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THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY HAS APPROVED 10 NEW DRUGS TO JOIN A **BANNED NARCOTICS** LIST UNDER INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS

LAWMAKERS COMPLAIN ABOUT **ENTRY BANS** AS INTERNAL SECURITY BILL APPROVED

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE CONFIRMED THAT THE **CASH HANDOUT** AMOUNT WILL REMAIN UNCHANGED NEXT YEAR, BUT A REVIEW INTO ELIGIBILITY MAY BE COMING

China has passed a new law restricting sensitive exports to protect national security, allowing Beijing to reciprocate against the U.S. as tensions mount between the sides over trade and technology. Under the law, China can take "reciprocal measures" toward countries or regions that abuse export controls and threaten its national security and interests. Export controls under the law will apply to civilian, military and nuclear products, as well as goods, technologies and services related to national security.



Japan's new prime minister, Yoshihide Suga, left yesterday on his first overseas foray since taking over from his former boss Shinzo Abe last month, heading to Vietnam and Indonesia. The choice to visit Southeast Asia underscores Japan's efforts to counter Chinese influence and build stronger economic and defense ties in the region.

Vietnam A landslide yesterday buried at least 22 army personnel, just a week after another landslide killed 13 as heavy rains continued to pound the region, state media reported. The latest landslide sent rock and earth crushing into an army camp at the foot of a mountain following a week of incessant rain in Quang Tri province.



Thailand Riot police cracked down on thousands of student-led protesters who rallied in the capital in defiance of a strict state of emergency, while the prime minister rejected calls for his resignation. The protesters gathered in torrential monsoon rains to push their demands, including that Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha leave office, the constitution be amended and the nation's monarchy undergo reform.

FINAL STAGE OF TESTING

China is rapidly rolling out experimental Covid-19 vaccines to have one ready for the public before January P7



MOTORCYCLE GP TEAMS TOLD RACE WILL NOT GO AHEAD THIS YEAR

RENATO MARQUES



ANTI-DRUG LAW ADDS 10 NEW BANNED NARCOTICS TO GOV'T LIST

JULIE ZHU

DURING Friday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting, an amendment to law No. 17/2009 "Prohibition of Unlawful Production, Trafficking and Consuming of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances" was passed by lawmakers.

During his introduction, Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, stated that in order to fulfill the obligations of international conventions, align Macau's controlled substances legislation with neighboring regions, and improve the effectiveness of the fight against drug crimes, 12 new internationally controlled substances have been added to the prohibited drug list. Two of the substances are already regulated by the existing anti-drug laws. The remaining 10 substances are currently not included in the list of prohibited drugs.

The AL accepted the Chief Executive's suggestion to use emer-



Wong Sio Chak attends the Legislative Assembly plenary meeting on Friday

gency procedures for deliberation over the law, meaning that the law was urgently needed. The majority of the lawmakers agreed to pass the urgent procedures for deliberation.

Lawmaker Agnes Lam said that, in the first half of this year, the trend of drug abuse among Macau residents has increased, and the consumption of drugs at

home has become more serious. She asked if the 10 new types of drugs have been used in Macau.

Wong pointed out that, in the amendment bill, two of the prohibited drugs are already controlled by the existing laws. In addition, according to the information from the Macao Economic Bureau, there are no related records of importation, consump-

tion, and illegal trafficking of the other 10 new drugs in the Macau market.

Wong said that the 12 drugs were added to the regulation based on legal provisions and international obligations.

In addition, lawmakers also generally passed the amendment of the Unitary Police Service law on Friday. The amendment invol-

ves the change in function and reorganization of the police department.

Lawmaker Sulu Sou pointed out at the meeting that the previous and the current governments have completely different opinions about whether to establish a civil defense department after the civil protection law amendment was passed.

After the occurrence of typhoon Hato, in August 2017, the then-Chief Executive believed that the civil protection system was not suitable for the needs of the similar situation.

However, according to Wong, the current government will no longer set up a civil protection bureau.

Wong also pointed out that after the additional civil protection function is added to the Unitary Police Service, the bureau will slightly increase its manpower, and that the security force will try to draw manpower from other police departments of the security force.

At present, there are more than 50 people in the Unitary Police Service responsible for civil defense work. As the work progresses, more staff will be deployed to develop it.

Lawmakers complain about entry bans as internal security amendment approved

JULIE ZHU

THE Legislative Assembly (AL) has passed the internal security bill after Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak brought the bill to the AL for voting on Friday.

The most notable amendment removed the classification of "militarized force and security department" and renamed it as, "public organizations forming internal security system."

The other amendments mostly consisted of technical changes made to the names.

One amendment suggests that public organizations of the internal security system, under the supervision of the Secretary for Security, will be integrated as part of the security force.

Lawmaker Sulu Sou questioned Wong on the banning of entry for certain people, such as journalists and activists from neighboring Hong Kong.

"This law has been implemented for many years and it involves an entry ban [...] and it has drawn international attention many times," said Sou, who wanted the security authority to explain why it refuses the entry of certain people.

In recent years, the Macau immigration authority has rejected some individuals' entry to Macau on the grounds that they were "unwelcome" or "posed a threat to internal security," Sou remarked.

"What effect did it have? [...] What are the exact reasons? You don't let them come in [by saying that] they are not wel-

come, or they pose a threat to internal security. This is not an explicit reason," said Sou.

In his reply to Sou, the Secretary mentioned that the security force does not consider it necessary to amend the entire internal security law.

"The whole world has entry ban policies, including the European Union and Portugal. Our system is the same as theirs," said Wong.

Wong explained that the police authority has the autonomy to evaluate and decide when to refuse entry.

After the bill was passed, lawmaker Au Kam San remarked that "the internal security law has been abused by the police force to ban tourists and the law has damaged Macau's image."

CHIEF EXECUTIVE CONFIRMS CASH HANDOUT AMOUNT UNCHANGED NEXT YEAR

CHIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng confirmed over the weekend that next year's cash handout will remain similar to this year's.

Formally known as the Wealth Partaking Scheme, next year's cash handout will amount to MOP10,000 for each eligible permanent resident, as mentioned by the Chief Executive. Macau's top official justified not raising the amount because of the tight government budget expected next year.

He added that the existence of a third round of financial support depends on the next year's condition. If the economy is fair next year, there will not be a third round. Otherwise, "there is no reason not to help," the Chief Executive said.

He hinted that the current financial support arrangements needed to be rethought and made fairer. For example, all bearers of

Macau ID, including those regularly residing outside Macau, are eligible for the cash handout.

He has also pledged to stabilize as many industries as possible.

On Macao Foundation subsidies, the Chief Executive said that he hopes to not see any event applying for subsidies from several funds or entities.

The Chief Executive disclosed that President Xi Jinping has commended Macau's effort in controlling the Covid-19 outbreak. However, the city should be vigilant against a possible second wave.

The Chief Executive declined to comment on the mainland's review of a law criminalizing the solicitation of overseas gambling, stressing that the review is still being discussed in the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress. **AL**

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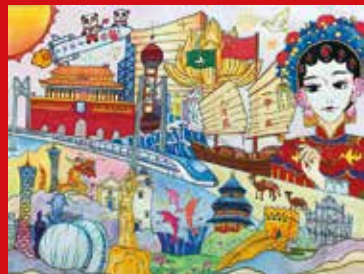
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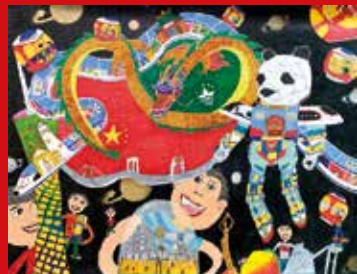
**Wynn Celebrates the successful conclusion of the fourth
“Wynn Cup — Macau Primary School Student National Education
Drawing Competition”, and sincerely congratulates the following
winners on achieving the highest accolades:**



Inter School Champion
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(Primary Division)



Inter School First Class
Saint Paul School Macau



Inter School First Class
Instituto Salesiano



Inter School First Class
Ling Nan Middle School
(Primary Division)



Inter School First Class
Escola dos Moradores do
Bairro do Patane



Senior Individual Champion
Hou Kong Middle School
(Primary Division)
Xie Chong Lam



Junior Individual Champion
The Affiliated School
of the University of Macau
Leong Hou Wa

Organized by Wynn, the fourth Wynn Cup — Macau Primary School Student National Education Drawing Competition attracted active participation from over 40 schools and nearly 10,000 primary school students. Under the theme of “My Greater Bay Area Dream — Drawing the future in my heart”, the competition aims to encourage local school children to paint the rich and diverse East-meet-West culture of Macau, highlight the charisma of the city’s traditions and modernity, as well as looking at the Greater Bay Area and the world.



YOUTH ARRESTED FOR STEALING HKD180,000 FROM PAWN SHOP

A 24-year-old man has been arrested by the police on allegations of appropriating HKD180,000 from a pawn shop where he used to work. He departed Macau for the mainland after losing all the money gambling. One night in May 2019, when working alone at the shop, the suspect took the money before going to a casino to gamble where he lost it all. He confessed the crime to his boss the next day and promised to repay the money as soon as possible. After losing contact with the man, the boss decided to file a report to the police. Upon reentering Macau on October 14, the suspect was arrested by the police.

MAN LOSES HKD1.1 MILLION IN SCAM SET UP BY FRIEND

A mainland man has lost HKD1.1 million after being invited by a friend to take part in a currency exchange scam in Macau. According to the victim, the 35-year-old suspect invited him to come to Macau so that they can operate an illegal currency exchange business together. After arriving in the city on October 12, the victim was told to arrange HKD1.1 million in response to a "client request." After receiving the funds, the suspect gambled and lost all the money at a casino in the Outer Harbor area, before losing contact. Following the report made by the victim, the police discovered the suspect in a hotel room in the area. The suspect confessed to appropriating and losing the funds.

GAMBLER SCAMMED OUT OF HKD400,000 IN CHIPS TRADE

A gambler was told on a WeChat group that he could get HKD600,000 worth of casino chips in exchange for HKD400,000 in cash. He believed the offer and deposited the cash into a 28-year-old male suspect's account. According to the original claim, two days after the cash deposit, the victim should have been able to obtain the HKD600,000 worth of casino chips for his gambling. He reported the case to the police as he did not get the chips. The suspect was arrested at the Border Gate while reentering the city on October 14. The police discovered that the suspect withdrew the cash at a casino after it was deposited by the victim. He then left for the mainland. During police interrogation, he confessed that the money was used to settle his own debts.

CHINA IN DISCUSSIONS TO CRIMINALIZE LURING RESIDENTS TO GAMBLE OVERSEAS

A bill to criminalize the act of promoting or encouraging overseas gambling to residents of mainland China is currently being studied in the People's Republic of China. It is already illegal for residents of the mainland to gamble overseas, but that does not include the Macau SAR.

According to Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, the bill is now in review and discussion at the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPCSC). The stipulations, for that reason, have not yet been released to the public.

The news on the law review was first published on the website of the National Supervisory Commission of the People's Republic of China.

In explanation for the need of the law review, the Commission cited cases where overseas gambling has been conducted by a minister and a national bank official. "Overseas and online gambling have become some people's main way to gamble, which include civil servants," the announcement states.

"Cross-border gambling is seriously illegal and criminal, resulting in a large outflow of funds, seriously damaging national image and economic security," according to the announcement.



ding to the announcement.

In June, state media Xinhua reported that the mainland authorities have cracked 257 cases and arrested more than 11,500 suspects since the country launched a campaign against cross-border gambling and related crimes on February 28.

Police across the country have busted 368 gambling platforms, and found out that more than 229 billion yuan (about 273 billion patacas) was involved in the cases, according to a statement from the Ministry of Public Security.

Casino operation continues to be a crime on the mainland. This

law review will adjust the sentence for that crime, while additionally criminalizing the organization or solicitation on Mainland residents to gamble outside of China.

Besides the stated topic, the law review will also include self-money laundering and surrogate university students, among a list of other topics.

When it was first announced, the news brought pressure to the stock prices of Macau's six gambling concessionaires, which fell by between 0.96% and 3.53% on the day.

JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pa-

cific) Ltd told online gambling media outlet GGRAsia that "if enacted, China's legal change might further cloud the business outlook for junket promoters, who traditionally act as go-betweens to enable rich mainland residents to gamble in Macau and elsewhere."

The Times reported in September that mainland China was using big data to identify Chinese residents planning to go overseas for gambling purposes. It has prevented them from leaving the country.

Also reported by the Times last year, Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines and Cambodia, were suspending applications for new online casino or gambling platforms following complaints filed by China.

Similar to a previous "blacklist" that traced or banned mainland residents from departing from the country to gamble elsewhere, the mainland authorities have not explained whether the reviewed law, when passed, will cover Macau.

Places listed on the blacklist may see fewer mainland travelers as authorities will impose travel restrictions to discourage mainland residents' from visiting these places. **AL**

China to legalize gambling in 10 years, expert predicts

RENATO MARQUES

CHINA could be on the verge of progressively legalizing gambling activities in parts of the country besides Hong Kong and Macau over the next 10 years, said CEO and owner of Global Betting & Gaming Consultants, Warwick Bartlett, during an online conference organized by the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) Asia last week.

"I believe that China will, within 10 years, legalize gambling within their own borders. The reason I believe this will happen is because you can't continually criminalize ordinary people's behavior," said Bartlett.

"The British government discovered that in 1963

when they legalized gambling and other countries slowly followed," Bartlett added. "It makes sense because customers are better protected and you can tax the revenue and it creates a whole new industry."

According to Bartlett, what happens now is part of an "agonizing process very similar to what happened in the U.S. a few years ago. They are preventing payment solutions to the Internet and they are disrupting the process of gambling every way possible."

He notes that after a while, Chinese authorities will realize that such measures do not work and they will then move towards partial legalization. At this point, he also believes that horse racing activities and The

Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC) will have an important role to play.

Bartlett anticipates that Chinese authorities will potentially grant the HKJC a franchise in the mainland.

"The richest half percent of people in the world are the owners of horses and they are [also] the most influential people. And this will be also a way for China to exercise its influence over these people," he predicted.

After gaining trust in the system, China will expand locations where racecourses have been built, developing hotels and other venues beside racetracks until they reach the point where they fully legalize all gambling activities.

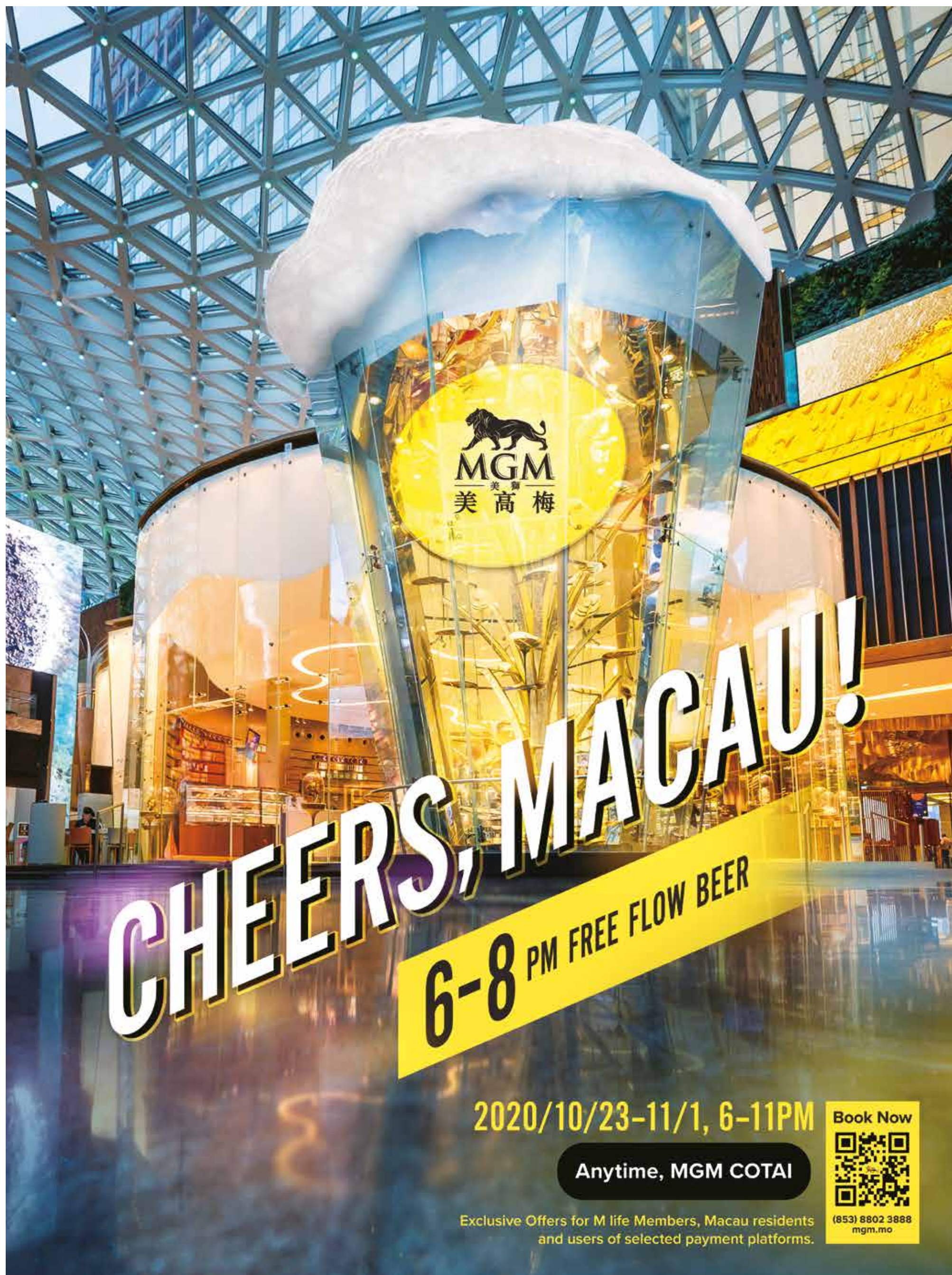
SANDS CHINA PRESIDENT SEES GAMBLING LAW REVIEW HAVING LITTLE IMPACT ON MACAU

THE President of Sands China Limited, Wilfred Wong, does not think that the possible amendments to China's gambling laws will significantly affect Macau because the SAR's casinos do not promote gambling on the mainland.

The reviewed stipulations have not been released, but it is suspected that they will criminalize the solicitation of cross-boundary gambling targeting mainland residents.

When asked about the topic, Wong stressed that Macau casino operators do not promote gambling on the mainland. Instead, it is the hotel and related services or products that are marketed across the border. With that said, he does not expect a strong negative impact on Macau.

On the other hand, he also does not predict a great impact on the main gambling income. If it plays any role, it might have an effect on the VIP and junket businesses, he said. **AL**



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TEAMS INFORMED 54TH MOTORCYCLE GP OFFICIALLY CANCELED

RENATO MARQUES

THE 54th Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix initially scheduled to take place in November during the Macau Grand Prix has been canceled, participants told the Times.

According to some of the participants of this year's event, who requested not to be named, they were informed of the cancellation by the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) late last week via a phone call. The cancellation is due to the insufficient number of entries.

The acknowledgment by the participants confirms the information first reported by the Times in mid-September, which noted that this year's last headliner event was at a serious risk of being canceled.

The insufficient number of participants is the result of the border restrictions imposed by the local government on racers and their respective teams, which include a mandatory 14-day quarantine upon arrival.

As the Times reported at the time, a large number of riders who were eligible to participate in this year's event said that the 14-day quarantine, proposed by the local authorities as a Covid-19 prevention and control measure, would be prohibitive.

The number of riders and teams who expressed their withdrawal from the event has grown since then. A recent tally by Macau Daily Times found at least 16 out of the 27 eligible racers had already



RENATO MARQUES

declared themselves not participating in the race.

The MGPOC had told the times that it acknowledged that several participants from the 67th local Grand Prix were "facing difficulties to participate in the event this year," noting that the organizing committee was in "close communication with drivers and riders and their respective teams with regard to the participation in this year's Macau Grand Prix."

A recent tally by Macau Daily Times found at least 16 out of the 27 eligible racers had already declared themselves not participating in the race

The MGPOC has not disclosed any contingency plan in the event that the entry turnout was insufficient for the race to go ahead, leaving further explanations and details for a press conference to be held this month.

Due to the same reason, this

year's event will not stage the most highlighted races in Macau - Formula 3 (F3). In replacement, the MGPOC has already announced a race from the Chinese Formula 4 category.

During the latest meeting of the World Motor Sport Council, held on October 9, a resolution was approved by the Council members regarding the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile (FIA) F3 World Cup.

The FIA stated that, "The FIA has

been notified that the current restrictions on visitors entering Macau for the Macau Grand Prix will remain in place for the originally scheduled date of the 2020 FIA F3 World Cup and therefore acknowledges that the event cannot take place. The FIA looks forward to continuing to work with AAMC (Automobile General Association Macao-China) with the aim to maintain the FIA Formula 3 World Cup."

Other events canceled this year include the FIA World GT Cup and the FIA WTCR, both replaced by China-based competitions under the same technical specifications.

MORE LOCAL SMES TO PARTICIPATE IN INVESTMENT FAIR

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) will see an increase in participation from local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) announced in a statement.

IPIM noted that the stronger focus on local SMEs is due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and MIF aims to bring SMEs closer to create business opportunities.

As a result, the number of exhibitors at the Macao SME Pavilion has increased to over 100 this year, with 40% of them being

first-time exhibitors.

Concurrently, an added effort was made to ensure the continuity of the 2020 Portuguese-Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition - Macao (2020PLPEX). The 2020PLPEX will have a "Portuguese-Speaking Countries Products Exhibition Zone" which will be especially dedicated to exhibitors who are not able to physically join the exhibition. Through this method, they will still be able to showcase their products at the venue and participate in business-matching sessions through an online mobile application designed for this purpose.

Reaching its 25th edition this year, the MIF will also add a strong online presence in several parts of its exhibition, including an expo, matching sessions, promotion seminars, and live streaming, to adhere to the Covid-19 restrictions imposed which have denied the physical presence of many usual exhibitors and visitors.

Tapping into the opportunities and synergies created by the MIF and the 2020PLPEX, the Macao Franchise Expo (MFE) will be also held during the same period. All three exhibitions will be held at the Venetian Macao from October 22 to 24.

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR SEES NOTABLE GROWTH IN COMPANIES, STAFF IN 2019

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macau construction sector ended 2019 with a decline in receipts of 2.3% year-on-year to MOP53.29 billion, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) found through a survey conducted on the sector.

According to the results from the same survey, the decrease was contained because the sector also registered a 3% drop in expenditure.

On the other hand, there was significant growth in the number of companies and labor operating in this sector compared to last year.

In its survey, DSEC noted

a total of 3,905 companies operating in the construction sector in 2019, an increase of 550 year-on-year (+16.4%).

As for the number of staff members in such companies, it rose by 4.4% year-on-year (1,785 persons) to a total of 42,816.

The analysis made by the type of construction projects shows that the number of private construction projects decreased by 68 to 1,027.

Receipts from construction works fell by 18.6% year-on-year to MOP31.89 billion, mostly due to a 33.3% decline in receipts from the construction of new private residential buildings

(MOP8.28 billion). Also declining were the receipts coming from the construction of hotels and entertainment facilities (MOP19.6 billion), which recorded a 12.3% drop.

Offsetting the decline registered in the private sector was a growth in public works, which increased by 102 to 747 projects in 2019, being accountable for a receipts surge of 50.6% year-on-year to MOP16.11 billion. The most significant growth in receipts came from the construction of public infrastructure (MOP5.95 billion), a figure that represents a year-on-year growth of 92.4%.

AP PHOTO



In this September 24, 2020 file photo, an employee of Sinovac works to produce a vaccine for Covid-19 named CoronaVac in Beijing

China rapidly expands use of experimental Covid-19 vaccines

HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

CHINA is rapidly increasing the number of people receiving its experimental coronavirus vaccines, with a city offering one to the general public and a biotech company providing another free to students going abroad.

The city of Jiaying, south of Shanghai, is offering a vaccine under development by Sinovac, it said in an announcement last Thursday. It said high-risk groups, including people who are “responsible for the basic operations of the city” will receive priority, but that residents who have emergency needs can also sign up.

The vaccine is in the final stage of clinical testing, but has not yet been approved. The city government said it is being provided under an emergency authorization.

China National Biotech Group, another Chinese vaccine company, is offering its vaccine free to students who study abroad in a strategy health experts say raises safety and ethical concerns.

More than 168,000 people signed up to receive the vaccine via an online survey and more than 91,000 are being considered, CNBG said on its website. That page had been removed by Tuesday.

Chinese drug companies have five vaccines in final stages of testing but none is approved for public use. They are part of a global race to develop a vaccine that, if success-

ful, offers the fledgling Chinese industry the potential for prestige and worldwide sales.

Top Chinese health officials have promised a vaccine for the general public before the end of this year.

CNBG's vaccine has already been given to medical workers and employees of Chinese companies being sent abroad under an emergency authorization for people in high-risk categories. It has given the vaccine to 350,000 people outside its clinical trials, a company executive said in September. The trials have about 40,000 people enrolled.

“Currently, it seems Chinese students going abroad have a strong desire to take the vaccine,” a CNBG employee was quoted as saying by a state-owned newspaper, the Paper, based on the survey results in September.

Students in China who are due to start their semesters abroad say they want the vaccine because they are worried about getting sick.

“It's very dangerous over there, the town we study in, it's a red danger zone,” said a student who goes to school in Poland and gave only her surname, Ouyang. She signed up for the CNBG vaccine in September but hasn't heard back yet. “We all really want this vaccine.”

A student who is due to go to Britain said she signed up via the online link after classmates said they received the vaccine.

The student, who would

give only her English name, Sally, said she started to hear in September that the vaccine was available to people such as her. She said other students said she might need to travel to Beijing, the national capital, or Wuhan, where the outbreak emerged in December, to receive the vaccine.

If the vaccine works, it might help protect students going to Europe or the United States, where the pandemic is still raging, medical experts said. But they said developers need to make clear it is unproven and keep track of what happens to people who receive it.

If the vaccine doesn't work, then “this is giving people a false sense of security,” said Sridhar Venkatapuram, a specialist in bioethics at King's College London's Global Health Institute.

The ruling Communist Party declared the coronavirus under control in March but has warned that the risk of a new outbreak is high. Travelers and visitors to public buildings still are checked for signs of infection. Those arriving from abroad are required to be quarantined for two weeks. The country has reported 4,634 deaths and 85,622 confirmed cases.

This week, 10 million people were tested in the eastern port of Qingdao after 12 cases were found last weekend, the government said Friday. That ended a nearly two-month period with no local virus transmissions reported within China.

It was unclear whether Chi-

nese students were being offered the CNBG vaccine under the same emergency authorization that residents of Jiaying were.

The agency that oversees drug and vaccine approvals, the National Medical Products Administration, did not respond to questions sent by fax. CNBG did not respond to a request for comment.

The final stage of clinical trials, conducted on larger groups, is used to find any rare side effects and study the effectiveness of a treatment. The first and second stage trials are meant to determine whether a vaccine or treatment is safe.

“The manufacturer has an obligation to obtain follow-up information” from people who receive a vaccine under emergency use, K. Arnold Chan, a National Taiwan University expert on drug regulation, said in an email.

Failing to do that “is irresponsible and not compliant with international standards,” he wrote.

More than 600,000 Chinese students studied abroad before the pandemic, according to Ministry of Education figures. They make up a large share of the foreign student body in the United States, Britain, Australia and some other countries.

Western universities are “not protecting their students,” Venkatapuram said. “The company is basically offering its citizens protection going outside of China, which in essence is what any country would ideally be doing.” AP

CHINA PASSES AMENDMENTS OUTLAWING INSULTING NATIONAL FLAG

The Standing Committee of China's congress on Saturday passed amendments to a law that will criminalize the intentional insulting of the national flag and emblem, after anti-government protesters in Hong Kong last year desecrated the Chinese flag. According to the newly amended National Flag and National Emblem Law, which will take effect on Jan. 1, those who intentionally burn, mutilate, paint, deface or trample the flag and emblem in public will be investigated for criminal responsibility. The law also states that that national flag must not be discarded, displayed upside down or used in any manner that impairs the dignity of the flag. The revised law will also apply to offices in Hong Kong and Macao that are set up by the central government. The amendments to the law were proposed after anti-government protesters in Hong Kong last year trampled on the Chinese flag, prompting an outcry in China.

HONG KONG COULD HALT PLAN FOR VACANCY TAX ON APARTMENTS

The Hong Kong government is considering suspending a plan that would have introduced a vacancy tax on new housing stock, the Transport and Housing Bureau said. The reconsideration was prompted by community feedback and the state of the economy, a bureau spokesperson said. Hong Kong has been battered by last year's anti-government protests and the coronavirus pandemic, with the government forecasting a contraction of as much as 8%. The move to squash the tax would be a relief for property developers, who would have been subject to a hefty tax and jail time if they failed to sell new apartments. Hong Kong had 44,890 vacant new homes as of late 2019, representing 3.7% of the city's total stock, and a decrease from 2018's 4.3%, according to government data. The plan to tax vacant new homes was among Carrie Lam's proposed policies to tackle the city's sky-high property prices in 2018.

SHENZHEN GIVEN GREATER AUTONOMY TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT

China announced measures that will grant its southern boomtown Shenzhen more autonomy as Beijing seeks to raise the profile of the region as a tech and financial hub amid tensions with the U.S. The National Development and Reform Commission published a list of reforms for Shenzhen on Sunday that include steps for financial markets, intellectual property protection, economic legislation and talent attraction. The supporting policies for Shenzhen are more than those given to the free trade zone in China's southern island province Hainan, according to state media. In a speech commemorating the 40th anniversary of Shenzhen's establishment as a special economic zone on Wednesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping said foreign investors' interests should be better looked after through measures including protecting intellectual rights. The city is home to some of China's leading technology giants, including Huawei Technologies Co. and Tencent Holdings Ltd., and is a crucial part of Beijing's plan to drive economic integration with Hong Kong and Macau into the Greater Bay Area.

FRANCE

Suspect in teacher's beheading was Chechen teen

THOMAS ADAMSON, PARIS

A suspect shot dead by police after the beheading of a history teacher near Paris was an 18-year-old Chechen refugee unknown to intelligence services who posted a grisly claim of responsibility on social media minutes after the attack, officials said Saturday.

France's anti-terrorism prosecutor's office said authorities investigating the killing of Samuel Paty in Conflans-Sainte-Honorine on Friday arrested nine suspects, including the teen's grandfather, parents and 17-year-old brother.

Paty had discussed caricatures of Islam's Prophet Muhammad with his class, leading to threats, police officials said. Islam prohibits images of the prophet, asserting that they lead to idolatry. The officials could not be named because they were not authorized to discuss ongoing investigations.

French anti-terrorism prosecutor Jean-Francois Ricard said an investigation for murder with a suspected terrorist motive had been opened.

Ricard told reporters that the Moscow-born suspect, who had been granted a 10-year residency in France as a refugee in March, was armed with a knife and an airsoft gun, which fires plastic pellets.

His half-sister joined the Islamic State group in Syria in 2014, Ricard said. He didn't give her name, and it is not clear where she is now.

The prosecutor said a text claiming responsibility and a photograph of the victim were found on the suspect's phone. He also confirmed that a Twitter account under the name Abdoulakh A belonged to the suspect. It posted a photo of the decapitated head minutes after the attack along with the message "I have executed one of the dogs from hell who dared to put Muhammad down."

Ricard said the suspect had been seen at the school asking students about the teacher, and the headmaster had received several threatening phone calls.



A poster reading "I am Samuel" and flowers seen outside the school where slain history teacher Samuel Paty had worked

Mourners marched near the school in solidarity Saturday, holding signs that read "I am a teacher." "We'll pick ourselves up together, thanks to our spirit of solidarity," said Laurent Brosse, mayor of Conflans-Sainte-Honorine.

A police official said the suspect was shot dead about 600 meters (yards) from where Paty died. Police opened fire after he failed to respond to orders to put down his arms and acted in a threatening manner. The official could not be named because of the ongoing investigations.

French President Emmanuel Macron went to the school on Friday night to denounce what he called an "Islamist terrorist attack." He urged the nation to stand united against extremism.

"One of our compatriots was murdered today because he taught ... the freedom of expression, the freedom to believe or not believe," Macron said.

The presidential Elysee Palace announced that there will be a national ceremony at a future date in homage to Paty.

In a video posted recently on Twitter, a man describing himself as the father of a student asserted that Paty had shown an image of a naked man and told students it was

"the prophet of the Muslims."

Before showing the images, the teacher asked Muslim children to raise their hands and leave the room because he planned to show something shocking, the man said. "What was the message he wanted to send these children? What is this hate?" the man asked. The AP has not been able to independently confirm these claims.

Chechnya is a predominantly Muslim Russian republic in the North Caucasus. Two wars in the 1990s triggered a wave of emigration, with many Chechens heading for western Europe. France has offered asylum to many Chechens since the Russian military waged war against Islamist separatists in Chechnya in the 1990s and early 2000s.

Chechnya's strongman regional leader Ramzan Kadyrov, who has used massive federal subsidies to rebuild the province and squelched any resistance with his feared security forces, condemned the teacher's killing but also warned against insulting the feelings of Muslims.

"We condemn this act of terror and offer our condolences to the relatives of the man who was killed," Kadyrov said on his blog. "While speaking out categorically

against any manifestation of terrorism, I also urge not to provoke believers, not to offend their religious feelings."

He went on to criticize French society for what he described as manifestations of "provocative" disrespect for Islamic values. "When France has a proper state institution of inter-ethnic and inter-faith relations, then the country will have a healthy society."

Kadyrov noted that the Chechen suspect only visited the region once when he was 2 years old.

This is the second time in three weeks that terror has struck France linked to caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad. Last month, a young man from Pakistan was arrested after attacking two people with a meat cleaver outside the former Charlie Hebdo offices.

The weekly was the target of a deadly newsroom attack in 2015, and it republished caricatures of the prophet this month to underscore the right to freedom of information as a trial opened linked to that attack.

Friday's terror attack came as Macron's government works on a bill to address Islamic radicals, who authorities claim are creating a parallel society outside the values of the French Republic. AP

this day in history

1977 KIDNAPPED GERMAN FOUND DEAD



The body of kidnapped businessman Hanns-Martin Schleyer has been found in the boot of a car in the French town of Mulhouse.

It is reported the 62-year-old German had been shot by his kidnappers, the Red Army Faction.

In a letter sent to French and German newspapers the kidnappers revealed their reasons for murdering Mr Schleyer.

These were Monday's Commando attack, which released the hostages of a hijacked Lufthansa plane in Mogadishu, and a failure to release jailed terrorists.

"His death is without any comparison with our sorrow and our anger after the massacre of Mogadishu" said the note signed by Red Army Faction leader Siegfried Haunser.

A spokesman for Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said: "We know the identities of the members of the Red Army Faction who were involved in the kidnap and murder of Herr Schleyer. The hour of the big search has begun. We know who they are and that they number 16."

Mr Schleyer was kidnapped 45 days ago when his car and a police escort were ambushed. Three policemen and Mr Schleyer's driver were killed but he survived and was held while the kidnappers demanded the release of jailed terrorists.

The car, which had been in the town on the German border for 36 hours, was first checked for booby traps before police moved in and confirmed the body was there.

The family, who at first did not believe the messages sent to the newspapers, were informed of the murder by a government representative.

An attempt by Mr Schleyer's family to pay his kidnappers £5 million was intercepted by German security men who stopped one of Mr Schleyer's sons on his way to hand over the money.

The German Government continually refused to meet any of the kidnappers' demands and said there would never be any guarantee of Mr Schleyer being freed.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mr Schleyer had recently become president of the employers and industry associations. This, accompanied by his job as an executive of Daimler-Benz motors made him the symbol of big business and is considered to be the reason he was kidnapped.

"The fat magnate of the cream of the national economy" is how his kidnappers described him.

The Red Army Faction emerged from the urban guerrilla group founded by Ulrike Meinhof and Andreas Baader in the 1960s.

The group was blamed for 30 murders - its last victim was the head of the Treuhand agency responsible for privatising Eastern German assets in 1991.

The Red Army Faction disbanded in 1991 saying "We are stuck in a dead end."

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Reciprocate by offering helpful hints. Arguments will flare up if you get backed into an emotional corner. You can stabilize your financial situation if you make property investments.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You can make money if you get involved in real estate deals. Heed the advice given by family or old reliable friends. You will get great satisfaction from your efforts.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Entertainment should include your whole family. Reevaluate your position and make decisions about your future goals. Get involved in creative projects that will enhance your earning power.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Make changes to your home that will be pleasing to everyone involved. Get the whole family involved in a worthwhile cause or cultural event. Your best efforts will come through making changes in your home.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

This may not be the time to lend or borrow. Try not to be too aggressive or judgmental when talking to your mate. You'll regret every word for some time to come.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

You can enjoy your involvement in organizations that make charitable contributions. Don't be too critical. You may find it necessary to confront a situation that has gotten out of hand.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

All your energy should be directed into moneymaking opportunities. You can gain valuable cultural knowledge through dealing with foreigners. Face any emotional problems head-on.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You will reap the benefits if you put money into upgrading your residence. You may have problems with those you live with. You need more time to think this whole situation through.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You may have a problem with coworkers if you try to tell them what to do. Opportunities to travel will develop through peers. Your personal life is going through a state of confusion.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You may be upset if someone has borrowed something that belongs to you. Plan some family outings. Travel opportunities must be taken advantage of.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Show what a dedicated person you can be. Use your intellectual approach to get the best results. A new image can be the result if you put just a little effort into your look.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You're in need of love. Be on your best behavior. Be considerate and avoid being overly opinionated, or arguments will ensue. Be open to new ideas or points of view.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

2			8		
			3		
					6
					9
	3	6			8
					1
			7		4
				9	1
8					2

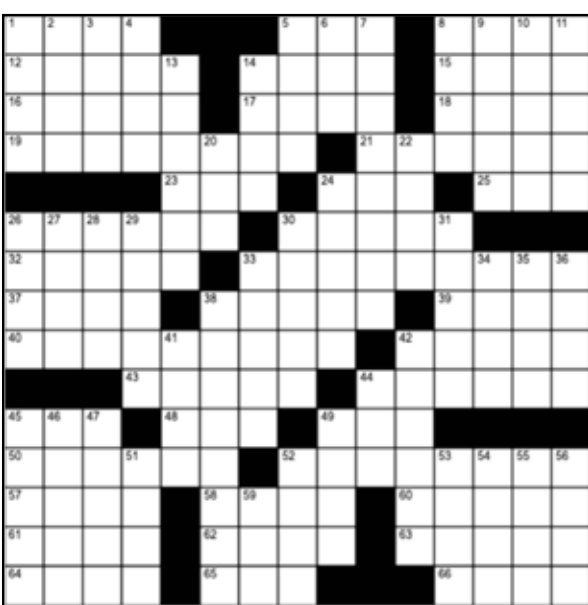
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	13	26	clear
Harbin	12	16	drizzle
Tianjin	16	27	clear
Urumqi	12	22	cloudy
Xi'an	15	29	clear
Lhasa	9	24	cloudy
Chengdu	15	24	cloudy
Chongqing	18	26	cloudy
Kunming	16	22	cloudy
Nanjing	18	26	cloudy
Shanghai	18	21	drizzle
Wuhan	16	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	19	20	drizzle to moderate rain
Taipei	26	31	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	31	moderate rain
Hong Kong	25	29	heavy rain
WORLD			
Moscow	8	12	drizzle
Frankfurt	4	20	clear
Paris	14	29	cloudy
London	12	21	clear
New York	10	20	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Carbonized fuel; 5- Bump off; 8- Go-getter; 12- Beaming; 14- Prepare for publication; 15- Any of the Antilles; 16- Roofing stone; 17- Drab; 18- Garage sale sign; 19- Mosaic pieces; 21- Remove an electron, say; 23- Door opener; 24- 'Droid; 25- Consume; 26- Chevy model; 30- Driver's invitation; 32- Wanting; 33- Punctuation mark; 37- Part of a hand; 38- Brazilian dance; 39- Story; 40- Hollow-horned ruminants; 42- Line in a play directed to the audience; 43- Blathered; 44- Oklahoman; 45- Car club; 48- Scratch the surface of; 49- Pitch; 50- Commence; 52- Put back; 57- Architect Mies van der ___; 58- Romantic couple; 60- Mimicry; 61- Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon; 62- Type of tide; 63- Rock; 64- Cincinnati team; 65- ___ Lingus; 66- Flat sound;

DOWN: 1- Support for a broken limb; 2- Eyeball; 3- Exclamation to express sorrow; 4- A great deal; 5- Monty Python's Eric; 6- Spy org.; 7- Republic in E Africa; 8- Zoologist Fossey; 9- Actor Davis; 10- Miss Doolittle; 11- Adjust to zero; 13- Payroll frequency; 14- Auction site; 20- Mens ___ (criminal intent); 22- Auricular; 24- Explosive weapons; 26- Member of a great Peruvian people; 27- Intend; 28- Chipper; 29- Milk snake; 30- Macho guys; 31- False; 33- Flavor; 34- Stretched out; 35- Shoppe sign word; 36- ___-do-well; 38- Short composition; 41- Light source; 42- Main arteries; 44- Airline to Oslo; 45- Broadcaster; 46- Cathode's contrary; 47- Needed liniment; 49- Office fill-in; 51- Electric fish; 52- Be a mother to; 53- Chooses; 54- Classic autos; 55- Sea eagles; 56- Stains; 59- Peg used on the first in golf;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IAM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



AD

FOR SALE

Nova City Apartment for Sale
HK\$12,880,000 1,494 ft² 3 2 2

FOR RENT

Large 3+1 bed High floor & balcony
\$29,800/mth 2,332 ft² 3 4 2

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

Renovated Duplex, Macau with Amazing View
HK\$4,200,000 817 ft² 2 2 2

FOR SALE/ RENT

[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 2 2
1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)

[Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 2
2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)

[Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 2 2
2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)

[Taipa] Private house 2 3 3
4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)

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Property of the Week



Nova City Apartment for Sale

HK\$12,880,000 1,494 ft² 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms

Spacious and in excellent condition. Stunning High floor apartment. Beautiful hard wood floors throughout. Three bedrooms and 2 bathrooms.

Viewing by appointment.

Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com

LEARN MORE

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

Renovated Duplex
with Amazing View

\$4,200,000

817 ft² 2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms

SCAN ME

Property Hotlist

Large bedroom apartment,
Coloane

\$12,980,000

2,530 ft²

3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 2 cars



SCAN ME

Large 3+1 bed One central
High floor apartment & balcony

\$29,800/mth

2,332 ft²

3 bedrooms 4 bathrooms



SCAN ME

One Central, Macau
Lovely 2 bedroom

\$25,000/mth

1,269 ft²

2 bedrooms 2 bathrooms



SCAN ME

More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Apartment w/ balcony 2 bedrooms 1 bathroom 840 ft² \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)
- [Coloane] One Oasis modern studio 1 bathroom 691 ft² \$6,357,000 (ref: n/a)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)
- [Taipa] Manhattan D unit 4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 2,305 ft² \$17,980,000 (ref: n/a)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)

For Rent

- [Taipa] Taipa Village Apartment 2 bedrooms 1 bathroom 600 ft² \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 bedroom 1 bathroom 710 ft² \$16,500/mth (ref: 20021002)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 bedrooms 2 bathrooms 2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 cars 3 bedrooms 3 bathrooms 4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)
- [Macau] Retail Shop, Barra area 1,968 ft² \$48,000/mth (ref: n/a)

Recent Movements

Sold Raindance property SOLD in 3 weeks!One Central, Views Over Nam Van Lake,
2 bed 2 bath**Sold**

Va Fat, Taipa, 2 bed, 1 bath

Rented

Car park space, Manhattan

SOLD



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GOP megadonor Sheldon Adelson, wife finance anti-Biden group

BRIAN SLODYSKO,
WASHINGTON

REPUBLICAN megadonor Sheldon Adelson and his wife have given \$75 million to a new super PAC that is attacking Democratic nominee Joe Biden, an investment made amid GOP concern that President Donald Trump's campaign is flailing and might not be able to correct course.

The money from the couple has been the driving force behind a more than \$76 million attack campaign against Biden by the group Preserve America, which launched in August. It is run by Chris LaCivita, the strategist behind the 2004 Swift Boat Veterans for the Truth campaign, which helped tank then-Democratic nominee John Kerry's bid with misleading ads that questioned his record in the Vietnam War.

The Adelsons' role in Preserve America, as well as the amount of money both he and his wife, Miriam, contributed was unclear until Thursday, when the group filed its first mandatory disclosure with the Federal Election Commission.

The creation of the new group is a sign that some Republican donors are worried by the approach taken by Trump's campaign, as well as his officially sanctioned super political action committee, America First Action.

"America First made a series of tactical mistakes" and "peaked too early" while groups supporting Biden "hit the right buttons," said Dan Eberhart, a Republican donor who has given over \$190,000 to Trump's election efforts, including \$5,000 to America First Action.

Super PACs are often attractive to wealthy donors because they can give them unlimited amounts of money, so long as the groups do not coordinate with the candidate they are supporting.

A spokesperson for Adelson, who is the chairman of Las Vegas Sands and its Macau subsidiary



Sands China, did not respond to a request for comment. Preserve America declined to comment.

Preserve America came into existence at the end of a tumultuous summer in which Trump's standing in the polls took a hit over his handling of the coronavirus, the resulting economic downturn and unrest in the streets.

Trump's campaign and America First Action collectively spent over \$247 million on TV and Facebook advertising between April and August, according to data collected by the ad tracking firm Kantar/CMAG. But the ads fell flat, did little to dent Biden's lead in the polls and lacked a thematic approach to build a case against the former vice president.

Meanwhile, donor angst was growing over Trump and his allies management of money — a concern that grew more acute after Biden reported record-breaking fundraising hauls and eclipsed Trump's once-massive cash advantage, according to three Republican strategists familiar with the matter.

Lavish paydays for Trump-affiliated consultants, a fleet of luxury vehicles purchased by former campaign manager Brad Parscale and the campaign's sprawling footprint led some donors to question whether giving more

money was a wise investment, said the strategists, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations.

Enter Adelson.

A major funder of Republican causes, Adelson has donated over \$250 million to GOP candidates and super PACs since 2015.

That includes \$1.6 million the Adelsons donated to Trump's campaign, as well as \$10 million they gave to America First Action in 2018, FEC records show.

But the cash infusion to Preserve America in the closing months of the campaign is the first major donation by the Adelsons to Trump's election effort that is on the level of their past giving to the party. During the 2018 midterms, for example, they gave \$105 million to the two main super PACs supporting Republican Senate and House candidates, records show.

America First Action spokesperson Kelly Sadler said she has not heard from anyone who is dissatisfied with the group's approach. And she noted that the group is coordinating advertising buying decisions with Preserve America.

America First Action has raised nearly \$200 million over the past two years, according to figures provided by the group.

That includes donations to a nonprofit wing that won't have to disclose its finances until after the election.

So far, they've spent

about \$93 million of that money on radio, TV, direct mail and digital ads, FEC data shows. Another \$19.1 million in TV advertising

time is reserved ahead of the Nov. 3 election.

"It's our job as a Super PAC to define Joe Biden," Sadler said in an email. "As you've seen in the public polls, concerns of voters have shifted from the coronavirus, to now the economy. We are shifting our messaging to Biden's tax increases and why a Biden administration would devastate the economy."

In a series of tweets on Tuesday, Trump dismissed the idea that his campaign is running low on money, and he floated the possibility that he could use some of his own in it.

"I keep reading Fake News stories that my campaign is running low on money. Not true, & if it were so, I would put up money myself," he tweeted.

In another tweet, he defended the hundreds of millions his campaign has spent so far.

"Much of the money we have spent is on our ground game, said to be the best ever put together. I'll let you know how good it is on November 3rd. Very expensive to do, but opportunity could be BIG!" he added. **BLOOMBERG**

AD

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

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Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

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OPINION

World Views

Teresa Ghilarducci, Bloomberg



ONLINE SHOPPING
THE PANDEMIC AWAY?
THERE'S A BETTER WAY

You probably want to buy something.

For many households, there is more money at the end of the month. Spending is way down on restaurant meals and entertainment. Excess income over spending is about 14% — up from a 25-year average of 7-8%.

To be sure, online shopping is up. Over the last six months, income-secure households have spent more on sporting equipment (up 29% from last year) and beer, wine and liquor stores (up 22%).

But I am guessing as the pandemic drags on, the boomlet for gardening and home office equipment, furniture, pandemic puppies and other nesting items may wane. You can only buy so many kitchen gadgets. And online buying may be a fleeting relief from the pandemic blues.

But the urge to buy something doesn't go away. So, if you're one of the lucky people with a job, enough to eat and a place to live, what should you buy in a pandemic?

First, buy a picture frame. Now print out a bank statement showing you saved money. Put it in the picture frame. Make saving the new status good — flaunt it like a golf club.

Second, satisfy shopping urges by getting anything you want at the thrift store — go wild. Much of the experience will be like regular shopping. You get the same thrill of the hunt. You may not use most of what you buy, but most of us only wear about 20% our clothes anyway. You might as well spend less on the clothes you don't wear.

Third, buy a book about how advertising manipulates people into buying stuff they don't need.

Fourth, buy an hour with a fee-for-service financial adviser. A fiduciary, fee-only (not fee-based) financial adviser is legally bound to act in your best interest. Fee-based advisers are not fiduciaries; they receive commissions from the products they sell. A fee-only adviser can only offer products that serve your best interest. One with a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) credential means they have additional education and experience requirements to better address holistic financial needs. Organizations that can help you search for a fee-only adviser in your area include the National Association of Personal Financial Advisors. Robo advisers may help those with limited budgets.

The bottom line is that both robot and person will probably tell you the same thing: Save more.

Look, I know that getting advice to save more has roughly the same effect as advice to eat less. The point here isn't to produce shopping-shaming to go along with fat-shaming.

And I don't mean to imply that a failure to save is your fault. Too often, saving mistakes are often attributed to the wiring of the human brain, but only a small share of us are shopping addicts. About 8% of the public are pathological shoppers preoccupied with shopping or suffering from buyer's remorse. Experiments using PET technology have linked compulsive buying with specific Internet addictions or a predisposition to shopping-induced excitability. That means only a few of us truly lose control over our spending, whether because we are pleasure seeking, escaping negative emotions or can't self-regulate.

More often, a failure to save can be attributed to not having enough wages. Wages have stagnated since 1983. When people have too much debt and not enough savings, it is unfair to blame human nature and not the reality of extreme inequality in the labor market or the racial wealth gap faced by Latinx and Black families.

If the pandemic has you, at last, in the fortunate position of having some extra cash burning a hole in your pocket, consider yourself lucky — and save up. [Abridged]

RECORD AVALANCHE OF EARLY VOTES
TRANSFORMS THE 2020 ELECTION

More than 22 million Americans have already cast ballots in the 2020 election, a record-shattering avalanche of early votes driven both by Democratic enthusiasm and a pandemic that has transformed the way the nation votes.

The 22.2 million ballots submitted as of Friday night represents 16% of all the votes cast in the 2016 presidential election, even as eight states are not yet reporting their totals and voters still have more than two weeks to cast ballots. Americans' rush to vote is leading election experts to predict

that a record 150 million votes may be cast and turnout rates could be higher than in any presidential election since 1908.

"It's crazy," said Michael McDonald, a University of Florida political scientist who has long tracked voting for his site ElectProject.org. McDonald's analysis shows roughly 10 times as many people have voted compared with this point in 2016.

"We can be certain this will be a high-turnout election," McDonald said.

PANDEMIC, POLITICS LEAD
TO CLOSURE OF STORIED
HONG KONG BAR

AP PHOTO



Owner Grace Ma poses for a photo at Club 71

NEARLY 15 years ago, Grace Ma decided to name her bar Club 71, in commemoration of a July 1, 2003 rally where hundreds of thousands of Hong Kongers protested a proposed national security law for the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

"I took the name Club 71, because somehow it is more hopeful, with half a million Hong Kong people having a demonstration, a rally, to stand for themselves, not to ignore what's going on in Hong Kong," said Ma.

For years, the storied bar has served as a watering hole for the city's pro-democracy activists and intellectuals, who could freely engage in discussions over a round of beer or two.

Then the coronavirus pandemic hit and, in a blow to the city's Western-style freedoms, the central government in Beijing in June imposed sweeping national security legislation targeting political expression in response to massive anti-government protests last year. For Ma, the troubles meant it was time to shutter the business for good.

Months of government-mandated bar closures as part of coronavirus restrictions had pushed Club 71's finances deeper into the red, and operating the

bar no longer made financial sense, she said. The bar will close at the end of October.

"We have closed for three months, out of the past six months," said Ma, who is in her 60s. "For our business, it's impossible."

Social distancing restrictions have also halved the capacity of the city's bars and restaurants, making it more difficult for them to turn a profit.

"Restaurants are allowed to have four at one table ... but bars only two per table," she said, pointing out that bars have been subject to much stricter restrictions, compared to eateries.

In the last days of the bar, customers have shown up in force, gathering outside in the park and occasionally milling in and out as they order pints of beer. The colorful interior walls are plastered with posters advertising art exhibitions and performances, as well as pro-democracy artwork.

"This is a place in Hong Kong where people can drop by and exchange ideas, as long as everyone respects each other, they can say whatever they want," said Ma.

News of the bar's imminent closure was disappointing for some of its regulars, who cherished

the unique atmosphere and the mix of people.

"There are very few bars of this kind in Hong Kong. We call it the quiet bar, which allows people to chat with each other," said Keung Fung, 41, another loyal patron and a former Hong Kong student union representative.

Some of Club 71's customers also include former lawmaker and pro-democracy activist Leung Kwok-hung, known as "Long Hair" in Hong Kong. Leung had been a regular in Club 71's predecessor, Club 64.

Ma had also run Club 64, before a skyrocketing rent forced her to move to its current location in Hong Kong's Sheung Wan neighborhood. It was then that she renamed the bar to Club 71.

"It is a hub for everyone to connect and communicate with each other, sometimes sit around and discuss what to do. So you can say it's a meeting point," said Leung, who had visited the bar for a beer.

Although Ma is saddened at having to close Club 71, in some ways it is also a relief, she said.

"Financially, I really couldn't hang on," she said. "It's time to move on, I want to do something else." MDT/AP

Azerbaijan Despite a second attempt at a cease-fire, Armenia and Azerbaijan traded accusations yesterday of violating the new truce in their destructive conflict over the separatist region of Nagorno-Karabakh. The latest truce was the second attempt to establish a cease-fire since heavy fighting between Armenian and Azerbaijani forces broke out in Nagorno-Karabakh on Sept. 27.

Australia A man is facing life in prison after police intercepted cocaine worth 248 million Australian dollars concealed in frozen fruit products from Brazil. The Australian Federal Police and Border Force officers seized 552 kilograms of the drug hidden in pallets of banana pulp and branded with koala pictures in Sydney.

AP PHOTO



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern won a second term in office Saturday in an election landslide of historic proportions. Labour was on target to win an outright majority of the seats in Parliament, something that hasn't happened since New Zealand implemented a proportional voting system 24 years ago. Typically, parties must form alliances to govern, but this time Ardern and Labour can go it alone.

Italy The 179 Italian doctors who have died in the COVID-19 crisis were remembered yesterday in a ceremony in the northern Italian town of Duno, north of Milan. Their names were inscribed in marble at a sanctuary in the Lombardy region, which has been the hardest-hit area in the country.

AP PHOTO



Guinean President Alpha Conde sought to extend his decade in power in Sunday's election, after the country's constitution was changed earlier this year to allow the 82-year-old leader to run for a third term. This is the third time that opposition leader Cellou Dalein Diallo, 68, has run against Conde and he warns the president is trying to rig the vote to stay in office