



Taiwan's economy likely to grow by 2,54% in 2020 despite corona virus pandemic

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic shrinking economies around the world, Taiwan's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) will still be able to grow by 2.54 percent this year, the government predicted Friday (Nov. 27). The new forecast was almost a full percent higher than the one the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics (DGBAS) made in August. At the time, the government department saw Taiwan's GDP grow by 1.56 percent this year and by 3.92 percent in 2021. The new prediction for next year has been revised slightly downward, to 3.83 percent. Key elements influencing future economic growth included how fast the world could contain the second wave of coronavirus infections, how fast effective vaccines could be produced, and how soon new lockdown measures could be ended, the DGBAS said.

President Tsai inaugurated Made in Taiwan submarine program

President Tsai Ing-wen inaugurated the Made in Taiwan submarine program in the southern city of Kaohsiung, underscoring the commitment of the government to further strengthening the country's indigenously developed military capabilities. Strong national defense hinges on the heroism of service members, Tsai said. Equally important is ensuring the country's fighting men and women possess superior equipment enabling them to successfully carry out all manner of missions, she added. According to Tsai, submarines play a key role in the navy's asymmetric warfare capabilities, as well as deterring hostile vessels from encircling Taiwan. The MIT program demonstrates to the world that government is nonnegotiable on

safeguarding the country's sovereignty, she said.

MOFA thanks 644 European lawmakers for supporting Taiwan's WHO bid

A call for Taiwan's participation in the activities, mechanisms and meetings of the World Health Organization made by 644 European parliamentarians is deeply appreciated by the government and people, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. The cross-border and cross-party backing reflects overwhelming support in the international community for Taiwan's inclusion in the upcoming World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the WHO, the MOFA said. The ministry's statement came in response to a letter sent earlier the same day to WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus stressing the importance of Taiwan's presence in the U.N. organization. The letter was also copied to Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission, and Josep Borrell, the European Union's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy. It was signed by key members of the European Parliament, as well as lawmakers from 22 EU member states, Iceland, Norway and the U.K. These include Czech Republic Senate President Milos Vystrel; EP Vice Presidents Nicola Beer of Germany, Fabio Massimo Castaldo of Italy and Heidi Hautala of Finland; and Lord Rogan, deputy speaker of the U.K. House of Lords.

US Marine Raiders arrive in Taiwan to train Taiwanese Marines

Taiwan's Naval Command has confirmed that a team from the Marine Raiders Regiment – the U.S. Marine Corps' special operations forces – arrived in the country to train the Taiwanese Marines, the first such official contact between the two since

1979 when the United States formally recognized the People's Republic of China. Taiwan News, quoting the UDN, reported that during their month-long visit the Raiders will train the Taiwanese Marines "in assault boat and speedboat infiltration operations at the Tsoying Naval Base in Kaohsiung." Taiwanese Special Forces and the U.S. Army Green Berets hold annual joint exercises, the report also noted. The very public move of Taiwan in welcoming U.S. marines comes amid growing international apprehension since the summer that China may be planning an invasion of Taiwan some point in the near future.

Bloomberg slights Taiwan with 3rd place pandemic ranking

Bloomberg appears to have committed some miscalculations when it chose to rank New Zealand and Japan ahead of Taiwan in terms of handling the Wuhan coronavirus pandemic. Taiwan-based journalist Samson Ellis on Twitter thanked colleagues from Hong Kong and Singapore for "months of incredible work" in putting together an index titled "The Best and Worst Places to Be in the Coronavirus Era." However, the criteria for the news outlet's ranking of New Zealand and Japan ahead of Taiwan used inaccurate data and left out a number of key factors in Taiwan's unparalleled success in vanquishing the virus. In its index, the authors ranked 53 countries based on a "Covid Resilience Ranking," which consists of an average of 10 indicators. At the top of the list with a score of 85.4 was New Zealand, followed by Japan (85), Taiwan (82.9), South Korea (82.3), Finland (82), Norway (81.6), Australia (81.2), China (80.6), Denmark (77), and Vietnam (74.3), rounding out the top 10.