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EVA AIR WILL OPERATE FIVE FLIGHTS FROM MACAU TO EUROPE IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER TO HELP LOCAL STUDENTS RETURN TO STUDYING ABROAD

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LATEST LRT BREAKDOWN STOKES PUBLIC FRUSTRATION

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US FEDERAL PROSECUTORS ALLEGE VISA FRAUD AND CRIMINAL CONSPIRACY AT IMPERIAL PACIFIC'S CONTROVERSIAL SAIPAN CASINO

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AP PHOTO



Lebanon's information minister resigned yesterday as the country grapples with the aftermath of the devastating blast that ripped through the capital and raised public anger to new levels. The resignation comes as public anger is mounting against the ruling elite, blamed for the chronic mismanagement and corruption that is believed to be behind the explosion in a Beirut Port warehouse.

AP PHOTO



India A fire killed 11 coronavirus patients early yesterday at a southern Indian hotel being used as a COVID-19 facility, officials said, in the second such incident this month. The blaze at Hotel Swarna Palace broke out at 5 a.m. Rescue teams evacuated those trapped in the multistory building. At least 22 people were brought to hospitals.

AP PHOTO

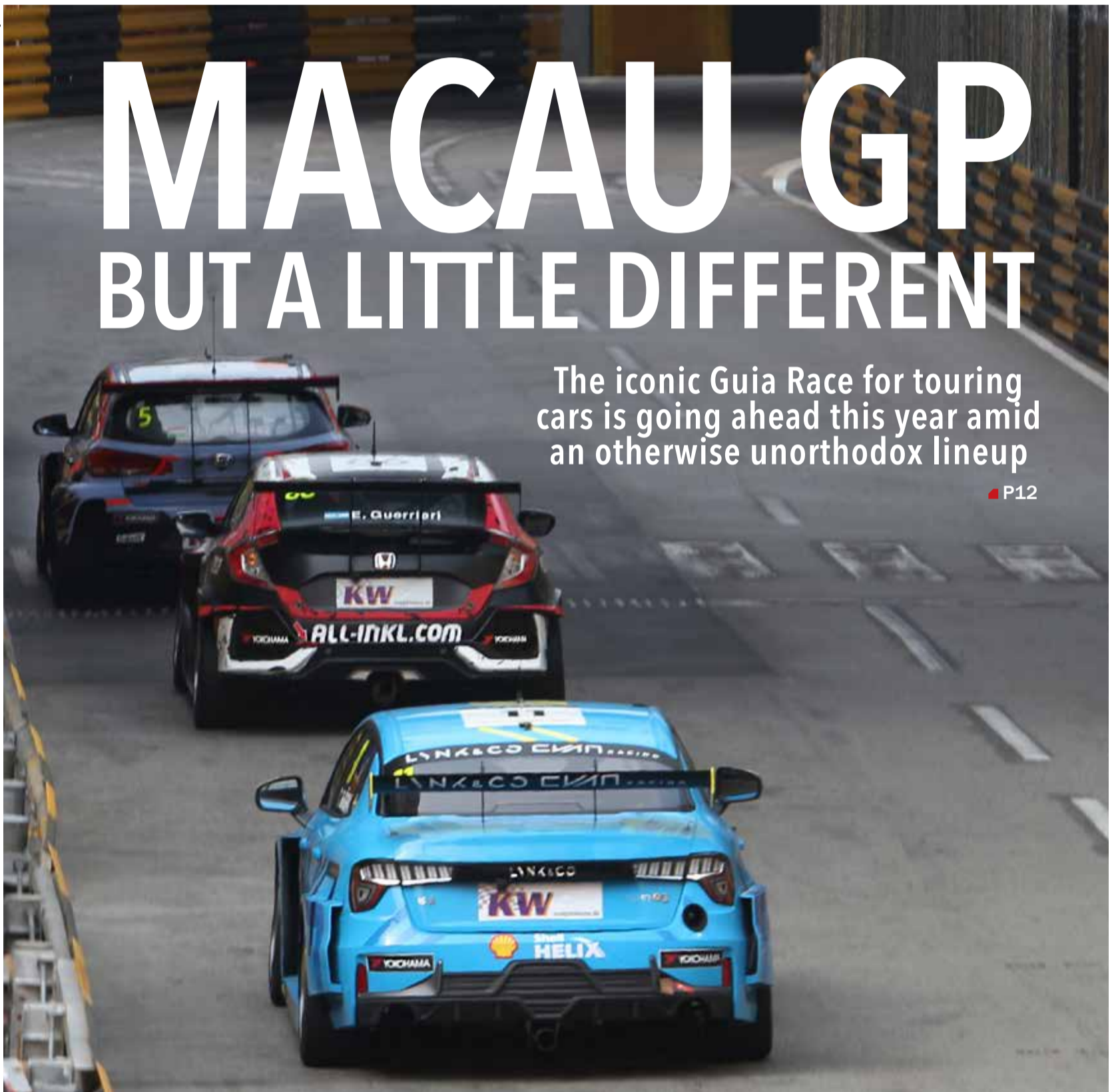


Japan The city of Nagasaki yesterday marked its 75th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing. At the event at Nagasaki Peace Park, scaled down because of the coronavirus pandemic, Mayor Tomihisa Taue read a peace declaration in which he raised concern that nuclear states had in recent years retreated from disarmament efforts.

Afghanistan A traditional Afghan council concluded yesterday with hundreds of delegates agreeing to free 400 Taliban members, paving the way for an early start to negotiations between Afghanistan's warring sides. The declaration read out in both of Afghanistan's official languages of Pashto and Farsi calls for an immediate start to negotiations and cease fire.

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MACAU GP BUT A LITTLE DIFFERENT

The iconic Guia Race for touring cars is going ahead this year amid an otherwise unorthodox lineup

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MAINLAND MAN CAUGHT OVERSTAYING, FORGING DOCUMENTS

A mainland man, surnamed Zhang, arrived in Macau in August 2018 with his Chinese passport and remained in the city with an expired permit until he was caught on August 5 this year, by the police at an on-road inspection. At the inspection, he claimed that he held a Korean passport, which was not at that time with him, but presented a picture of the passport. The police, however, could not find the immigration record of the passport. The man eventually confessed that he entered Macau with a Chinese passport. The police further discovered that the Korean passport was forged so that the suspect could rent hotel rooms with it. As such, a front office agent was also arrested under an alleged violation. Finally, the police discovered that the man has 57 fake Health Code images, which he confessed that he used to enter casinos.

SEXAGENARIAN LOST 52,000 EUROS TO 'SWEDISH ENGINEER' IN SCAM

A local woman in her 60s has reported a scam to the police involving a person who claimed to be a Swedish engineer. The victim reportedly lost more than 52,800 euros (about 500,000 patacas). A year ago, the victim received a friend request on Facebook from the "engineer," who claimed he was working in Italy. After becoming "friends," the suspect stated that he needed money to repair his machinery. He then asked the woman to lend him the above sum and promised to return the money as soon as possible. The victim wired the money in three installments at the end of last year. Later, when the suspect asked her for several other loans without repaying the previous ones, she eventually realized the possibility she was being scammed.

TWO JUVENILES FOUND TO BE INVOLVED IN DRUG TRAFFICKING

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has apprehended two local juveniles involved in drug trafficking. On August 6, in a hotel room located in the Toi San area, the PJ intercepted three teenagers aged between 15 and 18 years old, two of whom are underage. The police authority also seized 80 packs of three types of drugs worth a combined 140,000 patacas on the black market. One of the three, a 15-year-old girl, claimed to have no involvement in the crime. The other two said that she had been working for a Hong Kong drug trafficking group for approximately one month. The drugs were transported from Hong Kong to Macau. For every 0.3 grams of drugs they sell, the two teenagers were paid 90 patacas. In total, they have already received 30,000 patacas. The PJ has already forwarded the two juveniles to the prosecution authority.

NEW APP AIMS TO SUPPORT FILIPINO MIGRANTS' MENTAL WELLBEING

JULIE ZHU

THE University of Macau and Caritas Macau have launched an app to help non-local Filipino workers with mental health problems.

On Friday, the two organizations announced an online assessment facility called Kumusta Kabayan, a digital health program that aims to improve the health of migrant workers (OFWs) from the Philippines.

Kumusta Kabayan contains health information and health resources for OFWs who want to improve their well-being in order to overcome their challenges.

The online course is based on behavioral activation, an evidence-based program delivered in five sessions where each session can be completed within 30 minutes.

When a user accesses the program, the person will answer sociological questions relating to their background, such as age and gender.

Andrian Liem, postdoctoral fellow of UM, explained that the program is designed to collect information about the factors



that make a worker upset or discourage them from working. It works to help the users overcome this negativity.

Part of these sessions are personalized for each user. These features will be unlocked in every session, following the user's progress to keep them motivated.

The app will evaluate users' mental health before and after using the program.

Liem said that foreign workers from the Philippines suffer from the same psychological issues as non-local workers from other regions.

"The Filipino workers appear to be happy, but they may not share with others, especially not with their employers [when they are upset]," Liem commented.

At the current stage, the app is designed to primarily assist Filipino nationals. The program is only available in English and Tagalog.

Meanwhile, Caritas Macau is piloting an event called the Health Connection Program for Overseas Filipino Workers in Macau from August to December of this year.

The association is inviting OFWs, aged 18 or older, able to

understand English and Tagalog, who hold a valid working visa and are planning to stay in Macau for at least six months, to participate. The organization will also organize on-site recruitment activities at churches, Caritas' Centers, and the Philippine Consulate General in Macau.

A group of 350 Filipino workers are already confirmed to have signed up for the app.

Talking about personal data protection, the professor explained that the app does not require users to register with their real identity.

CONSUMER COUNCIL ENCOURAGES PUBLIC TO USE ITS PRICE PLATFORM

To combat problematic pricing and alleged profiteering practices, the Macao Consumer Council has again encouraged members of the public to rely on its "Macao Price Information Platform."

By actively comparing the prices of goods sold in various outlets, the Consumer Council keeps a handle on pricing across the city. It then publishes the information to the platform.

Apart from regular household products and consumables, the platform also lists prices of car-use petrol as well as household LPG.

Listed on the platform are also 180 types of products sold in 35 local supermarkets. Information is updated every Wednesday. The Council also ranks

supermarket pricing in ascending order, as well as products that see a price difference of more than 50%.

It has a user-friendly "shopping basket" function that can tell users where they can get most of what they need to buy. It can even calculate which shopping basket has the cheapest group of products.

For example, the Council wrapped up its latest mission of price inspection and comparison near the end of last week, focusing on chilled and frozen pork.

The Council recorded the prices of 12 types of products, including rice, grains, cooking oil, canned food, spreads, seasonings, drinks, dairy products, as well as chilled, frozen and live products. **AL**

ACADEMIC SAYS MACAU COULD SERVE AS PLATFORM FOR GREEN BONDS

GOVERNMENTS and other investors from Portuguese-speaking countries could issue green bonds in Macau and Hong Kong, according to Jacky So Yuk-Chow, a finance professor at the University of Macau's Faculty of Business Management.

A report by Lusa news agency quoted the academic as saying that Macau's historic, cultural and linguistic ties to Portuguese-speaking countries afforded it an advantage over Hong Kong.

Hong Kong has already established a scheme to issue the investments tied to environmentally-sustainable projects.

So told Lusa that any move

to create a green financing offering for Portuguese-speaking countries would help diversify Macau's economy.

Financial services have been suggested as a potential area for economic diversification in Macau. However, proposals to develop a securities market in the semi-autonomous territory have fallen flat on multiple occasions.

Nevertheless, So said that there are opportunities being sought by investors throughout the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, and that the Macau SAR could use its links to Portuguese-speaking countries to help meet the demand.

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ANTHONY LAM

Latest LRT breakdown stokes public frustration

THE Macao Light Rapid Transit Corporation, the operator of the Macao's Light Rapid Transit (LRT) network, has issued an apology to the public regarding a major system breakdown on Friday.

The incident concerned a carriage that stopped at the Pai Kok Station and could not continue its journey automatically. The central control thus turned to manual operation and moved the train to the next station, Cotai West, where the carriage became unresponsive.

The incident caused a service suspension from 9:11 p.m. on Friday and forced about 100 passengers to use another carriage. Only one side of the tracks was available during the incident, which delayed the train by about 24 minutes.

The Macao LRT Corp is referring to the incident as the first major breakdown of the transit system.

In early July the system also saw a service suspension due to a power failure.

A resident, surnamed Lam, told local newspaper Macao Daily News that it was unacceptable to see two incidents in less than two months. The frequent system breakdowns discourage people from using the system because "it could be time-wasting," Lam argued.

Meanwhile, the Macao LRT Corp has been criticized for not promptly releasing crucial system

RENATO MARQUES



malfunction information. In addition, there have been flaws in the communications between the company and the Transport Bureau (DSAT).

A member of the Transport Advisory Council called for a clear mechanism of communications be set up to improve the release of information and degree of transparency. The Council member

also suggested the DSAT take a greater lead in obtaining operational data.

The Macao LRT Corp is a publicly funded company with limited liability. The company has registered capital of MOP1.4 billion, with 96% of shares held by the Macao Special Administrative Region Government, 3% by the Industrial and Commercial Development

Fund and 1% by the Science and Technology Development Fund.

According to the Macao LRT Corp's company profile, the corporation is responsible for the construction and maintenance of the LRT system, as well as the operation thereof. The operation contract, however, has been assigned to a subsidiary of Hong Kong's MTR Corporation, the MTR Rai-

lway Operations (Macao) Company Limited.

It is believed that after 2023, when the operation contract with the MTR expires, the Macao LRT Corp will take over the daily operation of the system.

For that reason, lawmaker Ella Lei submitted an inquiry to the government to ask about the system's employment of non-resident workers, particularly with regard to the career level and type.

She also asked about training local people to work in positions, as well as the target size of the trained workforce in the next few years.

Referring to the July incident, the lawmaker pointed out that the system will become fragile if no local workforce is capable of handling some of the more frequently seen minor problems.

In that incident, Lei pointed out, technicians could not come from Japan, where the carriages were made, to fix the problem. This is an illustration of the importance of a local workforce, according to Lei.

Macao's LRT system has operated for nearly eight months and has already seen several technical incidents. Less than a month after its inauguration, it had already experienced four system failures.

A major failure happened at the turn of the year when passengers entered the gate on December 31 and could not exit on January 1, 2020. Social media users compared the incident to the "Y2K" or "Millennium Bug" fear of 1999.



EVA Air to operate flights from Macau to Europe

JULIE ZHU

EVA Air will operate five flights from Macau to Europe in August and September, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) said at Friday's Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center press conference.

MGTO spokesperson Lau Fong Chi revealed that three flights will depart from Macau on August 26, September 9 and September 23, lay over in Taipei and then fly to London.

Another two flights will head out from Macau to Taipei on August 28 and September 4, before continuing to France.

The flights are purposely coordinated for Macau students to travel to the European continent to study. However, all interested Macau residents are encouraged to contact EVA Air regarding the details.

In addition, Air Macau also provides transport possibilities to London but, instead of laying over in Taipei, the flight will transit

through Seoul.

The government reminded individuals who are interested in these flights to take a Covid-19 test and apply for a printed test result. People can apply for the printed test report at the Pac On Covid-19 test site, the Macau Forum, or at the Conde S. Januário Hospital Centre.

Currently, the Macau SAR government is able to carry out 23,000 Covid-19 tests on a daily basis. As of today, over 300,000 Macau local residents and non-lo-

cal workers have already received the first-time test for free.

According to Lo Iek Long, clinical director of the public hospital, several local private healthcare organizations have already submitted a request to the local government to gain official approval for providing Covid-19 test services.

However, during the press conference, Lo did not elaborate on the details, having only said that the government will release information in due time.

According to Lo, any private organization, as long as it is qualified, is allowed to provide the test service to people with urgent needs.

Compared to Hong Kong, Macau does not have the necessity of testing every single resident.

Previously, two Macau gaming concessionaires tested 25,000 casino frontline workers. Within a short time, the government will work with the remaining four gaming operators to test more casino frontline workers.

12 PORTUGUESE NATIONALS ALLOWED TO TRAVEL WITHOUT NEED TO QUARANTINE

TWELVE Portuguese nationals residing in Macau have been granted permission to travel from Macau to Hong Kong and back to Portugal without the need to undergo quarantine in the neighboring region of Hong Kong, TDM Radio reported.

The 12 people were given such an opportunity due to humanitarian or health-related reasons, the Portuguese Consulate for Macau and Hong Kong informed in a written reply to the news outlet.

According to the same response, the Hong Kong authorities have rejected another six cases handled by the Portuguese consulate authorities requesting similar privileges.

As explained by Consul-General Paulo Cunha Alves, all requests submitted through the consulate have to undergo special procedures and evaluation and must wait at least 10 days for a formal response.

"It is a complex service, involving the official entities of the Macau SAR, the Hong Kong SAR, the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau and the Honorary Consulate of Portugal in Hong Kong," the Consul-general said.

"The quarantine exemption is only granted in exceptional cases duly substantiated and documented, based on serious and genuine humanitarian or health reasons," added the diplomat. **RM**



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Property of the Week

FOR SALE

One Central Stylish modern 2 bedroom
HK\$14,839,000 1,349 ft² 2 2

SCAN ME

The One Central lifestyle is the epitome of elegance and luxury living in the heart of the casino district. This 2 bedroom spacious unit has a stylish modern interior with scenic views throughout. On one side, you will see the elegantly designed Wynn/Encore casino & hotel, and the other side the beautiful Kun lam statue, science museum and Macau/Taipa bridge

Located next to Van Nam lake, your shopping needs are met with the luxurious One Central mall occupying the first few levels of the building. With MGM next door, Wynn opposite and Starworld and L'Arc casino just a few minutes walk away, entertainment and nightlife is available anytime.

Being right on the riverfront and lake, there are plenty of paths to have a relaxing stroll and enjoy the best of what Macau has to offer.

Property Hotlist

FOR SALE

Nova City apartment, Taipa
\$12,880,000
1,494 ft²
3 2

SCAN ME

FOR SALE

Chun Fuk, Taipa Village
\$8,998,000
834 ft²
2 2

SCAN ME

FOR RENT

One Oasis, Coloane
\$14,500/mth
1,100 ft²
2 1

SCAN ME

FOR RENT

**Traditional Apartment
Old Taipa Village**
\$9,900/mth
600 ft²
2 1

SCAN ME

More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1 900 ft² **\$4,900,000** (ref: 19106003)
- [Taipa] Wa Bao 2 2 1,071 ft² **\$7,995,000** (ref: 18115568)
- [Macau] Unique Loft unit 2 2 2,200 ft² **\$9,990,000** (ref: 15115464)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 2 1,420 ft² **\$10,900,000** (ref: 20016004)
- [Coloane] Large 3 bedroom 2 3 2,530 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096000)

For Rent

- [Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1 3 **\$3,800/mth** (ref: 20041001)
- [Taipa] Studio apartment 1 1 650 ft² **\$9,000/mth** (ref: 20061003)
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft² **\$25,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 3 3 4,266 ft² **\$45,000/mth** (ref: 19055006ST)
- [Macau] Retail Shop, Barra area 1,968 ft² **\$48,000/mth** (ref: n/a)

Recent Movements

Rented

Central Macau with rooftop
2 bed, 2 bath

Rented

Fabulous Coloane Village,
2 bed, 2 bath



JML Events



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



Macau Bats Junior
Rugby Team



Macau Golf Masters

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LYNZY VALLES



SMEs pleased with outcome of Sands Shopping Carnival

LYNZY VALLES

HUNDREDS of local SMEs participated in the first Sands Shopping Carnival held over the weekend in the hopes of showcasing their products and services to the local market.

These SMEs have been affected by the economic downturn caused by Covid-19, with some losing up to 90% of their regular business.

From Friday to Sunday, nearly 260 local SMEs, micro-suppliers, Macau young entrepreneurs, and Made-in-Macau companies participated in the carnival, offering products from floral, services, cultural and creative, old Macau stores, to food and beverages.

Organized by Sands China, the SMEs participating in the event included both Sands China suppliers and other suppliers. The organizer said some of the participating entities had never before joined a trade fair. After a two-week online registration period for interested exhibitors, the gaming operator drew lots to determine the final selection of exhibitors.

The MOP6.5 million project is fully supported by Sands China Ltd and directly aims to assist SMEs.

According to Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd, by providing a free business platform, the gaming operator may be able to help SMEs to find more business as activity in the city begins returning to normal.

"Sands China is very pleased to present the Sands Shopping Carnival this weekend to help stimulate domestic consumption and boost the economy in support of the [government's] Consume for the Economy initiative," said the executive.

"With this three-day shopping carnival, we aim to provide a free business platform for local SMEs and Sands retailers to gain more business opportunities," he added.

With the aim of stimulating domestic consumption and boosting the local community, the carnival was hosted just as the government's consumption subsidy card, more commonly known as the e-voucher, has commenced its second round.

One of the exhibitors launched a new product at the carnival, a machine that helps to disinfect people.

"It's an important opportunity for us to be participating in this platform as this is the first time we're putting the product to the public," said Calvin Cheung, managing director of the Macao Sunrise Environmental Protection Engineering Ltd.

Each disinfectant machine retails for 46,000 patacas. According to Cheung, it is high time for the company launch the product, as it is needed by different enterprises, especially premises that host gatherings of people amid the social distancing measures put in place by different entities.

"Although Macau's Covid-19 [situation] is quite stable, we believe that it is important for enterprises to be safe," he added.

Another small company, flower store "Serene Garden", said it saw participation in the three-day carnival as an opportunity to slowly regain their business. The company has seen a 90% reduction in its sales amid the pandemic period.

According to company representative, Luis Silva, their operating costs are now 300% of pre-pandemic times on account of more complex logistical arrangements.

"We mostly have imported products. Flights are canceled, so our costs are 300% more," he said. "Our Holland products used to come from the country to Taiwan to Macau but due to the lack of flights, it's been transited a few more times. The losses are even more because our products are live products," he added.

Commenting on the event, Silva remarked, "this is really a good opportunity not just for us but for Macau also. It's also a call to help [each other]."

Another local firm, Pure New Zealand Product Shop, is also grabbing the chance to promote their company at the carnival.

"We just want to [generate] promotion and raise awareness of our products.

We see this as a way to boost the economy. We're thankful for this event," said Becky Leong, owner of the store.

Local non-governmental or-

ganizations were also invited to participate in the carnival, providing a platform for their members who are handicapped to serve the public.

Both Pou Choi Center of the Fu Hong Rehabilitation Association of Macau and the Macau Association for the Mentally Handicapped brought their members to the carnival, including those currently being trained in their Food and Beverage (F&B) program.

According to Ago Kou, manager at the Pou Choi Center of the Fu Hong Rehabilitation Association of Macau, it is their first time providing F&B training sessions to their members. The association is grateful to the gaming operator for allowing them to join the platform and help their members to gain experience.

Echoing the same sentiments, Grace Lao, manager of the Macau Association for the Mentally Handicapped, remarked, "we have been doing training [sessions] and this platform is a place for residents to know that our members can also join the workforce later on."

Currently, the association is training 16 members. Each member receives two years of training and will undergo evaluation once done.

"This is a new opportunity for us, so we appreciate this platform. It's the first time we've joined the platform," she added.

The Sands Shopping Carnival is organized by Sands China Ltd. and co-organized by the Macao Chamber of Commerce.

TOO MANY TEACHERS FOR NON-TERTIARY EDUCATION

The supply of teachers for non-tertiary education exceeds demand, according to a statement released by the Talents Development Committee (SCDT). By the end of March, the committee collected statistics from the Higher Education Bureau and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau regarding teaching personnel supply. In April, the SCDT sent out questionnaires to 78 non-tertiary schools asking about their demand for teaching professionals for the academic year of 2022-2023. The SCDT concluded that the number of graduates with a degree in education or in another major is higher than the schools' demand for teachers. The gap between supply and demand is smaller in regards to primary education. Early childhood education, secondary education and special education will show varying degrees of saturation in the next three years in terms of demand for teachers.

HOUSING PRICES CLIMB HIGHER IN SECOND QUARTER

The overall residential property price index for the three-month period starting in April increased by 0.6% from the previous period starting in March. It now stands at 266.2, according to information disclosed over the weekend by the Statistics and Census Service. The indexes for the Macau Peninsula (266.7) and for Taipa and Coloane (264.2) both rose by 0.6%. Analyzed by quarter, the overall residential property price index in the second quarter of 2020 grew by 0.8% from the first quarter. The index for existing residential units rose by 0.7% whereas that for pre-sale residential units fell by 1.0%.

OLD BUILDINGS NEAR ST PAUL'S DEMOLISHED FOR PUBLIC SAFETY

The 13 houses distinguished by their grey brick structure located on Patio da Eterna Felicidade, an alleyway on the road from the Ruins of St Paul's to St Anthony's Church, have been demolished for public safety reasons, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has stated. Last year, the structures were handed over to the government, which decided to conduct a complete reconstruction. That decision was met with public objection. The IC has recently explained that two of the structures were in poor condition, having undergone land degradation and foundational subsidence. Cracks and corrosion were also discovered on crucial parts. The IC described the rejuvenation project as essential because the houses form a rare staircase-style village that remains in the city.

LONDONER MACAO PHASE ONE TO COMPLETE BY SEPTEMBER

Sands China President Wilfred Wong has said that the first phase development of the Londoner Macao hotel is still on track to complete by the end of this quarter. The company executive said on Friday that ongoing hotel and casino renovations were progressing faster than planned because of the few tourists this year. However, the actual opening date of the company's latest destination-themed resort will depend on the state of the city's tourism trade in the remainder of the year. "In the third quarter, the hotel and its supporting amenities should be ready," said Wong, on the sidelines of the Sands Shopping Carnival held at the Venetian Macao integrated resort. "Now we're just waiting for the visitor numbers to show some obvious increase. Only then, can we consider opening."

ECONOMISTS EXPECT BETTER GAMING REVENUE IN OCTOBER

The city's economists are optimistic about gaming revenue for October - when the normally lucrative Golden Week is held - providing that mainland China resumes the issuance of tourist travel permits. Henry Chun Kwok Lei, vice president of the Macau Economic Association, expects gaming revenue in the upcoming month of October to be promising, especially during the national holiday of the People's Republic of China. Lei believes that mainland visitors are likely to visit Macau once mainland China resumes issuing tourism permits. According to government's statistics, gross gaming revenue in July was 1.34 billion patacas, an increase of more than 80% compared with the previous month, but still down 94.5% in year-on-year terms.

GRANT BOWIE RESIGNS AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BUT WILL REMAIN ADVISOR

Grant Bowie has formerly stepped down as an executive director of MGM China, but he will remain as a high-level advisor until the end of 2022. The confirmation of Bowie's resignation was made in a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange by the gaming concessionaire last week. Bowie stepped down from his role as Chief Executive Officer in May after having served the casino operator since August 2008. He said in a statement at the time that the move would align with his "personal retirement plans." Also this summer, MGM China's U.S.-based parent company appointed Bill Hornbuckle to replace Jim Murren as company CEO. Last week's filing with the Hong Kong Stock Exchange said that Ayesha Khanna Molino, senior vice president for government affairs at MGM Resorts International, has been appointed as a non-executive director at MGM China.

MACAU JOINS LIST OF 250 WORLD HERITAGE CITIES

RENATO MARQUES

MACAU has become a member of the Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC), an international non-governmental organization that gathers around 250 cities possessing sites listed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The affiliation ceremony was held via videoconference on August 7, conferring on Macau the accolade of being part of this worldwide group of cities.

According to information released by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Macau becomes the third city in Chinese territory to join the OWHC after Suzhou and Dujiangyan.

The OWHC was founded in 1993 in Fez, Morocco, during the Second International Symposium of World Heritage Cities.

"Macau is a rare example of a place where the aesthetic, cultural, architectural and technical influences of the East and West have met for several centuries," the president of the OWHC, Jacek Majchrowski, said during the ceremony. He highlighted the roles of Macau over the years as a significant trading port and a living witness of the fusion of diverse cultures from the East and the West.

Receiving the membership certificate in the name of the Macau government, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Elsie Ao Ieong noted that the city's historic center is not just a proof of the past but also an important resource for the future of the region. "The Historic Centre of Macau is not only a testimony to the city's historical development but also a crucial cultural resource that lays the cultural ground for and nurtures the city's future advancement," Ao Ieong said.

Macau's membership in the OWHC will allow the region to gain access to a global informa-



tion network focusing on World Heritage preservation, as well as to participate in several exchange events in which the different cities discuss and learn with one another about solutions to protect and preserve the heritage sites and make use of the city's international profile as a World Heritage city to attract visitors.

Council for Cultural Heritage member, Leong Chong In, speaking in the name of the Council, said that the Historic Center of Macau is "a notable case of cul-

tural inclusion," highlighting the fact that in the past 15 years, the Council has helped to raise awareness of the different sectors of the society that have contributed to the protection of the city's heritage.

Leong also added that the active participation of the younger generations will allow the transmission of cultural preservation work across generations.

The inclusion of Macau in the list of cities members of the OWHC is part of the ceremonies

commemorating the 15th anniversary of the inscription of the Historic Centre of Macau on the World Heritage List.

It also comes as the city's top culture officials have sought more recent international recognition of Macau's heritage. In 2017, Macau joined the mainland cities of Chengdu and Shunde to become one of only three places in China to be designated a Creative City of Gastronomy by UNESCO, in recognition of the SAR's 400-plus year culinary legacy.

Lisboeta hotel receives operating license

RENATO MARQUES

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has granted a four-star hotel unit classification to the Lisboeta hotel development in Cotai. The information was revealed in a dispatch published in the government's official gazette.

License number 0755/2020 was officially issued on June 3 to Macau

Theme Park and Resort Limited, which owns the establishment and is controlled by Arnaldo Ho, son of the late gaming tycoon, Stanley Ho.

The final date for the hotel's opening to the public is not yet known. According to earlier comments made by the Ho, including during the public presentation of the project in 2018, the hotel is expected to open its doors by

the end of this year.

About one year ago, Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) Holdings' chief executive officer, Ambrose So, hinted at the possibility of the hotel unit being granted a gaming area under a service agreement between gaming concessionaire SJM and Macau Theme Park and Resort Limited.

However, no reference has been made to this pos-

sibility recently, leaving it still undecided.

Although the tentative date for the Lisboeta remains 2020, during the peak of the outbreak of Covid-19, Arnaldo Ho hinted at the possibility of the pandemic causing "delays" to the planned opening date, but did not advance a new timeline.

In 2018, when the project was announced, Macau Theme Park and

Resort Limited said that the project would include a total of three hotels - the Lisboeta, the Maison L'Occitane, and the Line Friends Hotel - in a partnership with the two brands.

The three smaller hotel units are located next to a larger-scale project by SJM Holdings, the Grand Lisboa Palace, which is also expected to open later this year.

MATTHEW CAMPBELL

US alleges visa fraud, criminal conspiracy at Saipan casino

U.S. federal prosecutors indicted three people involved with Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd.'s controversial casino project in Saipan for employing undocumented workers, making illegal money transfers, and participating in a criminal conspiracy - adding to the legal troubles connected to the Hong Kong operator.

Prosecutors allege the trio conspired to illegally hire large numbers of Chinese laborers to work on the casino site, "instructing prospective hires to lie to immigration inspectors" on arrival by claiming they were tourists. The defendants - Liwen Wu, Jianmin Xu, and Yan Shi - were employed either by Imperial Pacific or MCC International Saipan Ltd., a Chinese construction company that was helping to build a massive gaming resort in Saipan, a remote U.S. territory in the middle of the Pacific Ocean.

The indictment includes a conspiracy charge under the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, a powerful legal tool used in the past against Mafia families in New York as well as the Hells Angels motorcycle club.

The charges unsealed this week are the latest legal challenge confronting Imperial Pacific's business in Saipan, which was for a time one of the highest-grossing casinos in the world -- despite operating first from a nondescript storefront and then a half-finished construction site. Imperial Pacific and Metallurgical Corp. of China Ltd., which is one of China's biggest state-owned construction businesses and owned the subsidiary unit in Saipan, are not accused of



A rendering of Imperial Pacific's Grand Mariana Casino Hotel & Resort

wrongdoing in the legal filing.

All three defendants are Chinese nationals, and the Department of Justice said in a statement that they currently reside outside the U.S. At least one of the named individuals no longer works for Imperial, according to the company.

A lawyer for Imperial Pacific said he was unable to comment on the company's behalf, while listed numbers for the company are no longer in use or have been disconnected. MCC didn't respond to requests for comment.

In November, federal agents searched Imperial Pacific's local offices as well as the home of Ralph Torres, Saipan's governor and a longtime backer of the casino. At the time, Torres acknowledged

the FBI searches and denied any wrongdoing.

Last year, Imperial Pacific agreed to pay \$3 million to resolve claims it didn't pay construction workers minimum wage and overtime. In 2017, federal prosecutors charged MCC employees, as well as other Chinese nationals involved with the project, with violations relating to the employment of unauthorized workers. Some pleaded guilty.

Imperial Pacific said one individual indicted in the latest case was a non-managerial employee of the group who left in 2017, according to an Aug. 5 statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange. In a separate court filing to stay a civil case, attorneys for the com-

pany described Wu and Xu as Imperial Pacific executives.

Imperial Pacific has attracted significant attention in the ga-

ming world and beyond since it began operations in Saipan in 2015. At one point the company, which is controlled by Chinese businesswoman Cui Lijie, counted former directors of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Central Intelligence Agency, as well as the former governors of New York and Pennsylvania, among its directors or advisers.

The casino, which is located on an island with almost no modern tourist infrastructure and is more than three hours' flight from any major city, was turning over more per-table bets at its peak than the glitziest facilities in Las Vegas and Macau.

But betting volumes have declined precipitously since then, and Imperial Pacific's market capitalization, which topped \$8 billion at its peak in 2015, has plummeted to about \$184 million today. The company's stock closed at HK\$0.01 a share Friday. **BLOOMBERG**



In this 2018 file photo, Chinese laborers are seen gathering in front of their living quarters before a protest about allegedly missing wages, in Saipan

ATLANTIC CITY

Workers want mandatory temperature checks for casino patrons

FIVE Atlantic City casinos are not physically checking the temperatures of guests entering the property, workers said as they pushed New Jersey's governor to require the casinos to do so to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

In an online press conference last week, members of Local 54 of the Unite-Here union said four casinos owned by Caesars Entertainment — Caesars, Harrah's, Bally's, and the Tropicana — are not physically screening casino guests for a fever before letting them onto the property. A fever is one sign of potential infec-

tion with the coronavirus.

The remaining four casinos — Hard Rock, Golden Nugget, Borgata and Resorts — have been taking temperatures, employees said.

The workers called on Gov. Phil Murphy to mandate physical temperature checks for anyone entering a casino.

Casinos in Macau started scanning the temperatures of patrons in late January, after the first case of Covid-19 was registered in the Special Administrative Region. By the time that local casinos had reopened from their 15-day closure

in February, the practice was standard at all guest and employee entrances.

Nevada requires its hotel guests to undergo temperature checks, but does not require it of casino patrons. Nonetheless, some casinos on and off the Las Vegas strip do conduct temperature checks, using hand-held thermometers or forehead scanners. A bill passed this week by the Nevada legislature requires temperature scans for all casino employees.

Back in Atlantic City, the Unite-Here union says not all casinos are even verbally screening guests. Donna

DeCaprio, the union's secretary-treasurer, said the union has documented at least 180 instances of casinos failing to verbally screen guests since most of the casinos reopened in the first week of July.

She also said the union has documented 75 instances of hotel rooms not being thoroughly cleaned daily as called for under protocols formulated and agreed to by the casinos themselves.

"We're not doing a good job even being partially open," said Jason McKnight, a bartender at Harrah's. "The rooms aren't being

cleaned on a daily basis the way they are supposed to. This is a lot of people in an enclosed place, and we're not rising to the challenge."

Caesars Entertainment responded in a statement that its procedures were developed "with an expert in the field" and meet all requirements from the state and recommendations from federal health authorities.

"Caesars Entertainment's Atlantic City health and safety plan fully complies with all governmental directives," said Steve Callender, the company's regional president. "In addition to our enhanced cleaning protocols and other requirements that apply to our valued team members, all of our guests must pass a screening process before being allowed into our properties and

must wear face masks in compliance with the governor's orders."

Janey Negron, a bartender at the Tropicana, said the casino has so many entrance points that not all guests are being checked upon entering.

"They do not take your temperature," she said. "They just let you walk on by."

DeCaprio, the union official, said several Atlantic City casino workers have contracted the virus, but none of the cases is believed to have originated from exposure at a casino.

"It appears they did not contract it at one of our properties," she said. "It happened shortly after the casinos reopened," indicating that the exposure happened before the July 2 or 3 reopening dates for most casinos, she said. **MDT/AP**

AP PHOTO



Pro-China supporters display a picture of US President Donald Trump reading "Despicable and shameless" during a protest against the US sanctions in Hong Kong

Hong Kong officials jeer at US sanctions

HONG Kong's leader and China's top representative in the city took pot shots at the United States over the weekend after the Trump administration sanctioned them and nine other officials for allegedly cracking down on freedom and undermining the local autonomy of the former British colony. The sanctions, announced by the U.S. Treasury Department, block all property or other assets that the individuals have within U.S. jurisdiction.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam took to Facebook to say that the U.S. got her address wrong, listing the official address of her chief deputy instead. She noted that she was the deputy when she applied for her U.S. visa in 2016.

"By the way, my entry visa to the U.S. is valid until 2026. Since I have no desire to visit this country, it looks like I can take the initiative to cancel it," Lam said.

Luo Huining, the director of the central government's liaison office in Hong Kong, said being included on the list shows that he has done what he should for the city and his country.

"I don't have a penny of assets abroad. Isn't it in vain to impose 'sanctions'? Of course, I can also send 100 U.S. dollars to Mr. Trump for freezing," he said in a statement on the office's website.

The Treasury Department announced sanctions on Lam and 10 other officials. Among them is Chris Tang, the commissioner of the Hong Kong Police Force, for allegedly "coercing, arresting, detaining, or imprisoning individuals" under the new security law, and the former police commissioner, Stephen Lo.

Hong Kong secretaries John Lee Ka-chiu, Teresa Cheng, and Erick Tsang have also been sanctioned, as well as Zheng Yan-xiong, director of a new office for safeguarding national security in Hong Kong, and Xia Baolong, director of the Hong Kong and Macao affairs office.

Hong Kong Commerce Secretary Edward Yau, who wasn't sanctioned, called the sanctions "un-

reasonable and barbarous" and said they would harm U.S. interests in the city, an Asian financial and shipping hub.

The sanctions are the latest in a string of actions the Trump administration has taken targeting China as tensions between the two nations rise over trade, Covid-19 and other issues.

HK Commerce Secretary Edward Yau called the sanctions 'unreasonable and barbarous' and said they would harm US interests in the city

The sanctions were authorized by an executive order that Trump signed recently to levy penalties against China for its efforts to curtail anti-government protesters in Hong Kong.

Hong Kong has long enjoyed civil liberties not seen in mainland China because it is governed under a "one country, two systems" principle in place since it reverted to Chinese rule in 1997.

However, Beijing im-

posed a sweeping national security law on Hong Kong earlier this year, raising widespread concerns about the Chinese government cracking down on the anti-government protests.

"The recent imposition of draconian national security legislation on Hong Kong has not only undermined Hong Kong's autonomy, it has also infringed on the rights of people in Hong Kong," the Treasury Department said in a statement.

Treasury said the new law has allowed authorities in mainland China to operate with impunity in Hong Kong, has mandated "national security education" in Hong Kong schools, undermined the rule of law and laid the groundwork to censor individuals and outlets "deemed unfriendly" to China.

The U.S. said Lam, the chief executive of Hong Kong, is "directly responsible for implementing Beijing's policies of suppression of freedom and democratic processes." Last year, Lam pushed to allow citizens to be extradited to the mainland, setting off massive opposition demonstrations in Hong Kong, according to Treasury.

Sen. Ben Sasse, R-Neb., a member of the Senate intelligence committee, called Lam "Beijing's hatchet woman."

He said she has worked with the Chinese Communist Party to kill Hong Kong's autonomy and gut the rule of law. "These cowards betrayed the freedom-loving people of Hong Kong and deserve to pay a steep price," he said.

"The Chinese Communist Party has made clear that Hong Kong will never again enjoy the high degree of autonomy that Beijing itself promised to the Hong Kong people and the United Kingdom for 50 years," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement. "President Trump has made clear that the United States will therefore treat Hong Kong as 'one country, one system,' and take action against individuals who have crushed the Hong Kong people's freedoms." **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1990 MAGELLAN STARTS MAPPING VENUS



The Magellan spacecraft has arrived at the planet Venus after an epic 15-month journey from Earth.

The craft arrived just after 1730 BST (1630 GMT). Soon after, controllers at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California instructed it to fire its solid-rocket motor for 83 seconds to slow it down into a long, looping orbit around Venus.

They then faced an agonising 30-minute wait while the craft went out of communication behind the planet.

Only when it emerged from the shadow of Venus was it clear that the manoeuvre - one of the most critical of the mission - had been successful.

The craft will spend several years making a pass over the planet every eight Earth months - just one day on Venus.

The result will be a detailed map of the planet described by Nasa as a "hell-hole". Scientists hope it will help answer the question of how our nearest neighbour, and the planet most like Earth, ended up uninhabitable.

Previous probes sent to Venus have revealed an environment as unlike that on Earth as it is possible to imagine.

The atmosphere on Venus is almost entirely made up of carbon dioxide. The yellowish clouds which shroud the planet's surface are partly sulphuric acid, and temperatures at the surface are hot enough to melt lead.

"In some ways Venus is very Earthlike, in others it is totally bizarre," said Jim Garvin, of Nasa. "We want to find out why."

Magellan can see surface details as small as 300 ft (91.5 meters) in diameter.

One of the questions scientists will be seeking to answer is whether Venus reached its surface temperatures of 480 degrees C as a result of global warming.

The findings could give an insight into how the greenhouse effect might develop on Earth.

Magellan was built on a shoestring budget and is made up of a combination of materials from other space projects. The radio dish comes from Voyager, and the central control system from the Galileo project.

The recycling of equipment from one project to the next is a growing trend in space exploration in an era of ever-tighter budgets.

Nasa has gone seriously over budget overhauling the space shuttles since the Challenger disaster in 1986. Magellan itself is Nasa's first attempt to explore deep space for 11 years.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Magellan spent four years mapping Venus, producing a detailed radar map of 99% of the planet. It found evidence of volcanic activity over about 85% of its surface. One of the puzzles it raised for scientists was the fact that the highlands of the planet appeared abnormally bright, while lower elevations appeared dark. Scientists now believe this is because the mountains on Venus are covered in condensed melted metal. The metal, probably lead, is vaporised at lower levels by the incredibly high temperatures, then cools as it rises. The metal then settles like frost on the planet's peaks to form a thin, highly reflective layer. Magellan operated for four years before plunging to the surface of Venus in October 1994. In a planned manoeuvre, scientists instructed the satellite to descend slowly into the atmosphere, where it eventually burnt up, sending data back to Earth as it did so. The Magellan probe was one of Nasa's most successful interplanetary missions. The next attempt to explore the planet will be in late 2005, when the European Space Agency plans to launch its Venus Express mission.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Keep important information to yourself. Your best efforts will come through hard work. Problems with your partner could be reaching a high level of concern.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 Don't depend on coworkers to help; they may only hold you back. Take advantage of moneymaking ventures. Nothing can be resolved if you don't want to talk about it.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 Do not lend money or belongings to friends. Don't let relatives make demands of you. You haven't been watching your spending habits and you may have been neglecting your duties.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Leave things as they are for the moment and focus on reaching your highest potential at work. Don't be alarmed. Knowledge can be acquired if you listen.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 There is not much you can do to alleviate the problem, but consider putting some extra work into your house. Don't promise to deliver the goods if you aren't positive that you can meet the deadline.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Female colleagues may be able to help you get the job done. Do a little extra work at home. Be sure to find out all you can before you commit to anything.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Look to a close friend for advice. You have to believe in yourself and your talents. Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are evident.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 You deserve to stop and look with pride at where you are in life. Sure, the journey here hasn't always been easy, but it's been interesting. Now it's time to relax a bit and enjoy a stroll down memory lane.

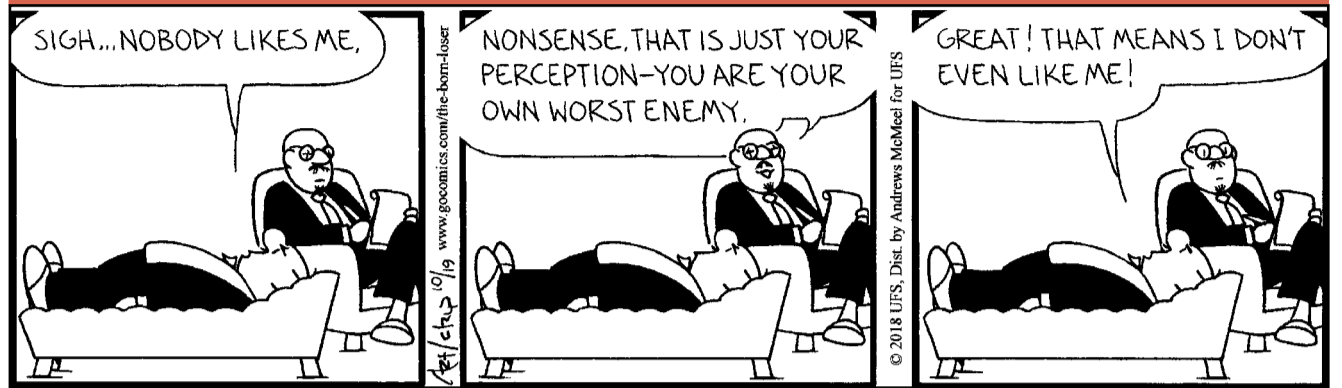
SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Your changing attitudes may be causing concern for your partner. You could be quite erratic regarding your personal relationship. You may want to take a trip but make sure that your car is serviced properly.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Your outgoing charm and obvious talent will be admired. Look for something entertaining to do. You've got that competitive edge. You might have some problems balancing your books.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Someone you thought would never budge in their opinions is starting to think about things in a different way. Something you said to them recently has been bouncing around in their head, and they need clarity.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 You'll find love and you'll get into tiptop shape at the same time. Luck is with you, regardless of the financial venture. Major moves will be emotional and not necessarily to your benefit.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	29	thundershower
Harbin	20	29	thundershower
Tianjin	25	33	thundershower
Urumqi	21	32	clear
Xi'an	23	34	clear
Lhasa	13	23	drizzle
Chengdu	26	35	shower
Chongqing	28	36	cloudy
Kunming	18	26	drizzle
Nanjing	25	31	thundershower
Shanghai	28	35	drizzle
Wuhan	26	32	shower
Hangzhou	28	33	drizzle to moderate rain
Taipei	26	31	drizzle
Guangzhou	28	36	thundershower
Hong Kong	28	34	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	13	22	clear
Frankfurt	23	32	cloudy
Paris	25	34	cloudy
London	20	28	cloudy
New York	22	25	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Pro follower; 5- Dosage abbr.; 9- Yes, ___; 13- Body of values; 15- Cheer; 16- "The Joy of Cooking" author Rombauer; 17- Stage play; 18- Neighborhood; 19- Flurries; 20- Cutting tool; 21- Specify; 23- Bemoan; 25- Light source; 26- Canvas shelter; 27- North Star; 30- Little guy; 31- Mimicry; 32- Hazardous; 37- Kind of cod; 38- Stretch of land; 40- Yorkshire river; 41- Like a rapid ascension; 43- Slight trace; 44- Vigor; 45- Person who evades work; 47- "Honor Thy Father" author; 50- Electric fish; 51- Familiarize; 52- Blubber; 53- Cone; 56- Decoy; 57- Grazing sites; 59- John of England; 61- Don Juan's mother; 62- Architect Saarinen; 63- Not hesitant; 64- Gumbo vegetable; 65- Pelt; 66- Mountain goat;

DOWN: 1- Cincinnati team; 2- Gillette brand; 3- Warm up; 4- Direct a gun; 5- Vagrants; 6- Peeved; 7- "The Bells" poet; 8- Steadfast partisan; 9- Heat home; 10- "As You Like It" forest; 11- Encompassed about; 12- Spar; 14- Greenish yellow finch; 22- Parisian pal; 24- The King ___; 25- Big; 26- One of the Baldwins; 27- Inner surface of the hand; 28- Mayberry moppet; 29- Time to give up; 32- ___-Man; 33- Retreats; 34- Pen sound; 35- Inner drive; 36- Clairvoyant; 38- Table supports; 39- Ready to eat; 42- Store sign; 43- Cultivator; 45- Period of the year; 46- Fell; 47- Main stem of a tree; 48- Broadcaster; 49- TV host Gibbons; 51- Potpourri; 52- Adriatic port; 53- Thrust with a knife; 54- Network point; 55- Quartz variety; 58- A mouse; 60- Maui memento;

Friday's solution

R	E	R	A	N	I	C	E	A	X	W	E	S
A	A	R	O	N	T	R	A	I	T	I	L	E
O	A	H	U			R	A	R	E	R		
P	A	R	A	B	L	E						
D	N	R	I	L	L	O	N	I	C	E		
S	T	E	R	E								
S	A	D										
L	S	T										
R	A	I	S	E								
F	E	L	I	N	E							
L	E	V	E	L								
D	R	E										
N	A	N										
E	L	S										

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>One Central Stylish modern 2 bedroom HK\$14,839,000 1,349 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>One Oasis, Coloane \$14,500/mth 1,100 ft² 2 1/2 1 1/2</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden 2 1/2 1 1/2 900 ft² \$4,900,000 (ref: 19106003)</p> <p>[Taipa] Wa Bao 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,071 ft² \$7,995,000 (ref: 18115568)</p> <p>[Macau] Unique Loft 2 1/2 2 1/2 2,200 ft² \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)</p> <p>[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,420 ft² \$10,900,000(ref: 20016004)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Macau] Lakeview Mansion Car Park 1 \$3,800/mth (ref: 20041001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Studio apartment 1 1/2 1 1/2 650 ft² \$9,000/mth (ref: 20061003)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2 1/2 2 1/2 1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Taipa] Private house 2 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2 4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)</p>
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Shopping carnival offers weekend fun to families



The Sands Shopping Carnival offered a weekend of fun for the Macau community, with good deals and fun activities catering to all age segments of the market.

Featuring over 500 booths, free parking, and free admission, the carnival provided an holistic shopping and leisure destination for families. According to organizer Sands China, the carnival aimed to give back to the community by offering the best deals to Macau residents and tourists in order to stimulate domestic consumption and help boost the economy.

The carnival is the largest shopping event of its kind in Macau, and provided a free business platform for local SMEs and Sands China retailers to highlight their businesses.

Some of the other diverse activities and attractions at the Sands Shopping Carnival included the Karaoke King Singing Competition, workshops, games, an international-cuisine food area, performances, lucky draws, MOP1 products, and deals offering up to 80 percent off certain products.

The resort operator also hosted some local community partners to experience the carnival on its opening day at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd remarked, "Events like the Sands Shopping Carnival present opportunities for our team member volunteers to give back to society in meaningful ways, and we are happy to see them hosting community groups to enjoy some summer fun during these extraordinary times."



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

NOKIA CEO OUTLINES NEUTRAL STANCE IN SUPERPOWER TECH WARS

NOKIA Oyj Chief Executive Officer Pekka Lundmark said the Finnish networks maker plans to stand clear of geopolitics as the technology industry increasingly is thrust into trade and political conflicts.

Lundmark, who took the reins at Nokia on Aug. 1, is finding his footing in a tense situation that pits China - and Nokia's rival Huawei Technologies Co. - against the U.S. and other governments moving to ban the Chinese supplier from their fifth-generation mobile networks.

"I think it would be a big mistake if individual businesses would start to drive their political agenda," he said in an interview on Friday. "It's very important that businesses play it straight and stay where they should stay. We do not have a political agenda, we are a pure business."

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration has been pressuring allies against using Huawei's equipment, which it argues



Nokia Oyj Chief Executive Officer Pekka Lundmark

could pose a danger to network security. Huawei has forcefully and repeatedly denied these allegations. Huawei isn't the only Chinese tech firm targeted: on Thursday, Trump moved to ban Chinese-owned TikTok and WeChat social media apps.

Huawei's troubles have brought some business Nokia's way, the company said last month. Nokia is

also getting orders from operators, who are investing in added capacity for existing networks as people stream entertainment and attend virtual meetings amid the pandemic. The U.S. and the U.K. have signaled they're considering some form of aid to Nokia and its Swedish competitor, Ericsson AB, to ensure competition in the supply of 5G gear.

Nokia lags behind rivals in the 5G race, and that's what Lundmark has been brought in to fix. Five days into his new job, the CEO said he is busy speaking with customers and has begun mapping a path forward.

"My goal definitely is that I would be able to say something more concrete before the end of the year" on "what next steps we should take on the market," he said.

That may seem like a long time for shareholders, reeling from a 40% drop in the stock price since a 2015 high (on the day it announced the purchase of Alcatel-Lucent). They've been waiting since early March for Lundmark to take the reins, and many have expressed hopes he would act fast to start a turnaround.

"We have had our ups and downs in Nokia's performance and the company has gone through a fundamental transformation," he said. "But I'm also cautiously optimistic about the situation right now." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

TIKTOK TO SUE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION AS SOON AS TUESDAY

TIKTOK plans to file a federal lawsuit as soon as Tuesday to challenge President Donald Trump's executive order banning the video-sharing service from the U.S. as unconstitutional, National Public Radio reported.

The lawsuit will be filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California, where TikTok's American operations are based, NPR said, citing a person familiar with the matter whom it didn't identify. It will argue that the president's action is unconstitutional because it failed to give the company a chance to respond and that the U.S. government's national-security justification for the order is baseless, according to the report.

Chinese-owned TikTok responded in a blog post on Friday it is "shocked" and will pursue all remedies available, including in U.S. courts. A company spokesman reached by phone on Saturday declined to comment on the NPR report and referred to the earlier blog post.

Trump signed executive orders on Thursday prohibiting U.S. residents and companies from doing business with TikTok and Tencent Holdings' WeChat apps, effective in 45 days, citing the national-security risk of leaving Americans' personal data exposed. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

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OPINION

World Views

Ramesh Ponnuru, Bloomberg

WHAT PEOPLE FEAR MOST ABOUT 'CANCEL CULTURE'

"Cancel culture" is a phenomenon with almost no defenders. Instead there are people who lament and assail it, and people who deny it exists. It "isn't real," it's "a patchwork monster invented to scare children," it's "a spooky campfire story."

In case you missed the point, New York Times columnist Charles M. Blow put it in capital letters: "Once more: THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS CANCEL CULTURE." His work of persuasion not quite done, he offered an alternative explanation: "The rich and powerful are just upset that the masses can now organize their dissent."

What this school of thought has going for it is the fuzziness of the concept of "cancel culture." The same was true of its predecessor "political correctness," which was also denied to exist rather than defended. The line between criticism and intolerance, like the line between sensitivity and oversensitivity, is subjective.

That's why a recent survey about self-censorship is so clarifying. It shows that a very large number of Americans — one might call them "masses," borrowing from Blow — are thinking twice before speaking their minds about politics; that the number of the fearful is rising; and that the fear rises as one moves right on the political spectrum.

The Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, asked people whether "the political climate these days prevents me from saying things I believe because others might find them offensive." In 2017, 58% agreed; in 2020, 62% did.

Conservatives were most likely to agree, but moderates agreed too (64-36%). "Strong liberals" were the only group that had a majority in disagreement, and even 42% of them agreed. This sentiment is not confined to the rich and the privileged.

It's not just an aversion to criticism, either. Cato also asked, "Are you worried about losing your job or missing out on job opportunities if your political opinions became known?" A third of employed respondents said yes — including 22% of blacks and 38% of Latinos.

They don't seem to be reacting to a hardening of taboos against comments that nearly everyone sees as bigoted. They're not registering increasing concern for "simple politeness."

They're not Boomers who can't handle social media, the dismissal former President Barack Obama bizarrely received when he criticized left-wing purity enforcers. Cato found that 18-29-year-olds were the most worried about job repercussions from their opinions.

The findings are more consistent with what the critics of cancel culture are saying. The line of unacceptability is constantly, rapidly and unpredictably shifting; sanctions for crossing it are applied arbitrarily but sometimes harshly.

Another set of surveys has asked Americans if they feel less free to speak their minds than they used to. Over the last few years, the percentage who say they feel less free has been much higher than it was in past decades.

To deny a rising climate of intolerance in the face of such findings requires believing that the campfire story has been accepted by tens of millions of Americans of varying races and political views. You would have to maintain that all of these people are wrong, and not about some technical point or some abstract matter far removed from their daily experiences, but about their own experiences.

Or you could acknowledge that the campfire story is real. We are becoming less tolerant of differing opinions, less inclined to judge them with open minds or at least charity.

It may not be the most urgent problem in the world. One commentator on cancel culture has sagely observed that Covid-19 is worse. But that it is a problem is becoming increasingly hard to deny. And we may find that our efforts to solve all kinds of problems do not benefit from fear of candid discussion.

Macau race driver Rodolfo Ávila yesterday concluded a series of eight races in six days in the China Touring Car Championship (CTCC) with a strong showing.

The local racer took the Volkswagen Lamando number 2 to several podiums, closing the eight-race stint with three second-positions, two third-positions as well as a fifth and a seventh position.

Ávila was very close to achieving an even better result, but during the last race, a mechanical failure on his car when he was comfortably in the lead robbed his hopes of climbing to the top position of the podium.

The series of races was held at Human's Zhuzhou International Circuit.

The CTCC now moves to the Shanghai International Circuit where on September 12 and 13, Ávila will continue to defend the colors of the 333 Racing Team in a condensed format of the championship because of Covid-19.

The 16-round championship is expected to come to a close at Zhuhai's International Circuit on the weekend of October 31 and November 1.



RENATO MARQUES

TCR ASIA CONFIRMED AS MACAU GP HEADLINER

RENATO MARQUES

THE Times has learned that the iconic Guia Race for touring cars, one of the headliners of the Macau Grand Prix, will go ahead this year as part of the TCR Asia series.

With a story almost as long as the Macau Grand Prix itself, the Guia Race is always one of the main events of the Grand Prix. An organizer told the Times yesterday that the race will be held this year amid an otherwise unorthodox format.

With the cancellation of two of the headline events from the Macau Grand Prix — the World Touring Car Cup (WTCR) races and the FIA GT World Cup — as reported by the Times on late May this year and confirmed a week later by the governing body of international automobile racing, the International Automobile Federation (FIA), the organizers are finding solutions to replace the original lineup with a racing series that can retain its status as the oldest and one of the most renowned motorsport event in Asia.

The TCR Asia series, a touring car series that follows the same vehicle specification and similar racing regulations as the WTCR, seems to be the

chosen one, with rounds 9 and 10 of this year's calendar to be held on the streets of Macau.

At the same time, WSC Asia, the promoter of the TCR Asia series, announced a whole new format for the championship this year, with the series being split into "Asia North" and "Asia South" calendars.

The two calendars share the last two rounds of the season, i.e. Macau and the Season Finale in Sepang, Malaysia.

Initially planned as a 10-round championship starting on April 10 in Sepang and closing on August 9 in Bira Circuit, Thailand, the series, as with most of the international sports championships, suffered many setbacks due to the global outbreak of Covid-19 and the consequent restrictions to travel.

According to the promoter, the solution to split the series into two "regional" sections comes in a bid to allow the series to finally get underway.

"Throughout the last few months, our focus has been to get back to racing as soon as possible and to try to deliver a safe and exciting Championship. Despite [the fact that] Asia has some of the lowest infection rates in the world, international

travel is still some way off," WSC Asia CEO David Sonenscher told Macau Daily Times.

"With this new approach, we can deliver an exciting and innovative calendar that brings TCR Asia to the region in 2020," added Sonenscher. "We will continue to monitor the situation as it develops over the coming weeks and remain flexible, but I am happy that the 2020 TCR Asia Season will finally get underway."

TCR Asia North starts the year with the first two events at the Zhuzhou International Circuit in China, held on two consecutive weekends in August.

Meanwhile, TCR Asia South will have to wait a few more months until the racing action begins at the Sepang Circuit in October. After that, the series moves to Thailand's Buriram circuit at the start of November before merging with the TCR Asia North competition for the final two events in Macau and Malaysia.

Points will be scored separately for each calendar, creating a separate TCR Asia title that will be awarded according to the combined results of the Macau races and the Grand Final event in Malaysia.



AP PHOTO

Pakistan Three days of heavy monsoon rains triggering flash floods killed at least 50 people in various parts of Pakistan, as troops with boats rushed to a flood-affected district in the country's southern Sindh province yesterday to evacuate people to safer places.



AP PHOTO

Jerusalem Thousands of demonstrators thronged the streets near the official residence of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in central Jerusalem on Saturday night, in a renewed show of strength as weeks of protests against the Israeli leader showed no signs of slowing. Throughout the summer, thousands of Israelis have taken to the streets to call on Netanyahu to resign, protesting his handling of the country's coronavirus crisis.



AP PHOTO

New Zealand yesterday marked 100 days since it stamped out the spread of the coronavirus, a rare bright spot in a world that continues to be ravaged by the disease. Life has returned to normal for many people in the South Pacific nation of 5 million, as they attend rugby games at packed stadiums and sit down in bars and restaurants without the fear of getting infected.



AP PHOTO

Canada A rogue driver careened a car through a pedestrian-only zone in downtown Montreal and injured two people before driving away Saturday, police said. Constable Raphael Bergeron said the incident occurred just before 3 p.m. when the car smashed through a terrace at the corner of Crescent and Ste-Catherine streets.