

**The Macao SAR Government urges:**

- Implement regular epidemic prevention measures;
- Wash hands frequently and wear a mask;
- Keep a distance and avoid crowd gathering;
- Convert health code for boundary crossings;
- Stay within the Greater Bay Area if leaving Macao.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

www.rcr-macau.com

**RCR** electronics

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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

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**HO IAT SENG REITERATED THAT MACAU SHOULD 'UTILIZE ITS INSTITUTIONAL ADVANTAGES' UNDERLYING THE ONE COUNTRY, TWO SYSTEMS FRAMEWORK**

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**AUSTRALIA ENDS HONG KONG EXTRADITION TREATY, EXTENDS VISAS**

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**THE MAYOR OF SEOUL VANISHED AMID SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS AFTER LEAVING A MESSAGE TO HIS DAUGHTER DESCRIBED AS A WILL**

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**China** yesterday reported nine cases brought from outside the country and none domestically amid growing signs the virus has been essentially contained in the nation where it emerged late last year. China saw its last localized outbreak in the capital Beijing last month. The near elimination of local virus transmission has allowed the reopening of most businesses and resumption of some social activities.



**Japan** Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike said the record 224 new coronavirus cases reported yesterday is a "wake-up call" for the city and urged younger people, who account for most of the cases, to act responsibly so they won't infect the elderly and other vulnerable people. Yesterday's rise topped the previous record of 206 on April 17, when Japan was under a state of emergency. Tokyo plans to further increase its testing capacity from the current 6,500 to 10,000.

**South Korea** has reported 50 new cases of the coronavirus as new clusters emerge across the country. Nineteen new cases announced by South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention were from the Seoul metropolitan area, while 15 were from the southern city of Gwangju. Twenty-two of the new cases were linked to international arrivals as COVID-19 continues to spread globally.



**Indonesia**'s resort island of Bali reopened after a three-month virus lockdown yesterday, allowing local people and stranded foreign tourists to resume public activities before foreign arrivals resume in September. Beaches and streets on the island emptied in early April except for special patrols to ensure virus-containment protocols were observed.

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## ANOTHER MAN ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY

A retired local 65-year-old man, surnamed Tam, has been found by the Judiciary Police to be in possession of hundreds of sexual videos and images, the majority of which depict minors. The police, however, did not find that the victims were connected to Macau. The man was discovered uploading and sharing similar videos on the internet, which drew the attention of Interpol. Local police were notified by their international counterparts. At least two of the videos which caught Interpol's attention depicted underage boys having sex with adult women. The local police are trying to trace the origin of the videos. The suspect has been handed over to the prosecution authority.

## MAN ACCUSES FRIEND OF FORGERY, BUT POLICE QUESTION ACCOUNT

An unemployed 66-year-old man, surnamed Lok, has allegedly falsely accused his friend of forging his signature to authorize the sale of his flat. After investigating, the Judiciary Police obtained proof that the signature on the authorization letter was in fact Lok's own. The police also discovered that in 1996, Lok owed his friend MOP396,000 and had to sell his flat, which was located near the Red Market, to repay the debt. He earned about MOP1 million from the sale. Half of this went to Lok's wife, while the other half was used to settle the debt. The police pointed out that Lok's wife's signature was also required in order to sell the flat, which suggests that the accusation was false. However, Lok has denied this.

## MASS FOOD POISONING REPORTED FROM SEAFOOD PLATTER

Five people fell ill with symptoms such as abdominal pain, diarrhea, fever, nausea and vomiting after consuming a spicy chilled seafood platter delivered to them on July 5. The shop that made the platter is located on Rua da Praia do Manduco in the Inner Harbor District. According to the Health Bureau's epidemiological investigation, this incident was likely to have been caused by bacterial pathogens, judging by the patients' eating records, the incubation period and their symptoms. Meanwhile, the Municipal Affairs Bureau has ordered the shop to stop selling the product and to sanitize the shop, especially the work area.



# RETAINING TALENT CRUCIAL FOR EMERGING INDUSTRIES: RESEARCHER

ANTHONY LAM

**M**ACAU should strive to retain its talent while attracting more non-resident talent to the region, Lau Veng Seng, convener of Human Resources Policy Research Group of the Economic Development Committee said yesterday.

"The government should make policies to retain talent in Macau, making Macau more attractive to talent," Lau advanced, "so that they will be willing to stay and contribute to our emerging industries."

The emerging industries Lau mentioned were traditional Chinese medicine and financial services.

Lau said that the city should try to institutionalize career

planning. For example, people should be educated about the city and the country when they are young, so they can make early plans for their career development and choose the corresponding major at university.

Internship opportunities should also be given to interested students, providing them with hands-on experience in emerging industries.

Attracting talent from outside of Macau is also important, according to Lau. In his opinion, it will speed up the growth of local talent.

"The government should also institutionalize talent absorption," Lau explained. "They will take managerial positions to educate local talents to support the development of

the emerging industries."

On the other hand, in one of the Research Group's previous meetings, director of the Labour Affairs Bureau, Wong Chi Hung, sat in and introduced the non-resident labor market amid the pandemic. He also presented a progress update on subsidized training programs and employment for graduates this year.

"We are happy that the government could provide these programs, even with the pandemic," Lau said. "Human resources in Macau are scarce, let alone the resource of high-caliber talents. We have looked into [which] industries have seen weaker impact on their employment or what will likely survive this

tough economic time."

"Currently, we hope the government will provide more resources to offer better training to our labor force, including improving their vocational or professional skills," he said. "Besides improving their skills at their current jobs, we believe our labor force should embrace training in other industries deemed by the government to count as economic diversity."

The subsidized training program is solely operated by the DSAL. Training programs offered by other public or semi-public entities, such as the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies, the University of Macau, or the Macao Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre will not be subsidized.

ANTHONY LAM

**I**N his opening speech at yesterday's Economic Development Committee annual plenary, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng reiterated that Macau should "utilize its institutional advantages underlying the 'One Country, Two Systems' framework and be well-prepared to participate in the construction of the Greater Bay Area."

On the sidelines of the plenary, Sio Chi Wai, convener of the committee's Economic Diversification Policy Research Group, hinted that first step towards economic

## Ho Iat Seng: Greater Bay project offers diversity opportunity

diversity is greater engagement with Hengqin.

"The tourism industry has been an advantage of Macau's," Sio explained. "While agreeing on this view unanimously, members of the committee have also raised concerns about how the economy can achieve diversification through in-depth cooperation with Hengqin."

Sio disclosed that the

group had held meetings on the promotion of traditional Chinese medicine as part of the economic diversification plan. He also explained that a Chinese medicine district in the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin has been proposed.

In addition, Macau's economic diversification will also include the financial services indus-

try. The convener of the group hinted that Macau can assist in financing technological developments in Hengqin.

"Some technological industries in Hengqin need funding," Sio said. "We have been considering how to provide assistance by utilizing Macau's position as a financial free harbor."

He hinted that in order to foster more widespread collaboration

between Macau and Hengqin, policymaking is not likely to be overly detail-oriented.

José Chui, the convener of the committee's Communal Economic Development Policy Research Group, reiterated that the government has strived to stabilize the economy and the employment market with the MOP1 billion relief plan and the consumption stimulus campaign.

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# Gov't seen to tighten issuing of blue cards

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE government may impose stricter measures on the issuing of Non-Resident Worker's Permits, commonly known as blue cards, in order to protect local workers amid the recent rise in unemployment.

Official data shows that the general unemployment rate for March-May 2020 stood at 2.4%, the highest figure since 2011, demonstrating the economic impact of Covid-19.

According to human resources experts, the government has been imposing tougher measures on those applying for new quotas from the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL).

"For new applications, I have seen that the government is definitely not as quick as before [to approve quotas], particularly for the unskilled workers," said Jacinta Ho, the founder and managing director of JC Human Resources Consulting.

"With the clients I'm dealing with, the government, most of the time, is still renewing [quotas]. What I see is that if the company or organization is seen to have been taking good care of their local staff, then the government will renew [the working permits]," Ho added.

On the contrary, the consulting firm has had some of its clients show initiative and cancel quotas that could not be used due to the closure of the border and other reasons.

The city still has entry bans on foreigners in place that cover blue card holders and tourists from outside of the greater China region.

Recently, small and large corporations have let go of their staff, particularly non-resident workers. A few have even chartered flights to send their employees back to their home countries.

The Times contacted the DSAL and the Public Security Police Force, which oversees immigration matters in the SAR, to confirm whether there are plans to impose measures to protect local employment. No reply was received by press time.

In the city, laying off a resident identity card holder is somewhat stigmatized, as the law states that non-residents should only be hired based on resident workers' unavailability or inability to occupy similar positions.

According to the aforementioned law, the needs of the la-

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



bor market should be considered when issuing a quota.

For human resource expert Leanda Care, it has always a balancing act for Macau between the workforce demand and supply in terms of both worker numbers and skills shortages.

However, what the city needs is a list of vacancies that are to be filled by blue card quotas, whether these are domestic helper quotas, or skilled or unskilled working permits.

"These needs are communicated publicly [in other jurisdictions]," said Care, who is also a contributing editor at Macau Daily Times. "What we rarely see is a transparent needs analysis – a stock-take – of the human resource requirements now and also those projected into the future, and then have those needs matched against the local workforce supply."

Such a scheme would make it clear to blue card applicants (both employers and employees) whether a position is likely to be approved.

Non-resident workers can also be said to contribute to the SAR's cultural and ethnic diversity and such criteria could also be taken into account.

If such a system were in place, blue card workers would not be seen as taking jobs away from the local workforce,

but as "crucial contributors" to Macau.

"The rhetoric of 'blue card bad' needs to change," Care said.

Although the city's unemployment rate has been stable and near zero for the past decade, the economic impact of Covid-19 has magnified issues for non-resident workers.

Tougher policies on the issuing of blue cards have been

expected since Covid-19 took hold. However, the immediate impact of this policy has meant that employers are trying to backfill positions that were filled by blue card holders.

"Because the gaming revenue, which is the main driver for large hotel groups and concessionaires, recorded a sharp decrease, the backfills are not coming back so quickly," said Alan Chan, mana-

ging director of TalentGroup Asia, a human resources solutions provider.

"Local employment is not going to see a dramatic benefit in the short run. Another key factor that has been pointed out is that job types including housekeeping, cleaning, security, are not the typical job types filled by locals easily," Chan commented.

Echoing the same sentiment, Ho suggested that a good ratio between local and non-local residents should be in place. She noted that it would be difficult for local residents to fill the positions of non-resident workers as "they are not a fan of [these difficult] jobs."

JC Human Resources Consulting has seen a sharp 80% to 90% decrease in job postings. The remaining postings are mostly from IT or financial institutions.

Furthermore, Jassy Santos, president of the Progressive Union of Domestic Workers of Macau, commented that tougher measures would not benefit non-residents. Lamenting the city's new laws, Santos said non-resident workers, particularly domestic helpers, are always put at a disadvantage.

Santos was also referring to the law forbidding tourists from searching for jobs that will be enacted by October.

"I don't think there will be local residents that would be interested in domestic work, which involves long hours and [low] wages," said the leader of the migrant worker group.

## ONE SHOT NEWS



The Director of the Government Information Bureau, Inês Chan Lou (center), visited the offices of Macau Daily Times yesterday in order to better understand the operation of the English-language newspaper and collect opinions on the development of the local media industry. Chan and Macau Daily Times Editor-in-Chief Paulo Coutinho (second from right) discussed the role English-language media plays in disseminating information to Macau's many communities and how it is shaping the SAR into an international city.





COURTS | IPIM

# DEFENSE LAWYERS PROTEST USE OF WECHAT VOICE MESSAGES, APPEAL DENIED

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE high-profile criminal trial against the former leaders of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and their alleged affiliates continued yesterday, with defense lawyers protesting the use of voice messages sent via the mobile application WeChat as evidence.

The case concerns an alleged scheme to improperly grant Macau residency permits via IPIM's investment and technical immigration schemes.

The protest initiative was started by lawyer Pedro Leal while closing the morning session. Leal took the opportunity to request that the court, led by Judge Leong Fong Meng, stop using such recordings as evidence based on Articles 172 and 175 of Macau's Code of Criminal Procedure.

According to Leal, WeChat recordings should be treated the same way as phone tapping. The lawyers added that the use of this method should be restricted to a prior judge order, which did not occur, so the recordings should not be admitted as evidence.

Leal also added that in the case of the defendant, Glória Batalha Ung, former IPIM deputy president, the crimes she stands accused of have a penal framework of less than three

years' imprisonment. For this reason, and due to the rules, this is why the use of phone tapping methods as evidence should also be refused.

The initiative gathered support among all the defense lawyers but was then refuted by the Public Prosecutor's Office. The Office said that the articles Leal mentioned "only apply in cases of a direct phone tapping of a conversation between two people," which was not the case here.

According to the prosecutor, "the evidence collected comes from the mobile phones of the involved or the backups from those mobile phones found on the computers and were obtained legally."

Following this, Rui Velez de Moura, who is defending Crystal Chang, the daughter of the IPIM former president, added that when the judge validated the recordings, it only referred to the recording itself and not to the content of it. He agreed with Leal for this reason, invoking the nullification of this evidence.

After the lunch break, Leong started the afternoon session by addressing the topic and presenting the court's decision to reject Leal's request, which had been subscribed to by all the defense lawyers. The judge authorized the continued use of WeChat voice messages as evidence.

Leong explained that the court had been using such evidence since the start of the trial, adding that, "the evidence was collected afterward [from the mobile phones and computer devices] and not in real-time like in phone tapping."

Leong also added that the judge at the Criminal Preliminary Hearing Court, who initiated the process, "also analyzed the evidence on this matter and had considered it legal and acceptable."

Lastly, Leong brought up a decision made by Court of Second Instance in 2016, which she mentioned could serve as a reference for this case. The judges had ruled that this type of evidence, even if it is archived, is not under the provisions of Article 172 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The article states that the "interception or recording of telephone conversations or communications can only be ordered or authorized, by a judge, if there are reasons to believe that the investigation will prove to be of great interest for the discovery of the truth or as proof of crimes: Punishable by imprisonment of a maximum of over 3 years; Related to drug trafficking; Related to prohibited weapons, explosives or similar devices or materials; Smuggling; or Injuries, threats, coercion and privacy intrusion, when committed over the telephone."

Leong also noted in his reply to Leal that, "Since the evidence collected is not related to phone tapping, the limitation to the crimes with a penal framework with a ceiling of over 3 years of imprisonment, also [does] not apply in this case." He urged the lawyers to submit an appeal if they did not agree with the decision.

During most of yesterday's court hearing, a witness from the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) used PowerPoint slides to demonstrate documentary evidence establishing a connection between the defendants and skilled immigration residency applicants.

The focus was mainly on the 15th defendant and IPIM residency applicant Liang Wei-qiang.

The CCAC witness showed several documents, including a work declaration from Liang that was submitted to IPIM on May 1, 2012, when Liang was supposed to have started work at One Kin Construction Company Limited.

The document contained personal data, such as the issuing date of the Macau Identification Card of the head of the company. This showed that the card was last renewed in October 2014, more than two years after the working contract.

The CCAC investigation traced the document back to the

One Kin company office. They showed that the document had been produced in December 2015, and was forged for the sole purpose of allowing Liang's residency permit, which was about to expire, to be renewed.

According to the witness, similar occurrences were found in many other documents related to Liang, including job contracts, duties, salary and banking statements. These were faked by One Kin Company staff by order of top administrator Ng Kuok Sao.

When analyzing Liang's bank account, the witness also found that the amount of his salary deposit did not match what he had declared in the work contract to IPIM, showing a significant reduction (of around 15,000 patacas per month).

It was also found that Liang's banking records were being faked by people within the company, namely Wu Shuhua and Yu Shuhua, who are the 5th and 6th defendants of the case respectively. At a later stage, they had been ordered to make deposits into Liang's account of an amount compatible with the amount stated at IPIM (MOP50,000 per month). This was money that would then be withdrawn over the course of the month in MOP10,000 increments, and was then used in a new "simulated salary" transfer the following month.





# Wynn celebrates Micro-Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day and champions local SMEs

**T**HE United Nations has designated 27 June as the official Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Day to recognize the vital contributions made by MSMEs to both their home nations and the global economy. In this spirit and as part of its longstanding support for the community, Wynn has joined hands with the Macao SAR Government to support local SMEs by energetically promoting the use of consumption e-vouchers and other relief measures. In addition to actively seeking new business opportunities for SMEs and providing them with a digital promotion platform, Wynn is also encouraging its own team members to support Macao's economy by purchasing local products and services. The company thereby assists every sector of society to achieve the shared goal of stimulating the economy and protecting local employment.

Wynn Care champions the LOHAS (Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability) concept and supports youth cultural

and creative industries and SMEs alike. To this end, Wynn hosted a "LOHAS Weekend" at Wynn Palace in May, inviting numerous local youth cultural and creative associations to join the Macao community for this enjoyable event. The format of the event featured quaint market stalls which showcased a wide range of creative products, and were complimented by a selection of workshops and performances. The crafts on display included limited edition art designs, eco-friendly merchandise, floral art, woodwork and handmade jewellery. These diverse activities gladdened the hearts of local people and injected fresh inspiration into their daily lives.

Amid the pandemic, Wynn has proactively partnered with an innovative local SME to support locally-designed and manufactured reusable masks in order to reduce the environmental impact of their disposable counterparts and mitigating supply issues. These sustainable 'Made in Macau' masks are SGS certified and

can be washed and reused up to 50 times. Wynn is the first large international integrated enterprise to purchase "Made in Macau" masks, and are proud to support the local economy by placing an initial order worth several hundred thousand patacas.

## ENCOURAGING CONSUMERS TO SPEND MORE ONLINE

Co-organized by the Macao Chamber of Commerce, the "Caring 8000" campaign will run from 1 May to 31 December and features an exciting range of mini games coupled with lucky draws rolled out through the official Wynn Care WeChat channel. The campaign aims to stimulate the patronage of local SMEs in order to boost our economy and support the consumption e-voucher scheme initiated by the Macao SAR government.

## WELFARE DEVELOPMENT IN SUPPORT OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

Wynn is committed to transforming assistance provided by business sector

into a force to strengthen the capabilities of social enterprises. For many years, Wynn has supported the "Happy Market Social Enterprise" run by the Fuhong Society of Macau; in addition to safeguarding the employment of disabled staff, this vital organization also promotes the eco-friendly concept of reusing old materials through the sharing of resources, supports low-income families or those who are in need, and aids foreign workers who are unemployed and stranded in Macau due to the pandemic.

## DEVELOPMENT OF IN-DEPTH TOURISM TO BENEFIT SMES

Wynn Care continues to organize the Carmo Market in conjunction with the Industry and Commerce Association of Macau (ICAMO), helping local MSMEs and young start-up entrepreneurs to raise their profile and brand awareness. This summer will bear witnesses to the

introduction of a new location as the event extends into Coloane. For the very first time, an in-depth tour route for the Islands District is being rolled out to support the Macao SAR Government's plan of encouraging local residents and tourists to purchase local products and services. The event is also joined by DianPing and Xiaohongshu to help promote MSMEs in the area, and is expected to attract more than 54,000 people.

## WYNN CARE MACAU PASS BOOSTS THE ECONOMY

On 16 April, Wynn announced the launch of the 'Wynn Care Macau Pass' to support the Macao SAR Government's 'Consumption Subsidy Plan', which is aimed at stimulating consumer spending and assisting local SMEs. A total of 13,600 Wynn team members received a 'Wynn Care Macau Pass' with a pre-paid credit of MOP 1,000, so Wynn employees could lead from the front in helping to boost local spending.



# MACAU IMPLEMENTS STRICTER ENTRY MEASURES FOLLOWING HK'S NEW WAVE

LYNZY VALLES

A set of stringent infection control rules has been implemented at all border crossing checkpoints for the Macau SAR, as the city remains vigilant following a third wave of Covid-19 cases in Hong Kong.

The government said in a statement that it is assessing the potential risk this might pose to the city.

Macau also warned that it needs to re-evaluate its travel bubble plan with the region, and that it would review its guidelines and protocols for quarantine exemptions.

The travel bubble was supposed to facilitate the movement of people between Macau, Hong Kong and Guangdong without such people having to undergo a 14-day quarantine.

However, just yesterday, the HKSAR recorded 34 new local cases, following several other days of mounting infections. Authorities mentioned that the latest infections were tied to people not wearing masks at work or in public areas.



Pedestrians wearing protective masks walk along an elevated walkway in the Wan Chai district of Hong Kong

Some cases were associated with schools.

The resurgence in the Asian hub comes after weeks of normalized activity as people returned to work and restaurants filled up again, raising the

specter of a reversion to social distancing.

According to Bloomberg, the number of new local infections that can't be traced suggest that hidden chains of transmission have been circulating in the

city for some time as restaurants, bars and malls filled up and the population's discipline on mask-wearing slipped.

Already the Hong Kong government is set to tighten social distancing measures

again from tomorrow.

The city will go back to its initial social distancing rules where restaurants can only operate at 60% of capacity and seat just eight people per table. Groups visiting gyms, party rooms and karaoke lounges are limited to a maximum of eight.

People arriving in Macau from Hong Kong will still be required to undergo immediate 14-day medical observation periods.

The number of people travelling between Macau and Hong Kong has remained at a relatively low level during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Macau government has advised the public to continue to implement existing infection control measures in order to prevent an outbreak of disease either in schools or the general community.

Earlier this month, Hong Kong extended its 14-day mandatory quarantine requirements for entrants from Macau, mainland China and Taiwan once more. The requirement will be in place until at least August 7.

## Personalities, top officials gather for Stanley Ho funeral

MACAU'S Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong and former Chief Executive Edmund Ho were among the Macau delegation attending the vigil for casino legend Stanley Ho, held yesterday at the North Point Funeral Home in Hong Kong.

A funeral service will be held there today, with reportedly over 100 high-profile personalities attending, before he is buried in Hong Kong's Mount Davies Cemetery at a later date.

Stanley Ho died on May 26, aged 98.

The iconic casino billionaire built Macau into the world's biggest gambling hub after winning a monopoly license in 1961. His SJM Holdings Ltd. flourished as China's economic opening created a flood of new wealth in a country with a passion for gambling.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam and former leader Tung Chee-hwa were also understood to be in attendance at yesterday's vigil, as was the deputy director



Former Macau Chief Executive Edmund Ho Hau-wah (center) attends the late Macau tycoon Stanley Ho's funeral memorial in Hong Kong

of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong, Tan Tieniu.

An official funeral committee for today's events includes more than 90 members, including many notable personalities from both sides of the Pearl River estuary, such as Ambrose So, vice-chairman and chief executive of

SJM Holdings, and Li Ka-shing, the founder of CK Hutchison Holdings.

Macau Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, Carrie Lam, Director of the Hong Kong Liaison Office Luo Huining, Director of the Macau Liaison Office Fu Ziying, and former Macau Chief Executive Chui Sai On are directors of the funeral committee. DB

## INÊS CHAN EXPLAINS RECENT CLOSED-DOOR INAUGURATIONS

THE new director of the Government Information Bureau, Inês Chan, explained yesterday that journalists had not been invited to recent government events, such as her own inauguration ceremony, due to Covid-19 containment measures.

The media industry voiced its concern this week having not been invited to cover the inauguration ceremonies of several government officials. The most recent ceremony was for the vice director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

In addition, journalists are no longer allowed to wait outside the meeting room during the Legislative Assembly's committee meetings. They are now required to wait in a conference hall. These arrangements have even prompted lawmaker Sulu Sou to file an inquiry to the government.



"Although the conditions in Macau have improved, global conditions are still tough," Chan explained. "That's why we shouldn't relax for the time being."

She reiterated the government's stance on resuming communal activities gradually.

"We have resumed some economic and communal activities," the official noted. "But we have to operate some activities with restrictions on crowds gathering."

The new publicity official stressed that the absence of journalists at her inauguration does not mean that the media

is being downplayed, as she is meeting with media outlets individually to exchange ideas and learn about each outlet's hardships.

Chan added that the media is crucial to the government's administration. "We need to learn about public opinions from the media," the official explained. "And we need the media to help with news dissemination as well."

Finally, Chan noted that the government's publicity office has a professional team, as well as herself, to help safeguard the dignity and freedoms of local journalists. AL



HONG KONG

## TIKTOK GONE FROM APP STORES AS CHINA LAW BITES

**BYTEDANCE** Ltd.'s TikTok is no longer available to download for either iPhones or Android devices in Hong Kong, exiting the market just days after the passage of a new national security law by Beijing.

The law grants sweeping powers for authorities to police online content and has drawn opposition from internet giants like Facebook Inc., Alphabet Inc.'s Google and Twitter Inc. TikTok, which has been the subject of intensifying scrutiny from the U.S. over its relationship with the Chinese government, said that it would withdraw the app from Hong Kong in the coming days.

The short video service, a global sen-

sation from the U.S. to India, has a China-only twin called Douyin. It is not yet clear whether ByteDance will offer Douyin as a substitute in Hong Kong, a city of 7.4 million people where TikTok had 1.8 million downloads as of September, according to Sensor Tower.

TikTok has faced persistent allegations that its decisions on content align with Beijing's priorities. It has targeted videos related to pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, the mistreatment of Muslims in China's Xinjiang region and standoffs at the India-China border. It was among 59 apps that India banned after an intensification of that border dispute recently. **BLOOMBERG**

# HKD peg defense tops \$13 billion as demand surges

**D**EMAND for Hong Kong dollars is intensifying in the face of an increasingly politicized environment, with mainland buying helping to buoy both the pegged currency and local stock market.

The city's de facto central bank sold HK\$13.4 billion (\$1.7 billion) to purchase the greenback yesterday, taking the total it has spent this year to keep the local currency from strengthening further to \$13.5 billion.

Some Trump aides are considering plans to undermine the peg mechanism in retribution for Beijing's crackdown on civil liberties in the former British colony, Bloomberg reported yesterday. Mainland-based investors showed their support for the city through buying more than \$1 billion worth of Hong Kong shares on the day.

The events show how the city's financial system is increasingly being caught up in the rivalry between Washington and Beijing. For now, Hong Kong's markets seem immune to the tensions. Red-hot Chinese equities, a stronger yuan and low



valuations have helped push Hong Kong stocks into a bull market. Mainland purchases of local equities since Beijing first announced plans for Hong Kong's controversial security law have climbed over \$9 billion.

"Bullish sentiment is pushing short-term funds and liquidity into Hong Kong," said Banny Lam, managing director at CEB International

Capital Corp. "China's stock market is very hot and you see a lot of people using the stock connect to buy these shares. All these factors are attracting liquidity."

The Hong Kong dollar traded at 7.75 versus the greenback at 5:48 p.m. local time Thursday. The Hang Seng Index rose 0.3% at the close. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD



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AP PHOTO



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison

# Australia ends Hong Kong extradition treaty, extends visas

ROD MCGUIRK,  
CANBERRA

**A**USTRALIA suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong and extended visas for Hong Kong residents in response to China's imposition of a tough national security law on the semi-autonomous territory, the prime minister said yesterday.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced a range of visas that will be extended from two to five years and offers of pathways to permanent residency visas. It is not clear how many Hong Kongers are expected to get the extensions.

The move comes after China bypassed Hong Kong's Legislative Council to impose the sweeping security legislation without public consultation. Critics view it as a further deterioration of freedoms promised to the former British colony, in response to last year's massive protests calling for greater democracy and more police accountability.

The national security law prohibits what Beijing views as secessionist, subversive or terrorist activities or as foreign intervention in Hong Kong affairs. Under the law, police now have sweeping powers to conduct searches without warrants and order internet service providers and platforms to remove messages deemed to be in violation of the legislation.

"Our government, together with other governments around the world, have been very consistent in expressing our concerns about the imposition of the national security law on Hong Kong," Morrison told reporters.

"That national security law constitutes a fundamental change of circumstances in respect to our extradition agreement with Hong Kong," Morrison said.

The Chinese Embassy in Canberra accused Australia of a "serious violation of international law and basic norms governing interna-

"The consequences will be fully borne by Australia," Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing.

China, Australia's most important trade partner, has already imposed effective import bans on beef and barley from the country and issued a travel warning to its citizens in what was widely seen as political retaliation over legal and other matters.

Britain, too, is extending residency rights for up to 3 million Hong Kongers eligible for British National Overseas passports, allowing them to live and work in the U.K. for five years.

## Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced a range of visas that will be extended from two to five years and offers of pathways to permanent residency visas

tional relations."

"We urge the Australian side to immediately stop meddling in Hong Kong affairs and China's internal affairs," an embassy statement said. "Otherwise it will lead to nothing but lifting a rock only to hit its own feet."

In Beijing, foreign ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said China reserved the right to "take further actions" in response to moves by Canberra.

Canada has suspended its extradition treaty with Hong Kong and is looking at other options including migration.

In Australia, the most likely Hong Kongers to benefit from the new policies are the 10,000 already in the country on student and other temporary visas.

Acting Immigration Minister Alan Tudge said he expected the numbers of Hong Kongers who would

come to Australia under the new arrangements would be "in the hundreds or low thousands."

Australia last offered "safe haven" visas to Chinese after the bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters around Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989. More than 27,000 Chinese students in Australia at the time were allowed to stay permanently.

Global Times, a Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece, this week warned that "no one should underestimate the repercussions to the Australian economy from a further deterioration of bilateral ties."

"If the Australian government chooses to continue to interfere in China's internal affairs, it should be expected that the 'safe haven' offer will result in a huge negative impact on the Australian economy, making the issue much more serious than many people would have anticipated," the newspaper said.

China accused Australia of spreading disinformation when the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade issued a travel advisory this week warning that Australian visitors could be at risk of arbitrary detention.

The department's latest advisory for Hong Kong yesterday warned that visitors could be sent to mainland China to be prosecuted under mainland law.

"You may be at increased risk of detention on vaguely defined national security grounds," the advisory said. "You could break the law without intending to."

Australia had negotiated an extradition treaty with China, but shelved it in 2017 when it became clear that the Australian Senate would vote it down. The separate Hong Kong treaty has been in place since 1993. **AP**

## this day in history



### 2000 UK TIDAL WAVE OF WEB USERS

One in four British homes is now using the internet according to figures released by the government.

A new survey by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) estimates that in the first quarter of this year there were six-and-a-half million households accessing the internet, which is double the total for the same period last year.

This is the first time this information has been included in the ONS's Family Expenditure Survey which is published quarterly.

The survey - of 7,000 households - reveals that internet usage varies according to location, wealth and age of families.

Although more than twice as many people in Northern Ireland are logging on than last year, the figure is still 11% of the total, compared to 24% in south-east England.

Homes with families are also more likely to use the web as 35% of those with two or more children will have web access, compared to just one per cent of single pensioners.

A Cabinet spokesperson has outlined government schemes to ensure that this "digital divide" does not get any bigger.

Key to their strategy is the opening of 700 IT access centres across the country by next year and internet access for all UK schools and libraries by 2002.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN FACTS

The software for computer networks was first developed by scientists in the 1960s.

The first wide-scale network in the UK - JANET - was set up for academics in 1984.

In 1998 nearly 10% of British households had internet access. By June 2002 that figure had risen to 40%, along with 95% of businesses and nearly all schools.

An e-Envoy office has been part of the British Cabinet office since September 1999. It has responsibility for co-ordinating and developing all aspects of internet culture and commerce.

In July 2005 the number of people in Britain signing up for broadband internet connections overtook those applying for the traditional dial-up links.

Falling prices have led to a rapid increase in broadband connections. By July 2005 they accounted for 50.7% of all internet connections in the UK.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Right now, mulling over an intimidating idea is the same thing as procrastinating when making a decision. Be careful that you don't get a reputation for being indecisive.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

The fact that you will have a lot of high energy today will do more than fuel high productivity. It could instigate some inspiring changes within your group of friends.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Confusing memories could put a big crimp in your style today. Some stuff you remember as happening a certain way could be shown to be totally different.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If you are feeling like you want some time on your own, this is a good time to take it. Whether you want to take a vacation day, work from home, or schedule a getaway, do what it takes to get some alone time.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

If you find yourself in a bit of a sticky situation today, just turn on your charm! Your wit is all fired up right now, and it should be pretty entertaining for everyone.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Pick the toughest, loftiest goal in your life, and spend all the time you can chipping away at it. You have a lot of endurance right now, so if you take things slow and steady, you could make some amazing progress.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

When it comes right down to it, life is pretty much all about negotiation. You give a little, they give a little, and together you come to an agreement that is mutually beneficial (in theory).



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Don't aim for major life-changing actions right now, as you're right where you should be on that journey. Revel in the spots of sun that flutter through the day, and don't ask for more than you need.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Think long term about your money now. There are many important investment opportunities coming up, and you need to have capital at hand in order to make the most of them.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

It's a very unappetizing snack. Even if you use the height of tact in your delivery, your words might be misconstrued by someone who is eager to react emotionally.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Then make a banner and hang it out your window. This isn't the time for subtle acts. If you want to make an impression, you need to swallow your pride.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Keep an eagle eye out for an unfamiliar phone number or e-mail address, because everything isn't as you assume it to be. Sometimes relationships or other types of connections are circular...

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	19	28	drizzle
Harbin	19	30	clear
Tianjin	23	29	overcast
Urumqi	20	28	clear
Xi'an	25	34	overcast
Lhasa	15	24	cloudy
Chengdu	23	27	shower
Chongqing	26	33	drizzle
Kunming	19	26	shower
Nanjing	23	30	cloudy
Shanghai	25	30	overcast
Wuhan	24	31	drizzle
Hangzhou	26	31	drizzle
Taipei	27	32	cloudy
Guangzhou	28	35	cloudy
Hong Kong	29	32	cloudy

WORLD

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
Moscow	11	20	clear
Frankfurt	18	26	cloudy
Paris	18	30	cloudy
London	13	18	drizzle
New York	24	31	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Loathe; 6- Swimmer's regimen; 10- Having wealth; 14- Stare angrily; 15- Piece of fencing?; 16- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 17- Draw a bead on; 18- Feline line; 19- London gallery; 20- LP speed; 21- Complete reversal; 23- Castle water pits; 24- Slip; 26- Compassion; 27- Seat occupied by a sovereign; 29- Used up; 31- Mercury or Saturn; 32- Collection of maps; 33- Make a face; 36- Make a trade?; 40- \_\_\_\_-Foy, Quebec; 41- Impudent (slang); 42- The doctor \_\_\_\_; 43- It's often taken after exercise; 44- Potemkin setting; 46- Words to live by; 48- Rustle, as silk; 49- Capture; 50- Satisfies; 52- \_\_\_\_ longa, vita brevis; 55- Apparatus for weaving; 56- Socialite Maxwell; 57- Home on the range; 59- Sewing case; 60- Capital of the Ukraine; 61- Actress Graff; 62- Wale; 63- Novel ending; 64- Queues;

DOWN: 1- Petri dish gelatin; 2- Radar screen element; 3- Deformity of the foot; 4- Man-mouse connector; 5- Go back; 6- Ring-tailed primate; 7- Mimic; 8- Lowly worker; 9- Attach a patch; 10- Comeback; 11- Son of Abraham; 12- Spiteful; 13- Hastens; 22- Digit of the foot; 23- Brainy bunch; 25- It's got you covered; 26- Intend; 27- Knocks lightly; 28- Injure; 29- Michael of R.E.M.; 30- Ruse; 32- Nile biters; 33- Deformed; 34- Israeli weapons; 35- Actress Rowlands; 37- Dodge; 38- Farm structure; 39- Untruths, tells falsehoods; 43- Allow; 44- Be in the red; 45- Purify; 46- Benjamin; 47- Fauvist painter Dufy; 48- Fend (off); 49- Move sideways, killed; 50- Split; 51- I'd hate to break up \_\_\_\_; 53- Actress Russo; 54- Goes out with; 56- Scratch (out); 58- Yalie;



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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

IAAM 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



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FOR RENT



**Manhattan Apartment, Taipa**  
**\$18,800/mth** 1,626 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 2 2

FOR SALE

[Taipa] <i>Wa Bao</i>	2 2 2
1,071 ft <sup>2</sup> <b>\$7,995,000</b>	(ref: 18115568)
[Taipa] <i>Chun Fok apartment</i>	2 2 2
834 ft <sup>2</sup> <b>\$8,998,000</b>	(ref: 20036002)
[Macau] <i>Unique Loft</i>	2 2 2
2,200 ft <sup>2</sup> <b>\$9,990,000</b>	(ref: 15115464)
[Macau] <i>One Central Stylish</i>	2 2 2
1,349 ft <sup>2</sup> <b>\$14,839,000</b>	(ref: 19096004)

FOR RENT

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

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## French National Day Celebration with Champagne &amp; French Barbecue



## Introduction:

Join us and celebrate the 2020 French National Day among friends during an informal evening with pre-dinner Champagne, French Barbecue and wines. Enjoy the unique outdoor garden ambiance, and bring along your friends and family for a relaxing 14th July.

Date: **Tuesday, 14 July, 2020**Time: **7:00p.m. - 9:30p.m.** (Welcome Cocktail: 6:00p.m.)Venue: **Grand Lapa, Naam Garden**

## RSVP before 2 pm on 13 July

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\* 2020 FMCC members join @ MOP400\*

\* Guests and non-members @ MOP500\*

\* Price includes BBQ, Champagne, Wines and Softdrinks

\* Dress code: summer-casual

\* Strict No-Show/ Late Cancellation policy applies for this event



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

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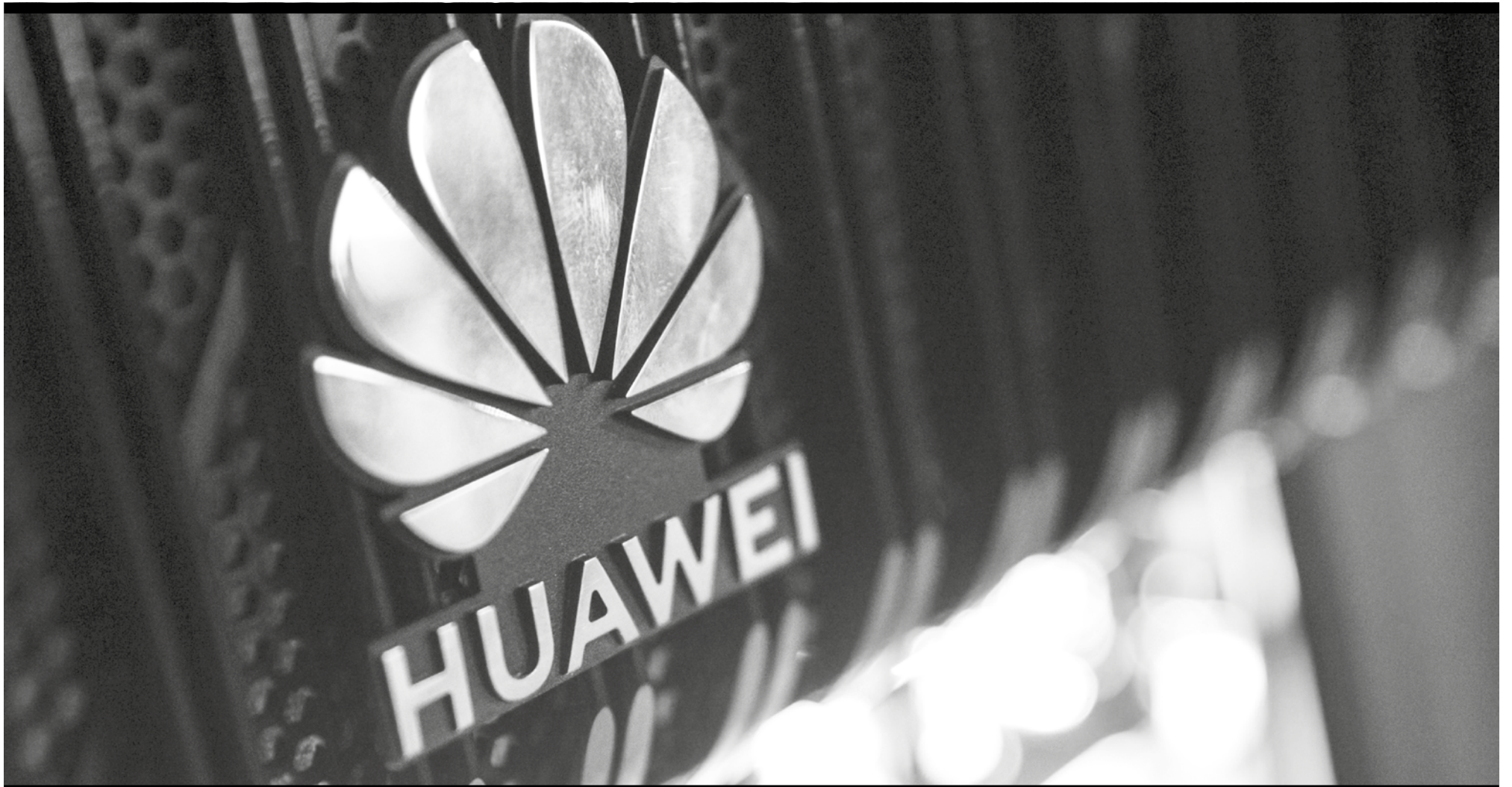
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AP PHOTO



DANIELLE BOCHOVE

**I**N one of Michael Kovrig's letters, the former Canadian diplomat describes life in a Chinese prison as a "gray, grinding monotony." Confined to a windowless concrete cell, ten feet square, his incarceration has also been, at times, deeply traumatic.

It's taken all his strength not to crumble. Covid-19, his wife believes, may be pushing that resolve to its limits. Kovrig has been detained for 577 days with no end in sight, an apparent pawn in a geopolitical battle over Huawei Technologies Co. Ltd. and the fate of its chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou.

"The confinement and isolation that he was feeling has just been compounded by the pandemic and the complete cutting of visits and letters and the rest," Vina Nadjibulla said in an interview in Toronto. "He has been stoic, but I know there are cracks."

Kovrig and Canadian businessman Michael Spavor were detained in China in December 2018, days after Canada arrested Meng at the request of U.S. authorities. Charged last month with espionage - accusations their associates say are ludicrous - the two men are being used as bargaining chips to try to win Meng's freedom, many say, including Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

The situation has Trudeau in a vise. In recent weeks he has faced pressure on a number of fronts, including from a group of former politicians and diplomats who say ending Meng's extradition proceedings in Vancouver to effectively trade her for the two

## Day 577 in China cell: Ex-envoy's wife fights in Huawei standoff

Michaels may be the only way to save the men. Trudeau has pushed back against such an exchange, arguing it would only endanger Canadians in China in the future.

Kovrig's letters - though likely screened by Chinese officials - provide a glimpse of what his incarceration has been like, at least before the coronavirus hit. Written in the short periods in which he's given access to paper and pen, they're indicative of a man trying to make sense of suffering and find meaning in that experience. One ends with three "mantras" to close the month: "Become patience, embody stillness. Sanctum of serenity," it reads. "Choose not to be harmed - and you won't feel harmed. Don't feel harmed - and you haven't been harmed."

To pass the time, Kovrig recites poetry and song lyrics - he's a particular fan of Leonard Cohen -- and during the hours he's allowed to walk around his cell, tries to exercise: he can hold a plank position for 20 minutes, Nadjibulla says. He has been allowed limited access to books and now has cell mates, both enormous improvements compared to his first six months in detention, when he was held in solitary confinement and interrogated for many hours a day under lights that were never turned off.

"Trauma carved caverns of psychological pain through my

mind," he writes in one letter. Trying to fill those gaps with his love for Nadjibulla, and for life, is the "one faint silver lining to this Hell."

The contrast between Kovrig's existence and that of Meng, the eldest daughter of Ren Zhengfei, Huawei's billionaire founder, is stark. Allowed to roam a 100-square-mile patch of greater Vancouver with monitors, Meng lives in a mansion and has said she passes her time oil painting and pursuing an online doctorate. She speaks every other day to her father, her husband has been by her side at every hearing, and she receives visits from her children, mother, and friends.

Nadjibulla says she doesn't have a problem with Meng's living arrangements. "I wouldn't wish on her what Michael is going through," she says. "She was arrested in Canada and has been able to take advantage of all the rule of law and protections available to her in this country. And to be honest, I'm actually happy that is the case."

It's hard to imagine a better champion for Kovrig than Nadjibulla. Although separated, the two have remained close friends, sharing a deep love built on years of marriage and a shared passion for public service, Nadjibulla says. They met at Columbia University in 2001 and both worked for the United Nations.

Nadjibulla studied Mandarin

in Ottawa with Kovrig and says she is grateful that her education, experience and network of contacts equipped her for the mission of securing his freedom. "He's said I'm indomitable. That if there's anybody who can get him out, he knows I will."

Still, it's all-consuming work and the steady deterioration in Canada's relationship with China, which ramped up this week when Canada canceled its extradition treaty with Hong Kong, has added stress, as has the global pandemic. Before it struck, Nadjibulla had been traveling to Ottawa at least twice a month, and to Washington, to press for his freedom.

Now she's effectively grounded, pushing her cause by email and video chat. Dominic Barton, Canada's ambassador to China, hasn't been permitted to visit Kovrig since Jan. 14 which means the letters have stopped. Nadjibulla and Kovrig's family were allowed to speak to him by phone in March - the only call allowed since his arrest - but there's been nothing since. They have no idea of his current condition, physical or mental.

And so Nadjibulla keeps pushing, recently speaking publicly about his plight for the first time and arguing for a different approach from Trudeau's government to the Meng case, which revolves around U.S. allegations that, as Huawei's CFO, she cons-

pired to defraud banks, including HSBC Holdings Plc., by tricking them into violating sanctions against Iran.

Past experience has shown that holding out against Chinese pressure has not kept Canadians any safer, Nadjibulla says. Nor would freeing Meng require circumventing Canada's courts. A number of experts, including a former Supreme Court judge and Liberal justice minister, have said the government has the legal authority to end Meng's extradition proceedings.

While Trudeau has balked at a trade, there are other ways the situation could be resolved, Nadjibulla says. China could come to believe the current situation undermines its standing in the world and is not in its best interests. The U.S. could intervene more directly to help Canada get its people out or drop its handover request for Meng. Failing those, there is still a chance a Canadian judge could determine the extradition case doesn't hold up.

The problem is time. Kovrig has been doing remarkably well - at least until communication was cut off - but everyone has limits. His letters provided a window into his state of mind, albeit with a delay of many weeks.

"Rest assured I remain resolute and resilient," he wrote in a letter dated September 2019. "You must be relentless." **BLOOMBERG**



## OPINION

### World Views

Tae Kim, Bloomberg

#### MEET DONALD TRUMP'S NEW POLITICAL FOOTBALL: TIKTOK

It's official. TikTok has become a political football. The surging social media app, owned by Beijing-based ByteDance Ltd., is ensnared in the escalating tensions between China and its global rivals. Last week, India banned TikTok along with dozens of other Chinese apps, citing national security concerns. And on Monday during a Fox News interview, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo mentioned for the first time that the Trump administration is "certainly looking at" banning TikTok and other Chinese apps, warning of data-privacy issues. Trump echoed those statements on Tuesday.

TikTok has said it keeps user data securely in the U.S. with backups in Singapore, and that it has never provided data to the Chinese government. In a further effort to calm stateside angst, TikTok hired former Walt Disney Co. executive Kevin Mayer this year as its chief executive officer.

Still, there may be real national security implications stemming from a Chinese company owning a major American social network. ByteDance has been under review by the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. for its 2017 purchase of lip-synching startup Musical.ly, which was popular in the U.S. And it's now said to be facing scrutiny from the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department over whether it has met its commitments to protect children's privacy in a previous settlement. But before the country takes the dramatic step of banning a Chinese competitor (particularly one whose users helped prank the U.S. president earlier this year), the White House should spell out its reasoning. Otherwise, the move looks like political bluster.

Some have argued that TikTok should be banned in the U.S. because Facebook Inc.'s social media site is not allowed in China. But such tit-for-tat protectionism would be short-sighted policy. American companies should win in the marketplace through better innovation, not by government assistance. Over the long run, the domestic technology industry is far better served having vigorous competition—and TikTok is certainly that—which pushes U.S. companies to create better products. Plus, a TikTok ban risks Chinese retaliation against American companies inside its borders. The list of potential targets that generate a significant portion of their sales in China is long—including Apple Inc., Starbucks Corp. and Intel Corp.

On a relative basis, TikTok isn't an obvious target in terms of data collection. Its focus is sharing creative short-form videos, like dancing and lip-synching. The app's algorithm surfaces relevant content, using metrics like how many similar videos you watched. And compared to an app like Facebook, TikTok doesn't require a large amount of data entry (at least not manually).

There's also the value of the app itself, which has become a global cultural institution. From my experience, TikTok tends to be less filled with hate and disinformation, and genuinely funnier than most other platforms. (Though its avoidance of controversial topics isn't always beneficial.) The app is also surfacing new stars: For example, a relatively unknown chef in Philadelphia was able to attract millions of viewers to his cooking videos in a matter of days. And this McFarland family's viral Dad dancing video landed the family ad deals with Taco Bell and Gillette.

A ban might not make sense on a purely political level either. TikTok is regularly on top of the Apple App Store's most downloaded rankings. According to Sensor Tower, it has been downloaded 165 million times in the U.S. EMarketer estimates there will be 45 million regular TikTok users in the country by year-end. Restricting access could enrage millions of voters (or future voters, anyway).

To avoid that, the U.S. government needs to show the evidence it has for being concerned about TikTok. Otherwise, given what we know today, the flood of teen outrage that's sure to follow any TikTok ban would be justified.

## CHINA CANCELS ALL INTERNATIONAL SPORTS EVENTS FOR THE YEAR

China says it will not stage any international sports for the rest of the year, apart from trials for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games in Beijing and the neighboring city of Zhangjiakou.

The order from the General Administration of Sports affects at least six WTA tennis events, including the WTA Finals in Shenzhen in November. China also has four ATP tournaments lined up.

Shanghai was also due to host two big golf events, the men's HSBC Champions, a World Golf Championship event two weeks after the LPGA Shanghai.

Xiamen was to host the Asian sport climbing championships in October, and Guangzhou the badminton World Tour Finals in December.

The decision puts paid to any chance of reviving Formula One's Shanghai Grand Prix postponed in April, and affects two cycling stage races in October, the men's Tour of Guangxi, and the women's Tour of Chongming Island.

The General Administration of Sports cited "science and order" in issuing its plan to proceed yesterday.

## SEOUL MAYOR MISSING, HIS PHONE TURNED OFF, SEARCH UNDERWAY

AP PHOTO



Seoul Mayor Park Won-soon speaks during a press conference at the Seoul City Hall on Wednesday

HYUNG-JIN KIM & KIM TONG-HYUNG, SEOUL

**A**UTHORITIES searched yesterday for the mayor of South Korea's capital, Seoul, who vanished amid sexual harassment allegations after leaving a message that his daughter described as sounding like a will, police said.

Police said they were looking for Mayor Park Won-soon near a small hill in Seoul's Sungbuk neighborhood where his cell-phone signal was last detected. They said the phone was currently turned off.

His daughter called police yesterday afternoon and said her father left "a will-like" verbal message before leaving their home about 4-5 hours earlier. The daughter didn't explain the contents of the message, said an officer at the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency who was responsible for the search operation.

His daughter said she decided to call police because she couldn't reach her father on the phone, the officer said, requesting anonymity because she was not authorized to speak to the media about the matter.

About 300-400 officers and a drone were mobilized in the search, according to police.

Kim Ji-hyeong, a Seoul Metropolitan Government official, said Park had not shown up for work yesterday for unspecified reasons and had canceled all of his schedule, including a meeting with a presidential official at his Seoul City Hall office.

The reason for Park's disappearance wasn't clear. The Seoul-based SBS television network reported that one of Park's secretaries had lodged a complaint with police on Wednesday night over alleged sexual harassment such as unwanted physical contact that began in 2017. The SBS report, which didn't cite any source, said the secretary told police investigators that an unspecified number of other female employees at Seoul City Hall had suffered similar sexual harassment by Park.

MBC television carried a similar report.

Both the Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency and Park's office said they couldn't confirm the reports.

Park, a longtime civic activist and human rights lawyer, was elected Seoul mayor in 2011. He became the city's first mayor to be voted into a third term in June last year. A member of President Moon Jae-in's liberal Democratic Party, he has been considered a

potential presidential candidate in 2022 elections.

Park has mostly maintained his activist colors as mayor, criticizing what he described as the country's growing social and economic inequalities and corrupt ties between large businesses and politicians.

Early on, Park established himself as a fierce opponent of former conservative President Park Geun-hye and openly supported the millions of people who flooded the city's streets in late 2016 and 2017, calling for her ouster over a corruption scandal.

Park Geun-hye was formally removed from office in March 2017 and is currently serving a decades-long prison term on bribery and other charges.

Seoul, a city of 10 million people, has been a new center of the coronavirus outbreak in South Korea since the country eased its rigid social distancing rules in early May. Authorities are struggling to trace contacts amid surges in cases linked to nightclubs, church services, a huge e-commerce warehouse and door-to-door sellers in Seoul.

Park Won-soon has led an aggressive anti-virus campaign, shutting down thousands of nightspots and banning rallies in major downtown streets. **AP**

**India** reported nearly 25,000 new coronavirus infections yesterday and its transmission rate is increasing for the first time since March. The new cases bring the total in the world's third worst-affected country to 767,296. India's health ministry said the COVID-19 death toll had risen to 21,129.

AP PHOTO



**Australia's** worst-hit state has recorded 165 new cases in 24 hours, as a Melbourne high school became the state's largest cluster. The outbreak at Al-Taqwa College has infected 113 people. More than 2,000 students and hundreds of staff have been sent into quarantine. Australia detected 182 cases overall in the past 24 hours.

**USA** More than 1.3 million Americans applied for unemployment benefits last week, a historically high pace that shows that many employers are still laying people off in the face of a resurgent coronavirus. The persistently elevated level of layoffs are occurring as a spike in virus cases has forced six states to reverse their move to reopen businesses. Those six — Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Michigan and Texas — make up one-third of the U.S. economy.

AP PHOTO



**USA** Launching an economic pitch expected to anchor his fall presidential campaign, Democratic candidate Joe Biden is proposing sweeping new uses of the federal government's regulatory and spending power to bolster U.S. manufacturing and technology firms. Biden calls for a \$400 billion, four-year increase in government purchasing of U.S.-based goods and services plus \$300 billion in new research and development in U.S. technology concerns.