

**13**  
Y·E·A·R·S  
A-CHANGIN'  
Double Down!  
ADVERTISE WITH US  
+853 287 160 81

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®  
**Times**

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

CTM 5G New Era  
is Coming  
**\$268 / 25GB**  
**\$488 / 50GB**  
Get ready for 5G!

WEDNESDAY T. 27°/33° Air Quality Good  
24 Jun 2020

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MOP 8.00  
HKD 10.00 2305 4271

**THE MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS BUREAU HAS DROPPED ITS PLANS TO PLANT MANGROVES ALONG THE COAST OF AREIA PRETA**

P5

**'POWERPOINT' WITNESS ENTERS THE COURTROOM IN IPIM'S TRIAL, LAWYERS PROTEST**

P2

**HONG KONG'S CARRIE LAM SAYS SHE STILL HASN'T SEEN A FULL DRAFT OF CHINA'S PENDING NATIONAL SECURITY LEGISLATION**

P6

AP PHOTO



**China** Flooding and mudslides in southern China have killed at least three people and forced evacuations for thousands of people, official media reported yesterday. China's national observatory issued a high alert for rainstorms across vast stretches of the country for the next 24 hours. Floods and mudslides began impacting villages and towns in the southwestern Guizhou province on Monday.

**China** has reported 22 newly confirmed cases of coronavirus, including 13 in Beijing, a day after a city government spokesperson said containment measures had slowed the momentum of an outbreak in the capital that has infected more than 200 people. Another nine cases were brought by Chinese travelers from outside the country, seven of them on board a flight from Saudi Arabia.

AP PHOTO



**Australia's** Victoria state has recorded 17 new cases of COVID-19, resulting in the closing of two primary schools in Melbourne. State Premier Daniel Andrews (pictured) said there would be "significant community transmission" among the new cases. Andrews said one of the new cases was from a person in hotel quarantine, two were from known outbreaks, three were from routine testing and 11 were under investigation.

More on backpage

LYNZY VALLES

# 5G LICENSE ON THE WAITING LIST

**THE FIRST PHASE OF THE NEW GENERATION NETWORK CONSTRUCTION IS OVER 80% COMPLETE, OPERATOR SAYS**

P4





### 78-YEAR-OLD SENIOR CITIZEN DIES IN FLAT

A 78-year-old senior citizen was found dead in a flat located on Rua de Francisco Xavier Pereira, according to a report by the Judiciary Police (PJ). On January 22, at 11:37 p.m., one of the relatives of the deceased visited her apartment in a building located on the aforementioned street. Upon arrival, the visitor found the woman lying dead on the floor near her bed and reported the case to the police authority. The Fire Services were first on the scene, and confirmed the death of the woman upon their arrival. She was a Macau local resident, surnamed Lau. The PJ has listed the case as a corpse discovery. The cause of death is yet to be confirmed by the coroner following the autopsy process. The PJ's investigation department is following up on the case.

### TWO SENIORS HIT BY CARS THAT FAILED TO STOP AT ZEBRA CROSSINGS

Two separate car accidents have resulted in two senior citizens sustaining injuries. Both accidents took place on Monday and were caused by drivers failing to stop at zebra crossings. One of the injured victims is a 70-year-old man. This accident took place at the Travessa do Canal dos Hortas. The suspect is a 30-year-old man who was driving a car. The driver was not intoxicated, but did not stop at the zebra crossing while the pedestrian was crossing it. The victim sustained injuries to his right leg. The second accident occurred on Monday night at R. Nova a Guia, where a private car hit an 87-year-old woman. The driver, also a 30-year-old man, failed to let the victim finish crossing the zebra crossing and hit the victim. This second driver also passed the alcohol test.

### ONE PROSECUTED FOR ILLICIT APPROPRIATION OF E-VOUCHER

A mainland worker is suspected of illicitly possessing a Macau Pass e-voucher belonging to someone else, according to the Public Security Police Force (PSP). The suspect is a mainland woman in her 20s. Earlier, a local woman reported to the PSP that her e-voucher had gone missing. Later, the card owner realized that other people had been using the e-voucher. The PSP investigated the case and found the mainland woman at her workplace. She admitted that she came across the e-voucher during her work. She later used the card four times while shopping. As of press time, details of the amount of money used by the mainland worker were still unclear. PSP forwarded the suspect to the prosecution authority under the charge that the mainland worker had not made a report to the authority after gaining possession of another's belongings.



RENATO MARQUES

### COURTS

# LAWYERS SHOCKED AFTER WITNESS IN IPIM TRIAL RESORTS TO POWERPOINT PRESENTATION

JULIE ZHU

**I**NVESTIGATORS from the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) gave their testimony at yesterday's court hearing in the corruption case involving the former president of the Investment and Trade Promotion Institute (IPIM). But lawyers were left astonished after one witness was permitted to use a PowerPoint presentation during his questioning.

Former IPIM leaders Jackson Chang and Glória Batalha Ung stand accused of irregularities in the granting of residency permits for investors and skilled professionals. More than 20 other defendants are also involved in the case, charged with other crimes including bribery.

Yesterday's trial consisted of nine defendants. The highest-profile suspect, Jackson Chang, was not present.

Before the trial officially started, the plaintiff and the defendants had a disagreement regarding a PowerPoint document that a CCAC witness intended to use during his testimony.

All of the lawyers of the nine defendants objected to the use of PowerPoint as a tool for wit-

ness testimony on the grounds that the said PowerPoint presentation was not part of the recorded evidence, so its use would not be in accordance with the law.

The lawyers believe that the PowerPoint presentation would constitute "testimony prepared in advance" and that the witness should simply answer the questions from the prosecutors, lawyers and judges, instead of presenting a well-prepared document which has not been recorded as evidence.

However, while arguing in favor of the legitimacy of the PowerPoint presentation, the prosecutor argued that rather than deeming the presentation inadmissible on principle, it would be more suitable to allow the witness to use the file and, should the presentation be found misleading, the defendant's representative should object.

The defendants' lawyers continued to object, with one lawyer remarking that, "it is the first time in my career of over 20 years that I have experienced such a situation," in which the witness was not questioned in accordance with the indictment, but instead presented a PowerPoint document.

However, the prosecutor claimed that the presentation was purely for the purposes of assisting the plaintiff to demonstrate the evidence.

The judge eventually accepted the argument of the prosecutor and approved the use of the PowerPoint presentation.

The first CCAC witness then began using his PowerPoint presentation to demonstrate the evidence. All of the evidence included in the media document has been included as evidence in the indictment already.

The witness participated in the entire process of analyzing evidence of Jackson Chang's case and was specifically responsible for testifying about the CCAC's conclusions.

The witness presented three files relating to three immigration applicants who were also hired by one defendant, surnamed Ng.

The documents proved the employment relationship between Ng and the other three defendants, including evidence of salary payments.

Through their employment, the other three defendants applied to immigrate to Macau under the immigration policies for skilled people.

During his presentation, the witness said that the CCAC discovered that the three defendants were supposed to spend between five and six days per week in Macau because of their jobs. However, they were scarcely in the city.

During the witness' presentation, the prosecutors rarely asked questions regarding the case, except to remind the witness to always clarify the pages of the evidence for the convenience of the Chinese-to-Portuguese translation for the Portuguese-speaking lawyers.

Later, the court judge noticed a specific inconvenience regarding the evidence being discussed and the presiding judge requested that this specific PowerPoint witness become the eventual last witness to be called by the prosecution.

At this point, one of the defendant's lawyers asked the prosecution to provide the contents of the PowerPoint presentation to them in advance so that they could check the evidence that was used.

However, the judge denied the request, saying that the PowerPoint document contains evidence that is already included in the indictment.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

**REACHING OUT!**

+18,500

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報  
**Times**

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

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

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com  
OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com  
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84  
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com  
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd



ANTHONY LAM

**S**ECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak said that the revision to the Law on Additional Remuneration for Security Forces, presented during yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary session, was needed to address overtime remuneration for the concerned officers.

The bill is at its first step of legislation. It comes after the Audit Commission found the working hours and overtime pay situation at the security forces was unclear and recommended the government fine-tune the current arrangements.

Secretary Wong emphasized yesterday the exceptional nature of the work of the forces and the hours its staff must work as one reason that the bill is necessary. He said these aspects are significantly different from that of other civil servants.

"Macau's security forces operate year-round to satisfy the needs of public services," the secretary explained. "The work time highly depends on needs and other factors. They even need to be on stand-by when off-duty."

Pursuant to the Regulations Governing Public Administration Workers (Civil Servant Regulations), civil servants are entitled to additional remuneration if they work for 44 hours or above per week. However, this provision is not capable, in the secretary's view, of coping with the special nature of the security forces' work.

Sometimes, officers from the forces need to be on duty for even longer than 44 weekly hours. For example, during major holidays and festivals when a greater number of police officers are needed to remain on duty.

The legislation being discussed proposes that additional remuneration should be counted



ANTHONY LAM

## Gov't presents bill to improve security officers' overtime pay

on the mean per month, instead of the mean per week as is the case for other civil servants. In other words, the overtime work compensation for security force officers will be based on the average work hours of a particular month.

Public security officers normally work for 36 hours per work plus an additional eight hours of auxiliary work, for example as a traffic warden. The bill proposes that officers are entitled to 100 points of additional remuneration if they are required to work 44 or more weekly hours. The current government salary points means this equates to MOP9,100.

However, under this legal framework, officers will not be entitled to overtime remuneration as stipulated in the Civil Servant Regulations. This is, according to Wong, to avoid double remuneration.

Yesterday's discussion saw several lawmakers concerned about

whether this new proposal is fairer on officers than the existing regime. Wong explained that it would be, as the average month hours were more representative of the actual working hours of an officer.

Moreover, he hinted that those arranging the scheduling would be mindful of the 44-hour threshold. For example, if an officer has worked for 43 hours in a week, his or her superintendent will try to assign additional work to the officer so that they meet the threshold.

Citing the legal frameworks in similar jurisdictions, Wong asserted that Macau's was the fairest among mainland China, Portugal, the Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan.

The Head of the Public Security Police Force, Ng Kam Wa, introduced that apart from the additional remuneration scheme, police officers also enjoy other compensation, such as extra holidays, for their overtime work.

The bill was put into vote in general terms and passed with all 30 lawmakers in favor. It will then go to one of the parliament's special committees for a detailed study

before returning the plenary for a final vote. Committees have the right to request government officials' presence to clarify matters relating to the bill.

### TIMING IS EVERYTHING

**F**OLLOWING the discussion on the remunerations for security force officers, the Legislative Assembly carried on to discuss the amendment to the legal framework for training and internship governing judicial officials, as well as the amendment to the Foreign Labor Law. Both of them were put to vote by article yesterday.

According to the conventions of the Legislative Assembly, time is allotted for lawmakers to make comments on bills during the voting process. Yesterday, only Agnes Lam made a brief question concerning the first of the two additional bills. As such, the voting process took only approximately 10 minutes.

However, the President of the Legislative Assembly, Kou Hoi In, found that the assembly could not proceed because the officials responsible for the next agenda item, expecting further discussion, had not arrived yet. The president thus called a pause to the session and ordered a break.

The plenary resumed after a 10-minute break when officials including the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, and director of the Labor Affairs Bureau, Wong Chi Hong, entered the parliament. **AL**

## Coutinho accuses casino employers of forcibly checking staff phones

ANTHONY LAM

**L**AWMAKER Pereira Coutinho used a part of his pre-agenda speech to accuse casino management staff of invading the privacy of some workers by forcibly checking their phones. He implied that employees' phones were being checked for misconduct and that any findings of such could be used to avoid renewing employment contacts.

According to the lawmaker, the affected workers are local residents.

He said that the privacy breach has been reported to the Labour Affairs Bureau,

which told the employees to file a report to the Public Security Police Force. However, the police have refused to take on the case, claiming that it is within the authority of the bureau.

On top of the disclosure, the lawmaker made four recommendations to the government in the hopes of relieving burdens on residents. These are to waive electricity and water charges on residents until December this year, refund this year's circulation tax to private cars and motorbike owners, issue an extra wealth partaking scheme fund (commonly known as the

handout), and waive rents on government premises for the second half of the year.

Also during the pre-agenda period, lawmaker Agnes Lam urged the government to increase its assistance for residents with disabilities.

She cited a survey by the Fu Hong Society, which found out that 80% of the 234 caretakers of people with mental handicaps suffered from mid to high levels of depression or anxiety symptoms. Most of them are women because cultural traditions dictate that women are normally

the caregivers of the family.

Among these caretakers, above 46% earn less than MOP5,000 per month, while 60% need to provide care for more than 100 hours per week. In contrast, the lawmaker pointed out that the legal maximum work week is 48 hours in Macau. She stressed that caretakers have no way to take breaks or holidays from their "work".

Referencing Taiwan as an example, which allows an annual 21-day "recess" period for caretakers, on top of citing the recommendations made by the Fu Hong Society, Lam ur-



RENATO MARQUES

ged the government to institutionalize subsidies for caretakers, in addition to gathering data on such families.

Meanwhile, José Chui Sai Peng recommended that the government take real action to improve the city's flooding problem. He referred to the concept of a "sponge city," which is a city that absorbs rainwater.

The concept has been adopted by many places in the world, including more

than 30 cities on the mainland, as well as in Hong Kong and Taiwan. Under this system, rainwater flows through the road and is collected by vaults.

Furthermore, the lawmaker recommended rainwater collection and recycling using buildings, roofs of buildings, green areas and other possible locations. Finally, Chui once again urged the government to review and refine the city's drainage network.



# TELECOM OPERATOR CTM STILL WAITING FOR 5G LICENSE GREEN LIGHT

LYNZY VALLES

**L**ocal telecom operator CTM is waiting for the government to approve its license to release the 5G network to the public, with the network otherwise ready for activation, as the first phase of network construction will be concluded by the end of this month.

The first phase of the network construction is already over 80% complete.

On the sidelines of the company's brief event for the media yesterday, Declan Leong, vice president of CTM's Network Service, said that they have already expressed their eagerness to the government regarding launching the latest technology standard for cellular networks. However, the government has not still given approval to launch the network.

During the first phase, only the historic city center is equipped with the latest technology, meaning the 5G experience will only be available to those working and residing within the area, once the government approval is granted.

"The government is still



Declan Leong, vice president of CTM's Network Service

working hard on the licensing and we have expressed our concerns. We are willing to support the government's policy on the launch of 5G," said the executive.

"At this moment we are still waiting for the update from the government on when we can launch. For us, we want it to be as soon as possible but for the time being we have

no date," he added.

Upon the approval of the license, Macau will become the first city with full 5G outdoor

coverage in Asia.

Yesterday, results of a speed test showed that CTM 5G's downlink exceeded 1.2Gbps in Leal Senado.

In less than ten seconds, a 1GB video was downloaded using the 5G network.

The telecom operator is set to commence works for the second phase of the 5G network installation by next month to enhance both in-

door and outdoor coverage.

CTM aims to achieve full coverage across the SAR by the end of 2020.

"We will immediately start the works for the second phase once the first phase is concluded. We will introduce all the new functions in the network to support the continuous development of 5G. It's a new technology so [...] it will still take years to be developed," Leong explained.

The golden spectrum for 5G lies between 3,400 MHz to 3,600 MHz as the best spectrum resource to support the network. Therefore, the company is calling on the government to allocate spectrum resources based on the operators' deployment plan and capability of achieving full coverage within the designated time and speed.

CTM noted that the government should not only support the operators to actively develop 5G but also to fully utilize the spectrum resources.

With sufficient spectrum resources, the theoretical speed of CTM 5G network could reach 2.6Gbps.

### CTM aims to achieve full coverage across the SAR by the end of 2020

AD

## CULTURAL HERITAGE PROTECTION LAW

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

### PENALTIES

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

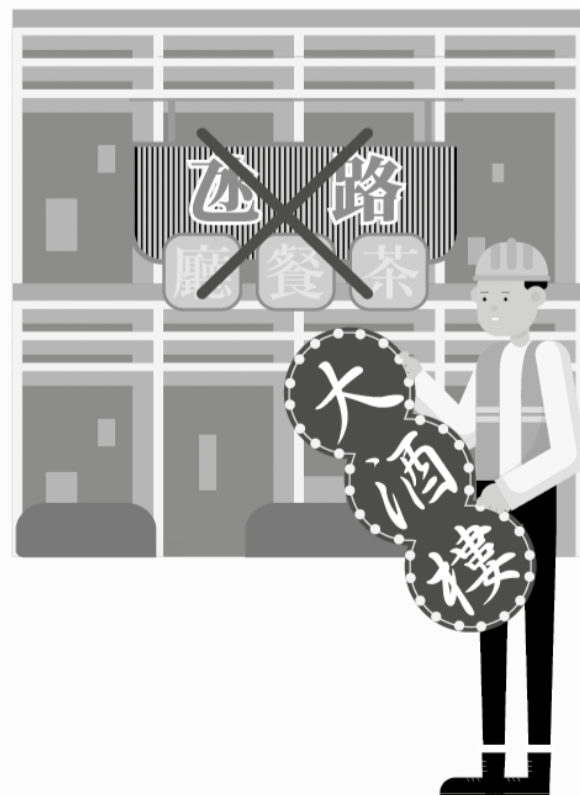
Illegal advertisement signs or illegal installation of structures shall result in fines of up to MOP500,000.

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

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

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

澳門文化局 IC | IC Art 藝文樓

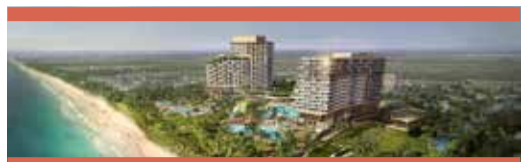


Let us all protect and enjoy the cultural heritage.



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





**GAMING | VIETNAM**

## SUNCITY'S HOIANA PROJECT OPEN FOR PREVIEW SUNDAY

**T**HE Hoiana integrated resort project is set to open for preview on Sunday.

Dubbed Vietnam's first integrated resort, the project is partly owned by the Hong Kong-based Suncity Group Holdings, together with VinaCapital and VMS Investment Group.

A statement from Suncity Group Holdings yesterday did not indicate how long the preview period will last. The property is scheduled to have its grand opening next year.

Located on a beach south of Hoi An and Da Nang, the property boasts a 4-kilometer coastline with panoramic sea view, where a beach club is being built. Phase one of the resort includes four hotels with over 1,000 rooms, suites and villas. An 18-hole golf course, designed by the famous architect Robert Trent Jones Jr., opened in March, while an array of food and beverage and retail brands are also on site.

"The metamorphosis of Suncity never stops," said Alvin Chau, Chairman of Suncity, who also heads a junket operator in Macau under the same brand name. "I am delighted to see that our projects in Vietnam, Russia, and the Philippines continue to grow as they all undergo transformation." **DB**

# Mangroves plan for Areia Preta coastline dropped for budgetary reasons

JULIE ZHU

**T**HE Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has dropped its plans to plant mangroves along the coast of Areia Preta, according to the bureau's reply to lawmaker Ho Ion Sang's interpellation.

In 2019, the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) announced a plan to fertilize rows of mangroves along the northern coast of the Areia Preta area in order to reduce wastewater and malodorous pollution in this part of Macau.

DSPA Director Tam Vai Man even pledged that mangroves would help to eliminate the stench at Areia Preta because these trees would absorb the silt that had accumulated along the coastline and, in turn, the area's overall environment would be improved.

According to the IAM, the Macau SAR has submitted a report to the Central Government expressing the desire



for land reclamation in the vicinity of the Oriental Pearl area.

"Considering the principle for carrying out the concerned [reclamation] work and the proper use of public money, [the government] has already suspended the mangrove planting plan," the IAM told Ho.

According to the government's original announcement, planting mangroves should have already started in the beginning of spring this year.

Tam previously claimed that growing mangroves is a prospective solution to solve Areia Preta's environmental issues as it poses minimum impact on the environment.

According to Tam's previous explanation, the source of Areia Preta coastal water pollution is the silt, together with wastewater.

The IAM said that the department already completed the silt cleanup in 2019. The municipal authority also said that with the help of several

government departments, along Av. Norte do Hipódromo, the authority has built wastewater blocking channels and other facilities to divert all wastewater into a treatment plant.

The IAM believes that the origins of Areia Preta's wastewater stench problem have already been dealt with.

While the mangrove plan has been suspended, the IAM has proposed to build a bicycle trail and a running trail at the northeastern side of the coast of this area.

AD

Let's act in compliance with the  
Courtesy Living Charter

**Mutual respect**

Good morning!

Hello!

www.iam.gov.mo  
2833 7676

公民教育資訊網  
http://dividedu.iam.gov.mo

有禮生活約章  
Princípios de vida  
com cortesia  
Courtesy Living  
Charter



## GUANGZHOU MOST FAVORITE CITY FOR COLLEGE GRADS IN CHINA

Guangzhou, South China's Guangdong province, has become university graduates' most favorite city in China. China's financial center Shanghai and capital Beijing have become the graduates' second and third choices this year, according to a report on renting during graduation season in 2020. The report by the Beike Real Estate Research Institute, which is part of the real estate online brokerage Ke, reveals that graduates prefer to work and live in a relatively more comfortable urban environment with good public services and appropriate pressure. The stable and cost-effective housing price is the most attractive reason for Chinese university students to choose Guangzhou after graduation as the housing prices in Guangzhou are the lowest among the four first-tier cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen. The convenience index reflected by the number of convenience stores a city has is another consideration factor for graduates. Guangzhou with a convenience index of 3.33 outweighs Shanghai and Beijing, with convenience indices of 3.13 and 1.21, respectively. The city also has an open and inclusive culture and a relatively lower level of pressure.

## COUNTRY GARDEN OPENS ROBOTICS RESTAURANT COMPLEX IN FOSHAN

Chinese property developer Country Garden launched a robotics restaurant complex on Monday, the first of its kind in the country, in Foshan. The 2,000-square-meter restaurant, Foodom, has more than 20 kinds of catering robotics, offering three types of food, including Chinese food, hotpot and fast food. It is able to accommodate up to 600 people. The opening of the intelligent restaurant marks a milestone in Country Garden's diversification of its business as the property industry continues to show signs of slowing down. Qiu Mi, assistant executive officer of Country Garden Group, said the traditional catering industry faces a number of challenges, such as high costs and a lack of talent. Robotics play an important role in tackling those problems and promoting the industry's growth. The coronavirus outbreak has further accelerated its development, she said.

## EXHIBITION OF QIDAN RELICS OPENS IN GUANGZHOU

An exhibition of cultural relics of the Qidan, a nomadic ethnic tribe that established the Liao Dynasty (916-1125), has opened at the Guangdong Museum in Guangzhou, provincial capital of Guangdong province. Also known as the Khitan, the Qidan dominated the vast area of former Manchuria, Mongolia and parts of northern China for over 200 years. The exhibition, which will last until October 25, showcases 128 pieces and sets of cultural relics, including gold, silver, copper, ceramic and lacquer wares, silk fabrics, and agate and amber items. The exhibits reflect the nomadic culture, the political system of the Liao and exchanges between the Liao and Song dynasties (960-1279), and include garments, stationary and Buddhist religious items. The exhibition is jointly organized by the Culture and Tourism departments of Guangdong and North China's Inner Mongolia autonomous region.

AP PHOTO



## HONG KONG

# CARRIE LAM SAYS SHE STILL HASN'T SEEN DRAFT SECURITY LAW

IAIN MARLOW & NATALIE LUNG

Hong Kong's leader acknowledged that she still hasn't seen a full draft of China's pending national security legislation, even though the measure could be handed down in a matter of days.

Officials in the Asian financial center have defended the controversial law based on details published by Chinese state media, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam told a weekly news briefing yesterday ahead of a meeting of her advisory Executive Council. Still, Lam continued to insist that the final version wouldn't fundamentally diminish the "high degree of autonomy" promised to Hong Kong before its 1997 return to Chinese rule.

"We have not seen the complete details of the proposed legislation," she said. "We were commenting on what we have seen."

On Saturday, China published fresh details of the sweeping new security law that President Xi Jinping's government is imposing on the former British colony in the wake of historically large and sometimes violent pro-democracy protests last year. The law is being draf-

ted by China's top legislative body in Beijing and could be handed down as soon as next Tuesday.

The proposed security law has alarmed opposition politicians and activists in Hong Kong, as well as a number of Western democracies - including the U.S., which has threatened retaliation. The Trump administration said it would revoke the city's special trading status under U.S. law, if China went forward with the plan.

The national security legislation - announced by the National People's Congress on May 21 and approved days later -- aims to punish acts of secession, subversion, terrorism and collusion with foreign forces. The NPC's decision-making Standing Committee started deliberations on the draft Thursday, with the official Xinhua News Agency publishing details on Saturday.

The Standing Committee could announce its final decision as soon as next week, although the matter wasn't yet on the public agenda for a special interim session set to end June 30.

The latest details clarify that the legislation would override Hong Kong's own laws if there was a conflict,

with some cases even being prosecuted by the central government. The law would also allow Chinese spies to operate in the city, create new divisions within Hong Kong's government to administer its provisions and let Lam pick judges to hear particular cases.

On Monday, the International Chamber of Commerce-Hong Kong joined those urging the NPC and Lam's government to open a public consultation on the legislation. "We believe the drafting process of the law should be transparent and provide opportunity for the people in Hong Kong to offer comments as they are those affected," the chamber said a statement Monday.

The way in which the legislation was being prepared breached important values and freedoms expected under Hong Kong's "one country, two systems" governing framework, the ICC-HK said, adding that there was "considerable cause for further concern that it could be the precedent for further breaches in the future."

Yesterday, Lam said the law was consistent with Hong Kong's Basic Law, which guarantees rights and freedoms not similarly protected on

the mainland until at least 2047. She said the legislation wouldn't abolish Hong Kong's freedoms of speech, press or assembly.

"It is not against the principle of 'one country, two systems,' or the Basic Law," Lam said. "Anyone under these circumstances who still thinks this legislative exercise undermines 'one country, two systems,' I believe these people never had any respect for 'one country.'"

Lam also rejected arguments that newly announced provisions empowering her to appoint judges to national security cases would undercut the Basic Law's guarantee that the courts will be able to "exercise judicial power independently, free from any interference." She said all of Hong Kong's judges were independent, and that there would be a pool of judges available to hear such cases.

The 15 foreign judges now on Hong Kong's top court wouldn't necessarily be barred from hearing national security cases, Lam said, adding that jurists would be picked based on their credentials. "The chief executive is not just going to appoint anyone on the street to be a judge," she said. **BLOOMBERG**



# US moves to restrict Chinese media outlets as 'propaganda'

**T**HE Trump administration added four Chinese media outlets yesterday [Macau time] to a list of organizations that should be considered "foreign missions" because of their ties to the government and the Communist Party, a move that could force some to cut staff in the U.S. and is likely to further aggravate relations between the two countries.

State Department officials said the four organizations, including state-run CCTV, would be required to submit a list of everyone who works for them in the U.S. and any real estate holdings just as they would if they were foreign embassies or consulates.

None are being ordered to leave the U.S. and no limits on their activities were announced. But five other Chinese organizations were directed to cap the number of people who could work in the United States in March — a month after they were designated as foreign missions.

State Department officials said the organizations are essentially mouthpieces for the Communist Party and Chinese government, not legitimate news outlets.

"The Communist Party does not just exercise operational control over these propaganda entities but has full editorial control over their content," said Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and Pacific Affairs David Stilwell. "This foreign mission designation is an obvious step in increasing transparency of these and other PRC government propaganda activities in the United States."

The other three added to the list of foreign missions are the China News Service, the People's Daily newspaper and the Global Times.

It was not yet clear how many journalists work in the U.S. for the organizations designated.

The U.S. designated Soviet outlets as foreign missions during the Cold War. That precedent reflects the bitter state of relations between the United States and China, which are at odds over the origin and response to the coronavirus, trade, human rights and other issues.

President Donald Trump highlighted the dispute over the coronavirus when he spoke to a rally over the weekend in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and used a racist term for COVID-19, calling it the "kung flu."

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany defended Trump's use of the term, telling reporters that the president was merely pointing out that the origin of the virus is China. "It's a fair thing to point out as China tries to ridiculously rewrite history," she said. "What President Trump is saying, 'no China, I will label this virus for its place of origin.'"

U.S. officials say the designa-

AP PHOTO



David Stilwell, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs

ted media outlets should be considered foreign missions under American law because they are "substantially owned or effectively controlled" by the government of the People's Republic of China and shouldn't be treated like traditional news organizations.

"These aren't journalists. These are members of the propaganda apparatus in the PRC," Stilwell said in a conference call with reporters.

During the call, the chief State Department spokeswoman, Morgan Ortagus, ordered the line muted of a reporter who asked a question related to the new book by former national security adviser John Bolton, who wrote that Trump "pleaded" with Chinese President Xi Jinping during a 2019 summit to help with his reelection.

When another reporter on the call noted the apparent contradiction of refusing to discuss Bolton's allegations during a call about press freedom, the spokeswoman chastised the journalist and called it a "pretty offensive question."

Asked about potential Chinese retaliation, Stilwell noted that American journalists working in China already faced tight restrictions on their activities.

At that time, the administration applied the label to the Xinhua News Agency, China Global Television Network, China Radio International, the China Daily Distribution Corporation, which distributes the newspaper of the same name, and Hai Tian Development USA, which distributes the People's Daily newspaper.

Then the U.S. administration capped the number of journalists from the five allowed to work in

the U.S. at 100, down from about 160. At the time, the U.S. cited China's increasingly harsh surveillance, harassment and intimidation of American and other foreign journalists in China.

China announced in response that it would revoke the media credentials of all American journalists at The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Post.

## BEIJING REACTS

China warned yesterday it will take countermeasures after the U.S. added four more Chinese media outlets to a list of organizations that should be considered "foreign missions" in the United States because of their ties to the government and ruling Communist Party.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian attacked the Trump administration's move as "yet another example of the U.S.'s flagrant political suppression of the Chinese media," saying it would interfere with their reporting on the U.S. and betray America's commitment to freedom of the press.

"We strongly urge the United States to abandon the Cold War mentality and ideological prejudice, and immediately stop and correct this wrong practice that serves no one's interest. Otherwise China will have to make the necessary legitimate response," Zhao said. **MDT/AP**

### DISEASE CONTROL GUIDE

- ARRIVING HOME**
  - Wash hands at once
  - Change into clean clothing
  - Avoid touching mouth and nose after touching door handles
  - Disinfect mobile phones, telephones, keypads, toilets, taps, and remote controls
- AT HOME**
  - Wash hands before and after meals
  - Close toilet lid before flushing
  - Disinfect regularly door handles
  - Regular exercise
  - Keep regular hours
  - Keep home clean
- WORKPLACE**
  - Check body temperature before entering
  - Receptionists must wear a face mask
  - Wear a face mask if your work involves face-to-face contact with other people
  - Keep good indoor ventilation
  - Reduce meetings
  - Disinfect with alcohol door handles, computer mouse, stationery, and desks
  - Avoid talking while eating and take off face mask only before eating
  - Keep a safe distance from the other diners
- LEAVING HOME**
  - Wear a face mask
- PUBLIC TRANSPORT**
  - Must wear a face mask
  - Avoid talking
  - Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
  - Cover mouth and nose with a tissue when sneezing or coughing
- LIFT**
  - Must wear a face mask
  - Frequently disinfect lifts, especially buttons
  - Take the stairs if possible

If you develop a fever or other respiratory symptoms, please wear a face mask and seek medical attention. If an employee is advised to rest at home by the doctor, his or her employer should allow the employee to stay home and not go to work.





Muslim pilgrims circumambulate the Kaaba, the cubic building at the Grand Mosque, during the hajj pilgrimage in the Muslim holy city of Mecca, Saudi Arabia [Photo taken with slow shutter speed]

SAUDI ARABIA

# Hajj will see at most 'thousands' due to virus

A Saudi official said yesterday that the hajj pilgrimage, which usually draws up to 2.5 million Muslims from all over the world, will only see at the most a few thousand pilgrims next month due to concerns over the spread of the coronavirus.

The kingdom's Hajj Minister Muhammad Benten said a "small and very limited" number of people — even as low as just 1,000 from inside the kingdom — will be allowed to perform the pilgrimage to ensure social distancing and crowd control amid the global virus outbreak.

"The number, God willing, may be in the thousands. We are in the process of reviewing so it could be 1,000 or less, or a little more," Benten said in a virtual press conference.

While the decision to drastically curb this year's hajj was largely expected, it remains unprecedented in Saudi Arabia's nearly 90-year history and effectively bars all Muslims from outside the kingdom from travelling there to performing the pilgrimage.

The Saudi government waited until

just five weeks before the hajj to announce its decision. The timing indicates the sensitivity around major decisions concerning the hajj that affect Muslims around the world.

"This is a very sensitive operation and we are working with experts at the Health Ministry," Benten said, stressing the importance of protecting the lives and health of pilgrims.

As part of the curbs, Saudi officials said that no one over the age of 65 will be allowed to perform the hajj and that all pilgrims and those serving the pilgrims this year will be quarantined both before and after the pilgrimage.

Saudi Arabia first announced yesterday that only a very limited number of pilgrims would be allowed to perform the hajj in Mecca from among residents of various nationalities already inside the kingdom.

It's a blow to those who've saved money for years to afford the journey — the hajj is not only a once-in-a-lifetime requirement for all Muslims but also a chance to wipe away past sins and connect with Muslims from all walks of life.

"It is a wish of every Muslim to per-

form hajj, but because of COVID-19, it will not be possible this year," Chairman of the Islamic Centre of India Maulana Khalid Rashid said.

Rashid said China is ultimately responsible. "Had China told the world about COVID beforehand, the world would have reacted differently," he said, adding that a delegation from India should be allowed to go and perform the hajj.

"This is an annual ritual and the tradition should not be broken," he said.

The hajj typically draws 2 million people from around the world, with the rest coming from inside Saudi Arabia. It's a profound experience, with the faithful standing shoulder-to-shoulder in prayer, often weeping, their palms stretched toward the sky for five intense days of worship around Mecca.

Each country is allocated a specific quota of hajj visas according to its population of Muslims, with Indonesia having the largest, close to 221,000. In countries like Egypt, Pakistan and India, securing a slot can require hefty fees, a connection to a local official or simply years of patience. AP

## this day in history



### 1983 US ASTRONAUT SALLY RIDE RETURNS

America's first woman in space has returned safely to Earth in the Challenger space shuttle after a successful six-day flight.

Sally Ride, aged 32, captured the media's attention over the weeks leading up to blast-off on 19 June as the public realised history was in the making.

Ms Ride, a former tennis champion, decided to become an astronaut in 1977 after she saw a Nasa advertisement in the campus newsletter while studying English and physics.

She was one of more than 1,000 women and almost 7,000 men to apply for just 35 places on the 1978 training programme and it was there that she met her husband, fellow astronaut Steve Hawley.

Before blast-off last week, flight commander Robert Crippen said she had been chosen to fly purely on her skills and not for her gender.

As flight engineer, Ms Ride's main tasks were to monitor the controls and make sure nothing went wrong on ascent and descent.

Up in space she also had to control a 50ft retractable arm - which she helped to design - to retrieve a satellite package of experiments.

It was the first time a satellite had been grabbed from space and paves the way for repairing satellites in orbit.

"She is flying with us because she is the very best person for the job. There is no man I would rather have in her place," he said.

This was also the first time the shuttle carried five crew members, instead of the usual three. Along with Sally Ride and Robert Crippen were Rick Hauck, John Fabian and Dr Norman Thagard.

Ms Ride is the third woman to travel into space.

Today she received a telegram congratulating her achievement from the world's first female cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova.

America's first female in space would have received a much larger public welcome today had it not been for poor visibility that forced Challenger to change its point of arrival.

The crew of STS-7 were due to complete their mission at Cape Canaveral, in Florida. But cloud cover meant a change of plan and a landing at Edwards Air Force base in California, some 3,000 miles away.

Nasa had hoped for a Florida landing to reduce the expense and time taken to transport the shuttle back to Cape Canaveral for its next mission.

Courtesy BBC News

NEW lockdown measures are being imposed for one week in a German region that has seen a large increase in coronavirus infections linked to a slaughterhouse, officials said yesterday.

More than 1,500 people have tested positive for coronavirus at the Toennies slaughterhouse in Rheda-Wiedenbrueck and thousands more have been put under a quarantine to try to halt the outbreak.

The governor of North Rhine-Westphalia state said people in Guetersloh

GERMANY

## Lockdown placed area with slaughterhouse outbreak

and parts of a neighboring county will now face the same kind of restrictions that existed across Germany during the early stages of the pandemic in March and April.

These include limiting the number of people who can meet in public to those from a single household or

two people from separate households, Gov. Armin Laschet said.

Cinemas, fitness studios and bars will also be closed, although restaurants can continue to cater to people from the same household, he added. Previously, the western county had only closed schools

and child care centers.

Laschet said the measures will be lifted on June 30 if the situation has improved, but declined to provide specific parameters for how success will be measured.

Prior to the latest outbreak, Germany had been widely praised for its handling of the pandemic. AP

## IN CONTEXT

Two years later, tragedy struck when the Challenger space shuttle exploded on 28 January 1986, killing all on board including Christa McAuliffe, who was to be the first schoolteacher in space.

Sally Ride is the only person to have worked on investigations into both the Challenger and Columbia shuttle disasters. She remained an astronaut until 1987, when she resigned from Nasa and took up an academic post at Stanford University. Two years later she moved to the University of California in San Diego to become professor of physics and director of the California Space Institute. She has written several children's books about space exploration.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

After all, the higher your hopes, the greater the crash if they are dashed to the ground. This might seem like a pessimistic attitude to take, but it's not. It's just pragmatic.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Your charms are legendary, and they have been known to change quite a few minds in the past, but today you're going to have to use more than flattery, humor, and sex appeal to get what you want!



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

A very challenging person could test your patience to the breaking point today, but you can handle things just fine if you don't take their behavior personally.



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

The more people you can connect to right now the better, for your career life as well as your love life! And it just so happens that today is a terrific day to expand your network, online or off.



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Forcing yourself to interact with other people will build your confidence and help you get over any bad mood that's overtaken you. Things are looking up, so you have to look up to see them!



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Today, a surprise announcement could bring up some emotions that you thought you'd moved past long ago, but it looks like you haven't. Deep down inside, you still have some stuff to work through and that's okay.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Your aesthetic sensibilities are so hungry for input that everything and everyone will be enriching and entrancing. This means it's a great day to walk in a beautiful place or even just sit and watch the world go by.



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You have a very intense, bright energy deep inside of you, and you need to let it out to shine and enlighten the world! So what if you don't have a plan or any specific idea about what to do with all of it?



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You need to concentrate today on the small details and on what you can affect. Stop worrying about what you can't control. That will free up a lot of your energy and keep you happier.



### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Wherever you are today, enjoy the show! Watch the world go by for a few minutes. Your observations could be educational and even inspirational.



### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You won't be bored by the exercise. You will feel empowered. Asking friends for advice is a good place to start, but don't follow what they say exactly. Your situation is unique.



### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Your gut instincts might be great for figuring out what to wear on a weekend night, but they are not the best tool for getting a handle on your money matters!

## The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



## SUDOKU

### EASY

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

### EASY+

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

### MEDIUM

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

### HARD

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

## WEATHER

### CHINA

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Beijing	21	32	overcast
Harbin	14	23	cloudy
Tianjin	22	29	overcast
Urumqi	19	27	shower
Xi'an	19	33	clear
Lhasa	11	22	shower
Chengdu	22	33	clear
Chongqing	24	31	cloudy
Kunming	17	24	moderate rain
Nanjing	23	29	overcast
Shanghai	25	29	drizzle
Wuhan	22	29	cloudy
Hangzhou	24	27	moderate rain
Taipei	26	31	overcast
Guangzhou	28	35	thundershower
Hong Kong	29	32	cloudy

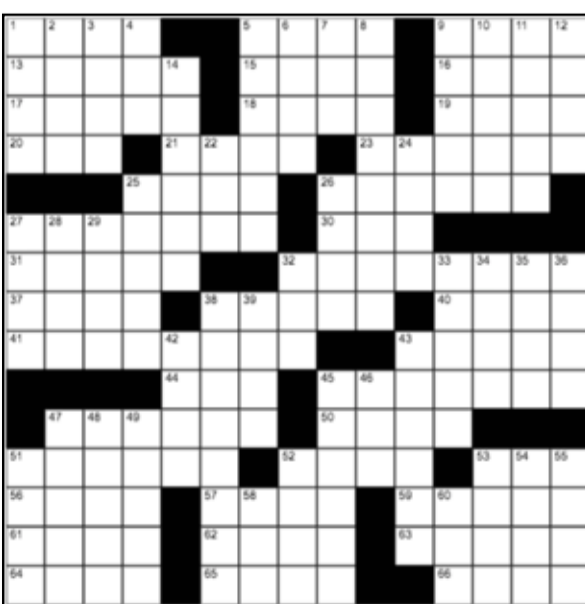
### WORLD

Moscow	13	21	clear
Frankfurt	14	25	clear
Paris	17	27	cloudy
London	16	26	cloudy
New York	23	30	drizzle

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Futile; 5- Rent-\_\_\_; 9- Shed feathers; 13- Puzzled; 15- Go ballistic; 16- Gallic girlfriend; 17- Transmits; 18- Jutting rock; 19- Studies; 20- Hanoi holiday; 21- Do the deck; 23- Mental pictures; 25- Bound; 26- Person with a cool job?; 27- Prophecy; 30- It may be picked; 31- Representative; 32- Reinforce; 37- Wet septet; 38- Alcoholic drink; 40- Search; 41- Live feed of CNN, e.g.; 43- Slow on the uptake; 44- Sushi choice; 45- Inheritor; 47- Coiffure; 50- Exclamation to express sorrow; 51- Walk stealthily; 52- Spot on the tube; 53- Trident-shaped letter; 56- Gillette brand; 57- Human leg joint; 59- Gnu cousin; 61- Churn; 62- Architect Saarinen; 63- Fable finale; 64- One's partner; 65- Bridle part; 66- Wise;

DOWN: 1- Immense; 2- To \_\_\_ (perfectly); 3- "\_\_\_ She Lovely?"; 4- Beatty of "Deliverance"; 5- Area with coin-operated games; 6- Low-\_\_\_ diet; 7- Turkish honorific; 8- The killing of a king; 9- \_\_\_ I'm Adam; 10- Last Greek letter; 11- Fabric woven from flax yarns; 12- Actress Harper; 14- Help; 22- Elfin; 24- Take \_\_\_ your leader; 25- Keyed up; 26- Don Juan's mother; 27- Swift; 28- Gothic-type arch; 29- Actual; 32- Popycock; 33- Software buyers; 34- Nota \_\_\_; 35- Minus; 36- Supplements, with "out"; 38- Guidebook for travelers; 39- Kon-Tiki Museum site; 42- King mackerel; 43- Crown; 45- Wear; 46- Guido's high note; 47- Try to pick up; 48- Month of showers; 49- San Marino surrounder; 51- Poi source; 52- Polo of "Meet the Parents"; 53- Graph prefix; 54- Obstacle; 55- Goofing off; 58- Society page word; 60- \_\_\_ Lobos;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IAM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



**FOR SALE**

**Fragrant Court, Ocean Gardens**  
HK\$24,000,000 3,500 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 3 3

**FOR RENT**

**Nova City, Taipa Great family home**  
\$22,000/mth 2,503 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 3 3 1

**FOR SALE**

- [Macau] Retail space, Areia Preta  
170 ft<sup>2</sup> \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)
- [Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1 1  
900 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)
- [Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 2 2  
1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom 2 3 2 2  
2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096000)

**FOR RENT**

- [Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park  
1 \$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1 1  
710 ft<sup>2</sup> \$13,200/mth (ref: 20021002)
- [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 2 2  
2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 3 3 3  
4,266 ft<sup>2</sup> \$45,000/mth (ref: 190550065T)

**jml property** 卓雅物業

(853) 2835 2699  
hello@jmlproperty.com  
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty



# TRUMP ORDERS FREEZE ON MANY WORK VISAS THROUGH END OF YEAR

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump signed an order Monday temporarily halting access to several employment-based visas, affecting hundreds of thousands of people seeking to work in the U.S. The technology industry said the move would hurt the economy.

The order freezes new H1-B and H-4 visas, used by technology workers and their families, as well as L visas for intra-company transfers and most J visas for work- and study-abroad programs, including au pairs, through the end of the year.

The issuance of new green cards will also remain halted through the end of the year.

The new action will pause some H2-B visas for seasonal workers, with an exception for those in the food-processing industry, according to a senior administration official who briefed reporters Monday.

The tech industry responded forcefully against the order. Twitter Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. called it "short-sighted," saying immigrant tech labor could help the U.S. economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Representatives from Microsoft Corp. and Airbnb Inc. also spoke out, saying immigrants play a vital role in their companies' success. On Twitter, Tesla Inc. Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk said the order goes too far, while Alphabet Inc. CEO Sundar Pichai and Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook both said they were "disappointed."

India's NASSCOM, the trade body representing IT service giants like Infosys Ltd. and Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., called the Trump administration's decision



"misguided and harmful to the US economy." Noting the benefits that overseas workers bring, it said in a statement that "Without their continued contributions to the U.S. economy, the economic pain would worsen, industry would slow, and the timeline for a treatment and cure of Covid-19 would lengthen."

Trump acted with the U.S. facing an unemployment rate of 13.3% after businesses closed or reduced staff in response to the virus outbreak. The president's order won't affect immigrant workers who already hold the visas.

"Under the extraordinary circumstances of the economic contraction resulting from the Covid-19 outbreak, certain nonimmigrant visa programs authorizing such employment pose an unusual threat to the employment

of American workers," Trump said in his order.

Speaking Saturday in an interview with Fox News, Trump said he wants Americans to take jobs that would otherwise go to people granted the visas.

"We have plenty of people looking for jobs," he told Fox. "I think it's going to make a lot of people very happy. And it's common sense."

Trump tweeted at the height of the coronavirus pandemic that he planned to "temporarily suspend immigration into the U.S." Industry groups, such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Information Technology Industry Council, wrote to Trump to express concern that restrictions would disrupt business and hamper growth.

The U.S. issued more than 900,000 visas in fiscal year 2019

in the categories Trump plans to freeze.

In the past few years, the administration has moved to tighten the H-1B program, and the approval rate for applications has fallen. The technology industry relies on H-1B visas to hire overseas talent, particularly in the fields of science and engineering. Critics say some companies have abused the program to displace American workers.

About three-quarters of H-1B visas go to people working in the technology industry, though the exact levels vary year by year. The number of non-immigrant visas issued in 2019 declined for the fourth consecutive year, to 8.7 million from 10.9 million in 2015, according to the State Department.

The order not only limits the ability of companies to recruit

talent from overseas, but also impacts their current foreign workers who have been waiting to get their visas authorized. When an H-1B visa is awarded to individuals, they must travel to a consulate outside the U.S., typically in their home country, to activate it.

Many workers have been unable to travel since the coronavirus pandemic shut borders across the world. "A lot of these workers are now prisoners in the U.S. because they don't have a valid visa stamp in their passport - if they go, they can't come back in," said Nandini Nair, an immigration partner at Greenspoon Marder.

However, Fragomen Worldwide immigration lawyer James Pack, who provides counsel to businesses in the tech sector, said the executive order would only have a limited impact on U.S. companies because it only applies to first-time H-1B applicants who are outside the country. Those already working for firms inside the U.S. would not be impacted, Pack said.

The H1-B program will be restructured to put an emphasis on would-be immigrants with the highest salary offers once the program restarts next year, the senior administration official said. Under such changes, entry-level workers coming from colleges are less likely to get the visa, as the spots will mostly go to people who have master's degrees or doctorates working in high-earning fields such as trading, algorithms, and IT, said Shannon Donnelly, a partner and immigration attorney at Morgan Lewis. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Mastercard offers exclusive discount promotions to cardholders

Mastercard is offering exclusive hotel accommodation, dining, entertainment and shopping promotions for Mastercard cardholders, starting with 10% off bed and breakfast packages at Conrad Macao - Cotai Central, The Parisian Macao and The Venetian Macao, from now until December 31.

All Mastercard cardholders can enjoy a 10% discount on standard admission tickets for the "Golden Reel" at Studio City until the end of the year, and the same discount on the immersive

experience at "Legend Heroes Park" at Studio City.

At NaKa Shop Taipa outlet, Mastercard cardholders can receive a free trial workshop on "Quilt & Embroidery Art Painting" when spending MOP500 or more.

They can also enjoy discounts and special offers at shops such as Loja das Conservas Macau, Macau Yeng Kee Bakery and Macau Chow Tai Fook Jewellery, and benefit from exclusive promotions at King's Lobster, Cakez Kitchen, Café Mart and Goa Nights.

### Local NGOs support Sands China's responsible gaming training

A total of 440 Sands China employees recently participated in a new responsible gaming training initiative, delivered by the Macao Gaming Industry Employees Home Integrated Services Centre, the Youth Volunteers Association of Macao (AJVM), and the Young Men's Christian Association of Macau (YMCA) in May and June.

Each full-day training session was attended by around 20 employees from Sands China's Table Games department. Sessions were held between May 12 and June 12.

Attendees participated in three activities. The Macao Gaming Employees Home Integrated Services Centre offered a responsible gaming themed board

game, while YMCA Macau provided financial management training. AJVM delivered training on gaming myths featuring a responsible gaming video and game.

During AJVM's training, team members learned about the symptoms of gambling disorder, the eight attitudes and behaviors of responsible gambling, and sessions on the functions of responsible gaming stations and kiosks, which included training on how to assist guests with the application procedure of the self-exclusion program.

Team members also learned about concepts of financial management, including personal financial risk assessment, savings, and investments in the YMCA workshop.

### Melco launches 'Giving Stores' initiative to distribute donated goods

Casino operator Melco Resorts & Entertainment launched the 'Melco & Colleagues Giving Stores' last weekend, in partnership with Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) and the Fu Hong Society of Macau.

The Melco & Colleagues Giving Stores helps community beneficiaries to access a broad range of donated goods from Melco and its employees, which are in new or almost-new condition. With the generous support of the Company and its colleagues, over 50,000 donated items were collected for the Giving Stores.

The initiative will benefit 500 underprivileged families

and help relieve pressure on their cost of living. Most goods available are free for community beneficiaries, whilst larger items such as household furniture are available at a fraction of their retail price. Proceeds will go to charity to benefit the community.

The opening event's officiating guest, Choi Sio Un, Department Head of Social Solidarity, Social Welfare Bureau of the Macao SAR Government, said, "We are pleased to see integrated resort companies such as Melco offer support [...] to aid the people of Macau and contribute to a harmonious society."



ANDREW DAMPF, ROME

FOOTBALL

# Virus-hit Dybala still dangerous for title-chasing Juventus

**P**AULO Dybala remains as dangerous as ever despite nearly 50 days with the coronavirus.

Cristiano Ronaldo had already given Juventus an early advantage by converting a penalty when Dybala doubled the lead with a splendid, curving effort in a 2-0 win at Bologna in the Serie A restart for both clubs yesterday [Macau time].

Resuming its chase for a record-extending ninth straight Italian league title, Juventus moved four points clear of Lazio, which visits Atalanta on Wednesday.

It was a welcome complete performance for Juventus after being held scoreless over two Italian Cup matches and losing the final to Napoli last week — when Dybala's saved kick in the penalty shootout proved key.

"It was essential to win," Juventus defender Leonardo Bonucci said. "It was tough to restart after so long. Those two matches were underwhelming. This is the right path. We need to have the desire to bring home the result at any cost."

Dybala was isolated for 46 days starting in March when he continued to test positive for the virus week after week -- even though he was reportedly wi-



AP PHOTO

thout symptoms. Dybala's girlfriend also tested positive.

"To tell you the truth, I didn't really feel that great today," Dybala said. "But I'm happy that I played a great match. During the time when I was idle I tried to stay in form by eating nutritiously."

Ronaldo, meanwhile, continued to struggle from missed chances.

Matthijs de Ligt earned the penalty that Ronaldo converted then also started the play that led to Dybala's goal, which was set up by a backheel pass from Federico Bernardeschi.

From just beyond the area, Dybala bent in a left-footed shot inside the left post.

After the break, Bernardeschi hit the post from the edge of the area and Ronaldo was unable to

finish on the follow up.

Dybala also had another chance with his right foot but just missed the target.

Juventus finished with 10 men when second-half substitute Danilo picked up his second yellow card.

## BEYOND IBRAHIMOVIC

AC Milan had no problem producing goals without the injured Zlatan Ibrahimovi in beating relegation-threatened Lecce 4-1.

Samu Castillejo, Giacomo Bonaventura, Ante Rebi and Rafael Leão scored for the Rossoneri, who were eliminated by Juventus in the Italian Cup semifinals following a scoreless draw 10 days ago.

The victory boosted Milan's chances of qualifying for Europe, moving level on points with sixth-placed Napoli, which visits Hellas Verona on Tuesday.

Lecce captain Marco Mancosu equalized temporarily by

converting a penalty early in the second half but Bonaventura and Rebi quickly restored the visitors' advantage in a span of three goals in four minutes.

Ibrahimovi, who injured his calf in training last month, is expected back soon. But his contract, which expires at the end of the season, is a source of debate.

Before kickoff, Milan director of football Frederic Massara said "there will always be space for champions like (Ibrahimovi)" but then added the club "needs to contain costs" amid the coronavirus pandemic.

## NO BALOTELLI

Last-place Brescia drew at 10-man Fiorentina 1-1 without captain Mario Balotelli, who did not travel for the game amid a dispute with the club.

Franck Ribéry played for Fiorentina for the first time since Nov. 3 following an injury layoff.

All of the games are being played in empty stadiums. **AP**

**ALBERGUE SCM**  
婆仔屋文創空間

**彎曲的風景**  
**TWISTED LANDSCAPES**  
EXHIBITION BY 作品展 EXPOSIÇÃO DE  
**張正民**  
**ZHANG ZHENGMIN**

Duration of Exhibition  
April 23rd until June 28th 2020

Opening Hours  
Every day, from 12:00pm to 8:00pm  
Except Monday, from 3:00pm to 8:00pm

Exhibition Venue  
Albergue SCM - A2 Gallery

Free Admission

ALBERGUE SCM / ALBcreativeLAB  
ADDRESS: CALÇADA DA IGREJA DE SÃO LÁZARO NO.8, MACAU  
TEL: + 853 - 2852 2550/ 2852 3205 FAX: + 853 - 2852 2719  
INFO: facebook.com/AlbergueSCMMacau  
EMAIL: creativealbergue@gmail.com

**仁德** **CENTRO MÉDICO PEDDER**  
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

**General Surgery** : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

**Breast Surgery** : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

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

**Paediatric Surgery** : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

**Paediatrics** : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

**Obstetrics & Gynaecology** : Dr. Fong Kuan lo

**Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery** : Dr. Lam U Lin

**Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine** : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

**ENT** : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

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

**Gastroentero-Hepatology** : Dr. Zhan De Juan

**General Medicine** : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

**Dietitian** : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau  
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com  
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed



OPINION

World Views

Lionel Laurent, Bloomberg

**WIRECARD SCANDAL COULD GIVE FINTECH A BAD NAME**

The spectacular blowup of German fintech darling Wirecard AG, which has seen \$12 billion wiped off its market value in three days, is making some old-school bankers feel good about themselves.

"When will we wake up to what a fintech really is?" Daniel Baal, the head of French cooperative bank Credit Mutuel, tweeted over the weekend. When questioned why his company seemed so proud of its own forays into the field, Baal shot back that its homegrown unit wasn't overvalued or overexposed in the media, but was part of a "solid," regulated banking group.

This unseemly bit of corporate rubber-necking is pretty ironic, considering the recent history of banking losses borne by the taxpayer. Wirecard even toyed with merging with a flagging Deutsche Bank AG, according to my colleagues at Bloomberg News, but the German investment bank thankfully dodged that bullet.

It's also tempting to argue Wirecard isn't emblematic of fintech anyway. Industry insiders say they've long been confused about the mismatch between the German firm's DAX blue-chip status and its lack of presence on the ground bidding for clients. Wirecard's bombshell revelation of a \$2 billion hole in its bank account has little to do with technology and potentially a lot to do with dodgy accounting, as a series of Financial Times articles over the past year had already pointed out.

But Baal's barb shouldn't be dismissed entirely. The enthusiastic groupthink that carried Wirecard into the DAX index in 2018 and valued it at 80 times earnings was inextricably linked to investors' faith in the broader fintech story.

Digital payments is a business that's meant to be easy to understand, less risky than banking and an entree into the booming market for e-commerce and mobile transactions. It has allowed investors to shun the complexity of bank balance sheets and give them a taste of Silicon Valley valuation multiples. For example, Adyen NV, which went public in 2018, trades at a price-to-earnings ratio of 187 (twice that of Netflix Inc.). The Amsterdam-based company is seen as a winner from Wirecard's woes because it solves so many problems for e-commerce firms, from combining different payments platforms to data analytics.

Yet Wirecard shows the dangers of these types of companies falling between the regulatory cracks. Despite superficially being about moving money from point A to point B for a fee, investors and regulators seem to have been blind to what Wirecard's digital payments business really involves and the risks it carries. None more so than the head of Germany's national financial regulator Bafin, Felix Hufeld. At a press conference on Tuesday he actually said Wirecard was a "technology" firm as opposed to a financial one directly supervised by his institution. Wirecard says it has a full German banking licence. It's a revealing slip of the tongue considering what went wrong on his watch.

Less risky clearly doesn't mean risk free. Technology banker Victor Basta of Magister Advisors points out that the fintech industry combines a model of utility-like financial plumbing with a lean approach to compliance. The pressure to grow can discourage firms from taking a stringent approach to checking money flows for potential illicit activity, and from implementing other controls.

This isn't to say that all fintech firms are somehow on a slippery slope leading to a \$2 billion cash hole. But start-ups are incentivized to focus on growth rather than compliance. Money-transfer app Revolut, valued at \$5.5 billion, has had its own run-ins with regulators over internal risk controls. It has responded by hiring former bankers to join its management and compliance teams.

If Wirecard were to disappear tomorrow, the payments sector would shrug it off. But given how critical payments are, and the apparent risks, it would be worth considering whether the current balance is tilted too far toward low-cost efficiency and high-speed growth. It may be a good moment to reflect on how to make payments boring again.

[Abridged]

Chinese and Indian military commanders have agreed to disengage their forces in a disputed area of the Himalayas following a clash that left at least 20 soldiers dead, both countries said yesterday.

The commanders reached the agreement Monday in their first meeting since the June 15 confrontation, the countries said.

The confrontation in the Galwan Valley, part of the disputed Ladakh region along the Himalayan frontier, was the deadliest between the two countries in 45 years.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said "the two sides had a frank and in-depth exchange of views on the prominent issues in the current border control and agreed to take necessary measures to cool down the situation."

The Indian army said in a statement that "commander-level talks ... were held at Moldo in (a) cordial, positive and constructive atmosphere. There was mutual consensus to disengage."

Zhao denied apparent speculation by an Indian government minister that 40 Chinese troops had died in the June 15 clash.

CHINA LAUNCHES FINAL SATELLITE IN GPS-LIKE BEIDOU SYSTEM

CHINA yesterday launched the final satellite in its Beidou constellation that emulates and may seek to compete with the U.S. Global Positioning System, marking a further step in the country's advance as a major space power.

The launch of the satellite onboard a Long March-3 rocket was broadcast live from the satellite launch base of Xichang, deep in the mountains of southwestern China, shortly before 10 a.m. About half an hour later, the satellite was deployed in orbit and extended its solar panels to provide its energy.

An initial launch scheduled for last week was scrubbed after checks revealed unspecified technical problems.

The third iteration of the Beidou Navigation Satellite System promises to provide global coverage for timing and navigation, offering an alternative to Russia's GLONASS and the European Galileo systems, as well as America's GPS.

The launch of the 55th satellite in the Beidou family shows China's push to provide global coverage has been "entirely successful," the system's chief designer Yang Changfeng told state broadcaster CCTV.

"In actual fact, this also signifies that we are moving from being a major nation in the field of space to becoming a true space power," Yang said.

China's space program has developed rapidly over the past two decades as the government devotes major resources toward developing independent high-tech capabilities — and even dominating in fields such as 5G data processing.

The first version of Beidou, meaning "Big Dipper," was decommissioned in 2012. Future plans call for a smarter, more accessible and more integrated sys-



A rocket carrying the last satellite of the Beidou Navigation Satellite System blasts off from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province

tem with Beidou at its core, to come online by 2035.

The now complete current system, known as BDS-3, consists of 30 satellites and began providing navigation services in 2018 to countries taking part in China's sprawling "Belt and Road" infrastructure initiative, along with others, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. It largely relies on medium earth orbit satellites, but also

The third iteration of the Beidou Navigation Satellite System promises to provide global coverage for timing and navigation, offering alternatives

operates six geosynchronous orbit satellites such as the one launched, Xinhua said.

Along with being a navigation aid, the system offers "short message communication, satellite-based augmentation, international search and rescue, as well as precise point positioning," Xinhua said. The short messaging systems allows for communications up to 1,200 Chinese characters long, as well as the ability to

transmit images, it said.

While China says it seeks cooperation with other satellite navigation systems, Beidou could ultimately compete against GPS and others in the same way Chinese cell phone makers and other producers of technically sophisticated hardware have taken on their foreign rivals.

In 2003, China became just the third country to independently launch a crewed space mission and has since constructed an experimental space station and sent a pair of rovers to the surface of the moon.

Future plans call for a fully functioning permanent space station and a possible crewed flight to the moon, with its first attempt to send an orbiter and rover to Mars possibly coming as early as next month. If successful, it would be the only other country besides the U.S. to land on Earth's closest planetary neighbor.

The program has suffered some setbacks, including launch failures, and has had limited cooperation with other countries' space efforts, in part because of U.S. objections to its close connections to the Chinese military. AP

**Japan** Hundreds of visitors rushed to see a popular panda cub as Tokyo's Ueno zoo reopened yesterday for the first time since February when it closed due to the coronavirus. An avid fan of the cub named Xiang Xiang who used to visit the zoo every week to see the panda, showed up with her handmade mask with panda prints for the occasion. "I was so happy to see Xiang Xiang got so much bigger," Masumi Tsunoda said. Entry to the zoo is now limited to 4,000 visitors per day.



**USA** Protesters tried to pull down a statue of President Andrew Jackson near the White House before being dispersed by police. Police used pepper spray to move protesters out of Lafayette Square, where the Jackson statue is located. The statue shows Jackson in a military uniform, riding a horse that is rearing on its hind legs. The 19th century president's ruthless treatment of Native Americans has made his statue a target of demonstrators.

**USA** Starbucks is adding plant-based meat to its U.S. menu for the first time. The Seattle-based coffee chain said yesterday that a breakfast sandwich made with imitation sausage from Redwood City, California-based Impossible Foods is now available at a majority of its U.S. restaurants. The sandwich comes with egg and cheese and is served on a ciabatta bun. In April, it began selling lasagna, pasta and wraps made with Beyond Meat crumbles in China.



**Germany** Wirecard AG's former chief executive officer was detained by Munich prosecutors after 1.9 billion euros (\$2.1 billion) went missing from the digital-payment company, in a scandal that has rattled Germany's financial industry. Markus Braun (pictured), who resigned last week, turned himself in yesterday [Macau time] in Munich as part of a probe into the company's accounting practices, prosecutors said in an e-mailed statement. A judge will review whether he can be kept in custody today.