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**CHINA'S AVIATION AUTHORITY AIMS TO REALIZE A CLUSTER AIRPORT AMBITION IN THE GREATER BAY AREA BY 2025**

**EDUCATION AUTHORITY SAYS VISITS TO NATIONAL SECURITY PAVILION NOT YET MANDATORY**

**ONE OF THE MAIN SUSPECTS IN THE IPIM CORRUPTION CASE WAS FOUND TO OWN MORE COMPANIES THAT ALLEGEDLY FILED IMPROPER APPLICATIONS**

**Australia's** coronavirus hot spot, Victoria state, moved to increase available hospital beds and reported a record 317 new infections. The government had planned to restore hospitals to normal medical services by the end of this month before infections began to rise in recent weeks. Australia's highest daily tally before yesterday was 288 in Victoria on July 10. New South Wales, the only other state regarded as an active Australian virus hot spot, reported 10 new cases.

# CHINA BECOMES FIRST ECONOMY TO GROW SINCE VIRUS PANDEMIC

P10



**Japan** Tokyo reported 286 new coronavirus cases yesterday, a record for the city, raising alarm Japan may be reopening its economy too quickly. Japan has never had a total lockdown but the government asked businesses to close and people to work from home under an emergency declared in April. That has been lifted and restaurants, schools and stores have reopened and people are going back to work on packed commuter trains.

**South Korea** reported 61 new cases, most of them tied to international arrivals. The Korea Centers for Disease Control and yesterday said the country's caseload was now at 13,612, including 291 deaths. It says 12,396 people have been released from hospitals while 925 remain in treatment. The KCDC says 47 of the new cases were tied to people arriving from overseas but it didn't immediately say where they came from.

**Pakistan** has reported its lowest number of daily COVID-19 deaths in about a month. It recorded 40 deaths in the past 24 hours yesterday, compared to the highest single-day toll of 153 on June 19. Pakistan has recorded 257,914 confirmed cases, including 2,145 in the past 24 hours, and 5,426 fatalities.

More on backpage



## MACAU-BORN SANDY TANG BRINGS MACANESE FLAIR TO BRITISH TV CONTEST

P6





### POLICE CONCERNED WITH CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASES AFTER THIRD THIS MONTH

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has issued a statement to stress that possession and distribution of pornographic materials with minors is "a serious crime and bears grave consequences." The statement comes after three recent cases have been uncovered just this month. According to the police statement, the PJ has recently been notified by INTERPOL that some individuals in Macau have been using social media platforms or communication software to transmit or distribute pornographic videos with minors. A designated division has been assigned to investigate the matter. The PJ also said it would continue cooperating with INTERPOL to prevent and combat crimes pertaining to child pornography. According to the Penal Code, production, sales, retail, import, export or distribution of pornographic materials with minors (videos or photos) by any name or means could face imprisonment of up to five years. Procuring or possessing such materials for the purpose stated above could be liable to the same penalty. Anyone who profiteers from or makes a living out of these activities could face imprisonment of up to eight years.

### FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES CLIMB 3.5% IN JUNE

The Monetary Authority of Macau announced today that the preliminary estimate of the SAR's foreign exchange reserves amounted to 189.6 billion patacas (\$23.75 billion) at the end of June 2020. The reserves increased by 3.5% from the revised value of 183.3 billion patacas for the previous month. The Macau SAR's foreign exchange reserves at end-June 2020 represented 10 times the currency in circulation. Meanwhile, the trade-weighted effective exchange rate index for the pataca dropped 1.25 points month-to-month but rose 1.51 points year-on-year to 108.2 in June 2020, implying that overall speaking, the exchange rate of the pataca declined against the currencies of Macau's major trading partners on a monthly basis but increased on an annual basis.

### IC TO WELCOME ALBUM SUBSIDY APPLICATIONS

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will be accepting applications for the "5th Subsidy Program for the Production of Original Song Albums" from August 17 until September 30 September, according to a statement released yesterday. According to the IC, all local music creators and producers are welcome to participate. This year's program comprises two categories: the album category and the mini album category, with each selected album being granted a subsidy of up to 270,000 patacas and 135,000 patacas respectively, as well as professional advice from members of the jury. The subsidy will be given to a maximum of three and six beneficiaries for the album and mini album categories respectively. The program aims to cultivate musical talents in Macau, support the production and promotion of original song albums, and encourage musicians to produce and release more works.

# LIGHTHOUSE CONCERN GROUP CALLS ON CULTURE OFFICIALS TO OFFER GREATER PROTECTION

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE Concern Group for the Protection of the Guia Lighthouse has pressed for further action to protect the views from and of the Guia Lighthouse during a meeting with officials from the social affairs and culture field on Wednesday.

In the hopes of better protecting the lighthouse, the concern group cited several entities that have given opinions, such as the State Administration of Cultural Heritage of the People's Republic of China and UNESCO, to argue that the local government should work harder to safeguard the lighthouse.

The concern group noted in its post-meeting statement: "The visual integrity and the principal sightlines of the Guia Lighthouse must be protected and decisive measures should be taken to reduce the height of buildings adjacent to the [lighthouse]."

Of particular concern to the group is the height clearance on Avenida do Doutor Rodrigo Rodrigues. Currently,

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



pursuant to the Executive Order 83/2008, the clearance is set to 90 meters.

"The height limit of 90 meters for the buildings under construction and the buildings to be built along the Avenida do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues is insufficient to maintain the visual integrity of the Guia Lighthouse," the concern group said in the statement.

It also said that any new developments near the lighthouse should be evaluated in conformity with certain guidelines through Heritage Impacts Assessments.

Furthermore, the concern group questions the progress of the Macao Historic Centre Protection and Management Plan.

In 2005, the World Herita-

ge Committee recommended that every effort to develop a management system should be made so as to retain the existing structural and visual integrity of the lighthouse, as well as to maintain the principal sightlines of the nominated area within its contemporary setting. A related master plan has not been made since then, the group pointed out.

## Cluster of GBA airports proposed to take effect by 2025

**M**AJOR airports within the Greater Bay Area (GBA) would achieve consolidation into a single airport cluster by 2025 under a proposal issued by the Civil Aviation Administration of China.

Officially, the GBA has nine cities and two Special Administrative Regions (SARs) by political categorization.

The multi-jurisdiction area has three major airports in Guangzhou, capital of the

Guangdong province, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong. In 2019, the three airports handled nearly 198 million passengers combined.

In addition, the Macau International Airport focuses on regional passenger flights, while its neighbor, the Zhuhai Jinwan Airport, focuses on mainland passenger destinations.

The five airports have been competing for airspace, as they are so closely located.

Authorities wi-

thin the Greater Bay Area have called for a comprehensive plan to make better use of the positioning of each airport. This would help to remove competition between them, while fostering a degree of aviation specialization.

The five airports are holding regular meetings to discuss various topics, with specialization and competition among them.

The central proposal, which has now been released, has two

goals, to be achieved in two phases.

Phase 1 will see the realization of a Greater Bay Area airport conglomerate in 2025. Before which, in 2022, GBA airports should achieve greater interactions and dynamics between them.

Phase 2 will see infrastructure implemented by the conglomerate by 2035. The airports should be able to operate on a world-class level with safe, green, smart, human and synergetic

qualities, according to the proposal.

During the years outlined in the proposal, the central administration will further clarify the functions of each airport, in order to achieve their diversified goals.

For example, the Macau airport will focus on developing into a service-oriented airport. In addition, the mainland civil aviation authority has showed support for the opening of the civil aviation market in Macau.

It also hinted that the Hong Kong airport will remain as the leader of global freight in the Greater Bay Area. **AL**

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COURTS | IPIM

# One more case and another 'front company' unveiled by CCAC investigators

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE corruption case involving several former high-ranked officials from the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), who stand accused of unlawful actions in the granting of Macao residency permits, continued yesterday at the Court of First Instance.

During yesterday's session, the court continued to hear investigators from the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC), who played a part in the investigation. Similar to the previous session, the investigators revealed more companies under the control and ownership of Ng Kuok Sao, the fourth defendant in the case, which were allegedly used as "front companies" to request residency rights for people who did not meet the requirements.

This time, the court heard about a particular case of a woman from the mainland named Ouyang Yushang, who in December 2011 and through the help of Ng's companies and staff, submitted an application to IPIM as a senior administrative staff member of a media company named Agora Macau.

According to the CCAC's investigation, the media company owned by Ng and his wife, was registered with the Government Information Bureau (GCS) as publishing a weekly newspaper.

Ouyang had allegedly been hired as the general manager of the publishing company and also performing the role of the editor of the publication.

As in previous sessions, the CCAC investigator mentioned many documents found to be



in the possession of Ouyang during the investigation, as well as in the homes of staff members and at the headquarters of One Kin Construction Company, where the staff involved in the scheme worked.

Within the documents shown, the investigator noted an agreement sealing the deal between Ng and Ouyang, where amounts and conditions were stated. The document further stipulated that she had to pay for the application to IPIM (RMB500,000), which included a first non-refundable payment of the amount of RMB200,000.

As revealed in other sessions during the trial, several documents presented to IPIM had mismatching dates such as the

start date for the job at Agora Macau and the date stated in the working contract, as well as the dates registered with the Financial Services Bureau and Social Welfare Bureau, among others.

As with previous cases, the accusation was that all the documents had originated in the office of One Kin and that they all had been produced in a forged manner by the company staff with the purpose of submitting them to IPIM.

For the same purpose, the investigator also used many text or voice message communications between the staff of One Kin and Ng, where problems were reported, and guidelines were being given on

how to proceed.

Despite the many inaccuracies in the process, Ouyang managed to get a Macau residency permit and a resident identification card for a period of three years, until the time to renew such a permit arrived.

Ouyang supposedly worked at the company between late 2011 and 2015 when she applied for renewal. However, according to documents shown by the CCAC in court, which had originated from the Public Security Police Force, she only stayed in Macau for about five to seven days each year, leading to the investigator to claim that she could not carry out her job duties like she mentioned and she also had no way

to prove she received the salary of MOP40,000, as stated in the applications.

On that particular note, and in trying to prove such point, the CCAC made a comparison between the salary of Ouyang and the Director of the publication, showing that the Director only earned some MOP84,000 per year, while Ouyang presented a salary of MOP480,000 in the same period.

The investigator also noted to the court that the Agora Macau, even during the time that it was published, had a maximum circulation per year of only 8,000 and was a very small company with few staff members, who at the time Ouyang allegedly joined the company, were earning wages ranging between MOP4,000 and MOP7,000 per month.

Eventually, the company attempted to change the name of the publication in July 2014, and their license was finally canceled by the GCS in March 2017. This was mentioned in a written reply to the CCAC, explaining that it took such a decision unilaterally because the company had not presented any proof of operation for a period of over one year.

In the same manner seen in previous sessions, the CCAC investigator showed documentary proof supporting the accusation's theory of a criminal organization led by Ng and supported by his wife and several staff members, which had the purpose of obtaining unlawful residency permits for mainland residents in exchange for large sums of money.

The trial continues today with more testimonies relating to the case.

## Changes to Labour Relations Law explained at business seminar

DANIEL BEITLER

**T**HE Macau Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) held a presentation yesterday at a British Chamber of Commerce in Macao seminar to inform businesses about the latest changes to the Labour Relations Law.

The latest amendment deals with compensation for overlapping holidays, mandatory work on sta-

tutory holidays and other forms of overtime work. It also extends the period of maternity leave from 56 days to 70 and establishes paternity leave of 5 days.

During a question and answer session, one seminar participant enquired about the eligibility for maternity and paternity leave for non-permanent residents whose application for continued resi-

dency is still under review by the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM).

IPIM is responsible for handling immigration relating to large investment and skilled immigration.

The DSAL representatives could not answer whether these people, who hold neither resident identification cards nor foreign work permits, would be eligible for some

of the new benefits.

The representatives said that they understand there are only two categories of people able to work in Macau: those that hold residency status and those who have a non-local work permit, more commonly known as a blue card. The participant, a lawyer at a well-known Macau law firm, said he disagreed with this assessment.

As reported by Macau

Daily Times last month, a growing number of expatriates have waited years to find out if their residency status will be renewed, with little or no information advanced by IPIM. Though they are legally allowed to remain and work in Macau while their applications are under review, the lengthy wait has been a source of instability for many families here.

The DSAL representa-

tives also discussed other matters during yesterday's presentation, including the Minimum Wage Law, which takes effect from November 1. The law establishes a minimum wage of 6,656 patacas per month, 1,536 patacas per week, 256 patacas per day and 32 patacas per hour.

Macau Daily Times is the official media partner of the British Chamber of Commerce in Macao.



# EDUCATION AUTHORITY SAYS VISITS TO PATRIOTIC PAVILION NOT MANDATORY

ANTHONY LAM & STAFF REPORTER

FOR the time being, we will not force students to visit the [future] National Education Exhibition Pavilion," Cheong Man Fai, head of the Youth Department of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, said yesterday.

An exhibition space is under construction at the Handover Gifts Museum of Macau to show exhibits that convey patriotic messages and concepts. The exhibition will cover Chinese history and the development of the People's Republic of China, among other elements. It is expected to open later this year.

"The pavilion is yet another channel through which national education is conducted," Cheong explained, adding that it is complementary to the everyday civic education curriculum.

The department head assured the public that national education will not overshadow the importance of other academic subjects.

"There are curriculum frameworks to determine the weigh-



Children wave the flags of China and Macau during the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping in Macau in December 2019

ting of each subjects," she explained.

"[National education] needs other channels of conveyance because it's ideological," Cheong said. "We leave it to schools to decide whether they will bring students to the pavilion."

Nevertheless, it is normal to have education regarding how to love one's country, the official described. "Under the 'One Country, Two Systems'

framework, patriotism has been a core value in Macau," the education official said. "It is also a part

### The DSEJ assures the public that national education will not overshadow other academic subjects

of the 10-year Outline Plan for Non-higher Education."

Exhibits at the future National Education Base will be replaced periodically.

"For example, when our country makes leaps in the scientific branches, we will update our exhibits," the official said in anticipation. "It may make students proud [of China]. The interactions will strengthen students' patriotic 'ideology'."

Yesterday also saw the annual plenary of the Youth Affairs Committee, which covered five topics. Besides the progress of the National Education Exhibition Pavilion, it also discussed the selection of two focus groups on youth affairs, the selection of youth prizes for 2019, seminars on national security and youth affairs, as well as the progress of this year's Summer Activities.

As for the youth prizes, four organizations were awarded with six prizes, with the Fu Lun Youth Association of Macau and General Association of Chinese Students of Macau winning both the Youth Activities Award and the Civic Education Award. The Bosco Youth Service Network of Macau and the Macau Youth Volunteers Association are the other two entities that also won awards.

With regards to the promotion of knowledge on the defense of national security, the committee suggested that a series of thematic lectures and exchange activities be held in order to provide students with a more comprehensive knowledge of the issue.

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## HONG KONG SEES RECORD 63 LOCAL VIRUS CASES IN SWELLING WAVE

**H**ONG Kong reported a record 63 local virus cases yesterday, the third time in about a week that the city's new outbreak has breached previous high-water marks.

Of the total confirmed cases, more than half - 35 - were of unknown origins, said the city's health department on Thursday. The new outbreak has now infected over 300 people in less than two weeks, with more than a third of infections unlinked to confirmed cases or existing outbreaks, signaling that hidden chains of transmission are widespread.

The latest record came on the heels of Hong Kong implementing its strictest suite of social distancing measures as the government tries to keep the outbreak from spiraling out of control. Up until early this month, the former British colony was widely seen globally as a model

of success in containing the virus, with only 15 cases of local transmission from May through June.

Starting Wednesday, bars, gyms and beaches were shut, public gatherings were limited to four people, and people refusing to wear masks on public transportation were fined. Dining-in service in restaurants is banned between 6 p.m. and 5 a.m., a measure that's extracting a toll on a population heavily reliant on eating out, given small apartments with little room for cooking.

Local media outlets reported that people working late shifts have been spotted having to eat meals in parks and public spaces, raising concern for their welfare. Officials said yesterday that in light of community feedback, staff canteens would be exempted from the control measures. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## Gov't believes tightening National Security Law necessary

**S**ECRETARY for Administration and Justice, André Cheong, has said that further refinement of the national security law is essential. Speaking in his capacity as the spokesperson for the Executive Council, Cheong said that he expects the refinement will need to be made quickly.

The Secretary's comments come in the aftermath of a controversial national security law passed by mainland authorities on behalf of semi-autonomous Hong Kong. The law is much stricter than the equivalent legislation in Macau, prompting some politicians and observers to call for a refinement of Macau's existing national security law.

After the Council's plenary yesterday, Cheong said that studies are being conducted to determine what the national security law reform could look like.

The direction of the reform will include institutionalizations of crimes, as well as the enforcement of the laws and the degree thereof.

Cheong further pointed out that although the city's parliament passed the law in 2009, complemen-



tary laws must be made to improve the safety net.

A National Security Defense Committee was inaugurated in 2018 to study such issues.

Last week, a special office of the mainland was inaugurated in Hong Kong to oversee national security issues. It has been proposed that Macau establish a similar office in tandem with Hong Kong. However, Cheong said yesterday that it was up to Beijing to decide if a new office was necessary in Macau.

Meanwhile, the Legislative As-

sembly is studying the Special Career Legal Framework for Judiciary Police. As explained by Cheong, it is a law-enforcement legal framework for the National Security Law.

At present the government has no reform details regarding the national security law to disclose. Nor does it have a timetable, according to Cheong.

However, the secretary pledged that the government will listen the opinions of society while formulating the law revision. **AL**

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**Q&A** SANDY TANG

# MACAU-BORN MASTERCHEF UK FINALIST BRINGS MACANESE FLAIR TO COMPETITION



Sandy Tang and other finalists on MasterChef UK

**LYNZY VALLES**

**W**ITH adventurous creations fused from ingredients from across the globe, Macau-born Sandy Tang, a top 3 MasterChef UK finalist, is ready to step out of her comfort zone, with plans to move into the food and beverage industry in the future.

The cooking television show finalist moved to the U.K. from Macau when she was 13 years old. Now a 24-year-old, Tang holds a degree in electronics engineering and works as a technology consultant.

During her participation in MasterChef UK Season 16, Tang showed the audience a mixture of Eastern and Western cuisine, wowing the judges with her series of fusion dishes.

One of her famous creations in the competition was her canapés, which included a Brazilian parmesan bun filled with celeriac and mascarpone, topped with Chinese char siu pork, charred pineapple and salted duck egg yolk.

Speaking to the Times, the top 3 contestant expressed her passion not just for food, but for telling the story of Macau's famous cuisines to the world.

For Tang, the influence of local food in her creations still remains.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) – Tell us about your experience on the show.**

**Sandy Tang (ST) -** It was a great experience; it was amazing. I learned a lot from the competition. Being able to cook competitively is definite-

ly very different from cooking at home. My culinary skills have definitely improved a lot based on this experience, as well as the kind of challenges that that they put you into. Throughout the journey, I was cooking for the Royal Navy guys at the dockyard, and I had the chance to cook with Albert Adria of El Bulli, a Michelin 3-star restaurant in Spain. He was one of the highlights in my journey throughout the show.

**MDT - What made you join the competition?**

**ST -** I've always loved cooking and I really wanted to develop my skills further. As I'm working full-time as a consultant, it's very hard for me to say [that] I can just quit my job and train as a full-time chef. I didn't have the dedication back then to do it. So I thought of joining the competition to see whether I can kind of elevate my passion for cooking and pick up a skill or two from that experience.

**MDT - You moved to the U.K. back when you were only 13 years old. Can you recall your favorite dishes in Macau?**

**ST -** I do miss Macau a lot and I cannot wait to come back after this Covid-19 situation. There are so many favorite dishes. I miss my mum's cooking for sure. In general, I miss the bakery in Macau a lot. It's sort of like, it's a thing you won't get in the U.K. very often: that kind of mix of Japanese bakery [goods], but you also have the egg tarts being

sold in the same store at the same time. Everything is so accessible. Food is great in Macau, in comparison.

**MDT - Did your mother have a strong influence on your love for cooking?**

**ST -** She didn't really teach me much about cooking because she's very territorial when it comes to her kitchen. I think the main drive to start cooking was when I moved abroad at 13. That's kind of how I picked up cooking, because I missed home food.

**MDT - Are you bringing Macanese cuisine to the competition?**

**ST -** My first dish in MasterChef, which is sort of my signature dish, is Macanese Coconut Chicken, which is served with egg fried rice underneath, but you've got that turmeric chicken on top. That is the first dish that I cooked. My cooking style is quite fusion. I combine everything I know from around the world. One good example is one of the canapés I made. It's basically like a Brazilian cheesy bread that I served with celeriac mascarpone cream, with char siu pork and charred pineapple. I really like the canapés because they have a lot of elements that are coming from my childhood, as well as utilizing the ingredients that I have in the U.K.

**MDT - Compared to the other dishes in the show, can you say that Macau's cuisine stands out?**

**ST -** Yes, definitely. I think Macau is a huge culinary melting pot because we have the influence from traditional Cantonese food plus we adopted Western cooking methods from the Portuguese. This includes baking and the use of the oven, which you don't see in the main parts of China. So I think it is very unique position. Not everybody has an experience based on that. As a young child, that was what I experienced and that has become a part of me and I think my cooking definitely reflects that.

**MDT - Are there any plans to move into the F&B industry?**

**ST -** Yes, [there are]. Right now, I have already started my business on the side as a food consultant, focusing on recipe development. The business covers a lot and it varies from project to project. I pick up projects sometimes from brands that want me to develop specific recipes for them. I'm currently running a few projects. One of the things that I'm keen to launch in the next few months is an immersive dining experience that focuses on the topic of women empowerment. It's still in its initial stages, so some ideas are not confirmed, but that's the vision. The immersive dining experience will combine with theater, so not only people are coming to eat but they will also experience some performances as well. We want to integrate some performances on the side of every single dish that I make.

If it takes off, I think it will be really cool project.

**MDT - Will you bring this project to Macau when you visit?**

**ST -** Yes, if it works in the U.K. I'm really open to any project ideas because I quite like the project approach. I don't mind spending a few months here and a few months in Macau or in other parts of Asia. I have some contacts in Malaysia who want to launch a dessert place. Because of the Covid-19 situation I can't do it right now, but it's in my pipeline that I will pick up that project. But again, I love traveling and at the same time doing food consulting.

**MDT - Macau is a UNESCO City of Gastronomy. Yet, do you think that we still lack something that could better our gastronomic industry?**

**ST -** I think Macau has a lot of great cultural heritage, from a food perspective. But I think we are not very good at marketing them, such as telling the food story to the public. Recently, Dalgona Coffee became a hit and I think that concept originated in Macau. Yet it was a Korean tourist that kind of adopted it and so it became more popular. There are interesting things in our culinary perspective, as we have so many stories to tell the world. If I'm coming back, and I probably will after Covid-19, I'm really keen to explore those different concepts and try to draft the story around it because those are really interesting things.



SAM McNEIL &  
LAURAN NEERGAARD

# China firm uses workers to 'pre-test' vaccine in global race

**I**N the global race to make a coronavirus vaccine, a state-owned Chinese company is boasting that its employees, including top executives, received experimental shots even before the government approved testing in people.

"Giving a helping hand in forging the sword of victory," reads an online post from SinoPharm with pictures of workers it says helped "pre-test" its vaccine.

Whether it's viewed as heroic sacrifice or a violation of international ethical norms, the claim underscores the enormous stakes as China competes with U.S. and British companies to be the first with a vaccine to help end the pandemic — a feat that would be both a scientific and political triumph.

"Getting a COVID-19 vaccine is the new Holy Grail," said Lawrence Gostin, a global public health law expert at Georgetown University. "The political competition to be the first is no less consequential than the race for the moon between the United States and Russia."

China has positioned itself to be a strong contender. Eight of the nearly two dozen potential vaccines in various stages of human testing worldwide are from China, the most of any country. And SinoPharm and another Chinese company already have announced they're entering final testing.

Both China and SinoPharm have invested heavily in a tried-and-true technology — an "inactivated" vaccine made by growing the whole virus in a lab and then killing it, which is how polio shots are made. Leading Western competitors use newer, less proven technology to target the "spike" protein that coats the virus.

That protein is "a good place to make our bet," Dr. Gary Nabel, chief scientific officer of the French pharmaceutical company Sanofi, said at a U.S. biotechnology industry meeting. But "it's good to have some diversity. I like the fact that there is an inactivated, whole vaccine. That provides an alternative in case one of these should fail."

SinoPharm's claim that 30 "special volunteers" rolled up their sleeves even before the company got permission for its initial human study raises ethical concerns among Western observers. The company's post cites a "spirit of sacrifice" and shows seven men in suits and ties — a mix of scientists, businessmen and one Communist Party official with a background in military propaganda.

"The idea of people willing to sacrifice themselves ... is pretty much expected in China," said Yanzhong Huang, a global health expert at the Council on Foreign



A staff member tests samples of a potential COVID-19 vaccine at a production plant of SinoPharm in Beijing

Relations, a U.S. nonprofit organization.

But with corporate and government officials getting vaccinated, other employees "might feel pressure to participate. That would violate the voluntary principle" that is a bedrock of modern medical ethics, Huang said.

The first round of human testing — a Phase I trial — requires permission from a country's drug regulators, who decide whether there is enough laboratory and animal evidence to justify the attempt.

SinoPharm, which declined to comment for this story, is testing two vaccine candidates that received government permission for Phase I trials in mid- to late April. In a post on its subsidiary's official WeChat account, the company says it conducted its "pre-test" at the end of March "to make the vaccines hit the market as early as possible."

It would not be the only shortcut China is taking. In late June, the government gave special approval for the military to use an experimental vaccine made by another company, CanSino Biologics, skipping the final testing needed to prove if it really works. CanSino now says it's in talks with four other countries about doing that research.

Some participants in the first CanSino clinical trial in March said in social media posts that researchers on the project claimed they had been injected Feb. 29, before regulators gave the study

the go-ahead. A researcher said team leader Chen Wei, a renowned military virologist, was the first to receive the experimental vaccine, one of the participants told state-owned Beijing News.

CanSino and Chen's Academy of Military Medical Sciences turned down requests for information and interviews. The National Medical Products Administration, which approves vaccine trials, also declined to comment.

In May, a Russian scientist told the RIA Novosti news agency that he and fellow researchers also had vaccinated themselves

first vaccine study, using the Gamaleya product.

Examples of scientists experimenting on themselves abound in medical history.

Around 1900, Pierre Curie, Marie Curie's husband, deliberately burned his arm with radium as part of their radiation experiments. In the 1950s, Jonas Salk tested his ultimately successful polio vaccine on himself and his family. In the 1980s, Australia's Dr. Barry Marshall drank a bacteria-laden broth as part of his quest to prove germs, not stress, cause stomach ulcers. He was right.

And in China in the 1970s, a researcher named Tu Youyou, working in a secret military program, discovered an important anti-malaria drug that she first tested on herself. In 2015, she won a Nobel Prize.

With a COVID-19 vaccine, national pride is at stake. President Xi Jinping pledged that any Chinese-made vaccine would be a "global public good."

All this is taking place as China strives to overcome years of drug scandals — the latest coming in 2018 when authorities recalled a rabies vaccine and later announced batches of children's DPT vaccines, for diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus, were ineffective.

Giving the experimental shot early to SinoPharm's employees "sends a signal to the Chinese people, 'You guys should not worry about the safety of the vaccine,'" Huang said.

Scientists vehemently debate

self-experimenting because what happens to one or a few people outside of a well-designed study is anecdote, not evidence. More than 600,000 U.S. schoolchildren had to be given Salk's vaccine or a dummy shot to prove polio protection. It took almost another decade to validate Marshall's ulcer germ theory, which earned him a Nobel as well.

Modern international ethics rules require participants in medical research to be fully informed and to freely consent. In the U.S., studies involving people must receive approval from an "investigational review board," and most U.S. research institutions explicitly state there is no exception to board approval for self-experimenting.

"Employees may not be the best volunteers because employees are in a relationship which is not equal," said Dr. Derrick Au, bioethics director at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Still, he said questions about China's medical ethics might disappear if one of its COVID-19 vaccines ultimately proves to work. "It's difficult to argue against success," Au said.

William Lee of the Milken Institute, a think tank in Santa Monica, California, that is tracking COVID-19 vaccine progress, said that because of China's past scandals, "if they are successful as being the first with a workable product on the market, it had better be so pristine, so pure that people who are outside of China would be willing to buy into it." AP

## Eight of the nearly two dozen potential vaccines in various stages of human testing worldwide are from China



AP PHOTO



A Beijing supporter displays a placard during a protest against the U.S. sanctions outside the U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong yesterday

# As Trump attacks, China sees a worrying trend for its future

KEN MORITSUGU,  
BEIJING

ON Monday, it was the South China Sea. On Tuesday, it was Hong Kong. On Wednesday, Huawei and human rights.

The Trump administration appears to be accelerating a push to define China as a strategic threat, a worrying trend for the country's leaders as the ambitions of a rising economic and military power collide with America's.

A senior official accused the U.S. this week of using the Hong Kong issue to try to obstruct China's development.

Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zeguang told U.S. Ambassador Terry Branstad in a meeting in Beijing that threats of U.S. sanctions and the withdrawal of special trading privileges for Hong Kong are not about democracy and freedom in the semi-autonomous territory but an attempt to contain China.

"I want to warn the U.S. sternly that any bullying and unfairness imposed on China by the U.S. will meet resolute counterattack from China, and the U.S. attempt to obstruct China's development is doomed to failure," he said, according to an account carried by state media.

Behind the tough words is growing concern. Foreign

Minister Wang Yi said in a speech last week that U.S.-China relations face their most severe challenge since the two countries established diplomatic ties in 1979. He asked if bilateral relations will be able to stay the course after a more than four-decade voyage.

At one level, the Trump administration's attacks on China are seen as election-year politics, an attempt to woo voters and distract them from problems at home. President Donald Trump has sought to blame the coronavirus outbreak on China, rather than on any shortcomings in how his government dealt with it.

But America's differences with China go beyond Trump. The tone could change if he is not re-elected in November, but the underlying issues will remain.

Ahead of the election, the factors leading to a possible free-fall in relations are becoming more intense, said Shi Yinhong, an international relations professor at Renmin University in China.

"After the U.S. elections, a window might emerge for serious dialogue, but ... the overall situation will not be reversed," he said. He added that he doesn't see a strategy the two governments could adopt to ease tensions.

The two countries have a fundamental divide in their thinking. The U.S. has always hoped that China would become more demo-

cratic as its interactions with the rest of the world grow. China's long-ruling Communist Party says the two should respect their differences.

"China and the U.S. should not seek to remodel each other," Wang said in his speech. "Instead, they must work together to find ways to peaceful coexistence."

The divide is playing out in Hong Kong, where the U.S. and other Western democracies have grown increasingly concerned over China's imposition of a security law that is seen as a threat to freedom of speech and the right to protest.

China views outside pressure on Hong Kong and other human rights issues as interference in its domestic affairs.

Branstad expressed to Zheng deep American concern about Chinese decisions that erode fundamental freedoms in Hong Kong, according to a statement posted on the U.S. Embassy website yesterday.

It said Branstad explained the Trump administration's finding that the city of 7.5 million people is no longer sufficiently autonomous from China to merit special treatment in trade. He also called on China to restore Hong Kong's liberties.

Trump signed the Hong Kong Autonomy Act on Tuesday, a law that sanctions officials who undermine the city's autonomy,

as well as an executive order affirming an earlier decision to eliminate the preferential trade treatment.

That followed a declaration by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday that the U.S. would not recognize most of China's maritime claims in the South China Sea. On Wednesday, Pompeo said the U.S. would ban employees from Huawei and other Chinese companies who aided alleged human rights abuses in places such as China's Xinjiang region.

The U.S. has "interfered with China's internal affairs and harmed China's interests on the issues of Xinjiang, Tibet and the South China Sea, further exposing its nature of naked hegemony," Zheng told Branstad.

While Zheng urged the U.S. not to go "further and further on the wrong path," Branstad called on China to refrain from any further erosion of Hong Kong's autonomy.

Chu Yin, a professor at the University of International Relations, offered a glimmer of hope. He said frictions between nations always rise during times of economic slowdown.

"China's foreign diplomacy is facing grave and complicated challenges, but the situation will improve a lot with the easing of the epidemic situation and the recovery of the economy," he predicted. AP

## this day in history



Montréal 1976

### 1976 AFRICAN COUNTRIES BOYCOTT OLYMPICS

The opening ceremony of the 21st Olympic Games in Montreal has been marred by the withdrawal of 25 African countries.

They are all protesting at New Zealand's sporting links with South Africa.

The International Olympic Committee's refusal to ban New Zealand, whose rugby team is currently touring South Africa, has resulted in the boycott.

South Africa has been banned from the Olympics since 1964 for its refusal to condemn apartheid.

A spokesperson for the New Zealand Olympic Committee said the All Blacks tour of South Africa had been arranged by the New Zealand Rugby Union which was an autonomous body and nothing to do with the Olympics.

He said it was illogical to single out New Zealand as it was one of 26 countries to have played sport in South Africa during the past year.

More than 300 competitors will now not take part in the Games which will mean many events will have to be cancelled or re-scheduled.

Athletics events will be particularly affected by the absence of Filbert Bayi from Tanzania, who holds the world record in the 1500m and John Akii-Bua of Uganda, world record-holder in the 400 metres hurdles.

The latest country to announce its withdrawal was Kenya. In a statement issued just hours before the opening ceremony, the country's foreign minister James Osogo said: "The government and the people of Kenya hold the view that principles are more precious than medals."

He said the decision by the IOC not to ban New Zealand would give "comfort and respectability to the South African racist regime and encourage it to continue to defy world opinion."

The IOC will now have to decide what sanctions should be imposed on the boycotting countries, who risk being expelled from the Olympic movement.

Approximately 20 of the 26 countries who have withdrawn from the competition had already travelled to Montreal but will now return home.

The list of those boycotting the Olympics is: Libya, Iraq, Kenya, Zambia, Nigeria, Gambia, Sudan, Ghana, Tanzania, Uganda, Algeria, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Central African Republic, Gabon, Chad, Togo, Niger, Congo, Mauritius, Upper Volta and Malawi.

Egypt did not take part in today's opening ceremony but has not yet formally announced its withdrawal. Taiwan withdrew on the grounds that the Canadian government refused to allow her to compete under the name of the Republic of China.

There are already fears the Commonwealth Games due to be held in Edmonton, Canada in two years time will be affected by the African boycott.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Countries protesting at New Zealand's participation in the Games continued to withdraw throughout the opening days. Egypt subsequently withdrew and the final number of absences was 33.

In the first two days of the Games a million Canadian dollars were lost in event cancellations and seat refunds.

South Africa was banned from the Olympics until 1992 when apartheid laws were repealed in the country.

Britain came home from the Montreal Olympics with just one bronze medal in the track and field events.

But swimmer David Wilkie gave Britain her first men's swimming gold medal in 68 years and also took the world record.

Nadia Comaneci of Romania, 14, took over the mantle of best gymnast in the world from Olga Korbut, after winning the first maximum score of 10.00 in Olympic history. She went on to win three gold medals.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
You can't think twice if your ambition gets in other people's way. Even if you step on someone's toes now and then, sometimes that's just what it takes to get where you want to go.

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
You shouldn't take anything or anyone too seriously right now. There is a lot of uncertainty around many things, so whatever bluster someone is throwing your way has no real energy behind it.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
It's a great evening to stream a movie, order some takeout, and just relax knowing that there's no place you need to be and nothing you have to do. Times like these don't come around often, so you have to savor them!

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
There is some unfinished business you need to take care of, and you need to figure out what it is. Did you forget someone's birthday or forget to send someone a wedding present?

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Positive possibilities abound in your life right now, so it is a very good time to act boldly. Step more aggressively toward what you want out of life, whether it's a new job or a new relationship.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
You have the ability to see the bigger picture and rise above pettiness, so inspire others to do the same by setting all of your personal biases aside. Lead by example and show other people the best way to be.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Your time is just as valuable as your money, so pay attention to who you are spending it with. Spend some time talking with a person who has given you so much of their time in the past.

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
Luckily, your focus is sharper and your energy is brighter than ever now, so you will have a better chance of moving forward in your life. You could be a role model to others, you're so motivated right now!

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Try to set a good example for others today, especially if you are going to be around children. You might not realize it, but people look to you for clues about how to behave much more often than you think.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
One of your teammates or partners has a different agenda than you do right now. In fact, they could want the opposite of what you want. This is totally fine and won't cause any conflict whatsoever...

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
An upcoming meeting, online or off, that you thought was just going to be informal might turn out to be a bigger deal. So, just in case, dress a little nicer than you normally would.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Keeping your goals a secret isn't a very wise decision, especially since right now there are so many people around you who could help you get at least one step closer to where you want to be.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



## SUDOKU

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

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

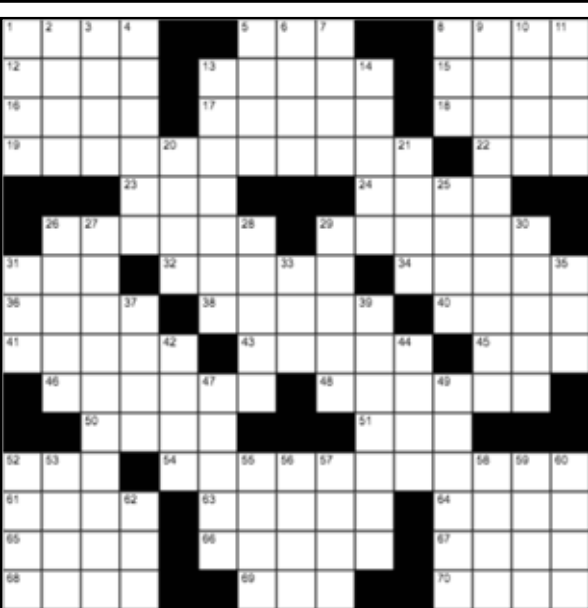
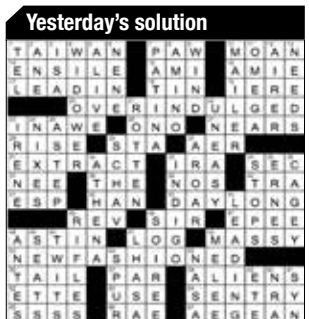
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	25	31	thundershower
Harbin	23	34	cloudy
Tianjin	26	33	overcast
Urumqi	22	34	clear
Xi'an	22	29	cloudy
Lhasa	13	23	drizzle
Chengdu	24	32	shower
Chongqing	25	28	drizzle
Kunming	18	25	shower
Nanjing	22	25	moderate rain
Shanghai	22	27	drizzle
Wuhan	23	32	moderate rain
Hangzhou	22	31	thundershower
Taipei	26	32	cloudy
Guangzhou	29	36	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	33	shower
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	14	17	overcast
Frankfurt	12	17	cloudy
Paris	16	20	overcast
London	15	23	cloudy
New York	20	24	drizzle

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fast fliers; 5- Central; 8- \_\_\_ delighted!; 12- Wife of Jacob; 13- Off-limits; 15- Mariners can sail on seven of these; 16- Ethereal; Prefix; 17- Representative; 18- Earthbound bird; 19- Plan beforehand; 22- Israeli weapon; 23- Atlas page; 24- Student's final; 26- Bass catcher; 29- Settle up front; 31- Clay today; 32- South American ruminant; 34- Spanish Mister; 36- Records; 38- Set up; 40- Team; 41- Plant louse; 43- Register as a participant; 45- Buddhist sect; 46- Accent; 48- Whine; 50- For \_\_\_ Jolly Good Fellow; 51- \_\_\_-disant (self-styled); 52- Sense of self; 54- Birthright; 61- Straight; 63- Musical toy; 64- Tolerate; 65- Exam used to measure aptitude or intelligence; 66- Biblical brother; 67- Old Fords; 68- Flock members; 69- Gangster's gun; 70- Being, to Brutus;

DOWN: 1- Hit with an open hand; 2- Clairvoyant; 3- Shipping deduction; 4- Ragtime dance; 5- Biblical gift bearers; 6- Skeptic's scoff; 7- Lady of Spain; 8- Neighbor of Leb.; 9- Divest of individuality; 10- Woodstock singer Joan; 11- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 13- Frog baby; 14- Brown-furred aquatic carnivorous mammal; 20- British nobleman; 21- "The First Wives Club" members; 25- Galoots; 26- Failures; 27- Tower for the guidance of mariners; 28- Challenges; 29- Treaties; 30- Warble; 31- Menu words; 33- More than one male; 35- Cartoon Chihuahua; 37- Paddock papa; 39- Mental strain; 42- He played Ricky; 44- Civil disturbance; 47- Decaf brand; 49- Practical, as a plan; 52- Novel ending; 53- Increased in size; 55- Dutch name of The Hague; 56- Book before Nehemiah; 57- Cheer; 58- Takes home; 59- Scoundrels; 60- Limerick language; 62- French connections;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



**FOR SALE**

**Buckingham, Taipa High floor & Large terrace**  
HK\$11,770,000 1,439 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1/2 2 1/2

**FOR RENT**

**Views of Nam Van & Macau Tower**  
\$21,800/mth 1,900 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 1/2 3 1/2 1 1/2

**FOR SALE**

- [Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 1/2 2 1/2  
1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] Manhattan D unit 4 1/2 2 1/2  
2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> \$15,980,000 (ref: n/a)
- [Macau] 2 Shops downtown 2 1/2 2 1/2  
1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$20,800,000 (ref: 19015573)
- [Cotal] One Grantai 4 1/2 2 1/2  
2,556 ft<sup>2</sup> \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)

**FOR RENT**

- [Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 1/2 1 1/2  
600 ft<sup>2</sup> \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2  
710 ft<sup>2</sup> \$13,200/mth (ref: 20021002)
- [Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2  
1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2  
4,266 ft<sup>2</sup> \$45,000/mth (ref: 190550065T)

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# CHINA BECOMES FIRST ECONOMY TO GROW SINCE VIRUS PANDEMIC

JOE McDONALD, BEIJING

CHINA became the first major economy to grow since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, recording an unexpectedly strong 3.2% expansion in the latest quarter after anti-virus lockdowns were lifted and factories and stores reopened.

Growth reported yesterday for the three months ending in June was a dramatic improvement over the previous quarter's 6.8% contraction — China's worst performance since at least the mid-1960s. But it still was the weakest positive figure since China started reporting quarterly growth in the early 1990s.

"We expect to see continuous improvement in the upcoming quarters," said Marcella Chow of JP Morgan Asset Management in a report.

China, where the coronavirus pandemic began in December, was the first economy to shut down and the first to start the drawn-out process of recovery in March after the ruling Communist Party declared the disease under control.

"The national economy shifted from slowing down to rising in the first half of 2020," the National Bureau of Statistics said in a statement.

Asian financial markets fell despite the show of strength by the region's biggest economy as investor enthusiasm following announcements about research into a possible coronavirus vaccine receded.

China's market benchmark, the Shanghai Composite Index, was down 1.4% at midday. In Tokyo, the Nikkei 225 lost 0.7%.



AP PHOTO

Hong Kong's Hang Seng declined 1.4% and the Kospi in South Korea fell 0.8%.

Economists say China is likely to recover faster than some other major economies due to the ruling Communist Party's decision to impose the most intensive anti-disease measures in history. Those cut off most access to cities with a total of 60 million people and suspended trade and travel — steps later imitated by some Asian and European governments as the virus spread.

Manufacturing and some other industries are almost back to normal. But consumer spending is weak due to fear of possible job losses. Cinemas and some other businesses still are closed and restrictions on travel stay in place.

"The pandemic is creating

winner and losers," said Bill Adams of PNC Financial Services Group in a report. "Manufacturing is leading China's recovery."

In light of the latest data, Chinese leaders are "likely to keep the current policy stance largely unchanged," said Larry Hu and Xinyu Ji of Macquarie Capital in a report.

The International Monetary Fund is forecasting China's growth at 1% this year. That would be the weakest since the 1960s but better than the Fund's outlook for an 8% contraction in U.S. output and a 4.9% decline for the world.

Private sector analysts say as much as 30% of China's urban workforce, or as many as 130 million people, may have lost their jobs at least temporarily. They say as many as 25 million

jobs might be lost for good this year.

The ruling party promised in May to spend \$280 billion on meeting goals including creating 9 million new jobs. But it has avoided joining the United States and Japan in rolling out relief packages of \$1 trillion or more due to concern about adding to already high Chinese debt.

China has reported 4,634 coronavirus deaths and 83,611 cases. No domestically transmitted cases have been reported since an outbreak in Beijing that infected more than 330 people before it faded early this month.

On Tuesday, the government eased some curbs on domestic tourism after China reported no new locally acquired infections in nine days. The Minis-

try of Culture and Tourism said tourist sites can allow 50% of their daily visitor capacity, up from 30%, and tours from one province to another can resume.

In the three months ending in June, factory output rose 4.4%, rebounding from the previous quarter's 8.4% contraction after factories that make the world's smartphones, shoes, toys and other goods reopened.

Retail sales shrank by 3.9%, but that was a marked improvement over the previous quarter's 19% contraction while millions of families were confined to their homes and shopping malls were shut down. Online retail sales rose 14.3%, up from the previous quarter's 5.9%.

June exports grew by an unexpectedly strong 0.4% but still are off 3% for the first half of the year. Imports rose 3% — including a 10.6% jump in purchases of U.S. goods despite a tariff war — but are down 3.3% so far this year.

Forecasters warn exporters are likely to face another decline in demand as sales of masks and other medical supplies taper off and U.S. and European retailers cancel orders.

"This suggests sustained pressure on employment, currently the government's foremost policy priority," said JP Morgan's Chow.

A potential stumbling block is worsening relations with the United States, China's biggest national export market, over disputes about trade, technology, human rights and Hong Kong.

The two governments signed an agreement in January to postpone further tariff hikes in their fight over Beijing's technology ambitions and trade surplus. But most increases already imposed remained in place.

## CORPORATE BITS

### Be@rbrick Macau 2020 returns to Galaxy Macau



The Promenade Shops at Galaxy Macau is launching the return of Be@rbrick Macau 2020 pop-up installation from August 13 to September 13, 2020 at the Jade Lobby in Galaxy Macau, presented by local fashion and lifestyle store WF Fashion.

Following the success of the Be@rbrick Macau 2019 exhibition, Medicom Toy and WF Fashion is joining forces once again to roll out eight all-new Be@rbrick co-branded designs this year, including: Faith Connexion, MM6 Maison Margiela, Moschino, Neil Barrett,

Palm Angels, Philipp Plein, U.M Junior and the second Macau exclusive edition from the widely popular WF Fashion x "My First Be@rbrick B@by". Loyal fans of Be@rbrick can register online from July 29 to 31 for pre-registrations and the draw results will be announced on August 4.

"We are greatly honored to collaborate with WF Fashion again to bring Be@rbrick Macau 2020 to The Promenade Shops. The two consecutive years of partnership is another testament to The Promenade Shops' position as an ultimate shopping destination for first-in-Macau experiences," said Hazel Wong, Senior Vice President of Retail for Galaxy Macau.

### Liaison Office lauds Sands China for Covid-19 relief efforts



A delegation led by Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macao SAR, Yao Jian, visited Sands China's company office yesterday, and was warmly received by company president Dr. Wilfred Wong and other senior executives.

Both parties exchanged views and ideas on how to support anti-pandemic efforts, as well as on how to revive Macau's economy.

According to a Sands China statement, Yao acknowledged the contribu-

tions made by the gaming operator amid the Covid-19 pandemic. While there, the delegation presented a certificate of appreciation to Sands China, and expressed its hopes that the company will continue to cooperate with the SAR government in its virus prevention and economic recovery work, while at the same time strengthening the patriotic spirit of its team members.

"As a company rooted in Macau, Sands China considers it our privilege and duty to help the mainland and Macau persevere through the challenges brought on by the current pandemic," said Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.





CRICKET

## ARCHER EXCLUDED BY ENGLAND FOR 2ND TEST FOR ISOLATION BREACH

**ENGLAND** fast bowler Jofra Archer was excluded from the second test against the West Indies hours before the start of the match yesterday for breaching strict isolation protocols put in place to enable the return of international cricket.

The Barbados-born paceman said he was "extremely sorry" for going to his home on Monday as the England squad transferred from the south-coast city of Southampton, the location of the first test, to the northern city of Manchester, where the second test is being played.

"I have put not only myself but the whole team and management in danger," Archer said. "I fully accept the consequences of my actions, and I want to sincerely apologize to everyone in the bio-secure bubble."

Archer will now start five days of isolation and will undergo two tests for COVID-19 during this period. Archer has to test negative before his self-isolation period is lifted.

The third and final test, also being played in Manchester, begins on July 24.

England said the West Indies were satisfied with the measures imposed on Archer. The teams are playing in isolated environments this series because of the coronavirus pandemic and players have been given strict orders to follow so they don't leave the bubble. **AP**

FOOTBALL

# Porto clinches Portuguese title with win over Sporting

FC PORTO 2, SPORTING LISBON, 0

**P**ORTO clinched its second Portuguese league title in three seasons yesterday [Macau time] by beating Sporting Lisbon 2-0, and its fans took to the streets to celebrate amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Danilo and Moussa Marega scored second-half goals to give Porto an insurmountable eight-point lead over second-place Benfica with two rounds to go. Benfica defeated Vitória Guimarães 2-0 on Tuesday to temporarily delay Porto's celebrations. A draw also would have been enough for Porto.

"It's an incredible feeling," Danilo said. "Unfortunately the fans couldn't be here, it would have made it even more special, but I'm sure they are all happy at home right now. We thank them for their support."

Porto supporters could be heard celebrating outside the Estádio do Dragão, chanting and honking car horns. Televisions images



showed hundreds of people gathering on the streets of Porto, without much social distancing being observed.

Fireworks were set off nearby as players celebrated at midfield holding up team flags and scarves.

It was the fifth straight win for Porto, which also won the league in 2018 to end Benfica's run of four consecutive titles. Benfica lifted the trophy last season.

It was Porto's 29th Portuguese title, moving within eight of Benfica.

It is the 18th straight season that either Benfica or Porto win the Portuguese league. Sporting Lisbon, third in the standings this season, won the title in 2001-02.

Porto's best scoring chance before Danilo's goal came when Fábio Vieira's long-range shot struck the crossbar in the

63rd. Danilo opened the scoring with a header off a corner kick in the 64th, and Marega sealed the victory from inside the area in stoppage time.

Both teams had goals disallowed in the first half.

The Portuguese league was among the first in Europe to restart amid the coronavirus pandemic, with all matches being played without fans. **AP**

## Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu



### THE SJM MACAU DERBY 2020

2020-07-19 | Sun | 16:00

**H**OSTWIN SATURN rated the highest in this race, followed by *Oneofthegreats* from G. Allendorf's yard. *Oneofthegreats* has not trail in 1800M before, the distance is a query and also the punishable barrier 12 have not been in his favour, he may be sneak into the mix at best. *Winnie Star* with his blue blood pedigree as well as his good racing credentials should be in the reckoning but drawn in barrier 14, he got lots to do before he can pull into a good firing position down in the straight. *Hostwin Saturn* has won a convincing 1800M race his stamina is well proven, with a favourable draw in barrier 2 and a strong jockey J.B Hamel, he's my idea of the SJM Derby winner. You can ignore his last messy 1500M race where he ran 3rd behind *Star of Yiu Cheung* and *Oneofthegreats* in

just 1/2 length finish. These 3 will met in the SJM Derby race again on Sunday, it will not be easy for *Star of Yiu Cheung* and *Oneofthegreats* to turn the table this time. As long as the pace is normal, it should be a race breaks well for *Hostwin Saturn*. *Crown of Gold* could be a threat should he get a clear run down the straight, he got 4 wins under his belt, he beat Fantastic Friends and *Golden Victory* with ease in a 1800M race this season, he drawn barrier 3 and with leading jockey L. Corrales aboard, he posted to be a danger to *Hostwin Saturn*. But with so many upsides *Hostwin Saturn* should relish his derby glory.

**Race 3**

**1 Hostwin Saturn (pictured) to Win  
1 Hostwin Saturn with 7 Crown of Gold  
in the Quinella and Quinella Place**





**OPINION**

**Editorial**

Paulo Coutinho



**TRUTH OR DARE**

*"The truth is nice but a rumor is priceless."*

Mortdecai (fictional character in 'Mortdecai')

We did not have to wait for a revision of our own National Security Law under article 23 of the Basic Law to feel the reverberations of the imposition of similar legislation by the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) in Hong Kong, on June 30.

This week, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) removed a book authored by activist Joshua Wong (I am Not a Child) from the Seac Pai Van public library, as reported by Hoje Macau.

According to the IC, the book was removed from the shelves for analysis of its contents. In a reply to the Portuguese daily, the IC explained that they are conducting one of their regular inspections on the catalog of public libraries, which operate under the UNESCO Manifest. This internationally accepted manifest repudiates the selection of a collection for public libraries based on ideological considerations, and encourages pluralism.

The removal of Wong's book was exposed on social media posts which affirm that the title was available at the library as recently as last month.

We generally do not believe in coincidences, but particularly not in this one.

So, for those who came out fast in defense of a revision of the current legislation adopted in Macau under article 23, in 2009, they should rest easy. We do not need an enhancement for our local government departments to act in accordance with the draconian legislation imposed on the people of our sister SAR.

To be completely honest, we do not need a National Security Law at all. Acts of vandalism, crimes against property or the authority and the symbols of state and government, and against the "one country" integrity are all covered by the general law.

Look at the Hong Kong situation. During the year-long protests, some regrettably violent, the Hong Kong police force made 8,981 arrests between June 9, 2019, and May 29, 2020. 1,547 were prosecuted and are awaiting trial. 5,724 people are on bail pending further investigation or pending further investigation after refusing bail.

According to data compiled by SCMP, 1,439 were released unconditionally "but could still face investigation."

All these alleged offenders were detained, questioned, prosecuted before the implementation of the National Security Law with the pre-existing general legislation that deals with criminal activities.

So, why overrule the Legislative Council of Hong Kong and, according to constitutional experts, even violate the Basic Law?

The answer may be found in a paradox.

You may already have forgotten – in the middle of all this chaos, disinformation, and the pandemic – but the initial single request of millions of peaceful demonstrators was, solely, the withdrawal of an unpopular extradition bill promoted by Carrie Lam.

For months, chief executive Lam stubbornly refused to appease the protesters – comprising basically half of Hong Kong's population – only to suspend the bill in the first instance and finally drop it when the situation had already escalated to such violence and disruption that brought the financial hub to a standstill.

Why didn't she drop the extradition bill right after the first two demonstrations that brought to the streets of Hong Kong, on average, a person per household?!

The answer is that bill was useless in the eyes of the mainland legislator.

Under the new law, extradition is there, with aggravation even, as some crimes deemed more "serious" or "complex" may be tried by mainland courts.

Under the new legislation, police have been granted sweeping powers, including the ability to conduct raids without a warrant and secretly monitor suspects.

And if it is incredibly rewarding to those who obey, it is even more so to those who denounce those who deviate from the official line.

A rumor is all it takes.

**PRESIDENT TRUMP AND IVANKA CRITICIZED OVER GOYA SUPPORT**

THE BUZZ

US President Donald Trump and his daughter and advisor Ivanka have been criticized for endorsing a Hispanic food company on social media, BBC reports.

The pair shared images of themselves holding Goya Foods products earlier this week, with the president saying it was "doing GREAT".

It comes after the head of Goya expressed his support for Donald Trump, prompting calls to boycott the company.

The Trumps' actions have raised concerns over ethics violations.

In a tweet on Tuesday, the president's daughter posted a picture of her holding a can of Goya black beans with the company's slogan - "If it's Goya, it has to be good" - in English and Spanish.

The president later tweeted, without citing evidence, that "Goya Foods is doing GREAT. The Radical Left smear machine backfired, people are buying like crazy!". An image of him posing with various Goya products was also shared on his Instagram account.



AP PHOTO

**EU COURT CANCELS US DATA-SHARING PACT OVER SNOOPING CONCERNS**

CARLO PIOVANO, LONDON

**T**HE European Union's top court ruled yesterday that an agreement that allows thousands of companies — from tech giants to small financial firms — to transfer data to the United States is invalid because the American government can snoop on people's data.

The ruling to invalidate Privacy Shield will complicate business for some 5,000 companies, and it could require regulators to vet any new data transfers to make sure Europeans' personal information remains protected according to the EU's stringent standards.

It will no longer simply be assumed that tech companies like Facebook will adequately protect the privacy of its European users' data when it sends it to the U.S. Rather, the EU and U.S. will likely have to find a new agreement that guarantees that Europeans' data is afforded the same privacy protection in the U.S. as it is in the EU.

Privacy activists hailed the court ruling as a major victory, while business groups worried about the potential to disrupt commerce, depending on how the ruling is implemented. Companies like Facebook routinely move such data

among their servers around the world and the practice underpins billions of dollars in business.

"It is clear that the U.S. will have to seriously change their surveillance laws, if U.S. companies want to continue to play a major role on the EU market," said Max Schrems, an Austrian activist whose complaints about the handling of his Facebook data triggered the ruling after years of legal procedures.

He first filed a complaint in 2013, after former U.S. National Security Agency

**Privacy activists hailed the court ruling as a victory, while business groups worried about the potential to disrupt commerce**

contractor Edward Snowden revealed that the American government was snooping on people's online data and communications. The revelations included detail on how Facebook gave U.S. security agencies access to the personal data of Europeans.

Though the legal case was triggered by concerns over Facebook in particular, it could have far-reaching implications not only for tech companies but also businesses in sectors like

finance and the auto industry.

Things like email, flight and hotel reservations would not be affected in the short term, experts say. Cloud services by providers like Microsoft will also continue, pending any intervention from a regulator.

Companies use legal mechanisms called standard contractual clauses that force businesses to abide by strict EU privacy standards when transferring messages, photos and other information. The clauses — which are

stock terms and conditions — are used to ensure the EU rules are maintained when data leaves the bloc.

The Court of Justice of the EU ruled yesterday that those clauses are still valid in principle. However, it declared invalid the Privacy Shield agreement between the U.S. and EU on data transfers over concerns that the U.S. can demand access to consumer data for national security reasons.

It said that in cases where there are concerns about data privacy, EU regulators should vet, and if needed block, the transfer of data. That raises the prospect that EU regulators will block Facebook, for example, from transferring any more European data to the U.S. **AP**



AP PHOTO

**India's** virus cases surged another 32,695, taking the nation closer to 1 million and forcing a new lockdown in the popular western beach state of Goa two weeks after it was reopened to tourists. The new confirmed cases took the national total to 968,876. The Health Ministry also reported a daily high of 606 deaths, taking total fatalities up to 24,915. The ministry said the recovery rate was continuing to improve at 63%.



AP PHOTO

**Africa** As the first wave of the coronavirus pandemic crashes across Africa, the head of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says the intellectual property from any effective vaccine should be made available for local manufacturing and swifter distribution. John Nkengasong told reporters that Africa's 1.3 billion people have "all kinds of differences in genetic makeup, so we want to be sure that we are participating fully" in vaccine trials.

**France** New French Prime Minister Jean Castex says masks will be mandatory in closed public places as of next week, sooner than Aug. 1 as announced earlier by President Emmanuel Macron. The change in date comes as the Mayenne area of the Loire region has seen several COVID-19 outbreaks, and authorities have recorded a marginal increase in infections in the Paris region.



AP PHOTO

**Spain** is paying homage to the nation's victims of the new coronavirus and workers who put their lives at risk during the worst of the pandemic. Relatives of around 100 people who died and frontline workers are joining King Felipe VI and Queen Letizia, government authorities and officials from the European Union and the World Health Organization in a solemn ceremony at an esplanade in Madrid's Royal Palace.