

The Macao SAR Government urges:

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 Keep a distance and avoid crowd gathering;
 Convert health code for border cross;
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Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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MORE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS UNDERWAY, GRADUAL BORDER OPENING IN DISCUSSION, REVEALS SECRETARY WONG SIO CHAK

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MACAU TRIAD HEAD ARRESTED IN CAMBODIA: HK MEDIA REPORTS

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SHENZHEN IS BECOMING AN ENGINE TO POWER SCIENCE AND TECH DEVELOPMENT IN THE GREATER BAY, ACCORDING TO XINHUA

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Japan Gov. Hideaki Ohmura announced yesterday a state of emergency in Nagoya, central Japan because of rising virus cases and asked businesses and people to curb activities, especially during an upcoming holiday. Aichi prefecture has been seeing more than 100 new infections a day since mid-July after an extended period with zero new cases. The prefecture includes Nagoya and the headquarters of Toyota Motor Corp., Japan's top automaker.



Vietnam A makeshift hospital with 700 beds for virus patients has been completed in a Da Nang. The hospital, converted from a sports venue, will be ready for patients on Saturday and its capacity can be increased to 3,000 beds, the health ministry said. Over 100 health workers were mobilized from other cities to help treat patients in Da Nang. Vietnam reported another death and 20 new yesterday.



Australia The leader of the State of Victoria urged residents not to panic-buy as he announced reductions in meat production. The state capital, Melbourne, began its first full day of tough lockdown restrictions yesterday as Victoria posted 471 new cases and eight deaths. Premier Daniel Andrews (pictured) said beef, lamb and pork production will be reduced by one third because of virus transmission risks in abattoirs and meat processing plants. Poultry production will be reduced by 20%.

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RENATO MARQUES

FROM RUSSIA WITH MONEY

Former model Mila Just sees a lot of potential in Macau for Russian tourists

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ESCALATING VIRUS RESPONSE RAISES FEAR OF OUTBREAK IN NORTH KOREA

North Korea is quarantining thousands of people and shipping food and other aid to a southern city locked down over coronavirus worries

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SPECIAL TRANSPORT ARRANGEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS

Services to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) bus stop will be temporarily suspended, starting from Saturday. As a result, seven bus routes will be diverted to four nearby bus stops. This is due to the fact that the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) is commencing construction of a recreational zone on Av. Dr. Sun Yat-Sen. A section of the road between Sun Yat-There will be limited access to the IC from Saturday until August 31. On Saturday and Sunday, traffic lights at the conjunction of R. da Ribeira do Patane and Largo do Pagode do Patane will be switched off between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Traffic lights at the conjunction of Av. do Alm. Lacerda and R. de Joao de Araujo will suspend service between the same hours on Sunday.

ILLICIT TAIPA CONSTRUCTION PROCESS SUSPENDED

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has ordered the suspension of illicit construction activities at the Caminho da Povoacao de Cheok Ka. According to a report by TDM, some individuals took the liberty of demolishing wooden houses at the location and beginning the construction of new buildings without the government's approval. The DSSOPT said that the area, designated as the Taipa northern district land plot, is restricted under the government's urban development plan. Every land plan must be submitted to the Urban Planning Committee in accordance with the law. The concerned land plot is private land. The surrounding community has complained about various illicit activity recorded there, including the dumping of construction materials and recycled waste, sewage problems, and the use of the land as a car maintenance facility.

TRANSPORT AUTHORITY INDICATES LRT IS NOT A BUSINESS

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) has indicated that the Light Rapid Transit (LRT) is not a business. The DSAT wrote, in a response to lawmaker Agnes Lam's interpellation regarding the LRT, that the it is a public service and does not have the same priorities and interests as a business. According to the department, the LRT serves the same purpose as Macau's public bus system. In other words, the success of this railway network cannot be judged based on profit, gain or financial loss. The department hopes that the LRT system will play an important role in Macau's land transportation. The bureau also explained that, according to the LRT contract with the MRT Corporation, the Macau SAR government pays the company to provide service operation, pre-launch tests, human resource training and maintenance in the first five years of the railway network's operation.

BLOOMBERG



MORE SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS UNDERWAY, GRADUAL BORDER OPENING IN DISCUSSION

JULIE ZHU

SECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak has given an update on the increase in the number of CCTV surveillance cameras and on developments toward the resumption of border crossings.

Yesterday, Wong, together with other high-ranking officials from the security force, met with the First Standing Committee of Legislative Assembly to respond to lawmakers' questions on the legal amendment establishing extra compensation for human resources in the security force.

On the sidelines of the meeting, Leong Man Cheong, commissioner of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), revealed that a total of 980 surveillance cameras will be installed by 2022, with 300 in one phase and 680 in additional phases.

This batch of cameras will cover spots missed by the existing surveillance devices. These new surveillance tools will be distributed throughout the New Urban Zone and at border facilities.

According to Wong, surveillance cameras have helped the police force solve more crimes. "Don't think that nobody sees [your crime]. The cameras do," said Wong, praising the surveillance system.

With regard to the facial recognition function of CCTV surveillance cameras, which the government has decided to adopt, Leong claimed that the security force will publicize the test report once it is completed.

The SAR government will select 100 cameras: 50 for facial recognition and 50 for car-plate recognition.

Aside from the controversial public surveillance network matter, the security force has been in constant communication with the mainland government authority regarding the resumption of ordinary border crossings.

The immigration measures "will gradually [return] to old [conditions]," according to Wong. The SAR government is coordinating with the central government in all mainland provinces regarding the resumption of tourism travel permits to the Macau SAR.

Recently, there has been gradual recovery in the parallel trader situation as local residents and non-local workers have been allowed to travel between Zhuhai and Macau.

Vong Man Chong, director of the Macao Customs Service, acknowledged that parallel

traders mostly transport legal goods to mainland China. He indicated that such trade is legal in Macau but maybe illegal in Mainland China. Parallel traders normally receive purchase orders from mainland China. The traders buy the products in Macau, then take them to Zhuhai to ship to other mainland cities.

The Secretary urged parallel traders to cooperate with the

dance with current regulations. These officers include criminal investigators from the Judiciary Police, firefighters from the Fire Services Bureau, customs officers, prison police officers, and police personnel of the PSP.

Three of the existing administrative regulations, including No.13/2005, suggest that a civil servant is only eligible for additional compensation should the concerned individual work over 44 hours for four consecutive weeks within a month.

The security authority's statistics show that, on average, customs officers work 45 to 46 hours per week, and firefighters work more than 48 hours per week.

Under the new amendment's prescription, the government will calculate the aforementioned personnel's working hours differently. Their average weekly working hours will be their monthly duty hours divided by the number of working days and then multiplied by five. The number of working days is the same as that of other civil servants. Officers will be eligible for additional compensation should the personnel work more than 44 hours per week based on this new calculation method.

**"Don't think
that nobody sees
[your crime]. The
cameras do."**

WONG SIO CHAK
SECRETARY FOR SECURITY

government's Covid-19 prevention measures.

Meanwhile, regarding the law being discussed at the First Standing Committee, Ho Ion Sang, chairman of the committee, told the press that it mostly concerns the methods for calculating working hours among the human resources of the security force.

Due to the special nature of the work of the security force officers, their working hours cannot be calculated in accor-

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NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Lynzy Valles, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | **ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS** JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | **NEWS AGENCIES** Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C,

MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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TRIAD BOSS ARRESTED IN CAMBODIA, REPORTS HK MEDIA

LOCAL businessman and alleged head of the triad organization known as "Water Room," Lai Tong Sang, has been reportedly arrested by Cambodian law-enforcement agencies, according to Hong Kong news outlet Apple Daily. He will be handed over to Chinese authorities within days, according to the Apple Daily report.

The Hong Kong news outlet cited anonymous sources for verification of the information.

According to the report, Lai was thought to be connected to a case involving Zhuhai businessman Liang Jiarong.

Dubbed the richest man in Zhuhai, Liang is the founder of a company listed on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange, Shirong Zhaoye Company Limited. He is 58 years old and has held the position of chairman of the company since August 1998.

Reports by mainland news outlets disclosed that Zhuhai's police authorities have announced the arrest of Liang in relation to several allegations, including picking fights and provoking trouble, purposefully causing injuries to others, illegal mining, and so on.

The Zhuhai authorities have even promised a reward of 500,000 Chinese yuan to anyone who can provide evidence against Liang.

The Hong Kong news outlet claimed that Liang earned his first investment capital in Macau casinos, before returning to Zhuhai during the 1990s to make further investments in land. He achieved the title of Zhuhai's wealthiest person in 2009.

According to some reports, Lai immigrated to Canada in 1996. It is unclear why he was in Cambodia, as per the recent media report.

STANDING COMMITTEE WANTS OVERSIGHT ON PUBLIC DEPARTMENT RENTALS

THE Executive branch should task a specific department with the supervision and handling of public properties, a Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly has proposed.

The Committee recently concluded studying a report submitted by the government relating to real estate expenditure for public departments. The report disclosed that between 2017 and 2019, the government spent between 820 and 860 million patacas on real estate rental.

Lawmaker Mak Soi Kun, head of the Committee, revealed that the Committee has made several suggestions to the government. First, that the government should reexamine the appropriateness of renting private properties. It should create a list of empty government-owned properties with rele-

vant dates and the reason for vacating them.

The Committee thinks this will be a good way to evaluate how much the government has spent or wasted on rent instead of using these vacant properties.

It is especially crucial for the government to reexamine the issue because it concerns public finance and efficiency of governance, according to Mak. More importantly, this year the city will see a budget deficit. The extensive rental of private properties should be handled and supervised by a specific bureau, the Committee suggests.

Of all government departments, the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau and the Cultural Affairs Bureau had the biggest expenditure on office rentals and on warehouse rentals, respectively, in 2019. **AL**

GREATER BAY

Shenzhen emerges

IN the northern suburbs of tech city Shenzhen, a forest of tower cranes stand at the site of a cow farm that is being transformed into a scientific engine.

Here, the Guangming Science City is taking shape. The cluster of scientific facilities and universities now lies at the heart of China's ambition to build the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area into a science and innovation center.

According to the local government, the Guangming Science City has launched construction of 60 projects, involving total investments of 140 billion yuan (20 billion U.S. dollars).

The Shenzhen Bay Laboratory, which focuses on biomedical research, is among the latest to settle in the tech park in June. So far, the lab has assembled 49 teams to carry out COVID-19 research, including on vi-

rus sequencing and antibodies, said Zhan Qimin, director of the lab.

Labs and basic science facilities are also prospering in other parts of Guangdong Province, helping the manufacturing heartland in south China rise as a new destination for the country's, even the world's, researchers.

In 2018, the China Spallation Neutron Source opened in Dongguan as a "super microscope" to observe the microstructure of matter. A neutrino observatory is under construction in Jiangmen City, and a high-intensity heavy-ion accelerator is being built in Huizhou City.

China has been promoting joint development in the bay area, which comprises Hong Kong, Macau and nine cities in Guangdong. Last year, China issued a more specific development plan for the area. One of its major aims is

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to build an international innovation and technology hub.

Zhong Hai, an official in charge of Shenzhen's technological sector, said the construction of basic science installations

will improve the overall innovation capacity of Shenzhen, which is better known for housing China's many tech firms like Huawei and Tencent.

The construction of the innovation hub has already

lured in many graduates from Hong Kong, according to Xinhua, which neighbors Shenzhen and boasts many universities.

Sing Chan, who launched an e-commerce platform in Shenzhen, is

busy assisting Hong Kong entrepreneurs who wish to set up their businesses on the Chinese mainland.

Over half of the Hong Kong teams came to the mainland for software and engineering hardware projects, according to the young entrepreneur from Hong Kong, who has helped bring over 200 Hong Kong-invested companies and entrepreneurial teams into Shenzhen.

Peter Ding, who founded a high-tech firm on robotic applications in Shenzhen, noted the bay area's manufacturing prowess, which can help high-tech firms efficiently realize their brainchild.

"They (tech firms) can rely on Shenzhen as a research and development center, assemble products in cities like Foshan and Dongguan and benefit from basic science research in Hong Kong's universities," Ding said. **MDT/XINHUA**

COVID-19 VACCINE TRIALS BEGIN IN JIANGSU PROVINCE

STAFF REPORTER

HUMAN clinical trials of BioNTech and Fosun Pharma's Covid-19 vaccine have begun in China's Jiangsu province.

As of August 5, some 72 participants have received a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine, BNT162b. The companies are set to enlist 144 healthy subjects of various ages to receive two doses of the vaccine 21 days apart.

If successful, this clinical trial will allow the vaccine to gain regulatory approval by Marketing Authorities and be commercialized in Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Mainland China.

The trial in China will be a follow-up of trials that have taken place in Germany and the United States, to ensure that the effectiveness of the vaccine can be replicated in Chinese participants.

The first vaccine candidate, BNT162b2, has been undergoing trials since July 27 by BioNTech and Pfizer. The pharmaceutical companies

have plans to explore clinical trials of other vaccines in China following the success of the RNA technology.

For this collaboration Pfizer, known for their clinical vaccine research, relies on BioNTech's breakthrough mRNA technology. The partnership will allow the companies to scale up global manufacturing to supply the world with the vaccine.

CEO and Co-founder of BioNTech, Ugur Sahin said that "this is an important step toward our goal to reach marketing authorization and ensure vaccine supply in China to help prevent new Covid-19 outbreaks in the most populous country in the world."

Ai-Min Hui, President of Global R&D, and Chief Medical Officer of Fosun Pharma said that the partnership with BioNTech will "synchronize the development process in China with other countries, and bring the vaccine to public as soon as possible, if the vaccine succeeds."

MEASURES ON ENTRANTS FROM HK FURTHER TIGHTENED

STARTING from 6 a.m. today, people who are entering Macau from Hong Kong or have been to Hong Kong in the preceding 14 days, will be required to present a negative Covid-19 nucleic acid result obtained within the past 24 hours, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced yesterday.

Previously, arrivals had to show a negative test result from within the past seven days.

The stricter rule comes as Hong Kong grapples with its so-called 'third wave' of locally-transmitted infections.

If travelers from Hong Kong fail to present a valid test result, they may be denied entry by the Macau border authorities. The Center has also notified cross-boundary transport operator to deny anyone without the result from boarding their carriers. The two-week quarantine will remain in force, the Center said.

The Center also announced that charges for nucleic acid tests will be lowered from MOP180 to MOP120 from August 12. Macau residents and non-resident workers will be entitled to a first free-of-charge test.

Tests done prior to August 12 will be charged at the current price. People who have booked a test may opt for changing to a later date on the test application website to enjoy the deducted price. **AL**

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TOP MODEL SEES POTENTIAL IN MACAU FOR RUSSIAN TOURISTS

RENATO MARQUES

LIVING in Macau for the past 10 years, Mila Just is a well-known face among the modeling, entertainment, and promotion scenes. Less known is that Mila, who prefers to be known by her first name, came to Macau back in 2006 when the then 20-year-old Saint Petersburg University student said "why not?" to an advert for Russia's Next Top Model she heard on the radio.

This decision not only changed her life but instilled in her a sense of improvisation and adaptability, which she now employs in a brand-new direction. Among her many ideas for the future, is a recent one to promote Macau as a destination for Russian tourists, which came about while browsing social media.

A CHANCE APPLICATION IN MACAU

It was modeling that first brought Mila to Macau.

Participation in the Russia's Next Top Model competition opened unexpected doors for her and helped her develop new skills, she told the Times.

"In the contest, everything was unexpected," she said. "We were often given one hour to prepare ourselves for a certain task and we did not know what it was. It could be a photo-shoot or a dance class or anything else."

This refined her ability to improvise, and to respond to unexpected situations.

Mila explained to the Times that it was with the same spirit that she faced

the recent Covid-19 crisis and the cessation of all modeling and performance jobs.

With her newfound spare time, the model decided to "do things that I had wished to do before, but never had found time to do."

For example, she decided to teach the Russian language to her two children. "I started by teaching them the language as a communication skill and also as a way to keep their culture, but I soon realized that there were other children in Macau that, like them, were born in mixed-culture families and had difficulties learning the Russian language," said Mila. "So I created this small study group and I have been dedicating a lot of time to this task, which makes me very happy."

After participating in the TV show, Mila embarked on a modeling career that took her across Asia; from Singapore to Hong Kong to Seoul to Tokyo. She would occasionally visit Macau for either work or sightseeing purposes while working on longer jobs in Hong Kong.

During one of those trips in 2010 - when she was considering taking a break from all of this traveling - she decided to pass her résumé to some of the many integrated resorts that were opening at the time.

A call arrived from Banyan Tree Macau and she seized the opportunity to take a job as receptionist. Within a short time, she moved from reception to taking care of the guests,

from their arrival at the airport and during their entire stay.

Through that job she met her husband, an airline captain based in Macau, and the prospect of staying for a longer period in Macau became real.

MUCH TO OFFER THE RUSSIAN VISITOR

Today, Mila has the vision to bring Russian tourists to experience Macau.

As the co-creator of the page "macaoguide" on social media platform Instagram, Mila said that she recently discovered the great interest of Russian people in getting to know Macau.

"The Russian market is a huge window of opportunity; only one person is writing about Macau to Russian people (which is the one doing it for the Macao Government Tourism Office) but that person is not even here, they are in Russia. But I am here, I have been living here for so long and I know Macau and love Macau a lot so I think I can give them a different and more local perspective," she told the Times.

"For most people [in Russia], Macau is still unknown and people only know that Macau is [...] right next to Hong Kong and has casinos, but people don't know how rich it is and have no idea how 'crazy' it is with a mix of cultures and influences."

The model-turned-blogger added that she now travels everywhere with her phone in-hand, showing Macau to the page followers.

RENATO MARQUES



Mila Just

"I believe that as soon as borders open, there will be many Russians interested in visiting Macau," Mila said, adding that she is so confident about this that she even applied to get an official tour guide license in Macau.

"Macau isn't that far [from Russia] and people there do like South Asian countries and cultures," she said. "We are even close to Portuguese culture in some aspects, such as culinary traditions. I think [Macau] will be a perfect destination for Russians."

Mila said that Russian visitors would be most interested in the "record-breaking" aspects of Macau. "We have so many things, like the most beautiful and largest casinos in the world, the 'longest bridge in the world' [the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge], the Guinness-record holder for the world tallest bungee jump [at the Macau Tower], the beautiful Lisboa [Hotel] and then, of course, Cotai with the replicas of Venice and Paris all in the same place."

"These will be the

number one attractions, but then they will want to see 'Portugal in Macau' present in old Taipa, old Macau, the pavements, the 'pastel de nata' and all those items that nobody would expect to see in a Chinese city," Mila said.

She added that in this respect, Macanese cuisine will also be very attractive to Russian palates as, for them, it will have a very "homey" feeling.

With so much to see and experience in Macau, Mila says that these tourists will not be of the single-day traveler variety.

RENATO MARQUES



China sentences third Canadian to death on drug charges

CHINA has sentenced a third Canadian citizen to death on drug charges amid a steep decline in relations between the two countries.

The Guangzhou Municipal Intermediate Court announced Xu Weihong's penalty on Thursday and said an alleged accomplice, Wen Guanxiong, had been given a life sentence.

Death sentences are automatically referred to China's highest court for review.

The brief court statement gave no details but local media in the southern Chinese city at the heart of the country's manufacturing industry said Xu and Wen had gathered ingredients and tools and began making the drug ketamine in October 2016, then stored the final product in Xu's home in Guangzhou's Haizhu district.

Police later confiscated more than 120 kilograms of the drug from Xu's home and another address, the reports said. Ketamine is a powerful pain killer that has be-

AP PHOTO



Canadian Embassy in Beijing

come popular among club goers in China and elsewhere.

Relations between China and Canada soured over the arrest of Meng Wanzhou, an executive and the daughter of the founder of Chinese tech giant Huawei, at Vancouver's airport in late 2018. The U.S. wants her extradited to

face fraud charges over the company's dealings with Iran. Her arrest infuriated Beijing, which sees her case as a political move designed to prevent China's rise as a global technology power.

In apparent retaliation, China detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian

entrepreneur Michael Spavor, accusing them of vague national security crimes.

Soon after, China handed a death sentence to convicted Canadian drug smuggler Robert Schellenberg in a sudden retrial, and in April 2019, gave the death penalty to a Canadian citizen

identified as Fan Wei in a multinational drug smuggling case.

China has also placed restrictions on various Canadian exports to China, including canola seed oil, in an apparent attempt to pressure Ottawa into releasing Meng.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said there was no connection between Xu's sentencing and current China-Canada relations.

"I would like to stress that China's judicial authorities handle the relevant case independently in strict accordance with Chinese law and legal procedures," Wang said at a daily briefing Thursday. "This case should not inflict any impact on China-Canada relations."

Like many Asian nations, China deals out stiff penalties for manufacturing and selling illegal drugs, including the death penalty. In December 2009, Pakistani-British businessman Akmal Shaikh was executed after being convicted of smuggling heroin, despite allegations he was mentally disturbed.

"Death sentences for drug-related crimes that are extremely dangerous will help deter and prevent such crimes," Wang said. "China's judicial authorities handle cases involving criminals of different nationalities in accordance with law."

AD



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North Korea's escalating virus response raises fear of outbreak

NORTH Korea is quarantining thousands of people and shipping food and other aid to a southern city locked down over coronavirus worries, officials said, as the country's response to a suspected case reinforces doubt about its longstanding claim to be virus-free.

But amid the outside skepticism and a stream of North Korean propaganda glorifying its virus efforts, an exchange between the country and the United Nations is providing new clarity — and actual numbers — about what might be happening in North Korea, which has closed its borders and cut travel — never a free-flowing stream — by outsider monitors and journalists.

In late July, North Korea said it had imposed its "maximum emergency system" to guard against

the virus spreading after finding a person with COVID-19 symptoms in Kaesong city, near the border with rival South Korea.

State media reported that leader Kim Jong Un then ordered a total lockdown of Kaesong, and said the suspected case was a North Korean who had earlier fled to South Korea before slipping back into Kaesong last month.

North Korea's public admission of its first potential case and the emergency steps it took prompted immediate outside speculation that it may be worried about a big outbreak after months of steadfastly claiming it had no cases. Foreign experts are highly skeptical of North Korea's assertion of no cases, in large part because of its long, porous border with China, where the virus emerged, and its history of hiding past disease out-

breaks.

In a report to the World Health Organization, North Korea said it has quarantined 64 first contacts of the suspected Kaesong case and 3,571 secondary contacts in state-run facilities for a period of 40 days, according to Dr. Edwin Salvador, WHO representative to North Korea.

Salvador said in an email to The Associated Press that North Korea also informed WHO of the suspected first case, saying the person was tested for COVID-19 but the results were inconclusive. Salvador said WHO has requested that North Korea share more information about the person.

Salvador said all of North Korea's borders remain closed, group gatherings are banned, masks are required in public, and all educational institutions,

including preschools, are on an extended summer break. Since the end of December, North Korea has quarantined and released 25,905 people, 382 of them foreigners, Salvador said.

Many outside observers are all but certain the virus has already entered North Korea because it closed its border with China, its biggest trading partner, weeks after the world's first known virus cases were recorded in China in December. Monitoring groups in Seoul have steadfastly reported about North Korean virus cases and deaths.

A major coronavirus outbreak may cause a humanitarian disaster because of North Korea's broken public health care system and lack of medical supplies.

But it's unclear how serious North Korea's current situation is. **MDT/AP**

LEBANON

Officials probe blast amid rising anger, calls for change

LEBANESE officials targeted in the investigation of the massive blast that tore through Beirut sought to shift blame for the presence of explosives at the city's port, and the visiting French president warned yesterday that without serious reforms the country would "continue to sink."

The blast Tuesday, which appeared to have been caused by an accidental fire that ignited a warehouse full of ammonium nitrate at the city's port, rippled across the Lebanese capital, killing at least 135 people, injuring more than 5,000 and causing widespread destruction.

It also may have accelerated the country's coronavirus outbreak, as thousands flooded into hospitals in the wake of the blast. Tens of thousands have been forced to move in with relatives and friends after their homes were



damaged, further raising the risks of exposure.

French President Emmanuel Macron visited yesterday amid widespread pledges of international aid. But Lebanon, which was already mired in a severe economic crisis, faces a daunting challenge in rebuilding. It's unclear how much support

the international community will offer the notoriously corrupt and dysfunctional government.

Macron, who viewed the devastated port and was to meet with senior Lebanese officials, said the visit is "an opportunity to have a frank and challenging dialogue with the Lebanese political

powers and institutions."

He said France will work to coordinate aid but warned that "if reforms are not made, Lebanon will continue to sink."

Later, as he toured one of the hardest-hit neighborhoods, an angry crowd vented its fury at Lebanon's political leaders, chanting "Revolution" and "The people want to bring down the regime," slogans used during mass protests last year.

Macron said he was not there to endorse the "regime" and vowed that French aid would not fall into the "hands of corruption."

Losses from the blast are estimated to be between \$10 billion to \$15 billion, Beirut Gov. Marwan Abboud told the Saudi-owned TV station Al-Hadath on Wednesday, adding that nearly 300,000 people are homeless.

The head of Lebanon's customs department meanwhile confirmed in an interview with LBC TV late Wednesday that officials had sent five or six letters over the years to the judiciary asking that the ammonium nitrate be removed because of the dangers it posed. **AP**

this day in history

2003 BALI BOMBER SMILES AT GUILTY VERDICT



A court in Indonesia has convicted and sentenced to death a 41-year-old mechanic for his part in the bombing of two nightclubs in the island resort of Bali last year.

At least 190 people from 21 countries died in the blasts. Most were foreign tourists, nearly half of them from Australia.

Amrozi bin Nurhasyim is the first to stand trial for the bombings, which ripped through the crowded nightclub area in the island's Kuta district.

He was found guilty of conspiring, planning and carrying out an act of terrorism.

He grinned broadly as the judge read out the guilty verdict, and then punched the air and turned around to give the thumbs-up sign to the courtroom as he was handed his death sentence.

But the judge's final words were almost drowned out by cheers and applause from relatives and survivors of the bombings who packed the public gallery.

Five judges heard from more than 40 witnesses during his three-month trial, including survivors.

Throughout, Amrozi has appeared in court smiling defiantly and chanting furious slogans at the courtroom.

He has been known as the "smiling bomber" by the Australian press since he appeared laughing before television crews following his arrest last year.

He was charged after admitting buying the explosives and the minivan used in the bombings. Two of his brothers were also arrested, and are awaiting trial along with two others.

Survivors and relatives of the victims have welcomed the verdict, although some believe Amrozi should not have been handed a death sentence.

"Becoming a martyr is what he wants," said Susannah Miller, who lost her brother Dan in the attack.

"It will add fuel to the fire of fundamentalism."

Arguing for life imprisonment instead, she said, "It is very much a life sentence of grief for the relatives."

Amrozi has said he is not worried by the death penalty.

"I'll be happy to die a martyr," he said. "After me there will be a million more Amrozis."

Police yesterday said the militant Muslim group believed to be behind the Bali bombings, Jemaah Islamiah, was also behind the suicide car bomb attack two days ago on the Marriott Hotel in Jakarta, in which at least 10 people died.

The group is believed to have links with Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Amrozi was the first of three people to be sentenced to death for the Bali attacks. One of the others was his brother, Mukhlas, believed to be the mastermind behind the plot. The third brother, Ali Imron, expressed remorse for what he had done and was sentenced to life imprisonment. A fifth key suspect, Idris, was convicted in August 2004 of the Jakarta attack, but cleared of taking part in the Bali bombings - despite having admitted it - due to a legal technicality.

More than a dozen others were given lengthy jail sentences for their part in the plot.

Two suspects - university lecturer Dr Azahari Husin and electronics expert Dulmatin - have so far escaped capture by police.

Both are believed to be bomb-making experts. Husin is also a key suspect for the Jakarta hotel bombing.

Amrozi's appeal against his death sentence was thrown out by the Supreme Court in January 2004. His lawyers say they will now file a judicial review.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Without even realizing it, you have quickly ascended to the top of a powerful person's list. Just by doing the right thing in the right way, you're succeeding!



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

It's important to live in the present. Not only will it help you get further ahead, but it will also help you enjoy those plans all the more when they do happen.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

It stinks to have to depend on other people, but resist the urge to take over their share of the work, too. Just stick to your own responsibilities. It might take longer to get things done...



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Have you ever thought about how you come across to others? Image isn't something that should drive your personality, but it's something you need to consider, especially in your work life.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Someone you care about could throw a wrench into your plans, and you'll have to do your best to avoid getting angry about not getting what you want.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

In other situations, keep an eye out for that person who always seems to have the answers. They have the answers for you, too. Get to know this person and see where it goes.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

They'll make an offhand comment that, if you hear it in the right way, will explain how they think. You can become a much more valuable friend to them.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You and a friend have opposing ideas about what to do, and the tension might be getting so hot that you're thinking of cutting them off altogether. What's the best way to solve this problem?



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

In the meantime, rely on yourself to get what you want. You can do it! Just because someone offers to do you a favor doesn't mean you have to let them do you that favor.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Sensitivity could get in your way today. Dancing around the truth just so you won't hurt some insecure person's feelings is exhausting, and you might not have the patience for it right now.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If you meet someone new today, it could be the person who changes your life. Of course, they might just be a nice person, but either way, you should engage with them in a genuine way.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Now is not the time to sit in the background and watch everyone else take care of things. You need to try to get things moving. Get your allies together. They need your involvement.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

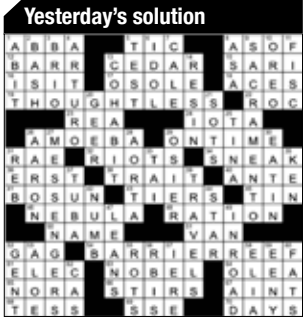
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	23	33	cloudy
Harbin	18	24	cloudy
Tianjin	25	31	overcast
Urumqi	22	34	clear
Xi'an	23	28	moderate rain
Lhasa	14	26	cloudy
Chengdu	24	29	moderate rain
Chongqing	30	39	cloudy
Kunming	18	27	shower
Nanjing	28	33	cloudy
Shanghai	28	35	drizzle
Wuhan	29	35	cloudy
Hangzhou	28	35	clear
Taipei	26	31	clear
Guangzhou	26	34	clear
Hong Kong	27	32	shower
WORLD			
Moscow	14	23	drizzle
Frankfurt	18	32	clear
Paris	20	35	clear
London	16	26	clear
New York	23	26	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Overjoy; 6- Flat shelf; 11- Dallas sch.; 14- Aired again; 15- Mountaineer's tool; 16- Bentley of "American Beauty"; 17- Biblical brother; 18- Quality; 19- Martinique, e.g.; 20- "Magnum, P.I." setting; 22- Less common; 24- Short allegorical story; 28- In working order; 30- Tip of Massachusetts; 31- In readiness; 32- One cubic meter; 33- Innocent; 37- Melancholic; 38- Brief brawl; 39- VCR button; 40- "St. ____," hospital TV series; 43- Move effortlessly; 45- Elevate; 46- Bird having a very large bill; 47- Catlike; 49- Shining; 50- Horizontal; 51- Fall short; 52- Metal-bearing mineral; 53- Stern with a bow; 56- Little bits; 61- Photographer Goldin; 62- Suckle; 63- Small hill; 64- Overhead trains; 65- No-see-ums; 66- Raring to go;

DOWN: 1- Period of history; 2- Salonga of "Miss Saigon"; 3- Part of ETA; 4- Chinese "way"; 5- Dignify; 6- Supple; 7- Beige; 8- Narc's org.; 9- Moo goo ____ pan; 10- Pull out; 11- Eddy; 12- Fight, disturbance; 13- Manipulator; 21- Entirely; 23- Genesis shepherd; 24- Deputised group; 25- Conductor Dorati; 26- Orchestra section; 27- Televiser; 28- Put together; 29- Silage storage tower; 31- Unconventional; 33- Honkers; 34- "All My Children" vixen; 35- Four-door; 36- Hound's trail; 38- Type of guard; 41- Della's creator; 42- Lamenting loudly; 43- Divine; 44- Him, to Henri; 46- ____ chi ch'uan; 47- Untamed; 48- 2, 4, 6, 8, etc.; 49- Speed contests; 50- Single; 51- Swift; 54- Sky light; 55- First name in Notre Dame football; 57- ____ roll; 58- ____ out (dress up); 59- Bass, e.g.; 60- Camera type, briefly;



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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IAM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply - Report 2822 0088

Telephone - Report 1000

Electricity - Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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HK\$24,000,000 3,500 ft² 4 1/2 3 1/2

FOR RENT

Cheoc Van House, Coloane
\$33,000/mth 3,200 ft² 3 1/2 3 1/2 1 1/2

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

[Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 1/2 2 1/2
1,344 ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)

[Macau] One Central Stylish 2 1/2 2 1/2
1,349 ft² \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)

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[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2
710 ft² \$17,050/mth (ref: 20021002)

[Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2
2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)

[Coloane] Ocean Garden 4 1/2 4 1/2
3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)

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Instructor

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English
(Supplement with Cantonese translation)

Registration deadline

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Free of charge (First-come, first-served)

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Registration QR code

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Li Ka-shing's group profit drops as pandemic slams business

CK Hutchison Holdings Ltd.'s profit fell as the Hong Kong conglomerate founded by the city's richest tycoon Li Ka-shing saw its retail, ports and real estate businesses hurt by the coronavirus pandemic.

Net income fell to HKD13.2 billion (\$1.7 billion) for the six months through June, the company said in a statement yesterday. The company also lowered its planned dividend to HKD0.614 a share from HKD0.87 per share last year.

The CK business empire spans ports, telecommunications, retail and utilities with two-thirds of profit last year coming from Europe, making it more vulnerable to the pandemic that has hit the continent harder than Hong Kong. At the same time, months of protests against China's tightening grip on Hong Kong have also hurt CK Hutchison's retail businesses in the city and raised concern that simmering geopolitical tension could

make it harder for Li to make deals overseas.

The first-half results included a HKD9.2 billion gain from the merger of its Australian phone venture with TPG Telecom Ltd.

After the pandemic-led sell-off that dragged down both the city's benchmark Hang Seng Index and CK Hutchison's shares in March, the index has partially recovered while the company's stock is still trading near the year's low.

The plunge has pared its market value to about half of net assets, the least since it was formed in a 2015 restructuring.

Profit at the group's listed property arm also fell as the pandemic undermined demand for residential real estate. Sales for new residential real estate projects slated will likely be postponed amid the pandemic, while mass residential prices could drop as much as 10% this year, Jones Lang LaSalle Inc. estimates.

MDT/BLOOMBERG

Pompeo urges cutting ties with Chinese tech companies

NICK WADHAMS

SECRETARY of State Michael Pompeo urged American companies to bar Chinese applications from their app stores, signaling that U.S. efforts to banish Chinese technology from U.S. computers and smartphones will extend well beyond the push to force a sale or shutdown of TikTok.

Pompeo said Wednesday that "untrusted Chinese apps" like TikTok and WeChat pose "significant threats to the personal data of American citizens" and are potential tools for Chinese content and censorship. He also called for companies to refuse to make their apps available for phones made by Huawei Technologies Corp. and for ending the use of Chinese cloud providers such as Tencent Holding Ltd., Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Baidu Inc. for sensitive American data.

"We don't want companies to be complicit in Huawei's human rights abuses or the CCP's surveillance apparatus," he said in reference to the Chinese Communist Party.

The "Clean Network" guidance Pompeo announced stopped short of an ultimatum and isn't binding, but it represents an escalation in President Donald Trump's efforts to limit the spread of Chinese technology that U.S. officials say imperils Americans' private information and national security. Trump has pledged to ban TikTok, the viral video app, from the U.S. by Sept. 15 unless its U.S. operations are sold to an American company. Microsoft Corp. is in talks to buy its U.S. operations.

Pompeo contends that apps such as TikTok are harvesting U.S. citizens' data, putting it at risk of being exploited by the Chinese Communist Party.



TikTok counters that U.S. users' data is stored outside China and is safe.

In another initiative, Pompeo said the U.S. will seek to ensure China can't harvest data transmitted via under-sea cable, especially that laid down by Huawei subsidiary Huawei Marine.

Chinese officials and analysts have denounced Trump's push against their country's technology companies.

"Pompeo and other American politicians use state security as an excuse and use state power to oppress Chinese high-tech companies," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin told a regular briefing in Beijing on Thursday. "We are firmly opposed to this. Their action has no factual basis."

"Trump's move is threatening to split the internet, and this is something the world should avoid," Zhao Ruiqi, vice director of the School of Marxism at the Communication University of China in Beijing, has said. "Countries should sit down and discuss the limits of national security when it comes to internet governance."

The secretary of state's announcement marked the latest move in the Trump administration's campaign to counter China on multiple fronts -- from tensions over the South China Sea to human rights disputes over Beijing's crackdown on Hong Kong and its treatment of Muslims and ethnic minorities

in Xinjiang province. The election-season campaign against China has stepped up significantly since Trump amplified rhetoric blaming China for the coronavirus pandemic that originated there.

Pompeo and his team argue that the technology sphere is especially important and that tougher action now will help counter China's steady move toward global leadership in artificial intelligence and digital surveillance. In their most dire predictions, officials say that Americans' adoption of Chinese technology could be used against them in the event of a cyber attack or military crisis with China.

"What you're seeing is alignment around the Clean Network," Keith Krach, the U.S. undersecretary for economic affairs, said in an interview. "Huawei along with its CCP appendages - like cloud and apps and cables - create the Orwellian big brother state which extends the great one-way China firewall, where data comes in but not out and, reciprocally, propaganda goes out, but the truth doesn't come in."

Pompeo didn't say whether the U.S. will later seek to enforce the new guidelines or what authority it would use to do so, though officials have pointed to an executive order Trump signed last year to ensure a safe information-technology supply chain. BLOOMBERG

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu



THE BRISTOL CLASS 3&4 1510 METRES (SAND) 2020-08-09|Sun|16:00

NEW Zealand gelding **Pearl Lucky** (pictured) by Red Giant out from Crystal Hill should follow through his upward racing curve come this Sunday. Trainer K. H. LEONG and owner Mr. CHAN has good solid winners in the past few meetings, latest being last Sunday **Pearl Green** won The Barnet turf race. The winning team has another winning hopeful in **Pearl Lucky** this Sunday. **Pearl Lucky**'s last two run were full of merits, his run 19 July was unlucky and raced without cover most of the trip - entering the home straight he was bumped by **Chromium Alloy** and that caused him the race. His 24 July sand race which saw him again raced wide, but at the concluding stages he picked the bid up and fight on strongly with **Eclair Mirage**, there he was defeated only by a very thin margin at the tight photo finish. There is no **Eclair Mirage** this time, Jockey K. H. Yu with a good draw barrier in gate 3 and carrying 125. **Pearl Lucky** should find this race very handy.

RACE 2 The Bristol (Sand) - 5 Pearl Lucky Win & Place



OPINION

World Views

Hussein Ibish, Bloomberg

HEZBOLLAH WILL NOT
ESCAPE BLAME FOR BEIRUT

As if the Lebanese haven't suffered enough. For months, they have been caught between an economic meltdown, crumbling public services and a surging pandemic. Now they must count the dead and survey the extensive damage to their capital after two giant explosions earlier this week.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab's government says the explosions were caused when careless welding ignited about 2,750 tons of ammonium nitrate, a highly combustible material used as fertilizer and for bomb-making. By comparison, Timothy McVeigh used about 2.4 tons of the same chemical in the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. The 2015 disaster in the Chinese city of Tianjin was caused by the explosion of 800 tons of ammonium nitrate.

The equivalent of 1,100 Oklahoma City-size bombs could indeed account for the devastation and the red-dish mushroom cloud that plumed gaudily over the Beirut port. But it doesn't mean Lebanese will simply accept that the explosion was an unavoidable, force majeure event.

Assuming the official account holds up, the disaster again exposes the rot that is destroying the country — an especially corrosive mix of corruption, ineptitude and malign intentions.

The ammonium nitrate was apparently seized in 2013 from a Moldovan-flagged ship traveling from Georgia to Mozambique. But someone — who, we don't yet know — brought it into Beirut; instead of returning, auctioning or disposing of it, the port management inexcusably allowed it to be stored there for years.

There are no prizes for guessing who in Lebanon might be interested in keeping such vast quantities of explosive material close at hand. The U.S. Treasury and Israel both believe Hezbollah controls many of Beirut's port facilities.

Diab, whose government is entirely dependent on political support from Hezbollah and its Maronite Christian allies, has vowed to hold those responsible to account. More than likely, some minor officials will be fingered for permitting improper storage of highly dangerous material.

Iran-backed Hezbollah, with its large and well-armed militia as well as its political hold on the prime minister, has nothing to fear from the state. But it will not escape public opprobrium: Most Lebanese will assume the ammonium nitrate belonged to the militia, for use in Syria and against Israel.

Why the chemicals exploded is another matter, rich with possibilities of conjecture. In the court of public opinion, the usual suspects will be rounded up from the ongoing shadow war between Iran and Hezbollah on one side and Israel on the other. President Donald Trump, who can be relied upon to make everything worse, speculated it was a deliberate attack. This will be picked up and amplified by conspiracy theorists in the Middle East.

But suspicions of Hezbollah's culpability will intensify today when a United Nations special tribunal for Lebanon that has been looking into the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is expected to issue verdicts in cases against four Hezbollah cadres being tried in absentia. The men are in hiding, and have not been seen in years; even if they are found guilty, no one expects them to be handed over. Hariri, remember, was killed in a massive blast.

A guilty verdict would increase domestic pressure on Hezbollah, its allies and the government. When Lebanese have finished mourning their dead, anger will return — the kind that fueled the massive street demonstrations that brought down Diab's predecessor last October.

Even without the Beirut blasts, the timing of the verdict would have been awkward for Diab, who is struggling to negotiate an economic bailout with the International Monetary Fund: Among the hurdles is Hezbollah's resistance to the necessary reforms.

Hezbollah finds itself uncomfortably positioned as the principal backer of the government presiding over a thoroughgoing collapse of the Lebanese state and society. It will not easily shake off blame for the Beirut blast, or for the Hariri assassination. Even in this country that has suffered so much and for so long, the latest of Lebanon's tragedies will not soon be forgotten, nor its perpetrators forgiven. [Abridged]

CAMBODIAN BUTCHER QUILTS DOG MEAT
TRADE, SHUTS SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Animal rights activists in Cambodia have gained a small victory in their effort to end the trade in dog meat, convincing a canine slaughterhouse in one village to abandon the business.

Buth Pith and his wife Khath Hach this week shut down the small abattoir they had operated for about seven years after animal protection groups agreed to provide them an alternate living by building a small convenience store for them.

Animal activists are taking the 15 dogs that had been caged at the slaughterhouse to an animal shelter in the capital, Ph-

nom Penh, for rehabilitation, after which they will be offered for adoption, either in Cambodia or abroad.

The closure this week in Chi Meakh village in Kampong Thom province follows a bigger victory in the northwestern province of Siem Reap, a popular tourist destination, which in July outlawed the buying, selling and butchering of dogs for food.

More on macaudailytimes.com

POLICE: THREE TEENS
INADVERTENTLY JUMP
WALL INTO MAR-A-LAGO

AP PHOTO



TERRY SPENCER, FORT
LAUDERDALE (FLA.)

THREE teenagers fleeing police while carrying a semiautomatic gun in a backpack jumped a wall at President Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, but probably didn't know that's where they were, authorities said yesterday.

Palm Beach Police spokesman Michael Ogradnick said the 15-year-old boys were arrested shortly after they entered the grounds of the resort Friday and dumped the backpack, which contained a mini AK-47 with a loaded 14-round magazine.

He said the three are lucky that neither the president nor any family members were there, because Secret Service agents might have shot them. The club is closed for the summer.

"They had no idea where they were," Ogradnick said.

According to a police report, a Palm Beach officer spotted the teens sitting in a parked car early Friday morning about 2 miles (north of Mar-a-Lago). When he turned on his overhead lights, the car sped south toward Mar-a-Lago.

As they approached the club, the teens spotted a second officer who was conducting an unrelated traffic stop and abruptly stopped the car, probably thinking it was a roadblock set up to catch them, Ogradnick said.

The three bolted, jumped Mar-a-Lago's nearby wall and hid on the resort's grounds. Officers surrounded the club and a helicopter and police dog were used to help find them. Ogradnick said they never tried to get inside any of the resort's buildings.

He said the three said they didn't own the AK-47 but had found it.

The teens are charged with trespassing with a firearm, burglary with a firearm and resisting arrest without violence. They are being held at a juvenile detention facility while prosecutors decide whether to charge them as adults.

The 15-year-old boys
were arrested shortly
after they entered the
grounds of the resort

Mar-a-Lago has been the scene of several intrusions since Trump became president in 2017.

On Jan. 31, a Connecticut opera singer fleeing police in a rented SUV crashed through a checkpoint outside of Mar-a-Lago, drawing gunfire from Secret Service agents and officers. She was not hurt. Hannah Roemhild has entered a plea of not guilty by reason of insanity.

On Jan. 5, just hours after Trump and his family had left the club following a two-week vacation, a Florida man who had been dishonorably discharged from the Marines for sex

offenses was arrested after he got past two checkpoints. Authorities said Brandon M. Magnan had falsely identified himself as part of the president's helicopter crew.

In March 2019, Chinese national Yujing Zhang gained access to Mar-a-Lago while carrying a laptop, phones and other electronic gear. That led to initial speculation that the 33-year-old businesswoman from Shanghai might be a spy, but she was never charged with espionage. Text messages she exchanged with a trip organizer indicated she was a fan of the president and wanted to meet him or his family to discuss possible deals.

Zhang was found guilty of trespassing and lying to Secret Service agents and was sentenced in November to time served.

In December, the club's security officers confronted another Chinese national, Jing Lu, 56, for trespassing and told her to leave, but she returned to take photos. Lu was charged with loitering and resisting an officer without violence after taking photos by entering a service entrance.

On Thanksgiving weekend 2018, a University of Wisconsin student visiting the area with his parents walked into Mar-a-Lago by mingling with a group that was entering. He was arrested and pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor. AP

India recorded its biggest single-day death toll of 904 as new infections surged by 56,282 to nearly 2 million. The Health Ministry says the total fatalities reached 40,699, half of them in the past 30 days. India has the third-most cases in the world and the fifth-highest death toll. A fire at a hospital intensive-care unit killed eight coronavirus patients in the western city of Ahmedabad.

AP PHOTO



The Philippines reported a total of more than 119,000 coronavirus cases, overtaking Indonesia with the most infections in Southeast Asia, as its economy shrank alarmingly and plunged into recession. The Department of Health reported 3,561 new cases yesterday, bringing the country's total to 119,460, including 2,150 deaths. Officials said the economy contracted 16.5% in the second quarter, its worst performance in decades.

AP PHOTO



Nepal's government has reimposed some restrictions, shutting down hotels and restaurants and restricting travel because of the increasing number of coronavirus cases. The Home Ministry said all gatherings will be prohibited and movement of people and vehicles will not be allowed at night.

AP PHOTO



UK The government says it won't be using 50 million face masks it bought during a scramble to secure protective equipment for medics at the height of the coronavirus outbreak because of safety concerns. Papers filed in a court case reveal that the masks will not be distributed because they have ear loops rather than head loops and may not fit tightly enough. The masks were part of a 252-million-pound contract the government signed with investment firm Ayanda Capital in April.