



**BOAO FORUM: HO IAT SENG ASSURED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL IMPROVE EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS**

P4

**TAIWAN HAS REGISTERED 50% MORE STUDENTS FROM MACAU AND HONG KONG**

P5

**GALAXY ENTERTAINMENT RECORDED A 31% INCREASE, QUARTER TO QUARTER, HOPING FOR VISITATION TO RAMP UP IN Q4**

P5

**China** yesterday denounced new U.S. sanctions against four Chinese officials over a crackdown on political rights in Hong Kong, saying such moves “grossly interfere in China’s internal affairs.” The U.S. State Department said the four would be banned from traveling to the U.S. and would have any assets in the country blocked, calling it a response for their roles in implementing Hong Kong’s national security law, seen as heavily restricting free speech and opposition politics since its passage in June.

**China** Authorities in Shanghai have quarantined 186 people and conducted virus tests on more than 8,000 after a freight handler at the city’s main airport tested positive for the coronavirus. The city government said on its microblog that it remains unclear how the 51-year-old man contracted the virus, which has largely spared the sprawling metropolis despite its dense population and strong international links. It says no additional cases have been found.

**Japan** Tokyo Olympics organizers said yesterday they were encouraged by a gymnastics meet over the weekend and are now ready to hold test events early next year. The event featured 22 Russian, Chinese and American athletes entering Japan and competing in Tokyo with a few thousand fans attending.

AP PHOTO



**Armenia** A dozen planes filled with Russian peacekeepers headed for Nagorno-Karabakh yesterday, hours after Armenia and Azerbaijan agreed to halt fighting over the separatist region and amid signs this cease-fire would hold where others hadn’t. The truce came after significant advances by Azerbaijani forces that the Nagorno-Karabakh leader said made it impossible for their side to carry on—but angered many Armenians, who stormed government buildings overnight, demanding the Parliament invalidate the agreement.

More on backpage

# DOMESTIC WORKER SHORTAGE

Local families facing a predicament of hiring from abroad due to a double whammy of border closure and the new labor regulation P3



## NETO VALENTE ACCUSES SAM HOU FAI OF BEING ‘JUDGE IN HIS OWN CAUSE’

P2



# NETO VALENTE ACCUSES TOP JUDGE OF BEING 'JUDGE IN HIS OWN CAUSE'

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) president Jorge Neto Valente has accused the president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) and of the Council of the Judicial Magistrates (CMJ), Sam Hou Fai, of being "judge in his own cause." Neto Valente's comments were made yesterday on the sidelines of the ceremony for the new agency contract exchange for the issuance of bank notes event, hosted by Bank of China.

Replying to questions from the media over a statement issued the day before by the CMJ, which publicly condemned previous statements from Neto Valente accusing Sam of violating Article 25, Number 1 of the Statutes of Judges and Public Prosecutors, Neto Valente said, "The Chairman of this Council [CMJ] is the same person as the Court of Final Appeal. What can they say?" hinting that Sam is trying to protect himself.

"They said that he [Sam] did not mention the case specifically but people are not stupid. People



can see what he said and what he is saying now. He talked about the case and this is now allowed by law," Neto Valente said. "They say that they hope the other judges would not be influenced [by my words. But I say] I hope the judges are not influenced by this negative example of the president of the TUI. I believe and trust the courts and the other judges. But don't make people [look like] fools stating that he didn't

say what everyone saw and heard him saying with his own words."

Neto Valente also reaffirmed that he did not misinterpret or misunderstand any of Sam's words, assuring that what he expressed is the truth and that such facts are recorded "for anyone who wishes to review them."

"It's not me who affects the prestige of the courts. It's this kind of statement that creates a very negative view in the society,

which will not agree to this. I'm sure because I received a lot of support. [...] The person that has to supervise is supervised. This does not make any sense to me and anybody else," the president of the AAM concluded.

In a previous interview with TDM Radio, Neto Valente expressed the opinion that Sam's remarks on the case relating to a sentence by the Court of Second Instance (TSI) to return part of a land plot in Taipa to the owners and pay compensation amounting to around 100 million patacas, in a case of expropriation that occurred 102 years ago, were violating the Code which states that judges must refrain from making any comments or statements relating to judicial cases.

Sam's comments were made during his speech at the inauguration ceremony of the Judicial Year 2020-2021 last month.

Earlier, the veteran lawyer had noted that the violation was particularly relevant since the government had appealed from the decision of TSI to the TUI - presided over by Sam - which will now analyze the case to produce a fi-

nal ruling.

In the statement issued by the CMJ late Monday evening, the supervision body that has the responsibility of overseeing the discipline of judges, public prosecutors, and other judicial staff, disapproved of the comments aired by Neto Valente, noting that he had, "distorted, misinterpreted and wrongly expressed the content of the speech of the president of the Court of Final Appeal, having misled most residents and harmed the public image of TUI, of its president and other judicial magistrates."

Refuting the idea that Sam has committed any violation of the Code, they added that Sam's remarks were not comments on the case but rather an example of the new organization of the judicial system, which adds new competences to TUI, has been producing good effects. The supervision body noted that "any common and average person" would not produce the interpretation of the statements from Sam the way Neto Valente did.

The CMJ also remarked that it expects that the criticisms expressed by the veteran lawyer would not influence the judges of TUI so they can continue "to remain courageous and impartial, to judge all cases independently, legally and fairly."

# Lawyers' opinions diverge over judicial 'clash of the titans'

RENATO MARQUES

**A**S the exchange of accusations and criticism between veteran Macau lawyer and president of the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) Jorge Neto Valente, and the president of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI), Sam Hou Fai, continues in a heated debate, some local lawyers have expressed opinions on the topic.

Contacted by the Times, several legal practitioners chose not to state an opinion on the exchange of accusations between both parties but instead addressed the matter that, for some, sparked the fight in the first place. This refers to the fact that the judge-president of TUI had stated during the inauguration of the Judicial Year that Macau's Portuguese-style legal system was not adjusted to

Macau's current reality and needed to change accordingly.

The top judge noted that among the differences between Macau and Portugal that, in his opinion, make the system retrogressive, are "Portuguese ethics, value systems, customs, cultural heritage, and other aspects which diverge considerably from those in Macau," Sam said, underlining the need for an evaluation and reflection.

On the topic, local lawyer José Alvares expressed the opinion that while it is natural that the legal system would become closer to that which exists in the mainland (and by consequence more distant from the system in Portugal), such changes should not come abruptly. "Taking the Basic Law as an arrangement devised for a stable

transition of Macau between the Portuguese and the Chinese administration, it is only natural that the legal system herein will tend to get closer to that of the mainland and slowly diverge from its origin. Notwithstanding, Macau has thrived under the existing framework, and while everything can be improved, a balanced review should be preferred to any uprooting," the lawyer said.

Veteran lawyer Sérgio de Almeida Correia sees the issue in a different perspective.

"I confess that this case, which was already blurry from the start, is now even more. At this point, we all realized already that this is yet another one of Dr. Neto Valente's many personal conflicts," he told the Times.

For Correia, such personal conflict between the president of AAM and the

president of the TUI has now reached a new stage, moving to the institutional level and placing the leadership of AAM in opposition to the Council of the Judicial Magistrates (CMJ).

Correia recalled the words of Neto Valente two years ago, when he expressed intentions of presenting an alternative list to run to AAM elections.

"He said at that time that I would transform AAM into a trade union [style organization] with political purposes. He called me an extremist, but what we see now is him making use of the post to engage in a battle that does not serve the law or the lawyers," he said.

Addressing the statements made by the president of TUI, Correia noted that he was also concerned about such content and even wrote about it promptly.

"Still, after all that happened with the Nam Van land plots in which Neto Valente even participated in a press conference [about it] and he made statements on the case of the lawmaker Sulu Sou, I find strange that he is suddenly concerned with the situation," Correia added.

"I think he should clarify [to] the lawyers and the society about what his interest is in the case [of the Taipa land plot] mentioned by the president of TUI so we can understand exactly what is going on."

Correia said that it would be also good to understand what opinions are held on this case by those who have supported Neto Valente over the years in the presidency of the AAM.

"He wants Dr. Sam Hou Fai to leave the TUI. I can agree that such a court

needs to be reformed, but not for the same reasons as the president of AAM. The way that he has been asking for the replacement does not honor the lawyers because [the person] who is asking is also someone that is holding the chair of AAM [in a similar way]."

For the lawyer, what was expressed in the statement by the CMJ is very serious and Neto Valente felt insulted, "as I would feel too. But he needs to react on his own and not drag all lawyers [within the] professional class into this."

"I am wondering if, after all that has been said and is being said, whether he still has conditions to consider a new candidacy next month. But this is a nightmare for the profession that needs and wants to be respected," Correia concluded.

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# Families hope in vain to hire domestic helpers from abroad

STAFF REPORTER

**L**OCAL households are facing a predicament in hiring overseas domestic helpers due to a double whammy of border closures and the new labor regulation imposed in October, which bars foreigners on tourist visas from taking jobs in Macau without an entry certificate.

Since March 25, the SAR government has kept the border closed to foreigners, with exceptions only available for residents of China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Added to the complication is the new legislation, which came into effect on October 6, and stipulates that all foreign workers must possess an 'entry certificate' for employment purposes before entering Macau.

Lawmaker Agnes Lam deemed it impossible for local families to hire household workers from outside of the mainland and Macau.

"The two aforementioned restrictions have made it totally impossible now for households to hire any domestic helpers abroad. Those who are desperate for a helper at home are really up the creek," Lawmaker Agnes Lam told the Times.

In general, families in Macau have opted for helpers predominantly from Southeast Asia, Lam adds.

The figures from the Labour Affairs Bureau echo Lam's remarks. As of end-September this year, domestic helpers from the Philippines accounted for the lion's share of domestic workers, making up around 56% of the total number of employed household helpers (29,218). This was followed by 6,289 from Vietnam, 4,217 from Indonesia and 1,593 from Myanmar.

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



Despite the status quo, locals rarely turn to domestic helpers hailing from China, often considered as the last resort, as the cost of hiring a mainland domestic helper is significantly higher, ranging from MOP6,000-8,000 monthly compared to an average of MOP3,800 incurred in hiring one from Southeast Asia, Lam pointed out.

In 2013, the SAR Government rolled out a trial scheme to allow locals to hire domestic workers from Guangdong and Fujian provinces. The move, the government said, was to meet the needs of local families and bring in more diverse options. Years later, in November 2018, seven more mainland provinces, including Guangxi, Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi, Anhui, Sichuan and Guizhou were added to the list of the places of origin for sourcing domestic workers.

Seven years after its introduction, the number of mainland domestic helpers stood at

only 510 in September this year, up a scant 5.3% from 484 in the same period last year, according to the official figures.

By comparison, families with domestic helpers from China are more affluent, can afford the higher cost, and are relatively more partial to Chinese culture, Lam said.

According to political and social scientist Larry So, the length of time it takes to acquire a working visa for foreign domestic helpers renders the hiring process not feasible.

Foreign domestic helpers have played crucial roles both from societal and economic perspectives. They have not only helped reduce household pressures by taking care of children and chores, but also helped release parents back into Macau's job market, So explained.

"As local families are left with no choice, I know some parents who have even had to drop out of employment, just to tend to their kids at home,"

So said.

Seeing there is a pressing demand for foreign domestic helpers, Lam has called on the SAR Government to loosen entry restrictions, allowing domestic helpers of other nationalities to enter Macau on a weekly or monthly quota basis.

In the short term, So also suggested that the SAR Government reduce the red tape on issuing work visas for domestic helpers

and collaborate closely with local nurseries to roll out remedies, with a focus on alleviating the household strain associated with childcare.

The shortage of domestic helpers is also a problem expressed on social media platforms. The Times has found that several users have posted on Facebook groups and asked for means to hire domestic helpers in Macau.

## DEMOGRAPHICS CONTINUE TO PLUNGE AMID ECONOMIC DOWNTURN

The total population as at end-September 2020 decreased by 2,600 quarter-to-quarter to 682,800, on account of a drop in number of non-resident workers living in the Macau SAR, according to data from the Statistics and Census Service. In the third quarter, non-resident workers at end-period (181,697) went down by 4,730 while individuals granted right of abode (202) decreased by 17. New arrivals from mainland China with one-way permit (1,034) increased by 648 quarter-to-quarter. Meanwhile, the city recorded a total of 1,408 live births delivered in the third quarter, while mortality increased by 39 quarter-to-quarter to 570. A total of 519 cases of marriage registration were recorded in the third quarter, down by 106 quarter-to-quarter.

## GROUP ASKS FOR PUBLIC HOUSE SUPPLY TIMETABLE

The Youth United League has delivered a letter to the Chief Executive yesterday, asking the Macau SAR government to build public housing. The group wants the government to make a timetable regarding the supply of public housing. The group also demanded that the government increase the minimum wage to 36 patacas per hour, review the minimum wage every two years, and establish an unemployment subsidy program. Wu Shaohong, deputy director of the association, told the press that they hope the government will continue the cash handout scheme in 2021 and distribute the money in the first quarter of next year.

## RESIDENTIAL PRICE PROPERTY RECORDS SLIGHT INCREASE

The overall residential property price index for July - September 2020 increased by 0.4% over the previous period (June - August 2020) to 269.0. The indices for the Macau Peninsula (269.9) and Taipa & Coloane (265.4) both rose by 0.4%, according to the Statistics and Census Service. The index for existing residential units (289.4) went up by 0.1%, with the indices for those in the Macau Peninsula (283.1) and Taipa & Coloane (315.5) rising by 0.1% and 0.2% respectively. Analysed by quarter, the overall residential property price index in the third quarter of 2020 went up by 1.1% from the second quarter. The indices for existing residential units and pre-sale residential units showed respective growth of 1.2% and 1.0%.

AD

**Safety precautionary measures for Storm Surge**

Take preventive measures, for example, placing the objects in a place away from the water

Avoid areas affected by floods, such as basements or low lying areas

BOAO FORUM

# CE PLEDGES TO IMPROVE EXISTING INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM

JULIE ZHU

**T**HE Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, assured that the Macau SAR government would further strengthen "top-down design" regarding innovation, including continuous improvements to existing institutional mechanisms for innovation and mechanisms for commercialising research in science and technology.

In his speech, delivered at the opening of International Science, Technology and Innovation (ISTIF) for Boao Forum for Asia, Ho said that enterprises were actively encouraged to apply advanced technologies to transform and upgrade business practices, and explore a market-driven development model that integrated the efforts of industry and academia.

Meanwhile, former Chief Executive Edmund Ho complimented Macau's developments in science and technology. He mentioned that the central government and mainland China have, in recent years, supported Macau in science and technology development,



which has led to Macau's continuous exploration in new fields. As of today, Macau has four State Key Laboratories. Ho believes that innovation, science, and technology have already become attractive areas for investment within Macau.

This year's Boao Forum for

Asia marks the first ISTIF. The theme of is "Innovation Empowers Sustainable Development," aiming to create a platform for high-level dialogue in relation to science, technology and innovation for political, business and academic fields.

Vice premier of China Han Zheng, meanwhile, praised

Macau for its high internationalization level. His remarks were made via video link

Han said that organizing BFA in Macau, which is a core city of the Greater Bay Area, makes the forum influential for both Asia and the world's innovation, science and technology development.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the state council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs leader, Zhang Xiaoming, remarked that Covid-19 had demonstrated the urgency and necessity of Macau's plans to diversify its economy. In Zhang's opinion, Macau should be more proactive in its integration into the Greater Bay Area and the country's science and technology development, in addition to exploring possibilities in Hengqin.

Meanwhile, Zhou Xiaochuan, the Chief Representative of the Delegation of China, similarly remarked that Macau has already become one of the most dynamic micro-economies in the world, and is now encountering pivotal historic development opportunities. He hopes that the world will learn about Macau through this Boao Forum for Asia.

World and regional elites who spoke at yesterday's Boao Forum for Asia have largely endorsed Macau's development of science and technology.

During the ceremony, regional leading politicians, including Ho Iat Seng, Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, Edmund Ho, Deputy Director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council of China Zhang Xiaoming, and the Director of Liaison Office in Macau, Fu Ziying, delivered speeches.

## Gov't officially extends bank note issuing rights to BOC, BNU

ANTHONY LAM

**S**ECRETARY for Economy and Finance, Lei Wai Nong, disclosed that the bank notes in circulation have expanded 14-fold in the past quarter of a century, with a monetary value of 18.5 billion patacas.

With Macau's growing exposure on the global stage, the authenticity and reliability of the pataca has also become increasingly important, Lei said during the contract exchange ceremony to officialize the extension of bank note issuing rights of the two commercial banks.

Originally due to end in October this year, the rights of issuance have been extended for a decade for Banco Nacional Ultramarino (BNU) and the Bank of China, Macau Branch

(BOC), with the new contracts signed last month.

Lei expressed gratitude towards the two banks for their diligence in administering bank note issuance in Macau.

The official added that the two commercial banks have been working shoulder to shoulder with the government. On top of their designation as the bank note issuers, they have also worked relentlessly to abide by local policies and regulations in order to stabilize the supply of the local currency. The two banks have also regularly abolished old designs and security technologies to introduce new ones.

During traditional festivities and national celebrations, the two banks have also issued commemorative bank notes, the most memorable of these

being the Chinese horoscope sign commemorative bank notes, which stirred up significant interest in the general public when they were first issued.

The legal tender of Macau, the Macanese Pataca, has its bank notes printed by two commercial banks, instead of the city's central bank.

In fact, the city does not even have a namesake central bank. Rather, it has a de facto one, which is the Monetary Authority of Macao, a government entity making fiscal and financial policies as well as supervising activities related to these areas.

Incorporated in 1864 in Portugal, BNU first issued bank notes in Macau in 1906. Meanwhile, in preparation for Macau's change of sovereignty in 1999, BOC began its bank

note issuance in 1995. Since then, the dual-issuer tradition has remained.

Meanwhile, Carlos Cid Álvares, CEO of BNU, stressed that the bank has a network spanning four continents and seven lusophone countries, making it the bridge between China and the lusophone world. In the future, it will focus on integrating into the Greater Bay Area and the Belt and Road.

He ended his speech by describing BNU's extended rights to issue bank notes as "an honor of Portugal."

Meanwhile, Wang Jiang, President of the BOC, pointed out that the bank will continue to help safeguard Macau's financial stability, while providing full-coverage, quality, and smart and safe banking services to Macau.

## MACAU'S FIRST SATELLITE PLANNED FOR LAUNCH IN 2021

**T**HE State Key Laboratory of Lunar and Planetary Sciences of the Macau University of Science and Technology expects to launch Macau's first satellite before the end of 2021, according to a report by TDM.

The Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), together with the Macau SAR Government, the Liaison Office of the Central Government in Macau and the China National Space Administration (CNSA), launched the city's first satellite project in October 2019.

Previously, the research team planned to launch the satellite in 2020 or 2021.

On the sidelines

of yesterday's first conference of the International Science, Technology and Innovation Forum of Boao Forum for Asia, Zhang Keke, chief scientist of the project, said that the launch has been postponed due to the pandemic.

According to Zhang, the research team will still try to launch the satellite at the end of 2021.

Not only will this satellite be the first for Macau, according to MUST, it will also be the "world's first and only scientific exploration satellite so far to be placed in a near-equatorial orbit to monitor the geomagnetic field and space environment of the near-equator South Atlantic Anomaly." JZ

# Galaxy's adjusted EBITDA up 31% in Q3

STAFF REPORTER

**G**ALAXY Entertainment Group (GEG) Ltd registered a 31% increase, quarter to quarter, in the adjusted earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) in the third quarter of 2020 (Q3), largely attributed to the resort group's heightened undertakings on cost control.

The group posted a negative EBITDA of HKD943 million in Q3 2020, up from the EBITDA loss of HKD1,370 million in the preceding quarter, according to the latest financial report filed by GEG.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19, casino operators in Macau have grappled with the economic fallout of a plunge in visitor arrivals.

GEG is no exception, with its adjusted EBITDA tumbling from



the previous positive value of HKD4,112 million in Q3 2019 to a negative earning in the same period this year.

In a letter in response to the Group's financial data, Lui Che

Woo, chairman and founder of Galaxy Entertainment, associated the loss with "subdued revenue and ongoing staff costs."

The reinstatement of the Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) – which

allows all mainland residents to visit Macau since September 23 – has been a lifeline thrown to the city's tourism industry.

However, most mainland cities resumed IVS applications only in late September. Hence, "visitation was not materially impacted in Q3 which will hopefully continue to ramp up in Q4," said Lui.

In Q3 2020, a total of 750,204 visitor arrivals to Macau were registered. Among all, close to 91%, or 679,773, were mainland tourists, up from 46,360 in Q2 2020.

GEG said it has capitalized on the downtime to renovate and reconfigure the resorts, and roll out new offerings to remain competitive in the market.

The Group also mentioned in the filing that the timeframe for the ongoing third and fourth development phases of Cotai – with a focus centered on non-gaming, mainly targeting MICE, entertainment, and family facilities – may be impacted.

The opening of phase 3 of Galaxy Macau at Cotai, comprising a luxury hotel tower, an Andaz-branded hotel and a conference center, was originally slated for mid-2021.

## GOV'T PROPOSES BILL TO IMPROVE TEACHING STAFF BENEFITS

The government has drafted a bill to amend an existing law regulating public teaching staff and activities. It has been reviewed by the Executive Council and will be sent to the Legislative Assembly. The government is striving to get it promulgated in September 2022. The bill focuses on decreasing normal teaching hours, so that teaching staff can care for other, non-academic needs of students. It also proposes stipulating non-teaching missions and establishing a basic foundation for teaching evaluation. Another possible change is that public teaching staff, when getting leaves of absence, medical leave hours or compassionate hours, will be required to compensate their hours of absence for the benefits of students.

## OVER 10,000 STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS CONTEST

Over 10,000 secondary school students have participated in a contest assessing knowledge of foreign affairs. Organized by the Macau SAR government and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China, the contest aims to deepen Macau students' knowledge about the country's development, foreign affairs and international relations. In total, eight teams stood out among 35 participating schools. The winning team will visit major mainland cities and participate in the press conference of the foreign affairs office as a means of learning about the country's foreign affairs.

## EDUCATION

# Macau, HK students in Taiwan doubled

**A**LTHOUGH border restrictions and other counter-pandemic measures are still in place, Taiwan has seen 50% more students from Macau and Hong Kong combined studying there since July, reported Taiwan English media Taipei Times.

The news outlet cited Chen Ming-tong, Minister of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, for disclosing the figure at an Internal Administration Committee meeting of the Legislative Yuan, the lawmaking body of the jurisdiction.

For this year's figure so far, the Taiwan news outlet cited data from the Entrance Committee for Overseas Chinese Students, the jurisdiction's administration for university admission for ethnic Chinese residing abroad, which noted that 823 Macau students have applied to a higher educa-



tion institution in Taiwan.

Comparatively, the actual number of students admitted by a Taiwanese institution who chose to enroll was 644 for this year. When combined with the number of students from Hong Kong, this

represents a leap of 47% from last year's figures.

Macau and Taiwan have close ties with each other. In 2019, Taiwan was the third largest source of tourists in Macau. According to the official data from the go-

vernment's Statistics and Census Service, nearly 1.1 million Taiwanese residents visited Macau last year.

Meanwhile, nearly 160,000 Macau residents have traveled to Taiwan for tourism in 2019, meaning that about one in four local residents have participated in tourism activities in Taiwan.

As for students, in 2019, only 751 students from Macau declared on their arrival cards that they were going to Taiwan for educational purposes.

However, since the Covid-19 pandemic broke out earlier this year, ties between Macau and Taiwan have stopped. Despite accepting people from Taiwan, Macau is requiring them to undergo quarantine upon arrival.

Meanwhile, Taiwan is restricting Macau visitors to a minimum level, if not banned unitarily. AL

## MACAU TO HOST INTERNATIONAL TABLE TENNIS EVENT THIS MONTH

RENATO MARQUES

**M**ACAU will host of a series of World Table Tennis (WTT) events, which will take place from November 25 to 29.

According to a release from the International Table Tennis Federation

(ITTF), the event was finally accomplished after many months of planning, providing an opportunity for players, fans, and broadcasters to experience a teaser of what to expect when WTT launches its first annual calendar of events in 2021.

Although the names of the participants are yet to be revealed, the WTT organizers claim that the event will showcase "many of the sport's biggest stars" who will play in a regular format, as a promotional event for the upcoming 2021 season.

Liu Guoliang, WTT

Council Chair said of the tournament, "WTT Macau 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 sports on the planet."

According to the information available, the event will feature 16 of the world's best male players, as well as 16 of the world's best female players. The players will be "coming from all corners of the globe and gathering

in Macau to entertain sports fans the world over," organizers said.

Organizers revealed that an "innovative scoring method" will be presented in Macau for the first time. The matches will take place at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion.

# CHINA GEARS UP FOR WORLD'S LARGEST ONLINE SHOPPING FESTIVAL

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

CHINESE consumers are expected to spend tens of billions on everything from fresh food to luxury goods during this year's Singles' Day online shopping festival, as the country recovers from the pandemic.

The shopping festival, which is the world's largest and falls on Nov. 11 every year (today), is an annual extravaganza where China's e-commerce companies, including Alibaba, JD.com and Pinduoduo, offer generous discounts on their platforms. Last year, shoppers spent \$38.4 billion on Alibaba's e-commerce platforms Tmall and Taobao.

This year's festival will be closely watched as a barometer of consumption in China, which is just beginning to bounce back from the coronavirus pandemic after months of lockdown earlier in the year.

Analysts expect Chinese consumers to spend more on imported products and foreign luxury brands, since many Chinese tourists were unable to travel internationally due to the coronavirus pandemic and tightened travel restrictions.

A survey by consulting firm Oliver Wyman found that 86% of Chinese consumers are willing to spend the same as or more than during last year's Singles' Day festival.

"In the last six months or so, wealthy households have actually spent more money," said Sean Shen, customer and stra-



tegy competence leader for EY in Greater China. "We also see that purchases of luxury segment products are increasing because of the international travel restrictions."

Sales of electronic goods and health and wellness products are also expected to rise, as more people work from home and pay more attention to their health amid the pandemic, according to a report by consultancy Bain & Company.

To help merchants cope with the impact from the coronavirus, online platforms have extended the shopping festival period this year in hopes of boosting sales.

Both Alibaba and JD.com, the country's two biggest e-commerce companies, began offering discounts on Oct. 21, three weeks ahead of Nov. 11. Some brands and merchants that slashed their prices booked hundreds of millions of yuan (tens of millions of dollars) in sales just hours into

the shopping festival.

Tang Chenghui, an electrical engineer who lives in Beijing sees Singles' Day as an opportunity to stock up on snacks and imported products such as milk from Australia. Ahead of the festival, Tang pre-ordered 3 boxes of duck eggs, 10 packets of soybean milk powder, two boxes of yogurt, coffee and wine.

"I'm buying more snacks this year because I've just moved into a new apartment and have enough storage space to stockpile the snacks I like," said Tang. "Some of these products are really cheap during the Singles' Day discounts."

Unlike Black Friday and Cyber Monday in the U.S., Singles' Day in China is not just about deep bargains. Alibaba pioneered the concept of Singles' Day and holds an annual gala on Nov. 11 with celebrity performances to entertain shoppers.

E-commerce companies

don't break down Singles Day sales volume by brands so it is hard to know what share goes to foreign companies, though some companies might announce their own performances.

Sales via livestreaming and Alibaba's annual gala are part of a "shoppertainment" trend which blends shopping with entertainment in order to become more appealing and engaging to shoppers.

Mini games within online shopping platforms entice shoppers with deeper discounts while encouraging them to spend more time within the app.

"Because of COVID-19, brands and retailers have doubled down on e-commerce and livestreaming commerce to drive growth, and it will show strongly on (Singles' Day) this year," said Wang Xiaofeng, a senior analyst at Forrester.

But while millions of shoppers spend hours on mini games hoping to snag better bargains, some are irked by the complexities required to win such discounts.

"Black Friday discounts tend to be better, and they are more straightforward," said Liu Zhirou, a 27 year-old Beijing-based accountant. "Now, I still ask my friends to help me buy things from the U.S. during Black Friday."

"The rules around Singles' Day discounts now are getting more and more complicated," she said. "I usually just spend my money on Black Friday, and buy less on Singles' Day." AP

until Jan. 14 to give the police more time to investigate, and she was released on bail.

Media groups are concerned Hong Kong's new security law, which outlaws secession, subversion and foreign collusion to interfere in the city's internal matters, could be used against journalist reporting on issues thought to be related to national security.

Last week, Hong Kong chief executive Carrie Lam said that the government will not suppress press freedom, but that journalists have to abide by the law.

The U.S. and others have denounced the security law imposed by Beijing as an attack on Hong Kong's autonomy and freedoms. The U.S. State Department on Monday announced sanctions against additional Chinese officials over the crackdown. AP

## OPINION

### China Daily

Xinhua Editors

## CHINA BOOSTS MULTINATIONAL FIRMS GROWTH AS COVID-19 PLAGUES GLOBAL ECONOMY

As the world economy is grappling amid the COVID-19 pandemic, those deeply afflicted multinational firms are getting a boost in China, one of the world's largest consumer markets, which has helped instill hope into the recovery of global economy.

The latest earning results of many world-renowned brands like Estee Lauder, the Coca-Cola Co. and Daimler AG, have shown stronger-than-expected quarterly growth in the Chinese market, which has highlighted the globe's biggest developing country as a stable, if not growing, source of revenue for international companies facing economic upheavals caused by the pandemic.

"This was another extraordinary quarter for Chinese consumer consumption," Estee Lauder Chief Executive Fabrizio Freda said on the company's quarterly earnings call last week.

"We estimate that the total Chinese consumer consumption was about plus 20 percent, and we were plus 28 percent to plus 30 percent range," said the chief executive of the U.S. cosmetic giant.

According to the Center for Systems Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University, global COVID-19 cases have topped 50 million on Sunday. A long list of countries including France, Germany, Portugal, Kenya and Britain have ramped up measures to contain a second wave of the disease.

While necessary and effective for curbing infections, those restrictions on social gatherings and tourist activities have taken a heavy toll on global consumer market.

However, standing in contrast to the slumping global economy, China has basically brought the pandemic under control and got its economy back on track after months of resolute and effective struggle.

Coca-Cola said it still expects to see growth in the Chinese market this year, even as the closures of restaurants, bars in large part of the world were set to drag down its global sales volume.

In its third quarter earning reports, the company posted a 4 percent decline in global sales volume. Its sale in Asia also fell 4 percent, "primarily due to coronavirus-related restrictions in India and Japan," which however was partially offset by "solid growth" in China.

The struggling automotive sector also saw a revival of sales in the Chinese market.

With the recovery in premium-car sales in China, Daimler AG, a German multinational automotive corporation, reported 24 percent yearly sales growth and record unit sales for Mercedes-Benz in the September quarter, with an 8 percent decline globally.

On Friday, Japan's two biggest car manufacturers, Toyota Motor and Honda Motor also more than doubled their profit forecasts, saying the recovering demand in China is helping offset weaker performance worldwide.

"China is a very dynamic market," Freda said, "we continue to invest in the vibrant opportunity of our second home market."

HONG KONG

## Journalist charged as press freedom fears grow

A Hong Kong journalist appeared in court yesterday on charges of making false statements while obtaining information from a vehicle database, amid growing concerns that press freedom is at risk in the city.

Choy Yuk-ling, a freelance producer affiliated with public broadcaster Radio Television Hong Kong, was arrested earlier this month on charges of making false statements about why she was obtaining license plate information from a publicly accessible database.

She was previously invol-

ved in the production of an investigative documentary into the behavior of Hong Kong police during last year's anti-government protests, after the force was accused of not intervening during a violent clash between protesters and a mob of men in a subway station.

Ahead of her court appearance, Choy told reporters the case was a matter related to public interest and press freedom in Hong Kong.

"There has been a very strong social understanding ... that journalists are free to obtain public information for

the sake of public interest," she said. "I didn't see any reason that the government has to restrict the flow of information."

She said that many scholars, unions and lawyers have expressed concerns as to whether the police are using the law to suppress press freedom.

Members from an RTHK union, as well as supporters and pro-democracy activists, held up placards in support of Choy, some of which read "Journalism is not a crime" and "Without fear of favour."

Choy's case was adjourned

# Halted Brazil trials of Chinese-made vaccine cause surprise

MAURICIO SAVARESE  
& DAVID BILLER, SÃO PAULO

**B**RAZIL'S health regulator has halted clinical trials of the potential coronavirus vaccine CoronaVac, citing an "adverse, serious event."

The decision posted on Anvisa's website yesterday [Macau time] elicited immediate surprise from parties involved in producing the vaccine.

The potential vaccine is being developed by Chinese biopharmaceutical firm Sinovac and in Brazil would be mostly produced by Sao Paulo's state-run Butantan Institute. Sao Paulo state's government said in a statement it "regrets being informed by the press and not directly by Anvisa, as normally occurs in clinical trials of this nature."

Butantan said in a statement that it was surprised by Anvisa's decision and that it would hold a news conference yesterday.

Sinovac issued a short statement in China saying it was in



Sao Paulo Governor Joao Doria (left) and Butantan Institute Director Dimas Covas hold up a box of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine

touch with Brazilian authorities. "Sinovac will continue to communicate with Brazil on this matter. The clinical study in Brazil is strictly carried out in accordance with GCP requirements and we are confident in the safety of the vaccine," it said, referring to Good Clinical Practice, a set of international standards for ethics and data quality in clinical research.

It did not offer further details. The CoronaVac shot has already stirred controversy in Brazil, where President Jair Bolsonaro has cast doubt on its prospective effectiveness. He sparked confusion last month when he publicly rejected it, saying Brazilians would not be used as guinea pigs. The declaration followed news that his health minister, Eduardo

29, without saying what transpired.

"With the interruption of the study, no new volunteer can be vaccinated," its statement said.

Dimas Covas, who leads Butantan, said on TV Cultura yesterday that a volunteer had died, but that the person's death was not due to the shot.

"We found this Anvisa decision strange, because it is unrelated to the vaccine. There are more than 10,000 volunteers at this moment," he said.

Temporary halts of drug and vaccine testing are relatively common. In research involving thousands of participants, some are likely to fall ill. Pausing a study allows researchers to investigate whether an illness is a side effect or a coincidence. Last month, two drugmakers resumed testing of their prospective coronavirus vaccines in the U.S. after they were halted earlier.

CoronaVac is being tested in seven Brazilian states, plus the federal district where the capital Brasilia lies.

Following the imbroglio last month surrounding the CoronaVac shot, Anvisa authorized the import from China of 6 million doses. The potential vaccine cannot be administered to Brazilians as it isn't yet approved locally, the agency said at the time. AP

**"We found this Anvisa decision strange, because it is unrelated to the vaccine."**

DIMAS COVAS  
BUTANTAN INSTITUTE

Pazuello, had agreed to purchase CoronaVac doses produced locally by Butantan.

Bolsonaro has often expressed mistrust of China, particularly on the campaign trail in 2018, although he has softened his rhetoric somewhat in office. Also, Sao Paulo state's Gov. João Doria has become a political rival and an outspoken critic of the president's pandemic response.

Anvisa said in its statement that the event prompting the trial's suspension occurred Oct.

AD



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<b>3. Request for Tender Document:</b>	<p>i) Written request addressed to the details as follows. On company letterhead stating the company name and respective contact details. Deadline for request is <u>at 12:00 p.m. on 13 Nov 2020.</u></p> <p>ii) In person at the location identified as follows.</p> <p>CAM – Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. Macau International Airport Supply Service E&amp;M Building 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Office 41044 Taipa, Macau Attention: Head of Supply Service</p> <p>For any enquiry regarding the Tender Procedure, please reach our Airport Operations Department – Supply Service at (853) 88982358.</p>
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<b>CAM reserves the right to reject any Proposal in whole or in part without stating any reason.</b>	

JIM HEINTZ, MOSCOW

**R**USSIAN President Vladimir Putin won't congratulate President-elect Joe Biden until legal challenges to the U.S. election are resolved and the result is official, the Kremlin announced yesterday [Macau time].

Putin is one of a handful of world leaders who have not commented on Biden's victory, which was called by major news organizations on Saturday. But President Donald Trump's team has promised legal action in the coming days and refused to concede his loss, while alleging large-scale voter fraud, so far without proof.

When Trump won in 2016, Putin was prompt in offering congratulations — but Trump's challenger in that election, Hillary Clinton, also conceded the day after the vote.

Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters that this year is different.

"Obviously, you can see that certain legal procedures are coming there, which were announced by the incumbent president — therefore this situation is different, so we consider it correct to wait for the official announcement," he said.

The leaders of China, Brazil and Turkey also are holdouts in offering congratulations. And Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador also said he would wait to comment until the legal challenges were resolved.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin offered a similar explanation of why President Xi Jinping has stayed silent.

"We understand the presidential election result will be determined following U.S. laws and procedures," he said.

A senior Turkish official said Ankara also was waiting for the various legal challenges to be settled before congratulating "the winner."

"Turkey will congratulate the winner as soon as the results of the election will become official as part of the respect it has for the U.S. people and democracy," said Omer Celik, spokesman for President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's ruling party. "We are waiting for the final results ... because there are objections and other disputes."

# Kremlin: Putin won't congratulate Biden until challenges end



In this 2011 file photo, Vice President of the United States Joe Biden (left) shakes hands with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin in Moscow

Celik said Turkey knows both Trump and Biden and is prepared to work with "whichever wing" is the winner.

Peskov suggested that when the time comes, a congratulatory message from Putin would come with all the expected protocol.

"I remind you that Vladimir Putin said more than once that he will respect any choice of American people, and will be ready to work with any chosen president of the United States," he said.

For now, Putin's holding back allows a delay in addressing that fraught question of how to improve relations. Although Russian politicians widely lauded Trump's election in 2016, expecting him to make good on his promises of improving ties, his administration disappointed Moscow by enacting sanctions, expelling scores of Russian diplomats in the wake of the poisoning of double agent Sergei Skripal in the U.K., and authorizing lethal weapons sales to Ukraine.

But Russia is characteristically wary of Democratic U.S. administrations because they tend to be more forward about criticizing Russia on human rights and democracy issues.

Biden, in a 2011 trip to Russia as vice president, epitomized that approach in a speech at Moscow State University, the country's most prestigious higher education institution.

"Don't compromise on the basic elements of democracy. You need not make that Faustian bargain," he told students.

Biden also is tainted in Russia's eyes by having been the Obama administration's point-man in Ukraine after the uprising that drove the country's Kremlin-friendly president from power in 2014. Russia contended that those protests were fomented by the United States.

Russian officials frequently blamed the difficulties of Moscow-Washington relations during the Trump administration on alleged "Russophobia" carried over from the Obama years. Some politicians expect that could increase under Biden.

"With the victory of a Democrat, one can expect revenge from all nonconservative forces around the world. This means more Russophobia in Europe, more deaths in (eastern Ukraine) and in many other hot spots of the world, as well as more politically motivated sanc-

tions, if we talk about the direct and simplest consequences," said Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the foreign affairs committee in the upper house of parliament, whose views generally parallel the Kremlin's.

"The Biden administration may return to a much more assertive policy in the post-Soviet space, which is always extremely unnerving for Moscow," Fyodor Lukyanov, editor of the Russia In Global Affairs journal, told the state news agency Tass.

Both, however, noted that a Biden administration is likely to be more amenable to international cooperation, especially in arms control such as renewing the New START treaty between Russia and the U.S. that is to expire next year.

Kosachev also suggested that Biden's election would largely eliminate complaints about Russian election interference, thereby smoothing the way for armaments agreements.

"Not that we believe Washington will be sobering up, but at least a key irritant can go away. Is this not a reason for the resumption of negotiations, for example, on arms control? We are definitely ready," he said. AP

## this day in history

### 1992 CHURCH OF ENGLAND VOTES FOR WOMEN PRIESTS

Women fighting for the right to be Anglican priests are celebrating a narrow victory.

After a five-and-a-half hour debate the General Synod - the Church of England's parliament - passed the controversial legislation by a margin of only two votes.

There were jubilant scenes among supporters outside Church House in Westminster, London, when the decision was announced.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, who had backed the proposal said he recognised the result would not please everyone.

"What binds us together in God's love as a Church is vastly more important than a disagreement about women's ordination," Dr Carey said.

But the Reverend Peter Geldard, who opposed women priests, warned the decision would "pit diocese against diocese, parish against parish and parishioner against parishioner".

The Church of England currently allows women to serve as deacons which means they can perform baptisms, marriages, and burials.

However, they are not allowed to give communion or administer any of the other sacraments.

The issue of whether to ordain women as priests has divided the Church since it was first debated 17 years ago.

Traditionalist priests and bishops have threatened to resign over the issue.

More than 1,000 priests are expected to leave in the next few years and an opposition group, Cost of Conscience, is planning to form breakaway groups.

One high-profile opponent of women priests is government minister Ann Widdecombe who recently left the Church of England.

Ms Widdecombe, who accused the Church of "promoting political correctness above the very clear teachings of Scripture", said she was considering becoming a Roman Catholic.

About 1,400 women deacons are waiting to be ordained priests.

It is not expected any ordination of women will take place for at least a year as the change first needs to be approved by parliament.



Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The ordination of women in the Church of England began in March 1994.

By the year 2000 about 1,700 women were working as Anglican priests.

A report in the same year revealed many women priests suffered harassment and nearly half of male clergy refused to take communion from them.

In 1993 Ann Widdecombe became a Roman Catholic. A year later former Environment Secretary John Gummer also converted in protest at women priests.

The debate in the Church of England has now moved on to whether women should be allowed to become bishops.

So far only Anglican churches in the USA, Canada and New Zealand have women bishops.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**



**ARIES**

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

They don't have the time to deal with them, but you do. Your usefulness will be rewarded and remembered, so don't think that you're doing other people's work for no reason.



**TAURUS**

Apr. 20-May. 20

There could be quite a few new faces on the scene today, and you could surprise yourself by reacting a bit too critically to one of them. Try to be polite. Get your distance from this person if you worry you can't be nice.



**GEMINI**

May. 21-Jun. 21

Turn a deaf ear to the sweet-talkers around you today. They want something in return for all their flattery, and it's probably not something you feel at liberty to give.



**CANCER**

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Time is weighing a bit heavily on your mind, and all of your clock watching could prove distracting. Deadlines, expiration dates, and looming appointments don't have to steer you off track, though.



**LEO**

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

A conversation with an authority figure may not go as planned. You could be expecting it to be very official in tone, but it might turn out to be warm and comfortable.



**VIRGO**

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

This could be a bonding opportunity for the two of you as well. This person has a lot to learn, and they've picked you to be their teacher. You should find this flattering, not annoying.



**LIBRA**

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Unsolicited help comes with good intentions, so try to keep from rolling your eyes when you receive it. Be polite and keep an open mind. There could be one or two gems in there.



**SCORPIO**

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Deal with the people, places, and things that are in your present today, and get your head out of the future. You don't know what it will look like, so why waste your time thinking about it?



**SAGITTARIUS**

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your mood might surprise you today, but you should follow it wherever it takes you. It could lead you to some very interesting situations that hold a lot of promise for your future.



**CAPRICORN**

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Be on the lookout for people who are on the edge, emotionally speaking. You need to identify them and understand that whatever they say or do right now is controlled by irrational thinking, not kindness.



**AQUARIUS**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It's understandable that you get frustrated when the rules of the game seem to keep changing on you, but you need to put all your energy into not losing your cool.



**PISCES**

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

People like to be told what to aim for and how to succeed. And when you let them know what you expect, they're only too happy to give it to you. If you're an unhappy customer today, speak to the manager.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sanson**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	2	16	cloudy
Harbin	-3	10	clear
Tianjin	6	19	cloudy
Urumqi	1	11	clear
Xi'an	9	19	clear
Lhasa	0	14	clear
Chengdu	16	21	cloudy
Chongqing	14	24	clear
Kunming	7	20	clear
Nanjing	10	20	clear
Shanghai	13	20	clear
Wuhan	8	23	clear
Hangzhou	10	21	clear
Taipei	19	23	drizzle
Guangzhou	18	28	clear
Hong Kong	21	26	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-1	1	sleet
Frankfurt	8	10	drizzle
Paris	9	12	cloudy
London	7	12	cloudy
New York	17	21	drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Joins; 6- \_\_\_ Is Born; 11- Doo-wop syllable; 14- Relative by marriage; 15- Wonderland girl; 16- Actor Linden; 17- Thaw before takeoff; 18- Bowling alley button; 19- Colony member; 20- Arab sailing vessel; 22- Inuit dwelling; 24- Subdivision; 28- Soft plain-weave fabric; 30- Commendation; 31- New Zealand aboriginal; 32- Gate fastener; 33- Person who arrives before others; 37- British verb ending; 38- Greek epic poem; 39- Thor Heyerdahl craft; 40- Will; 43- Funny Anne; 45- Missouri feeder; 46- Rankle; 47- Secondary school; 50- Method of raising money; 51- Copy; 52- Expensive seating area; 53- Heavenly body; 54- Open, as a gate; 57- Reposes; 62- "The Matrix" hero; 63- Eagle's home; 64- Politico Kefauver; 65- Georgia, once; Abbr.; 66- Live's partner; 67- Holmes's creator;


DOWN: 1- Caesar of comedy; 2- Hydrocarbon suffix; 3- 2001 biopic; 4- Brit's raincoat; 5- Start for fish, meatballs, or massage; 6- Biblical brother; 7- Move sideways, killed; 8- \_\_\_ the season...; 9- Very skilled person; 10- Netlike; 11- Will, old-style; 12- Capital of Vietnam; 13- Choir members; 21- Weeding implement; 23- Smooth-talking; 24- Cleft; 25- Rub out or remove from memory; 26- Actress Phoebe; 27- Spasm; 28- 3 grains troy weight; 29- Grasp; 31- Lobster state; 33- Reflection on death; 34- Angry; 35- Less common; 36- Daybook; 38- Shi'ite leader; 41- Commotion; 42- Neuter; 43- Like some mail; 44- Cornerstone abbr.; 46- Cloudlike mass; 47- Neural transmitters; 48- Roman name of Demeter; 49- Shady spot; 50- Sophia of the screen; 52- Animal house; 55- Miss-named?; 56- Lingerie item; 58- That, in Tijuana; 59- Pen full of oink; 60- \_\_\_ Aviv; 61- Compass dir.;




**Yesterday's solution**

EDICT	THESE	HIE
LEMUR	HITON	EON
SUPRA	TELEPHANTS	
ESL	VETO	ARRAU
OPERA	GONCISE	
RUSTLE	MARCH	
ALIAS	MELEF	DAL
KEOS	SALVO	TROT
SEN	PEKOE	TREND
KERNELE	PAUSSES	
KERNEL	TONES	
ANION	GRIN	IDA
PACSIMILE	TINNIE	
UTE	SINUS	NIGER
ER	HOSTS	GASSY

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PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
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ANTITRUST

# CHINA CLAMPDOWN ON BIG TECH PUTS MORE BILLIONAIRES ON NOTICE

ZHEPING HUANG & COCO LIU

CHINA'S most powerful companies, jolting investors and dealing a blow to the country's richest entrepreneurs.

Beijing yesterday unveiled regulations to root out monopolistic practices in the internet industry, seeking to curtail the growing influence of corporations like Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd. The rules, which sent both stocks tumbling and sparked a wider selloff in Chinese equities, landed about a week after new restrictions on the finance sector that triggered the shock suspension of Ant Group Co.'s \$35 billion initial public offering.

While Xi's government has been steadily tightening its grip on the world's second-largest economy, it has until recently taken a relatively hands off approach toward businesses that dominate China's burgeoning internet, e-commerce and digital finance industries. Authorities are concerned the companies have become too powerful, according to Ma Chen, a Beijing-based partner at Han Kun Law Offices.

"This is a watershed moment," said Ma, who specializes in antitrust.

Alibaba, Ant and Tencent alone commanded a combined market capitalization of nearly \$2 trillion before last week, easily surpassing state-owned behemoths like Bank of China Ltd. as the country's most valuable companies. Tuesday's selloff sent Alibaba shares down 5.1% to the lowest since Sept. 29 in Hong Kong, while analysts have estimated that Ant's



\$280 billion valuation could be cut in half due to stricter regulations. Both companies were co-founded by billionaire Jack Ma, China's most celebrated businessman.

Tencent, the gaming to payments giant whose rise turned co-founder Pony Ma into China's richest man, sank 4.4% on Tuesday. It was the second-largest contributor to the 0.4% drop in the Hang Seng China Enterprises Index. Meituan, the food-delivery startup that has since expanded into hotel bookings and movie tickets, was the biggest drag, tumbling 10.5%. The company declined to comment while representatives from Alibaba and Tencent didn't immediately respond to queries.

China's antitrust watchdog is seeking feedback on a raft of regulations that establish a framework for curbing anti-competitive behavior such as colluding on sharing sensitive consumer data, alliances that squeeze out smaller rivals and subsidizing services at below cost to eliminate competitors. They may also require companies that operate a

so-called Variable Interest Entity - a vehicle through which virtually every major Chinese internet company attracts foreign investment and lists overseas - to apply for specific operating approval.

The latest proposal follows heightened scrutiny of technology companies worldwide, as regulators investigate the extent to which internet giants from Facebook Inc. to Alphabet Inc.'s Google can leverage their dominance. Consumers in China - home to some of the world's largest corporations from e-commerce giant Alibaba to WeChat-operator Tencent - have in recent years protested against the gradual erosion of their privacy via technology from facial recognition to big data analysis.

Beijing is increasingly seeking to diminish the influence that a handful of its tech corporations wield over vast swathes of the economy. It investigated Tencent's music arm's exclusive agreements with publishers last year and, most recently, modified regulations to rein in risk at fast-growing micro-lending entities such as Ant Group. The latter

step derailed Ant's planned IPO last week, before it was to complete what would have been the world's largest such offering on record.

"There seems to be a broader China government sentiment that internet platforms are becoming too powerful," said Hoi Tak Leung, a Hong Kong-based lawyer specializing in Chinese internet companies at Ashurst LLP. "This would be consistent with worldwide developments as well."

The new rules were proposed in accordance with and build on China's Anti-Monopoly Law, which in January included broad language governing internet companies for the first time. They restrict targeting specific customers through their online behavior, a common practice adopted by players both at home and abroad. Under the regulations unveiled by the State Administration of Market Regulation, violators may be forced to divest assets, intellectual property or technologies, open up their infrastructure and adjust their algorithms. The watchdog will seek public feedback on the regulations till Nov. 30.

Representatives from Alibaba, Tencent, TikTok-owner ByteDance Ltd. and 24 other tech giants attended a meeting with regulators from the antitrust and cyberspace authorities earlier this month to discuss issues ranging from unfair competition to counterfeiting. "Internet platforms are not outside the reach of antitrust laws, nor are they the breeding ground for unfair competition," the regulators said in a subsequent statement.

Further measures to tighten

oversight of the tech companies may be in the offing. Regulators plan to release new rules governing internet transactions by June 2021, according to a State Council statement released yesterday.

The government is now trying to update its laws for the internet era, to adapt to an industry where market dominance isn't always easily quantifiable. In the past, China used revenue or market share to determine whether a company held a monopoly. But those precepts may not apply to internet firms, which sometimes control valuable information that haven't yet been monetized.

JD.com, for instance, has accused bigger rival Alibaba of unfairly locking in exclusive agreements with merchants, which Alibaba has denied. Regulators have investigated the legality of Cheng Wei's Didi Chuxing acquiring Uber Technologies Inc.'s Chinese business. And Tencent's WeChat dominates many aspects of daily Chinese life from payments to gaming, though ByteDance, co-founded by Zhang Yiming, has in recent years begun to eat into its advertising business through video service Douyin and news platform Toutiao.

Alibaba and Tencent now dominate e-commerce and gaming, but are also key backers of leaders in adjacent businesses such as Wang Xing's Meituan and car-hailing leader Didi. They've together invested billions of dollars in hundreds of up-and-coming mobile and internet companies, gaining kingmaker status in the world's largest smartphone and internet arena by users. Companies like ByteDance and Tencent-rival NetEase Corp., controlled by William Ding, that have risen to prominence without backing from either of the pair are viewed as rare exceptions. In other areas, Robin Li's Baidu Inc. dominates online search.

BLOOMBERG

## CORPORATE BITS

### Sands Cares Ambassadors participate in charity bazaar



Around 140 Sands Cares Ambassadors volunteered at the 51st Caritas Macau Charity Bazaar at Nam Van Lake Nautical Centre Saturday and Sunday, where they ran a game booth to raise funds

for Caritas. It is Sands China's tenth straight year helping raise funds for Caritas at its annual charity event.

At the opening ceremony of the bazaar Saturday, Sam Chongnin, vice president of

corporate communications and community affairs for Venetian Macau Limited, presented a ceremonial cheque for MOP200,000 to Caritas Macau Secretary-General Paul Pun Chi Meng.

Since 2004, Sands China has contributed nearly MOP5 million to Caritas Macau through its support of events such as charity runs and bazaars. The funds help support Caritas Macau's operational expenses and its efforts to develop and implement social services in the community.

During the weekend charity bazaar, a total of around 140 Sands Cares Ambassadors helped run Sands China's game booth.

### MGM sponsors Phantom Pro Racing team to make its debut at Grand Prix



At the 67th edition of the Macau Grand Prix, MGM is venturing into GT and is sponsoring Phantom Pro Racing, the official partner of AMG

China and the Annual Team Champion of 2019 China GT to make its debut at the Guia Circuit.

At the same time, a lineup

of Grand Prix themed happenings will take place at MGM Macau and MGM Cotai Phantom Pro Racing's AMG GT3 and GT4 racing cars are now on display in both MGM properties, and the Spectacle of MGM Cotai has turned into a miniature Guia Circuit.

Extending the "exuberant spirit" to the dining tables of MGM properties, the company has also prepared "an exciting lineup of Grand Prix themed gastronomic offerings," MGM said in a press release.

From now till November 29, Pastry Bar at MGM Macau and Anytime at MGM Cotai both offer a series of Grand Prix and racing car inspired pastries, alongside some themed cocktails and set-menus exclusively offered at anytime.

MOTOSPORT

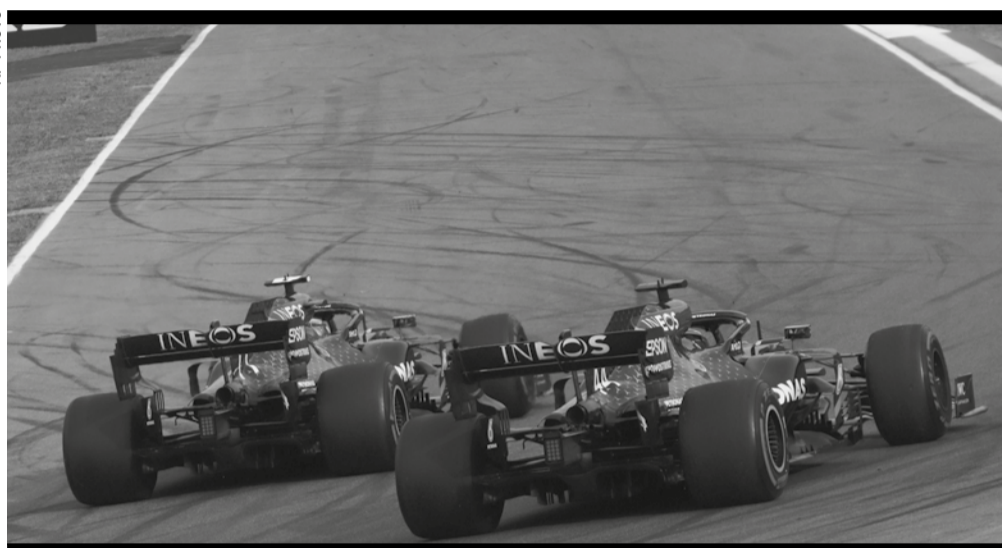
# Vietnam dropped from 2021 F1 calendar, Saudi Arabia added

**F**ORMULA One is planning a record 23 races in 2021, including one in Saudi Arabia, but has dropped its inaugural race in Vietnam from the schedule.

The April slot for the Vietnamese Grand Prix was listed as "TBC" on the calendar published yesterday with no explanation and no mention of Vietnam. The race was scheduled to debut this year but abandoned amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The other 22 races include the first-ever Saudi Grand Prix, set for Nov. 28 in the Red Sea city of Jiddah, and the return of numerous races which were canceled during the pandemic.

"We have proven that we can safely travel and operate our races and our promoters increasingly recognize the need to move forward and manage the virus. In fact, many hosts actually want to use our event as a platform to show the world they are



AP PHOTO

moving forward," F1 chairman Chase Carey said.

The calendar is largely a retread of the original 2020 schedule, meaning no return for the various one-off races at European tracks such as Mugello, Portimao and Imola, which were added as replacements and were generally popular with drivers and fans.

The venue for the Brazilian Grand Prix is listed as

Sao Paulo "subject to contract," indicating a planned move from Sao Paulo's established Interlagos track to a new circuit in Rio de Janeiro will not take place. Champion Lewis Hamilton has voiced concern that an area of forest will be cut down to build the Rio venue.

The Dutch Grand Prix returns for the first time since 1985, after being canceled this year, and is scheduled

for Sept. 5.

The season starts with the Australian Grand Prix on March 28. The race in Melbourne was canceled hours before Friday practice was to begin this year after a positive coronavirus test for a crew member. The finale remains in Abu Dhabi on Dec. 5.

The 23-race calendar is the longest in F1 history. The 2020 calendar originally had 22 races. **AP**



## AUTHORITIES RAID OFFICES OF BENFICA, SPORTING LISBON

**P**ORTUGUESE authorities raided the offices of soccer clubs Benfica, Sporting Lisbon and Santa Clara yesterday [Macau time] as part of an investigation into fraud, corruption and money laundering.

All three clubs confirmed the searches and said they were collaborating with authorities.

Some homes and two law firms also were raided by authorities.

Part of the investigation is related to the transfer of players.

Sporting said in a statement the investigation

is related to alleged irregularities from 2011-14. It congratulated authorities' efforts to promote transparency in Portuguese soccer.

Sporting leads the Portuguese league after seven matches. Benfica is third and Santa Clara eighth.

Meanwhile, the Portuguese press yesterday exposed another on-going investigation which refers to the 2015-16 top division season and alleged bribes committed by "emissaries" of that season's champions Benfica. **MDT/AP**

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Torre de Macau

**聖誕晚宴**  
澳門旅遊塔

**4/12/2020**  
6:30pm

**Christmas Dinner**  
Macau Tower

Idades | ages | 年齡 5 - 11  
MOP150 sócios | 會員 | members  
MOP310 não sócios | 非會員 | non-members

Idades | ages | 年齡 12 - 16  
MOP200 sócios | 會員 | members  
MOP440 não sócios | 非會員 | non-members

Adultos | 成人 | Adults  
MOP260 sócios | 會員 | members  
MOP440 não sócios | 非會員 | non-members

Seniores | 長者 | Seniors  
Grátis | 免費 | Free sócios | 會員 | members  
MOP440 não sócios | 非會員 | non-members

Limitado a 400 participantes\*  
限400人參加  
Limited to 400 participants

**Bilhetes à venda na Sede a partir do dia 10/11**  
請在11月10日後於葡人之家協會會址購買餐券  
Tickets available for sale at CPM Headquarters from 11/10

\* Considerando a limitação de participantes indicada pelos Serviços de Saúde, será dada prioridade, por ordem de inscrição, aos sócios, sócios jovens e amigos da cultura com as quotas em dia.  
為積極配合衛生局的防疫指引, 限制聚集人數名額, 因此繳清會費的會員和文化友人優先購買餐券。  
To ensure full compliance with the Health Bureau guidelines the number of participants will be limited. Therefore, priority will be given to CPM members, young members and friends of culture with membership fee up to date.

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OPINION

World Views

Max Nisen, Bloomberg



**PFIZER VACCINE DATA OFFERS REAL PANDEMIC OPTIMISM**

Last week I wrote that based on clinical trial math, the earliest looks at coronavirus vaccine data were less likely to succeed. I've never been happier to be wrong. Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE announced Monday that their vaccine candidate prevented over 90% of Covid-19 cases in an early look at results from their 44,000-person clinical trial.

It's fantastic news and a historic scientific accomplishment. Not only do we have the first effective vaccine, but the data also looks robust. Instead of evaluating the shot at the first possible moment, Pfizer waited for more data, which gives weight to the impressive results.

There are still unknowns about the vaccine, and with limited supplies available until next year and two shots needed to complete treatment, it won't end a rampant pandemic overnight. The news does, however, substantially boost the chances of a quicker and easier resolution. Investors are justified in taking Pfizer shares and the broader market higher.

Trials like Pfizer's compare the number of confirmed Covid cases among those who get the vaccine to those that take a placebo. The initial plan was to analyze the data after just 32 cases. But after discussions with the Food and Drug Administration, the companies decided to wait until there were 94. Their patience only modestly delayed results and makes it far easier to trust in the vaccine's considerable promise.

Data collection will continue; the FDA requires at least two months of safety follow-up from most participants before considering an emergency use authorization. That data should be available later this month. Absent surprising side effects, quick authorization is more than likely. After all, the agency's bar for efficacy is just 50%.

Some questions remain. We still don't know how well the vaccine works in subgroups such as the elderly. Nor does the initial press release discuss the extent to which the vaccine prevents severe disease, the ability to transmit the virus, or how long its protection lasts. It's also unclear what the result may mean for other vaccine candidates.

Thankfully, there's reason for optimism on both fronts. An immune response strong enough to derail disease in so many patients may well be highly effective in other ways. As for other vaccines, Monday's news bodes well for Moderna Therapeutics Inc.'s candidate, which uses the same cutting-edge mRNA technology as Pfizer's. (Moderna is due to reveal data relatively soon as well.) Many others in development aim at the same target — the coronavirus's signature "spike protein."

With efficacy established, the big problem is availability. Pfizer and BioNTech expect to produce 50 million doses worldwide by the end of the year, enough for 25 million to get the required two shots. Manufacturing will ramp up, but it will take multiple vaccine candidates to get enough of the global population vaccinated to end the threat of Covid-19. It remains crucial that other vaccine efforts succeed.

It's not time for anyone to let up their guard. Covid-19 cases continue to surge and hospitalizations are also rising, threatening to strain health systems. Once a vaccine is ready, distributing it will take another historic effort. But make no mistake: Pfizer's vaccine news marks a major step forward in the Covid-19 fight.

The United States faced its first review in five years at the U.N.'s main human rights body yesterday, with the detentions of migrant children and the killings of unarmed Black people during the Trump administration's tenure among issues high on minds.

Regular U.S. critics like Iran, Syria, Venezuela, Russia and China questioned and scrutinized the United States' record on rights as the Human Rights Council gave the U.S. its turn for a regular examination of every U.N. member state's record on human rights known as the Universal Periodic Review. Allies, too, offered criticism and pointers — if more diplomatically.

Nearly 120 countries lined up for slots to raise questions in the 3 1/2-hour session that follows up on an August report about the U.S. rights record over the past several years — and what steps U.S. authorities are taking to improve it.

U.S. Ambassador Andrew Bremberg said the strength of the U.S. democratic system is that "it allows for continued scrutiny, advocacy and debate, which fuels progress and reform," and said "we are willing to openly acknowledge our shortcomings."

**TRUDEAU LOOKS TO BIDEN FOR HELP IN DISPUTE WITH CHINA**

ROB GILLIES, TORONTO

CANADIAN Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said yesterday [Macau time] he spoke with President-elect Joe Biden about China's imprisonment of two Canadians in retaliation for the arrest of a top Huawei executive and he expects Biden to be a good partner in persuading Beijing to release them.

The prime minister's office said Trudeau was the first international leader to speak with Biden since U.S. news media determined he won the election. His office said they talked about a number of issues including the coronavirus pandemic, climate change and the detained Canadians.

Beijing arrested former diplomat Michael Kovrig and businessman Michael Spavor in December 2018 just days after Canada detained Meng Wanzhou, a Chinese Huawei executive and the daughter of the company's founder.

The U.S. is seeking Meng's extradition on fraud charges and her extradition case is before the Canadian courts. Her arrest severely damaged relations between China and Canada. China has also sentenced two other Canadians to death and suspended canola imports.

Trudeau earlier said Chi-



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

na's attempt at coercive diplomacy by imprisoning two Canadians in retaliation for the arrest of a top Huawei executive isn't working.

"Their approach of coercive diplomacy is ineffective," Trudeau said at a news conference. "I am extremely confident that the incoming administration will continue to be a good partner to Canada and other nations around the world as we look to impress upon China that the approach they are taking is simply not working."

Trudeau said Kovrig and Spavor have been arbitrarily detained for over 700 days.

Meng, the chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies, is living in a luxury Vancouver home while her extradition case continues in British Columbia court. The U.S. accuses Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company to deceive banks and do business with Iran in

violation of U.S. sanctions.

A senior Canadian government official said the majority of the Biden-Trudeau call was about the pandemic.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly about the call, said the U.S.-Canada border, which remains closed to nonessential travel, was also mentioned as a topic to be discussed once Biden is president.

Trudeau also raised the Keystone XL pipeline, a project meant to expand critical oil exports for Canada, which has the third-largest oil reserves in the world. That could be an early irritant as Biden has said he would cancel the Keystone XL pipeline. Biden didn't mention the pipeline in a statement from his office which highlighted what the two talked about. AP

**France** The Vatican's former ambassador to France went on trial yesterday for alleged sexual misconduct. Multiple men have accused Archbishop Luigi Ventura of groping and inappropriate touching. Exceptionally, the Vatican last year lifted the ambassador's diplomatic immunity, allowing for his trial and for the allegations to be properly investigated. Ventura has repeatedly denied wrongdoing.

**Britain** has condemned the expulsion of two U.K. diplomats from Belarus, saying authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko was trying to "hide the oppression of his own people." Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said the diplomats, who include Britain's defense attache, were "legitimately observing protests." He said their expulsion "is wholly unjustified."

**US** The Trump administration threw the presidential transition into tumult, with President Donald Trump blocking government officials from cooperating with President-elect Joe Biden's team and Attorney General William Barr authorizing the Justice Department to probe unsubstantiated allegations of voter fraud. Some Republicans, including Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, rallied behind Trump's efforts to fight the election results. Few in the GOP acknowledged Biden's victory.



**Peru** tumbled into political turmoil yesterday as anger mounted over a vote by Congress to oust the country's popular president over his handling of the pandemic and unproven allegations of corruption years ago. Thousands poured on to the streets of Peru's capital to protest President Martin Vizcarra's removal, vilifying lawmakers and demanding their resignations. Several politicians not in Congress denounced the ouster as a disguised coup. Some said any new incoming president should be considered illegitimate.

**SPAIN HOPES TO VACCINATE AT LEAST 10 MILLION**

SPAIN'S top health official says the government wants to inoculate against COVID-19 at least 10 million of the country's 47 million using a new vaccine developed by U.S. pharmaceutical Pfizer and its German partner, BioNTech.

Pfizer Inc. said earlier this week that its COVID-19 vaccine may be a remarkable 90% effective, based on early and incomplete test results that nevertheless brought

widespread optimism.

Health Minister Salvador Illa said yesterday that the vaccination would be free. He expects that enough people in Spain will be inoculated, together with purchases of other vaccines, by May 2021.

The country expects to receive the first doses from Pfizer in early 2021, the minister told public broadcaster TVE.

He also vowed to coun-

ter with scientific arguments people who are against vaccinating. The country's polling institute, CIS, says 43% of Spaniards are wary of receiving the vaccine.

"We are going to be very clear and convincing against people who tell lies and who play with anti-science," Illa said.

Spain has recorded more than 39,000 virus-related deaths and more than 1.38 million cases. AP