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17 Aug 2020

“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

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AS TYPHOON SEASON ENTERS ITS MOST SERIOUS PHASE, THE POLICE ARE CONDUCTING EVACUATION DRILLS IN LOW-LYING AREAS P2

AFTER ZHUHAI VISAS RESTART, IMMIGRATION SEES NO CHANGE IN BORDER CROSSINGS, YET P3

CHIEF EXECUTIVE HO IAT SENG HAS TURNED DISCUSSIONS IN THE CHINESE CAPITAL TO THE TOPIC OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT P6



Belarus Thousands of demonstrators in Belarus took to the streets again Saturday to demand that the country's authoritarian leader resign after a presidential vote they called fraudulent. In response, the president declared that Russian leader Vladimir Putin had agreed to provide security assistance to restore order if Belarus requested it.



Emirates Telephone service between the United Arab Emirates and Israel began working yesterday as the two countries opened diplomatic ties, part of a deal brokered by the U.S. that required Israel to halt its contentious plan to annex West Bank land sought by the Palestinians for a future state.



Israel closed the Gaza Strip's offshore fishing zone yesterday following a night of cross-border fighting with Palestinian militants, the most intense escalation of hostilities in recent months. Palestinian militants in Gaza fired two rockets into southern Israel after Israeli airstrikes targeted sites belonging to the territory's militant Hamas rulers.

More on backpage

TRUMP ON CULTURE OFFENSIVE

The US president hits out at Chinese academia, technology in North America

P10-11 TIKTOK, PROFESSORS AND CONFUCIUS INSTITUTES



THOUSANDS OF OLD TIRES FIND NEW LIFE IN ECO-FRIENDLY TAIPA PARK



P7

URBAN RENEWAL COMPANY ACCUSED OF LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

Macau Urban Renewal Ltd is facing accusations that it lacks transparency. The Follow-Up Committee on Public Finance Affairs of the Legislative Assembly (AL) accused the company of being unclear in regard to three projects. These consist of the development of a project on the land plot formerly occupied by Pearl Horizon, a cluster of seven Lao Hon buildings, and the Hengqin New Macau Neighborhood. According to the allegations, the company has not been transparent about the budget or information related to the three projects. The committee also discussed the slaughterhouse and the Macau Science Center. Regarding the former, lawmakers pointed out that there was a shortage of human resources, a lack of young people, and a depreciation of equipment. The government has also been called upon to upgrade the slaughterhouse's operation model. As for the latter, lawmakers proposed the showcasing of smart homes as exhibits.

17 MACAU COMPANIES CERTIFIED TO PROVIDE SERVICES IN HENGQIN

As of today, the environmental protection authority of the Hengqin new district of Zhuhai has accredited 17 Macau companies and 74 professional individuals from Macau for service provision in Hengqin. Two Macau construction companies were also given operation licenses which will allow them to freely supply services in mainland China. On Friday, the Ministry of Commerce of China issued a plan aimed at deepening support for the Macau and Hong Kong banking and insurance industry. According to the plan, banks and insurance companies can establish branches in 28 mainland cities, including all of Hainan province, Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, Dalian, Chongqing, and Chengdu. The plan will constitute a three-year trial period.

MOST SENIORS WANT HEALTHCARE COUPONS TO COVER MORE SERVICES

A recent survey found that 87% of respondents hoped the healthcare coupon could be used for more products or services. The Macau United Citizens Association ran a survey on healthcare coupons in July, collecting 1,079 questionnaires from local residents over 60 years old. Most respondents used the coupons when seeing a doctor. Fifty-six percent of the respondents consider the coupon to be convenient. Eighty percent of the respondents believe that private clinics have raised fees after the local government launched the healthcare coupon program. When voicing their suggestions for improvements, more than 75% of the respondents said that the coupons should be able to be used to buy nutrition products. Approximately 10% of respondents, who live in mainland China, hope to use the coupon in the nine mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

POLICE CARRY OUT EVACUATION DRILL IN LOW-LYING AREAS

LYNZY VALLES

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) has carried out an evacuation drill for low-lying areas, including the area between Ponte 16 and Rua de Francisco António and the areas east of NAPE in case of a storm surge.

According to a statement released by the bureau, the purpose of the drill was to improve communication between evacuation plan personnel and the command center, as well as their ability to collaborate, optimizing the various emergency plans.

Director of the PJ Sit Chong Meng, and deputy directors Tou Sok Sam and Chan Kin Hong, were among the 140 participants from the bureau who participated in the drill on Saturday.

Twenty observers were invited, including representatives from the nine civic associations of the areas which they were assigned to evacuate. Thirty citizens also participated in the drill.

The exercise simulated the conditions during the passage of a typhoon, where there is



flooding in the low-lying areas of Macau and the evacuation plan is being initiated according to the instructions given by the civil protection structure.

The PJ command center then directed the evacuation plan team personnel to immediately go to designated areas to carry out evacuation tasks.

According to the bureau, through the use of its exclusive mobile application program which includes the data of residents, shopkeepers and people who need help from the areas referred for evacuation, the PJ personnel managed to improve the evacuation plan and simul-

taneously warn residents and assist them in the evacuation.

The PJ also conducted exercises together with the civic associations, to refer people in need to the shelter center.

Finding residents with injuries during the evacuation was also simulated. In this case, the evacuation plan team personnel directed the command center to send patrol vehicles to the site for support.

The response capacity of personnel in the face of sudden incidents was also tested, as well as the cooperative capacity of the command center, thus improving the speed and efficiency

of evacuation work.

In June, the civil protection structure carried out its annual typhoon drill, "Crystal Fish," to familiarize the public with the evacuation plan in the event of serious flooding.

The structure also launched evacuation operations in the low-lying areas.

In the simulation, the passage of the severe typhoon was accompanied by a storm surge and astronomical tide. This year, it was carried out in the context of the coronavirus pandemic, adding to the simulated difficulties of the exercise.

These drills are conducted to test the operational capacity of the authorities, in particular civil protection entities, to respond to a severe typhoon and storm surge.

Following the tragedy of Typhoon Hato in 2018, which claimed 10 lives and caused extensive damage to property, these drills were one of the preventive measures the government launched to minimize the destruction caused by mega-typhoons.

Government removes article on national security from PJ bill

JULIE ZHU

THE SAR government has removed an article concerning national security matters from the Law of the Judiciary Police (PJ), known as Law No. 5/2006.

On Friday, the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) signed an opinion report concerning the bill.

The bill originally included an article suggesting that the division of national security affairs should have the ability to investigate crimes.

The committee

members advised the government to remove the aforementioned article, considering it not an urgent matter to grant the head of the PJ division such power.

According to the bill, nine types of behaviors are considered to be an extreme violation of regulations, including drunk driving, connection with gangs for non-work-related reasons, and more.

Once a PJ officer is found guilty of any of the aforementioned behaviors, the individual will be subjected to mandatory retirement or dismissal.

The Chairman of the First Standing Committee, Ho Ion Sang, also reiterated that police officers should conduct themselves according to high standards, both on-duty and off-duty.

In the future, the judiciary police department will be entitled to the acquisition of documents related to other people's civil and criminal identities. Police officers must inform the personal data protection authority when obtaining such information.

Since the government's announcement of the law amendment, members of local socie-

ty have been concerned about one article nicknamed the "secret police" provision.

This specific article proposes a list of PJ officers whose identity will not be made public.

Ho once again explained, on behalf of the government, that an individual's identity will be kept confidential only when their employment is finalized. If a person is still in the process of applying and taking exams to enter the PJ, their identity will still be announced.

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak also said that it is "absolutely

unreasonable" to nickname the exemption of identity disclosure a "secret police" policy, because such an exemption has long been practiced in other regions including the U.K., the U.S and Hong Kong.

On January 20, the AL preliminarily passed the bill in general terms. In addition to Friday's discussion, the AL committee had five meetings to talk about the bill. The bill is now ready for a vote and discussion in detail at a plenary meeting.

The bill proposes an expansion of approximately 25% in staff numbers over the next seven years, as well as formally including crimes related to information, internet or national security matters under the authority of the PJ.

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After Zhuhai visa restart, immigration authority sees no change in border crossings

JULIE ZHU

THE city's immigration authority has not noticed any change in the number of border crossings since the resumption of tourist visa issuance in the neighboring city of Zhuhai.

Based on information provided to Macau Daily Times last week, the new visas will take approximately seven days to process. The resumption began last Wednesday, August 12, and visa appointments on the first two days were reportedly fully booked.

During Friday's press conference of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, Ma Chio Hong, head of the Operations and Communication Division of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), revealed the border traffic information.

When asked whether the immigration authority was prepared for last weekend, the first weekend since the mainland had resumed issuing tourist visas, Ma said he expected no significant changes at the borders.



According to Ma, the PSP has been monitoring the number of crossings since August 12.

However, "there is not an obvious increase in the number of border crossings since August 12," Ma said, adding that the number of entries and departures has remained similar to previous days.

Over the weekend, the immigration authority anticipated

there would be little pressure at the borders. However, Ma expects that the number of arrivals will have an upward trend in the coming weeks.

The police authority has already begun implementing a plan for a possible surge in traffic.

On August 12 and August 13, Macau received 6,800 and 6,200 visitors, representing increases of 14.5% and 15.8% respectively

compared to the previous day. These visitors are understood to be traveling on travel endorsements approved prior to Covid-19, but which are still valid.

The Macau government has been increasing the frequency of testing frontline casino workers for Covid-19. The government expects to test all concerned casino employees within the next seven days.

Last week, the government also informed the public that EVA Air and Air Macau would operate flights between Macau and Europe. As of Friday, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) had not received any inquiries or requests for assistance regarding these flights.

Meanwhile, in regards to quarantine and the inspection of imported frozen meat, Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, said that Macau is currently remaining cautious about imported frozen food inspections. According to Leong, it may be possible for people to be infected if the food contains the virus.

GAMING

FITCH THROWS WEIGHT BEHIND MACAU'S REVENUE ACCELERATION THEORY

THE gaming market of Macau will recover quicker than its main overseas rivals in Singapore and Las Vegas, according to a note by Fitch Ratings, echoing expectations from other analysts. The ratings agency said that this was because of Macau's proximity to its main visitor source market.

Analysts told Macau Daily Times last month that although Las Vegas had shown early signs of recovery - fueled by demand from its domestic market - the recovery in the Macau SAR would soon overtake it. They indicated that this was because of improved health measures in the greater China region and pent-up demand from across the border.

In a note last week, Fitch said it was forecasting steep contractions in the gaming markets of the three regions in which gaming operator Las Vegas Sands operates, directly or via subsidiaries.

Fitch said that the market in Macau would contract by around 70% for the full-year of 2020, while Singapore and Las Vegas would fall by 65% and 60% respectively.

But Macau would recover faster because its "feeder markets" were more accessible than those of Singapore and Las Vegas, which had a "greater reliance on air travel."

Last year, visitors from the greater China accounted for over 92% of tourist arrivals. Of those coming from mainland China, about half hailed from southern Guangdong Province and about 40% from the nine mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area.

As restrictions on China's travel endorsement schemes ease this month and next, analysts expect a gradual recovery in the Macau market that will ultimately outpace that in Singapore and Las Vegas. **DB**

COVID-19 BLOOD TEST NOW READY, ACCORDING TO DOCTOR

A Covid-19 antibody test that only requires a drop of blood and can provide a result in 10 minutes is now ready, Ng Chi Ho, director-general of the Macao Greater Bay Area Association of Healthcare Providers, told a workshop according to local newspaper Macao Daily News.

The workshop was held together with the Macau Healthcare Management and Promotion Association.

Ng was reported as saying that there is a test capsule available for the coronavirus, named severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

When tests are done using this capsule, only a drop of blood from the patient is required. Another feature of the test is that results will be available in 10 minutes. It was reported that Ng considers the blood test to be capable of replacing the

swab test to lower "technical mistakes" during tests.

This was the first time this type of test had been revealed and discussed in the public arena. Blood tests have long been a reliable test method for other viral infections, such as HIV. Similarly, a drop of blood can return a HIV result within 20 minutes. Self-test kits for HIV have also recently become available in Macau.

The Covid-19 blood test will help with triage and preliminary diagnosis. In addition, it can be performed at private clinics.

Currently, a negative test result is required for border crossing.

Ng also believes that eating thoroughly cooked food only poses a small risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2. He warned people about the health risks of consuming raw or undercooked food. **AL**

DEAD DOLPHIN FOUND NEAR CHEOC VAN BEACH

Yesterday morning, the body of a humpback dolphin was spotted off the coast of Cheoc Van Beach in Coloane by Macao Customs, the government announced. Following the sighting of the deceased animal, Customs notified the Municipal Affairs Bureau which sent a team of veterinarians to the spot. After a preliminary inspection and measurements, the team confirmed the dead dolphin to be an adult of the species. The length of the body was 2.45 meters. The body was mildly bloated, with some areas of detached skin. The team from the bureau estimated that the animal had died before becoming stranded. The body was cremated out of public health concerns.

GOV'T STUDIES ART ELEMENTS FOR GUIA PEDESTRIAN TUNNELS

On the advice of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), historical, cultural or creative elements will be introduced to the Guia Hill Pedestrian Circumnavigation System, the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has recently revealed. Lawmaker Leong Sun lok had previously made an inquiry on the matter. The DSSOPT cited the IC regarding the latter's emphasis on introducing culture and arts to various neighborhoods. It added that both bureaus have been working closely together in ascertaining whether the aforementioned elements should be added to the system. Meanwhile, the IC has been in search of suitable locations where such elements can be presented.

POLICE WARN AGAINST FAKE VIDEO LINKS

Social media users should remain cautious about a link circulating on various online platforms which appears to be a YouTube video but is actually a computer virus, the Judiciary Police has warned in a statement. For the time being, it is unclear whether the link is also being spread in other languages. Those that have been found were titled in Chinese and claimed that the recipient was featured in the video. The malicious link is spreading via several instant messaging systems, including Facebook Messenger. The message features the YouTube logo. After clicking the link, users are requested to log in to a social media account. Using this information, the account is hacked and the viral chain continues to extend. The police are reminding people not to use suspicious links and to use two-factor authentication for their logins.

Patriotic education underlined among most important teaching goals

SOPHIA IP*

WHILE Hong Kong is debating whether politics should be brought into the classroom, Macau is already providing patriotic education. The Macau government has been promoting a sense of patriotism within the local context.

To present a more vivid image of Chinese history and the nation's achievements, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) is planning to use the National Education Exhibition Pavilion this year.

"Love the Motherland and love Macau is the core value of Macau society, and this is also one of our most important teaching goals," said Cheong Man Fai, director of the Department of Youth.

The main purpose of using the exhibition pavilion in cooperation with schools is to promote an integrated view of Chinese history and culture to present students with knowledge beyond the textbook, to enhance their sense of national identity and to make them proud of the motherland. The exhibition pavilion was first introduced to the public on July 16 at a press conference after the plenary meeting of the Youth Affairs Committee.

On the occasion last month, Macau Daily Times interviewed two school principals to gain a better understanding of Macau's patriotic education.

The principal of one school told the Times that it already has flag-raising ceremonies, parade exercises, mainland exchange programs and activities related to Chinese culture to give students an insight into the diversity of Chinese culture.

"I believe Macau citizens lack knowledge about Chinese history [and culture], and this is a school's responsibility to promote Chinese culture," said the principal, who insisted on anonymity as a condition to talk to the Times. "Regardless of any political purpose, we will welcome the concepts if they are good for students' development."

Vong Kuoc Ieng, the principal of Escola Choi Nong Chi Tai, also advised that patriotic education has been incorporated into different subjects, giving the example of the textbook "Moral and Civic Education."

In an exclusive interview with the Times, Vong explained the implementation of patriotic education into the different stages of education. In kindergarten students are taught to sing the nation



In this November 2019 file photo, a flag-raising ceremony is held at the Premier School Affiliated to Hou Kong Middle School

nal anthem; when students enter junior high school, they start learning about the Macau Basic Law, Chinese history and traditional culture; and when they finally enter high school, students will learn to consider various aspects about the country and its relationship with other countries.

According to the DSEJ, schools are free to choose from a range of teaching materials and there exists a broad range of published teaching materials.

The DSEJ also told the Times that the government will promote the use of history teaching materials which aim to increase students' understanding of Chinese history and culture, and to nurture students' love of the country.

"Patriotism cannot be a hard-sell. You cannot tell students to be patriotic," said Vong, suggesting that patriotism should be implemented in a soft way to nurture students' sense of belonging. We can achieve that, he says, "by holding activities like exchange programs and flag-raising ceremonies to stimulate and internalize the feeling of love of the country."

To manage different values that emerge from students, Vong said that the school will respect

students' right to express their opinions. At the same time, the school will help to try to "correct" those students' minds. Vong estimated there are around a dozen students in high school who share similar values with Hong Kong democrats, and by having discussions and analyzing the issues at school "some of them have already been corrected and have changed their mind, while a few others choose to stand with their original values."

The DSEJ said that it has managed to 'correct' the views of some high school students who formerly held similar values as Hong Kong democrats

When the Times asked about whether patriotic education would be a burden for students, both principals answered that it is not the case. They suggested that the government and the DSEJ appropriately balances the teaching curriculum with patriotic education, and they indicated that patriotic education has already been integrated into the general subjects.

Four students interviewed by the Times have their own opinions on the current educational situation. All of their schools have already blended elements of patriotic education into the curriculum, including subjects such as history, civic education, Chinese language, and geography. Two of them consider it important to learn more about Chinese culture, while the other two disagreed.

Students also offered their opinions on the current teaching environment. All of them considered that patriotic education is sufficient in its current form. At the same time, they believed schools could teach more politics, which is suggested to be helpful for students' further development and to better understand what is happening in society.

Asked about the situation, lawmaker Sulu Sou questioned the use of the term "patriotic education," which he suggested included a bias.

"The role of education is to provide students with comprehensive information; students' own feelings and decisions shouldn't be led by education," said Sou. In his opinion, subjects like history and civic education should be neutral, providing students with comprehensive information in

an objective and neutral way, and including both the successes and failures of history.

When questioned about the extent of patriotic education that can be considered indoctrination, Sou said that it largely depends on the comprehensiveness of the information. Sou explained that brainwashing is about providing only certain kinds of information and neglecting other information.

"Love cannot be taught, it is to be nurtured," Sou stated. He believes that students are able to make their own judgment of whether or not to love and appreciate the country if they have received integrated information.

The National Education Exhibition Pavilion is located at the Handover Gifts Museum of Macao, and integrates exhibitions, training and multimedia to present Chinese history, art, technological development, and the country's achievements. In the future, the exhibition pavilion will be used by education providers to offer young people and organizations a chance to engage with patriotic education.

*Intern reporter. This feature was produced in the context of an internship program in collaboration between Macau Daily Times and the University of Macau for final years students enrolled in a Communications degree.

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Property of the Week






Jade Garden- Spacious Family Home, Taipa
HK\$18,000,000 3,180 ft² 4 3

Stunning property with fabulous outdoor spaces. Quiet complex with parking available for sale as well. Renovated throughout to a very high standard. Beautiful kitchen with modern built in appliances and well designed bathrooms.



SCAN ME



Property Hotlist

Manhattan D Unit, Taipa


\$17,980,000
 2,305 ft²
 4 2




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Taipa Village
 2 connected apartments


\$8,380,000
 1,404 ft²
 4 2




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Ocean Garden, Taipa
 Sakura Court


\$35,000/mth
 3,700 ft²
 4 4


SCAN ME

Taipa Apartment
 Great Venetian view

\$28,000/mth
 2,060 ft²
 4 2


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More Listings

For Sale	For Rent
[Macau] Apartment w/ balcony 2 1 840 ft ² \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)	[Taipa] Studio apartment 1 1 650 ft ² \$9,000/mth (ref: 20061003)
[Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft ² \$11,800,000 (ref: 19070000)	[Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 1 600 ft ² \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)
[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 2 1,420 ft ² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)	[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1 710 ft ² \$20,460/mth (ref: 20021002)
[Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom 2 3 2 2,530 ft ² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096000)	[Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft ² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)
[Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 2,556 ft ² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)	[Taipa] Private house 2 3 3 4,266 ft ² \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)


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HO IAT SENG TURNS TO DISCUSS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DURING BEIJING VISIT

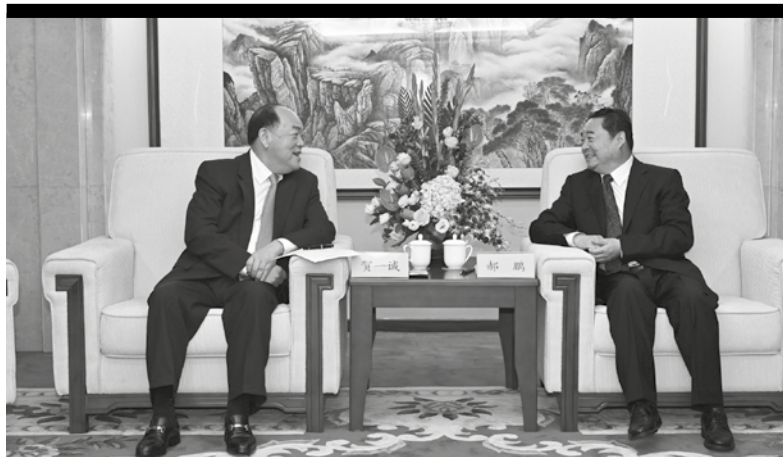
ANTHONY LAM

CHIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng has been discussing post-coronavirus economic development during his visit to Beijing over the weekend, meeting with Secretary of the Party Committee of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC) of the State Council, and Chairman of the SASAC, Hao Peng, who is responsible for affairs related to national assets.

Hao and Ho discussed the way in which national enterprises could help Macau further develop its economy. They also discussed the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

Ho pointed out that the national official's meeting with the Macau government group highlighted the country's focus on the Special Administrative Region. He added that offices of central enterprises in Macau have continuously supported the city.

In response, Hao assured Ho that national and central enter-



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng meets Hao Peng (right) in Beijing

prises would take further steps to assist Macau's containment of coronavirus. They would also align with Macau's need of public infrastructure.

The national official reiterated Macau's position as the bridge between China and Lusophone countries. He also noted that young people from Macau could attain internships at national enterprises.

On Friday morning, the Chief Executive met with the Vice Minister of Public Security and

Head of the National Immigration Administration, Xu Ganlu. They exchanged views on a number of issues, including Macau's efforts to promote the city's economic diversification, policies on cross-boundary movement efficiency and tackling cross-border crime.

Ho briefed Xu on how Macau was working with Guangdong to move ahead with the Intensive Cooperation Zone project in Hengqin. This included efforts to promote the development of

traditional Chinese medicine as a way of supporting Macau's economic diversification.

Speaking during the meeting, Xu stated that the mainland and Macau had been working closely on implementing efficient migration policies and customs clearance models, and on combating cross-boundary crime. These efforts laid the foundation for increasing personal exchanges between the mainland and Macau.

In a separate meeting, Ho and the Minister of the General Administration of Customs, Ni Yuefeng, shared insights on the development of the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone initiative. They also discussed Macau's epidemic control work.

Ho pointed out that the Intensive Cooperation Zone was crucial to Macau's future prospects, as the SAR currently faces a number of challenges related to its limited land resources and high cost of labor.

The Intensive Cooperation Zone will allow Macau enterpri-

ses to take advantage not only of the land resources available in Hengqin for development of their businesses, but also of favorable regulations for customs clearance of goods under the regime known as "opening the first line and controlling the second line."

Ni supported the idea of using land resources in Hengqin for the expansion of Macau enterprises and development of new products. He also voiced his support of the separate management model implemented in Hengqin.

In a third meeting, Ho met with the Commissioner of the State Taxation Administration, Wang Jun, who disclosed that the authority would further consider the introduction of measures to create a favorable tax environment, including the formulation of additional tax incentives to support the development for the Intensive Cooperation Zone. All of these measures were designed to create a tax environment similar to that of Macau, said Wang.

AD

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Gov't unveils leisure area in Taipa repurposing thousands of old tires

RENATO MARQUES

THE Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has unveiled the details of a brand-new leisure area to be built in Taipa, which will repurpose thousands of old tires under an eco-friendly initiative.

The 19,000 square meter leisure and activities park is included in the group of projects that the government wants to provide more public facilities for citizens, as detailed in this year's Policy Address.

The new facility is to be located in between the Nova Taipa residential area and the Nam San Garden apartment building and will also serve as the first public facility in Macau to make use of waste elements such as vehicle tires, giving them a new life in an eco-friendly manner, the IAM said in a statement.

The government decided upon this type of structure after referencing tire parks which exist in several cities in Europe, the U.S., Japan, and mainland China, and which have been well-received by the populations in those regions.

EIGHT RECREATIONAL AREAS

According to the information disclosed by the IAM, the new leisure area will comprise of a total of eight distinct divisions, including Tire Paradise, the Lawn family area, Happiness Hill, Water and Sand World, a skating area, a sports fields area and two tracks – one for running and another for scooters.

In Tire Paradise, which is located in the center of the park, there will be several elements built out of old tires in different sizes, shapes, and colors, to be used as a playground. The IAM noted that these elements would include technological features to allow check-ins on social media platforms.

The Lawn family area and Happiness Hill are intended to be used by families and younger



children, and will include several decorative and interactive elements, as well as swings.

In Water and Sand World, there will be two distinct zones. At the top will be a large sand pool and a spiral pyramid with a water fountain. The bottom area will be comprised of a combination of tires and the sand pool, using two large stone slides and a ramp in which the touch and feel of elements will be the main focus.

Directed at older children and teenagers, the skate area aims to stimulate interest in beginner and intermediate-level skaters who will be able to practice their skills in a controlled environment.

Together with the skating area, there will be several sports fields,

named Happiness Fields, including a football pitch as well as basketball, volleyball, and badminton courts.

The surrounding areas will also include some physical exercise machines, pebble paths, shaded corridors and benches.

The last two areas are the running track and the children's scooter track. These have a length of around 660 meters and will be separated by a low railing made out of tires to create a protective barrier, ensuring the safety of passersby and users.

In the park, in addition to preserving the original trees and shrubs, other plants will also be introduced, increasing the number of green areas in that part of the city.

Natural and artificial shelters will also be built to provide comfort to park users. The IAM informed that there will be kiosks, vending machines, and esplanades to complement the facilities, as well as toilet facilities and breastfeeding rooms.

IAM GUARANTEES

THE SAFETY OF TIRE USE

One of the main features of this new leisure area is the use of thousands of old tires in the construction of the park and several of its structural and entertaining elements.

The idea, which came from a collaboration between the IAM and the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA), aims not only to use old tires that would otherwise end up in the incinerator plant,

but also to use them as a valuable resource.

In response to concerns, the IAM and the DSPA have said that they will have a careful selection process for the tires in order to ensure that they are not degrading.

According to the bureaus, the tires will be carefully cleaned and disinfected. Any potentially dangerous objects will be removed and a final polishing treatment will be performed.

The bureaus also noted that measures to avoid water accumulation inside the tires will be enforced and that the park will be subjected to periodic inspections and maintenance. If necessary, any tires that are considered faulty will be replaced to ensure hygiene and safety.

NEWBORN DISCOVERED DEAD BY COAST

THE body of a deceased newborn was found at about 11:20 a.m. on Saturday morning, according to information disclosed by the police authority.

The newborn was found by a cleaner commissioned by the Municipal Affairs Bureau on the coast near a casino pro-

perty in downtown Macau. The discovery was reported to the PJ at about 12:09 p.m.

The worker stumbled across the body while conducting daily cleaning work in the neighborhood, according to the PJ. The newborn was found in a box with the

umbilical cord still attached.

The results of an on-site inspection showed that the body had started decomposing. The PJ could not determine the sex of the newborn at the scene. The newborn was about 25cm long and unclothed. **AL**

BODY OF DECEASED WOMAN FOUND ON WALKING TRAIL

THE body of a woman was found on the beach along the Hac Sá Long Chao Kok Coastal Trail on Saturday, according to the Judiciary Police (PJ).

The body was discovered at about 11:40 a.m. Saturday by a hiker. The sighting was first reported to Public Security Police Force

officers on patrol.

No suspicious wounds were found on the body.

A pair of orange sandals which the PJ said could possibly have belonged to the deceased was also discovered nearby, as well as a bag containing a set of keys, a Macau Pass card, a small amount of cash and other

items, which were believed to belong to the deceased woman as well. No identification documents were found.

The woman had long hair, was around 50 years of age and was about 1.64 m tall. She was wearing a grey short-sleeve t-shirt and long grey sports pants. **AL**



Sands Shopping Carnival attracts over 100,000

SANDS China Ltd.'s successful Sands Shopping Carnival has surpassed a visitation count of 100,000 during its three-day event at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo.

Held between August 7 and August 9, the event featured over 500 booths and offered the best

deals to Macao residents and tourists.

The Sands Shopping Carnival was the largest shopping event of its kind in Macao. It provided a free business platform for local SMEs and Sands retailers amid the pandemic period, while creating a new weekend destination for local residents and

tourists, in support of the Macao SAR government's Consume for the Economy initiative.

Several sanitisation and safety protocols were in place throughout the weekend event to ensure a safe, healthy, and worry-free environment for all, including temperature checks, mandatory wearing of face masks, hand sanitizers, online visitor registration, and strict implementation of the Macao 'health code' system at the entrance, among other measures.

Exhibitors were able to take advantage of free registration and free booths – targeted at Macao retailers, including local micro-small-and-medium enterprises – and carnival-goers enjoyed free shuttle service, free parking and free admission.

"The Sands Shopping Carnival represents our company's continued commitment to Macao, our confidence in the city's

perseverance during the pandemic, and our support for its recovery," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. "By

"The Sands Shopping Carnival represents our company's continued commitment to Macao, our confidence in the city's perseverance during the pandemic, and our support for its recovery."

DR. WILFRED WONG
PRESIDENT OF SANDS CHINA LTD.

bringing together international retail brands and local SMEs in the same venue, we aimed to create huge synergistic effects that would help foster domes-

tic consumption. Our thanks go to the MSAR government, the general public and local enterprises for their earnest support.

This successful event was a chance for us to give back to the community during these challenging times, to bolster local SMEs, and to support the Macao SAR government's economic stimulus initiative."

Meanwhile, Sands China team members and their families and friends enjoyed an exclusive chance to experience the carnival on Saturday morning with even better offers and discounts, and Sands Cares Ambassadors hosted members of the Good Shepherd Sisters' Women's Mutual Help Centre and the Macao Down Syndrome Association for a special guided visit to the carnival during the first day.

Around 20 family groups from Good Shepherd Sisters paired up with 20 Sands Cares Ambassadors to have fun at the carnival's inflatable slides, animal rides,

WHAT SMEs SAY...

"I have been longing for such an opportunity and am particularly thankful that we get to participate in this carnival. It is a great platform for us as this is the first time we're putting our new disinfectant product on the market."

Calvin Cheung, Managing Director of the Macao Sunrise Environmental Protection Engineering Ltd.

"Things began to go south following the outbreak early this year, so we're using this platform to promote our business. This carnival is really a good opportunity not just for us but also for Macao businesses in general. There are over 500 booths here and it's really helping us a lot. It's also a call to help [each other]."

Luis Silva, Owner of Serene Macau

"We're grateful to Sands for arranging this special carnival for small and micro businesses like us to promote our products. We see this as a way to boost the economy. We're thankful for this event. We participated in a carnival once and it was not really good, but this time I'm quite positive. This carnival has a good mix of business and the foot traffic is huge."

Becky Leong, owner of Pure New Zealand Product Shop





2000 visitors benefiting local SMEs

balance bikes and game booths, followed by a walk around the carnival to do some shopping.

And another 20 or so family groups from Macao Down Syndrome Association joined 20 Sands Cares Ambassadors to make mini pizzas at the Luso International (LIB) Presents: Little Master Chef Workshop, with the children dressing up as chefs to make their pizza creations before moving on for some shopping around the carnival.

More than 280 participants joined the fun culinary workshop over the weekend.

"Sands China is proud to take this opportunity to engage with some of the community groups we work with in order to promote diverse community participation," said Dr. Wong.

"Events like the Sands Shopping Carnival present opportunities for our team member

volunteers to give back to society in meaningful ways, and we are happy to see them hosting community groups to enjoy some summer fun during these extraordinary times."

In further support to the community, Sands China also invited two local community

The goal was to provide an opportunity for the community groups' restaurants to gain exposure in the local commercial market and to create job opportunities for their members

enterprises – the Macau Association for the Mentally Handicapped's Casa de Petisco "Sam Meng Chi" and Fuhong Society of Macau's Corner of Portuguese Cuisine Cantinho Luso – to sell food during the three-day carniva-

val. The goal was to provide an opportunity for the community groups' restaurants to gain exposure in the local commercial market and to create job opportunities for their members. Both restaurants provide vocational training services for their organizations' service users.

Meanwhile, one of the weekend's highlights was the ICBC ePay Presents: Karaoke King Singing Competition. Registering to compete in the contest was free and open to Macao residents. After preliminary rounds on Friday and Saturday, Cheng Sam Yuet was crowned the winner in the teen category after the final round on Sunday, while Li Yan Tung won in the adult category. Contestants won a total of close to MOP 80,000 in prizes, including cash, iPhone 11 Pro Max smartphones, and annual passes to teamLab SuperNature Macao, the 3-D interactive art

experience at Cotai Expo.

The carnival's diverse activities and attractions also included an international-cuisine food area; performances; lucky draws; MOP1 products; deals up to 80 per cent off; and family-friendly activities and games.

The Sands Shopping Carnival was organised by Sands China

Ltd., co-organised by the Macao Chamber of Commerce, supported by the Macao Economic Bureau, the Macao Government Tourism Office and the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), and sponsored by Bank of China Macau Branch, ICBC (Macao), Luso International Banking Ltd., and BNU Macau.

WHAT NGOs SAY...

"We want to say thank you to Sands China for inviting us here as this is a very good opportunity for our [mentally challenged] members who underwent occupational trainings to go out and serve the public. This carnival is an excellent platform for our members to put what they learned into practice, and we believe that more people will know about us as a result."

Grace Lao, manager of "Sam Meng Chi" of the Macau Association for the Mentally Handicapped

"A huge thanks to Sands China for providing this opportunity for us to participate in this carnival. It is the first time we are providing on-site F&B trainings to our [mentally challenged] members so it's really a precious opportunity for them to work at a carnival of this scale and gain some experience. It also allows the public to understand that with proper trainings and opportunities, our members can do what ordinary people can do. More than 2,000 food items prepared by our members have been sold. The response is very encouraging."

Ago Kou, manager at the Pou Choi Center of the Fu Hong Rehabilitation Association of Macau



Trump ratchets up fight with TikTok's

SARA FORDEN, BEN BRODY,
SHELLY BANJO & JENNY LEONARD

UNITED States President Donald Trump on Friday ordered the Chinese owner of the popular music video app TikTok to sell its U.S. assets, citing national security grounds and delivering the latest salvo in his standoff with Beijing.

Trump's decision came after an investigation by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., or CFIUS, which reviews proposed acquisitions of American businesses by overseas investors for national security concerns. The unexpected order was tied to the CFIUS' timeline, according to people familiar with the decision.

ByteDance Ltd. bought the app Musical.ly in 2017 and merged it with TikTok to create a single, integrated social-media application. Trump's order, in effect, called for a reversal of that transaction.

Through its ownership of Musical.ly, Beijing-based ByteDance "might take action that threatens to impair the national security of the United States," Trump said in the order.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a statement that "CFIUS conducted an exhaustive review of the case and unanimously recom-

mended this action to the president in order to protect U.S. users from exploitation of their personal data."

CFIUS, which is led by the Mnuchin, includes officials from across 16 government departments and agencies, including State, Defense and Commerce. The White House referred questions on Friday's decision to the Treasury Department.

On Saturday, Trump told reporters at his golf club in Bedminster, New Jersey, that other Chinese companies may come under his administration's scrutiny. Asked whether there are other companies he's looking at banning or restricting in the U.S., Trump said: "We're looking at other things, yes." He didn't elaborate.

The order signed by Trump on Friday lays out a 90-day deadline for a possible sale of TikTok to a U.S. buyer, which could be extended for as much as 30 days at the discretion of CFIUS. ByteDance, its affiliates, and Chinese shareholders were also ordered to divest and destroy any data obtained or derived from TikTok or Musical.ly app users in the U.S.

Trump's previous executive order would prohibit U.S. persons and companies from doing business with TikTok effective 45 days from Aug. 6.

The twin dates offered by the administration suggest a buyer of TikTok's U.S. operations still faces a 45-day deadline to make a handshake

BLOOMBERG



deal, and would need to close that transaction to CFIUS's satisfaction within 90 days of Trump's latest order. When asked to clarify the divergent deadlines Friday, officials pointed to the earlier executive order.

"The original order was rushed and confused, so to me this is part cleanup, part justification, and part anticipation of TikTok's threat to sue," said Carl Tobias, a law professor at the University of Richmond. "It's intended to shore up the legality of what they are trying to do."

A TikTok spokesperson pointed to an earlier statement in which it said it was "shocked by the recent executive order, which was issued without any due process" and that it intended to "pursue all remedies available to us in order to ensure that the rule of law

is not discarded."

The orders, and another one on Aug. 6 that singled out WeChat, owned by China's Tencent Holdings Ltd., are consistent with the administration's increasingly aggressive posture toward Chinese technology giants as relations with the Beijing government deteriorate and Trump faces a tough re-election campaign.

For TikTok, at least, there's a potential way out of an all-out U.S. ban through the sale of its American operations. Microsoft Corp. said in a rare public blog post commenting on deal talks earlier this month that it was considering the purchase of the wildly popular music video app.

But negotiations are still ongoing and multiple people familiar with the deliberations say it's not a done deal.

Other American tech companies, including Twitter Inc., have also explored possible TikTok bids but it's unclear how far those talks have gone, according to multiple people familiar with the deliberations.

Large venture capital and private equity firms including Sequoia Capital and General Atlantic have billions of dollars on the line and are trying to make the sale of TikTok a more competitive process, which could drive the price higher, avoid a fire sale to Microsoft, and ensure TikTok ends up in the hands of the right bidder, according to one person involved in the discussions.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Blackstone Group are among the financial firms that have been jostling for a role in any deal, but the attempt-

Kansas prof's defense lawyers warn prosecution would criminalize job disputes

ROXANA HEGEMAN
& ERIC TUCKER

THE prosecution of a Kansas researcher ensnared in a U.S. government crackdown on Chinese economic espionage and trade secret theft opens the door to criminalizing workplace disagreements, his attorneys argued Friday in a motion asking a court to throw out the charges.

Feng "Franklin" Tao is charged with not disclosing on conflict-of-interest forms work he was allegedly doing for China while employed at the University of Kansas — something federal prosecutors have portrayed as a scheme to defraud the university, the U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation.

In their request to dismiss the case, defense lawyers Peter Zeidenberg and Michael Dearington wrote that the

government seeks to use Tao's prosecution as a potential new model for the Justice Department to prosecute professors "without having to produce evidence of intellectual property theft or export control violations."

The motion takes aim at the broader China Initiative announced by the Justice Department in 2018 to counter the threat of Chinese espionage and intellectual property theft, including on American college campuses. Since then, federal prosecutors have charged Chinese academics across the country of failing to disclose foreign sources of funding and lying about their links to China.

The Trump administration, meanwhile, has escalated its rhetoric against Beijing and taken steps to confront China, including by shutting down the Chinese consulate in Houston and

through executive actions that ban dealings with the Chinese owners of TikTok and WeChat. FBI Director Chris Wray said in a speech last month that the bureau opens a new counterintelligence case linked to China about every 10 hours.

The indictment against Tao alleges that the Lawrence man's motive was to help China by participating in its "talent plan," which prosecutors contend is designed to encourage the transfer of original ideas and intellectual property from U.S. universities to Chinese government institutions.

Prosecutors accuse Tao of not informing the University of Kansas that he was selected for the Changjiang Professorship or the salary for his appointment to Fuzhou University in China.

In their motion, his lawyers warn that the case would open the door to cri-

minalizing employment disputes that are better resolved by a human resources department. Tao faces 10 counts, including seven counts of wire fraud, based on two conflict-of-interest forms he submitted to the university.

"The Department of Justice is not the Ministry of Truth, and it lacks authority to regulate routine, private miscommunications between employees and employers regarding employee activities," the motion says.

The motion presents hypothetical scenarios in which an employee who misleads an employer could wind up prosecuted, rather than simply reprimanded or fired by an employer. It raises questions about whether a doctor's office employee in Missouri who falsely calls in sick from his home in Kansas could be charged with wire fraud if he continues to

collect his salary, or prosecuted with false statements if the office receives Medicaid reimbursements from the federal government.

"This is because the Indictment equates dishonesty in the workplace with fraud, merely because all employees receive salary from their employers, and false statements, merely because an employer receives federal funding," the lawyers wrote.

"If the Court permits this Indictment to proceed to trial, it would open the floodgates to a vast range of federal prosecutions for garden-variety employment disputes that otherwise would have, at most, subjected the employee to administrative discipline at work," they added. "This government overreach would not be limited to university professors."

Tao, an associate professor of engineering, was born in China and moved to the

United States in 2002. He has been employed since August 2014 at the University of Kansas' Center for Environmentally Beneficial Catalysis, which conducts research on sustainable technology to conserve natural resources and energy.

Justice Department prosecutors in recent years have been particularly focused on Chinese government initiatives that recruit professors in specialized areas in the United States to work in China.

A professor who has worked at the University of Arkansas was indicted last month on charges of wire fraud and passport fraud for allegedly failing to disclose ties to the Chinese government and Chinese companies when he received grant money from NASA.

Also last month, a rheumatology professor and medical researcher who worked at schools including Ohio State University was charged with using millions of dollars in grant money from the U.S. government to help China develop expertise in rheumatology and immunology. AP

Chinese owner

ts haven't made headway, according to three people familiar with the deliberations.

Goldman Sachs, Sequoia, and General Atlantic declined to comment. Blackstone didn't respond to a request for comment.

TikTok investors who thought they'd hit a home run are struggling with a precipitous decline in value and have completely misjudged the political reality, one person familiar with the deliberations said, citing Sequoia partner Doug Leone's overconfidence that the firm could influence the administration's thinking. Leone also underestimated the negative impact of the venture firm's relationships in China on the White House officials he was trying to sway.

Neil Shen, the head of Sequoia China who oversaw the Bytedance investment, is one of the thousands of delegates to the Chinese People Political Consultative Conference, a non-legislative government advisory body.

Meanwhile, thorny issues around how to truly separate the algorithms and technology remain un-

resolved, according to three people involved in the deliberations. Microsoft and TikTok engineers are working together at a high level to figure out how to revise the code, separate the underlying technologies and plug any vulnerabilities, two of these people said. CFIUS won't sign off on a sale unless it's satisfied there aren't any unresolved security risks.

TikTok said it was 'shocked by the recent executive order, which was issued without any due process' and that it intended to 'pursue all remedies [...] to ensure that the rule of law is not discarded'

And then there's the issue of the president's key money, a cut of the deal for the U.S. government that Trump mentioned during the announcement of the ban. While atypical, he has the authority under CFIUS, to impose monetary conditions, one person said.

Microsoft and Twitter declined

to comment.

The ban on WeChat, the ubiquitous messaging app used by more than a billion people, could have much wider implications for parent company Tencent, as well as longterm relations between the U.S. and China. WeChat is indispensable to cross-border business and could have real implications on American companies that do business in China.

The earlier executive orders to ban TikTok and WeChat were announced around 9 p.m. on Aug. 6, just minutes after Air Force One touched down in Morristown, N.J.'s Municipal Airport, where the president was en route to his golf club in Bedminister, according to his public schedule.

Trump was returning from Ohio, where he held a campaign rally and gave a speech at a Whirlpool Corp. manufacturing plant about trade, promising to bring jobs back to America's factory workers from China.

Accompanied by trade adviser Peter Navarro, who is among the most anti-China officials in his circle, Trump signed the executi-

ve orders banning the apps while still on the plane, surprising at least some Trump administration officials in Washington who were unaware the orders were landing that night and were surprised by how quickly they were put together, according to two people familiar with the actions.

In the following days, a faction in the Trump administration began getting complaints from trade groups and U.S. businesses worried that a WeChat ban could be bad for business. Some began approaching Mnuchin and Commerce Department officials, who are charged with writing the rules of how to execute the order, pushing the department to walk back some of the most aggressive language in the executive orders.

"WeChat's communications and payment platforms are fundamental to communicating with and selling to China's 1.4 billion consumers," said Myron Brilliant, head of international affairs at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. "We continue to work with the Commerce Department and others in the administration to ensure this executive order does not kill American competitiveness in China."

When asked Friday if he was concerned the WeChat action could impact companies like Apple Inc., Trump responded, "Whatever." He told Bloomberg News: "You've got to do what's good in terms of the security of our country. We've been very badly let down by China." **BLOOMBERG**

China has cast the institutes as its own version of language and culture centers operated by the U.S., France, Germany, Britain and other nations, but controversially has sought to embed them in schools rather than having them operate independently.

The designation is the latest in a series of Trump administration decisions against China as tensions between the two nations rise over trade, technology, human rights and the coronavirus, which was first reported in Wuhan, China.

Last month, the U.S. ordered the Chinese Consulate in Houston to close, prompting China to shutter the American Consulate in the southwestern city of Chengdu in a tit-for-tat action that some have heralded as a sign of a new Cold War between the two.

The U.S. has also added Chinese state media to the list of organizations that should be considered "foreign missions" because of their ties to the Chinese government and Communist Party. The U.S. subsequently cut the number of Chinese reporters allowed in the country, to which China responded by expelling American reporters in China. **AP**

SHENZHEN FINDS NEW LOCAL COVID-19 CASES, SHUTTERS STORES

A supermarket worker in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen and five others tested positive for Covid-19, forcing the closure of some stores as officials act to damp a resurgence of the virus. A 41-year-old woman who sells yogurt at a supermarket run by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. in the tech boomtown was diagnosed with the illness after visiting a doctor on Wednesday, Shenzhen Municipal Health Commission said late Friday night. Five others who tested positive have yet to show any symptoms, local authorities said. Health authorities in the region have sealed off the supermarket and the residential compound the woman lives in. The Alibaba-backed supermarket operator Hema said on Saturday that it has shuttered 21 stores in the city to sterilize and test all its employees and fresh foods. The local government is providing free testing for anyone who has visited the market in the past four weeks. It isn't yet known how the supermarket worker contracted the virus.

HONG KONG CUTS ECONOMIC FORECAST TO RECORD LOW ON VIRUS

The Hong Kong government has revised its 2020 forecast for the city's economy to a record low range of -6% to -8% amid the global coronavirus pandemic and rising trade tensions. A decline to the upper end of the projected range would still surpass the previous record low contraction of -5.9% in 1998, according to data since at least 1962 compiled by Bloomberg. Hong Kong's economy has also never posted consecutive years of economic decline, the data show. Hong Kong's recession deepened further this year as the virus sapped tourism demand and local consumption following months of political unrest. The city now faces multiple headwinds including a recent third wave of virus infections, as well as growing concern over its future as an Asian financial hub after Beijing's imposition of a national security law.

CHINA PLANS TO EXPAND DIGITAL YUAN TESTS TO OTHER MAJOR CITIES

China has outlined plans for further tests of its digital currency initiative, now aiming for trials in areas including Beijing and Hong Kong. A digital renminbi trial will start in some of the country's most developed regions, the Commerce Ministry said in an announcement on Friday that didn't provide a timeline. Tests will take place in the area of northern China encompassing Beijing, coastal city Tianjin and Hebei Province; the city cluster in the Yangtze River Delta region including Shanghai; and the Greater Bay Area in the Pearl River Delta Region including Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Macau. The digital currency trials are part of a broader package of initiatives Beijing is rolling out to stimulate innovation and encourage further opening of its service sector. China has been ramping up plans and testing for the People's Bank of China digital currency in recent months, an initiative that some see as a threat to cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and even potentially someday to the U.S. dollar's dominance.

China attacks new US demand to register Confucius Institutes

CHINA accused the United States on Friday of trying to "demonize and stigmatize" relations between the two countries, in a scathing attack on the Trump administration's designation of Chinese-funded language and culture programs in the U.S. as foreign missions of the Chinese Communist Party.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said branches of the Confucius Institute U.S. Center operating at U.S. schools and colleges are a "bridge and link to help people from all over the world learn Chinese, understand China, and strengthen educational and cultural exchanges and cooperation between China and other countries."

Zhao said the accusations against the institutes were without basis and were motivated by "ideological prejudice and self-interest."

"The relevant U.S. approach is to demonize and stigmatize the normal operation of China-U.S. cooperation projects. We



strongly deplore and oppose it," Zhao said at a daily briefing. He said China would "reserve the right to make further responses to this matter."

The designation requires the Confucius Institute U.S. Center, based in Washington, to submit reports to the U.S. government about its funding, personnel, curriculum and other activities in the United States.

"We're not kicking them out. We're just highlighting the fact that these folks do work for the Ministry of Education of the [Chinese] Communist Party," As-

sistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs David Stilwell said in making the announcement Thursday.

About 500 kindergarten through 12th grade classrooms are affiliated with the Confucius Institute in the U.S., Stilwell said. The institute also operates on 65 U.S. campuses, less than before because some universities have closed the programs over concerns they were spreading Chinese government propaganda and interfering in academic independence over issues such as Hong Kong and Tibet.

COVID-19

South Korea reports 279 cases, most in five months

SOUTH Korea has reported 279 new coronavirus cases in the highest daily jump since early March, as fears grow about a massive outbreak in the greater capital region.

The figures released by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention yesterday brought the national caseload to 15,318, including 305 deaths.

The number of new cases is the highest since 367 on March 8, when the country was concentrating public health tools and personnel nationwide to bring an outbreak in the less populated southern region under control.

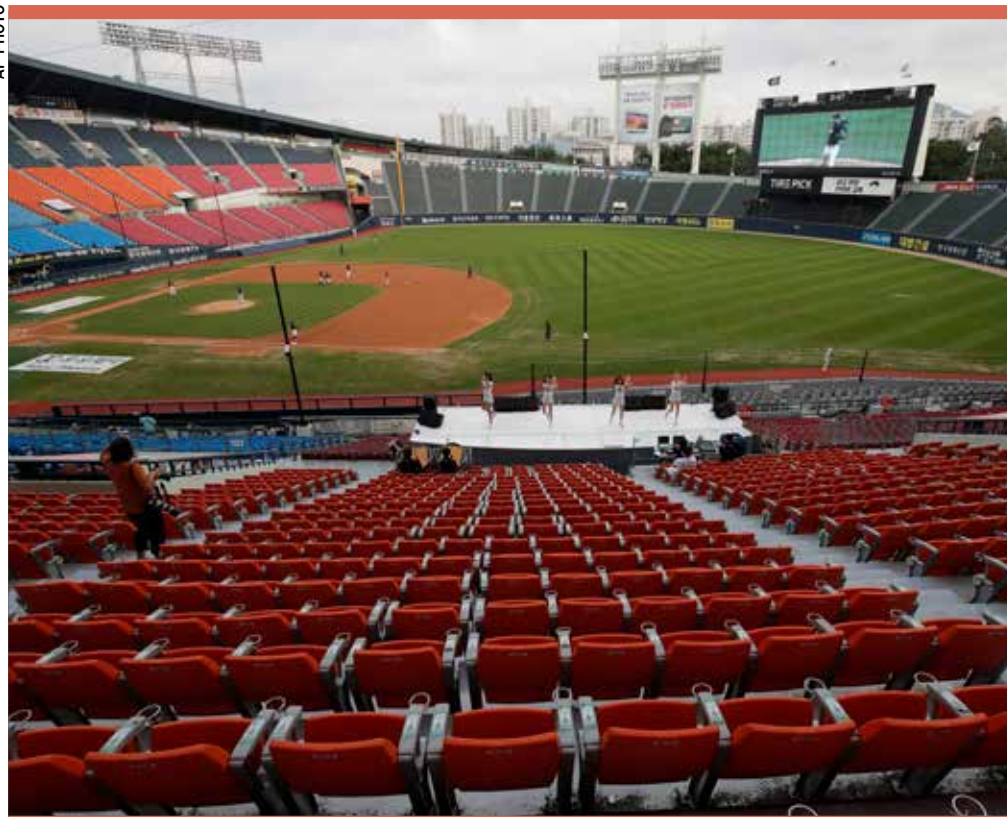
The KCDC said 253 of the new cases came from the Seoul metropolitan area, home to 26 million people, where health authorities have been struggling to stem transmissions linked to churches, nursing homes, schools, restaurants and door-to-door salespeople.

Infections were also reported in other major cities such as Busan and Daegu, which was the epicenter of the previous crisis in late February and March when hundreds of new cases were reported each day.

During a virus meeting, President Moon Jae-in called for "pan-national" efforts to slow the spread of the coronavirus in the capital region. He also instructed officials to review plans for sharing hospital capacities between Seoul and nearby towns to ensure swift transport of patients so that a spike of cases in one area doesn't overwhelm its hospital system.

Health Minister Park Neung-hoo urged people to stay home on Monday, a special holiday the government had drawn up with hopes of spurring domestic consumption, and for residents in Seoul and nearby Gyeonggi province to avoid visiting other parts of the country for two weeks.

The COVID-19 resurgence in a region with 10 times more people than Daegu is a rude awakening for a country that has been eager to tout its hard-won gains



against the virus.

There are concerns that the spread could worsen after thousands of anti-government protesters rallied in Seoul on Saturday despite official pleas to stay home. It appears the protests organized by conservative activist and church groups mainly involved people over 60, who are considered at higher risk for complications linked to COVID-19.

The government is pushing charges against an outspoken conservative pastor who participated in Saturday's marches along with his followers despite his northern Seoul church being tied to 249 COVID-19 infections as of yesterday afternoon.

Health Ministry official Son Young-rae said the pastor, Jun Kwang-hun, who has frequently led anti-Moon protests in downtown Seoul in past months, disrupted contact tracing efforts by falsely reporting the church's members and allegedly discouraging followers from getting tested. Health workers have so far tested 800 of the church's members and plan to test 3,000 more.

In other developments in the Asia-Pacific region:

— India's coronavirus fatalities neared 50,000 with 944 new deaths reported in the past 24 hours. India

now has the fourth-highest fatalities, behind the United States, Brazil and Mexico, according to Johns Hopkins University data. India's confirmed cases reached 2.58 million on yesterday with a spike of 63,490. August has seen a big spike in COVID-19 fatalities with more than a quarter of the country's total in the past 15 days. Meanwhile, India's recovery rate crossed 70%. Prime Minister Narendra Modi said Saturday that three vaccines are in different phases of testing and mass production will begin as soon as scientists give the green light.

— Australia's State of Victoria yesterday reported 16 deaths from COVID-19 and 279 new infections, continuing a downward trend over the past week. State Premier Daniel Andrews says the latest deaths included people in their 70s, 80s and 90s, 11 of whom in aged care. Andrews says he feels "cautious optimism" that the strict lockdown in Melbourne, Australia's second-largest city, and in rural Victoria is flattening the curve. He says the numbers are heading in the right direction. "I am and always was very cautious but there is on my part at least a cautious optimism and a sense of real hope that this strategy is working and that we are seeing numbers fall now."

— Health authorities reported 13 new cases of the coronavirus in New Zealand on Sunday, including 12 linked to an outbreak in the city of Auckland and one returning traveler who was already in quarantine. The outbreak in Auckland, discovered Tuesday, has prompted officials to put the nation's largest city back into a two-week lockdown. The outbreak has now grown to 49 infections, with authorities saying they believe all the cases are all connected, giving them hope the virus isn't spreading beyond that cluster. New Zealand had gone 102 days without community spread of the disease before the latest outbreak. Officials believe the virus was reintroduced to New Zealand from abroad but haven't yet been able to figure out how it happened.

— China reported 19 new cases of COVID-19 in the latest 24-hour period, bringing its official total to 84,827 since the pandemic started. Four cases were in the far west Xinjiang region, where a now-waning outbreak has infected more than 800 people over the past month. The other 15 were people who had arrived from overseas. China has seen a small uptick in such imported cases, reporting 144 in the past week. AP

this day in history

1998 CLINTON ADMITS LEWINSKY AFFAIR



President of the United States Bill Clinton has admitted having an inappropriate relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

In a televised address Mr Clinton told the American people that he took full responsibility for his actions.

He said: "Indeed I did have a relationship with Ms Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong."

Aides close to the president now hope the confession will bring an end to the investigation into Mr Clinton's affairs, brought by independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

Mr Starr's four-year inquiry began as an investigation into land deals by Hillary and Bill Clinton when he was governor of Arkansas.

It moved onto his personal life when Mr Starr began to investigate allegations that Mr Clinton had had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky and then lied about it under oath in a sexual harassment case brought by Paula Jones in 1994.

The president's confession follows months of denial. On 26 January this year, Mr Clinton categorically denied having sexual relations with Miss Lewinsky.

Appearing serious and contrite, Mr Clinton told the American people: "I misled people, including my wife. I deeply regret that."

He concluded: "This matter is between me, the two people I love most - my wife and my daughter - and our God."

He said he had not come clean earlier because he was embarrassed but he denied he had asked anyone to lie about the relationship.

He also criticised Mr Starr and the investigation, which so far has cost £25m.

On 6 August this year Ms Lewinsky told the jury that she had an 18-month sexual relationship with the President and that the pair had discussed ways of concealing the relationship.

She also presented one of her dresses as evidence, stating it had been stained with Mr Clinton's semen during one of their sexual encounters.

If it is proved that he lied he faces possible impeachment hearings on Capitol Hill.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 21 September President Clinton's Grand Jury testimony was released to the public.

On 9 December 1998 the House Judiciary Committee proposed four articles of impeachment against the president.

Ten days later - after a bitter debate between republicans and democrats - the House of Representatives voted to confirm the recommendation.

Bill Clinton became only the second president in American history to face such an indictment, but he refused to resign.

His trial began on 7 January 1999 and ended on 12 February when senators voted to acquit him of the impeachment charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Things have been moving so quickly that you need to do something physical to release your tension. You can get phenomenal returns if you present your ideas to those who can back your interests.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 You are best to do something energetic with friends instead. Be discreet with private information. Pleasure trips will promote romance. Unexpected bills will be impossible for you to pay.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 It's doubtful anyone will try to stand in your way or cut you off at the pass today. Your creative talent may well be recognized by others today. You can purchase items that will enhance your appearance.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Your partner may make you feel jealous and unloved. You will be able to enlist the help of colleagues who believe in your ideas. Put your thoughts into action.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Your family may be feeling neglected and unloved. Ask family members for help and you will be able to complete the projects more quickly. Romantic encounters will develop through group activity.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You need to spend time with friends and family. You may want to sign up for courses that will encourage you to have more confidence in yourself. You can make reasonable bids on real estate.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Organize your day well if you wish to accomplish all you set out to do. You can enjoy the company of others and come in contact with an ideal mate, if you get out and mingle.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Encourage the youngsters in your family. A friendship might suffer if money becomes an issue. You may not have the same ideas when it comes to what you both enjoy.

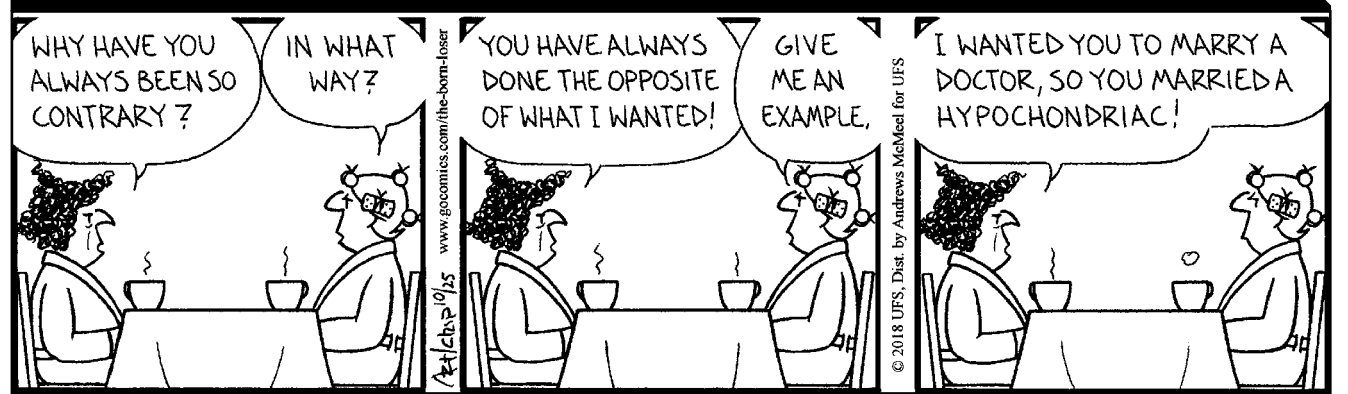
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 You are best to ask questions if you aren't certain about issues that are confronting you. Work quietly behind the scenes for best results. Do not let in-laws upset you.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 You could do extremely well in competitive sports events. Be aware that you might be at fault as well. Relatives may play an important role in your social activities.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 You haven't been totally honest with yourself and it's time to review your motives. You will be confused about the intentions of someone you work with. Deception will play an important factor in relationships.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Go out with friends and avoid the situation on the home front. Spend time getting into physical activities with your lover. A series of misunderstandings may be at fault.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

MEDIUM					HARD					
3		8			2	5		7	3	
	2	6	1	8			1			
9		4	5		1		8	7	4	
6	8			9	3			3		
		3	9	2		7		3	5	
3		7	2		4	2				
	6	1			1				6	
		5		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- Uses a shuttle; 5- Dad; 9- Former Russian rulers; 14- Gillette brand; 15- Primer pet; 16- The number system with base 8; 17- Unit of currency in Iran and Yemen; 18- Air; 20- Horrify; 22- Arafat's org.; 23- Require; 24- Food critic Sheraton; 26- Capital of Peru; 28- Medieval church; 32- Meal; 36- Leave speechless; 37- Digression; 39- Pomme or manzana; 40- Judge's seat; 42- Informs; 44- Rise sharply, as a bird would; 45- Burning desire?; 47- Bingo!; 49- "ER" extras; 50- Appeared; 52- Hair clasp; 54- Milne creation; 56- Incursion; 57- Peek follower; 60- _____ Cruces, NM; 62- Having a sharp tip; 66- Howard Baker, politically; 69- Edible corn; 70- New Brunswick neighbor; 71- Cabbagelike plant; 72- Scent; 73- Jacket material; 74- Orenburg's river; 75- Charge per unit;

DOWN: 1- Skater Lipinski; 2- Take _____ from me; 3- Two-wheeled carriage, golf bunker; 4- Italian sausage; 5- Writer of Hebrew prayers; 6- Liable; 7- Splendor; 8- Coral island; 9- Outdo; 10- Intoxicating liquor; 11- To _____ (perfectly); 12- Steak order; 13- Hill toy; 19- French evening; 21- Country singer McCann; 25- More aloof; 27- Give _____ break; 28- Rum cakes; 29- Onto; 30- Have a feeling about; 31- Wing it; 33- To the left, at sea; 34- Slope; 35- Pithy; 38- "Pomp and Circumstance" composer; 41- Composite; 43- Artillery fragments; 46- Classical starter; 48- Tom, Dick and Harry, e.g.; 51- Barbie, e.g.; 53- Magazine VIP; 55- Japanese three-line verse; 57- Weaponry; 58- Boyfriend; 59- Mayberry moppet; 61- Operation memento; 63- Zip; 64- Horse's gait; 65- Long ago; 67- Fuzzy buzzer; 68- _____ cart;

Friday's solution

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

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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
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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>Jade Garden- Spacious Family Home, Taipa HK\$18,000,000 3,180 ft² 4 3 3</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Ocean Garden, Taipa- Sakura Court \$35,000/mth 3,700 ft² 4 4 4</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Macau] Apartment Historical Centre 2 1 1 1 840 ft² \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)</p> <p>[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1 1 2 1 1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 1 1 2 1 1,269 ft² \$11,800,000 (ref: 19070000)</p> <p>[Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom 2 1 1 3 1 2 1 2,530 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096000)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Taipa] Studio apartment 1 1 1 1 650 ft² \$9,000/mth (ref: 20061003)</p> <p>[Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 1 1 1 600 ft² \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1 1 1 710 ft² \$20,460/mth (ref: 20021002)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 1 1 2 1 1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p>	<p>jml 卓雅物業 property since 1994</p> <p>(853) 2835 2699 hello@jmlproperty.com www.jmlproperty.com</p> <p>f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty</p>
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FACEBOOK SAYS APPLE IN-APP FEES HURT BUSINESSES DURING COVID

KURT WAGNER

FACEBOOK Inc. joined a growing list of developers to publicly criticize Apple Inc. over its revenue-sharing policy for in-app purchases, suggesting the iPhone maker's fee structure is hurting small businesses during a global pandemic.

The social network on Friday rolled out a paid events feature in 20 countries, offering businesses the ability to charge users for access to live video streams, like a yoga class or seminar. Facebook said that Apple didn't agree to waive its usual 30% fee for all transactions that take place within apps on its devices, and won't let Facebook process the payments using its own technology for iOS users.

Alphabet Inc.'s Google didn't waive its 30% fee on its Android mobile operating system, either, though the internet search giant will let Facebook process payments through its own product to avoid those costs, said Fidji Simo, the executive running Facebook's main app. Facebook won't take a cut of revenue generated from the feature, she said.

"We went through our usual channels to suggest strongly to them to waive their fee or to let us use Facebook Pay - one of the two - and they declined," Simo said about Apple in an interview. Simo called Apple an important partner, and said Facebook relies on Apple's App Store to distribute its own apps, while noting the company disagrees with Apple's revenue structure.



BLOOMBERG

"Helping small businesses recover from Covid is a critical thing that all tech companies should help with," she said. "The reason we're calling them out here is we hope they join us and end up waving their fees, so that's really the goal here."

Apple didn't respond to requests for comment.

Facebook's complaints come a day after Epic Games Inc., the creator of Fortnite, sued Apple and Google after both companies removed Fortnite from their respective app stores over a payment dispute. Epic tried to circumvent Apple and Google's in-app payments systems to lower costs by avoiding the 30% in-app

fee, which was a violation of each company's rules.

Apple gets its 30% commission for digital goods, but doesn't take a cut for facilitating the purchase of services like in-person classes or ride sharing, as the company requires developers to let users pay with a credit card. Now that in-person business has gone virtual due to the pandemic, Apple's rules let it charge the fee through its payment network. These App Store charges have been a focus of regulatory inquiries about the company's market power. At a July antitrust hearing in U.S. Congress, Apple Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook said, "we will work with people that happen to

move from a physical to a virtual world because of the pandemic."

Facebook and Apple have openly criticized one another multiple times in recent years, with Apple working to limit the data Facebook can gather from iOS devices and positioning itself as a stronger advocate for user privacy. In 2018, Cook criticized Facebook's targeted advertising business model, saying that Apple "could make a ton of money if we monetized our customer - if our customer was our product." Shortly after Facebook's Cambridge Analytica scandal, when asked what he would do if he were Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Cook re-

plied, "I wouldn't be in this situation."

Zuckerberg responded by criticizing Apple's expensive phones and fees. "I think it's important that we don't all get Stockholm syndrome and let the companies that work hard to charge you more convince you that they actually care more about you," he told Vox's Ezra Klein. "Because that sounds ridiculous to me."

In early 2019, Apple temporarily cut access to Facebook's internal apps, creating chaos at the company, after the social network violated Apple's App Store guidelines.

Facebook has long been wary of Apple and Google, since it must follow each company's respective rules in order to operate in their app stores. It's one of the reasons Facebook has started to build its own hardware devices, and why it's working on software programs for augmented reality and virtual reality. Simo said Friday that Facebook is willing to play by Apple's rules even if the company disagrees with them. "When developers go circumvent the rules on alternative payment methods, it doesn't go well," she said.

Facebook has been pushing more aggressively into live video features given the widespread impact of the coronavirus, which has forced people indoors and online. Simo said Facebook had twice as many Facebook Live videos in June as it did one year ago. Facebook's paid events feature was highlighted by Zuckerberg on the company's first-quarter earnings call in late April, and has been in testing. Facebook is considering expanding paid events to its videoconferencing feature, called Rooms, and also to its Instagram photo-sharing app. **BLOOMBERG**

Elite Thai visa program aims to lure expats seeking virus haven

NATNICA CHUWIRUCH

THAILAND'S "pay to stay" visa program for wealthy foreigners is seeing an expansion opportunity, with visions of the country becoming a haven for expats thanks to its relative success in containing the coronavirus.

The Thailand Elite Card is a residential-visa program for affluent expats, investors and long-stay groups. Membership, which ranges from 500,000 baht to 2 million baht (\$16,000 to \$64,000), provides for a renewable five-year visa. It also comes with perks, which at the top end include limousine transport, jet and yacht charters, medical



BLOOMBERG

checkups and golf at championship courses in Bangkok, Phuket and Pattaya.

With borders currently closed and global travel at a near standstill, this would seem like the worst possi-

le time for a visa program. But Thailand Elite, which has been around for 17 years, is holding up during the pandemic. It forecasts 2,288 new enrollees in the fiscal year through Sep-

tember, up 6.8% from the previous year, and revenue is seen climbing 7.7% to 1.4 billion baht.

Expats already living in the country on other types of visas have accounted for 70% of subscriptions this year, having concluded that it's better than dealing with one-year work, retirement or marriage permits that often require multiple trips to government offices, lawyers and fixed-deposits in local banks.

"We have refocused our business by targeting people who are within the country, want to stay for the long-term and are not confident of the virus situation back in their home countries," said Somchai

Soongswang, president of the card's state-controlled operator, Thailand Privilege Card Co., in an interview.

The possibilities of attracting subscribers outside of Thailand are currently limited because of the tight border controls, but Somchai believes there's a growing market of people abroad who want a safe, comfortable home, with Thailand being a good choice.

Thailand is heavily dependent on tourism, and virus containment measures have taken a heavy toll on the economy, with expectations it will shrink by 8.5% this year.

With its coronavirus situation relatively under

control - it has about 3,400 cases, and has been free of local transmissions since May 26 - Thailand has been exploring ways to ease restrictions.

Currently, mainland Chinese account for about a quarter of Thailand Elite cardholders. The company will make another push to attract overseas markets in 2021, expecting that's when border restrictions will be eased. Hong Kong and Australia residents are potential customers, Somchai said.

Membership is essentially open to anyone who is looking for a long-term stay and is willing to "contribute to the economy," he said. **BLOOMBERG**

FOOTBALL

Müller tops 7-1 Brazil rout with 8-2 Barcelona thrashing

THOMAS Müller is one player who can talk with authority about two of soccer's most shocking results in recent history.

He was there when Germany stunned Brazil 7-1 in the semifinals of the 2014 World Cup, and he was there again on Friday when Bayern Munich routed Barcelona 8-2 in the quarterfinals of the Champions League.

Not only that, he also played a key role in both results by opening the scoring early in both matches.

Müller's 11th-minute goal put Germany en route to the thrashing of Brazil six years ago at the Mineirão Stadium, and his fourth-minute strike on Friday put Bayern on its way to the stunning win over Barcelona at the Stadium of Light. He also scored in the 31st minute in the Champions League quarterfinal.

The victory in Brazil led Germany to the World Cup final and the world title against Lionel Messi's Argentina. The win against Messi's Barcelona put Bayern in



Bayern's Thomas Mueller seen during the Champions League quarterfinal match

the Champions League semifinal against either Manchester City or Lyon, which play later Saturday.

The performance against Barcelona impressed Müller the most.

"In the win in Brazil, we didn't have the same amount of control. Yes, we were good, but tonight [Friday] the way we dominated the game was ruthless," Müller

said. "It was a special night. We wanted to overwhelm them from the start, just like we have been doing in recent months.

"Obviously you can never shut off against a team like Barça, but we were dominant," the 30-year-old Müller said. "Especially off the ball. It's a big statement, but it's the way we played as a team that really makes me happy."

Müller wasn't the only one present in both historic games. Bayern goalkeeper Manuel Neuer and defender Jérôme Boateng also were in the Germany team against Brazil, and Bayern coach Hansi Flick was an assistant to Joachim Löw in the 2014 World Cup.

"We were relentless," Neuer said. "We continued to attack.

Obviously Barcelona are strong in attack and can score goals, but we kept going and didn't let up. We wanted to score goals, and succeeded."

Both Brazil and Barcelona were utterly overwhelmed early on. Brazil was losing 5-0 by the 29th minute in the city of Belo Horizonte, while the Catalan club was losing 4-1 by the 31st in Lisbon. None had answers for the high pressure and high intensity brought on by their German opponents.

Messi was covering his face in despair early in the first half in Lisbon as it became clear that Barcelona's ball-possession style had no chance against Bayern's more vertical and aggressive approach.

"The way they maintained such a high intensity over 90 minutes was sensational," Flick said. "That's our mentality, it's what we're all about. We knew we'd force the errors if we put them under pressure. We wanted to exploit that, and it couldn't have worked out better."

Barcelona and Brazil made uncharacteristic defensive mistakes under pressure and both looked stunned by the obvious superiority of their rivals. Brazil looked done after going down 5-0, as did Barcelona after falling behind 4-1, with the players' attitudes on the field indicating they had given up. **MDT/AP**

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OPINION

World Views

Noah Smith, Bloomberg

SUBURBS CAN WOO CITY PEOPLE BY BEING MORE CITY-LIKE

America's urban landscape is on the cusp of change. As big cities struggle, suburbs and smaller cities have a chance to win over fleeing workers, boosting their tax bases. But in order to be attractive places to live, they'll have to look a bit more city-like.

Many big U.S. cities were already struggling before the pandemic struck. Powerful local homeowners known as NIMBYs blocked new development and transit, making urban cores less affordable and less convenient, and slowing the urban influx that began around 1990. Now Covid-19 is hitting big cities the hardest:

Meanwhile, the pandemic may convince companies that remote work is an acceptable and productive way to manage large portions of their workforces. Crime is also increasing in large cities, while the rise of dating apps and other social technologies is making suburban life more fun. All this means the centers of New York City, San Francisco, and other so-called superstar cities may lose population in the decade to come.

Where will the people go? Most city dwellers don't enjoy life in rural areas or small towns. So they'll probably move to the same sorts of places they moved last time people fled city centers en masse: to the suburbs.

But "the suburbs" won't mean exactly what it meant in the 1970s. Then, the term conjured visions of malls, single-family houses separated by broad lawns, and homogeneous White populations. In order to attract today's urbanites, suburbs will have to offer something a bit different.

Most importantly, they'll have to become denser. Without new housing construction, attractive suburbs will suffer the same fate as superstar cities — rising rents and displacement. Newcomers will be accused of gentrification and pitted against long-term residents in a bitter zero-sum game.

In earlier eras, it was possible for suburbs to grow through sprawl, but this process has now probably reached its limit in most locations. Building further out would make it too unpleasant to drive to workplaces, retail, entertainment, or other destinations.

The way forward, then, is for suburbs to build more dense housing. Fortunately, this is a lot easier to do in capacious, sprawling suburbs than in the middle of Manhattan. It would be easy to change single-family zoning rules to allow pockets of denser housing throughout suburbs. These wouldn't be towering skyscrapers, but duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes, row-houses, in-law units, and small apartment complexes.

Suburbs will also have to become more fun and vibrant. Dating apps and social networks make it easier for people to meet, but they still need somewhere to go besides their own houses. Downtown areas with restaurants, bars, dance clubs, parks, and shop-lined streets all provide more attractive destinations than the old suburban attractions of malls and strip-malls.

Finally, suburbs should offer some transit options. Cars will probably continue to be the main mode of transportation, especially as electric or even self-driving vehicles become more common. But a good bus and light rail network will help keep the roads from getting clogged, while a commuter rail stop will let suburban residents venture into a nearby larger city without jamming up the highways.

In other words, suburbs need to become just a bit more urban. In doing this, they'll transform metropolitan areas from hub-and-spoke arrangements into true modern polycentric cities. This will realize the old and long-frustrated dream of the New Urbanist movement. But it's not just a plan for pleasant blends of urban and suburban life — it's a way smaller outlying towns can exercise smart growth and enjoy their day in the sun. [Abridged]

The Chinese army has released footage of its Hong Kong garrison firing cannons and torpedoes in a drill in the South China Sea amid rising tensions between Beijing and Washington over the status of the former British colony.

The People's Liberation Army recently tested the weaponry, including a torpedo launch from the vessel Huizhou that successfully hit its target, according to a Weibo post by CCTV on Sunday.

The exercise follows the deployment by the U.S. Navy of a carrier strike group to the area to conduct maritime air-defense operations.

The PLA's one and a half minute video captures the army's reaction to an order to attack an enemy submarine. The exercise also included helicopter operations, anti-terrorism and anti-piracy drills, and emergency rescue training, according to the Weibo post.

CAMPUS-BASED THAI PROTEST MOVEMENT EXTENDS REACH TO STREETS



AP PHOTO

Pro-democracy students raise three-fingers, symbol of resistance salute, during a rally in Bangkok

ANTI-GOVERNMENT Protesters gathered in large numbers in Thailand's capital yesterday for a rally that suggested their movement's strength may have extended beyond the college campuses where it has blossomed.

Thousands of people assembled at Bangkok's Democracy Monument, a traditional venue for political activities. Hundreds of police were also present, as well as a small contingent of royalists opposed to the protesters. There was no reliable estimate of the crowd size, though it appeared to be one of the biggest demonstrations in several years.

The student-led movement has three core demands: holding new elections, amending the constitution and ending the intimidation of critics of the government.

"It is clear that students from several generations are the driving force of change in Thai society," said Narin Isariyasith, a 20-year-old student at Thammasat University.

"We have done this in the past, but Thailand still has no full democracy," he said. "Dictatorship keeps coming back. And I think it is our duty to end this vicious cycle."

Thailand has experienced a successful coup roughly every six years on average since the army

toppled the absolute monarchy in 1932 and replaced it with a constitutional monarchy. But it has been under military rule for much of the time since then.

As the army chief in 2014, current Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha led a coup ousting an elected government. He then served as prime minister in the military regime that succeeded it, and returned as premier after a general election last year. Laws guiding the 2019 election were widely seen as so heavily rigged in Prayuth's favor that victory was all but guaranteed.

Protest leaders triggered controversy last week when they expanded their agenda, publicly criticizing Thailand's constitutional monarchy and issuing a 10-point manifesto calling for its reform.

Their action was virtually unprecedented, as the monarchy is considered sacrosanct in Thailand, and any criticism is normally kept private. A lese majeste law calls for a prison sentence of three to 15 years for anyone found guilty of defaming the royal institution.

Police have arrested several protest leaders and charged them with sedition for statements made at a small rally in July. They were released on bail and vowed to attend

yesterday's rally, in what appeared to be defiance of the terms of their release.

It has been unclear how the escalation of the activists' demands to include the monarchy has affected the popularity of the movement, since it could alienate some followers or make them fearful that the authorities will crack down heavily on them.

The sensitivity of the issue was illustrated by the failure of most mainstream Thai media to report in any detail on the students' manifesto about the monarchy.

The government may also be faced with a dilemma, since it is committed to defending the royal institution but likely wary of acting with too heavy a hand that might tilt public support to the protesters.

Prime Minister Prayuth's government has done well in coping with the health aspects of the coronavirus, but its management of the economy had been lackluster even before COVID-19 battered it.

Royalists have responded to the student movement by defending the monarchy in online statements and petitions, and in person with a small presence adjacent to Sunday's rally. They declared earlier that they were there to observe and bear witness to any insults to the monarchy. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

Germany Hundreds of police officers searched shisha bars, tea houses and illegal gambling halls across western Germany yesterday. The officers confiscated \$40,000 in cash, 19 gambling machines and three kilograms of shisha tobacco, the German news agency dpa reported. Eleven stores were shut down because of violations against coronavirus measures.



AP PHOTO

Italy produced 10% less garbage during its coronavirus lockdown, but environmentalists warn that increased reliance on disposable masks and packaging is imperiling efforts to curb single-use plastics that end up in oceans and seas. Italian researchers estimate that during the peak months of Italy's lockdown in March and April, urban waste production fell by 500,000 tons.



AP PHOTO

South Sudan In crowded camps, former enemies are meant to be joining forces after a five-year civil war so they can help the shattered country recover. But they can barely find enough food. It's meant to be a major step in the 2018 peace deal ending the war that killed nearly 400,000 people.



AP PHOTO

South Africa The grounded Japanese ship that leaked tons of oil near protected areas off the Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius has split apart, officials said Saturday, with remaining fuel spreading into the turquoise waters. Photos posted on social media by the official cleanup effort with support of the environment ministry show the ship in two pieces. Oil barriers were in place and a skimmer ship was nearby.