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**THE MONETARY AUTHORITY OF MACAO HAS ASKED PAYMENT PLATFORM MPAY TO 'SERIOUSLY REVIEW' A SYSTEM BREAKDOWN LAST MONTH**

**ICONIC BRANDS HOPE PUBLICITY FROM GOV'T PLATFORM WILL HELP FIGHT COVID-19**

**IT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE END FOR THE ERA OF MEGA-DAM BUILDING IN CHINA, AS SOLAR AND WIND POWER SHOW SIGNS OF TAKING OVER**

**South China Sea** The Philippine foreign secretary warned China of "the severest response" if ongoing Chinese military exercises in the disputed South China Sea spill over into Philippine territory.



**Thailand** Authorities urged vigilance as the country celebrated its first long holiday weekend after lifting most restrictions imposed to fight the spread of the coronavirus. No new local infections have been reported in Thailand in more than a month.

**Philippines** President Rodrigo Duterte has signed a widely opposed anti-terror law which critics fear could be used against human rights defenders and to muzzle dissent. Opponents say they will question the constitutionality of the law in the Supreme Court.



**Japan** Deep floodwaters and the risk of more mudslides that left at least 34 people confirmed or presumed dead hampered search and rescue operations yesterday in southern Japan, including at elderly home facilities where more than a dozen died and scores were still stranded. Helicopters and boats rescued more people from their homes in the Kumamoto region. More than 40,000 defense troops, the coast guard and fire brigades were taking part in the operation.

**Australia** Finance Minister Mathias Cormann, one of Prime Minister Scott Morrison's most senior Cabinet members, says he is retiring from politics at the end of the year.

More on backpage

# NEW LAW, NO NEED

Lawyers and lawmakers say it is not necessary for Macau to revise its own national security law to match the much tougher version in Hong Kong

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**QUARANTINE WAIVER EXTENDS TO EIGHT MORE GREATER BAY AREA CITIES**

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**SLAMMED WITH 6,000 PATACA PARKING BILL**

A resident was horrified to find the enormous bill waiting for him after completing a 14-day mandatory quarantine. 'There was nothing I could do besides pay'

P5

### LABOUR AFFAIRS BUREAU RECEIVES 7,500 JOB REQUESTS

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) has registered 7,500 job applicants this year. Of these, 3,000 applicants have been dismissed for six months, meaning they were likely affected by Covid-19, vice director of the bureau Chan Un Tong revealed. Jobseekers can register their intent to find employment through the Labour Affairs Bureau in order to use its job matching services. People looking for jobs are mainly from the construction, retail and catering industries. Fewer registrants were recorded in May and June than in March and April. As of end-June, about 460 people have finished the job matching process after completing the bureau's subsidized training. Meanwhile, a job fair held by the Macao Federation of Trade Unions attracted the participation of 24 companies and thousands of jobseekers.

### SOCIAL WELFARE AUTHORITY: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE DECREASING

In the first quarter of 2020, the Social Welfare Bureau received 649 reports relating to household conflicts, equating to a year-over-year rise of 12%. Excluding repeated reports, there have been 445 unique cases or 3% increase from the first quarter of last year. Tang Yuk Wa, vice director of the bureau, said that 320 of the reports were categorized as household conflicts, while six were categorized as domestic violence. Of the 320, two-thirds concerned violence between spouses and 6% between other family members. Additionally, 25% of domestic violence incidents involved children and 2.4% involved elderly people. Tang sees a decreasing trend, though the number of reports is on the rise. He also thinks that some of the cases may have been caused by the pandemic. Professionals should be approached when domestic problems arise, Tang reminds.

### LAWMAKER URGES UPCOMING BUS CONTRACTS BE DISCLOSED

As the current bus service contracts expire at the end of this year and the government has not disclosed any details about the new contracts so far, lawmaker Agnes Lam has called for more information as "public bus services are part and parcel to the general land transport of Macau." She pointed out that bus services and gambling concessions are different as the former is non-competitive. Hence, Lam finds it unacceptable that the details of the contract are being kept from the public. The lawmaker added that the new contract should outline "a corresponding and scientific financial support and pricing scheme." Currently, bus fares can be increased in a matter of months whenever the government deems necessary. She also recommended systems that allow bus cards to be tapped when boarding and alighting to improve the efficiency of bus services.

DANIEL BEITLER

**T**HE introduction of a stringent national security law in Hong Kong need not require equally strict legislation to be passed in Macau, according to lawyers and lawmakers contacted by Macau Daily Times, because the circumstances of the two special administrative regions of China are completely different from one another.

The Central Government handed a controversial national security bill to Hong Kong last week on the occasion of the territory's birthday, hoping to end more than a year of crippling protests.

The bill is far stricter than anyone had anticipated and has prompted international condemnation and likely U.S. sanctions that could change the face of Hong Kong forever.

Many saw it coming. For more than one year, Hong Kong protesters had demanded that Beijing halt its incursions into the local autonomy enjoyed by the city under the

NATIONAL SECURITY

# Lawyers say Macau need

'One Country, Two Systems' framework. Beijing and its pro-establishment proxies replied that 'Two Systems' could only be realized if 'One Country' was respected.

Beijing finally lost its patience and decided that if Hong Kong could not legislate on the matter, then national-level organs would do so on its behalf.

Macau's situation could not be more different. Macau passed its own national security bill more than a decade ago and to date nobody has ever been prosecuted under the law.

Nevertheless, the situation has already prompted some in Macau to hint at the 2009 national security legislation being brought in line with the more stringent provisions in force in Hong Kong. Among them are Macau's Secretary

for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon and Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak.

According to Portuguese daily Jornal Tribuna de Macau, the local government is already preparing to legislate for a new Beijing-led commission in Macau to oversee the safeguarding of national security. The new commission will mirror an institution being crafted in Hong Kong, as stipulated under the new national security bill.

"The signs aren't good," admitted Macau-based lawyer Jorge Menezes, when asked if Macau should expect a more draconian update. "The Secretary for Administration and Justice hinted that something more needed to be done. [...] The Macau government may copy the Hong Kong law or introduce a slightly milder version."

A staunch defender of free speech, Menezes warned that the new Hong Kong law "is a great weapon to [suppress] freedom of expression and criminalize dissent."

"It may well be an old tale of totalitarian regimes: a nervous dictator concerned with keeping his seat at all costs, and willing to go as far as it takes for his regime to survive. If necessary, to the detriment of public interest and the international order," he added. "Dictators are greedy. So, yes, it is possible that they'll come and knock on Macau's door."

"My conviction is that we do not need to do more as long as it is not required by social or political conditions. A revision is not needed since we don't have new threats in the Macau SAR," said lawyer Sérgio de Almeida Correia. "Compared with Hong Kong, we had no

RENATO MARQUES



MOTORSPORTS

## McCormack returns to BSB with Roadhouse Macau

RENATO MARQUES

**F**ORMER Superbike and Supersport champion Brian McCormack is ready to take on the 2020 Bennetts British Superbike Championship (BSB).

The Irish rider, who is often seen at the Macau Grand Prix motorcycle race, will have the continued support of Roadhouse Macau and will race with the brand-new Roadhouse Macau by ON1 Racing

BMW team.

Originally postponed due to Covid-19, the 2020 BSB season will take place at Donington Park in central England this August with a triple-header racing program.

With the road racing championship, which McCormack usually participates in, ceasing this season, McCormack's team is now gearing up for his return to BSB this year. The last time he raced in this competition was 2008.

Commenting on his return, McCormack said, "I'm both delighted and excited about this opportunity to get back on the BSB grid as it's been 12 years since I raced there last and the quality of the field of riders is outstanding. With the team I have this year, the sponsors I have behind me and the group of people providing race support, we are going to enjoy it and put in a good effort."

Roadhouse Macau by ON1 Racing BMW's team manager, John Dunne, said, "This is such a great opportunity that has presented itself for Brian and

the team. BSB is such a prestigious championship and the depth of field in the Superbike class is second to none really and I'm thrilled myself to be part of it."

For Dunne, the expectations are high given the unprecedented conditions this year. He noted that they were preparing to "raise a few eyebrows." Besides McCormack, several well-known names from Macau's Guia Circuit will also be on the field this year. These include 2017 winner Glenn Irwin and three-time Macau winner Peter Hickman, among others.

The 2020 BSB is composed of six rounds, each one comprising of three races. The event will run from early August to mid-October and the last three races will take place from October 16 to 18 at the historical Brands Hatch circuit.

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# not copy Hong Kong's draconian bill



demonstrations, no insurrectionary acts, no violence against property or persons, and no destruction of public property.”

“We should not follow Hong Kong just because it may look nice in Beijing or just to please the [Chinese Communist Party] hardliners,” he said.

Lawmaker Sulu Sou, one of the most vocal democracy advocates in Macau, also believes it “is totally unnecessary to change everything to match the Hong Kong version.”

“Some people want to show their political loyalty to the Central Government [by arguing in favor of a revision],” he said, “but even some pro-establishment figures also see no need to change the law.”

Not all pro-establishment figures agree.

The president of the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM), who last year expressed solidarity with anti-extradition bill protesters in Hong Kong, now says that the national security legislation will bring much-needed stability to Hong Kong. Remarking on his confidence in the rule of law, AAM President Neto Valente suggested that Macau's own legislation could be toughened to match that in

Hong Kong.

“The circumstances in Macau and Hong Kong are very different,” acknowledged lawyer José Álvares, before stressing that “laws are not immutable, and just because a law has not been used [to prosecute individuals], that doesn't mean that it shouldn't be revised.”

“In the case of the national security legislation, I think that the government is in the best situation to make a judgment about whether a revision is needed. Remember that legislators need to think ahead and consider matters ahead of the arising issues,” said Álvares.

For lawmaker Pereira Coutinho, the national security legislation makes little difference. “I think having or not having [a revision of the law] is the same,” he told Macau Daily Times. “Any revised version would not make much difference in Macau.”

Lawmaker Chan Chak Mo told public broadcaster TDM over the

weekend that he believes there is no present need to tighten Macau's laws dealing with matters of national security.

“In all these years, Macau has seen no significant social incident, so I don't see an urgency to tighten the National Security Law in Macau,” said Chan, who also sits on consultative bodies

**“Some people want to show their political loyalty to the Central Government [by arguing in favor of a revision], but even some pro-establishment figures also see no need to change the law.”**

SULU SOU  
LAWMAKER

on the mainland. “But it is the government to decide after all.”

Should the government decide to update the national security legislation, Correia hopes “the revision [...] will not be to take some books out of circula-

tion or to allow Macau residents or foreigners to be trialed in China according to Chinese criminal laws, as it is happening in Hong Kong, because it would be a huge violation of the Macau Basic Law and of the Sino-Portuguese Joint Declaration.”

The temperature in Hong Kong has changed in the past week, and the people of Macau can sense this too, even from across the Pearl River estuary.

As the June Fourth museum was reportedly rushing to digitalize its archives this weekend, libraries and booksellers were removing controversial titles. Pro-democracy groups were being disbanded as ordinary people removed social media posts that could land them in trouble.

Social commentator Johnson Ian said that nobody in Macau wants to see this climate cross the estuary.

“I don't think there is a need

to revise Macau's national security law because the law is already serious enough for [our situation],” said Ian. That is also the view of the general public, he said, because “nobody wants to change the situation now.”

“The Central Government will observe the reaction of Hong Kong [to the new law] and prepare the next step. [...] I think in the short-term, there will be no impact in Macau from the Hong Kong national security law, but in the long-term there may be an effect in how it is interpreted.”

For Sulu Sou, the effects are already being felt in Macau.

“There is some psychological or emotional impact on Macau people now,” said Sou. “In Macau, someone might shout a slogan but know they are not violating the law. Today, in Hong Kong, they might be arrested [for saying the same thing]. People are now afraid that some behavior might violate the new law.”

Asked if he was afraid of a stricter interpretation of national security in Macau, Sou acknowledged that he and the pro-democracy New Macau Association would be “a potential target.” Still, he said, “we will continue to do the same as we have always done before.”

# GOV'T PROMOTES 'CHARACTERISTIC STORES' AS SMALL BUSINESSES STRUGGLE



## STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE Macau government promoted the "Macau Characteristic Stores" scheme last Friday, with an additional aim this year to support the city's small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

"The Macau government has successfully rolled out a series of economic revitalization schemes targeting SMEs, and we will continue to help SMEs to gradually ride out the storm," said Tai Kin Ip, Director of the Macao Economic Bureau.

A total of 41 enterprises, including 24 from the catering industry and 17 from retail, have been certified during the first phase of the scheme. Currently, most of them are located near

Rua de Cinco de Outubro.

About 90% of all Macau businesses are small or micro enterprises. Many of them have experienced a significant loss of business since the Covid-19 pandemic, with some suspending their activities.

"There has been almost no business [during the pandemic], we only rely on frequent visitors," said a retailer surnamed Sam, who represented the Si Heung Nuts & Confectionery brand. This store is one of the participants of the "Macau Characteristic Stores" scheme.

"It is almost impossible for us [small enterprises] to advertise our products. Usually, it is the government that helps us do promotions," Sam said. By participating in this scheme,

Sam hopes to attract more attention and more people to visit his store.

A participant surnamed Lei, a representative of Takaya Japonês, expressed a similar opinion, saying, "I hope there will be more enterprises participating in the program and forming a connection between other characteristic stores."

The Macau government has rolled out a two-stage consumer subsidy plan to help boost spending and support small businesses. In the first phase of the plan, each registered Macau resident received a MOP3,000 voucher to be spent on or before July 31.

According to a mid-term report on the scheme, around 63% of spending went to SMEs.

## SUBSCRIPTION FOR MAJOR DISASTER INSURANCE FOR SMES STARTS TODAY

### RENATO MARQUES

**S**PECIAL insurance specifically designed to cover losses from major disasters such as typhoons is available from today, the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) has informed.

The insurance will provide small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with coverage against the consequences of natural disasters, namely the passage of severe tropical storms and storms that activate a typhoon signal 8 or more, or a level 4 (red) storm surge or higher.

The AMCM said that the insurance is mostly designed to protect the assets of stores

and commercial spaces located in low-lying areas of the city.

The insurance coverage includes buildings, repairs and upgrades, electrical appliances, utensils, furniture, machinery, electronic equipment and product stock.

All companies that have fewer than 100 workers are eligible for this insurance, which has major differences from regular insurance policies on the market. For example, there is no deductible percentage for every damage or loss report, and the ceiling amount for products and stock has been waived.

Those who acquire the insurance will get special bene-

fits in the long run and will receive discounts starting at 20%, going up to 35% in the fourth consecutive year they renew their insurance.

The annual premium is set at 25% of the amount covered by the insurance, which offers coverage of up to 100,000, 200,000 and 300,000 patacas.

This year, the government will offer subscribers a special benefit. Subscribers will receive a subsidy of up to 50% of the annual insurance premium, going up to a maximum of 30,000 patacas.

Local establishments and commercial stores can buy the insurance from today until December 31.

## Monetary Authority asks MPay to 'seriously review' breakdown

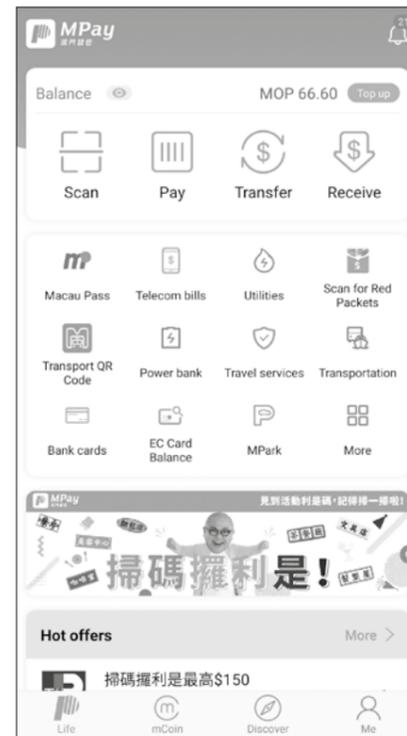
**M**OBILE payment platform MPay, operated by contactless payment card issuer Macau Pass, was ordered by the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) to conduct a "serious review" of the system's breakdown early last month.

The mobile payment platform experienced a day-long outage. Users were unable to log in, let alone pay or receive or send funds to other people and businesses.

According to a press release issued by the AMCM, it has completed investigations on the incident and concluded that the e-payment service provider "has not analyzed and fully tested its system based on the AMCM guidelines."

As pointed out by the AMCM, Macau Pass rolled out two new functions simultaneously between late May and early June. The implementation of the new functions overloaded the system, which ultimately led the system to breakdown.

Prior to releasing the new functions, the private company did not conduct a full stress test of its system, nor did it make reasonable arrangements. The AMCM also de-



termined that Macau Pass had not appropriately supervised the capacity of its system, pursuant to two AMCM guidelines.

The private company was not penalized because it has followed up with the affected users. Macau Pass has also conducted a system upgrade which was originally delayed by Covid-19.

The AMCM has ordered Macau Pass to commission a certified third-party professional to assess the safety of its system, and execute the appropriate enhancements. **AL**

## SUSPECTED MONEY LAUNDERING CASES DROP 31%

**T**HE SAR government has recorded a drop of 31.2% in the number of suspected money laundering cases, down to 947, during the first half of the year compared to the same period last year.

Data from the Financial Intelligence Office shows that the decrease was mainly due to the drop in suspicious transactions reported by the city's casinos and finance sector.

Gaming operators recorded a drop in

such cases from 966 to 464, accounting for 49% of the total number of suspected money laundering cases from January to June.

Cases from financial institutions and insurance companies also dropped to 332 reports, making up just 35% of all cases. The other 151 reports were received from other institutions.

Institutions are obliged to report any transactions equal to or greater than 500,000 patacas to

the authorities. The authorization of the Financial Intelligence Office has been extended for two years, until August 2022.

Inaugurated in 2006, the office is responsible for "collecting, analyzing and providing [to agencies] intelligence related to money laundering and terrorism financing." The office was opened to comply with international actions against terrorism and money laundering. **LV**

## REPATRIATED STUDENTS OFFER FEEDBACK ON RETURN MISSIONS

SEVERAL returning students have expressed their thoughts on how the government could have better conducted repatriation missions from Europe and North America via Hong Kong.

The comments were made in an online video show hosted by the General Association of Chinese Students of Macao (AECM). Three students, who had returned home through previous retrieval missions, were invited onto the latest episode of the show to discuss the topic.

One of the students, surnamed Lei, recalled that the hotel he stayed for the 14-day quarantine period had two options for nucleic acid testing – either nasopharynx or throat swabs. These were separately collected by two teams. Lei discovered that the teams did not communicate, causing confusion among those who were quarantined.

A second student, surnamed Chan, said that overseas students had no family support and direct access to crucial information, causing stress to these individuals. Chan hopes people in Macau will be more mindful of the needs of returning students. **AL**

# Quarantine waiver extended across mainland side of Greater Bay Area

ANTHONY LAM

SEVERAL Macau residents are now able to travel more freely across the Greater Bay Area after a quarantine waiver scheme previously applicable to just Zhuhai was rolled out to cover eight more mainland cities.

From today, Macau residents who do not have a Zhuhai Residence Card can now apply for quarantine-free travel to nine cities in Guangdong Province, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced yesterday.

Authorities began accepting applications for the quarantine waiver for some Macau residents in mid-June. The scheme began with a quota of 1,000 people per day and has recently been expanded to 3,000.

In the previous phase, approved Macau residents could only remain in either Macau or Zhuhai. This meant that even though they could cross the border, they were only exempt from quarantine in Zhuhai. Once they left Zhuhai, they would be quarantined upon entering other cities in the province.

However, approved Macau residents are now allowed to move between Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing from today.

Once approved, they will be able to move between the nine cities and the Macau Special Administrative Region for the

seven days following the date of the approval.

Only essential travel, namely for the purposes of public service, business or other special reasons, is permitted and this will be strictly monitored, according to the government.

Macau residents seeking quarantine waivers need to meet several other conditions.

Firstly, they should not have travelled to any other places besides the mainland and the Macau SAR in the preceding two weeks.

Second, they should not have any respiratory symptoms, such as cough, shortness of breath or fever.

Third, they need to hold a Green Macau Health Code.

Finally, they should have a negative Covid-19 nucleic acid test result. The requirement for a nucleic acid test is to check if the individual is infected and the virus has been replicating at a detectable level.

These four rules are in place to lower the possibility of these residents having coronavirus and transmitting the virus in the community.

Other special arrangements are also in place to decrease the chances of an outbreak. For example, Macau residents with approval must enter Zhuhai through either the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge or the Lotus Bridge, which connects Cotai to Hengqin.

The authorities said that entering through other border che-



A residential neighborhood in Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province, against the city's iconic Canton Tower.

ckpoints will result in residents having their waivers cancelled.

Twenty-four hours prior to crossing the border, approved Macau residents will also be required to fill out a mainland health declaration on WeChat.

At the border, approved Macau residents must present their mainland-entering card, more commonly known as "the home-going card," their Macau ID

card, their Macau and Zhuhai Health Code and their negative Covid-19 test result.

Although the quarantine waiver approval is valid for seven days, approved Macau residents are allowed to remain in the city for longer. For the first two weeks, they must remain in the nine shortlisted cities. After, they will be allowed to move around the province.

## Returning resident shocked by 6,000 pataca parking bill

RENATO MARQUES

A local resident, who recently returned to Macau from Hong Kong, was stunned to learn his car parking bill had grown to nearly 6,000 patacas while he was completing the mandatory 14-day quarantine.

The person, a permanent resident in both Special Administrative Regions who requested not to be identified, explained that he was finally allowed to travel between Hong Kong and Macau for work following the reopening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB).

Upon arriving by car at the Macau border post, he was surprised that the officer did not know what to do regarding his situation.

"The officer seemed to be a bit confused, asking me where I was coming from," the resident told the Times. "He had to think a lot and ask someone on the radio what to do with me."

The resident was told that he should drive his vehicle and park it in the HKZMB Macau Port parking lot before undergoing medical observation procedures and quarantine.

According to the source, the procedures went smoothly and a few hours later he was lodged in one of the government designated hotels for his 14-day quarantine.

After the two-week quarantine, he received a big surprise.

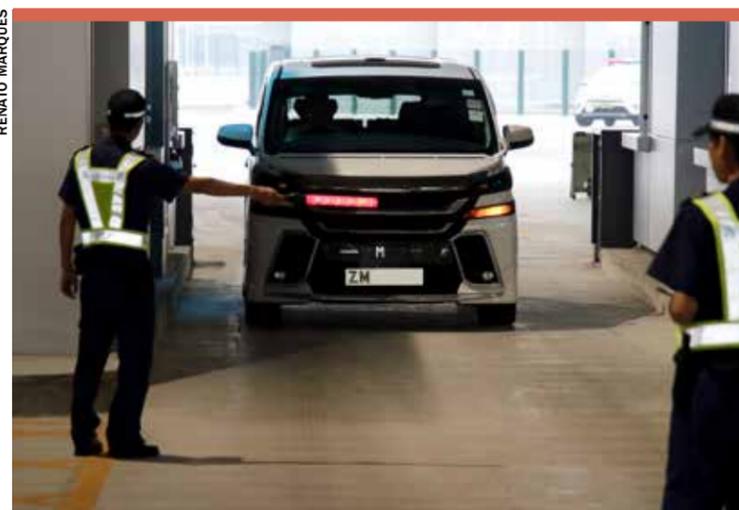
"I was pretty shocked when I saw the parking bill. I thought

there was some special arrangement in place to help with that part since it was not a common situation," he said. "I did not park my car there because I wanted to. I was told that was the only way."

He was charged for over 15 days of parking. As explained in the receipt by the company that manages the parking lot, parking is charged at 15 patacas per hour for a total of 360 patacas per day.

"There was nothing I could do besides pay," the resident told the Times. He said the price was "brutally high" compared to the prices of public car parks across the city.

Not wanting to make his story a "protest," the local resident said that his purpose was to warn other people about what to expect in case they decide to travel

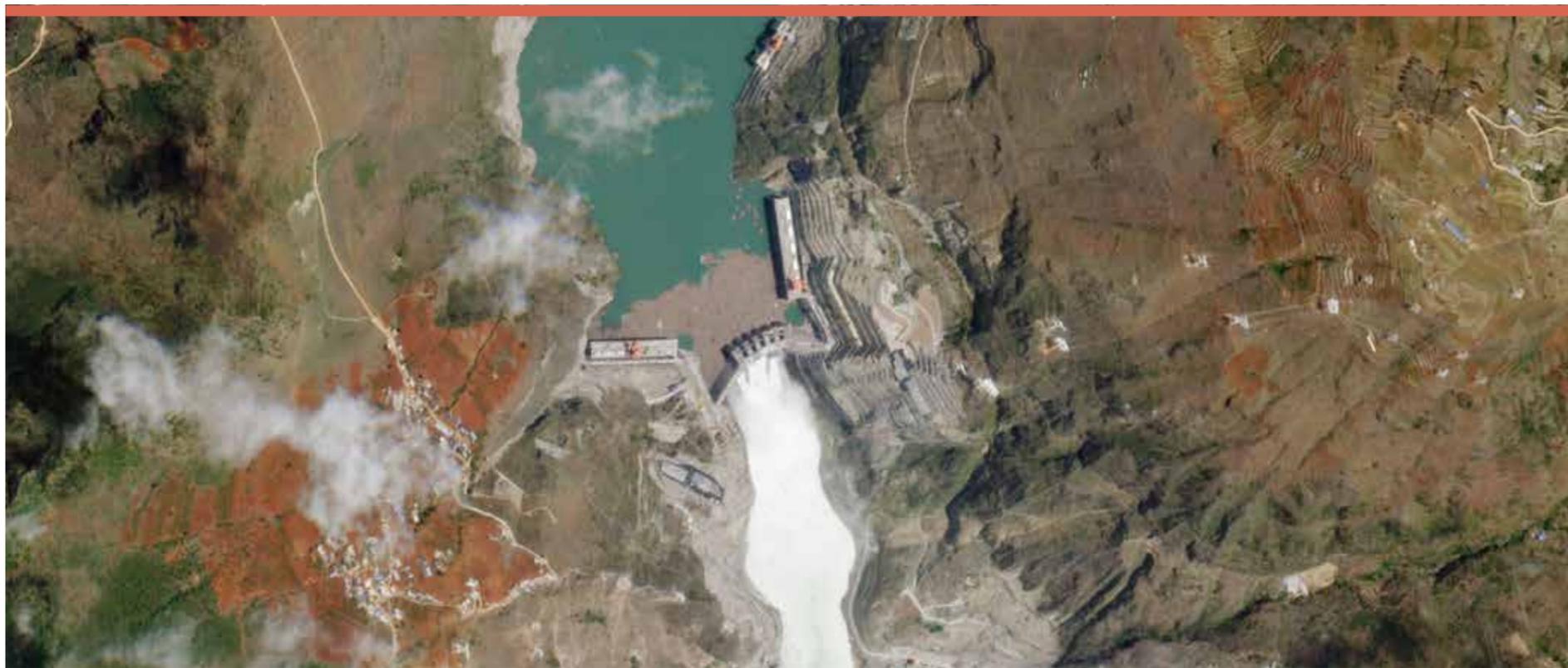


to Macau using private vehicles.

In order to drive through the HKZMB, private vehicles have to acquire a special license pla-

te which is available by tender at 30,000 patacas. They also have to pay a toll of RMB150 (170 patacas) per trip.

BLOOMBERG



A satellite image of the Wudongde Dam in Yunnan Province

## CHINA'S ERA OF MEGA-DAMS IS ENDING AS SOLAR AND WIND POWER RISE

IT'S the beginning of the end for the era of mega-dam building in China.

China Three Gorges Corp. last week turned on the first set of generators at the massive Wudongde hydropower plant, deep in the mountains of Yunnan province. About 170 kilometers downstream on the Jinsha River sits Baihetan, the last of its kind, scheduled to go into operation next year.

At full run, the two sites will produce more electricity than every power plant in The Philippines combined. They're the final two mega-dams in a Chinese construction boom that goes back more than half a century, one that became increasingly mired in controversy over the trade-off between the benefits of the renewable energy and flood prevention and the social and environmental costs.

Now, China's hydro industry is down-shifting toward smaller projects and pumped storage. Engineers have run out of the easiest locations to power massive sets of turbines and the falling cost of rival energy sources such as solar mean it isn't worth moving on to more challenging locations.

"It's so cheap developing renewables and coal-fired power, why bother injecting huge sums of money to develop hydro 2,000 kilometers deep in the Tibetan plateau," said Frank Yu, an analyst with Wood Mackenzie Ltd. "The future of hydro is going to be pumped storage and is also going to be smaller and smaller."

China's dam-building era began in the 1950s, soon after the Communist Party gained power, but it reached a crescendo in the

past two decades. After Baihetan gears up to full capacity in late 2022, China will have completed five of the world's 10-biggest hydropower plants in just 10 years. China's dams generated more electricity in 2017 than the total supply of every other country in the world besides the U.S. and India.

Harnessing China's rivers, which flow from the snowy peaks in the west to the fertile deltas in the east, has always been a prime concern of its leaders. More than 4,000 years ago, the emperor known as Yu the Great gained eternal fame by employing dikes, dams and canals to control flooding that plagued the ancient civilization.

The Communist Party used a disastrous flood in 1931 to argue that the Kuomintang government was a failure, and when Mao Zedong took over in 1949 dam-building was a priority. But construction and engineering were often subpar, resulting in more disasters like the Banqiao and Shimantan dam collapses in 1975 that killed as many as 240,000 people.

As China emerged onto the global scene in the late 1990s, so too did its dam-building industry. "Since the turn of the century, the country has more than quadrupled its installed capacity and accounted for over half of global hydropower growth," said Samuel Law, an analyst for the International Hydropower Association.

The modern mega-dam building period began in earnest with

the long-touted project to block the Yangtze River at the base of the Three Gorges, a series of narrow passageways between mountains that hem in China's longest river.

The project was unusually controversial in China. Proponents touted the benefits of clean energy, improved navigation and the chance to tame one of the nation's most flood-prone rivers. Opponents focused on the million-plus people who would be forced to resettle from the narrow strips of fertile orange groves along the river's edge to harsher environments on higher ground, along with the loss of cultural and archaeological sites.

Work began in 1994 and when

### Harnessing China's rivers, which flow from the snowy peaks in the west to the fertile deltas in the east, has always been a prime concern of its leaders

the final generator was switched on in 2012 it became the largest hydropower plant in the world, generating 22.5 gigawatts. Two more massive projects, the 6.4-gigawatt Xiangjiaba and the 13.9-gigawatt Xiluodu, were completed in 2014 on the Jinsha River, which feeds into the Yangtze. Along with Wudongde and Baihetan, the 1,200-kilometer stretch of water will have five of the 10 largest hy-

dropower plants on earth.

Pickings are about to get slimmer. Big hydropower plants require large flows of water cascading down a steep change in altitude and China has tapped most of the best prospects that are easy to reach.

After Wudongde and Baihetan, there are no dams bigger than 10 gigawatts are under construction or in planning or permitting stages, according to Pavan Vyakaranam, senior power analyst at GlobalData.

"Although the country has a strong pipeline of mega hydro-power projects, it has mostly exhausted its major potential sites and there is reduced scope for new announcements," he said.

A similar story happened in the U.S., where massive government dam projects helped pull the country out of the Great Depression in the late 1930s, including the Hoover Dam, the world's largest at the time. By the end of World War II, hydroelectricity supplied more than a third of the nation's needs.

Construction peaked in the 1960s, then slowly ground to a halt as utilities turned to nuclear power and opposition grew from farmers, environmentalists and Native Americans. Last year, hydroelectricity provided 6.6% of U.S. power supplies, according to the Energy Information Administration.

China hasn't completely run out of space for hydro. There are plenty of sites for smaller 1-to-

3 gigawatt plants that would be signature projects in most other countries. So-called pumped-hydro projects can help store intermittent renewable energy for when it's most needed. And it does still have potential sites for mega-dams, they just aren't easy to get to.

The most prominent would be the Motuo dam on the Yarlung Tsangpo River in Tibet, which at one point was being eyed as a potential 38-gigawatt plant, nearly double the size of Three Gorges. The Chinese government is still researching the site's feasibility, according to a person familiar with the studies, who asked not to be identified because the information isn't public.

But such a development is seen as unlikely by many analysts. Getting materials and workers to such a remote area would be enormously costly, as would stringing the power lines needed to get the electricity to market. And that doesn't factor in the geopolitical issues around damming a conduit that feeds some of India's major rivers, including the Brahmaputra.

As China's dam builders pack up their tools at home, they are expanding overseas. China's major development banks have financed nearly \$44 billion worth of hydropower projects globally since 2000, according to researchers at Boston University's Global Development Policy Center.

"Chinese hydro companies are investing heavily in other countries in South Asia, South East Asia, Africa and Latin America," said GlobalData's Vyakaranam. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

# White House considering next steps over Hong Kong law

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump has yet to sign legislation that would impose sanctions on certain Chinese officials over Hong Kong, but other moves against Beijing are possible before long.

An administration official told reporters early Saturday that Trump is considering two or three actions against China, with a high probability something could be unveiled soon - more likely in days than weeks. The official didn't specify what the actions might be or provide other details.

The Senate gave final approval on Thursday for the Hong Kong Autonomy Act, which would impose sanctions on Chinese officials cracking down on dissent in Hong Kong, after the House unanimously signed the bill on Wednesday.

Trump could sign or veto the bill; the White House hasn't given a signal either way.

The House and Senate moved quickly to enact the legislation after the Chinese government imposed a new national security law in the territory that critics say is aimed at squashing protests against the government and could lead to, in some cases, life imprisonment.

The legislation has been a high priority for members of both parties, who've been joining forces on measures to pressure the government in Beijing on trade and human rights.

"I have no doubt that the president will sign it and I'm confident that it will be properly enforced," said Pennsylvania Republican Senator Pat

Toomey, who co-sponsored the Senate version with Democrat Chris Van Hollen of Maryland.

The Senate approved its bill by voice vote last week, but it was modified slightly in the House and had to be passed again by the Senate.

The legislation provides for sanctions against financial institutions working with Chinese officials who are determined by the U.S. to be interfering in Hong Kong affairs. It requires the State Department to report to Congress every year about officials who seek to undermine the "one country, two systems" model that applies to Hong Kong. It gives the president the power to seize the assets of those individuals and block their entry to the U.S.

The law gives banks a kind of year-long grace period to stop doing business with entities and individuals the State Department determines to be "primary offenders" when it comes to undermining Hong Kong's autonomy. After that period, the Treasury Department can impose a variety of penalties on those institutions, including barring top executives from entering the U.S. and restricting the ability to engage in U.S. dollar-denominated transactions, according to Toomey.

The sanctions would apply to Chinese banks as well as Chinese subsidiaries of U.S. banks, Toomey said during a conference call with reporters. He indicated it would mostly affect the largest Chinese lenders that do business with the U.S. **BLOOMBERG**

## SOUTHERN CHINA BRACES FOR MORE STORMS

**A** wide swath of southern China is bracing for more seasonal rains and flooding that state media said has already left more than 120 people dead or missing this year.

The National Meteorological Center raised the weather alert to yellow yesterday morning, the third highest of four warning levels, for more than half a dozen provinces

and the cities of Shanghai and Chongqing. Heavy to torrential rains were forecast into this afternoon.

Footage on state broadcaster CCTV showed flooded streets and farmland in Anhui province. To the south in Jiangxi province, more than 8,000 people have been evacuated and 54 houses collapsed after rainstorms in

recent days, the network said.

Nationwide, flooding-related disasters have destroyed 17,000 homes, caused 41.6 billion yuan (47 billion patacas) in economic losses and left 121 people dead or missing so far this year, the official People's Daily newspaper said in a social media post, citing the Ministry of Emergency Management. **MDT/AP**

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### MGM Extends Warm Welcome to Guests with Enhanced Hygienic Measures

The everyday life in Macau is gradually returning to normal. As people are picking up confidence in travelling within the city, MGM has geared up to welcoming guests with attractive offers and, more importantly, an enhanced set of hygiene protocols at MGM MACAU and MGM COTAI in keeping with its principle of attaching paramount importance to the wellness of all guests.

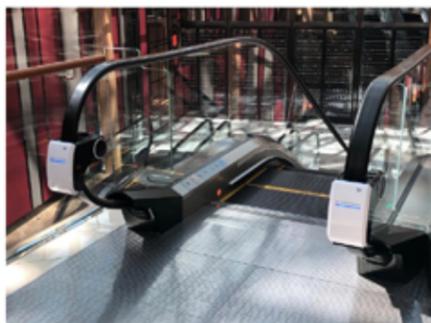


#### Safe Accommodation and Dining

While continuing to provide warm hospitality, MGM staff members maintain a physical distance of at least one meter when interacting with guests. The Company cleans and disinfects its guest rooms with electrostatic sprayers, utilizing potent but safe solutions; bed linens are cleaned and sanitized at high temperature. The frequency of staff entering an occupied guest room is minimized to protect both guests and staff.

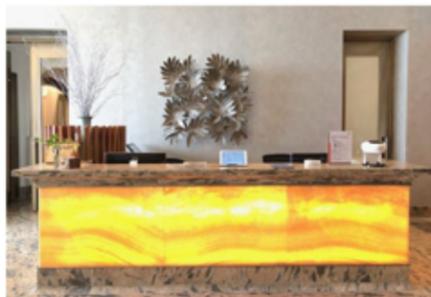
Restaurants and bars at MGM properties also adhere to stringent food safety and hygiene standards, including carrying out thorough inspections of their logistics and storage to remove any risks of food contamination. Food samples are regularly collected for surveillance, so diners are assured of fresh, clean and healthy culinary treats. The concentration of sanitizers and the final rinse temperature of dishwashers are closely monitored to ensure effective sanitization.

The dining outlets at MGM properties keep tables 1.5 meters apart to reduce the risk of infection. Customers are provided with disinfectant wet tissues and an envelope for storing face masks when they are seated. Digital menus and contactless payment options are in place to help customers minimize their contact with servers. Frequent touch points such as digital ordering devices, check presenters, dining tables and condiment holders are regularly sanitized.



#### High-touch Surfaces Fully Disinfected

In addition to requiring its staff to wear approved masks, MGM put customers' mind at ease by increasing the frequency and intensity of routine cleaning, particularly on high-touch surfaces in common areas. Electrostatic sprayers with disinfecting chemicals are used in large areas to ensure an efficient application of disinfectants. Escalator handrail UV sterilizers are installed at high-traffic areas, allowing guests to hold onto the handrails worry-free.



MGM has also deployed contactless technology at its leisure facilities to optimize safety and cleanliness. During check-in process at spa and pool counters, guests are asked to place their room keycard on a reader for verification, sparing them from touching the counters. They are instructed to acknowledge spa or pool sign-in forms on an iPad which is sanitized once the process has completed. All the equipment in spa and gym areas are sanitized after use.

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AP PHOTO



## COVID-19

# English pubs reopen but little normal elsewhere in the world

At least two U.S. senators said yesterday [Macau time] that China hid data from the World Health Organization that could have altered the course of the coronavirus outbreak, even as a Chinese official denied delays in sharing information and said the government acted openly and transparently.

They were referring to an Associated Press investigation published this week that found China stalled on providing critical coronavirus information to WHO, which expressed considerable frustration in private even as it praised the country in public. Politicians said the report raised key questions, and public health experts said it shed light on a story that has become highly politicized.

At a press briefing on Wednesday, Zhao Lijian, a spokesman for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, called the AP report "seriously inconsistent with the facts." He read off a timeline of events that did not contradict the AP's findings and added that China had always maintained "close and good communication and cooperation with WHO."

WHO officials refused to answer repeated questions from international journalists about the AP report, but they did not question its accuracy.

Ami Bera, chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs subcommittee that focuses on Asia, acknowledged that

WHO was imperfect and said the U.N. health agency should stand up more forcefully to powerful countries like China.

"I do think the WHO has to be very careful in not being so conciliatory to China," he said.

Senator Rick Scott said that instead of exposing China's failure to share information, WHO officials praised the country's response to the coronavirus.

The AP found significant delays by China in the early stages of the coronavirus outbreak that compromised the WHO's understanding of how the disease was spreading, according to internal recordings of WHO meetings, documents and interviews. The AP uncovered evidence that China sat on releasing the genome of the virus for more than a week after three government labs had fully decoded it.

The recordings of meetings throughout January obtained by the AP showed the WHO was kept largely in the dark, while its public commendations of China were likely aimed at trying to coax more information out of officials.

Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus praised the Chinese response in public as "very impressive, and beyond words."

Zhao said he was unfamiliar with the internal information cited by AP. But he said "the facts and data are in plain sight" and that China acted "with openness, transparency and a sense of

responsibility." He did not directly address the comments made by WHO officials in the recordings.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said AP's reporting raised critical issues about how the outbreak was handled.

"I think there are many questions that need to be asked about the World Health Organization, about China and other countries' behaviors through this," Trudeau said. "The World Health Organization remains a truly important ally...but there are many questions that need to be answered going forward."

At the White House, a senior Trump administration official maintained that China pressured the WHO to mislead the world when the virus first emerged.

"The WHO's complicity with China to cover up the source of the virus violated the organization's own regulations," the White House staffer said.

The WHO declared the coronavirus outbreak to be a global emergency on January 30, its highest level of alert. Numerous Western countries, including the United States, did not make serious preparations for the virus' arrival for months.

In recent weeks, U.S. President Donald Trump has repeatedly blasted the WHO for allegedly colluding with China to hide the extent of the outbreak, saying the U.S. would be cutting its ties with the organization.

The new information un-

covered by the AP does not support the narrative of either China or the U.S., but instead portrays an agency urgently trying to solicit more data despite limited authority.

In one internal meeting, the WHO's top China representative acknowledged the country was only providing outbreak information with the U.N. health agency about 15 minutes before it appeared on state-owned China Central Television.

Several British Conservative politicians known for their hawkish views on China also cited the AP story.

In a tweet, former Cabinet minister Owen Paterson tweeted called it a "shocking report." Paterson noted the finding that in the week after three Chinese government labs and one commercial lab had all sequenced the virus but could not share it publicly, 600 more people were infected.

Suerie Moon, a global health academic at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, called the AP report "a huge public service in uncovering what happened in January."

"It does show the Chinese government is a powerful stakeholder in WHO," said Moon, who sat on an independent panel evaluating the WHO's flawed response to the 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

"I do think Tedros' praise was excessive," Moon said. "But there was a clear objective behind it." AP

## this day in history

### 1997 MARS BUGGY STARTS EXPLORING RED PLANET

Nasa scientists have freed a robot from the space probe Mars Pathfinder, allowing it to begin its exploration of the Red Planet at last.

The rover, known as Sojourner, has been stuck on Pathfinder since its successful landing on Mars two days ago.

It is the first time a man-made craft has travelled over the surface of another planet.

Pathfinder quickly sent back the evidence: an image of the Martian surface showing the tracks made by Sojourner's six studded titanium wheels.

The problem began when a partially-deflated airbag blocked Sojourner's way out of Pathfinder. Then the computers on board the probe and the rover failed to talk to each other.

Finally, at 0646 BST (0546 GMT) there was a breakthrough.

Flight director Chris Salvo announced to the waiting team at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California: "Six wheels on the ground."

There was an ecstatic cheer from the 70-strong team. But they will now have to wait another day for the first high-resolution pictures because an hour after the vehicle moved off the ramp, the sun went down and the rover was left parked until the next Martian morning.

The Sojourner is a tiny robot, about the size of a bread-bin and weighing just 22 lbs (10 kg). It travels on six wheels, each of which can move independently to cope with the uneven Martian terrain.

Most of the power is provided by solar cells on the roof, and there is also a battery power pack for backup.

It is controlled remotely from California, millions of miles away.

The Pathfinder probe had a near-perfect landing on 4 July - America's Independence Day - in the Ares Vallis, an ancient channel on Mars that may once have held water.

The first reading sent back was of the temperature - a freezing minus 93 degrees C.

The probe has also sent back some astounding pictures of the barren, rock-strewn surface.

It showed massive dust storms in the pink Martian sky, one raging just 600 miles (950 km) south of the landing site.

The mission is being followed avidly by millions on the internet through the official Mars Pathfinder website.

There is particular interest in what it may find following the controversial announcement by Nasa last August that it had found evidence of life in a Martian meteorite.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Although Sojourner was designed to operate for just one week, in fact it kept exploring Mars for nearly three months.

It covered more than 50,000 square yards (42,000 square metres) of territory around Pathfinder's landing site and sent back 550 images of the Martian surface. Pathfinder itself also took thousands of pictures.

They revealed new information about geological features on Mars and provided compelling evidence that the planet once contained liquid water and was warm and wet, like the Earth.

The Mars Global Surveyor, which arrived in September 1997, was also a success, providing tantalising hints of possible water beneath the surface.

However, the next missions, Mars Climate Orbiter and the Mars Polar Lander in 1999, were costly failures, putting the future of Mars exploration in doubt.

Then in 2001, the Mars Odyssey revived Nasa's fortunes with a remarkable geological map of the planet which transformed our knowledge of what Mars is made of. The European Space Agency put the Mars Express into orbit around Mars in December 2003.

In 2004, Nasa's Mars rovers, Spirit and Opportunity, discovered compelling evidence for the prolonged presence of water on the planet's surface.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 You have shown amazing patience with someone who seems to be making the same mistakes over and over again - despite their promises that they would stop.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Someone has been desperately trying to get your attention, but you have been so busy focused on other things that you haven't slowed down to notice them by the side of the road, trying to flag you down.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 This is a day that offers a lot of great starts and beginnings, but there will be no follow through on any of them - you are going to be just too busy to help lead things into a formative phase.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 You have the ability to help the people you care most about today, so use it! And don't worry - it won't be difficult to make some major changes start happening for others.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 Today, teamwork will only be effective if you put in your fair share of ideas. Do not hide behind the camouflage of other people, hoping their involvement will be enough to get things done.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 Everyone has two sides to their personality (at least), so today if someone is getting on your nerves, focus on the part of their personality that is most compatible with yours.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 It's not universally true that opposites attract, but you've been noticing some hot magnetic energy between two very different (and very single) people in your life.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 There is some unpredictable energy flying around your environment today, so beware. Nothing is for certain, and nothing is going to be written in stone.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Don't worry about losing your edge of falling under the spell of your couch. Just because you're not running around crossing things off your list doesn't mean that you aren't getting things done.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 One of your long lost friends is going to reappear on the scene very soon, and they will offer you a missing link that will connect you to several opportunities - including greater wealth and a hotter romance.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 The best kind of wisdom comes from people who know you well, so if you are feeling the urge to start a new relationship with one of your old relatives, then you shouldn't wait to get started.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 Tiny details have lives of their own, and if you don't watch them carefully, they'll take you in all the wrong directions. Timing may be an obstacle to overcome, so be aware that last minute delays are possible.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	18	30	cloudy
Harbin	12	23	thundershower
Tianjin	20	28	cloudy
Urumqi	22	33	cloudy
Xi'an	22	37	clear
Lhasa	10	20	drizzle
Chengdu	19	34	cloudy
Chongqing	21	33	clear
Kunming	15	29	shower
Nanjing	22	28	moderate rain
Shanghai	22	26	heavy rain
Wuhan	23	31	drizzle
Hangzhou	22	25	heavy rain
Taipei	25	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	25	31	moderate rain
Hong Kong	28	32	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	13	18	drizzle
Frankfurt	9	18	drizzle
Paris	11	18	drizzle
London	9	19	drizzle
New York	21	31	moderate rain

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS: 1- Portnoy's creator; 5- Cries of discovery; 9- Belafonte bellow; 13- Limerick language; 14- Boat often made of birchbark, canvas, or fiberglass; 16- Doozy; 17- Scrutinize; 18- Paradises; 19- Coup d'...; 20- Waterproof canvas; 21- Salonga of "Miss Saigon"; 22- Gambling house; 24- Psyche's love; 26- Tiered shelves; 27- Not abridged; 29- Unsymmetrical; 33- Plumber's tool; 34- Household; 35- Baseball team; 36- Lord, is \_\_\_?; 37- Mr. Magoo, for one; 38- Crowd; 39- Seedy joint; 41- Alpo alternative; 42- Establish; 44- First principles; 46- Covered with water; 47- Attention-getting sound; 48- That's \_\_\_ haven't heard; 49- Take; 52- Purse; 53- Like the White Rabbit; 57- Be a mother to; 58- Delight; 60- Small songbird; 61- Therefore; 62- Less common; 63- Prefix with -drome; 64- Psychic; 65- Metal containers; 66- Edible roots;

DOWN: 1- Breathe; 2- Killer whale; 3- Boris Godunov, for one; 4- Domineer a husband; 5- Leopardlike cat; 6- Where the Styx flows; 7- Fit for service; 8- Mama's boy; 9- Soft leather; 10- Opposed; 11- Bring forth young; 12- \_\_\_ take arms against...; 15- One on the run; 23- Cooling units, for short; 25- Feel bad about; 26- Easy wins; 27- Pending; 28- Ingenuous; 29- Weaving machines; 30- Small change; 31- Methuselah's father; 32- It's owed; 33- Team; 34- Hilton competitor; 37- Cathedral; 40- High ruler; 42- Lamb's mom; 43- Railroad; 45- Mentalist's claim; 46- Enrages; 48- Like Cheerios; 49- Mars, to the Greeks; 50- Part of a bird's beak; 51- Prison; 52- Vamp Theda; 54- Kind of code; 55- Division of a school year; 56- Grandson of Adam; 59- Varnish ingredient;

**Friday's solution**

L	O	A	N	U	N	C	A	P	S	T	E	M
A	L	L	I	T	I	A	R	A	H	E	R	O
M	I	N	G	I	N	R	E	D	O	R	S	O
P	O	T	H	O	L	E	A	D	O	R	N	E
V	A	R	I	E	T	V	O	R	T			
V	A	R	I	E	T	V	O	R	T			
A	T	E	E	V	A	P	O	K	Y	O	G	A
L	A	T	R	E	F	R	E	F				
E	R	A	T	A	N	A	I	S	T	E	N	
T	I	O	R	E	S	A	C	O	L	V	T	E
L	A	K	E									
B	E	N	O	R	A	S	K	E	T	C	H	U
T	S	U	P	R	I	T	L	E	K	A	R	O
L	A	K	E									
T	I	E	R									
S	O	L	E	S								
K	E	L	Y									

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Emergency calls 999	Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222	Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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	



<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>Taipa Village</b> Two connected apartments  <b>HK\$8,380,000</b> 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 2 2</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>Manhattan Apartment, Taipa</b>  <b>\$18,800/mth</b> 1,626 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 2 2</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Wa Bao</i> 2 2 2              1,071 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$7,995,000</b> (ref: 18115568)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Chun Fok apartment</i> 2 2 2              834 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$8,998,000</b> (ref: 20036002)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>Unique Loft</i> 2 2 2              2,200 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$9,990,000</b> (ref: 15115464)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>One Central Stylish</i> 2 2 2              1,349 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$14,839,000</b> (ref: 19096004)</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p>[Macau] <i>Lakeview Mansion Car Park</i>              1 <b>\$3,800/mth</b> (ref: 20041001)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Delightful 1 Bed</i> 1 1 1              820 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$9,500/mth</b> (ref: 20051001)</p> <p>[Macau] <i>One Central</i> 2 2 2              1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$25,000/mth</b> (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Great View Apartment</i> 4 2 2              2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> <b>\$28,000/mth</b> (ref: 20031001)</p>
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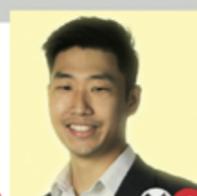
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Property of the Week



FOR SALE



**Taipa Village** Two connected apartments  
**HK\$8,380,000** 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 2

Two connected apartments creating a bright open space in Taipa Village. Currently set up as a showroom / office, the public area and entrance hallway has been completely renovated to a high standard. The property can be kept as one unit or split back into two separate units, each with two bedrooms. The Central Taipa location is extremely convenient with easy access to transport, restaurants, supermarkets and schools. The new owner can take vacant possession or continue with the current tenants to produce a significant rental income.

Property Hotlist



FOR SALE

**One Oasis, Coloane**  
Modern studio  
**\$6,357,000**  
691 ft<sup>2</sup>

1



SCAN ME



FOR SALE

**Nova City Carpark, Taipa**  
**\$1,590,000**  
100 ft<sup>2</sup>

1



SCAN ME



FOR RENT

**Manhattan E Unit, Taipa**  
**\$18,800/mth**  
1,626 ft<sup>2</sup>

3 2



SCAN ME



FOR RENT

**Traditional Apartment**  
Old Taipa Village  
**\$9,900/mth**  
600 ft<sup>2</sup>

2 1



SCAN ME

More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] *Wa Bao* 2 2 1,071 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$7,995,000** (ref: 18115568)
- [Taipa] *Chun Fok apartment* 2 2 834 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$8,998,000** (ref: 20036002)
- [Macau] *Unique Loft unit* 2 2 2,200 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$9,990,000** (ref: 15115464)
- [Coloane] *Large 3/4 bedroom* 2 3 2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096000)
- [Macau] *One Central Stylish* 2 2 1,349 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$14,839,000** (ref: 19096004)

For Rent

- [Macau] *Lakeview Mansion Car Park* 1 **\$3,800/mth** (ref: 20041001)
- [Taipa] *Central Taipa 1 Bed* 1 1 820 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$9,500/mth** (ref: 20051001)
- [Macau] *One Central* 2 2 1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$25,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] *Great View Apartment* 4 2 2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$28,000/mth** (ref: 20031001)
- [Taipa] *Ocean Garden* 4 4 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)

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ALFRED LIU

# HSBC pledges more investments in China as tension escalates

**H**SBBC Holdings Plc pledged to boost investments in China to capture more wealth and retail clients even as political tension escalates after Beijing launched sweeping new security legislation to crack down on Hong Kong.

The bank, which has come under fire over its support for the legislation, has announced a new service to provide customers in mainland China with digital wealth and insurance planning services. It will initially cover new customers in Guangzhou and Shanghai, according to a statement. The bank is also establishing a fintech company to support its business.

At a time of increasing political turmoil, China's rapidly growing middle and upper class is still the grand prize for banking giants across the world, with households sitting on about 90 trillion yuan in investable assets. Firms from UBS Group AG to Nomura Holdings Inc. and Credit Suisse Group AG have identified wealth management as a prime focus for their onshore businesses amid a market opening.

"These new investments mark HSBC's continued efforts to capture high-growth opportunities in Asia, particularly in mainland China, the region's biggest wealth

AP PHOTO



pool and one of the world's largest insurance markets," said Greg Hingston, HSBC's head of wealth and personal banking in Asia-Pacific, said in the statement.

London-based HSBC, which makes a bulk of its revenue in Asia, is walking a political tightrope in its attempts to further push into

the world's most populous nation. The bank last month endorsed China's new security law and is now drawing further criticism as the broad scope of the legislation was unveiled this week.

The U.S. Senate last week gave final approval to legislation that would impose sanctions on Chi-

nese officials cracking down on dissent in Hong Kong. The bill heads to President Donald Trump for his signature or veto.

While authorities in Beijing are moving to quell dissent, they are also opening up more business in Hong Kong. Regulators including the People's Bank of China annou-

nced in June the kick off of a long anticipated program called Wealth Management Connect, which will allow residents in Hong Kong, Macau and southern China to invest across the border.

HSBC's push for wealthy clients dovetails with Chief Executive Noel Quinn's plan to deploy more resources into Asia as the group cuts jobs and underperforming businesses in Europe and the U.S. as part of a massive overhaul.

In a statement on its official WeChat account last month, the London-based bank pledged to continue to invest and support the Chinese economy after the local media reported that its layoff plan means that HSBC may put an end to its China business.

Earlier this year, HSBC combined its retail banking and wealth management, and private banking businesses with \$1.3 trillion in assets. Its private banking unit said in March that it targets to triple the number of billionaire clients in Greater China in the next three years. **BLOOMBERG**

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**OPINION**

**World Views**

Noah Smith, Bloomberg

**BALKANIZATION IS BAD FOR FACEBOOK'S BUSINESS**

The internet, once a freewheeling global network, is becoming balkanized into national spheres of influence. This could be bad for both cross-cultural communication and U.S. tech companies.

China has long protected its local internet, censoring speech behind what has become known as the Great Firewall. The government blocks U.S.-based services such as Google, Facebook and Twitter, and closely monitors the local Chinese versions. Other authoritarian and quasi-authoritarian countries -- Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Vietnam, Ethiopia -- do the same. And Russia recently passed a so-called sovereign internet law that makes it much easier for the government to monitor and control online content.

Now democracies may be joining in. India just banned 59 of China's largest internet apps, including social video sharing service TikTok, reflecting rising tensions between the two giant Asian countries. It has also shut off internet to regions experiencing government crackdowns or unrest, such as Jammu and Kashmir in 2019. In Europe, major rules such as the General Data Protection Regulation are forcing internet companies to operate differently in different regions. Though this doesn't officially ban or censor U.S.-based sites like Facebook, it does present an obstacle that could end up inhibiting the flow of information.

This was probably inevitable. Different cultures perceive concepts such as privacy differently. And as U.S. global hegemony gives way to a more multipolar world, countries are going to assert their sovereignty by refusing to play by U.S. rules. Further unrest, like the protests that rocked the world in 2019 or tensions between countries such as China and India, are likely to accelerate the trend towards digital division.

This could be tough on U.S. tech companies. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube don't owe their profitability to superior technology, other than some techniques for managing large amounts of user data. They make money because they have a lot of eyeballs to which they can deliver advertisements.

And they have those eyeballs because of network effects. It's easy to make a Twitter clone -- Gab tried it a while ago, and a new entrant called Parler is trying it now. But it's incredibly hard to get people to switch, because the first people who make the jump will find themselves mostly alone, with everyone they know and want to read still back on Twitter. Similarly, people use Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and other social media services because everyone else does.

Captive advertising targets translate into enormous profits. Facebook, Inc., which dominates the social media landscape, has a profit margin that typically ranges between 20% and 40%. Its market cap as of early July was about \$647 billion, or 2.6% of the entire S&P 500.

Regional balkanization, though, slices through network effects. If services like Facebook are banned in some countries and heavily restricted in others, users will have less company. Most people's contacts and friends will tend to be in the same country, but not all. And outright bans will cut some services off entirely from huge markets like China, while restrictions like GDPR will force them to invest in expensive localization.

This is an unfortunate side effect of nationalism and unrest. But it's also reason to worry about a technology industry whose profitability stems mostly from network effects, not know-how. Actual innovations, like Intel Corporation's semiconductor manufacturing processes, Amazon.com, Inc.'s cloud computing systems, or Google LLC's machine learning algorithms give these companies some clout: if a country decides it doesn't want to buy Intel's chips, it will suffer a real economic penalty. But if a country decides to create its own Facebook clone, it will lose little, while Facebook's American owners and workers will lose a lot.

A free and open global internet may one day reemerge. In the meantime, U.S. companies and policy makers should think about how to invest in products whose value isn't so subject to the whims of foreign authorities.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is suspending Canada's extradition treaty with Hong Kong, making it the first country to break law enforcement links with the former British colony since China tightened its control over the territory.

Trudeau announced the measures at a press conference, joining allies in efforts to sanction China. Steps will include a ban on the export of sensitive military equipment to Hong Kong and a new travel advisory warning of the impacts of new security legislation.

Hong Kong has extradition pacts with 30 countries and ju-

risdictions around the world including the U.S., Europe and Australia.

"Canada is a firm believer in the one country, two system framework," Trudeau told reporters near Ottawa. "We will continue to support the many connections between Canada and Hong Kong, while also standing up for its people."

Trudeau said Canada will look at additional measures in the coming days and weeks, including around immigration. He didn't give details. Hong Kong is home to about 300,000 Canadians.

AP PHOTO



**KANYE WEST SAYS HE'S RUNNING FOR PRESIDENT, TWITTER EXPLODES**

DEREK WALLBANK

**K**ANYE West says he's running for president. It's not clear if the musician is serious, or if this is a publicity stunt for himself or a project unrelated to the presidency.

West's Saturday night Twitter post instantly went viral, with more than 100,000 retweets within the first hour.

West has 29.4 million followers on Twitter. 'Kanye' quickly became the number one trending term on Twitter in the U.S.

If West is serious, there is a long list of hurdles toward running that would be nearly insurmountable for most candidates, including starting a campaign from scratch in July of an election year. He would need to qualify for ballot access across 50 states and the District of Columbia, as well as build a presidential-grade political organization from scratch without the support of a party infrastructure.

At the moment, West doesn't appear to have filed forms with the Federal Election Commission to run for office, according to a Bloomberg review of FEC data.

West, 43, has talked about running for president for years, and last year told an audience he'd run for president in 2024. He and his wife, Kim

A week ago, Gap Inc. shares surged the most in at least 40 years after it revealed a partnership agreement with the head-turning rapper and designer. West, whose sneaker line with Adidas AG routinely sells out, will work with the struggling apparel company on a new line for men, women and kids called Yeezy Gap.

Three days later, Coty Inc., the owner of Max Factor and Covergirl, reached an agreement to buy a 20% stake in Kardashian West's beauty business for \$200 million - valuing the business at \$1 billion. West, who told

Trump the Adidas deal made him a billionaire, also promptly crowned his reality TV star wife with the same status following the deal.

Tesla Inc. CEO Elon Musk, who previously supported former Democratic candidate Andrew Yang, quickly said he was on board. "You have my full support!" he responded to West's tweet. **BLOOMBERG**

**We must now realize the promise of America by trusting God, unifying our vision and building our future. I am running for president of the United States ! #2020VISION**

—YE (@KANYEWEST) JULY 5, 2020

Kardashian West, have worked with President Donald Trump a number of times including on the release of prisoners. West donned a red "Make America Great Again" hat for a meeting with Trump in the Oval Office in 2018. Meanwhile, the retweets continue to pile up, pointing to their influence both in entertainment and even business.

**Iran** yesterday instituted mandatory mask-wearing as fears mount over newly spiking reported deaths from the coronavirus, even as its public increasingly shrugs off the danger of the COVID-19 illness it causes.

AP PHOTO



**Israel** As scandal-plagued Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu stands trial for corruption, his 28-year-old son, Yair Netanyahu, has emerged as a driving force in a counterattack against critics and the state institutions prosecuting the longtime Israeli leader.

**Turkey** The death toll from a massive explosion in a fireworks factory in Turkey has increased to six. The governor of Sakarya in northwest Turkey announced two new deaths and said rescue teams were still searching for one more person after Friday's explosion.

AP PHOTO



**France** Paris police blocked anti-racism groups from leading a "de-colonial tour" of Paris on Sunday to call attention to monuments and streets honoring historical figures tied to the slave trade or colonial-era abuses.

**US** Baltimore protesters pulled down a statue of Christopher Columbus and threw it into the city's Inner Harbor on Saturday night. Protesters mobilized by the death of George Floyd at the hands of police say the Italian explorer is responsible for the genocide and exploitation of native peoples in the Americas.

**Brazil** President Jair Bolsonaro attended a U.S. Independence Day celebration in Brazil's capital Saturday at which participants declined to wear face masks, one day after he vetoed obligatory use of masks in private settings.