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

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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THE LABOUR AFFAIRS BUREAU RECEIVED OVER 620 APPLICANTS ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE 'EMPLOYMENT ORIENTED TRAINING PROGRAM'

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GERMAN CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL LEADS EUROPEAN UNION TALKS WITH BEIJING LOOKING TO EASE TENSIONS WITH CHINA

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AP PHOTO



South Korea The government relaxed its physical distancing guidelines in the Seoul metropolitan area, citing a downward trend in new infections and worries about public livelihoods. Under new distancing rules franchise cafes and bakeries are allowed to have customers drink and eat inside their shops while indoor gyms and after-school academics can reopen.

AP PHOTO



Japan Yoshihide Suga was elected as the new head of Japan's ruling party yesterday, all but assuring that he will become the country's new prime minister when a parliamentary election is held later in the week. Abe announced last month that he would resign due to health problems.

AP PHOTO



India reopened its Parliament after more than five months yesterday, even as the country continues to report the most daily new infections of the coronavirus in the world and daily virus deaths remain above 1,000. Lawmakers must wear masks and follow other sanitization protocols, sit on seats separated by transparent plastic sheets and keep their meetings limited.

Indonesia Main streets were less crowded as Indonesia's capital began two weeks of social restrictions yesterday to curb a rise of coronavirus infections that has pushed its critical-care hospital capacity to unsafe levels. Social, economic, religious, cultural and academic activities will be restricted, with sectors like food, construction and banking, allowed to operate with health protocols and 50% of usual staffing levels.

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BLOOMBERG



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FORMER Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, had a meeting last week with the secretary-general of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), Li Baodong, according to a statement released by the organization, hinting that Leong will take up a leadership role at BFA imminently.

This meeting marked the first public appearance of Leong at a major political event since his departure from his former position in the government.

On September 9, Leong met with Li at the Secretariat of BFA in Beijing, according to the statement. The meeting took place even though this year's BFA annual assembly is canceled.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to Macau. The BFA secretary-general praised Leong's contribution to Macau's prosperity during his service to the SAR government.

Although this year's BFA annual meeting was canceled due to the Covid-19 pandemic, some of the organization's scheduled events, particularly those involving Macau, will take place as scheduled. Li revealed the details of these events to Leong.

In November, BFA will organize the first edition of an international conference on science, technology and innovation which

BOAO FORUM HINTS AT LIONEL LEONG'S FUTURE INVOLVEMENT



Lionel Leong (left) and Li Baodong

will take place in Macau. Li introduced Leong to BFA's current preparations for the conference.

After ten months out of the public eye, Leong's reappearance at BFA, one of China's most high-profile forums, is said to be indicative of his imminent appoint-

ment to a position in the Boao Forum board, according to sources familiar with the matter who spoke to the Macau Daily Times.

Evidence of Leong's possible participation as a pivotal leader in BFA can also be seen in his reply to the statement's comment

on the aforementioned conference.

Leong noted his belief that the conference will bring Macau crucial opportunities in the development of economic diversification, and in building the Greater Bay Area into an influen-

tial global science and innovation center.

The same announcement noted that Leong and Li exchanged opinions on the Greater Bay Area development and the cooperation between BFA and Macau SAR. **JZ**

FORUM MACAO

Secretary-General Xu Yingzhen returns to Beijing

FORUM Macao has confirmed that Secretary-General Xu Yingzhen returned to Beijing on Sunday after her four-year stint at the organization.

Since starting her role at Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries in 2016, Xu participated in a series of major events such as the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the China-Portugal Forum, the 15th anniversary of the establishment of the China-Portugal Forum, and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau SAR.

Last week, the Times learned from diplomatic sources that Xu was set to leave her position, and the Forum had held an internal farewell party to see her off.

Before returning to Beijing, the Secretary-General bid farewell to the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the SAR, the relevant departments of the Macau government and the heads of Portuguese-speaking countries' diplomatic agencies in the region.

Forum Macao highlighted her work on the development of economic and trade relations between Portuguese-speaking countries and the construction of a service platform for Macau's Sino-Portuguese business cooperation.

As previously reported, the outgoing Secretary-General also has extensive experience in foreign affairs and a good knowledge of the markets of Portuguese-speaking countries. She provided support to the Forum by

working with the organization of the Ministerial Conferences of Forum Macao.

The term of each secretary-general is not officially stipulated. According to the secretariat of the secretary-general, the term is determined at the discretion of the Central People's Government in Beijing. The rotation of the representatives and members from the eight countries, due this summer, was postponed because of the Covid-19 pandemic which prevents foreigners from entering Macau.

The Times has reported that Xu is regarded as a great mentor for the development of Forum Macao by her colleagues, being responsible for some great developments, including granting the Forum a higher status. **LV**

FOK KAI CHEONG, INVENTOR OF 'MACAU FORMULA', DIES

LOCAL academic, educator, and inventor of the "Macau Formula", Fok Kai Cheong, has died, according to Jornal Tribuna de Macau.

Fok, a native of Panyu, Guangdong, was born in Macau in 1942. He went to live and study in Hong Kong during his teenage years. He graduated from the University of Hong Kong in 1965 and went to the University of Hawaii for his master's degree, specializing in Hong Kong and Macau history. He obtained a master's degree in 1969.

Following his postgraduate education, he returned to Hong Kong in 1973 and became an associate professor at

the University of Hong Kong, before receiving his Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii in 1977.

He then taught at the University of Hong Kong for 20 years. From 1984 to 1994, he was a member of the Hong Kong History Compilation Group of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

In 1996, he was employed as a professor at the University of Macau. Since 2001, he was an honorary professor of the University of Hong Kong's History Department.

Before his passing, he held the managerial position of president at the Macau Millennium College, an institution started by SJM presi-

dent Ambrose So and other educators.

On top of his accomplishments in education, he was also a dedicated researcher and opened a new direction for the study on Macau and Hong Kong. He published widely on the histories of the two cities.

During the course of his writing, he even coined the term "Macau Formula" to highlight the difference of so-called colonialism in Macau to other places.

One of his studies yielded an unpublished paper titled The Macao Formula: a Study of Chinese Management of Westerners from the Mid-16th Century to the Opium War Period. **AL**

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Times

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Concerns over yuan supply return after cash machine unavailability

DANIEL BEITLER

REPORTS about the unavailability of renminbi notes in cash dispensers are not a cause for concern according to local monetary authorities, who assure Macau Daily Times that the supply is being normalized.

Automatic teller machines and currency exchange desks in parts of Macau were showing limited or no availability last weekend and yesterday.

The reports of yuan availability hint that banks and exchange desks are once again eating into the reserves that they kept from before the pandemic. Visitors to Macau are a major source of renminbi inflow to these desks, however the SAR has seen few tourists since the onset of travel restrictions starting in late January.

Previously, local authorities hinted that the supply of the yuan in Macau was under pressure.

In August, the Macau Association of Banks said the supply had fallen drastically this year, even as demand began to pick up that same month when Macau residents were preparing to

resume cross-border travel.

The value of the yuan has fallen about 5% since peaking in late May, with economists blaming worsening China-U.S. trade ties and the impact of the coronavirus as the chief causes.

The weaker yuan encourages cross-border travelers to engage in price speculation.

Resident or non-resident workers who earn in patacas but primarily spend in renminbi (for example by living in Zhuhai) stand to increase their spending power across the border if they exchange their currency at this favorable exchange rate. Moreover, conducting the transaction in Macau helps to avoid hefty exchange fees on the mainland.

In the case of Macau, an economy which derives the majority of its income from external consumption, the sudden halt in tourism has cut off a major source of renminbi inflow.

Macau welcomed more than 39.4 million visitors in 2019, but just 3.2 million in the first six months of 2020 on account of travel restrictions imposed by both Macau and the mainland.

Increased demand and constrained supply have given rise to frequent reports of yuan shortage across Macau since the start of the year.

The Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) told Macau Daily Times that its priority was to ensure the adequate supply of Macau patacas, however it did acknowledge that the supply of renminbi had fallen since the start of the year.

“Over a period of time, the entry-restriction measures due to the Covid-19 pandemic have been affecting the banknote supply from mainland tourists (which is one the supply channels for RMB banknotes) and imposing limitations on the cross-boundary banknote distribution logistics, leading to a tight banknote supply of certain currencies in the Macau market,” the AMCM wrote in an emailed statement.

However, “after coordination between the Monetary Authority of Macao and the [banking] industry, the relevant issues have been basically solved,” it said.

Asked what specific measures were taken, the

AMCM said that it had asked banks “to provide appointment services for cash requisitions [and] currency exchanges.”

The Monetary Authority, which operates as the SAR’s de facto central bank, said that “the public can also utilize other available electronic banking services (e.g. remittance) to conduct personal RMB business.”

Currency exchange desks surveyed yesterday by the Times reported varying levels of renminbi stock.

As of yesterday evening, Banco Comercial de Macau was offering 84.02 yuan for 100 patacas and reported that customers were limited to withdrawals of up to 5,000 yuan. Casa de Cambio Lisboa was offering 83.20 yuan with no limits to withdrawals, however noted that their reserves on that day were running low with “just thousands of RMB left.” Casa de Cambio Soi Cheong was offering 83.72 yuan with no limits and reported having “enough RMB”.

The current daily RMB remittance limit to the mainland by Macau residents is 80,000 yuan.

DSAL RECEIVES OVER 600 APPLICATIONS FOR TRAINING PROGRAM

THE Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) received 624 applicants on the first day of the launch of the “Employment Oriented Training Program” as of 4 p.m. yesterday.

The program caters to unemployed people with specific circumstances and recent college graduates to help them find jobs. The bureau said it will launch courses every month with 800 slots, and would respond to market demand.

The first round of the program offers 10 courses and 23 classes to choose from, including construction, industry and commerce, catering, retail and security.

Courses for the roles of administrative assistant, barista and dessert courses are more popular among applicants.

The first round of the program will accept applications until September 18, and the courses will commence on October 12.

“The selection process is drawing lots first, then qualification review, then interview,” DSAL noted in a statement.

The scheme has different admission requirements according to the different content of the courses.

Interested parties are encouraged to check application requirements and registration documents for various courses on the bureau’s webpages.

In accordance with Administrative Regulation No. 33/2020, the DSAL launched the program for college graduates who are unemployed due to the termination of labor relations on or after January 1, 2019, or are participating in the employment-oriented training program with subsidies. **LV**

NEW BLUECARD DESIGN TO TAKE EFFECT FROM MARCH 2021

THE design of the non-resident workers’ permit (commonly known as the bluecard) is changing, with the new model scheduled to be deployed from March next year, an order from the Chief Executive published in the government official gazette informed.

The change is an update to the model currently in force. More detailed information about the cardholder will be added and stored in the card which can be accessed through a QR code on the item.

The information to be graphically displayed in the card includes the name, gender, birthdate, issuing date, type of worker, job title and employer, as well as the permit number, expiration date, and photograph of the holder.

However, the microchip will also include other personal data such as marital status, country or region that issued the last travel document, type and number of those travel documents, and the date when the personal data was updated.

The Chief Executive order also stated that the previous models of blue cards which have already been issued and will be issued up to March next year will remain valid until their expiration date. **RM**

CRIME

MORE WOMEN FALL VICTIM TO FRAUDSTERS CLAIMING TO BE FOREIGN MEN

JULIE ZHU

WOMEN in Macau, regardless of their residential status, continue to lose money to online fraudsters pretending to be western men, according to a criminal case report the Judiciary Police (PJ) disclosed during a press conference yesterday.

These fraudsters, sometimes referred to as catfish, are people who lure others into a relationship by means of a fictional online persona.

The PJ yesterday reported a fraud case involving a young Taiwanese woman who lost money to a catfish claiming to be an "American soldier".

The local police authority has previously reported various fraud cases where either a Macau local women or non-local female workers in Macau fell victim to online romance scams involving, in particular, unidentified individuals who disguised themselves as Caucasian males working as engineers or soldiers abroad.

Recently, a 33-year-old woman from Taiwan working in Macau, reported herself a victim to such fraud. The suspect is an unidentified stranger who claimed to be an American soldier. From May, the victim was in contact with the unidentified man. After chatting online for a month, in June, the uniden-



tified online individual told the victim that he had shipped USD500,000 to her in Macau and told her to collect the money.

The "American Soldier" asked the victim to switch to QQ, one of mainland China's most used social networks in order to speak further.

Later, the woman was contacted by an alleged cargo company asking her to choose which

type of shipping she would prefer for transporting the money.

The victim requested the fastest shipping method and thus she was asked to pay USD5,000 for the service. The "shipping company" provided her with a Hong Kong bank account to transfer the money to. The victim complied with the first money transfer order.

Later, the same "shipping

company" contacted her for another transfer, providing various excuses such as the fact that the cash was intercepted by the Indonesian customs authority.

When the "American soldier" said that he needed a deposit in order to retire from the military, he asked the woman to send him money. The victim once again believed in the excuses and made five bank tran-

sactions to a designated bank account in Hong Kong.

The victim made 11 transactions totaling HKD709,000 to the bank account.

Earlier, in May, a local woman fell victim to an online romance where an individual claimed to be an engineer from Europe. The "European man" and the victim only knew each other on social media. After talking for three months, the "engineer" convinced the woman that he had shipped gifts to her from Europe. Similar to the Taiwanese woman in the above-mentioned case, the woman in this case was also contacted by a "shipping company" to pay a fee in order to get the package. The woman lost HKD75,000 to this fraud.

In 2016, a 28-year-old local woman lost 130,000 patacas to scammers after she was convinced that a catfish was an American soldier. In the same year, another woman reported a loss of over seven million patacas after she believed that the catfish was a British man working as an engineer.

In these cases, the perpetrators were all claiming to be citizens from developed western countries, and mostly Caucasian men. They also posed as people with high occupational prestige. As of today, the majority of the reported victims are ethnically Chinese women.

Macau Tower holds art installation with mime performances

LYNZY VALLES

THE second iteration of "Curiouser and Curiouser - Exploring Alice's Wonderland" kicked off over the weekend at the Macau Tower, presenting art installations that also hosted miming performances by various art clubs.

The curator, Mel Cheong Hoi, uses "Alice in Wonderland" as a blueprint and presents a "fantasy world" to the public.

Speaking to the Times, Cheong said that it is high time for enterprises to be more open to the works of local artists, allowing them to present their exhibitions and installations inside their premises.

"I think they have to think more about local artists since foreign artists



are not able yet to come to Macau. Another problem though is whether they can find us [someone who caters to their specific style]," said the curator.

For Cheong, it is also

challenging for local artists to look for premise sponsorships, particularly depending on the artist's style or genre.

Cheong focuses on large paper art, therefore her

works need to be exhibited at a large indoor site.

"We don't have much [in the way of enterprises] to choose from. Fortunately, Macau Tower agreed for us to use this space. They have

been supporting us since last year. Our proposal for next year is even ready to be turned in to them," said Cheong.

The curator also stressed that local artists need to be invited to the international stage, to allow them to gather ideas and inspiration, and excel at marketing.

"I believe there are a lot of good artists in Macau. They may just not have good marketing or organizing skills to make the whole project suitable for a commercial area," Cheong said.

The curator noted that artists still need time to understand how collaboration and operations with enterprises work.

Meanwhile, another challenge that local artists face is the government's

tight schedule for subsidy and budget applications, as it can take up to seven months for funding to be approved.

For some artists, they use the seven-month period to start their work without financial support. Others wait for the government's approval.

"I always ask my collaborators that even if we don't have any funding yet, are we still willing to contribute? Funding comes next, it is just a bonus. In case there is really no funding, we'll still do it but in smaller in scale," said Cheong.

"We have to try our best to acquire other assistance."

The exhibition "Curiouser and Curiouser - Exploring Alice's Wonderland" will run until October 9.

Lifting ban on overseas GP drivers is in 'public interest' according to medical director

ANTHONY LAM

THE medical director of the public hospital believes that lifting the entry ban on foreign Grand Prix racers is crucial to the economic revival of the city. The director, Alvis Lo, said at yesterday's Covid-19 press briefing that this meant lifting the ban was in the "public interest" and therefore qualified to be one of the exceptions to quarantine stipulated in an executive order.

Lo said that the Grand Prix is an historic and iconic activity in the city. "Provided that rigorous epidemic containment measures are observed, the risk is manageable," he said. In order to enter Macau, apart from other prerequisites, foreigners will need to show proof of their negative Covid-19 test results.

At the same time, lawmaker Agnes Lam recently submitted an inquiry to request the government ease the restriction. She said the ban had caused, among others, a non-local husband to stay away from his wife and children, who are in Macau, as well as the husband of a seven-month-pregnant woman not being able to be by her side.

The health authority admitted that it has received several inquiries and requests for permission from local associations to orga-



nize National Day celebratory events, including cocktail, lunch or dinner receptions.

In line with its guidelines and requirements for participants at the National Day celebration next month, the health authority said that a Covid-19 nucleic acid test may be required for all attendees of receptions organized by local associations. However, the requirements may not be identical for all groups.

Leong Iek Hou from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention cited the Dragon Boat Races held in June as an example to hint that the dedicated guidelines might look similar.

She also gave an explanation as to why a test is required for participants at lunch or dinner receptions: many infection cases in nearby regions were recorded at meal gatherings or receptions. As a result, the health authority believes

that if a reception is held for an extended duration, there will be a higher risk of the virus spreading.

For the previous Dragon Boat Races, as well as an upcoming event to be held on September 27, the Sports Bureau was ambiguous in terms of its health requirements, before it suddenly announced the requirement that all athletes must take the test. For the upcoming Dragon Boat Races, the Sports Bureau has not announced

any plans to subsidize the tests.

Meanwhile, concerning the quota of Covid-19 nucleic acid tests, Lai Kai Seng, the deputy head of the private Kiang Wu Hospital, the only private specimen collection station among the four available, hinted that the hospital was attempting to expand its test quota.

The hospital management estimates the quota can be expanded from 1,000 tests per day to as many as 2,500 per day.

Lai added that the operation of specimen collection and testing at the private medical venue has been smooth. Only minor flaws, such as registrants wrongly entering their ID numbers, have been recorded.

Due to the overwhelming demand, registrants have to book their test at least two days prior to their preferred dates. In response to the situation, Lai said that the private entity has submitted an application to the Health Bureau for approval to expand the test quota. The application is being reviewed by the government now.

The medical doctor said that the hospital's maximum capacity is 3,000 tests per day. For the time being, the private medical venue has no plan to provide Covid-19 test at its Taipa facility, which is located at the Light Rail Transit's Pai Kok Station.

Lawmaker urges relaxation of border restrictions for some foreigners

JULIE ZHU

LAWMAKER Agnes Lam has urged the Macau SAR government to lift immigration restrictions for specific groups of foreign nationals.

Recently, Lam wrote to the government to request that they consider allowing foreign nationals who are relatives of Macau residents to return to Macau for family reunions.

In her interpellation to the government, Lam said that she received several requests for help regarding the aforementioned issue.

According to Lam, she has received requests to help with various situations such as the case of a foreign man who was

separated from his son and wife since the Covid-19 outbreak, or families who have been outside of Macau because their children were born in a foreign country and have not been allowed to enter the city.

Currently, Macau is still banning foreign nationals from entering the city. The measure has been in effect since March, when the SAR government refused to let all foreign nationals return to the city, irrespective of their residential status in the city. The policy left many foreign students and workers unable to return to their positions.

Appealing to the government, Lam hopes the authority can adopt special policies for these foreign nationals. The

lawmaker proposed to allow foreign nationals to enter Macau, under the reasons of urgency, humanity, family reunion and others, if these individuals are willing to undergo medical quarantine.

Lam hopes the government can consider each entry request based on the individual's staying records instead of their nationality.

She also asked the authority whether it will specifically consider opening one border checkpoint for foreign nationals who have been in mainland China during the past few months and who meet Macau's entry requirements, particularly after a period of implementing entry policies for mainland visitors.

AIR MACAU TO MAKE EXCEPTION ON SEOUL FLIGHT SUSPENSION

LOCAL airline Air Macau is preparing to make an exception to their general cancellation of all flights between Macau and the South Korean capital, Seoul, as reported by the Times last week.

According to information provided to the Times by the air carrier, the company has applied to the relevant authorities to have a "special" flight on October 2 for their route NX822/NX821 to Seoul Incheon International Airport.

In the same statement, Air Macau informed that the flight is currently pending "approval from the concerned organizations."

The airline also confirmed that flight route NX822/821 will otherwise be suspended after September 25 at least until October 24, a spokesperson informed.

As the Times reported last week, the Macau airline is resuming several flights to many mainland cities later this month, while also dropping some international routes.

Beijing, Shanghai (Pudong), Hangzhou, Nanjing, Changzhou, Chengdu, Xiamen, Nanning, Jieyang (Chaoshan), Tianjin, Taiyuan, Zhengzhou, Qingdao, Ningbo, Wenzhou, Chongqing, and Guiyang are the cities with flight re-

sumptions; major destinations will be served by daily flights.

The resumption comes as China is preparing for a major public holiday, National Day Golden Week, which officially runs from October 1 to 7.

The date also coincides with the extension of the reissuing of visas under the Individual Visit Scheme for mainland tourists across the whole country.

According to the notice posted on the airline website, the current number of scheduled flight will increase from 54 per week to a total of 230 per week during October. **RM**

AP PHOTO



Relatives of 12 Hong Kong activists detained at sea by Chinese authorities attend a press conference in Hong Kong Saturday

SHENZHEN

POLICE CONFIRMS IT DETAINED 12 HONG KONGERS AT SEA LAST MONTH

CHINESE authorities have confirmed the criminal detention of 12 Hong Kongers who were allegedly attempting to travel illegally to Taiwan by boat last month, while the foreign ministry in Beijing labeled the group separatists. The 12 people, aged 16 to 33, were under "compulsory criminal detention" in accordance with Chinese law for illegally crossing

the border, according to a statement over the weekend from the public security bureau in Shenzhen. It said they were arrested on Aug. 23. The statement was the first formal announcement from Chinese authorities that the 12 would likely face criminal charges. Last month authorities confirmed the detention at sea of the 12, some

of whom were linked to the anti-government protest movement in the city last year. The 12 were believed to be traveling to the self-ruled island of Taiwan, a popular choice among protesters who have chosen to leave Hong Kong since the passage of a new national security law in June. Critics say the Hong Kong law is Beijing's clearest attempt to

erase the legal firewall between the semi-autonomous territory and the mainland's authoritarian Communist Party system. Beijing foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said Sunday on Twitter that the 12 detained were not "democratic activists, but elements attempting to separate #HongKong from China."

Under Hong Kong's security law, attempting to separate Hong Kong from China is illegal, as the law outlaws secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces in the city's internal affairs.

Pro-democracy lawmaker Eddie Chu expressed concern in an interview with public broadcaster RTHK yesterday that the 12 could face more severe charges in the future, which could result in longer prison sentences. They are currently accused of illegally crossing the border and not separatism.

The relatives of the arrested Hong Kongers held a news conference on Saturday calling for the return of their family members to Hong Kong, saying their legal rights were being violated.

The relatives, who wore masks and sunglasses and did not reveal their names, said those arrested should be allowed to meet with lawyers they themselves have hired, not those appointed by Chinese authorities. They also said they should be provided with needed medications and be allowed to call their families.

In a statement released at the news conference, the families said that the Hong Kong government had not yet provided any sort of concrete assistance to the families.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam said last week that the group arrested would have to be dealt with according to Chinese laws if they were arrested for committing an offence in China. She said that the Hong Kong government would try and render assistance. AP

UN rights chief decries racism in US, keeps eye on Hong Kong

JAMEY KEATEN, GENEVA

THE U.N. human rights chief appealed yesterday for "urgent and profound action to combat systemic racism" in the United States, and encouraged Hong Kong authorities to "monitor closely" the enforcement of a national security law in China derided by many activists.

The comments from Michelle Bachelet came in a catch-all speech to open the latest session of the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council yesterday. She also raised concerns about the human rights situation in Myanmar, Nicaragua and Venezuela, among other places on her agenda.

Bachelet, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, highlighted concerns about use of force by police in



High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet

cases such as the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin last month, and recently-revealed details of the death of Daniel Prude in Rochester, New York,

earlier this year. Overall, she said the lack of accountability "for many prior killings underscores the gravity of this crisis." She said commitments

by authorities in the United States to reform after the killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May "need to be matched by real change to create an envi-

ronment in which African-Americans feel they are protected by law enforcement and the state."

Bachelet said she would speak later in the council's three-week session to follow up on a resolution it passed in June commissioning a report on systematic racism and discrimination against Black people.

In her speech, Bachelet also said her office was keeping tabs on the impact of a national security law in China focusing on Hong Kong that has led to charges against at least two dozen people since July.

Many see the law as Beijing's boldest move yet to remove a legal firewall between the semi-autonomous territory of Hong Kong and the mainland's Communist Party system.

"The Hong Kong authorities have consistently

stated that the law is not intended to impact negatively on the peaceful exercise of human rights by Hong Kong residents," said Bachelet. "Accordingly, I would encourage the Hong Kong authorities to monitor closely the enforcement of the law by the police and the courts, and to take steps to review the law in response to any negative consequences it might have on the enjoyment of human rights."

She also denounced the "continuing repression" of LGBTI people and activists in Poland, and called Israel's blockade of Gaza illegal under international law and ineffective in delivering security or peace for Israelis and Palestinians. She said her office had documented 47 killings of human rights defenders in Colombia this year. AP

US ambassador to China to step down next month

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

THE U.S. ambassador to China will step down early next month, ending a three-year tenure marked by a trade war and increasingly bitter relations between the world's two largest economies.

Terry Branstad, appointed by President Donald Trump in 2017, confirmed his decision in a phone call with Trump last week, the U.S. Embassy said in a statement yesterday. It did not give a reason for his departure.

"I am proudest of our work in getting the phase one trade deal and delivering tangible results for our communities back home," he was quoted as saying at an embassy staff meeting.

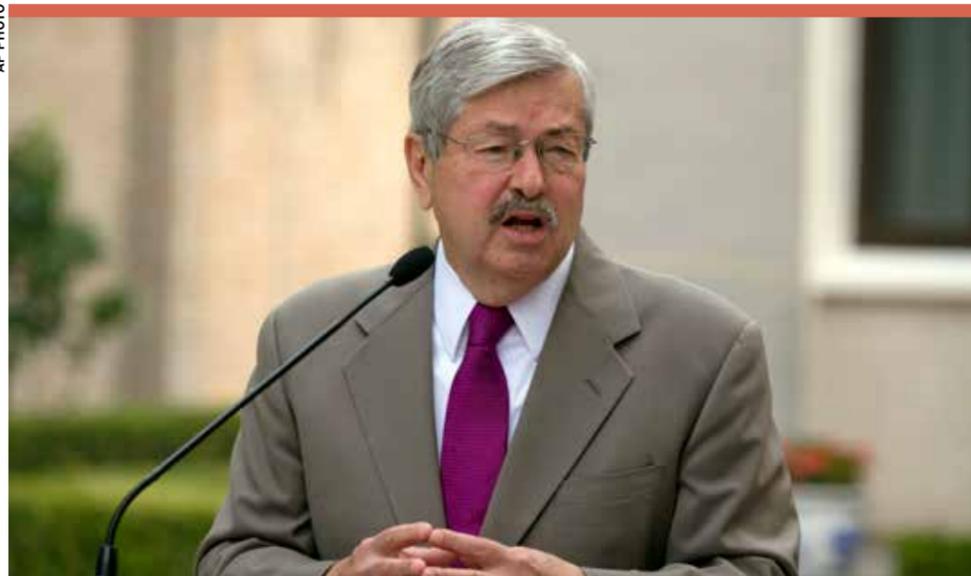
Word of his departure leaked out earlier in the day when Secretary of State Mike Pompeo thanked Branstad on Twitter for his service.

"Ambassador Branstad has contributed to rebalancing U.S.-China relations so that it is results-oriented, reciprocal, and fair," Pompeo wrote in a follow-up tweet.

China's foreign ministry said before the embassy announcement that it was aware of Pompeo's tweet but had not received any notification that Branstad was leaving.

Branstad became embroiled in a recent controversy when China's official People's Daily newspaper rejected an opinion column that he had written.

Pompeo tweeted last week that China's ruling Communist Party refused to run Branstad's op-ed while the



U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad

Chinese ambassador to the United States "is free to publish in any U.S. media outlet."

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian responded that Branstad's article was "full of loopholes, seriously inconsistent with facts and wantonly attacks and smears China."

The U.S. Embassy had contacted the People's Daily on Aug. 26 about the piece, asking that it be printed in full without any edits before Sept. 4, the People's Daily said in a statement posted online.

Branstad, 73, is a native of Iowa and was governor of the major farming state for 22 years over two spans, from 1983 to 1999 and 2011 to 2017.

Early in his first term, he met Xi Jinping, now China's leader, when the then county-level Communist Party official visited Iowa on a 1985 trade trip.

Trump appointed him am-

bassador after a vacancy of several months, during which the embassy's No. 2 official, David Rank, resigned after criticizing the Trump administration's withdrawal from the Paris climate accord.

Soon after arriving in Beijing in June 2017, Branstad welcomed American beef back to the Chinese market after a 14-year ban, saying "I know it is a key priority of the president to reduce the trade deficit, and this is one of the ways we can do it."

But trade relations quickly soured, as the U.S. imposed tariffs on Chinese products and China retaliated in kind. Other disputes followed over technology, human rights and the response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Branstad joined U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin at trade talks with Chinese counterparts in Beijing in May 2019.

The phase one deal reached the following January represented a truce but did not address the more fundamental complaints of the American side.

The U.S. Embassy statement also noted Branstad's role in the effort to reduce the flow of fentanyl from China to the United States, including a 2018 pact in which China agreed to list the opioid as a controlled substance.

Branstad also made a rare visit to Tibet in May 2019, where he expressed concerns about what the U.S. called Chinese government interference in the freedom of Tibetan Buddhists to organize and practice their religion.

"He encouraged the Chinese government to engage in substantive dialogue with the Dalai Lama or his representatives, without preconditions, to seek a settlement that resolves differences," an embassy statement at the time said. AP

MERKEL LEADS EU TALKS WITH BEIJING LOOKING TO EASE TENSIONS

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel, top European Union officials and Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks Monday focused on trade, trying to reinvigorate slow-moving discussions on an investment agreement and building trust to tackle the thorny political issues harming their ties.

Merkel, whose country currently holds the EU's rotating presidency, was backed by Council President Charles Michel, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and the bloc's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, at the video conference.

The talks between two of the world's three largest economies and traders was an opportunity for Brussels and Beijing to take stock of their ties, with the Europeans wanting to focus on economic issues, reform of the World Trade Organization, climate change and the coronavirus pandemic.

The EU sees China as a "systemic rival" offering great opportunities but also presenting many challenges. The pandemic has also created new obstacles, notably what Brussels sees as a China-orchestrated campaign of disinformation about the disease that could put lives at risk.

China has been accused of trying to influence European officials, and Borrell has twice denied this year that the External Action Service — a kind of EU foreign office that he leads — has bowed to pressure from Beijing to alter documents.

The 27-nation EU — China's biggest trading partner — is often divided in its approach to Beijing. AP



German Chancellor Angela Merkel

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AP PHOTO



ITALY

Initial virus hotspot back to school after seven months

COLLEEN BARRY
& LUCA BRUNO,
CODOGNO

THE morning bell yesterday marked the first entrance to the classroom for the children of Codogno since Feb. 21, when panicked parents were sent to pick up their children after the northern Italian town gained notoriety as the first in the West to record local transmission of the coronavirus.

While all of Italy's 8 million school students endured Italy's strict 2½-month lockdown, few suffered the trauma of the children of Codogno, whose days were punctuated by the sirens of passing ambulances.

"Many lost grandparents," said Cecilia Cugini, the principal of Codogno's nursery, elementary and middle schools.

So while the reopening of Italian schools marks an important step in a return to pre-lockdown routine, the step bears more symbolic weight in the 11 towns in Lombardy and Veneto that were the first to be sealed off as coronavirus red zones.

Codogno Mayor Francesco Passerini said the town of 17,000 has had virtually no new cases for months now, but authorities are not being complacent. He said they have spared no effort in working with school administrators to provide maximum protection to the city's 3,500 students.

"We hope it goes well, so that all we lived can be relegated to memory," Passerini said.

In Codogno, nursery school children must have their temperatures taken at drop-off but are not required to wear masks. In elementary school and middle school, parents are asked to monitor temperatures at home and masks are required, though they may be lowered during lessons. In schools where distance cannot be maintained, older students will have to keep masks on all day.

Schools throughout the country struggled to identify new classroom spaces, for instance in church oratory buildings, and construct outside learning spaces. In a country where years of spending cuts have left many school buildings run down, ad-

ministrators have jumped at the chance to take care of long-overdue repairs, in some places delaying school openings while work is finished.

School and local officials in Codogno worked tirelessly to ensure the smoothest return possible for students.

Yesterday, masked elementary students waited in spaces designated by red tape to be called to class. Two classes were shifted from the more crowded of Codogno's two elementary schools to ensure proper distancing. "Parents were not happy but we have dedicated a shuttle bus to bring the children back and forth, to address some of the discomfort," Cugini said.

The middle school, meanwhile, receive 230 new desks commissioned by the government. Cugini said they will replace older, oversized desks to allow students to maintain enough distance to remove masks. Art and technology classes requiring more working room will rotate through the middle school's auditorium.

The city also repaired the middle school roof and upgraded the ba-

throwms as part of preparations — both projects welcome and overdue.

"It is an emblematic moment for us," Cugini said. "It is important to create an atmosphere so the students can experience the emotions of finding themselves back in school, with classmates and teachers, without being distracted by other things."

For Maria Cristina Baggi's daughters, ages 4 and 10, there was no back-to-school shopping for new backpacks: the old ones were fine as they had lain unused for the four months of distance learning last winter and spring. But there was the usual sense of anticipation to be reunited with classmates, the renewal that comes with every school year — tinged now by a not-so-distant concern that the COVID-19 back-to-school project will bring an uptick in contagion even here.

While there are many rules governing classroom behavior, some uncertainty remains.

"We have doubts about how to react to a cold or a coughing attack — that is an unknown for everyone," Baggi said. **AP**

this day in history



1978 GERMAN TERROR SUSPECT ARRESTED IN UK

One of the most wanted members of the West German Baader-Meinhof gang has been detained in London.

Astrid Proll, 31, is suspected of having been a member of the left-wing extremist group and its successor, the Red Army Faction.

Miss Proll was working in a West Hampstead garage under a false name when officers from Special Branch arrested her.

She is now being questioned by members of the anti-terrorist squad at Paddington Green police station in West London, where she is expected to be held for the next few days.

Scotland Yard said Miss Proll — who was working as a mechanics instructor — was not armed when she was arrested and emphasized there was no question of her being involved in criminal activity in the UK.

But West German officials said they wanted her in connection with several murders and would apply for her extradition.

Witnesses at Camden Enterprises Ltd said Miss Proll did not resist arrest.

The workshop manager, Vincent Wilcocks, told the BBC when the first uniformed police arrived he thought they had come to question him about a motoring offence.

"The next moment about 10 plain clothes officers from Scotland Yard came in and took her up to the recreation room, pushed her up against the lockers and searched her.

"I asked the police if they had a warrant but they said in this case they did not need one," he said.

Miss Proll later issued a statement through her solicitor denying she had links with any extremist groups.

"I have lived in England for the past four years — I have no contact with the Red Army Faction and I have tried to settle down as best I could in the circumstances," she said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Baader-Meinhof group was founded in the 1960s and aimed to overthrow capitalist society in West Germany using violence.

The West German government immediately started extradition proceedings against Astrid Proll.

She initially fought the action in the UK courts but eventually decided in June 1979 to go back to face trial in her home country.

In February 1980 she was sentenced to five-and-a-half years for bank robbery and falsifying documents. But as she had already spent more than two thirds of her sentence in British and West German jails she was released immediately.

During a radio chat show, when asked if she was "terribly ashamed" of being associated with the RAF, Proll said she was not, but went on to say that she did disapprove of their increasingly violent acts. Interviewed by Iain Sinclair for his book "Hackney, That Rose-Red Empire," she said that she would like to settle in Britain but did not have the money to do so.

In the late 1990s, she was advising the young think tank "xaidialogue" on how to conceptualize democracy in a language of pictures.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Use your naturally warm personality to help melt the cold shoulder you've been getting from someone you work with or see daily. It's a fun challenge for which you are perfectly ready right now!

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Today is a good day to have a serious talk with a friend or loved one who has been acting out of character lately. Casually ask about what is new in their life and see what they say.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Some totally flirtatious energy could blow into your life like a thunderstorm today. All this flirting will light a fire under you that no social situation can contain!

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Your communication could be misinterpreted today because you have an awful lot on your mind. But thinking about what you are going to say before you say it is not a luxury!

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 You could be put in charge of a lot of work today, but the additional responsibility could open the door to major opportunities, so try to see the good before you react to the bad.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Even if you have a big deadline looming, you need to do your best to slow down and avoid rushing. Just because you push yourself harder doesn't mean that you are going to go faster!

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 If one of your relationships is suffering because one person isn't making enough time for the other, it's time to talk about new things the two of you can do together.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 People are easy for you deal with, numbers not so much! If you are dealing with any contracts or other types of documents with a lot of detail today, you need to be twice as meticulous as you usually are.

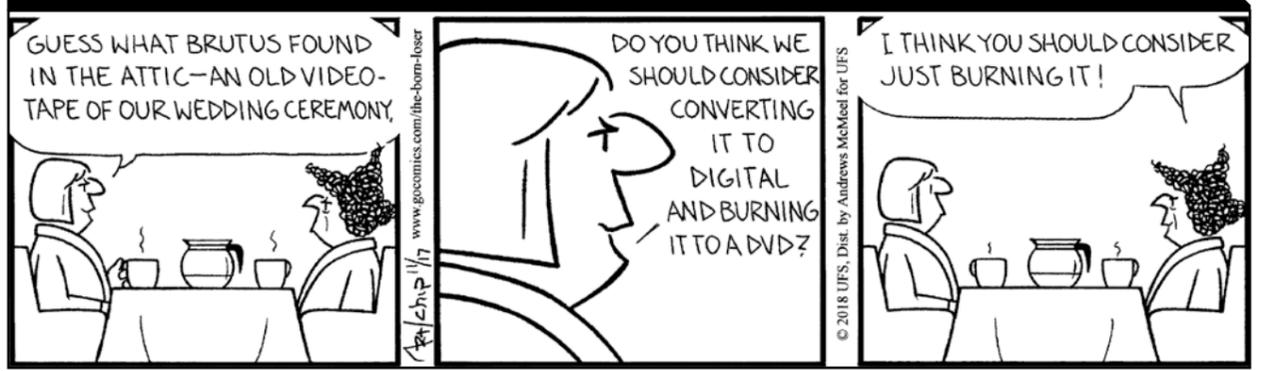
SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 You are excited about getting in touch with an intellectual equal so that the two of you can do some philosophizing about current events, but you can't really get deep until you find a quiet spot to converse.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Your speech shouldn't come as a surprise to them, although their willingness to do as you say just might surprise you. You two are entering a new kind of relationship.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 You can do this. You know how to communicate creatively and supportively. Plus, you've been where they are now. There's nothing like first-person experience to give you the right kind of insight.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 No matter how much you have planned for today, you need to try to keep things simple. If you toss too many details into the mix, you are bound to get overwhelmed, which could make you very cranky!

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	19	24	drizzle
Harbin	12	22	cloudy
Tianjin	19	22	heavy rain
Urumqi	11	24	cloudy
Xi'an	19	28	drizzle
Lhasa	11	23	cloudy
Chengdu	18	24	overcast
Chongqing	20	23	drizzle
Kunming	18	24	shower
Nanjing	21	25	drizzle
Shanghai	22	25	moderate rain
Wuhan	20	24	moderate rain
Hangzhou	22	25	drizzle to moderate rain
Taipei	25	31	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	33	thundershower
Hong Kong	27	31	thundershower
WORLD			
Moscow	9	17	clear
Frankfurt	15	29	cloudy
Paris	19	31	clear
London	16	28	clear
New York	13	25	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Burn slightly; 5- 1980s attorney general; 10- Brood; 14- Clinton's birthplace; 15- Calamity Jane's surname; 16- Over-50 org.; 17- Nest eggs, briefly; 18- Bellowing; 19- Earthbound bird; 20- Christmas song; 22- Holdup; 24- Coarse file, angry tone of voice; 27- Electric fish; 28- Nares; 32- Lover of Juliet; 35- Bard's "before"; 36- First letter of the Hebrew alphabet; 38- Fortune-telling cards; 40- Fit to be tried; 42- Follows orders; 44- Captain of the Nautilus; 45- Rock; 47- Rascal; 49- ER procedure; 50- Eat away; 52- Furtive; 54- Loaded; 56- Polo of "Meet the Parents"; 57- King Arthur's palace; 60- Licorice-like flavor; 64- Cab; 65- "_____ by any other name..."; 68- Environmental sci.; 69- Apartment, e.g.; 70- Point in question; 71- Acting part; 72- Like pie?; 73- Pine sap; 74- Dagger of yore;

DOWN: 1- Smart; 2- Israeli round dance; 3- On _____ with; 4- A place for vacationers; 5- Exec's degree; 6- Where it's at; 7- Piccadilly Circus statue; 8- Glide along smoothly; 9- More spine-tingling; 10- Person who shoots well; 11- Island of Hawaii; 12- Type of school or cook; 13- Clean air org.; 21- Pasternak heroine; 23- Thicken; 25- Silage storage tower; 26- Common people; 28- Capone foe; 29- Declaim; 30- Spanish Mister; 31- Glasses, briefly; 33- Establish; 34- Pizazz; 37- Hilton competitor; 39- Member of the Conservative Party; 41- Immensity; 43- "Peter Pan" pirate; 46- Pop singer Brickell; 48- Graph prefix; 51- Cream cake; 53- Passenger ships; 55- Stallion, e.g.; 57- Injectable diazepam, in military lingo; 58- Line of symmetry; 59- Chuck; 61- Desktop image; 62- One and only; 63- Gen. Robert _____; 64- Calendar col.; 66- _____ generis (unique); 67- Dusk, to Donne;



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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	



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ASIA-PACIFIC'S COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES BATTERED AS INVESTORS FLEE

FARIS MOKHTAR

GLOBAL investors have disproportionately reduced spending on commercial real estate in Asia Pacific compared with other regions amid the pandemic and the outlook remains challenging, according to a report.

Total volume of commercial property acquisitions, including office, retail and hotels, was about 65% of the levels recorded in the last two years, the Switzerland-based Bank for International Settlements said in its quarterly review. By contrast, volumes in the Americas fell just 25% in the first half of the year, while those in Africa, Europe and the Middle East were little changed due to some large deals.

"Cross-border investors may be particularly flighty when they face a large global shock such as the Covid-19 pandemic," the BIS said. "It is then that their impact as



marginal investors makes itself felt."

A surge in cases following the virus outbreak forced countries like China and Singapore to impose stringent border controls and lockdowns in the early days of the pandemic, making it harder for investors to seal real estate deals. Even as they've reopened their economies, those countries are still cautious in easing travel restrictions amid a resurgence in global virus cases that threatens to derail containment efforts.

Given the relative importance of real estate to some Asian economies, policy makers may need to consider how to reduce market volatility, including restrictions on foreign inflows, the bank said. The value of real estate is equal to more than 100% of gross domestic product in Hong Kong, and about 47% in Singapore, the report found.

Cross-border financial intermediaries - such as property funds and real estate investment trusts - pos-

ted the largest decline in the region, dropping to 61% of all transactions in the first half of the year, from 74% a year earlier. The dollar volume dropped to \$18 billion from \$29 billion, the BIS said, based on an analysis of data by Real Capital Analytics.

The report found some havens in the region. Japan has seen more acquisitions of multi-family dwellings by global investors, especially from the U.S., which had pulled back from the rest of region.

For the Asia-Pacific region, challenges remain. In the medium term, banks and other financial institutions may be hit by loan delinquencies and a slowdown in activity in the commercial property sector if the pandemic lasts longer and governments end their support for both tenants and landlords before the economy rebounds. **BLOOMBERG**

CONDO BUTLER SERVICE DEMAND IN CHINA SPARKS 400% STOCK GAIN

SURGING demand for butler-like concierge service at the millions of condominiums in China is creating one of the hottest sectors in the nation's stock market.

Property management companies, providing everything from childcare to shopping errands for residents in China's densely populated communities, have soared this year as the pandemic kept workers at home. A dense neighborhood in China can have as many as 100,000 condominiums, creating a captive market for versatile services.

Ever Sunshine Lifestyle Services Group Ltd., spun off from Cifi Holdings Group Co., has tripled this year. Yincheng Life Service Co. has surged more than 400%, while Times Neighborhood Holdings Ltd. has more than doubled. Overall, housing service stocks in Hong Kong have jumped 60% on average, topping the 47% rise by Chinese consumer stocks in Shanghai and the 29% gain for technology firms.

"The sector has become highly favored by investors, almost like they're consumer or tech stocks," said CGS-CIMB Securities property analyst Raymond Cheng. "We have seen global funds from Singapore to the U.S. piling onto it."

China's highly indebted property developers are taking note, seizing on the rally to list their service arms in Hong Kong and raise money to pare debt. Thirteen Chinese developers have started or flagged intentions to spin off their management units this year, a record since 2017 when the trend emerged. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD

合夥人 PARTNERS:
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山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues
馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata
趙魯 Zhao Lu
馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

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FOOTBALL

Mourinho woe, Ancelotti joy: Everton opens with win at Spurs

ROB HARRIS, LONDON

TOTTENHAM 0, EVERTON 1

TWENTY years into his managerial career, Jose Mourinho recorded an unwelcome first: Making a losing start to a league season.

"I didn't like my team," the Tottenham manager said after Dominic Calvert-Lewin's second-half header gave Everton a 1-0 win in the Premier League yesterday [Macau time].

For all that Everton was dynamic — with James Rodriguez and Allan controlling the midfield on their debuts — Tottenham was ineffective going forward.

Tottenham was reliant on Harry Kane as its attacking outlet, and the England forward managed only two touches in the Everton penalty area.

"The struggle started in the way we pressed — or the way we didn't press," Mourinho said. "Our pressure up (front) was very, very poor. It was a lazy pressure and when you have lazy pressure you let opponents build from the back."

It was a miserable way for Mourinho to start his first full season in charge of Tottenham.

But it was the perfect start for Everton manager Carlo Ancelotti, who took charge midseason last year like Mourinho. This was the first time Everton had won away at one of the traditional top-six clubs since December 2013.



Everton's Dominic Calvert-Lewin scores his side's win goal

Tottenham defenders Eric Dier and Toby Alderweireld gave Calvert-Lewin the space to rise to meet Lucas Digne's free kick with a header 10 minutes into the second half.

"It can be a lonely role at times," said center forward Calvert-Lewin. "But today, because we've worked hard and won our individual battles, it allowed us to play and we can create chances."

"I was excited. I couldn't wait to play today. Not only the first game of the season, but with the quality we've brought in as well."

Quality such as James Rodriguez, who at 29 is trying to revitalize a career that never settled at Real Madrid, which he joined after lighting up the 2014 World Cup with Colombia. James has been reunited with Ancelotti, who coached James at the start of his Madrid career and took him on loan to Bayern Munich.

In only his second match since February — having played once for Madrid in June — James still looked sharp on the ball, which he was ping-pong across the field

with precision as he created five chances.

Allan, another player who has been reunited with Ancelotti, was also commanding in midfield.

"The signing of James and Allan has been a big bonus for us," said Abdoulaye Doucoure, who also made his debut in the Everton midfield.

"We worked very hard today, the week was brilliant. The manager was focused on this game and we are very happy to have the win at the end. We've not had too long

together."

The manner of the performance — and Calvert-Lewin's match-winner — spared the blushes of Richarlison who missed an open goal in the first half after rounding goalkeeper Hugo Lloris.

Richarlison at least avoided the scorn of Tottenham fans as spectators are still prohibited from stadiums due to coronavirus pandemic restrictions.

INSTANT IMPACT

There was also a debut to remember for Timothy Castagne at Leicester. A defensive signing from Atalanta, Castagne made an impact at the other end by heading in a cross from fellow Belgian Dennis Praet in the 56th minute to set Leicester on its way to a 3-0 victory over promoted West Bromwich Albion.

"He defended well, attacked and ... he will run all day and looks to get in the box," Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers said.

Jamie Vardy then netted two penalties in 10 minutes — the first after the striker was pulled back by Kyle Bartley and the second after James Justin was brought down by Dara O'Shea.

The 33-year-old Vardy scored 23 times last season to finish as the Premier League's top scorer.

"There are many top strikers at this level but any team would want someone like him in there," Rodgers said. "He's super cool, clinical and has still got pace and running ability ... It's a great start for him to score two goals and very good for the team."

West Brom goalkeeper Sam Johnstone denied Harvey Barnes and Vardy, while Matheus Pereira saw a low effort saved by Kasper Schmeichel in the first half. But a low-key game sparked into life after 56 minutes as Leicester grabbed the opener to take control. AP

ATHLETICS

Berlin's ISTAF meet takes place with 3,500 fans

SOME 3,500 spectators swatched under strict conditions as Kenya's Hyvin Kiyeng and Britain's Laura Muir ran world-leading times at the coronavirus-conscious ISTAF athletics meet yesterday [Macau time].

Spectator numbers were restricted due to shielding and hygiene measures designed to restrict the risk of infection. Normally 45,000 fans would attend the world's oldest track and field meeting at Berlin's Olympiastadion.

Kiyeng won the women's 3,000-meter steeplechase in 9 minutes, 6.14 seconds, ahead of compatriot Beatri-

ce Chepkoech who finished in a season-best 9:10.07.

Muir set a meet record by winning the women's 1,500 in 3:57.40, beating compatriot Laura Weightman and Jessica Hull from Australia.

World champion Karsten Warholm again narrowly missed out on Kevin Young's world record of 46.78 seconds from the 1992 Barcelona Olympics in the men's 400 hurdles. The Norwegian ran 46.87 in Stockholm two weeks ago and 47.08 on Sunday, a meet record in Berlin.

Two-time Olympic champion Christian Taylor withstood a challenge from

home favorite Max Heß to win the triple jump in a world-leading 17.57, and Sweden's Armand Duplantis won the men's pole vault with a jump of 5.91 meters.

Ivorian sprinter Arthur Cissé was first in the men's 100 in 10.10. Dafne Schippers of the Netherlands won the women's race in 11.26.

Germany's Johannes Vetter won the men's javelin competition, Lithuania's Andrius Gudzius claimed the discus ahead of Daniel Stahl, and Maryna Bekh-Romanchuk of Ukraine won the women's long jump ahead of home favorite Malaika Mihambo. AP



Kenya's Hyvin Kiyeng (left) competes during the women's 3,000 meters steeplechase at the ISTAF Athletics Meeting in Berlin

OPINION

Our Desk

Anthony Lam



IF FEEDING STRAY DOGS MEANS OWNING THEM, DOES REGULARLY SUPPORTING NEW YAOHAN MEAN OWNING IT?

Last Wednesday, local pro-government paper Macao Daily News published a report depicting that local animal welfare groups were not happy with a claim by the Municipal Affairs Bureau on stray animals.

The Bureau understood the Animal Welfare Law as stipulating that regular feeders of a stray animal, or a particular group of which, or who have a habit of feeding stray animals, shall be considered owners of the stray animals.

On top of that, the animals will be considered free-range pets. Otherwise, the feeders will be considered abandoning their pets. Either claim is a violation of the law.

The lawmaker who received that reply, Sulu Sou, was not happy about the understanding in the first place.

It has also prompted creativity among social media users. Saying that, we don't really need the Cultural Industry Fund or whatever subsidy. On the contrary, we only need officials to "supply" materials for weekly memes.

Back on track, social media users started asking the bureau whether offering food to carton picking elderly – not necessarily homeless though – will constitute to the establishment of filial relations with the elderly.

A comment by the Bureau's superintendent, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong, came timely on Friday.

He said that he feels reserved regarding the "understanding" of the law by the Bureau. He stressed that he would order the Bureau to conduct further study on their understanding.

He added that stray animal feeders will not fit in the subjective and objective premise criteria of criminal violations or administrative breaches.

Cheong's comments should be reliable for the fact that he has a legal background. He graduated with a law degree and has worked as the director of the Legal Affairs Bureau and the Commissioner of the Commission Against Corruption, before taking one step up the staircase to where he is now.

To calm public sentiment, the secretary stressed that the government is aligned with the community on the topic of animal protection.

Back in April, I asked Cheong's boss, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng at his first Policy Address press conference, why the Animal Protection Law has been so weak in terms of guarding stray animals against abuse.

The government head attributed that to the fact that there was no case or report.

Given the occasion, I had no chance to explain to the CE that there were actually numerous cases, in one of which a kitten was beheaded and the executor left only the head behind for volunteer feeders to discover.

The government head, nonetheless, assured journalists and the general public, that he would remind the competent secretary – in this case, Cheong – about the situation.

In addition, the police have always boasted their "bright" portfolio of cracking crimes using the public surveillance system. Now, volunteers are asking why the same system has worked incomparably poorly on animal abuse cases.

Yesterday, public broadcaster TDM reported on the municipality caretaker's understanding.

In Macau, when both the pro-government paper and the public broadcaster taking the same stance on a civic, non-political issue implied that the problem is worthy of more consideration.

A global development agency said the world's 20 major industrialized nations have seen their economies shrink in an unprecedented manner between April and June amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said yesterday that the gross domestic product dropped by a record 6.9% in the second quarter of this year in the G-20 area. This organization noted that is "significantly larger" than the 1.6% fall recorded in the first quarter of 2009 at the height of the

financial crisis.

Between April and June this year, the GDP most dramatically fell by 25.2 in India, by 20.4% in the UK and by 17.1% in Mexico. It plunged by 9.1% in the United States.

The OECD said that China was the only G-20 country recording growth (11.5%) in that period. The organization said that reflects "the earlier onset of the pandemic in this country and subsequent recovery."

MOTORCYCLE GRAND PRIX AT SERIOUS RISK OF CANCELLATION

COURTESY SPORTS BUREAU



RENATO MARQUES

THE 54th Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, the only remaining event of the four Macau Grand Prix headlines, is also at serious risk of being canceled.

The acknowledgment comes after many racers who were invited to participate at this year's event confirmed to the Times that they would not be returning to Macau under the conditions outlined by the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC).

The conditions require the racers to undergo a quarantine period of 14-days upon arrival in Macau, a measure enforced by the health authorities, which reaffirmed last week that there will be no exceptions for sports events.

Contacted by the Times, at least 10 out of the 27 contestants in the 2019 Macau Grand Prix said that they would not be available to participate in the 2020 event due to the imposed quarantine conditions.

The majority also informed they have already expressed their intentions to the MGPOC as the deadline given to reply to the organizers was last Friday when the MGPOC presented this year's event.

"How can we afford [over] three weeks away from work [without compensation] for myself as well as for my mechanics?" one of the riders contacted by the Times said. "And then, putting yourself in a self-isolating prison for two weeks. I will not pay to go to prison."

According to several riders and team managers, the MGPOC requested the teams voluntarily undergo 14-days quarantine at their expense, which also caused a serious impediment to many being able to form a team.

Most of the racers had waited until the last minute in the hope that the Macau authorities would change their minds

"I could do that [personally] but I struggle to find people [mechanics] that can be away from home that long just for three days on the bike," another rider said. "In all honesty, Macau [Grand Prix organizers] need to review the situation and come back with a sensible proposal with a real financial package to make any of the top guys interested. Harsh reality, but it is the truth if we want to move forward."

"We get paid money to go to all the other international races anyhow, Macau is a fun race at the end of the year. We all love it and that trip away, but this fun moment has turned into hardship with a quarantine [period alone] being longer than the time we usually spend in Macau every year," another racer mentioned.

Another familiar face at the Guia Circuit said, "14 days in isolation, plus the 10 days of the event, plus traveling, this means about 25-26 days away from home, and off from work... It's a lot of time. None of my team members can attend."

"We need to remember that only a few of the riders [usually involved] are professional racers," added the racer. "Most of us are just amateurs, racing as a hobby and a passion. We

need to have a [full-time] job to support our families and ourselves. To go to Macau means always to spend money from our own pockets, even if the organization pays the traveling and lodging expenses."

Sources told Macau Daily Times that most of the participants had waited until the last minute in the hope that the Macau authorities would change their minds about the quarantine requirements.



Belarus' authoritarian president visited Russia yesterday in a bid to secure more loans and political support, as demonstrations against the extension of his 26-year rule entered their sixth week. Alexander Lukashenko's talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Black Sea resort of Sochi come a day after an estimated 150,000 people flooded the streets of the Belarusian capital, demanding Lukashenko's resignation.

Russia The main Kremlin party has retained its dominance in regional elections across Russia, but the opposition made gains in some areas in a challenge to Russian President Vladimir Putin. Voters in dozens of Russian regions cast ballots Sunday to elect regional governors, members of provincial legislatures and city councils. The vote comes weeks after the Kremlin's most prominent critic, Alexei Navalny, was poisoned with Soviet-era nerve agent Novichok.

Greenland A big chunk of Greenland's ice cap, estimated to be some 110 square kilometers, has broken off in the far north east. Arctic which scientists say is evidence of rapid climate change. The glacier is at the end of the Northeast Greenland Ice Stream, where it flows off land and into the ocean.



UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson was trying to dampen down growing opposition yesterday to his plan to unilaterally rewrite Britain's divorce deal with the European Union, after his former attorney general, Geoffrey Cox, said doing so would permanently damage the U.K.'s reputation and would be an "unconscionable" breach of international law.

Tech U.S. graphics chip maker Nvidia said it plans to buy U.K.-based Arm Holdings in a deal worth up to \$40 billion, in a move that would create a global powerhouse in the industry. Arm's chip designs power the vast majority of the world's smartphones and the company is renowned as an innovator in technology for connected devices, known as the "Internet of Things."