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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

TAXI DRIVERS FACE INVESTIGATION FOR SUPPORTING HK'S NATIONAL SECURITY LAW ON THEIR VEHICLES IN WHAT COULD BE ILLEGAL ADVERTISING

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MUST SCIENTISTS CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL MISSION SENDING PROBE TO MARS

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A SMALL BUSINESS THAT SELLS ORGANIC COFFEE PRODUCTS HAS PARTNERED WITH MGM TO OFFER A NOVEL SOUVENIR FOR VISITORS

P5

Malaysia Authorities said yesterday that they were searching for two dozen Rohingya refugees who are feared to have drowned after jumping off their boat off the northern resort island of Langkawi.



Vietnam announced that it was banning wildlife imports and would close wildlife markets in response to renewed concerns about the threat from diseases that can jump from animals to humans, such as the virus that causes Covid-19.

Indonesia An Australian man walked free from prison on the Indonesian tourist island of Bali on Saturday after serving one year for possession of cocaine in a nightclub.



North Korea Leader Kim Jong Un placed the city of Kaesong near the border with South Korea under total lockdown after a person was found there with suspected Covid-19 symptoms, saying "the vicious virus" may have entered the country, state media reported yesterday.

Kyrgyzstan Azimhan Askarov, a human rights defender in Kyrgyzstan who was serving a life term on charges of involvement in ethnic violence that were widely criticized as trumped-up, has died in a prison clinic. He was 69.

Sweden The Church of Sweden has more female than male priests for the first time, according to numbers released this month, a sign of huge strides for gender equality since women were first allowed to be ordained in 1960.

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ROGUE TRAVEL AGENT FACES PENALTY FOR CRASHING BOOKING PLATFORM

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RENOATO MARQUES



RENOATO MARQUES



TOURISM BOARD BUDGET SLASHED 35% FOR NEXT YEAR

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LEISURE PROJECTS ADDING PLAYGROUNDS, RESTAURANTS, GARDENS TO FINISH SOON

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**LOCAL MASK
MANUFACTURER OPENS
FACTORY**

Local mask brand "853" has recently opened its factory, which is located in an industrial building on Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes. The factory had a soft opening in March this year and started operations at the end of June. It currently has three production lines capable of manufacturing 150,000 masks per day. More than 20 pharmacies are selling the masks. The owner of the company explained that he and his partner wanted to manufacture masks in either Macau or mainland China in the wake of the Covid-19 outbreak. Since they were focused on the Macau market, they opted to manufacture in Macau instead. They also have the capability of expanding their production to manufacture children's masks as well.

**SONG PEK KEI SEEKS
RESULTS OF GOV'T
RESEARCH INTO AGED CARE**

Lawmaker Song Pek Kei has asked the government to publish the results, once available, of research into aged care that began last year and ended in June this year. Song recapped that in 2019, the proportion of residents above 65 years of age was 12% of the total population. As the aging population will increase, related policy development, such as having 2,600 beds in aged care homes in 2022, may not satisfy market demand. Some families, the lawmaker said, may even need to hire a caregiver, which is an extra burden on them. As such, she hopes the government will prioritize the implementation of a caregiver subsidy. In addition, it should also increase the number of visiting caregivers, the lawmaker said.

**60% OF FATHERS REPORT
STRESS DURING COVID-19
PANDEMIC**

A survey conducted by the Collective Wisdom Policy Center, where lawmaker Ho Ion Sang is the director-general, found that 60% of the fathers surveyed experience stress amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The entity received 801 valid responses and determined that fathers were facing vocational, economic, family and health pressures. The survey found that 30% of fathers were forced to take leave on reduced pay. Nearly 20% were underemployed, 10% became unemployed, while 16% had their salary reduced. The survey also determined that Macau fathers were not spending much time with their children. One-fifth spent at most 5 hours per week with their children. Only 10% could spare more than 20 hours per week with their children. The survey did not determine the cause of the time restrictions.

TAXI DRIVER SUPPORT FOR HK NATIONAL SECURITY LAW NOW UNDER INVESTIGATION

RENATO MARQUES

THE Public Prosecutions Office (MP) will investigate the legality of a series of messages and posters placed in some taxis in Macau, which praised the approval and enforcement of China's National Security Law in the neighboring Special Administrative Region of Hong Kong.

According to a report by the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the case was initially investigated by the police in June before being passed to the jurisdiction of the MP, who will continue the probe and determine whether such actions are considered legal under local law provisions.

In early June, the Macau Transport Commerce Chamber staged an event at the Macau Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge in which approximately 300 taxis participated, and exhibited posters and message banners showing support for the controversial national security law in Hong Kong.

Several reports at the time noted that the cooperative event included the cars circulating around Macau for several days exhibiting the same ma-

RENATO MARQUES



terial, which was a paid advertising stunt that several sectors of society claimed was an act of illegal advertising.

In the PSP statement, the police force said it is working to answer questions regarding the initiative, which should become clearer following the MP's investigation.

This incident came just one day after a parade through the streets of Macau was also orga-

nized in support of the law. The so-called "red bus event," organized by a local association, has already been investigated and referred to the MP, as Ma Chio Hong, head of the Division of Operation and Communications of the PSP had announced on June 16.

At the time of the announcement, Ma admitted that the case had generated a lot of public attention and concern, no-

ting that there were allegations that the event might have violated the law on assembly and protest due to the lack of prior information to the PSP on the intention to hold such an activity.

The parade started at the Macao Science Center and ended in Iao Hon District, with stops at the Macau Tower, the A-Ma Temple, and the Kun Iam Temple.

Tourism board to face 35% budget cut next year

ANTHONY LAM

THE preliminary 2021 budget proposed by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will see the tourism board's funding slashed by more than one-third.

According to Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of the MGTO, the bureau is seeking 1.45 billion patacas in 2021, about 35% less than this year.

The news comes after Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, last month ordered an aggregate 10% decrease

in public administration expenditure next year.

The latest growth predictions by the University of Macau's Department of Economics show that the territory's economy might shrink by up to 60% this year.

With tourism being the key driver of Macau's economy, the MGTO is expected to spend some of its funding to revive the city's flagging economy.

Macau welcomed approximately 39.4 million tourists last year, 10.1% more than in 2018, according to official data.

Visitor arrivals in the first half of this year dropped by 83.9% to just 3.2 million, because of Covid-19-related travel restrictions.

The yearly budget of the MGTO normally covers three areas, the director explained, namely investment into the Tourism Fund, the budget for intra-Macau projects, as well as investment and development expenditure plans.

Previously, the government had announced that more festivities and events would be held when the

Covid-19 pandemic eased.

Senna Fernandes explained that her team would realize the goal by administering stricter control over the scale and costs of such events.

"The current [budget] edition we have submitted is likely capable of supporting our planned events," the tourism director advised.

The MGTO head explained that the bureau would work more closely with industry partners to flatten expenditure.

She also explained that

the office did not issue many subsidies in the first half of the year due to fewer events held by private entities amid the Covid-19 pandemic. It resumed issuing subsidies to private entities in July but the review criteria has been stricter, such as requesting subsidy-seekers to provide supporting evidence of an expected return on investment.

The operations of special ferry services and quarantine hotels have used MOP4.5 million and MOP70 million of the Tourism Fund respectively.

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Gov't penalizes travel agency for crashing helicopter tour registration platform

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has penalized a local travel agency participating in the "Macao Ready Go! Local Tours" for jeopardizing its system's functionality and apparently leading to last week's crash.

The application system for the scheme was overloaded last week, leading to its temporary malfunction and suspension of application processing for the new "Helicopter Ride Experience."

Initially, 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 tour until further notice.

Following an investigation, the task force discovered that a local travel agency logged into the application system via a plug-in and produced an excessive number of enquiries within a very short period of time on that day causing the overload and malfunction of the system.

"The act seriously jeopardized the proper functioning of the system and violated the principle of fair competition among businesses," the tourism bureau said in a statement.

Therefore, the MGTO has issued a severe warning and penalty to the travel agency, which is now banned from processing any applications for 14 days. Upon a repeated offence, the MGTO may terminate the agency's eligibili-

XINHUA



ty for participation in the project "Macao Ready Go! Local Tours."

The registration period for the campaign's 10 new itineraries kicked off last week, increasing the total number of itineraries to 25.

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 professional photographers.

Meanwhile, since the demand of applications for the "Helicopter Ride Experience," is high, the MGTO has increased the

quota from an initial 700 to 1,584 spaces. The campaign has already attracted more than 26,000 registrants since its launch.

Also due to the demand, the go-

vernment had introduced a new draw system to select who will be able to register for the experience. Each applicant is assigned a number by the system and will be eligible for two spots to join the helicopter tour.

The popular tour, which will allow participants to take a flight around the skyline of Macau, will start from July 31 and end on August 30. It will run from Wednesdays to Sundays.

A task force was formed to take charge of the "Macao Ready Go! Local Tours" project management as well as procu-

rement, product development, pricing and quality management, among other tasks.

Sponsored by the Macao Foundation, the local tour project "Macao Ready Go! Local Tours" will continue until September 30.

Each participant will be subsidized 280 patacas per tour taken and is entitled to a maximum subsidy of 560 patacas.

As observed by the Times, the tours – particularly the community-based tours – have proved popular with families and middle-aged couples.

All tour prices available under the "Macao Ready Go! Local Tours" program range from 18 patacas to 418 patacas.

"The act seriously jeopardized the proper functioning of the system and violated the principle of fair competition among businesses."

MGTO

Sulu Sou sees potential in domestic economy

ANTHONY LAM

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou has called on the population to reexamine the need to diversify the economy, saying that Macau needs to nurture its own domestic economy and rely less on external markets.

Since Covid-19 first arrived in Macau in late January, measures have been taken and finely tuned by the government several times to contain the virus. Among them are entry and exit restrictions in Macau and the mainland, which have discouraged tourists from visiting the city.

Not only has the visitor count plummeted for se-



veral months in a row to almost zero, the revenue of industries relying heavily on tourists has been significantly impacted. Many workers in these industries were either laid off or forced to take unpaid leave.

Sou is calling for Macau to reconsider its extensive reliance on the external demand, especially from a

single source market, mainland China.

His call comes amid many other voices lamenting the failure of Macau's diversification efforts in recent years. Despite the government's effort to build alternative sectors, casinos and gambling-related activities still directly account for more than half

of the local economy and most of the patrons of this business come from outside Macau.

"We need to sit down and consider this: Is Macau only worthy of relying on imported things? Is this our destiny?" the lawmaker questioned. "Many people are still praying for lifting border restrictions. It's a waste of the lessons from these six months."

In Sou's opinion, the Covid-19 pandemic is a valuable chance for the entire community to review the matter of diversification.

To support his perspective, the lawmaker cited the Secretary for Economy and Finance on the 3:7 ratio of the internal to the external

economy. He sees great potential of further expanding internal consumption.

According to the lawmaker, some people believe that Macau can only rely on gambling and tourism. It cannot stand on its own feet and support itself. However, with the government's e-voucher revival initiative, domestic consumption has revived to a certain extent.

"Some small and medium-sized enterprises realized that it takes more effort to earn money," Sou said. "They have started to think about how to encourage local people to spend in the city."

This tougher climate has made small enterprises rea-

lize that business "depends on whether the quality of service offered by these enterprises is good enough to attract more domestic consumption," according to Sou.

Referring to the two-decade-long swift economic development that has placed the city near the top of the world in terms of per capita GDP, Sou says only that "nothing is eternal."

Nevertheless, the lawmaker is quite pessimistic about Macau's short-term recovery. An average monthly gambling income of over 20 billion patacas and an annual visitor count of 40 million may not return for many years, he said.

"I believe that returning the economy to that level is quite difficult in the foreseeable future," said the lawmaker.

GEG SUSPENDS DISCRETIONARY BONUS THIS SUMMER



GALAXY Entertainment Group has announced that it will not offer a discretionary bonus to employees at all levels as it did annually in recent years.

In a video announcement made to employees by the vice chairman of the group, Francis Lui, the executive remarked, "the company expects an unprecedented setback in 2020 earnings. Thus, it is inevitable for the company to make these difficult decisions."

It was also announced that the gaming operator would extend some temporary unpaid leave arrangements until the end of 2020, adding that it is suspending its contributions to employees' private

pension funds until the situation improves.

Traditionally, gaming operators offer two discretionary bonuses each year equivalent to one month's salary per bonus period. The concessionaires usually announce discretionary bonuses every January and July to all eligible full-time employees in recognition of their contributions to the company.

However, to date, no gaming operator has yet announced a second discretionary bonus this summer, following the bonuses made before Chinese New Year. June was the fifth consecutive month that gaming revenue plummeted. Year-to-date revenue is down 77.4% from 2019 levels. **LV**



GOV'T TESTS OVER 25,000 CASINO FRONTLINE WORKERS FOR COVID-19

OVER 25,000 casino workers from Sands China and SJM have undergone Covid-19 testing and all tested negative, the health authorities announced.

During the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre's press briefing, the medical director of the Conde São Januário Hospital, Alvis Lo Iek Long said that the tests were conducted on the workers over a 10-day period.

The 25,000 tests account for some 8% of the nucleic acid tests conducted in the city as of

Friday.

According to Lo, the health authorities are conducting some 11,000 Covid-19 tests per day, but this number could be increased to 16,000 if required.

The Covid-19 nucleic acid testing for frontline casino workers has been rolled out gradually from July 16. Casino operators and the government are evaluating the number of workers at each casino and deploying teams to collect samples accordingly. A Covid-19 nucleic acid test is also required for anybody wanting to enter a casino. **LV**

LVS TO RECONSIDER JAPAN IF CONDITIONS CHANGE, SAYS ADELSON

SHELDON Adelson, the chairman and chief executive officer of Las Vegas Sands (LVS), said his company would reconsider its position on Japan if the country adopted a more investor-friendly regulatory framework.

The casino operator formally withdrew its interest in Japan in May, citing concerns about the legal and regulatory framework in the country. Among the issues at stake are the high costs of developing an integrated resort, a relatively high level of taxation on gaming activities, and likely restrictions on gambling by Japanese nationals.

"There were just too many negative regulations that we couldn't live with," said the LVS chairman. "If they change it, our mind is open to go back."

Japan has long been on the radar of international casino operators, with the jurisdiction thought likely to become one of the biggest casino markets in the world.

The country has begun a tender process for up to three integrated resorts licenses in three cities or prefectures. Osaka, Yokohama and Tokyo are widely seen as frontrunners. **DB**

nascent casino jurisdiction were proving problematic. However, Adelson did not rule out a return to Japan if the conditions change.

"The country has begun a tender process for up to three integrated resorts licenses in three cities or prefectures. Osaka, Yokohama and Tokyo are widely seen as frontrunners. **DB**



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LYNZY VALLES

A local SME that sells organic coffee products has partnered with MGM China to offer its products as souvenirs for visitors to Macau.

Charlestrong Café Companhia Limitada's Café Dilly coffee will be available to guests staying at the villas of MGM Macau and The Mansion at MGM Cotai as part of their partnership with the gaming operator.

The local firm uses organic coffee beans from East Timor, a Portuguese-speaking country in Southeast Asia.

With their own coffee farm in East Timor, the company has jumped onto the local specialty coffee bandwagon by establishing the Macau brand Café Dilly. They opened a factory in the city last year which produces locally processed specialty coffee products.

"We feel that Macau should have good quality coffee and that's why we started with this brand. Macau is a tourist city so we believe that we also have to have good souvenirs aside from Portuguese egg tarts and almond cookies," said the chairman of the company, Charles Shi.

"We feel that we have a touristic product. The products are imported from East Timor but we process them here with high quality equipment."

Coffee brand partners with MGM to offer tourism products

Initially, Shi was part of a company that has construction projects in East Timor. While visiting the former Portuguese territory, he saw an opportunity to start Café Dilly.

"We have the mission to help Portuguese-speaking countries. We want to help the farmers and improve the economy of the country."

CHARLES SHI
CHAIRMAN OF CHARLESTRONG CAFÉ

For Shi, the city has a responsibility to continually be a platform for Portuguese-speaking

countries. Therefore, the company remains committed to acquiring products from East Timor as part of China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Some Macau companies have already established long-term trade partnerships with Portuguese-speaking countries, as the city has been strongly encouraged to play a long-term role as a bridge and platform for such trade.

"We have the mission to help Portuguese-speaking countries. We want to help the farmers and improve the economy of the country," said Shi.

The chairman said that there is demand for a high quality of coffee in Macau, noting that there are only a few companies that process organic coffee.

According to Simon Leong, executive director of Purchasing at MGM Macau, the collaboration began because the company aims to facilitate the development of local SMEs amid the pandemic.

Given its own platform to promote local brands, Leong said

LYNZY VALLES



Charles Shi (left) and Simon Leong

that despite the business downturn caused by Covid-19, MGM took the opportunity to look for other products to improve its product offerings.

"We wanted to look for better quality products to serve in our outlets," said Leong.

"Our aim is to look for certain products that are made in Macau, so we got [offers] from

different suppliers. When we tried this brand, we found out that it was a green and organic product, and it matches with the company's goal," the executive added.

Retail products from the brand are now on sale and drip coffees will be served from August at Pastry Bar at MGM Macau and Anytime at MGM Cotai.

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Gov't to finish leisure land projects this year

RENATO MARQUES

SPORTS and leisure facilities, playgrounds, restaurants, cafes, and garden areas; these are just some of the proposed plans that will go ahead, as announced by the government during this year's Policy Address.

Some of the projects, which were announced at the Legislative Assembly (AL) by the Secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong on April 24, have already started development and will be concluded before the year ends.

One of the most ambitious projects is located at Macau's waterfront. This project promises to reshape the whole coastal area from the Science Center to Barra.

Works on the project started on May 15 and the first phase is expected to last 208 days, that is, until December 9. The govern-

ment also announced that it will be investing some 60 million patacas in this project and aims to create some 200 jobs.

According to the Policy Address, a similar project will also begin in due course at Hac Sa Beach in Coloane after the government's retrieval of several land plots in that area.

In a statement, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) said that the ongoing construction works in the first phase of the coastal project between the Science Center and the Statue of Goddess Kun Iam in NAPE came in response to the community calling for more recreational and leisure areas to be built along coastal areas.

"IAM will build, in a phased manner, a green corridor on the south bank of Macau, connecting the Science Center to Goddess Kun Iam and Barra, providing a

diversified coastal leisure space and building a healthy city for the people of Macau," the statement says.

In this first phase, the project spans an area of 15,000 square meters from the Science Center to the Statue of Goddess Kun Iam and will include, among other infrastructure, a children's playground, a walking/jogging track, esplanade, and multisport fields, physical exercise equipment, a gate-ball field, and a skating rink.

Preparations to build a cycling path linking this area to Barra will begin in the first phase, and will subsequently be built in the second phase.

The IAM also noted that the works under development are being done according to the government policy of "work instead of subsidies," started by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, whose goal

is to create more jobs and business opportunities for people and private companies instead of promoting government subsidies.

Several other projects moving forward are included in the same package but are of much smaller scale. They include the reconstruction of the Sai Van Lake pedestrian area that started early this month and is expected to finish by the end of November, and the renovation of Chunambeiro Park which began in early June and should reach completion before the end of September.

As for the "large-scale leisure complex" that will be created at Hac Sa Beach, the plan states that the whole area, including the existing facilities for picnic, playgrounds and the swimming pool, will be upgraded giving way to new sports and recreational spaces, as well as significant im-

provements made to the camping site and horticulture area.

The many projects under Cheong's purview aim to meet the call for more quality spaces in Macau to "fulfill the demands of Macau as a World Center of Tourism and Leisure," the Secretary said at the AL during the Policy Address discussion.

At the time, Cheong also mentioned that those projects include some of the idle land retrieved in the past few years by the government to put them to good use for the population.

As another example, the Secretary mentioned four land plots reclaimed by the government at Doca do Lam Mau where the government now proposes to build sports fields, physical exercise areas, and playgrounds on an area of around 3,700 square meters.

MUST contributes to national mission to Mars

DANIEL BEITLER

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) is involved in the Chinese mission to explore Mars, the higher education institution said in a statement to the Times.

MUST scientists are involved in projects that cover exploration, astrobiology and surface radiation on Mars. They continue to study the planet's atmosphere, internal structure, magnetic field, and space environment.

According to the local university, "research into the Martian atmosphere and dust is of great importance to ensure the safe landing of China's rover on the surface."

China launched its most ambitious Mars mission yet last week in a bold attempt to join the United States in successfully landing a spacecraft on the red planet. Engines blazing orange, a Long March-5 rocket took off under clear skies from Hainan Island, south of China's mainland.

China's space agency said that last week's rocket launch carried a probe for 36 minutes before successfully placing it on the looping path that will take it beyond Earth's orbit and eventually into Mars' more distant orbit around the sun.

"The launch marks an auspicious start for China's planetary exploration,"



A Long March-5 rocket carrying the Tianwen-1 Mars probe lifts off from the Wenchang Space Launch Center in Hainan Province.

MUST said in a statement.

The State Key Laboratory of Lunar and Planetary Sciences at MUST, directed by Professor Zhang Keke,

has already completed 11 research projects related to the Mars mission.

The university said that its researchers are "respon-

sible for the development, production, data processing and analysis of the separable telemetry probe for the Mars Survey Orbiter Engi-

neering Survey subsystem."

The projects were funded by Macau's Science and Technology Development Fund, the National Natural Science Foundation of China, and the State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense.

In 2016, Zhang Rongqiao, chief designer of the mission and his delegation visited MUST to commence a collaboration project with the university's Space Science Institute.

Two seminars were held in Zhuhai in 2017 and 2018 to allow for direct exchange between the national and Macau institutions "to ensure that the first exploration mission to Mars" produces preliminary results, of significant quantity and quality."

BLOOMBERG



US detains Chinese researcher who sheltered in Consulate

U.S. officials said Friday they now have custody of a Chinese researcher who had taken shelter at the country's consulate in San Francisco after she was charged with trying to hide her military background.

Officials briefing reporters declined to discuss the circumstances of the arrest of Juan Tang, a researcher at the University of California at Davis who was accused of lying on her U.S. visa application.

Tang became a flash point in deteriorating U.S.-China relations when federal prosecutors declared her a fugitive on Thursday and spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry called her a victim of "political persecution." She is set to appear in federal court in Sacramento on Monday.

As the countries have sparred publicly by closing each other's consular offices in Houston and Chengdu, the Justice Department is investigating universities across the U.S. in an attempt to uncover members of China's military forces who it says are hiding in plain sight.

"These members of China's People Liberation Army applied for research visas while hiding their true affiliation with the PLA," Assistant Attorney General for National Security John C. Demers said in a statement. "This is another part of the Chinese Communist Party's plan to take advantage of our open society and exploit academic institutions. We will continue to conduct this investigation together with the FBI."

A Chinese flag flies outside the China Consulate General building in San Francisco on July 23.

Days after U.S. agents interviewed Tang last month, prosecutors filed a criminal complaint against her in federal court, under seal.

Prosecutors said in a court filing this month that the Chinese

consulate in San Francisco provides "a potential safe harbor for a PLA official intent on avoiding prosecution in the U.S."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin stopped short of saying whether Tang was being sheltered by diplomats.

"We urge the U.S. to stop using any excuse to limit, harass and crack down on Chinese scholars and Chinese students in the U.S.," he told a regular news briefing in Beijing.

The Justice Department said in a statement that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has interviewed other visa holders suspected of having an "undeclared affiliation" with the Chinese military in more than 25 American cities.

The criminal complaint against Tang, unsealed July 20 in a Sacramento, California, federal court, accused her of falsely denying connections to the Chinese military and the Chinese Communist Party. Tang applied for a U.S. visa in October to study cancer treatments at the state university campus located just outside of Sacramento.

An FBI agent said in the complaint that Tang had apparent connections to the military, based on an internet search of news articles. Agents interviewed her at her apartment in Davis last month and seized electronic material under a search warrant. Tang denied any connection to the military or the Communist Party, but agents found a photograph of her in military uniform in the electronic material. Tang told the agents she was required to wear the uniform to attend medical school because it was run by the military.

They also found an application for government benefits in which she listed her political affiliation as a Communist Party member, according to the agent's affidavit. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands Cares Ambassadors Host Special Needs Children to Experience teamLab SuperNature Macao

Part of Sands China's community service efforts

Sands Cares Ambassadors recently hosted a group of children with special needs at The Venetian® Macao's Cotai Expo to experience the immersive art space of teamLab SuperNature Macao, as part of the company's efforts to give back to the community.

Around 50 Sands Cares Ambassadors underwent an extensive training session before accompanying a total of 160 members from four local community associations to enjoy 19 pieces of artwork and share an unforgettable time together: Cradle of Hope Association, Macau Down Syndrome Association, Macau Autism Association and Macau Deaf Association.

"Sands China is very pleased that our Sands Cares Ambassadors had this chance to host children with special needs for a visit to this interactive art experience," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. "In every community, underprivileged children deserve our extra care and attention, and our team of volunteers enjoys the opportunity to help nurture them and provide them with positive developmental opportunities. We're very glad that this visit to teamLab could contribute to our company's efforts to give back to community through our Sands Cares programme."

The Sands Cares Ambassadors accompanied and guided the underprivileged children to explore the complex, three-dimensional interactive art space of teamLab SuperNature Macao. The tour is an example of one of the pillar activities of the Sands Cares Ambassador programme – to bring less fortunate groups to some of the latest attractions at Sands China's integrated resorts to spread joy and express care for the community.

With a membership of more than 3,300 volunteers from across all Sands China properties, the Sands Cares Ambassador programme is part of Sands Cares, the global corporate citizenship programme of parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp.



SPAIN'S SECOND VIRUS WAVE SWELLS, FUELING CONCERN ACROSS EUROPE

SPAIN is scrambling to stay ahead of new outbreaks of the coronavirus that prompted the U.K. to impose a quarantine on travelers returning from the country, dealing a new blow to its tourism-dependent economy.

Only weeks after the U.K. included Spain on a list of countries safe for summer holidays, the government reversed course and announced late Saturday it would impose a 14-day quarantine on anyone arriving from Spain. The move came after cases in the country jumped, particularly in the Catalonia region, where authorities are racing to stamp out new outbreaks.

Norway on Friday announced a 10-day quarantine for people returning from Spain, and France issued new travel warnings for the Catalonia region, which is home to Barcelona and popular beaches. The moves will further weigh on bookings in the peak travel period for a country that depends on tourism for more than 10% of gross domestic product.

Catalonia in northeastern Spain is at the epicenter of a new jump in cases and has been expanding restrictions to try to flatten the curve. In Barcelona, nightclubs have been ordered shut for two weeks and imposed there is a midnight curfew on bars. A partial lockdown affecting 200,000 people has been already imposed in the western district of Segria.

The World Travel & Tourism Council called the U.K. decision a "bitter blow" for travelers and said local lockdowns, not broader travel restrictions would be a better solution. Tui, the U.K.'s biggest tour operator, suspended all its flights from Spain and the Canary Islands that were due to leave today, Sky News reported.

"Painting an entire country with the same brush does not benefit anyone. While we understand the concern about

BLOOMBERG



destinations like Spain with new Covid-19 cases, the majority of the country and its islands, which are incredibly popular holiday destinations, have less cases than the U.K.," the tourism group said in an emailed statement.

Spain was one of the hardest hit countries in Europe by the coronavirus and has already suffered more than 28,000 fatalities, the fourth-highest tally in Europe after the U.K., Italy and France. A national lockdown started in March had largely tamed the spread of Covid-19, but the easing of those restrictions and the start of the summer tourism season has contributed to an uptick, particularly among young people frequenting crowded bars and clubs.

Countries around the Mediterranean Sea were praying that a glimpse of tourism would get them through the summer before the cold snap drives people indoors and ushers in a second chapter to the pandemic. Now, it appears the spread of the virus may not wait for the winter months.

Governments across the globe have been bracing for a second wave, though there is little appetite for reimposing large scale lockdowns on already crippled economies. The hope is that localizing quarantines to towns, cities and regions will be enough to snuff out bouts of infections as

they come.

Italy was the first Western democracy to quarantine the entire population as it became apparent its death toll was going to overtake that of China, where the virus originated. A person close to Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte described that decision as "shock therapy" that can't be repeated. The euro's weakest economy this week became the biggest beneficiary of the European Union's \$860 billion rescue package.

The U.K.'s Boris Johnson was initially reluctant to order a lockdown and then ended up in intensive care fighting for his life after contracting Covid-19. Yet he finds the idea of isolating the nation again so off-putting that he compared it to a nuclear deterrent: "I certainly don't want to use it."

French Prime Minister Jean Castex, was equally blunt: "We won't survive, economically and socially."

At the other end of the globe, New Zealand's Jacinda Ardern has warned that it just takes one mistake to be exposed to the virus again. But even for her, reverting to a nationwide lockdown would be a "measure of last resort."

With the world facing its worst recession since the Great Depression and U.S. President Donald Trump fighting for

re-election in November, voters are on edge. Politicians of all stripes are looking for ways to ease the pain—not add to it—as fear morphs into anger and discontent.

"Populations can be summoned to heroic acts of collective self-sacrifice for a while, but not forever," political scientist Francis Fukuyama, author of "The End of History and the Last Man," wrote in Foreign Affairs magazine. "A lingering epidemic combined with deep job losses, a prolonged recession, and an unprecedented debt burden will inevitably create tensions that turn into a political backlash—but against whom is as yet unclear."

Populations have already shown they are restless. Spain had a similar trajectory to Italy and in Madrid the resentment spilled into the streets. In Serbia, a jump in cases prompted President Aleksandar Vucic, just re-elected in a landslide, to try and impose another curfew only for him to reverse course in the face of violent protests.

The situation is so desperate in Croatia, which relies on tourism more than any other country in the EU, that it pivoted from lockdown mode to embracing the Swedish model that allows bars and shops to stay open and there is no limit to size of public gatherings. MDT/BLOOMBERG

this day in history



1978 TRANSATLANTIC BALLOONISTS IN TROUBLE

Two British balloonists battling to be the first to cross the Atlantic are in difficulties half way across the ocean.

Don Cameron, 39, and Major Christopher Davey, 34, were 1,000 miles west of the UK when they reported a helium gas leak in their bright yellow 90 ft (27.4m) tall balloon.

They say they are "limping along" and are not in immediate danger but the RAF control centre at Bracknell in Berkshire is on standby for a rescue.

A spokesman for the centre said: "they are in trouble but they are going on."

RAF Nimrod aircraft have been following the pair on their transatlantic journey to provide assistance and weather reports.

The balloonists are maintaining a height of 7,000 feet (over 2,000m) and speed of 30 knots (55.5 km/h)

They took off yesterday from St John's in Newfoundland in the 13th attempt in recent years to cross the Atlantic by balloon.

They hope to land safely in Cornwall or Brittany in France in the next couple of days.

The balloon and 14 ft (4.27m) gondola - designed to be a floating survival capsule - cost £150,000.

The first model of a hot-air balloon flew in 1782 and was made of paper-lined cloth by Joseph and Etienne Montgolfier in France.

A duck and a sheep were the first balloon passengers, but the first manned flight was made by Pilatre de Rozier in France in 1783.

But two Britons achieved the first non-stop trans-Atlantic flight in 1919 in a Vickers Vimy aircraft.

Pilot John Alcock and navigator Arthur Whitten Brown claimed a £10,000 prize from the Daily Mail for their achievement.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mr Cameron and Major Davey were within 350 miles of land and ready to touch down in Cornwall a day later.

But the next day a massive storm ripped an eight-foot-long (2.4m) gash in the balloon.

The balloonists jettisoned enough ballast to bring them within 110 miles of land - near Brest - before the balloon collapsed into the sea.

The men were picked up by a trawler and taken back to the UK.

Later in the year the first transatlantic balloon flight was made by Maxie Anderson, Ben Abruzzo and Larry Newman, from Maine in the US to Misery in France.



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Property of the Week



Manhattan D unit, High floor

HK\$17,980,000 2,305 ft² 4 bed 2 bath



SCAN ME

Fabulous family apartment on a high floor in the Manhattan, located in central Taipa. Four bedrooms: three doubles & one single, separate shower room and en-suite bathroom off the master room. Large open plan living dining area with a galley style modern kitchen with adjacent laundry balcony.

The Manhattan has a super outdoor lap pool and children pool, kids indoor playroom, kids outdoor climbing frame, large terrace for with BBQ pits, indoor private dining room for twenty, and a state of the art gym (better than many local hotels). Two car parks are available for sale separately.

Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com

Property Hotlist



The Fountainside Villas
 Home In Historical Macau

PoA

2,973 ft²

3 bed 4 bath 1 car



SCAN ME



Seaview Garden, Macau

\$10,900,000

1,420 ft²

3 bed 2 bath



SCAN ME



Houston Court, Coloane Village

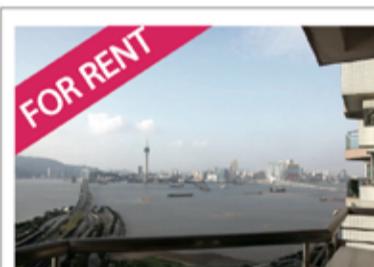
\$12,800/mth

780 ft²

2 bed 2 bath



SCAN ME



Ocean Garden, Taipa Sakura Court

\$35,000/mth

3,700 ft²

4 bed 4 bath



SCAN ME

More Listings

For Sale

- [Coloane] Hoi Wan Garden Apartment 2 bed 1 bath 900 ft² \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 2 bed 2 bath 1,497 ft² \$11,826,300 (ref: 19015572)
- [Macau] One Central 2 bed 2 bath 1,269 ft² \$12,000,000 (ref: 19070000)
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 bed 2 bath 1,439 ft² \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 bed 2 bath 1,720 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096006)

For Rent

- [Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1 car \$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)
- [Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 bed 1 bath 600 ft² \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 bed 1 bath 710 ft² \$17,050/mth (ref: 20021002)
- [Macau] One Central 2 bed 2 bath 1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Macau] Retail Shop, Barra area 1,968 ft² \$48,000/mth (ref: n/a)

Recent Movements

SOLD

Rented

Ocean Garden, Kapok
 2 bed, 2 bath



JML Events



Cradle of Hope
 Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team



Caritas Macau
 MACAU GOLF MASTERS CONFERENCE

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STEVEN FRANK, VIVIEN LOU
CHEN & ELENA MAZNEVA

IT'S easy to forget now but there was a time early on in the pandemic when the price of gold was in freefall.

It was a curious thing, what with the virus sparking a collapse in the global economy, and it would prove in time to be one of the great head-fakes in the recent history of financial markets. For the pandemic of 2020 would soon show itself to be the driving force behind one of the most ferocious rallies the gold market has ever seen. At the close of trading in New York on Friday, bullion had spiraled to \$1,902.02 an ounce, some 30% higher than the low it hit in March and just 1% off a record high set back in 2011.

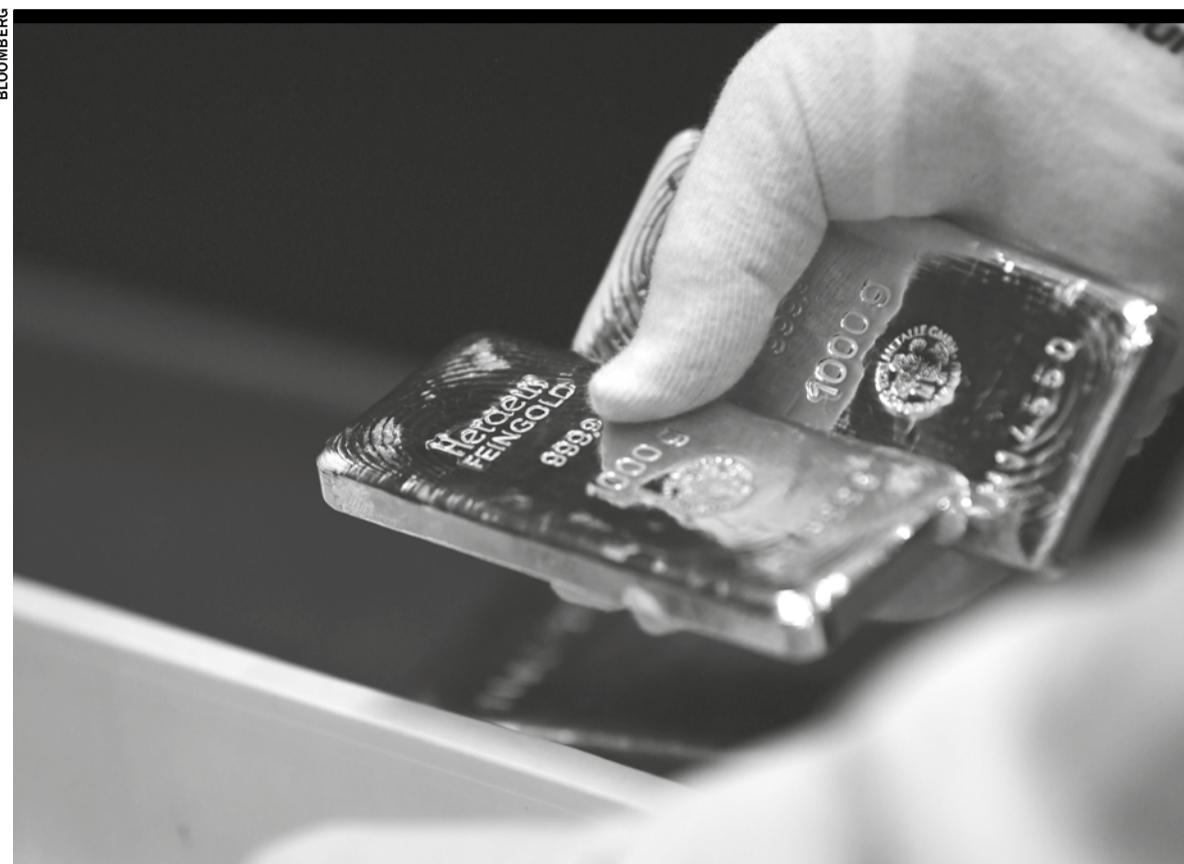
The virus has unleashed a torrent of forces that are conspiring to fuel relentless demand for the perceived safety from turmoil that gold provides. There's the fear of further government-ordered lockdowns; and politicians' decision to push through unprecedented stimulus packages; and central bankers' decision to print money faster than they ever have before to finance that spending; and the plunge in inflation-adjusted bond yields into negative territory in the U.S.; and the dollar's sudden decline against the euro and yen; and rising U.S.-China tensions.

All these things, when taken together, have even triggered concern in some financial circles that stagflation - a rare combination of sluggish growth and rising inflation that erodes the value of fixed-income investments - could take hold across parts of the developed world.

In the U.S., where the virus is still raging and the economic recovery is stalling, this debate is growing louder. Investor expectations for annual inflation over

The message behind gold's rally: the world economy is in trouble

BLOOMBERG



the next decade, as measured by a bond-market metric known as breakevens, have moved higher the past four months after plunging in March. On Friday, they hit 1.5%. And while that remains below pre-pandemic levels and below the Federal Reserve's own 2% target, it is almost a full percentage point higher than the 0.59% yield that benchmark 10-year Treasury bonds pay.

The main driver behind gold's latest rally "has been real rates that continue to plummet and don't show signs of easing anytime soon," Edward Moya, a senior market analyst at Oanda Corp., said by phone. Gold is also

drawing investors "concerned that stagflation will win out and will likely warrant even further accommodation from the Fed."

U.S. bond markets have been a driving force behind the rush to gold, which is serving as an attractive hedge as yields on Treasuries that strip out the effects of inflation fall below zero. Investors are looking for safe havens that won't lose value.

The mania for gold right now has trickled down to Main Street. Retail investors have helped put ETF holdings backed by gold on track for an 18th straight weekly gain, the longest streak since 2006. Meanwhile, gold posted its

seventh weekly gain on Friday, and analysts don't expect the increases to end anytime soon.

"When interest rates are zero or near zero, then gold is an attractive medium to have because you don't have to worry about not getting interest on your gold," Mark Mobius, co-founder at Mobius Capital Partners, said in a Bloomberg TV interview. "I would be buying now and continue to buy."

Analysts have been predicting huge upside for gold for several months. In April, Bank of America Corp. raised its 18-month gold-price target to \$3,000 an ounce.

"The global pandemic is providing a sustained boost to gold," Francisco Blanch, BofA's head of commodities and derivatives research, said Friday, citing impacts including falling real rates, growing inequality and declining productivity. "Moreover, as China's GDP quickly converges to U.S. levels helped by the widening gap in Covid-19 cases, a tectonic geopolitical shift could unfold, further supporting the case for our \$3,000 target over the next 18 months."

Bank of America's bold prediction was made after gold prices initially dropped in March as investors sought cash to cover losses on riskier assets. Prices quickly recovered after a surprise cut to the Fed's benchmark rate and signs that the economic toll of the coronavirus would lead to massive stimulus efforts from global governments and central banks.

This isn't the first time gold has gotten help from central bank stimulus programs. From December 2008 to June 2011, the Fed bought \$2.3 trillion of debt and held borrowing costs near zero percent in a bid to shore up growth, helping send bullion to a record \$1,921.17 in September 2011.

The crisis a decade ago was all about banks, said Afshin Nabavi, head of trading at Swiss refiner and dealer MKS PAMP Group, who now sees gold "pointing towards \$2,000."

"This time, to be honest, I do not see the end of the tunnel," he said, at least until U.S. elections in November. BLOOMBERG

HSBC denies 'framing' Huawei, didn't prompt US legal probe

HSBC Holdings Plc, responding to media reports over its dealings with Huawei Technologies Co., denied that it "framed" the Chinese telecom giant, and said it didn't spark a U.S. probe of the company.

In its first public comments about Huawei's legal battle in North America, the U.K. bank said it has no "hostility" toward Huawei and didn't "ensnare" the company. The bank said it only provided information to the U.S. Department of Justice when it was compelled to do so.

"In response to the U.S. DOJ's requests for information, HSBC simply presen-

ted the objective facts," the bank said in a statement Saturday. "HSBC did not 'fabricate' evidence or 'hide' facts. And HSBC would never distort the facts or seek to harm any of our clients for our own gain."

HSBC has become embroiled in Huawei's legal fight to block a U.S. request to extradite Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou from Canada to face trial over allegedly violating U.S. sanctions on Iran. Meng has been under house arrest in Vancouver since she was detained at the request of U.S. authorities in 2018.

HSBC was thrust further into the spotlight with

new evidence presented last week. In a filing to a Canadian court Thursday, Meng's lawyers argued that the U.S. misled Canadian authorities by omitting key elements of a PowerPoint presentation that Meng showed to HSBC bankers at a 2013 meeting in Hong Kong, the *Globe and Mail* reported.

The omissions leave the impression that Meng didn't fully explain Huawei's dealings in Iran, according to the report. The U.S. argues that Meng deceived banks including HSBC, and that this prompted lenders to clear millions of dollars in transactions in violation

BLOOMBERG



of the sanctions.

In fact, Meng's lawyers argued, she was transparent about the Iran dealin-

gs, citing two slides in the presentation made to HSBC that had been omitted from the U.S. filing, the

Globe reported.

HSBC is walking a tight-rope amid growing U.S.-China tensions. The London-based bank has come out in support of a controversial new security law imposed by China on Hong Kong, one of its biggest markets. The U.K. government meanwhile, has joined the U.S. and other countries in banning Huawei from developing its 5G networks.

"We will continue investing in our business, services, talents and technology in China and contributing to the sustainable development of the country," the bank said. BLOOMBERG

OPINION

World Views

Mihir Sharma, Bloomberg

POOR COUNTRIES ARE RUNNING OUT OF TIME TO GET RICH

The United Nations currently predicts that by 2027, India will overtake China as the world's most populous country. Estimates suggest India and Nigeria will together add 470 million people in the next three decades — almost a quarter of the world's population increase to 2050. According to a new study from the University of Washington, however, several developing nations may find their so-called demographic dividend much less of a boon than anticipated.

Published in the Lancet, the UW study has improved on the UN's model by modelling fertility differently and making its decline more sensitive to the availability of contraception and the spread of education. In many parts of India, for instance, the total fertility rate — the expected average number of children born to each woman — is already well below the replacement rate of 2.1 and dropping faster than expected. The study, which also tries to account for the feedback loops between education, mortality and migration, concludes that populations around the world are going to start shrinking sooner and faster than projected.

South Asia, for example, would have 600 million fewer people in 2100 than previously predicted thanks to lower-than-expected levels of fertility. Instead of growing throughout, India's population would peak in 2050 and then decline to 70% of that number by the end of the century. By that point, China's population would be about half its current size.

For policymakers in India and several other developing nations, this isn't good news. As the authors of the UW study point out, a shrinking global population has "positive implications for the environment, climate change, and food production." But it also means time is running out on those nations' development clocks.

China has been truly fortunate in its demographics; it peaked at the right time. Working-age Chinese people, both in total numbers and as a share of the population, crested just when world trade was most open. This made the possibilities for manufacturing-led growth easier to seize than they had been for centuries.

Those countries that come next — India and Pakistan in particular — will confront a more closed world. And, worse, they now know that it is people currently in the workforce, or children in school, who over their lifetimes will have to lift the country to prosperity. For countries whose populations will begin to decline in the 2040s, this generation of workers and the next is all there is: They must, like their Chinese counterparts in the last two decades, push their countries from farm to factory and beyond.

Right now, India's boosters tout the fact that its working-age population swells by a million people a month, propelling economic growth. If that demographic push runs out sooner than expected, growth will depend on individual productivity, not sheer numbers. That means education and healthcare and similar "soft" infrastructure no longer look like rich-country luxuries. Unless they are put into place within the next decade, indeed within the next few years, countries such as India, Indonesia and Brazil may never become rich.

There are other dangers, some of which the Lancet article gestures at in passing. It is the spread of women's education and women's reproductive rights that are causing these declines in fertility. Unless women gain political clout to match, they might well end up being "blamed" for the loss in national power caused by a greying population. Those hard-won rights might begin to be curtailed. In places with particularly patriarchal societies, like much of South and West Asia, this is even more of a danger than elsewhere.

Even the most fortunate countries will need to be careful. By 2050, as expected, China will be the world's largest economy. But the study authors predict that, as the Chinese population declines, immigration should in theory continue to bolster America's workforce. The U.S. could again become the world's largest economy in 2098 — if the country lives up to its ideals and continues to welcome the world's migrants. There's no better way to ensure America becomes great again. [Abridged]

HONG KONG RECOVERY MAY TAKE LONGER THAN EXPECTED, FINANCIAL SECRETARY SAYS

Hong Kong's economy may take longer than expected to recover due to the fluidity of the local virus situation and global economic uncertainties, Financial Secretary Paul Chan said.

"Business and economic activities that have seen signs of recovery have been hit by the fresh wave of the virus," Chan said in a blog post yesterday. He once again urged landlords to offer tenants rental concessions to ride out the impact.

The city is experiencing its worst wave of the coronavirus outbreak after returning to relative normalcy between mid-April and June. It has reported more than 100 local cases daily for the past four days, with almost half of unknown origin.

While the government has not mandated a full lockdown, it has introduced a ban on large gatherings and evening dine-in services, and has required mask-wearing in indoor public areas and transit.

The economy suffered a record contraction of 8.9% in the first quarter as the pandemic battered the city into deeper recession, compounding the fallout from its political crisis. The government is scheduled to release advance estimates for the second quarter on Wednesday.

"The economic situation in the second quarter is still very severe, but the state of contraction appears to have slowed down slightly," Chan said.



RIFT BETWEEN ROYAL BROTHERS LAID BARE IN NEW BOOK EXTRACT

DANICA KIRKA, LONDON

PRINCE William infuriated Prince Harry when he told his younger brother he should move slowly in his relationship with the former Meghan Markle, fearing that he was being "blindsided by lust," a new book on the Windsors says.

The second installment of a serialized version of the book "Finding Freedom," which appeared in the Sunday Times, claimed that Harry was angered by what he perceived as William's snobby tone in a discussion about the American actress when they were dating. Royal reporters Omid Scobie and Carolyn Durand wrote that Harry disliked William's advice to "take as much time as you need to get to know this girl."

The authors quote a source close to William as saying he didn't want Harry to be "blindsided by lust." The authors wrote that Harry "no longer felt as though he needed looking after," and took it badly.

"In those last two words, 'this girl,' Harry heard the tone of snobbishness that was anathema to his approach to the world," the excerpt said, noting that Harry has spent 10 years in the military and outside the royal bubble.

"Also, to remove Meghan from the equation, Harry was tired of the dynamic that had

become established between him and his older brother," the authors added.

In announcing the book's publication, Harper Collins U.K. said the book by Scobie, royal editor of Harper's Bazaar and Durand, Elle magazine's royal correspondent, would aim to capture "the real Harry and Meghan." The publisher said the authors have been given "unique access" and the cooperation of those closest to the couple.

Ahead of the book's release, Harry and Meghan issued a statement denying taking part in the publication.

"The Duke and Duchess of Sussex were not interviewed and did not contribute to 'Finding Freedom,'" it said. "This book is based on the authors' own experiences as members of the royal press corps and their own independent reporting."

The book described how the rest of the family and the Royal Household also didn't know what to make of Meghan. One senior courtier is said to have told a colleague: "There's just something about her I don't trust." Another called her "Harry's showgirl."

The excerpt is even harsher when it comes to the Duchess of Cambridge, suggesting she hardly rolled out the red carpet for Meghan, despite the similarity of challenges both would face.

"Though it was not neces-

sarily her responsibility, Kate did little to bridge the divide. She was fiercely loyal to her husband and his family," the authors wrote. "Once Harry and Meghan were married, the gap between the brothers only widened."

"William and Kate's feelings seemed obvious to the Sussexes that summer and beyond. Among all the friends and family Harry and Meghan hosted at their house in Oxfordshire between May 2018 and March 2019, the Cambridges failed to visit," the excerpt said.

The book excerpts have focused on the months of palace intrigue surrounding the decision to step back from senior royal duties. The couple surprised the Royal Household in January by making public their plans to be more independent.

The couple wished to be part-time royals, but the idea fell apart during talks with the family. In January the queen outlined how the couple would step away from royal duties in March, at least for a while, but always remain part of the royal family.

Harry is sixth in the line for the throne, behind his father, Prince Charles, his brother William, and William's three young children, George, Charlotte and Louis.

The couple have re-located to North America with their 14-month old son, Archie. AP



Russia Tens of thousands of people marched Saturday across Russia's Far East city of Khabarovsk on the border with China to protest the arrest of the regional governor on murder charges, continuing a two-week wave of protests that has challenged the Kremlin.

Ukraine Government and rebel forces in war-torn eastern Ukraine have started preparing for a "full and comprehensive" ceasefire that if upheld, would "pave the way for implementing other clauses" of the Minsk peace deal.



South Africa's Covid-19 response is marred by corruption allegations around its historic \$26 billion economic relief package, as the country with the world's fifth highest number of Covid-19 cases braces for more.

Colombia Authorities in Colombia have seized a luxury mansion complete with a spa, tennis court and two pools allegedly belonging to a businessman detained in Cape Verde on U.S. corruption charges related to Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro.



US A day after roaring ashore as a hurricane, Hanna lashed the Texas Gulf Coast yesterday with high winds and drenching rains that destroyed boats, flooded streets and knocked out power across a region already reeling from a surge in coronavirus cases.