

The Macao SAR Government urges:

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Convert health code for border cross;
Stay within the Guangdong province if leaving Macao.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®

Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



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11 Aug 2020

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

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THE POLICE LEARNED THAT A MATCHMAKER REPORTEDLY MADE 60,000 PATACAS FROM ARRANGING A FRAUDULENT MARRIAGE

JACKSON CHANG'S DEFENSE SAYS PROSECUTION FAILED TO PROVE ACCUSATION

A NINE-MONTH-OLD BABY GIRL WAS TAKEN TO HOSPITAL AFTER SWALLOWING THE COTTON HEAD FROM A SWAB TEST AT THE TAIPA FERRY TERMINAL



Taiwan At the start of yesterday's meeting with President Tsai, U.S. Health Secretary Azar, said the island's success in dealing with COVID-19 was a "tribute to the open, transparent, democratic nature of Taiwan's society and culture." An island of 23 million people, Taiwan moved swiftly and aggressively to contain the coronavirus and has recorded just 277 reported cases and seven deaths from the illness. **More on p8**

China's number of local transmissions fell to just 14 but was offset by 35 new cases among Chinese travelers coming from overseas. All of the new local cases reported yesterday by the National Health Commission were in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, whose main city Urumqi is the center of China's latest outbreak. China has reported 4,634 fatalities from the disease among 84,668 cases.

Australia has reported the fewest number of new daily cases in its virus hotspot, Melbourne, since last month. But it also reported the nation's highest daily death total since the virus outbreak began. The state of Victoria reported 322 new infections and 19 new deaths yesterday, with 14 of the deaths connected to outbreaks at aged-care facilities.



India Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee says he has tested positive for the coronavirus. Mukherjee, 84, said yesterday that he found out he was positive when he went for a routine medical check-up. He requested all those who came in contact with him in the last week to isolate themselves and get tested. Mukherjee was India's president between 2012 and 2017.

More on backpage

WELCOME NEIGHBOR

Starting from tomorrow, residents of Zhuhai become the first mainlanders able to return to Macau for tourism purposes. More cities are expected to follow



BATTLE OF THE SANCTIONS

Macau, HK entities caught in the crosshairs of superpower hostilities



P2,7,10

BIDDING OPENED FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES BUILDING SUPERSTRUCTURE WORK

Superstructure works on the city's planned infectious diseases building is estimated to start in the first quarter of next year. Yesterday, the Infrastructure Development Office opened bidding for the construction project. The office received 17 bids in total. The maximum construction period is 730 working days. The superstructure works should take no more than 450 working days. Once completed, the building will be eight-stories high with a total height of 35 meters. The construction area will be 31,000 square meters, providing 80 standard single-person isolation rooms, in addition to surgery rooms and laboratories. The local government has already required constructors to take measures to ensure that the construction creates minimum sound pollution for neighboring areas and does not constitute an impediment to traffic in the area.

LAWMAKER SULU SOU URGES COMPLETE BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC

Lawmaker Sulu Sou has urged the local government to completely ban single-use plastic products in Macau. In an interpellation to the local government, Sou pointed out that Macau's legislation on restricting single-plastic products is "severely lagging behind." Recently, the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) pledged that Macau will ban the import of styrofoam takeout boxes. Sou urged the department to reveal more details on the promise. In addition, the local government is due to respond to Sou regarding the effectiveness of the city's single-use shopping bag ban. According to the DSPA's environment report of Macau in 2019, the city was rated "not good" in regard to the amount of urban waste in 2019, generating 550,249 metric tons in the year, 23.5% of which was plastic waste.

GROUP WANTS TO SURVEY MENTAL HEALTH OF ALL RESIDENTS

The General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau believes that it is necessary for the Macau SAR government to take stock of the mental health of every Macau citizen. Cheang I Ha, deputy director of the association's social affairs division, made the proposal with particular reference to Covid-19. According to Cheang, while residents are advised to avoid traveling outside of Macau, and in light of the growing unemployment rate, it is easy for Macau residents to suffer from anxiety and depression. Frontline workers of the Covid-19 response team are also experiencing mental pressure. Cheang urged the local government to learn from Macau's neighboring regions, and to conduct a survey of mental health to understand the pressures citizens face, and to make mid- and long-term plans to improve the physical and mental health of individuals in the community.

CRIME

MATCHMAKER MAKES 60,000 PATACAS FROM FAKE MARRIAGE

JULIE ZHU

A broker made 60,000 Macau patacas from a bogus marriage between a Macau permanent resident and a mainland resident, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) said yesterday during the joint police press conference.

The case was first discovered by the Macau SAR Identification Department.

On August 7, the PSP forwarded a local man, surnamed Cheang, and one local woman, surnamed Guo, to the prosecution authority under the suspicion of fake marriage.

In 2007, during a period of unemployment, Cheang met a woman, who is the broker in this case, in a local casino. The broker convinced Cheang to marry an unknown mainland woman, Guo, as a means to make money.

The specific business proposal consisted of Cheang marrying Guo to help the latter get a Macau ID, while Cheang would receive 40,000 Hong Kong dollars in return. After the marriage, Cheang helped Guo apply for a one-way travel permit to Macau, a visa the mainland government issues to a resident as an approval to leave mainland China and immigrate to Macau.

After the marriage and travel permit were approved, Cheang and Guo did not maintain any form of contact. In 2013, Cheang divorced Guo, who had already obtained her Macau ID. At that time, no government department noticed the marriage being bogus.

In 2018, Cheang, whose life situation had deteriorated, met another person, who became a broker for Cheang's second fake marriage. The matchmaker connected Cheang and Du, a second woman from the mainland who later married Cheang.

This second marriage drew the attention of the ID department.

On August 6, PSP police officers visited Cheang to investigate his second marriage.

The police found no evidence of Du living in the house. Upon police interrogation, Cheang failed to mention any evidence to suggest that there was a relationship between himself and his second wife. He eventually admitted to PSP that the relationship was fake. From the second marriage, Cheang made 40,000 Chinese yuan.

As of the police press conference yesterday, the PSP had not apprehended Du, who is believed to be in mainland China. However, the first woman, Guo, was found in Macau.

Guo told the police officers that she paid her marriage broker 100,000 Chinese yuan for the service, admitting that the marriage was a fraud. The middleman profited by 60,000 yuan.

Both Cheang and Guo are now in the hands of the prosecution authority. Du is still in mainland China.

DRUNK DRIVER UNWILLING TO SUBMIT TO TESTS

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) recently encountered two drunk drivers who were unwilling to accept that they were intoxicated.

On August 9, the PSP received a report from the customs authority regarding a case of facility damage. Upon arrival, PSP officers found one damaged car and three bent iron fence railings seemingly damaged by the vehicle.

The driver of the car, a local woman in her 30s, was found at the site, apparently intoxicated.

When police officers tried to enforce an alcohol test, the woman became difficult. She was asked to blow into the breathalyzer for eight to nine seconds to complete the test.

However, the woman only held the device for one or two seconds each time she was tested.

The PSP took her to the hospital for a blood test. She was uncooperative again and stopped the nurses taking a blood sample.

Eventually, the police were unable to test her alcohol level and charged her for defying orders.

The second drunk driver is a local man in his 30s. On August 7, PSP officers found him on Av. Marginal do Lam Mau smelling strongly of alcohol. His breath analysis showed 1.65 mg per liter blood. The man requested another test at the hospital. The hospital test result showed an even higher intoxication level, marking 1.87 mg per liter. JZ

US lifts sanctions on Delta Asia Bank

THE Federal Register of the United States has announced the lifting of special measures imposed on Macau's Delta Asia Bank, and the withdrawal of the Notice of Finding involving the local bank.

The Federal Register is a document similar to the Official Gazette of Macau.

In the same edition, there are two entries related to sanctions taken out against the Macau bank, both published by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN).

FinCEN pointed out that although the law stipulates requirements for a prior notice and opportunity for comment before the lifting of the measures, a government agency has the discretion to "dispense with these procedures when good cause exists."

Citing public interest, the U.S. agency has decided to drop the requirement, hinting that the repeal will take effect immediately.

FinCEN also announced the withdrawal of the Notice of Finding involving Delta

Asia Bank, in which the U.S. government said it had found evidence to show money laundering activities and other connections to North Korea.

As of press time, Delta Asia Bank has not commented on the repeal.

The U.S. government imposed certain measures on the local bank on September 15, 2005 under the Patriot Act, following the designation of the bank as "a primary money laundering entity." The U.S. accused the local bank of conducting business with North Korea, an activi-

ty which was banned by the U.S.

On March 17, 2007, FinCEN started levying official sanctions on the Macau financial institution. As part of the sanctions, the bank was barred from the U.S.'s financial system.

Several times, the bank has applied for the decision to be repealed. Its owner, Macau businessman Stanley Au, even filed a lawsuit against FinCEN and the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury in the hope of a favorable resolution. AL

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Chang's defense says Prosecution roundly failed to prove accusation

RENATO MARQUES

THE defense lawyer of former Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) president Jackson Chang has refuted the Public Prosecution's statements made during the closing statements phase of the trial of the case involving several IPIM officials accused of crimes related to the unlawful granting of Macau residency permits.

In the closing statements, which started yesterday, the lawyer defending Chang, Álvaro Rodrigues, refuted the multiple claims made by the Prosecutor that all the crimes that the defendants are accused of have been proven during the trial.

Rodrigues disagreed profoundly with such statements, asking facetiously if the prosecutors had been in the same courtroom as him over the past weeks.

For the lawyer, not only has the Prosecution not been able to present any proof of the accusations they brought against the defendants, let alone against Chang, but they also made several mistakes and flaws in their accusations.

Among such flaws, the lawyer noted that the prosecution has made use of the same facts to accuse his client of different crimes. These facts included the crime of paying support to a criminal organization, which he claimed the prosecution only included in its case because they believe "my

client got a lot of money from Ng Kuok Sao somehow."

According to Rodrigues, the prosecution has not been able to prove any of the benefits they claim Chang received for "helping the group," nor had it been able to prove any wrongdoing in the information that Chang passed to his daughter, which is at the core of the accusations to Chang.

Rodrigues recalled that Chang, while president of IPIM, forwarded a total of 65 cases to the Public Prosecutions Office for suspecting forged documents and false declarations in the information submitted to IPIM by the applicant from the same scheme. The lawyer pointed to this, which he said could be proven with documents and testimonies, unlike the facts of the prosecution.

To the charges that Chang was part of a criminal organization, his lawyer also noted that according to the Macau law provisions, to be considered as such, a criminal organization must, "constitute a danger to society just by existing and independently of actively committing crimes or not." He went on to note that the Prosecution's claims about the existence of such an organization lack both justification and proof.

Addressing the crimes of passive corruption, the lawyer no-

ted that the crimes were only evidenced by the "lai si" allegedly received by Chang from Ng. However, they are of an uncertain amount, received on an unknown occasion, and allegedly to repay unknown favors. Summarizing, Rodrigues claimed that what the prosecution has on Chang are just assumptions not based on any evidence.

According to Chang's lawyer, in the attempt to press the most serious charges possible, the Public Prosecution forgot logic and good sense

Trying to undermine the theory expressed by the Public Prosecution, Chang's lawyer said that the money Chang possessed in cash, which he lent to a friend as well as to acquire watches for his wife and son as gifts, could easily have come from his bank accounts, salary or from a mortgage that Chang held on one of his properties.

In his long closing statements that lasted for over two hours, the lawyer protested several times that the Prosecution's case was "full of flaws" and put in the hands of the defense lawyers the task to make the "burden of proof," something that should not happen if the court follows

the golden rule of the presumption of innocence on the part of defendants.

Concluding his remarks, Chang's lawyer recalled the testimony of several important witnesses, such as the chief of the investigation by the Committee Against Corruption (CCAC) who admitted on several occasion during his testimony that the body was unable to ascertain certain facts or gather conclusive proof, such as the illegality of the cash used by Chang.

"With this loose way of producing proof, we arrested an innocent man," Rodrigues said, claiming that the Prosecution,

in the attempt to charge Chang for crimes that have a higher punishment under the penal framework, forgot logic and good sense.

In one of the many examples he drew upon, the lawyer noted the crime count, pointing out that Chang is accused of several counts of the same crime, instead of the same crime continued over time "in an attempt to make my client look bad in the eyes of the community."

Calling for an acquittal for Chang of all charges, the lawyer said that even if the court finds his client guilty of any wrongdoing, his penalty should be of a fine and not prison time, as Chang was held in pre-trial imprisonment for

over one year, a measure that the lawyer considered "unfair, unfounded and unfortunate."

Earlier, the Prosecutor reviewed the facts of the case, saying that the contacts, phone records, and border crossing records of Chang and Ng put them in the same place at the same time on several occasions, which proves their long-term relationship and collaboration.

The Prosecution focused on the alleged benefits that Chang got from Ng, also accusing him of, in the position of president of IPIM, making use of his power to pass confidential information over time to the "group" that would help them to grant to their clients a successful application for residency under favorable conditions.

According to the Prosecution, Chang violated his duties of confidentiality, namely in disclosing the ceiling of 13 million patacas as the minimum for an application for relevant investment, as he informed his daughter of this when at the time she was working in a company owned by Ng.

Although it was proven that Chang's wife and daughter were legally employed by Ng and performed work in the company, the Prosecution claims that the salaries both received (around 15,000 patacas a month) were a way of granting kickbacks to Chang and part of an elaborate scheme to hide the bribes.

The trial session resumes today with more defense lawyers presenting their closing statements on the case that comprises a total of 26 defendants.

According to the scheduling of the court, all final arguments should be concluded by today with the court stopping for summer holidays and resuming only in September.

LAWMAKER NO LONGER TOLERATING MARKETING CALLS

JULIE ZHU

LAWMAKER Leong Sun Lok is appealing to the city's authority to ban marketing phone calls.

The lawmaker thinks that the local government must develop new ideas and legal tools to regulate the seemingly ceaseless and disturbing calls from companies who seek to do business.

Last week, the Judiciary Police (PJ) arrested three beauty center managers who are suspected of violating the personal data protection act. According to the PJ, since the beginning of 2019, the Office for Personal Data Protection (GDPD) received complaints from many citizens about disturbing phone calls from these beautician businesses.

In Leong's opinion, Macau's personal data protection regulations already cover all matters related to these calls. He pointed out that these marketing calls "not only involve personal data protection but also concern people's private lives and



infringement of quiet enjoyment."

Among the more common phone call marketing tactics now being used, businesses dial numbers randomly using a machine service. In Macau, most of the disruptive phone calls are from beauty businesses.

Leong proposed the local government establish laws banning unsolicited calls for business promotion purposes.

Warm call marketing is slightly different. One party normally gains consent from the target in advance before making the call. The lawmaker also believes there is a need to regulate warm call marketing. For example, Leong recommended that a company must make a declaration to the government before contacting their targeted market, and that the business must call from a phone number with a recognizable code.

Leong advised that in Macau, two parties coordinate to make this kind of marketing call successful. One party is the company or individual who makes the phone call to talk with people; the other party is the business, which hires the aforementioned company to promote products. The lawmaker believes that the number of marketing phone calls can be reduced if both parties are held responsible for violations.

MACAU NOTES 10,700 DECREASE IN NON-RESIDENT WORKERS

SOME 10,700 non-residents have left the Macau SAR as at the end of June 2020 amid the economic downturn caused by the pandemic.

According to data from the Statistics and Census Service, the total population as at end-June 2020 decreased by 10,700 quarter-to-quarter to 685,400, due to the departure of some non-resident workers who had been living in the city.

Figures from the Labour Affairs Bureau show that a total of 2,131 employment permits for non-resident workers were cancelled during the city's casino closures, while a total of 5,064 employment permits have not been renewed.

Layoffs for non-resident workers come as gross gaming revenues continue to decline with the suspension of tourist visas for mainland residents continuing to deprive the gambling hub of its biggest source of clientele.

In the second quarter of 2020, new arrivals from mainland China with one-way permits (386) and non-resident workers at end-period (186,427) went down by 247 and 3,091 respectively quarter-to-quarter. Meanwhile, the number of individuals granted the right of abode increased by 52 to 219.

A total of 625 cases of marriage registration were recorded in the second quarter, down by 96 quarter-to-quarter. In the first half of 2020, there were 1,346 marriage registrations, down notably by 627 year-on-year. LV

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(Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday)

Time
19:00 - 21:00

Venue
Albergue SCM – Hall D1

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English
(Supplement with Cantonese translation)

Registration deadline
August 15th, 2020
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* Students with less than 80% of the attendance will be placed into a waiting list for all upcoming courses. Please contact Albergue SCM if there is any enquiry.

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'Pirates in the Waters of Macao' exhibition launches this month

AN exhibition about piracy and the legacy it left on the historic city of Macau is set to open next week.

Organized by the Archives of Macao, under the auspices of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), "Pirates in the Waters of Macao (1854-1935)", will provide a glimpse into the complex phenomenon of piracy in the surrounding waters of Macau and the influence it had on the city.

The exhibition features a selection of over 100 documents, maps and photographs from the Archives of Macao collection that addresses the theme of piracy in the Pearl River Delta region. The collection reveals the extent of documentation on this subject and explores the meanings of piracy for Macau in the second half of the 19th century and into the first decades of the 20th century.



According to the IC, piracy's romantic reputation obscures its actual complexity as an economic and social phenomenon.

"The word 'pirate' conjures up the stereotype of adventures, romances, cruelties and barbarities, which is a set of social representations cultivated fundamentally by literature and the film industry," noted a statement issued yesterday

by the IC. "However, with a deeper study, one can see that 'piracy' is a particularly complex subject."

According to the IC, the exhibition is a project that aims to encourage interest in the study and investigation of this subject and to give an account of the different dimensions of the phenomenon of piracy as a social practice in a much wider political, economic,

social and cultural system.

It also serves to showcase a particularly rich collection of documentation preserved in the Archives of Macao, the cultural authority said.

The exhibition will run from August 19, 2020, until January 31, 2021, at the Archives of Macao. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., except on Mondays and public holidays when it is closed. **DB**

GAMING SUMMIT POSTPONED TO 2021

LYNZY VALLES

THE 4th edition of the ASEAN Gaming Summit, which was to take place later this year, has been postponed to the second quarter of 2021.

According to a statement issued by Asia Gaming Brief, the move was made due to the continued uncertainty and travel restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"While it was a difficult decision to postpone our 4th edition past the 2020 calendar year, we felt it was the right call to make to ensure our delegates' safety, and to give enough time for the industry to regain its balance," said Luis Pereira, managing director of Asia Gaming Brief.

"This will also prompt us to concentrate on delivering a truly outstanding event in 2021. We'll be going for a hybrid approach - a live,

physical conference for those local to Asia, with unique and exclusive content and activities especially catering to a digital audience," he added.

The organizer then pledged that Asia Gaming Brief will remain committed to improving and expanding its full range of services to the Asia gaming industry.

According to the statement, Asia Gaming Brief will continue to provide its "AGB Webinar Series" which invites experts to speak on the most pressing developments in the industry.

Another gaming event that was postponed is G2E Asia, which was originally scheduled between May 19 and 21.

It was initially postponed to July 28 -30. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and continued travel and commercial restrictions, the event is postponed again for December 1 to 3.

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MACAU TOURISM VISAS RESTORED FOR ZHUHAI RESIDENTS

DANIEL BEITLER, ANTHONY LAM

Residents of Zhuhai will again be allowed to apply for travel permits for the Macau SAR starting from tomorrow, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced yesterday.

The move is being seen as the first stage of a gradual reopening of the tourism trade between Macau and the mainland, after months of near-zero levels of visitation.

At yesterday's press conference, the Macau government declined to provide estimates of how many people will come to Macau after August 12. However, it hinted that further expansion beyond Zhuhai may be possible.

"By resuming Zhuhai visas first, we will monitor the situation and see if we can strive to achieve more convenience for residents in Guangdong or other places to come to Macau," said Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Ao Ieong U, who is also the vice-president of the Center. "Our economy needs tourists."

"We will evaluate the situation after reopening tourism for Zhuhai residents," said Ao Ieong. "Of course, if the situation remains satisfactory, we will request the Central Government further ease restrictions."

The return of tourism visas for Zhuhai residents comes with an important caveat: the whole scheme could be suspended if even a single locally-transmitted case is detected in Macau. Secretary Ao Ieong said that, if a new case was detected, quarantine conditions would be implemented once again.

Those applying for the IVS will still need to present a negative Covid-19 virus test obtained within the past seven days and a green health code to be granted a visa.

By the term "Zhuhai residents,"



This February 2020 file photo, taken after border restrictions took effect, shows a Macau street in the ZAPE area normally crowded with mainland visitors

the Central Government refers to people with a Zhuhai residence card. At present, residents of other cities and provinces across mainland China are still unable to apply for tourism permits to visit Macau.

Mainland China is Macau's single largest visitor source market. Last year, visitors from the mainland accounted for about two-thirds of monthly arrivals, with about half of those hailing from southern Guangdong Province and about 40% from the nine mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

Markets responded well to the news, with the stock prices of Macau's six concessionaires rising in Hong Kong yesterday. The subsidiaries of U.S.-based casino operators appeared to initially benefit the most with MGM China (+7.7%), Wynn Macau (+6.5%) and Sands China (+6.2%) all showing strong gains. Rumors of the visa resumption lifted a Bloomberg gauge of Macau stocks as much as 3.9%.

The latest moves are "another baby step in the right direction as China and Macau slowly loosen travel between the two jurisdictions," Sanford C. Bernstein analysts led by Vitaly Umansky

wrote Monday. "There is risk that visa issuances could again be suspended if there is a jump in Covid cases."

Also starting from tomorrow, Chinese nationals from Macau

HOTEL PRICES REMAIN STABLE AFTER IVS ANNOUNCEMENT

STAFF REPORTER

The prices of hotels around the Cotai Strip were apparently unaffected by the Central Government's decision to resume issuing tourism visas for Zhuhai residents yesterday.

These hotels include several sampled by Macau Daily Times, including Galaxy Macau, Wynn Palace, the Venetian Macao and Studio City who have kept rates for next week mostly unchanged.

Tourism visas, including the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS), will again be issued starting from tomorrow. The number of mainland tourists and the prices of accommodation in the city are both expected to increase.

Due to the pandemic, Macau's hotel industry

has been suffering from a lack of tourists. Since February, Macau has received close to zero visitors from China.

As an attempt to draw in business, hotels have lowered prices to attract local residents to enjoy "staycations."

Smaller hotels have been requested by the Macao Government Tourism Office to be used as a site for quarantine purposes for limited durations this year.

Yesterday, the tourism board rebooked the 270-room Regency Art Hotel to use it for quarantine purposes starting tomorrow. This came after the government rebooked the 300-room Golden Crown China Hotel on August 1 and the 450-room Treasure Hotel on August 6.

A nine-month-old baby girl is said to have swallowed the cotton head of the sample collection swab at the Taipa Maritime Ferry Terminal's Provisional Covid-19 Test Station yesterday morning.

Information released by the Fire Service Bureau disclosed that the infant was having her throat secretion specimen collected at the station when it was reported that she swallowed the top part of the swab.

Following the incident, the baby was sent to the public Conde São Januário

Baby swallows swab in virus testing accident

Hospital in conscious state in the company of her family members and station personnel.

In response to the incident, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced yesterday that only nasal swabs will be administered to people under the age of 18 starting from this Thursday. People above the age threshold can choose between nasal or throat swabs.

Connected to the new measure, test-takers under the age of 18 will only be allowed to take the test at the Macau Forum or the public hospital.

Meanwhile, on social media, netizens started to blame the victims after seeing the report, condemning the parents for sending such a small baby to do the test. Some of them asked why the parents wanted to take her out of Macau.

They accused the parents of wanting to travel for non-essential reasons, such as to enjoy hotpot or bubble tea in Zhuhai, which led them to risk their baby taking the test.

On July 21, a seven-year-old boy reportedly swallowed a 3-cm swab while undertaking the test at the same facility. He was sent to the public hospital but the medical team was not able to locate the swab in his body. **AL**



will be permitted to travel through the entire mainland China without the need to quarantine. The provision, however, comes with certain conditions.

First and foremost, these entrants from Macau should not have been to any part in the rest of the world other than mainland China and Macau in the preceding 14 days. They also need to be in possession of a negative Covid-19 test taken within the previous seven days, either in physical paper form or as part of the electronic health declaration.

Should these people be entering Zhuhai from Macau, they must convert their Macau health declaration to Guangdong health code prior to commencing their journey.

People can apply for a paper test result, according to Ao Ieong, if it is necessary for Macau residents who wish to travel beyond Guangdong Province. It can be presented to officers on the provincial boundary. It can also be presented to staff at airline check-in counters at airports as proof.

Another condition is that only people of Chinese nationality are allowed to enter the mainland. Foreign passport bearers are still not allowed to enter mainland China.

HONG KONG

Media tycoon Jimmy Lai arrested, Apple Daily newsroom searched

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

HONG Kong authorities broadened their enforcement of a new national security law yesterday, arresting media tycoon Jimmy Lai, searching the headquarters of his Next Digital group and carting away boxes of what they said was evidence.

Two days after Chinese and Hong Kong officials shrugged off sanctions imposed on them by the U.S., the moves showed China's determination to enforce the new law and curb dissent in the semi-autonomous city after months of massive pro-democracy demonstrations last year.

The police action marked the first time the law was used against news media, stoking fears that authorities are suppressing press freedom. Next Digital operates Apple Daily, a feisty pro-democracy tabloid that often condemns China's Communist Party government. Last year, the newspaper frequently urged readers to take part in the anti-government protests.

Hong Kong police arrested Lai yesterday morning, an aide to the businessman said, in the highest-profile detention under the new law since it took effect in late June. Lai, 71, is an outspoken pro-democracy figure who regularly criticizes China's authoritarian rule and Hong Kong's government.

Mark Simon, a Next Digital executive and Lai's aide, said Lai was charged with collusion with foreign powers. He said police searched the homes of Lai and his son and detained several other members of the media company.

Hong Kong police said they



Jimmy Lai being arrested, "for a few tweets, and because they are said to threaten the national security of mighty China? That's a new one, even for me."

arrested at least nine people between the ages of 23 and 72 on suspicion of violating the new security law, with offenses including collusion with a foreign country and conspiracy to defraud. They did not release the names of those arrested or provide further details of the charges.

Following Lai's arrest, about 200 police raided Next Digital's headquarters, cordoning off the area, searching desks and at times getting into heated exchanges with staff. What police were looking for in the building wasn't clear, although they later said they took away 25 boxes of evidence for processing.

Lai, who was arrested at his mansion in Kowloon in the morning, was also brought to the headquarters of Next Digital, where he remained for about two and a half hours before police took him away in a car.

"We are completely shocked by what's happening now, with the arrest and followed by the ongoing raid inside the headquarters of Next Digital," said Chris Yeung, chairman of the Hong Kong Journalists Association.

"With the passage of the national security law and the really tough powers given to the police in their operations, we have seen now what we call 'white terror' become a reality, which will affect media organizations and journalists' reporting."

Police unblocked Next Digital's headquarters at mid-afternoon, with senior superintendent of police Steve Li saying that staff were free to resume their work.

Bruce Lui, a senior lecturer in Hong Kong Baptist University's journalism department, said authorities are using the national security law to make an example of media outlets like Apple Daily and

this may harm press freedom in Hong Kong.

"They're used as an example to terrify others ... of what can happen if you don't obey or if you go too far," Lui said. "I think other media may make a judgment to censor themselves."

The share price of Next Digital soared over 200% in the afternoon, following posts on a popular online forum encouraging investors to support the company by buying its stock.

The reason for the charge against Lai wasn't clear.

In May, shortly after Beijing announced its intention to pass the national security law for Hong Kong, Lai condemned the legislation in a series of tweets. The state-owned newspaper Global Times called the tweets "evidence of subversion."

Lai also wrote an op-ed in the New York Times in May stating

that China was repressing Hong Kong with the legislation.

"I have always thought I might one day be sent to jail for my publications or for my calls for democracy in Hong Kong," Lai wrote. "But for a few tweets, and because they are said to threaten the national security of mighty China? That's a new one, even for me."

Lai was earlier arrested in February and April for allegedly participating in unauthorized protests last year. He also faces charges of joining an unauthorized vigil on June 4 marking the anniversary of Beijing's crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Last year, Lai met U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at the White House to discuss a controversial bill — since withdrawn — that would have allowed criminal suspects in Hong Kong to be sent to mainland China for trial.

But Hong Kong officials have said the security law, which took effect June 30, would not be applied retroactively. The law is widely seen as a means to curb dissent after anti-government protests rocked the semi-autonomous city for months last year.

The legislation outlaws secessionist, subversive and terrorist acts, as well as collusion with foreign forces in the city's internal affairs. The maximum punishment for serious offenders is life imprisonment.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council condemned the arrests in a statement, saying they were a tool for the Chinese Communist Party's "political cleansing and hegemonic expansion." It said the law is being abused to suppress freedom of speech, press freedom and the civil rights of Hong Kong people.

Last month, Chinese state broadcaster CCTV said pro-democracy activist Nathan Law and five others were wanted under the law, although all six had fled overseas. Law relocated to Britain in July to continue international advocacy work for Hong Kong. AP

China sanctions 11 US politicians, heads of organizations

CHINA yesterday announced unspecified sanctions against 11 U.S. politicians and heads of organizations promoting democratic causes, including Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, who have already been singled out by Beijing.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian yesterday said the 11 had "performed badly" on issues concerning Hong Kong, where China has cracked down on opposition voices following its imposition of a national security law

in the semi-autonomous southern Chinese city last month.

The number of Americans named by the ministry exactly equals the number of Hong Kong and Chinese officials placed on a sanctions list by the U.S. last week over the crackdown.

China showed its determination to defy such pressure on by arresting leading independent media tycoon Jimmy Lai and raiding the publisher's headquarters.

"The relevant actions of the U.S. blatantly intervened in Hong Kong affairs, grossly interfered in China's internal affairs, and seriously violated international law and the basic norms of international relations," foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said at a daily briefing yesterday.

"China urges the U.S. to have a clear understanding of the situation, correct mistakes, and immediately stop interfering in Hong Kong affairs and

interfering in China's internal affairs."

Others named by the foreign ministry included Senators Josh Hawley, Tom Cotton and Pat Toomey and Representative Chris Smith. National Endowment for Democracy President Carl Gershman, National Democratic Institute President Derek Mitchell, International Republican Institute President Daniel Twining, Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth, and Michael Abramowitz, Pre-

sident of Freedom House, were also on the sanctions list, according to Zhao.

Beijing already placed a travel ban on Rubio, Cruz and Smith last month after Washington announced similar measures against Chinese officials linked to measures taken against Muslims in the northwestern Chinese region of Xinjiang.

The standing committee of China's national legislature passed the National Security Law last month, bypassing the ci-

ty's Legislative Council and the public, where such legislation has faced stiff opposition for years.

The move came in response to months of sometimes violent anti-government protests last year that Beijing said were encouraged by foreign forces in a bid to overthrow Chinese rule over the former British colony that was handed over to Chinese rule in 1997 under a "one country, two systems" framework meant to last until 2047. AP

Azar visit to Taiwan is fresh thorn in prickly US-China ties

JOHNSON LAI, TAIPEI

A visit by U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar to Taiwan this week comes amid mounting tensions between Washington and Beijing, which claims Taiwan as its own territory to be annexed by force if necessary.

From the South China Sea to TikTok, Hong Kong and trade, China and the U.S. find themselves at loggerheads just three months ahead of the American presidential election. In a throwback to the Cold War, the two ordered tit-for-tat closures of consulates in Houston and Chengdu and rhetorical sniping has become a daily occurrence.

Washington likely exacerbated those frictions by sending Azar to Taiwan, making him the highest-level U.S. official to visit the self-governing island since formal diplomatic relations were severed in 1979 in deference to China.

Beijing has been ratcheting up pressure on Taiwan, but that's just one area in which its increasingly assertive foreign policy and the accompanying push-back from Washington have taxed diplomacy on both sides.

Washington drew Beijing's ire last month when it parted with years of ambiguity by explicitly denying most of China's maritime claims in the strategically vital South China Sea. China says it owns the waterway and that activity in the area by the U.S. Navy, including sailing ships close to Chinese-controlled islands, threatens regional peace and stability.

Other disputes center on economic and human rights issues.

A two-year-old tariff war has buttressed U.S. actions targeting Chinese institutions and officials. Washington has been campaigning to exclude Chinese telecoms giant Huawei from the U.S. and its allies, a push China sees as a bare-knuckled attempt to restrain its development as a global technology power.

The U.S. says Huawei is beholden to China's ruling Communist Party and threatens to compromise perso-



U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar

nal data and the integrity of the information systems in the companies in which it operates. China says there is no proof of that.

President Donald Trump stepped-up the technology confrontation last week with an executive order banning dealings with the Chinese owners of consumer apps TikTok and WeChat, possibly leading to their becoming unavailable in the lucrative U.S. market.

The U.S. has sanctioned Chinese companies and officials over the alleged persecution of Muslims in the northwestern region of Xinjiang and has now turned its eye toward stricter Chinese control in Hong Kong.

As Azar was preparing to meet with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen on Monday, Hong Kong police arrested newspaper publisher and leading opposition figure Jimmy Lai as part of a crackdown on voices questioning Beijing's policies toward the former British colony, now a semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Washington has moved to withdraw trading and other privileges granted to Hong Kong in response to China's imposition of a sweeping national security law seen as an attack on free speech and political activism. China has denounced such actions as infringing on its domestic political affairs and Beijing-backed officials sanctioned by Washington, including the city's leader Carrie Lam, appeared over the weekend to laugh-off the penalties.

Human rights complaints

are a long-standing source of tension between the sides, and Trump has added to them with repeated allegations that China covered-up the initial outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The accumulated accusations against Beijing have observers saying Trump is hoping mistrust of China will boost his re-election chances come November. Democratic rival Joseph Biden has substantial foreign policy experience and has spent time with China's leader Xi Jinping, but underlying differences between the sides are expected to continue no matter who wins the election.

Beijing has protested Azar's visit as a betrayal of U.S. commitments not to have official contact with the island. Azar's visit was facilitated by the 2018 passage of the Taiwan Travel Act, which encouraged Washington to send higher-level officials to Taiwan after decades during which such contacts were rare.

"I would like to stress again that the Taiwan issue is the most important and sensitive issue in China-U.S. relations," Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said Monday. "What the U.S. has done seriously violated its commitment on the Taiwan issue."

Warmer American relations with democratic Taiwan are largely a result of strong bipartisan support in Congress, but also appear to show how the Trump administration is willing to defy Beijing's threats and promo-

te an alternative to Chinese Communist Party authoritarianism.

At the start of Monday's meeting with Tsai, Azar said the island's success in dealing with COVID-19 was a "tribute to the open, transparent, democratic nature of Taiwan's society and culture."

An island of 23 million people, Taiwan moved swiftly and aggressively to contain the coronavirus and has recorded just 277 reported cases and seven deaths from the illness.

Since taking office in 2016, Tsai has angered Beijing with her refusal to recognize China's claim to the island. Beijing has in turn cut contact with Tsai and brought increasing diplomatic, economic and military pressure against her, poaching away several of its few remaining diplomatic allies and excluding Taiwan from international gatherings such as the U.N. World Health Assembly.

"Of course, there will be very negative impact on China-U.S. relations, especially under the circumstances that China and the U.S. have fallen into confrontation in almost all areas," said Shi Yinhong, an expert on international relations at Beijing's Renmin University.

Beijing will respond with diplomatic protests and seek to prevent the further expansion of relations between Taipei and Washington, Shi said.

Azar's visit "is serious, but it is not extraordinary," Shi said.

this day in history

1982 KRAYS LET OUT FOR MOTHER'S FUNERAL



The notorious East End gangsters Ronnie and Reggie Kray have been allowed out of prison for their mother's funeral.

Violet Kray, 72, died of cancer last week.

It was the first time the Krays, 49, had been seen in public since being sentenced to life imprisonment for murder in 1969.

Security was tight for the funeral service in east London.

The brothers arrived separately - both were handcuffed to a prison guard and flanked by police officers.

Ronnie Kray was brought from Broadmoor Hospital for the criminally insane in Berkshire where he has spent the last four years.

His brother travelled from Parkhurst Prison in the Isle of Wight where he is still held as a maximum security Category "A" prisoner.

The service was attended by a number of celebrities and underworld figures known to the twins from the days when they ran one of London's biggest criminal operations.

Among them was actress Diana Dors who arrived wearing a black dress and sunglasses and carrying a bouquet.

The brothers were not allowed to attend the graveside service at Chingford Mount cemetery in Essex where their mother was interred in the family burial plot.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ronnie and Reggie Kray ran one of London's biggest crime rackets with their elder brother, Charlie. They were jailed for the murders of George Cornell and Jack "The Hat" McVitie.

A film about their lives in 1990 fuelled a campaign to get them released, but successive home secretaries refused to free them.

Ronnie died of a heart attack in prison in 1995. Reggie was released on compassionate grounds a month before his death from cancer in October 2000.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 All in all, you can expect today to be neither totally fun nor utterly frustrating. It could be a kind of gray day where nothing is going to get finalized, but nothing can really get started either.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 This is a good time to do some budgeting and prudent investing. Your intuition is strong, so take some time to meditate on where you see your life heading in the next several months or years.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Even if it eats into your free time, you should start accepting more invitations that come your way, especially the ones that come from unlikely sources. Even if you have to do it online, get involved with other people.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 You should choose to talk only with people who are positive influences in your life. Let the relationships that bring you stress fade away and dissolve naturally.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Be critical, be objective, and be skeptical. It might not make you the best company right now, but it will keep you safer, richer, and wiser in the long run.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You can't wait any longer to tell someone your true feelings, and they're as ready to get to the bottom of things as you are. By the end of the day, all the unpleasantness will be behind you both.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 This wonderful release of tension should keep you smiling all day long and make more than a few people notice how cute you are when you're happy. Take this feeling of freedom and put it to good use.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Your dreams for your life are starting to come true, at least partly. A new person could come into your life today, although their role might be so minimal that you don't even notice them.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 You'll love reminiscing about the past, and you'll get a fresh, new perspective on where your life is now. If you feel the urge to visit those long-lost places or people, put a plan together to do just that.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Be happy, not annoyed, if a few people reach out for some assistance. You should be only too glad to help the people who have helped you so much in the past.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 If you're holding joint assets with anyone right now, you should check in with them. You need to make sure that the status hasn't changed. It's not that you shouldn't trust this person.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Why not treat yourself to a few of your favorite things? Buy yourself something that you've wanted for a while. Fix yourself an extra special dinner. Relax a little longer in bed or a bath.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	26	32	thundershower
Harbin	20	26	thundershower
Tianjin	27	31	shower
Urumqi	21	30	clear
Xi'an	25	35	overcast
Lhasa	12	26	cloudy
Chengdu	25	33	shower
Chongqing	29	39	clear
Kunming	18	26	shower
Nanjing	26	34	thundershower
Shanghai	27	33	drizzle
Wuhan	28	36	cloudy
Hangzhou	26	34	overcast
Taipei	26	31	drizzle
Guangzhou	25	28	rainstorm
Hong Kong	26	28	rainstorm
WORLD			
Moscow	13	25	clear
Frankfurt	13	24	clear
Paris	15	27	clear
London	15	21	clear
New York	25	30	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Med school subj.; 5- Lost in Paris?; 10- Being, to Brutus; 14- Indonesian holiday resort; 15- Bay window; 16- Chain piece; 17- Germinated seed; 19- Gen. Robert ___; 20- "Lou Grant" star; 21- Broken; 23- Nile reptile; 25- Sumptuous meal; 26- Boxer Max; 29- Biting; 31- Lute of India; 35- Mil. officers; 36- Jutting rock; 37- Godlike; 38- Pariah; 40- Arid areas; 41- Whip up; 42- Strike forcefully; 43- Ballpark fig.; 44- Prepared to pray; 45- Haul; 46- Ice cream brand; 47- Choir members; 49- Spanish aunt; 51- Bribe; 54- Inflict; 58- Jai ___; 59- At right angles to the vertical; 63- Drops from the sky; 64- Prevention dose; 65- Raison d'___; 66- Run in neutral; 67- Ruhr city; 68- Bamboo; 69- ___; 70- ___.

DOWN: 1- Benny, Björn, Anni-Frid, and Agnetha; 2- Scottish refusals; 3- Lawyer Dershowitz; 4- Musical ineptitude; 5- Explosive sound; 6- Drop the ball; 7- ___ Grande; 8- Confounded; 9- Extreme; 10- Optional; 11- Worm fiber; 12- Dagger of yore; 13- ___ out a living (barely got by); 18- Grads-to-be; 22- Help; 24- Analyze a sentence; 25- Cookie fruit; 26- Child's building cube; 27- Done to ___; 28- Rival of Helena; 30- Feline; 32- Out of gas; 33- Fidgety; 34- Reposes; 36- Bovine animals; 37- Passed out; 39- Lotion for skin eruptions; 40- Singer Shannon; 42- Clear tables; 45- Permeable; 46- Made; 48- Lake in the Sierra Nevada; 50- ___ Jima; 51- Dress often worn by Hindu women; 52- Decker out; 53- Frozen rain; 55- Famous last words; 56- Over-50 org.; 57- "Twittering Machine" artist; 60- Hosp. staffers; 61- Frozen water; 62- Mahayana movement of Buddhism;

Yesterday's solution

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

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>One Central Stylish modern 2 bedroom HK\$14,839,000 1,349 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>One Oasis, Coloane \$14,500/mth 1,100 ft² 2 1/2 1 1/2</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Hoi Wan Garden</i> 2 1/2 1 1/2 900 ft² \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Wa Bao</i> 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,071 ft² \$7,995,000 (ref: 18115568)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>Unique Loft</i> 2 1/2 2 1/2 2,200 ft² \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>Seaview Garden</i> 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,420 ft² \$10,900,000(ref: 20016004)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Macau] <i>Lakeview Mansion Car Park</i> 1 \$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Studio apartment</i> 1 1/2 1 1/2 650 ft² \$9,000/mth (ref: 20061003)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>One Central</i> 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Private house</i> 2 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2 4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)</p>
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HONG KONG BANKERS MOVE TO SUSPEND ACCOUNTS ON US SANCTIONS

CATHY CHAN & ALFRED LIU

BANKS operating in Hong Kong are stepping up scrutiny of their customers and at least one U.S. bank is moving to suspend accounts to avoid running afoul of U.S. sanctions slapped on city officials, putting them at risk of violating the controversial security law imposed by China.

Asking not to be named discussing clients, people familiar with the decision said yesterday that one U.S. bank is taking steps to suspend accounts linked to some sanctioned officials. Two major Chinese banks are assessing what needs to be done based on their risk tolerance and compliance requirements, people party to those discussions said, suggesting they wouldn't entirely brush off the sanctions.

The U.S. on Friday sanctioned 11 officials, including Chief Executive Carrie Lam and China's top enforcers in the financial hub, over their role in imposing the security law. The sanctions forbid banks from doing business with the penalized individuals. But complying with that order could put lenders directly at odds with the security law, which spells out that no sanctions or hostile actions can be applied against the city and mainland China.

"The ball is now in the banks' court," said Kevin Lai, a chief economist for Asia excluding Japan at Daiwa Capital Markets in Hong Kong. "They are in a particularly difficult situation as they also have to take the national security law into consideration."

The steps add to preparations that have been going on since



the security law and the U.S. Hong Kong Autonomy Act, which enabled the sanctions, were passed last month. Additional levels of screening will be done now to cope with potentially further sanctions on politically exposed people, the people said. Bankers and their lawyers from Hong Kong to Washington have been poring over the fine-print to reconcile how they can dodge major consequences from being squeezed between the two laws. Running afoul of the legislations put companies at risk of fines or losing their license to do business.

Lenders including Citigroup Inc. and HSBC Holdings Plc are walking a tightrope between the two world powers given their

Lenders including Citigroup and HSBC are walking a tightrope between the two world powers given their operations in Hong Kong and ambitious plans to expand in China

operations in Hong Kong and ambitious plans to expand in China. Chinese lenders such as Bank of China Ltd. and Indus-

trial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. could also be ensnared, with their crucial access to dollar funding at risk.

Bank of China and ICBC didn't immediately respond to requests seeking comments. Spokespeople at Citigroup and HSBC declined to comment.

The latest U.S. order doesn't include a wind down period, suggesting banks will be subject to the law immediately. Foreign financial institutions that don't operate within the U.S. won't be caught up as long they don't help sanctioned individuals with transactions linked to U.S. dollars, the people said.

"The banks here would be hard pressed to cut off some of these names as their customers," said Benjamin Quinlan, chief

executive officer of Quinlan & Associates, a strategy consultant in Hong Kong. "At the end of the day, even if you go from a U.S. bank to the likes of HSBC, they all have an international footprint that straddles the U.S., Hong Kong, and mainland China."

Hong Kong authorities over the weekend brushed off the sanctions, saying the unilateral move won't force banks to comply under Hong Kong law. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority, the city's de facto central bank, said local lenders have no obligation to follow and the lenders should treat customers fairly in assessing whether to continue to provide services to an individual.

The assertions by the Hong Kong authorities did little to calm concerns at banks since they still will need to comply with laws in other jurisdictions, the people said.

China yesterday retaliated by sanctioning 11 Americans, including Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz and Human Rights Watch Executive Director Kenneth Roth and Michael Abramowitz, the president of Freedom House.

The individuals sanctioned by the U.S. also include Xia Bao-long, director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of China's State Council, and Chris Tang, commissioner of the Hong Kong Police Force. The targeted officials will have any property and assets in the U.S. frozen.

"The scale looks small for now as only 11 individuals are affected but more people could be added to the list and the banks may face secondary sanctions," said Daiwa's Lai. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

AirAsia teams up with China's biggest OTA Trip.com



Winner of the world's best low-cost-carrier title, AirAsia, has recently announced its strategic partnership with China's largest online travel agency (OTA), Trip.com, in the hope of further boosting tourism in and out of China.

The strategic partnership will see Trip.com Group and AirAsia.com collaborate on a range of popular products and services available on both digital platforms, including cooperation in the areas of transit information for connecting

flights, membership benefits and product marketing, to deliver an enhanced and streamlined experience for travellers.

"Our partnership with Trip.com Group is timely as we anticipate the resumption of cross-border travel. This partnership demonstrates our commitment, confidence, and optimism," said Tony Fernandes, CEO of AirAsia Group.

Meanwhile, Jane Sun, CEO of Trip.com Group said, "with the pandemic gradually being brought under control, we're seeing a recovery in travel demand across the Asia-Pacific region. We look forward to working with AirAsia to prepare the travel industry for a triumphant revival."

Swedish furnishing retailer IKEA publishes 2021 catalog



Swedish furnishing retailer IKEA has released its annual product catalog for year 2021, aiming to provide customers with more inspiration and ideas.

According to IKEA, the ca-

talog is intended to help customers build their dream homes. The company noted that at home, a person can be themselves and enjoy precious time with other family members.

The new catalog has more than 100 pages of information, and features more than 100 types of new products, as well as products on promotion.

The new catalog is also available in electronic forms on the company's website and app.

Users can get a handle on their renovation ideas following the eight categories: kitchen and cooking, tempting dining, daily living, work and study, sleeping and relaxation, playful games, short recess, as well as bathing and storage. With all these tools, IKEA says customers will be able to build their dream homes.



Cold War rivalries split the Olympics in Moscow in 1980

JAMES ELLINGWORTH

WITH the Tokyo Olympics postponed for a year because of the coronavirus pandemic, The Associated Press is looking back at the history of Summer Games. Here are some of the highlights of the 1980 Olympics in Moscow.

The Cold War made for decades of tense Olympic battles between the United States and the Soviet Union. In 1980 that rivalry split the Olympics altogether.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter, facing re-election, pushed for the U.S. to boycott the first Olympics held in the Soviet Union after Soviet troops invaded Afghanistan in December 1979.

As the Soviets won medal after medal in Moscow, U.S. athletes were given token medals at a White House reception. The boycott came just months after the U.S. had hosted the Winter Olympics in Lake Placid, beating the Soviets 4-3 in the "Miracle on Ice" final.

Carter recruited boxing legend Muhammad Ali to criss-cross Africa with an appeal to countries to join the boycott. Of the five nations Ali visited, three competed in Moscow anyway.

The U.S., China, Canada, West Germany and much of South America stayed home. Many European countries fudged the issue, sending teams who took part under the Olympic flag. Four years later, the Soviet Union boycotted the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles as retaliation.

The Soviet war in Afghanistan

rumbled on through the 1980 Olympics. Boxers and wrestlers sent by Afghanistan's pro-Soviet authorities were held up as heroes by the Soviet media, which reported they had defied threats of physical harm to compete. Some Afghan athletes had defected to Pakistan instead.

It was a showcase of ideology as much as sporting achievement. The main venue was Moscow's Central Lenin Stadium, now better known as Luzhniki, which also held the soccer World Cup final in 2018. The Soviets and their allies held up sporting successes as a validation of their political systems.

Barely a decade later, the Soviet Union would be a thing of the past as it fractured into 15 newly independent countries. To this day, many older Russians remember the Olympics with pride as a time when their country proved it could host a prestigious international event, even with Western nations trying to spoil the party.

A generation of Russian children loved Misha, the cuddly bear mascot. His farewell at the closing ceremony, flying away clutching a bunch of balloons, was referenced in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi when a new Russian bear mascot shed a tear and blew out the Olympic flame.

SOVIET DOMINATION

With the U.S. out of the picture, the Cold War medal-table rivalry was gone and Soviet athletes were head and shoulders above the rest.

They finished with 195 total medals, more than any country

at any Olympic Games before or since, ahead of East Germany with 126. Britain's 21 medals were the most for any non-Communist country.

Swimmer Vladimir Salnikov churned up the pool with three gold medals and a world record, while gymnast Alexander Dityatin won a medal in eight events, an Olympic record matched only by U.S. swimmer Michael Phelps in 2004 and 2008.

It was hard for ordinary Soviet citizens to watch the Olympics, though. Travel to Moscow from other cities was restricted during the Games and locals were warned to limit social contact with people from non-Communist countries.

East Germany's medal haul was vast for a country of barely 16 million people. After the Berlin Wall fell in 1989, Germany was reunified and the East's vast state-run doping program was revealed.

SURPRISE SPRINT GOLD

Heading into 1980, few had Scottish sprinter Allan Wells down as the favorite to win 100-meter gold. He did it anyway.

With the U.S. team staying home it was a battle between Wells and Cuban runner Silvio Leonard. They started on opposite sides of the track for the final; Leonard in lane one, Wells in lane eight.

They were neck-and-neck all the way down the track and were given identical times but Wells dipped marginally quicker to take the win on a photo finish. The Olympic anthem was played, not

"God Save The Queen," as Britain nodded to the boycott by competing without national symbols.

To prove his win wasn't just a fluke of the boycott, Wells raced the leading U.S. sprinters two weeks later at a meet in West Ger-

many and beat them too.

A 2015 documentary by the BBC alleged that Wells had taken the banned steroid stanozolol during his career. He strongly denies doping.

SHAPING THE FUTURE

The Moscow boycott put 1976 fencing gold medalist Thomas Bach on a path to becoming president of the International Olympic Committee, and shaped how he reacted to Russian doping decades later.

He urged West German Olympic officials to send a team at a conference in May 1980 but was outvoted. After being mentored in sports politics while working for Adidas, Bach joined the IOC and was elected president in 2013. Rower Anita DeFrantz sued the U.S. Olympic Committee in her campaign against the boycott and is now an IOC vice-president.

When widespread doping in Russia was revealed, Bach and the IOC opted against excluding Russia from the 2016 Olympics. Bach has cited his experience of the boycotts when arguing against banning any country, and to back up IOC rules preventing athletes making gestures of protest.

"We must be politically neutral because otherwise we would exactly end up in this kind of divisive and boycott situations," he said in January. The boycotts in Moscow and Los Angeles "brought the Olympic Games at the point of demise" and had "no effect whatsoever" on countries' foreign policy, he added. AP



OPINION

Our Desk

Lynzy Valles



GOODBYE, STAYCATION!

Since at least June, nearly all hotels in the city, particularly 5-star ones, have been offering good deals for local residents, whether for in-hotel or dining promotions.

A staycation has become a getaway for residents, as no one would really dare to fly elsewhere given the Covid-19 situation in other countries, as well as the current strict travel restrictions imposed by different governments.

It's the time of the year where residents would normally go out of the city and travel elsewhere to the beach or really anywhere – whether with their families or with a group of friends.

The concept of staycation started in the United States during the 2008 financial crisis where many households restricted their expenses, therefore, limiting their vacation budget.

However, that idea differs from the reason why several hundred families have been booking hotels in the city.

The reason why the staycation is such a hit this summer was not due to a limited budget – but due to several promotions, along with the annual leave residents have. Many employers (especially gaming operators) are offering different kinds of leave as part of cost cutting measures.

Different hotels have been offering summer fun hotel packages targeting young adults and residents with children by offering dining credits or discounts at the integrated resort's expositions or leisure activities.

Gaming operators have come up with every type of promotion they could think of to attract local residents in response to the virtually zero visitors to the city, which led to a significant economic downturn.

Some have even opened up their pools to the public by selling pool passes at a certain price and including dining credits.

The city's gross gaming revenues (GGR) stood 1.34 billion patacas in July, down 94.5% from a year earlier. July was the fourth straight month when GGR registered a more than 90% drop.

In June, government statistics showed that the average occupancy rate of guest rooms fell by 77.6 percentage points year-on-year to 11.8%.

The occupancy rate of 5-star hotels declined by 84.7 percentage points. The number of guests checked into hotels and guesthouses reduced by 88% year-on-year to 134,000; those from mainland China (67,000) and Hong Kong (11,000) both registered decreases of more than 90%.

The data also indicated that the number of local guests stood at 53,000, attributable to the accommodation promotions offered to residents by some hotels.

Hotels have been doing buy 1 get 1 free offers, while many have offered free breakfast or free dining credits of up to 500 patacas upon booking.

This summer has been high-time for families to book a series of packages for getaways, as nearly all have been stranded in the region.

However, given the breaking news yesterday that the central government would (finally) resume tourism visas for Zhuhai residents starting tomorrow, it is still unknown whether locals will want to continue the staycation-spree.

And who knows when these integrated resorts will stop the promotions that target local residents – given that only a small percentage of their long-awaited tourists are finally coming back.

Given that both group tour visas and Individual Visit Scheme visas will finally resume tomorrow for Zhuhai residents, it is highly possible that these promotions will soon come to a halt.

A few hotels have even recorded a sudden increase in bookings for their room packages right after the announcement by local officials.

For now, residents seem to have little time left to walk around the city with almost no visitors as the city may finally welcome back tourists from mainland China that gaming operators and business owners have long been waiting for.

Seems like the city is also ready to welcome our 'bread and butter.'

JIMMY LAI'S NEXT DIGITAL SOARS 344% AFTER ARREST, POLICE RAID

THE BUZZ

Social media posts urged investors to buy shares of Hong Kong media tycoon Jimmy Lai's company, following his arrest and police raid of his flagship newspaper.

After falling as much as 17% in morning trade to hit a fresh record low, shares of Next Digital Ltd. soared 344% to HK\$0.40 in the afternoon, reaching the highest since June 2019. Lai is chairman and his Apple Daily newspaper is Next Digital's highest-profile business.

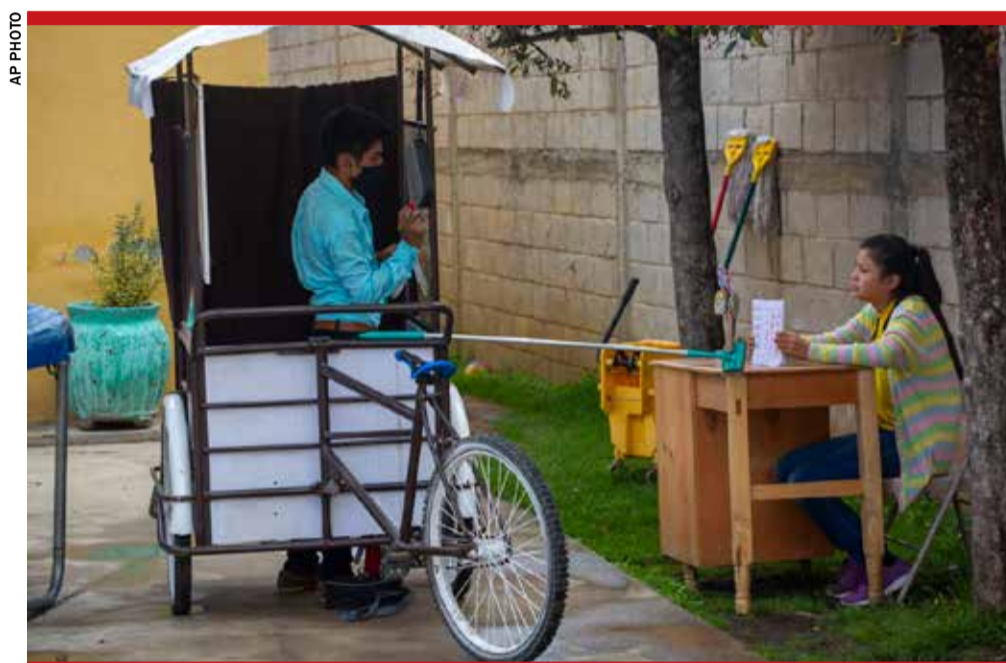
While it wasn't entirely clear what drove the surge, a Facebook

post by a self-described financial writer that includes a screenshot showing a purchase record of 1.22 million Next Digital shares has more than 5,000 likes and 300 shares. People in the comment section shared the screenshot to show support for the company.

"Definitely it's not institutional investors buying the stock," said Steven Leung, a UOB Kay Hian (Hong Kong) Ltd. executive director. "I see many orders were placed via Futunn, a large portal for retail stock investors. Many could be speculating that the company will be sold."

ONE GOOD THING

GUATEMALA TEACHER PEDALS CLASSROOM TO STUDENTS IN PANDEMIC



AP PHOTO

MOISES CASTILLO

WHEN the novel coronavirus closed Guatemala's schools in mid-March, teacher Gerardo Ixcoy invested his savings in a secondhand, adult tricycle.

But this is not just transportation. It's also a mobile classroom, with plastic sheets to protect against virus transmission, a whiteboard and a small solar panel that powers an audio player he uses for some lessons.

Each day, the 27-year-old pedals among the cornfields of Santa Cruz del Quiché to give individual instruction to his sixth-grade students.

On a recent day, 12-year-old Paola Ximena Conoz wiped her glasses as she waited for Ixcoy to set up just outside the door to her home. They greeted each other warmly — though without contact. Ixcoy deployed the mop that measures the distance between him and his students.

Standing behind the plexiglass window of his tricycle, he produced a pizza box.

The day's lesson: fractions.

Ixcoy is known universally as "Lalito 10," a childhood nickname that stuck. He tries to visit each of

his students twice a week.

The classroom-on-a-trike was born of necessity. Ixcoy quickly realized there were challenges to remote learning in this farming community in Guatemala's western highlands.

"I tried to get the kids their work sheets sending instructions via WhatsApp, but they didn't respond," Ixcoy said. "The parents told me that they didn't have money to buy data packages (for their phones) and others couldn't help their children understand the instructions." Illiteracy in the area is about 42%. And in the entire department or province, only about 13% of homes have internet.

"The cellphones they have at home are very basic," Ixcoy said. "They can't download apps like Zoom that would allow you to give a virtual class."

Paola's 36-year-old father, Victor Conoz, traveled regularly to Belize to sell produce. Due to the pandemic, he hadn't worked in four months.

"The situation is really complicated," he said. "You're not going to believe me, but some days we didn't have food and buying data for the cell-phone was impossible for me."

For the kids, the classes break up the monotony of weeks in quarantine. Eleven-year-old Oscar Rojas waited anxiously in the doorway of his home in a black button-down shirt tucked into navy blue trousers. He lined up his notebooks and pencils and slipped on a face mask.

The pandemic has really altered Oscar's routine, "because now I'm not receiving normal classes," he said. "Teacher Lalito only comes for a little while to teach me, but I learn a lot."

In the afternoon, Ixcoy pedals for home to beat the curfew. He and his wife Yessika and their 3-year-old son Dylan walk to a small plot of land they rented to grow corn as another source of income. They also planted a vegetable garden beside their home.

The families he serves often struggle to stave off hunger.

"One day the mother of a student told me they didn't have food," Ixcoy said. "When class ended and I began to ride away on my tricycle she calls me and with a look of gratefulness says, 'Teacher, they gave me some food, I want to share half with you.'"

"I arrived home crying," he recalled. AP

Sri Lanka has started reopening schools nearly five months after they were shut down to contain the spread of the virus. The government's move to reopen schools from yesterday comes as health authorities say that they have successfully brought the coronavirus under control. Students in grades 5, 10, 11, 12 and 13 will attend school every day because they need to be prepared for government examinations. Students in grades 1, 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8 will attend a single day per week.



AP PHOTO

WHO The head of the World Health Organization predicted that the number of people infected by the coronavirus will hit 20 million this week, including about 750,000 deaths. In a briefing yesterday, Tedros acknowledged that "behind these statistics there is a great deal of pain and suffering" but said there were still "green shoots of hope."

Greece's health minister says new measures will be announced to curb the spread of the coronavirus, after an alarming spike in the number of new daily confirmed cases and the number of people severely ill with Covid-19. Speaking after a meeting with health and government officials, Vassilis Kikilias appealed to Greeks, particularly to young people, to ensure they adhere to protective measures such as wearing masks and maintaining social distance.



AP PHOTO

Belarus Election officials in Belarus said Monday that President Alexander Lukashenko has won his sixth consecutive term with over 80% of the vote after facing his strongest challenge in 26 years and protests over his cavalier brushoff of the coronavirus, political repression and the country's deteriorating economy. Thousands of people took the protests to the streets.