



THE PRESIDENT OF THE MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS BUREAU SAID THAT THE HAC SA RESERVOIR INCIDENT WAS DUE TO IMPROPER USE OF PUBLIC FACILITIES

P2

MACAU GP ORGANIZER SETS LIMIT OF 5 TEAM MEMBERS PER RACER IN NEW RULE

P4

DATA FROM ONLINE TRAVEL AGENCY CTRIP SHOWS CONFIDENCE IS GROWING IN MACAU AS A POST-COVID-19 TOURISM MARKET

P3



China Sixteen people died yesterday in a coal mine in southwestern China because of excessively high levels of carbon monoxide, authorities and state media said. A total of 17 people were trapped in the mine, the Chongqing municipal government said on its social media account. One person was taken to a hospital, and the others showed no signs of life, the post said.



China The remains of 117 Chinese soldiers who died in the 1950-53 Korean War were returned to China yesterday in an annual repatriation delayed this year by the coronavirus outbreak. South Korea handed over the remains at a ceremony at Incheon airport outside Seoul, and a Chinese military transport plane flew them to Shenyang, a northeastern Chinese city near the North Korean border.

North Korea accused South Korea of sending ships across the disputed sea boundary to find the body of a South Korean official recently killed by North Korean troops, warning yesterday the intrusion could escalate tensions. South Korea denied the accusation.



Azerbaijan Fierce fighting involving tanks, aircraft and artillery broke out between Azerbaijan and Armenian forces yesterday in the latest flare-up of a decades-long conflict over disputed land. Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry said it launched a "counterattack" after accusing Armenians of firing on its military positions and on civilian settlements near the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh.

More on backpage

BEIJING MOVES FORWARD WITH EMERGENCY COVID VACCINES

P6



WORLD PRESS PHOTO EXHIBITION

Macau is the only place in China to show sensitive exhibition highlighting protests from around the world

P5



ONE-THIRD OF CONTINUING EDUCATION LICENSE APPLICATIONS DENIED

The Education and Youth Affairs (DSEJ) has denied 37% of applications for licenses to provide continuing education services. During a TDM radio program on Friday, the head of the DSEJ's Department of Continuing Education, Wong Chi long, revealed the statistic. Recently, the DSEJ started receiving applications for licenses to provide continuing education service and for the fourth phase of the program. In total, the DSEJ received applications from 350 organizations. Only 220 were approved, and 130 were rejected. The DSEJ explained that failed applications were due to a lack of documentation or poor records of previous operation. In the third phase of continuing education program, the DSEJ filed 41 reports regarding violations to the judiciary department.

TWO CHARGED WITH DAMAGING OLD TREES

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has charged two local residents suspected of damaging old trees. On Friday, the PJ reported the apprehension of two local residents, one in his 70s and one in his 50s. The pair have been charged for recent damage to four trees in Coloane. The four trees are listed as protected ancient trees in Macau. On August 15, one person nailed a canvas to one of the trees while the other one painted the three other trees with lime on September 14 and 15. The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) wants to pursue the two by legal means. The PJ investigated the pair, who denied the accusations and said they did not know the trees were listed as protected ancient trees and that they had painted and nailed canvas to the trees in order to protect them from insects and rainwater.

MAN BEATS GIRLFRIEND OVER DISAGREEMENT ABOUT COOKING

A local man assaulted his girlfriend after the two argued about cooking. The suspect is a local resident in his 60s and the victim is a 50-year-old Macau woman. They have several adult children. According to the Judiciary Police (PJ), the pair constantly engaged in arguments about petty matters. Approximately two months ago, the man attacked his girlfriend and injured her hands and feet. However, in his statement the man claimed that his girlfriend had attacked him first and he pushed her to the ground in self-defense. The PJ charged the man with assault and has already forwarded him to the prosecution authority.

E-GOVERNANCE WILL SOON ALLOW MOST SERVICES TO BE DELIVERED ONLINE: GOV'T

ANTHONY LAM

IN the future, residents will be able to access public services digitally without setting foot in a government office, or collect their registered post without showing up at a post office, Kou Peng Kuan, director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP), revealed yesterday, adding that soon most services will be delivered over the internet.

The press conference was held to present the government's views on e-governance. The Electronic Governance Law and the Administrative Regulations on the Execution Details of the said law was also enacted yesterday.

The first step of e-governance is to integrate all government apps into one. Residents should be able to access most public services through one single app. Kou did not guarantee there would be English on all the pages of the integrated app.

When integration is achieved, most public services should be completed over the Internet. However, this will mean that residents must provide their personal data to facilitate the services. Kou also noted that facial authentication will be introduced in the future for verification.

On data security, Kou assured that there are laws governing the matter. Third-party operators will be instructed to abide with

AP PHOTO



such laws. The government has appointed AliCloud, owned by Chinese IT company Alibaba, to manage the project.

Furthermore, Kou assured that all personal data would be stored on a server controlled by the Identification Bureau (DSI). He implied that this would lower the risk of data breaches through extensive access.

Government bureaus may have the possibility of accessing open data stored by the DSI in order to facilitate swifter administrative procedures for services related to residents. The accessibility will mean less paperwork will be sent back and forth when a resident applies for certain documents or uses services at some public entities.

In the first phase, the SAFP will focus on the most popular types of services.

The SAFP director revealed that in the future, residents might be able to sign up for e-notifications from the government to receive registered post. "They will not even need to make a trip to the post office to get their registered post," Kou explained.

He was asked by the Times to elaborate on the potential new service. In his first description, it was not very clear how the process would allow a user to avoid physically picking up a letter from the post office.

In response to the question, the SAFP director clarified that when the new service is in place, users will have the option to re-

ceive registered post directly from the issuing government bureau. For example, residents will get electronic text notices directly from the Financial Services Bureau.

For now, few banks in Macau facilitate electronic inter-bank fund transfers. However, some public service entities, such as CEM and Macao Water, have been offering the option of e-bills sent directly to the clients' email addresses.

In addition, the regular social housing application e-platform also commenced operation yesterday. The new platform is fully digital, meaning that from now on applicants will be able to complete the application process electronically.

IAM blames the public for wearing down facilities after washbasin accident

JULIE ZHU

THE President of the Municipal Bureau (IAM), José Maria da Fonseca Tavares, has blamed members of the public for the improper use of public facilities that some alleged were poorly constructed and managed in the first place.

On Friday, the bureau held a press conference

in response to several controversies involving the IAM, in particular one incident where a resident was injured by a tile falling from a washbasin at Hac Sa Reservoir, which is managed by the bureau.

The bureau attempted to shirk its responsibilities and Tavares urged members of the public to properly use public facilities, otherwise the equip-

ment would wear out and consequently pose a threat.

Earlier this week, Macau resident Choi Chi Wai sustained a bone fracture when he was hit by a falling tile and construction debris at the Hac Sa Reservoir. Choi, a heavy-duty vehicle driver, has been told by his doctor to take a three-month-long break in order to recover from the injury.

After the accident, the government denied any accountability. Despite being the manager of the facility, the IAM blamed the construction company who built the facility even though the bureau had accepted the completed project.

At Friday's press conference, the vice president of the IAM, Lo Chi Kin, continued IAM's line of argument by claim-

ing that the bureau has always monitored and inspected public facility construction standards and processes, but due to the large number of projects the bureau is unable to inspect everything.

According to Lo, the quality of public facilities largely depends on whether contractors strictly implement the standards required by the IAM.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+19,500

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

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

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

URBAN MASTER PLAN

Attendees at consultation session cautious about Nam Van height clearance

ANTHONY LAM

SEVERAL participants at the government's second consultation session on the Master Urban Plan and the Light Rail Transit's East Line voiced their disagreement with the building height clearance that would govern future developments on Nam Van, and proposed a 20-meter clearance instead.

Currently, the Master Urban Plan proposal recommends a building height clearance of around 62.7 meters in that area. For reference, the Macau Tower is 338 meters tall. The land plots concerned are Zones B, C and D, along the coast from the Macau Tower to MGM.

The participants thought that the proposed height clearance would significantly impact the view to and from Penha Hill as well as the chapel on top. The proposed 62.7 meter height clearance is more or less as tall as the hill.

At the moment, the Our Lady of Penha Chapel has views of the unblocked 180-degree panorama. Buildings on the hill are required not to block the chapel's



A view from Penha Hill

views. The tallest building that exists along the view line from the hill is the Court of First Instance Building, which is about 35 meters tall.

Session participants found this proposal to be unreasonable, because the area closest to the hill is allowed to build buildings of the maximum permitted height, meaning that they could interfere

with the views from and to the hill and the chapel.

The government has commissioned a private company to run the public consultation for the two projects.

The panel at the session was asked if the government equates high-rise buildings with prosperity.

Participants also took the Le-

gislative Assembly building as a reference on the height clearance. The building is about 20 meters tall.

Lawmakers, architects and urban planners have suggested that the height clearance might jeopardize the city's views and coastlines. Meanwhile, the government has admitted that developments along the coast would

impact the coastline.

In addition, concerns about the walled building phenomenon were also raised during the session. The phenomenon occurs when high-rise buildings extend along a city's periphery or coastline, as could be the case for Macau. This can impact the city's ventilation, as the buildings block air movement.

An urban heat island will be created by the human activity occurring across the city center and the lack of air movement. This means that heat would be trapped in the city's central parts.

One session participant proposed that the Nam Van Zones be reserved for public leisure activities and green zones. It was suggested that judging from current land reserves the government possesses, the issue of the government leasing private buildings for offices can be resolved without using the Nam Van Zones.

The deconstruction of the former Luk Kuok Restaurant was also raised during the session. Participants used it as an example to criticize the government's negligence of historic sites. The protection of Ilha Verde Hill was also discussed at the session.

MUST confers six honorary doctoral degrees

THE Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has awarded six people with honorary doctoral degrees.

On Friday, MUST held the 2020/2021 Opening Ceremony and the Ceremony for the Conferment of Honorary Doctoral Degrees on its campus.

At the ceremony, MUST conferred honorary doctoral degrees to six individuals. They are Professor Ding Jian, Professor Tasuku Honjo, Professor Frances Ashcroft, Ho Sut Heng, academician Li Lan Juan and Professor Zhou Li Gao.

Professor Ding is a Chinese cancer pharmacologist who has made achievements in the field of anti-cancer drugs. He led and established an evaluation system for anti-cancer drug screening and pharmacodynamics, which fits with international standards and provides important technical support and capacity guarantees for China's independent research and development of anti-cancer

innovative drugs.

Professor Honjo is a Japanese immunologist and the 2018 Nobel Prize winner in Physiology or Medicine. He was the first to identify programmed cell death protein 1 (PD-1) as an inducible gene on activated T-lymphocytes, a discovery which significantly contributed to the establishment of cancer immunotherapy.

Professor Ashcroft is a winner of the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Award. She discovered how ATP-sensitive potassium (KATP) channels serve as the molecular link between glucose elevation and insulin secretion.

Ho is a well-known figure in Macau. She has been president of the Macau Federation of Trade Unions for many years and has made outstanding contributions to the harmony of society and the development of the economy in Macau.

She was elected as Member of the Deputies to the 13th National People's Congress from the Macao

Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China in 2017, and was awarded the Honorable Medal of Silver Lotus Flower of the Macao S.A.R. in 2019.

Professor Li is a Chinese epidemiologist. She created the unique and effective artificial liver support system to be used for the treatment of hepatitis and liver failure, which has significantly reduced the mortality rate of patients.

Professor Zhou is an educator in Macau. He has made contributions to the historical course of Macau's return to the motherland, the development of Macau's higher education system, and the guarantee of high-quality talent for the successful implementation of the "One Country, Two Systems" and "Macau People Govern Macau" initiatives.

This academic year MUST is welcoming over 2,700 Pre-U and undergraduate students, in addition to nearly 2,200 graduate students. **JZ**

CTRIP NAMES CITIES MOST INTERESTED IN TRAVEL TO MACAU

JULIE ZHU

MAINLAND residents from Guangzhou, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, Shanghai, Beijing and Hong Kong show the highest interest in visiting Macau, according to the general manager of online travel agency Ctrip's sales department Chen Guan.

Chen revealed the information while attending a forum in Macau. According to Chen, between August 12 and 19, the number of bookings of Macau hotels increased 30% compared to the previous week.

Between August 26 and September 1, Macau hotel bookings increased 27% compared to the previous week.

Chen concluded that the data shows a growing confidence in Macau as a post-Covid-19 tourism market.

According to Chen, when it comes to travelling, main-

land visitors care mostly about safety and flexibility. Since the Covid-19 outbreak, travel plans have been more uncertain as different policies can pop up at any moment. As a result, mainland visitors are mostly concerned about whether there are flexible refund and change policies for hotels and flights.

On Friday, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Acting Director Ricky Hoi said that the department has preliminarily considered offering half-day free tours for tourists staying in Macau's hotels.

According to Hoi, half-day tours may take the visitors on a comprehensive community tour. However, as of Friday, the government authority has not decided on the details and the timetable for this because mainland China is still restricting package tours.

TRADITIONAL TRAY RACE HELD TO MARK WORLD TOURISM DAY

To celebrate World Tourism Day, designated on September 27 annually, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) organized several activities yesterday involving residents and visitors alike. In the afternoon, the government department held its traditional Tray Race outside of the Ruins of St. Paul's. Under the race rules, contestants in different costumes must balance a bottle of Macao Beer on a tray and run from the heritage site, through the Historic Centre of Macao, and deliver the beer safely to the finish line at Senado Square. Over 90 contestants representing 20 local hotels and restaurants participated in the race this year. The first prize in the male category went to Garcia Rhoderick Robledo on behalf of Venetian Cotai, S.A., whereas Liang Lina, also from Venetian Cotai, S.A., won the first prize in the female category. The Best Costume Awards of this year were presented to Cheong Chi and Xian Ling both representing Future Bright Group.

MACAU LIGHT FESTIVAL OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES IN TAP SEAC SQUARE

The opening ceremony for the Macao Light Festival 2020 – Light Carnival was held in Tap Seac Square on Saturday night. Organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) in partnership with other public entities, the festival is now in its sixth edition. This year's event will last until October 31. This year, the festival is lighting up Tap Seac Square for the first time with a mapping show projected upon four historic façades. Four routes are mapped out across 12 locations in town to create a city-wide carnival, according to the organizer. Acting Director of MGTO Ricky Hoi was at the opening ceremony in lieu of his boss, who was in Beijing for the promotional event dubbed Beijing Macao Week. In his remarks at the ceremony, Hoi stressed that large-scale events such as the Macao Light Festival prove "we are ready to welcome visitors to Macao once again."

MACAU GP

ORGANIZER SETS MAXIMUM OF 5 TEAM MEMBERS PER RACER

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) has established five as the maximum number of team members that can accompany each driver or rider during this year's Macau Grand Prix, a spokesperson of the MGPOC, Lei Si Leng, informed in reply to an inquiry from the TDM Chinese channel.

According to Lei, the organizing committee set the limit to avoid the gathering of people in the boxes and paddock area, in compliance with the guidelines from health authorities.

"We have drafted some restrictions, such as the fact that each driver/rider can only bring [to Macau] up to five members of his team. All the participants and their team members must comply with all the established [Covid-19] prevention measures," said Lei.



Lei adding if anyone breaches the rules imposed by the government, the team and participant may be disqualified from the event.

The restrictions now imposed by the MGPOC should not affect the vast majority of participants coming to Macau from abroad as per the general rules, the committee extends an invitation to the driver/rider and only three other team members in charge of the

technical and mechanical preparation of the cars or motorcycles.

The news came on the same day when another rider confirmed that he would not be at this year's Macau Motorcycle GP due to the 14-day quarantine measure.

Heard by TDM Radio, Macau's most successful competitor, Michael Rutter, confirmed that he would also be part of the list of racers withdrawing from the

event in case the quarantine measures remain in force.

"The quarantine is a big problem for our team. I'm afraid that if the quarantine period continues to be that long [14-days], we won't be able to go," Rutter said to TDM Radio. "We hope we can go to Macau, but for our team, it is not possible to do two quarantines of 14 days. Hopefully things will change [before the event], but if not, we have [to postpone] until next year."

AD

CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION LAW

THE EXECUTION OF CONSTRUCTION WORKS AND THE INSTALLATION OF ADVERTISEMENT SIGNAGE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL IS FORBIDDEN

PENALTIES

Illegal construction works shall result in fines of up to MOP2,000,000.

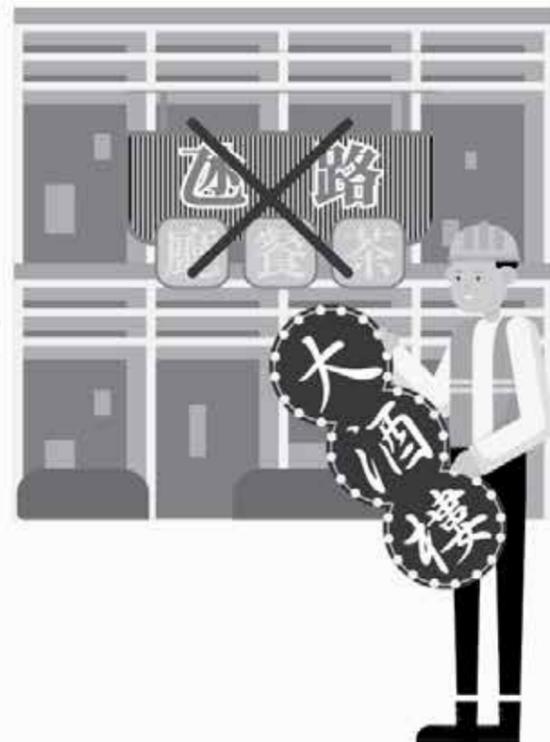
Illegal advertisement signs or illegal installation of structures shall result in fines of up to MOP500,000.

All construction projects and/or installation of advertisement signs on classified immovable properties, and/or inside the buffer zones, are subject to prior authorization.

Platform "Information from the Public about Macao's Cultural Heritage" and method of notification

2856 2636 chvoice@icm.gov.mo www.culturalheritage.mo

澳門文化局 IC Art 藝文樓



Let us all protect and enjoy the cultural heritage.



For more information, please refer to Law No. 11/2013: "Cultural Heritage Protection Law".



WORLD PRESS PHOTO

Macau only place in China to host exhibition, show sensitive HK images

RENATO MARQUES

THE World Press Photo Exhibition 2020 kicked off in Macau last Friday at Casa Garden, its usual venue. According to organizers, it is the only city in Chinese territory to host the exhibition this year.

This year's exhibit is considered sensitive by many because one of the stories and nominees for World Press Photo Story of the Year portrays the social unrest in Hong Kong.

The events began at the end of March 2019 in response to government proposals to amend existing legislation and allow extradition to mainland China. Anti-government demonstrations gathered momentum over the following weeks, fueled by the unification of several pro-democracy groups. Youth, mainly students, played a large role in the street protests, human-chain rallies and other activities.

Earlier speculation that Macau would not display these images at the World Press Photo (WPP) event in the SAR are now proven incorrect. This year, it is the only city or region in Chinese territory where the exhibition is being held.

In a previous statement to the

Times, the World Press Photo Foundation, which is responsible for the worldwide contest and exhibitions said they did not exclude the possibility of other Chinese cities joining the exhibition program at a later stage.

"Regarding exhibitions in China, we are in talks with exhibition partners and hope to confirm new locations soon," the Foundation said.

In previous years, several Chinese cities have been involved in the exhibition. According to data from organizers, China is one of the top three countries from which photographers submit their work to the annual contest.

Organized in Macau since 2008 by local partner and Portuguese association Casa de Portugal em Macau (CPM), this year might be the exhibition's last in Macau. According to statements from CPM president Amelia António, the association might have to suspend the 2021 exhibition.

As the Times reported in 2017, the contract between WPP and CPM ends this year.

Over the years, CPM has reported difficulty in continuing

to bring the exhibition to Macau, since it represents a "significant" part of the association's budget.

According to the association, bringing the exhibition to Macau costs around MOP200,000 annually.

CPM has reported difficulty in continuing to bring the exhibition to Macau, since it represents a 'significant' part of the association's budget

PROTESTS AND NATURAL CATASTROPHES

This year's exhibition highlights protests from people around the world, as well as environmental and weather-related catastrophes.

This was the motif of this year's grand winner, Agence France-Presse photographer (AFP) Yasuyoshi Chiba.

In a photo titled "Straight Voice," Chiba photographed a young protester in Sudan reciting protest poetry illuminated by the light of mobile phones, while other demonstrators chant slogans calling for civilian

rule, during a blackout in Khartoum, Sudan.

The protests in the northeastern African country began in December 2018. By April 2019, protesters were staging a sit-in close to army headquarters in the capital, demanding an end to the 30-year rule of dictator Omar al-Bashir.

After a military coup removed Bashir from the government, the protests continued, causing an undisclosed number of deaths and injuries.

Authorities sought to defuse the protests by imposing blackouts and shutting down the Internet. Protesters communicated by text message and word of mouth, as well as used megaphones to continue to resist military rule.

In mid-August, the pro-democracy movement was eventually successful in signing a power-sharing agreement with the military.

Chiba is no stranger to the WPP competition, winning it in 2009 and 2012.

In the category of World Press Photo Story of the Year, photographer Romain Laurendeau won the award with a long-term

project titled "Kho, the Genesis of a Revolt."

The series followed youth in Algeria, who make up more than half of the population of the northern African country. According to UNESCO, Algeria possesses one of the highest youth unemployment rates, as with 72% of unemployed people being under the age of 30.

Laurendeau tells the story of the deep uneasiness of youth who dared to challenge authority and inspired the rest of the population to join, giving birth to the largest protest movement in Algeria in decades.

In February 2019, thousands of young people from working class neighborhoods took to the streets again in what became a nationwide challenge to the reign of long-time president Abdelaziz Bouteflika.

AFP photographer Nicolas Asfour was also nominated in this category.

Asfour presented a series titled "Hong Kong Unrest," headed by a photo of a young man holding a poster in Shatin, Hong Kong, as other protesters gathered around singing "Glory to Hong Kong." The protest song gained popularity in the city as the unofficial anthem in the clashes against the government of Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

AP PHOTO



An employee of SinoVac works in a lab at a factory producing its SARS CoV-2 Vaccine for Covid-19 in Beijing

CHINA PUSHES EMERGENCY USE OF COVID VACCINE DESPITE CONCERNS

HUIZHONG WU
& SAM McNEIL, BEIJING

AFTER the first shot, he had no reaction. But Kan Chai felt woozy following the second dose of a Covid-19 vaccine approved for emergency use in China.

"When I was driving on the road, I suddenly felt a bit dizzy, as if I was driving drunk," the popular writer and columnist recounted in a webinar earlier this month. "So I specially found a place to stop the car, rest a bit and then I felt better."

His is a rare account from the hundreds of thousands of people who have been given Chinese vaccines, before final regulatory approval for general use. It's an unusual move that raises ethical and safety questions, as companies and governments worldwide race to develop a vaccine that will stop the spread of the coronavirus.

Chinese companies earlier drew attention for giving the vaccine to their top executives and leading researchers before human trials to test their safety and efficacy had even begun. In recent months, they have injected a far larger number under an emergency use designation approved in June, and that number appears poised to rise.

A Chinese health official said Friday that China, which has largely eradicated the disease, needs to take steps to prevent it from coming back. But one outside expert

questioned the need for emergency use when the virus is no longer spreading in the country where it was first detected.

It's unclear exactly who and how many people have been injected so far, but Chinese vaccine makers have offered some clues. State-owned Sinopharm subsidiary CNBG has given the vaccine to 350,000 people outside its clinical trials, which have about 40,000 people enrolled, a top CNBG executive said recently.

Another company, Sinovac Biotech Ltd., has injected 90% of its employees and family members, or about 3,000 people, most under the emergency-use provision, CEO Yin Weidong said. It has also provided tens of thousands of rounds of its CoronaVac to the Beijing city government.

Separately, the Chinese military has approved the use of a vaccine it developed with CanSino Biologics Inc., a biopharmaceutical company, in military personnel.

"The first people to have priority in emergency use are the vaccine researchers and the vaccine manufacturers because when the pandemic comes, if these people are infected then there's no way to produce the vaccine," Yin said.

Now, large Chinese firms including telecom giant Huawei and broadcaster Phoenix TV have announced they're working with Sinopharm to get the vaccine for their employees.

Several people who say they

work in "front-line" organizations have said on social media that their workplaces have offered vaccinations for about 1,000 yuan (\$150). They declined to comment, saying they would need permission from their organizations.

In an established but limited practice, experimental medications have been approved historically for use when they are still in the third and last phase of human trials. Chinese companies have four vaccines in phase 3 — two from Sinopharm, and one each from Sinovac and CanSino.

The Chinese government referenced the World Health Organization's emergency-use principles to create its own through a strict process, National Health Commission official Zheng Zhongwei said at a news conference Friday.

He said there have been no serious side effects in the clinical trials.

"We've made it very clear that the Covid-19 vaccine we put into emergency use are safe," Zheng said. "Their safety can be ensured but their efficacy is yet to be determined."

Under the emergency rule, high-risk personnel such as medical and customs workers and those who have to work overseas are given priority access, he said. He declined to provide exact numbers.

"In China's case, the pressure in preventing imported infections

and domestic resurgence is still huge," Zheng said.

But Diego Silva, a lecturer in bioethics at the University of Sydney, said that giving vaccines to hundreds of thousands outside of clinical trials doesn't have "scientific merit" in China, where there are currently very few locally transmitted cases, and incoming arrivals are quarantined centrally.

"If it's in the U.S. where the virus is still raging that's a bit different, but in a country like China it doesn't seem to make sense to me," he said. "Because there's not enough of the virus in China locally to deduce anything, you're introducing a whole host of others factors" by injecting people outside of trials.

Zheng said that all those injected under emergency use are being closely tracked for any adverse health effects.

Kan Chai, the columnist, wrote in an article posted online in September that despite initial hesitation, he decided to sign up after he heard a state-owned company was looking for volunteers.

He didn't say whether his was an emergency-use case, but the timing of his vaccination suggests it was. He took the first dose in late July, when the emergency inoculations were getting started and the trials were all but over.

"I'm willing to be a little white mouse, and the biggest reason is because I have trust in our country's vaccination technology," he said.

His real name is Li Yong, but his 1.65 million followers on the Twitter-like social platform Weibo know him better by his pen name, which means "10 years of chopping wood." He declined an interview request.

He described taking the vaccine in a public webinar hosted by 8am HealthInsight, a popular health media outlet. It's unclear why he qualified to receive it.

Scant information is publicly available about the program's scope, size, and scientific merit. CNBG and parent Sinopharm declined to comment. Zheng, the National Health Commission official, did not know about the Kan Chai case.

While emergency use may be the right path, Chinese companies are not being transparent about issues such as informed consent, said Joy Zhang, a professor who researches the ethical governance of emerging science at University of Kent in Britain.

Zhang said that she could not find any relevant information on the Sinopharm website, and aside from reports published in international medical journals, there is little else made public.

She said relatively more information is publicly available about other trials such as one run by Oxford University and AstraZeneca. The trial was halted after a participant developed severe neurological side effects, and only resumed after clinical data was submitted to an independent review board.

China has a troubled past with vaccines, with various scandals over the past two decades.

The most recent case was in 2018, when Changsheng Biotechnology Co. came under investigation for falsifying records and making ineffective rabies vaccines for children.

In 2017, Wuhan Institute of Biological Products Co., a CNBG subsidiary behind one of the vaccines in phase 3 trials, was found to have made defective diphtheria vaccines that were ineffective.

Public anger over the case prompted an overhaul of a vaccine punishment law in 2019. The country tightened supervision over the vaccine development and distribution process, and increased penalties for fabricating data.

Those concerns seem to be of the past. Guizhen Wu, the chief biosafety expert for China's Center for Disease Control, said a vaccine could be ready for the general public in China as early as November. She said she took an experimental vaccine back in April.

An overseas employee at a Chinese state-owned company, who spoke on condition of anonymity because she wasn't authorized to speak with the media, said she decided to sign up last week.

She said she isn't worried because a vaccine is a government priority, so authorities will keep a close watch on the process. **AP**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Holds Annual Occupational Safety and Health Week

Month-long OSH campaign encourages safe habits and procedures for team members

Sands China Ltd. kicked off its OSH Week Sept. 8 with an opening ceremony at The Venetian Macao, part of a nearly month-long campaign promoting occupational safety and health (OSH) at its properties. Sands China is the first integrated resort operator in Macao to organise an OSH Week this year.

From Sept. 2 to 25, the company highlighted safe habits and procedures with a series of activities: an OSH Seminar, a Stretching Activity, an OSH Master Competition and OSH game booths. An OSH-themed photo contest also offered opportunities for team members to win prizes while raising their OSH awareness.

At the opening ceremony, guests of honour presented the first-ever OSH Awards, recognising departments that demonstrated occupational safety and health excellence in 2019. The awards are the first of their kind among Macao's integrated resort operators.

In 2017, Sands China signed an Occupational Safety and Health Charter, aimed at fostering further collaboration between employers and employees, promoting a safe and healthy working environment, and establishing a comprehensive occupational safety and health management system. Since the signing of the charter, 207,000 participants have attended various OSH trainings organised by DSAL or Sands China, with over 150,000 training hours provided to team members to date.

Sands China was also a pioneer in introducing and training OSH wardens – team members with specialised training in occupational safety and health. OSH wardens have regular meetings with various departments to formulate precautionary measures and supervise related practices, ensuring that all OSH objectives are met by following up on the results.

Sands China's on-going OSH efforts have resulted in measurable achievements in the workplace, including ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 45001:2018 certifications for its Integrated Management System.



Netflix stands firm on its plan to adapt Chinese sci-fi novel

NETFLIX Inc. stood by its decision to adapt an award-winning Chinese science-fiction novel, after five Republican senators asked the streaming service to consider the implications of providing a platform to the book's author for his political views.

Liu Cixin is the novel's writer, and not a creator of the planned Netflix series, the company said in a statement on Friday. In a letter earlier this week, Senators Kevin Cramer, Marsha Blackburn and others pointed to Liu's remarks about Uighur Muslims in a 2019 interview and expressed their "significant concerns" with the decision to do business with a person who they said was parroting the Chinese Communist Party's propaganda.

"Netflix judges individual projects on their merits," the company said. "Mr. Liu is the author of the book - The Three Body Problem - not the creator of this

show. We do not agree with his comments, which are entirely unrelated to his book or this Netflix show."

The U.S. has piled pressure on China over its treatment of Uighur Muslims in the far west region, where the United Nations estimated hundreds of thousands of members of the ethnic minority could be held in "re-education camps." China has defended the camps as "vocational education centers" intended to "purge ideological diseases," including terrorism and religious extremism.

Netflix said Liu's views "are not part of the plot or themes of the show."

"The Three-Body Problem" is the first book in a trilogy that's considered China's most successful science fiction series, and it has wound up on the reading lists of President Barack Obama and Facebook Inc.'s Mark Zuckerberg. **MDT/AP**

HONG KONGERS SEEK UK BNO PASSPORTS IN RECORD NUMBERS

SHAWNA KWAN

HONG Kong residents renewed or applied for British National (Overseas) passports in record numbers last year as anti-government protests erupted in the city, according to the South China Morning Post.

The 154,218 BNO passports issued in 2019 is an eightfold jump from the year earlier, the newspaper reported, citing British government data. The authority also recorded 32,813 renewals by the end of June this year, the second-highest number since 2006, the Post said.

The identity document was a product of the end of the British colonial era, made to recognize Hong Kong residents of the time as overseas British nationals, though it only gave holders the right to visit the country for as long as six

months. In July, the U.K. government upgraded the status of BNO passport holders to offer them a path to U.K. citizenship in response to the Chinese government's introduction of the controversial national security law.

The political unrest last year and the introduction this year of the security legislation have prompted many Hong Kong residents to plan an exit from the former British colony in search of more stability and freedom. The U.K. has become an increasingly attractive destination with the easing of immigration policy towards BNO holders. Realtors in London are already seeing a surge in interest from Hong Kong, with inquiries up almost 80% this year for some agencies.

There are an estimated 350,000 BNO passport holders in Hong Kong, and about 2.5 million who are eligible for them. **BLOOMBERG**

Trump caps judiciary remake with choice of Barrett

PRESIDENT Donald Trump has nominated Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, capping a dramatic reshaping of the federal judiciary that will resonate for a generation and that he hopes will provide a needed boost to his reelection effort.

Barrett, a former clerk to the late Justice Antonin Scalia, said Saturday that she was "truly humbled" by the nomination and quickly aligned herself with Scalia's conservative approach to the law, saying his "judicial philosophy is mine, too."

Barrett, 48, was joined in the Rose Garden by her husband and seven children. If confirmed by the Senate, she would fill the seat vacated by liberal icon Ruth Bader Ginsburg. It would be the sharpest ideological swing since Clarence Thomas replaced Justice Thurgood Marshall nearly three decades ago.

She would be the sixth justice on the nine-member court to be appointed by a Republican president, and the third of Trump's first term in office.

Trump hailed Barrett as "a woman of remarkable intellect and character," saying he had studied her record closely before making the pick.

Republican senators are lining up for a swift confirmation of Barrett ahead of the Nov. 3 election, as they aim to lock in conservative gains in the federal judiciary before a potential transition of power. Trump, meanwhile, is hoping the nomination will galvanize his supporters as he looks to fend off Democrat Joe Biden.

For Trump, whose 2016 victory hinged in large part on reluctant support from white evangelicals on the promise of filling Scalia's seat with a conservative, the latest nomination in some ways brings his first term full circle. Even before Ginsburg's death, Trump was running on having confirmed in excess of 200 federal judges, fulfilling a generational aim of conservative legal activists.

Trump joked that the confirmation process



Judge Amy Coney Barrett

ahead "should be easy" and "extremely noncontroversial," though it is likely to be anything but. No court nominee has been considered so close to a presidential election before, with early voting already underway. He encouraged legislators to take up her nomination swiftly and asked Democrats to "refrain from personal and partisan attacks."

In 2016, Republicans blocked Obama's nomination of Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court to fill the election-year vacancy, saying voters should have a say in the lifetime appointment. Senate Republicans say they will move ahead this time, arguing the circumstances are different now that the White House and Senate are controlled by the same party.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the Senate will vote "in the weeks ahead" on Barrett's confirmation. Barrett is expected to make her first appearance Tuesday on Capitol Hill, where she will meet with McConnell; Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham, the chair of the Judiciary Committee; and others. Hearings are set to begin Oct. 12, and Graham said he hoped to have Bar-

rett's nomination out of the committee by Oct. 26.

The set design at the Rose Garden, with large American flags hung between the colonnades, appeared to be modeled on the way the White House was decorated when President Bill Clinton nominated Ginsburg in 1993.

Barrett, recognizing that flags were still lowered in recognition of Ginsburg's death, said she would be "mindful of who came before me." Although they have different judicial philosophies, Barrett praised Ginsburg as a trailblazer for women and for her friendship with Scalia, saying, "She has won the admiration of women across the country and indeed all across the world."

Within hours of Ginsburg's death, Trump made clear he would nominate a woman for the seat. Barrett was the early favorite and the only one to meet with Trump.

Barrett has been a judge since 2017, when Trump nominated her to the Chicago-based 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. But as a longtime University of Notre Dame law professor, she had already established herself as a reliable conservative in the mold

of Scalia, for whom she clerked in the late 1990s.

She would be the only justice on the current court not to have received her law degree from an Ivy League school. The eight current justices all attended either Harvard or Yale.

The staunch conservative had become known to Trump in large part after her bitter 2017 appeals court confirmation included allegations that Democrats were attacking her Catholic faith. The president also interviewed her in 2018 for the vacancy created by the retirement of Justice Anthony Kennedy, but Trump ultimately chose Brett Kavanaugh.

While Democrats appear powerless to stop Barrett's confirmation in the GOP-controlled Senate, they are seeking to use the process to weaken Trump's reelection chances. With the seemingly decisive shift in the court's ideological makeup, Democrats hope their voters will turn out in droves because of their frustration with the Barrett pick.

No Democratic senators are expected to vote to confirm Barrett before the election, even though some did support her in 2017. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1964 KENNEDY MURDER WAS 'NO CONSPIRACY'

There was no conspiracy surrounding the death of President Kennedy but there were serious failures by those responsible for his protection, according to a government report.

The 300,000-word document, prepared by a special commission set up by President Johnson to investigate the assassination, ends months of speculation about the death of the president on 22 November 1963 in Dallas, Texas.



The commission, led by Chief Justice Earl Warren of the Supreme Court, concludes in its report that gunman Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone when he fired three rifle shots at the president from the Texas School Book Depository.

It rules out suggestions that Oswald, 24, had an accomplice and that shots were fired from an overpass situated in front of the president's car.

It states that Oswald was also to blame for shooting a police officer with a revolver approximately three-quarters of an hour later on a Dallas street.

Ballistics analysis revealed both guns were owned by Oswald.

The report also found that Jack Ruby, 53, who shot Oswald dead two days after the president's death at a Dallas police station also acted on his own initiative.

But the security services responsible for protecting the president were severely criticised by the report.

The Secret Service was criticised for not taking adequate safety precautions prior to the trip and for not liaising enough with other government departments.

It is understood the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and the Office of Naval Intelligence all had dossiers on Oswald prior to the shooting following his defection from Russia to America in 1961.

The Secret Service, however, was unaware of his existence, the report stated.

The FBI was criticised for taking "an unduly restrictive view of its responsibilities in preventive intelligence work prior to the assassination."

The press and the media were also criticised for turning Dallas police station into "bedlam" after the assassination and the police officers themselves were condemned for not following correct interviewing procedures when quizzing Oswald about the shooting.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

President Johnson immediately appointed a committee to look into the recommendations in the report.

In the years since the assassination there has been much debate about who actually killed JFK.

In 1979 the US Congress House Select Committee on Assassinations said four shots could be heard on audio tape of the assassination, and they appeared to come from two different locations.

The committee concluded Oswald probably did not act alone.

However, the sound of shots cannot be distinguished as such by the ear and the committee's report was later described as "seriously flawed" by the US National Academy of Sciences.

US scientists are in the process of digitising the original tape, never heard by the Warren Commission, and which is now too fragile to be played.

A number of conspiracy theories ranging from an elaborately staged suicide to a right-wing government conspiracy have been suggested.

Oliver Stone's 1992 movie "JFK" supported the conspiracy theorists however an official government review in 1998 again concluded there had been no conspiracy.

The debate still continues with strong opinions on both sides.



+853 2835 2699
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

Avenida da Praia Grande No.599, Edf. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 andar C, Macau
澳門南灣大馬路599號羅德禮商業大廈12樓C座



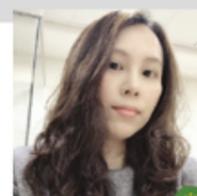
Juliet Risdon
+853 6680 9804
juliet@jmlproperty.com



Elda Lemos
+853 6226 8566
elda@jmlproperty.com



Sam Lee
+853 6611 0975
sam@jmlproperty.com



Kitty Lou
+853 6630 0730
kitty@jmlproperty.com

Property of the Week



Hoi Wan Garden, Taipa

HK\$4,900,000 900 ft² 2 1

Easy access to the bridge to Macau, Taipa shops and restaurants, the Cotai Strip and of course schools with bus stops immediately outside and surrounding the building. Situated next to Macau Anglican College the apartment is ideal for a couple or family and has open views towards Macau. With a modernized kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The well-planned layout gives the property a spacious feel.

Viewing by appointment. Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com



SCAN ME



LEARN MORE

Rain Dance Property "We dance until it's SOLD!"



One Central, Macau
View over Nam Van Lake

\$11,580,000

1,269 ft² 2 2



SCAN ME

Property Hotlist



Nova City Carpark, Taipa

\$1,490,000

1



SCAN ME



Houston Court, Coloane Village

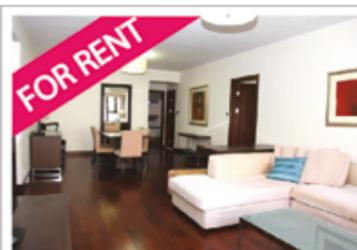
\$10,800/mth

980 ft²

1 1



SCAN ME



Manhattan, Taipa
Luxury Residence

\$19,800/mth

1,720 ft²

3 2



SCAN ME

More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Unique Studio 1 1 650 ft² **\$3,780,000** (ref: 20076001)
- [Taipa] Duplex, amazing view 2 2 817 ft² **\$4,200,000** (ref: 20086002)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village- two connected 4 2 1,404 ft² **\$8,380,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] Manhattan D unit 4 2 2,305 ft² **\$17,980,000** (ref: n/a)
- [Macau] 2 Shops downtown 1,404 ft² **\$20,800,000** (ref: 19015573)

For Rent

- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1 710 ft² **\$16,500/mth** (ref: 20021002)
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft² **\$25,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 4 3,700 ft² **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 3 4,266 ft² **\$45,000/mth** (ref: 190550065T)
- [Macau] Retail Shop, Barra area 1,968 ft² **\$48,000/mth** (ref: n/a)

Recent Movements

Sold

Va Fat, Taipa, 2 bed 1 bath

Rented

Taipa Village, 1 bed, 1 bath

Rented

One Oasis, Coloane, 2 bed, 1 bath



JML Events



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team



Macau Golf Masters

LET'S CONNECT



jmlmacau



jmlproperty

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

+853 2835 2699

FOOTBALL | EPL

VAR decisive in Real Madrid's 3-2 win at 10-man Real Betis

REAL Madrid had good reason to approve of the video assistant referee on Saturday.

A handball that had gone unnoticed on the field was spotted by the VAR near the end of Madrid's match at Real Betis, sending Sergio Ramos to the spot to convert an 82nd-minute penalty and take a 3-2 victory in Seville.

The review revealed that Betis defender Marc Bartra hit the ball with his arm during a brush with Madrid substitute Borja Mayoral in the area. It seemed that Mayoral's attempt to kick the ball pushed Bartra's arm into the ball.

Manuel Pellegrini, Betis' new coach and former Madrid manager, said he had no problem with the refereeing.

Madrid played with an extra man from the 67th when Betis defender Emerson was red-carded for fouling Luka Jovic with only the goalkeeper to beat. The referee's decision was also aided by video.



Real Madrid's Karim Benzema (left) duels for the ball with Betis' Alex Moreno

Karim Benzema, the heart of Madrid's title run last season, set up Federico Valverde for the 14th-minute opener, and pressured Emerson into scoring an own goal while trying to defend a dangerous cross to the French striker to make it 2-2. Benzema

also had a strike that hit the crossbar and almost crossed the goal-line.

"The important thing is our mentality. We came out of half-time motivated to take control of the game," Ramos said. "We should learn from this. We can't

always fight back."

Aissa Mandi and William Carvalho scored for a Betis that won its first two matches under Pellegrini. Midfielder Sergio Canales provided key passes in both Betis goals.

"We take away the feeling that we are doing things correctly," Pellegrini said. "We created more chances than they did in the first half. [But] Real Madrid can score at any moment."

Barcelona, Atlético Madrid and Sevilla all opened their league campaigns yesterday after having their first two rounds postponed for playing in European competition in August.

LIONEL MESSI LASHES OUT AT BARCELONA

Lionel Messi criticized the exit of teammate and good friend Luis Suárez on Friday, dealing another blow to the damaged relationship between the Argentine and Barcelona's leadership.

Messi posted a photo of him-

self with Suárez on Instagram with a message expressing his sadness for his friend's departure and his anger at how the club transferred him to Atlético Madrid.

"It is going to be so strange seeing you in another shirt, and even stranger to have to play against you," Messi wrote. "You deserved a sending-off fit for what you are: one of the most important players in club history, both for what you did for the group and individually — not the one they gave you. But it is true that at this point nothing surprises me."

Barcelona decided to overhaul its squad after the 8-2 loss to Bayern Munich in the Champions League last month. The 33-year-old Suárez was told by new coach Ronald Koeman he was no longer wanted. The club, hard hit financially by the coronavirus pandemic, also needed to reduce its expenditure on player salaries.

Suárez bid farewell to Barcelona's fans in an emotional news conference on Thursday. He leaves Camp Nou as the club's third leading scorer with 198 goals. The Uruguayan helped Barcelona win 13 titles since arriving in 2014 from Liverpool, including four Spanish league trophies and the Champions League in 2015. **MDT/AP**

AD

MACAO INTERNATIONAL MUSIC FESTIVAL — FOR A SPECIAL YEAR

A Century of Chinese Music

Macao Chinese Orchestra
2020-2021 Season Opening Concert

Grand Auditorium, Macao Cultural Centre
Tickets: MOP200, 160, 140, 120

04/10
Sunday 20:00

Inheritance and development of Chinese music



Zhang Hongyan,
Pipa

Liu Sha,
Conductor

OPINION

World Views

Reuben Abraham, Bloomberg

INDIA NEEDS TO COPY CHINA BETTER

If India only reforms when under pressure, then now should be a moment for big changes: Gross domestic product contracted nearly 24% in the second quarter, more than any other large economy; tens of millions have lost jobs in the formal and informal sectors; and the country is adding over 85,000 confirmed coronavirus cases each day. There's an obvious place for the government to start, too: fixing India's failed special economic zones.

China, of course, pioneered the idea of testing politically difficult economic and legal reforms in a few such areas before rolling them out more widely. The experiment proved wildly successful. Shenzhen, one of the mainland's first SEZs, grew from a population of 310,000 and a GDP of \$160 million in 1981 to a population of 12.5 million, a GDP of \$388 billion and per capita income in excess of \$30,000 by 2019 — surely the fastest-ever increase in human prosperity.

The model is even more appealing in a messy democracy such as India, where vested interests and a risk-averse bureaucracy have stymied previous attempts at radical economic reforms. Not surprisingly, the country is home to 238 such zones.

The results have been underwhelming, however, for several reasons. For one thing, there are simply too many SEZs. Indian state capacity is already limited. Asking the government to provide even a basic suite of services in so many places is futile. (India is running into similar problems in trying to develop a multitude of "smart cities.") China's experiment began with just four such zones in Shenzhen, Shantou, Xiamen and Zhuhai. India should do the same.

Moreover, whereas the Shenzhen agglomeration alone sprawls across 2,000 square kilometers, all of India's SEZs put together occupy less than 500 square kilometers. Larger zones benefit from several spillover effects: They attract clusters of businesses, encourage knowledge transfers from foreign to domestic companies, and spread employment, infrastructure and development to neighboring regions. India's zones are too small to do the same.

Most important, the supposed "reforms" India has implemented in its SEZs have been anything but. They've largely centered around concessions to favored businesses — tax sops and cheap real estate — rather than a fundamental reset of India's convoluted and restrictive rules for doing business. If low taxes were all that mattered for attracting investment, any poor country could entice global manufacturers by slashing taxes. Clearly, good governance and strong rule of law matter a great deal more to such businesses.

The government, which is reportedly mulling a \$23 billion package of incentives to attract global manufacturers to India, wisely sees an opportunity. The pandemic has exposed the fragility of critical global supply chains. No country wants to concentrate risks in any one jurisdiction, especially given rising trade and geopolitical tensions between China and the West.

To lure manufacturers away from the mainland, though, India is going to have to convince them that they'll be able to operate just as easily and efficiently as they can in China. A few big zones should be located either near deepwater ports or around large airports. They can be greenfield or brownfield sites, depending on whether the focus is on manufacturing or services. The latter could exploit underutilized public lands, such as the eastern waterfront of Mumbai. Of course, they all need to offer reliable water and power, affordable housing, and excellent transport connectivity.

Above all, these zones must provide the kind of governance and clarity that's in short supply across the rest of India. Local administrators must be empowered to make radical changes to labor laws, for instance. Fast-track courts to resolve disputes are critical, as is eliminating most restrictions on foreign investment. The point is not just to make production cheaper, but also to create a fundamentally different atmosphere for doing business than companies would find elsewhere on the subcontinent. [Abridged]

FRANCE VOWS TO PROTECT ITS JEWISH COMMUNITY AFTER STABBING

THE BUZZ

France's interior minister promised yesterday to protect France's Jewish community from extremists after a double stabbing in Paris blamed on Islamic terrorism.

Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin visited a synagogue ahead of the evening start of Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, and said more than 7,000 police and soldiers are protecting Jewish services this weekend. France has Europe's largest Jewish community.

"I came to assure [...] members of France's Jewish community of the protection of the state," Darmanin told reporters. "Because we know that Jews are particularly targeted by Islamist attacks and we should obviously protect them."

Darmanin defended authorities' handling of a double stabbing

Friday outside the former offices of the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, saying intelligence services have prevented 32 potential terrorist attacks over the past three years.

Coordinated Islamic extremist attacks on Charlie Hebdo's Paris newsroom and a kosher supermarket in January 2015 killed 17 people, and Friday's stabbing came as the trial into those attacks is under way.

One suspect arrested after Friday's stabbing was later released — and his lawyer says that he had tried to stop the assailant and should be considered a hero instead. Lawyer Lucie Simon told France-Info that her client, a 33-year-old French resident from Algeria identified only as Youssef, chased the attacker.

LEADERS TO UN:

IF VIRUS DOESN'T KILL US, CLIMATE CHANGE WILL



Young people take part in a global climate protest in Warsaw, Poland

In a year of cataclysm, some world leaders at this week's annual United Nations meeting are taking the long view, warning: If Covid-19 doesn't kill us, climate change will.

With Siberia seeing its warmest temperature on record this year and enormous chunks of ice caps in Greenland and Canada sliding into the sea, countries are acutely aware there's no vaccine for global warming.

"We are already seeing a version of environmental Armageddon," Fiji's Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama said, citing wildfires in the western U.S. and noting that the Greenland ice chunk was larger than a number of island nations.

This was meant to be the year "we took back our planet," he said. Instead, the coronavirus has diverted resources and attention from what could have been the marquee issue at this U.N. gathering. Meanwhile, the U.N. global climate summit has been postponed to late 2021.

That hasn't stopped countries, from slowly sinking island nations to parched African ones, from speaking out.

"In another 75 years, many [...] members may no longer hold seats at the United Nations if the world continues on its present course," the Alliance of Small Island States and the Least Developed Countries Group said.

The main goal of the 2015 Paris climate accord is to li-

mit the rise in global temperatures to 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, but scientists say the world is on track to soar past that. A new study found that if the world warms another 0.9 degrees Celsius, the West Antarctic ice sheet will reach a point of irreversible melting. It has enough water to raise global sea levels by 5 meters.

The Pacific island nation of Palau hasn't had a single Covid-19 infection, but President Tommy E. Remengesau Jr. warns it's the rising seas that will bring the country down.

"The momentary drop in [carbon] emissions this year cannot be allowed to generate any complacency about global progress," he said, referring to the sparkling skies that followed lockdowns to slow the spread of the virus around the world. Pollution has crept back up as restrictions ease.

World powers cannot shirk their financial commitments to fighting climate change during the pandemic, Remengesau said, even as economies are battered.

But few pledges have emerged at the U.N. gathering, aside from China's announcement that it aims to have carbon dioxide emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2060.

The pandemic has muted the U.N. meeting, with world leaders speaking not from the podium in New York but via video from home. That

has sapped the urgency of diplomacy and left nations wondering just how many people are listening.

Amid concerns that the world is distracted, it was perhaps no surprise that the student-led movement Fridays for Future returned to the streets this week for the first major demonstrations for climate action in months.

Still, island nations have seized on the unusual circumstances to show off what's at stake.

The prime minister of Tuvalu, Kausea Natano, delivered his U.N. speech with a vista of turquoise waters and swaying fronds behind him that instantly fired the imaginations of house-bound viewers.

But the prime minister quickly shattered any dreams. While Tuvalu is free of the coronavirus, the pandemic struck as the island nation was recovering from a pair of tropical cyclones — storms that scientists say are likely to become wetter as the planet warms.

From the Marshall Islands, also free of Covid-19, President David Kabua used the virus's example to plead for more help now.

"Change relies on protecting the most vulnerable, because those on the frontline — whether healthcare workers battling the pandemic or small island nations sounding the alarm on climate change — are critical to the survival of us all," he said. MDT/AP



Pakistan Thirteen people were killed after a passenger van overturned and caught fire on a highway heading to Pakistan's port city of Karachi overnight, police said yesterday. The van fell in a ditch after it was struck by an object from another vehicle late Saturday night, said Senior Motorway Police Officer Aftab Pathan. He said the van was engulfed in flames after its fuel tank leaked. Rescuers recovered 13 charred bodies, including at least three children.



Syria's foreign minister accused Turkey on Saturday of being "one of the main sponsors of terror" in his country and the region, and said it is guilty of "a war crime and a crime against humanity" for cutting water to more than a dozen towns that resisted Turkish occupation.

Germany Hundreds of anti-coal activists staged protesters in and around a mine in western Germany on Saturday, demonstrating against the continued extraction and use of fossil fuels in Europe's biggest economy. Environmental groups oppose the German government's decision to allow the mining and burning of coal in the country until 2038, a deadline the activists say is too late to effectively tackle climate change.



UK London police clashed with demonstrators on Saturday as they broke up a protest in Trafalgar Square against COVID-19 restrictions amid rising tensions over limits on everyday life as the government tries to stem a sharp rise in infections. Police and protesters were injured when officers moved in after three hours of speeches in front of thousands of people who packed the iconic square in London.