

The Macao SAR Government urges:

Implement regular epidemic prevention measures;
Wash hands frequently and wear a mask;
Keep a distance and avoid crowd gathering;
Convert health code for border cross;
Stay within the Guangdong province if leaving Macao.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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WHEN A VEHICLE IS FLASHED BY A CAMERA SHUTTER THAT DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THE MOTORIST WILL INCUR A FINE: DSAT

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WYNN CLOSES YOKOHAMA OFFICE IN SIGN OF JAPAN RETREAT

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HONG KONG DENIED PLANS TO HARVEST RESIDENTS' DNA AS PART OF A CHINA-BACKED CORONAVIRUS-TESTING BLITZ IN THE TROUBLED CITY

▲ P6



Iran The number of deaths from coronavirus in Iran is nearly triple what Iran's government claims, a BBC Persian service investigation has found. The government's own records appear to show almost 42,000 people died with Covid-19 symptoms up to 20 July, versus 14,405 reported by its health ministry. The number of people known to be infected is also almost double official figures: 451,024 as opposed to 278,827.

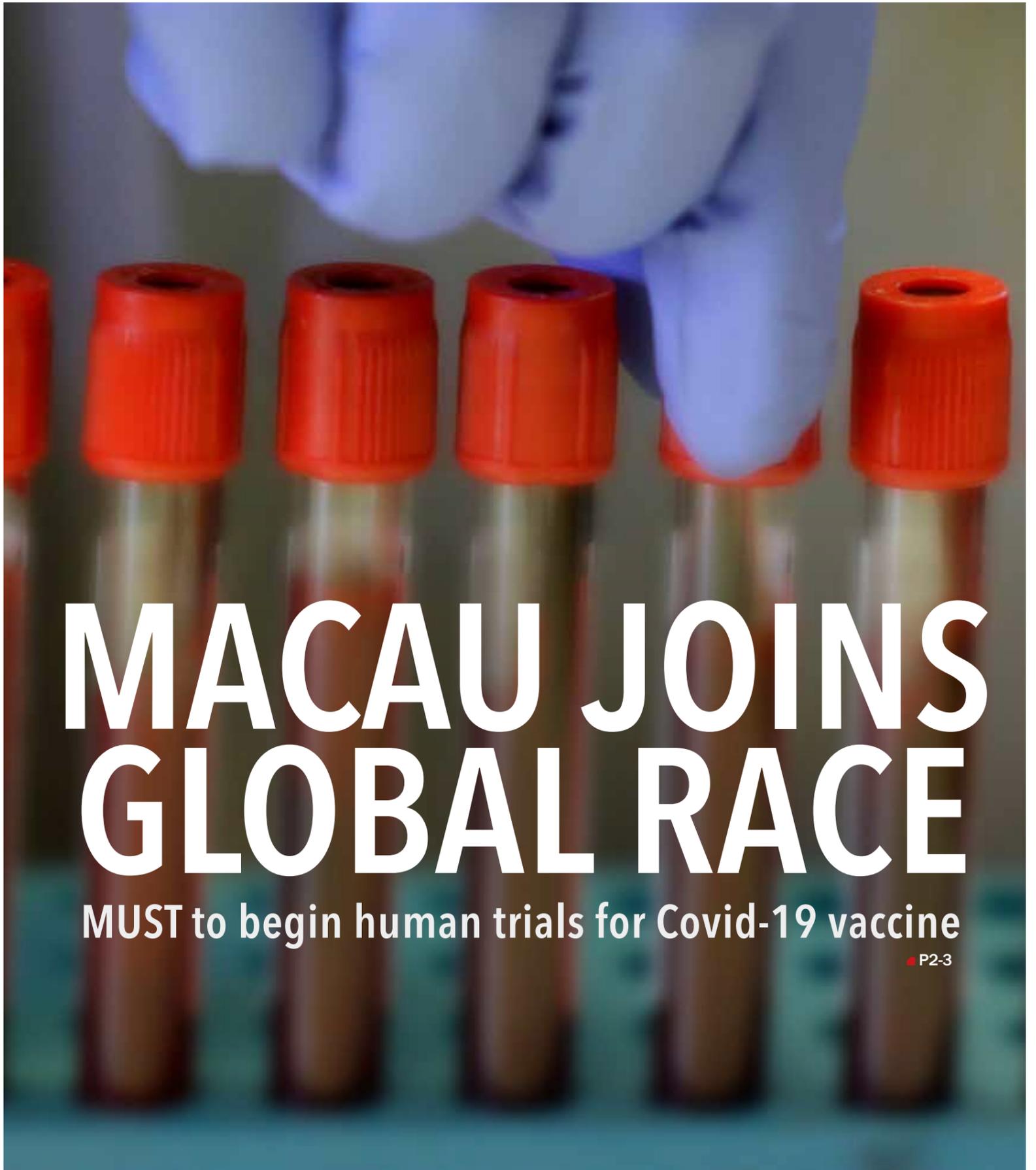


China Numbers of new Covid-19 cases in China's far northwestern region of Xinjiang are continuing to fall, with 28 reported yesterday. China reported 43 new cases nationwide, seven of the imported and eight in the northeastern province of Liaoning. No new deaths were reported, leaving China's total at 4,634 among 84,428 cases. All the new cases in Xinjiang were in the regional capital and largest city of Urumqi. More on p8



Australia Victoria announced yesterday that businesses will be closed and scaled down in a bid to curb the spread of the virus. Premier Daniel Andrews said nonessential businesses will close starting late Wednesday in Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city. The new restrictions followed Andrews on Sunday declaring a disaster in Melbourne and introducing an evening curfew for six weeks.

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MACAU JOINS GLOBAL RACE

MUST to begin human trials for Covid-19 vaccine

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COVID-19
TIGHTENED RESTRICTIONS AMONG NEW TRAVEL POLICIES

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**LATEST WEATHER
GUIDELINES RELEASED FOR
SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

The Macau SAR government has publicized the details of the guidelines for school arrangements under extreme weather conditions. When a typhoon signal is hoisted and is changed from Signal No. 8 to Signal No.3 before 6:30 a.m., or when No.3 is in effect at 6:30 a.m., all education activities should be suspended for the day. When a rainstorm signal remains red or black at 11:30 a.m., or is issued between 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., all school operations will be prohibited. School activities will not proceed if the weather department has already forecast that the temperature of the next day will be below 0 degrees Celsius or above 40 degrees Celsius. Instructions for other scenarios are also available in the same government dispatch.

**COLOANE'S OSCAR FARM
OPEN FOR PUBLIC VISIT**

Coloane's Oscar Farm is now open for the public to visit. Officially opened during the Macau Green Week 2005, the Oscar Farm is located on Estrada de Cheoc Van across an area of 7,000 square meters. The farm provides a variety of entertaining facilities such as holiday camp houses, camp sites, a big tent for events, a café on the green, a chess corner, a barbeque zone, an interactive stage, and an organic farming plot. The farm offers trips including a "first touch trip", "leisure trip" and "discovery trip" for visitors with different purposes. On the first Sunday of each month, the farm will have professionals demonstrating how to make compost. The farm is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

**VALUE OF IMPORTS DOWN
AFTER JEWELRY, WATCHES
SHARP DECLINE**

The value of total merchandise imports fell by 21.6% in June 2020 to 5.1 billion patacas, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), led by sharp declines in the merchandise imports of gold jewelry (-86.6%) and watches (-71.9%). However, in the same period, merchandise imports of beauty, cosmetic and skincare products rose by 33.9%, according to DSEC. In the first half year of 2020, the value of merchandise import declined by 29.2% year-on-year to 29.6 billion patacas. The merchandise trade deficit narrowed to 24.5 billion patacas for the first half of the year, down by 11 billion patacas from a year earlier. By place of origin, mainland China continued to be the biggest import market, accounting for 10.8 billion patacas in the first half of 2020. The second biggest market for imports was the European Union, accounting for 7.7 billion patacas.

MUST to take breakthrough vaccine

DANIEL BEITLER & JULIE ZHU

THE medical breakthrough announced by Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) researchers this week could prove a major step forward in the development of a viable Covid-19 vaccine, according to the scientists behind the research.

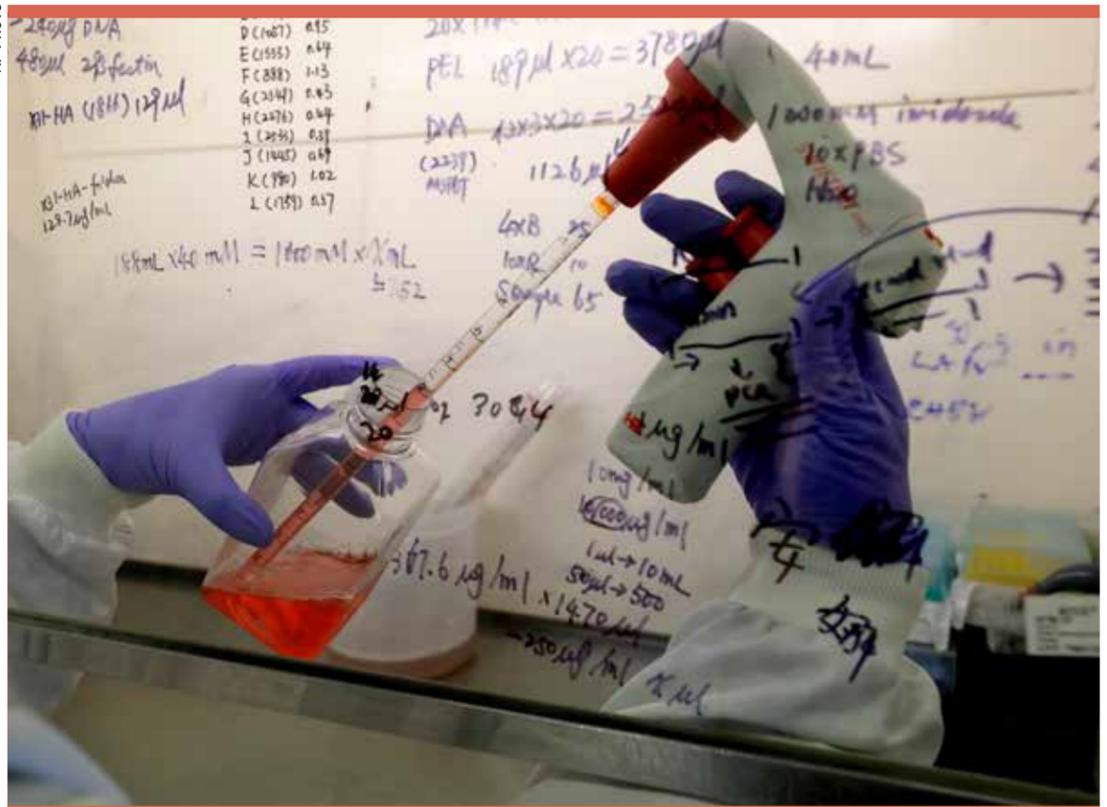
The researchers found that administering a vaccine candidate on small mammals had offered potent protection from the virus, with none of the sampled animals developing any evidence of pneumonia.

The next step – to be initiated shortly, according to the researchers – will be to evaluate and validate the vaccine in human clinical trials.

The research team consists of researchers from MUST and the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU), in collaboration with other Chinese institutions, who jointly published a research paper in the prestigious science journal, Nature.

With this latest achievement, MUST and its research partners join a global effort to develop a vaccine to combat Covid-19.

According to data from the World Health Organization, there are more than 150 candidate



Covid-19 vaccines under development around the world. The most prestigious medical and academic institutions are currently testing those vaccines and some have already started with human trials.

The MUST researchers say there is a credible threat of further outbreaks of the virus, "which may only stop once a vaccine

is available to everyone." Professor Manson Fok, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at MUST, confirmed yesterday that human clinical trials, the next step toward realizing the vaccine, would begin soon.

"Our research team has faced many challenges when designing our vaccine for best effect, while keeping side effects to a

minimum and relieving other production concerns," said Fok in prepared statements. "To move forward, the efficacy of the vaccine needs to be evaluated and validated in human clinical trials, which will be initiated shortly."

"This breakthrough in Covid-19 vaccine could not have been achieved without the con-

Tightened restrictions among new travel policies

ANTHONY LAM

THE Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center has implemented stricter measures on entrants from, or having visited in the preceding 14 days, Hong Kong, Urumqi of Xinjiang Province and Dalian of Liaoning Province.

Entrants from Hong Kong were, and still are, required to undergo 14-day quarantine upon arrival in Macau. A new policy that took effect from 6 a.m. today requires entrants from Hong

Kong or individuals who have visited the city in the preceding 14 days to undergo a nucleic acid test from within the last 72 hours.

Hong Kong's Financial Secretary, Paul Chan, said Hong Kong should consider allowing residents who have tested negative for the coronavirus to travel to China and Macau in reciprocal arrangements that could help the city's economic recovery.

With regards to this suggestion, Macau's Coronavirus Center saw no possibility of this occur-

ring for the time being, given one of Macau's criteria for lifting travel restrictions is a similar epidemic situation in the counterpart location.

Macau has seen no new local cases in more than 120 days, in contrast to Hong Kong which is currently experiencing a new wave of infections. Yesterday, the neighboring Special Administrative Region saw 80 new local infections, raising the total count to nearly 3,600 confirmed cases. Of this figure, more than 1,200 people are still hospitalized. Two patients

with chronic illnesses, aged 83 and 84, succumbed to Covid-19 and passed away yesterday morning.

Previously, all provinces of mainland China had been removed from Macau's list of high-risk areas. This saw the lifting of quarantine measures on entrants provided that they are in possession of a valid Covid-19 nucleic acid test result upon entry into Macau.

Xinjiang and Liaoning were added to the list of medium risk areas on July 22 and 27 respectively. Since their desig-

nation as medium risk areas, only three people have entered Macau from Xinjiang and 38 people entered Macau having traveled from Liaoning.

In light of the summer holiday now in its final month, many Macau students studying abroad are faced with the need to return to their schools. Many of them were retrieved from Europe and North America in two missions conducted in March and in June, with special shuttle or ferry services from Hong Kong International Airport.

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to human trials shortly

certed efforts of our researchers and we hope mass vaccination can be conducted in the nearest future," added Fok.

Dr Johnson Lau, adjunct professor of the Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology of PolyU, and Alexander Wai, deputy president and provost of PolyU, were among the other senior researchers involved in the collaboration.

Lau said that the vaccine was "expected to provide a practical solution to fight against Covid-19" because of its credible safety profile and "commercially feasible system," which could "be used to manufacture the candidate vaccine, if successful, on a commercial scale."

Alexander Wai described the vaccine as possible "the best vaccine choice to combat this pandemic."

He said that it was the mission of the research team to "utilize scientific technologies for prevention and control of the virus, so as to help people to live under the 'new normal' of coronavirus."

The research approach and methodology were explained in detail during an online press conference yesterday.

The researchers found that a recombinant vaccine comprising of a receptor-binding domain (RBD) induced a potent and functional antibody response in the immunized mice, rabbits and non-human pri-

mates (*Macaca mulatta*) as early as seven or 14 days after a single dose injection.

According to the researchers, the sera from the immunized animals neutralized infection by SARS-CoV-2.

Moreover, there is no evidence of antibody-dependent enhancement or acceleration of pneumonia in the mice or monkeys that received the vaccine, and none developed any evidence of pneumonia.

"The objective of this study was to evaluate the potential of a candidate vaccine based on the RBD domain of SARS-CoV-2," said Professor Kang Zhang from the Faculty of Medicine of MUST, the corres-

ponding author of the paper.

"At the same time, we wanted to evaluate the appropriate dosing regime, to test its effect in generating neutralizing activity against SARS-CoV-2 in the recipient animals and to determine the immune pathways involved in the generation of the immune response, so as to provide the groundwork for the design of an effective SARS-CoV-2 preventive vaccine," explained Zhang.

"Our finding highlights the importance of the RBD domain in the SARS-CoV-2 vaccine design, which provides the rationale for the development of a protective vaccine through the induction of antibody against the RBD domain."

AP PHOTO



Recently, some have asked if the government would reopen the special services or "channels" so that these students can return to schools.

At yesterday's press conference, the Macao Government Tourism Office confirmed that after negotiation with the tourism industry and airline companies that serve

Macau, the latter have agreed to add extra flights so that Macau students can resume their overseas education.

Due to flight rights and other regulations, these non-Macau airline companies are not entitled to operate direct flights from Macau to European or North American destinations. In other words,

a transit stop in at least one airport is mandatory. Local flag carrier Air Macau operates no flights to Europe and the Americas.

Macau Daily Times earlier reported that Taiwan's EVA Air has launched extra flights from Macau to London, capital of the U.K., with a transit stop in Taipei. Another option is to make a tran-

sit stop in Seoul, South Korea.

Further, the Coronavirus Center announced that paper proof of sample collection for nucleic acid test would not be issued starting from today. It will be replaced with an electronic version. In the meantime, the results are included as part of the Macau Health Code used to enter public departments, hotels and some other venues.

As negative Covid-19 test results are required to board outbound cross-boundary public transport such as flights, from Macau, passengers can file an application with the Health Bureau at the Macau Forum or the public Conde São Januário Hospital with supporting evidence of their trips.

If their application is approved, proof will be issued on the following working day. However, the Coronavirus Center did not immediately confirm whether the proof can be issued in English.

MACAU'S RECOVERED PATIENTS ARE HEALTHY

REPORTS from many places across the world have included examples of recovered Covid-19 patients having difficulty returning to their previous physical condition, such as sporting capabilities, after recovering from the disease.

When questioned by the Times about the issue, Dr Alvis Lo of the Coronavirus Center explained that it depends on the severity of the disease in a patient. He pointed out that most of the 46 patients in Macau had their infection discovered at an early stage. While only one patient deteriorated into a severe state, the other patients experienced relatively mild symptoms.

"Most of them had their treatment commenced early," Lo pointed out. Therefore, "the impact on their organs has not been significant."

The medical doctor added that judging from their follow-up consultation, their conditions are satisfactory.

"However, after a major disease, such as a common pneumonia, the patient's physical condition shall deteriorate to a certain extent," explained Lo. "It's understandable."

He added that the outlook of patients recovering to a pre-Covid-19 condition is optimistic, adding that more scientific data is needed to predict whether a patient's physical condition will worsen. **AL**



WYNN CLOSES YOKOHAMA OFFICE, REMAINS KEEN ON JAPAN LONG TERM

WYNN Resorts Ltd. said it closed its Yokohama office after plans for Japan to award casino licenses were delayed but remains interested in the project.

"The pandemic is having an unprecedented negative impact on integrated resort development, and resort companies such as Wynn are considering how we evolve our operations to align with a post-pandemic market," the company said in a statement Sunday. "Long term, we remain interested in the Japan integrated resort market and will monitor the situation closely."

Wynn has been pursuing a casino in Japan for years. The country had been considered one of the biggest prizes in the industry, given Japan's population and wealth. Japanese legislators approved the country's first Vegas-style casino developments, known as integrated resorts, but

none have yet been built.

A decision to focus on the U.S. market prompted Caesars Entertainment Corp. to end its pursuit of a Japanese casino last year. Las Vegas Sands Corp. said in May that it was also pulling out of the race, citing high tax rates, unfavorable terms and the cost of building there, which many have put at \$10 billion.

MGM Resorts International, the lone remaining bidder for a casino in Osaka, said last week that it will continue to pursue the project despite delays in the process that could last until next year.

The coronavirus shut down much of the world's casinos this year and Wynn's resorts in Macau, Las Vegas and Boston are still experiencing weak demand. Wynn furloughed a number of employees in Las Vegas last month because business was not coming back as quickly as it had hoped. **BLOOMBERG**

MGM CHINA REPORTS 95% REVENUE DECLINE IN SECOND QUARTER

DANIEL BEITLER

CASINO operator MGM China reported a 95% decline in net revenue in the second quarter of this year, as the Hong Kong-listed firm struggled to cope with the collapse of Macau tourism.

As a result of the ongoing travel and entry restrictions in Macau, net revenue amounted to just \$33.2 million (267 million patacas), the casino operator said in a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

Meanwhile, Adjusted Property EBITDAR (earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and rent or restructuring) was reported as a loss of \$116 million in the second quarter, compared to a \$173 million gain a year earlier.

Both the VIP and mass market segments suffered in the second quarter, with the former falling 96% on a year-on-year

basis and the latter declining 97%, according to the filing.

In an emailed statement, MGM China said that the group maintains "a healthy financial position," with a total liquidity of HKD11.4 billion as of June 30.

The company also views the gradual easing of cross-border restrictions as a positive sign for the Macau market.

"We are encouraged to see the lifting of quarantine measures for visitors from Macau into Guangdong Province, as an important first step of business normalization," said Hubert Wang, President and Chief Operating Officer of MGM China, according to the statement.

"While we focus on containing our costs, we are rolling out programs to drive traffic and prepare for gradual recovery," added Wang. "We are confident about the prospects of Macau's gaming and hospitality market in a longer term."

FIRST TAXI SURVEILLANCE DEVICES ALREADY OPERATING

Forty-six taxis have registered to have audio-visual recording devices for surveillance purposes installed this month. The first device was installed yesterday. These devices are now part of the requirement stipulated in the taxi law which is currently in force. All taxis must be equipped with such a device by December 2 in order to remain in legal operation after that point. The smart taxi driver's license scheme has also been rolled out to record each driver's chargeable time. A sticker must be posted on a viewable area in the taxi to indicate the operation of the audio-visual recording device. Failure to do so will incur a maximum fine of MOP15,000.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE DISCUSSES PANDEMIC CONTROL WITH ZHUHAI LEADERS

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng has met with officials from Zhuhai to exchange views on anti-pandemic control works. The discussion with the Secretary of the Zhuhai Municipal Committee of the Communist Party of China, Guo Yonghang, and the Mayor of Zhuhai, Yao Yisheng, was held last Thursday at the Government Headquarters in Macau. During Thursday's meeting, the two sides exchanged views on how to best to prevent the spread of Covid-19 across borders. Both sides said they would maintain close communication, and engage in timely coordination, as part of efforts to gradually normalize cross-boundary movement. The officials also discussed the development of neighboring Hengqin island, which is administered by Zhuhai municipal authorities. Ho said that Macau could help to develop the island as part of the former's contribution to the development of the Greater Bay Area.

HENGQIN NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT INTERESTS CONSTRUCTION FIRMS

The Macau New Neighborhood project, an integrated project on Hengqin Island involving commercial, residential, leisure and educational facilities, has so far received 'intentions to bid' from 13 construction companies, which include an undisclosed number of local constructors. The official tender process will be put in place at a later stage. The entire project covers seven land plots which total 190,000 square meters with a total floor area of 422,000 square meters. Twenty-seven buildings, each with between 20 and 26 floors, will be built to provide 4,000 sellable and 200 rent-only apartments. No less than 80% of the sellable apartments will be two-room condominiums not bigger than 100 square meters each. The remainder will have three rooms with an area no bigger than 120 square meters.

CRIME

MAN ACCUSED OF EXPOSING GENITALS TO PASSERS-BY

JULIE ZHU

A mainland man is accused of sexually harassing three women, in some cases indecently exposing his genitals in front of them.

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) reported this case during yesterday's joint police press conference. The suspect is surnamed Liang, a blue-card holder in Macau in his thirties, who works as a construction worker. The three victims are all Macau local women in their twenties. Each case took place at a different time and at different but nearby locations.

In the first case, on July 3, a young woman took a bus to R. do Mercado de Iao Hon. The suspect, who was also inside the vehicle, is alleged to have touched the victim's hip while she was getting off the bus.

Shortly after the first incident, the victim encountered the man again in the proximity of Alameda da Tranquilidade. It is alleged that the man whistled at her but did not proceed further after the woman braced to defend herself.

The woman reported the incidents to the police the following day.

On July 5, it is believed the man found his second victim. In the evening, at 8:40 p.m., while



on Alameda da Tranquilidade, the victim was walking her dog. The suspect is alleged to have stood behind a pillar. When the woman approached, the man exposed his penis completely, according to the victim.

After the first two victims reported their cases to the police authority, the PSP deployed of-

ficers for spot inspections at the concerned area in the hope of seizing the alleged offender.

On July 29, at 9:20 p.m., also near Alameda da Tranquilidade, police officers caught sight of the suspect and followed him. At that time, they saw a third woman falling victim to his indecent exposure.

When Liang passed by the third young woman, he is said to have quickly exposed his genitals towards her. The police officers immediately questioned the woman in order to confirm the details of this third case and proceeded to arrest the suspect.

During a police interrogation, Liang admitted to his behaviors but denied that they were deliberate acts. Liang claimed in regard to the first case that he was not careful enough inside the bus and touched the woman without being aware of it.

In the second case, Liang blamed the weather. He said that because the night was too hot and he had not zipped his pants properly, he hid behind the pillar to tend to his outfit. He was not sure whether a woman noticed his genitals during the process. Despite Liang's efforts, the PSP said they were confident that Liang had exposed his genitals deliberately, especially considering that he ran away from all the scenes once he was noticed by passers-by. "This testimony contradicts itself," PSP concluded.

SWINDLED BY ONLINE 'BOYFRIEND'

A young woman has reported a loss of 63,000 patacas after she trusted her online "boyfriend", the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported at a press conference yesterday.

The victim is a civil servant in her twenties. On July 12, she started talking with someone claiming to be a man via a mobile chatting app. Five days after she first talked with him, she termed their relationship as boyfriend and girlfriend.

On July 17, she was persuaded to invest in an app called "Si Mu Bao". Like other online investment scams, the victim made a profit from her first purchase, which convinced her to put more money into the app. She made approximately 400 yuan as profit from the first deposit. Later, in total, she deposited 63,000 patacas, which eventually went missing, leading her to report the case to the police. JZ

Ex-lawmaker does not want HK security law mirrored in Macau

DESCRIBING the stipulations of Hong Kong's National Security Law as tougher than the ones in Macau, retired lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang disagrees with directly copying Hong Kong's version, should the legislation in Macau be revised.

Kwan explained that Macau's social conditions are different from that of Hong Kong, with the society and the government of Macau having always done its constitutional duty. In her view, the social conditions, political ecosystem and livelihood are all less complicated than in Hong Kong. She does not believe that Macau people will do "things as scary as ... in



Former lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang

Hong Kong".

The former lawmaker sees the Hong Kong law as far more explicit. Some stipulations are absent in the Macau law, such as criminalizing the obstruction of public operations, she said.

Despite the law being more lenient in Macau, the coverage is wide, the former lawmaker pointed out.

"I don't consider it mandatory to copy the entire Hong Kong law [in] Macau," she told lo-

cal Chinese media outlet All About Macau. "Especially those stipulations apparently for Hong Kong."

Kwan added that the National Security Law in Macau has been effective for 11 years already.

Although the law has not stipulated the need for a specific entity handling national security affairs, the city has set up its own institutions doing so, such as an upcoming department for such a purpose at the Judiciary Police.

"In that case, why do we need to copy the law from Hong Kong?" questioned the former lawmaker.

Moreover, Kwan said that Macau has always been supportive of implementing the "One Country, Two Systems" policy framework. She cited President Xi Jinping, who last year complimented Macau's implementation of the policy with harmony and inclusion, which has become a model.

"For that reason, I don't see any necessity to overhaul the National Security Law," Kwan said. AL

Transport authority clarifies speed traps and limits

RENATO MARQUES

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) has clarified to the Times that reports of motorists being “flashed” by speeding cameras even when obeying the speed limit is due to the different limits for different types of vehicles. Even when a vehicle is detected by a camera, that does not necessarily mean the motorist will incur a fine, the DSAT said.

Speed limits on public roads in Macau are generally 60 km/h for cars and motorcycles, 50 km/h for heavy vehicles and 40 km/h for mopeds unless otherwise stipulated by traffic signs.

The inquiry to DSAT was prompted by a series of requests by Times readers who said that recently some speed traps, namely the ones located in the roads around Coloane Island, were “flashing” vehicles at lower speeds, rais-



ing concerns about whether the speed limits for such roads had changed without warning or if the speed detection system was malfunctioning.

In the DSAT clarification, the Bureau explained that since there are different speed limits for different kinds of vehicles, it is common that the speed detection devices are sometimes triggered at lower speeds than the general speed limit since the system might not detect the

type of vehicle passing in that moment. Nevertheless, the DSAT noted that this does not mean that drivers immediately incur a fine or penalty.

The DSAT also informed that there are some speed detection systems – for example the one placed at the entrance and exit of the Ponte da Amizade in the direction of Macau to Taipa – whose systems detect and capture the passing of every vehicle. Such speed detection systems

use a different system that detects speed violations by calculating the average speed of vehicles traveling on the route.

The Bureau also said that the speed detection system has been operating normally and without any reports of failure. The system is installed and maintained according to the regulations. Joint inspections by the DSAT, the Public Security Police Force, and the contractor are done regularly.

MACAU GARRISON OF PLA CELEBRATES 93RD ANNIVERSARY

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macau garrison of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) held a flag-raising ceremony to celebrate the 93rd anniversary of the army's founding.

The troops stationed in Macau as well as in Zhuhai organized a simultaneous activity to commemorate August 1, the date of the founding of the military force.

The flag-raising ceremony was followed by speeches to the troops from Commander Xu Liangcai and the political commissar, Sun Wenju, in which they expressed their gratitude and respect for the government of the Macau Special Administrative Region and all citizens of Macau for

their ongoing support for the development of the local garrison.

In their speeches, the high-ranking military officials also called on the troops to always remember the trust they receive from the party and the people, urging them to never forget their mission to serve with loyalty and selfless dedication.

Making a special reference to the current Covid-19 global pandemic, the military leaders highlighted that it will have “a huge impact and present new challenges” for the garrison.

They called on the military staff to defend the overall social stability of Macau by continuing to be part of the success of the “One Country, Two Systems” policy framework.



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OPINION

**CRITICISM OF LEGCO
ELECTION DECISION
CALLOUS**

China Daily

The Hong Kong Special Administration Region government had no choice but to postpone the 2020 Legislative Council election in the face of the surge in novel coronavirus infections. Those trying to politicize the decision are simply showing their schemes do not have the interests and well-being of Hong Kong residents at heart.

As Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, the SAR's chief executive, rightfully pointed out, Hong Kong is facing the most serious public health emergency since January, and the number of COVID-19 cases is pushing the public hospital system to breaking point. As the number of new locally transmitted infections has surpassed 100 for more than 10 days, it is essential that large gatherings of people be avoided so as not to facilitate transmission of virus.

This is why the government has tightened social distancing restrictions, limiting public gatherings to two people, and banned in-restaurant dining after 6 pm.

Holding the election at this moment would undermine the on-going efforts to cut the transmission chains. Given the highly contagious nature of the virus, Hong Kong's high population density and many local residents' cramped living spaces, stronger and stricter prevention and control measures are essential so that the new outbreak does not spin out of control and endanger the city's more than 7 million residents.

To help admit and timely treat more patients, a makeshift hospital at the AsiaWorld-Expo, a venue near the Hong Kong International Airport, began receiving patients with mild COVID-19 symptoms on Saturday afternoon.

And at the request of the SAR government, the central government is sending a 60-member medical team to Hong Kong to help with large-scale nucleic acid tests and assist it in building temporary quarantine and treatment centers.

Yet, turning a blind eye to the seriousness of the situation, the opposition camp in Hong Kong blithely insists that the election should go ahead, even though that would likely cause a huge spike in infections and result in deaths.

Foreign anti-China forces have also latched onto the postponement as an opportunity to claim that the decision undermines the democratic processes and freedoms that have underpinned Hong Kong's prosperity. Which is both perfidious and pitiless.

Such comments and the insistence that the election go ahead show that to those with an anti-government and anti-Beijing agenda, Hong Kong's residents are not individuals of flesh and blood, merely a faceless mass that is of no significance compared to their narrow, selfish political goals. Hong Kong's residents are extraneous to their designs and therefore what harm they may expose residents to through their schemes and machinations never crosses their minds.

Such callousness is appalling. Time will prove who really cares about the welfare of Hong Kong residents and who is safeguarding the SAR's democratic processes and freedoms.

**HONG KONG DENIES MASS CHINESE
VIRUS TESTS ARE BID TO HARVEST DNA**

IAIN MARLOW

Hong Kong denied plans to harvest residents' DNA as part of a China-backed coronavirus-testing blitz, as deep political mistrust further complicates the city's efforts to contain its worst outbreak ever.

The Hong Kong government on Sunday welcomed Chinese government experts who are setting up a temporary laboratory to dramatically expand its ability to track a third wave of Covid-19 cases. The push quickly fanned suspicions that authorities would use the opportunity to collect DNA samples from residents, a tactic local law enforcement have recently employed in activist arrests, after widespread use by police in Xinjiang and elsewhere on the mainland.

The Hong Kong government "solely clarified that this is absolutely unfounded," pledging in a statement that samples "will not be transported to the mainland for testing." The government blamed "certain individuals" for spreading the theory online and promised to look into "whether spreading untrue claims intentionally by certain individuals would constitute criminal offense."

The controversy underscores mounting mistrust between the government and the local pro-democracy political opposition in the wake of a national security law imposed by China in June. Last week,



the government barred a dozen pro-democracy candidates from campaigning for office and delayed local legislative elections planned for Sept. 6 for a year - a move condemned by U.S. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo as an attempt to crush dissent.

State broadcaster CCTV reported on Saturday that all 7.5 million Hong Kong residents will receive free virus testing, without citing sources. The report also estimated the testing could be completed within "a few days," though no public information has been released on how the testing drive will be conducted.

China's National Health Commission declined comment, while the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Hong Kong's appeal to mainland experts is aimed at achieving the widespread testing that helped underpin successful virus-eradication strategies in cities like Wuhan and Beijing. While there's so far been no suggestion that those campaigns are being used for DNA harvesting, they come at a time of increased international scrutiny on the collection and use of such data by Chinese law enforcement.

China is "building the world's largest police-run DNA database," enrolling tens of millions of individuals with "no control over how their samples are collected, stored and used," the Australian Strategic Policy Institute said in a report released in June. Hong Kong's police have already begun collecting DNA samples from protesters arrested under the new national security law, a practice that lawyers described

as a rare occurrence during last year's protests.

Hong Kong democracy activist Joshua Wong, who has said he wants to hire a bodyguard to protect himself from detention after being barred from running for office, compared the testing push to Beijing's efforts to track other groups suspected of secessionist tendencies such as the largely Muslim Uighur minority in Xinjiang.

"Starting from today, #Beijing will send medical personnel from China to #HK for mass testing. Just like #nationalsecuritylaw legislation, the decision is unilaterally imposed without public consultation," Wong said on Twitter. "As China is paving ways to extend its surveillance systems to #Hongkong, it is worrying that HK might soon become Xinjiang." **BLOOMBERG**

**German laser tech company
says gov't blocks exports to China**

A German company that specializes in laser communication says it is pulling out of uncompleted deals in China after the German government barred it from delivering hardware to the country.

Mynaric said last week that it had requested official clearance of a planned export of products to a Chinese customer, which it didn't identify. It said it received a notification "that clearly prohibits Mynaric from delivering laser communication hardware to China."

Asked yesterday about the company's announcement, Economy Ministry spokesman Korbinian Wagner had no immediate comment and



said the government typically doesn't confirm, deny or comment on individual cases.

Mynaric, which said it ha-

dn't yet delivered any laser communication hardware to China, said it is ceasing business in China immediately

and would start extricating itself from uncompleted transactions. It said it "considers its clear commitment to national interests of its core markets as critical to its business success."

"This commitment is even more important now, considering pending governmental opportunities in the U.S. - a market that is currently gaining significant momentum," it added, citing as one example the Space Development Agency's current examination of proposals related to a U.S. government communication network.

Mynaric said it "has received high interest from numerous international actors."

Increasing antagonism between the United States and China is rattling governments and companies around the world, with the role of China's Huawei in 5G telecommunications networks one major source of tension. **AP**

JEONG-HO LEE

A South Korean court is set to start liquidating assets of a Japanese company to compensate Koreans conscripted to work during colonial occupation, straining ties between two key U.S. partners just as the Trump administration needs their help in countering China.

A district court in the eastern city of Pohang will start a process today to seize shares valued at about \$356,000 that Japan's Nippon Steel Corp. has in a joint venture with South Korean steelmaker Posco. No money is expected to move immediately, however, as the liquidation process requires months to realize due to procedural formalities. If Nippon Steel does not appeal the case within seven days, the order becomes effective and will likely inflame tensions as Japan has said the order is unlawful.

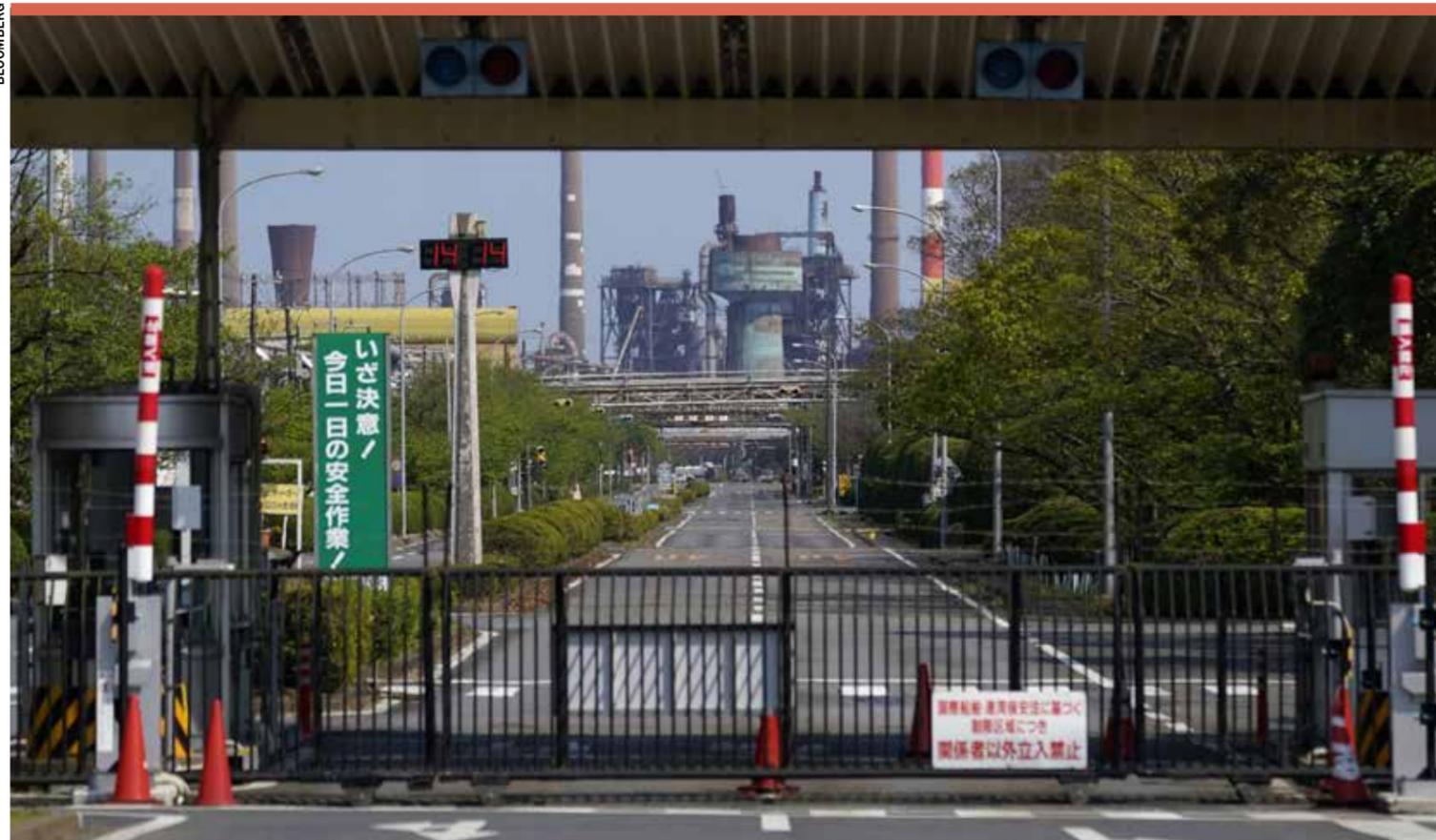
The two countries have seen threats to their enmeshed economies and their joint security efforts following South Korea's Supreme Court ruling in 2018 that Nippon Steel and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. were liable to compensate for forced labor during the 1910-1945 colonial period.

The renewed acrimony could prove troublesome for Donald Trump, as his administration has stepped up its pressure campaign against China, seeking help from allies to contain Beijing's push into the South China Sea and block Chinese technology on the grounds of posing security risks.

Tokyo has vowed to strike back if the liquidation takes place, while Seoul has said it has already reviewed possible countermeasures in response.

Japan has said all claims were completely and finally settled by a 1965 treaty that established basic relations, while Seoul believes some conscripted workers were not properly compensated for their emotional pain and suffering.

South Korea and Japan flap could hit Trump's plans on China



A Nippon Steel Corp. plant stands in Kashima, Ibaraki Prefecture, Japan

The Trump administration has been reluctant to step in and ease tensions. But last year it pressured Seoul to make a last-minute pivot to save an intelligence sharing pact with Tokyo designed to demonstrate the neighbors' ability to cooperate independently from Washington to counter shared threats including China and North Korea.

The renewed tensions could also hurt the U.S. on the economic front. The Trump administration has talked about bringing supply chains home from China, and even publicly floated the need for a group of friendly nations in Asia

that could help produce essential goods, seeking help from the likes of Japan, South Korea and others.

The tension between Tokyo and Seoul, however, could benefit China, according to Zhao Tong, Senior Fellow at CarnegieTsinghua Center in Beijing.

"The growing gap between Japan and South Korea may help China maintain a good relationship with South Korea due to their shared historical grievances toward Japan and can help ensure that a U.S.-ROK-Japan trilateral security alliance will never become real," Zhao said, referring to South Korea by its formal name.

People in both countries see ties clouded by animosity. A poll published in June by Japan's Yomiuri newspaper and South Korea's Chosun Ilbo found 84% of Japanese and a record high of more than 90% of South Koreans saw the relationship between the two countries as bad.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae-in have found support at home for taking a hard line against their neighbor. With both facing slides in their domestic support rate, making unpopular concessions to ease the tensions could lead to an even

deeper fall.

Apart from the court cases over colonial-era labor, Japan and South Korea are squaring off at the World Trade Organization over Tokyo's decision to restrict exports of electronics components vital for South Korea's tech sector.

Tokyo has also shown concern over a memorial at a private botanical garden in Pyeongchang, east of Seoul, showing a man thought to resemble Abe prostrating himself in apology before a seated young woman who represents Koreans trafficked in Japanese imperial army brothels.

BLOOMBERG

Beijing accuses US of harassing Chinese students, researchers

CHINA yesterday accused the United States of "monitoring, harassing and willfully detaining" Chinese students and researchers in the U.S.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin's comments follow the denial of a bail request in California for a university researcher accused of lying about her ties to China's military and Communist Party to gain access to the United States.

Wang said China had no intention of helping Juan Tang escape the coun-

try, but did not otherwise comment directly on the accusations against her.

However, he said China urges the U.S. to "handle the case fairly in accordance with the law and ensure the safety and legitimate rights and interests" due to Tang.

"For some time, the U.S., with ideological prejudice, keeps monitoring, harassing and willfully detaining Chinese students and researchers, and making presumptions of guilt against Chinese researchers," Wang said.

"The U.S. actions have seriously violated the legitimate rights and interests of Chinese citizens and severely disrupted the normal cultural and personnel exchanges between China and the U.S., which amounts to outright political persecution," he said.

In denying bail, U.S. Magistrate Judge Deborah Barnes said Tang, 37, would have reason to leave the country if released. Tang has been held without bail since July 23 when she was arrested after she left the Chinese Consulate in San

Francisco to seek medical care for her asthma.

Tang, who has a doctorate in cellular biology, entered the United States on Dec. 27, 2019, to work at the University of California, Davis, as a visiting researcher in the Department of Radiation Oncology, Alexandra Negin, an assistant federal public defender, said in her filing asking the court for her release on bail. The lab closed because of the coronavirus pandemic and Tang had been preparing to return to China, Negin said.

Tang and three other scientists living in the U.S. face charges of lying about their status as members of China's People's Liberation Army, or PLA. All were charged with visa fraud, the Justice Department said.

Tang was the last of the four to be arrested after the Justice Department accused the Chinese Consulate in San Francisco of harboring a known fugitive.

Negin said Tang went to the consulate to seek help and remained there after

FBI agents questioned her at her Davis apartment on June 20 and executed a search warrant, seizing her passport and visa.

Agents found photographs of Tang in a uniform of the civilian cadre of the PLA and also reviewed articles from China that identified her military affiliation. Negin argued that the evidence against Tang is based on old photographs from when she was a student at a medical school run by the military and documents that were translated on apps. **AP**

Virus surges in Philippines, India; Australia imposes curfew



A man prays with only a few other parishioners as a measure to prevent the spread of Covid-19 during Mass at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Quezon city

ASHOK SHARMA & JOE MCDONALD, NEW DELHI

SURGES of new coronavirus cases continued last weekend in India and the Philippines, which recorded another daily high to surpass 100,000 total infections, as officials across the globe considered stricter measures to stymie the spread of the pandemic.

A curfew was imposed on Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne, following a spike in infections.

Countries including the United States, India and South Africa are struggling to rein in their first wave of infections while South Korea and others where the disease abated try to avert a second wave as curbs on travel and trade ease.

Governments worldwide have reported 684,075 deaths and 17.8 million cases, according to data gathered by Johns Hopkins University.

India's 54,735 new cases were down from the previous day's record 57,118 but raised the total to 1.75 million. The month of July accounted for more than 1.1 million of those cases.

The major cities of New Delhi and Mumbai might have passed their peaks, said a government expert, Ran-deep Guleria. Subways, cinemas and other public facilities are closed until Aug. 31.

The Philippines reported 5,032 new cases, raising its total to 103,185, with 2,059 deaths.

On Saturday, leaders of Philippine medical organizations appealed to President Rodrigo Duterte to reimpose a lockdown on the capital, Manila. They said the health system was in danger as personnel fall ill or quit due to fear or fatigue.

In Japan, the government reported 1,540 new cases, close to Friday's record of 1,579.

The spike in infections, most of them in their 20s and 30s, prompted warnings young people were letting their guard down. Gov. Yuriko Koike of Tokyo, which has about one-third of the new infections, says she might declare an emergency to contain the outbreak.

In Florida, authorities were trying to prepare storm shelters while enforcing social distancing as Tropical Storm Isaias churned toward the heavily populated state. It was due to be near the coast early Sunday.

Florida reported 179 deaths on Saturday, raising its total to more than 7,000.

The governor warned residents to expect power outages and said they should have a week's supply of water and food.

The United States has the world's biggest number of confirmed cases at 4.6 million, or one-quarter of the total, and 154,361 deaths. White House coronavirus task force leader Dr. Deborah Birx said Sunday that the virus had entered a "new phase" in the U.S. as it has rapidly spread in rural and urban America.

"What we are seeing today is different from March and April. It is extraordinarily widespread," Birx told CNN's "State of the Union" as she urged Americans to wear face masks and observe social distancing measures.

In Australia, Premier Daniel Andrews of the southern state of Victoria announced a 8 p.m.-to-5 a.m. curfew on Melbourne, a city of 5 million people. Schools statewide are to return to home-based teaching and day care centers were closed.

Andrews said there were seven deaths and 671 new cases since Saturday.

"If we don't make these changes, we're not going to get through this," Andrews said.

Also Sunday, China and South Korea reported more infections but spikes in both countries appeared to be tailing off.

China had 49 new confirmed cases, up from the previous day's 45. Thirty were in Xinjiang in the northwest, where authorities are trying to contain an outbreak focused on the regional capital, Urumqi.

Three cases were found in students who returned from Russia to Wuhan, the southern Chinese city where the pandemic began in December. Most anti-disease controls were lifted there after the ruling Communist Party declared victory over the disease in March.

Hong Kong reported 125

new infections as authorities tried to find the source of its latest outbreak. The Chinese government said a team of seven virus testing experts was sent to the city to help.

South Korea reported 30 new cases, raising its total to 14,366 with 301 deaths, but said only eight were acquired in the country.

The government warned earlier case numbers would rise as South Koreans came home from the Middle East and other places with outbreaks. Authorities say cases from abroad are less threatening because arrivals are quarantined for two weeks.

On Saturday, the leader of a secretive Korean church was arrested in an investigation into whether the group hampered the anti-virus response after thousands of worshippers were infected in February and March.

On Saturday, South Africa reported 10,107 new cases, raising its total to 503,290.

That put the country fifth behind the United States, Brazil, Russia and India in total cases, though its population of 58 million is much smaller than theirs.

In Europe, the number of new cases reported in Italy dipped below 300 for the first time.

An employee in the Austrian chancellery tested positive for the virus but didn't work directly with Chancellor Sebastian Kurz, the Austrian Press Agency reported. AP

this day in history

1964 THREE CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVISTS FOUND DEAD



The bodies of three civil rights workers missing for six weeks have been found buried in a partially constructed dam near Philadelphia, Mississippi.

Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation found the three young men - two white and one black man - about six miles from the town in a wooded area near where they were last seen on the night of 21 June.

They were Michael Schwerner, aged 24, Andrew Goodman, 20, both from New York and James Chaney, 22, from Meridian, Mississippi. All were members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) dedicated to non-violent direct action against racial discrimination.

As soon as the men were reported missing, the case was made top priority and codenamed Miburn (Mississippi burning). FBI agents headed by Major Case Inspector Joseph Sullivan were sent down to Mississippi to investigate the matter.

After a tip-off they found the men's burnt-out car two days after their disappearance.

The bodies have been taken to Jackson, Mississippi, for further examination into the cause of death. It is believed all three had been shot and the finger of blame is pointing at the Ku Klux Klan white supremacist group.

The three young men had left the CORE office in Meridian six weeks ago to investigate the destruction of a black congregation church in Longdale, Neshoba County because it was used as the site for a "freedom school".

The school was set up by Mr Schwerner as part of a wider civil rights campaign in Mississippi teaching black children, among other things, black history and the philosophy of the civil rights movement.

The Mount Zion Church was burned down on 16 June by members of the KKK searching for Mr Schwerner.

His wife, Rita, made an emotional statement to newspapers today.

She said: "My husband, Michael Schwerner, did not die in vain. If he and Andrew Goodman had been negroes, the world would have taken little notice of their deaths."

"After all, the slaying of a negro in Mississippi is not news. It is only because my husband and Andrew Goodman were white that the national alarm had been sounded."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 13 October 1964 James Jordan, a member of the Ku Klux Klan, told FBI agents he had witnessed the murder and was willing to testify. A total of 19 men were arrested and charged.

On 24 February 1967 Judge William Cox dismissed 17 of the 19 indictments but he was overruled by the Supreme Court and the so-called Mississippi Burning trial took place in October 1967.

It emerged that the three young men had been arrested by Deputy Sheriff Cecil Price on 21 June, then released from Neshoba jail in the middle of the night and attacked and killed by the KKK as they drove out of town. Among those convicted were Deputy Sheriff Price, who got six years in jail. Ku Klux Klan leader Sam Bowers and KKK member Wayne Roberts were sentenced to 10 years each.

A film based on the FBI investigation was made in 1988 called Mississippi Burning.

In June 2005 Edgar Ray Killen, 80, was convicted of recruiting the killers. Killen was sentenced to 60 years in jail for the three manslaughters.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Exercise discipline when it comes to controlling bad habits. A passionate party for two might be just the remedy. Your mind will be on matters that deal with secret affairs.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 You will have the getup and go to contribute a great deal to groups of interest. Take a second look; another person's philosophy may be extremely different from yours. Short trips may be tiring but rewarding.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Be prepared to take care of the issues at hand. This will not be the best day to make changes or renovations to your residence. You may find yourself in the limelight for the wrong reasons.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 You're on the right track and you can make money if you are willing to go out on a limb. Get out and have some fun. You will have to be careful not to fall into traps set by jealous colleagues.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 You can help other people with their financial problems by setting up a budget for them. You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence. Your ideas may be a little ahead of their time.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Your ability to communicate with ease will win the hearts of those you are in touch with today. Opportunities for travel and socializing are evident. Be careful not to hurt someone's feelings.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Do not blow situations out of proportion. Family outings that aren't expensive will be enjoyable and help strengthen ties. Business or pleasure trips will be knowledgeable as well as highly successful.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Your added discipline will help you complete the impossible at work. You may find that your anger stems from lending or borrowing money. Put your time and energy into travel, philosophy, and soul-searching.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Your creative input will be appreciated by your boss. You are best to avoid joint ventures, and whatever you do, don't lend to friends or relatives. Go to the top if you're being harassed or held back.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 One of your friends could seem more distant lately. They could be going through some of their own stuff right now, and the group dynamic may not be making them very comfortable.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 You may be ill-treated if you have to deal with institutional environments. Shopping could cost more than you bargained for. You can make changes to your home that will be pleasing to all concerned.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Keep your mind on your work and stay away from situations that could ruin your reputation. Try to be a bit more understanding or you may end up spending the evening alone. Don't overspend on entertainment.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	24	36	clear
Harbin	21	28	moderate rain
Tianjin	27	35	cloudy
Urumqi	21	30	clear
Xi'an	24	35	overcast
Lhasa	12	24	cloudy
Chengdu	24	33	shower
Chongqing	28	38	clear
Kunming	18	26	shower
Nanjing	27	34	thundershower
Shanghai	28	32	drizzle
Wuhan	28	38	cloudy
Hangzhou	26	32	heavy rain to rainstorm
Taipei	26	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	26	32	moderate rain
Hong Kong	25	29	moderate rain
WORLD			
Moscow	12	21	clear
Frankfurt	15	21	overcast
Paris	12	18	clear
London	11	21	cloudy
New York	24	30	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Polite refusal; 6- Donkey's uncle; 9- Iraqi port; 14- Rice-___; 15- Nipper's co.; 16- Fuel transport; 17- Pertaining to the thyroid or adrenal, e.g.; 19- Courageous; 20- Neighbor of Leb.; 21- Polo of "Meet the Parents"; 22- French beans?; 23- Poker declaration; 25- Backing for an exhibit; 26- French fashion designer; 29- Wife of a rajah; 31- Add fizz; 32- Worship as a god; 36- Chief; 37- Back in time; 38- Team; 40- Fill up; 43- Lessened; 45- PDA entry; 46- Granular; 47- Swell; 50- Durable wood; 51- Horn-shaped bone; 52- Anna of "Nana"; 54- She's a she; 57- Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"; 58- Ninth month of the year; 61- I ___ vacation!; 62- "Cats" monogram; 63- Former Russian rulers; 64- Ford flop; 65- Vane dir.; 66- Until now;

DOWN: 1- Badgers; 2- Air France destination; 3- Fly; 4- Roadhouse; 5- Disencumber; 6- Senator Specter; 7- "The Lion King" villain; 8- Dress often worn by Hindu women; 9- Bells on ___ ring, making spirits bright...; 10- Buenos ___; 11- Roofing stone; 12- Party; 13- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 18- Of some benefit; 23- Silly; 24- Was introduced to; 25- Brian of rock; 26- Engine part; 27- Pile; 28- Seed cover; 29- Appropriate; 30- Flurry; 33- Singer Chris; 34- Tubular pasta; 35- Elysium of Genesis; 37- Horned viper; 39- Dreyer's partner in ice cream; 41- Chemical-free; 42- Wall St. debut; 43- Representative; 44- Lingerie item; 47- Snooped (around); 48- Some Art Deco works; 49- Cathode's contrary; 50- Home on the range; 51- Bamboo stem; 52- Fast flier; 53- Actress Harper; 54- Auction site; 55- Used to be; 56- Formerly, formerly; 59- Greek H; 60- Ed.'s pile;

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Fragrant Court, Ocean Gardens HK\$24,000,000 3,500ft² 4bed 3bath</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Cheoc Van House, Coloane \$33,000/mth 3,200ft² 3bed 3bath 1car</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Macau] Retail space, Aereia Preta 170ft² \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)</p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4bed 2bath 1,404ft² \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)</p> <p>[Macau] Lakeview Tower 3bed 2bath 1,344ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central Stylish 2bed 2bath 1,349ft² \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1bed 1bath 710ft² \$17,050/mth (ref: 20021002)</p> <p>[Taipa] Great View Apartment 4bed 2bath 2,060ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)</p> <p>[Coloane] Ocean Garden 4bed 4bath 3,700ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)</p> <p>[Taipa] Private house 2bed 3bath 3bath 4,266ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 190550065T)</p>
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

MICROSOFT TRIES TO SALVAGE DEAL TO BUY TIKTOK, APPEASE TRUMP

IN a bid to salvage a deal for the U.S. operations of TikTok, Microsoft Corp. Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella spoke with President Donald Trump by phone about how to secure the administration's blessing to buy the wildly popular, but besieged, music video app.

Microsoft in a blog post Sunday confirmed talks to buy TikTok's operations in the U.S., as well as in Canada, Australia and New Zealand, and said it's aiming to complete the deal no later than Sept. 15.

The software giant's public statement follows closed-door discussions with TikTok and Trump, who floated plans for an outright ban of the app on national security grounds and publicly lambasted the idea of a deal late Friday night. The companies now have 45 days to hash out a plan acceptable to all parties, a deadline insisted on by the White House, according to people familiar with the matter. The two companies have not yet worked out key details for a deal, including price, according to people familiar with the matter.

TikTok has become a flash point among rising U.S.-China tensions in recent months as U.S. politicians raised concerns that parent company ByteDance Ltd. could be compelled to hand over American users' data to Beijing or use the app to influence the 165 million Americans, and more than 2 billion users globally, who have downloaded it. The app also drew ire from the U.S. president after anti-Trump activists used the platform to disrupt campaign activities.

In its blog post, Microsoft pledged to add more security, privacy and digital safety protections to

BLOOMBERG



the TikTok app and ensure that all private data of Americans be transferred back to the U.S. and deleted from servers outside the country. The company also said it may invite other American investors to take minority stakes in the company.

"Microsoft fully appreciates the importance of addressing the President's concerns," the company said. "It is committed to acquiring TikTok subject to a complete security review and providing proper economic benefits to the United States, including the United States Treasury."

If a deal goes through, it would mark a dramatic intervention by the U.S. government in private enterprise and alter the global technology landscape. It would hand Microsoft a much more pro-

minent role in social media and online advertising - and threaten to end an era of globalization in the tech industry.

Microsoft's statement didn't explicitly say whether Trump would approve an agreement and forgo a TikTok ban, though Microsoft would likely make such a public pronouncement only if it thought that would be forthcoming. Microsoft's shares rose more than 4% in Germany.

A TikTok spokeswoman declined to comment, while the White House didn't immediately respond to a request for comment. ByteDance is committed to becoming a global company and strictly abides by local laws, the TikTok owner said in an online statement Sunday.

The blog post from Microsoft

came after a weekend of tense negotiations that lasted late into the night among Microsoft, TikTok and the White House, as well as a string of appearances on Sunday morning cable shows by U.S. politicians trying to sway the President's decision.

Factions within the administration and Congress have split into two camps: Those that want to keep the wildly popular music video app in operation by delivering it into the arms of an American company, and those that want to ban the app altogether in the U.S. because of TikTok's Chinese roots. The latter would send a message to China that the U.S. too can also block internet companies from operating on its shores like China does with Facebook, Twitter and Google.

TikTok was launched in the U.S. more than two years ago, following ByteDance's 2017 purchase of lip-synching app Musical.ly, which it folded into TikTok. The app became a social-media hit in the U.S. - the first Chinese platform to make such inroads.

As TikTok surged to popularity, officials began calling for a national security investigation into the app. In November 2019, The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or CFIUS, which investigates overseas acquisitions of U.S. businesses, opened a review of the Musical.ly purchase.

TikTok has repeatedly rejected accusations that it feeds user data to China or is beholden to Beijing, even though ByteDance is based there. It spent months trying to distance itself from its Chinese roots. It hired its first American CEO in June, former Walt Disney Co. executive Kevin Mayer, as well as dozens of D.C. lobbyists. It announced plans for a new global headquarters outside of China and said it was considering other organizational changes to satisfy U.S. authorities.

The purchase of TikTok's operations in the U.S. and the three other countries, should it be concluded, would represent a huge coup for Microsoft. The world's largest software company would gain a social-media app that has won over young people with a steady diet of dance videos, lip-synching clips and viral memes.

Microsoft and TikTok now have 45 days to hash out a price, terms, how Microsoft would pay for the unit, or how any technology-sharing or transfer of assets of the video-sharing app would work. Deal negotiations may be complicated by tensions between ByteDance investors eager for a big payout for the popular app and Microsoft executives who view themselves as a white knight rescuing a troubled business. The Trump administration could also throw a wrench into the process at any point. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Summer Staycation at The Ritz-Carlton



The Ritz-Carlton, Macau is offering two new staycation packages, available for guests who book until August 7 and stay before October 31, 2020. The offers are available to both Macau

ID holders and blue card holders, according to a statement from the hotel.

The Ritz-Carlton's "Unforgettable Staycation" room package, available from MOP2,888, includes

one night's accommodation in the Premier Suite, along with a MOP1,000 hotel credit to be spent at selected outlets in The Ritz-Carlton, Macau and JW Marriott Hotel Macau.

Meanwhile, the "Luxurious Wine and Dine Package" starts at MOP3,288, and features experiences in The Ritz-Carlton, Macau's Premier Suite and The Ritz-Carlton Café. Guests selecting this room package will also receive a bottle of champagne upon check-in, as well as breakfast and a lavish 3-course dégustation dinner set for two at The Ritz-Carlton Café.

MGM Cotai featured in BBC television series



MGM Cotai has become the first hotel in the greater China region to be featured in Amazing Hotels: Life Beyond the Lobby, a BBC television series. The episode featuring the hotel premiered on July

14, 2020.

The documentary series is about famous hotels across the globe. Within it, the two presenters, columnist Giles Coren and chef Monica Galletti head to work alongside

staff in the establishments. In this episode, the presenters experienced the services and offerings at MGM Cotai, as well as the working life of staff there.

"This program offers the audience [...] a closer look at the backstage hard work and our welcoming culture that ensures our service," said Pansy Ho, Co-Chairperson and Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited.

Monica also joined the annual "Spring Clean for Love" activity held during Chinese New Year, in which she spent half a day cleaning 220 households of senior citizens with the team.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

GOLF

Danielle Kang wins at Inverness in LPGA return

DANIELLE Kang was away from the LPGA Tour for six months during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is not to suggest she was without competition.

She lost track of the games she played with her brother, Alex, who has spent two seasons on the Korn Ferry Tour, and boyfriend Maverick McNealy, in his rookie year on the PGA Tour. She played the back tees and forward tees, moved about to different courses in Las Vegas and felt her game improving.

It paid off Sunday when Kang closed with a 2-under 70 and held on for a one-shot victory over Celine Boutier in the LPGA Drive On Championship at Inverness, the first LPGA Tour event since February.

"I made sure I played golf as much as I did normally, not because I had to but because I wanted to," Kang said. "I'm so thankful for the time. I tried to make the best of it. We had all the time in the world. Golf courses were open in Nevada. I didn't have to rush and cram for a test. I'm proud of the work I was able to do."

She played a brand of steady golf that wins on tough golf courses, an Inverness was all of that. Only five players finished under par in rapidly changing conditions.

Kang and Boutier, who clo-

AP PHOTO



Danielle Kang

sed with a 71, turned the final hour into a duel. Boutier hit the pin with her tee shot on the par-3 12th for birdie to get within

two shots, Kang made her only bogey on the par-5 13th with a soft chip, and Boutier rolled in an 8-foot birdie on the 14th to

tie for the lead.

But it was Boutier who blinked. She missed a short par putt on the 15th hole to fall one

shot behind, and then stuffed her approach to 4 feet below the hole on the 18th. Instead of a playoff, however, Boutier made a tentative stroke on a tricky putt and the ball caught the left edge of the cup and spun away.

Kang, the No. 4 player in the women's world ranking, won for the fourth time in her career. It was her first LPGA competition since Jan. 23 in Florida. She did not go to Australia, and then the COVID-19 pandemic halted play on the Asian swing and then on through the summer.

She has won in each of her last four seasons, starting with the Women's PGA Championship in 2017.

Inverness hosted the one-time event, and both contenders are likely to be back next summer when the storied club hosts the Solheim Cup. The LPGA Tour stays in northeast Ohio next week for the Marathon Classic.

Kang finished at 7-under 209.

Minjee Lee of Australia shot 70 and finished alone in third, three shots behind. She was followed by Yui Kawamoto of Japan, who shot a 72, and Jodi Ewart Shadoff of England, who faltered later for a 75.

Ewart Shadoff, still searching for her first LPGA Tour victory, was three shots behind on the back nine until she went bogey-bogey-double bogey through the 15th hole, and finished with a birdie when it was too late. AP

AD

britcham 澳門英國商會
British Chamber of Commerce in Macao

britcham @ St. Regis Macao - Wednesday 5 August 2020

Inquiries and RSVP
info@britchammao.org
Tel +853 8798 9697

Amber Room
St. Regis Macao, Cotai

12:30 : Registration
13:00 : Lunch
13:40 : Presentation - Q&A
14:30 : Close

Britcham Members – MOP/HKD 400
Non-Members – MOP/HKD 500

Vegetarian option to be requested in advance only
Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event

**Resetting for Recovery:
Macao's Tourism and Casino COVID-19 Exit Strategy**

Glenn McCartney PhD, MBE
British Honorary Consul, Macao
Associate Dean (T&L), Associate Professor,
Faculty of Business Administration, University of Macau

This talk will look at outcomes and future realistic scenarios for Macao's tourism and casino recovery from the city's prolonged lockdown due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

CASA DE PORTUGAL
EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會

Escola de Artes e Ofícios
School of Arts and Crafts

workshop Montagem de Colares com Nós
Knot Necklaces Assembly

≥ 15 anos/years old
monitora/monitor:
Cristina Vinhas

Quartas/Wednesdays
18h30 - 21h30

total: 09 horas/hours
03 sessões/sessions

início/starts: 12/08/2020
fim/finishes: 26/08/2020

data/dates: 12, 19, 26/08/2020
propina/fee: MOP 360 *

língua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English **
patrocínio/sponsor: **Fundação Macau**

local/venue:
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado nº 431- 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 8º andar B, sala 1, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
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* Contactar a sede da CPM para informações sobre modalidades de pagamento.
Please contact CPM's headquarters for payment information.
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OPINION

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



NO MORE EXPENSIVE SECOND-HAND FURNITURE, GO TO IKEA.CN

Are you shocked by how much money furniture owners ask for their unwanted items? Are you tired of the uniform furniture that real estate agencies put in your rental apartment? Is your budget not enough to afford buying new furniture in Macau or to order items from Hong Kong? Are you not satisfied with the styles of furniture available on Taobao? Well, maybe mainland Ikea might be a good choice for you.

First of all, shopping in the mainland Ikea is similar to shopping on Taobao; perhaps even better because the mainland Ikea website is available in both English and simplified Chinese. Thus, you don't have to worry anymore about messing around when asked to properly input your address, phone number and name.

I will introduce you to mainland Ikea from these different perspectives: price, options and promotion.

Who may be interested in mainland Ikea? Certainly not everyone. Mainland Ikea prices are nearly always cheaper than those offered in Macau or Hong Kong. Very few items are more expensive in mainland Ikea when compared to the Hong Kong Ikea.

One of the most popular products, the Ektorp three-seater sofa in Harllarp beige, costs 3,690 Hong Kong dollars according to the Ikea Hong Kong website. But it costs only 2,547 Hong Kong dollars on the mainland Ikea website. Price differences between the SARs' Ikea and the mainland Ikea can be even bigger for other items. So far, I have not found any item more expensive in the mainland.

The second thing related to the price is shipping. From my experience, mainland Ikea charges, at most, 169 Chinese yuan per order, regardless of the number of the items. That being said, my personal Ikea shopping experience consists of paying 169 Chinese yuan either for buying just one towel or 30 large pieces of furniture, such as sofas and wardrobes.

You can certainly use the same address that you use for your Taobao orders, but do consult your service supplier first to make sure they accept large items such as beds or wardrobes. The Ikea items come in pieces, as per tradition, and you can always check the size of each package and provide the information to your package receiver.

Another money-related issue will be how to transport the items from your receiver to your house.

This money issue is now solved.

The second reason to order from mainland Ikea lies in the options you have. I will use the example of the Ektorp three-seater sofa. Mainland Ikea offers a total of 18 different colors in the Ektorp three-seater sofa series, compared to three color choices available in HK's store. Not only do the same items have more options on the mainland Ikea website, but you can also shop for all types of furniture online, including unit kitchens, which are not available on Hong Kong Ikea's online shopping platform.

The final Ikea mainland advantage is the promotions. Similar to Hong Kong Ikea, mainland Ikea offers non-stop promotions, which are often really tempting, depending on what you are looking for. Actually, if you are interested, take a look at the website; August promotions are happening.

VULNERABLE EASTERN CHINA AREAS EVACUATED AHEAD OF TYPHOON

THE BUZZ

Vulnerable coastal areas were being evacuated and fishing boats recalled to port before a typhoon was expected to bring heavy rains to eastern China late yesterday as much of the country is still recovering from unusually summer heavy flooding.

Typhoon Hagupit had gusts of up to 90 kilometers per hour at its center and was moving northwest at 25 kilometers per hour.

China's National Meteorological Center said Hagupit is expected to come ashore between Zhejiang and Fujian provinces. Shanghai is expected to feel the effects.

Ferry services and some trains have been suspended and 4,481

passengers were taken off boats in waters off the Zhejiang coastal cities of Wenzhou and Tanzhou.

In Fujian, coastal fisheries were evacuated, tourist spots were closed and construction sites ordered to suspend operations. Fishing boats were ordered to avoid seas expected to be impacted by the typhoon.

This year's typhoon season has been relatively mild in China, although flooding since June along its major river systems has caused scores of deaths, forced around 2 million people to be evacuated and caused more than 49 billion yuan (\$7 billion) in damage.

OUTBREAK HITS NORWAY CRUISE SHIP, COULD SPREAD ALONG COAST

AP PHOTO



Norwegian cruise ship MS Roald Amundsen moored in Tromso, Norway, yesterday

A Norwegian cruise ship Aline halted all trips and apologized yesterday for procedural errors after an outbreak of coronavirus on one ship infected at least 5 passengers and 36 crew. Health authorities fear the ship also could have spread the virus to dozens of towns and villages along Norway's western coast.

The infections on the MS Roald Amundsen raise new questions about safety on all cruise ships during a pandemic even as the devastated cruise ship industry is pressing to resume sailings after chaotically shutting down in March.

The Hurtigruten cruise line was one of the first companies to resume sailing after the pandemic hit, starting cruises to Norway out of northern Germany in June with a single ship, then adding cruises in July to the Arctic archipelago of Svalbard.

The 41 people on the MS Roald Amundsen who tested positive have been admitted to the University Hospital of North Norway in Tromsø, north of the Arctic Circle, where the ship currently is docked.

"A preliminary evaluation shows that there has been a failure in several of our internal procedures," Hurtigruten CEO Daniel Skjeldam said in a statement. He added the company that sails along Norway's picturesque coast

between Bergen in the south and Kirkenes in the north is "now in the process of a full review of all procedures."

It has contacted passengers who had been on the MS Roald Amundsen for its July 17-24 and July 25-31 trips from Bergen to of Svalbard, which is known for its polar bears. The ship had 209 guests on the first voyage and 178 guests on the second. All other crew tested negative.

The infections on the MS Roald Amundsen raise new questions about safety on all cruise ships

But since the cruise line often acts like a local ferry, traveling from port to port along Norway's western coast, the virus may not have been contained onboard. Some passengers disembarked along the route and may have spread the virus to their local communities.

A total of 69 municipalities in Norway could have been affected, the Norwegian news agency NTB reported.

The city of Tromsø is urging anyone who traveled on the ship or had any contact with the ship to get in touch with health authorities.

It's not known how the

outbreak began. Guests come from all over the world. The NTB said 33 infected crew members came from the Philippines and the others came from Norway, France and Germany.

Skjeldam said cruise ship officials did not know that they should have notified passengers after the first infection was reported Friday, adding that they followed the advice of the ship's doctors.

But Line Vold of the Norwegian Institute of Public Health said its advice was to inform passengers and crew as soon as possible so they could monitor their health and go into quarantine if needed.

"We have made mistakes. On behalf of all of us in Hurtigruten, I am sorry for what has happened. We take full responsibility," Skjeldam said.

Hurtigruten says the operations of three ships — MS Roald Amundsen, MS Fridtjof Nansen and MS Spitsbergen — have been halted for an indefinite period.

In Italy, the Costa Crociere cruise ship line said three crew members from two ships in Civitavecchia, near Rome, have tested positive for the coronavirus. The cruise company said two assigned to the Costa Deliziosa were hospitalized and a third, assigned to the Costa Favolosa, was in isolation on the ship. AP

AP PHOTO



Indian health authorities have given approval to the Serum Institute of India for conducting phase two and three trials of a Covid-19 vaccine candidate developed by the University of Oxford. The approval came from the Drugs Controller General of India. At least 1,600 adults will participate in the trials. Serum, the world's largest maker of vaccines by volume, is mass-producing the vaccine candidate developed by the University of Oxford.

South Korea has confirmed 23 additional cases of the coronavirus, amid a downward trend in the number of locally infected patients. The additional cases announced by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention took the country's total to 14,389 with 301 deaths. The agency says 20 new cases came from overseas while the rest were locally infected.

AP PHOTO



Italy's daily coronavirus infections has dipped under 300 cases for the first time in three days, after a recent flurry of clusters throughout the nation raised concern among health experts. The Health Ministry says Italy registered 295 cases in the last 24 hours, raising the total to 247,832.

France Beach resorts along France's Atlantic coast, picturesque promenades on the Loire River, farmers markets in the Alps — they're among scores of spots around France where everyone is now required to wear a mask outdoors. The outdoor mask rules taking effect today are on top of a nationwide decree last month requiring people to wear masks in all stores and other indoor public places. Pressure is growing on the government to mandate outdoor mask use on a national level, too.