

The Macao SAR Government urges:

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

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報® Times

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AP PHOTO



**Cambodia** Schools in the capital and the surrounding area will be shut for two weeks as a precaution after Hungary's foreign minister tested positive for the coronavirus after visiting Cambodia last week, the Education Ministry said. Schools throughout Cambodia reopened last week after being closed since March due to the coronavirus, but with limited class sizes and hours.

**Afghanistan** At least eight civilians — five children and three women — were killed when militants fired mortars into eastern Ghazni province's capital city, a provincial official said. No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack. But Wahidullah Jumazada, a spokesman for the provincial governor, blamed insurgents who he said often fire mortars or rockets toward military bases in the area which miss their intended targets.

**Germany** bid farewell to the Berlin's central Tegel airport, beloved by some and reviled by others, as it shifts all air traffic to a new hub on the outskirts of the city. On Saturday, airlines moved their last planes stationed at Tegel to the new Berlin Brandenburg Airport Willy Brandt, which finally opened at the end of October nine years late and far above its original budget.

AP PHOTO



**German** officials condemned the actions of 20,000 people who demonstrated against coronavirus restrictions by jamming together in a Leipzig city square largely without wearing masks. The eastern city had tried to move Saturday's demonstration to a larger location after calculating only 5,000 people could gather in Augustusplatz plaza. A court at the last minute overturned the city's order, however, and the demonstration went ahead.

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# FLIGHTS TO LONDON VIA TAIPEI SUSPENDED

Locals left with very limited choices to fly to and from Europe, travel agencies told Macau Daily Times

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BLOOMBERG





CRIME

# COUNTERFEIT BANKNOTES CONTINUE TO BE USED BY MONEY EXCHANGE SCAMMERS

**MONEY** exchange gangs who are active in local casinos have been using training notes to trick gamblers, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday during the joint police press conference.

As Macau's visitor numbers slowly and steadily grow, the police authority is recording an increasing number of crimes taking place in casinos. During Monday's police press conference, the PJ reported five cases in which the suspects were identified and apprehended. Four of these concerned gambling activities and three were directly linked to money exchange gangs.

In the first case, the suspect is a 33-year-old mainland man, surnamed Liu. Liu and his victim met in a local casino and exchanged the money face-to-face. The victim transferred 52,650 yuan to a mainland bank account, the details of which were provided by Liu. In return, Liu gave his victim a bag of counterfeit notes (Hong Kong dollars) which are used for training bank employees.

In the second case, the sus-

pect is a 48-year-old mainland woman, surnamed Yang. Yang and her victim met in a hotel room to exchange currency. Her victim first transferred 87,580 yuan to a mainland bank account Yang had provided. The victim then received a bag of training notes in return.

A 25-year-old mainland man surnamed Wu is a suspect in the third case. Like the others, Wu and his victim met in a hotel room to exchange currency. His victim transferred 88,200 yuan to a mainland bank account provided by Wu. In return, Wu gave the victim one hundred training notes.

In each of these three cases, the victims had no previous contact with or knowledge of the suspects. All parties came into contact through other people and on social media.

All three of the suspects denied the accusations of aggravated fraud, claiming that they were paid by other people to meet with the victims and deliver the counterfeit notes. They claimed they had no knowledge about the true nature of the notes.

Liu and Wu said that they were given a one-off payment to deliver the notes, while Yang told police officers that she receives base income of 6,000 yuan monthly plus commission for each delivery she completes.

The suspects were all allegedly hired by other people in Zhuhai. The PJ has sent all three to the prosecution authority.

In addition to the money exchange scams, the PJ also disclosed information about an usury case. The suspect in this case is 37-year-old mainland man, surnamed Fu. Fu's victim, who is also a mainland man, borrowed 115,000 Hong Kong dollars from him to gamble. The daily interest on the loan was 20%. The victim lost all the money while gambling. Fu would have been able to collect a total of HKD22,000 from all of the victim's previous winning gambling bets as interest. After the victim lost all the money, the two left the casino and had an argument on the street. During their argument, patrolling police officers spotted the two men arguing and learnt about the usury.



## POLICE CANCEL BLUE CARD BEFORE COURT VERDICT

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) normally cancel a person's blue card the moment the department believes there is evidence to prove their guilt in a crime.

During yesterday's police press conference, the PSP reported a sexual harassment case involving a mainland worker in his 40's. The man is accused of sexually harassing

two women during a border crossing to Macau.

The case has been delivered to the prosecution authority and the PSP has canceled the man's blue card. According to the PSP, although there is not a court verdict, the PSP believes that there is strong evidence of the man's guilt. A PSP spokesperson also revealed that it is a common practice for the PSP to nullify a person's blue card before a court verdict is available.

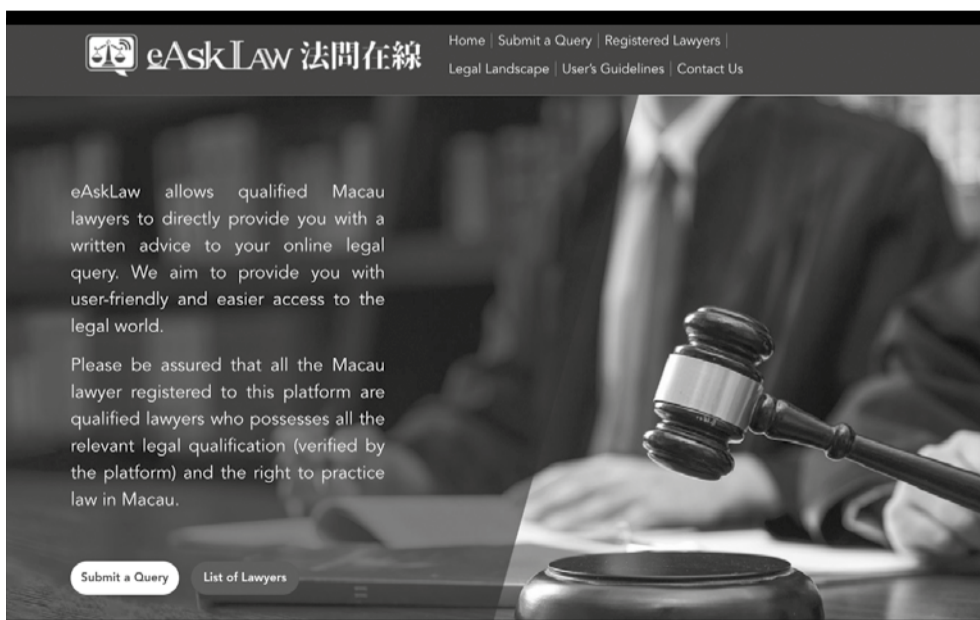
# Lawyers raise doubts over online legal help platform

RENATO MARQUES

**T**he Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) is assessing the legality of online legal advisory platform "eAskLaw," said the president of AAM, Jorge Neto Valente, during an interview with TDM Radio.

The assessment aims to verify if the legal services provided by the platform are in compliance with the rules of the profession, following complaints to the association from several legal professionals in Macau.

According to the information provided by their website, "eAskLaw" allows qualified Macau lawyers to directly provide information seekers with written



advice regarding their legal queries.

The website, easklaw.com, adds that its purpose is to provide users with

"user-friendly and easier access to the legal world."

According to the website, the platform also ensures that all the Macau lawyers

registered to the platform possess verified legal qualifications and the right to practice law in Macau.

According to Neto Va-

lente, the reason AAM is investigating is related to complaints from several law practitioners about the platform. He noted that even those lawyers could not specify the nature of the illegality being committed.

The president of AAM believes that the complaints might be related to the fact that the platform provides legal advice to users without stating who the expert providing the response is.

Neto Valente also added that online legal services are common in many countries and regions such as Portugal, Brazil, and Hong Kong.

"eAskLaw" currently states that 16 law practitioners

from several legal areas are accepting inquiries in Chinese and English.

According to the platform's Facebook page, the reply users receive will include the name of the lawyer providing the legal advice, who they can contact and follow-up with.

Their social media page also notes that each legal inquiry carries the cost of 250 patacas.

Neto Valente recalled that although law practitioners are not allowed to advertise their services to solicit customers due to statutory rules, "this should not be the case on the internet," he said, adding that the association will look into the matter with added care and attention.

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**Times**

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# Health authorities defend Carrie Lam's quarantine exemption following controversy

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center has defended its decision to exempt Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam from quarantine, arguing that the her delegation for the ongoing Boao Forum for Asia meets the complete grounds for an exemption to be granted.

Over the weekend, Lam's exemption from quarantining upon arrival, which is mandatory for everyone arriving from Hong Kong, has caused public controversy among local residents.

Exemptions, however, can be made at the discretion of the center.

Lam arrived to Macau yesterday to attend a closed-door conference. She is set to leave Macau today, after attending the official opening of the three-day event.

"On the one hand, the nucleic acid test conducted within 24 hours before her departure from Hong Kong, as well as immediately when she arrives in Macau, are sufficient to prove that she has not contracted the virus at that very moment," Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the center explained at the weekly press briefing.

On the other hand, participants of the events that the Hong Kong delegation will attend are expected to follow the Covid-19 containment measures enacted in Macau. "I believe these measures are capable of minimizing the risk of causing a spread of the virus," Leong said.

Moreover, the health official reiterated that the Hong Kong delegation will be under "closed-loop management," meaning that they will be moved from one location to another without coming into contact with the general community of the city.

The Boao Forum for Asia is a semi-open event, with most of the program accepting media atten-

AP PHOTO



dance. Guests and attendees can also attend the event in part or in full.

As such, officials were asked if the other attendees will need to be quarantined as the forum concludes, before they can move around freely in the community.

The Hong Kong government head's trip is about risk evaluation and risk management, according to Leong.

In addition, the delegation will only attend some of the events of the entire Boao Forum. He stressed again that none of the delegates will be immersed in the local community.

The host of the Boao Forum has been asked by the center to follow up on the health condition of delegates from Hong Kong, according to Leong, for two weeks following their departure from Macau.

"If any of the Hong Kong delegates develop health concerns during the supervisory period," Leong assured, "we will conduct

health checks on the concerned Macau attendees and staff of the Boao Forum."

## CONDEMNING COMMERCIAL PROMOTION 'MISTAKEN WORD CHOICE'

The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center's recent press release condemning a department store's promotional activity was worded wrong and adjusted, Dr. Alvis Lo from the center explained.

Over the weekend, the center issued a press release condemning a department store in the Central District which ran a promotional activity, causing people to gather in groups and queues. Later, another press release was issued to "advise" the organizer to mind pandemic risks.

Although the center declined to name the department store, it was thought to be the New Yaohan Department Store. The store ran its annual VIP Day promotional campaign last week, with groups of lo-

cal residents and tourists queuing outside the building.

Lo explained that on November 6, the center received "not few" complaints from residents about "some crowded gatherings, so we need to handle it."

The doctor recalled that after viewing photos of the situation, the center decided to "give some advice," although the center opted to use the word "condemn."

The doctor was then asked how bad the situation that triggered the center to "condemn" the department store was. "In several previous situations, we have advised several entities," Lo said. "I think 'condemn' and 'advice' differ in severity."

"If you think condemn is a word that is too strong, we have immediately amended the wording after hearing from the department store concerned," Lo explained. "Especially after a review of the severity of the situation."

Following the first press release, the center was contacted by

the department store in question, which "assured the center that [the store] has conducted all measures within their authority," Lo added.

Then, the center reconsidered the situation and changed the wording while issuing a new press release, Lo disclosed.

The medical doctor stressed that the center wanted to respond to complaints right away.

When asked whether the center has apologized to the department store in question, Lo said, "Macau is a harmonious and friendly society." He further commented that society's shared goal is to eradicate the pandemic.

"During the course [of the issue], we have used different wording, and we have made an adjustment," Lo said. "The entity concerned was satisfied [with the adjustment]."

He said that the situation is not an issue of being right or wrong, but of the establishment of communication. "I think this is the best resolution," Lo said.

## Some foreigners permitted to enter the SAR from December

**F**OREIGNERS satisfying certain criteria can apply to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention from today for permission to enter Macau from December 1. The decision was announced as an Executive Order.

Foreigners who have essential public interests to Macau, with a particu-

lar emphasis on disease control and prevention as well as urgent rescue, or those who are crucial in sustaining the daily operation of the city, can apply for permission.

Previously, the center has made similar waivers or granted similar permissions for flight crews.

Another group of foreig-

ners who are eligible for application are those who have stayed for two weeks in a row in mainland China prior to their expected date of arrival in Macau. However, they must have a reason to support their application.

They must be the spouse or child of a Macau resident; hold a non-resident

working permit or entry slip. In addition, their family members must be eligible for a permit to remain; have been granted a residential visa; have been accepted by a Macau higher education institution; or be attending an important commercial, academic or professional activity.

Applications must come with a letter justifying the application, and with copies of relevant ID documents. If the application is initiated by an entity, the letter should be written or printed with the entity's letterhead.

While entering Macau from the mainland, proof of having spent 14 days in

the mainland prior to arrival must be presented.

The permission is subject to the center's decision. Application is free-of-charge and can be made by email or physical mail. The center pledged to provide a reply to each applicant within 15 working days of each application. **AL**



## GUANGDONG TESTS HEALTH CODE WITH HONG KONG

The Guangdong government authority has been testing a health code recognition system between Guangdong province and Hong Kong, according to the Guangdong government's official WeChat mini program. The authority has been testing a mutual recognition of health codes to facilitate the cross-border flow of people between the regions. The experimental health code system has adopted the same design as the Guangdong-Macau health code. Users can apply for a Hong Kong code and a Guangdong health code through the system. Personal information, including recent travel records, recent health conditions, personal contacts, and Covid-19 test results are required.

## HENGQIN MARATHON 2020 OPENS APPLICATIONS FOR LOCALS

The Hengqin Life Hengqin Marathon 2020 is now open for registration and Macau residents can apply to participate. The Hengqin Marathon 2020 will take place at 7:30 a.m. December 27 at the Hengqin New Area of Zhuhai. Three competition events are being run: a marathon (42.2 km), half marathon (21.1 km), and mini marathon (about 5 km). Organizers plan to accommodate a maximum of 2,000 people, 4,500 people and 3,500 people at these events respectively. They will only be allowed to participate in the event if their health code is green.

## CE PLEDGES TO DEVELOP CHINESE MEDICINE NEXT YEAR

In his recent meeting with the Macao SME Association, Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng has said he will spearhead the development of traditional Chinese medicine as an industry in Macau next year. He stressed that a related bill has been presented to the parliament. If it gets through, the new law will be able to safeguard the quality and safety of Chinese medicine manufactured in Macau. In turn, the city will see its competitiveness strengthened. On the matter of the development of the security industry, he did not elaborate.

## BOAO FORUM

# 5G TECHNOLOGY BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES WORLDWIDE

RENATO MARQUES

THE fifth generation of wireless communication (5G) and how this technology is promoting new opportunities in both developed and developing countries was the topic of discussion at the first session of the First Conference of International Science, Technology and Innovation Forum (ISTIF) of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), which is currently being held in Macau.

On the first day of the conference, which is being held with the aggregating motto of "Innovation Empowers Sustainable Development," presenters gave talks on how 5G is revolutionizing science and technology, creating solutions for existing problems in developed cities, and development and wealth creation opportunities in developing countries.

Masudur Rahman, Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister of the Embassy of Bangladesh, explained how 5G technology is boosting the economy of the South Asian country by creating job opportunities for young Bangladeshis engaged in IT training, as well as other opportunities related to the location of data centers and other tech facilities that support the 5G system.

As Rahman explained, the development and implementation of 5G has led the Bangladeshi government to make new plans and include the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), envisioning economic growth for the country between 2021 and 2041.

The plan not only includes possibilities for foreign investment in locally established data centers, but also the increased use of 5G for e-governance, communication, and e-commerce purposes, Rahman said. The country's GDP has grown at a rate of about 8% for the last few years due to the government's commitment to "including IT expansion in all its activities,

RENATO MARQUES



from business to e-commerce, e-government, and others," the official noted, adding that in 2021, the country forecasts that "exports of IT-related services could reach 5 billion USD."

At the heart of this strategy is manpower. Rahman noted that every year, Bangladesh produces around 500,000 new university graduates in IT. They are employed locally or as exported manpower to other countries, namely India and Japan.

With regard to opportunities for more developed countries and large metropolises, 5G can help make the planning and management of challenges and hidden hazards resulting from urbanization more efficient, explained Allen Yeung, the former Chief Information Officer of the Hong Kong government and the founder and CEO of Intelli Global Corporation Limited.

For Yeung, 5G can turbo-boost data-driven smart cities to tackle problems such as overcrowding, lack of housing, traffic jams, environmental degradation, accu-

mulated waste, crime rates, and insufficient infrastructure and governance, among other issues.

These solutions are related to the provision of more accurate and constantly updating data, which can help leaders make decisions, address problems and events, and test solutions and scenarios in a virtual context, helping to create speedier and better governance decisions.

ISTIF will be held in Macau for three days, until November 11.

In total, 12 sub-forum sessions will be held, with organizers expecting an approximate attendance of 800 guests and experts who will share their insights on science, technology, and innovation.

When it was first announced, ISTIF was given the role of extending the strengths of BFA, which include creating cross-cultural, cross-subject and cross-sectoral exchanges. ISTIF aims to be a fresh, comprehensive and high-level platform for dialogue between people from politics, business and academia, and enable exchan-

ges on the latest developments in science, technology and innovation issues, said the Secretary-General of BFA, Li Baodong.

The first conference focused on three major issues: impetus for innovation; innovation and everyday life; and cooperation on innovation aiming to advance technological development and technological innovation. Organizers hoped to promote connections between those achievements and businesses, economic activities and governance, as well as the application of them in daily life.

Due to the pandemic and the difficulty of travel, some participants and speakers will attend the sub-forum sessions and talks virtually. In fact, several speakers regard this as just one of the situations 5G technology can effectively help to connect people who are physically separated and facilitate the exchange of information on a large scale, enhancing productivity and bringing down barriers for those working or studying at distance.

# Short Film Festival to showcase 160 short films

THE Macau International Short Film Festival, despite challenges raised by the Covid-19 pandemic, will showcase 160 short films and nine musical videos between December 2 and 7 at the Dom Pedro V Theater.

The opening of the festival is scheduled for 5:30pm on December 1. It will kick off with a concert by local metal band

Blademark, followed by a presentation of the festival's program and the screening of two comedy films, namely Amore, Non È como Pensi from Italy and Summertime from France.

Meanwhile, the closing ceremony will be warmed up by a percussion performance from local musician, Hoi Lei Lei. After that, the Gala Awards Ce-

remony will commence. All winning films will be screened after the Awards Ceremony. The event will start at 5:30pm on December 8.

The films screened during the festival will include local and international short film productions. The festival aims at highlighting those made with limited resources yet achieving applaudable

qualities.

"[They] were selected in the core part of our short film festival – the two international competitions, SHORTS and VOLUME, launched annually in March for film and video submissions," the event host said in a statement.

Among 4,232 works received, 132 films and videos were selected as part

of the "Official Selection" and will be screened. The films in SHORTS are for the audience to vote for the Audience Choice Award.

The event will also see masterclasses targeting film directors, students, young professionals and enthusiasts. The lineup of masterclass speakers has not yet been announced. AL



# Locals left with limited choices for travel to Europe

STAFF REPORTER

**L**OCALS and foreign workers in Macau may now find themselves racking their brains as they run out of options for air services and ways to fly out to Europe.

The Times has learned that some flights from Macau to London, which are operated by EVA Air and transit through Taipei, have been called off due to the low number of passengers. The move was made by the airline to reduce costs.

Taiwanese airline EVA Air is currently the one and only airline running air services from Macau to European countries through Taipei. However, it has cancelled scheduled flights to London lately, catching customers off guard.

The next EVA flight from Macau to London is slated to take off no earlier than January next year. This will be subject to passenger numbers as well, the Times was told by a local travel agency.

Those who want to travel directly to the United Kingdom via Taipei – be it for leisure, business or family



reasons – can do nothing but wait for a few months.

Their alternative is to take a detour. This means taking an EVA route to Paris through Taipei, which runs every Friday, and then taking a third flight from Paris to London. The whole journey takes a total of over 27 hours, including the flights and layovers.

The aviation industry has fallen deep into the grip of Covid-19, suffering huge losses as global tourism comes to a virtually complete standstill.

Many commercial airlines are running skeleton operations with reduced manpower to stay afloat.

With Covid-19 travel restrictions

still in place, traveling overseas through Hong Kong International Airport – the usual itinerary pre-pandemic – has become impracticable, as it entails a mandatory quarantine for 14 days in Hong Kong upon arrival.

In addition, some European countries are seeing a resurgence of the virus, with surging Covid-19 case loads reported every day. The worsening situation may mean added uncertainties regarding the availability of flights or travel restrictions.

Macau is now left with only one route to Europe. Predictably, this will take a toll on visitor flow and business opportunities between Macau and Europe.

## ROADWAY REVAMP URGED FOLLOWING TAIPA BUS ACCIDENT

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE bus crash in Old Taipa last Saturday afternoon, which injured seven people and razed a storefront, has served as a wake-up call about the pressing need to review the current road design and infrastructure in Macau, according to an expert from the Macao Federation of Transportation.

The fact that the bus lost control and smashed head-on into a restaurant near a bend in the road raises questions about whether the narrow roadway may have been partially to blame for the accident.

The larger buses introduced by local bus companies only add tension on already-cramped roads – a persistent problem associated with the constant traffic and congestion in Macau, Lau Wai Keong, subdirector of the federation told TDM.

The expert urged the SAR government to review the current road design and bus routes, saying it's integral to relocate bus routes to roadways

with wider lanes to ensure the safety of both passengers and drivers.

Following the accident, many groups are expressing concern are calling on the SAR government to widen the roads and modify supporting facilities to prevent similar mishaps.

Other suggestions included tapping into innovative technology to enhance road safety and reinforcing regular check-ups on public buses.

As of now, the cause of the accident is unknown and is still under investigation.

The Transport Bureau has urged Transmac, one of two public bus operators in Macau, to submit a detailed report on the accident.

Transmac made an announcement earlier, saying that the affected bus had undergone an inspection which confirmed that its brake system tested fit.

The Labour Affairs Bureau is now assisting a restaurant employee, who was injured after being hit by the bus, with their application for work-related compensation.

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Biden and Xi in Beijing in 2013

## A WORRIED ASIA WONDERERS: WHAT WILL JOE BIDEN DO?

AS Asia comes to terms with the reality of a Joe Biden administration, relief and hopes of economic and environmental revival jostle with needling anxiety and fears of inattention.

From security to trade to climate change, a powerful U.S. reach extends to nearly every corner of the Asia-Pacific. In his four years in office, President Donald Trump shook the foundations of U.S. relations here as he courted traditional rivals and attacked allies with both frequency and relish.

Now, as Biden looks to settle tumultuous domestic issues, there's widespread worry that Asia will end up as an afterthought. Allies will go untended. Rivals — and especially China, that immense U.S. competitor for regional supremacy — will do as they like.

In the wake of perhaps the most contentious presidency in recent U.S. history, here's a look at how its aftermath — a Biden White House — will play out in one of the world's most important and volatile regions:

### CHINA

Biden will likely look here first.

The two nations are inexorably entwined, economically and politically, even as the U.S. military presence in the Pacific chafes against China's expanded effort to have its way in what it sees as its natural sphere of influence.

Under Trump, the two rivals engaged in a trade war, and a lively exchange of verbal hostilities. A Biden administration could have a calming effect on those

frayed ties, according to Alexander Huang, a strategic studies professor at Tamkang University in Taipei and a former Taiwanese national security official.

"I'd expect Biden to return to the more moderate, less confrontational approach of the Obama era toward China-U.S. relations," he said.

Greater outreach to China could prompt Washington to play down its support for Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory, without necessarily reducing U.S. commitment to ensure the island can defend itself against Chinese threats, Huang said.

Retired chemical engineer Tang Ruiguo echoed a view shared by many in China of an unstoppable U.S. decline from global superpower status. "No matter who is elected, I feel the United States may go into turmoil and unrest and its development will be affected," Tang said.

### THE KOREAS

Say goodbye to the summits.

Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un went from threats of war to three unprecedented sit-downs, which, though high-profile media events, did nothing to rid the North of its banned nuclear-tipped long-range missiles.

Kim must now adjust to a man his propaganda services once condemned as a "rabid dog" that "must be beaten to death."

Biden, for his part, has called Kim a "butcher" and "thug," and said Trump had gifted a dictator with legitimacy with "three made-

-for-TV summits" that produced no disarmament progress.

Biden has endorsed a slower approach built from working-level meetings and said he would be willing to tighten sanctions on the North until it takes concrete denuclearization steps.

North Korea, which has yet to show any willingness to fully deal away a nuclear arsenal that Kim may see as his strongest guarantee of survival, prefers a summit-driven process that gives it a better chance of pocketing instant concessions that would otherwise be rejected by lower-level diplomats.

For South Korea, the new president will likely demonstrate more respect toward its treaty ally than Trump, who unilaterally downsized joint military training and constantly complained about the cost of the 28,500 U.S. troops stationed in the South to defend against North Korea.

### JAPAN

The resignation this year of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe ended one of Trump's few close, productive relationships with a foreign leader.

There's hope in Tokyo that Biden's more progressive ecological policies will help Japanese green companies and that he will take a hard line on China, with which Japan is in constant competition.

But there's also worry.

Under Biden, "America cannot afford to take care of other countries, and it has to prioritize its own reconstruction," said Hiro

Aida, Kansai University professor of modern U.S. politics and history.

As Biden is consumed with his nation's many domestic troubles, from racial unrest to worries about the economy, healthcare and the coronavirus, Japan could be left alone as China pursues its territorial ambitions and North Korea expands its nuclear efforts, according to Peter Tasker, a Tokyo-based analyst with Arcus Research.

### AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The conservative Australian prime minister who was in power when Trump was elected, Malcolm Turnbull, may have spoken for many when he tweeted congratulations to Biden: "What a relief that you won."

There's hope that Biden will do better than the Trump administration, which granted Australian manufacturers exemptions from U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs in 2018 before reportedly having a change of heart a year later.

For New Zealand, there are aspirations to sell more milk and beef under a U.S. administration that's more open to free trade.

New Zealand and other Pacific nations also hope that Biden might help ease tensions with China.

New Zealand has found itself stuck between the two superpowers, relying on China as its biggest trading partner while maintaining traditional defense and intelligence ties with the United States.

### SOUTHEAST ASIA

Some countries in the region, such as Malaysia, have pivoted toward China because of heavy investment and a focus on economic recovery, and "it will take time for the U.S. to rebuild trust,"

said Bridget Welsh, honorary research associate at the University of Nottingham in Malaysia. "U.S. power will never be what it was."

Biden is also likely to be more wary in his dealings with strongman leaders like the Philippines' Rodrigo Duterte, Thailand's Prayut Chan-o-cha and Cambodia's Hun Sen, said Richard Heydarian, an analyst in the Philippines.

"A more cautious Biden could also mean a degree of stability in relations with tricky allies and partners in Southeast Asia and the region," he said. "We are going to see American leadership, but much more in conjunction with regional players and powers, including Japan, Australia, India, European powers" and Southeast Asia.

### INDIA

Not much will change with the host of security and defense ties shared by India and the United States. But a Biden administration could mean a much closer look at India's spotty recent human rights and religious freedom records, both of which were largely ignored by Trump.

Biden is also expected to be more critical of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu-nationalistic policies, which critics say oppress India's minorities, according to Michael Kugelman, deputy director of the Asia Program at the Washington-based Wilson Center.

The countries will work more closely to counterbalance China, a shared rival, Kugelman said. A Biden White House won't "risk antagonizing a country that is widely viewed in Washington as America's best strategic bet in South Asia," he said. **MDT/AP**





Newspapers front-page with the headlines "Biden wins" were displayed at a newsstand in Beijing yesterday

# China holding off sending congratulations in US election

**C**HINA said yesterday it has taken note of Joe Biden's declaration of victory in the U.S. presidential election but is holding off on sending any message of congratulations.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said the result of the election would be determined under U.S. laws and procedures and that China would follow international practices in extending its sentiments.

China has had a fractious relationship with

President Donald Trump, characterized by growing friction over trade, technology and competition for influence in Asia and the world.

Analysts say Biden will likely return ties to a less contentious state, although Beijing has stuck throughout the election to a position of not commenting directly on what it says is an internal American political issue.

"I noticed that Mr. Biden has declared victory of the election," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing. "We understand that the presidential election result will be determined following U.S. laws and procedures."

China will "follow the international practices" regarding a statement on the result, Wang said.

China is one of only a small number of major nations that have yet to issue statements on the election, in which Democrat Biden emerged the winner over Republican incumbent Trump after days of ballot counting. Trump has yet to concede and is challenging counting in several

districts.

China's view aligns both with its stated policy of non-intervention in other countries' domestic political affairs and its desire to hedge its bets with whichever party ends up in office.

Without commenting on an election winner, Wang said Beijing would "always maintain that China and the U.S. should strengthen dialogue and community," expand cooperation and "manage and control differences based on mutual respect." MDT/AP

## HONG KONG

# Pro-democracy lawmakers threaten to resign

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

**H**ONG Kong's pro-democracy lawmakers said yesterday that they would resign en masse from the city's legislative council if the central Chinese government in Beijing disqualifies any of them.

The announcement from the 19 opposition lawmakers came amid unconfirmed reports that China's National People's Congress Standing Committee, which will meet on Tuesday and Wednesday, was preparing to disqualify four legislators.

Media reports in Hong Kong, including from the South China Morning Post, said that the four lawmakers would be accused of filibustering meetings and violating their oaths of office.

The convener of the pro-democracy camp, Wu Chi-wai, said that any move by Beijing to disqualify the legislators and prevent them from doing their duties would be "ridiculous."

"It reflects they are ruthless,

and they disrespect the Basic Law," he said, referring to the mini-constitution that governs the semi-autonomous territory of Hong Kong after the former British colony was handed back to China in 1997.

Lawmaker Dennis Kwok said that disqualifications would be a "serious departure" from the original spirit of the "one country, two systems" framework under which Hong Kong enjoys freedoms not found in mainland China.

"It seems like those in power cannot tolerate opposition anymore," said Kwok. "They're adamant in getting rid of all opposition in the Legislative Council, and they are adamant in getting rid of all Democrats."

The four legislators who are said to be on the verge of disqualification were barred from seeking reelection earlier this year.

After the legislative election was postponed, the four had decided to stay on as lawmakers for another year. AP



Pro-democracy legislators during a press conference at the LegCo yesterday

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# US Trump faces calls to work with Biden team on transition

WILL WEISSERT,  
WILMINGTON (DEL.)

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump is facing pressure to cooperate with President-elect Joe Biden's team to ensure a smooth transfer of power when the new administration takes office in January.

The General Services Administration is tasked with formally recognizing Biden as president-elect, which begins the transition. But the agency's Trump-appointed administrator, Emily Murphy, has not started the process and has given no guidance on when she will do so.

That lack of clarity is fueling questions about whether Trump, who has not publicly recognized Biden's victory and has falsely claimed the election was stolen, will impede Democrats as they try to establish a government.

There is little precedent in the modern era of a president erecting such hurdles for his successor. The stakes are especially high this year because Biden will take office amid a raging pandemic, which will require a comprehensive government response.

"America's national security and economic interests depend on the federal government signaling clearly and swiftly that the United States government will respect the will of the American people and engage in a smooth and peaceful transfer of power," Jen Psaki, a Biden transition aide, tweeted Sunday.

The advisory board of the nonpartisan Center for Presidential Transition also urged the Trump administration to "immediately begin the post-election transition process and the Biden team to take full advantage of the resources available under the Presidential Transition Act."

Biden, who was elected the 46th president on Saturday, is taking steps to build a government despite questions about whether Trump will offer the traditional assistance.

He is focusing first on the virus, which has already

AP PHOTO



Joe Biden

dy killed nearly 240,000 Americans. Biden will announce details yesterday of a task force that will create a blueprint to attempt to bring the pandemic under control that he plans to begin implementing after assuming the presidency on Jan. 20.

Biden has already named a former surgeon general, Dr. Vivek Murthy, and an ex-Food and Drug Administration commissioner, David Kessler, as co-chairs.

Biden was also launching agency review teams, groups of transition staffers that have access to key agencies in the current administration. They will collect and review information such as budgetary and staffing decisions, pending regulations and other work in progress from current Trump administration staff at the departments to help Biden's team prepare to transition.

But that process can't begin in full until the GSA recognizes Biden as president-elect. The definition of what constitutes a clear election winner for the GSA is legally murky, making next steps unclear, especially in the short term.

The GSA's leadership is supposed to act independently and in a nonpartisan manner, and at least some elements of the federal government already

have begun implementing transition plans. Aviation officials, for instance, have restricted the airspace over Biden's lakefront home in Wilmington, Delaware, while the Secret Service has begun using agents from its presidential protective detail for the president-elect and his family.

There were other signs that some leaders were preparing for a new administration.

Biden aides said the president-elect and transition team had been in touch with Republican lawmakers. Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, one of Trump's closest allies, opened a Cabinet meeting on Sunday by congratulating Biden, a former vice president and longtime senator.

"I have a long and warm personal connection with Joe Biden for nearly 40 years, and I know him as a great friend of the state of Israel," Netanyahu said.

George W. Bush, the only living Republican former president, called Biden "a good man, who has won his opportunity to lead and unify our country."

But other Republicans, including Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, urged Trump to continue pursuing legal challenges related to the election, making a bumpy transition more likely.

Biden started his first full day as president-elect on Sunday by attending church at St. Joseph on the Brandywine near his home in Wilmington, as he does nearly every week. After the service, he visited the church cemetery where several family members have been laid to rest, including his son Beau.

He otherwise spent most of the day inside his home while some of his staff spent hours on a conference call focused on transition planning.

Those plans also may hinge on two Senate races in Georgia that have advanced to a Jan. 5 runoff. If Republicans hold those seats, they'll likely retain the Senate majority and be in a position to slow confirmation of Biden's top Cabinet choices and complicate his legislative goals, including sweeping calls for expanding access to health care and bolstering the post-pandemic economy with green jobs and infrastructure designed to combat climate change.

That could test Biden's campaign pledge to move past the divisiveness of the Trump era and govern in a bipartisan manner.

During his victory speech, he vowed to be a president who "seeks not to divide, but unify" and appealed to Trump supporters to "give each other a chance." AP

## this day in history

### 1980 MICHAEL FOOT IS NEW LABOUR LEADER

The Labour Party has chosen the outspoken left-wing MP Michael Foot as its new leader.

In the second round of voting by party MPs Mr Foot defeated his main rival Denis Healey by 139 votes to 129 - an unexpectedly large margin.

The result has surprised political commentators who had predicted Mr Healey would win.

Mr Healey, who served as chancellor in James Callaghan's government until its defeat last year, had won the first round easily, with 112 votes to Mr Foot's 83.

It is believed MPs switched their vote from Mr Healey because Mr Foot's popularity as an MP, even among his opponents, is considered most likely to unite the party.

Deep divisions between the left and right of the party emerged last month at the party conference.

After the result was announced, Mr Healey commented, "Naturally, I am disappointed."

He has pledged to stand for deputy leader, and is also expected to take the position of shadow spokesman on foreign affairs.

The leadership contest was called after the former Prime Minister James Callaghan announced he was stepping down from the leadership three weeks ago.

Mr Foot's appointment has dismayed many on the right of the party.

Three of Labour's most prominent figures - former government ministers David Owen, William Rogers and Shirley Williams - have already said they cannot remain in a party that championed Mr Foot's main policies.

However, Mr Foot, at 67 the father-figure of the Labour left, declared in his acceptance speech that he would not compromise his left-leaning views.

He told journalists, "I am as strong in my socialist convictions as I have ever been."

He said he considered the two most important issues facing him to be nuclear disarmament and unemployment.

Mr Foot plans to lead the protest march against high unemployment planned for 29 November on Merseyside.

He also challenged the Conservative leader and Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, to hold an election as soon as possible.

A former journalist, Mr Foot served as employment secretary and leader of the House of Commons until Labour lost the election last year.

He is highly popular on all political sides in Westminster, and is known for his intellect and his witty speaking style.

He has run for the leadership before, losing in 1975 to Mr Callaghan, who went on to become prime minister.



Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The election of Michael Foot was one of the main factors leading to the start of three-party politics in Britain. The following year, senior Labour figure Roy Jenkins joined the "Gang of Three" to defect from the party, forming the centre-left Social Democratic Party. The party merged with the Liberal Party in 1988. It is now known as the Liberal Democrats and is the third-largest party in British politics after Labour and the Conservatives. The split in the party as well as the Falklands War in 1982 and an ill-judged manifesto contributed to a heavy defeat for Labour in the general election of 1983. Labour's share of the vote was just 27.6%, the lowest since 1918, and Michael Foot resigned the leadership. He served the new Labour leader, Neil Kinnock, until 1992, and then retired from parliament. The Labour Party remained in the political wilderness until Tony Blair took over the leadership and won the 1997 general election, ending 18 years of Conservative rule. Michael Foot has written a number of highly-acclaimed books, including a two-volume biography of his political guru, prominent Labour left-winger Aneurin Bevan. He celebrated his 90th birthday in 2003, and remains politically outspoken.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 Your first urge might be to try and cheer them up, but you should resist it. Not only is trying to affect the mood of other people a total waste of your time, but it's really none of your business.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 Do you think that if you spend your energy trying to make other people happy that you'll end up making yourself happy? That kind of logic won't work today.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 It's going to take a lot of patience to deal with a friend who seems hell-bent on spoiling your fun today. Whether they're miserly, irritable, or just plain grumpy, you don't have to encourage it.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 Old things can be new and exciting for you right now. An old flame could come back on the scene and shake up your world. An old photo might stir up some strange new feelings.

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 You've been putting the needs and wishes of other people above your own for too long, so try to work harder to find balance. You deserve to think of yourself first once in a while.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 It's time for you to take your turn organizing some sort of outing. It doesn't have to be major, and it doesn't have to involve lots of people. Maybe it's just a get-together with someone you haven't seen in a long time.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 This unsolicited help comes with good intentions, so try to keep from rolling your eyes when you receive it. Be polite and keep an open mind. There could be one or two gems in there.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 Getting comfortable with having less control over where your life is going right now is easier than you think. All you need to do is open your heart and let someone else make the decisions for a while.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 Temptation could be strong now, so the best way to avoid spending too much, eating too much, or doing something else you'll regret later is to keep busy.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 You'll get the greatest amount of satisfaction from encountering unfamiliar topics today. You need novelty in the ideas you process to feel like you're making progress.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 Trying to solve this issue over texts is only going to make the problem worse. You can't move on to more good times unless you put an end to arguments and tension. Honesty is the fastest, smartest route to take, too.

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 Even though you love them all dearly, your friends are just not in sync with you right now. They've got their own agendas and projects and might not have time for you.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	2	16	clear
Harbin	-9	4	cloudy
Tianjin	7	18	clear
Urumqi	0	8	clear
Xi'an	6	19	clear
Lhasa	2	14	cloudy
Chengdu	15	21	cloudy
Chongqing	12	23	clear
Kunming	10	19	clear
Nanjing	8	19	clear
Shanghai	12	19	clear
Wuhan	8	22	clear
Hangzhou	10	20	clear
Taipei	19	22	drizzle
Guangzhou	18	27	clear
Hong Kong	22	26	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	2	4	sleet
Frankfurt	10	14	drizzle
Paris	10	13	drizzle
London	11	14	drizzle
New York	14	19	drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS 1-** Decree; 6- The ones here; 11- Hasten; 14- Madagascar monkey; 15- Try to pick up; 16- Long, long time; 17- Above; 18- Pachyderms; 20- Alien's subj.; 21- Rejection power; 23- Chilean pianist Claudio; 24- Musical drama; 26- Succinct; 28- Steal livestock; 30- Ides month; 31- Rap sheet info; 32- Donnybrook; 33- Indian dish; 36- Greek island in the Aegean; 37- Simultaneous firing of artillery; 38- Horse's gait; 39- Poetic time; 40- Black tea; 41- Tendency; 42- Actress Barkin; 43- Hesitates; 44- Edible seed parts; 47- Shades; 48- Negatively charged particle; 49- Sheepish look; 50- Highest mountain in Crete; 53- Fax; 56- Bellybutton type; 58- U of U athlete; 59- Nasal cavity; 60- Chad neighbor; 61- Always, poetically; 62- Emcees; 63- Bombastic;

**DOWN:** 1- Different; 2- \_\_\_ ex machina; 3- Violent collapse; 4- Junkyard dog; 5- Makes journeys; 6- Iota preceder; 7- Hawaiian city; 8- Hot time in Paris; 9- Dip in liquid; 10- Improve; 11- Painter Rousseau; 12- Little bits; 13- Result; 19- Foot part; 22- Able was I \_\_\_ I saw Elba; 25- School orgs.; 26- Have a cow?; 27- Nabisco cookie; 28- Leaf tool; 29- Peter Fonda title role; 30- Breakfast fruit; 32- Creates; 33- Bandages; 34- Outstanding; 35- Old Fords; 37- Offer; 38- Factual; 40- Fill up; 41- Converting to leather; 42- Seth begat him; 43- Hawaiian food; 44- River in Zambia; 45- Related on the mother's side; 46- Kitchen gadget; 47- Head lock; 49- Oversupply; 51- \_\_\_ Irae; 52- Ethereal; 54- O Sole \_\_\_; 55- Officeholders; 57- Peeples or Long;



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- 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
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GIANT PHARMA

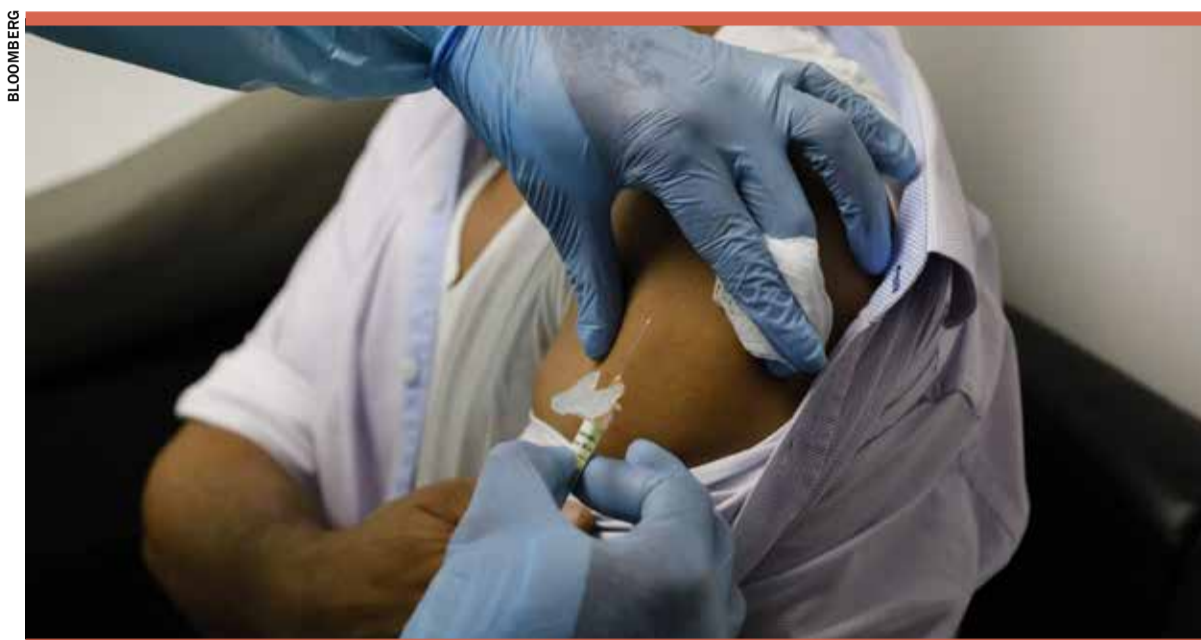
# PFIZER'S COVID VACCINE PREVENTS 90% OF INFECTIONS IN STUDY

**T**HE Covid-19 vaccine being developed by Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE prevented more than 90% of infections in a study of tens of thousands of volunteers, the most encouraging scientific advance so far in the battle against the coronavirus.

Eight months into the worst pandemic in a century, the preliminary results pave the way for the companies to seek an emergency-use authorization from regulators if further research shows the shot is also safe.

Pfizer shares extended gains in premarket trading, rising about 15%, with BioNTech American depositary receipts up about 22%. The news added more than \$500 billion to the value of the MSCI All Country World Index.

The findings are based on an interim analysis conducted after 94 participants, split between those who got a placebo and those who were vaccinated, contracted Covid-19. The trial will continue until 164 cases have occurred. If the data hold up and a key safety readout Pfizer expects in about a week also looks good, it could mean that the world has a vital



new tool to control a pandemic that has killed more than 1.2 million people worldwide.

"This is about the best the news could possibly be for the world and for the United States and for public health," said William Gruber, Pfizer senior vice president for vaccine clinical research and development. It was better than even the best result he had hoped for, he said.

With effectiveness for the first vaccines previously expected to be in the range of 60% to 70%, "more than 90% is extraordinary," BioNTech Chief Executive Officer Ugur Sahin said.

"It shows that Covid-19 can be controlled," Sahin said in an interview. "At the end of the day, it's really a victory of science."

The data do have limits. For now, few details on the vaccine's

efficacy are available.

However, the strong reading from the first large-scale trial to post efficacy results bodes well for other experimental vaccines, in particular one being developed by Moderna Inc. that uses similar technology. Its big trial could generate efficacy and safety results in weeks. If that study succeeds as well, there could be two vaccines available in the U.S.

by around year-end.

Pfizer expects to get two months of safety follow-up data, a key metric required by U.S. regulators before an emergency authorization is granted, in the third week in November. If those findings raise no problems, Pfizer could apply for an authorization in the U.S. this month. A rolling review began in Europe last month, and Sahin said regulators there are working with BioNTech to "further accelerate the process."

So far, the trial's data monitoring committee has identified no serious safety concerns, Pfizer and BioNTech said.

The positive preliminary data mean the U.S. pharma giant and its German partner are on track to be first with a vaccine, after signing advance deals with governments worldwide for hundreds of thousands of doses. The companies have said they should be able to produce 1.3 billion doses - enough to vaccinate 650 million people - by the end of 2021. Only 50 million doses are expected to be available in 2020.

The shot relies on messenger RNA technology never before used in an approved medicine. Using mRNA, which essentially teaches the body's cells to become vaccine factories, allowed it to be developed much faster than a traditional vaccine.

MDT/BLOOMBERG

AD

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

AP PHOTO



Leicester's Jamie Vardy scores his side's opening goal

FOOTBALL

# Leicester ends on top after weekend of changing EPL leaders

ROB HARRIS, MANCHESTER

LEICESTER 1, WOLVES 0

**W**ITH a trio of unfamiliar leaders, what lightheartedly became "Stop The Count" weekend in the Premier League ended with Leicester on top.

Teams and disbelieving fans

were riffing off President Donald Trump's post-election demand — starting Friday when Southampton climbed to the summit of English football for the first time in 32 years. The club tweeted "STOP THE COUNT" above a snapshot of the league table.

Of course, with only eight of 38 games played, the league couldn't stop Friday night, however much the south-coast club joked it wan-

ted it to after beating Newcastle.

Earlier, Tottenham had dislodged Southampton after Harry Kane's late goal clinched a 1-0 win at West Bromwich Albion. But Tottenham rising to top spot for the first time in six years lasted only a couple of hours.

Leicester rose into first place with a 1-0 victory over Wolverhampton secured by Jamie Vardy's penalty.

"It's been an incredible start," said Brendan Rodgers, whose Leicester side narrowly missed out on a top-four finish last season. "We've seen that in this early part of the season, how the players are developing when they're under pressure. And then obviously today, on the back of all the games we've had ... to show that mentality and desire to not concede was so pleasing as a manager."

The improbable 2016 Premier League title winners retained the lead heading into the two-week international break thanks to champion Liverpool being held 1-1 by Manchester City. Mohamed Salah's 13th-minute penalty for Liverpool was canceled out by Gabriel Jesus before Kevin De Bruyne missed a chance to win it for City from a spotkick.

Leading the standings used to be something Arsenal was accustomed to, but Aston Villa's 3-0 victory meant the 13-time English champions have lost half of their eight games so far. And while Villa is three points behind Leicester, the central England team has a game in hand on all the teams in the top five.

The season, which started a month late due to the pandemic, is throwing up a series of unpredictable results in a congested schedule that is stretching squads.

It left Ole Gunnar Solskjær complaining about why — despite winning — his 14th place-Manchester United side had to play at Everton on Saturday lunchtime after a Champions League game in Turkey on Wednesday night.

Solskjær received backing in his grumbling about the league organizers from his managerial counterparts at Liverpool and City. Both Jürgen Klopp and Pep Guardiola are demanding another vote — by Premier League clubs to allow five substitutions.

"We have to find solutions because it is so tough," Klopp said.

Two additional changes were permitted after the restart of last season in June following the 100-day coronavirus shutdown but the leading clubs were outvoted in their push to retain the measure.

"It is so demanding for the players," Guardiola said. "I don't understand how the Premier League or the people who is in charge decide this kind of things." AP

## Rugby Australia signs three-year broadcasting deal with Nine

**R**UGBY Australia is set to end a 25-year partnership with Foxtel after negotiating a three-year broadcasting deal worth 100 million Australian dollars (\$73 million) with Nine Entertainment Co. that will include Super Rugby games shown on free-to-air television for the first time.

Nine will show one Super Rugby AU match live each Saturday night and Rugby Championship tests on its free-to-air network in Australia. Those and other games, including women's Super Rugby and

international matches and from domestic club competitions based in Brisbane and Sydney, will be broadcast on Nine's subscription streaming service, Stan.

Rugby Australia said the new deal was subject to approval from the SANZAAR unions, which also include New Zealand, South Africa and Argentina.

"This is a landmark deal that ... gives more Australians more access to more rugby than ever before," Rugby Australia interim chief executive Rob Clarke said in a statement Monday. "Australian Rugby is

transforming with an exciting future ahead, and this innovative partnership enables us to fast-track that growth from the grassroots up."

Pay TV operator Foxtel has had the Australian rights to Super Rugby since 1996, at the beginning of the sport's professional era.

"We're particularly pleased for Super Rugby to be live on free-to-air for the first time in its history," Clarke said. "We've recognized that the broadcast landscape has changed, and we're changing with it." AP

AP PHOTO



Australia's Harry Wilson gestures to the crowd following the Bledisloe rugby test between Australia and New Zealand



OPINION

Our Desk

Lynzy Valles



SOCIAL DISTANCING AMID MEGA EVENTS

Following the series of measures the Health Bureau has had in place since early this year to deter the spread of Covid-19, Macau residents have been heeding the call, attributing importance to the measures.

One of those is the wearing of face masks. We have been wearing masks everywhere we go since February, a few weeks, maybe even a few months ahead of other regions.

The compliance of the public with this call is incredible. On top of this, several companies have asked their employees to work from home, thus increasing the number of virtual meetings, to avoid contact with people.

With the SAR on high alert since the outbreak of the pandemic in China, all companies, particularly gaming operators, have heightened their preemptive measures to ensure public health is protected.

And with several restrictions in place, after just a few days of deliberation by health authorities, Macau's borders closed.

Many have applauded the administration of the Chief Executive for being swift to put restrictions in place – even shutting casinos for 15 days.

Several months later, despite calls to avoid large gatherings and to wear masks in public places, the public appears to be finding it more challenging to comply as Macau is now hosting a series of events that involve large crowds.

Aside from the expos and exhibitions recently held, at which masks, and health code and body temperature checks have been required, the public has been keen on attending large-scale events recently.

One of them was the Caritas Macau Charity Bazaar. The charity event attracted such a large crowd that the organizers even noted that participant numbers were similar to last year.

Signs encouraging social distancing were in place, yet no one followed them – simply because following this instruction is impossible at such events.

Recently, the health authority even condemned a “large shopping mall,” for organizing a large promotional event, which attracted a substantial number of people.

It then called on organizers and participants at various venues and institutions across Macau to “continue to adhere to various prevention and control measures.”

We are certainly going to see the same situation during the upcoming Food Festival, which is slated to kick off this weekend.

I mean, combining a mask, social distancing and food? It is quite impossible to adhere to the health authorities' call.

We all know that attending these events does not come with a significant risk of infection with the virus since Macau has not had Covid-19 cases for some four months now, and has therefore been deemed as a safe city.

And to be frank, there is nowhere a resident would wish to be other than here in Macau.

Aside from having zero cases, one would be happy to be able to socialize in the streets and attend mass gatherings, not to mention the government's relief measures for residents.

As a result, amid all the mega events taking place, which are expected to be attended by large crowds since there are no other places to go anyway, I still find that residents are being very responsible and mindful of how other people are still conscious of being infected with the virus.

People everywhere are still wearing masks – except for some of those that walk the streets at the wee hours.

And while social distancing will be quite impossible at events such as the Food Festival, I'm sure no one fears attending events such as this. I mean how different is this to riding a bus to Hac Sa or to Leal Senado on a weekend – or even on an everyday basis?

SHANGHAI FINDS A LOCAL COVID CASE AFTER MONTHS OF NO INFECTIONS

THE BUZZ

Shanghai's city government said it has found a single domestic case of Covid-19 after months of zero local infections.

The confirmed case, a 51-year-old man, works as a porter at Shanghai Pudong International Airport, Li Guohua, deputy minister of Pudong New District, said at a briefing yesterday. All 26 close contacts have been put under quarantine, among whom 23 have tested negative while the other three are awaiting their results, according to Li.

While China has largely contained the virus, Shanghai has never-

theless reported a steady stream of cases imported from abroad as the virus has continued to spread around the world. The financial hub was among the first in China to resume international flights.

Wu Jinglei, director of the local health commission, said at the briefing that the new infection isn't related to the city's ongoing international trade fair, a signature project of President Xi Jinping. The event, which began last week and runs until today, has seen numerous overseas travelers descend on the city.

Virus controls at the trade fair are in order, Wu said.

BEIJING NOODLE RESTAURANT REMEMBERS BIDEN'S 2011 VISIT

AP PHOTO



A man carries his foods past photos of Joe Biden on display at a restaurant where he visited in 2011 as U.S. vice president, in Beijing

THE Yaoji Chaogan noodle restaurant beneath Beijing's 600-year-old Drum Tower knows Joe Biden.

Management has hung up photos of the U.S. president-elect from when, as vice president, he stopped by for a bowl of noodles and dumplings in 2011.

“We are very happy that Biden was elected,” manager Yao Yan said. “We have already met each other, and we can say that we are old friends.”

Biden was visiting Beijing with his granddaughter

Naomi. They were being shown around by then-American Ambassador Gary Locke.

In what Chinese newspapers dubbed “noodle diplomacy,” Biden ate at a low table before giving on-lookers a thumbs-up and a smile.

“Biden was very friendly with Chinese customers,” said Yao.

“After that, everyone applauded for Biden. There was the feeling of the joy of laughter, and a cheerful mood,” Yao said. “Biden is

a very humorous and kind person.”

Customer Lan Ziyi expressed surprise Biden sat at the same tables. Lan took it as a promising sign for relations between China and the U.S. that have sunk to their lowest level in decades.

Yao said Biden is welcome to return.

“We can talk about our old days and friendship while he tastes our snacks and hope that our friendship will last longer,” Yao said. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Ahmed Goma



A skydiver flies over the Great Pyramids during an air sport festival in Giza, Egypt. Parachutes dotted the sky over the Great Pyramids near Cairo, capital of Egypt, as dozens of world-class skydivers participated in the third edition of the country's air sport festival.

**Austria** Investigators in several regions carried out raids yesterday on people and organizations suspected of supporting the Muslim Brotherhood and Hamas groups, prosecutors said. Authorities said there was no link between the action against suspected Islamic radicals and the attack in Vienna a week ago in which an assailant described as a supporter of the Islamic State group fatally shot four people before being shot and killed by police.

AP PHOTO



**Estonia's** far-right interior minister, Mart Helme, resigned yesterday, a day after he called President-elect Joe Biden and his son Hunter “corrupt characters” without providing further details or evidence.

**UK** The British government has banned freight drivers who have traveled through Denmark over the past 14 days and aren't residents of the U.K. from entering England, as it tightened travel restrictions from a country witnessing widespread coronavirus outbreaks at mink farms. Under the new rules, passenger planes and ships traveling from Denmark, and carrying accompanying freight, also won't be allowed to dock.

AP PHOTO



**Portugal** has entered a state of emergency, with curfews imposed in the areas worst hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. From yesterday and for at least two weeks, some 7 million people – around 70% of the country's population – must remain at home on weekdays between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.. At weekends, they cannot leave home after 1 p.m.

**Brazil** Tens of thousands of people remained without power for a sixth day in northern Brazil, prompting growing nervousness. Police reported increasing incidents of burning tires and even cars. The blackout occurred after a fire damaged a transformer last week, leaving 90% of the population of Amapa – about 765,000 people – in the dark.