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AP PHOTO



**China's** chief economic envoy and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen held their first meeting by video yesterday, but the two sides gave no indication when negotiations on ending their tariff war might resume. Vice Premier Liu He and Yellen discussed the economic situation, bilateral cooperation and other "issues of mutual concern," the Commerce Ministry said. Yellen's department said she also discussed "frankly tackling issues of concern." They gave no details. [More on p7](#)

AP PHOTO



**Japan's** prime minister announced another \$800 million to the U.N.-backed program to deploy Covid-19 vaccines for poor countries, a four-fold increase of Japanese funding to the COVAX program. Yoshihide Suga spoke as Japan co-sponsored a fundraising event for COVAX with Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, which helps run the program. The program managers are seeking about \$2 billion more to reach a target of \$8.3 billion for its effort to fund free vaccines for low- and middle-income countries around the world.

AP PHOTO



**Malaysia's** government will issue a diplomatic protest over an intrusion by 16 Chinese military aircraft into its airspace, the foreign minister said. Foreign Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said that he will summon the Chinese ambassador to explain "this breach of the Malaysian airspace and sovereignty." The Chinese Embassy denied the planes violated Malaysia's airspace.

[More on backpage](#)

# BRAZIL PINS HOPE

**Sinovac vaccine is restoring a Brazilian city to near normal as deaths and hospitalizations saw significant drop of up to 95% and 86% respectively**

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AP PHOTO



**YOKOHAMA RFP GENTING, MELCO REMAIN IN INTEGRATED RESORT RACE**

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**IFTM TO OFFER NEW COURSE IN TOURISM SMART TECHNOLOGIES**

P2



## TURBOJET TO CLOSE TUEN MUN-MACAU FERRY ROUTE

FERRY services operated by TurboJET between Tuen Mun and Macau will be terminated, the company announced in a statement.

This comes as a result of the upcoming expiry of its leasing contract with the Hong Kong authorities, taking effect from June 8.

Since January 11, the Tuen Mun Ferry Terminal has been temporarily closed, while ferry routes to and from Hong Kong and Macau have not operated since the pandemic outbreak.

The firm added that upon the resumption of services, residents in the Tuen Mun district can opt for TurboJET's other major Macau-bound ferry routes from Hong Kong or take a

connecting bus to HZMB Hong Kong Port or cross boundary coach bus to Macau operated by China Travel Tours Transportation Services Hong Kong Ltd at the Tuen Mun Station Public Transport Interchange.

Ferry services in Macau have been almost totally ceased since the Covid-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions that were imposed.

Ferry services between Macau and Hong Kong have been suspended indefinitely as of midnight February 4, 2020, limiting the available modes of travel to the neighboring city.

The shuttle bus service operating between Macau and Hong Kong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge also

suspended its services on April 6 last year, leaving no options for passengers wanting to travel between the two SARs.

However, the bus resumed a limited service a month after being suspended.

Previously, the government said that companies operating ferry services between Macau and Hong Kong guaranteed employment opportunities for local workers, despite having laid off nearly half of their employees. Companies initially put part of their staff on unpaid leave, but they have already laid off almost half of their staff. These companies have dismissed workers from Macau, Hong Kong and mainland China. LV

## IFTM to offer new graduate program

THE Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) is preparing to offer a new graduate study program in hotel and tourism smart technologies, Dr. Fanny Vong, president of the institute, said at the institute's graduation ceremony yesterday.

Moreover, the IFTM will offer a new major under the Cultural and Heritage Management Program in the coming academic year of 2021/2022. The new major, meanwhile, has been certified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education of UK.

According to Vong, the new courses represent the institute's effort to reform and renew its programs.

At the graduation ceremony, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong, reiterated that the IFTM has dedicated itself in nurturing professional, multifaceted and practical talents for Macau for several years.

Two years ago, the IFTM launched the



Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA) Tourism Education Training Base. Both Ao Ieong and Vong revealed that the base has expanded its network to Zhuhai, Guangzhou, Foshan and Shunde.

Ao Ieong noted that this is a progressive move in realizing quality tourism training resources within a one-hour training circle.

Furthermore, Vong added that programs are offered at the outreach facilities. The GBA cultural and tourism training courses were also offered to officials in the field within the GBA.

Looking to the fu-

ture, the president pledged that the IFTM will continue to deliver quality tourism education resources to the GBA, in an effort to transform the GBA into a world-class tourism destination.

By pursuing this goal, Ao Ieong said there will be an increased demand for multidisciplinary skills as the Tourism+ and Internet+Tourism concepts are developed.

In the past year, the IFTM has formed close partnerships with institutions in Australia and some ASEAN countries, the IFTM president said, furthering international development. AL

## CTS TO TRANSFORM INTO INTEGRATED TOURISM OPERATOR

"BIG Tourism" and providing integrated services will be the direction of China Travel Service's (CTS) future development, Zhang Jianzhong, chairman of the company, said on the company's 60th anniversary.

There are three strategies the company has adopted in the pursuit of its new development aims, namely "Strengthening, Breakthrough and Improvement." The executive sees a firm foundation for tourism in Macau and be-

lieves that once commercial and tourism activities resume, the city will be among the first to recover.

The travel service company operates tourism, hotel, catering and passenger services, among other ventures in Macau. Zhang announced that amid the Covid-19 pandemic, the company aims to upgrade itself to become a provider of integrated tourism products.

Explaining its threefold strategy, the executive said that by "Strengthening

the company it will build a tourism industry chain to provide one-stop integrated services to tourists.

On the other hand, by achieving "Breakthrough," the company will transform its individual products, such as hotel and catering services, into repeatable, promotable and extendable operations through regional collaborations.

"Improvements" will be made concerning cultural tourism, smart operations, scientific supervision and talent nurturing. AL

## HOME-COMING REGISTRATION PLATFORM OPENS TO NON-STUDENTS

THE online platform originally opened for Macau students studying abroad to register their intention to return to Macau has now been made available to all Macau residents in mid to high risk localities who wish to return, the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) announced.

The expansion in coverage was only first hinted at on Monday by Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie

Ao Ieong, at the government's regular health press conference.

If these Macau residents intend to return to Macau between June and September, they must fill out the online form to register their details, the DSEDJ emphasized.

The details required by the regulator include the intention to return, contact and flight information.

The DSEDJ reminds Macau residents in mid

to high risk localities that they should rigorously evaluate the condition and the development of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as any changes to immigration regulations.

The education bureau also asks these residents to familiarize themselves with the Health Bureau's guidelines for those who live in mid to high risk areas, besides monitoring their own health condition regularly. They should seek medical assistance if they feel ill. AL

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Wynn Celebrates the successful conclusion of the fifth "Wynn Cup — Macau Primary School Student National Education Drawing Competition", and sincerely congratulates the following winners on achieving the highest accolades:



Inter School Champion  
Pui Va Middle School



Inter School Champion  
Premier School Affiliated to  
Hou Kong Middle School



Inter School First Class  
Fu Luen School



Senior Individual Champion  
Keang Peng School  
Yu Iek Ho



Junior Individual Champion  
Sacred Heart Canossian College  
(English Section)  
Chan Chi U

Organized by Wynn, the fifth Wynn Cup – Macau Primary School Student National Education Drawing Competition attracted active participation from 47 schools and over 10,000 Macau Primary school students. Under the theme of "Drawing the future in my heart – Promoting Chinese Traditional Culture". The competition aims to encourage local school children to paint China's rich and diverse traditional culture, highlight the charm of both traditions and modernity, as well as look at the Greater Bay Area and the world.



COVID-19

# MACAO WATER, USJ OFFER VACCINATION INCENTIVES

LYNZY VALLES

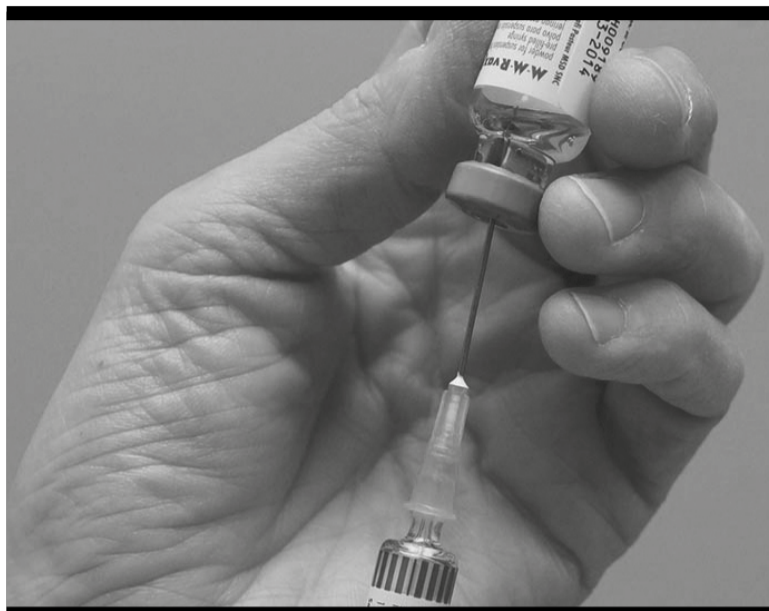
**M**ACAO Water and the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) have introduced an incentive program to encourage their employees to get vaccinated against Covid-19.

The water company stated that all their employees who are vaccinated between June 1 and August 31 may take one day's leave, either the same day or the next day, and may take a further day's leave upon receiving the second dose.

The water company said that it had already cooperated with the Health Bureau to arrange a special vaccination session for employees.

For USJ employees who have received the first dose of vaccine by June 30, they will be eligible for an additional two days annual leave. Those who have received both doses of the vaccine by August 31 will be eligible to enter a lucky draw to win a two-night staycation package in local resort.

To date, several companies, in-



cluding gaming operators, have announced vaccination incentives.

One of the first to announce was Wynn Macau, who revealed back in March that it will offer two days of special vacation leave to staff.

The most generous incentive announced so far was from Melco Resorts & Entertain-

ment who have set aside nearly MOP16 million for a highly remunerative cash incentive program to encourage staff to receive Covid-19 vaccinations. Additionally, Melco will select six fully vaccinated staff members by lots, each to receive a prize of MOP1 million upon the conglomerate achieving a certain vaccination rate.

# IC holds meeting to prepare for typhoon season

RENATO MARQUES

**A**NTICIPATING the peak of the typhoon season in Macau, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) held a meeting with officials in charge of several cultural and heritage venues to prepare for the arrival of adverse weather conditions, the IC revealed.

The meeting aimed to review the contingency plans for each facility under the management of the IC, focusing particularly on facilities in low-lying areas of the city, and thus more exposed to potential damages from floodwaters.

A special inspection was conducted on the Patane Library, one of the more exposed to adverse weather conditions.

Typhoon response procedures, including the evacuation of readers and workers, were performed, as well as a series of drills and tests of emergency measures at the site: including the applica-

tion of protective films on the glass walls and the transfer of books and other library equipment to higher locations.

These preparations follow the launch of the mechanism for the prevention and response to natural disasters in April this year: an initiative that includes inspections and drills at the premises of departments and facilities under IC supervision.

The mechanism also covers safety inspection, support, and contact work relating to historic buildings, before and after the occurrence of natural disasters, to provide support and assistance.

Following the conclusions arrived at in the meeting, the IC said that it will proceed with the pruning of certain trees located near temples and churches to prevent any potential damage from trees or large branches falling on these historic buildings.

## PJ REPORTS FOUR MORE SCAMS INVOLVING STOLEN CREDIT CARD DATA

The Judiciary Police (PJ) have revealed that they have received four new reports from residents who have been targeted in the scam involving stolen credit card data. The residents claim to have lost sums between 512 patacas and 21,700 patacas, totaling to approximately 28,000 patacas. The losses occurred through online purchases that the residents claim not to have made. In each case, the alleged victim discovered the loss after receiving SMS notifications informing them of the use of their card. Furthermore, each case related to Visa card services, despite the cards being issued by different banking institutions.

## LUSOPHONE AND MACAU PRODUCTS FAIR RUNS TILL END-JULY

The Lusophone and Macau Products Fair, which has been open for four weeks already at the Tap Seac Glass House, will run until July 25, opening on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The fair features more than 20 participating importers of Lusophone products and local product manufacturers. Products showcased at the fair include coffee, alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, snacks, canned food, seasoning, accessories, shoes, and more. In the first four weeks the fair has attracted more than 1,000 visitors.

## MP DELEGATION VISITS BEIJING'S JUDICIAL BODIES TO DISCUSS COOPERATION, SECURITY

RENATO MARQUES

**A** delegation from the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) led by the Prosecutor-general, Ip Son Sang, has recently toured Beijing, visiting several judicial bodies including the Supreme People's Procuratorate, MP revealed in a press statement.

According to the statement, the MP and the Beijing authorities have exchanged views regarding mutual cooperation on jurisdictional activities between the Mainland and Macau, as well as the maintenance of national security within the scope of jurisdictional work and the preservation of social stability.

While visiting the Supreme People's Procuratorate, Prosecutor General Zhang Jun noted that, during the Covid-19 pandemic, in a departure from normal practice, the Supreme People's Procuratorate published the details of 55 typical cases. The Procuratorate made these publications on 10 separate occasions, acting both independently and jointly with other public entities. It also directed inquiries to investigate and recommend deterrents in the fight against crime and

measures to alert the community, so that both the court and other public authorities might safeguard order and defend the rule of law while combating the pandemic.

Zhang also expressed hopes that judicial bodies on both sides can strengthen cooperation on criminal matters and in service provision to ensure the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and to reinforce cooperation between Guangdong province and Macau in Hengqin.

Zhang also noted that more work needs to be done to promote digitalization, as well as the exchange and training of workers in jurisdictional affairs.

On his side, Ip said that the MP remains "firm in defending the political-constitutional order in the Special Administrative Region, enshrined in the Constitution and the Basic Law, ensuring the implementation of the fundamental principle of 'Macau ruled by patriots' so that the SAR is better integrated into national development making use of the legal means to fulfill the legal powers, safeguarding Macau's prosperity and stability."

## CRIME

### NEW SHOP ASSISTANT BURGLES SHOP SAFE BOX TO REPAY DEBT

RENATO MARQUES

**A** 24-year-old male local resident, recently hired by a store in Cotai, was found to have taken HKD60,000 from the workplace safe box, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) revealed at the regular police force joint press conference.

The case was discovered on May 29, when the shop manager called the police to report the theft.

According to the investigation, the shop manager found that the cash kept in the shop's safe deposit box had been removed and decided to review the footage from the shop's surveillance cameras.

In the footage, it was possible to recognize a new staff member taking the money from the safe on three occasions on May 25, 27, and 28. The manager said that the

man had worked at the shop for less than two weeks.

According to the manager, the passcode of the safe box is commonly given to every staff member to keep the day's takings secure overnight.

The PSP sought the man at his home in Rua de Coimbra in Taipá, and took him in for questioning.

Questioned by the PSP, the man admitted to having taken the money, trying to justify the act, saying that he needed to repay a debt.

The man has already been referred to the Public Prosecutions Office, and is being charged with the crime of breach of trust, which in the Macau penal code carries a sentence of up to three years of imprisonment or a fine, depending on the severity of the case and the amount involved.

# Urban renewal methods in big cities may not suit Macau

ANTHONY LAM

URBAN planner and representative of the Urban Renewal Investigation Project, Lam Iek Chit, said that it may not be realistic to replicate external urban renewal methods in Macau, considering the small area of the city.

At a recent radio program, Lam was asked by a member of the audience whether urban renewal in Macau will refer to precedents in mainland China or Hong Kong.

In response, Lam gave a partially negative answer. He pointed out that in mainland China, urban renewal projects mainly take place in large cities. In these places, the land prices of different districts or communities can vary significantly.

Meanwhile, older districts are usually located in the city center, such as the Puxi District of Shanghai. In order to conduct urban renewal, the government or developers have the option to compensate property owners with larger properties in the outskirts, suburbs or de-



veloping districts of the city.

He stressed that this policy can only be implemented in large cities.

By contrast, Macau is a small city: its entire area is only the size of the Tsuen Wan District in Hong Kong or Wenshan District in Taipei. It means that the differences in the price of land between various districts is small, making it difficult to offer similar compensations in land.

When referring to the policy in Hong Kong, the urban planner pointed out that the common method of compensation

is in cash. He added that land utilization rate is usually the main concern in Hong Kong.

He stressed that compensations will be different in future if Macau focuses on quality of living in future urban renewal legislation.

Urban Planner and Representative of the Urban Renewal Company, Tam Hoi Ian, who was on the same radio show, reiterated that even if future redevelopments are allowed to have taller height limits, the number of residential apartments or units in each building

will remain unchanged.

The added floor area, she said, would be used for commercial activities or parking lots. This will provide a higher cost efficiency to residents.

She admitted that residents are looking for redevelopment options incurring as little cost as possible, including no cost at all. She said the company will try to look for the most cost-efficient alternative, before releasing the proposals to invite residents' feedback.

In addition, she said that some property owners in districts such as Horte e Costa, Praia Grande and São Lourenço have sought assistance from the company, mainly because their properties are too old, making it difficult to renovate.

However, these cases only represent around 70% of all home-ownerships. Many of these owners currently reside outside Macau.

In addition, she said that the company can help with overall planning, such as referring property owners to construction firms.

## HOUSING

# MACAU URBAN RENEWAL SIGNS LOIS FOR LOT P

YESTERDAY, the Macau Urban Renewal Limited (MUR) signed letters of intents (LOIs) with the building contractors for the construction of Home Swap Housing Units (parcel A) and Temporary Housing Units (parcel B) projects, the Company announced in a press statement.

Both projects are part of Lot P at Area Preta, also known as the former land plot of the Pearl Horizon project.

The construction work for parcel A was awarded to China Construction Engineering (Macau) Company Limited for 4.068 billion patacas, while the parcel B construction works have been awarded to the joint venture between Coneer Engineering Limited-China Road and Bridge Corporation-Top Design Consultants Company Limited for 878.6 million patacas.

In the statement, the MUR also noted that the tender submission process for the construction of temporary housing units on parcel C of Lot P is still ongoing, and is expected to conclude later this month.

The whole Lot P project is expected to be completed by the end of 2024 and will create over 3,000 jobs.

MUR said that it would coordinate the utility companies to undertake the excavation works at the same phase of construction to avoid repeated road digging works in the future. **RM**

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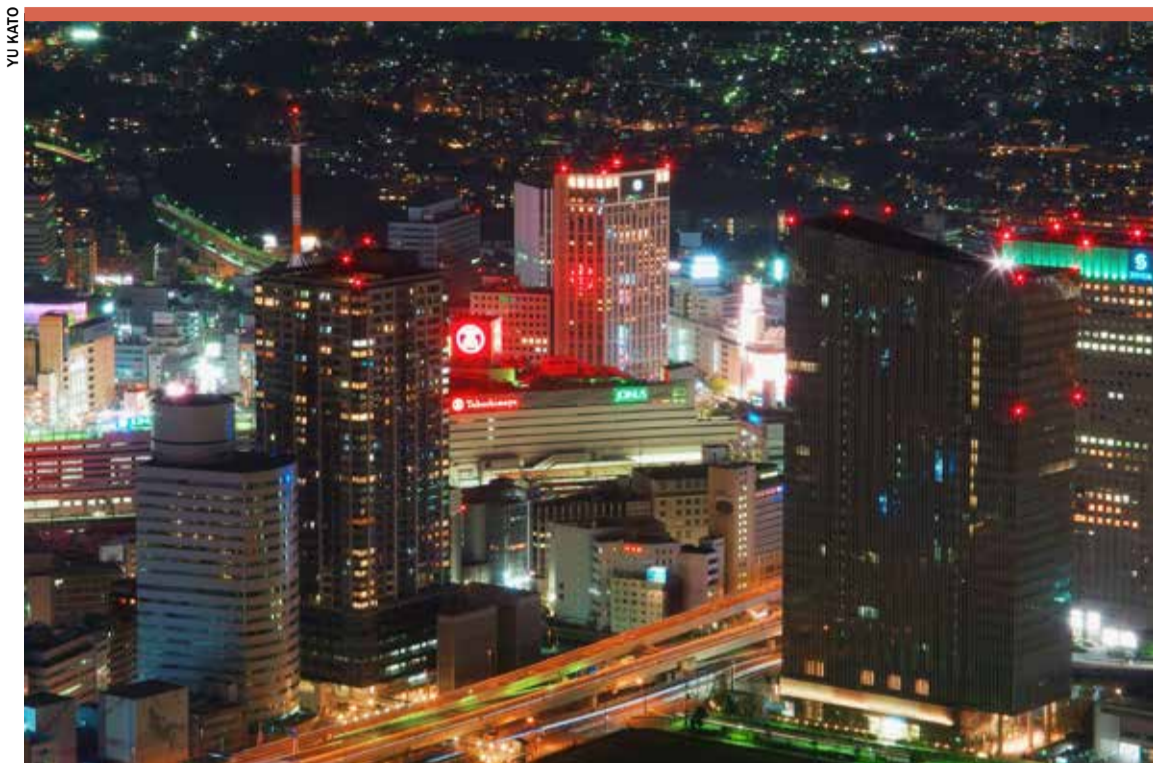
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GAMING

# GENTING, MELCO REMAIN IN YOKOHAMA IR RACE

LYNZY VALLES

**G**enting Singapore and Melco Resorts & Entertainment have qualified for the city's Request for Proposal (RFP) to develop an integrated resort (IR), the government of Yokohama, Japan's second-largest city, recently announced on their website.

The local gaming operator, Melco, is said to have partnered with the Japanese construction and civil engineering company Taisei Corporation for the IR bid; while Genting have allied with Japan's Sega Sammy Hol-

dings and Kajima Corporation.

The qualification of the two gaming operators did not come as a surprise to market observers, who saw it as a two-horse race between the two firms.

Initially, seven contenders made bids. However, in another disappointment for the Japanese city following the withdrawals of Las Vegas Sands and Wynn, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) withdrew from the bid two weeks ago.

In a statement, GEG chairman Francis Lui attributed the withdrawal to the Covid-19 pandemic, noting that they

have "decided to not participate at this time."

Now, Genting Singapore and Melco Resorts & Entertainment are bidding to receive the first IR license, following Yokohama's announcement of the IR bidding process in 2019.

The qualifiers have until June 11 to make the actual RFP submissions to the Yokohama authorities who will then decide the final winner this summer.

Meanwhile, a Japanese holding company, Sega Sammy, which was also a contender, said that it made sense to part-

ner with a foreign company, considering the need to attract Chinese gamblers to Japan.

"In order to attract Chinese customers, it would be better to form a partnership with a foreign company, and in deepening of the analysis of Japanese customers, there is benefit for our partner to work with us," according to the statement by Sega Sammy.

Currently casino operators remain bogged down in the RFP process. Across Japan, there are four cities that have proclaimed their intention to compete with their own IRs: Osaka, Yokohama, Wakayama and Nagasaki.

Yokohama will draft an area development plan with its selected operator to submit to the central government by April 2022.

The central government may approve IR plans for up to three locations in Japan and Yokohama will be competing against Osaka, Wakayama and Nagasaki.

Recently, the junket Suncity Group declined to compete for the development of an IR in Wakayama. The group also attributed the withdrawal to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to reports, the departures of Galaxy, Las Vegas Sands, and Wynn from the Yokohama race could hurt the city's chances of claiming a gaming license.

Japanese policymakers were eyeing companies that were experienced in operating high-end resorts in the Asia-Pacific region – implying that the withdrawal of the three gaming operators was a loss to the city, since the three run a total of 10 gaming properties in the SAR.

GAMING

# GGR MAY PLUNGE TO 'MID-50%' RANGE IN JUNE FOLLOWING MAY RALLY

LYNZY VALLES

**T**he city's gross gaming revenue (GGR) in June may plunge to "mid-50% range compared to June 2019," according to brokerage Sanford C. Bernstein Ltd.

Analysts at the firm expect a downturn in revenue "due to new Covid-19 cases emerging in China which may lead to softness in visitation," stated analysts Vitaly Umansky, Louis Li, and Kelsey Zhu, as cited in a GGRAsia report.

This would amount to a fall of MOP10.72 billion: 45% of GGR in June 2019, which stood at MOP23.81 billion.

Meanwhile, brokerage JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) Ltd. noted in a Tuesday memo that GGR in June is "historically" the "weakest month of the year".

"We expect further recovery over the summer holidays with July/August printing MOP11 billion to MOP12 billion GGR (roughly MOP350 million to MOP390 million per day), after a seasonal lull in June," stated JP Morgan analysts DS Kim, Derek Choi and Livy Lyu.

GGR in May has surpassed the expectations of analysts as tourist numbers from mainland China recorded a surge over the Golden Week holiday. GGR surged 492% in May to MOP10.4 billion – beating the median analyst estimate of a 467% increase year-on-year. The accumulated revenue in the first four months of this year reached MOP42.487 billion, an upturn of 28.7% year-on-year.

Recently, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) said that arrivals in city have been affected by Covid-19 outbreaks in the neighboring cities of Guangzhou, Foshan and Shenzhen, with the number of recent tourist arrivals already seeing a decline. The MGTO's director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes recently reported that visitor arrivals on Sunday and Monday were 16,000 and 20,000 respectively – lower than the average 25,000 to 30,000 arrivals in May.

# Melco to organize e-Sports event with Tencent

LYNZY VALLES

**M**elco Resorts & Entertainment has announced that it will be co-organizing the forthcoming "World University Cyber League 2021" e-sports event in the SAR with Tencent Sports.

For the first time, the competition will be held in Macau and the Hengqin New Area of Zhuhai under a "one game, two places" model.

In a statement, the gaming operator said that the Macau finals will be held at Studio City.

A contract signing ceremony took place on Monday at Hengqin International Business



Centre with the event's host Tencent Sports and co-organizers, Melco Resorts & Entertainment, L & L Sailing Up Sports and Zhuhai Da Heng Qin Group Co., Ltd.

In 2018, Melco partnered with digital entertain-

ment platform Garena to bring "2018 League of Legends Master Series (LMS) – Spring Final" to Macau for the first time.

According to Melco, the move was to support the government's efforts to promote economic di-

versification in Macau.

"With e-Sports rapidly developing to become an attractive contemporary entertainment option, Melco is delighted to bring this emerging new generation sport and entertainment experience

to Macau," said the gaming operator.

Last year, Melco collaborated with China Central Television (CCTV) to host the "GBA Sim Racing Grand Prix 2020 – The National Final" for the first time in Macau at the City of Dreams, drawing the attention of e-sports fans from across the country.

"We are pleased to now co-organize the World University Cyber League 2021 – Finals with Tencent Sports and look forward to bringing another wonderful international e-Sports event to the city to support Macau's economic diversification," said Clarence Chung, Board Director of Melco.



# China trade envoy, US Treasury secretary meet by video

**C**HINA'S chief economic envoy and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen held their first meeting by video yesterday, but the two sides gave no indication when negotiations on ending their tariff war might resume.

Vice Premier Liu He and Yellen discussed the economic situation, bilateral cooperation and other "issues of mutual concern," the Commerce Ministry said. Yellen's department said she also discussed "frankly tackling issues of concern." They gave no details.

President Joe Biden, who took office in January, has yet to say how he will handle the conflict launched by his predecessor, Donald Trump, who raised tariffs on imports from China over complaints about its industrial policy and trade surplus. Beijing retaliated by suspending purchases of U.S. soybeans and raising tariffs on other goods.

Liu talked by phone last week with Trade Representative Ka-



U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen

therine Tai, the head of the U.S. delegation to the tariff talks. Tai's office said she discussed her "ongoing review" of the trade relationship.

Negotiators haven't met in person since before the coronavirus pandemic began in early

2020. Lower-level officials hold monthly meetings by phone on the status of carrying out the "Phase 1" agreement from early 2019 aimed at ending the conflict.

The two sides agreed in the "Phase 1" deal to suspend fur-

ther tariff hikes on each other's goods and to roll some back. China promised to buy more American soybeans and other exports. Beijing fell behind on meeting that commitment after the pandemic disrupted global trade. **MDT/AP**

## SOUTH CHINA SEA US, JAPAN REAFFIRM ALLIANCE AMID TERRITORIAL CLAIMS

**T**HE new head of the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command held talks with top Japanese officials this week and reaffirmed their alliance amid China's increasingly assertive claims to contested areas in the region, officials said.

Adm. John Aquilino, who assumed the post in April, and Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi shared their concern about China's "continuous and intensified attempt to unilaterally change the status quo in the East and South China Seas," the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

"Under the current circumstances, the importance of the alliance is greater than ever," Motegi told Aquilino in his opening remarks.

The two sides also reaffirmed the importance of peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region and agreed to further strengthen their joint response capability and deterrence to achieve a "free and open Indo-Pacific."

Japan and the U.S. have been promoting the goal of a free and open Indo-Pacific, a defense and economic framework, in a group known as the Quad, which also includes Australia and India, that is seen as a move to counter China's increasing influence in the region.

China has criticized the group as an exclusionist bloc based on a Cold War-era mindset.

Japan is looking to bolster its military capabilities amid a deepening territorial row with China in regional seas. It is increasingly concerned about Chinese activity in and around Japanese-claimed waters surrounding the Japanese-controlled Senkaku islands, which China also claims and calls Diaoyu.

Japan's postwar constitution has limited the use of force to self defense, but the country has in recent years expanded its military role, capability and budget.

Aquilino also held similar talks with Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Defense Minister Nobuo Kishi and top Japanese military officials and discussed North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, the Foreign Ministry said. **MDT/AP**



Japanese PM Suga (right) welcomes Admiral John C. Aquilino

## ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

**A**Hong Kong museum commemorating China's deadly 1989 crackdown on pro-democracy protests closed yesterday three days after opening as the ruling Communist Party tries to stamp out the last traces of public discussion of the event.

Hong Kong was the last place on Chinese soil where the party's attack on protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square was commemorated with candlelight vigils and other events. But authorities have banned public ceremonies for the second year amid a campaign by Beijing to crush pro-democracy activism in the territory.

Organizers of the June 4 Museum said it closed after authorities investigated whether it had licenses to conduct public exhibitions. The Hong Kong Alliance of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China said it wanted to protect staff and visitors while the group sought legal advice.

Public memorials

## HONG KONG

# Tiananmen museum shuts down amid investigation



Officers from Food and Environmental Hygiene Department ask questions to a staff at the "June 4 Memorial Museum"

have long been banned on the mainland. Relatives of people who were killed in the crackdown often are detained or harassed by authorities ahead of the anniversary.

The group, which has

organized candlelight vigils in Hong Kong in past years that attracted thousands of people, said the museum received more than 550 visitors since it opened Sunday.

Beijing is tightening

control over Hong Kong, prompting complaints it is eroding the autonomy promised when the former British colony returned to China in 1997 and hurting its status as a financial center. Pro-

-democracy activists have been sentenced to prison under a national security law imposed following anti-government protests that began in 2019.

In past years, thousands of people gathered in Hong Kong's Victoria Park to light candles and sing in memory of people killed when the military attacked protesters in and around Tiananmen Square, killing hundreds and possibly thousands of people.

Hong Kong authorities have banned the vigil for the second consecutive year, citing social distancing restrictions and public health risks from the coronavirus pandemic.

Critics say authorities use the pandemic as an excuse to silence pro-democracy voices in Hong Kong.

Last year, thousands gathered in Victoria Park despite the ban and police warnings. Weeks later, more than 20 activists who took part in the vigil were arrested. This year, organizers have urged residents to mark June 4 by lighting a candle wherever they are. **MDT/AP**



An aerial view of Serrana, Sao Paulo state, Brazil

COVID-19

# Sinovac vaccine restores a Brazilian city to near normal

MAURICIO SAVARESE,  
SERRANA

**J**UST one COVID-19 patient is in critical condition at the Dr. Geraldo Cesar Reis clinic in Serrana, a city of almost 46,000 in Sao Paulo state's countryside. The 63-year-old woman rejected the vaccine that was offered to every adult resident of Serrana as part of a trial.

Doctors say the woman was awaiting one of Pfizer's shots, which remain scarce in Brazil. But she is an outlier here. Most adults rolled up their sleeves when offered the vaccine made by the Chinese pharmaceutical company Sinovac, and the experiment has transformed the community into an oasis of near normalcy in a country where many communities continue to suffer.

Doctors who treated COVID-19 in Serrana have seen their patient loads evaporate. They now help colleagues with other diseases and recently started eating lunch at home. Life has returned to the streets: Neighbors chat and families have weekend barbecues. Outsiders who previously had no reason to set foot in Serrana are arriving for haircuts and restaurant outings.

"We're now as full as we used to be," Rogério Silva, a staffer at a store for cheap refreshments and snacks, said in an interview. "Weeks ago, people wouldn't form a line in here, wouldn't eat in, and I wouldn't let them use the bathroom. Now it's back."

The success story emerged as other population centers keep struggling with the virus, enduring rising infections and new government-imposed restrictions. Meanwhile, the vaccine appeared headed for wider use. The World Health Organization yesterday [Macau time] granted emergency use authorization to the Sinovac shot for people 18 and over, the second such authorization it has granted to a Chinese company.

The experiment known as "Project S" lasted four months and tested Sinovac's shot in real-world conditions. The preliminary results made public Monday suggest the pandemic can be controlled if three-quarters of the population is fully vaccinated with Sinovac, said Ricardo Palacios, a director at Sao Paulo state's Butantan Institute and coordinator of the study, which was not peer-reviewed.

"The most important result was understanding that we can control the pandemic even without vaccinating the entire population," Palacios said.

The results offer hope to hundreds of millions of people, especially in developing nations. Egypt, Pakistan, Indonesia, Zimbabwe and others are likewise reliant on the Chinese shot, which is cheaper than vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna.

The city's population was split into four geographic areas regardless of age and gender, and most adults received two

shots by the end of April. Results released Monday showed that the pandemic was controlled after three of the areas had been vaccinated. It was not clear if vaccine uptake was the same in each area.

Serrana saw vast improvements: Deaths fell by 95%, hospitalizations by 86% and symptomatic cases by 80%.

The project "shows the protection exists and that the vaccine is effective. No doubt," Gonzalo Vecina, one of the founders of Brazil's health regulator and a medical school professor, told The Associated Press.

Likewise, Denise Garrett, vice president of the Sabin Vaccine Institute, which advocates for expanding global vaccine access, called the results "good and very encouraging."

Both Vecina and Garrett said unanswered questions remain and that more data is needed to properly analyze the results, including information about people who got shots but did not develop immunity.

The spread of the virus in Serrana slowed while neighboring communities like Ribeirao Preto, just 12 miles west, saw COVID-19 surge. The upswing was largely blamed on more contagious variants.

Hospitals in Ribeirao Preto are so full of COVID-19 patients that the mayor imposed strict shutdown measures last week, including halting public transportation and limiting hours for the city's 700,000 residents to buy groceries. Some

will wait months for their vaccines. Almost all shops are closed, and 95% of intensive-care unit beds are occupied by virus patients.

Elmano Silveira, 54, works at a local drugstore and for the first time wishes he lived in Serrana, which was looked down upon before the vaccination drive.

"My friends from there used to call me all the time. ... Now I'm the one calling them," Silveira said. "Before the pandemic, we had a big city vibe here. It was really busy. Now it's like a desert."

Just months ago, it was Serrana struggling to cope, according to Dr. João Antonio Madalosso Jr. For every patient who recovered in the first three months of 2021, two more arrived in bad shape, he said.

"Then, by the end of January, we heard this project was coming to Serrana. And calmness set in, little by little," said Madalosso, 32, as he pointed at empty seats of the hospital's COVID-19 ward. "Just look at this. This is much calmer than Ribeirao Preto and the entire region. The vaccine is no cure, but it is the solution to transform this into a light flu so people can carry on."

That doesn't mean Serrana is entirely rid of the virus. Some residents refused to get the shot. Others skipped the second dose or got infected before the vaccine took full effect. A few had prior diseases that prevented them from getting the vaccines.

Brazil's president, Jair Bolsonaro, has repeatedly cast doubt on the shot's efficacy. He said last year his administration wouldn't buy the Chinese vaccine and that he wouldn't let Brazilians become "guinea pigs." His health ministry signed a deal to buy tens of millions of doses only after Brazil's health regulator approved the shot in January.

Had the government acted sooner, Brazil could have had twice as many Sinovac vaccines by now — 100 million doses, Butantan's head, Dimas Covas, told a congressional inquiry last week. The shot accounts for half the vaccines made available to date in the country.

Vaccines arrived too late for some of the 463,000 people who have died from COVID-19 in Brazil, which has the world's second-highest death toll.

The relative return to normal "could be happening all over Brazil if it were not for the delay in vaccinations," said João Doria, Sao Paulo's governor and an adversary of Bolsonaro. "These results show there's only one way to control the pandemic: vaccines, vaccines, vaccines." **MDT/AP**

## this day in history

### 1972 PROTESTANT MARCH ENDS IN BATTLE



A Protestant march against the creation of "no-go" areas in Londonderry has ended in a bloody battle on the Craigavon Bridge.

Soldiers used rubber bullets and water cannon to control the crowd when the so-called "Tartan gangs" at the tail end of the march began to throw bottles and stones at the Army.

The bridge was the centre of the trouble as it joins the Protestant side of the town to the "no-go" Roman Catholic areas of Bogside and Creggan.

Despite pleas from march organisers for the violence to stop it did not end until the Ulster Defence Association stepped in. They formed a human barrier between the protesters and the Army.

The confrontation lasted an hour and resulted in one man being injured but no arrests.

A spokesman for the Army said: "Naturally it is regretted that we have to fire rubber bullets but there we are. The only alternative is the Bogside would be invaded by the Protestant marchers."

The biggest security operation since the start of the Troubles had been set up for the march with soldiers on every corner.

Despite the violence William Craig the leader of the Vanguard Movement, who organised the march, said the marches would go on.

"We are no longer protesting - we are demanding action" he said.

The 10,000 strong march set off from Irish Street at 1500GMT to call for an end to the 'no-go' areas on the east bank side of the River Foyle.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

1972 became the bloodiest year of The Troubles. Some 470 people were killed that year, the overwhelming majority of them civilians.

On 31 July 1972 the then Northern Ireland Secretary William Whitelaw ordered 20,000 soldiers to dismantle IRA barricades in the no-go areas of Derry and Belfast.

The "no-go" areas, known as Free Derry, were areas where both the IRA and Provisional IRA could openly patrol, train and open offices with widespread support and without involvement of security services.

Bogside, Creggan and Brandywell made up the area Free Derry, and it is still known by that name despite the barricades no longer being there.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## YOUR STARS



### ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Heartfelt Venus aligns with faith-instilling Jupiter, making it an ideal day for healing family bonds or going forward with big changes on the home front.



### TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You're craving growth and the universe is looking to provide. Your ruling planet, magnetic Venus, forms a supportive connection with big-picture Jupiter.



### GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

A multitude of uplifting cosmic connections converge today, Gemini. The illuminating sun forms a supportive connection with capable Saturn, creating a grounded sense of responsibility and discipline.



### CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

There's an abundance of supportive energy to take advantage of beneath today's skies, Cancer. On the one hand, the path-guiding sun forms a grounded connection with disciplined Saturn.



### LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Today's skies find the sun in a supportive connection with diplomatic Saturn. This helpful pairing grounds you down and brings a serious but stable tone to the day.



### VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It's been nothing less than a fight to make your vision come true, Virgo. You've been giving it everything you've got, and the universe is working to bring you some relief today.



### LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Embrace the optimistic excitement rising within you, Libra. Your ruling planet, bond-building Venus, enjoys a supportive connection with expansive Jupiter today.



### SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Lover Venus aligns with happy-go-lucky Jupiter. This sweet connection brings a wave of inspired energy to creative projects and reinvigorates your sex life.



### SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It's easy to feel good beneath Thursday's cosmic landscape, Sagittarius. Your ruling planet, growth-giving Jupiter, receives a visit from heartfelt Venus.



### CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Things are beginning to make more sense on the job front today, Capricorn. The illuminating sun locks into a supportive trine with your ruling planet, capable Saturn.



### AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Let things fall into place today, Aquarius. The universe is working to bestow you some cosmic gifts, as the illuminating sun supportively connects with your ruling planet, responsible Saturn.



### PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Today's skies work to make your world a little brighter, Pisces. Lover Venus departs from the heady realm of Gemini and moves forward into sweet Cancer, where she'll remain until June 27.

## The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



## SUDOKU

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

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

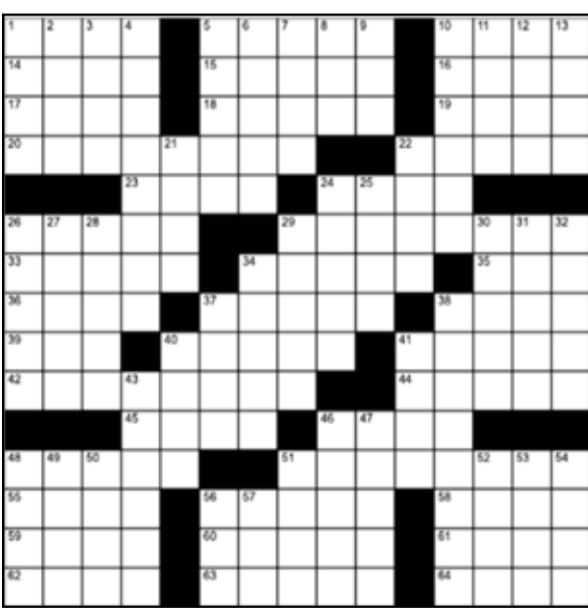
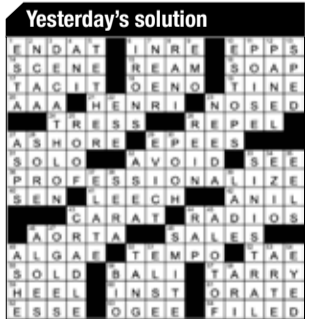
## WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	14	29	fine
Harbin	11	20	cloudy
Tianjin	22	26	rain
Urumqi	18	26	overcast
Xi'an	22	25	rain
Lhasa	15	23	cloudy
Chengdu	25	35	cloudy
Chongqing	25	33	rain
Kunming	24	27	rain
Nanjing	16	21	showers
Shanghai	28	37	cloudy
Wuhan	22	29	rain
Hangzhou	12	20	thunderstorms
Taipei	23	26	thunderstorms
Guangzhou	8	23	fine
Hong Kong	18	26	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	17	31	clear
Frankfurt	8	14	rain
Paris	8	15	rain
London	7	16	cloudy
New York	14	24	cloudy

## CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Let \_\_\_; 5- "As You Like It" forest; 10- Dramatis personae; 14- German economist and socialist; 15- Ostentatious; 16- Banned apple spray; 17- Winglike parts; 18- We're Off \_\_\_ the Wizard; 19- Actress Russo; 20- Headache; 22- Tenuous substances; 23- Pine fruit; 24- Mouth part; 26- Pine sap; 29- Hampered; 33- "\_\_\_ by any other name..."; 34- Relaxes; 35- Sister of Zsa Zsa; 36- Uh-uh; 37- Rescued; 38- Prophet; 39- Flurry; 40- Helicopter part; 41- Training group; 42- Great; 44- Emcees; 45- Env. notation; 46- Jalopy; 48- Common person of ancient Rome; 51- Series of military operations; 55- Belgrade native; 56- Muscat native; 58- Peter Fonda title role; 59- Travel on water; 60- Christmas song; 61- Falsehoods; 62- Of \_\_\_ I Sing; 63- Fields of comedy; 64- Long objects used to row a boat;

DOWN: 1- Shi'ite leader; 2- Anklebones; 3- Boast; 4- Swimming, e.g.; 5- John of "The Addams Family"; 6- Geneva's river; 7- Prescribed amount; 8- Lamb's mom; 9- Comic Louis; 10- Wide-mouthed bottle; 11- Pub offerings; 12- All there; 13- Very, in Versailles; 21- Top-notch; 22- Deities; 24- Stair part; 25- Like a line, briefly; 26- Charged; 27- Wear down, physically or emotionally; 28- Deep sleep; 29- Ruin; 30- Orchestra section; 31- Tennis champ Chris; 32- Challenges; 34- Kind of kitchen; 37- Like a pillow; 38- Brazil's largest city; 40- Confirmation, e.g.; 41- Fellow; 43- Mob; 46- Red River city; 47- "South Pacific" hero; 48- Attention-getting sound; 49- Wife of Jacob; 50- Iroquois foe; 51- Wagon; 52- Hip bones; 53- Will of "The Waltons"; 54- Scottish loch, home to a monster; 56- Fall mo.; 57- Long March leader;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Ref: 2003 1001 1,626 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 2 2

AD



TECHNOLOGY

# HUAWEI TO ROLL OUT ITS OWN OPERATING SYSTEM TO SMARTPHONES

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

**H**UAWEI is launching its own HarmonyOS mobile operating system on its handsets as it adapts to losing access to Google mobile services two years ago after the U.S. put the Chinese telecommunications company on a trade blacklist.

Huawei was expected to announce the launch of HarmonyOS yesterday for various devices including smartphones and tablets.

The company is still cut off from essential American technologies including Google's mobile services and some computer

chips needed to power its devices after the U.S. put it on an entity list, saying Huawei might aid China's espionage efforts — an accusation the company vehemently denies.

Huawei's inclusion on the entity list restricts American companies from doing business with the Chinese telecommunications equipment and smartphone maker. The blacklist has been a critical blow for Huawei, which has relied on essential technologies from the U.S.

Once the world's largest smartphone maker, Huawei fell out of the top five list globally last year, nudged aside by South Korea's

Samsung, according to data from market research firm Canalis.

Other Chinese smartphone makers such as Xiaomi, OPPO and Vivo have since overtaken Huawei in terms of global sales. Huawei currently ranks seventh globally and third in China, following a 50% drop in smartphone shipments in the first quarter of this year compared to last year.

Last November, Huawei also sold its budget Honor smartphone brand as it sought to cushion the impact of U.S. sanctions.

Huawei's HarmonyOS smartphone rollout is a workaround for its lack of access to Google

services, especially for smartphones that it sells abroad. While handsets that were sold prior to Huawei's blacklisting continue to run Google services, its newer devices will have no access to Google's mobile services or updates.

To solve this problem, Huawei launched its own Huawei Mobile Services (HMS) platform that lets developers launch apps for Huawei devices. In March, Huawei said that over 120,000 apps were now on its app store and using HMS, although it is still missing apps popular overseas such as Instagram, Twitter and Facebook.

Owners of Huawei phones who have no access to Google services won't be able to download apps such as Gmail or YouTube. Instead, HMS offers shortcuts to the mobile sites of such services.

Google is blocked in China, so Huawei users in China are unlikely to be affected by this. But the lack of access to Google services makes Huawei a less attractive choice for overseas users, who are used to watching videos on YouTube or using the Gmail email app, analysts say.

Attempts to popularize Huawei's new HarmonyOS may be an uphill task. Attempts to challenge dominant operating systems have usually fallen flat, such as Microsoft's Windows Phone operating system and Samsung's Tizen operating system. It is unpopular in the smartphone world but is used in smartwatches.

"It'll be interesting to see what the Harmony OS user interface looks like and whether there really are some features that give it a leg up with some users, but I'm not holding my breath," said Bryan Ma, vice president of client devices at market research firm IDC.

"It still comes back to all the discussion that's been happening over the past couple years which is, if there's no Google services, that's a big problem," he said.

However, Huawei's move to a mobile operating system that can run on smartphones could give it a new business model of distributing it to other smartphone vendors in China that might be keen to earn revenue by listing their apps on Huawei's mobile services.

"HarmonyOS might be quite appealing to vendors who don't have the resources to build their own OS," said Nicole Peng, vice president of mobility at market research firm Canalis. **MDT/AP**

## CORPORATE BITS

### GEG holds blessing ceremony for dragon boat team



Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) held a blessing ceremony for the four dragon boat teams consisting of its team members from various properties.

For the 16th consecutive

year, GEG will participate in the 2021 Macau International Dragon Boat Races.

GEG dragon boats are named Galaxy Pearl, Galaxy Glamour, Galaxy Phoenix and Galaxy Elegance. The

executives officiated the eye dotting rituals, shared the roasted pig with the dragon boat team members, and distributed red packets to the teams as a gesture of support and best wishes for a good race.

Tyson Hoi, the coach and captain of the GEG Dragon Boat Team, said, "The company values the team and provides us with encouragement and all kinds of support. As the race approaches, our teams have intensified its training and will continue do our best to achieve good results and demonstrate the GEG Dragon Boat Team's team spirit."

### Wynn awards winners of national education drawing competition



Co-organized by Wynn Resorts (Macau) and the National Conditions Education (Macau) Association, the fifth "Wynn Cup - Macau Primary School Student National Education Drawing Competition" award ceremony was recently held at Wynn Palace. The competition attracted participation from 47 schools and approximately 10,000 primary school students.

tion" award ceremony was recently held at Wynn Palace. The competition attracted participation from 47 schools and approximately 10,000 primary school students.

The competition sets a theme that resonates with mainland China and Macau each year, and has involved the participation of 50,000 local students since its launch.

Nearly 1,500 students were recognized in the competition this year. Overall, there were two champions, 18 first prizes, 40 second prizes, 50 best prizes, 120 third prizes and 1,100 merit awards in the individual category.

At the ceremony, Wynn once again co-organized a fashion show with the theme of 'Drawing the future in my heart - Promoting Chinese Traditional Culture' with the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center.

EURO 2020

# Slovakia again pins its hopes on Marek Hamšík



Slovakia's Marek Hamšík

ERIC WILLEMSSEN

**A**FTER reaching the last 16 at the European Championship five years ago, Slovakia's hopes for success at this year's tournament will be pinned on the same player as last time.

Five different coaches have been in charge and a handful of regulars have retired since Euro 2016, but captain Marek Hamšík remains the team's figurehead.

Now without the likes of Martin Škrtel, Stanislav Šesták, Adam Nemec and Ján Ľurica, Milan Škriniar leads the defense while the team relies on Hamšík's creativity and vision for its attacking game.

No one has played more games (126) or scored more goals (26) for Slovakia than Hamšík, who made his international debut in 2007.

The big question for Slovakia coach Štefan Tarkovi, however, is whether Hamšík can still produce on the biggest stages.

The attacking midfielder, who turns 34 in July, disappeared from the spotlight after ending his 11-year stint at Napoli in early 2019 to join Chinese club Dalian.

Travel issues amid the coronavirus pandemic and his aim to get playing time ahead of Euro 2020 prompted him to return to European soccer this year.

He joined IFK Gothenburg in March on a half-year contract. Gothenburg hoped Hamšík would bring the club closer to its first domestic title since 2007, but a calf injury forced him to sit out the start of the Swedish league season in April.

Slovakia will face Poland and Sweden in St. Petersburg and Spain in Sevilla in Group E.

Euro 2020 marks Slovakia's third appearance at a major tournament since becoming an independent country in 1993. It advanced from its group on both previous occasions, and Hamšík was an essential part of the team's success each time.

At the 2010 World Cup,

Hamšík and forward Róbert Vittek helped Slovakia to a crucial 3-2 win over Italy, which sent the defending champions home after the group phase. Slovakia ended up losing to eventual finalist Netherlands in the last 16.

At Euro 2016, Slovakia upset Russia 2-1, with Hamšík scoring the second goal, before holding England to a 0-0 draw. Slovakia advanced as one of the best third-place teams but lost to Germany in the first knockout round.

Slovakia has been struggling since. The team failed to qualify for the 2018 World Cup, finished last in its Nations League group last year, and only made it to Euro 2020 by beating Ireland on penalties and Northern Ireland in extra time in the qualifying playoffs.

Without Hamšík, Slovakia got off to a poor start in its 2022 World Cup qualifying campaign in March when it failed to beat Cyprus and Malta. The team recovered a bit with a 2-1 win over Russia.

In search for more consistency at the European Championship, Tarkovi, who was an assistant to Ján Kozák at Euro 2016 and replaced Pavel Hapal in October, will turn to Hamšík — again. **MDT/AP**

AD



WE THINK DIFFERENTLY ...

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OPINION

China Daily

Yukio Hatoyama, China Daily



US MUST END HOSTILITY WITH CHINA FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD

Over the past years, China-US relations have drawn the widest attention. After assuming office, US President Joe Biden used the word “competition” to describe the United States’ relationship with China instead of “confrontation” used by his predecessor Donald Trump, but the tensions between China and the US are still rising. The US government interprets the “confrontation” as the opposition of values.

However, the origin of such a confrontation lies in the “Thucydides trap”, the suspicion and disputes arising from the gradually narrowed gap in national strength between an emerging power and the existing power.

China’s nominal GDP today is about 70 percent that of the US. Thus, the China-US confrontation lies not in the difference in values, but the narrowed gap in national strength.

Compared with the Trump administration, the Biden administration attaches more importance to seeking allies and partners to contend with China. However, those allies and partners of the US also have important economic or geopolitical ties with China.

No country would like to take the risk of going against China despite being friendly with the US.

For enterprises, the supply chains used for the distribution of components and raw materials have a close connection with the huge consumer market of China. Even if the government advocates readjustment, the enterprises may not heed the call.

Japan has a close relationship with the US. Thus, it is difficult for Japan to simultaneously handle its relations with China and the US.

All in all, the future of China-US relations depends on the two countries’ respective strengths in science and technology. Both are well aware of this and have invested heavily to sharpen their competitiveness in the science and technology sector. And the investment competition between China and the US is expected to continue for quite a long time.

I have always held a negative attitude toward the intensification of China-US confrontation, because it has not only slowed the global economic recovery amid the darkness of the COVID-19 pandemic but also destroyed the regional security environment.

The US must [cease] hostilities with China. If the US can work with China, or compete with China in a benign way, it will tremendously benefit the world economy and strategic stability. China has made a great achievement in improving its soft power of culture. For example, through the Belt and Road Initiative put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

If this initiative can facilitate the economic development of countries along the Belt and Road with win-win results and accelerate poverty alleviation in developing countries in a steady manner, discussions on issues such as the “China threat” theory will disappear. Although the Japanese government and enterprises have not declared their stands on the Belt and Road Initiative, I hope Japan actively participates in it and contributes to its comprehensive success together with China.

As advocated by President Xi, the world is a community with a shared future for mankind, which has been proved by the global spread of COVID-19, and global environmental issues. All human beings are living in the same community with a shared future.

Thus, we should carry forward the spirit of “benevolence” and “forgiveness” advocated by Confucius, and the spirit of “friendship”. All humankind should cooperate and strive to realize the Belt and Road Initiative in the “spirit of friendship”.

\* The author is a former Japanese prime minister. This is an excerpt from the speech Yukio Hatoyama delivered via video link at the Belt and Road Forum for International Financial Cooperation sponsored by the World Finance Forum and held in Xi’an, Shaanxi province, on May 12.

AstraZeneca’s partner in Thailand yesterday began its first deliveries of COVID-19 vaccines after concerns they were behind on their production schedules for the country and parts of Southeast Asia.

Siam Bioscience said the first locally produced AstraZeneca doses were delivered to Thailand’s Ministry of Health ahead of the June 7 start of the country’s official mass vaccination program. It did not say how many were delivered.

AstraZeneca signed with Siam Bioscience last year to be its vaccine production and distribution center in Southeast Asia. It said that the vaccines would be ready for export to other Southeast Asian

countries in July.

As part of the plan, AstraZeneca has to deliver 6 million doses to Thailand in June, and 10 million doses monthly from July to November, with a final 5 million doses in December.

China’s Sinovac has also been supplying Thailand with vaccines, with nearly 6 million in the pipeline. A total of five vaccines have been approved by the Thai government, but so far only two are available for use.

So far, less than 4% of the country’s roughly 69 million people have received at least one vaccine dose.

AP PHOTO



CHINA TRIES TO KEEP ELEPHANT HERD OUT OF CITY OF 7 MILLION

A herd of 15 wild elephants that walked 500 kilometers from a nature reserve in China’s mountain southwest were approaching the major city of Kunming yesterday as authorities rushed to try to keep them out of populated areas.

Chinese wildlife authorities say they don’t know why the herd left a nature reserve last year near the city of Pu’er, a region known for tea cultivation. The group was 16 animals, but the government says two returned home and a baby was born during the walk.

Authorities have blocked

traffic on roads while the elephants crossed and were setting up barriers and using food as bait to try to keep them away from Kunming and other populated areas.

Yesterday, the herd was in Yuxi, about 20 kilometers from Kunming, a city of 7 million people, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It said images taken by drones used to track the herd show six female and three male adults, three juveniles and three calves.

Chen Mingyong, an Asian elephant expert cited by Xinhua, said the incident was the longest-

distance migration of wild elephants recorded in China. Chen said it was possible their leader “lacks experience and led the whole group astray.”

A task force of 360 people with 76 cars and nine drones was tracking the elephants, Xinhua said.

Last week, the elephants wandered the streets of the town of Eshan for six hours after residents were warned to stay indoors, according to Xinhua.

Damage done by the elephants to farmland is estimated at 6.8 million yuan (\$1.1 million), according to Xinhua. MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Philippines A tropical storm has left at least three people dead and displaced hundreds of villagers in the southern and central Philippines, where it triggered floods and landslides, officials said yesterday. Forecasters said the storm Choi-wan was southwest of central Masbate province with sustained winds of 65 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 90 kph. It was moving northwestward and may weaken as it blows toward the South China Sea tomorrow.

AP PHOTO



Afghanistan Three bombs rattled the Afghan capital Kabul killing at least 10 people and plunging the city into darkness, an Afghan government spokesman said. Two bombs exploded in quick succession in separate locations of a west Kabul neighborhood, killing at least 10 people and wounding a dozen others, said deputy Interior Ministry spokesman Said Hamid Rushan.

Australia’s largest electricity generator AGL Energy took Greenpeace to court yesterday alleging breaches of copyright and trademark laws in the environmental group’s campaign describing AGL as the nation’s “biggest climate polluter.” Greenpeace Australia Pacific has accused AGL, which predominantly generates coal-fired electricity, of “greenwashing” by promoting itself as a leading investor in renewable energy.

AP PHOTO



Israel Isaac Herzog, a veteran politician and the scion of a prominent Israeli family, was elected president yesterday, a largely ceremonial role that is meant to serve as the nation’s moral compass and promote unity. The anonymous vote was held among the 120 members of the Knesset, or parliament.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Moises Castillo



Heated prayers. A woman carries a cross during a pilgrimage to pray that the Pacaya volcano decreases its activity in San Vicente Pacaya, Guatemala. The volcano, just south of the capital, has been active since early February.