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FORUM MACAO DELEGATES AND OFFICIALS HIGHLIGHT PERSONAL QUALITIES IN SECRETARY-GENERAL XU YINGZHEN'S FAREWELL P3

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AP PHOTO



China and India accused each other yesterday of making provocative military moves and firing warning shots along their disputed border despite talks on ending the escalating tensions. China said Indian forces on Monday crossed into territory it holds and fired warning shots at a Chinese patrol. India denied that and said Chinese soldiers tried to surround one of its forward posts in a "grave provocation" and also fired warning shots. More on macaudailytimes.com

AP PHOTO



India yesterday reported 1,133 deaths from the coronavirus in the last 24 hours, its highest single-day total. The Health Ministry also reported 75,809 new cases, raising India's tally to nearly 4.3 million — second only to the United States and maintaining an upward surge amid an ease in nationwide restrictions to help mitigate the economic pain. The country's death toll now stands at 72,775.

AP PHOTO



Indonesia says it has surpassed 200,000 confirmed coronavirus cases. The National Task Force for COVID-19 Mitigation reported 3,046 new infections yesterday, bringing the total to 200,035. It said 100 people had died in the past 24 hours, taking the death toll to 8,230. "We have to pay attention to our condition today as President Joko Widodo said we have to take care of health affairs first so the economic situation can get better," a task force spokesperson said.

More on backpage

XI DECLARES VICTORY OVER PANDEMIC

P7



AP PHOTO

PARENTS, NURSERIES UNHAPPY WITH GOV'T U-TURNS

MINNIE ZHOU



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BLOOMBERG



HONG KONG TO LOOSEN PUBLIC GATHERING LIMITS AS CASES FALL

P5

**PROPERTY PRICE INDEX
GROWS 1% AS PER
LATEST DATA RELEASE**

The overall residential property price index for the three-month period between May and July increased by 1.0% to 268.8 compared to the period between April and June, according to data released by the Statistics and Census Service. The indexes for the Macau Peninsula (269.5) and Taipa and Coloane (265.9) rose by 1.0% and 0.6% respectively over the same period. Meanwhile, the index for existing residential units (289.0) grew by 1.0%, with the indexes for those in Macau (282.7) and the islands (315.2) rising by 1.0% and 1.1% respectively. Analyzed by year of building completion, the indices for residential units completed in the last five years and for those built between 11 and 20 years ago both rose by 1.2%, whereas the index for residential units completed between 6 and 10 years ago dropped by 0.1%. Meanwhile, the index for pre-sale residential units (279.0) grew by 0.3%.

**EXHIBITION AREA
IN MACAO MUSEUM
REOPENED YESTERDAY**

The Macao Museum, which falls under the authority of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), has finished conducting a comprehensive safety inspection and enhancement work on some of its facilities. According to a statement issued by the IC, the permanent exhibition area on the first floor reopened to the public yesterday. The Macao Museum is taking precautions to prevent the potential spread of Covid-19, as noted in the statement. The precautions include additional cleaning and disinfection procedures, as well as visitors being required to wear face masks, undergo body temperature checks, present their personal health declarations and cooperate with crowd control measures. The Macao Museum is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day except Mondays.

**REPATRIATION OF CAPE
VERDEAN STUDENTS
FROM MACAU BEGINS**

Eight Cape Verdean students stuck in Macau after earning their bachelor's degrees in the SAR have now left for home, public broadcaster TDM has reported. The broadcaster said three of the students have degrees in translating and interpreting between Chinese and Portuguese, and five have degrees in business administration in the field of gaming and recreation management. One student, Jeremias Vaz, told TDM that he hoped to work in the gaming sector in Cape Verde where Macau Legend Development is building a hotel and casino complex. Last month, Portuguese news agency Lusa reported that the Cape Verdean government would begin repatriating 30 Cape Verdean students who had completed tertiary education programs in mainland China or Macau, but were stuck because of Covid-19 travel restrictions.



URBAN MASTER PLAN

**LAWMAKERS REPEAT CONCERNS
OVER HIGH-RISE DEVELOPMENTS**

STAFF REPORTER

LAWMAKERS have again raised concerns about new urban developments disturbing views around Macau, particularly by Alto de Coloane and in the Nam Van Lake area.

Yesterday, government representatives led by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Arrais do Rosário, heard lawmakers' opinions on the Urban Master Plan, released for public consultation at the end of last week.

Most of the city's lawmakers were present at the meeting and they raised questions regarding various topics, including the Alto de Coloane housing project, integrated usage of different districts, the LRT Macau Peninsula line and the new Urban Zone.

According to the plan, Alto de Coloane will have a cluster of residential buildings, including both high-rise buildings and standalone houses. However, lawmakers including Sulu Sou said yesterday that they believe that Coloane should be protected from high-rise development and should not have any more housing projects.

These lawmakers are also worried about the land plots called C, D and E in the Nam Van Lake area, which will have developments as tall as 65 meters and be used to house government offices. They worry that these projects will disrupt the views of the waterfront and Penha Hill.

However, the Cultural Affairs Bureau's (IC) representatives pledged that these projects will not pose a threat to this area's sightseeing views. Rosá-

rio also promised to review the details when the related plan is carried out.

Under the Urban Master Plan, Macau is categorized into 18 districts. These districts will serve different purposes, such as commercial, industrial and residential, however a single district can be used for several purposes.

Among the other aspects discussed by lawmakers yesterday:

— The LRT East Line will result in land reclamation. In order to build the LRT East Line to Taipa, the government will be implementing a reclamation project in the adjacent sea area to expand the road.

— The New Urban Zone will consist of 32,000 public houses. Secretary Rosário believes this will be sufficient to accommodate the demand for public

housing in Macau, though not all lawmakers agreed.

— Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes to be transformed into a commercial area. The predominantly industrial area will be remodeled, but Secretary Rosário is not sure whether the transformation can be completed within the next decade.

— There are no planned cultural facilities for the northern district. Lawmakers highlighted the fact that the plan does not include more cultural facilities in the northern and eastern districts. The government admitted to having "little recreational facilities planned for the northern districts" and that most of the city's large-scale cultural projects are in Taipa. This will be improved in future, the government representative promised.

**Kou Hoi In dreams of making
Macau an underground city**

JULIE ZHU

THE Chairman of the Legislative Assembly (AL), Kou Hoi In, has dreams of making Macau an underground city.

During yesterday's public consultation on the Urban Master Plan 2020-2040, Kou made a remark at the end of the session and presented his

two ideals for Macau's urban development

He proposed that the government consider carrying out underground work to accommodate some of the city's services and in the process make the city more spacious.

His other ideal is to surround the Macau Peninsula with a single unbroken walking system.

"I have two unrealistic dreams. One is to build a road completely surrounding Macau; the other is to transform Macau into a vertical city by using the underground [space]," said Kou, citing examples of work done in Japan and China's Guangzhou Province.

Kou imagines the underground to be a city instead of a

small section that is used as a transportation hub. If the underground city were to be built, it would leave the city with conditions to renew its current buildings as well as the area above ground.

He believes that if the city can dig 14 meters down to build facilities for the LRT, it is possible to expand the entire underground space.

Responding to the AL chairman, Rosario said that he will present the idea to the Chief Executive. However, he admitted that "it is really difficult for me to answer you" regarding this idea.

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Times

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For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Forum Macao delegates praise Xu's diplomatic qualities in farewell

RENATO MARQUES

TO bid farewell to Secretary-General Xu Yingzhen, who is ending her four year stint at the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries – Macao (Forum Macao), representatives of Portuguese-speaking countries highlighted her qualities such as hard work, communication skills and ability to reach consensus.

To her colleagues, Xu is regarded as a great mentor for the development of Forum Macao. She was responsible for some great developments, including granting the Forum a higher status and equalizing the participation of all members, especially the younger ones.

"I think over the past four years, Xu has fulfilled her mission well and accomplished the goals that were programmed," Nuno Furtado, a delegate from Cape Verde, told Macau Daily Times. "She had a very positive impact [on Forum Macao]. She was very collaborative and a hard worker who managed to conduct the Forum very well during her mandate."

Another of Xu's achievements that the other delegates commend her for is the organization of Forum Macao's annual visits to all eight of the represented Portuguese-speaking countries.

"Previously there was the concept of rotating visits to one country per year, but what we proposed and she accepted was to have these official visits done annually to all these countries. This brought Forum Macao much closer to the countries," Furtado said.



Outgoing Secretary-General of Forum Macao, Xu Yingzhen

Francisca Reino, a delegate from Mozambique, remarked on the fostering of close relationships between Macao and the countries, including Mozambique.

"Mozambique and China have had a long relationship that has lasted for over 45 years. The work of the Forum was a consolidation [of this relationship] but, above all, in establishing a relation of proximity at the business level and entrepreneur level," Reino said, adding that most of the work which has been done in the past few years by Xu cannot be seen immediately as the "results will become clearer with time."

For Reino, the work done by the secretary-general clearly developed Forum Macao after creating the Forum and its organizational structures.

Maria João Bonifácio, the representative from Portugal, also

highlighted Xu's experience, competence and great work aptitude which resulted in "efficient work oriented in a calm manner."

For Bonifácio, Xu's qualities, combined with her flexibility and strength, made the secretary-general a person that people admired and listened to.

She also noted Xu's efforts to promote events "to increase exchange and cooperation between companies in China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, [were] intending to leverage both trade and investment."

A delegate at Forum Macao for only one year, São Tomé and Príncipe's Gika Simão also noted the great assistance Xu provided to the West African nation, which joined the Forum around the same time the secretary-general took office.

Simão expressed gratitude for

the way Xu supported the country, "putting it quickly at the same level as the older members."

"She's a person with extraordinary qualities who will leave a very rich legacy. She played a very important role on the integration of São Tomé and Príncipe and allowed us, in a short period, to start enjoying the benefits from the Forum," Simão said, describing the way that Xu paved the road for smoother integration of the country in the structure of the Forum.

Also contacted by the Times, the Deputy Secretary-General of Forum Macao appointed by the Portuguese-speaking countries, Rodrigo Brum, confirmed that a farewell event for Xu took place on Monday.

"It is a fact that in several acts, there was a common point emphasizing of the qualities of the

secretary-general and general opinions about her contribution for the facilitation of contact between all of us," Brum said, adding that this showed "a high sense of diplomacy."

For Brum, Xu's term had great breakthrough moments which started with the special meeting on September 2017, chaired by Xu in Beijing. This meeting "conducted to a forthcoming vision which was followed by two very important conferences in March 2018 in Macao and then another in Beijing with the support of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic of China," said Brum.

Like the delegates before him, Brum also specially mentioned the annual official visits to all Portuguese-speaking countries and the visits to mainland China in which business and culture were highly regarded.

IPIM: No residency applications approved in first half of 2020

LYNZY VALLES

THE Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) did not approve any residency applications in the first half of 2020.

According to data released yesterday, IPIM received two new residence applications based on "major investment" and 38 new applications based on "management and technical personnel." None of the applications were approved for either of the

categories.

The lack of approvals comes as the former president of IPIM is standing trial for alleged irregularities in the residency application process.

Last year, IPIM received three new residency applications based on "major investment" and 111 new applications based on "management and technical personnel" in total.

No applications were approved for the "major investment" category and only 13 applications from

the second category were approved,

The number of approved applications dropped markedly after some of the institute's top officials were removed from their roles in 2018 during an anti-corruption probe.

In 2018, the Commission Against Corruption criticized IPIM for failing to properly assess temporary residency applications granted by the institute.

Since then, reports have been growing of non-permanent residents who

have not had any response from the government since submitting their application to renew their Macau IDs. In many cases, the applicants have been waiting years without any information from IPIM.

A non-permanent resident card is normally issued to skilled expats for seven years before a permanent resident card is issued. Renewals are needed in between those seven years.

IPIM previously told the Times that it is "running

an overall review of all works relevant to the approval and supervision of temporary residency applications based on major investments and technical qualifications." The investment institute also said that it was investigating all approved applications and assessing approval procedures in general.

Former IPIM president Jackson Chang was placed under investigation in October 2018 for allegedly relaxing the requirements

of his bureau for approving technical and investment residency applications.

Investigations were also conducted on several other high-ranking IPIM officials, including former director Glória Batalha Ung.

Last month, Chang refuted all the allegations during a court session. He said that he was innocent and had never practiced any illegal act that would result in him losing his civil servant job, which he had been in for 30 years.

Parents and nurseries unhappy with

RENATO MARQUES

PARENTS and guardians of children enrolled in Macau's nursery schools are unhappy with the government's lack of decisiveness in suspending the new school year for children under 3 years old – and then reversing the decision.

The opinion is also shared by several institutions, namely those not subsidized by the government for whom the last few days have been an organizational nightmare.

On Monday, following over a week of mixed opinions and public debate, the government retracted their decision not to allow nurseries operating under the government subsidy scheme to commence the new school year for children under the age of 3.

The announcement, which was made by an Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) official at the Covid-19 media briefing, presented the opposite outcome. These schools would have been allowed to open their doors and restart operating as early as September 21.

Parents and nurseries have been caught unprepared again, especially nurseries not subsidized by the government. These nurseries have struggled to cope with a surge of last-minute requests to register new students over the past few days.

Contacted by the Times, a representative from a nursery school located in central Macau described how desperate the current situation was.

"It is really troublesome for us that the DSEJ keeps changing

UNSPASH



their policy at the very last minute. We did our best to handle all the inquiries and [last minute requests for] enrollment, but now they changed again and all our hard work will have been in vain," she said. "All our staff members have been sleeping only four hours per day in the first few days of the [previous] policy to be able to answer all the parents' solicitations. But [as soon as the news of the policy change broke] parents are already asking for a refund and are dropping out from the preschool program."

According to the representative, the number of students at the institution had decreased drastically during the Covid-19 pandemic because the nursery had decided to start the new academic year with only one classroom instead of the normal three.

"As soon as the [previous] policy was reversed, our phone was busy from early morning till midnight," said the representative. "Parents wanted to enquire and enroll their child for the preschool program. Most of our classes were full within a few hours

and the last few spots were taken by the next day."

A parent whose child is one of 31 newly registered students told the Times that his two-year-old son had been registered in one of the 41 government-subsidized nurseries, but in light of the announced suspension of activities at these schools, he has tried to enroll him in a non-subsidized one.

When confronted with the current situation, he said, "I don't know if I am going to keep him here or if he will go back to

the original one. We actually had acquired all the school supplies for the first one already, but we might opt to keep him here since my wife and I fear that at any moment the government might change their mind again."

The scenario at another nursery, which was contacted by the Times, was different. In a short statement, the director of the institution said that the school had registered all the students a long time ago and that there was also a long waiting list to enroll. Hence, there was no disruption to nor-

Q&A NADIA CHAN

Prepare young children for school with experience-learning,

ANTHONY LAM

FOR many parents, the prospect of a child starting school for the first time can be daunting. That may be especially so in the current Covid-19 circumstances. Even the Macau government is advising some parents that they can exempt their children from preschool if they are concerned about health safety.

The Times spoke to a clinical psychologist about this. Nadia Chan is categorized as a psychotherapist under Macau law, and knows how to prepare pa-



rents and children for the psychological challenges of starting preschool.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – What are the main challenges that parents face when their children are starting school for the first time?

Nadia Chan (NC) – Whether a child is starting in nursery school or kindergarten, parents usually think they are prepared to let the child enter a whole new world. The reality is usually different. No matter how well they have prepared or how deeply they've checked the facilities, it is often a moment of uncertainty for the family.

It is the first time they will face extended separation from their child. How should it be done? How should a child be prepared mentally for their first extended separation from

their closest family members, which can even be the helper at home?

To prepare children for their first extended separation, adults should bear in mind that children have a different mentality. Communication between adults is based mostly on verbal language [and logic], so many parents try to "tell" their children what they can anticipate at school. This is too abstract for children to understand.

In contrast, children learn through experience. As a result, parents should prepare their children for

the separation in a happy and experiential manner. Parents should take everyday chances to prepare. Parents should be aware that children perceive a thing as absent when they don't see it and as present when they do. Parents can, for instance, use frosted glass to convey the idea that "not seeing" doesn't equate to "not being there."

A bad attempt at preparation is washroom breaks, which only work several times because children go to the washroom themselves and they know how long that takes.

All in all, the preparation process should be gradual and will take time.

MDT – Is it problematic for parents to only focus on their children's academic performance?

NC – I won't say whether it's good or bad, though I think a conversation is always preferred. The goal is to nurture the habit of sharing daily experiences with their parents.

A more effective way of asking is to first show care about what children do at school that day. Asking them what games they play

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

gov't U-turns



mality at this particular institution.

"The only thing that is changing is that this year, due to compliance with the government's guidelines, we have a reduced capacity," the director said.

This policy change comes after a the DSEJ held a series of meetings with several educational associations over the weekend. They discussed the criticism of parents and institutions that followed the initial decision to not allow full re-

sumption was announced on August 27.

To reopen, institutions will need to comply with five measures to ensure the protection of the children and staff against the virus. This includes social distancing, installing partition panels in certain areas of the classroom, adjusting teaching activities and curriculums to limit physical interaction, suspension of all inter-classroom activities and teaching, and preparation from families for children's school resumption.

tand more about the child; second, allow for greater freedom in future work; and third, avoid the child falling into the trap of focusing only on the work that receives compliments.

MDT – In due course, children are bound to face setbacks or dissatisfaction at school. How should parents prepare their children for this scenario?

NC – This scenario not only happens at school. [...] When emotional fluctuations occur, the first step must be expressing that they see the change in emotions, as well as showing understanding. Next, parents can attempt to tell their child that there are things that can't be achieved. The final step, when necessary, is to provide them with options [to change or improve].

not words

and with whom, and even what refreshments they eat. Parents should remember not to make hasty conclusions about what their children tell them. An immediate negative judgment will hinder future sharing.

A better way to respond is to use descriptive, rather than judgmental, feedback. Simply put, if a child draws a black circle, it's a black circle. From what the child describes of the drawing, you will know what they are thinking. If the child says the black circle is a sun, parents can understand the child's perception.

Using descriptive feedback will first, help parents unders-

HONG KONG TO LOOSEN PUBLIC GATHERING LIMITS AS CASES FALL

JINSHAN HONG

HONG Kong said it will double the number of people allowed to gather in public and reopen sports venues beginning Friday, in the latest easing of restrictions as coronavirus cases drop from record highs.

The city will allow four people to sit at the same table in restaurants or gather in public, up from the current limit of two, Secretary for Food and Health Sophia Chan said in a briefing Tuesday. All indoor and outdoor sports venues will be allowed to reopen from Friday.

Swimming pools will remain

shut and mask-wearing requirements remain in force.

Hong Kong has been gradually loosening social-distancing measures as it brings its worst Covid-19 outbreak under control. It last week extended restaurant dining hours and reopened gyms and massage parlors. The city also announced the reopening of schools in phases.

After seeing daily local case numbers reach a peak of 145 at the end of July, the Asian financial hub has been reporting no more than 15 local infections for nine straight days.

The government is also in the midst of a Beijing-backed cam-

paign to get everyone in the city tested. Health experts see the drive as an additional weapon against the disease, and preparation for any resurgence of infection.

More than 1.2 million residents had completed the tests as of yesterday morning, through which 16 new infections have been identified in the community, according to government data. That participation trails the 3 million turnout hoped for by the lab running the project. The government extended the program at most testing centers for four additional days, to Sept. 11. **BLOOMBERG**

ALL CASINO CONCESSIONAIRES TAKE PRIZES IN LOCAL CATERING AWARDS

ANTHONY LAM

EACH casino operator in Macau has had one restaurant featured in the iFood Awards, a local catering award now in its fifth year. They have all won the My Favorite Hotel Restaurant Award.

The winning restaurants are Feng Wei Ju at StarWorld Hotel, Imperial Court at MGM Macau, Casa Don Alfonso at Grand Lisboa Hotel, Bi Ying at Macau Studio City, Lotus Palace at The Parisian Macao and Il Teatro at Wynn Macau.

Meanwhile, the My Favorite Chinese Cuisine Awards and My Favorite Portuguese Cuisine Awards have been presented to Yong Tai Mei Sin, Ut Cheong and Lei Ka Choi; and Ali Curry House, Porto Restaurant and Miramar Portuguese Restaurant respectively.

Lei Iam Leong, president of Macau Catering Industry Association, which organized the awards, noted that with the support of the Macau government, the association developed a catering brand incubation center in Hengqin this year. The center is the largest of its kind in the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

The 10,000-square-foot center houses a training institution, a catering technology experience area and a business incubation center, among other facilities.

With regards to helping local caterers to overcome Covid-19 challenges, Lei said that the association has been working with Ant Bank on a Catering Industry Financing and Loan Plan. This has so far helped nearly 200 establishments.

The association president also pointed out that the government's e-voucher scheme had



significantly helped local food establishments. Overall, he believes the outlook is improving.

"In addition to seeing improvements in revenue after the launch of the e-voucher, we also see more caterers offer attractive e-voucher related discounts," Lei said. "Some discounted prices make dining in Macau even cheaper than on the mainland, so I believe more Macau people will be attracted to spend in Macau."

Hayden Choi, the owner of Papermoon and a winner of the My Favorite Thai Restaurant Award, felt that his restaurant's performance also supported Lei's views. "When the first outbreak hit Macau, we were strongly impacted," Choi said. "After the conditions gradually stabilized, and as people could not make outbound travel, they had to [consume] in Macau."

After travel restrictions be-

tween the mainland and Macau eased, Choi saw a slight decrease in business, but the situation was still manageable for him.

Aron Chan, who is the second generation owner of local dried seafood retailer and restaurant Kwong Heng Hou, told the Times that the business had not been heavily impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. They had even managed to import some goods from Hong Kong.

"We take conduct extra care with hygiene," Chan explained. "We conducted more cleaning steps before processing our ingredients."

On the other hand, the owner of Estabelecimento de Comidas Sam Pou, which won the My Favorite Cha Chaan Teng Award, said that the Covid-19 pandemic had brought Cha Chaan Teng into the public spotlight as local residents have not been able to travel out of Macau.

SIGNS OF GGR RECOVERY SHOW IN FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER

LYNZY VALLES

THE city's average daily gross gaming revenue (GGR) in the first six days of September was nearly double that compared to the average daily revenue in August.

According to a note seen by GGR Asia from brokerage Sanford C. Bernstein Ltd, the institution estimated that the daily average for September 1 to 6 was approximately 83 million patacas, nearly double the 43 million figure for the month of August.

"The month-to-date average daily rate is negative 89%, compared to September 2019," but up 94% compared to August this year, analysts Vitaly Umansky, Tianjiao Yu and Kelsey Zhu said.

"VIP volumes are down in the low percentage of 90s [in year-on-year terms], and mass is down nearly 90%. Both segments are beginning to show a slight pickup," they added.

Meanwhile, the institution



forecasts that Macau's GGR may record a year-on-year decline in the "mid-80s," noting that the city's weekly numbers are "getting better" due to the reinstatement of the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) for Guangdong residents.

However, the analysts noted that 2020 predictions "remain largely educated guesses at this time, with constantly-changing conditions altering expectations."

"With a visa issuance timetable now in place, we believe

the drivers of recovery will be confidence levels of customers to travel and spend, opening up Hong Kong to Macau travel and an increase in frequency of air transportation within Greater China, to airports in Guangdong/Hong Kong/Macau, to facilitate long-haul travel," they added.

Macau's GGR dropped more than 90% for the fifth straight month in August.

Meanwhile, figures from the Public Security Police (PSP) show that there was

around 12,086 incoming tourists on Saturday and about 9,700 on Sunday.

After the reinstatement of IVS on August 12, there was 13,500 tourist arrivals in the region the following weekend, slightly higher compared to the weekend prior.

In August, the PSP had said that it did not expect significant changes in border traffic, but it predicted a gradual upward trend in the number of arrivals in the coming weeks.

GOVERNMENT STUDY ON DRUG ABUSE TO BE READY IN OCT 2021

THE Macau SAR government is expecting to complete research on drug abuse in the city by October 2021, according to a statement released by the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS).

In June 2019, the IAS tasked the Asian Association for Substance Abuse Research to conduct a survey on drug abuse and the development of drug rehabilitation services in Macau.

The survey aimed to arrive at a clear understanding of drug abuse within Macau society and its causes, as well as at reexamining the city's prevention measures on the issue.

According to the government's central registration system of Macau drug abusers, the number of reported users in the first half of this year decreased by 37% compared to last year. The number of youth users is down by 26% in year-on-year terms.

In the first six months of 2020, the youngest recorded drug user was 16 years old and the oldest was 78 years old. The average age was 34 years old. Only one fifth of recorded users are females.

The records also reflected that more than half of drug users live in the northern district of the city. The consumption of drugs is also more common among those who hold a lower level of education. JZ

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PRESIDENT Xi Jinping hailed China's success in suppressing the deadly pandemic first discovered on its soil, even as confirmed infections globally raced toward the 30 million mark.

In a pomp-filled ceremony in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, Xi personally conferred medals on citizens deemed to have played instrumental roles in China's fight against the virus identified in December in Wuhan. While other nations from India to the U.S. grapple with ever-expanding outbreaks, China hasn't reported a domestic infection in 22 days and Xi has increasingly turned his attention to bolstering the battered economy.

The proceedings glossed over criticism of Beijing's early response to the pandemic, which had initially appeared to threaten the Communist Party's legitimacy before China contained the virus and worse outbreaks in other nations overshadowed its struggles. Xi made no mention of the roughly three weeks that passed in January between efforts to censor doctors' first warnings of human-to-human transmission and China's official acknowledgment of the infection risk.

The president seized on China's relative success to tout the merits of one-party rule, as leaders in democratically run countries grapple with protests against mask-mandates and extended lockdowns. None of the participants who shared the stage with Xi wore masks and the president shook hands with several people while leaving, a striking display of China's progress.

"The CCP's strong leadership is the most reliable backbone when a storm hits," Xi said in a speech that stretched for more than 70 minutes. "The pandemic once again proves the superiority of the socialist system with Chinese characteristics."

Xi takes virus victory lap as pandemic rages elsewhere



Xi Jinping present medals to honor people who fought against the pandemic, in Beijing, yesterday

The event provided a sharp contrast against scenes unfolding elsewhere around the world, including the U.S., where the country's coronavirus struggles have eroded President Donald Trump's chances at winning re-election in November. Trump, who initially praised Xi's response, has since accused China of deliberately causing the pandemic to hurt him politically.

Yesterday, Trump vowed to escalate efforts to roll back ties between the world's two largest economies in retaliation for the virus. "We'll prohibit federal contracts from companies that outsource to China and we'll hold China accountable for allowing the virus to spread around the world," Trump told reporters at the White House.

China's state-run media has closely covered the coronavirus outbreaks afflicting rival nations. The country's foreign ministry has repeatedly accused American politicians of attempting to deflect blame for their own political problems onto China.

Meanwhile, China appears poised to emerge from the pandemic-driven economic downturn before other large nations. The country reported a 3.2% year-on-year increase in economic output in the second quarter, reversing a 6.8% decline in the first three months of the year.

After an explosion of cases in the central province of Hubei sparked outbreaks around the country, China managed to contain the virus through

a combination of strict lockdowns, forced quarantines, mass-testing and mask-mandates. Travel into and out of the country remains tightly controlled, preventing importing cases.

Persecuted Critics

In late December, police in Wuhan admonished seven doctors who tried to warn their peers and friends that a new pathogen was in circulation. Among them was Li Wenliang, 34, who later contracted the virus and died of the disease, sparking a rare public outcry demanding freedom of speech and questioning of the country's system of governance.

The government later embraced Li's story, framing him as a martyr rather than a silenced whistle-blower. Authorities

later launched investigations into other critics of the government's response, including citizen journalists, Tsinghua University law professor Xu Zhangrun and property tycoon Ren Zhiqiang.

At the event yesterday, China honored about 1,500 individuals for their contribution in the virus fight, including medical personnel, military workers, state media workers and Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying. Respiratory disease specialist Zhong Nanshan -- a senior medical adviser to the Chinese government who confirmed the risk of human-to-human infection on Jan. 20 -- and vaccine researcher Chen Wei were among four medical experts bestowed with national awards by Xi.

Greg Gilligan, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China, was one of the few foreign officials invited to attend the event, in recognition of efforts by the organization and its members toward China's Covid-19 relief efforts, according to the chamber.

The Chinese president vowed to establish a long-term system for coordinating coronavirus-control efforts and develop the economy. He acknowledged that China continued to face the risk of sporadic virus infections.

"No country can stand alone in the face of major crises," Xi said. "Those who care only about themselves, shift blame to others, confuse right and wrong and mix black and white, will not only cause harm to their countries and people, but also to the people of all countries in the world." **BLOOMBERG**

Australian media's last reporters in China flee amid tensions

TWO Australian journalists based in China have fled the country as diplomatic relations between the trading partners worsen.

Bill Birtles, the Australian Broadcasting Corp.'s Beijing correspondent, and Mike Smith, the Australian Financial Review's Shanghai correspondent, left the country after Chinese police demanded interviews with them, according to Smith. The men

were initially banned from leaving and spent five days under consular protection until Australian diplomats could negotiate their departure.

"It's clearly political," Smith said yesterday from Sydney. "It's quite unprecedented to put an exit ban on foreign journalists in China."

"Australia-China relations have really hit rock-bottom, so we're unsure whether they were trying

to send a message to Australia, to try and intimidate Australia more," he said.

Their departure comes a week after Australia revealed that Cheng Lei, a Chinese-born Australian citizen who worked as an anchor at government-run English-language news channel CGTN had been detained by authorities.

Yesterday, China's foreign ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said the government detained her on

"national security grounds," saying authorities had taken "compulsory measures" against her. An investigation is now under way, he added.

Smith and Birtles were the last accredited reporters for Australian media based in mainland China. There are still other Australian citizens working as journalists in China for American, British and other media companies.

Smith said he was first

cautioned last week by Australian diplomats that he should leave the country. Birtles also received the same advice, the ABC reported.

Ministry of State Security officers came to their homes after midnight on Wednesday and informed them that they were "persons of interest" in an investigation and couldn't leave China, according to Smith. The experience of being surrounded in his

home and filmed by police as they read out a statement was "a bit of a shock and quite intimidating," he said.

They were eventually allowed to leave the country after agreeing to an interview with police while under consular protection. Smith said officials asked about Cheng Lei, among other questions, and described the hour-long interview as "pretty benign" and "polite." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

this day in history



1976 CHAIRMAN MAO ZEDONG DIES

The chief architect of the Chinese revolution, Chairman Mao Zedong, has died at the age of 82.

His death - at 10 minutes past midnight - was announced by the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party, the State Council, the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress and the party's Military Affairs Commission.

Chairman Mao had been in poor health for several years and had declined visibly in recent months. He had not seen any foreign visitors for some time.

It is not clear yet who will replace him. There is no designated heir to the leadership of China's 800 million citizens.

News of Chairman Mao's death has spread quickly through the Chinese capital. Many people are wearing black armbands. Groups have paid tribute opposite a huge portrait of Chairman Mao at the main entrance to the Forbidden City.

His body will now lie in state at the Great Hall of the People. A memorial service will be held in Tiananmen Square on 18 September. Everyone except those performing essential tasks will be expected to maintain a three minute silence.

The official Chinese obituary paid tribute to Chairman Mao's important struggles against "enemies" within the Chinese Communist Party, which he co-founded in 1921.

He rose to prominence as the man who led the communist forces on the epic 6,000 mile (9,656 km) "long march" to Shenyang in northern China to flee attacks from the nationalist Kuomintang party in the mid-1930s.

In 1949 he became chairman of the newly established People's Republic of China.

During the 1950s, Chairman Mao launched the Great Leap Forward, a campaign to increase industrial production by mobilising China's enormous manpower into rural peoples' communes.

Even after he retired as chairman of the republic he continued to influence policy as chairman of the Communist Party.

The Cultural Revolution was launched in 1966. Schools and colleges were closed and the students joined the Red Guards in an ideological crusade which led to many officials losing their jobs, being tortured and killed.

He was credited for encouraging President Richard Nixon's visit to China in February 1972, the first by an American leader. Other countries opened embassies in Beijing and China was finally granted a seat at the United Nations in 1971.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mao Zedong was the founder of modern China and is still regarded by the Chinese as one of their great leaders. However, he was also a ruthless and deeply flawed leader whose policies killed tens of millions of people.

The so-called "Great Leap Forward" of collectivised farming and rapid industrialisation led to nationwide famine which killed 10-35 million people.

The Cultural Revolution, which he launched to purge political opponents, dragged on for 10 years and ruined the lives and educations of a whole generation.

His death left a power vacuum in China.

The "gang of four" - leading radicals, including Mao's widow, responsible for the Cultural Revolution - attempted to take control but were arrested by Mao's successor Hua Guofeng and convicted of crimes against the state.

Deng Xiaoping emerged as China's new leader in 1978.

Factions in Japan's Liberal Democratic Party
Blocs within outgoing Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's party will be a key factor in deciding his successor



Source: Data compiled by Bloomberg

Bloomberg

JON HERSKOVITZ & ISABEL REYNOLDS

JAPAN

Suga praises democracy in party vote stacked for him

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal Democratic Party officially started its campaign for a new leader, with the man all but assured to take over from Prime Minister Shinzo Abe praising the democracy that allowed his political rise.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, who already has enough backing from the LDP's powerful factions to win the party vote next week, formally filed yesterday for the race to replace Abe, who's stepping down for health reasons. Two other contenders - former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba and ex-Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida - also filed for the race.

Suga, who comes from a family that farmed strawberries, is set to take over from Abe in mid-September. At the first formal speeches for the three candidates, Suga pledged to continue the premier's ultra-easy monetary policy known as "Abenomics." Any sign of a departure from it could send the yen surging and stocks sliding, triggering a re-evaluation of the outlook for the nation.

"When I came to Tokyo more than 50 years ago, I could never have imagined where I'd be now," Suga, 71, said. "Even an ordinary person like me, if they work hard, can aim to be prime minister. That's real democracy."

He added that he wants to continue his push to reduce mobile phone ra-

tes and will seek to create a government agency for digital matters.

In contrast with his boss's rarefied political pedigree, Suga hails from the rural northern prefecture of Akita and took a job in a cardboard box factory when he first moved to Tokyo. He worked his way through university, before starting his political career as a secretary to a politician. He was first elected to parliament in 1996.

The LDP is set to vote on its new leader on Sept. 14 and then use its majority in parliament to elect that person as the next prime minister on Sept. 16. Last week, the LDP opted for a party voting process that gives more power to lawmakers, favoring Suga. Five of the LDP's seven factions have lined up behind Suga, who served as the back-room enforcer during Abe's record-breaking run as prime minister.

The LDP vote is among 394 lawmakers and 141 representatives -- three each from the country's 47 prefectures. The factions led by Kishida, with 47 members, and Ishiba, with 19 members, are

the only ones not lining up behind Suga, who also leads a non-aligned group of about a dozen lawmakers.

The new prime minister will have no more than a year to try and revive Japan's economy from a pandemic-induced contraction before calling a general election against a recently unified opposition. In an indication of the difficulties in digging out from the slump, data released yesterday showed Japan's record economic contraction last quarter was slightly worse than initially estimated, shrinking an annualized 28.1% from the previous quarter in the three

months through June.

While Suga had recently trailed in opinion surveys about Japan's next leader, the public appears to be coming around to him. Support for Abe's government soared 27 percentage points to 62.4% in a survey released Monday by news network JNN, with 48% of respondents saying Suga was the most appropriate choice to take over.

Abe's abrupt decision in late August to step down due to a chronic digestive condition after almost eight years on the job left the party scrambling to find a new leader in about two weeks. **BLOOMBERG**



Yoshihide Suga

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

It's one of those days you've been waiting for, when it's in your best interests to do as little as possible! It's not that you should give all of your responsibilities to other people.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You can turn things around and get great results because you know that if you appeal to the best in people, they will show you the best that they have to offer.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

A position you're put in today could require you to make a tough decision. Do you opt for the choice that's best for you or best for someone else? Avoid the urge to consult other people about what you should do.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Stay positive! Remembering special friendships and reliving past successes may make you feel warm and cozy, but they are only going to encourage your mind to wander and limit your progress.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You are much more willing to see the other side of arguments and mull over whether or not you might want to change your opinions. You're open to any good argument.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

If you share your resources in your typically generous way, you are going to end up with the short end of the stick. If you give a little, someone might take a lot.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

If you truly want to achieve harmony with a grumpy friend right now, you need to get centered yourself. Stop doing what you think they want you to do and start just being real.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Your aesthetic senses are heightened right now, and you will see ways to improve the space around you everywhere you look. Every drab room you see will spark your creativity and get your imagination working.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you just can't seem to get revved up today, maybe you should stop trying so hard. If you're part of a team or partnership, let the other people take over the reins for a while.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

What is beautiful? Your answer to that question is different from anyone else's answer. No two people can always agree on aesthetic issues, and you need to remember that today.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If your present life and location are less than stimulating, put your brain to work on making some plans! There's nothing like a change of scenery to shake things up and make life interesting again.

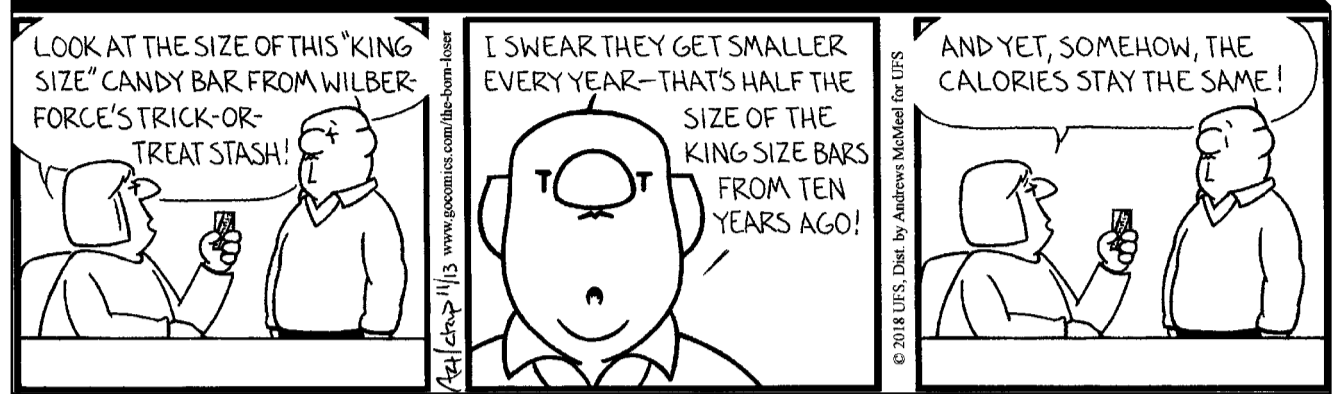


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

If you don't treat yourself well, how will other people know to do it? Set an example for your friends and family to follow. Treat yourself to an indulgence you've long denied yourself.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	19	30	clear
Harbin	16	20	shower
Tianjin	22	32	cloudy
Urumqi	12	22	clear
Xi'an	20	24	drizzle
Lhasa	12	24	cloudy
Chengdu	22	27	overcast
Chongqing	26	30	overcast
Kunming	17	25	shower
Nanjing	23	33	cloudy
Shanghai	25	34	overcast
Wuhan	23	34	clear
Hangzhou	23	34	cloudy
Taipei	25	30	overcast
Guangzhou	25	32	thundershower
Hong Kong	26	31	heavy rain to rainstorm
WORLD			
Moscow	10	16	drizzle
Frankfurt	13	25	clear
Paris	16	26	clear
London	15	23	cloudy
New York	23	28	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Pelvic bones; 6- Moist; 10- Coal-rich region; 14- Diamond flaw?; 15- Gen. Robert ___; 16- Attention-getting sound; 17- Snob; 18- Simone of jazz; 19- Semicircular recess; 20- Drunkard; 21- Single things; 23- Weeps; 24- PC storage medium; 26- Misplaces; 27- Partnership; 29- Overjoy; 31- Busy as ___; 32- Sumptuous meal; 33- Kan, neighbor; 36- Make urban; 40- English cathedral city; 41- Less common; 42- Shrek, e.g.; 43- Fuel transport; 44- Mantra; 46- Clan symbol; 48- Sweatbox; 49- Danger; 50- Follows orders; 52- Graycoat; 55- High hair style; 56- Plastic clog; 57- Discombobulate; 59- Driving aids; 60- Sentry's shout; 61- Murders; 62- Shrivelled, without moisture; 63- Building wings; 64- So far;


DOWN: 1- Cong. meeting; 2- The Ponte Vecchio crosses it; 3- Eccentric; 4- Aussie hopper; 5- Conductor Toscanini; 6- Fabric of jeans; 7- Dismounted; 8- Department store department; 9- Seed of a legume; 10- Few and far between; 11- Easy ___; 12- Donkeys; 13- Hwys.; 22- Commandment word; 23- Terra ___; 25- Go-getter; 26- Ultimate; 27- Arrived; 28- Genesis victim; 29- Conger catcher; 30- Den; 32- Golfer's "watch out!"; 33- Miserly; 34- Book before Nehemiah; 35- "It's ___ real"; 37- Bay window; 38- Inner surface of the hand; 39- High time?; 43- Lazy; 44- Express; 45- Capital of Zambia; 46- Native American tent; 47- Command; 48- Shakers et al.; 49- Places; 50- Unwritten; 51- Cotton seed pod; 53- Paris pronoun; 54- Top; 56- Friend of Fidel; 58- Bad-mouth;

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<p>FOR SALE</p>  <p>Renovated Duplex, Macau with Amazing View HK\$4,200,000 817 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p>  <p>Traditional Apartment Old Taipa Village \$9,900/mth 600 ft² 2 1/2 1 1/2</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Macau] Retail space, Areia Preta 170 ft² \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)</p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 1/2 2 1/2 1,404 ft² \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)</p> <p>[Taipa] Chun Fok apartment 2 1/2 2 1/2 834 ft² \$8,998,000 (ref: 20036002)</p> <p>[Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,344 ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Taipa] Studio apartment 1 1/2 1 1/2 650 ft² \$9,000/mth (ref: 20061003)</p> <p>[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2 710 ft² \$20,460/mth (ref: 20021002)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 1/2 2 1/2 2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)</p>	<p>AD</p>  <p>卓雅物業 jml property since 1994 (853) 2835 2699 hello@jmlproperty.com www.jmlproperty.com f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty</p>
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TEMASEK'S CHINA EXPOSURE SURPASSES SINGAPORE FOR FIRST TIME

DAVID RAMLI

TEMASEK Holding Pte's holdings in China surpassed its home market of Singapore for the first time following gains in companies including Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., according to the state investor's annual report.

Temasek's exposure to China rose to 29% of assets as of March 31, compared with 24% for Singapore, the lowest percentage exposure for its home market since the company was formed in 1974. The firm's biggest local holdings, from Singapore Telecommunications Ltd. to DBS Group Holdings Ltd., saw their valuations tumble this year as Covid-19 hit global markets.

The investment giant has been adding to assets in China despite the rising risk of a political and economic decoupling from the U.S. Its exposure to China, which includes stakes in Industrial & Commercial Bank of China Ltd. and Meituan Dianping, compares with 17% in North America and 10% in Europe.

"We are optimistic on China over the medium term," said Yeoh Keat Chuan, senior managing director, enterprise development, adding he expects government stimulus to support the recovery and jobs.

BlackRock Inc. and Temasek in August received approval to jointly build an asset-management business in China with China Construction Bank Corp. - the latest of several pushes by the Singaporean investor into the country's financial services industry.

Other China holdings include a stake in Alibaba-affiliate Ant Group, which is set to go public in Hong Kong and Shanghai this



year, seeking a \$225 billion valuation, according to people familiar.

"We are happy to participate in their journey," said Temasek Deputy Chief Financial Officer Chin Yee Png, who declined to comment on the IPO specifically.

"We do like what they are doing in the Chinese financial services space, providing inclusive finance to a large swath of the population that previously may not have had access to credit," Png told reporters in a briefing Tuesday. "There is quite a lot of potential for Ant going forward."

Geopolitics is understood to be one of the reasons behind the state-investor's decision to swap half of its stake in Alibaba from U.S. shares to Hong Kong-listed stock - a move that was also made by several major investors in an effort to mitigate any potential

fallout from sanctions against the e-commerce giant.

Temasek has considerable cash on its balance sheet, but will be "selective" in making investments given the current uncertainty, Png added. She said the recent investment in BlackRock is an example of the deals they are seeking. The U.S. accounted for the largest share of new investments during the fiscal year, followed by China and Singapore.

Temasek in July reported its worst result since 2016 with a portfolio decline of 2.2% for the year ended March 31. Its net portfolio value fell to SGD306 billion (\$224 billion) from SGD313 billion a year earlier.

The investor had been on track for gains during its first three quarters but the coronavirus pandemic caused global markets to crash in March. Many public

equity markets have bounced back since then, though any gains will be included in the company's fiscal 2021 results.

Temasek International Pte Chief Executive Officer Dilhan Pillay had previously said that the market rebound should be viewed with caution with "Covid-normal" being more complex for investors, alongside a lower-returns environment and geopolitical uncertainty.

Chief Investment Strategist Rohit Sipahimalani told Bloomberg Television that valuations fell to reasonable levels between April and June, allowing it to make investments.

"As valuations have gone up and the risk/rewards are not as compelling, we are being more selective," he said. "But there continue to be some areas along our long-term trends that are

not only just beneficiaries of Covid near-term but actually their growth has been accelerated by Covid and will sustain in a post-Covid world."

Investments in financial services were the largest component of its portfolio, making up 23% of assets. About 48% of its holdings are in unlisted assets -- up from 42% last year -- with the bulk of the rest in publicly listed shares. The company added to its stakes in PayPal Holdings Inc., Visa Inc. and Mastercard Card Inc. New technology investments included Duck Creek Technologies in the U.S., and Kuaishou Technology and MiningLamp in China.

Some of Temasek's biggest holdings have been heavily affected by Covid-19, with the state investor backing capital raising for some of the country's biggest entities. Singapore Airlines Ltd., which is majority-owned by Temasek, last month said it had spent half of the SGD8.8 billion it raised through share sales in two months.

Its Heliconia Capital Management Pte. unit was also in talks to help fund local shipping line Pacific International Lines Pte., which is struggling to cope with the steep decline in global trade.

Temasek is the majority shareholder in Singapore Telecommunications, whose shares have dropped by a third this year. It's also the biggest investor in DBS, Singapore's largest bank, which has dropped about 20%.

Not all of Temasek's deals have survived Covid-19. Last month it scrapped a SGD4 billion bid to buy a majority stake in Keppel Corp. after the oil-rig builder posted a second-quarter loss that was large enough to trigger the Material Adverse Change clause. **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China participates in new responsible gaming promotion



Sands China Ltd. recently supported the Youth Volunteers Association of Macao (AJVM) in a new responsible gaming training initiative, where parents and their children practiced and performed a short drama about responsible gaming.

Organised by AJVM,

the "Financial Planning from Small, Influencing Big Community 2020" training initiative was created in support of the government's responsible gaming promotion theme on family.

"Sands China is pleased to have supported this unique training, which helps deliver

the message of responsible gaming to parents and children, while emphasising the development of positive values and wise financial concepts," said Andy Kobel, senior vice president of table games and gaming optimization for Sands China Ltd.

Held twice a week from August 3 to 31, the participants worked on learning and practicing the drama, which focuses on two families living on an uninhabited island. Through demonstrating their contrasting financial choices, the drama educates the audience - and the actors - on the importance of responsible gaming and sound financial planning and management.

IKEA to launch its first specialty mooncake



IKEA is set to launch a line of fruit-flavored specialty mooncakes in both Hong Kong and Macau to celebrate the upcoming Mid-

-Autumn Festival.

These snow skin mooncakes will have flavors including mango, chocolate, elderflower and lingonberry.

These newly launched mooncakes will be sold for MOP49 for a box of four mooncakes and will be available at the IKEA store from September 9, as cited in a press statement by the company.

The Swedish brand is also offering seasonal menu that includes vegetarian balls with mixed grains; roasted salmon fillet with vegetable medallion, steamed broccoli and hollandaise sauce; green bean, tomato and spinach ragout; and chicken breast pesto Caesar salad.

It is also offering crosscut fries with cheese sauce and tofu flavored sundae cones.

OLYMPICS

Organizers, IOC trying to remove doubts over Tokyo games

THE International Olympic Committee and Japanese organizers are trying to convince the public that the postponed Tokyo Olympics will take place next year despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tokyo organizing committee CEO Toshiro Muto said last week that the games could go ahead without a vaccine. This week John Coates, the IOC member who oversees the Tokyo Olympics, said the games would happen despite the pandemic.

Coates is to appear today in a virtual meeting with the IOC executive board. He is expected to give an upbeat assessment of Tokyo's prospects.

Several recent public opinion polls have shown skepticism from the Japanese public and the business community that



John Coates, the leader of the IOC's coordination commission for the Tokyo Olympics

the games can go on — or should go on.

"We can tell you that the IOC is fully committed to celebrating the games of the 32nd Olympiad next year in Tokyo," organizing committee spokesman Masa Takaya said yesterday. "We have

begun formulating the concrete steps we will take."

City, government and Tokyo Olympic officials gathered last week in the first of a string of meetings to plan for countermeasures against COVID-19. Japan has reported about 1,350

deaths from the coronavirus.

Panels will make plans to deal with possible quarantines, getting athletes into Japan, COVID-19 testing, measures to keep venues safe, anti-virus measures at the Athletes' Village and immigration issues. They'll also consider if fans will be allowed, and if non-Japanese fans will be among them.

The IOC and local organizers have been saying since the postponement five months ago that the games will open on July 23, 2021. They were taking the same approach in March, just weeks before the Olympics were postponed.

Organizers and the IOC have given few details of how 11,000 Olympic athletes and 4,400 Paralympians will be safe in Tokyo, along with thousands of staff members, and games and technical officials.

Details are not expected until later in the year, or into early 2021.

Separately, Olympic Minister Seiko Hashimoto said at a news conference the games must go on.

"I feel we have to hold them no matter what," the Sankei News reported her as saying.

Organizers have yet to say what the one-year postponement will cost or who will pay — with estimates in the billions of dollars. **AP**

CYCLING

REMAINING TOUR RIDERS CLEARED OF VIRUS BUT NOT DIRECTOR

THE remaining Tour de France riders were cleared to continue racing ahead of the Stage 10 after undergoing COVID-19 tests, but the Tour director tested positive and left the race.

Less than two hours before the stage started, Tour organizers and cycling governing body the UCI said all of the riders' tests performed over the past two days returned negative. However, they announced that director Christian Prudhomme tested positive along with four staff members from four different teams who have been dropped from the race bubble.

Under the race's health protocols, anyone who tests positive has to leave the race and any team with two or more positive tests — either rider or staff — within seven days also has to abandon.

Prudhomme's positive test might have an impact on French political affairs as it came only days after he spent two hours in his car following a stage in the Pyrenees in the company of Prime Minister Jean Castex. **MDT/AP**

MAKE-UP
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OPINION

World Views

Karen E. Young, Bloomberg

FOR GULF ARAB STATES, CHINA IS A TEMPORARY FRIEND

At a time of American retrenchment from the Middle East, there's a tendency in foreign-policy circles to overestimate China's influence in the region, even an expectation that it will take on some of the hegemon's historic responsibilities in the region. But Beijing's interests there are economic and tend to be concentrated in the Gulf Arab states. What's more, they have a very limited lifespan, tied to Chinese demographic trends that point to declining demand for hydrocarbons over the next two decades.

This period will coincide with a fiscal dilemma for the oil and gas exporters of the Gulf Cooperation Council, when their own demographic burden of an aging population reaches retirement, even as pension systems go underfunded and social welfare states are eroded. The dilemma is especially acute for states that are now building a significant sovereign debt repayment schedule for years to come.

Little thought is being given in Washington to what comes when China's imports of oil and gas tail off, leaving the region with neither superpower supervision nor a major consumer of its principal product. For the Gulf Arab states, a strategic partnership with China does not help achieve regional balance against Iran.

It is American power that currently guarantees the free movement of international shipping in the Persian Gulf and the Red Sea corridor.

The governments of the GCC member states are acutely aware of the fiscal cliff they face in the next 20 years, when global oil demand plateaus and they have burned through much of their accumulated wealth. The trendlines in the GCC's largest member state, Saudi Arabia, prefigure the approaching crisis.

In the same 20-year timeframe, Saudi pension systems will be grossly underfunded, public health and education systems overburdened, and social safety nets for the chronically unemployed and underemployed frayed. The debt-servicing burden will balloon.

Thanks to an external-debt issuance spree by GCC states, the Middle East is already a leader in bond sales.

In these circumstances, it is useful to have an external source of investment that does not require a bond prospectus, and a powerful partner which can provide technology and defense materiel. China looks very good as a bridge strategy for Saudi Arabia and the Gulf oil exporters.

There is a small window to capitalize on energy exports to China, whether in the form of oil and gas or petrochemicals. If China in the meantime can serve as a co-investor in energy projects — from petrochemical facilities in the Saudi Red Sea port of Yanbu to a refinery in Oman's Arabian Sea port of Duqm — so much the better.

For how long, though? China's birth rate is in rapid decline, and its economic growth slowing — by one reckoning, to just 2.5% this year. Even rosy pre-Covid estimates by the World Bank saw China's GDP growth slowing below 5% by 2030; investment bank Natixis, in a recent report on the global effects of an aging China, projects it at as little as 2.5%. Meanwhile, Chinese investments in renewable energy are exploding.

Any way you look at it, Beijing's need for Gulf oil will inevitably diminish, with grave consequences for GCC economies — and by extension, the legitimacy of its ruling elites.

This grim outlook, combined with American retrenchment from the region, has inspired some experimental foreign policy by the Gulf Arab states. It informs their improving relations with Israel and even some tentative outreach toward Iran, under the cover of cooperation in dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. But these are no substitute to the American protective umbrella.

In the next 20 years, we can expect a power vacuum to emerge across the Middle East. This will be problematic for the heavily populated economies that sit along its most important sea trade routes. What comes after the Gulf's China fling is something American policymakers should be thinking about more seriously.

The ongoing deterioration of Australia's relationship with its largest trading partner is seen impacting banks, consumer firms and tourism-related stocks that make up almost half the weight of the nation's benchmark index.

Since Prime Minister Scott Morrison called for an independent investigation into the origins of the coronavirus in April, tensions with China have been rising, with Beijing suspending Australian shipments of barley, halting some beef imports and starting an

anti-dumping investigation into Australian wine. Sectors likely to be impacted by the friction account for around 55% of the S&P/ASX 200 Index.

The risk of declining demand for Australian products may hit Treasury Wine Estates Ltd. and online jobs advertiser Seek Ltd., while infant-milk formula maker A2 Milk Co. and vitamin maker Blackmores Ltd. may also come under pressure from consumers, Jefferies analysts led by Brian Johnson wrote in a Sept. 7 note.



AP PHOTO

BEIJING PROPOSES GLOBAL DATA RULES TO COUNTER US MOVES ON TIKTOK

CHINA yesterday outlined a slate of rules designed to prevent foreign governments from acquiring data stored locally, seeking to counter Washington's accusations that services like TikTok and WeChat share sensitive user information with Beijing.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi unveiled the proposals governing global data security after raising the plan with his Group of 20 counterparts last week, part of China's attempts to set global standards for the digital sphere. They involve forbidding governments from gaining access to data acquired by companies' overseas operations, according to a statement posted on the ministry's website.

The guidelines reinforce Beijing's long-held concept of data sovereignty, or limiting information flow across borders, an idea gaining momentum as concerns over national security increase. The Trump administration has banned ByteDance Ltd.'s TikTok and Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s WeChat and sanctioned Huawei Technologies Co., accusing them of sharing Americans' data with the Chinese government.

"To reduce the deficit in global digital governance, countries face a pressing need to step up communication and coordination, build up mutual trust and deepen

cooperation with one another," Wang said in the statement.

Washington's moves against TikTok and WeChat underscore how the concept of an internet decoupling is becoming reality. The control of data -- everything from private details like locations and emails to sophisticated mined information such as personal profiles and online behavior -- is a key facet of China's broader concept of cyber-sovereignty.

The world's No. 2 economy already requires foreign companies store data

The world's No. 2 economy already requires foreign companies store data domestically

domestically, which is why the likes of Apple Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. have built massive datacenter operations in conjunction with local partners.

The Trump administration has sought to set up "clean networks" to prevent China from accessing user data, arguing that Chinese law compels companies to share information with authorities in Beijing. Secretary of State Michael Pompeo highlighted the trust deficit in remarks last month.

"You have to distrust them," Pompeo said when asked if the U.S. can trust China. "You have to challenge

everything that they say. You need to go verify it when they make a promise."

There are now few global standards governing cross-border data flows. China wants to fill the gap, saying it's willing to contribute its "wisdom." Data security should be viewed "objectively and rationally" to maintain "open, secure and stable global supply chains," it said.

Under the proposal, Beijing won't require Chinese companies to share data from overseas operations in violation of another nation's laws.

Information technology wouldn't be used to damage other countries' critical infrastructure or steal important data, the ministry said. Tech companies would not build backdoors

into their products and services to illegally obtain user data - something Washington has accused Huawei in particular of doing, and that the Chinese company has repeatedly denied.

The plan also called for measures to prevent and stop the infringement of personal data, and said technology shouldn't be abused to conduct large-scale surveillance of other countries or illegally collect personal information of citizens. Cross-border data retrieval by law enforcement should be resolved through judicial assistance and other channels, the proposal said. **BLOOMBERG**



AP PHOTO

Indonesia Almost 300 Rohingya Muslims were found on a beach in Indonesia's Aceh province on Monday after months at sea, officials said. The group arrived at Ujong Blang beach from one boat and were reported by local residents. Officials arrived and found that the Rohingya had dispersed into three groups after landing. Banda Sakti Subdistrict Military Commander Roni Mahendra said. "We persuaded them and asked the local residents to help until they gathered again," Mahendra said.



AP PHOTO

USA The prospect of a vaccine to shield Americans from coronavirus infection emerged as a point of contention in the White House race as President Donald Trump accused Democrats of "disparaging" for political gain a vaccine he repeatedly has said could be available before the election. Trump leveled the accusation a day after Sen. Kamala Harris, the Democrats' vice presidential candidate, said she "would not trust his word" on getting the vaccine.



AP PHOTO

Africa will lose between \$53 billion and \$120 billion in contributions to its GDP in 2020 because of the crash in tourism, the World Travel and Tourism Council estimates. Kenya expects at least a 60% drop in tourism revenue this year. South Africa a 75% drop. In South Africa, 1.2 million tourism-related jobs are already impacted, according to its Tourism Business Council. That's not far off 10% of total jobs in Africa's most developed economy and the total damage isn't yet clear.

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