

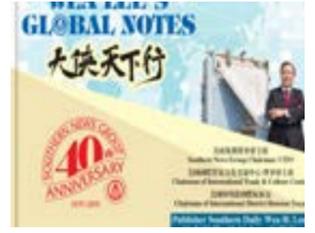


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Mr. Lee's Commentary and Dairy



Inside C2

Southern DAILY

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Massive blast rips through Beirut, killing 50 and injuring thousands



A man is evacuated at the site of an explosion in Beirut, Lebanon August 4, 2020. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir

President Michel Aoun called for an emergency meeting of the Supreme Defence Council. Prime Minister Diab called for a day of mourning on Wednesday.

TANGLED WRECKAGE

The explosion occurred three days before a U.N.-backed court is due to deliver a verdict in the trial of four suspects from the Shi'ite group Hezbollah over a 2005 bombing which killed former Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri and 21 others. Hariri was killed by a huge truck bomb on the same waterfront, about 2 km (about one mile) from the port. Internal Security Chief Abbas Ibrahim, touring the port area, said he would not pre-empt investigations.

Israeli officials said Israel had nothing to do with the blast and said their country was ready to give humanitarian and medical assistance to Lebanon. Shi'ite Muslim Iran, the main backer of Hezbollah, also offered support, as did Tehran's regional rival Saudi Arabia, a leading Sunni Muslim power. Western countries including the United States, Britain and France also said they were ready to assist. Images showed port buildings reduced to tangled masonry, devastating the main entry point to a country that relies on food imports to feed its population of more than 6 million.

It threatens a new humanitarian crisis in a nation that hosts hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees and which is already grappling with economic meltdown under one of the world's biggest debt burdens.

Residents said glass was broken in neighborhoods on Beirut's Mediterranean coast to suburbs several kms (miles) away. In Cyprus, a Mediterranean island 110 miles (180 km) across the sea from Beirut, residents heard the blast. One resident in Nicosia said his house and window shutters shook.

BEIRUT (Reuters) - A huge explosion in port warehouses near central Beirut killed more than 50 people, injured over 2,750 and sent shockwaves that shattered windows, smashed masonry and shook the ground across the Lebanese capital.

Officials expected the death toll to rise further after Tuesday's blast as emergency workers dug through rubble to rescue people and remove the dead. It was the most powerful explosion to hit Beirut in years.

Lebanon's interior minister said initial information indicated highly explosive material, seized years ago, that had been stored at the port had blown up. Israel, which has fought several wars with Lebanon, denied any role and offered help.

RELATED COVERAGE

Death toll in Beirut blast rises to more than 50, says Lebanese health minister

Trump security adviser warns against foreign military involvement in Libya

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"What we are witnessing is a huge catastrophe," the head of Lebanon's Red Cross George Kettani told broadcaster Mayadeen. "There are victims and casualties everywhere." Hours after the blast, which struck shortly after 6 p.m. (1500 GMT), a fire still blazed in the port district, casting an orange glow across the night sky as helicopters hovered and ambulance sirens sounded across the capital.

A security source said victims were taken for treatment outside the city because Beirut hospitals were packed with wounded. Red Cross ambulances from the north and south

of the country and the eastern Bekaa valley were called in to help. The blast was so big that some residents in the city, where memories of heavy shelling during the 1975 to 1990 civil war live on, thought an earthquake had struck. Dazed, weeping and wounded people walked through streets searching for relatives.

"I promise you that this catastrophe will not pass without accountability," Prime Minister Hassan Diab told the nation.

"Those responsible will pay the price," he said in his televised address, adding that details about the "dangerous warehouse" would be made public.

The interior minister told Al Jadeed TV that ammonium nitrate had been stored at the port since 2014.

A man is evacuated at the site of an explosion in Beirut, Lebanon August 4, 2020. REUTERS/Mohamed Azakir

Graphic: Blast rocks Lebanese port area here

SMOKE AND FIREBALL

Footage of the explosion shared by residents on social media showed a column of smoke rising from the port followed by an enormous blast, sending a white cloud and fireball into the sky. Those filming the incident from high buildings 2 km (one mile) from the port were thrown backwards by the shock.

It was not immediately clear what caused the initial blaze on Tuesday that set off the blast.

Lebanon's health minister said more than 50 people had been killed and more than 2,750 injured. Lebanon's Red Cross said hundreds of people had been taken to hospitals.

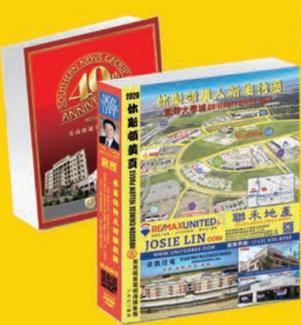
The governor of Beirut port told Sky News that a team of firefighters, who were battling the initial blaze, had "disappeared" after the explosion.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

08/04/2020

CORONAVIRUS DIARY

TV Media Star Rest In Peace

Anthony Yuen, a leading Chinese-American TV media star, has passed away in Taichung, Taiwan. He was a media icon for almost one-half century, both in print and television. Because of his professional position, he interviewed many VIPs and political icons all over the world. Through the TV screen his show was televised around the globe.

I met him in Los Angeles many years ago. We both graduated from the same university, Taiwan Chengchi University. When we started in the newspaper business, I went to LA many times to find more knowledge about the business. In the early 80's there was a group of people that had organized a daily newspaper and had purchased many typesetting machines. All of these investors were so excited on that day. I met one of the local senior news editors then, Mr. J. C. Liu and toured their office.

Mr. Liu hosted a dinner and welcomed me and among the head guests was Anthony Yuen. Since we all had graduated from the same university, he

told me all his stories about the media business. He looked very intelligent and was a good talker. Actually, he was one of the top news editors in the Chinese news media circles at that time. At that dinner table Mr. Liu strongly advised me that if I wanted to get into the newspaper business, my first priority should be to get a printing machine. Just like when you open a restaurant, you must have a kitchen. I took his advice to heart ever since that day. Otherwise, we don't think we could have ever continued our media business until today.

In his later days, Anthony Yuen went to Taiwan and Hong Kong and became a very famous TV talk show host and interviewed many world leaders.

Both Mr. Liu and Mr. Yuen passed away recently. The Asian news media in the United States is still in its peak time and



both men contributed to this success. We really give so much credit to these media pioneers who devoted their

lifetimes to the news. Their contributions to society will always be remembered.



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BUSINESS

Wear Mask!

Coronavirus Dashboard 08/05/20



Illustration: Underscore Technologies

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

- Global:** Total confirmed cases as of 2 p.m. ET: 18,147,574 — Total deaths: 690,573 — Total recoveries — 10,753,815 .
- U.S.:** Total confirmed cases as of 2 p.m. ET: 4,687,828 — Total deaths: 155,062 — Total recoveries: 1,468,689 — Total tests: 56,812,162 .
- Politics:** White House will require staff to undergo randomized coronavirus testing — Pelosi says Birx “enabled” Trump on misinformation.
- Business:** Virtual school is another setback for retail — The pandemic hasn't hampered health care.
- Public health:** Former FDA chief says MLB outbreaks should be warning sign for schools.

ect; Note: Does not include probable deaths from New York City; Map: Andrew Witherspoon/Axios
The U.S. had more than 25,000 coronavirus-related deaths in July, as cases spiked 70% from the previous month. The grim milestone caused the country's death toll to surpass 150,000. **What to watch:** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention projects U.S. coronavirus death toll could top 180,000 by Aug. 22, according to a memo obtained by Yahoo News.

World Coronavirus Updates: Global Cases Top 18 Million

Confirmed cases of COVID-19



Data: The Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins; **Map:** Axios Visuals

The number of novel coronavirus cases surged past 18 million globally on Sunday night, Johns Hopkins data shows.

By the numbers: More than 688,300 people have died from COVID-19 worldwide. Over 10.6 million have recovered.

- Brazil has the world's second-highest number of deaths from COVID-19 (over 94,100) and infections (more than 2.7 million) after the U.S., which has reported more than 154,800 deaths and almost 4.7 million cases.
- Mexico on Saturday surpassed the United Kingdom to become the nation with the third-most coronavirus deaths. Mexico reported 47,472 deaths in total, while the U.K. had confirmed 46,278.

What's happening: A day after declaring a disaster and a nightly curfew for Melbourne, Victoria's premier announced Monday most retailers in the city must shut for six weeks, as cases surge in Australia's second-most populous state. Victoria reported Monday 429 new cases and 13 deaths from COVID-19 — equaling the state and national death toll record set last month.

World

- **Philippines** President Rodrigo Duterte announced early Monday plans to tighten coronavirus restrictions in and around the capital Manila following a spike in cases, per Reuters.
- **Kosovo's** Prime Minister Avdullah Hoti announced late Sunday that he's in isolation and will work from home for two weeks after testing positive for COVID-19.
- **Around the world,** the major Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha was observed by thousands over the weekend — although the coronavirus pandemic has thwarted traditional celebrations.
- **In Europe,** a sudden surge in new cases in some parts is jeopardizing the continent's progress in containing the virus, as authorities say young people are going to bars and ignoring social-distancing rules.



• **India's** COVID-19 case numbers surged past 1.7 million on Sunday, as the Ministry of Health reported 54,730 new infections.

• **In parts of Africa,** a stigma surrounding the virus is leading people to avoid testing, hindering the continent's ability to control the pandemic.

• **In Australia,** Victoria's premier declared a disaster Sunday and imposed fresh lockdown measures — including a nightly curfew for the city of Melbourne — as coronavirus cases continued to surge in Australia's second-most populous state.

• **In Germany,** police said Saturday night at least 18 officers were injured while trying to disperse a large crowd protesting the country's coronavirus lockdown measures in Berlin.

• **Japan** is recording many more cases now than during its first wave in March and April, Axios' Dave Lawler reports.

Between the lines: Policy responses to the crisis have been every-country-for-itself and — in the case of the U.S. and China — tinged with geopolitical rivalry. But the scientific work to understand the virus and develop a vaccine has been globalized on an unprecedented scale.

Coronavirus symptoms include: Fever, cough, shortness of breath, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat and a loss of taste or smell. (Courtesy axios.com)



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Editor's Choice



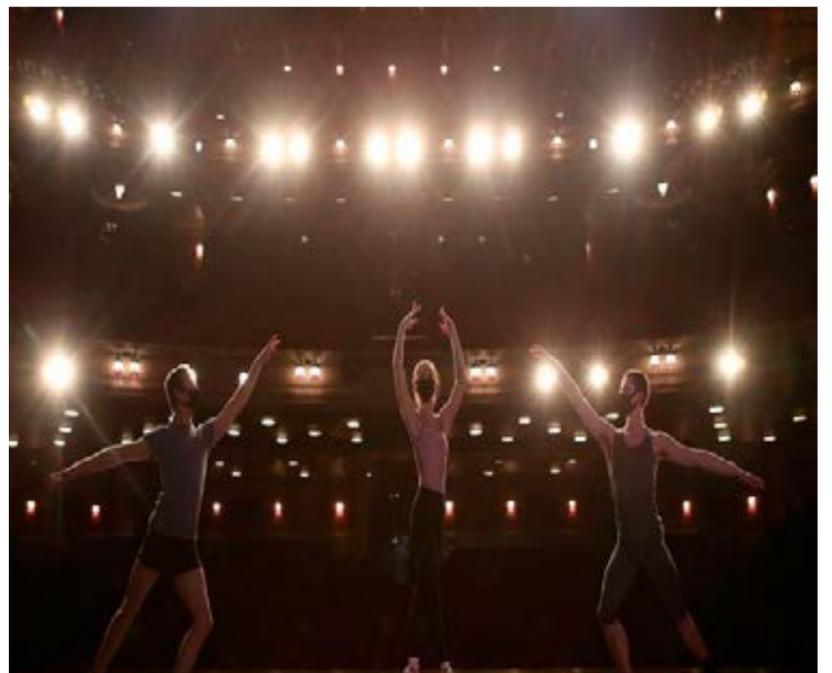
A full moon rises behind the Temple of Poseidon in Cape Sounion, near Athens, Greece, August 3, 2020. REUTERS/Costas Baltas



Russian marines disembark from a Kamov Ka-27PS military helicopter during the Ocean Shield 2020 naval exercise at the Khmelevka firing ground on the Baltic Sea coast in Kaliningrad Region, Russia August 3. REUTERS/Vitaly Nevar



Afghan security forces take a position on a building where the attackers were hiding after an attack on a jail compound in Jalalabad, Afghanistan August 3. REUTERS/Parwiz



Scottish ballet dancers Sophie Martin, Barnaby Rook Bishop and Thomas Edwards perform at the Edinburgh Festival theatre after the Edinburgh International Festival has been cancelled and turned into a digital event due to the coronavirus,



Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte poses on the new Genoa bridge ahead of its official inauguration, after it was rebuilt following its collapse on August 14, 2018 which killed 43 people, in Genoa, Italy, August 3. REUTERS/Flavio Lo Scalzo



Victoria Acarapi holds a figure of the coronavirus and a llama fetus as part of an offering during the Pachamama (Mother Earth) month at the witches market in La Paz, Bolivia August 1. REUTERS/David Mercado



A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) worker speaks to rescued migrants upon their disembarkment from an Armed Forces of Malta vessel in Senglea, in Valletta's Grand Harbour in Malta August 3. REUTERS/Darrin Zammit Lupi



People enjoy themselves along the shore of the Mediterranean Sea during the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha in Tel Aviv, Israel August 3. REUTERS/Amir Cohen

U.S. Economy Drops 32.9% In Worst GDP Report Ever



A movie theater is seen closed due to the coronavirus pandemic on July 2, 2020, in Brea, Calif. The U.S. economy shrank at a record 32.9% rate in the second quarter as the pandemic cost tens of millions of jobs. Jae C. Hong/AP

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

The coronavirus pandemic triggered the sharpest economic contraction in modern American history, the Commerce Department reported Thursday.

Gross domestic product — the broadest measure of economic activity — shrank at an annual rate of 32.9% in the second quarter as restaurants and retailers closed their doors in a desperate effort to slow the spread of the virus, which has killed more than 150,000 people in the U.S.

The economic shock in April, May and June was more than three times as sharp as the previous record — 10% in 1958 — and nearly four times the worst quarter during the Great Recession.

“Horrific,” said Nariman Behraves, chief economist at IHS Markit. “We’ve never seen anything quite like it.”

Another 1.43 million people filed for state unemployment last week, an increase of 12,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. It was the second week in a row of increased unemployment filings and shows that the economic picture continues to remain grim.

GDP swings are typically reported at an annual rate — as if they were to continue for a full year — which can be misleading in a volatile period like this. The overall economy in the second quarter was 9.5% smaller than during the same period a year ago. After a sharp drop in March and April, economic activity began to rebound in May and June, although that recovery remains halting and could be jeopardized by a new surge of infections.



“As soon as the virus started to take off again in key states like Texas, California,

Arizona, Florida, it’s fading very rapidly,” Behraves said.

Restaurant owner Cameron Mitchell likens the pandemic to a hurricane. What appeared to be a business rebound in June turned out to be merely the eye of the storm, and he’s now being buffeted by gale-force winds again. “Our associates are more scared to work today and guests are more afraid to go out, so sales have dropped,” Mitchell said.



Cameron Mitchell operates more than 50 restaurants in 13 states. He says business was rebounding in June but has dropped again with the surge in new coronavirus infections. (Photo/Cameron Mitchell Restaurants)

Business at his restaurants in Florida had nearly recovered to pre-pandemic levels in June but has since fallen sharply. Other industries have enjoyed a more durable recovery, though few are back to where they were in February.

Dentists’ offices are ordinarily one of the more stable parts of the economy, but they closed for all but emergency services during much of the spring. Dental hygienist Alexis Bailey was out of work for 10 weeks before her office in Lansing, Mich., reopened at the end of May. At first, she was reluctant to go back to work while the virus was still circulating.

“I was terrified,” Bailey said. “I was not happy to be back. But I have a job to do and I like to do it and I want to help people. We talk about how essential we are, so that’s what we’ve had to do.”



Dental hygienist Alexis Bailey was initially

nervous about returning to work but says she quickly grew comfortable with the new protective measures, including a face shield (not shown). Christina Dauka, MSDH

Within an hour of returning to work, Bailey said, she began to feel comfortable, particularly with the additional protective gear and other safety precautions her office has adopted.

“I tell my patients all the time I wouldn’t be here if I didn’t feel safe,” she said. Nationwide, dental offices added more than a quarter-million jobs in May and another 190,000 in June. And there has been no shortage of patients. She thought no one would want to come. “But we’re booked,” Bailey said. “People miss getting their teeth cleaned. They want to catch up. Every time they come in, they say, ‘This has been nice to get out of the house and feel safe and talk to somebody.’”

Factory production has also begun to rebound, along with construction. But airlines and amusement parks are still struggling. “It’s very much a sort of two-tiered economy right now,” Behraves said.

The unemployment rate approached 15% in April, and in June it was still higher — at 11.1% — more than during any previous postwar recession.



Another Bankruptcy At The Mall: Parent Company Of Ann Taylor, Loft Is Latest To Fail

While the drop in GDP was largely driven by a decline in consumer spending, the economic fallout was cushioned somewhat by an unprecedented level of federal relief. Wages and salaries fell sharply in April, but that was more than offset by the \$1,200

relief payments that the government sent to most adults and by supplemental unemployment benefits of \$600 per week. Those government payments helped prevent an even steeper drop in consumer spending — the lifeblood of the U.S. economy — and allowed struggling families to buy groceries and pay rent. Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell said Wednesday that the money “has been well spent. It has kept people in their homes. It has kept businesses in business. So that’s all a good thing.” Those extra unemployment benefits are expiring this week, though. With coronavirus infections still threatening the recovery, additional federal support is likely to be necessary.



“Tsunami” Of Evictions Feared As Extra \$600 Unemployment Payments End

“Until we get the virus under control, we’re going to need more help,” Behraves said. “Our view is that we’re not going to get to the pre-pandemic levels of economic activity until some time in 2022.”

Restaurant owner Mitchell says his business lost \$700,000 in June alone. He predicts a wave of restaurant bankruptcies unless the federal government provides more relief. “No one is looking for a handout here,” he said. “We’re looking to survive.”

He’s watching news of vaccine trials closely in hopes that eventually diners will feel comfortable eating out again in large numbers.

“I don’t think it’s the next couple of weeks,” he said. “But I tell our team, ‘Every day that goes by, it’s one day closer to the end of this thing.’” (Courtesy https://www.npr.org/)

休市新聞 Daily News

特朗普表示 微軟應向財政部支付“關鍵款項”可促進TikTok交易

【美南新聞記者泉深報道】美國總統唐納德·特朗普週一（8月3日）表示，如果微軟整體購買中國擁有的TikTok，而不是社交視頻應用程序的一小部分，可能會更容易，因為該名稱將分為兩家公司，並建議該公司支付美國財政部作為交易的一部分。

特朗普週一在白宮內閣廳對記者說：“我認為購買30%的股份很複雜，我建議他可以繼續嘗試。”他指的是周末與微軟首席執行官薩蒂亞·納德拉（Satya Nadella）的談話。微軟在聲明中證實已經考慮在美國、加拿大、澳大利亞和新西蘭購買TikTok的第二天，發表上述評論。

更大的交易可能不只是解決美國政府對中國控制該應用程序的擔憂，因為在該應用程序中，數億人共享的附帶音樂的短視頻。

總統設想的這種交易也可能比微軟週日描述的交易更為昂貴。特朗普週一表示，購買TikTok所支付的部分款項將必須交給美國財政部，因為這將使這筆交易成為可能。

特朗普說：“這有點像房東/房客，沒有租約，房客一無所有，所以他們付了所謂的鑰匙錢，或者他們付租金。”“但是應該給美國支付大量的錢，因為沒有美國，他們就沒有任何東西，至少要交易的這30%。”

迄今為止，微軟最大的一筆收購是2016年以270億美元收購了商務社交網絡LinkedIn。據路透社上週報道，擁有TikTok的中國私有公司字節跳動（ByteDance）的投資者對TikTok的估值為500億美元。

我們相信，從管理層和董事會的角度來看，這是十年難得的交易機會，其標價很容易實現。由丹·艾夫斯（Dan Ives）領導的Wedbush公司分析師對微軟股票買入進行評級，週一分發給了客戶。根據微軟最新季度財報，截至6月30日，微軟擁有1365.3億美元的現金，實物和6月30日前的短期投資。

微軟股價在周一交易時段上漲了5.6%，總體上對科技股有利。

