

The Macao SAR Government urges:

- Implement regular epidemic prevention measures;
- Do our best to persist;
- Wash hands frequently and wear a mask;
- Keep a distance and avoid crowd gathering;
- Perseverance leads to success.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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PEOPLE ARRIVING FROM QINGDAO ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE CITY WITHOUT UNDERGOING MEDICAL OBSERVATION, QUARANTINE P4

MAN OVERSTAYED IN TOWN FOR NEARLY 20 YEARS WITHOUT BEING CAUGHT P5

THE JETFOIL CONSERVATION GROUP 'IS HIGHLY CONCERNED' ABOUT THE FATE OF THE WORLD'S FIRST BOEING JETFOIL FLORES P5



Chinese health authorities will test all 9 million people in the eastern city of Qingdao for the coronavirus this week after nine cases linked to a hospital were found, the government announced yesterday. The announcement broke a two-month streak with no virus transmissions within China reported, though China has a practice of not reporting asymptomatic cases.



China announced that it was providing a \$90 million grant to Sri Lanka, two days after the island nation's president sought help from a visiting Chinese delegation in disproving a perception that China-funded megaprojects are "debt traps." Calling the financial assistance a "timely grant," the Chinese Embassy in Colombo said that it would be used for medical care, education and water supplies in Sri Lanka's rural areas.



Nobel Prize Two American economists won the Nobel Prize for improving how auctions work, research that underlies much of today's economy — from the way Google sells advertising to the way telecoms companies acquire airwaves from the government. The discoveries of Paul R. Milgrom and Robert B. Wilson, both of Stanford University, "have benefitted sellers, buyers and taxpayers around the world," the Nobel Committee said.

Japan vowed yesterday to bolster its missile deterrence capability to respond to threats by North Korean weapons that are becoming "more diverse and complex," as displayed during Pyongyang's military parade over the weekend.

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# XI'S VOYAGE TO THE SOUTH

Xi Jinping left Beijing for Guangdong yesterday and is scheduled to deliver an address on reform tomorrow in Shenzhen where he will meet the leaders of Macau and Hong Kong P3



## EXCLUSION OF BLUECARDS FROM HAC SA BBQ AREA TRIGGERS PUBLIC CRITICISM



P3

## GOV'T STARTS CONSULTATION TO DEFINE 'SANDWICH CLASS'



P2

## POLYTEC GROUP RETRACTS MOP25B COMPENSATION CLAIM AGAINST GOV'T

JULIE ZHU

**F**ORMER Pearl Horizon project developer has given up on suing the Macau SAR government, according to a statement released by the Court of Final Appeal.

Originally, the Sociedade de Importação e Exportação Polytex, Limitada, the developer of the former Pearl Horizon project, sued the government for either compensation amounting to over 25 billion patacas, or a second concession for the company to finish building the property.

On March 30 this year, the administrative court did not find in favor of the plaintiff (the Polytex group).

The plaintiff appealed to the Court of Second Instance (TSI). However, on September 11, 2020, Polytex Group requested to withdraw the appeal, which the prosecution authority (the defendant) consented to.

TSI affirmed the withdrawal of the appeal on September 17, and the affirmation is now in effect.

Previously, the Polytex Group accused the SAR government of not abiding by the law, and abrogating its non-contractual civil obligation. The company claimed that the government's "unreasonable interference" during the development of the former Pearl Horizon land plot delayed the construction of the project, which eventually led to the expiration of the land plot concession.

On October 25, 2015, the temporary land plot development concession of the former Pearl Horizon project expired, causing a series of demonstrations organized by buyers of the project.

## GOV'T STARTS CONSULTATION TO DEFINE 'SANDWICH CLASS'

ANTHONY LAM

**T**ODAY sees the commencement of the public consultation which will attempt to define the "sandwich class" of population in Macau, an interdepartmental panel told a press conference yesterday.

"Sandwich class" is a term used in Hong Kong to describe the middle-income population. By definition, in the neighboring Special Administrative Region (SAR), this group of people is simultaneously incapable of purchasing privately developed residential units and exceeds the requirement for the "Home Ownership Scheme", a program similar to Macau's economic housing. In Hong Kong, the price of "sandwich-class" housing is higher than that of the Home Ownership Scheme units.

Approximately a year after the establishment of the neighboring SAR, the then-Chief Executive Tung Chee Hwa abolished the scheme in the hopes of stabilizing Hong Kong apartment prices. In contrast to Home Ownership Scheme units, owners of "sandwich-class" apartments have to pay a land premium before they can freely sell their apartments.

The proposed Macau program currently in public consultation has many similarities with the abandoned Hong Kong scheme. For example, it is in the middle of a "housing staircase," a term coined by Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng. On this "staircase", the "sandwich" type of housing has a ranking below Senior Apartment and above Economic Housing.

The style of the Sandwich-class Housing will be similar to private housing. It is expected to be of higher quality than Economic Housing.

The government is also proposing a land premium prior to reselling such apartments in the market.

The government is making two additional



proposals to the definition of the sandwich class. The first proposal is to extend the definition to residents who exceed the requirements of Economic Housing, while not being able to afford private housing. The second, is that it applies to residents who are ranked lower in an Economic Housing application and not able to afford private housing. The former proposed definition is similar to the definition in Hong Kong.

The eligibility of the Sandwich-class Housing is part of the public consultation. The government proposes that either all members of the applicant family cluster must be permanent residents, or over half of the cluster must be permanent residents, while the main applicant is a permanent resident.

Referencing the current Economic Housing Law, the government proposes that an individual applicant must be at least 23 years old and a permanent resident, or a permanent resident who is at least 18 years old when applying as a family cluster.

As for the income floor of an applicant, the government has three proposals; i.e. that the income floor of an applicant must

be 20% lower than, 50% lower than, or identical to the income ceiling of Economic Housing.

Regarding the proposed income ceiling, the government proposes that this be set at either 20% higher than or 10% higher than the income ceiling of Economic Housing.

The government proposes that asset ceilings be set at either 20% higher than or identical to that of Economic Housing.

It also proposed that the housing be priced at a fraction of private housing in neighboring districts.

Distinct from the Economic Housing eligibility, the government proposes that an applicant may be a previous apartment owner.

With regards to how the quality of Sandwich-class Housing can be defined, the government is leaving it to public discussions. Members of the public may provide input into the design of such housing.

The proposals made by the government are subject to change after the closure of the public consultation. Members of the public have the opportunity to provide their own proposals to the government in the public consultation.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## 'THE MACAO ORCHESTRA HAS INVITED LOCAL YOUNG MUSICIANS AS GUEST PERFORMERS TO EXTEND THEIR EXPERIENCE'

Dear Editor,

There are currently two musicians from the Macao Orchestra who could not return to Macau due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The two musicians are still being paid and remain employed by the orchestra, including the concert master, Paulo Morena. Morena's work includes participating in the orchestra's artistic planning, assisting with improving the orchestra's quality

of performance, improving management of scores, teaching bowing and fingering methods for violin performance and coordinating staffing for concerts.

From its inauguration, following practices of international professional orchestras, the Macao Orchestra has, in response to the needs of its performances, invited guest musicians to perform at different shows. By collaborating with different musicians and

orchestras, the function of cultural exchange could be achieved. In recent years, the Macao Orchestra has also invited local young musicians as guest performers so as to extend their experience.

In addition, the Cultural Affairs Bureau has not conducted any alteration to the articles of the contracts of the musicians. In relation to assessments for the employment of new musicians, due to outstanding administrative pro-

cedures, nothing has been confirmed yet and no contracts have been signed.

As the Covid-19 pandemic eases, the Macao Orchestra has, from July, staged a number of concerts of various sizes. In September, the Macao Orchestra also released information on its 2020-21 Season. In October, as part of the Macao International Music Festival - To A Special Year, the Macao Orchestra collaborated with the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra for a

performance of the majestic Mahler Symphony No. 1. On October 20, it will also hold the Season Opening Concert to offer quality musical experience to audiences.

**Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC)**

*(Translated by MDT from the original Chinese letter.)*

**Editor's Note:** This letter was sent by the IC to Macau Daily Times as "supplementary information" following our article "Macao Orchestra allegedly running on 13 musicians down," published October 9.

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報  
**Times**

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

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

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

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**ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

**OFFICE MANAGER** Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

**ADDRESS** Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR **Telephones:** +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

**Advertisement** advertising@macaudailytimes.com

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**P**RESIDENT Xi Jinping is set to visit Shenzhen this week to shore up plans to make southern China a global technology hub, prompting Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam to delay an annual economic policy address.

Xi is scheduled to deliver an address tomorrow and meet the leaders of Hong Kong and Macau, the official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday. The trip is intended to mark the 40th anniversary of the special economic zone that transformed Shenzhen from a sleepy fishing village to a bustling metropolis of more than 13 million people and home to multinational companies including Huawei Technologies Co. and Tencent Holdings Ltd.

The celebration will last for three days. Apart from the country IT hub, the president will visit other cities in Guangdong Province.

Lam canceled the policy speech scheduled for tomorrow to attend the festivities, and said in a briefing yesterday that she now aimed to deliver it by late November after traveling to Beijing to brief Communist Party officials on her plans. She denied that she was "waiting for directions" from Beijing before giving the speech, saying instead that the central government wants to "facilitate those policy measures" to help the economy.

"This is a very good opportunity that no Chief Executive would forgo," Lam said.

Lam's decision shows just how much policy makers in Beijing are

# Xi to meet with SARs' top officials in visit to Shenzhen



calling the shots in Hong Kong. Xi's government earlier this year imposed a sweeping national security law on Hong Kong that gave Beijing the power to intervene in the legal system for the first time, prompting the U.S. to sanction officials for undermining the territory's autonomy promised when Britain handed it over to China in 1997.

Chinese shares listed in Hong Kong saw their biggest gain since

early July on optimism that Xi could unveil plans to further open the nation's economy to foreign investment, with the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index climbing 2.7% at the close.

The gauge had underperformed its mainland peers this year, falling 12% versus an 18% rally for the CSI 300 Index of key stocks listed in Shanghai and Shenzhen. Xiaomi Corp. rose 8.4% to lead gains on the measure of offshore

China stocks yesterday, while China Unicom Hong Kong Ltd. and China Telecom Corp. rose at least 5.5%.

The Communist Party intends to build Shenzhen, a stone's throw from Hong Kong across the mainland border, into a "socialist pilot zone with Chinese characteristics" over the next five years, Xinhua reported Sunday, publishing an outline of the plan.

## NEXT LEVEL

China will push forward cooperation between Shenzhen and Hong Kong to a "higher level" to strengthen the key role in the Greater Bay Area, said Xinhua, without offering more details. Shenzhen will host a trial on the digital yuan and push forward with international cooperation, Xinhua reported.

The Greater Bay Area calls for better integrating Shenzhen, the surrounding province of Guangdong and the former colonies of Hong Kong and Macau. The ambitious effort faces new challenges amid trade and security disputes with the U.S., anxiety over the new security law in Hong Kong and travel restrictions prompted by the pandemic.

The reports suggests a prominent role for the Greater Bay Area in China's next five-year development, which is expected to be approved by lawmakers next year in Beijing. Top party leaders were scheduled to convene on Oct. 26 to discuss an outline for the five-year plan.

Xi's Shenzhen trip, which had been speculated about by Hong Kong media in the run-up to the anniversary, was reported by the South China Morning Post. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## Exclusion of TNRs in new Hac Sa BBQ rules trigger public criticism

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE announcement by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) of the rules that will regulate the reopening of the barbecue (BBQ) facilities at the Hac Sa Beach Park in Coloane has quickly sparked reactions on social media platforms.

Non-resident workers (TNR) were the group that most actively condemned the regulation that excludes them from being able to access the booking procedure, but many residents also took to the Internet to criticize the new regulation for being discriminatory against TNR.

Late last week, the IAM announced the reopening of Hac Sa Beach Park BBQ facilities, implementing a new regulation under which interested parties would have to make an online appointment before being

able to use the grillers.

The imposition of a maximum of four people per griller and a requirement for pre-booking that must have been made by a local resident are among the rules stated. The IAM also informed that the grillers will be allocated by the IAM staff on the basis of the booking list, and it would not be possible for users to choose between the spaces available.

Yesterday, during the weekly press briefing on Covid-19, the coordinator at the local Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr Leong Iek Hou, reaffirmed that those were the only recommendations given to the IAM for the reopening of the facilities, refusing to comment on the exclusion made to all the non-residents.

Also commenting on the topic, Dr Alvis Lo, medical

director of the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center said, "We only provide general recommendations taking into account the prevention measures. It is a competence of the public services or entities to adjust such measures to the particular situation or space."

Both health officials refused to reply to media questions on whether the decision of IAM to exclude TNRs had any medical or scientific grounds.

In the statement that announced the reopening of the facilities, the IAM also advanced that the reopening of the BBQ grillers at Hac Sa Beach Park is part of a trial program that will last from October 16 till October 29.

The trial program aims to verify the feasibility of reopening other facilities of the same kind in other locations across Macau.



For the time being, the IAM will make available a total of 55 grillers that will cater to a maximum of 220 people at one time, with a maximum number of 440 per day allowed.

Other rules include the need to choose between two time sessions: 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., and 6 p.m. - 11:59 p.m., and strict compliance with the Covid-19 prevention measures issued by the health authorities.

During a press briefing

organized by local health authorities to provide an update on the status of Covid-19 in Macau late last month, health officials informed that they have decided to ease the restrictions that were keeping the BBQ facilities closed to the public. At that time, the same officials noted that a series of rules would be implemented to ensure compliance with Covid-19 prevention, and control measures that include

wearing a facemask at all times (except when eating or drinking), undergoing a temperature check before entering the premises, presenting a valid and green-colored Macau Health Code, and keeping a distance of at least one meter from other people in the facilities.

Online booking started yesterday through IAM's Activity Application System at [app.iam.gov.mo/ActivityWeb](http://app.iam.gov.mo/ActivityWeb).

### LAI MAN VAI APPOINTED AS ACTING CHIEF OF NEW PJ DEPARTMENT

The Judiciary Police (PJ) have announced that criminal investigator, Lai Man Vai, was appointed as the acting chief of the new National Security Department that was inaugurated yesterday. The new department will be responsible for external communications on national security and promoting the law enforcement. In addition, the department will participate in the Chief Executive-chaired national security committee office's policy research and legislation work. The new department was launched after the amendment of the PJ Law No. 5/2006, which outlines responsibilities, powers and penalties for police officers. The new law includes the introduction of four divisions under the department including information, crime investigation, action support and the national security affairs integrated service.

### MACAU POST BUREAU SAYS TWO OPERATORS TO START TESTING 5G BASE STATIONS

The Post and Telecommunications Bureau has disclosed that so far, two operators have expressed their desire to operate 5G telecom services in Macau, but the regulator could not disclose anything else due to commercial confidentiality. It noted that although the operators have been building base stations, the service is still being tested. To facilitate smooth connection and wide coverage, the regulator said the number of base stations is crucial, but social consensus on the service in the territory must be achieved for that to happen. The Bureau stressed that the safety index of such base stations abides by international standards. The law governing 5G telecom services has been drafted but it is unclear when it can be delivered to the legislature.

### BOC CONFIDENT MONEY CAN BE RETRIEVED SHOULD ITUNES CREDIT CARD FRAUD HAPPEN

Local banknote issuer Bank of China, Macau Branch pointed out that it would help its clients reclaim lost money should they fall victim to iTunes credit card fraud, provided that the clients declare what has happened to the bank and report the case to the police once they become aware of the matter. The bank added that such fraud is common on iTunes because the app only requires credit card and CVV numbers for authentication, exposing individuals to higher risks. It is within the bank's terms of service that it will help its clients retrieve lost money, although not always in full.

# GOV'T TIGHTENS MEASURES TO QINGDAO IN RESPONSE TO AN OUTBREAK

RENATO MARQUES

MACAU will not allow people arriving from Qingdao in Shandong province to enter the city without undergoing medical observation and a 14-day quarantine from today onwards, local health authorities informed yesterday in the weekly press conference of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

According to the coordinator of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr Leong Iek Hou, the measure comes after a new outbreak of the disease.

Official reports claim that Qingdao has recorded a total of 12 new cases of the disease in the last two days. Of this figure, six were asymptomatic patients. Local media reports also note that all the cases were linked to the Qingdao Chest Hospital and to patients who had contracted the virus overseas.

Qingdao governmental authorities said yesterday that to tackle the further spread of the infection, they will conduct tests for the entire population of over 9 million.

According to Leong, all people arriving from Qingdao from today will have to undergo 14 days of quarantine, which is the measure applied both to visitors coming from the city or residents returning to Macau who have



stayed in the city in the past 14 days.

The same official also noted that the health authorities are urging residents not to travel to the city of Qingdao, and for those who are currently there to avoid going to hospitals and any crowded places.

Macau's health authorities said they would be following up all individuals who have recently been in Qingdao and might currently be in Macau.

Lo said that although the local authorities are not expecting to have to implement any other restrictive measures in Macau, "We also have contingency plans already prepared in case of a potential future appearance of new cases."

Questioned on the development of a joint program aiming

to exempt all the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area cities from having to present negative Nucleic Acid Tests (NAT) in order to travel between cities, Lo said that such idea is developing but is still far from reaching an outcome.

"We need to follow-up on the current data and conduct a thorough analysis. [Before that] we may extend the expiration date of NAT from the current seven days and we will also consider easing the restrictions on entry to foreigners," Lo said.

Questioned on whether the validity of a NAT test would increase from seven to 14 days, Lo replied, "Now is not the right time to disclose such information. We are still discussing and gathering opinions from

all the other public services involved."

Many questions were left unanswered at yesterday's press briefing. The authorities justified the lack of responses with the fact that there were no representatives from the bureau who were directly involved in the relevant matters present at the briefing. Among the questions left answered were the number of participants in the Macau Grand Prix event who are expected to undergo quarantine in Macau before the event, as well as the number of Macau residents currently in Qingdao.

According to Lo, the health authorities will forward such questions from the media to relevant departments to obtain a reply at a later opportunity.

# Self-service wine dispensers may be removed at restaurants in the future

ESTABLISHMENTS allowing their guests to buy wines by simply inserting a prepaid card into automated machines will need to eliminate those machines when the new Legal Framework in Prevention and Control of Alcohol Consumption by Minors takes effect in the future, Dr Lam Chong, Director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention has said.

The Legal Framework is now under public consultation. As the responsible public entity, the Health Bureau (SSM) has held several public sessions including with



wholesalers and retailers of alcoholic drinks and products.

In the bill, the bureau proposed to ban the service and sale of alcoholic drinks from automatic vending machines.

At the recent industry consultation session, sellers asked a medical doctor whether a bar or a restaurant would be allowed to install wine dispensers in their establishments.

Moreover, sellers also found it unclear whether bars or restaurants would be allowed to, for example at promotional events, disseminate free alcoholic drinks to or offer customers to take their own alcoholic drinks.

Lam explained that provided a machine offers alcoholic drinks in exchange for money, it will be considered an automatic vending machine. Judging from that, Lam said the law would not allow the practice.

On the other hand, in the "promotional event" situation, he said

it would be too vague to make any comments. The bureau would make decisions on a case by case basis if the law is passed.

Furthermore, the bill proposes the addition of warning messages on advertisements, similar to those on cigarette packages. Lam was asked whether price tags of alcoholic drinks would be considered advertisements. Sellers revealed that price tags are considered advertisements in Hong Kong.

In response, under the current law, Lam explained that price tags would not be considered advertisements unless they indicate a discount. He said it would carry the same implication of an advertisement, meaning that warning messages should be added. **AL**

JULIE ZHU

CRIME

**T**HE Public Security Police (PSP) recently found a Hong Kong man who had been overstaying in Macau for nearly 20 years without having his illegal status discovered, the department reported during the joint police press conference yesterday.

Besides the Hong Kong man, the police authority also charged a Macau local woman as a co-conspirator.

The 69-year-old Hong Kong man, surnamed Ho, is being put into confinement. Ho is accused of forging documents. The 46-year-old Macau woman, surnamed Ao Ieong, is suspected of illicitly sheltering overstaying people. She is a dealer working at a local casino.

According to PSP, Ho entered Macau back in 2000 and has not left the territory since. When he entered the SAR, he used an authentic ID card issued by the Hong Kong government. However, during 2001, his staying permit granted by the Macau government expired, and he has been illegally staying in Macau since then.

Ho claimed that between 2000 and 2011, he resided in well-known hotels. Ten years after he first entered Macau, he met Ao Ieong, who, later in 2011, became his girlfriend.

Since 2011, the two had

JULIE ZHU



been living together in an apartment located at San Ma Lou.

In 2017, due to a health issue, Ho needed to pay a visit to the hospital. This hospital visit motivated him to obtain another ID card through an ID forger.

Ho told the police authority that when he visited the hospital, he had realized that

his old (and real) Hong Kong ID was "not working well". The police authority did not elaborate on what this meant, and only said that Ho's Macau permit had expired.

Ho paid a document forger 600 patacas for a fake ID that was made in the mainland.

Ho's overstaying status remained a secret until last week.

# Man overstayed in town for nearly 20 years without being caught

On October 8, PSP intercepted Ho during a spot inspection near Kampek Paradise Casino. Ho gave PSP both his ID cards, the old authentic one and the new fake one.

The police officers were able to immediately identify the new ID as fake.

Later, the police officers found Ao Ieong at their apartment. Upon police interrogation, Ao Ieong insisted that she didn't know anything about Ho's overstaying status or about the fake ID.

For all these years, Ho remained jobless and a frequent patron of the casinos.

## FORMER TEACHER TOOK UNLOCKED PARKED CAR FOR A RIDE

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has apprehended a Dutch man who took an unlocked car for a ride, the police department reported during the joint police press conference yesterday.

The suspect, known as Holzmann, is a 41-year-old Dutch national who identified

himself as a former teacher. He does not have a Macau ID and is currently staying in Macau on his passport.

On October 7, the man spotted a small vehicle parked at Av. da Nave Desportiva. Realizing that the car was unlocked, Holzmann entered the vehicle and drove for a ride to Coloane and other places. He later parked the car at a spot at Dr. Sun Yat Seng roundabout and left the vehicle.

Only the next day did the car owner report to the police authority that someone had stolen his vehicle.

PSP later found the suspect. The Dutch national said that he had entered and operated the car for fun while under the influence of alcohol. He expressed willingness to pay for any damage that might have been caused by his ride. The police authority could not confirm his claim that he was intoxicated. He does not have a legal driving license.

PSP charged the man for causing damage and unlicensed driving.

FLORES

# World's first jetfoil may be dismantled soon

**T**HE Jetfoil Conservation Concern Group is "highly concerned about the fate of the world's first Boeing Jetfoil Flores," the group said in a note sent yesterday to the Times.

The vessel has been sent to Wang Tak Engineering and Shipbuilding Company recently. The group worries that the ship will be dismantled in coming days and urges its owner, TurboJET, "to consider other options."

According to the concerned group, the Boeing Jetfoil was a result of a commercialization plan of military hydrofoils in 1972.

The fully-submerged foils design allows the vessel to travel above water surface to avoid waves and turbulences which create seasickness.

Passengers "can enjoy a smooth and comforta-

ble ride comparable to a jet aircraft while the vessel looks as if 'flying' above the sea," the statement reads.

Since 1975, the jetfoil fleet has operated in the Hong Kong - Macau line for 45 years, setting "an almost unbreakable record of longevity in the line for a single model."

Flores, launched in 1974 as Jetfoil One, is the first of its kind.

The vessel originally served as the official sample for Boeing to demonstrate its "leading technology" to global buyers, such as the late gambling tycoon Stanley Ho. Flores, named after an island of Portugal's Azores archipelago, then shortly served in Hawaii until 1978 when Far East Hydrofoils Co., Ltd. purchased it for the Hong Kong - Macau line.

Flores is the third jetfoil serving this busy sea route, following Madeira

ANDERSON CHEONG



Flores jetfoil rear at Wang Tak shipyard

and Santa Maria in 1975. Flores retired in 2008 and since then has been laid up in a Hong Kong shipyard. The Covid-19 pandemic has put the once busy Hong Kong - Macau line to a complete stop for over eight months.

The operator, TurboJET, is facing unprecedented challenges, hence, cost cutting plans such as retiring of older vessels has been initiated, making the shipyards over-crowded.

In August, a rumor has suggested that TurboJET

plans to sell its retired vessels Flores and PS-30 hydrofoil Balsa for HKD700,000, stirring a heated discussion locally.

Despite TurboJET denying the news in a statement, on September 29, a video online

showed that Balsa has been scrapped in Wang Tak. The group noticed that Flores has been moved to Wang Tak on or before October 9. Therefore, the group is worried that "the first jetfoil may come to an end very soon."

In a reply to an enquiry by the Jetfoil Conservation Concern Group, Paul Lewis, Director Asia Pacific Communications, Boeing, commented that he was "sorry to hear about the sad demise of Jetfoil One."

He added that Boeing's historic services "might be interested in getting the data plate or any other small significant that could be retrieved."

The Jetfoil Conservation Concern Group consists of "enthusiasts from Hong Kong and Macau." The group focuses on publicizing the history of Jetfoil and transportation between Hong Kong and Macau through "interesting approaches." PC

ADVERTORIAL

# GREAT TIMES

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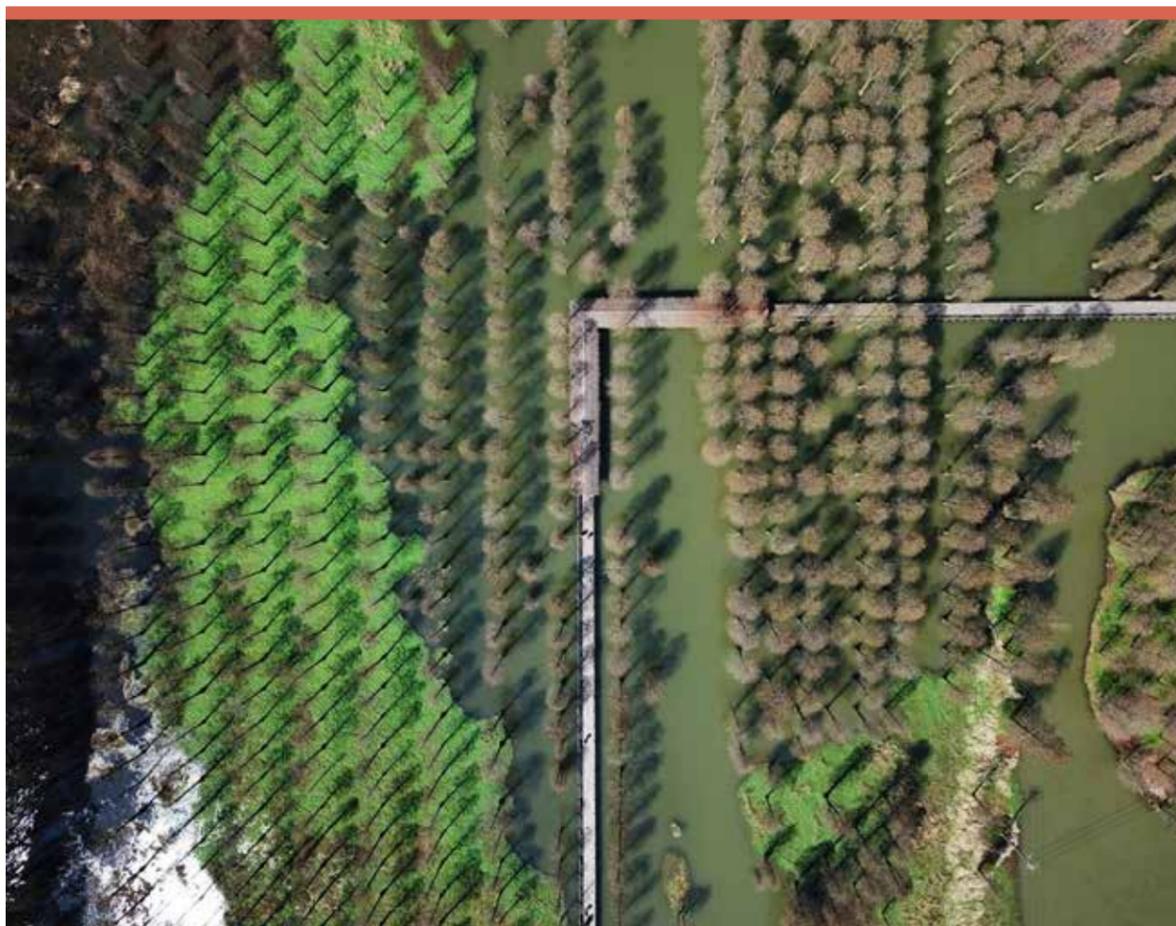
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## CHINA'S SECRET TO REACHING CARBON-NEUTRAL GOAL RAISES QUESTIONS

CHINA'S announcement last month that it aims to become carbon neutral by 2060 set off a flurry of discussion among climate watchers about how it would do that. If the world's largest emitter realizes the goal, it would go a long way in helping keep global temperatures from rising more than 1.5°C by the end of the century. President Xi Jinping's commitment will require a massive overhaul of China's energy mix, but officials have also indicated that strategies to absorb and capture carbon dioxide will be a significant part of the plan.

According to Chai Qimin, a government researcher affiliated with the Ministry of Ecology and Environment, on top of shifting away from fossil fuels and boosting renewable energy, China will also use natural carbon sinks such as vegetation, soil and oceans that absorb more carbon than they release, as well as large-scale carbon capture, utilization and storage.

In the case of the latter, technologies are still relatively immature and

little-used today because of high costs and virtually no economic benefits. However, using natural carbon sinks is an area where China has been eager to tout its efforts, which include massive tree-planting campaigns and restoration of large wetlands. The term "Nature-Based Solutions" (NBS) has become increasingly popular in China over the last few years in tackling all sorts of problems, not just climate change. According to the United Nations, NBS could contribute over a third of the measures needed to stabilize global warming below 2°C between now and 2030.

China didn't invent the concept of NBS, but it has become one of the strongest advocates of the approach. Beijing is proud of its numerous projects, including planting billions of trees, restoring hundreds of thousands of hectares of wetlands, foresting mangroves and seagrass along its coastlines and setting ecological limits that protect a quarter of its total landmass.

Ahead of last year's UN Climate Action Summit in New York, China said it would embrace NBS to mitigate climate change and urged other countries at the meeting to "consider the potential of the natural system to alleviate climate change and promote adaptation." Xie Zhenhua, who was China's special representative for climate change affairs at the time, said that China's calculations showed NBS could remove one third of the total carbon emissions it had to eliminate.

In a country where breakneck industrialization over the last four decades has caused widespread pollution, environmental protection is an important political issue and China's leaders have emphasized measures they've taken to improve air and water quality. Beijing has also tried to connect its work on restoring ecosystems to the larger issue of climate change. As Xi has sought to position the country as a global leader on climate, he has also emphasized China's role in

protecting biodiversity, although that image was tarnished by the coronavirus outbreak that some scientists argue is linked to China's mismanagement of its wildlife trading industry.

China is due to host the next UN Biodiversity Conference, which was originally planned for October but postponed because of the pandemic. Environmentalists expect the country to push for NBS to be included among the measures the participating countries will commit to undertake.

Still, despite the government's narrative, how much carbon dioxide can really be absorbed by China's carbon sink approach is an open question.

Still, despite the government's narrative, how much carbon dioxide can really be absorbed by China's carbon sink approach is an open question. For example, experts point out that the monoculture forests created in China's 40-year reforestation campaign are not as effective carbon sinks as naturally occurring greenery. **BLOOMBERG**

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JILL LAWLESS, LONDON

**T**HE British government is set to announce new restrictions yesterday on business and socializing in major northern England cities with high infection rates. But pubs, restaurants and other businesses are pushing back, arguing that they are not to blame for a resurgent outbreak.

Local authorities in hard-hit cities including Liverpool and Manchester are seeking financial support for businesses that are ordered to close, and details of an exit strategy from local lockdowns.

After falling in the summer, coronavirus cases are on the rise in the U.K. as winter approaches, with northwest and northeast England seeing the steepest increases.

Under the new measures, areas of England will be placed in "tiers," classing them as at medium, high or very high risk, and placed under restrictions of varying severity.

Liverpool mayor Steve Rotheram said his city was to be placed in the highest category.

"We were told we were going into Tier 3 — no ifs, no buts," he said.

Rotheram, mayor of the greater Liverpool region in northwest England, said local officials have not yet agreed with Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government what the exact restrictions will be. Johnson is due to give more details in the House of Commons later.

Businesses including gyms and pubs are expected to be shut, but restaurants are lobbying to be allowed to remain open. Rotheram said cities also wanted to know what the exit strategy would be from the measures, which are set to be reviewed after a month.

The U.K. has experienced Europe's deadliest outbreak, with an official death toll of 42,825. Health officials say Britain is at a tipping point in the outbreak, with strong action needed to prevent hospitals being overwhelmed at a time of year when they are already at their busiest with flu and other winter illnesses.

Stephen Powis, medical director of the Na-

# UK cities chafe at new restrictions in 3-level lockdown plan



AP PHOTO  
Commuters walk across London Bridge during the morning rush hour towards the offices in the financial district of the City of London

tional Health Service in England, said there are currently more people hospitalized with the virus than there were when the country went into lockdown in March.

He said three temporary COVID-19 hospitals in northern England that were mothballed when the outbreak receded over the summer were being readied to admit patients once again in the coming weeks.

England's deputy chief medical officer, Jonathan Van-Tam, said yesterday that while northern England has the highest infection rates, cases are on the rise across the country.

"The epidemic this time has clearly picked up pace in the north of England earlier than it did in the first wave and that almost certainly relates to the fact the disease levels in the north, and certainly in the northwest, never dropped as far in the summer as they did in the south," Van-Tam told a news conference.

But, he added: "This is a nationwide phenomenon now."

Liverpool has one of the country's highest levels of infection, with more than 600 cases per 100,000 people.

Bar and restaurant owners have questioned whether they are major sources of transmission, and say the government has not shared the evidence to back up the claim.

Manchester City Council leader Richard Leese said data from the city's public health officials "seems to demonstrate that there is not a particular connection between bars and restaurants and the transmission of COVID."

But Calum Semple, professor of outbreak medicine at the University of Liverpool and a member of the government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, said "most of the outbreaks are happening within and between households and then after that, it's in the retail and

hospitality sector."

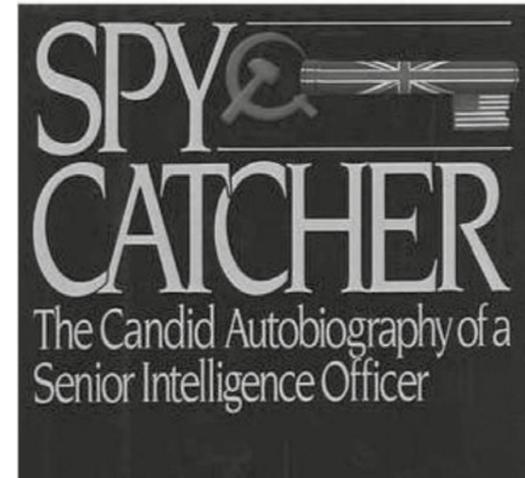
"Alcohol and people's behaviour are well known to be factors that result in relaxation of one's adherence to regulations, let's put it politely," Semple told the BBC. "And so I can understand why this move is happening."

The government has announced a support package to pay two-thirds of the salaries of employees of companies that are told to close, but many in the pub and restaurant sector say that is not enough to save already struggling businesses.

England is already under national restrictions including a 10 p.m. curfew on pubs and restaurants and a ban on more than six people gathering. Some areas have tougher measures, such as a ban on households mixing. The rest of the U.K. is under similar, and sometimes tougher, restrictions. In Scotland's two biggest cities, Glasgow and Edinburgh, pubs have been closed for 16 days to suppress the outbreak. AP

## this day in history

### 1988 GOVERNMENT LOSES SPYCATCHER BATTLE



The British Government has lost its long-running battle to stop the publication of the controversial book *Spycatcher*, written by a former secret service agent.

Law Lords ruled the media can publish extracts from former MI5 officer Peter Wright's memoirs, because any damage to national security has already been done by its publication abroad.

But they agreed Mr Wright's book had indeed constituted a serious breach of confidentiality, the principle at the heart of the government's case against him for the last three years.

Despite the defeat Home Secretary Douglas Hurd claimed the ruling "vindicated" the government's attempts to preserve the life-long "duty of confidentiality".

However, Shadow Home Secretary Roy Hattersley, said the ruling now made the Government's position "demonstrably absurd."

He said in using the legal system the government had behaved in a "scandalous way when it must have known it would lose in the end".

Mr Wright was condemned by the Law Lords as a traitor for disclosing security service secrets, but his lawyer, Malcolm Turnbull, said their criticism of his client was unjudicial and "reeked of bad losing".

He argued allegations about confidentiality had already failed to convince an Australian court in an earlier attempt by the British government to prevent publication of his client's book.

Mr Wright was apparently ill, and unable to comment on today's verdict.

With the ruling, injunctions imposed against *The Observer*, *The Guardian* and *The Sunday Times* have been lifted. Outside the court Donald Treford, editor of *The Observer* celebrated:

"At long last our democratic system has reached the obvious conclusion that these were genuine matters of public importance that the public should be allowed to know about."

*Spycatcher* is already an international bestseller with nearly two million copies sold.

In his memoirs as an MI5 officer Mr Wright alleges the security service operated beyond the law.

Some of his more controversial revelations include the claim that Prime Minister Harold Wilson was the target of an MI5 conspiracy and that ex-chief of MI5, Roger Hollis, was a Soviet mole in the 1960s.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The *Spycatcher* affair began in 1985, when the British Government started proceedings against the book being published in Australia. It lost the action in 1987.

By late 1987 *Spycatcher* was the number one hardback bestseller in the US, selling 400,000 copies.

Although the government had succeeded in gagging the British media for a time it failed to prevent the book's disclosure anywhere abroad.

In November 1991 the European Court of Human Rights found the government's actions had violated the right to freedom of speech.

Peter Wright died a millionaire in April 1995 aged 78.



# Jazz festival attracts over 500 attendees



 A two-night jazz festival was held at D2 Club over the weekend where it gathered over 20 artists from different bands who performed an eclectic musical selection ranging from well-known jazz standards to more modern compositions. According to the producer of the festival, None Of Your Business (NYOB), the event attracted some 500 attendees. Rui Simões, one of the founders of NYOB, remarked, "We wanted to introduce local artists to a broader audience and that objective was accomplished."  
"The D2 Jazz Festival has concluded and we hope that they keep up the investment in showcasing local talent [so] that we can do more jazz events in the future," he told the Times. For NYOB, it is high time for the city to harness the potential renewal of jazz scene in Macau, noting that the public can expect to have more high-quality concerts in the future. Meanwhile, local guitarist, Mars Lee, also one of the founders of the Macau Jazz Promotion Association, dubbed the event as a "breakthrough," highlighting that these kinds of events were only previously supported by the government. The musician noted that the association has mainly relied on government sponsorships.  
"Holding this event in a commercial space is a breakthrough. [...] We can see people breaking boundaries and it's quite unbelievable," he said. LV



**T**HE offshore yuan tumbled the most in almost seven months after China's central bank took steps to restrain the currency's rally.

The exchange rate slumped as much as 1.03% against the dollar in late Hong Kong trade yesterday. Declines steepened without an obvious trigger just before the 4:30 p.m. official close of the onshore rate, which helps determine the next day's reference rate. The drop may mark the start of a period of consolidation after recent gains, strategists said.

The People's Bank of China on Saturday scrapped a two-year rule that made it expensive to bet against the yuan after the currency surged to its highest in 18 months. The PBOC had in recent weeks refrained from sending clear signals on the yuan, reinforcing speculation that policy makers looking to boost consumption at home wanted a stronger yuan.

But as gains accelerated, it appears officials grew concerned the currency risked becoming a one-way bet. Reasons to buy the yuan were many. Polls showing Democrat Joe Biden may win the election. Failed U.S. stimulus talks driving the dollar lower. An attractive yield gap over Treasuries. An upcoming Communist Party plenum this month where stimulus measures

# Yuan slumps most since march after PBOC acts to arrest gains



are expected to be announced. "China is just taking preemptive action to keep the yuan steady as the U.S. election could add even more appreciation pressure," said Ken Cheung, chief Asia currency strategist at Mizuho Bank Ltd. "The yuan will be anchored for the time being - we see

it trading in a 6.7-6.8 range in the near term."

The offshore rate was down almost 0.9% at 6.745 at 7:06 p.m., while on the onshore yuan last traded at 6.749.

The late slump may have been driven by short covering. Three traders said some proprietary

desks at onshore banks closed their short dollar trades. Thin liquidity exacerbated the short squeeze, said the traders, who declined to be named as they're not authorized to speak to the press.

The declines prior to the 4:30 p.m. close will enable the central bank to set a weaker reference rate

- known as the daily fixing - today. The yuan can move 2% in either direction of that rate. The rate was fixed at 6.7126 per dollar yesterday, compared with the average estimate of 6.7073 in a Bloomberg survey.

The central bank has other tools at its disposal to influence the yuan, including driving up the cost of betting against the yuan offshore and controlling the flow of funds in and out of the country.

Effective Monday, financial institutions no longer need to set aside cash when purchasing foreign exchange for clients through currency forwards, according to a statement from the PBOC on Saturday. Back in September 2017, when the PBOC similarly cut the cost to zero following sharp gains, the yuan slumped about 2.5% in the next three weeks.

Banks previously had to hold 20% of sales on some foreign exchange forward contracts, a move imposed two years ago when the currency slumped toward 7 per dollar. **BLOOMBERG**

AD

### 合夥人 PARTNERS:

官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha\*  
山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues\*  
馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata\*  
趙魯 Zhao Lu\*\*  
馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

### 大律師 ASSOCIATES:

高文軒 Adelino Correia\*  
羅杏齡 Zelina Rodrigues\*  
白秀蘭 Susana Batalha  
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques  
陶義德 António Isó de Azevedo  
白穎怡 Iclia Berenguel  
洗玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves  
薛明恩 Maria Antónia Giestas  
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira\*  
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo  
宋新言 João Gonçalves Assunção  
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos  
吳永誠 Rui Velez de Moura  
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos  
歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo  
陳芷喬 Joana Chan  
顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan  
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras  
康靜雅 Viviana Hong  
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon

### 實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong  
張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong  
陳健雄 Eurico Chan  
吳雲鋒 Ng Teng Fong

### 法律專家 JURISTS:

羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues  
潘卡莉 Candice Pun  
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo  
羅嘉慧 Emily Lo  
陳子健 Chan Chi Kin



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OPINION

World Views

Noah Smith, Bloomberg



WORKING FROM HOME IS HERE TO STAY, SO LET'S GET IT RIGHT

The Covid-19 pandemic has crushed the economy, sent joblessness soaring, and killed over a million people worldwide. But there are a few ways in which the pandemic may prompt society to improve, and one is remote work. Though it was initially necessary to keep employees from getting sick, remote work promises to make people more productive and happier while helping the environment and preserving infrastructure.

When the coronavirus struck, those who could do their jobs remotely often did. The number has gradually declined as our understanding of safety measures increased, but it's still substantial:

And while many people will go back to the office after the pandemic is over, part of the shift will probably be permanent. A recent survey shows a substantial increase in the number of workers who say they won't go back to the office full time:

There are certainly drawbacks to the remote trend. Those working from home are far more likely to be in higher-income, professional occupations, such as engineers, lawyers, financiers or consultants. Most lower-income jobs can't be done remotely, such as in food service and brick-and-mortar retail.

The trend has also taken a psychological toll. People who work remotely often end up putting in more hours than when they go into the office. With the boundary between job and home life blurred, there's no obvious signal that it's OK to stop working, which can make it hard to relax. As any graduate student or entrepreneur can attest, the nagging anxiety of whether you should be working more can easily lead to burnout.

But there are good reasons to think that these negative effects will be mostly transitory.

Psychological stress will probably also ebb as the coronavirus threat eases. People who work remotely will develop strategies to segment their jobs from their personal lives, and budget their time in ways that leave them less anxious. Professors, writers and other people whose jobs have always been semi-remote show that this can be done.

This kind of part-time remote work promises to bring substantial benefits to society. Flexibility will add to work-life balance: If a working parent needs to stay home to take care of a sick child or supervise home repairs, they'll be able to do that without sacrificing income or productivity. Vacations will be easier, too. Remote work could even increase productivity, by reducing the number of hours wasted by people trying to look busy for their bosses.

Long commutes are associated with unhappiness, so more days spent working at home will make for an emotionally healthier populace. It will also save workers money and reduce wear and tear on the nation's crumbling road infrastructure. Reduced greenhouse emissions will be yet another plus.

To maximize the benefits from the shift to remote work, government policy should aim to ease the transition. Since more people will be toiling out of their houses instead of an office building, cities should change zoning codes to facilitate conversion of commercial real estate to residential. Government can also subsidize service workers to move to new neighborhoods to follow high-income jobs, since that's where the new demand will be. It can also help retrain people displaced by long-term shifts in demand (such as the decline of movie theaters). And it can gather information from big companies that successfully managed a shift to partial remote work, and share those strategies with small businesses that might otherwise have a tougher time managing the transition.

In the long run, especially with smart policies, more flexible work arrangements will be a good thing. Covid-19 has wreaked terrible damage on society, but in this small way it will end up moving things in a healthier direction.

[Abridged]

CHINA INDICTS AUSTRALIAN HELD FOR ALMOST TWO YEARS ON SPY CHARGE

THE BUZZ

China moved to prosecute an Australian writer detained in the mainland for almost two years on spying charges, the latest strain on an increasingly tense relationship between Beijing and Canberra.

Beijing prosecutors indicted Yang Hengjun last Wednesday on allegations of espionage, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian told a regular news briefing yesterday. Yang, a Chinese-born Australian national who's also known as Yang Jun, became well known as a writer and commentator after previously working as a Chinese foreign affairs official in Beijing, according to the Australian newspaper.

"The relevant Chinese authorities are handling the case strictly and in accordance with the law, and fully protecting Yang Jun's lawful rights," Zhao said Monday in Beijing. He was detained in Guangzhou in January 2019 after flying in from the U.S., and was formally arrested on espionage allegations that August.

The Foreign Ministry gave no other details on the allegations against Yang, which is typical of cases being tried in China's notoriously opaque judicial system. Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison this weekend urged transparency in the case, saying there should be a "fair and just process" for Yang.

CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTER BEGINS SE ASIAN TOUR IN CAMBODIA

SOPHENG CHEANG, PHNOM PENH

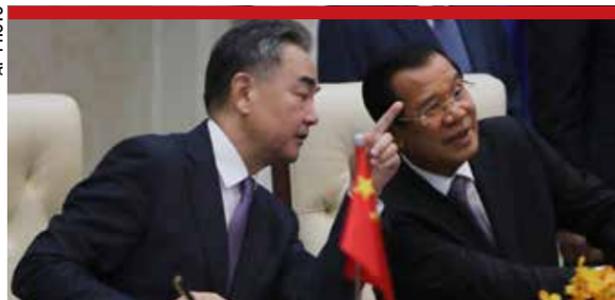
China and Cambodia signed a free trade agreement yesterday as China's foreign minister visited Phnom Penh as part of a four-nation Southeast Asian tour.

China's foreign ministry announced that Foreign Minister Wang Yi will make official visits this week to Cambodia, Malaysia, Laos and Thailand, along with a transit visit to Singapore.

Cambodia is Beijing's most loyal ally in the region, and its economic growth has depended on aid and investment from China. The two nations also have an ideological affinity, stressing tight control by their ruling parties over concerns about human rights.

Wang's tour comes as China and the United States are contending for influence in Southeast Asia. Historically, the U.S. has been the more popular partner, but Beijing has made great inroads as China's growing wealth and confidence allow it to woo allies with no human rights strings attached.

In Cambodia's case, this has won Beijing a supportive Cambodian voice in international and regional forums. There is also strong suspicion,



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi talks with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen as they sit to witness a signing ceremony for a free trade agreement at Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, yesterday

mainly from Washington, that Cambodia has granted China the right to use a strategic naval base in its territory on the Gulf of Thailand. Cambodian and Chinese officials deny there is any such deal.

The signing of the Cambodia-China free trade agreement was witnessed by Wang and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, who held a meeting earlier.

Details of the agreement were not released, but Commerce Ministry spokesperson Seang Thay said China would give tariff-free status covering about 98% of its imports from Cambodia, while up to 90% of China's exports to Cambodia would be exempt from tariffs. The Cambodian exports that are covered are mostly agricultural. China is Cambodia's main market for rice, mangoes and bananas.

The pact's significance is as much symbolic as practical, since it is being framed as a sort of replacement for preferential tariff terms the European Union withdrew from Cambodia because of what it called "serious and systematic concerns related to human rights."

The E.U. withdrew duty-free privileges amounting to about one-fifth of the 1 billion euros (\$1.2 billion) worth of Cambodian exports that go to Europe each year.

Hun Sen has acknowledged that Cambodia's economy would be affected by the move, but said the country could manage and he would not bend to Western pressure.

China also agreed to provide \$140 million in new aid for Cambodia for urgent development, including infrastructure. AP

Iraqi militias backed by Iran have agreed to temporarily halt attacks targeting the American presence in Iraq, on the condition that U.S.-led coalition troops withdraw from the country in line with a parliamentary resolution, three militia officials said.



Belarus Scores of people were detained in Belarus during weekend protests against the country's authoritarian leader, who won his sixth term in office in a vote widely seen as rigged, a Belarusian rights group said. Tens of thousands of protesters rallied in the Belarusian capital Minsk for the 10th consecutive Sunday, demanding the resignation of President Alexander Lukashenko.



Austria's main center-left party has won a regional election in Vienna that saw the far-right Freedom Party lose more than two-thirds of its support and its former leader, Heinz-Christian Strache, apparently fail to make a political comeback. Preliminary final results from Sunday's election, including an estimate of postal votes that have yet to be counted, showed the center-left Social Democrats winning more than 42% of the vote.

US A private security guard working for a Denver TV station is behind bars and accused in the deadly shooting of another man during dueling right- and left-wing protests, police said. Authorities have not identified the man killed, but his son told the Denver Post it was his father, Lee Keltner, a 49-year-old U.S. Navy veteran who operated a hat-making business in the Denver area.

France Dozens of people attacked a police station outside Paris yesterday [Macau time] with blasts of fireworks and metal bars, damaging several police cars, officials said. No one was injured. It was the latest action among numerous attacks against police officers, and sometimes firefighters, that Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin says are a sign that France is growing "savage."

CHINA SAYS IT HAS CAPTURED A GROUP OF TAIWANESE SPIES

China says it has captured people spying for rival Taiwan and cracked a series of espionage cases.

Reports by state TV and other outlets said multiple suspects were detained but gave no numbers or identities for most of them.

China and Taiwan split amid a civil war in 1949 and have extensive business ties but no official relations. Both sides regularly gather intelligence on each other.

Security personnel solved more than 100 spying cases part of an initiative dubbed Operation Thunder 2020, China Central Television reported.

CCTV identified one suspect as a Taiwanese man, Li Mengju, who it said took photos of paramilitary armed police in Shenzhen, a city that borders Hong Kong. It said he was detained in August at a Shenzhen border crossing.

"The pictures and videos he shot are enough for professional espionage organizations analysis. It is enough for them to assess our entire troop's numbers and equipment status," said an unnamed police officer interviewed in the segment.

It is unclear what other information Li was accused of gathering or what other de-

taiwaneses were accused of.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs council said yesterday the accusations are purely "political speculation" from the Chinese side.

China is "falsely accusing our people of espionage" and "harming the relations between the two sides," the council said in a statement.

The council criticized a 13-minute-long TV segment in which Li was shown confessing as "totally inconsistent with due process of law."

"I'm very sorry, and I feel that I have done a lot of wrong things that may have harmed the country," Li said on CCTV. AP