving subsidies and raises depends on the company's profitability," Feng said. "It's unlikely to happen given the global macro environment

amid the pandemic."

One senior executive at a Chinese state-owned bank said his tax bills will now probably wipe out the savings he amassed since moving his family to Hong Kong a few years ago. His colleagues have petitioned superiors in Beijing for relief, but have so far failed to gain much traction. Some are considering moving back to China or swapping into a Hong Kong passport if they've lived in the city long enough to qualify, said the banker, who like several people interviewed for this story asked not to be named discussing a sensitive subject.

Hong Kong has granted more than 340,000 immigration visas to people from mainland China over the past five years, government figures show.

Investment bankers in the city typically earn about 25% to 30%

more than those in Shanghai, according to recruiters, though much of that extra pay gets whittled away by higher living costs. Hong Kong is the world's sixth-most expensive city for expatriates, compared with 19th for Shanghai and 24th for Beijing, a recent survey by ECA International found.

Some Chinese workers may have little choice but to stick it out in Hong Kong, according to Lee Quane, regional director for Asia at ECA, an advisory firm for expats.

"There's often a reason why they're working in Hong Kong rather than in mainland China, because it's a better location for them to work in terms of the jobs that they do," Quane said.

Others are hoping they'll stay under the Chinese government's radar. An employee at a major

China-backed telecommunications firm said some of her Chinese colleagues who were hired locally are taking a wait-and-see approach and won't declare income voluntarily. Those who relocated from the mainland will likely have their Chinese taxes directly deducted, she said.

Donald, an executive at a state-owned Chinese lender in Hong Kong, said his firm is working on a plan to provide interest-free loans or cash payouts to impacted employees, but he doubts the compensation will last beyond a year. Moving back to mainland China has become one of his biggest priorities.

"In a nutshell, my pay is now subject to the high tax rate on the mainland but I need to cover the high cost of living in Hong Kong," he said. "It's a double whammy." **BLOOMBERG**

HONG KONG

Beaten down stocks face yet another blow from Trump

A relentless run of bad news keeps grinding down Hong Kong's stock bulls. Protests, a global pandemic, a collapsing economy, a crackdown on individual freedoms and now the end of the city's special status with the U.S.

The Hang Seng Index closed little changed, wiping out an initial 1.6% ad-

vance. Chinese technology firms were the worst performers, along with Hong Kong property developers. Mainland Chinese shares also declined.

While the latest news was expected, it highlights Hong Kong's growing vulnerability to heightened tensions between Beijing and Washington, and adds

to the bear case for the city's listed equities given the unknown impact of sanctions.

The Hang Seng Index is already a global laggard: the gauge lost 11% over the past 12 months through Wednesday, compared with a nearly 3% gain by MSCI's index of world stocks. By almost any measure, Hong

Kong stocks appear cheap. The Hang Seng Index trades at 10.8 times projected 12-months earnings, compared with 14 times for the CSI 300 Index and 22 times for the S&P 500.

To be sure, the Hang Seng Index had a flurry of gains around the imposition of the national security law at the start of this mon-

th, supported by mainland inflows. Those gains have faded in the past week, placing the gauge among the bottom 10 performers among 93 global benchmarks tracked by Bloomberg.

Adding to the bear case is a spike in local coronavirus cases, which this week prompted the government

to impose some of the most drastic measures yet to contain the outbreak.

"Stocks are underperforming because the local economy is struggling," said Steven Leung, executive director at UOB Kay Hian. "The virus situation worsened recently and many economic activities have been affected." **MDT/AGENCIES**

FIVE SUBSTITUTES INTERIM RULE IN SOCCER EXTENDED BY ONE YEAR

AN interim rule allowing soccer teams to use five substitutes per match during the schedule congestion caused by the coronavirus pandemic was extended yesterday through next season.

Soccer's law-making panel, known as IFAB, said the option of using two extra replacements would continue in the 2020-21 season and for national team competitions into next August, when the Tokyo Olympic tournaments end.

The decision fulfils some goals in a proposal by FIFA in April which wanted to extend the rule through 2021 for all national team games and calendar-year domestic leagues.

FIFA said its plan would help prevent some injuries caused by "potential player overload" as competitions catch up with a backlog of games.

IFAB cited "the impact on player welfare of competitions being played in a condensed period and in different weather conditions."

Competition organizers have the option of letting their teams use five substitutes instead of three in 90 minutes, and a sixth in knockout games that go to extra time.

Teams are still limited to three stoppages of play in 90 minutes to make the changes. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Four games per day in group stage of 2022 World Cup in Qatar

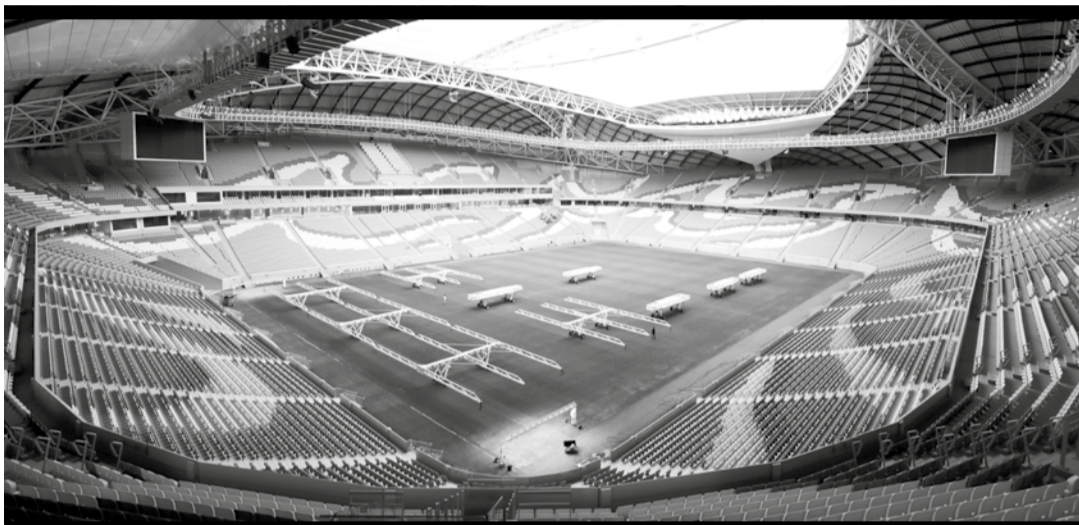
ROB HARRIS, LONDON

The 2022 World Cup will have four games every day in a 12-day group stage and matches that go into extra time will extend past midnight in Qatar.

FIFA released the schedule for the first World Cup to be played in November and December yesterday, with kickoff times at 1 p.m. (1000 GMT), 4 p.m. (1300 GMT), 7 p.m. (1600 GMT) and 10 p.m. (1900 GMT).

"Once the pairings are known, the possibility will be discussed of providing a more beneficial kickoff time for audiences at home, or indeed for fans in Qatar with regard to the stadium allocation," FIFA said in a statement.

Host Qatar will open the Middle East's first World Cup in the 60,000-capacity Al Bayt Stadium at 1 p.m. on Nov. 21. The final starts at 6 p.m. on Dec. 18 at the 80,000-capacity Lusail Stadium. Those are the



same kickoff times from the last World Cup in Russia.

Eight venues in close proximity to Doha will be used at the tournament, which will be played in 28 days rather than the 32 days used in Russia to minimize the disruption to the European season. Teams and fans will not need to fly around Qatar because stadiums are within a 30-mile radius.

Both semifinals — like some games in the previous rounds

— will kick off at 10 p.m. and will spill over into the next day if there is extra time, or even just long injury and VAR delays in regular time.

There is no space for a gap without games between the group stage and round of 16.

Most teams will get three days of rest between games, which FIFA said was "optimum for sporting performance." But teams in two last-16 matches will only have two days of rest.

For the third-place playoff, one losing semifinalist will have two recovery days while the other has three.

FIFA is looking to stage the draw for the tournament in late March or early April 2022, when 30 of the 32 finalists will be known.

It is the last World Cup with 32 teams before the expansion to 48 nations at the 2026 tournament in the United States, Canada and Mexico. **AP**

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propina/fee:
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sócios/members
MOP 700
não sócios/non members

total: 20 horas/hours
10 sessões/sessions

língua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English *

patrocínio/sponsor: **Fundação Macau**

local/venue: Av. do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado, nº 431-478, Edf. Nam Fung 13º andar A, sala 3, Macau
número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
8 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
8 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

* Aulas com tradução em Cantonês sempre que o número de alunos o justifique.
Sessions with Cantonese translation when the number of students justifies it.

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OPINION

World Views

Daniel Moss, Bloomberg

YOU WANT THE TRUTH? YOU CAN'T HANDLE TOTAL LOCKDOWN

Second waves of coronavirus outbreaks may not mean reimposing blanket restrictions on activity in Asia. The region's economies, which have seen more than half a century of growth grind to a halt, won't be able to handle it. That means the future will be speckled with pocket-size lockdowns.

Leaders are wary of repeating the huge contractions in commerce that came with complete closures. Singapore, better placed than many of its neighbors thanks to four stimulus packages and substantial financial reserves, saw a dramatic decline in gross domestic product in the second quarter. The city-state's economy shrank at a whopping 41.2% annualized rate from the previous quarter, in the first major data release since Friday's election. The dismal reading is likely to be the first among many double-digit declines expected across the region in coming weeks.

For some months, Singapore has been warning its residents that business conditions could get worse before they improve. The government has been taking the reopening gradually; the central business district is far from full capacity. Borders are sealed to most travelers and fines await those who transgress social-distancing laws. Restaurants can open, but must stop serving alcohol by 10:30 p.m. and strict limits are placed on the number of people per table.

A small, fairly open economy that's a center for trade and multinational companies, Singapore has always been acutely vulnerable to ebbs and flows of global commerce. "We expect the recovery to be a slow and uneven journey, as external demand continues to be weak and countries battle the second and third waves of outbreaks by reinstating localized lockdowns or stricter safe-distancing measures," Singapore's trade and industry minister, Chan Chun Sing, said in a Facebook post.

Across the region, governments will be introducing variations of targeted lockdowns in response to recent spikes. Chunks of Melbourne have been shuttered and Victoria, the state encompassing the city, closed its borders. Other parts of the country remain a going concern, though the northern state of Queensland has listed several zip codes in Sydney as hotspots that will require visitors from those suburbs to quarantine before entry. Treasurer Josh Frydenberg said Monday Australia's effective jobless rate is about 13.3%, rather than the official 7.1%; he doesn't sound too keen on drawing the curtains on the entire country.

In the Philippines, metropolitan Manila is partially reopening even as other parts of the archipelago are walled off. Japanese officials, meanwhile, have avoided calling for broader restrictions in response to a Tokyo outbreak that's concentrated in nightclubs and a couple of other clusters. Authorities have assured that the medical system is not under strain. Speaking in the northern island of Hokkaido on Saturday, Chief Secretary Yoshihide Suga called the infections a "Tokyo problem," according to Japanese media.

In Hong Kong, a surge of infections has prompted the government to reintroduce some restrictions adopted earlier in the year, but not all of them. There will be fines for not wearing a mask, restrictions on the numbers of people allowed to gather and early closing of restaurants for in-house dining.

While the global economy is likely to see a bounce in the third quarter, reflecting the resumption of business, the price of earlier shutdowns was huge.

The IMF, which spent most of the pandemic urging nations to undertake a combined budgetary and monetary stimulus, rather than letting central banks do all the lifting, is getting worried about long-term solutions. "The need for continued fiscal support is clear, but this begs the question of how countries can finance it without debt becoming unsustainable," top fund officials Vitor Gaspar and Gita Gopinath wrote in a blog Friday.

Broad and deep restrictions now have a high threshold in Asia. That's a reality the world's leaders should consider, too. [Abridged]

A European Union court delivered a hammer blow to the bloc's attempts to rein in sweetheart tax deals between multinationals and individual member countries when it ruled that technology giant Apple does not have to pay 13 billion euros (\$15 billion) in back taxes to Ireland.

The EU Commission had claimed in 2016 that Apple had struck an illegal tax deal with Irish authorities that allowed it to pay extremely low rates. But the EU's General Court said yesterday that "the Com-

mission did not succeed in showing to the requisite legal standard that there was an advantage."

"The Commission was wrong to declare" that Apple "had been granted a selective economic advantage and, by extension, state aid," said the Luxembourg-based court, which is the second-highest in the EU.

The ruling can only be appealed on points of law and the Commission Vice President Margrethe Vestager said she was studying the judgment and will "reflect on possible next steps."



FLOODED SOUTHERN CHINA BRACES FOR MORE STORMS

HEAVY rain is forecast for five more days in the Yangtze River basin, China's meteorological agency said yesterday, in a region already devastated by flooding this year.

At least 141 people have been reported dead or missing across the nation.

In some good news, the water level in China's biggest freshwater lake began to recede after setting a record Monday.

Soldiers have built temporary embankments to try to prevent Poyang Lake from overflowing into Lushan city in southeastern China's

Jiangxi province.

The seasonal flooding has forced 1.5 million people to evacuate so far this month, the official People's Daily newspaper said, citing the Ministry of Emergency Management. Floodwaters have inundated villages, cities and farms in many parts of southern China.

The Agriculture Ministry, declaring its second highest emergency response level, has sent teams to Jiangxi and four other provinces to help with disaster relief and minimize the damage.

Rain was forecast Wednesday for nine pro-

vinces, the national meteorological agency said. Sichuan province in the southwest could see 10 to 12 centimeters of rain per hour.

This month's flooding forced a rare two-day delay for college entrance exams for more than 2,000 students on the Yangtze River in Anhui province. The tests are supposed to be taken by students nationwide on the same days.

China's worst floods in recent years were in 1998, when more than 2,000 people died and almost 3 million homes were destroyed. AP

Australia Police were cracking down on a coronavirus lockdown in the nation's second-largest city, Melbourne. Victoria Premier Daniel Andrews warned that restrictions would be increased unless the spread was contained in Melbourne. The Australian military is bolstering police numbers at checkpoints. Police were scanning license plates to determine drivers' addresses and whether they were subjected to stay-at-home orders.



India's coronavirus cases surged by 29,429, and authorities are reimposing lockdowns in high-risk areas. The new cases took the national total to 936,181. The Health Ministry also reported another 582 deaths, taking total fatalities up to 24,309. A two-week lockdown was imposed yesterday in eastern Bihar state and its population of nearly 128 million

UK Authorities in the English town of Blackburn have imposed new restrictions on social mingling amid what they say is a "rising tide" of new coronavirus cases. Director of Public Health Dominic Harrison says Blackburn's infection rate is 47 per 100,000 people, one of the highest in the country. He says the main issue is transmission within families, mostly in South Asian households.



USA Nevada officials say a record high in the daily number of positive Covid-19 tests in the state may be the result of people failing to wear masks and keep distances apart during the Independence Day holiday. A resurgence in hospitalizations continues less than a week after Gov. Steve Sisolak cited a spike in cases and again closed bars and restaurants in the Las Vegas and Reno areas. The more than 1,100 new cases reported statewide brings the total to nearly 30,000.

REPORT: MONGOLIAN TEENAGER DIES OF BUBONIC PLAGUE

A 15-year-old boy has died in western Mongolia of bubonic plague, the country's national news agency reported.

The Health Ministry said laboratory tests confirmed the teenager died of plague that he contracted from an infected marmot, according to the Montsame News Agency.

The case prompted the government to impose a

quarantine on a portion of the province of Gobi-Altai. Montsame said 15 people who had contact with the boy were isolated.

In an unrelated case in neighboring China, a patient who was infected with plague in the northern region of Inner Mongolia is improving, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency.

Xinhua said 15 people

who had close contact with the patient were released from quarantine on Sunday. The agency said the government ended its top-level emergency response.

An official announcement earlier said a warning for the public in the Bayannur region of Inner Mongolia to avoid eating marmot and to report dead animals would last through the end of 2020. AP