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FOUR RESIDENTS ARE SUSPECTED TO HAVE HAD CLOSE CONTACT WITH A WOMAN FOUND TO BE INFECTED WITH COVID-19 IN ZHONGSHAN

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SANDS CHINA ANTICIPATES UP TO 90% HOTEL OCCUPANCY

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THE SPOKESPERSON FOR THE HONG KONG AND MACAO AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE STATE SAID THAT ANY BULLYING SANCTION TAKEN WILL MEET HARSH COUNTERMEASURES

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China

A fire at a warehouse killed 15 people and injured 25, the city government announced yesterday. The fire broke out Saturday afternoon at the warehouse in an industrial park in Changchun in Jilin province. The cause was under investigation.



Philippines

Thousands of residents fled flooded communities and swollen rivers in the Philippine capital and outlying provinces after days of torrential monsoon rains, which left at least one villager dead, officials said. Officials said they struggled to open more emergency shelters in order to allow social distancing among the displaced residents and prevent evacuation camps from turning into epicenters of COVID-19 infections.

Thailand

As medical system struggles beneath a surge of coronavirus cases, ordinary people are helping to plug the gaps, risking their own health to bring care and supplies to often terrified, exhausted patients who've fallen through the cracks. A volunteer group, named Samai Will Survive, has been working around the clock, responding to about a hundred SOS calls daily from desperate COVID-19 patients unable to get the help they need.



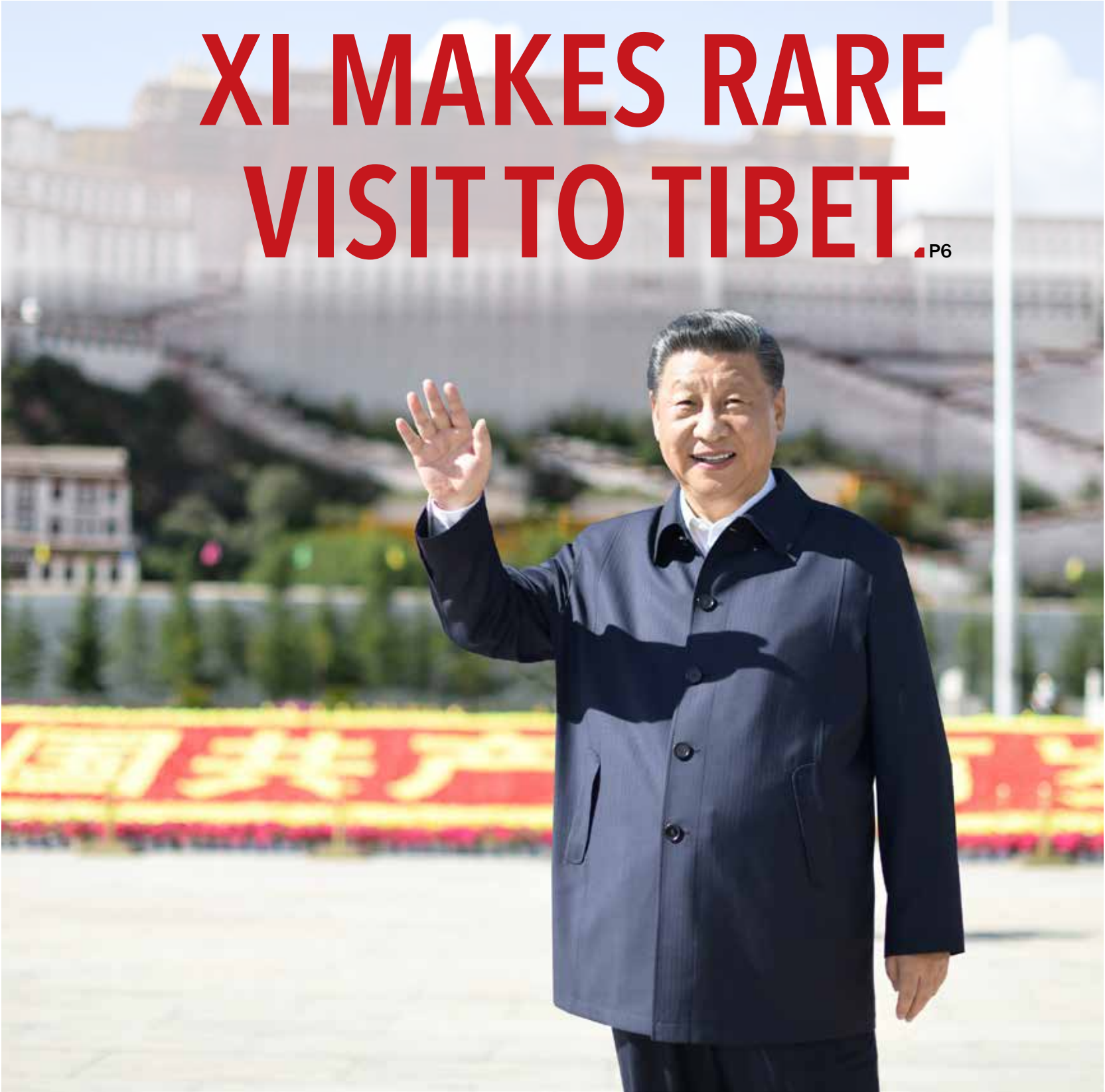
India

Days of landslides and flooding triggered by heavy monsoon rains in western India's Maharashtra state killed at least 113 people and injured 50, officials said yesterday, as rescuers scrambled to find at least 100 missing. A government spokesperson, Sandhya Garware, said over 130,000 people were rescued from nearly 900 affected villages across the state. Many were stranded on rooftops or atop buses on highways. India's navy also said it deployed helicopters to evacuate stranded people and sent rescue teams with boats to the region.

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XI MAKES RARE VISIT TO TIBET

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DELTA VARIANT IN 59TH CASE

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# BUOYED VISITATION EXPECTED AT SANDS SHOPPING CARNIVAL

HONEY TSANG

**S**ANDS China Ltd kicked off the 2021 Sands Shopping Carnival on July 23. The group's president Wilfred Wong expects the three-day retail mega-festival to have concluded with high visitation.

Given the new Covid-19 case reported in Zhongshan on July 22, Wong vowed during the opening ceremony last Friday that the conglomerate would stay highly cautious and implement all required anti-pandemic measures to minimize contagion risks during the event.

After its debut in 2020, the Sands Shopping Carnival launched its second edition this year. It took place from July 23 to 25 at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo Halls A and B.

The group aims to develop the mega-event into a "brand" in Macau, which will not only help boost local consumption but also be a go-to place for locals during the summer holiday, Wong said.

This year's event featured more than 560 booths, up 10% com-



pared to last year. All the booths were provided to exhibitors by the group for free.

Other key highlights included a string of competitive deals offered by retailers, Karaoke King

Singing Competition 2021, and more.

Abundant family-friendly elements dotted the event as well, including the Little Master Chef Workshop, a food-prep and de-

corating activity provided free for children. It was led by the group's culinary team.

There were nine exhibition zones at the venue, including: Household Products, Parenting and

Family, Gourmet, Food Court, Sands Retailers, Cultural & Creative, Kids Area, and two new zones Green Lifestyle and Macao Original IP.

"We are glad to once again provide a quality business platform – spanning diverse industries and fields such as distinctive shops, old Macau stores, IP-protected brands and food specialties – for local SMEs and Sands retailers amid the pandemic, thereby helping promote Macau's image as a 'safe tourist destination,'" Wong stated.

The Shopping Carnival is also co-organized by the Macao Chamber of Commerce, supported by the Economic and Technological Development Bureau, the Macao Government Tourism Office, and the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute.

The opening ceremony was officiated by key officials, such as Zuo Xianghua, deputy director general of the Economic Affairs Department of the Central People's Government Liaison Office in the Macao SAR, and director of the Macao Government Tourism Office Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes.

The group registered upwards of 100,000 visitations during last year's shopping carnival.

# Sands China positive about summer holiday despite Zhongshan's Covid-19 case

HONEY TSANG

**P**RESIDENT of Sands China Ltd Wilfred Wong is expecting a further uptick in the group's business during the summer holiday — with the average occupancy rate among all properties projected at 70% — despite an asymptomatic Covid-19 case recently reported in Zhongshan at midnight on July 22.

Wong chalked up his unfaltering faith in the peak season of the year to Zhongshan not being a typical transportation hub for the majority of mainland tourists travelling into Macau.

"Most mainland tourists usually enter Macau through the airport in Guangzhou. Hence, I believe it [the newly reported case in



Zhongshan] will not have a significant impact on their travel confidence to visit Macau," he stated.

In addition, Wong said he is certain that the swift pandemic control measures mandated by Zhongshan

municipal government will keep the pandemic under check. They include requiring all residents to undergo nucleic acid tests and present proof of a negative Covid-19 test conducted within 48 hours upon lea-

ving the city.

"Given the check-in rate over these two days, [we] do not see any obvious influence so far," he added.

Wong is anticipating the group's occupancy rate to reach over 70% on average,

even reaching 90% during weekends, over the summer holiday.

Wong expressed his fairly positive outlook on the summer holiday to the media at The Venetian Macao, following the opening ceremony of the 2021 Sands Shopping Carnival.

Overall, Wong is upbeat about business in the second half (H2) of 2021, saying that it will fare better than the first half (H1).

"Our business performance has been on an upwards trend, with our H2 result already outshining that of H1," he told the media.

The president also highlighted a noticeable rebound in the meetings, incentives, conferences & exhibitions (MICE) sector, which was

evidenced by the large volume of bookings made by MICE travelers — 3,000-4,000 visitors at each event — in August.

However, Wong added that the extent of the improvement in H2 will largely hinge on the situation for travelers entering Macau during the season, and whether there will be a gradual relaxation in hosting crowd-gathering MICE events.

Since the government resumed the seven-day validity period for Covid-19 test results for arrivals from Guangdong province from July 10, the group has seen an "obvious increase" in occupancy rate, even on par with May's levels.

Wong also disclosed that Londoner Court — another hotel with 370 luxury residential-style suites alongside The Londoner Hotel at The Londoner Macao — will open in full swing during the Golden Week in October. It will target high-end customers and family travelers.

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**DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
**ASSISTANT EDITOR** Lynzy Valles **SENIOR WRITER** Honey Tsang  
**CONTRIBUTING EDITORS** Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

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

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**ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

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

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

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HONEY TSANG

ART MACAO

**T**he Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2021 continues to inject fresh creativity into Macau's culture, with a new exhibition "Macao: City of Gastronomy - Bon Appétit!" It is one of four art shows featured in the festival's debut art project, Creative City Pavilion, which unfolded its red carpet on July 22.

Creative City Pavilion is specifically curated to showcase the distinctive cultures of four UNESCO Creative Cities, namely Macao – City of Gastronomy, Wuhan – City of Design, Nanjing – City of Literature and Linz – City of Media Arts.

"Creative City' is a hot topic at present," chief curator of the Creative City Pavilion Yao Feng stated in the opening ceremony of Macao: City of Gastronomy - Bon Appétit, last Thursday night.

"The construction of a creative city should not be narrowly defined by 'creative economy' to attract tourists; it should pay more attention to the citizens, who are the masters of the city and subjects of constructing a creative city," Yao emphasized.

With this perspective, Yao brought together artists and writers of the four cities to put together the Creative City Pavilion — a platform to showcase their literary and artistic masterpieces, including oil painting, installation, literary manuscripts, photography, and more.

Among all four exhibitions,

the Macao-themed exhibition highlights Macau's status as a "UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy" as of 2017, featuring 15 pieces or sets of art pieces conceived by 16 artists. They include Carlos Marreiros and Konstantin Bessmertny, who explore the interplay of food in relation to society and history.

"Macao has a variety of cuisines, and behind the cuisines are the emotional stories of human beings. The stories we tell through food represent common values shared by people living in this city: diversity, tolerance, empathy, and appreciation for different cultures," president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau Mok Ian Ian stated.

The Macao-themed exhibition will take place at the Macao Contemporary Art Center - Navy Yard No. 1 is ongoing until October 3. Its inauguration ceremony was officiated by key officials and executives of local leading casino operators on July 22.

The other three exhibitions — featuring the cultural theme of Nanjing, Wuhan and Linz — will be held at Tap Seac Gallery, No. 63-71 Mong-Ha Villas and No. 55-61 Mong-Ha Villas, respectively.

# Creative City Pavilion celebrates gastronomy, design, art and literature



## WATER PARK OPERATOR SHOULD OFFER SAFETY INFORMATION TO AVOID CONFUSION: MGTO

**DIRECTOR** of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes has called on local hotel operators to offer more information regarding the safety of entertainment facilities.

Fernandes' remarks came on the sidelines of an event last Thursday, after the MGTO received a complaint lodged by a previous attendee of the Studio City Water Park.

In order to avoid unnecessary misunderstandings, she suggested the operator offer more safety information to patrons to help them fully appreciate the possible hazards of the theme park before participating.

She told the media that the incident at the water

park, operated by Melco Resorts & Entertainment, requires further investigation, to be conducted by the relevant department.

The license for the facility was granted by the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), which is also responsible for overseeing the facility.

On July 19, a user stated in a social media post that she suffered from a bone fracture while playing on a slide at the Studio City Water Park.

In an earlier interview with the Times, Chimmy Leung, executive director of Corporate Communications of Melco, reiterated that "the Water Park has gone through a number of safety checks prior to licensing and opening." **HT**

COVID-19

## Delta variant in 59th case

LYNZY VALLES

**M**ACAU recorded a case of the highly contagious Delta variant of Covid-19 after a 31-year-old local resident, who arrived from Germany on Saturday, tested positive for the variant.

The resident is also the city's 59th Covid-19 case, who denied having been diagnosed with or being vaccinated against Covid-19.

The man underwent a Covid-19 test and was negative on July 21.

On July 23, he departed by train from Germany to Paris, France, where he took Singapore Airlines flight SQ335 to Singapore.

On the night of July 24, he made a stopover and transferred from Singapore to Macau on flight TR904 of



Scoot to Macau.

Upon arriving in the SAR, he was immediately sent to the public hospital due to a low-grade fever. The first nucleic acid test

(NAT) was unclear so he underwent another test yesterday, which showed he was positive for the Delta variant that was first detected in India.

Meanwhile, health authorities reported two Covid-19 relapse cases — one of which was a Delta relapse.

On Saturday, the Philippine consulate organized

a Philippine Airlines flight carrying 198 Filipinos back home, its 19th repatriation flight. Prior to the flight from the SAR, the flag carrier of the Philippines brought back about 26 BIR holders to Macau on flight PR8532, a passenger on the flight confirmed to the Times.

One case involved an employee of the Consulate General of the Philippines in Macau — a 27-year-old woman that has been vaccinated on June 14 and July 12. The other was a one-year-old baby, who is the daughter of another staff member of the consulate.

According to a statement issued by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre, following the tests, it was found that the baby was infected with the Delta variant.

The 27-year-old woman, meanwhile, suffered from a virus similar to the N501Y mutation.

According to the statement, the specific type of virus has yet to be determined and further testing will be carried out.

### TWO NEW COVID-19 CASES

Two imported Covid-19 cases were recorded, following the arrival of two individuals from the Philippines on Saturday.

Following NATs upon arrival, the two individuals, a mother aged 28 and her 8-year-old son, tested positive. She denied having been previously diagnosed with Covid-19.

The mother, the city's 56th case, was said to be vaccinated on June 25 and July 23 with two doses of vaccine.

The results of the NATs they took in the Philippines on July 20, 21 and 22 were negative. An IgM antibody test performed on her child in the Philippines on July 2 was negative.



**HO IAT SENG  
TO ATTEND AL  
PLENARY AUG. 10**

Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng is set to attend a plenary session of the Legislative Assembly (AL) on August 10 to answer lawmakers' questions on government policy and social issues. According to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, the session will start at 3 p.m. and will be broadcast live on TDM television and radio channels. The CE will attend the question-and-answer sessions at the AL in a bid to "enhance communication with AL members, optimize administrative transparency and update the public with the progress of government work."

**DEPUTY CHIEF  
OF GONGBEI  
CUSTOMS UNDER  
INVESTIGATION**

Xiong Zhengguo, member of the Communist Party of China Committee and Deputy Commissioner of Gongbei Customs, is suspected of serious violations of discipline and law. Macau Chinese media have reported that he is currently under disciplinary investigation by both national and provincial disciplinary authorities, citing national authorities of the People's Republic of China. Xiong is from Xinyang, Henan Province and is 55 years old. He has held a variety of positions in customs departments, including in Nanning, Guilin, and Fancheng.

**COVID-19**

# PEOPLE IN THEIR 40'S HAVE THE HIGHEST VACCINATION RATE

RENATO MARQUES

**P**EOPL**E** between ages 40 and 49 years old are accountable for 66.4% of all local inoculations with Covid-19 vaccines, statistics released by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center show.

According to the release — which provides a status update on the inoculation plan that began about six months ago — the current total vaccination rate is 40%, and the government's vaccination target population, people aged 12 and older, has reached 45%.

The age groups of 20 to 29 years and 30 to 39 years are currently vaccinated at rates of 56.6% and 61.3%, respectively, well above the general vaccination rate.

Also positive is the percentage of people aged 50 to 59 years, 44.4% of whom are inoculated.

Only the groups which the health authorities did not initially target are at a low percentage of vaccination, such as youngsters aged between 12 to 19 years and senior citizens above 60 years.

Nonetheless, the 60 to 69 year-old bracket has reached a rate of 19.6%, while the younger group has a current rate of 17.2%.

Health officials have said that the current vaccination rate for both the younger and older groups of people is seriously low, prompting the government to take action to increase their vaccination rate to match the rest of the populace.

The health authorities added that they will target these groups by vaccinating in high schools, and actively pushing to vaccinate the elderly and other people in the community that suffer from chronic diseases. One of the mea-

RENATO MARQUES



sures they will take is to facilitate the vaccination process for people aged 60 or above by allowing them to be vaccinated without the need for an appointment.

For those with chronic illnesses, the Health Bureau (SSM) is considering a similar system, given a medical evaluation is conducted by a physician that knows the person's medical record. This is expected to be done upon request with their physician during a regular follow-up visit for outpatient consultation.

The health authorities also noted that, among those vaccinated, there is now a closer balance between residents and non-residents, with the residents representing 55%, while the non-residents (including workers, students, and former stranded non-resident workers) accounting for the remaining 45%.

The vaccination of non-residents has seen a significant surge following the government's outreach programs, which have reached the gaming concessionaires

and allowed workers and their families to be vaccinated at their workplace.

As of 4 p.m. yesterday, 484,119 doses of the vaccine were administered to a total of 276,654 people. Of these, 67,483 people have had their first dose of the vaccine, while 209,171 people completed both vaccines.

Health authorities have reported so far just 2,070 adverse effects following immunization (AEFI), of which 2,064 were mild, and only six were considered serious AEFI.

## NAT MASS TESTING CAN HAPPEN ANYTIME

**M**ASS Covid-19 testing conducted amongst the whole local population can happen at any moment now, Dr. Tai Wa Hou said during the health authorities briefing on Covid-19 in Macau last Friday. Tai is the Medical Director from the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center and Coordinator of the Health Bureau's (SSM) Covid-19 Vaccination Operation.

When asked if the discovery of four close contacts with a Covid-19 patient in Zhongshan would finally prompt a mass nucleic acid test (NAT) to the population, Tai said that if the authorities find it necessary

to perform such a task, they are already prepared for "this work [to] be carried out at any time".

The health official explained that all related procedures, such as the training of sufficient staff, materials, and equipment, have been already pre-arranged and are ready to be deployed if necessary.

Tai reaffirmed that authorities do not have a specific timetable for launching this program, as it would ultimately depend on current the pandemic situation and the principle of prevention and control by areas, as well as dynamic analysis of the impact of the epidemic and ongoing risk assessment. **RM**

**COVID-19**

# Four people suspected of close contact with infection case in Zhongshan



RENATO MARQUES

**A** total of four people, including three residents and one non-resident worker, are suspected to be close contacts with a 23-year-old woman found to be infected with Covid-19 in the neighboring city of Zhongshan, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center reported.

According to a detail-

led explanation from the health authorities during Friday's press briefing on the Covid-19 situation in Macau, these four people include: a 32-year-old non-resident worker that works in a local elevator maintenance company, and three Macau residents with ages ranging between 28 and 64 years.

All four of these people took public transportation (bus or train) in the city of

Zhuhai at a date and time that means they potentially crossed paths with the infected person.

Of the local residents, two are working in local casino companies (Wynn and Galaxy) and the other is staff at the Macau University of Science and Technology.

All four people have been notified by the health authorities and are undergoing a period of health self-management — two at their home address in Macau, one in the city of Zhongshan, and one at a designated medical observation facility in Zhuhai.

During the briefing, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, coordinator of the Health Bureau

(SSM) Center for Disease Control and Prevention, explained that there are three close contacts, three other people of general proximity, and 11 close secondary contacts who had contact with the asymptomatic infected person from Zhongshan, totaling 17 people. All of them have already been tested with a nucleic acid test and antibody test. All results were negative and without transmission capability.

Nevertheless, health authorities recommend that other members of the public that were potentially in close contact with these four people pay close attention to their health.



# BritCham Macau restores eco-committee for greener initiatives

ANTHONY LAM

**C**ELEBRATING its 15th anniversary, the British Chamber of Commerce in Macao (BritCham Macao) has relaunched its Environmental Committee, BritCham Macao's chairman Keith Buckley said.

The entity held a cocktail reception to celebrate its 15th anniversary last Thursday at the Artyzen Grand Lapa Macau. Buckley revealed the information on the sidelines of the occasion.

In recent years, sustainable development, environmental protection, and global warming have become heated topics around the globe. Due to various challenges, BritCham Macao had to suspend its aforementioned committee. Nonetheless, this year, with timely support and relevant resources, the entity has decided to restart the initiative.

The entity regularly organizes familiarization tours



around a variety of public and private entities in and out of Macau. According to Buckley, tours to entities with a focus on their eco-friendly efforts will be held from time to time.

"[In addition] we'll have speakers to talk about sustainability," Buckley outlined. "We've had a couple of trips around casinos [resorts] to look at their efforts in sustainability."

Many resorts in Macau have commenced eco-frien-

dly initiatives, such as the installation and use of solar power panels.

Mark Clayton, vice-chairman of the BritCham in Guangdong, China, appeared at the occasion as a special invited guest. He discussed how businesses in the province were revived amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The pandemic didn't last for very long in Guangdong," Clayton recalled. "What I saw was that businesses were actually increa-

sing [trade] quite well."

He added that, due to the pandemic, many factories around the world had to close down. Some investors decided to move their businesses into mainland China.

"A lot of raw material business and textile business was on shoring back to China," Clayton said. "Many factories that were reopening had to expand their scale, especially those in South China."

Talking about the 15th anniversary milestone, the BritCham Macao chairman recapped how the entity has worked closely with the local community.

"Over the last 15 years, our Chamber has championed business interests from the U.K. and the Macau SAR, helping to cultivate commercial relationships brimming with vitality and opportunity," Buckley recounted.

The celebratory event concluded with musical performances, a lucky draw, and plenty of mingling, drinks, and canapés.

## OFFICE AFFIRMS CHINA WILL TAKE COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST FOREIGN BULLYING

**A** Chinese government spokesperson on Saturday said that any bullying sanction taken will meet harsh countermeasures.

The spokesperson for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office of the State Council expressed resolute support for the Chinese foreign ministry's decision of imposing reciprocal sanctions on six individuals and one entity from the United States.

They have been harming China's national interests by fabricating facts and spreading rumors about Hong Kong-related issues, and should be held accountable and punished according to China's Anti-Foreign Sanctions Law, the spokesperson said.

China has never bullied, oppressed, or subjugated people of any other country, and will never allow such an action to happen to it, the spokesperson added.

During the centenary celebration on July 1, the Communist Party of China Central Committee General Secretary Xi Jinping said, in his speech, that China will never allow any foreign force to bully, oppress or subjugate the country.

Anyone who would attempt to do so will find themselves on a collision course with a "great wall of steel forged by over 1.4 billion Chinese people." **MDT/XINHUA**

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# XI VISITS TIBET, STRESSING 'LASTING STABILITY, HIGH-QUALITY DEVELOPMENT'

**C**HINESE leader Xi Jinping has stressed fully implementing the guidelines of the Communist Party of China (CPC) for governing Tibet in a new era and writing a new chapter of lasting stability and high-quality development for the plateau region.

Xi, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, Chinese president and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made a rare visit to Tibet from Wednesday to Friday for the 70th anniversary of Tibet's peaceful liberation, the first time in the history of the Party and the country.

Xi extended congratulations to the 70th anniversary of Tibet's peaceful liberation, visited officials and ordinary people of various ethnic groups and conveyed the CPC Central Committee's care to them.

Xi said over the past 70 years Tibet has made historic strides in the social system and realized full economic and social development, with people's living standards significantly improved.



Xi stressed efforts to strengthen developing border areas, emphasized the four major issues of stability, development, ecology and border-area consolidation, and called for new achievements in protecting the ecology of Qinghai-Tibet Plateau and advancing its sustainable development.

On Wednesday, Xi arrived at

the Nyingchi Mainling Airport and went to the Nyang River Bridge, where he learned about the ecological preservation of the Yarlung Zangbo River and its tributary Nyang, as well as the construction of nature reserves. Xi underscored the importance of protecting and restoring the ecology of major river basins.

During a visit to the city planning hall of Nyingchi, Xi called for scientifically delineating the boundaries of urban development and drawing the red lines for protecting ecosystems.

Xi said the village epitomizes the economic and social achievements Tibet has made over 70 years since its liberation. He also hailed the

village as a model of ethnic unity.

On Thursday, Xi went to Nyingchi Railway Station, learning about the overall design of the Sichuan-Tibet Railway and how the Lhasa-Nyingchi section has been operated since June 25. Aboard a train to regional capital Lhasa, Xi inspected the construction along the railway. He hailed the railway as a major move to boost Tibet's development and improve people's living standards.

On Thursday afternoon, Xi went to the Drepung Monastery located in the western suburbs of Lhasa. Xi acknowledged the contributions the monastery has made in upholding the leadership of the CPC, supporting the socialist system and safeguarding national unity.

Xi stressed fully implementing the Party's fundamental guidelines governing religious work.

He also stressed governing religious affairs in accordance with the law and guiding Tibetan Buddhism to adapt to a socialist society.

He said that at present, Tibet is at a new historical starting point of its development, and the Party's leadership must be upheld and the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics must be followed.

MDT/XINHUA

## TECH

# Tencent ordered to end exclusive music contracts

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

**I**NTERNET giant Tencent was ordered by regulators to end exclusive contracts with music copyright holders, adding to increased enforcement of anti-monopoly and other rules as Beijing tightens control over booming online industries.

Tencent controls more than 80% of "exclusive music library resources" following its 2016 acquisition of China Music Group, the State Administration for Market Regulation said Saturday. It said that gives Tencent the ability to get better terms than competitors receive or to limit the ability of rivals to enter the market.

Tencent Holdings Ltd., best known abroad for its WeChat messaging service, has a sprawling business empire that includes games, music and video. It is among the world's 10 most valuable publicly traded companies, with a stock market value of \$680 billion.

In order to "restore market competition," Tencent must end exclusive music copyright contracts within 30 days, the market regulator said in a statement. The company is barred from requiring providers to give better terms



ms than competitors receive.

Tencent promised on its social media account to "conscientiously abide by the decision."

Regulators are stepping up enforcement of anti-monopoly, data security, financial and other rules against Tencent, e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and other companies that dominate entertainment, retail and other industries.

The enforcement has hurt the stock market value of some companies. Shares in ride-hailing service Didi Global Inc., which made its U.S. stock market debut last month, are down 21% after regulators announced a probe of its "network security" and or-

dered the company to overhaul handling of customer data.

Regulators have publicly warned major companies not to use their market dominance to keep out new competitors.

Tencent was blocked by regulators on July 10 from combining its game platforms Douyu and Huya on the grounds that might reduce competition.

On Wednesday, the Chinese internet regulator reprimanded Tencent, Alibaba, microblog platform Sina Weibo and e-commerce service Xiaohongshu for allowing sexually suggestive stickers or short videos of children to be distributed on their services. MDT/AP

# TYPHOON IN-FA HITS EAST COAST, CANCELING FLIGHTS

**T**YPHOON In-fa hit China's east coast south of Shanghai yesterday after people living near the sea were evacuated, airline flights and trains were canceled and the public was ordered to stay indoors.

The typhoon made landfall in Zhoushan in Zhejiang province, state TV reported, citing the national weather agency. It forecast rainfall of 10-14 inches.

"People should not willingly go outdoors," the bureau said.

The typhoon earlier dumped rain on Taiwan and knocked down tree branches, but no deaths or injuries were reported.

About 330,000 residents of Fengxian District on Shanghai's southern edge were evacuated after wind speeds off shore reached 60 mph, the newspaper China Daily reported.

Hundreds of flights at Shanghai Pudong and Shanghai

Hongqiao airports were canceled and more were expected to be canceled on Monday, state TV reported. Shanghai closed parks and the riverfront Bund district, a popular tourist area.

The international airport in Hangzhou, southwest of Shanghai, also canceled flights.

Train service to Ningbo, a port city south of Shanghai, was suspended, according to state TV. The Zhoushan Bridge that connects islands near Ningbo was closed, as were schools, markets and businesses in Zhejiang province.

On Saturday, large container ships were moved from Yangshan Port in Shanghai, one of the world's busiest shipping centers. State TV said a ship lock in Nantong, which abuts Shanghai to the north, stopped releasing vessels into the Yangtze River. MDT/AP







## Gov't sends supplies to flooded area, rebuilds barriers

DAKE KANG, XINXIANG

**T**RUCKS carrying water and food yesterday streamed into a Chinese city at the center of flooding that killed at least 63 people, while soldiers laid sandbags to fill gaps in river dikes that left neighborhoods under water.

Residents cleared away mud, wrecked cars and other debris after record rains that started Tuesday and flooded streets and disrupted train service. The rains subsided earlier in the week but some neighborhoods still were waiting for water up to two meters deep to drain.

Yesterday, the provincial government raised the death toll to 63, with five people missing, state TV reported. It said 8,876 homes collapsed.

Trucks dropped off instant noodles and other goods at a stadium in Xinxiang, 40 miles north of the metropolis of Zhengzhou in Henan province. Volunteers shifted pallets of drinking water stacked higher than their heads onto other trucks for distribution.

The volunteers occasionally broke into cheers of, "Go, Xinxiang!"

"My tears came down when we were welcoming the vehicles one by one and shouting 'Good work! You've done a great job!'" said a 45-year-old volunteer. She would give only her surname, Zhang.

Zhang said she had to walk down 15 floors from her apartment after the flooding knocked out power.

Direct economic losses throughout Henan were estimated at 13.9 billion yuan (\$2 billion), according to the official Xinhua News Agency. It said a total of more than 3,800 houses collapsed across the province and 920,000 people were evacuated from their homes.

Emergency crews were trying to close gaps in flood dikes that flooded sections of some villages.

Soldiers and paramilitary police dumping stones and sandbags into a 100-meter-long, eight-meter-deep gap in a gap on the Weihe river in Xinxiang, the official newspaper The Global Times reported.

On Saturday, authorities intentionally had flooded parts of the nearby city of Hebi to lower water levels elsewhere, according to the Shanghai online news outlet The Paper. **MDT/AP**

## MAN IN CENTRAL CHINA SURVIVES THREE DAYS IN FLOODED GARAGE

DAKE KANG, ZHENGZHOU

**A** man in central China was rescued after spending three days trapped in a flooded underground garage following torrential rains, while at least four bodies were found after a traffic tunnel was drained, a news report said Saturday.

The death toll rose to 58 after record rains hit the major city of Zhengzhou on Tuesday, state TV reported, citing Li Changxun, deputy director of Henan Provincial Emergency Management Department.

Meanwhile, rescuers used bulldozers and rubber boats to evacuate residents of areas that still were under water, according to the Shanghai news outlet The Paper.

The rains flooded a Zhengzhou subway tunnel where at least 12 people died, knocked out power to a hospital and other buildings and left streets filled with mud. Dozens of trains in the region were delayed for up to 40 hours.

Li Yongsheng was found Friday afternoon in a garage under the Jincheng International Plaza in Zhengzhou's Jinshui District, The Paper said. It said he was trapped when the garage flooded Tuesday and lay on a ventilation duct surrounded by floating cars.

In Zhengzhou, a city of 12 million people, bodies and more than 200 wrecked cars were found in the Jingguang North Road Tunnel, where water up to 13 meters deep was pumped out, The Paper reported. **MDT/AP**

### ADVERTORIAL

## SANDS CHINA NEWS

### Sands China's Innovative 'Beyond the Blue' Ceramics Exhibition Now Open – Free to Public

Sands China's Project Sands X: Beyond the Blue – An Exhibition of Ceramic Extraordinaire is now open at The Venetian Macao, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily until Oct. 31, as one of the special exhibitions of Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2021.

Internationally famed artist Caroline Cheng curated the exhibition of traditional and innovative pieces, created by over 20 world-renowned ceramic artists and institutions on the theme of Beyond the Blue.

The Beyond the Blue theme is faceted in meaning. The works utilise a diversity of designs and palettes, showcasing how the beauty of ceramics can go beyond the traditional colours of blue and white. By applying innovative techniques, technologies and designs, the artists have created pieces that go beyond all expectations and imagination, in hopes of bringing positivity to the world through art. Through this exceptional collection of works, the exhibition seeks to elicit joy and inspire visitors to go beyond the blue mood of a pandemic world with optimism for a brighter future ahead.

The exhibition includes works that combine technology and ceramics with innovative presentation, and visitors are able to interact with selected pieces via augmented reality (AR). Exhibits made from recycled ceramics promoting sustainability in art are also on display. Visitors can listen to a complimentary audio guide on their smartphones to learn about the artists and their works while browsing the exhibition.

A parallel exhibition with the Everson Museum of Art in the U.S. can be viewed remotely in 3D, with viewers able to manoeuvre through a 360-degree space. Meanwhile, Beyond the Blue also features a full range of signature works from the Everson at The Venetian Macao.

Another element of Sands China's support to Art Macao is Time Is On My Side – 2021 Greater Bay Area Young Artists Scheme – A Competition of Painting & Photography. Open to young artists from Macao and the Greater Bay Area, winners receive cash prizes and certificates to encourage them to continue their art, and their works will be displayed at The Londoner Macao.

Visit [www.venetianmacao.com](http://www.venetianmacao.com) for more information.





# Thousands march in Hungary Pride parade to oppose LGBT law

JUSTIN SPIKE, BUDAPEST

**R**ISING anger over the policies of Hungary's right-wing government filled the streets of the country's capital on Saturday as thousands of LGBT supporters marched in the annual Budapest Pride parade.

March organizers expected record crowds at the event, and called on participants to express their opposition to recent steps by populist Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government that critics say stigmatize sexual minorities in the Central European country.

Budapest Pride spokesperson Jojo Majercsik said this year's march is not just a celebration and remembrance of the historical struggles of the LGBT movement but a protest against Orban's current policies targeting gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer people.

"A lot of LGBTQ people are afraid and don't feel like they have a place or a future in this country anymore," Majercsik told The Associated Press.

The march came after a controversial law passed by Hungary's parliament in June prohibited the display of content to minors that depicts homosexuality or



gender change. The measures were attached to a bill allowing tougher penalties for pedophiles.

Hungary's government says its policies seek to protect children. But critics of the legislation compare it to Russia's gay propaganda law of 2013, and say it conflates homosexuality with pedophilia as part of a campaign ploy to mobilize conservative voters ahead of elections next spring.

The legislation was met with fierce opposition by many politicians in the European Union, of which Hungary is a member. The Executive Commission of the 27-nation bloc launched two separate legal proceedings against Hungary's government last week over what it called infringements on LGBT rights.

Saturday's march wound through the center of Budapest and crossed the Danube River on one of the iconic structures connecting the city's two halves: Liberty Bridge.

Mira Nagy, a 16-year-old Pride attendee and member of Hungary's LGBT community, said this year's Pride march has special meaning.

"This year is much more significant, because now there are real stakes," she said. "Our situation is pretty bad [...] My plan is that if things get even worse, I will leave Hungary."

The law also requires that only civic organizations approved by the government can provide sexual education in schools, and limits the availability of media content and literature to minors that discusses sexual

orientation.

Pride marcher Anasztazia Orosz said that would inhibit young people from accessing important information and validation of their own sexual orientation.

"It was really difficult for me to come out, and the only thing that made it easier was that I found a book of stories on LGBT topics," Orosz said. "That's how I learned that what I'm feeling is something real, that I'm not different."

On Wednesday, Orban announced the government would hold a national referendum to demonstrate public support for the law. The poll will ask Hungarians whether children should be introduced to topics of sexual orientation in schools, and whether gender reassignment should be promoted or depicted to children.

Yet Majercsik, the Pride spokesperson, said the questions are "openly transphobic and homophobic," and part of a "propaganda campaign" by the government to incite resentment against the LGBT community.

"I've heard from a lot of LGBT people that are planning to leave the country, and won't even wait for next year's elections," Majercsik said. "There will be many others for whom the results of the elections will determine whether they stay or leave."

Several members of opposition parties attended the march, including liberal Budapest mayor Gergely Karacsony, a challenger to Orban in the election next year that is expected to be the closest since Orban's party took power in 2010. **MDT/AP**

## this day in history



### 1986 BRANSON ON COURSE FOR BLUE RIBAND



Entrepreneur Richard Branson has set off on his second attempt to claim the transatlantic crossing record for Britain.

Mr Branson and his team left New York at dawn on their 72 ft powerboat Virgin Challenger II for the 3,000 mile (4,828 km) voyage.

If they reach Bishop's Rock, off the Isles of Scilly, by 2100 BST on 29 June they will recapture the Blue Riband for the UK - held by liner SS United States since 1952 for a crossing in three days and 10 hours.

The millionaire businessmen tried to break the record last year, but his boat sank just 138 miles (222 km) from the British coast.

Mr Branson told the BBC he was confident they would succeed this year.

"The boat's ready, the crew are ready and the weather forecast is reasonable - hopefully we'll be there for Sunday lunch," he said.

A spokesman at the Virgin Challenger London headquarters said the team had almost reached Nova Scotia for the first of three refuelling stops at 2100 BST and was two hours ahead of schedule.

After taking on more fuel, the £1.5m boat will head across the ocean on the "great circle" route - the quickest course across the Atlantic.

BBC Tomorrow's World presenter Peter Macann is on the Challenger and said conditions had been perfect for the first stage of the voyage.

"The only point of excitement was when I was driving and a whale surfaced about 50 m (164 ft) from the boat - I just managed to swerve to avoid it," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

## COVID-19

# Thousands protest lockdown in Sydney, several arrested

**T**HOUSANDS of people took to the streets of Sydney and other Australian cities on Saturday to protest lockdown restrictions amid another surge in cases, and police made several arrests after crowds broke through barriers and threw plastic bottles and plants.

The unmasked participants marched from Sydney's Victoria Park to Town Hall in the central business district, carrying signs

calling for "freedom" and "the truth."

There was a heavy police presence in Sydney, including mounted police and riot officers in response to what authorities said was unauthorized protest activity. Police confirmed a number of arrests had been made after objects were thrown at officers.

New South Wales Police said it recognized and supported the rights of free speech and peaceful assem-

bly, but the protest was a breach of public health orders.

"The priority for NSW Police is always the safety of the wider community," a police statement said.

The protest comes as COVID-19 case numbers in the state reached another record with 163 new infections in the last 24 hours.

Greater Sydney has been locked down for the past four weeks, with residents only able to leave home with

a reasonable excuse.

"We live in a democracy and normally I am certainly one who supports people's rights to protest ... but at the present time we've got cases going through the roof and we have people thinking that's OK to get out there and possibly be close to each other at a demonstration," said state Health Minister Brad Hazzard.

In Melbourne, thousands of protesters without masks turned out downtown chanting "freedom." Some of them lit flares as they gathered outside Victoria state's Parliament House.

They held banners, including one that read: "This is not about a virus it's about total government control of the people." **MDT/AP**

## IN CONTEXT

The Blue Riband was established by shipping magnates in 1838 as an informal competition.

Richard Branson broke the record, but the Hales' trustees refused to award him the trophy because his boat did not have a commercial maritime purpose and he had stopped to refuel.

The SS United States' record was not broken until 1990, when the 74m (243ft) catamaran Hoverspeed Great Britain completed the crossing with an average speed of 36.65 knots.

In 1987 Mr Branson abandoned the sea and took to the air. His Virgin Atlantic Flyer hot air balloon was the first to cross the Atlantic that year, and in 1991, he broke the Pacific record by crossing from Japan to Arctic Canada.



YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Help if you can, but more than likely it will be sufficient just to listen. You can make extra money. Rewards will be yours if you put in the overtime required. Get down to business and do the work yourself.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Try to do things with children that will enable you to bond closer to them. You can bet that someone in a higher position is watching to see how busy you are.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

You won't be well received by superiors or by your spouse. Don't let siblings put pressure on you. Things will be emotional with your mate.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Arguing won't help. Younger relatives may seek your advice. You should be promoting your ideas. You may find that your mate is well aware of the circumstances.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Concentrate on work and on making money. Your best efforts will come through investments concerning your home. Use your creative flair.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Someone you care about may let you down or criticize your methods. Others may want to steal your thunder when they realize your ideas are pretty solid.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Be on your best behavior. You could be your own worst enemy if you overreact to something you're told. Look into some personal changes.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You need to spend some time reflecting on past experiences and involvements. Refuse to get involved in idle chatter; it will only make you look bad.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You can make a huge difference to children if you are able to put yourself in their shoes. You can make money but not through harebrained schemes or gambling.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Let them know what your intentions are. Make sure that you have all the pertinent information before any reprisals or making any moves. Be tactful if you see flaws in someone else's work.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Cultural activities open your eyes to new ways of doing things. If you can put some work into home improvements, you should. Don't reveal anything about your personal life that could be used adversely.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You might find that coworkers will support your endeavors. Opportunities will unfold; however, you must be willing to pay the price. Don't let your jealous imagination play games with you.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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	4	3			8			
6	2		5					
1								
							3	
2		7	6	5				
			2					
							4	

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	23	31	cloudy
Harbin	23	33	cloudy
Tianjin	26	35	cloudy
Urumqi	24	33	showers
Xi'an	26	36	thunderstorms
Lhasa	23	29	fine
Chengdu	25	34	thunderstorms
Chongqing	25	35	cloudy
Kunming	27	35	cloudy
Nanjing	21	29	cloudy
Shanghai	26	29	rain
Wuhan	26	29	rain
Hangzhou	24	33	cloudy
Taipei	24	31	cloudy
Guangzhou	19	29	overcast
Hong Kong	24	31	cloudy

WORLD

Moscow	14	22	overcast
Frankfurt	14	27	overcast
Paris	17	29	sunny
London	15	28	sunny
New York	19	29	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- In addition to; 5- Good \_\_\_\_; 10- High-ranking NCO; 14- Bring home the bacon; 15- Functional; 16- Charles Lamb's nom de plume; 17- Final Four org.; 18- One of the United Arab Emirates; 19- Stool pigeon; var.; 20- Oracle site; 22- Distress; 24- Driver's aid; 25- Cincinnati club; 26- Secondhand; 30- Atoll unit; 35- "You've got mail" co.; 36- The Company; 37- Best of a group; 38- Japanese musical instrument; 41- Trial participant; 43- Govt. security; 44- Prohibit; 45- Hot time in Paris; 46- Ruhr city; 47- February birthstone; 50- Celestial body; 53- The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet; 54- Clog; 58- Trust; 62- "Hard \_\_\_\_!" (sailor's yell); 63- Cover story; 66- Distribute, with "out"; 67- Actor Connery; 68- Radioactive gas; 69- The munchies, e.g.; 70- Sped; 71- Move to and fro; 72- Heating fuel;

DOWN 1- Remain undecided; 2- Chantilly product; 3- River to the Caspian; 4- Shape up; 5- Group of spectators; 6- Alphabet run; 7- Penpoint; 8- Delight; 9- Off-the-wall; 10- List from which to choose; 11- Hunk; 12- Female child; 13- Grasp; 21- Fell; 23- Willow; 25- Nutritional fig.; 26- Cut partner; 27- Some horses; 28- St. \_\_\_\_ fire; 29- Ich bin \_\_\_\_ Berliner; 31- Crafty; 32- British sailor; 33- Les \_\_\_\_-Unis; 34- Religious doctrine; 39- Suffix with meteor; 40- Have a feeling about; 41- Cram; 42- Infalible; 44- Ingot; 48- Common article; 49- Robbery at gunpoint; 51- Former Russian rulers; 52- Attorney follower; 54- Support for a broken limb; 55- Ersatz butter; 56- At hand; 57- Basic unit of heredity; 59- Long ago; 60- Gymnast Korbut; 61- Nair rival; 64- Despot Amin; 65- \_\_\_\_ vibrant;



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Ref: 2005 1002 1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 2 2

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Traditional apartment **HKD 2,680,000**  
Ref: 2103 6001 788 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1 1





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elda@jmlproperty.com



**Windy Lam**  
(853) 6881 1007  
windy@jmlproperty.com



**Adriana Lam**  
(853) 6684 1718  
adriana@jmlproperty.com



**Sam Lee**  
(853) 6611 0975  
sam@jmlproperty.com



**Kitty Lou**  
(853) 6630 0730  
kitty@jmlproperty.com



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(853) 6680 9804  
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## Property of the Week



**FOR SALE**

**REDUCED**

### Triumph Court

**HKD 11,500,000** 1,756 ft<sup>2</sup> 4 2

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Viewings by appointment.

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



Ref: 2104 6002

## Property Hotlist



**FOR SALE**

### Macau ZAPE

**HKD 7,450,000**

720 ft<sup>2</sup>

2

1



Ref: 2101 6002



**FOR RENT**

**REDUCED**

### One Central

**HKD 16,500/mth**

1,269 ft<sup>2</sup>

2

2



Ref: 2005 1002



**FOR RENT**

**NEW**

### Hellene Gardens

**HKD 14,800/mth**

2,073 ft<sup>2</sup>

3

2

1



Ref: 2107 1003

## More Listings

### For Sale

**[Taipa]** Old Taipa studio 1 1 650 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 3,780,000** Ref: 2007 6001

**[Taipa]** Lun Vo 2 1 770 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 5,700,000** Ref: 2107 6001

**[Taipa]** Chun U Villa 4 3 1,979 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 12,880,000** Ref: 2104 6001

**[Taipa]** Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 12,980,000** Ref: 1909 6006

**[Macau]** Fountainside Villas 3 4 1 2,973 ft<sup>2</sup> **POA** Ref: 2005 6002

### For Rent

**[Taipa]** Old Taipa Studio 1 470 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 7,800/mth** Ref: 2106 1004

**[Macau]** Tai Nin 1 1 720 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 8,600/mth** Ref: 1909 1002

**[Taipa]** Taipa Village 2 1 900 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 11,500/mth** Ref: 2012 1001

**[Macau]** Macau, ZAPE 2 1 720 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 14,000/mth** Ref: 2101 1004

**[Coloane]** One Oasis 2 2 1,112 ft<sup>2</sup> **HKD 15,500/mth** Ref: 2102 1004

## Rain Dance Property "WE DANCE UNTIL IT'S SOLD!"



**FOR SALE**

### Traditional apartment

**HKD 2,680,000**

788 ft<sup>2</sup>

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Ref: 2103 6001

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# A first-ever gold - and a lesson - in Olympic skateboarding

JOHN LEICESTER  
& MIINA YAMADA, TOKYO

**H**AD the first-ever Olympic skateboarding champion ridden his board out of the venue where he made history Sunday at the Tokyo Games, he quickly would have come face-to-face with clear evidence that his sport still has a way to go to winning hearts and minds.

Just a quick skate from the Ariake Urban Sports Park, next to a school, a sign reads: "No skateboarding."

Good luck telling Yuto Horigome to move on. The Tokyo native now has a weighty argument that he should be left alone: a shiny gold Olympic medal won in the city where he learned to skate as a kid and honed his derring-do skills on its teeming streets where skateboarders sometimes aren't welcome.

"Skateboarding is still a minor sport," Horigome said. "I want to show how skateboarding is fun."

Mission accomplished.

AP PHOTO



Skating's Olympic debut delivered exactly what the Games' organizers had hoped for: a high-adrenaline show of thrills and lots of spills from athletes plugged into younger audiences.

U.S. skater Jagger Eaton, who won bronze, immediately celebrated by whipping his phone out of his pocket and broadcasting live on Instagram.

And Kelvin Hoefler, who used to sleep with his board when he first fell in love with skating as a young boy, was so giddy with his Olympic silver that he started picturing kids back in his native Brazil perhaps putting aside their soccer balls and hopping onto four wheels instead.

"It's going to be mind-changing for them," he predicted.

And perhaps for the Games, too.

The venerable sporting extravaganza had never seen an event quite as, well, chill as this, with laid-back camaraderie and an emphasis on fun among competitors steeped in the "life is a blast" philosophy of their counter-culture pursuit born in freewheeling California. Putting competition aside, skaters whooped and applauded when others landed tough tricks — and hoped that other more buttoned-down sports were taking notice.

"The goal is to progress each sport to the maximum and we can do that without having to bash or cheat," Puerto Rican skater Manny Santiago said. "The other sports do need that. (At) the cafeteria last night, the majority of the countries, the skate guys, we all sat down for dinner as like, 'Let's all sit down before the event starts.' You don't see that in swimming."

But never finding his groove was skating's standout star, Nyjah Huston of the U.S. He fell repeatedly while trying to land tricks and placed seventh in the

eight-man final.

The Californian was among those who struggled with furnace-like conditions in the skatepark of rails, stairs, ledges and other urban furniture that gives the street event its name. The women's street competition is Monday.

Blazing sun softened rubber joints on the boards' wheel axles, making them harder to control.

"Your feet starting burning up," Huston said. "Your board like gets so hot that it kind of flexes more. That's kind of why I fell on one of those tricks out there."

Still, Huston talked up skating's Olympic debut as a win for skaters everywhere.

"Hopefully, yes, after this people will be more accepting to skateboarding in cities like Tokyo," Huston said. "We are not out there trying to vandalize or trespass, or the way a lot of people see it. We are just out there doing our jobs, to be honest, and having an awesome time."

While Huston melted down in the heat, Horigome was ice cool, executing the toughest tricks. His dad skated, and Horigome himself started as a 7-year-old, riding in a park 30 minutes drive from the future Olympic venue.

In front of her television, in a residence that overlooks the venue, 8-year-old Ayane Nakamura yelped as Horigome sealed gold with a final trick. **MDT/AP**

AD

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Contact: Ms. Amy Yang  
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo  
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084  
Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR



## OPINION

China Daily  
Editorial, China Daily

### FLEXIBLE FISCAL POLICY WILL HELP ADAPT TO MARKET CHANGES

A tax official from the Ministry of Finance said at a recent news briefing that China's phased tax and fee reduction policy introduced in 2020 to deal with the novel coronavirus outbreak will be phased out in an orderly manner, but the implementation period of value-added tax reduction for small-scale taxpayers will be extended.

That means the exit of the temporary tax and fee reduction policy is conditional, that is, based on the necessity of maintaining needed support for economic recovery.

At the same time, the proactive fiscal policy will be maintained to boost the country's economic recovery and development, and more targeted policy measures are likely to be adopted.

Under the combined effects of various policy measures, the impact of the epidemic on China's economy has been reduced to a large extent, and thus many temporary financial, fiscal and tax policies can be phased out. Their continuous implementation could be harmful to not only the banks and State coffers, but also the economy itself, given that excessive money issuance and policy support will create excess of liquidity and data bubbles in the market, which will have a negative impact on macroeconomic decision-making and create hurdles for sustainable economic development.

While the impact of the pandemic on the domestic economy has been minimized, globally the pandemic has not been as effectively controlled, and thus continues to greatly impact global supply and industrial chains. In particular, some developed countries have released excess liquidity for economic recovery, increasing the likelihood of inflation. As a result, developing economies will face growing pressures from imported inflation and the sustained rise in prices of bulk commodities.

Therefore, even after the financial, tax and credit support policies are phased out, it is still necessary for China to retain and extend some policies. For example, not only should tax cuts for micro, small and medium-sized enterprises be continued, but some new, targeted ones should be rolled out based on their actual needs. The sustained rise in commodity prices have had a great impact on the middle and downstream enterprises, and without sufficient policy support, some of them may not be able to survive.

These temporary and phased policies reflect the flexible characteristics of China's proactive fiscal policy and its important role in promoting economic development. China's fiscal and monetary policies both need to be more flexible to adapt to market changes and positively influence its economic development and enterprises' operation.

## POPE HONORS GRANDPARENTS ON FIRST WORLD DAY FOR ELDERLY

Pope Francis celebrated the Roman Catholic Church's first World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly yesterday.

Francis solicited a round of applause from the faithful in St. Peter's Square and urged people everywhere to reach out to older generations.

Francis was supposed to have led a celebration Mass for grandparents in St. Peter's Cathedral earlier in the day, but left the duty to Archbishop Rino Fisichella, three weeks after the pontiff emerged from the hospital after major intestinal surgery.

"Grandparents and grandchildren, the elderly and youth together showed one of the beautiful sides of the Church, and showed the alliance between the generations," the pontiff said in off-the-cuff remarks from a window overlooking St. Peter's Square.

"To celebrate this day, I invite celebration in every community with visits to grandparents and elderly, those who are most alone, to bring them my message, inspired by Jesus: 'I am with you every day.'"

During the traditional Sunday noon blessing, the pope also remembered victims of flooding in China and offered his blessing to the Tokyo Olympics.

AP PHOTO



## CHINA'S YANG TAKES FIRST GOLD AT UNEASY TOKYO OLYMPICS

JAKE SEINER, TOKYO

**H**ARDLY half a day passed before politics, the pandemic and blistering heat impacted events across the Tokyo Olympics.

China's Yang Qian, at least, stayed right on target.

Yang overtook Anastasiia Galashina of Russia to win the first gold medal of the Tokyo Games in the women's 10-meter air rifle Saturday. Her last shot was her worst of the finals but still rallied her past Galashina with an Olympic-record score of 251.8. Switzerland's Nina Christen took bronze.

"It's unbelievable that I can be here," Yang said through an interpreter. "I was really nervous. The competition was really tight, but I'm so happy that I could win."

Galashina led Yang by 0.2 points when they fired almost simultaneously on their last shots. The limited crowd at Asaka Shooting Range let out gasps as the scores posted a split second later.

Yang, a 21-year-old who qualified sixth of the eight medal competitors, missed the innermost circle on her final shot, a 9.8 that she figured would cost her gold.

She looked up to see Galashina missed the two

center rings. The Russian's 8.9 meant IOC President Thomas Bach would present Yang the gold medal on a tray — per pandemic protocols — instead of Galashina.

### COVID-19 CANCELEATION

The first event of the Olympic beach volleyball tournament was canceled because a Czech player tested positive for COVID-19. Markéta Sluková, who tested positive earlier this week, and partner Barbora Hermannova were eliminated from the tournament.

Already empty because of a ban on fans, the venue at Shiokaze Park was eerily still when the match was supposed to start at 9 a.m. on Saturday, the only sound coming from the incredibly loud cicadas in the nearby trees.

The Japanese team of Megumi Murakami and Miki Ishii earned the win by default after qualifying for the tournament via the entry reserved for the host country. Officially, the Czechs were marked as "Did Not Start," and their three round-robin opponents will be awarded victories.

Sluková is one of at least three members of the Czech team who have tested positive since their arrival in Japan, including men's

beach volleyball player Ondrej Peruši. The team has said it's investigating if the outbreak of COVID-19 is linked to its charter flight to Tokyo.

### ALREADY DONE

The youngest competitor at the Tokyo Games has been eliminated, and so has an Olympic great.

Hend Zaza of Syria lost in straight sets to Liu Jia, ending the 12-year-old's hopes of making noise as the youngest table tennis player in Olympics history.

Zaza told Olympics.com that she was pleased with her performance and learned from the loss — and she's hoping for another shot at the next Olympics, in Paris.

Two-time Olympic champion Kohei Uchimura's Olympic career ended when the 32-year-old Japanese gymnast fell during qualifying on high bar.

Considered by many the greatest of all time, the 2012 and '16 all-around gold medalist was midway through his set when he peeled off while doing a complicated connection. He picked himself up and finished his routine, drilling his dismount.

His score of 13.866 placed him outside of the top eight, meaning he will not make the finals. **MDT/AP**

THE  
BUZZ

**Pakistan** A mudslide at a mine in southwest Pakistan killed four coal miners and injured two others on Saturday following heavy monsoon rains, officials said. Local government administrator Amir Khan said that by the time rescuers reached the area hit by the torrent, the 200-foot-deep mine had partially collapsed.

AP PHOTO



**Italy** Fires raged yesterday on the Mediterranean island of Sardinia, where nearly 400 people were evacuated overnight. No deaths or injuries have been reported. Firefighters said several homes were damaged in the island's western interior region. Civil protection authorities said a preliminary survey indicates 10,000 acres have been consumed by flames around Montiferru, near the center of the Italy's second-largest island.

AP PHOTO



**French** President Emmanuel Macron appealed for national unity and mass vaccination to fight the resurgent virus, and lashed out at those fueling anti-vaccine sentiment and protests. About 160,000 people protested around France on Saturday against a special COVID-19 pass for restaurants and mandatory vaccinations for health workers. Many marchers shouted "liberty!" and said the government shouldn't tell them what to do.

AP PHOTO



**Nicaraguan** police placed under house arrest a seventh presidential contender on Saturday, meaning that almost all of those who could have challenged President Daniel Ortega in the Nov. 7 elections have now been detained. Opposition leader Noel Vidaurre was placed under police custody at his home on Saturday, as was political commentator Jaime Arellano. Arellano had been called in for questioning regarding a commentary he wrote criticizing an Ortega speech.