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A CHILD WHO BROKE AND SWALLOWED PART OF A NUCLEIC ACID TEST SWAB NOT VICTIM OF MEDICAL MALPRACTICE: GOV'T P2

TAIWAN ACCUSES CHINA OF SENDING PLANES NEAR THE ISLAND ALMOST DAILY P7

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY RENTS IN DOWNTOWN RETREAT TO 2010 LEVELS AMID THE ECONOMIC RECESSION P3

China A cargo jet caught fire at a Shanghai airport but no casualties were reported. The Shanghai fire department said on its microblog that 18 firetrucks were dispatched to Shanghai's Pudong International Airport and the fire was extinguished just after 5 p.m. A statement from Ethiopian Airlines said the plane caught fire while loading cargo ahead of a scheduled flight from Shanghai to Sao Paulo, Brazil, and Santiago, Chile.



China Numbers of cases in China's latest virus outbreak continued to fall, with nine new cases in the northwestern region of Xinjiang. All were reported in the regional capital Urumqi, which has locked down some communities, restricted travel and carried out extensive testing. Another five new cases were reported among Chinese arriving from abroad.

Australia's hard-hit Victoria state reported a record 484 new COVID-19 cases yesterday and health authorities warned that numbers could continue to rise. With Melbourne now in lockdown for two weeks, authorities had hoped the infection rate would begin to plateau. "Certainly we're at a really, really challenging phase of this pandemic," Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton said.



South Korea Just days after South Korean officials hopefully declared the country's COVID-19 epidemic was coming under control, health authorities reported 63 new cases. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said at least 36 came from the Seoul area. The KCDC didn't immediately confirm whether the numbers included a cluster at a front-line army unit in Pocheon, where at least 13 troops have reportedly tested positive.

More on backpage

HOUSE LOSES

Macau casinos to post \$1 billion loss in second quarter; break even likely in third quarter P3



MGTO
PLATFORM CRASHES UNDER HELICOPTER TOUR DEMAND P2



MEDICAL DIRECTOR SAYS INITIAL ASSESSMENT SHOWS NO MEDICAL MALPRACTICE IN BOY ACCIDENT

ANTHONY LAM

An accident on Tuesday, in which a child allegedly broke and swallowed part of a nucleic acid test swab while his throat secretion sample was being collected, is unlikely a case of medical malpractice, Dr Alvis Lo said yesterday.

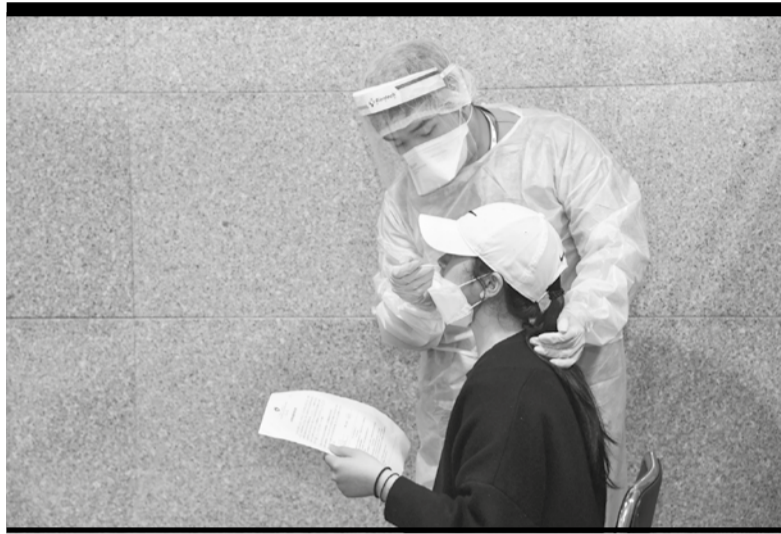
Lo, medical director of the Conde São Januario Hospital (CHCSJ), based his comment on a "preliminary assessment."

On Tuesday, a seven-year-old child was sent to the public hospital after "swallowing a foreign object during sample collection" at the Provisional Nucleic Acid Test Station at the Taipa Maritime Terminal.

It was suspected that the boy had swallowed a 3-cm piece of swab. He reported a sore throat to his doctor, who could not find any foreign object in his epiglottitis, his lung or his stomach.

At yesterday's regular government press conference, the medical director noted that the accident was an outcome that could be anticipated from the sample collection process.

Small children are prone to this kind of accident because of their young age and lack of understand-



ing of the procedure. The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center reminded parents or guardians to clearly explain the procedure to their children before they take the test, to ease their anxiety.

After the accident, the father of the child said that he plans to file a complaint, as he sees the accident as medical malpractice.

Lo noted that the Health Bureau (SSM) is still waiting on an official post-event report from the service provider. The sample collection and testing services at the Taipa location are conducted by a third-

party provider.

The medical director acknowledged the right that all people have to file a complaint, an appeal, or even judicial action against a medical service or activity. The SSM fully respects this right.

However, this instance may not constitute a case of medical malpractice, according to the medical director, because it may not have satisfied the legal conditions for malpractice.

"First, the staff-member would have to have committed a fault, such as not following standard procedures. Second, the mistake

camera footage at the location, which may have captured how the accident took place.

After the accident on Tuesday, the government made an announcement that all test samples will be collected through a nasal swab. Currently, both nasal and throat swabs are conducted.

Some have reported that a nasal swab causes greater discomfort. This is due to the swab passing through the nasal channel, squeezing between soft bones behind the nose, before touching the nasopharynx for three seconds in order to absorb sufficient secretion for the test.

However, the coronavirus response center changed its mind yesterday, stating that both sample collection methods would remain, at least for the time being.

must have caused harm or injury to the service user. Third, there is a requirement for causality between the mistake and the harm or injury," the medical director explained. Those are the three criteria that together constitute a case of medical malpractice.

He assured the press conference that the SSM will judge the case seriously and fairly, without fear or favor. Furthermore, the authority will also refer to surveillance

HONG KONG'S 'MOST SEVERE MOMENT'

HONG KONG reported a record 105 new local virus cases as the city's "most severe" situation since the epidemic began prompted health officials to expand virus-protection measures.

Of the additional local cases, more than half - 63 - were unlinked to previous cases, according to data from the city's health department yesterday. The Asian financial hub has been caught off-guard by the sudden eruption of infections, with the number of untraceable cases signaling that hidden chains of transmission are widespread.

"Hong Kong's epidemic is at the most severe moment," Sophia Chan, secretary for food and health,

said in a briefing yesterday. "I urge all citizens to stay in their homes and stop unnecessary outings."

Officials are quickly imposing the strictest rules yet after easing guidelines over the past month. Effective today, mask-wearing requirements will be expanded to indoor public venues - including malls, shops, supermarkets, markets and building lobbies, Chan said. The maximum fine will be HKD5,000 (\$645). Currently, public transport passengers are already required to wear masks to curb the virus.

Hong Kong will also extend a 14-day mandatory quarantine for those with travel history to mainland China, Taiwan and Macau to Sept. 7.

Gov't finds public opposes Av. Rodrigo Rodrigues tall buildings

NEARLY 80% of opinions received by the government oppose the proposal of 90-meter tall buildings on Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues, local media outlet Macau Concelears reports.

According to the news report, the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) received 208 responses from members of the public during a semi-consultation period. At least 161 of the responses

clearly urge the government to assiduously protect the views of and from the Guia Lighthouse.

Among these 161 comments, some stressed that the Historic Centre of Macao is the centerpiece of Macao in its position as a world tourism destination. The government is primarily responsible for protecting it.

Some comments suggest that extra high-rise buildings within that neighborhood will

further obstruct the ventilation of Ho Yin Garden and Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção Garden. Consequentially, the risk of a "urban heat island" will become higher.

An urban heat island is an urban or metropolitan area that is significantly warmer than its surrounding areas due to human activity.

In contrast, comments in support of high-rise buildings on the avenue suggest

that an overall visual consistency should be achieved in that neighborhood, rather than craving "harmony with the Guia Hill". Some even encourage an increase in the pace of the development as they find the old buildings on the hill impact the view.

The DSSOPT will consult the Urban Planning Committee, stakeholders and the general public for a plan for the area's development is finalized. AL

PLATFORM BREAKS DOWN UNDER HELICOPTER TOUR DEMAND

THE registration platform for the Macao Ready Go! Local Tours campaign broke down yesterday morning after being overwhelmed by registrations for a new helicopter tour, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced.

Yesterday started the registration period for the campaign's 10 new itineraries. The campaign was established by the MGTO in the hope of reviving the local tourism industry.

Among the 10 new itineraries is a helicopter tour, in which participants will take a flight around the skyline

of Macau at a full price of MOP678 or at a subsidized price of MOP398.

The MGTO admitted that the malfunction was caused by registrations for the helicopter tour. To maintain system functionality, the authority decided to suspend registration for that particular route until further notice.

Besides the helicopter tour, the new itineraries also include an evening tour to the wetlands or a nocturnal tour to World Heritage sites, both accompanied by photography workshops taught by professionals. AL

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Commercial property rents in central Macau retreat to 2010 levels

LYNZY VALLES

THE number of residential and commercial property sales plunged in the first half of the year amid the ongoing coronavirus-induced economic recession. According to real estate experts, the situation today is similar to 2014, when the property market was reeling from a sharp contraction in gross gaming revenue.

The number of residential sales declined 22.4% year-on-year in the first half of 2020 to a total of 3,040. By comparison, the number of residential transactions in 2014 was about half of that in 2013, the peak year for gross gaming revenue in Macau. One reason that the decline has been more moderated this year is because of the comparison base in 2019, when Macau had already entered recession.

In a report issued by real estate firm Jones Lang LaSalle yesterday, the residential leasing market saw a slowdown along with the decreasing leasing demand for residential properties, particularly those located near casinos.

During the time when Macau imposed travel and border restrictions, some landlords offered to lease their premises on short-term basis as temporary accommodation for overseas workers.

The rental values of high-end and mass-to-medium residential properties dropped by 4.4% and 4.5% respectively in the first half from end 2019.

However, it expressed confidence that Macau's property market can maintain its resilience in the second half of 2020, attributing any coming

LYNZY VALLES



improvement to China's easing of border restrictions between Guangdong and Macau.

"The Covid-19 pandemic has created a lot of volatility and uncertainty in the global economy, undermining investors' confidence, and the situation will unlikely improve until the epidemic is under control," stated Mark Wong, Director of Valuation Advisory Services at JLL Macau.

"However, if the epidemic continues to be unstable around the peripheral areas in the future, the economy will face challenges again and the property market may enter a new phase of downward cycle," he added.

Macau's economic health was again shown during this

pandemic outbreak to be heavily reliant on the city's gaming sector. Due to the travel and entry restrictions put in place by the central government to deter the spread of Covid-19, the domestic economy has registered a plunge of nearly 50% in year-on-year terms.

Official data shows that the total retail sales dropped significantly by 45.1% year-on-year in the first half of 2020 to 11.24 billion patacas. All retail categories were recorded with negative growth.

In the sales market, a total of 109 retail property transactions were recorded in the first five months of 2020, down 44.1% year-on-year. No notable transactions were recorded in the sales market.

According to JLL, retail properties in tourist areas saw a surge in vacancy and failed to attract investors' interest even once a 30% reduction from last year's level was offered.

Some landlords offered to waive or lower rental payments by up to 20%-50% on short-term basis in core areas of Senado Square at rentals 70% lower than market rates. According to JLL, this is akin to rental levels 10 years ago.

"The retail property sector saw a dramatic adjustment and even with China's easing of border restrictions, the retail industry won't be back to its pre-pandemic status shortly," said Oliver Tong, Head of Lea-

sing at JLL Macau.

During the past few months, JLL conducted a survey with over 500 retailers from different trades aiming at understanding their future business plans. Among the respondents, only about 20% mentioned that they would continue their business expansion in the short term.

"The rest in general stated that they would consolidate their business and adopt cost control strategies, expecting to take at least a year for business recovery," said Tong.

A similar situation was seen during the recession period from 2014 to 2016 when several commercial spaces closed down and many rental signs went up.

Macau casinos likely to post \$1 billion loss in second quarter

MACAU casino operators are expected to post a loss of over USD1 billion (8 billion patacas) collectively in their earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) for the second quarter, according to a Bloomberg survey of analyst estimates.

Each of the six operators will likely have negative quarterly EBITDA when they start reporting earnings

in the coming weeks, according to the survey of eight brokerages. SJM Holdings Ltd. and MGM China Holdings Ltd. are expected to lead the tally of year-on-year declines.

Macau's casino industry saw gaming revenues plunge by more than 90% for three straight months starting April, as the pandemic-causing novel coronavirus forced countries to shut borders.

Gross gaming revenue for the second quarter amounted to just 3.2 billion patacas, down 95.6% from the 73.3 billion patacas recorded in the same quarter a year earlier. According to data released this week by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), the mass market accounted for 53.5% of total gaming revenue in the quarter, continuing to slightly outweigh the VIP segment.

Recovery prospects brightened for the world's largest gambling hub after neighboring Chinese province Guangdong lifted quarantine requirements last week for travelers returning from Macau.

Group tour visas and the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) program both remain suspended. These two visa types account for the vast majority of cross-border travelers from the mainland.

"The initial enthusiasm around border easing is a sign of some pent-up demand, but without IVS restart, V-shape recovery is not expected," Sanford C. Bernstein analyst Vitaly Umansky said in a July 20 note.

On the same day, banking group Morgan Stanley said that industry EBITDA "should break even in the third quarter of 2020, even though GGR [gross gaming revenue] is lower and reve-

nue mix is weaker."

However, "third-quarter EBITDA could [still] be lower than first quarter despite cost reduction, mainly due to less favorable revenue mix as mass recovers more slowly than VIP."

Morgan Stanley admitted that it was hard to predict when Macau EBITDA would return to 2019 levels, but they "have assumed it to be 2022" in their model. **DB/AGENCIES**

CE CALLS ON UNIVERSITIES TO TURN TECHNOLOGY INTO PRODUCTIVITY

Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng has urged higher education institutions to use technological advancements to increase productivity. Ho was speaking at a joint meeting of the University Assembly and University Council for the academic year 2019/2020, held on Monday at the University of Macau's Ho Yin Conference Hall. Ho stressed that it is the responsibility of local higher education institutions "to promote technological innovation, transfer of research results, and diversification of Macau's economy," adding that, "as a leading higher education institution in Macau, UM should strive to translate technological progress into productivity growth."

EXPERTS DISCUSS MACHINE TRANSLATION AND THE 'SMART BAY AREA'

The Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM) held an online thematic forum on the latest leading-edge research results on machine translation, artificial intelligence, and smart cities. The forum was attended by experts from Beijing, Guangdong, Hong Kong, and Macau, representing the government, academia, and business sectors. It also attracted over 100 participants from the United Kingdom, Portugal, Australia, South Korea, Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China. Participants discussed how to apply technology in the construction and development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and the "Belt and Road" initiative, as well as to stimulate the construction of the "Platform between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries" and the creation of a "Smart Bay Area."

UNUMACAU, CARITAS TO ADVANCE RESEARCH INITIATIVES

The United Nations University Institute in Macau (UNUMACAU) and Caritas Macau have signed a five-year strategic partnership to strengthen cooperation on projects that promote policy as well as practice-relevant research and capacity building activities in the fields of sustainable community development, social innovation, and civil society cyber resilience. To achieve these objectives, the parties signed a memorandum of understanding to coordinate their work. "We are excited about this partnership with Caritas Macau. Our Institute is working with local partners to connect Macau with the rest of the world through research and innovation, and helping transform the region into a hub of global technology innovation," said Jingbo Huang, Director of the United Nations University Institute in Macau.

CRIME

DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF CAUGHT DRUNK DRIVING AFTER CRASHING MOTORCYCLE

RENATO MARQUES

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) has revealed that a member of the force has been caught driving under the influence of alcohol after crashing his motorcycle during the early hours of Monday morning.

According to the PSP spokesperson, the 50-year-old man is deputy chief of the force and was injured in the accident, which occurred around 5 a.m. on Avenida de Lisboa in central Macau.

The preliminary investigation made by the PSP found that the man had spent the evening at a karaoke venue where he had several drinks before returning home.

He told the PSP that he had walked from the karaoke venue but, after arriving home, he discovered that he had left his phone behind at the venue.

He then decided to ride his motorcycle to the karaoke venue and, upon finding it already closed, attempted to return home. However, while passing along the Avenida de Lisboa the motorcycle slipped on the wet pavement and crashed.

The man was taken to the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center by Ambulance, where he tested positive for alcohol. The test indicated 1.91 grams per liter of alcohol in his blood.

In response to questions from the media, the PSP spokesperson



said that the force has already initiated procedures for disciplinary action against the police deputy chief. According to the same source, the procedures are currently suspended until the man is discharged from the hospital and they are able to continue.

This incident occurred only two days after another, previously reported by the Times, in which a Judiciary Police (PJ) inspector was also caught driving under the influence of alcohol after crashing his car into a row of parked motorcycles on the slope next to government headquarters early Saturday morning.

In this instance, justice was swift and the Court of First Instance sentenced him to a penalty of three months' imprisonment, which will be suspended for the

period of one year on the condition that a donation of at least 8,000 patacas is made to the local charitable organization Fu Hong Society.

'PEEPING TOM' CAUGHT IN TAIPA

A 38-year-old non-resident worker from the mainland has been caught by the PSP after a local 36-year-old woman made a complaint to the police on July 16, stating that she had found a man near the pedestrian flyover over the Avenida da Baía de Nossa Senhora da Boa Esperança in Cotai filming under her skirt.

After the complaint, the PSP officers initiated an investigation and watched footage from the surveillance cameras located in that area, allowing them to identify the suspect.

A few days later, on July 21, the police finally found and detained the man at his workplace, a restaurant of a hotel located in the same area.

The man confessed to the PSP that he tried to film under the skirt of the woman, justifying the act by saying that the woman was very pretty and she was wearing a short skirt that made him feel compelled to do it.

In a later inspection of his mobile phone, the police also found that he had a total of five video recordings of the same kind, only one of which was related to the woman who had pressed charges, with the other four being of other unidentifiable women.

The man has been already presented to the Public Prosecutions Office to respond to the accusations of illegal filming.

CRIME

Local businessman tricks HK friend in mask scam

ANTHONY LAM

A local trader who agreed to help his friend in Hong Kong source 2.5 million facemasks during the early stages of the Covid-19 pandemic, has taken HKD230,000 without delivering the goods, the Judiciary Police (PJ) has disclosed.

Surnamed Sin, the 42-year-old local trader was charged by the police with fraud involving a relatively large sum. The male victim is 38 years old and has known the accused since 2017.

The case first came to the PJ's knowledge on June 12, when the Hong

Kong man reported the alleged scam to police. The authority did not disclose whether the man reported it in Macau or in Hong Kong.

Currently, the ability to move between the two Special Administrative Regions is very limited because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In January this year, the Hong Kong man contacted Sin in the hope of purchasing facemasks from Southeast Asia. After obtaining the request from his friend, Sin ascertained that there was a manufacturer in Vietnam that was making the goods.

He then commenced



negotiations with the manufacturer in the capacity of an agent, securing a quotation of USD0.03 per mask, which approximately equated to HKD0.20 per mask.

Securing the supply, Sin quoted his Hong Kong friend HKD0.46 per mask. Both traders conducted a site check at the plant

in Vietnam in February. The victim then decided to make a purchase of 2.5 million masks, amounting to about HKD1.14 million.

The international business deal did not end well, however, as the Vietnamese manufacturer later confessed that it could not deliver the goods due to transportation difficul-

ties. It decided to void the transaction and return the money.

However, Sin not only kept the news secret, but he even urged the Hong Kong trader several times to pay a deposit. Consequently, the victim deposited the amount of HKD230,000 into Sin's bank account before Sin eventually ceased contact.

The PJ arrested Sin on Monday in a residential apartment in Ilha Verde and seized HKD39,000 of alleged ill gotten money. He confessed that he had retained the deposit to cover daily living expenses.

DANIEL BEITLER

MATCHING local financing with regional talent and expertise abroad could kickstart Macau's economic diversification efforts, according to Carlos Cid Álvares, CEO of note-issuing bank Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU).

Specifically referring to businesses from the Portuguese-speaking world, Álvares suggested that this joint venture strategy would not only create another source of income for the SAR, but it would help to solve some of the biggest questions surrounding diversification, including the matter of Macau's very limited pool of human resources talent.

The banking chief gave the example of Macau-based investment and services company CESL Asia, which acquired Portuguese farming group Monte do Pasto last year. Álvares said that this purchase had allowed CESL Asia to expand its portfolio into the agriculture and livestock business, which would have been impossible to do in Macau because of limited land resources.

"That's what they did in China for the last 30 years. Why not do this in Macau?" he asked on the sidelines of an event held yesterday by the British Chamber of Commerce in Macao.

"We need to look for ways to add value on the value chain. Because in the end you have a product that reaches consumers, but between the origin and the end there is

BNU chief says diversification needs joint venture strategy

a chain and maybe Macau companies can add value along the chain," Álvares told Macau Daily Times.

Diversification has been a key goal of successive Macau governments.

The previous administration in Macau, led by Chief Executive Chui Sai On, identified several economic activities as possible drivers of a wider diversification strategy that would wane Macau off its reliance on casinos. Among the chosen activities were traditional Chinese medicine, trade with Portuguese-speaking countries and the cultural and creative industries.

However, even by the government's own metrics, these sectors remain a trivial portion of the local economy. The most recent diversification report found that gaming and junket activities directly accounted for over half of Macau's industrial structure in 2018, breaching the 50% mark for the first time since 2014.

Yesterday, Álvares said that he still sees potential in the traditional Chinese medicine sector, one of those prioritized by the last administration and outlined in the first policy address of incumbent Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng.

"If we can have an industrial base [other than gaming], that would be great for Ma-

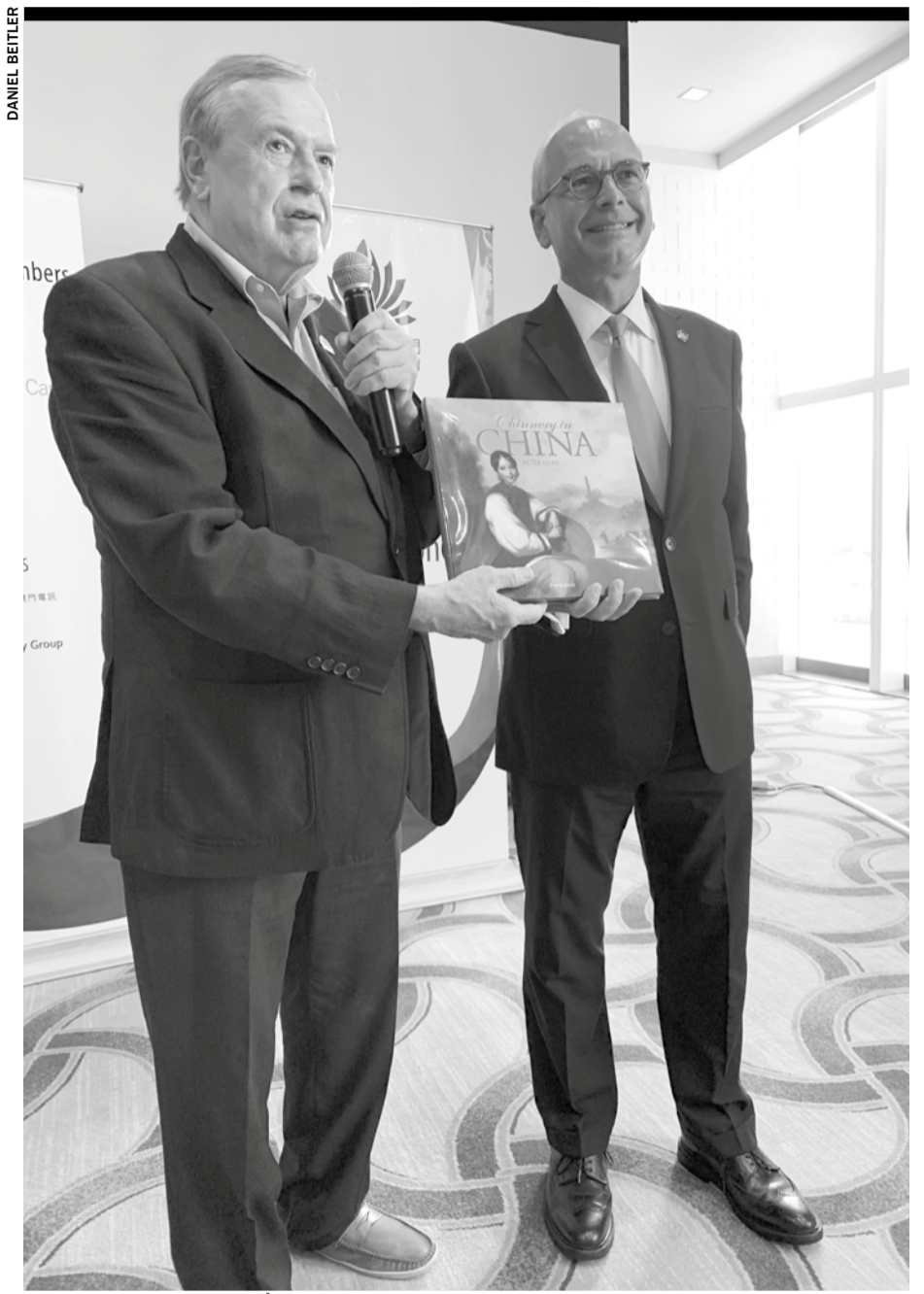
cau," said Álvares. "I think there are already huge investments in Hengqin related to the pharmaceutical business and Chinese medicine. There is already business in these areas and it can continue to be developed."

He also said that a successful diversification strategy would require the input of both the government and the private sector.

"The government can build the infrastructure, for example the laws," said the banking chief. "Then the private sector can appear. And it needs to work with the government [...] together for diversification."

Asked about the challenges facing local businesses amid the pandemic recession, Álvares said that Macau enterprises were proving very resilient. While the territory is heading into a prolonged double-digit recession, Álvares says he has faith in Macau's ability to weather the downturn.

"Macau is very resilient," he said. "Macau has no debt. [...] Macau is using part of the reserves to help individuals and small businesses so they can survive and recover rapidly [after this pandemic is over]. I think local SMEs are stronger than what financial reports indicate and they have strong reserves to resist periods of lower-income."



Carlos Cid Álvares (right) presented with a gift at yesterday's event

MGTO focuses promotion on city's 'bread and butter'

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is prioritizing promotions targeting mainland China, particularly Guangdong Province, which it has dubbed the city's "bread and butter."

In a talk yesterday hosted by the Australian Chamber of Commerce in Macau, MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said that initially the target market for tourism was Hong Kong. However, due to the third wave of Covid-19 outbreak in the neighboring region, it has shifted its priorities to attracting tourist arrivals from Guangdong Province.

"Our eyes are first on mainland China - Guang-



dong Province - because we have to look at the bread and butter market first," the official told the audience.

In the beginning of the talk, the official admitted that it was a significant challenge for the office to combat the effect of Covid-19 on the tourism sector, given that entry and travel restrictions on the city's border, as well as nei-

ghboring regions' borders, remain in force.

It was only recently that the SAR government opened its borders to visitors from mainland China, as well residents from Taiwan and Hong Kong who have spent the last 14 days in mainland China.

These residents will not have to undergo a 14-day quarantine, but they will

have to provide a negative test result of the Covid-19 nucleic acid test.

"We're finally restarting tourism and we're now finally starting to work on what we normally do as a tourism office," Fernandes said.

The office conducted a survey on the Macao Ready Go! Local Tours program to subsidize the business of local tour operators. Some 85% of the 5,000 respondents were satisfied with the tours, and 90% of the participants were highly satisfied with the local tour bus drivers, according to the tourism board.

While MGTO is looking at launching warm up promotional programs, there is still no timetable for these plans.

"We have [developed] some promotions already. We are almost launching the promotion in Hong Kong but it's a different ball game for now," said the tourism chief.

"We've also planned a lot for the mainland. If visitors come in we plan to offer free half day tours if they stay at a [partnered] hotel. We're also looking at different international markets, so we're looking at any airline transportation partners or ferry companies [...] and will use their routes when they're open and offer special fares upon using their airlines," she explained.

However, all these plans will have to wait until the MGTO is in the position to launch them.

According to Fernandes,

the MGTO is working closely with the health authorities, adding that her office would work further with the Health Bureau while it prepares for the relaunch of the city's tourism.

Further, the tourism chief gave an update regarding the rescheduling of its events this year.

The Macao Light Festival will be held from September 26 to late October, while the Global Tourism Economy Forum will again be rescheduled to December this year.

"We're still very optimistic that we'll be able to run it partially online, as some speakers might only be available to talk online. We're adapting to the different situation as it goes along," she said.

CARLA K. JOHNSON, MATT SEDENSKY & CANDICE CHOI

PANDEMIC

Silent spread of virus keeps scientists

ONE of the great mysteries of the coronavirus is how quickly it rocketed around the world.

It first flared in central China and, within three months, was on every continent but Antarctica, shutting down daily life for millions. Behind the rapid spread was something that initially caught scientists off guard, baffled health authorities and undermined early containment efforts — the virus could be spread by seemingly healthy people.

As workers return to offices, children prepare to return to schools and those desperate for normalcy again visit malls and restaurants, the emerging science points to a menacing reality: If people who appear healthy can transmit the illness, it may be impossible to contain.

"It can be a killer and then 40 percent of people don't even know they have it," said Dr. Eric Topol, head of Scripps Research Translational Institute. "We have to get out of the denial mode, because it's real."

Researchers have exposed the frightening likelihood of silent spread of the virus by asymptomatic and presymptomatic carriers. But how major a role seemingly healthy people play in swelling the ranks of those infected remains unanswered — and at the top of the scientific agenda.

The small but mighty coronavirus can unlock a human cell, set up shop and mass produce tens of thousands of copies of itself in a single day. Virus levels skyrocket before the first cough, if one ever arrives. And astonishing to scientists, an estimated 4 in 10 infected people don't ever have symptoms.

"For control, to actually keep the virus from coming back, we're going to have to deal with this issue," said Rein Houben, a disease tracker at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

The dire toll of more than 580,000 worldwide deaths from the coronavirus has faded to the background as cities lift restrictions. But the slyness of the virus remains on the minds of many scientists, who are watching societies reopen, wondering what happens if silent spreaders aren't detected until it's too late.

Travelers with no coughs can slip past airport screens. Workers without fevers won't be caught by temperature checks. People who don't feel tired and achy will attend business meetings.

And outbreaks could begin anew.

THE FIRST HINTS

As early as January, there were signs people could harbor the virus without showing symptoms. A 10-year-old boy in China who traveled to Wuhan had no symptoms but tested positive along with six others in his family who had coughs and fevers. More troubling was a report out of Germany: A business traveler from China spread the virus to colleagues in Munich, even though she appeared healthy.

Still, many scientists remained unconvinced. Some questioned whether the Chinese businesswoman truly didn't have symptoms. They suggested she might have had mild ones she attributed to jet lag.

The concept of people unwittingly spreading disease has never been an easy one to grasp, from the polio epidemic of mid-century America to the spread of HIV decades later.

At the turn of the 20th century, a seemingly healthy New York cook named Mary Mallon left a deadly trail of typhoid infections that captivated the public and led to her being forced into quarantine on an



East River island. "Typhoid Mary" remains a haunting symbol of silent spread.

As COVID-19 emerged, health officials believed it would be like other coronaviruses and that people were most infectious when showing symptoms like cough and fever, with transmission rare otherwise.

"We were thinking this thing is going to look like SARS: a long incubation period and no transmission during the incubation period," said Lauren Ancel Meyers, a disease modeler at the University of Texas at Austin.

At U.S. airports around the country, travelers returning from hot spots including China who didn't have

symptoms were allowed to go on their way.

"We were reassuring ourselves and the public that contact with an asymptomatic person was not a risk," said Dr. Jeff Duchin of King County, Washington, where the first major U.S. cluster of coronavirus cases broke out at the Life Care nursing home.

Behind the scenes, scientists like Meyers were sharing their alarming finding with health officials.

Meyers had assembled a team of students who scoured websites of Chinese health departments looking for dates of symptom onset in situations where there was enough information to figure out who in-

fecting whom.

Between Jan. 21 and Feb. 8, they found several cases where the person who brought the virus home didn't develop symptoms until after infecting a family member. For example, a woman in a Chinese city with few cases got sick after her husband returned from a trip to a city with a large outbreak. He didn't get sick until later.

"When we looked at the data, we said, 'Oh no, this can't be true,'" Meyers said. "It was shocking."

Finding more than 50 such cases, Meyers immediately shared the analysis with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — on Feb. 20 at precisely 1:18 a.m.,

US orders China to close its consulate in Houston

THE United States said yesterday that it has ordered China to close its consulate in Houston "to protect American intellectual property" and the private information of Americans.

China strongly condemned the move, the latest in a series of steps by the Trump administration as it ratchets up pressure on the world's second-largest economy over trade, technology, human rights and security.

Firefighters responded to reports of papers being burned on the consulate grounds Tuesday night but were barred entry, according to Houston news media reports.



The Chinese Consulate yesterday, in Houston

The U.S., in a brief statement, did not provide any details on why the consulate in Texas was targeted.

"The United States will not tolerate (China's) violations of our sovereignty and intimidation of our people, just as we have not tolerated (its) unfair trade practices,

theft of American jobs, and other egregious behavior," said the statement, which was attributed to State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus.

The consulate was informed of the decision Tuesday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang

Wenbin said, calling it "an outrageous and unjustified move that will sabotage relations between the two countries."

"The unilateral closure of China's consulate general in Houston within a short period of time is an unprecedented escalation of its recent actions against China," Wang said at a daily news briefing in Beijing.

He warned of firm countermeasures if the U.S. does not reverse itself. Besides its embassy in Beijing, the U.S. has five consulates in mainland China, according to its website. They are in Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu, Wuhan and Shenyang.

Houston media reports said authorities responded to reports of a fire at the Chinese Consulate. Witnesses said people were burning paper in what appeared to be trash cans, the Houston Chronicle reported, citing police.

Police were told that occupants were given until 4 p.m. Friday to leave the property, the Chronicle said.

Houston police said in a tweet that officers responded to "a meet the firefighter" call at the Chinese Consulate building at 3417 Montrose Blvd. The tweet said smoke was observed in an outdoor courtyard area, and that officers were not

allowed to enter the building.

Wang accused the U.S. of opening Chinese diplomatic pouches without permission multiple times, confiscating Chinese items for official use and imposing restrictions on Chinese diplomats in the U.S. last October and again in June. He also said that U.S. diplomats in China engage in infiltration activities.

"If we compare the two, it is only too evident which is engaged in interference, infiltration and confrontation," Wang said.

He also said that the Chinese Embassy in Washington has received bomb and death threats, and accused the U.S. government of fanning hatred against China. AP

s grasping for clues



They had their answer: Asymptomatic carriers “may contribute substantially to transmission.”

In Washington state, similar clues emerged for Duchin as a team of investigators probed the Life Care outbreak and found health care workers were spreading the virus to other elder care facilities. They believed at least some of them were working while infected but before feeling symptoms.

Then in March, at another nursing home, more than half the residents who tested positive didn't have symptoms, though most would go on to develop them.

“This disease is going to be extremely hard to control,” Duchin recalled thinking.

That underscored the need to shift gears and acknowledge the virus couldn't be totally stopped.

About the same time, Washington state officials had become aware of a cocktail party at a Seattle apartment where about 40% of the guests they later interviewed became sick with the virus, even though nobody seemed sick at the time.

Elizabeth Schneider, who was among the 30 or so attendees, recalled it as a low-key evening themed around a coconut-lime cocktail, with some guests getting in the spirit with Hawaiian shirts or other tropical attire. The host had hired a bartender to serve drinks and keep an eye on the food.

“We never really figured out who it was at the party,” said Schneider, who fell ill three days later, after continuing to socialize through the weekend. “I definitely could've spread it.”

That same week, Kenneth Hunt fell ill and was hospitalized with the virus. His friend and neighbor, Jessie Cornwell, thought back to how she had watched the Democratic debates with Hunt at Ida Culver House, their assisted living facility in Seattle, and how they had eaten meals together in the dining room.

Not long after, a second resident — who, like Hunt and Cornwell, lived on Culver House's second floor — also became sick and went to the hospital, prompting the facility to beg health officials to test all residents and staff.

Hunt died March 9, becoming one of the first American casualties of COVID-19. A day later, 82-year-old Cornwell tested positive, along with two other residents, all of whom were put into isolation.

None of them showed any symptoms.

Elsewhere, as testing efforts have widened, huge proportions of asymptomatic people have shown up, from a neighborhood in San Francisco to an aircraft carrier in the Pacific.

An outbreak linked to a South Korean nightclub showed more than 30% of cases were asymptomatic. At one New York maternity ward, some 88% of those who tested positive had no symptoms.

When Cornwell learned she was positive, her thoughts immediately turned to her pastor, the Rev. Jane Pauw, who had driven her to a Bible study meeting. Pauw lost her sense of taste and smell, came down with a high fever and was out of breath after walking a few steps. Cornwell wondered if she could have been the one to infect Pauw. She alerted her pastor, who made calls to clinics until she found one that would give her a virus test.

It came back with the answer she feared: She was positive, too.

UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

The nose and mouth are convenient entryways for the coronavirus. Once inside, the virus commandeers the cell's machinery to copy itself, while fending off the body's immune defenses. Virus levels skyrocket in the upper airway, all without symptoms in the early days of an infection. Many scientists believe that during these days, people can spread virus by talking, breathing, singing or touching surfaces.

In the truly asymptomatic, the immune system wins the battle before they ever feel sick.

As it became clearer that healthy people could spread the virus, U.S. health authorities opted not to wait for scientific certainty. During a meeting in early March, top U.S. health officials said they believed transmission could be occurring before people displayed symptoms, according to an email obtained by The Associated Press. A few weeks later, the CDC recommended people cover their nose and mouth in public with masks, bandannas, even T-shirts.

Days later, Chinese researchers published a paper saying patients are most infectious two to three days before developing symptoms. Evidence continues to accumulate, and the CDC now estimates 40% of transmission is occurring before people feel sick. The agency is telling public health officials in states that rely on mathematical models to use that number in their calculations.

A small Chinese study published May 27 found infected patients without symptoms shed virus, on average, for fewer days than those with symptoms, nine days vs. 15 days. But they do shed virus.

Still, doubts remain among scientists, most notably among the World Health Organization, which has discounted the importance of asymptomatic infection. For months, WHO maintained that asymptomatic spread was not a driver of the pandemic but recently began to acknowledge the possibility and advised people to wear masks.

U.S. health officials blame China for delays in sharing information on silent spread. But Topol contends the U.S. could have mounted its own testing program with viral genome sequencing.

That's no small matter: Gaining scientific clarity earlier would have saved lives.

“We've been slow on everything in the United States,” Topol said. “And I have to say it's shameful.” AP

Taiwan says China sending planes near island almost daily

CHINA is sending military planes near Taiwan with increasing frequency in what appears to be a stepping up of its threat to use force to take control of the island, Taiwan's foreign minister said yesterday.

Such flights are more frequent than reported in the media and have become “virtually a daily occurrence,” Joseph Wu told reporters.

Along with Chinese military exercises simulating an attack on Taiwan, the flights by China are causing major concern for Taiwan's government, Wu said.

“What it is doing now is unceasingly preparing to use force to resolve the Taiwan problem,” Wu said.

China claims the self-ruling island democracy as its own territory and threatens to use the People's Liberation Army to bring it under its control. The sides split in a civil war in 1949 when Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled to the former Japanese colony as the Communist Party took control in mainland China.

Beijing has cut ties with the island's government since Taiwan elected independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016 and has sought to isolate it diplomatically while raising the military threat. Despite that, Tsai

was reelected this year by a wide margin.

Wu said China appeared to have grown in confidence following its crackdown on opposition voices in the former British colony of Hong Kong, facilitated by the national legislature's passage of a sweeping security law.

“If international society does not give China a sufficiently clear signal, I believe China will take it that international society will not impede it in doing other things,” Wu said. “This is what we are extremely worried about.”

Wu stressed the need for coordination with allies such as Japan and the U.S., neither of which has official diplomatic ties with Taiwan but which maintain close relations. U.S. law mandates that Washington ensure the island can maintain a credible defense and treat all threats against the island as matters of grave concern.

Support among Taiwanese for political unification with China has long been weak and has fallen further following the crackdown in Hong Kong. That comes as Chinese Communist Party leader and President Xi Jinping pursues an increasingly assertive foreign policy, leading to speculation he may attempt a military confrontation in the region. AP



A Taiwanese Air Force F-16 in foreground flies on the flank of a Chinese People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) H-6 bomber as it passes near Taiwan in February



US accuses Chinese hackers in targeting of COVID-19 research

ERIC TUCKER,
WASHINGTON

HACKERS working with the Chinese government targeted firms developing vaccines for the coronavirus and stole hundreds of millions of dollars worth of intellectual property and trade secrets from companies across the world, the Justice Department said yesterday [Macau time] as it announced criminal charges.

The indictment does not accuse the two Chinese defendants of actually obtaining the coronavirus research, but it does underscore the extent to which scientific innovation has been a top target for foreign governments and criminal hackers looking to know what American companies are developing during the pandemic. In this case, the hackers researched vulnerabilities in the computer networks of biotech firms and diagnostic companies that were developing vaccines and testing kits and researching antiviral drugs.

The charges are the latest in a series of aggressive Trump administration actions targeting China. They come as President Donald Trump, his reelection prospects damaged by the coronavirus outbreak, has blamed China for the pandemic and as administration officials have escalated their denunciations of Beijing, including over alleged efforts to steal intellectual property through hacking.

The indictment includes trade secret theft and wire fraud conspiracy charges against the hackers, former classmates at an electrical engineering college who pro-

secutors say worked together for more than a decade targeting high-tech companies in more than 10 countries.

The hackers, identified as Li Xiaoyu and Dong Jiazhi, stole information not only for their personal profit but also research and technology that they knew would be of value to the Chinese government, prosecutors say.

In some instances, the indictment says, they provided an officer for a Chinese intelligence service with whom they worked email accounts and passwords belonging to clergymen, dissidents and pro-democracy activists who could then be targeted. The officer gave help of his own, providing malicious software after one of the hackers struggled to compromise the mail server of a Burmese human rights group.

The two defendants are not in custody, and federal officials conceded yesterday that they were not likely to step foot in an American courtroom. But the indictment carries important symbolic and deterrence value for the Justice Department, which decided that publicly calling out the behavior was more worthwhile than waiting for the unlikely scenario in which the defendants would travel to the U.S. and risk arrest.

The hacking began more than 10 years ago, with targets including pharmaceutical, solar energy and medical device companies but also political dissidents, activists and clergy in the United States, China and Hong Kong, federal authorities said.

The charges were brought as Trump administration officials, including national security adviser Robert O'Brien and Attorney General

William Barr, have delivered public warnings about what they say are Chinese government efforts to use hacking to steal trade secrets for Beijing's financial benefit and to covertly influence American policy.

The hacking is part of what Assistant Attorney General John Demers, the Justice Department's top national security official, described as a sweeping effort to "rob, replicate and replace" strategy for technological development.

In addition, he said, "China is providing a safe haven for criminal hackers who, as in this case, are hacking in part for their own personal gain but willing to help the state — and on call to do so."

The criminal charges are the first from the Justice Department accusing foreign hackers of targeting innovation related to the coronavirus, though U.S. and Western intelligence agencies have warned for months about those efforts.

Last week, for instance, authorities in the U.S., Canada and the United Kingdom accused a hacking group with links to Russian intelligence of trying to target research on the disease, which has killed more than 140,000 people in the United States and more than 600,000 worldwide, according to figures compiled by Johns Hopkins University.

The indictment describes multiple efforts by the hackers to snoop on companies engaged in coronavirus-related research, though it does not accuse them of success in any theft.

Prosecutors say Li in January conducted reconnaissance on the computer network of a Massachusetts

biotech firm known to be researching a potential vaccine, and searched for vulnerabilities on the network of a Maryland firm less than a week after the company said it was conducting similar scientific work.

Li also probed the networks of a California diagnostics company involved in developing testing kits, and a biotech firm from the same state that was researching antiviral drugs.

Hacking of vaccine information slows down research as the institution must scramble not only to fix the breach but also to ensure the data it has accumulated has not been altered, Demers said.

"Once someone is in your system, they can not only take the data, they can manipulate the data," Demers said. "We do worry to that extent that there could be a slowdown in the research efforts of that particular institution."

The indictment was returned earlier this month in federal court in the Eastern District of Washington, where the hacking outlined by prosecutors was first discovered at the Department of Energy's Hanford site.

"If it can occur there, we all must know that it can occur anywhere," U.S. Attorney William Hyslop said of his district.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C., did not directly respond to the indictment but pointed to remarks made last week by the Foreign Ministry spokesperson, who described China as the victim of "groundless speculations" but also a country whose scientific prowess means it does not need to "secure an edge by theft." AP

this day in history



1974 GREEK MILITARY RULE GIVES IN TO DEMOCRACY

The military government in Greece has collapsed and the former prime minister Constantine Karamanlis has been invited to return.

Huge crowds gathered to greet him at Athens airport and there has been jubilation in the streets of the Greek capital to mark the beginning of a return to democracy.

Conservative Mr Karamanlis, 67, was prime minister for an unprecedented eight years until the centre-left won power in the country's last democratic election in 1963.

He has been in self-imposed exile in Paris since then but he was one of eight former senior politicians invited to return yesterday by the foundering military leadership.

A military junta led by Colonel Papadopoulos, Colonel Makarezos and Brigadier Pattakos seized power in Greece in April 1967.

They imposed strict controls over the media and judicial system, suppressed any political opposition and dismantled the reforms of the last elected prime minister, Georgios Papandreu.

A spokesman for the Greek armed forces explained the junta's decision to step down, "in view of the position in which the country finds itself".

The regime, now controlled by Brigadier Demetrios Ioannidis, has crumbled over the growing crisis in Cyprus following the Turkish invasion two days ago.

The Greek National Guard staged a coup on the island last week to replace elected Greek-Cypriot leader Archbishop Makarios with Nicos Sampson, who fell from power yesterday.

Mr Karamanlis' return from exile has been welcomed by the Turkish Government - which sent him messages of congratulation, and the Turkish press has hailed him as "Turkey's friend".

Former Greek King Constantine - exiled since failing to topple the 1967 coup - has been in talks with British Prime Minister Harold Wilson at 10 Downing Street.

Mr Karamanlis will choose his cabinet tomorrow to include experts and representatives from both leading parties from the 1963 poll.

General Gizikis has said he will remain as Greek President until the new government is running smoothly.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The monarchy had been abolished in 1973 and in a referendum on the issue later in 1974 Greek voters rejected re-establishing the king and voted for a presidential system.

The Greek republic was founded with a new constitution in 1975.

Constantine Karamanlis was re-elected as prime minister in 1977 with the New Democracy Party he had founded.

He became President of Greece in 1980.

He secured his aim of Greek admission to the EEC the following year.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The connection you've got cookin' with someone else is getting more complicated right now, and today you might want to step back and look at things from an outsider's perspective.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

If you want to have a unique day, all you need to do is take a unique approach. All you need to do is see things from another perspective-try seeing the world as an audience you must entertain.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Try. This one little word could mean big things for you today. You see, there is a tremendous amount of value to be gained when you at least attempt things.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Things are going to work out differently than the way you assumed they would. And whether you'll respond really well or really badly is still up in the air.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Sure, you know that you are supposed to look before you leap, but do not forget that you also need to listen before you leap! Take in all the instructions that are given before you act today.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It's the perfect day for you to stop what you're doing and take a moment to reach up and pat yourself on the back! It took you a lot of hard work to get to where you are right now.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Step out and do what you want to do today - take advantage of a great bargain, a wonderful dinner invitation or some other opportunity that is just too good for you to pass up!



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Think about your audience - what is most important to them? Focus on that, and show them how they can get what they want out of your plan, too. You have a lot of great sales skills that you don't always use.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There is a very simple solution to your complex financial problem - stop spending money for a while! Try to think more like a fiscal conservative and hold on to your wallet like it's your lifeline.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Displaying too much aggression will do you more harm than good right now, so try hard to play nice - especially with the people who just love pushing your buttons!



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If something confusing is starting to build between you and another person, don't try and fight it today. Even if you know this is definitely not what you want, one more day of experiencing it won't hurt anybody.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You are going to get a lot of positive attention very soon-get ready to have a permanent blush! If a group is looking for a leader, you should step up and nominate yourself for the job.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|---------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | 22 | 33 | cloudy |
| Harbin | 18 | 30 | thundershower |
| Tianjin | 25 | 32 | overcast |
| Urumqi | 22 | 29 | cloudy |
| Xi'an | 21 | 28 | drizzle |
| Lhasa | 12 | 24 | shower |
| Chengdu | 21 | 29 | shower |
| Chongqing | 25 | 31 | drizzle |
| Kunming | 18 | 25 | shower |
| Nanjing | 25 | 34 | overcast |
| Shanghai | 26 | 35 | drizzle |
| Wuhan | 26 | 34 | cloudy |
| Hangzhou | 25 | 37 | overcast |
| Taipei | 26 | 32 | cloudy |
| Guangzhou | 28 | 36 | cloudy |
| Hong Kong | 28 | 33 | cloudy |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | 15 | 20 | drizzle |
| Frankfurt | 12 | 23 | clear |
| Paris | 13 | 24 | clear |
| London | 12 | 21 | cloudy |
| New York | 25 | 32 | drizzle |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Groomer; 6- ____, I'm Adam; 11- Equivalent wd.; 14- Rate; 15- Uneven; 16- Color; 17- Midway alternative; 18- Luminous; 19- Nipper's co.; 20- Feat; 22- Something drawn out; 24- Zero; 28- Krypton, for one; 30- Ring combo; 31- Yellow-fever mosquito; 32- Colorado resort; 33- Instant; 37- Tee follower; 38- "Delta of Venus" author Nin; 39- Wee one; 40- Unwavering; 43- Gentle water sound; 45- Army unit; 46- Evening party; 47- Hoof infection of sheep; 50- Prior; 51- Sudden convulsion; 52- Big East team; 53- Hanoi holiday; 54- Assisted; 57- Creamy white; 62- Half and half; 63- Din; 64- Fuel transport; 65- Letter addenda; 66- English royal house; 67- Food and water;

DOWN: 1- Friend in the 'hood; 2- Go, team!; 3- Tony-winning Hagen; 4- Poitier role; 5- Dancing party; 6- Donnybrook; 7- Like Death Valley; 8- Man's best friend; 9- Bat wood; 10- Like some mail; 11- Gesture of indifference; 12- New Mexico's state flower; 13- ___-foot oil; 21- Brian of rock; 23- Ricky's portrayer; 24- ___ Ark; 25- Start; 26- Native American tent; 27- Broke bread; 28- Pardon; 29- Citrus coolers; 31- Gather together; 33- Not proper; 34- Maker of Pong; 35- We're Off ___ the Wizard; 36- Early anesthetic; 38- Bushy hairdo; 41- After John in the NT; 42- Inactive; 43- Segment; 44- Abner's adjective; 46- Posed; 47- Camera setting; 48- Unfolds; 49- Novelist Joyce Carol ___; 50- Duck with soft down; 52- 100 centavos; 55- Acknowledgment of debt; 56- Sufficed; 58- Contend; 59- Cheer for Manolete; 60- Roulette bet; 61- Decade divs.;

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE

Two Shops, Down Town Macau
HK\$20,800,000 1,404 ft²

FOR RENT

Retail Shop, Barra Area Macau
\$48,000/mth 1,968 ft²

FOR SALE

- [Macau] Apartment Historical Centre2 1 1 840 ft² \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)
- [Taipa] Wa Bao 2 1 2 1,071 ft² \$7,995,000 (ref: 18115568)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1 2 1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 1 2 1,439 ft² \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)

FOR RENT

- [Taipa] Studio apartment 1 1 1 650 ft² \$9,000/mth (ref: 20061003)
- [Macau] One Central 2 1 2 1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1 2 2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)
- [Coloane] Ocean Garden 4 1 4 3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AVIATION

CATHAY DELAYS AIRBUS DELIVERIES TO STEM CRIPPLING CASH DRAIN

CATHAY Pacific Airways Ltd. will delay deliveries of Airbus SE aircraft by as much as two years, in a move that could cut the carrier's monthly cash losses in half as the coronavirus pandemic slams the aviation industry.

Deliveries of A350-900s and A350-1000s have been deferred to 2020-2023 from 2020 and 2021, while A321neo deliveries have been pushed back to 2020-2025 from 2020-2023, Cathay said in a prospectus for its HKD11.7 billion (\$1.5 billion) rights issue. The Hong Kong-based carrier also said it's in advanced negotiations with Boeing Co. to defer deliveries of the 777-9 aircraft.

Cathay has been losing as much as HKD3 billion a month recently as the coronavirus outbreak led to a collapse in passenger traffic. The carrier last week warned



BLOOMBERG

it was set to post a first-half loss of HKD9.9 billion, and it has turned to the Hong Kong government for support in a HKD39 billion rescue plan.

For the A350-900, Cathay has taken delivery of 22 out of 26 ordered. For the A350-1000, the carrier has taken delivery of 12 out of 20. Cathay also ordered 32 A321neo planes, though no deliveries have been made yet. The airline has orders for 21 Boeing 777X wide-body jets, which

is now only expected to enter service in 2022.

Airbus declined to comment on Cathay's aircraft deferrals. Boeing's new 777X jet, originally scheduled to debut this year, is likely to miss its revised 2021 deadline, according to the aircraft's top customer Emirates, which doesn't expect to receive any of its 777X planes before 2022.

The deferrals in deliveries should produce cash savings in the short-to-medium term,

with monthly losses contracting to HKD1.5 billion while minimal passenger services are in place, Cathay said. It didn't say how many planes are set to be delivered.

"This actually ensures that Cathay will continue to survive," said Paul Yong, a senior analyst at DBS Bank Ltd. in Singapore. "The deferral will save quite a bit of cash."

The International Air Transport Association expects the global airline industry to suffer a net loss of \$84.3 billion this year.

"If you look at the IATA forecast, it doesn't expect traffic to normalize until 2024," Yong said. "It's not surprising airlines are deferring planes."

Cathay has called the Covid-19 crisis the biggest challenge to the aviation industry it has ever witnessed, and it doesn't expect a meaningful recovery for an extended period.

Airbus failed to secure any new aircraft orders in June, its third barren month this year. The manufacturer delivered 36 planes last month, up from 24 in May. Boeing has been hit even harder as the global grounding of the 737 Max has prompted more buyers to walk away. **BLOOMBERG**

NESTLE ADDS CHINESE WATER BRANDS TO LIST OF POSSIBLE DISPOSALS

NESTLE SA is considering selling a bottled water business in China as the world's largest food company sheds underperforming brands.

Nestle said yesterday it's considering a number of options including a sale. The unit, which sells a locally sourced version of Nestle Pure Life and Da Shan Yunnan Spring, has annual sales of about 50 million francs (\$53 million) and probably could fetch a similar price, estimated MainFirst analyst Alain Oberhuber. Nestle faces strong domestic competition in that market.

Nestle has been planning to slim down both in China and in bottled water. The company is said to have narrowed the list of bidders for its ailing Chinese business Yinlu Foods Group, which may fetch more than \$400 million. Last month, the company put its U.S. mass-market bottled water business up for sale to concentrate on premium brands.

Chief Executive Officer Mark Schneider has made more than 50 deals since he took charge in 2017. He said in February his one regret regarding 2019 was that portfolio management was heavy on disposals and a little light on acquisitions, and hinted at a full pipeline of deals for this year.

AD

FRANCE MACAU Chamber of Commerce
法國澳門工商會

FMCC champions Breakfast Meetings in town with key speakers sharing their views on current business affairs. Our monthly events take place every last Wednesday of the month at Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16. Open to all!

Road to Recovery: Macau post-COVID-19
Speaker: Ms Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes
Director of the Macao Government Tourism Office

FMCC Breakfast Meeting
Wednesday, 29 July 2020

Introduction:
COVID-19 has had a tremendous impact on our lives and the economy. Join us to hear MGTO's Director Ms Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes present the strategies and recovery plan to ensure the survival and the revival of the Macau tourism industry.

Date: Wednesday, 29 July, 2020
Time: 9:00a.m. - 10:30a.m. (Reception: 8:45am)
Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16
Baccara, 6th floor

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RONALD BLUM, NEW YORK

JUAN ÁNGEL NAPOUT

A federal judge denied a request for compassionate release by the former head of South American soccer after he contracted the coronavirus while serving a nine-year prison sentence.

U.S. District Judge Pamela K. Chen in Brooklyn ruled yesterday [Macau time] that Juan Ángel Napout should remain at the low-security Federal Correctional Institution, Miami. The Paraguayan was among the former FIFA officials convicted following a U.S. government investigation into corruption of soccer.

Napout tested positive for the virus on July 16 but has remained asymptomatic. He asked to be transferred to home confinement. U.S. prisons have seen widespread outbreaks of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus.

"If circumstances change that tangibly demonstrate some serious risk of dire consequences or in themselves constitute a life-threatening event, that could well justify a compassionate release," Chen said near the end of a two-hour telephone hearing. "But now based on the record I have before me, I find that the request is based on speculation that is not sufficient."

Napout was convicted on Dec. 22, 2017, of one count of racketeering conspiracy and two counts of wire fraud conspiracy, and he was taken into custody that day. The

Ex-South American soccer head stays in prison with virus



AP PHOTO

62-year-old is scheduled for release on Aug. 9, 2025. His conviction was upheld on June 22 by the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

He has cited his age, hypertension and anxiety as increasing his risk for complications from COVID-19.

"Even accepting that data, the risk is still low according to the data that we have and does not to me suggest anything, thankfully,

nearly as life-threatening as ordinarily gives rise to compassionate release," Chen said.

She also denied Napout's request for compassionate release on April 10 and put off a decision on July 15, when she ordered he be tested for the virus. Napout has been quarantined since July 19 with another inmate who tested positive.

"Since we filed a motion in

April and then to today, at each stage for some reason, everyone has always erred on the side of we'll just assume all is going to be OK with Mr. Napout," said his lawyer, Marc A. Weinstein. "I think we've gotten to a point where that didn't work with respect to whether it would hit FCI Miami. It didn't work with whether or not he would get the disease. He now has it. He's got one step left, and to err

on the wrong side this time could be a fatal decision."

Napout was president of the South American governing body CONMEBOL from August 2014 until December 2015, president of the Paraguayan Football Association from 2007-14 and a member of FIFA's executive committee. He was arrested in Zurich while attending FIFA meetings in December 2015.

"He has throughout this entire case never admitted or acknowledged any culpability or expressed any remorse," Chen said, citing "an utter resistance to any acceptance or admission of responsibility for being in what was so thoroughly a corrupt enterprise and even engaging in obstructive contract."

"There needs to be a message of specific deterrence it seems to me, not to mention just punishment," she added.

Napout was banned for life from soccer by FIFA last September and fined 1 million Swiss francs (then \$1.01 million). He has appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. **AP**

AD

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EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會

Escola de Artes e Ofícios
School of Arts and Crafts

workshop

Pendente de Esmalte

Enamel Pendant

≥ 15 anos/years old

monitora/monitor:
Cristina Vinhas

Quintas/Thursdays
18h30 - 21h30

total: 09 horas/hours
03 sessões/sessions

data/dates:
06.13.20/08/2020

início/starts: 06/08/2020
fim/finishes: 20/08/2020

propina/fee:
MOP 360 *

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

patrocínio/sponsor: **Fundação Macau**

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EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會

Escola de Artes e Ofícios
School of Arts and Crafts

workshop

MIÚDA GALÁCTICA

- MAQUILHAGEM

GALACTIC GIRL

- MAKEUP

≥ 5-10 anos/years old

monitora/monitor:
Sara Figueira

início/starts:
08/08/2020

fim/finishes:
29/08/2020

horário/schedule:
Sábados/Saturdays
10h30 - 12h30

data/dates:
08, 15, 22,
29/08/2020

total: 08 horas/hours
04 sessões/sessions

propina/fee:
MOP 320 *

língua/language:
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OPINION

World Views

Andreas Kluth, Bloomberg

**AS THE EU EVOLVES, IT'S
 JERKS AGAINST CREEPS**

Europe will be "forged in crises," said Jean Monnet, a founding father of what became the European Union. For decades it's been a favorite quote of Europhiles, and this week's pandemic deal in Brussels once again makes them feel vindicated. Thrashed out over four days by 27 sleep-deprived leaders, it foresees the EU's first jointly issued bonds. This debt will finance what's in effect an insurance mechanism to help the member states worst hit by the coronavirus, such as Italy and Spain, thus proving European "solidarity."

But countering Monnet and his intellectual progeny, the EU's many skeptics — including those, like me, who are pro-European — have long argued that Europe always does too little, too late. Whether it's the euro crisis or the refugee chaos of the past decade, or indeed the coronavirus recession now, the EU never quite rises to the challenge.

These two competing narratives frame a central debate about the EU's future. Bruegel, a Brussels think tank, caricatures them as 1) the bloc is being "hardened by adversity," leading to perpetual integration, versus 2) the "sky is falling" for the EU, which causes its disintegration.

But others believe this is a false dichotomy. Integration is not "either yes or no, forward or backward, progress or regress." Instead, integration and disintegration both take place at the same time.

So a better way to frame the controversy may be by analogy to the long-standing debate in evolutionary biology between "creeps" and "jerks." Biologists of the former description believe that evolution is a gradual and smooth process of adaptation. Those in the latter camp think nothing much happens for ages until sudden upheavals produce new "punctuated equilibria."

In this sense, Monnet and all those celebrating the EU's coronavirus deal are jerks. By contrast, a lot of the skeptics are creeps, thinking that change is slow but happening all the time — and not necessarily in a way that europhiles want. For my part, I'm a creep and a jerk.

Worryingly, the EU's creeping changes do seem to be going in the wrong direction. One category is economic. The EU's north and south, or its industrial "core" and "periphery," have kept diverging since the euro crisis and will continue to do so. This week's deal, even though its original vision of handing out fiscal grants was only diluted slightly in the haggling, won't change this.

Another kind of negative creep is even more troubling. It is the divergence between the EU's west and east with respect to European core values such as democracy, cultural pluralism and the rule of law. Hungary has been drifting toward "illiberal" authoritarianism for a decade and some no longer consider it a democracy.

That's why some think tanks and western EU leaders originally wanted to tie the receipt of money from Brussels, whether from its next seven-year budget or the new coronavirus pot, to compliance with the rulings of the EU's highest court, in Luxembourg, on such matters as the rule of law or press freedom. But after elaborate theatrics, especially by Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, this conditionality was watered down into a vague promise to revisit the subject soon. For the sake of a deal, the EU surrendered.

This is worth keeping in mind as the 27 leaders now proclaim their particular definition of victory in Brussels. In reality, the EU remains fractious and fragmented and is, if anything, getting more so. This means that in foreign and defense policy it is and will remain a failure. Geopolitically, Europeans are increasingly "vegetarians in a world of carnivores" such as China, Russia and the U.S.

Does that mean the EU is fated to enter the fossil record, as many species have done before? Not necessarily, but possibly. Evolution is not about improvement toward some noble ideal but about adapting to reality. If the EU remains unable to adjust fast enough, as I've argued, it faces "creeping irrelevance." Or, worse, the jerky kind.

[Abridged]

World shares were mostly lower yesterday on renewed worries over surging coronavirus caseloads in many countries.

U.S. futures also edged lower, though President Donald Trump's statement that the pandemic will likely get worse before it gets better had little impact, analysts said.

All European markets registered losses.

In Asia, Hong Kong's Hang Seng index tumbled 2%, to 25,131.50, after its health minister warned the city is at a high risk of an "outbreak in the community." Authorities made wearing of masks

on public transport and in public indoor areas as the number of confirmed cases pushed past 2,000.

Australia's hard-hit Victoria state reported a record 484 new COVID-19 cases, and health authorities there warned that numbers could continue to rise if the sick continue to fail to isolate themselves. The Australian share benchmark, the S&P ASX/200, gave up 1.3% to 6,075.10.

Tokyo's Nikkei 225 index lost 0.6% to 22,751.61. The Shanghai Composite index gained 0.2% to 3,328.68.



AP PHOTO

TRUMP

**TWITTER SAYS IT'S CRACKING
 DOWN ON QANON
 CONSPIRACY THEORY**

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

TWITTER says it is cracking down on accounts and content related to QAnon, the far-right U.S. conspiracy theory popular among supporters of President Donald Trump.

The measures include banning accounts associated with QAnon content, as well as blocking URLs associated with it from being shared on the platform. Twitter also said that it would stop highlighting and recommending tweets associated with QAnon.

"We've been clear that we will take strong enforcement action on behavior that has the potential to lead to offline harm," the company said in a tweet

yesterday [Macau time].

Accounts that are "engaged in violations of our multi-account policy, coordinating abuse around individual victims, or are attempting to evade a previous suspension" will be suspended permanently, Twitter said.

Over 7,000 accounts have been removed over the last few weeks for such violations, the company said in a statement. It also expects over 150,000 accounts globally to have reduced visibility due to these measures.

The QAnon conspiracy theory is centered on the baseless belief that Trump is waging a secret campaign against enemies in the "deep state" and a child sex

trafficking ring run by satanic pedophiles and cannibals. For more than two years, followers have pored over tangled clues purportedly posted online by a high-ranking government official known only as "Q."

The conspiracy theory emerged in a dark corner of the internet but has been creeping into the mainstream political arena. Trump has retweeted QAnon-promoting accounts and its followers flock to his rallies wearing clothes and hats with QAnon symbols and slogans.

Twitter's move follows in the footsteps of Facebook, which in May also removed several groups, accounts and pages against QAnon. **AP**

**PROSECUTORS: COMPANY, CEO TRIED
 TO EXPORT CHEMICALS TO CHINA**

A California company and its CEO are facing conspiracy, money laundering and other federal charges for allegedly attempting to illegally export chemicals to a Chinese company with military ties, federal prosecutors said.

U.S. Attorney for Rhode Island Aaron Weisman said Tao Jiang, president and CEO of Broad Tech System Inc., has been indicted by a federal grand jury in Providence along with his company and Bohr Winn-Shih, a company equipment engineer.

Weisman's office said Monday the company was involved in a scheme to ship chemicals used in microchip manufacturing from Rhode Island to a company in China, in violation of the federal Export Control Reform Act.

He said Jiang's company knowingly submitted false documentation to federal authorities and shipping companies to order the chemicals. Federal authorities alerted the unidentified Rhode Island manufacturer and the products were never shipped.

Weisman's office said the chemicals had been destined for the China Electronics Technology Group, a state-owned entity in Nanjing that makes key components for China's military and other large-scale national projects.

Federal law restricts the export of items that could help another nation's military or that could harm foreign policy or national security, Weisman's office said.

No lawyer is listed for Winn-Shih in the federal court database. **MDT/AP**

Thailand Faced with labor shortage in construction and agriculture, Thailand has agreed to let in about 120,000 migrant workers from Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos in the next phase of easing coronavirus restrictions. A spokesman for the government's COVID-19 center says details such as quarantine measures still have to be worked out. A further loosening of restrictions, which also includes opening the borders to foreigners visiting for medical and business purposes, is expected Aug. 1.



AP PHOTO

Nepal's government yesterday ended its lockdown 120 days after it was imposed to control the spread of the coronavirus. Information Minister Yuba Raj Khatiwada said the number of cases were declining. Government and private offices would be fully functional, all vehicles would be allowed on the streets and markets, malls and shops will be allowed to open. Airports and commercial flights will resume Aug. 1.



AP PHOTO

India A new study indicates far more people have been infected with the coronavirus in India's capital region than official figures show. The National Center for Disease Control says it tested more than 21,000 people selected randomly across Delhi, the state that includes New Delhi. It found an estimated 22% of the state population has been infected, or more than 6.6 million people. Delhi has officially reported just 123,000 infections, meaning that most cases have not been tested or identified.

South Africa The World Health Organization and the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have launched an effort to explore the role of traditional medicine in the coronavirus pandemic. The new advisory panel will support countries in clinical trials, other research and development of traditional therapies as the pandemic now spreads rapidly in parts of Africa. Confirmed cases on the continent have nearly reached 750,000, more than half of them in South Africa.