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**THE GOVERNMENT DEFENDED A NOW-ABANDONED PLAN FOR THE CENTRAL LIBRARY PROJECT, SAYING IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION AT THAT TIME** P6

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**A LARGE EXPLOSION IN ZHUHAI THAT ROCKED A HOTEL AND NEARBY BUILDING HAS LEFT THREE INJURED AND NO FATALITIES** P2



**India** has registered a single-day spike of 94,372 new coronavirus cases, driving the country's overall tally to 4.75 million. The Health Ministry yesterday also reported 1,114 deaths in the past 24 hours, taking total fatalities up to 78,586. Even as infections are growing faster in India than anywhere else in the world, the number of people recovering from the virus has also risen sharply. The country's recovery rate stands at 77%.



**Philippines** A U.S. Marine convicted of killing a Filipino transgender woman was deported yesterday after a presidential pardon cut short his detention in a case that renewed outrage over a pact governing American military presence in the Philippines.



**Iran** State TV on Saturday reported that the country's authorities executed a wrestler for allegedly murdering a man, after President Donald Trump asked for the 27-year-old condemned man's life to be spared. State TV quoted the chief justice of Fars province, Kazem Mousavi, as saying: "The retaliation sentence against Navid Afkari, the killer of Hassan Torkaman, was carried out this morning in Adelabad prison in Shiraz."

**Nepal** A landslide triggered by overnight rainfall swept through three Nepalese villages yesterday, killing at least six people while 26 were reported missing and believed to be buried by debris, officials said. Rescuers managed to pull out the six bodies from underneath houses and were searching for the others, government administrator Baburam Khanal said.

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# A NEW FORMULA

Responding to Covid-19 demands, the Macau Grand Prix is dropping its F3 race in favor of the Chinese Formula 4 series P5



## THREAT TO WORLD PEACE

Beijing blasts back at a US report critical of China's military saying Washington poses the bigger threat P7



### 56-YEAR-OLD WOMAN FALLS FOR ROMANCE SCAM

A 56-year-old local woman lost nearly HKD200,000 to a love scam. At this stage, no one has been arrested, but investigation is ongoing, the Judiciary Police assured. In December 2018, the victim came across a male user on a social media platform. The user claimed that he worked in the chemical business. They got along well and communicated continuously and later became a couple. In January 2019, the suspect claimed that he needed money to go on a business trip to Thailand and wanted to borrow HKD200,000 from her. She eventually transferred HKD194,000 worth of Thai baht to the suspect. Later, when she spoke with her son, she was told that she might have been scammed.

### COUPLE INVESTIGATED FOR FAKE MARRIAGES

Hoping to receive money to repay gambling debts, a local couple masterminded two fake marriages with two mainland residents for remuneration of more than 100,000 patacas, according to the police. The police have three suspects in the case: long, who is in his 60s, and Chang and Zeng, both females in their 40s. long and Chang are a couple. Five years ago, in order to repay gambling debts, Chang married Xie, a mainland resident, to help Xie and Xie's son obtain Macau residency. The Identification Bureau suspected an abnormality and requested a police investigation. During the investigation, the police also unearthed that long was in a fake marriage with Zeng, so that Zeng and her two children could get Macau residency. The trio have already received their Macau IDs.

### MAN LOSES 13 MILLION PATACAS IN ROMANCE SCAM

The police have identified two suspects believed to be connected to a romance scam three years ago in which a local man claimed to lose 13 million patacas. The two suspects in the case were recently arrested in an Areia Preta apartment but refused to cooperate, the Judiciary Police said. Three years ago, a female suspect told the victim over a mobile messaging app that she was willing to offer paid sex. The victim accepted the offer and "prepaid" her 5 million patacas in the form of gaming vouchers. Later, a man who claimed to be the "sex provider's" manager, who is believed to be the male suspect, asked the victim for 7 million patacas in Bitcoin. Later, the male suspect asked the victim to give him HKD1.15 million in cash, which the suspect intended to use to buy Bitcoin. Eventually, the suspect was unable to buy Bitcoin and decided to leave the money at a police station, from which the victim was instructed to retrieve the money. That was when the police were alerted to the case.

### CRIME

# MAN ACCUSED OF ASSAULTING AND RAPING EX-GIRLFRIEND

JULIE ZHU

A 27-year-old man is facing criminal charges for multiple offenses he committed against his girlfriend, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported during Friday's joint police press conference.

The suspect, surnamed Ng, is an unemployed Macau resident. He and his girlfriend have an 11-year-old daughter. The three of them live in an apartment in the central district.

In July, the victim attempted to break up with the suspect and requested Ng move out of their apartment. At that time, the suspect refused.

Ng and the victim later engaged in a dispute in August, which led to the woman reporting the incident to the Public Security Police Force (PSP). After this incident, Ng stopped going to their apartment.

However, at 4 a.m. on Wednesday morning, when the victim returned home, she found that Ng had snuck into the house and was hiding in the kitchen.

When he was spotted, he immediately attacked the victim, covered her mouth with tape and tied her hands up with rope. Then he allegedly raped her.

The victim fought Ng and tried to reach a phone and call



the police department, however the suspect seized the phone and damaged it.

After that, the man prevented the woman from leaving the apartment.

Approximately 20 minutes later, the victim convinced Ng to let her out of the apartment to buy food. As she was walking outside, the suspect followed her. However, the woman managed to get to a friend's house and called the police department for help.

Shortly after, the PSP officers intercepted Ng near his ex-girlfriend's apartment.

During the police interrogation, Ng claimed that he did not sexually assault the woman and that his only intention was to repair their relationship.

However, judging from the superficial injuries on the victim's body, the PJ believes there is strong evidence indicating that the man had raped her.

The Judiciary Police charged the man for rape and other crimes, and has handed him over to the prosecution authority.

In June, a 24-year-old local man was accused of crimes including aggravated assault, rape and unlawful detention of his girlfriend who had decided to break up with him.

In May, a civil servant from the Health Bureau was charged with raping his wife and accused of domestic violence.

## Explosion at Zhuhai hotel injures three bystanders

A large explosion at a Zhuhai hotel on Friday injured three bystanders, according to official reports from the mainland press.

At about 9 a.m. on Friday, a group of explosions occurred near and at Zhuhai OYO Teng Hu Grand Hotel, which is located in the Bai Teng Tou area of Doumen district.

It took six fire squads, 19 fire trucks and 55 firefighters one hour to put out the fire, which covered 150 square meters.

Firefighters rescued nine people, three of whom were spectators who were standing nearby observing the fire and the first few explosions. Two sustained mild injuries while one sustained burns.

According to a report by the People's Daily, a preliminary inspection indicated that an exploding LPG bottle caused the disaster. The official account is that the disaster was caused by human accident, according to

mainland media reports. Some of the bystanders who were interviewed reported hearing four explosions on Friday morning.

Video footage also shows that multiple explosions occurred. Several video clips spread on Weibo showed that crowds were witnessing the aftermath of earlier explosions when suddenly another one detonated, causing bystanders to flee.

The blasts heavily im-



This still made from video shows the scene after an explosion

acted the ground and first floors of two buildings. The first floor of one of the buildings is mostly comprised of businesses, including a children's art center.

Judging from the video footage, one fire

broke out on the ground floor of a residential building which accommodates 10 residential units overlooking the scene of the accident. Other fires were observed on the hotel's ground and first floors. JZ

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# Secretary says separation of powers not part of Macau's system

**S**ECRETARY for Administration and Justice André Cheong has stressed that the political system in Macau focuses on mutual cooperation rather than the traditional separation of powers employed in Western democracy. His comments come on the heel of controversial remarks in neighboring Hong Kong, where the education authority has recently ordered textbook publishers to remove references to the concept in their liberal studies textbooks.

According to Cheong, Macau's Basic Law stipulates that each of the branches of the executive, legislature and judiciary has its own scope of authority. In the last 20 years since the establishment of the SAR, the system has been operating in an effective and efficient manner, said the Secretary.

When asked how an independent judiciary can be guaranteed in Macau, the secretary cited the Basic Law and a series of other laws to prove that the courts have independent judicial powers and the Public Prosecutions Office has prosecution powers. As an act of independent judiciary, the executive branch will respect and implement the judgment made by the courts, said Cheong.

Cheong used recent land plot retrieval cases as an example. If there is a judicial appeal on the executive's decision to reclaim land parcels, the court shall have the discretion to make a final judgment, he pointed out.

Cheong's explanation aligns with the view of the national government, as well as his counterparts in Hong Kong.

PHOTO ARCHIVE



Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong

Recently, the concept of "separation of powers" has been a topic of debate in Hong Kong. The debate was ignited when the city's Secretary for Education, Kevin Yeung, announced that the Education Bureau in Hong Kong had ordered textbook publishers to delete references to the concept.

In addition, publishers were asked to emphasize legal consequences in the entry on "civil disobedience." Some saw these acts as political censorship, which the education chief has denied.

Yeung explained that it is "a statement of facts" and that the concept of the separation of powers has never existed in Hong Kong.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam later said that the executive, le-

gislative and judicial powers enjoyed by the HKSAR are not shared with, but are instead authorized by central authorities, adding that the chief executive is at the core of the executive-led framework.

The Hong Kong Basic Law, which is similar to Macau's, stipulates that the SAR is an inalienable part of the People's Republic of China and a local administrative region that enjoys a high degree of autonomy.

"[Hong Kong] is directly under the jurisdiction of the central government," Lam said. She pointed out that a high degree of autonomy is not a full autonomy. The executive, legislative and judicial powers enjoyed by the HKSAR are granted by the central government.

Meanwhile, the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region has said that it supports Lam's view, saying that the city's political system does not enjoy a "separation of powers."

The office's spokesperson pointed out that "separation of powers" is usually a term reserved for sovereign states.

A SAR is not an independent political entity in Chinese political tradition, but a local administrative region where all of its power is derived from the central government.

China says its two SARs have not adopted a Western-style separation of powers. Instead, they have an executive-led, cooperative political system. **AL/AGENCIES**

## LOCAL BUSINESSMAN LIU CHAK WAN GIVEN HONORARY DOCTORATE

Liu Chak Wan, a local businessman and chancellor of the Macau University of Science and Technology, has recently been awarded an honorary doctorate in business administration by the Hong Kong Baptist University. At the conferment ceremony, Professor Edward Snape, Dean of the university's School of Business, commended Liu for being an entrepreneur filled with care and morality, an educational philanthropist full of generosity, and a community leader with heavy responsibility. Liu is also member of the Standing Committee of the 13th term of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and a recipient of the 2019 Golden Lotus Medal.

## WYNN NOT STOPPING ITS MACAU INVESTMENT, SAYS COMPANY EXECUTIVE

Linda Chen, Vice President of the Board, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Director of Wynn Macau Ltd., has promised that the Covid-19 pandemic has not slowed down the company's investment in the city. She stressed that casino operation focuses on the long term. Meanwhile, Crystal Pavilion, a planned theater-dining-exhibition project adjacent to the Wynn Palace hotel tower, will break the ground next year as planned, the executive disclosed. Chen views the upcoming October 1 "Golden Week", which usually hosts an influx of mainland Chinese tourists, as a "new beginning" and foresees the gaming recovery to be gradual. She is also confident that performance in the second half of the year will improve.

## POLICE INSTALL NEW KIOSKS FOR RENEWAL OF PERMIT TO REMAIN

Starting today, the police department will start operating new service kiosks at five locations for convenience of students who need to renew their permits to remain. The five locations are the Government Service Buildings in Areia Preta and Nova Park, Taipa; the arrival hall at the Border Gate checkpoint; the sub-station of the Outer Harbor Police Station; and the sub-station of the Coloane Police Station at the University of Macau. The last two locations will operate 24 hours a day. Non-resident students will be able to renew their permit to remain at their convenience.

# Tourism board does not expect major visitor growth over Golden Week

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Helena Maria de Sena Fernandes, said that the tourism board is not expecting a bounce in visitor arrival numbers during the upcoming October 1 week-long holiday, known as Golden Week. This is due to existing travel restrictions, including the requirement for visitors to show

a negative Covid-19 test result.

Applications for tourist endorsements have resumed gradually on the mainland. Applications resumed for Zhuhai residents on August 12 and for Guangdong residents on August 26. As per the current timeline, applications for all mainland residents will resume on September 23.

However, visitor arrivals have remained mostly unchanged since

the first two phases of endorsement resumption began.

Although they are expecting gradual growth in visitor arrivals in the months ahead, the MGTO head said it is difficult to make a precise forecast for this Golden Week. In her opinion, Macau should not expect a huge influx of tourists from the mainland.

Currently, with the resumption of travel endorsement in Guang-

dong, there are on average 15,000 visitor arrivals each day. During the pandemic, there were only 200 arrivals per day on the quieter days.

Upon the announcement of the resumption of mainland travel endorsement to Macau, parts of the business sector and of the public were expecting an influx of visitors. Citing special border-crossing measures, the MGTO head said that this would not happen.

She explained that members of the public should learn to get accustomed to the new mode of travel, including the requirement for a negative Covid-19 test result and conversion of health codes. Immigration procedures would take longer, she said.

Meanwhile, ferry services between Macau and Shenzhen also resumed late last week. The ferry services are now operating on two routes, namely Outer Harbor-Shekou and Taipa-Shekou. The government disclosed that on the first two days of service resumption, there were about 200 passengers each day.

# ROTARY CLUBS ORGANIZE DRIVE FOR MIGRANTS WITH NEWBORNS

**T**HE “Wholehearted Services for Harmonious Macau, Rotary Donation to People in Need” project was organized by Caritas Macau, the Rotary Club of Macau and the Rotary Club of Penha, Macao to provide baby formula and diapers to 26 unemployed Vietnamese and Filipino migrant worker families with newborn babies between a few days to 9 months old.

Due to the socio-economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, 10,700 non-resident workers lost their jobs between January and August, according to official statistics.

Some of them are still unable to return to their countries of origin due to the lack of flights and border restrictions. They have been left out of support measures by the SAR government, which are aimed at residents.

Some of these pregnant women and new mothers could not afford antenatal and postnatal care, or items



needed for feeding their babies. Some have also shown symptoms of anxiety, malnutrition and miscarriage.

As a result, the Rotary Club of Macau and the Rotary Club of Penha, Macau contacted Caritas Macau to

identify struggling families and what items they needed. The rotary clubs collaborated with the NGO because the beneficiaries of the projects were newborn babies and their mothers. This belongs to one of the Seven

Areas of Focus of the Rotary, maternal and child health.

“The aim of this donation is to protect the baby’s health and wellbeing. By providing baby formula and diapers, we hope to ensure the baby’s healthy development during the early stage of their lives,” said João Pinto, president of the Rotary Club of Macau.

Earlier this month, the new president called for assistance for one of the city’s most vulnerable groups, unemployed female migrant workers who have recently given birth. LV



## SHEILS GAINS MOMENTUM IN ROAD RACING

**R**OADHOUSE Macau BMW rider Derek Sheils has been crowned the King of Kirkistown after winning the first race and then placing second during the two-race feature event in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Sheils, a familiar face from the local Macau Grand Prix event, beat Michael Dunlop and Jason Lynn in the first race, with Lynn coming out on top ahead of Sheils and Dunlop in race two.

The event was the first of this kind to be held in Northern Ireland this year due to Covid-19, which has stopped almost all events on the motorsports calendar.

The races, organized by the Belfast and District Motor Club were operating under a series of strict protocols and guidelines established by the authorities in Northern Ireland.

A maximum of 150 riders and just 300 spectators were allowed to participate in what will be the only short circuit racing event planned in Northern Ireland this year.

Sheils was also in the spotlight during the Cookstown 100 road races, which were held at Ireland’s Orritor circuit this weekend.

The Roadhouse Macau rider won from the pole position twice, restarting the Open race with a 2.1-second margin over Michael Sweeney. He now has seven wins from eight big bike races and nine career wins in total at the 2.1-mile Orritor circuit.

The second scheduled Superbike race of the day, the feature event, was called off because of deteriorating track conditions after heavy rain. RM

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## CESL ASIA PARTNERS WITH PORTUGUESE FIRM IN BID FOR EFACEC

**M**ACAU-based investment and services firm CESL Asia will partner with Portuguese company Alpac Capital to enter the bid for the purchase of energy equipment manufacturer Efacec.

Last week, Alpac Capital delivered the letter of intention to the investment bank Haitong to enter the privatization of Efacec, whose sale process was launched in the first half of the year.

The bank is responsible for conducting the sale process.

The director-general of Alpac Capital, Luís Santos, told Portuguese news outlet Expresso that after Haitong has collected expressions of interest from several candidates, the

period for the submission of non-binding offers will begin.

The deadline for these submissions should be October.

The consortium of Alpac Capital and CESL Asia (which is entering through its Portuguese company Focus Platform Group) has “the purpose of trying to keep the company here in Portugal,” maintaining the decision center in the national market but expanding the range of markets in which Efacec operates.

CESL Asia’s entry, with business in China and Japan, will be a way of reinforcing Efacec’s business in the Asian market.

The consortium will take shape through an investment fund to be set up

in Portugal, regulated by the Portuguese Securities Market Commission.

“If we want to give credibility to the proposal, we want to be regulated,” said Santos.

One of the Alpac and CESL Asia consortium’s main competitors is expected to be Egyptian group Elsewedy. In the first attempt to reprivatize Efacec, Elsewedy submitted the highest bid, worth 130 million, as Expresso reported in July.

Last year, CESL Asia acquired Portuguese farming group Monte do Pasto, aiming to continue developing social and economic cooperation between Portugal, China, Macau and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa. LV



# Macau Grand Prix drops F3 race, Chinese F4 to replace

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC) announced on Friday that it would drop the main headline race of the Grand Prix program, the Formula 3 race, from this year's program.

This will be the first time since 1983 that the local Grand Prix will not have an F3 category race, which was seen in the past as the ultimate test for young drivers proving their readiness to compete in the Formula One World Championship.

At the press conference held by the MGPOC, the president of the Automobile General Association Macao-China (AAMC) and Coordinator of the Sports Subcommittee of MGPOC, Chong Coc Veng, announced that it would be impossible to retain the FIA F3 World Cup event due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The only international event has now been cut from the program in the same way that the FIA GT World Cup and FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) were called off by organizers earlier in the year, as the Times first reported in late May.

The Times has learned from sources among the F3 teams that the reason this year's event was canceled was the mandatory 14-day quarantine measures being enforced by the local government for all non-Chinese nationals.

The sources, which requested to remain anonymous, said "there was willingness for the majority of the teams to come to Macau,"

which clashed with the "inflexible approach" of Macau authorities.

According to the teams, the event would be able to run if team members could present a valid negative nucleic acid test for Covid-19 and enter Macau. This would be followed by a "travel bubble" established between the circuit and the lodging facility, similarly to what happened during the season in Europe, which came to an end yesterday with Australian driver Oscar Piastri from Prema Team winning the championship title.

The Chinese Formula 4 series is lining up to replace the "Queen

of Macau Races." The Junior National series, which does not have a global championship, started in 2015 and mainly provides very young and inexperienced drivers a chance to start racing in open-wheel formula cars.

Most of the series' rules and regulations aim to keep the costs of participation as low as possible. The regulating body of automobile racing established that cars competing in this category cannot cost over 30,000 euros (MOP284,000) and the cost of a full race season in Formula 4 also cannot exceed 100,000 euros (MOP946,000).

Similar regulations have been applied to the engine units, which cannot cost over 9,500 euros (MOP90,000) and must present durability of over 10,000 kilometers.

Currently, the Chinese F4 series uses very lightweight carbon fiber cars. These are designed and built by French racecar constructor Mygale and powered by a Chinese-made 2.0 turbo Geely G-Power JLD-4G20 engine, capable of delivering around 160 horsepower.

After several delays, the Chinese F4 championship is ready to start the season this weekend. The Zhuhai International Circuit will

host the first four rounds of the series on September 19 and 20.

The cars and drivers will return to the track for another four rounds of the series on October 7 and 8.

The season finale of the series will now occur during the Macau GP weekend, with the last four rounds to play out in the streets of Macau's Guia Circuit, presenting drivers and teams with a very important and different challenge.

In the initial calendar, which was presented by the series to drivers and teams at the start of this month, the four final rounds were still unconfirmed but would take place either in Macau or Ningbo, Zhejiang province.

The Ningbo International Circuit is also known for being the "home circuit" of car manufacturer Geely.

If Chinese F4 was to race at the Guia circuit, it would be the only the street racing event for junior single-seaters being held in 2020.

## 67TH MACAU GP PROGRAM NOT FINAL YET

RENATO MARQUES & JULIE ZHU

**T**HE program for the 67th Macau Grand Prix, which was presented last Friday by the Macau Grand Prix Organizing Committee (MGPOC), may not be finalized yet. The racing program will include "six to seven races," the president of the Automobile General Association Macao-China (AAMC) and Coordinator of the Sports Subcommittee of MGPOC, Chong Coc Veng, said during his presentation of the competitions.

For the six events already confirmed, the Grand Prix will include the Formula Macau Grand Prix (F4), the Macau GT Cup, Macau Guia Race, Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix, Macau Touring Car Cup, and Greater Bay Area GT Cup.

The Macau GT Cup, which is being held to replace the FIA GT World Cup, will feature two different classes of race cars this year, the GT3 and GT4. This is part of a bid to increase the

number of participants on the track, since the only participants eligible will come from the China GT and GT World Challenge Asia Championships, or will be local drivers with an eligible sports license for the series.

The Macau Guia Race will be represented by TCR Asia Series, as it has not been since 2017.

As the Times announced early last month, the FIA World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) event has been replaced by a round of the TCR Asia Series for cars with the same specifications.

In the press conference, Chong also indicated that local drivers and drivers included in other championships in the Asia-Pacific region for cars that meet TCR specifications, will be also eligible to participate in the event.

The 54th Macau Motorcycle Grand Prix seems to be a little more complicated, however. The event has been relying on European racers coming mostly from British Superbikes as well as the British and Irish Road Racing Championships, competitions which have mostly

stopped due to the pandemic.

As a result, the MGPOC has decided to invite racers that were in last year's competition. The MGPOC is uncertain about many will be available to join however, since contestants would have to undergo a 14-day mandatory quarantine on arrival.

For the remaining events, which mostly rely on local and regional drivers, the races will follow the same format as last year for the Macau Touring Car Cup and Greater Bay Area GT Cup.

The organizers also announced that given the pandemic, several backup plans have been prepared in case these arrangements fail and changes need to be made to the program.

The Motorcycle GP seems most at risk, as sources heard by the Times said that it is "not feasible" for most of teams and riders to come to Macau for a period of at least three consecutive weeks to comply with quarantine rules as well as prepare for the racing weekend.

# CULTURE SECRETARY DEFENDS PREDECESSOR DECISION ON CENTRAL LIBRARY

JULIE ZHU

**S**ECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong U said that the former government did not make a mistake by planning to build the Central Library at the site of the Old Court Building.

Last week, the Cultural Affairs Bureau announced that the new Central Library would be built on the land plot of the former Hotel Estoril in Tap Seac Square, returning to its original location chosen after a public consultation process held by the government in 2009.

The announcement marks a reversal from the previous administration, which had wanted to transform the Old Court Building for this purpose.

According to the current administration, the latest decision takes into account the location's feasibility and accessibility, the ease of construction and the pri-

ce of the project. It is expected to cost around 500 million patacas, approximately 45% less than what the government had forecast as the cost of construction at the Old Court Building in central Macau.

Former Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam had insisted that the Old Court Building was the best location to build the library.

Now that the earlier Old Court Building proposal has been abandoned, lawmakers and members of the public have pushed for high-ranking officials to be held accountable for wasting public money.

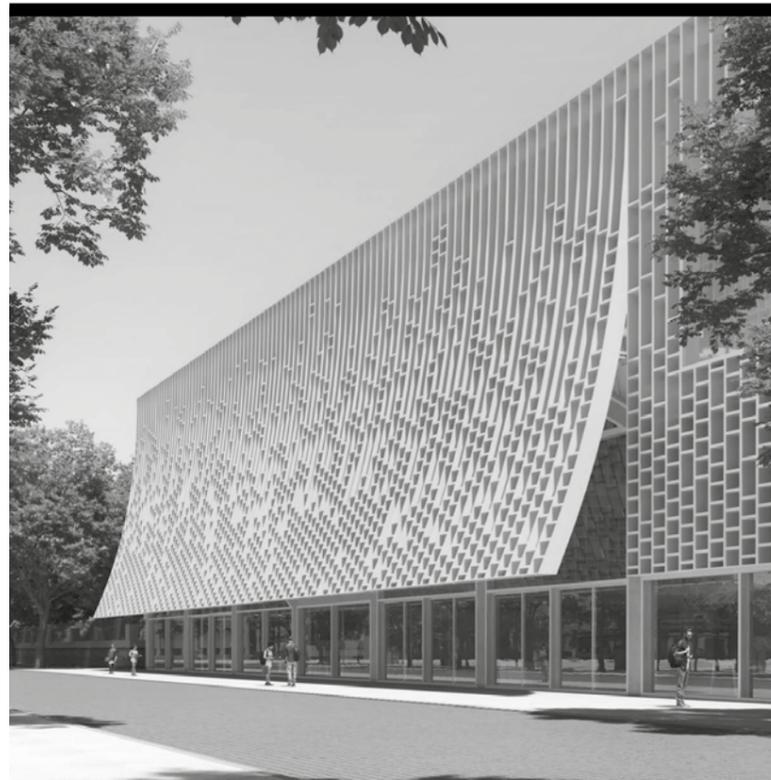
In 2016, the then-IC leadership claimed that the selection of the location for the new Central Library had been supported by the majority of the members of the city's advisory council and the Macau people.

Responding to the public's disapproval regarding the con-

trovery, Secretary Ao Ieong only debunked the former IC's claim by saying that the current cultural authority had reviewed the public's previous opinions. They had especially considered whether people supported the former plan and noticed that the majority of the people were mostly concerned about accessibility, cultural protection and other aspects.

According to Ao Ieong, previous public opinions made the government believe that Hotel Estoril was a better location. Ao Ieong's statement indicated that the former government had made mistakes in either understanding or in following public opinions.

However, despite indirectly admitting to the previous government's mistakes, Ao Ieong still defended the former leadership team by saying, "Let me put it this way: at different moments, we make different decisions. At this moment, we feel that this decision is right."



A rendering of the proposed Central Library project to be based in Tap Seac Square



## TABLE TENNIS TOURNAMENT TO DEBUT IN NOVEMBER

**W**ORLD Table Tennis (WTT) announced on Friday that a promotional showcase WTT Macao will be staged between November 25 and 29, 2020, the first tournament that is held since the organization's foundation.

WTT is responsible for all of the global commercial and event business, with the aim of elevating the sport to new heights. Its first annual calendar of events is scheduled to kick off in 2021.

"WTT Macao is our opportunity to show the world just what an incredible transformation our sport will be going through in the World Table Tennis era, and to demonstrate how we are elevating table tennis

into one of the greatest sporting properties on the planet," said WTT Council Chair Liu Guoliang, who also takes charge of the Chinese Table Tennis Association (CTTA), according to a report by Xinhua.

"WTT Macao will be a table tennis show like no other before it. After months of waiting to see what this is all about, the time has come to raise the curtain for our first ever exhibition of World Table Tennis," said Steve Dainton, WTT Director and ITTF CEO.

WTT Macao will feature 16 of the world's best male and 16 of the world's best female paddlers. Participants will be announced in the coming weeks. **DB/XINHUA**

## INT'L MUSIC FESTIVAL ORGANIZERS ANNOUNCE THREE SPECIAL CONCERTS

**T**HE organizers of the Macao International Music Festival (MIMF) will stage three special concerts in October - "A Century of Chinese Music", "Mahler Symphony No. 1" and "Bravo Macao!" - as part of the new lineup adjusted because of the pandemic situation.

On October 4, "A Century of Chinese Music" will feature two acclaimed plucked-string virtuosos, the prominent master of pipa, Zhang Hongyan, and accomplished contemporary guzheng soloist, Luo Jing, who will perform the pieces "Blossoms on a Moonlit River in Spring" and "Song of the Homebound Fishermen", respectively.

In the concert "Mahler Symphony No. 1" to be held on October 10, the Macao Orchestra and the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra will

present Mahler's Symphony No. 1 to promote artistic exchanges in the Greater Bay Area, while young violinist Huali Dang will perform Mozart's Violin Concerto No. 5.

The concert "Bravo Macao!", which offers a platform for young local musicians to showcase their talents, will be staged at the Dom Pedro V Theatre on October 31, featuring percussionist Andrew Chan and saxophonist Lee Chi Pok.

According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), the MIMF program has been designed this year "to inspire people with music during the epidemic."

Tickets went on sale at the Macao Ticketing Network starting yesterday, with early bird and various discounts available. **DB**



The Macao Orchestra

## 40 CHILDREN GRADUATE FROM LION DANCE TRAINING PROGRAM



**I**NTEGRATED resort Operator MGM China held a graduation ceremony on Saturday for 40 youth graduates from this year's Junior Lion Dance Training Program.

The 40 graduates put on performances at the Grande Praça in MGM Macao on Saturday, showing guests what they had learned in the past seven weeks of training. Guests of honor at the event presented the children with certificates and words of encouragement.

Held since 2015, "Junior Lion Dance Training Program" is tailor-made for children aged between five to eight years old. It is co-organized by MGM and Hong Wai Dragon & Lion Dan-

ce Association Macau, and supported by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Macao Government Tourism Office, the Sports Bureau and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau.

The youth training program aims to promote the lion dance as traditional Lingnan heritage and in this way strengthen the bond of young people with their culture and with the nation, according to organizers.

Since its inception, the program has trained around 380 lion dancers, of which about 80 have continued their education with a more advanced course called the "Junior Lion Dance Continuous Training Program." **DB**

# Chinese military calls US biggest threat to world peace

**C**HINA'S Defense Ministry yesterday blasted a critical U.S. report on the country's military ambitions, saying it is the U.S. instead that poses the biggest threat to the international order and world peace.

The statement follows the September 2 release of the annual Defense Department report to Congress on Chinese military developments and goals that it said would have "serious implications for U.S. national interests and the security of the international rules-based order."

Defense Ministry spokesman Col. Wu Qian called the report a "wanton distortion" of China's aims and the relationship between the People's Liberation Army and China's 1.4 billion people.

"Many years of evidence shows that it is the U.S. that is the fomenter of regional unrest, the violator of the international order and the destroyer of world peace," he said.

U.S. actions in Iraq, Syria, Libya and other countries over the past two decades have resulted in the deaths of more than 800,000 people and displacement of millions, Qian said.

"Rather than reflecting on itself, the U.S. issued a so-called report that made false comments about China's normal defense and military construction," he said in the statement. "We call on the U.S. to view China's national defense and military construction objectively and rationally, cease making false statements and related reports, and take concrete actions



In this August 2019 file photo, pedestrians walk past an advertisement for the People's Liberation Army on a screen near the border between Shenzhen and Hong Kong

to safeguard the healthy development of bilateral military relations."

Running to more than 150 pages, the Defense Department report examined the PLA's technical capabilities, doctrines and the ultimate aims of China's military buildup. It said it includes becoming a "practical instrument" of China's statecraft with an active role in advancing Beijing's foreign policy and "aims to revise aspects of the international order."

"Certainly, many factors will determine how this course unfolds," the report said. "What is certain is that [the ruling Communist Party] has a strategic end state that it is working

towards, which, if achieved and its accompanying military modernization left unaddressed, will have serious implications for U.S. national interests and the security of the international rules-based order."

Much of the report was devoted to analyzing China's strategy toward Taiwan, a U.S. ally which China considers a part of its territory to be annexed by force if necessary. China's military capabilities dwarf those of the island of 23 million in numerical terms, although any invasion of Taiwan would be complex and would carry major political risks, the report said.

It also looked at areas where the 2 million-member PLA, the

world's largest standing military, has overtaken the U.S., including in the size of its navy, now the world's largest with approximately 350 ships and submarines compared to around 293 for the U.S.

China has also built a considerable arsenal of land-based ballistic and cruise missiles and has one of the world's largest forces of advanced long-range surface-to-air systems, the report said.

This year's report comes as relations between Beijing and Washington have hit their lowest ebb in decades amid simmering disputes over trade, technology, Taiwan, human rights and the South China Sea. AP

## China says Mars probe stable, but no word on reusable spacecraft

**C**HINA'S Mars probe Tianwen-1, which blasted into space in July, is now more than 15 million kilometers from Earth en route to the red planet, the National Space Administration said Saturday.

The administration said that Tianwen-1 was in stable condition, having completed its first mid-course orbital correction early last month. It will be about 195 million kilometers (118

million miles) from Earth when it arrives at Mars around February, having traveled 470 million kilometers in all to get there.

The administration, however, has yet to release information about a mysterious reusable experimental spacecraft that returned to Earth a week ago after a two-day flight.

The spacecraft consists of an orbiter, a lander and a rover, and marks China's most ambitious

Mars mission yet as it seeks to join the United States in successfully landing a spacecraft on the planet. It was blasted into space aboard a Long March-5 on July 23 during a month when the United Arab Emirates and the U.S. also took advantage of a shortened distance between the planets to launch similar missions.

China said the reusable spacecraft returned to its designated landing

site last Sunday, calling the flight a breakthrough that will eventually provide convenient round-trip transport to space at a low cost. No other details on the mission or the configuration of the spacecraft have been released.

That is also seen as an attempt to put China on the leading edge of space flight. The U.S. has for years been operating the secretive X-37B space plane that remains in orbit for months.

### RELATIVES URGE BEIJING TO RETURN 12 DETAINEES TO HONG KONG

Relatives of 12 Hong Kong activists detained at sea by Chinese authorities called Saturday for their family members to be returned to the territory, saying their legal rights were being violated. At an emotional news conference, the group said their relatives should be allowed to meet with lawyers they themselves have hired, not those appointed by Chinese authorities. They also said they should be provided with needed medications, be allowed to call their families and eventually be allowed to return to Hong Kong. The Hong Kong government has not provided any sort of concrete assistance, leading the families to come forward to urge authorities to help, said pro-democracy lawmaker Eddie Chu, who hosted the news conference. The 12 were reportedly seeking to make it to the self-governing island of Taiwan by speedboat when they were caught by the Chinese coast guard and detained in the southern city of Shenzhen on Aug. 23. They have been held incommunicado since then.

### CHINA RELEASES FIVE MISSING INDIAN NATIONALS AMID STANDOFF

The Indian army said Saturday that China has released five Indian nationals who went missing earlier this month from the eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh amid simmering tensions between the two countries along a disputed mountain frontier. The five men were hunters and will be quarantined for 14 days as a precaution against the coronavirus before being handed over to their families, the army said in a statement. China's state-run Global Times newspaper disputed India's claims, and said the released men were intelligence agents dressed as hunters. The five men went missing on September 2, adding to the already heightened tensions between India and China. The two countries have been locked in a bitter standoff for months in the Ladakh region, where in June they had their deadliest clash in decades.

### DOMESTIC AIR TRAVEL RECOVERS IN WUHAN, ONCE VIRUS EPICENTER

Domestic air travel in Wuhan, the epicenter of the global coronavirus outbreak, has returned to pre-pandemic levels, authorities say. The virus was first detected in Wuhan late last year and the city underwent a draconian 76-day lockdown as its hospitals struggled to deal with a tidal wave of cases that required the rapid construction of field hospitals to handle the overflow. Since re-opening in early April, life has gradually returned to normal and numbers of domestic flights serving the city, as well as the number of passengers, had both fully recovered, according to the operator of Wuhan Tianhe International airport. It said 64,700 passengers were transported aboard 500 domestic flights on Friday. The airport is preparing to eventually resume international passenger flights to destinations such as Seoul, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur and Jakarta, Qu Xiaoni, an airport representative was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency.

# Former UK leaders unite to slam Boris Johnson on Brexit plan

PAN PYLAS, LONDON

**T**WO former British prime ministers who played crucial roles in bringing peace to Northern Ireland joined forces Sunday to urge lawmakers to reject government plans to override the Brexit deal with the European Union, arguing that it imperils that peace and damages the U.K.'s reputation.

In an article in The Sunday Times, John Major and Tony Blair slammed the current British government for "shaming" the country with legislation that, in places, goes against the very deal it signed to allow for the U.K.'s smooth departure from the EU earlier this year.

Major, a Conservative prime minister from 1990 to 1997, and Blair, his Labour successor for a decade, said Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Internal Market Bill "questions the very integrity" of the U.K.

"This government's action is shaming itself and embarrassing our nation," they said.

The planned legislation, which will be debated by British lawmakers this week, has led to a furious outcry within the EU as it would diminish the bloc's previously agreed oversight of trade between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland if a U.K.-EU trade agreement isn't secured.

The British government has admitted that the legislation would break international law, but argues that it's an insurance policy for that potential 'no-deal' scenario. Johnson has said the legislation is needed to end EU threats to impose a "blockade" in the Irish Sea that the prime minister asserted could "carve up our country."

Britain's Justice Secretary Robert Buckland told the BBC yesterday that the legislation was a "break the glass in emergency provision," if needed, and that he would resign if he believed the rule of law was broken in an "unacceptable" way.

"I don't believe we're



Former British Prime Ministers Tony Blair (left) and John Major

going to get to that stage," he said.

EU leaders have furiously rejected Johnson's charge that the bloc is planning a major disruption to normal trade between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney told the BBC that the "kind of inflammatory language" coming from the British government was "spin and not the truth."

Still, with the British government showing no sign of changing course, there are real concerns that the talks on a future trade deal between the U.K. and the EU could collapse within weeks. If that happens, tariffs and other impediments to trade will be imposed by both sides at the start of 2021.

The U.K. left the EU on Jan. 31, but it is in a transition period that effectively sees it benefit from the bloc's tariff-free trade until the end of the year while a future relationship is negotiated. Even before the latest standoff, discussions

between the EU's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, and his U.K. counterpart, David Frost, had made very little progress.

One major element of the Brexit withdrawal agreement is the section related to ensuring an open border on the island of Ireland to protect the peace process in Northern Ireland.

## There are concerns that the talks on a future trade deal between the UK and the EU could collapse within weeks

The issue proved thorny during the more than two years of discussions it took to get a Brexit deal done, as the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland is the only land link between the U.K. and the EU.

The EU wanted assurances the border would not be used as a back route for unlicensed goods arriving in Ireland from the rest of the U.K. — England, Scotland and Wales. As a result, the two sides agreed there wou-

ld be some kind of regulatory border between mainland Britain and Northern Ireland.

Major and Blair, who both vociferously opposed Brexit, said the planned legislation puts the 1998 Good Friday agreement that ended decades of violence in Northern Ireland at risk.

The pair said the bill "negates the predictability, political stability and legal clarity that are integral to the delicate balance between the north and south of Ireland that is at the core of the peace process."

It's unclear whether the planned legislation will get through the British Parliament, with a number of Johnson's fellow Conservatives uneasy at the prospect of the government breaching international law.

Tobias Ellwood is one lawmaker who has said he could not accept the legislation, arguing that the bill diminishes "our role-model status as defender of global standards." AP

## this day in history



### 1985 USSR EXPELS 25 IN TIT-FOR-TAT SPY ROW

Two days after the British Government ordered the expulsion of 25 alleged Soviet spies, the USSR has retaliated by throwing out 25 British nationals.

It follows the defection of Soviet double-agent and KGB chief Oleg Gordievsky to the West.

He gave British security services an unprecedented amount of information about Soviet agents operating in the UK. In fact he had recently been appointed head of the KGB in London in charge of the USSR's whole spy operation in Britain.

He is the highest-ranking KGB espionage source to be identified and his defection was described by Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe as "a very substantial coup for our security forces".

The Foreign Office revealed that Mr Gordievsky had been a double agent since 1966. He was persuaded to work for the Danish intelligence service soon after the KGB posted him to Copenhagen posing as a press attaché.

Three Soviet diplomats were expelled from Denmark in 1977 thanks to information he gave to the Danes.

In 1982 the KGB sent him to London as a "counsellor" for the Soviet Embassy when he began working for MI5.

Mr Gordievsky's revelations are a severe blow to the KGB, but MI5's greatest asset is also gone.

It is believed he is behind the expulsion of several other Soviet diplomats in the last few years.

He is now in the hands of British security, along with his wife, after requesting asylum some weeks ago. Precise details of his defection remain unknown.

The British Government had expected some kind of retaliation but was surprised by such a tough response as this is the first time Moscow has sent out an equal number of foreigners in reprisal.

There was a flurry of activity in Whitehall when news broke of the Soviet tit-for-tat expulsions.

Sir Geoffrey held meetings with Foreign Office and security service officials to discuss Britain's next move and the impact on Anglo-Soviet relations.

President Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher have developed a certain personal rapport that has boosted trade between the two countries.

But the current crisis could undermine Anglo-Soviet relations.

In a statement Sir Geoffrey said: "We utterly condemn this unjustified action directed against British businessmen and journalists, as well as embassy staff."

Although the embassy in Moscow has been hit hard - 18 of their 43 diplomats have been told to pack their bags - only two of the 25 people expelled were businessmen. Analysts suggest this means President Gorbachev wants to maintain the trade links that bring in much-needed hard currency.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Two days later the British government ordered the expulsion of a further six Soviet officials and lowered the ceiling on the number of officials allowed to work in the UK from 211 to 205.

On 18 September the USSR expelled six more Britons at which point UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher announced a halt to the tit-for-tat expulsions. Some months later details of Mr Gordievsky's dramatic defection emerged.

His KGB bosses in Moscow had suspected him of betraying his country in May 1985 and summoned him back to Russia for interrogation.

He then contacted his "handlers" who helped him get to the British Embassy. From there he escaped to Finland in the back of a van.

After the British secret service had interrogated him he was flown to the UK with his family. He has since written books detailing the operations of the KGB.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 Your outgoing nature will surprise others today. Concentrate on work or make changes to yourself. Don't go hog wild when it comes to entertainment or you could find yourself short of funds at the end of the month.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 Romantic opportunities will develop through friends or relatives. Problems with your partner are apparent. You are best to keep hard feelings to yourself.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 Changes regarding family members will set you off. You will need to do a lot of research if you wish to get to the bottom of things. If you can put some work into home improvements, you should.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 Make changes to your living quarters that will please the whole family. A need to express yourself may come out in creative ways. Don't let someone talk you into parting with your cash.

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 Don't torment yourself. Disharmony in the home will be extremely stressful. Your professional attitude will not go unnoticed. Make arrangements to meet friends at your local dance club.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 Don't beat around the bush; state your case in plain and simple terms. Don't overextend yourself in the process. Be aware that joint financial ventures could fall apart.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 You will be able to get along well with colleagues. You may find that your anger stems from lending or borrowing money. Don't fall for damaging rumors, and refuse to get involved in gossip.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 You may find that your emotional partner will not be too eager to accommodate you. Catch up on correspondence. You need to be sure that you aren't in your present relationship because it is convenient.

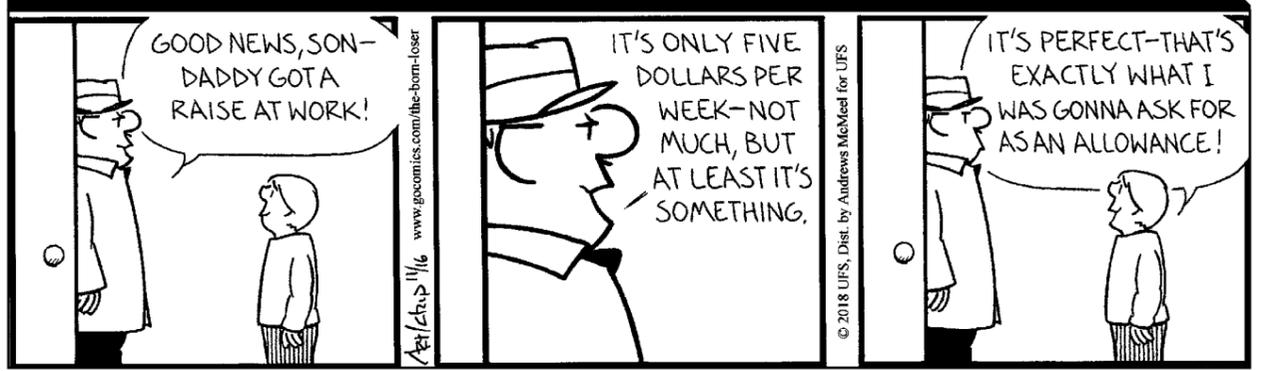
**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 Be careful; you may upset someone you live with if you don't consult with them. Try a barbecue or a day at the beach. Try to make arrangements with close friends or relatives to spend a few days away.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 Don't take sides if you wish to remain on good terms with both parties. Changes at home will be necessary. You will inspire confidence in others.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 Someone may try to damage your reputation. Unexpected romantic connections can be made if you go out with friends or take a pleasure trip. Your involvement in interest groups may bring you popularity.

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 Use discrimination and play hard to get. Your competitive nature will enable you to win any contest you enter. You can spend a passionate evening with someone you cherish if you make your plans early.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	19	24	overcast
Harbin	13	20	cloudy
Tianjin	20	25	overcast
Urumqi	11	22	clear
Xi'an	19	29	overcast
Lhasa	11	24	cloudy
Chengdu	18	22	cloudy
Chongqing	20	23	drizzle
Kunming	17	24	shower
Nanjing	21	27	cloudy
Shanghai	23	28	overcast
Wuhan	21	28	cloudy
Hangzhou	21	26	drizzle
Taipei	25	30	drizzle
Guangzhou	26	33	thundershower
Hong Kong	26	32	moderate rain
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	9	15	cloudy
Frankfurt	12	27	cloudy
Paris	15	30	clear
London	12	27	clear
New York	20	25	cloudy

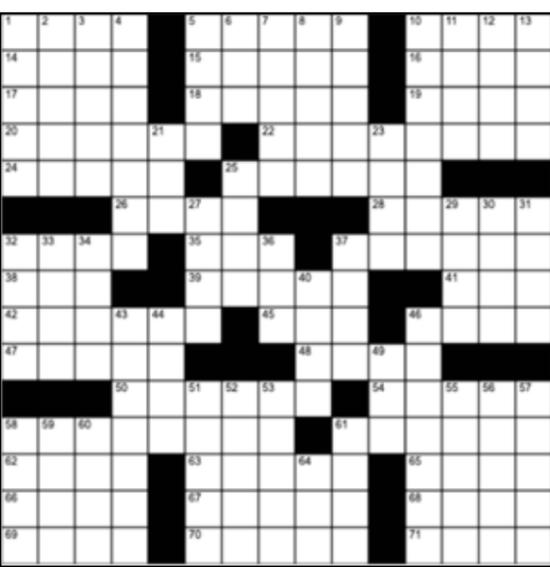
**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS: 1- Fast fliers; 5- Stickum; 10- Depend; 14- DEA agent; 15- Graceful birds; 16- Zeno of \_\_\_; 17- Like \_\_\_ not; 18- Apportion; 19- Consider; 20- Warning; 22- Soft-shell clams; 24- Use a prie-dieu; 25- Spenser's "The \_\_\_ Queen"; 26- The \_\_\_ Valley is a Californian wineland; 28- Pub game; 32- Sunday seats; 35- Curved bone; 37- Shooting star; 38- Canonized Mlle.; 39- Stan's pal; 41- Sorority letter; 42- Majestic; 45- Literary monogram; 46- Bad day for Caesar; 47- Name; 48- impasse; 50- Of delicate beauty; 54- Potala Palace site; 58- 12th month of the year; 61- Lessened; 62- Redolence; 63- Joins; 65- Bird feed; 66- Pill bottle; 67- Minneapolis suburb; 68- Follow; 69- Hard to hold; 70- Thermoplastic yarn; 71- Art Deco artist;

DOWN: 1- Small cut; 2- The devil; 3- Treasure \_\_\_; 4- Sieves; 5- H.S. exam; 6- Hole-punching tool; 7- Chip dip; 8- Govt. security; 9- Perfume compound; 10- Beef or lamb; 11- Gen. Robert \_\_\_; 12- Lewd look; 13- Edible roots; 21- \_\_\_ carte; 23- White House staffer; 25- Go belly up; 27- No \_\_\_; 29- Oboe, e.g.; 30- Carry; 31- Ladies of Sp.; 32- Attention-getting sound; 33- Sewing case; 34- Cried; 36- Sandwich order; 37- Run into; 40- \_\_\_ old chap; 43- On in years; 44- Quantity of paper; 46- Rashly; 49- Liturgical vestment; 51- Norwegian dramatist; 52- Wanting; 53- Track; 55- Shed \_\_\_; 56- Now you \_\_\_; 57- Confuse; 58- Bird of peace; 59- Pop singer Brickell; 60- Carbonized fuel; 61- Slippery \_\_\_ eel; 64- 6. on a phone;

**Friday's solution**

CHAR	MEESE	NOPE
HOPE	RURKE	AARP
IRAS	AROAR	KHEA
CAROL	STICKUP	
	RASP	EELS
NOSTRILS	ROMEO	
ERE	ALEPH	TAROT
SANE	OBEYS	NEMO
STONE	SCAMP	CPR
GRUDE	STEALTHY	
CARIC	STERI	
CAMELOT	ANTISE	
TAXI	AROSE	ECOL
UNIT	ISSUE	ROLE
EASY	HESIN	SNEE



**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



<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>One Central 2 Bedroom Views Over Nam Van Lake</b>                  HK\$11,580,000 1,269 ft² 2 1/2 2</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>Houston Court, Coloane Village</b>                  \$11,000/mth 980 ft² 1 1/2 1</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1/2 1 1/2                  900 ft² \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)</p> <p>[Taipa] Wa Bao 2 1/2 2 1/2                  1,071 ft² \$7,995,000 (ref: 18115568)</p> <p>[Macau] Unique Loft 2 1/2 2 1/2                  2,200 ft² \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)</p> <p>[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1/2 2 1/2                  1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa Village Apartment 2 1/2 1 1/2                  600 ft² \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2                  1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Coloane] Ocean Garden 4 1/2 4 1/2                  3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)</p> <p>[Taipa] Private house 2 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2                  4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)</p>	<p><b>jml</b> 卓雅物業                  property since 1994</p> <p><b>(853) 2835 2699</b>                  hello@jmlproperty.com                  www.jmlproperty.com</p> <p>f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty</p>
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### Property of the Week



**FOR SALE**

**One Central, Macau** Views Over Nam Van Lake  
**HK\$11,580,000** 1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 2

Two Bedroom apartment in One Central, Tower 7 overlooking Nam Van Lakes. Fully fitted out to a high standard, en-suite bathroom, amazing clubhouse facilities, swimming Pool, Gym and convenient access to Macau's best known hotspots. The apartment is currently tenanted but is available with vacant possession if required.

Find out more on [www.jmlproperty.com](http://www.jmlproperty.com)

  
 SCAN ME

### Property Hotlist



**FOR SALE**

**Large bedroom apartment, Coloane**  
**\$12,980,000**  
 2,530 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 3 2 2

  
 SCAN ME



**FOR SALE**

**Renovated Duplex, Macau with Amazing View**  
**\$4,200,000**  
 817 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 2 2

  
 SCAN ME



**FOR RENT**

**Houston Court, Coloane Village**  
**\$11,000/mth**  
 980 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 1 1

  
 SCAN ME



**FOR RENT**

**Taipa Village studio**  
**\$9,000/mth**  
 650 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 1 1

  
 SCAN ME

### More Listings

For Sale				For Rent							
[Taipa]	Hoi Wan Garden	2  1	900 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$4,900,000</b>	(ref: 19106003)	[Taipa]	Taipa Village Apartment	2  1	600 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$9,900/mth</b>	(ref: n/a)
[Taipa]	Wa Bao	2  2	1,071 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$7,995,000</b>	(ref: 18115568)	[Macau]	One Central	2  2	1,269 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$25,000/mth</b>	(ref: n/a)
[Macau]	Unique Loft unit	2  2	2,200 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$9,990,000</b>	(ref: 15115464)	[Taipa]	Ocean Garden	4  4	3,700 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$35,000/mth</b>	(ref: 18040674)
[Macau]	Seaview Garden	3  2	1,420 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$10,900,000</b>	(ref: 20016004)	[Taipa]	Private house	2  3  3	4,266 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$45,000/mth</b>	(ref: 19055006ST)
[Taipa]	Manhattan D unit	4  2	2,305 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$15,980,000</b>	(ref: n/a)	[Macau]	Retail Shop, Barra area		1,968 ft <sup>2</sup>	<b>\$48,000/mth</b>	(ref: n/a)

### Recent Movements

**Sold**

Hellene Gardens, 3 bed, Coloane

**Rented**

Cheoc Van, 3 bed, 3 bath, 1 car park

**Rented**

Waterfront Duet, new studio



### JML Events

  
 Cradle of Hope

  
 Caritas Macau

  
 Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team

  
 Macau Golf Masters

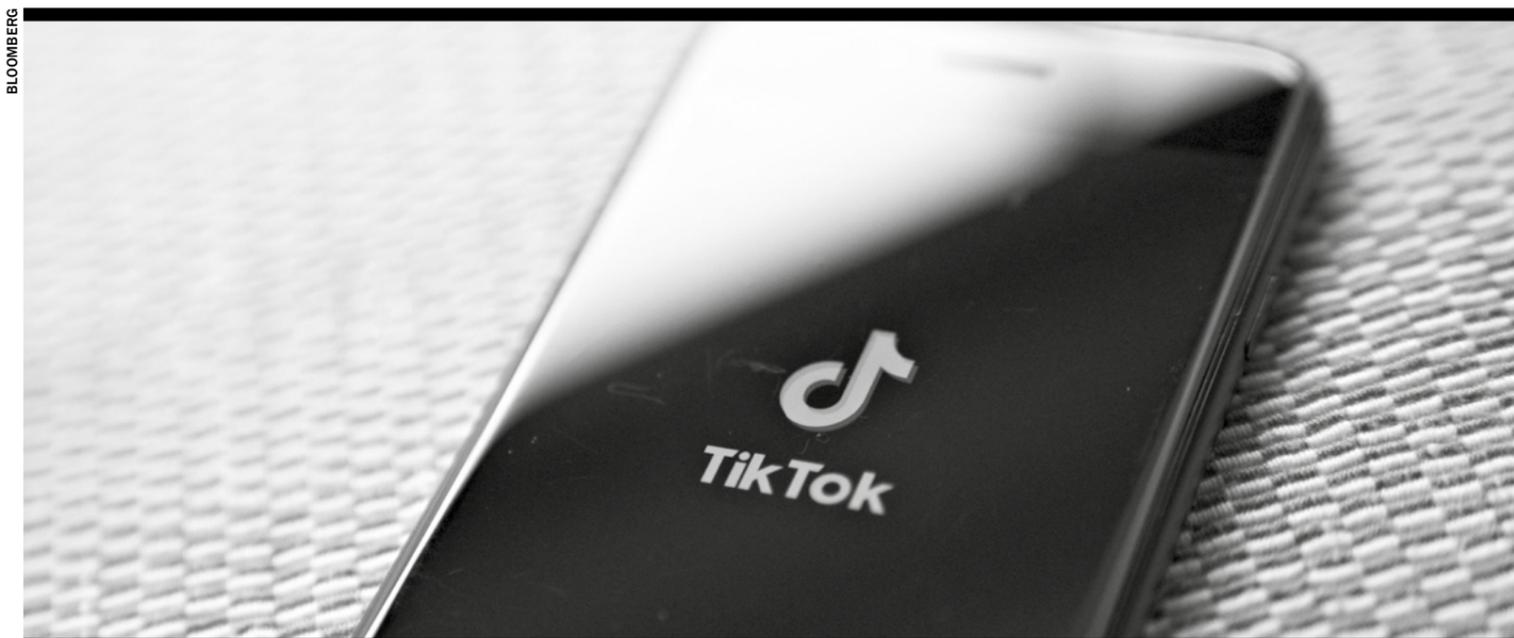
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# TikTok owner to spend billions in Singapore after US ban

CHANYAPORN CHANJAROEN & ZHEPING HUANG

**B**YTEDANCE Ltd., the Chinese owner of video-sharing app TikTok, is planning to make Singapore its beachhead for the rest of Asia as part of its global expansion, according to people familiar with the matter.

The Beijing-based company is looking to spend several billion dollars and add hundreds of jobs over the next three years in the city-state, where it has applied for a license to operate a digital bank, said the people, who asked not to be identified because of confidentiality. The investment would come at a crucial time as the technology firm is forced to sell TikTok operations in the U.S. under pressure by the Trump administration.

ByteDance, the world's most richly valued startup, is plowing

ahead with plans to take its social media services deeper into Asia after setbacks in India and the U.K. as well as the U.S. The internet phenomenon controlled by billionaire Zhang Yiming has long eyed Southeast Asia's 650 million increasingly smartphone-savvy population, a region where Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd. are also making inroads.

The plans for Singapore include establishment of a data center, the people said. Its operations there include TikTok and Lark, an enterprise software business.

ByteDance currently has more than 200 job openings in Singapore, for positions in everything from payments to e-commerce and data privacy, according to its job referral site. The company already has 400 employees working on technology, sales and marketing in the city-state, one of the people said.

A ByteDance representative of-

ferred no comment.

Southeast Asia is rapidly evolving into a critical location for China's largest tech corporations from Alibaba to Tencent in the face of growing hostility from the U.S. and other major developed markets. Singapore is becoming a regional base for both Western and Chinese companies because of its developed financial and legal system, and as Beijing tightens its grip on Hong Kong.

"Singapore is highly attractive to tech firms looking for a hub to address the Southeast Asian markets due to geographic proximity," said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Vey-Sern Ling. "The workforce is highly educated, tech savvy and multilingual."

In China, ByteDance also runs news aggregation app Toutiao, and TikTok's Chinese twin Douyin. Collectively its stable of products have more than 1.5 billion monthly active users. ByteDance is said to have generated more than \$3 billion of net profit on more than \$17 billion of revenue in 2019.

Asia is a growth area for the company, especially when it is increasingly likely to miss the U.S.

government's deadline for the sale of its TikTok U.S. operations. President Donald Trump said Thursday he won't extend his Sept. 15 deadline for the deal.

In India, TikTok is among more than a hundred Chinese-made consumer apps that are banned by the government on concerns about security. SoftBank Group Corp. is exploring gathering a group of bidders for TikTok's India assets.

The U.K. government will likely ban TikTok from moving local user data out of the country, Bloomberg News has reported.

Singapore, in particular, offers ByteDance the opportunity to explore an area it's had relatively little exposure to. The company is leading a consortium that has applied for a digital-bank license from the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Other members of that group includes a private investment firm owned by a member of the Lee family that founded Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp.

The regulator will award as many as five such permits to non-banks by December. Ant Group and Tencent-backed Sea Ltd. have also applied. The city-state offers a potential gateway to the rest of Southeast Asia, where the digital lending market may reach \$110 billion by 2025, according to a report by Bain & Co., Google and Temasek Holdings Pte. **BLOOMBERG**

## PRESSING FORWARD WITH US SALE

**TIKTOK** is pressing forward with plans for a sale of its U.S. operations ahead of a mid-September deadline, according to a person familiar with the matter, even as signs emerge that the video-sharing app is facing pressure to shut down rather than make a deal. The app, owned by China's ByteDance Ltd., is still considering bids from two possible buyers - Oracle Corp. and Microsoft Corp., which has teamed up with Walmart Inc. TikTok intends to bring a proposal to the White House for approval before a deadline imposed

by U.S. President Donald Trump, said the person, who asked not to be identified discussing internal plans. It will then be up to the Trump administration to approve a deal. Reuters on Friday reported that the Chinese government has privately expressed that it would rather ByteDance close TikTok in the U.S. than be forced to sell its U.S. assets. In response to the report, a TikTok spokesman said, "the government has never suggested to us that we should shut down TikTok in the U.S. or any other market."

## CORPORATE BITS

### Melco Mask Design Competition features expert panel of judges



Melco Resorts & Entertainment, in collaboration with the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre, has organized the Melco Mask Design Competition.

The competition features an expert panel of renowned global, regional and local judges from the fields of theatre

direction and design, architecture, fashion design and media, supporting the competition to promote local creative design, small businesses and Made in Macau projects.

Among the star-studded judges for the Grand Design Award are Franco Dragone,

the creative genius behind Melco's award-winning theatrical experience, "The House of Dancing Water"; Viviana Muscettola, Director of Zaha Hadid Architects, Melco's design partner for Morpheus at City of Dreams; and Barney Cheng, a renowned designer for celebrities who was featured in Forbes 2010 "25 Influential Chinese in Global Fashion."

The winning mask designs will be made by local SMEs to support small businesses and creative development in Macau. The competition is open to all Macau ID card holders who are 14 years of age or above and is accepting entries until September 30.

### Galaxy hosts sessions on quality certification for small businesses



Galaxy Entertainment Group recently held sharing sessions to support the M-Mark Macau Product Quality Certification and reinforce its long-term commitment to the development of local enterprises. According to the

gaming operator, such initiatives "help Macau's economy move towards moderate diversification."

During the event, Galaxy invited a representative from the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre

(CPTTM) and representatives from two of Galaxy's vendors who previously acquired the M-Mark certification to introduce and share the benefits of the certification.

Afterwards, a business matching session was held, during which representatives from Galaxy's procurement team exchanged contacts and explored partnership opportunities with participants.

According to the CPTTM, in addition to encouraging companies to produce high-quality products, M-Mark also enhances consumer confidence and helps local brands to expand into overseas markets.

**OPINION**

**World Views**

Jonathan Bernstein, Bloomberg

**TRUMP SECOND TERM WOULD BE A LOT LIKE THE FIRST**

What would a second presidential term for Donald Trump look like, anyway?

Let's suppose he wins in November, and let's assume the election winds up a lot like 2016. This time, he's even farther behind in the polls before Election Day, but has a well-timed surge as Nov. 3 approaches. And while he falls well short in the popular vote, he once again squeezes by in the electoral college, by a smaller margin than his final 304-to-227 electoral-vote edge over Hillary Clinton in 2016. I'll further assume that his authoritarian bluster remains little more than noise.

So he wins by a narrow margin, while presumably once again calling it a landslide. Democrats retain their House majority and gain in the Senate, but 50 or 51 Republican senators remain in the majority. What would a second term look like?

A second-term Trump would almost certainly be like the first-term Trump, except more so. Having felt vindicated — again! — he'd be more convinced than ever that he is correct about everything and that everyone else is wrong. So in that sense, he would be a lot less constrained.

What that means for governing the nation, however, isn't obvious. After all, Trump isn't even pretending to have a policy agenda as he runs for office this time. He makes lots of claims that things are going to be terrific as long as his Democratic challenger, former Vice President Joe Biden, isn't elected, but hardly any about what he would do. Trump can't seem to recite a campaign promise without claiming that he's already achieved it.

It's possible that a second-term Trump would be the Trump who violently suppressed racial justice protests at Lafayette Park and in other ways followed in the footsteps of the authoritarian world leaders he admires. At the very least, we should expect some ugliness targeted at those he considers his enemies.

I suspect, however, that what Trump would be most eager to do after winning re-election would be:

- Brag a lot about his historic victory;
- Play golf with his rich friends and celebrities and watch even more cable television news;
- Tweet more insults and more opinions about more things;
- Bark out orders and hold more signing ceremonies with even less concern about whether there's any follow-up;
- Be more aggressive and more overt about using the presidency to enrich himself;
- Get back to holding rallies so his fans can adore him.

In other words, he'd be even less focused on doing the actual job than he was during his first term, and even less able to influence events when he tried. His administration would be even more a maze of personal fiefdoms, with those who stay in their jobs and know how to work the bureaucracy able to get more done without presidential interference. Coherent responses to urgent policy challenges would be less likely, which is saying something. A White House that can't return a phone call to a governor when her state is on fire within two months of an election is going to be even less concerned about such things when the president no longer has to worry about voters at all.

Since all of that was a formula for unpopularity in his first term, he would probably be at least as unpopular in his second — especially given that he'd be even less likely to believe any polls. That would almost certainly lead to another midterm electoral debacle for Republican senators, representatives and governors. It could also lead to a second impeachment — and an impeachment with a Democratic majority in the Senate could be a long, brutal affair.

Remember, presidential weakness is dangerous. Under this scenario, Trump would be even weaker than he is now, and that can be a threat to democracy even without a president who seems to have such admiration for Russian President Vladimir Putin.

What's a lot harder to imagine is that he'd behave more like a normal president in a second term. No, I can't see that in the cards at all. [Abridged]

Twitter said that starting this week it will label or remove misleading claims that try to undermine public confidence in elections.

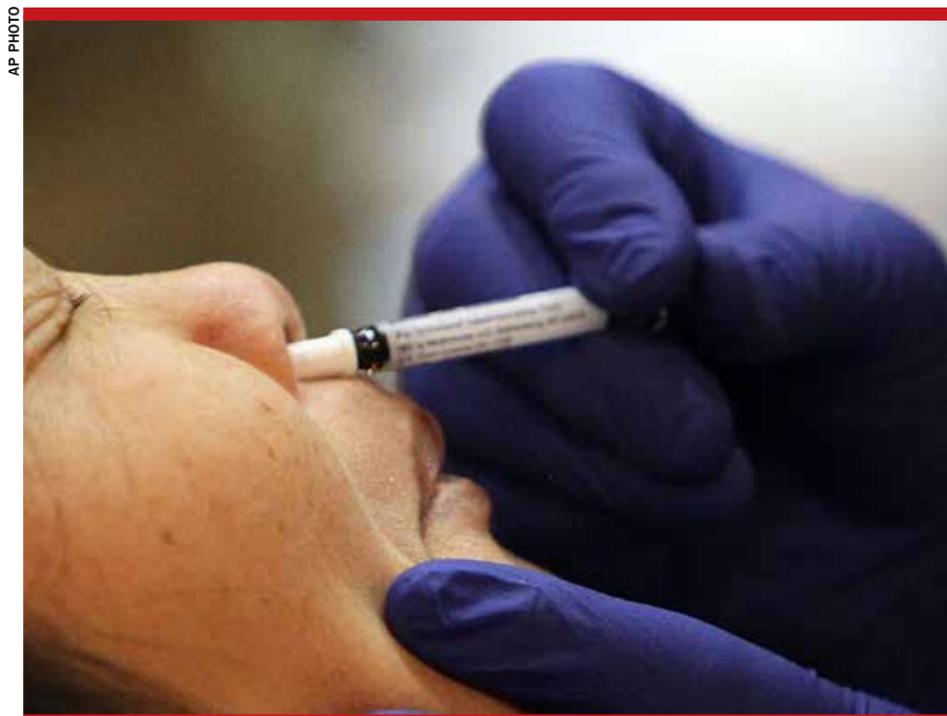
The policy will apply to tweets that attempt to undermine people's faith in the electoral process itself, such as false claims about election rigging or ballot tampering, or about the outcome of the vote, Twitter said.

The policy goes into effect Sept. 17, a few weeks before the

Nov. 3 U.S. presidential election. Many Americans are expected to vote by mail due to the Covid-19 pandemic, which is likely to delay election results. Social media companies have been working to strengthen their policies to prevent misinformation, but it's not clear if their efforts will be enough.

Though the policy comes weeks before the U.S. election, more than 80% of Twitter's users are outside of the U.S. and it will apply globally.

**CHINA STARTS TESTING COVID-19 NASAL SPRAY VACCINE**



**T**HE newest Covid-19 vaccine candidate to start human testing is the first where volunteers won't get a painful injection. Instead, they'll receive a spray through the nose.

China last week approved phase I human testing for the nasal spray vaccine, which is co-developed by researchers at Xiamen University and Hong Kong University, as well as by vaccine maker Beijing Wantai Biological Pharmacy Enterprise Co.

Intranasal spray has previously been developed as a vaccine for the flu and is recommended for use among children and adults who want to avoid the more common needle injection. While it is not the most frequent choice for delivery, scientists around the world are working to develop sprays as an alternative to muscle jabs for all sorts of vaccines.

The intranasal vaccine is the 10th candidate from China to proceed to the crucial stage of human testing. The country is building its lead in vaccine development after western front-runner AstraZeneca Plc had to pause its late-stage human trial to investigate a spinal cord illness in a person who received its

experimental shot.

The intranasal spray contains weakened flu virus that carries the genetic segments of the coronavirus's spike protein. Administered through the nasal tract, it mimics the natural infection of respiratory viruses to stimulate the body's immune response against the pathogen that cause Covid-19, according to Science and Technology Daily, a paper affiliated with China's Ministry of Science and Technology.

Some scientists hope a vaccine that gets sprayed through the nose may have a better chance of stopping the spread of the insidious virus through respiratory tracts. A needle injection can arouse a systematic immune response to prevent severe illness, but may not be strong enough to ward off infection.

Preclinical studies have shown the nasal vaccine can significantly reduce lung damage among mice and hamsters when challenged with the coronavirus, Science and Technology Daily reported.

The nasal spray joins about 35 other candidates currently in human testing, as the global race to be first with an effective vaccine against the deadly pathogen intensifies.

In the wake of AstraZeneca's setback, China's most advanced vaccine developers, including CanSino Biologics Inc. and state-owned China National Biotec Group Co., have emphasized the safety of their own shots.

CNBG said the two shots it is testing are effective in staving off infection. None of the Chinese diplomats and workers traveling to virus hot spots overseas has reported infections several months after receiving the vaccines, Zhou Song, CNBG's general counsel, said in a article published in Science and Technology Daily.

CanSino, which employs a vaccine-making technique similar to that of AstraZeneca, said its military-backed shot is safe and hasn't caused any severe side effects in testing.

Zhu Tao, CanSino's co-founder and chief scientific officer, defended the vaccine against criticism that it appears to trigger fewer antibodies compared to those generated by rivals including AstraZeneca and Moderna Inc. The variation in antibody readings is a result of using different measuring methods, Zhu said in a presentation to investors this week. **BLOOMBERG**

**Greece's** prime minister welcomed the return of a Turkish survey ship to port yesterday from a disputed area of the eastern Mediterranean that has been at the heart of a summer stand-off between Greece and Turkey over energy rights. Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis said he was ready to try to restart long-stalled talks on the volatile dispute over potential oil and gas reserves



Greece Authorities said yesterday that some 12,000 migrants and asylum-seekers left without shelter after fires gutted an overcrowded refugee camp on the island of Lesbos will be moved to a new army-built tent city "in the coming days."



**Jerusalem** Thousands of Israelis demonstrated outside Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's official residence in central Jerusalem late Saturday, demanding he resign over his trial on corruption charges and what is widely seen as his mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic.



**UK** Oxford University announced Saturday it was resuming a trial for a coronavirus vaccine it is developing with pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca, a move that comes days after the study was suspended following a reported side-effect in a U.K. patient.



**Vatican** The head of the Vatican's liturgy office, Cardinal Robert Sarah, said Saturday it was "necessary and urgent" to return to in-person Masses as soon as anti-coronavirus measures permit. The Cardinal said in a letter to bishops conferences that virtual liturgies, while useful, were no replacement for the real thing. He said physical presence by the faithful in churches was "vital, indispensable, irreplaceable."