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**MACAU AND ZHUHAI OFFICIALS
DECLINE TO MAKE ANY PREDICTIONS
INVOLVING CROSS-BORDER
MOVEMENTS OVER GOLDEN WEEK** P4

**NEW HENGQIN PORT
OPENS TO PUBLIC** P2

**MUST RESEARCHERS MADE A
BREAKTHROUGH IN GENETICS,
SHOWING SOME PEOPLE ARE MORE
SUSCEPTIBLE TO DIABETES** P5

AP PHOTO



South Korean health workers have found more than 600 coronavirus infections linked to a Seoul church led by ultra-right pastor, Jun Kwang-hun, a vocal opponent of the country's president as officials began restricting gatherings in the greater capital area amid fears that transmissions are getting out of control.

AP PHOTO



India reported 1,092 new fatalities from COVID-19 yesterday and the third-most cases, with over 2.7 million — including more than 64,000 new infections reported. The actual numbers, like elsewhere in the world, are thought to be far higher due to limited testing. Four of India's 28 states now account for 63% of total fatalities and 54.6% of the caseload.

Australia has a deal to manufacture and distribute a potential coronavirus vaccine being developed by British-Swedish pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca. "Under the deal, every single Australian will be able to receive the University of Oxford COVID-19 vaccine for free, should trials prove successful, safe and effective," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said in a statement.

New Zealand appeared to be gaining control over a coronavirus outbreak in Auckland after just five new community infections were reported yesterday. A sixth infection was found in a quarantined traveler who had returned from Qatar. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern (pictured) said 500 more military personnel would be deployed to quarantine hotels as the nation looks to reduce the number of private security guards it employs and tighten its border controls.

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XINHUA

TYPHOON SCARE

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DRIVER FLEES SCENE AFTER COLLIDING WITH MOTORBIKES

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has reported a motor accident where the responsible driver fled the scene. According to the PSP, the incident was reported at 1 a.m. on Tuesday when typhoon signal No. 8 had just been hoisted. A witness saw a private car pass by Avenida de Artur Tamagnini Barbosa, near Nam Wai Kwok, and then crash into five motorbikes that were parked on one side of the road. Each parking separator was completely destroyed and all five motorbikes were severely damaged. However, the driver responsible for the collision left the scene immediately. As of Tuesday, PSP officers were still trying to identify the person.

RESTAURANT WORKER ACCUSED OF ILLEGAL SIDE WORK

A non-local worker has been accused of illegal work after he was found delivering take-away food for his employer, a local restaurant. The Public Security Police Force (PSP) officers found the man on early morning of August 11 during a spot inspection. The suspect was riding his motorbike when he was intercepted. His blue-card states that he is a laborer at the restaurant where, more precisely, he runs errands. The police officers found a number of takeaway boxes on his motorbike and suspected that he was delivering food, which was believed to be incoherent with his registered job type. During police interrogation, the worker revealed that the manager of his restaurant had requested that he deliver the food to one location. The man's statement was later confirmed by his employer.

SEXAGENARIAN MAN CAUGHT FOR FUND APPROPRIATION

A 61-year-old local man was apprehended by the Judiciary Police on suspicion of appropriating HKD200,000 from his younger brother to settle his own gambling debts. The police disclosed that the victim has been declared incapable of managing his assets by a Court of Law, because of his severe physical disabilities. He therefore has a guardian to manage his affairs. The suspect is his legal guardian. This April, two female friends of the victim suspected the money was transferred to the suspect's personal account and reported it to the police. After questioning, the suspect confessed to the crime.

NEW HENGQIN PORT OPENS TO PUBLIC

JULIE ZHU

The new Hengqin border checkpoint officially opened to the public on Tuesday after an opening ceremony organized by the Macau SAR government and the Zhuhai government.

Named Hengqin Port, the checkpoint has an annual capacity of 80 million crossings, or 220,000 per day.

Hengqin Port is an integrated border boundary project containing immigration facilities for both Zhuhai and Macau. The previous facility was a building that held only Zhuhai's immigration checkpoints, which were separated from Macau's border crossing channels by a 1,756-meter-long bridge.

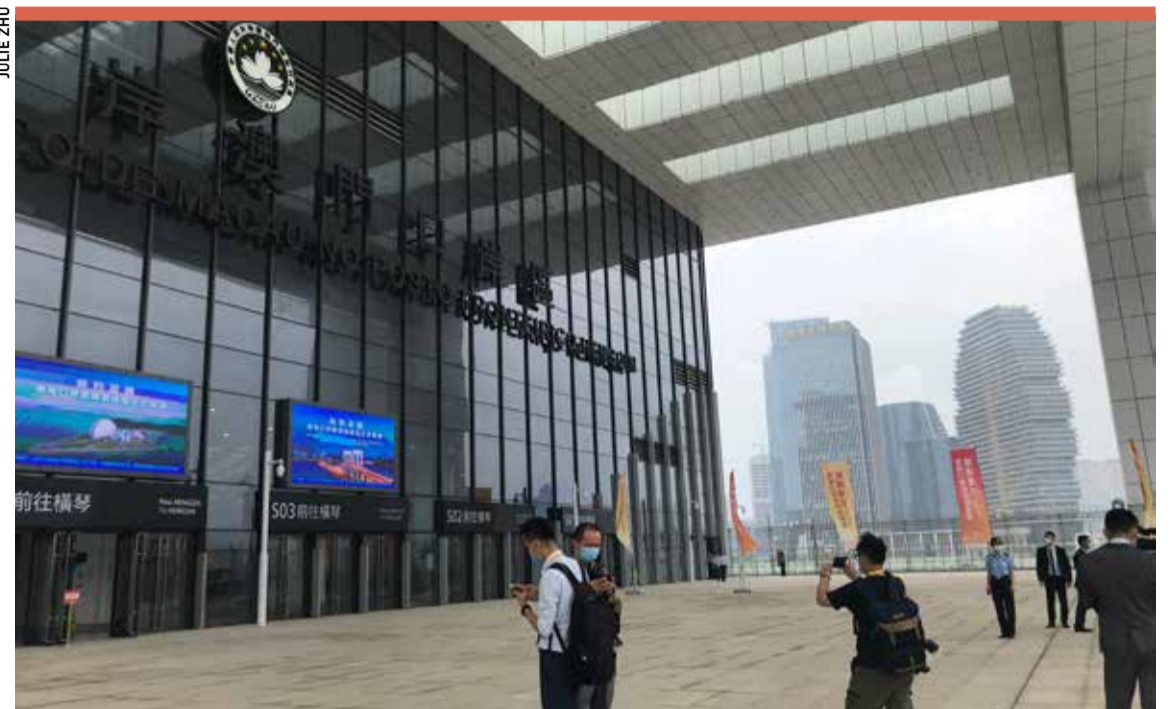
The new port means that Macau has gained a temporarily extended piece of territory, the Lotus Bridge, which was previously under no explicit jurisdiction. Macau will use the former Cotai Frontier (commonly known as Lotus Bridge Checkpoint) for other purposes, such as recreational spaces.

The Macau police authority is operating 35 departure checkpoints and 34 arrival checkpoints. There are eight temporary checkpoints for cars. For now, the new port does not have checkpoints for trucks.

Last year, the Lotus Bridge Checkpoint recorded a total of 9.78 million crossings, the least among all of the city's immigration facilities. One quarter of the crossings between Macau and other places were made at the Border Gate, which recorded 145 million crossings in 2019.

Hengqin Port will operate 24 hours a day.

On the Macau side, there are three buses currently stopping at the new port facility. On the Zhuhai side, there are 27 buses and 9,300 square meters for hos-



ting 150 taxis. Within 800 meters of the port, there are 11,474 parking spots available for the public on Zhuhai side, 3,625 of which are in Hengqin Port.

During a media tour, representatives of Macau's immigration authority, customs authority and health authority briefed the local press on the immigration process.

Once finished with checkpoint procedures on the Macau side, passengers will immediately enter an Audiovisual Monitoring Area.

The new port will implement the same policies as the Macau-Zhuhai border of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB). Having said that, it

means that the facilities installed inside the building are similar to those at the HKZMB. There are three types of checkpoint: joint automated inspection channels, joint manual inspection channels and manual inspection channels.

There are some minor differences between the new facility's checkpoint channels and those in other ports. In the new port, not only can Macau and mainland residents use automated channels to cross the border, Hong Kong residents and Taiwan residents can too.

The new port also has an accessible channel for vulnerable individuals.

Before the new Hengqin Port

was built, people with disabilities, children under three years old and people over the age of 65 were the only groups who could use the priority lane.

According to representatives of the Public Security Police (PSP), both sides' immigration authorities have reduced the minimum age for the priority lane to 60 years old at the new Hengqin Port.

In addition, the new Hengqin Port has spaces for passengers to line up in front of the checkpoints.

The new port has set up queues using automated fences. The fences can change between four modes, depending on the number of passengers.

New border building damaged by Higos

A picture went viral on social media yesterday, depicting parts of the roof of the new Hengqin border checkpoint building reportedly damaged by typhoon Higos.

The new building was officially opened and

handed to Macau for daily operation administration on Tuesday. That same night, the Pearl River Estuary, on which both Macau and Zhuhai sit, saw its strongest tropical cyclone so far this year.

Hengqin is a district

in Zhuhai and is managed by the city as set out in the administrative tree of the People's Republic of China.

As of press time yesterday, neither the Macau nor the Zhuhai government had confirmed or denied the

damage. In addition, they have not announced whether the damage, if real, will have any impact on the checkpoint's operation.

In response to the influx of tourists since the handover - which has brought regular con-

gestion on major holidays to the old Lotus Border checkpoint building - the new building was built and handed over to Macau. It was designed with a capacity of 222,000 users per day and 80 million per year. **AL**

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Macau spared from severe damage as typhoon Higos sweeps through

RENATO MARQUES

MACAU has been spared from severe damage, injuries, and casualties during the overnight passage of typhoon Higos. Although many incidents were reported and account for some property damage, the category 10 typhoon found Macau otherwise well prepared.

According to the Civil Protection Operations Centre (COPC), until 11:45 a.m. yesterday, 274 incidents related to the passing of the typhoon had been recorded, the large majority (138) related to the imminent danger of falling concrete from buildings, as well as advertising signs and boards, windows, canopies and other hanging objects falling.

The COPC also reported of a total of 61 items falling, including construction materials, street lamps, trees, 16 scaffolding structures, cranes, and other structures related to construction sites, among other minor incidents.

A large number of vehicles have also been affected, although no figure has been disclosed at this point.

In a short tour around Macau, the Times observed that a large number of motorcycles parked in street parking areas have fallen under the strength of the winds.

Several fences, banners, and billboards have also been damaged and debris consisting of metal pieces, shattered glass, and personal objects could be found on the streets of Macau.



The COPC was in operation for a total period of 15 hours starting from 8:30 p.m. on August 18, when the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) raised the storm surge warning level from "yellow" to "orange," forecasting the occurrence of flooding in low-lying areas of the city of up to 1.5 meters.

According to a report from the Unitary Police Services (SPU), the operational team responsible for the evacuation of residents living in areas most at risk of flooding, evacuated a total of 3,338 homes and 2,722 residents from such areas to safe locations.

The SPU also noted that a total

of 192 people requested help and were lodged in the 17 emergency shelters. Of those, 93 were local residents, 80 were tourists from the mainland, three tourists from Hong Kong and 16 tourists from other undisclosed places.

The Health Bureau has also reported attending to 15 people with injuries caused by the tropical storm. From those, three cases were considered medium level injuries and 12 minor injuries. None of the cases is considered to pose any life-threatening risk to the people.

Typhoon signals of 8 or higher were in place for a period of exactly 12 hours from 11:30 p.m.

on August 18 until 11:30 a.m. on August 19, when the SMG lowered the warning signal to level 3, giving way to the resumption of the city's normal activities.

According to the weather authority, the typhoon made landfall on the western side of neighboring Zhuhai, near the Chinese city's airport, at around 6 a.m. yesterday morning.

Meanwhile, several transportation-related measures were adopted during the passage of typhoon, as per the city's standard response to such weather events.

The three bridges connecting Macau and Taipa, and the Lotus

Bridge, which links Macau to Hengqin, were closed at 1 a.m. on August 19.

The lower deck of the Sai Van Bridge opened to the public half an hour earlier at 12:30 a.m. However, with the hoisting of typhoon signal 9 (at 2:30 a.m.) and the high possibility of the signal 10 being raised (which occurred at 5 a.m.), the lower deck of the bridge was closed, suspending any connection between the peninsula and Taipa Island.

The three bridges reopened to traffic at 11:30 a.m. on August 19 after the replacement of the typhoon signal 8 with signal 3, at which time the public buses also resumed operation.

Air traffic registered less disruption than normal. With the large majority of air traffic suspended due to the restrictions associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the passage of Higos caused one flight delay, and eight flight cancellations, which will be rescheduled as soon as possible, according to the Civil Aviation Authority.

As for passengers traveling through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and new Hengqin Island border posts, the operation of such immigration checkpoints was suspended on August 19, at 12:00 a.m. and 12:40 a.m., respectively.

Due to the adverse weather, the land border posts between Macau and Zhuhai remained closed at 6 a.m.. The border posts of the Border Gate and the Trans-border Industrial Park, at Ilha Verde, reopened at 10 a.m.

Falling hotel ceiling injures three at integrated resort

AN incident related to a falling piece of ceiling at a Macau integrated resort has injured three people, according to a report by the Fire Services Bureau.

At 4 a.m. yesterday, the bureau received a report from security at Galaxy Hotel regarding an accident.

A piece of the ceiling in the Crystal Lobby of Galaxy Hotel had fallen and injured three people. The three victims are all men: two non-local

workers and one local resident. The falling ceiling debris came from the secondary ceiling hanging below the real one.

The injured people said that they were carrying out an examination of some fences, according to a report by TDM.

The trio sustained injuries on their chests, knees and hip. They were delivered to Centro Hospitalar Conde de So Januário (CHCSJ) and were in stable conditions.

The Meteorological

and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) raised typhoon signal 8 at 11:30 p.m. Tuesday night. Signal 9 was issued at 2:30 a.m. yesterday morning. The incident happened while signal 9 was still in effect.

"After receiving the news, the relevant departments immediately contacted the Fire Services Bureau who sent the injured to the CHCSJ for treatment," a representative of Galaxy Entertainment Group

told the Times.

The company didn't reveal the cause of the accident but pointed out that workers were in good condition. The representative said that one of the injured men was a member of the GEG team and the other two were representatives of a contractor.

In January 2019, New Yaohan department store recorded a similar accident, which resulted in two people getting injured. **JZ**

THREE SLOT MACHINE ROOMS CLOSED IN ANTICIPATION OF FLOODING

THREE slot machine rooms operated by Mocha Clubs requested permission to close as a consequence of the typhoon Higos. The company made the request to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) after the Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau (SMG) issued the "orange" warning of storm surge at 8:30 p.m. August 18.

According to the DICJ, the requests were approved based on the need to ensure the safety of workers and patrons.

The gaming rooms closed

include Mocha Kuong Fat, Mocha Macau Tower, and Mocha Inner Harbour, which stopped operation at 10:45 p.m. on August 18.

The authorization was lifted at 1 p.m. on August 19 after the cancellation of the storm surge warning as well as the lowering of the typhoon signal to level 3, which occurred at 11:30 a.m.

In a statement, the DICJ stated that it authorized the reopening of the three gaming rooms after an evaluation of the conditions in the indoor and outdoor areas of the gaming rooms. **RM**

GOVERNMENT RECOVERS LAND PLOT IN COLOANE

The Macau SAR government has recovered one land plot in Coloane, according to an official decree signed by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works. The land plot is the location of a drug rehabilitation center located in the Coloane village, with an area of more than 7,000 square meters. According to the announcement, although buildings and a rehabilitation center for drug dependent persons have been constructed on the land, the responsible people have not complied with the land contract in all respects, including both the construction size and the full prescribed use of the land. The announcement pointed out that, since 2019, the concerned party has failed to fulfill the purpose of the land contract. The contract was temporary. Since it is already expired, and as the concerned group have not utilized the facility in accordance with the regulation, the contract has been annulled.

IAM DEFENDS BUILDING TAIPA PARK WITH USED CAR TIRES

A park to be built two blocks from the Taipa Central Park that was announced by the Municipal Affairs Bureau over the weekend has raised concerns over its balance between environmental friendliness and risk of health on its users. The proposal stated that more than 1,700 used car tires will be used to build certain facilities, which some environmental campaigners worry will release hazardous fumes under direct and prolonged sunlight, potentially harming the neighborhood. In response, the bureau has pledged to shortlist suitable tires with the Environmental Protection Bureau. It will also commission third-party inspectors to verify whether the tires are suitable for use. The bureau added that the material is widely used in other places for such purposes.

NEW ECONOMIC HOUSING LAW PROMULGATED YESTERDAY

The new law stipulating details on the planning, construction and purchase of subsidized or economic housing projects was promulgated yesterday and will apply to future projects, meaning that it will not affect the most recent applications, which closed in June. The most crucial changes in this version of the law are the raising of applicant's minimum age to 23 years old. Additionally, future housing projects will reuse weighted ranking to determine the order of the applicant queue. Owners of future apartments must live there for at least 183 days per year or they will face penalty. Unwanted used apartments can only be returned to the Housing Bureau at the original selling price.

BANK ASSOCIATION HEAD UNSURE WHY DEMAND FOR YUAN SPIKING

ANTHONY LAM

RECENTLY, demand for the Yuan, the official currency of the People's Republic of China, has lifted. But Ip Sio Kai, president of The Macau Association of Banks (ABM) and incumbent lawmaker, is unsure as to why.

The ABM president admitted that there has recently been a shortage of the currency in Macau, with a sudden hike in demand meaning that supply is unable to catch up. The situation is abnormal, the association head pointed out.

A report by local Chinese media outlet Exmoo disclosed that its readers have recently contacted them regarding the situation. Exmoo was told that some readers were declined by several banks when attempting to exchange patacas for 5,000 yuan. The readers were told that the maximum exchangeable amount for patacas was 2,000 yuan, forcing them to perform the exchange in Zhuhai instead.

The Chinese media outlet said its staff attempted to exchange money themselves. Journalists approached a currency exchange booth near the Border Gate to exchange Macau patacas for yuan. The shopkeeper was reluctant, according to the report.

It was disclosed that many currency exchange shops are eating into their Chinese yuan reserves that they kept from before the pandemic. "Once finished with the money, there will



be none," a shopkeeper told the Chinese-language media outlet.

On the other hand, it was claimed online that people were taking yuan in cash from Macau to sell in Zhuhai.

After nearly half a year of strict border restrictions that included mandatory quarantine, health checks upon arrival and even entry bans, these measures were lifted two weeks ago by the central government in Beijing.

With a valid Covid-19 nucleic acid test result and an appropriate travel history, people from Macau and the mainland can resume interactions at the border.

With travel restrictions easing, many Macau residents are eager to return to travelling throughout the mainland. It is unclear, however, whether this has caused the recent lift in demand and the subsequent shortage of yuan.

Although mainland residents are more used to conducting retail transactions with mobile payment methods, such methods, even if available in Macau, have not gained as much popularity.

Ip attributed the shortage of the yuan in Macau to the half-a-year shortage of visitors from the mainland.

He explained that under normal circumstances, the supply of the yuan in Macau relies on visitors from the mainland. He did not explain, however, with Alipay and WeChat Pay widely accepted in Macau, and given mainland residents have a habit of using cashless payment facilities, why these visitors still account for a major part of yuan inflows.

Ip agrees that cashless mobile payments have become a common practice on the mainland. In his opinion, the demand for cash will decline because of this trend.

Gov't declines to predict Golden Week visitor numbers

JULIE ZHU

THE immigration authorities of Macau and Zhuhai declined to estimate the number of visitor arrivals through the new Hengqin Port during the upcoming Chinese National Day holiday in the first week of October, commonly known as Golden Week.

On Tuesday, during a press conference after the opening ceremony of the new Hengqin Port, Macau and Zhuhai government representatives declined to make a prediction.

Acting Deputy Director of Macau's Public Security Police Force (PSP), Ng Sou Peng, prudently avoided

disclosing any statistical predictions for visitor arrivals, saying only that the government expected a "gradual increase."

"As the mainland gradually resumes issuing travel permits and quarantine restrictions are gradually being lifted, we assessed that the number of visitors arrivals will gradually increase," said Ng.

PSP spokesperson Ma Chio Hong made a similar statement at the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, anticipating that more passengers will use the Hengqin Port.

The decision to withhold expectations comes amid the opening of

several other large-scale public transportation projects in Hengqin, which could possibly change the relative importance of the various border crossings facilities.

Together with the opening of the new Hengqin Port, Zhuhai has official started operation of several other infrastructure projects, including the Hengqin coach station and the Hengqin train station.

The coach station is designed to transport 10,000 passengers daily with over 400 coach headways per day. The station can facilitate those who arrive in Hengqin from Macau and wish to travel short



distances to visit Zhuhai's neighboring cities.

Another major project is the Hengqin train station. The train station is one of six stops linking Zhuhai train station and Zhuhai Chimelong park.

From the Zhuhai station, which is situated next to the Border Gate, the train runs all the way south to Chimelong, which is close to the campus of the University of Ma-

cau. The total travel time is between 21 and 22 minutes between Zhuhai station and Chimelong station and train tickets cost nine yuan. Currently, there are ten daily departures.

The section is an extension of the Guangzhou-Zhuhai high-speed railway system. In 2023, the Chimelong line extension to the Zhuhai airport is expected to open.



Macau University of Science and Technology campus

Study finds genetic susceptibility shared among ancestry

A research team consisting of professors from the Macau University of Science and Technology has showed that there is a substantial shared genetic susceptibility to one type of diabetes among populations with East Asian ancestry and in European individuals.

Recently, a group of over 100 researchers from 30 organizations, including the Chinese Cen-

ter for Disease Control and Prevention, the National University of Singapore, and the University of Tokyo undertook a study of diabetes among East Asian individuals.

This study is thought to be the largest meta-analysis using genome-wide association studies (GWAS) in East Asians to identify the genetic loci associated with type 2 diabetes (T2D). It also provides the most comprehen-

sive and precise catalogue of East Asian T2D genetic association effects available so far.

The research involved nearly half a million people with T2D and healthy control individuals from 23 East Asian studies.

This study emphasizes the substantial shared genetic susceptibility to T2D among populations with East Asian ancestry and European individuals, as shown by the strong correlation

of effect sizes among T2D-associated genetic variants with common allele frequencies.

However, compared to a recent study of T2D-associated genetic variants in individuals of European ancestry, there was less attenuation of effects on T2D in analyses adjusted for BMI in the East Asian subjects.

In East Asian populations, T2D typically occurs at lower BMI and waist circumference levels than in European populations.

The common variants that have been associated with T2D in European populations showed strongly correlated effect sizes in the East Asian populations in this new study.

The strongest difference between sexes was seen at a region near ALDH2 genes, which showed strong association in males but no association in females. ALDH2 encodes aldehyde dehydrogenase, a key enzyme in alcohol metabolism. Variants at this locus leading to reduced aldehyde dehydrogenase activity and reduced alcohol metabolism are associated with flushing, nausea, and headache following alcohol consumption in East Asians.

The T2D risk allele near ALDH2 is associated with the better tolerance of alcohol and increased BMI, blood pressure and high-density lipoprotein cholesterol, but decreased low-density lipoprotein cholesterol and lower cardiovascular risk.

These results provide a foundation for future biological research into the pathogenesis of T2D and offer potential targets for interventions designed to modify disease risk. According to MUST, association studies in diverse populations like this are important to identify additional loci and elucidate disease-associated genes, biology, and pathways. **JZ**

MAN FROM HONG KONG FOUND DEAD IN HOTEL ROOM

A 42-year-old man from Hong Kong, surnamed Kwok, was found hanging and dead in a hotel room on Avenida de Amizade yesterday, the Judiciary Police has reported. The law-enforcement entity received a report on the case at 3:36 p.m. from the Fire Services Bureau, whose team was initially called to the scene. The team declared the man dead at the scene. After preliminary investigation, the police were told that a housekeeping staff member at the hotel discovered the man at 3:15 p.m. during a regular room-cleaning task. The man was hanged from the upper glass door track of the shower cabinet with a belt. A suicide note was found by the police on the desk in the room. No wounds indicating that the incident might be of criminal nature were found.

HR FIRM SEES LITTLE GAIN IN EMPLOYMENT FOR REST OF 2020

Although travel endorsements for mainland residents to visit Macau are gradually resuming and some enterprises are starting to hire new people, a human resource firm has told local Chinese newspaper Macao Daily News that it hasn't seen revitalized employment activities, with most employers staying cautious about business outlook for the rest of the year. The firm pointed out that salary workers are seeing heavy pressure with more employers turning to casual or part-time workers. The pandemic is also affecting the exhibition industry as many job fairs have been postponed to a later date.

OXFAM TOWER RUN RETURNS THIS OCTOBER FOR SEVENTH EDITION

The annual Oxfam charity run at the Macau Tower is returning in the hope of raising funds to help ease challenges faced by people in regions strongly impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It has cumulatively raised MOP2.3 million over the last six editions. Categorized into the male and female groups with respective individual and team races, runners should raise at least MOP500 to participate in the individual race or MOP5,000 for the team race. Each team has four members. The event will be held on Sunday, October 18 and the application period ends September 21. The charity group will also hold an extra Oxfam Online Run this year.

IC calls for Macanese cuisine recipe submissions

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has launched an international call for Macanese cuisine recipes, aiming to develop the city's Macanese cuisine database.

According to a statement issued by the IC, the new program is dedicated to the collection of digital recipes or manuscripts related to Macanese cuisine, which will be kept in the Macanese cuisine database.

The database, which will be open to the public, will help facilitate further studies and consolidate records on the culinary arts

It will also be used for the research and promotion of Macanese gastronomy.

Submissions and declaration forms can be made and be downloaded from the bureau's website.

In August 2019, authorities announced that preparations for the construction of the Macanese cuisine database had made steady progress. Work was being carried out to collect family recipes to guard against their possible loss in the passing from generation to generation.

Authorities said that,

in the future, the city would carry on the collaboration that exists across the public and private sectors, and utilize technology in an effort to raise Macau's profile as a Creative City of Gastronomy.

Macau was designated as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in November 2017, joining the United Nations Creative Cities Network.

Following the designation, the SAR Government unveiled a four-year action plan to develop Macau as a Creative City of Gastronomy with "vigorous efforts." At the



beginning of 2019, the Macao Government Tourism Office held the third annual "International Gastronomy Forum, Macao" and later launched the Great Green Food Journey project in collaboration with National Geographic, aiming to locate, support and promote sustainable practices in the food and be-

verage sector in Macau.

The Macanese cuisine database is part of the bureau's four-year action plan.

It aims to log Macanese cuisines' history, recipes and culinary arts, carrying forward the gastronomic culture and tradition, which has a history of more than 400 years. **LV**

OPINION

China Daily

Zhen Youli*

TIKTOK CASE REFLECTS BITTERLY ON US

On Friday, U.S. President Donald Trump gave Chinese company ByteDance 90 days to divest itself of any assets used to support the popular short video-sharing app TikTok in the United States. Before that, he had ordered sweeping but vague bans on U.S. companies' dealings with TikTok owner ByteDance and messaging app WeChat owner Tencent, saying they pose a threat to U.S. national security, foreign policy and economy.

Earlier, the U.S. administration had given ByteDance 45 days to finalize negotiations with Microsoft - overseen by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. - for the acquisition of TikTok's business in the U.S.. From claiming TikTok is a "very serious" threat to U.S. national security, threatening to ban the app and getting directly involved in the TikTok acquisition talks between Microsoft and ByteDance to refusing to allow ByteDance to retain minority stakes and eventually imposing a total ban on TikTok, the entire process to force the Chinese company to sell TikTok's U.S. operations to an American company reminds one of The American Trap.

Written by Frederic Pierucci, former executive of French Alstom, based on his personal experiences, The American Trap is an account of how the U.S. administration cracks down on foreign companies leading to their decline, collapse or acquisition by American companies. Alstom was one of the many foreign companies to suffer that fate.

For instance, to weaken Toshiba and other Japanese tech companies, in April 1987 the U.S. imposed 100 percent tariff on more than \$300 million worth of Japanese goods and equipment and banned the purchase of Fujitsu and Toshiba products in the U.S., two years after it launched Section 301 probes into Toshiba and other Japanese electronics companies on the pretext of "anti-dumping".

Under extreme pressure from the U.S., the Japanese government arrested two senior Toshiba officials and sentenced them to 1 year and 10 months respectively in prison. The Japanese government even imposed sanctions on Toshiba, forcing it to carry out technical cooperation with the U.S., a decision equivalent to forcing Toshiba to transfer its core technologies to the U.S.. Toshiba suffered heavily and never regained its technological or competitive advantages. In fact, after being forced to sign the Plaza Accord in 1985, Japan plunged into decades-long economic recession, which affected all Japanese companies and citizens.

For years, the U.S. took advantage of its intelligence and justice systems to the best of their ability to deal with its main international competitors, James Woolsey, former CIA director, once said bluntly. The U.S. uses its powerful intelligence to obtain information on large contracts signed by foreign companies, and employs its complex and sophisticated legal articles to prosecute those foreign companies. These two weapons make it easier for U.S. companies to compete with, weaken and even acquire their foreign competitors. Many Chinese companies, including Huawei, ZTE and Sinopec have fallen victim to such illegal practices.

Yet in dealing with TikTok, the U.S. administration has stooped to a new low, using even more despicable means. TikTok has used rational means to prove it doesn't pose any threat to the U.S., by publishing a transparency report that shows it has met the administration's demand for removing information on users, building data centers to store local users' data in countries such as the U.S., Singapore and the United Kingdom, hiring senior Disney executives to oversee its overseas operations, and separating China from the rest of the world in terms of business governance.

But all these measures have been ignored by the White House, for whom ByteDance being a Chinese company is the original sin and all Chinese enterprises pose a threat to U.S. national security and businesses.

Yet the U.S. cannot keep everyone in the dark by lying through its teeth. Actually, many in the U.S. itself, apart from the international community, have criticized the U.S. administration's actions. A senior economic adviser to Toreador Research & Trading told Forbes magazine that the U.S. administration's approach to TikTok was embarrassing for the American people.

The U.S., being a self-proclaimed center of technological progress, cannot accept the fact that TikTok is one of the most popular social media apps in the world - and since it's an app created by a Chinese company, the White House needs to ban it.

James Lewis, director of science and technology policy at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said the U.S. administration is using sort of mafia tactics when dealing with TikTok, while University of Texas law professor Robert Chesney has called the U.S. administration's proposals on TikTok inappropriate and without any legal basis.

Besides, The Wall Street Journal commented that if the U.S. administration's proposal were serious and considered legal, it would set a dangerous precedent for seizing foreign companies through regulatory fiat and open the door to the same treatment for U.S. companies in other countries.

Without citing any evidence, the U.S. administration has used national security as a pretext to take action against foreign companies, which is a blatant abuse of its power and a violation of the World Trade Organization's principles of openness, transparency and non-discrimination.

The U.S.' hypocrisy when it comes to fair competition has been laid bare, undermining its credibility and damaging its international image. If other countries adopt the same approach, they can take similar actions against U.S. companies citing similar reasons. Which means the U.S. will have to eat the bitter fruits of the acidic seeds it has sown.

* The author is a Beijing-based commentator

AP PHOTO



A sight of Hong Kong under the weather and (above) floodwaters flow near the historic Giant Buddha in Leshan in Sichuan province

TYPHOON ADDS TO SOUTHERN CHINA'S RAIN AND FLOODING WOES

CHINA suffered a double blow yesterday of flooding and landslides from unusually heavy seasonal rains and a typhoon that came ashore on its southern coast.

Five people were missing in Yunnan province in the southwest after a landslide destroyed two houses, the official People's Daily newspaper said.

In Sichuan province, 21 vehicles parked in a square in Yibin city fell into a hole after the road beneath them collapsed in the middle of the night. No one was injured, according to media reports.

Flooding has left more than 200 people dead or missing in China this year and caused \$25 billion in damage, authorities said last week.

Typhoon Higos drenched Hong Kong overnight before

making landfall in Zhuhai, a city in Guangdong province, in the morning with maximum sustained winds of 126 kilometers per hour, China's National Meteorological Center said.

It weakened to a tropical storm as it moved west toward the neighboring Guangxi region. More than 65,000 people were evacuated, schools were closed and many fishing boats returned to port along the coast, according to Chinese media reports.

Power was knocked out in Meizhou city in northeastern Guangdong province on Tuesday night after trees fell onto power lines, the electric company said.

The worst of the flooding appeared to be over in Sichuan, where the emergency level was lowered yesterday morning and the toes of a famous Buddhist statue re-

-emerged as waters receded, news reports said.

It was the first time in at least 70 years that water had reached the foot of the Leshan Giant Buddha, a 71-meter-tall statue carved into the side of a mountain in the eighth century.

Emei Mountain, a nearby tourist site, reopened to visitors after being closed for nearly three days.

The sprawling Chongqing municipality saw its worst flooding since 1981. Water covered roofs in low-lying areas of the historic town of Ciqikou, which was closed to tourists because of the rains from Tuesday evening.

On Tuesday, President Xi Jinping visited hard-hit Anhui province, where the 13 sluice gates of the Wagnjiaba dam had been opened, flooding farmland and forests to prevent more extensive damage downriver. AP

A US WeChat ban could hurt many in America, not just China

TALI ARBEL, KELVIN CHAN & JOSEPH PISANI

FOR millions of people in the U.S. who use the Chinese app WeChat, it's a lifeline to friends, family, customers and business contacts in China.

That lifeline is now under attack by an executive order from President Donald Trump that could ban the app in the U.S. as early as mid-September, potentially severing vital relationships.

"It's the first thing I check in the morning," Sha Zhu, a Chinese-American in Washington, says of WeChat. It's how she talks to her mother and old friends from China, which she left in 2008, and how she communicates with her colleagues as a public relations manager for a Chinese-owned consulting company. It's where she stores Chinese currency in her virtual wallet.

Most important, it's where she keeps videos and audio clips of her father, who died four years ago.

In China, WeChat, or Weixin as it's known, is critical infrastructure — texting, social media, cab-hailing, payments and more, all wrapped into one app. Many Chinese businesses don't even take credit cards anymore, just WeChat. It has over a billion users, owner Tencent says, mostly in China. Mobile app firms have varying estimates for U.S. downloads — in the range of 19 to 26 million.

For people in the U.S., WeChat has less functionality than it does in China. But it's what connects immigrants and students from China to their pasts and to each other. Chinese restaurants in the U.S. use it to take food orders. Businesspeople in the U.S. that have work in China rely on it as well.



Sha Zhu, of Washington, who uses the app WeChat to keep in touch with family and friends in the U.S. and China

Kurt Braybrook, who spent 22 years doing business in Shanghai before moving back to the U.S. in 2017, says the app is irreplaceable for him and his China-born wife. He could lose roughly 500 WeChat contacts, few of which he could reach without the app.

"If they banned it entirely, it will wipe out connections to my wife's family, all our friends and my network of business contacts I built over 22 years," says Braybrook, who now lives in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Trump's Aug. 6 order, released after hours without additional explanation, purportedly aims to ban all "transactions related to WeChat." Trump simultaneously issued a nearly identical order aimed at the popular, Chinese-owned video app TikTok. Both orders have thrown users into confusion, leading some to begin moving to alternative services. But

that's especially difficult for regular users of WeChat.

Executives of more than a dozen U.S. multinationals pushed back against the Trump order on WeChat in a conference call with White House officials, the Wall Street Journal reported Thursday.

In China, WeChat, or Weixin as it's known, is critical infrastructure — texting, social media, cab-hailing, payments and more, all wrapped into one app

Some feared the order might prevent their subsidiaries in China from using the app, which could place them at a competitive disadvantage.

The day after Trump's order, Zhu got dozens of queries from

friends, family members and colleagues, asking if they should switch to messaging options such as Telegram, WhatsApp or Signal. Those offer secure messaging and aren't Chinese-owned.

She still doesn't know if she'll be able to access her money, or what she'll do with all those stored memories of her father. "We can't make a plan," she says. She blames politicians, especially Trump, for her current stress: "We're the pawn that they can manipulate to put anywhere on the chess board."

Some U.S. users are trying to reassure each other that they already have the app, and the U.S. government can't ban it entirely, because that's their free speech — a right guaranteed to them in the U.S. but not in the country they left behind.

WeChat users are censored

by the government in China. It's not quite the same for international users who registered their accounts outside China, but the Citizen Lab internet watchdog group in Toronto says WeChat monitors documents and images shared abroad to aid its censorship in China. WeChat's parent, Tencent, said earlier this year that "all content shared among international users of WeChat is private."

Many users who see it as a necessity aren't particularly concerned about privacy.

The Chinese-American Planning Council, a New York Asian American social services agency that works with 60,000 New Yorkers a year, relies on WeChat to share information with community members, says spokeswoman Carlyn Cowen. This year, for instance, the agency has messaged its members about participating in the U.S. Census, since the government's in-person door-knocking for the Census has been truncated, or where COVID-19 tests are available.

"I can't say I've thought deeply about personal data concerns because that's not really how we use it," she says.

If there's some kind of ban on WeChat, it's not clear what the agency will do instead — perhaps use other apps more if Chinese-Americans do that. "We haven't really thought through what that looks like."

Indianapolis college student Seth Workman was introduced to WeChat last year while studying abroad in China, where he used it to chat with coworkers at a hotel where he worked.

But when Workman returned to the U.S. last fall, he started using it to order \$6 lunches from a local Chinese restaurant that took orders from a group chat of about 60 people. A van would show up on campus with the orders, typically boxes filled with rice, vegetables and meat.

"The food is really good," says Workman. "If WeChat was banned, I would be a little bit upset." AP

Wuhan pool parties bring post-coronavirus relief in China

FOR more than two months, the 11 million residents of Wuhan endured a strict lockdown as coronavirus raced around the city in central China.

Now, some are letting loose en masse at rocking nighttime pool parties at a popular amusement park chain. The Wuhan Maya Beach Water Park reopened in late June, and the crowds have picked up this month.

Wuhan was the epicenter of the coronavirus outbreak in China and saw

the most deaths. The city and most of the surrounding province was locked down from late January to early April. People couldn't leave or enter the city and were mostly restricted to their homes.

The spread of the disease has been all but eradicated in China, though isolated outbreaks pop up sporadically.

Outdoor attractions and tourist sites have gradually reopened across the country with restrictions.

In order to enter the Wuhan water park, party-goers need to reserve tickets online in advance with their national ID number. On the day, they need to present their ID and a green health code generated from mobile apps that track people's movements and whether they are subject to virus quarantine.

The Maya Beach chain is holding similar parties at other water parks including those in Shanghai and Chongqing.



UN crisis looms as US readies demand for Iran sanctions



In this July 20, 2015 photo, members of the Security Council vote at United Nations headquarters on the landmark nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers

EDITH M. LEDERER
& MATTHEW LEE,
UNITED NATIONS

AFTER a resounding defeat in the U.N. Security Council, the United States is poised to call for the United Nations to reimpose sanctions on Iran under a rarely used diplomatic maneuver — a move that is likely to further isolate the Trump administration and may set off a credibility crisis for the United Nations.

The sanctions had been eased under the 2015 nuclear deal that President Donald Trump withdrew from two years ago. But last week the U.S. lost its long-shot bid to indefinitely extend an international arms embargo on Iran and has now moved to a new diplomatic line of attack.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is set to travel to New York on Thursday to notify the Security Council president that the United States is invoking the “snapback” mechanism in the council’s resolution that endorsed the nuclear deal. It allows participants to demand the restoration of all U.N. sanctions in a complicated procedure that cannot be blocked by a veto.

The State Department is expected to announce Pompeo’s travel plans today [Macau time], but he and Trump have made no secret of their intention to invoke snapback, especially since their attempt to extend the arms

embargo suffered an embarrassing defeat last Friday. The U.S. won just one other “yes” vote, with China and Russia opposed and the 11 other members abstaining.

Just like the arms embargo extension, the administration’s snapback plan is bitterly opposed by China and Russia as well as the other Security Council members, including U.S. allies Britain and France, and could set the stage for a battle over the legitimacy of the U.N.’s most powerful body.

Alone among the council’s 15 members, the U.S. argues that as an original participant in the nuclear deal it retains the right to demand restoration of sanctions. The others, which still support the deal, maintain the U.S. lost that standing when Trump pulled out of the accord in 2018, but it isn’t clear if they can stop the invocation of snapback through technical procedural means.

The U.S. argument is highly controversial. It has been ridiculed by the Chinese, Russians and Europeans, and not even the biggest Iran hawks in the United States all agree with it.

Former Trump national security adviser John Bolton, no slouch when it comes to anti-Iran positions, has long said that the U.S. lost its snapback standing when it withdrew from the deal and that moving ahead is not worth the damage it could do to U.S. veto power in the council.

In a stunningly rare moment of agreement, Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Zarif praised Bolton this week. “At least he is consistent — a trait notably absent in this U.S. administration,” Zarif tweeted.

And, former U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman, a top Obama administration negotiator of the nuclear agreement, said: “It was never expected that someone who withdrew from the (deal) would have standing to in fact bring the snapback provision.”

Thus, the administration’s insistence on moving ahead has set the stage for a contentious dispute and the possibility that the U.S. call would simply be ignored by other U.N. members. That outcome would potentially call into question the Security Council’s ability to enforce its own legally binding decisions.

Under the terms of Security Council Resolution 2231, which enshrined the nuclear deal and to which the U.S. remains a party, the invocation of snapback for significant Iranian noncompliance starts a 30-day clock during which the council must vote affirmatively to continue the sanctions relief that Iran was given in return for curbs on its nuclear program.

Pompeo is expected to present evidence of significant noncompliance, likely the latest reports of the U.N. nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy

Agency, on Thursday. Iran does not deny violating some terms of the deal but says its actions have been forced by the U.S. withdrawal and the Trump administration’s reimposition of U.S. sanctions.

As envisioned by the Obama administration, which led the negotiations that culminated in the nuclear deal, the United States or any other permanent member of the council could use its veto to block the continuation of sanctions relief. In theory, that would result in the reimposition of sanctions.

But whether any other council member will respond to the U.S. move by introducing a resolution to extend sanctions relief is an open question. Some U.N. experts believe the others will just ignore the Americans, leaving the Trump administration in the possible position of having to introduce its own resolution to extend sanctions relief for the sole purpose of vetoing it.

“We don’t know if any country will do that,” said Richard Gowan, the U.N. director of the International Crisis Group. “If the general view of the council is that the U.S. doesn’t have standing, it’s quite possible that no council member will even engage at that level.”

“The U.S. could actually table a resolution of its own and then veto it, just to show that it is going through the procedural motions, although that would look a little bit farcical,” Gowan said. AP

this day in history

1970 BOBBY MOORE CLEARED OF STEALING



The England soccer captain, Bobby Moore, has been cleared of stealing an emerald bracelet in Colombia.

Moore, who captained England to World Cup victory in 1966, was accused of taking the £600 (\$1,500) bracelet from the Green Fire shop in the Tequendama Hotel, Bogota, last month.

Police and judicial investigators have long indicated that Moore was set up, and today the Bogota Superior Court ruled he should have “unconditional freedom”.

The three judges also confirmed a decision made by Judge Pedro Dorado on 28 May that there was no evidence to warrant jailing England’s legendary footballer.

On 18 May Mr Moore went into the shop with fellow player Bobby Charlton to find a present for Charlton’s wife.

The store owner, Danilo Rojas, and his assistant, Carla Padilla, called the police after the two men had left the shop.

The police arrived and took statements and the footballer denied the allegations.

On 25 May, Mr Moore, was charged and placed under house arrest at the home of a local football official but was freed three days later with conditions, so that he could play in the World Cup in Mexico.

One witness, Alvaro Suarez, said he had seen the bracelet in Moore’s pocket.

But today the chief of police, Jaime Ramirez, indicated Mr Moore had been the victim of a frame-up and that Mr Suarez had been paid by Mr Rojas to testify against the England football star.

It is believed the plan was to either blackmail Mr Moore and get publicity for the jewellery shop and even to damage England’s morale ahead of the World Cup.

Mr Moore, now back in the UK, will not have to report to the Colombian Consulate, but if he ever returned to Colombia he may be asked further questions in relation to the theft as further investigations are still under way.

Rojas and Suarez will be questioned by the judge - but Ms Padilla is believed to have gone to the United States.

The First Secretary at the British Embassy in Bogota, Keith Morris, welcomed the ruling but said the judges had decided a “legal technicality” and that the case was by no means closed.

Bobby Moore was named Footballer of the Year 1963-64 and awarded an OBE 1967.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Bobby Moore retired as a player seven years after the Bogota bracelet incident.

He managed Oxford City and Southend United, where he was also a director, and then started up his own sports marketing company.

From 1986 to 1990 he was sports editor of the Sunday Sport and then a commentator for London’s Capital Radio station until his death in 1993 from cancer.

In November 1972 a Colombian judge decided charges against Bobby should be dropped but the case was reopened in 1973.

Finally, in December 1975 the Foreign Office wrote to Moore saying the case was closed.

Previously secret documents released in 2001 under the 30-year rule revealed how British diplomats in Colombia under pressure from Prime Minister Harold Wilson himself made sure Bobby Moore was not jailed after his arrest and cleared as soon as possible.

More documents released in 2003 by the Public Records Office showed that even the head of the Colombian police believed Moore was innocent and that the prime suspect was in fact an unnamed woman who had touted the bracelet to members of the Colombian underworld.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You can breathe a great big sigh of relief today - that issue you were afraid would rear its ugly head at the last minute is not going to be bothering you (at least not today).

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Don't be too surprised if you feel a little bit weird or out of place amongst the people you'll be with today. It is only natural for you to feel like a fish out of water during such a transitional time in your life.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
This day is well-suited for action, but not so perfect for deep thought or contemplation. Your brain is a bit sluggish when it comes to new plans right now, but your physical self is ready to get moving.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
This is an educational time for you, when you start to learn about things you never thought you'd ever have any interest in. Your brain is ready - to soak up some heavy stuff, so feel free to pour it on.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Touchy, touchy, touchy! The people who are disagreeing with you today are not trying to be difficult, they're just trying to follow through on what they believe to be the right way of doing things.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
A friend's recent advice is still humming in your mind - maybe it's something you should follow, after all! Do an experiment today. Try out what they suggested. See how it feels for you.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You just have to start seeing things in a more idealistic, beautiful, and hopeful way. The rest will take care of itself. All you need to do is start to focus on the positive possibilities.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
A problem might pop up around your home today. A family member might not know how to react, but you will. Take over and show them there's nothing to fear.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Don't be surprised if you feel like no one in your circle of friends and associates understands where you're coming from, today. They are in their own world...

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
No one will ever do a better job of creating your future than you - so why are you modeling your decisions on someone else's? Your vision of the future has to come from inside you, organically.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
It will help you figure out what is a real problem - and what is merely just an inconvenience that you can ignore. Pick your battles, and you will end up in a lot fewer than you think.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Today you will gain a key insight into how you can create a healthier, happier life. Your physical health is something you can influence more than you have been.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

MEDIUM					HARD						
		5		7	9			7	3		
1			2			4	9				
	5	9		2		1					
	3		1		6	6			2	5	
	4			7		3			4		
8			7		3			1	8		
	1		3	6				7		9	1
			4		3	8		2			
9	8			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- Bedouin; 5- Killer whales; 10- Old Testament book; 14- List heading; 15- Expanse of sand; 16- Low-lying area; 17- Affirm solemnly; 18- Carousal; 19- Author James; 20- "You ___ worry"; 22- Mental strain; 24- Always, poetically; 25- Bang-up; 26- Capsize; 30- Stroll; 35- Fam. reunion attendee; 36- Coquettish; 37- Where there's ___; 38- Igneous rock; 41- Supposed; 43- Fall bloomer; 44- Flightless bird; 45- Sprint rival; 46- I ___ vacation!; 47- Tear roughly; 50- Polo of "Meet the Parents"; 53- Chiang ___-shek; 54- Genuine; 58- In and of ___; 62- Buck follower; 63- Noted Civil War biography; 66- "Twittering Machine" artist; 67- Dress often worn by Hindu women; 68- Hot spots; 69- Charles Lamb's pen name; 70- Actor Connery; 71- Adjust to zero; 72- Sugar substitute?;

DOWN: 1- ___ impasse; 2- Wander; 3- Zip-___-Doo-Dah; 4- Frontier; 5- To block; 6- Aft.; 7- Automobile; 8- Vinegary prefix; 9- Luster; 10- Gardner and others; 11- Wise men; 12- Muffin topper; 13- Witnessed; 21- Can be used to catch fish or surf!; 23- Sherpa's home; 25- At all; 26- Church instrument; 27- Piece of poetry; 28- Overjoy; 29- Fish eggs; 31- Wonderment; 32- 18th letter of the Greek alphabet; 33- Chosen; 34- Blast from the past; 39- Aussie outlaw Kelly; 40- Angry; 41- Doctors' org.; 42- Most fortunate; 44- Actor Wallach; 48- Consume; 49- Dared; 51- Slip; 52- Actor Christopher; 54- Back talk; 55- Dies ___; 56- "A Doll's House" heroine; 57- Fountain-bottom sight; 59- Vogue rival; 60- Sci-fi princess; 61- Extreme reverence; 64- French article; 65- Chemical ending;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<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 2 2 2 1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 2 2 2 1,269 ft² \$11,800,000 (ref: 19070000)</p> <p>[Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom 2 3 2 2 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 2 2 2 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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ANALYSIS

ORACLE'S IMPROBABLE TIKTOK TALKS HAVE A SIMPLE EXPLANATION: DATA

NICO GRANT

ORACLE Corp.'s preliminary interest in making a bid for TikTok, on first glance, looks like an awkward fit - the 43-year-old software giant best known for legacy corporate databases and the music-video sharing app beloved by teens seem as different as two companies can be.

But the match may not be as far-fetched as it first appears. The world's second-largest software maker has approached investors including Sequoia Capital to partner on a bid for TikTok's business in the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand, people familiar with the matter told Bloomberg.

The company's possible pursuit of a deal for the social network, owned by China's ByteDance Ltd., makes more sense in light of Oracle's desire to build up its cloud-computing and consumer-data businesses - and comes into even clearer focus considering Oracle's close ties to U.S. President Donald Trump and Chairman Larry Ellison's cheerleading for American tech interests.

Microsoft Corp. has been seen as the front-runner in the race to acquire TikTok's U.S. assets, and is the only company to publicly confirm talks with ByteDance. Trump told reporters Tuesday that Oracle also is interested in TikTok and "could handle" a purchase of the service.

The president on Friday ordered ByteDance to sell its U.S. assets within 90 days, adding to an earlier executive order that would prohibit U.S. persons and companies from doing business with TikTok effective 45 days from Aug. 6.



While Microsoft at first seemed like an unlikely suitor, the company already has consumer-facing units - gaming platform Xbox and LinkedIn, a social network for business professionals. Oracle and Microsoft are peers founded in the 1970s, but Microsoft has seen a resurgence because of its success in cloud computing. Oracle, meanwhile, has experienced stagnant sales and reduced relevance, and could badly use a win in the cloud-services market.

TikTok has more than 100 million users in the U.S. When the company separates its technology from ByteDance, it will need to find new places to store the huge amount of data generated by these users. The app could be an anchor tenant for Oracle's Cloud Infrastructure unit, which hosts client information, but has

struggled to keep up with rivals Amazon.com Inc. and Microsoft. Oracle has seven data-center regions for businesses across North America and Australia. The company has declined to comment on its potential interest in TikTok.

Oracle is "one of the other players with the infrastructure to support an ecosystem and user base as massive as TikTok," said Daniel Elman, an analyst at Nucleus Research. Forgoing payments to external cloud vendors could save TikTok "billions annually," he said.

While Oracle doesn't have any consumer-facing business, Ellison has sought a piece of the lucrative ad-targeting market with the company's Data Cloud, which includes a data-brokerage business that creates profiles of ordinary people and sells them

to advertisers. The billionaire co-founder has boasted about how his trove of consumer data is second only to Facebook Inc., and has said that Oracle needs to help businesses target their customers "better than competitors."

The unit has struggled since the European Union's data-privacy law, GDPR, went into effect in 2018, and the company curtailed its practice of tracking consumers in the region. Facebook also changed its ad-targeting practices after the Cambridge Analytica data scandal, making it harder for third parties like Oracle to help advertisers find niche audiences. Oracle fired around 5% of the division's staff in 2018. In June 2019, the company said that revenue had fallen 15% in the unit. A month later, the division's leader, Eric Roza, departed the company.

TikTok could spearhead a resurgence for the division, giving Oracle information about consumers that would be useful to advertisers, and also offer a platform where those clients could run their ads - dramatically simplifying the process. ByteDance would still control TikTok's European business, so Oracle wouldn't have to worry about GDPR, but it would face all the other challenges of running a social-media company, including having to remove inflammatory and violent content and answering to U.S. lawmakers increasingly worried about consumer privacy and social-media disinformation. The company has little experience in this area and may face a more hostile administration if Trump loses re-election after Oracle secures a TikTok deal.

Oracle is a rare Silicon Valley company with close ties to the president, even partnering with the White House on an effort earlier this year to track the effects of using hydroxychloroquine to treat Covid-19. Ellison and Oracle Chief Executive Officer Safra Catz personally support Trump's re-election effort. Ellison has also emerged as a China hawk, saying in 2018 that it's important the U.S. "wins the battle with China" and deciding to significantly reduce Oracle's footprint in the country. Snatching TikTok's American business would blunt Chinese progress in the U.S. tech market.

Then there's the matter of scale. Oracle, with \$43 billion of cash and securities on hand, could easily fund a TikTok acquisition, which is estimated by bankers to be valued at \$20 billion to \$50 billion. After years of being acquisitive, Oracle has slowed its deals recently, saying it has all of the technology it needs to grow. Now, it seems even 76-year-old Ellison isn't immune to the TikTok phenomenon. **BLOOMBERG**

Singapore's MAS to engage more with banks on local hiring

CHANYAPORN
CHANJAROEN

SINGAPORE'S financial regulator will step up efforts to urge banks to hire more citizens and develop a strong local leadership pipeline, according to its chief.

"Protecting and growing Singaporean jobs, especially in current economic conditions, is a top priority," the Monetary Authority of Singapore's Managing Director Ravi Menon wrote in a letter published in the Straits Times.

The MAS confers with senior management at financial firms on the



makeup of their workforces and plans to grow the "Singaporean core," Menon said. "We will intensify these engagements," he said.

His comments were in response to a call by former banker Raymond Koh for authorities to scrutinize the composition of senior

management at banks to ensure there are more Singaporeans, rather than foreigners who hold permanent residence.

The regulator "closely monitors" the workforce profiles of financial institutions by citizens, permanent residents and foreigners, Menon said. "We want to see a strong Singaporean core complemented by high-quality and diverse foreign talent in every major FI," he said.

Singapore's government is trying to strike a balance between citizens and international talent in the financial hub, where home-grown banks including

DBS Group Holdings Ltd. compete with global firms such as Standard Chartered Plc and Citigroup Inc.

Singaporeans make up 70% of senior management roles in retail banks' local functions, the MAS estimates. The proportion is about 43% across the entire sector, reflecting Singapore's role as an international financial center, Menon said.

"As our financial sector attracts more regional and global HQ functions, it creates more good jobs and opportunities for Singaporeans," said Menon. "But it also means a higher proportion of foreigners in senior management in the-

se functions as FIs understandably draw from a global talent pool to fill these positions."

He added that the monetary authority has been working with financial firms "to develop a strong local leadership pipeline, and the industry is making progress."

Singaporeans make up 70% of overall workers in the financial industry, and permanent residents comprise 14%, according to MAS's estimates. The regulator wants to see a higher local proportion in areas including technology and risk management, Menon said. **BLOOMBERG**

FOOTBALL

FIFA expects \$120m income drop but same profit through 2022

FIFA forecast the pandemic will cause a \$120 million drop in its revenue plan through the 2022 World Cup in a revised four-year budget published yesterday.

Cost-cutting is also predicted to help offset a \$200 million hit from being unable to stage a revamped Club World Cup in June 2021, when Europe and South America stage their postponed continental championships.

Still, FIFA said most World Cup broadcast and sponsor deals were already signed and should keep the same profit in the 2019-22 financial cycle, even on reduced income of \$6.44 billion.

"The projected result before taxes and financial result of \$100 million can therefore be confirmed, despite the impact of this pandemic on the match calendar and the global economy," soccer's world body

AP PHOTO



FIFA president Gianni Infantino

said in notes accompanying its 2019 financial report.

FIFA has committed \$328 million in extra grants from an emergency fund to ease soccer bodies through the pandemic crisis. More has been available

for loans.

The knock-on effect is that FIFA forecasts reserves of no less than \$1.6 billion after the World Cup in Qatar finishes in December 2022. It was \$1.9 billion when the four-year bu-

dget was agreed in 2018.

FIFA aims to keep a minimum level of \$1.5 billion in reserve to protect against a World Cup being cancelled.

It depends heavily on income tied to the men's World Cup and expects to book \$4.7 billion revenue for the 2022 financial year.

That means FIFA reports a loss on paper in each of the three previous years that was \$280 million, according to the 2019 report.

FIFA spent \$513 million on "development and education" projects in 2019, including more than \$400 million in grants to soccer bodies worldwide

The loss is forecast to be \$800 million in pandemic-hit 2020, when revenue of just \$250 million should be booked.

FIFA said 94% of its broadcasting income was already signed for the 2019-22 cycle,

though it currently has relatively few World Cup sponsors: six top-tier partners and three in a lower level.

"With the majority of the commercial rights having already been sold, the impact of the coronavirus crisis on FIFA's revenue is expected to remain comparatively low," the Zurich-based body said.

FIFA previously detailed an expected drop in revenue from ticket and hospitality sales at the 2022 World Cup because of smaller stadiums in Qatar, which hosts the last 32-team tournament.

However, FIFA is set for booming income at the 48-team World Cup in 2026 which will set records for average attendance at stadiums in the United States, Canada and Mexico, in addition to having 80 games instead of 64.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino's payment package in 2019 topped 3 million Swiss francs (\$3.3 million) in base salary, bonus and allowances, the annual report said.

Payments to secretary general Fatma Samoura totaled just under 1.6 million Swiss francs (\$1.75 million), and more than 14.5 million Swiss francs (\$16 million) to members of the decision-making FIFA Council. **AP**

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OPINION

World Views

Max Nisen, Bloomberg

SALIVADIRECT COULD KICK OFF A TESTING TURNAROUND

Testing failures have weighed down the U.S. Covid-19 response since the virus emerged. More than half a year in, many labs are overwhelmed, leading to long waits for results and robbing individuals and public health officials of crucial information.

No single breakthrough will solve the problem. But a series of small ones promise to help. One of these is a new, cheap saliva test called SalivaDirect, developed by researchers at a Yale laboratory, partially funded by the National Basketball Association and just approved for use by the Food and Drug Administration. Rather than sell kits or test samples on their own, the researchers are sharing their method with local labs for free.

By taking up this technique and expanding its use, labs nationwide can help the country dig out of its testing hole.

The new test differs from the swab-based PCR (polymerase chain reaction) tests that are the most used in the U.S. PCR tests are highly accurate and are designed to run at high volume on broadly available machines. But processing them takes specialized equipment, manpower and time.

The swabs that health workers use to collect genetic samples need to be transported in specialized tubes containing a custom medium. Once at the lab, a specific reagent (not always easy to procure) must be used to extract RNA.

The Yale researchers wanted to find a simpler process that would be easier on patients. As Anne Wylie, one of those researchers, said, "Who actually enjoys a nasopharyngeal swab?"

The lab was able to detect coronavirus in saliva, and then searched for a way to put samples directly into testing machines, without using reagents. After working on the problem for a few months, the researchers assembled a test that requires nothing but spit in a tube, the application of heat, and a widely available chemical reagent.

The group estimates that the reagent cost per sample ranges from \$1.29 to \$4.37, which is far cheaper than the reagents used in current PCR tests. The lab is granting licenses only to other laboratories that agree to charge an affordable price for the test.

SalivaDirect still relies on the core laboratory technology and machines that are now overwhelmed by Covid-19 tests. But by bringing more labs into the effort, it could help ease the backlog.

Even so, the new test can be only part of the solution. Other fast tests that can be run outside of labs are also needed. But Wylie hopes the FDA's approval of SalivaDirect will lead to many more tests getting a green light. "We've broken a couple of regulatory hurdles that have been barriers against methods that we could use for screening and surveillance rather than diagnostic testing," she says.

When testing capacity is short, states and labs have to focus efforts on confirming that people are sick, rather than test broadly to catch and isolate potential spreaders. New options like SalivaDirect that reduce costs and difficulty enable frequent and repeated testing, which can stop potential outbreaks early.

The NBA is using easy daily tests, some from SalivaDirect, to run a large basketball tournament in mid-outbreak Florida. Extending that approach would result in fewer foreseeable disasters, such as the University of North Carolina's failed effort to bring students back to campus without a robust testing plan.

Before it can hope to do routine screening, the U.S. needs to get to a point where it can turn around high-priority tests in a reasonable time (less than two days). SalivaDirect is an important step toward both short-term capacity building and a brighter testing future.

When ride-hailing heavyweights Uber and Lyft and delivery giants Grubhub and Instacart began making shared rides and meals available with a few taps on a smartphone, they transformed the way people work, travel and get food delivered to their homes.

But the pandemic shuffled the deck for the so-called gig economy as fear of contracting the coronavirus led many who once traveled in shared vehicles to stay home, and grocery delivery services struggled to keep up with demand from people who didn't

want to risk stepping into a store.

A new survey from the University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows how consumer attitudes about using ride-hailing and delivery services have changed. It also highlights a wealth divide, where Americans with higher incomes are able to utilize the services to help reduce their risk of infection.

"People are worried. We know that," said Dmitri Koustas, an assistant professor at the University of Chicago Harris School.

ONE GOOD THING

SONS USE E-BOOKS TO HELP VIRUS-STRICKEN DAD, OTHER PATIENTS



Nicky (right) and his brother Sam Woolf talk about their project Books for Dad at their home in London

JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

Geoff Woolf gave his sons a love for literature. When he got sick with COVID-19, they turned to books to help him — and others.

The 73-year-old retired lawyer was hospitalized in London in March, and within days he was on a ventilator in intensive care.

Unable to visit, his family could only watch from afar with frustration and dismay.

Then sons Nicky, a 33-year-old journalist, and Sam, a 28-year-old actor, had an idea: Maybe literature could help him and other patients.

"He always said if he was in hospital for a long time, he would be able to deal if he had a book," Sam said.

The brothers loaded an e-reader with Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" — "his comfort read," according to Sam — and played it for their unconscious father.

Doctors said, "We can't tell you he'll definitely hear it. But we also can't tell you he won't," Sam said. "There is power in hearing a voice.

The brothers set out to acquire more devices for other patients. As they came to terms with the

likelihood of losing their father, they saw the project, which they named Books for Dad, as a legacy.

Nicky and Sam recruited a team of volunteers to load e-readers, donated by audiobooks company Audible, with content, including classic novels, thrillers and podcasts. They delivered an initial batch of 20 — disinfected and individually

don Hospital, said the "brilliant" initiative can help both coronavirus and other patients.

Hospitalization is stressful even in the best of times, and the ability to "pop your headphones on and just listen to something that takes you somewhere else, I think really changes how people feel and how people cope with what can

be an alien as well as a very busy environment," Anderton said.

From the initial donation, Books for Dad has kept growing, and the brothers plan to distribute 5,000 e-readers to British hospitals over the next six months and add books for children and young adults to their content.

As the project expanded, Geoff Woolf had secondary infections, organ failure and a major stroke. Doctors began to discuss the possibility of switching off life support.

Then, after almost four months of hospitalization including 67 days on a ventilator, he began to improve. In late July he was discharged from Whittington Hospital, workers applauding as he was wheeled out of the ward en route to a specialized neurological hospital where his recovery continues. AP



Japan's exports in July plunged 19.2% from a year ago, as the coronavirus pandemic continued to slam the world's third largest economy, government data showed yesterday. The Finance Ministry's provisional numbers showed Japan's imports fell 22.3% in July. Exports to the U.S. especially suffered, declining 19.5% last month. But Japan recorded its first trade surplus in four months on the back of a recovery in China.



Iran surpassed 20,000 confirmed deaths from the coronavirus yesterday — the highest death toll for any Middle East country so far in the pandemic. The announcement came as the Islamic Republic went ahead with university entrance exams for over 1 million students. Iran is also preparing for mass Shiite commemorations later this month.



USA Preliminary estimates show television viewership for the first night of the Democrats' virtual convention was sharply down compared to the opening of Hillary Clinton's nominating party four years ago. An estimated 19.7 million people watched coverage between 10 and 11 p.m. on some 10 different television networks, the Nielsen company said. Four years ago, opening night drew just under 26 million viewers.

Internet Apple is the first U.S. company to boast a market value of \$2 trillion, just two years after it became the first to reach \$1 trillion. Apple shares have gained nearly 60% this year as the company overcame the shutdown of factories in China that produce the iPhone and the closure of its retail sales amid the coronavirus pandemic.