

The Macao SAR Government urges:

Implement regular epidemic prevention measures;
Do our best to persist;
Wash hands frequently and wear a mask;
Keep a distance and avoid crowd gathering;
Perseverance leads to success.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo



N.º 3804

TUESDAY
25 Aug 2020

T. 27°/ 33°



Air Quality Good



“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

MOP 8.00
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RESIDENTS NEEDING QUARANTINE AT A DESIGNATED HOTEL FOR A SECOND TIME WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THEIR BILLS

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LAWMAKERS OPPOSE HEFTY FINES FOR HOTEL LAW VIOLATIONS

P2

A BILL BASED ON THE CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE HISTORIC CENTRE OF MACAO HAS BEEN COMPLETED AND WILL BE HANDED TO UNESCO

P2

AP PHOTO



South Korea counted its 11th straight day of triple-digit daily jumps in coronavirus cases yesterday and health officials pleaded for people to follow guidelines or risk further restrictions or strains on hospitals. Most of the 266 new cases reported by the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were in the Seoul metropolitan area, home to half of the country's 51 million people, but new infections were also reported in other major cities, including Busan, Daejeon and Sejong.

AP PHOTO



China has gone eight days without reporting a new local case of COVID-19, with the Beijing International Film Festival among public events that are returning. The festival being held this week was postponed from April and is being held without a red carpet for the first time. Many events are being held online, including 250 of the planned 300 screenings. Across the country, theaters have reopened after being closed for months and a Shanghai film festival that ended Aug. 2 drew almost 150,000 viewers to the city's cinemas.

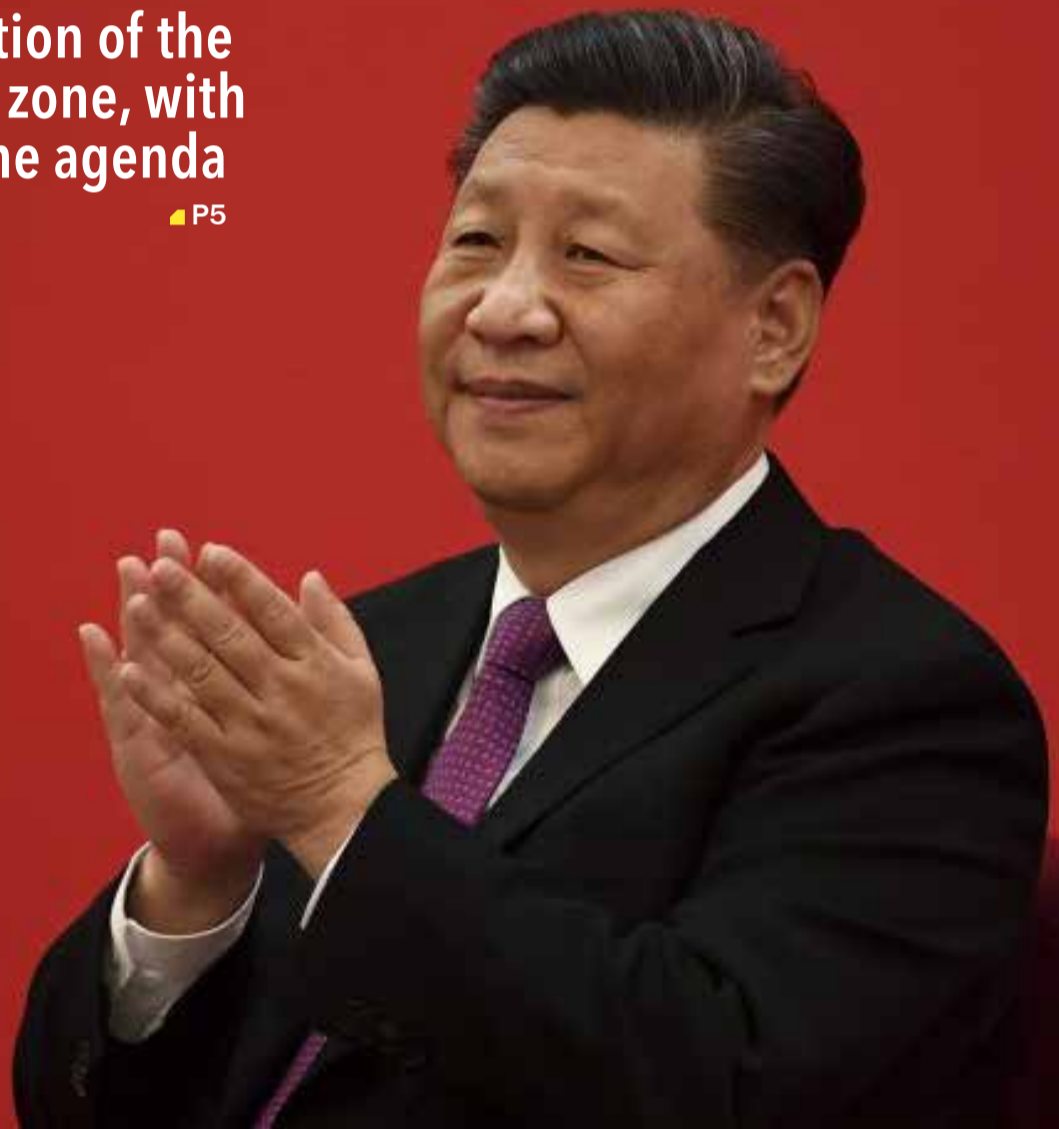
New Zealand The lockdown of Auckland has been extended by four days as authorities try to stamp out a coronavirus outbreak. Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said the two-week lockdown of Auckland, which was due to end Wednesday, will continue through Sunday. She said authorities need to be sure they have found the perimeter of the outbreak and that few cases occur outside of those detected by contact tracing. Masks will be mandated on public transit beginning next week. Ardern said the restrictions in place for the rest of the country would continue for now.

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TRIP TO THE SOUTH

Xi Jinping is scheduled to visit Shenzhen next month on the 40 years celebration of the special economic zone, with Hong Kong on the agenda

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MUST DEVELOPS NEW AIR PURIFIER THAT CAN KILL CORONAVIRUS

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LAWMAKERS OPPOSE HEFTY FINES, GOV'T TO ADD WARNING NOTICE

RENATO MARQUES

THE lawmakers that compose the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) have voiced disagreement with the sanctions outlined in the new Hotel Business Law for hygiene and safety violations, the chairman of the committee, Chan Chak Mo, revealed in a press briefing yesterday afternoon.

According to Chan, the members of the committee thought the fines established by the law were too hefty, especially for small businesses. The law sets out fines of between 10,000 and 30,000 patacas for establishments located outside hotel units, and from 30,000 to 70,000 patacas for those inside hotels.

"We are discussing if this is fair. For the small restaurants or

coffee shops and bars, this seems to be too hefty," Chan said. "For example, if a worker coughs in the food preparation area... the company must pay a minimum of a 10,000-pataca fine. The same happens if there is any broken or cracked tableware."

For the chairman of the committee, who is also a well-known businessman in the sector, the law must be reasonable.

"Lawmakers think this is too much and so we are asking the government to create a warning mechanism before the enforcement of these fines," Chan said. He went on to note that the proposal was well received by the members of the government who will consider creating such a mechanism. As a result, a new version of the text is expected to be presented to the commi-

tee soon.

The chairman also revealed that the document's final review is still far from the finished, as in yesterday's meeting it was only possible to reach the fourth chapter of the law which has a total of 10 chapters, some of which have several sections.

"We are still missing the discussion of a very significant part of the bill. I would say that we need at least two or three months to reach a final opinion report and there is also a lot of work to be done by the legal advisors from both the AL and the government," Chan said.

The committee chairman added that the committee is also not rushing to reach a final opinion.

The members advised that the government should proceed as soon as possible with a revision of the Decree-Law 16/96/M, which establishes the administrative rules for the licensing and inspection of hotels and similar establishments.

Following on from a topic raised in the previous meeting of the committee, Chan said the government had clarified that there are currently 23 hotels or similar establishments operating with licenses issued before 1996 and located in buildings that have a different purpose to the hotel industry.

The government also revealed that 33 others are being investigated to confirm if they are in a similar situation.

World Heritage Management Law to be reviewed by UNESCO

A bill based on the Conservation and Management Plan for the Historic Centre of Macao has been completed and will be handed to UNESCO for review before its adoption, the Cultural Affairs Bureau disclosed in a reply to lawmaker Agnes Lam's inquiry.

In 2019, the World Heritage Committee under UNESCO passed a resolution to require that the Macau government submit the bill to the entity before it enters into force.

The IC noted that the visual corridor to and from the Guia Lighthouse was heavily featured in the public consultation in 2018. The government assured that the comments it obtained have been reviewed and included in the bill.

When the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) was compiling the Bill on Overall Macau Urban Planning, it took into account conservations on the Historic Centre of Macao. The

DSSOPT bill has also made proposals to protect several visual corridors deemed to be representative of Macau, and also to be of value.

The IC went on to emphasize that the bill was the fruit of collaboration between the IC and the DSSOPT, "in order to ensure the bill's compatibility with laws and regulations related to urban planning and constructions."

Moreover, the IC indicated that it rigorously followed the stipulations of the World

Heritage Protection Law and offered restrictive comments on new development projects.

"If a project may possibly jeopardize the universal values highlighted by the World Heritage, we shall conduct assessments on the impact that the project would bring to the concerned heritage site," the IC wrote in its reply to lawmaker Lam.

It also recalled its work in terms of education and marketing on the Historic Centre of Macao. **AL**

IC LOWERS BUILDING REQUIREMENTS AFTER DROPPING HERITAGE GRADING

AFTER foregoing the need to preserve the exterior façade of the building known as 39E on Rua dos Mercadores, near Senado Square, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) now only requires that the reconstruction not be taller than 20.5 meters, and abide by the 76-degree daylight plane angle.

The 76-degree requirement is still in effect in Macau. It ensures sufficient sunlight and airflow between buildings on both sides of a road. The height of a building should not be taller than the hypotenuse making 76 degrees from the center of the road in front of it.

The building, colloquially

known as 39E Rua dos Mercadores, is believed to have been built around the early 20th century from bricks and wood. It has a western style exterior but a Chinese style interior. What makes it especially rare now is its large balcony and carved cast iron fence.

The IC's proposal stands opposed to its previous regulations on the building next to 39E, which required preservation of the exterior façade.

Netizens on social media proposed that, given the buildings are both located within the buffer zone of the Historic Centre of Macao, their preservation requirements should be similar in order to maintain visual harmony. **AL**

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Locals going into quarantine for second time to be charged from September 1



ANTHONY LAM

MACAUI residents going into quarantine at a designated hotel for a second time will be required to settle their own hotel bills from September 1, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced yesterday.

Since the quarantine requirement has been in place, Macau residents have had their bills paid for by the government when they have quarantined at designated hotels following their arrival in Macau from high-risk regions.

Explaining the reason for the charge, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) representative at the press conference, Betty Fok, said that based on current global circumstances, the Macau government forecasts the quarantine policy will continue for an unforeseeable period, creating an extra burden on the government's budget.

However, when asked how much the government has spent so far on the bills of quaranti-

ne hotels, the concerned authority, the tourism board could not offer an answer to yesterday's press conference.

It was revealed at a parliamentary question session with the MGTO head, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, held on April 7, that as of that date, the quarantine hotel policy had cost the government MOP50 million.

The charge for quarantined residents will be the same as that applied to non-residents: 5,600 patacas for 14 days

As of August 23, Macau has put a total of 12,068 people in quarantine, of which 1,425 are currently undergoing the 14-day process.

The charge for second-time quarantined Macau residents will be the same as that applied to non-residents: MOP5,600 for 14 days. The charge will cover three meals per day during the quarantine period.

Since each quarantine covers a period of 14 days, some residents under quarantine will see their period crossing the threshold date. When

asked whether they will be charged and if so, whether in full or in part, the MGTO official could not give an answer and pledged to reply via a press statement, which was not received by press time.

Dr Lo Iek Long, medical director of the public Conde de São Januário Hospital, elaborated on behalf of the MGTO official, saying that the decision to charge Macau residents for second-time quarantine is, apart from utilizing public funds reasonably, to discourage international travel that may pose risks to the epidemic response in the city.

The medical doctor, however, noted that there would be exemptions to the charge. For example, Macau residents travelling for official visits to neighboring Hong Kong will be exempt.

Those travelling on special purposes can file an application for a waiver. Although the medical doctor did not disclose what he meant by "special purposes," however, previously, special circumstances that permitted exemption included attending a funeral or visiting a dying family member.

MUST DEVELOPS NEW AIR FILTRATION SYSTEM THAT CAN TARGET CORONAVIRUS

STAFF REPORTER

THE research team of Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), working with other research institutions, has developed an air filtration system that can be used to "effectively kill" the Covid-19 coronavirus.

The research is a joint project between MUST, Hong Kong University, Tsinghua University and Guangzhou Medical University.

After six months of research and development, the FUCI (Filtration Unit for Coronavirus Inactivation) system has finally been tested and verified by the HKU P3 laboratory. It is proven to neutralize coronaviruses and influenzas with a success rate of 99.46%.

The product is one of only few air purification systems in the world that has been approved by a third level biosafety laboratory.

MUST has formed a partnership with Zhong Shan's Green Recycling Co. which will undertake the production and development of FUCI so that it can be available to the wider market. Jiang Zhi-Hong, vice president of MUST, estimates that the FUCI system will cost around MOP30,000 per unit.

FUCI must be installed in an existing air conditioner. The filter uses high voltage electrostatic interception and ultraviolet radiation to combat the diseases. The lining of the filtration unit is coated with polyphenol to achieve effi-



Jiang Zhi-Hong

cient air purification.

The system can remove up to 95% of bacteria and microorganisms in the span of one hour. FUCI can also filter out microbes as small as 0.003 mg/m3.

The MUST team has received support from other researchers and professors including Associate Professor Mo Jinhan from the Department of Building Technology Science of Tsinghua University and Professor Yang Zifeng from Guangzhou Medical University.

The MUST team is currently in talks with large hotels and integrated resorts in Macau to implement the system in busy public areas. The government has also shown interest in using the filtration system in the Macau Science Center. The University believes that this will help prepare Macau for tourism in the coming weeks.

AD

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info@britchammacao.org
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12:00: Registration
12:30: Lunch
13:00: Presentation - Q&A
14:00: Close

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Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event

The Belt & Road Initiative: Opportunities for Macao

José Luís de Sales Marques
José Luís de Sales Marques is president of the Board of Directors of IEEM since 2002 and was Mayor of Macao between 1993 and 2001. The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a national development strategy, first announced by Xi Jin Ping in 2013 as "One Belt, One Road" (OBOR). What are the main opportunities for Macao in such a gigantic initiative and how will it contribute to Macau's prosperity in the long term, while contributing to its economic diversification? How will that participation benefit Macao businesses? What can be expected from the COVID -19 dominated international economic environment and the recent world political developments in regard to the implementation of the BRI?

ANALYSIS

ZHUHAI RESIDENTS SIGNAL NOT READY TO RETURN TO MACAU

DANIEL BEITLER

VISITOR arrivals last weekend remained stagnant, suggesting that Zhuhai residents are not ready to resume vacationing in Macau. The Public Security Police Force (PSP), which oversees immigration matters in Macau, said that it was not expecting tourists to return en masse until visa issuance is resumed across the country.

Zhuhai began reissuing tourism visas for Macau visits on August 12, as part of a pilot for the rest of the country. The resumption of exit visas for mainland visitors will be expanded to the rest of Guangdong Province starting tomorrow, and the entire mainland from September 23.

As Macau Daily Times earlier reported, processing times for new tourism visas to travel to Macau now take about seven days. That means that last weekend was the first to potentially benefit from increased visitation since the travel restrictions were eased.



However, according to PSP data made public during yesterday's Covid-19 briefing by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center, there was no significant change in the number of daily border crossings on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Macau recorded 255,500 border crossings on Friday, followed by 242,900 on Saturday

and 215,000 on Sunday. Of this amount, between 7,000 and 9,000 visitor entries were recorded on each day, more or less unchanged from the month's average.

Ma Chio Hong, head of the Division of Operation and Communications at the PSP, said that he did not expect a significant number of tourists to return to Macau before restrictions were

eased across the mainland on September 23.

"After the resumption [...] in Zhuhai, there has surely been an increase in visitor arrivals using travel permit from mainland China. Nonetheless, generally speaking, we can't see a leap in visitor arrivals," said to the division chief. "The reason is that currently the application process

has only resumed in Zhuhai. I believe when applications for travel permits resume across the entire mainland, we will see a significant increase in visitor arrivals."

Last year mainland China accounted for about two-thirds of Macau's arrivals, with approximately 40% coming from the nine mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. More than 8% of mainland China arrivals came from Zhuhai alone.

Visitor arrivals have tracked at near-zero levels since February, causing severe disruption to Macau's economic pillars of gaming, tourism and retail. The city's gross domestic product contracted by 67.8% in year-on-year terms in the second quarter, driven by a 93.9% decline in the export of tourism services and a 97.1% fall in casino business.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng believes it is essential to convince mainland residents that Macau is a safe place to visit. Although visitors from the mainland city of Zhuhai can now cross into Macau for tourism purposes, they must still possess a negative virus test and present a valid health declaration.

Authorities on both sides of the border previously said that the travel restrictions could be reintroduced if a single locally-transmitted case of Covid-19 is detected in Macau.

KL-MACAU ROUTE WILL ONLY RESUME ONCE CONTROL MEASURES ARE RELAXED

LYNZY VALLES

AIRASIA will not be able to resume the Kuala Lumpur-Macau flight route any time soon, despite what travel and aviation industry market intelligence website CAPA has indicated.

The website formerly noted that the low-cost carrier is looking to operate the Kuala Lumpur-Macau route twice a week starting from September.

However, in a statement to TDM, Celia Lao, CEO of AirAsia Hong Kong and Macau said that the budget carrier will not be able to resume the flight route at this stage as the strict border controls in both jurisdictions are still in place.

"We are gradually resuming services for domestic destinations in our hub countries, and flights to international destinations, such as [Kuala Lumpur-Macau], will be resumed when travel bubble schemes are established or



border control measures are relaxed by respective governments and authorities," the CEO said.

The Times contacted AirAsia to enquire about when it is expecting to resume the route and if it will resume other international flights from Macau soon, but no reply was given by press time.

To date, foreign visitors and non-resident workers not from the greater China region are still not allowed to enter the Macau SAR as part of the city's measures to minimize the spread of Covid-19. No dates have been revealed yet for the city's borders to open to people

from outside Greater China. Malaysia will open its borders to tourists from August 31.

Lao previously told the Times that AirAsia is focused on helping to revive Macau's tourism industry. She said that AirAsia has kept up communication with governments in Macau and abroad, regarding actions that it can take to help revive the economy.

Lao earlier said that the company wants the SAR to negotiate a travel bubble with Thailand, noting that it is ready to resume flights between the two regions at any moment.

MGM, CAFÉ DILLY OFFICIALLY SIGN PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

LYNZY VALLES

GAMING operator MGM and Charlesstrong Café Companhia Limitada hosted a product release and contract signing yesterday at the Portuguese-speaking Countries Food Products Exhibition Center to officially mark their partnership.

Charles Shi, Chairman of Charlesstrong Café Companhia Limitada, and Simon Leong, Executive Director of Purchasing of MGM, signed the co-operation agreement.

The gaming operator has pledged to purchase organic East Timor specialty coffee products from local brand Café Dilly, which are now available for guests staying at the villas of MGM's two properties.

The coffee brand's products are now on sale and drip coffees are served at Pastry Bar and Anytime at MGM Macau and MGM Cotai respectively.

The local SME sources organic coffee beans from



the Southeast Asian Portuguese-speaking country East Timor. With its own coffee farm in East Timor, the company stepped onto the local specialty coffee bandwagon by establishing the Macau brand Café Dilly and opening a factory, which produces locally processed specialty coffee products, in the last year.

Shi aims to promote the products as souvenirs in addition to the city's current Portuguese egg tarts and almond cookies.

Shi has previously said that there is demand for high quality of coffee in Macau, no-

ting that there are only a few companies that process organic coffee. Leong commented, "this collaboration exemplifies MGM's commitment to the development of local SMEs, bringing in quality products of Portuguese-speaking countries to Macau, and utilizing our platform to promote local brands."

Some Macau companies have already established long-term trade partnerships with Portuguese-speaking countries, as the city has been encouraged to play a long-term role as a bridge and platform for such trade.

TRIP TO THE SOUTH

Xi Jinping said to preside over 40th anniversary of Shenzhen special economic zone

RENATO MARQUES

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping is expected to travel to the south of the country to officiate the ceremonies for the celebration of the 40th anniversary of Shenzhen's special economic zone next month.

Citing unnamed sources, the South China Morning Post reported yesterday that the Chinese leader would make an official visit to Shenzhen to mark the 40 year-milestone of the technology hub's designation as a special economic zone.

The visit will reinforce China's commitment to its open-door to the world policy amid the ongoing tensions with the U.S., the SCMP reported.

According to the same sources, the President's visit to the city of Shenzhen will be followed closely by the business and political elite of Hong Kong, who are expected to take part in the celebrations and may be received by Xi.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam is expected to be among the delegation from the neighboring SAR.

The possibility of the delegation being received by Xi during the visit has been seen by political analysts as a sign of the importance placed on Hong Kong by China's leadership.

Analysts suggest that if the Hong Kong delegation manages to meet Xi, it is a positive sign from the country's leadership to the Special Administrative Region, whose government has been under fire for not being able to tackle the social unrest that has lasted for a protracted period.

AP PHOTO



According to a Shenzhen official cited by the SCMP, the delegation would also include a number of Hong Kong people "who had made significant contributions to Shenzhen's development" over the past four decades.

The last time Xi met Lam was in December, when she traveled to Beijing to deliver her annual report. At the time, Xi acknowledged the work of the Chief Executive in a turbulent year marked by many anti-government protests.

If Lam secures a meeting with Xi, either on her own or with the Hong Kong delegation during his visit to Shenzhen, analysts say it is a clear signal that the city remains relevant to its neighbor's future despite the many controversies over the past year that have crippled the city's economy and left it dwarfed by Shenzhen's

booming growth.

Although Beijing has not yet confirmed the date of the president's visit to Shenzhen, local officials cited by SCMP say that security and health screening arrangements are being made for a tentative date of September 7.

Another source consulted by the media outlet confirmed that Xi's visit would take place "in the first half of the month," as the president would not want to visit too close to the events related to the National Day celebrations that take place on October 1 and usually involve a preparation and planning over the final few weeks.

Lau Siu-kai, vice-chairman of the Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macau Studies, a semi-official think tank in Beijing, said he believed Xi would find the

time to meet Lam and highlight the importance of Hong Kong and Shenzhen working more closely together.

"China's top leaders have mentioned the importance for the country to rely on the domestic market for growth... and in the face of external suppression, it is also urgent for Hong Kong to strengthen its ties with neighboring cities," Lau said.

"After the national security law took effect in June, analysts expected Beijing to roll out important measures for Hong Kong's socio-economic development," continued Lau. "The president could make use of this opportunity to make it clear the central government remains supportive of Hong Kong, especially when it comes to fighting the pandemic."

Subcontractors fined for endangering workers on HKZMB project

TWO subcontractors involved in the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge were fined yesterday for failing to ensure the safety and health of employees with regard to an accident in 2017 which claimed the lives of two workers and injured three others.

WSS Engineering Systems and United Construction & Manpower Service were each fined HKD30,000.

The two firms sent workers to the mega project's three main contractors where they were tasked with imposing measures to safeguard

the safety of employees.

As cited in a report issued by South China Morning Post, Hong Kong magistrate Lam Tsz-kan said that the two subcontractors had turned a blind eye to a lack of safety measures, noting that "a safe system of work had not

been provided to the workers."

In 2017, a worker from Nigeria fell into the sea when the platform's cables snapped and the structure collapsed. About four hours later, another worker was found and was also pronounced dead.

It was reported that the two men who died were unable to release their safety belts and sank with the platform.

During the construction of the world's longest sea-crossing, a total of 20 workers were killed and more than 500 were injured.

Meanwhile, three main contractors of the project pleaded guilty to 27 breaches of occupational safety in January last year and were fined a total of HKD614,000. **LV**

THREE MONGOLIANS ARRESTED FOR STEALING

Two men and a woman from Mongolia have been arrested by the Public Security Police Force on allegations of stealing at two shopping malls located in Cotai. They were all forwarded to the Public Prosecutions Office. A security guard at one of the two shopping malls first reported the loss of three cosmetic goods items which amounted to MOP4,400, to the police. After reviewing surveillance camera footage, officers discovered the male thief and his associate. The police subsequently received a separate report on the loss of clothing pieces amounting to MOP4,600 at the other mall. A female suspect was caught on site. The three people were all staying in the same room at a Taipa hotel.

SSM TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH THIRD PARTY COVID-19 TESTERS

In response to an inquiry by lawmaker Agnes Lam, Director Lei Chin Ion of the Health Bureau disclosed that the bureau would further enhance and expand its cooperation with third-party Covid-19 test operators. He added that Macau's current testing capacity could satisfy the border-crossing needs of local residents. There is an ongoing mechanism to handle special and emergency test needs, the bureau head stressed. The bureau has handled more than 1,000 such cases as of July 22. Further refining on epidemic response work, such as nucleic acid testing, health quarantines, and hotline responses, will also be undertaken.

THREE-QUARTERS OF SCHOOLS TO RESTART BY SEPTEMBER 2

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau disclosed that about three-quarters of local schools would start their new school year on or before September 2. Also, in collaboration with the Transport Affairs Bureau, the education regulator will coordinate with bus operators to manage human flow as the new school year starts. Special buses will be deployed to handle bus stops that become too crowded. Meanwhile, extra workers will be deployed to bus stops to attend to any possible inquiries or confusion. The Public Security Police Force will deploy extra officers to guide traffic in school neighborhoods.

AP PHOTO

BEIJING VOWS CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR HONG KONG AS FINANCIAL HUB



CHINA'S banking regulator pledged its backing for Hong Kong as a finance hub and reiterated a commitment to opening up the Chinese financial sector amid a deepening standoff with the U.S.

China will provide support for its financial institutions who are doing business in Hong Kong while complying with regulations and offering services to residents and companies, the China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission said in a statement on its website last weekend.

Tensions between the U.S. and China over Hong Kong has sparked tit-for-tat sanctions on politicians and officials on both sides that have left global banking institutions walking a tightrope between the two world powers.

A new national security law has fueled concerns about the state of Hong Kong's autonomy from China, including freedoms of the

press and the independence of its judicial system. Both have helped underpin Hong Kong's reputation as a global financial hub. The U.S. has also ended preferential trading treatment for the city.

"At present, Hong Kong's financial market is generally operating smoothly and the linked exchange rate system has a solid foundation, which also reflects the confidence of the international market in Hong Kong," the CBIRC said. "Hong Kong's status as an international financial center will not be weakened and shaken, but it will become more prosperous and stable in the future."

Bankers and their lawyers from Hong Kong to Washington have been poring over the fine-print to reconcile how they can dodge major consequences from being squeezed between U.S. and Chinese laws. Running afoul of the legislations put companies at risk of

finances or losing their license to do business.

The CBIRC also said more foreign financial institutions are expected to join or expand in the Chinese market, and are doing their due diligence before entering. Some have submitted preliminary applications to open a unit, it said.

"It is expected that more foreign institutions will participate in China's financial market in the coming period and become a viable force for the high-quality development of China's financial industry," the CBIRC said.

China has approved several applications this year for ventures by foreign financial companies. BlackRock Inc., Singapore's Temasek Holdings Pte. and China Construction Bank Corp. received the go-ahead to jointly build an asset-management business. Chubb Limited increased its

stake in Huatai Insurance Group, becoming its largest shareholder, while Korean Reinsurance Co. started its China reinsurance branch.

Separately, the CBIRC said the non-performing ratio of loans to small businesses is getting close to the original level that regulators had planned to tolerate, though it is still at a controllable level. China had 13.7 trillion yuan (\$2 trillion) of small and micro loans as of the end of June, up 28.4% from a year earlier. Their bad-loan ratio stood at 2.99%, according to the statement.

The banking industry plans to dispose of 3.4 trillion yuan of non-performing assets this year, or 1.1 trillion yuan more than last year to strengthen their balance sheet.

"Considering that the coronavirus epidemic is a disaster of the century, and in order for the economy to completely return to

normal, more financial contributions are still needed," it said. "Ensuring enterprises and stabilizing employment means protecting banks and stabilizing finance. Therefore, the recent increase in the cost of financial risks is both normal and necessary."

China has also introduced a mechanism that will monitor housing property financing, the People's Bank of China said in a statement on Sunday after a forum attended by regulators and real estate developers last week. Homes should not be used as speculative investments, and it remains important that land and housing prices are stable, it said.

The forum also studied ways to improve the financial support policy for the leasing market, and called for the speeding up of the formation of a housing system that attaches equal importance to rentals and purchases. **BLOOMBERG**

China-Kenya fintech partnership key to boosting commercial ties: expert

A Kenyan investment expert said yesterday that closer Kenya-China financial technology (fintech) collaboration will boost bilateral commercial ties.

Daniel Mainye, senior manager for fintech, brand and innovation at Nairobi-based Cytonn Investments told Xinhua by

phone that China is a critical partner of Kenya given that China is now one of Kenya's biggest trading partners.

"Fintech integration will smoothen trade by enabling merchants to pay seamlessly for goods from both countries and will result in a win-win relationship," Mainye said.

M-Pesa, a mobile phone money transfer platform in Kenya has already integrated with Alipay, a Chinese fintech company.

Mainye observed that the collaboration will also facilitate the Chinese business community to transfer funds to Kenya for investment purposes.

He added that the growth of Kenya's fintech sector will be accelerated through international partnerships.

"Kenya's huge diaspora which is scattered across the globe requires convenient payment methods to send money back home," he added.

According to the

analyst, a number of Kenyan banks have already seen an opportunity of partnering with Chinese fintechs in order to serve the local Chinese community.

Mainye noted that fintech allows those outside formal financial institutions to make and receive payments even across borders.

He added that the fintech industry is playing a bigger role in the economy due to the COVID-19 pandemic as the public moves to adopt

practices such as social distancing and other measures to contain the spread of the virus.

He observed that the digitalization of financial services also has other benefits for governments and the private sector as it enhances the efficiency of operations.

Mainye noted the government is also promoting the use of contactless financial services by directing fintech firms to remove charges for smaller mobile money transactions. **XINHUA**



In this July 8, 2016 photo, Chinese missile frigate Yuncheng launches an anti-ship missile during a military exercise in the waters near Hainan Island and Parcel Islands

SOUTH CHINA SEA

China holds another round of naval drills in disputed waters

CHINA is holding another round of military drills in the South China Sea amid an uptick in such activity in the area highlighting growing tensions.

The Maritime Safety Administration said the exercises would run from yesterday through Sunday. It warned outside vessels to steer 5 nautical miles (9.26 kilometers) clear of the drill area but otherwise gave no details.

China announced late last month that it had held drills in the South China Sea involving long-range bombers and other aircraft.

Chinese forces have also confronted U.S. Naval vessels conducting "freedom of navigation

operations" near Chinese-held islands, as well as forces from Australia and countries that challenge China's claim to the entire strategic waterway.

CHINA SEEKS RENEWED ASEAN SUPPORT

China reportedly called together diplomats from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations last month to seek their backing after a new diplomatic challenge from the U.S.

It's not clear if the meeting, reported yesterday by Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper, yielded any immediate gains as talks between China and ASEAN remain in limbo.

The meeting in Beijing was

called three weeks after the U.S. rejected nearly all of Beijing's South China Sea claims and in effect sided with the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and Brunei in each of their territorial spats with Beijing. China responded by saying the U.S. was trying to sow discord and was meddling in an Asian dispute to flex its muscles and incite a confrontation.

According to the newspaper report, during the meeting in Beijing in early August, a Chinese official expressed concern about the risk from military activities by "non-regional countries," a term Beijing uses to refer to the U.S. as well as its allies Japan and Australia.

PHILIPPINES PROTESTS EQUIPMENT SEIZURE

The Philippine government filed a diplomatic protest after Chinese forces seized fishing equipment set up by Filipinos in disputed Scarborough Shoal.

China seized the shoal after a tense sea standoff in 2012, and the Philippines brought its disputes to international arbitration the following year. The tribunal in 2016 invalidated China's claims to virtually the entire South China Sea, but Beijing continues to ignore and defy the decision.

The Department of Foreign Affairs in Manila said in a statement Thursday that the Philippines "also resolutely objected" to China continuing to issue radio challenges to

Philippine aircraft patrolling over the disputed waters.

A Chinese government spokesperson responded Friday that its coast guard was enforcing the law in Chinese waters, and that the Philippine aircraft had harmed China's sovereignty and threatened its security.

VIETNAM ASKS MALAYSIA TO INVESTIGATE SHOOTING

Vietnam has asked Malaysia to investigate a coast guard vessel that fired shots at two Vietnamese fishing boats, killing one fisherman.

The Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said officers fired in self-defense after two Vietnamese boats entered Malaysian waters late on Aug. 16. Fishermen aboard threw gasoline bombs and tried to ram their vessel. One Vietnamese fisherman was killed and 18 others were detained, the agency said.

Vietnam's Foreign Ministry asked Malaysia to investigate and "reprimand officers who killed the Vietnamese citizen and treat other Vietnamese fishermen and their properties in a humane way."

US STRIKE GROUP RETURNS TO SOUTH CHINA SEA

The U.S. Navy says the aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan and its strike group entered the South China Sea earlier this month and have been carrying out air operations.

China routinely objects to U.S. naval activity in the sea, especially when more than one strike group is present, as happened earlier this year, and when they involve operations with navies from other countries.

The strike group includes the carrier, its air wing, the guided missile cruiser USS Antietam, and the destroyers USS Mustin and USS Rafael Peralta.

The force "conducted flight operations with fixed and rotary wing aircraft, and high-end maritime stability operations and exercises," its commander said in a news release.

"Operations in the South China Sea continue to demonstrate enduring U.S. commitment to allies and partners, and a cooperative approach to regional stability and freedom of the seas," the release said. **AP**

Taiwan orders Alibaba to sell stake in e-commerce platform

TAIWAN ordered China's Alibaba Group yesterday to dispose of its stake in a local e-commerce platform, Taobao Taiwan, citing a risk that users' personal information might be transferred to the mainland.

The order adds to mounting pressure on Chinese companies in the United

States and other countries over security concerns.

Taobao Taiwan is operated by a British company, but Alibaba Group's stake in that company allows it to control the consumer-to-consumer platform in violation of Taiwanese rules, the Ministry of Economic Affairs said.

Alibaba Group, head-

quartered in Hangzhou, southwest of Shanghai, is the world's biggest e-commerce company by total sales volume.

The user agreement for Taobao Taiwan gives permission to "send the member's transaction data back to the Alibaba Group server in China," the ministry said. "There may be an in-

formation security risk."

Alibaba's 29% stake in British Claddagh Venture Investment Ltd. is below the 30% legal limit, the ministry said. But it said the shareholder structure allows Alibaba to control the British venture by vetoing decisions.

Alibaba has six months to "withdraw the invest-

ment," the order said.

Alibaba Group didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

Taiwan is among governments that have imposed curbs on the use of telecom equipment from Huawei Technologies Ltd., the world's biggest maker of switching gear.

In the United States, the

White House is pressing the Chinese owner of TikTok to sell the short-video app due to concerns it might transfer users' information to China. President Donald Trump has issued a sweeping but vague order barring U.S. companies from dealing with TikTok and WeChat, a popular Chinese messaging service. **AP**

BLOOMBERG

Virus era threatens Europe's war on dirty imports



EWA KRUKOWSKA
& JONATHAN STEARNS

EUROPE'S plan to put a price on dirtier imports risks getting caught up in global trade tensions as the fallout from the coronavirus pandemic eclipses climate change as the biggest challenge for governments.

Called the "carbon border adjustment mechanism," a proposal for a charge on selected products like cement and electricity is being drafted by the European Union after leaders of the 27 member states agreed to press ahead. Companies in the bloc see the measure to tackle imported carbon emissions as a way of shielding against cheaper, less green rivals. But now there's a growing consensus that it may not even happen.

The EU wants to be a leader on climate action while protecting industries from lower-cost competition, but the era of Covid-19 has made that tougher. The proposal, which the EU estimates could raise as much as 14 billion euros (\$16.5 billion) a year, keeps the pressure on the U.S., China and Russia to follow in seeking deeper emission cuts. Yet it also could end up fueling conflicts over who has access to which markets.

"It's a tool that the EU would like to develop, even if preparing the legal side means fueling trade con-

flicts," said Susanne Droege, senior fellow at the German Institute for International and Security Affairs SWP in Berlin. "Whether or not it will be applied will depend on the geopolitical climate."

Enacting a border levy and potentially scaling it up in the future hinges on how key events unfold, particularly the U.S. presidential election in November. There would be less urgency for the EU to flex its muscles if Donald Trump is replaced by Joe Biden, whose campaign features a \$2 trillion plan for combating climate change and a tax on imported carbon-intensive goods.

Part of the EU Green Deal strategy to zero-out greenhouse gases by 2050, the plan is to tax a portion of the carbon produced by global competitors of European factories. EU leaders endorsed an option last month of using revenues generated by the mechanism as a way of helping pay for a landmark economic rescue from the coronavirus crisis. A draft law is due next year.

The measure would initially cover a limited number of industries deemed most liable to relocate production from the EU to regions with laxer environmental policies—a phenomenon known as carbon leakage.

The precise method for determining the carbon content of imported goods is still being examined. To

be spared the border charge, foreign products would need to have a lower carbon content or come from a country that charges a higher price on emissions.

However, the goal of tying access to the vast European single market to the green credentials of EU trade partners may prove to be more bark than bite when the plan is translated into legislation. The reason is a fiendish array of legal, economic and political challenges.

"As I see it, the most realistic scenario for the next stage is a mostly symbolic measure," said Michael Mehling, deputy director of the Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Still, symbolism matters in climate policy and Europe aims to use that as leverage to uphold the 2015 international Paris Agreement to fight global warming after Trump turned his back on the deal and doubts arose about whether other signatories including China will follow through on their commitments.

Industrial production in Europe is already less carbon intensive than in most of the rest of the world. The EU runs the globe's biggest emissions-trading system, which imposes quotas for carbon dioxide on energy and manufacturing companies and requires those exceeding their limits to buy spare CO2 permits

from those that emit less.

Just over a fifth of global emissions is subject to a carbon price, according to the World Bank. The costs of pollution in Europe jumped to a 14-year high of 30.8 euros per metric ton last month, boosted by expectations of tighter climate policies. BloombergNEF expects the price to rise further, exceeding 40 euros by 2030 and increasing the case for a carbon border adjustment mechanism, or CBAM.

"The risk of a trade war upon implementing a CBAM is likely to increase as the carbon price rises," BloombergNEF analysts Antoine Vagneur-Jones and Emily Jackson wrote in a report on July 23. "It may therefore be desirable to implement the mechanism sooner rather than later."

One challenge is ensuring any measure complies with the World Trade Organization's open-market rules. That would require a carbon levy to replace the existing shield against carbon leakage. Currently the bloc gives free permits for a limited number of companies in the EU emissions-trading system to avoid them relocating production abroad.

Such a move would trigger opposition from cement, steel and aluminum producers, which want the new measure to be additional protection against competitors from countries with laxer climate rules. **BLOOMBERG**

this day in history



1967 'AMERICAN HITLER' SHOT DEAD



The leader of the American Nazi party, George Lincoln Rockwell, has been shot and killed by a sniper at a shopping centre in Arlington, Virginia.

Minutes after the shooting a "captain" in Rockwell's Nazi party, John Patler, 29, was arrested and charged with his murder.

Police say two shots were fired from a rooftop of a beauty salon across the street from the Dominion Hills shopping centre.

Two bullets went through the windscreen of the 49-year-old's blue and white Chevrolet and hit him in the head and the chest.

He died instantly.

Eye-witnesses said the Nazi leader was reversing his car out of a parking space in the shopping centre when the incident happened.

As the shots hit his car he dived onto the passenger seat in an attempt to escape.

His car apparently crashed into another vehicle. A coroner pronounced him dead at the scene.

George Lincoln Rockwell, who lived just yards from the scene of his death, founded the American Nazi Party, originally known as the World Union of Free Enterprise and National Socialists, in 1959.

He believed all blacks should be deported to Africa and every Jew dispossessed and sterilised. He also believed that "traitors" such as former Presidents Harry Truman and Dwight Eisenhower should be hanged.

It is understood that Matt Koehl, Rockwell's second-in-command, will take over the leadership of the party.

Speaking tonight Mr Koehl told reporters the murder suspect, John Patler, had been expelled from the Nazi party in April this year for "Bolshevik leanings".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

George Lincoln Rockwell was born on 9 March, 1918, in Bloomington, central Illinois.

He attended Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island for a short time before dropping out to join the Navy. He became a pilot and flew in the Pacific during World War II.

He formed the American Nazi Party in 1959 and he and his members would regularly appear at civil rights meetings and demonstrations.

He was fined and sent to prison on several occasions for his activities.

After his funeral on 30 August 1967, the Pentagon refused to allow Rockwell's body to be buried in the national cemetery at Culpeper because his followers refused to take off their swastika armbands before entering.

His body was returned to the party headquarters in Arlington, Virginia where it was disposed of during a secret Nazi funeral the following day.

John Patler was sentenced to 20 years in prison for Rockwell's murder in December 1967.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 You should believe your own eyes and ears, not what someone else tells you to believe. Don't let a bunch of agitators stir up trouble between you and your buddies.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 Upon closer inspection, your diet isn't as great as it could be. And that person you have been avoiding might finally need to be cut loose once and for all. You don't need the extra strain on your mental hard drive.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 If you think you don't have enough time to attend to the details or errands that this day demands, you have to reorganize your day to make time. Things have been left alone for too long, and they require your attention.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Your plans and routines could suddenly get shaken up without warning. Don't be surprised if a long-term relationship or old friendship suddenly changes. Expect the unexpected...

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Going with the flow is a much better tactic for you today than swimming against the current. Do not be rash or combative. Try to let other people call the shots for a while.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Sometimes you don't realize what a great day you're having until it's almost over. Today, you have to live in the moment and soak up every moment of the good times as they happen.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Instead of calling them on it or getting frustrated, just move on. Skip over them and do what you were planning to do before they came onto the scene. You don't really need them anyway.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 This beginning might seem small, perhaps just a side job or connection to a potential business partner, but it could grow into something amazing over the next few months.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 It's time to get real and admit there are certain things that are beyond your control. Stop beating your head against that wall and tell yourself you can try again at a later date, when things are more in your favor.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Try not to take things too seriously today, despite your situation. Even though you might be feeling a growing sense of responsibility for something, you don't have to feel like it's a burden. It's an honor.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Let them vent their frustrations without offering up your own opinion. In their kvetching, you might just find a creative new approach to a familiar old problem that's been bugging you for quite a while.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 You have a strong critical eye right now, which makes you excellent at detecting foul play or hot air. Use this valuable skill today to make sure that no one you love is being taken advantage of.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

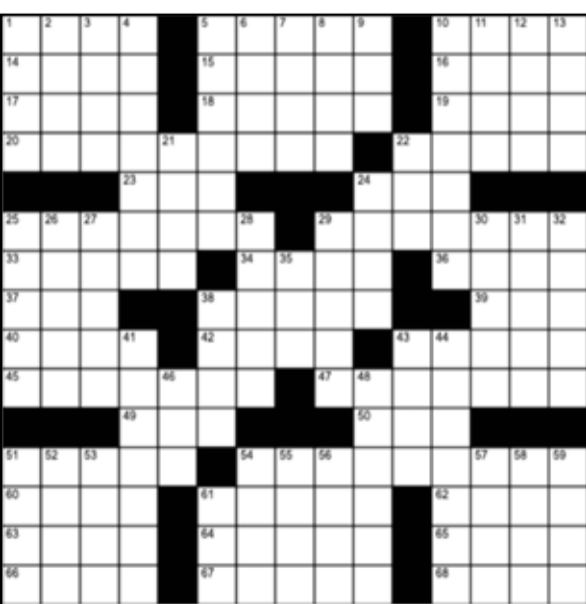
WEATHER

	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- Kind of prof; 5- Goddess of love; 10- Brood; 14- Lewd look; 15- Run away with a lover; 16- Some nest eggs; 17- ___ breve; 18- Hue; 19- Faux pas; 20- Redemption; 22- With cunning; 23- Brian of Roxy Music; 24- Datebook abbr.; 25- Lack of success; 29- East African nation; 33- Fowl pole; 34- Tibetan beasts; 36- Gossip; 37- Meal crumb; 38- Eliot's Marner; 39- Slangy refusal; 40- RR stops; 42- Military group; 43- Because of; 45- Sampling; 47- Goes by; 49- Chang's twin; 50- Like some vbs.; 51- Baby bird?; 54- Proclaim; 60- River in central England; 61- Inscribed pillar; 62- Pleased; 63- Hindu lawgiver; 64- Sports venue; 65- Patriot Nathan; 66- Dutch cheese, wrapped in red wax; 67- Cupressus; 68- High schooler;

DOWN: 1- Woeful word; 2- Actress Ward; 3- Offer; 4- Makes journeys; 5- Quantity which has magnitude and direction; 6- "The Time Machine" race; 7- ___ contendere; 8- On top of; 9- Sun. talk; 10- Deceive; 11- Air France destination; 12- Bucket; 13- Catch a view of; 21- Sometimes you feel like ___; 22- Total; 24- Chuck; 25- Frozen dew; 26- Trunk line; 27- Little bits; 28- Checking out; 29- Glide along smoothly; 30- Queues; 31- Angry; 32- Dumas dueler; 35- Boxer Laila; 38- Had the mic, say; 41- Breastbone; 43- Jeanne ___ (French saint); 44- Vertical; 46- Cuttlefish excretion; 48- Straight; 51- Ditto; 52- Spot on the tube; 53- The last Mrs. Chaplin; 54- French 101 verb; 55- Require; 56- It parallels a radius; 57- Caesar's wings; 58- Story, often rooted in folklore; 59- Biblical garden; 61- Pouch;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



FOR SALE

Hoi Wan Garden, Taipa
HK\$4,900,000 900 ft² 2 1

FOR RENT

Waterfront Duet Studio, Macau
\$9,000/mth 469 ft² 1

FOR SALE

- [Macau] One Oasis modern studio 2 1 1
 691 ft² **\$6,357,000** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 2 2
 1,404 ft² **\$8,380,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] Manhattan D unit 4 2 2
 2,305 ft² **\$17,980,000** (ref: n/a)
- [Macau] 2 Shops downtown 1,404 ft² **\$20,800,000** (ref: 19015573)

FOR RENT

- [Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 1 1
 600 ft² **\$9,900/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1 1
 710 ft² **\$20,460/mth** (ref: 20021002)
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 2
 1,269 ft² **\$25,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 2 2
 2,060 ft² **\$28,000/mth** (ref: 20031001)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

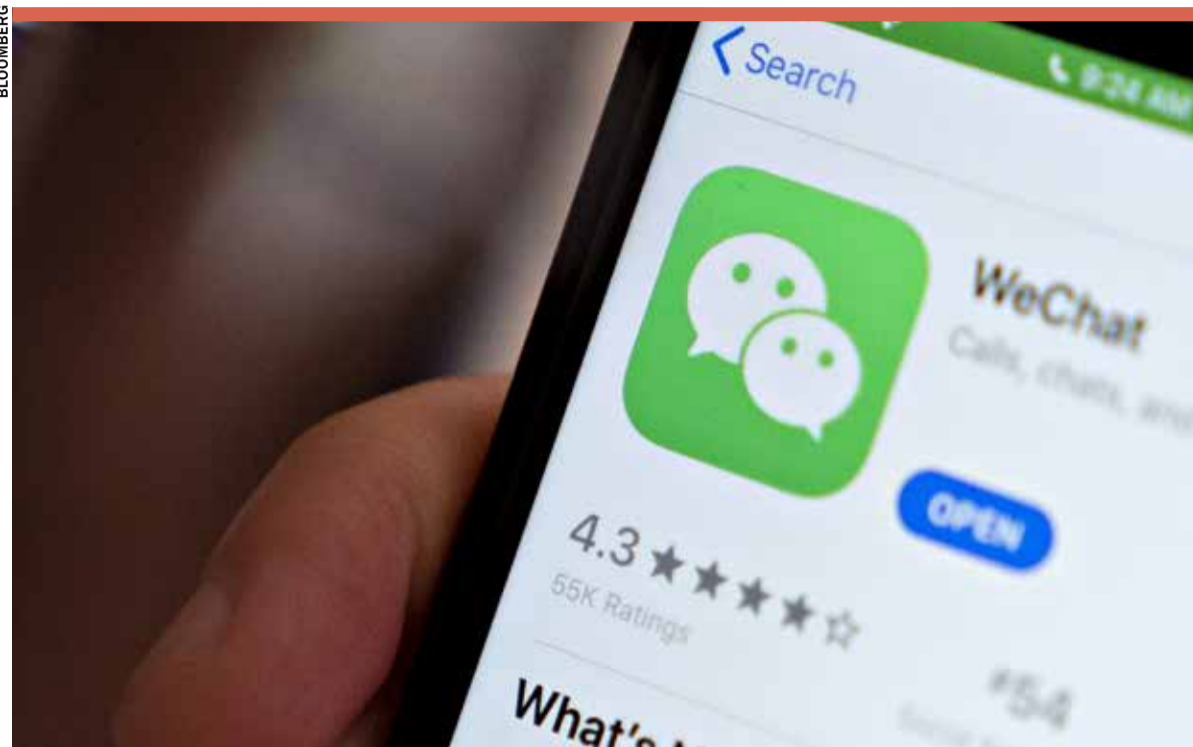
TENCENT GAINS \$37 BILLION AFTER US REASSURES ON WECHAT BAN

ZHEPING HUANG
& SHIYIN CHEN

TENCENT Holdings Ltd. jumped the most in a month after White House officials are said to have reassured American businesses that a ban on its WeChat app won't be as broad as feared.

The WeChat owner rallied 5.8% at the close in Hong Kong yesterday, making it the best performer on the benchmark Hang Seng Index, after people familiar with matter said the Trump administration is privately seeking to reassure U.S. companies including Apple Inc. that they can still do business with Tencent's WeChat messaging app in China. In recent days, senior administration officials have been reaching out to some companies, realizing that the impact of an all-out ban on the popular app could be devastating for U.S. technology, retail, gaming, telecommunications and other industries, according to the people.

Company management earlier this month sought to reassure investors that the executive or-



der signed by President Donald Trump on Aug. 6 may apply only to WeChat's overseas operations. The ban, which came amid efforts by the White House to curtail the rise of Chinese-owned technology giants like Huawei Technologies Co. and TikTok owner ByteDance Ltd., had erased roughly

\$66 billion from Tencent's value, though today's rebound means the stock has recouped all but \$9 billion of those losses.

Intense lobbying by representatives of U.S. businesses such as Walmart, General Motors, Best Buy and Target reinforces the indispensability of WeChat for re-

ching consumers in China. The sales impact on Tencent from President Donald Trump's WeChat ban may be minimal as the administration appears to be narrowing the scope of the order to protect U.S. businesses in China.

Spreads on Tencent's dollar bond due 2030 tightened 2 basis

points, according to credit traders in Hong Kong, the most since August 11. Shares of Prosus NV, the Naspers Ltd. unit that holds 31% in Tencent, gained as much as 3.6%, while Naspers climbed 2.9%.

Trump ignited a furor after signing the order to ban U.S. entities from dealing with WeChat. Confusion reigned as investors grappled with the sweeping language of Trump's order - which bars "transactions" with the Chinese company - that leaves the door open for the administration to extend it well beyond the service in America. Apple's shares fell on fears the action could hurt sales of iPhones in its largest market after the U.S.

Still, risks remain until details of the executive order are finalized. Senior administration officials are deliberating over the scope of the ban ordered by Trump, one of the people said, and the president could ultimately overrule anything they decide.

Even if corporations are permitted to do business with WeChat, individuals may still face restrictions on using the app in the U.S. A group of U.S. WeChat users filed a complaint at the federal court in San Francisco Friday in an attempt to block the Trump administration from imposing a ban on the app, saying it would violate their rights. **BLOOMBERG**

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 莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
 安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



PARIS POLICE ARREST 148 AFTER PSG LOSES TROPHY

PARIS police arrested 148 people as Paris Saint-Germain soccer fans clashed with officers and smashed cars and store windows after the club lost the Champions League final in Lisbon.

Hundreds of fans were also fined for not wearing masks, a Paris police spokesman said yesterday.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin wrote on Twitter that 16 police officers were injured in the Sunday night skirmishes. Police did not have estimates on injuries among the soccer fans.

PSG was hoping to join Marseille as the only French club to win Europe's elite soccer competition, but lost to Bayern Munich 1-0. The

defeat was met with huge celebrations in Marseille, where fans cheered and let off flares and fireworks.

Back in Paris, riot police burst into a bar close to the Champs-Élysées to aggressively remove people, because some were not wearing masks, or were failing to keep social distancing amid coronavirus concerns.

Riot police used tear gas to disperse fans gathered outside the club's stadium. PSG beamed the match on two giant screens at Parc des Princes, with 5,000 fans allowed inside in keeping with the maximum allowed for soccer games in France as part of virus protection measures. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Lewandowski finally gets to lift Champions League trophy

TALES AZZONI, LISBON

PSG 0, BAYERN 1

THERE was no goal or scoring record for Robert Lewandowski, but the Polish striker got to lift the Champions League trophy for the first time.

Lewandowski capped his spectacular season by winning his maiden European title after Bayern Munich beat Paris Saint-Germain 1-0 at the Stadium of Light on Sunday.

It was Bayern's sixth European title, and first since 2013. That was also the last time Lewandowski had played in the Champions League final, with Borussia Dortmund in a losing effort. He'd reached the semi-finals four times with Bayern in between appearances in the final.

"Never stop dreaming. Never give up when you fail. Work hard to achieve your goal," the 32-year-old Lewandowski tweeted along with a photo of him in front of the trophy while holding a Poland flag.

Kingsley Coman scored Bayern's winner with a 59th-minute header.

Lewandowski failed to score for



the first time in a Champions League game this season, leaving him with 15 goals from 10 matches. He ended two goals shy of Cristiano's Ronaldo record of 17 in a single season in 2013-14.

Lewandowski has 50 Champions League goals with Bayern and 68 in total from nine seasons, behind only Ronaldo (130), Lionel Messi (115) and Raúl González (71). He ended the season with 55 goals in all competitions.

Lewandowski helped in de-

fense as well yesterday until the end, prompting cheers from his teammates on the field and on bench after a sliding challenge that kept the ball in attack with a few minutes remaining.

"We really make life difficult for the opposition. When you think how we worked defensively until the 92nd minute," Bayern coach Hansi Flick said. "Lewandowski was chasing after the ball, that was incredible. It was a complete team performance." **AP**

Rota do Verão
夏日之旅

Actividades para toda a família! 親子活動! Activities for the whole family!
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演唱會, 木偶戲, 彩繪紋身和各式遊戲!
Concerts, puppets, glitter tattoos and games!

Summer Carnival
29 & 30/08/2020 . 14h30 - 18h30
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OPINION

World Views

The Editors, Bloomberg

THE US NEEDS A REALISTIC RUSSIA STRATEGY

The suspected poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny underscores the dangers Russians face for speaking out against President Vladimir Putin. It's also a warning to those currently protesting for democratic change in neighboring Belarus. So long as Putin remains at the helm, Russia will continue to pose a serious threat to democratic values, in its periphery and beyond.

A coherent strategy to confront this challenge will be essential for the next U.S. administration. It should include responding more directly to Putin's provocations, raising the costs for Russian misconduct, and strengthening America's relationships with its NATO allies. The U.S. shouldn't rule out cooperation with Moscow in areas of mutual interest, but only when doing so demonstrably advances its own security.

Above all, Washington must send clear signals to Putin about the kinds of behavior the U.S. deems unacceptable. The Trump administration's policies have instead been characterized by inconstancy. Since 2017, the U.S. has imposed sanctions against Russian individuals and some government entities for a range of actions, from conducting cyberattacks to meddling in Ukraine to poisoning a former Russian spy living in the U.K. Yet the impact of these measures has been blunted by Trump's resistance to tougher penalties, his acceptance of Putin's denial of interference in the 2016 election, and his push to welcome Russia back into the Group of Seven club of industrial nations.

More recently, Trump has refused to respond to intelligence assessments that Russian operatives paid bounties to Taliban fighters to kill U.S. troops. The U.S. should avoid a rush to judgment, but the president's willingness to side with the Kremlin's version of events, rather than that of his own intelligence agencies, is disturbing. At a minimum, the White House should suspend high-level communication with Moscow while it conducts a thorough investigation. If the deaths of American troops are traced back to Russian operatives, the U.S. should impose a cost that will make Putin regret those actions.

Meanwhile, Washington needs to push back against Putin's efforts to divide NATO and subvert the U.S. political system. Military and diplomatic officials should remind their counterparts of America's capacity to retaliate if Russia attempts to meddle in this fall's election. The next administration should repair relationships with NATO partners and work with them on modernizing weapons systems. The U.S. should also reverse Trump's decision to remove some 9,000 troops from Germany, which has cheered Russia at the expense of allies' security.

As during the Cold War, the U.S. should look for ways to manage tensions and reduce the risks of catastrophic escalation. Russia lacks the economic power to compete with the U.S., but it possesses the world's biggest nuclear arsenal and a larger military budget than any European country. Extending and strengthening the New START treaty, a bilateral arms-control agreement that's due to expire next February, is critical for the security of both countries. Seeking collaboration in areas of shared concern — on climate change, say, or space policy — would also make sense.

Engaging with Putin, however, should not mean placating him. Consistent messaging, tougher deterrence measures and resolute support for allies are essential to a successful strategy. Continued drift will only embolden Putin and his operatives, to the detriment of America's security and the world's.

Liu Zili, former vice chairman and general manager of Kweichow Moutai Group, maker of China's famous Moutai liquor, was yesterday sentenced to 11 and half years in prison for accepting bribes, a court said, according to Xinhua News Agency.

The sentence, handed down by the Intermediate People's Court of Bouyei-Miao Autonomous Prefecture of Qiannan, Guizhou Province, also includes a fine of 1 million yuan (\$144,600) and the confiscation of Liu's illegally gained property.

The court found that from 2008 to 2018, Liu used his position in the state-owned group to seek benefits for others including franchise rights. In return, he received money and valuable worth 18.55 million yuan, either directly or through his family members.

The court said the sentence showed leniency, taking into consideration that Liu was cooperative in the investigation and has already surrendered part of his illegal earnings.

Liu pled guilty in the court.

CYPRUS DENIES NEW ALLEGATIONS IN 'GOLDEN PASSPORT' SCHEME

CYPRUS denied fresh allegations that it was granting citizenship to foreigners accused of crimes in exchange for millions in investments, insisting that all those who received a passport met all criteria in place at the time.

The Cypriot parliament last month beefed up the eligibility criteria for the so-called "golden passport" investment program, which has brought billions in revenue since its introduction following a 2013 financial crisis. The program has attracted many investors because a passport from the Mediterranean island of Cyprus automatically grants its holder citizenship to the entire 27-member European Union.

Cyprus' interior ministry said 12 foreigners named in an Al Jazeera report received citizenship under the investment program only after being approved by Cypriot and foreign agencies tasked with vetting such applications.

The report claimed that the 12 — including four Russians, two people each from Ukraine, China and Iran, and one each from Venezuela and Vietnam — secured Cypriot passports after paying at least 2 million



Sunset in coastal resort of Ayia Napa in the eastern Mediterranean island of Cyprus

euros (\$2.36 million) in investments despite being under investigation for an assortment of crimes such as corruption and fraud.

The Cypriot interior ministry said would look into the new information in the report.

Under the latest changes, new anti-money laundering rules will be used to bolster how prospective investors are vetted. Another clause makes it easier for investors involved in or convicted of a serious crime to have their Cypriot citizenship revoked.

Investors will still need to sink 2 million euros (\$2.28 million) into the Cypriot economy, including buying a home, buying up stock in Cypriot companies or

contributing to housing and entrepreneurship programs. The number of such citizenships is capped at 700 a year.

The Cypriot government last year moved to revoke the citizenship of 26 foreign investors from countries including Russia, Cambodia, Malaysia and Iran following reports that they had possibly broken the rules. Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades acknowledged at the time that "errors" may have been made in granting such "golden passports."

Some 4,000 Cypriot passports have been issued to investors under the program, generating at least 7 billion euros (\$7.96 billion) since 2013. AP



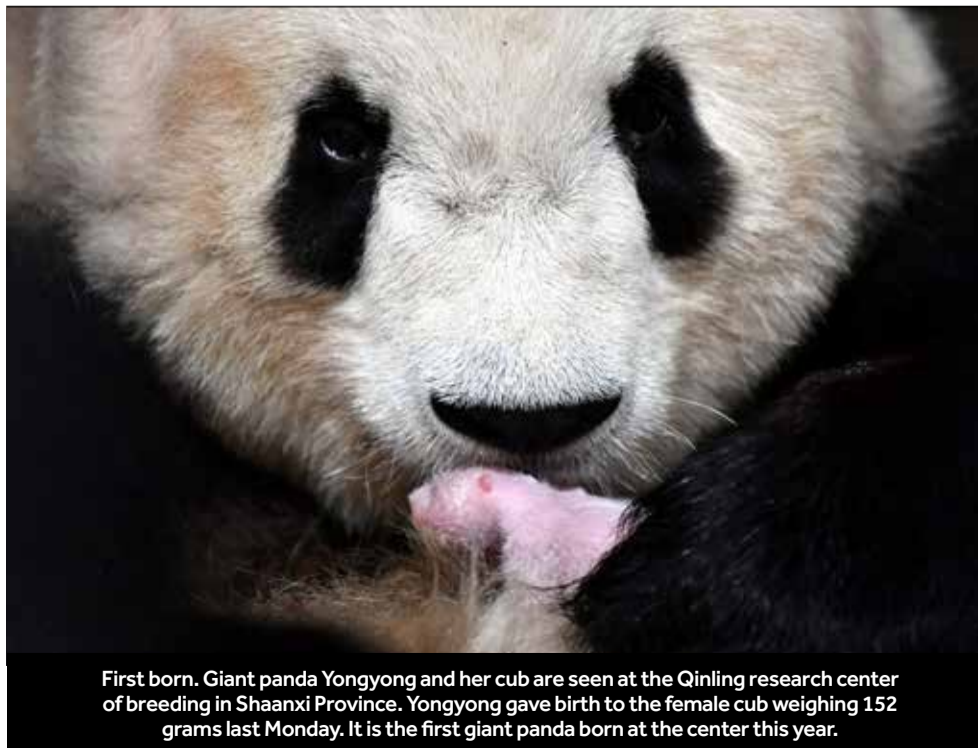
India registered 61,408 additional cases yesterday, driving the country's virus tally past 3.1 million. The Health Ministry also reported 836 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities up to 57,542. India has been recording at least 60,000 new infections per day from the last two weeks. Western Maharashtra state and three southern states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are the worst-hit regions. The country has largely reopened its economy, though with restrictions.



Australia's hard-hit State of Victoria yesterday recorded its lowest tally of new coronavirus cases in eight weeks with the state capital Melbourne half way through a six-week lockdown. Victoria reported 116 new cases and 15 deaths. That is the lowest daily tally of new cases since 87 were reported on July 5. Chief Health Officer Brett Sutton said although daily case numbers are "jumping around" he expected they were on a downward trajectory.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Zhang Bowen/Xinhua



First born. Giant panda Yongyong and her cub are seen at the Qinling research center of breeding in Shaanxi Province. Yongyong gave birth to the female cub weighing 152 grams last Monday. It is the first giant panda born at the center this year.



USA Protesters set cars on fire, smashed windows and clashed with officers in riot gear after Kenosha police shot and wounded a Black man, apparently in the back, while responding to a call about a domestic dispute. 29-year-old Jacob Blake was hospitalized in serious condition after being shot in the back. The three officers at the scene were placed on administrative leave, standard practice in a shooting by police, while the state Justice Department investigates.