

#### NEARLY 70% OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WERE COMFORTABLE WITH ONLINE LECTURES THIS YEAR, A NEW STUDY SHOWS, BUT THEIR TEACHERS FELT DIFFERENTLY

LAWRENCE HO REJECTS V-SHAPED RECOVERY THEORY SOME WECHAT USERS ARE SUING US PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP IN A BID TO BLOCK AN ORDER THAT WOULD BAN THE MESSAGING APP



South Korea The 397 new cases reported by South Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or the KCDC, marked the 10th straight day of triple-digit increases and indicated that the speed of the virus's spread was nearing levels seen during the worst of the outbreak in the spring. After avoiding stringent social distancing measures because of concerns about hurting the economy, officials stepped up restrictions nationwide vesterdav



India's coronavirus caseload topped 3 million yesterday, with the country leading the world in new infections as the disease marched through impoverished rural areas in the north and the wealthier but older populations of the south. Health authorities reported 69,239 new cases and 912 deaths, bringing the total to 3,044,940.



Iran has retrieved some data, including a portion of the cockpit conversations, from the

# SECOND COURT RULES AGAINST RESIDENCY PERMIT DECISION

P4



Ukrainian jetliner that was accidentally downed by the Revolutionary Guard forces in January, which happened the same night Iran launched a ballistic missile attack targeting U.S. soldiers in Iraq, its response to the American drone strike that killed Guard Gen. Qassem Soleimani in Baghdad.

Afghanistan A roadside bombing yesterday in eastern Afghanistan killed seven civilians, a provincial official said, the latest in relentless deadly violence in the country amid new uncertainties over the start of talks between the Taliban and the Kabul government.

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www.macaudailytimes.com.mo 24.08.2020 mon

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

#### DANIEL BEITLER & RENATO MARQUES

HE passage of super typhoon Hato three years ago exposed the lack of preparedness in facing such weather-related events.

Yesterday, on the third anniversary of Hato, social media users shared messages and photos to pay homage to the great loss of life and property.

Named the most severe typhoon in half a century, Hato swept into Macau on August 23, 2017 to find a city wholly unprepared. The Signal No.10 typhoon, then the highest category in Macau's official storm index, killed 10 people, plunged the city into darkness and resulted in a critical shortage of food and water not seen in generations.

Hato struck initially in the early hours of the morning and brought with it torrents of seawater that flooded the city and a number of underground car parks.

Almost the entire city was plunged into darkness in the late afternoon as a power cable supplying electricity from Zhuhai was ruptured and storm clouds cast a dark shadow over Macau. Though the general supply of utilities was restored to most of the city within the first 24 hours, some neighborhoods were still without power and water several days later.

A second severe typhoon, Pakhar, struck Macau just a few days later, dealing another blow to the bewildered city still reeling from Hato.

Almost exactly three years after Hato, Macau faced the passage of another category 10 typhoon - Hi-

### **ANALYSIS** Hato to Higos: Lessons learned

gos - which both revived the bitter memories of Hato and drew obvious comparisons regarding the way Macau's typhoon response has changed.

Despite being stronger than many people were anticipating, Higos caused only minor damage and minor injuries to 15 people.

This outcome is a result of the prompt changes made by the government and the public, who have learned from the consequences of Hato.

Predominantly, it is the difference in the accuracy and timely communication of the latest information regarding the typhoon approach by the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG).

The bureau was criticized in 2017 for its slow response to typhoon Hato. A day after the storm's passage, former Chief Executive Chui Sai On dismissed the weather authority chief from his post and signaled that an investigation into the conduct of senior officials at the SMG would follow.

Since then bureau has made significant strides to improve typhoon preparedness and responsiveness across the SAR.

Vera Varela, press officer at the SMG, told the Times that the weather authority "has been working closely with the weather bureaus of Beijing, Guangdong and Hong Kong to streamline weather forecasting and allow citizens to receive uniform information."



A scene after typhoon Hato in 2017

This regional cooperation has helped to "strengthen the capacity to respond to emergencies and determine work procedures, review and improve deficiencies, and formulate improvement plans."

Using this and other new approaches and mechanisms, the SMG has been able to give advance notice of signal changes during these extreme weather events. By raising awareness of weather information, the weather bureau believes that citizens will be better equipped to take the appropriate measures to stay safe.

Besides the SMG, the government has also enforced several other significant measures aiming to prevent and respond to catastrophes.

The Civil Protection Operations Centre (COPC) has been established under the same umbrella as several governmental entities to play a role in the process of prevention, rescue and repairing of the damages caused by natural catastrophes.

Also represented on the COPC

### MOP790 MILLION E-VOUCHER SPEND RECORDED IN FIRST 20 DAYS

**THE** current round of Ma-L cau's Consumption Subsidy Scheme has injected MOP790 million into the market in its

for a total of five months. Every registered resident has a spending allowance of MOP5,000.

As of August 20, 610,000 first 20 days of operation, the cards have been topped up, government announced in a which accounts for 98% of all cards issued in the first round that ended in July. Adding the 19,000 new cards issued in the second round, more than 630,000 residents have collected their cards.

of transactions relating to this sector. Small eateries like cha chaan teng as well as congee and noodle shops had the highest usage in terms of quantity and value of transactions.

### Pedestrian footbridge **REPORTEDLY COLLAPSES** IN GONGBEI

 $P^{ART}_{trian}$  of a pedes- According to media in touch with the retrian footbridge reports, some people levant authorities has collapsed, according to reports by public broadcaster TDM. The incident is understood to have occurred on Saturday afternoon and disrupted immigration activities at the Border Gate, Macau's most popular checkpoint.

on the Zhuhai side of crossing the border across the border. the Gongbei crossing were stranded on the Zhuhai side for more than one hour after the footbridge collapse. Others were rerouted through a construction site. The Public Security Police Force in Macau expressed concern about the incident and said it will stay

The incident co-

mes just as mainland authorities have resumed issuing tourist visas for the Macau SAR. The resumption, which has so far been limited to the neighboring city of Zhuhai, will be expanded province-wide starting from Wednesday.

statement.

Also known as the e-voucher, the scheme was initiated by the government as part of its approximately MOP15 billion economic revival plan in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. This is the second round of the scheme.

The current round runs from August until December, lasting

Some 7.7 million transactions have been recorded during these 20 days. The catering industry was deemed the most popular, with about 23% Nearly a quarter of all the value of transactions related to supermarkets.

From September 1, the consumption card can only be collected or topped up at a few select locations. People applying for, renewing or changing their ID cards during the second round are eligible for the subsidy. AL





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

#### A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

#### ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang ju ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif, Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C. MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84 Advertisement For subscription and general issues:

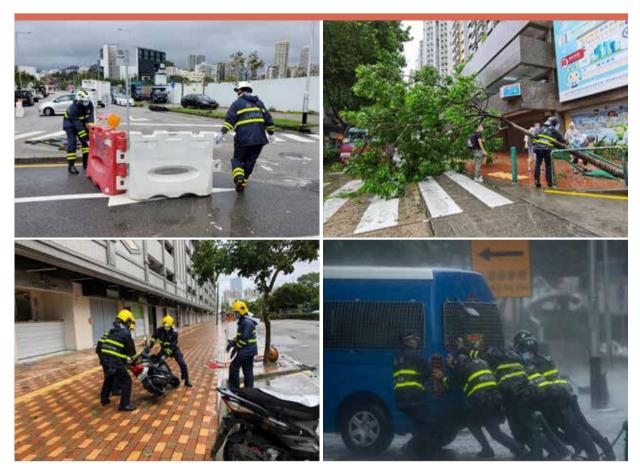
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# in being prepared



Scenes during and after typhoon Higos last week

teams are the water and electricity supply companies, among others, and this has improved their coordination under such exceptional circumstances.

Technology also plays an important role. A warning system installed after Hato now alerts residents in the city's low-lying areas of incoming storm surges. The system communicates to the population in these areas that they must evacuate their homes.

To accommodate those evacuating, the government established a total of 17 shelters across all territories where people in need can be temporarily lodged safely during severe typhoons and high storm surge warnings. The majority of the deaths that occurred during the passage of Hato were due to people getting stranded in basements in areas that were suddenly flooded as well as people who rushed to car parks in an attempt to save their cars from the storm surge. To avoid such an unfortunate incident happening again, the government has also introduced measures that require public car park facilities to close when a severe typhoon signal is issued, not allowing anyone in or out of such facilities during such a time.

While most of the problems detected by the government and the independent committee from the central government - which was in the region to report about the events of Hato – were solved with the implementation of technology or a change in procedures, other structural issues still persist.

This is the case with flooding in the Inner Harbor for which the government has long-standing plans that are very gradually turning into reality.

One of the bigger projects is the construction of a tidal barrier between the neighboring areas of Wanzai, Zhuhai and the Inner Harbor. The project has been involved in a series of public consultations, the latest concluding almost a year ago.

The tidal barrier idea was advanced by the government as part of a shared flood control system with Guangdong Province. Local authorities say that the flood control system could reduce the flooding risk and impact in the vulnerable Inner Harbor area.

According to the report made available at the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau's website, after the construction of the tidal barrier, "there will be no significant hydrological impacts on the upper reaches of the river and the area covered by the construction."

In the same environmental assessment report, it is also said that the construction will also not have a significant adverse impact upon aquatic and terrestrial ecological systems.

#### INDIAN MAN MASTURBATES ON BUS IN SECOND SEXUAL HARASSMENT INCIDENT

A 32-year-old man from India has recently been charged by the police with two counts of sexual harassment. On July 18, the man was charged with sexual harassment and was sentenced to be extradited from Macau. He remained in Macau due to transportation difficulties. Last Thursday, he was caught allegedly lowering his pants and rubbing his genitals against a 24-year-old woman until ejaculating while on the bus. Out of fear, the victim did not raise the alarm on the bus. However, she yelled for help when she alighted at a Cotai bus stop and saw the man following her. The suspect admitted the crime to the police.

#### THREE MORE NUDE CHAT SCAMS REPORTED TO POLICE

Three people have been blackmailed as part of a nude chat scam and have lost a total of MOP109,000. All cases are being investigated by the Judiciary Police. One of the victims, a male teacher, aged 27, who has incurred no losses, told the police that on August 21 he came across a woman on a social media platform. He participated in a nude chat for 10 minutes and was asked to pay MOP40,000. He did not pay the money and reported the case to the police. The other two victims were an 18-year-old male student and a 26-year-old waiter. They were blackmailed for MOP95,000 and MOP14,000, respectively. Both paid the money but they were further blackmailed, hence they approached the police.

#### CUSTOMS SEIZE MOP3.8M IN MERCHANDISE FROM SMUGGLERS

Recently, the Macao Customs



fessor Agnes Lam, have urged the government to reconsider its decision.

Cheong stressed that the old factory buildings are not legally-listed relics. Meanwhile, the site of the structures is lower than the road on its side, causing regular floods to the site. The roof, on the other hand, was built with old materials containing asbestos. The material has been banned due to its hazardous health effects. In addition, the government official also explained that the conversion is to align with the community development of Taipa and to improve the livelihood of the nei-

havedia All About Macau thatent tothe old structures shallon.not cause much conflictl thatin terms of the overall de-

ory buildingssign.lly-listed re-<br/>nile, the siteAccording to Lam, the<br/>special significance of the<br/>factory building is that<br/>it was built and opened<br/>lar floods to<br/>roof, on thesign.



#### ANTHONY LAM

WHEN questioned about the future of the temporary leisure area in Taipa, Secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong, declined to save the large site area of a former factory in Macau. The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has recently announced a plan to revive a vacant land plot in Taipa, two blocks away from the current Taipa Central Park, into a temporary leisure area with ball grounds and children's playgrounds. Used car tires will also form part

rs of the materials utilized y for the area.

> However, preservation of a group of six old buildings, which were originally cotton mills, were not part of the proposal released by the IAM. Some members of the public, as well as several lawmakers, including university pro

ghborhood. The conversion project will cost the government MOP30 million. In contrast, urban planner and member of the Cultural Heritage Committee, Lam Iek Chit, has told local Chinese me-

re and fishery sectors.

Most importantly, the urban planner believes reviving the empty factory buildings can highlight the theme of the park – conservation and environmental friendliness – while enriching the culture of the district.

Similar, previous cases have seen partial conservation, leaving part of a building to highlight its significance. The headquarters of note-issuing Banco Nacional Ultramarino, on Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro is one of the most distinguished examples. Authority has monitored shops suspected of smuggling near the Border Gate, based on intelligence shared by mainland authorities. On August 20, the local authorities raided a shop that stored a large number of cosmetic goods. Individual smugglers had been hired to move the goods across the border in small batches. The local authorities seized more than 5,900 goods with an estimated value of MOP3.8 million. A shopkeeper, three staff members and 11 alleged smugglers were arrested. If convicted, they may face a maximum fine of MOP50,000. The shopkeeper is also suspected of violating the Non-resident Worker Employment Law.

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#### MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## LAWRENCE HO PREDICTS RECOVERY WILL BE GRADUAL, NOT V-SHAPED

#### DANIEL BEITLER

**THE** recovery of Macau's casino sector will be gradual and will take longer than first expected, Lawrence Ho, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Melco Resorts and Entertainment, has said.

The gaming operator chief made his prediction during Melco Resorts' second-quarter earnings call late last week, just days after Zhuhai resumed issuing Individual Visit Scheme visas for its residents wishing to travel to Macau for tourism purposes.

Ho said that the recovery in Macau would be gradual and not V-shaped as others had earlier predicted. He also suggested that the VIP and premium mass play would return faster than the mass market.

"It's not going to be a V-shaped recovery because at the end of the day, people will still be traveling outside [of mainland China] for the very first time," he said, according to comments cited by online media GGRAsia. "We still think the recovery will be very nice, but it's going to take a little bit longer than we had hoped."

Preliminary data from last week showed Macau did not see an immediate rise in visitor arrivals from Zhuhai since the restrictions were eased. The resumption of exit visas for mainland visitors will be expanded to the rest of Guangdong Province on Wednesday, and the entire mainland from September 23, provided no locally-transmitted cases are recorded in the interim period.

Gross gaming revenue dropped 77.4% year-on--year in the first half of 2020, official data shows. Most of the revenue was earned in January before the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic was felt in Macau. The city has entertained near-zero levels of tourism since February.

Ho also referred to the seven-day processing period for Individual Visit Scheme visas, as reported by Macau Daily Times earlier this month. He implied that Macau will not see many visitors from outside of Zhuhai before September at the earliest. However, by then, the "benefits from these relaxations [should] start flowing through," said Ho.

Last year mainland China accounted for about two-thirds of Macau's arrivals, with approximately 40% coming from the nine mainland cities of the Greater Bay Area. More than 8% of mainland China arrivals came from Zhuhai alone.

As with Macau's other gaming concessionaires, operating revenue at Melco Resorts dropped markedly in the second quarter of this year on account of Covid-19-related travel restrictions.

According to unaudited financial results, the total operating revenues of the company fell 88% year-on--year to just \$180 million (about 1.4 billion patacas). Accordingly, Melco recorded an operating loss of \$370 million in the second quarter, compared with operating income of \$208 million in the same quarter last year.

The report noted that the "Covid-19 outbreak continues to have a material effect on Melco Resorts' operations, financial position, and prospects during the third quarter of 2020."

"As the disruptions from the Covid-19 outbreak are ongoing, any recovery from such disruptions will depend on future developments, such as the duration of travel and visa restrictions and customer sentiment and behavior, [...] all of which are highly uncertain."

### MARSHALL Hao lawsuit postponed until June 2021

A high-profile lawsuit against casino operator Las Vegas Sands (LVS) has been postponed again, with the trial held in Macau rescheduled to June 16, 2021.

The postponement was requested because of the "extraordinary circumstances resulting from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic," as stated in a Sands China interim report, which specifically cited travel restrictions currently in force.

Asian American Entertainment Corp (AAEC), led by Taiwanese businessman Marshall Hao, is claiming for damages incurred from an alleged breach of agreement during LVS' 2002 bid for a gaming concession in Macau.

Last year, a Macau court agreed that AAEC could raise its claim to nearly \$12 billion (95.8 billion patacas) in order to account for lost profits between 2002 and 2022, when the casino concession will expire. An LVS appeal regarding the increase is currently pending.

The casino operator said in its interim report that, "based on proceedings to date, [management] is currently unable to determine the probability of the outcome of this matter."

Nevertheless, "the company intends to defend this matter vigorously." **DB** 

## HK cruise ship owner suspends payments to creditors

A cruise ship operator controlled by Malaysian tycoon Lim Kok Thay suspended all payments to creditors, triggering a 36% drop in the company's shares and denting investor confidence in Lim's wider business empire.

Genting Hong Kong Ltd. said it will use its available funds to maintain critical services for the company's operations and asked creditors to form a steering committee to evaluate a planned restructuring proposal, according to a statement to the Hong Kong stock exchange on Wednesday night. The company owed a total of \$3.4 billion as of July 31, it said. The firm blamed the cash crunch on the coronavirus pandemic and said the payment halt will likely result in default. Lim owned 69% of the Hong Kong unit's shares as of April 3, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Malaysia's casino-to-hospitality conglomerate Genting Bhd. and its units previously imposed a first group-wide salary cut since its founding in 1965. "For Genting, the financial stress may push the owner to sell the asset, or liquidate the entire firm," said Banny Lam, the head of research at CEB International



Hong Kong, which promised to develop the property with or without a casino.

Lim's Genting Bhd. operates casinos and resorts in Las Vegas and Singapore. It famously lost its bid in the 2002 tender for Macau's gaming concessions. Genting has had to scale back operations as countries impose lockdowns, while consumers shun cruises after a few ships became sites of coronavirus outbreaks. The conglomerate is also involved in property, plantation and energy sectors as well as life sciences. "Still early days and much will hinge on the outcome of 678 HK's fund raising exercise and the restructuring of existing indebtedness," said Jin Rui Oh, a director at United First Partners said. "If this is resolved, then likelier than not to have a positive bearing on the other entities but otherwise, there will be a need to dispose assets to raise cash." The Resorts World Las Vegas \$1 billion 2029 bonds dropped 6.2 cents to 93.5 cents on the dollar, poised for the largest decline since April, according to Bloomberg-compiled prices. Resorts World Las Vegas is a wholly-owned indirect subsidiary of Genting Bhd. and the latter is the keepwell provider for the securities. **MDT/BLOOMBERG** 

Investment Corp. "Liquidation is not very likely, but there is such a possibility if Lim doesn't have money and can't find a buyer for its assets. In that case, equity holders rank behind bond holders to get compensated."

Genting Hong Kong shares were down 33% at 2:31 p.m. local time, after falling a record 36%. Genting Bhd. shares were untraded due to a holiday in Malaysia. Genting Singapore Ltd. fell 2.8%.

Citigroup Inc said in a note there is "some reputational damage" to Genting group as chairman Lim is the common sponsor of Genting Hong Kong and other group companies. However, it doesn't see cross-defaults for the group's other firms.

Malayan Banking Bhd. and RHB Bank Bhd. were the biggest contributors to Genting Hong Kong's syndicated loans, according to data compiled by Bloomberg based on disclosed allocations at signing.

Genting Hong Kong was formerly known as Star Cruises, and operates the Star Cruises, Dream Cruises and Crystal Cruises lines. Back in February, guests on the World Dream vessel in Hong Kong harbor were quarantined aboard after passengers on a previous voyage tested positive for coronavirus after leaving the cruise.

The firm is behind an underconstruction hotel development by Macau's Nam Van Lake, which may one day host or operate a casino, according to analysts. The project, provisionally titled "Resorts World @ Macau", is being developed by Treasure Island Entertainment Company, a local enterprise indirectly owned Genting

МаcauDaily <sub>артанна</sub> «

# TSI rules against former secretary's non-renewal of residence permit

**RENATO MARQUES** 

**HE** Court of Second Instance (TSI) has ruled against former Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong's decision not to accept the renewal of the residency permit of a man working as an engineer for Air Macau.

The case is related to an evaluation by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) of the man's application for the renewal of his residency permit. In the past, the man had his request of residency under the technical immigration scheme approved.

In the ruling by the court, the TSI stated that the final decision from the Secretary on the non-renewal, "constitutes a violation of the principle of good faith," which alone is "reason enough to void it."

Although the decision from the TSI dates from last month, the case goes back to March 2019, when Leong's office, disregarding the opinion of IPIM on the case, issued an order denying the renewal request for the engineer to be authorized to establish temporary residence in Macau.

As explained by the TSI, IPIM had given a favorable opinion



In this November 2018 file photo, former Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong attends a session at the Legislative Assembly alongside officials under his purview, including Irene Lau (left), who was appointed chairman of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute a month earlier

but, when the case reached the final stage, the Office of the Secretary raised doubts about whether the requirement of residence in Macau had followed the law provisions.

In the note by Leong's office, it was stated that Leong decided to reject the application because it was understood that the applicant did not fulfill the requirement of permanent residence in Macau since the applicant was residing in Zhuhai.

The Office noted that the applicant "travels to Macau exclusively to work but he is in Zhuhai where his home is located and his family lives."

Stating that his residential

address was not sufficient to claim that the man had no right to being approved for a local residency permit, the judges said, "since [habitual residence] is an indeterminate concept, in special circumstances, variations are allowed in terms of the standards normally followed to define the concept, since the interested party may be absent from Macau for various reasons."

The TSI also noted that besides staying overnight in Zhuhai, in his record, the worker had over 183 days per year of presence in Macau. He also had presented a justification to live across the border for "family reasons," in which he included the health condition of his elderly father, who suffers from various diseases, such as multiple sclerosis, diabetes and hypertension.

The court also noted that the applicant had proof that he has a steady job and is a taxpayer in Macau. He also has an underage son who, like the father, travels every day to Macau to attend school.

Last but not least, the TSI also noted that since the first application made back in 2011, the engineer had always stated in application documents that he lived in the neighboring city of Zhuhai. This fact had never caused any obstacle to his residency permit until March 2019.

"IPIM has never raised any issues on this matter." This situation justifies "the expectation that was created in the applicant that not staying in Macau would not be an obstacle to the renewal of the temporary residence permit."

The judges see no justification for the sudden change of criteria in the evaluation of the same case, which has occurred on several occasions, saying that such action "constitutes a violation of the principle of good faith, provided for in the Code of Administrative Procedure."

# Students more accustomed to online lectures than teachers: study

#### ANTHONY LAM

**TEARLY** 70% of higher

that all Macau schools and universities were suspended in order to contain the

courses online, the study found that online teaching was more convenient and ning mode (7%). They have also encountered difficulties in attenAdapting to a new online environment and using these tools was also challenging, as well as being assessed through different methods. Both groups were concerned about fairness in grading and a lack of resources to support online teaching and learning. Some faculty members also report high levels of stress during this period. They also thought the pandemic did not seriously affect teaching or learning performance.

The positive mentality towards stress brought on by the pandemic, the association estimated, could be due to the relatively low number of confirmed cases in Macau and the expedited reaction by the government in controlling the situation. "We hope this research study sheds some light on education planning in tertiary education, particularly in the tourism and hospitality field," MacTHA wrote in a statement. "So that decision makers understand the effort and direction needed for both faculty members and students to be prepared and supported for remote teaching and learning through online technology if it is to become the new norm in the future."

**L** education students are comfortable with online lectures, in contrast to under 10% who prefer in-person teaching staff, a study sponsored by the Macao Tourism and Hospitality Association (MacTHA) has discovered.

The study, an online questionnaire distributed in March, received responses from a total of 82 faculty members and 356 students from four local higher education institutions which offer tourism and hospitality or related programs.

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented impacts, one of which being

spread of the disease. Lectures were moved completely online for the first time in the history of Macau.

The majority of the interviewed respondents did not have any prior online teaching and learning experience, the study discovered. Among the 82 faculty members, less than 10% of faculty members had experienced teaching online courses before February this year. More than 30% of the faculty members had more than 10 years of teaching experience.

Despite faculty members experiencing difficulty preparing and delivering flexible for them.

In terms of preference of teaching mode, just 8% of faculty members preferred only online teaching, 43% preferred teaching both ways, and 47% preferred only face-to-face traditional teaching.

As for students, only 31% of those surveyed had prior online lecture experiences, but they were happy with online lectures.

Contrary to faculty members, the majority of the students preferred a mix of online and face-to-face learning (61%), followed by only face-to-face learning (31%) and only online learding classes online despite their greater familiarity with technology.

Although attending classes online was flexible, they gave a negative rating of the workload, time requirement and learning effectiveness. Students appreciated the efforts of faculty members and were generally pleased with their performance.

Both teachers and students reported technical problems, which was the most frequent challenge relating to online lectures. The lack of interaction was also a major problem for them.

noted difficulty in courses that involve practical and hands-on teaching such as culinary and wine classes.

The association pointed out that both faculty members and students in the tourism and hospitality programs need more training and support to adapt to the delivery of online teaching and learning. In addition to the attitu-

des towards teaching and learning in an online environment, the study also collected data about participants' mental health since the Covid-19 outbreak.

Both faculty members and student groups did not



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

### TRADE WAR US WECHAT USERS SUE TRUMP OVER ORDER BANNING MESSAGING APP

#### ALEX VEIGA, LOS ANGELES

**SOME** U.S.-based users of WeChat are suing President Donald Trump in a bid to block an executive order that they say would effectively bar access in the U.S. to the hugely popular Chinese messaging app.

The complaint, filed last week in San Francisco, is being brought by the nonprofit U.S. WeChat Users Alliance and several people who say they rely on the app for work, worship and staying in touch with relatives in China. The plaintiffs said they are not affiliated with WeChat, nor its parent company, Tencent Holdings.

In the lawsuit, they asked a federal court judge to stop Trump's executive order from being enforced, claiming it would violate its U.S. users' freedom of speech, free exercise of religion and other constitutional rights.

"We think there's a First Amendment interest in providing continued access to that app and its functionality to the Chinese-American community," Michael Bien, one of the plaintiffs' attorneys, said yesterday [Macau time].

Trump on Aug. 6 ordered sweeping but vague bans on transactions with the Chinese owners of WeChat and another popular consumer app, TikTok,



saying they are a threat to U.S. national security, foreign policy and the economy.

The twin executive orders one for each app — are expected to take effect Sept. 20, or 45 days from when they were issued. The orders call on Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, who is also named as a defendant in the U.S. WeChat Users Alliance lawsuit, to define the banned dealings by that time.

It remains unclear what the orders will mean for the apps' millions of users in the U.S., but experts have said the orders appear intended to bar WeChat and TikTok from the app stores run by Apple and Google. That would make them more difficult to use in the U.S.

"The first thing we're going to seek is a postponement of the implementation of the penalties and sanctions —- a reasonable period of time between explaining what the rules are and punishing people for not complying with them," Bien said.

TikTok, which is owned by Chinese company ByteDance, said saying it plans to mount a legal challenge against the executive order that President Trump issued against the popular video app.

WeChat, which has more than 1 billion users, is less well-known than TikTok to Americans without a connection to China.

Mobile research firm Sensor Tower estimates about 19 million U.S. downloads of the app. But it is crucial infrastructure for Chinese students and residents in the U.S. to connect with friends and family in China and for anyone who does business with China.

Within China, WeChat is censored and expected to adhere to content restrictions set by authorities. The Citizen Lab internet watchdog group in Toronto have said WeChat monitors files and images shared abroad to aid its censorship in China.

Even so, the U.S. WeChat Users Alliance complaint argued that losing access to the app would harm millions of people in the U.S. who rely on it, noting it is the only app with an interface designed for Chinese speakers.

"Since the executive order, numerous users, including plaintiffs, have scrambled to seek alternatives without success. They are now afraid that by merely communicating with their families, they may violate the law and face sanctions," according to the complaint. **AP** 

# US envoy joins president Tsai at military memorial

#### WU TAIJING, KINMEN

**THE** U.S. envoy to L Taiwan joined President Tsai Ing-wen at a military memorial service yesterday in a fresh show of warming relations that threatened to add to irritants in Washington's relations with Beijing. Neither the director of American Institute the in Taiwan, William Brent Christensen, nor Tsai spoke at the annual event for soldiers killed by Chinese bombing in 1958 on Kinmen, a Taiwanese-controlled island near the mainland coast. Attendees, wearing masks as a precaution against the coronavirus, observed one minute of silence. Military personnel lit incense at soldiers' graves.



ally and weapons supplier. The AIT is a non-profit corporation instead of an embassy but is staffed by State Department employees.

There was no immediate official Chinese comment

speech last year but talked to reporters about events in Hong Kong.

Washington's support for Taiwan's democratically elected government has been a chronic irritant in relations with Beijing. More recently, the two sides are at odds over Beijing's technology ambitions, spying accusations, trade, the South China Sea and China's response to the virus pandemic.

Washington has no official relations with Taiwan, which split with the communist-ruled mainland in 1949 following a civil war. The Trump administration has made gestures toward Taiwan as relations with Beijing soured. This month, Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar became the highest-ranking U.S. official to visit, prompting a Chinese protest.

Despite that lack of official ties, the United States is Taiwan's most important Sunday about U.S. participation in the memorial.

Sunday marked the first appearance by an AIT director at the annual memorial.

Christensen has previously attended events with Tsai, but Sunday's was unusually high-profile. Some Taiwan TV channels broadcast the memorial live.

Christensen, who brought an eight-member delegation, and Tsai said nothing to reporters.

Previous Taiwanese presidents have spoken at the memorial. Tsai, who took office in 2016, made no The soldiers commemorated yesterday were killed after the mainland's People's Liberation Army began artillery attacks on Kinmen, which lies near the Chinese coast, on Aug. 23, 1958.

Their intensity declined the following October but they didn't end until Washington and Beijing formed official relations in 1979. **AP** 



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# South Korea, China reaffirm plans for leaders' summit

**ENIOR** South Korean officials and Chinese officials this weekend reaffirmed plans to arrange a summit between their leaders "at an early date" once coronavirus concerns subside, Seoul's presidential office said.

At a meeting in the South Korean port city of Busan, top Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi and South Korea's national security adviser, Suh Hoon, also discussed the international standoff over North Korea's nuclear weapons program and rising tensions between Washington and Beijing, the Blue House said in a statement.

The government of South Korean President Moon Jae-in has been eager to improve bilateral relations that have been strained since South Korea deployed a U.S. anti-missile system on its soil in 2017 over Chinese objections. Moon had hoped to host Chinese President Xi Jinping in Seoul during the earlier half of the year, but the spread of CO-VID-19 prevented the visit.



Yang Jiechi (right) a top Chinese official in charge of diplomatic affairs, and South Korean National Security Council Chairman Suh Hoon meet in Busan

Yang, a Politburo member of the CCP's powerful Central Committee, promised 'constant communication and cooperation' with South Korea

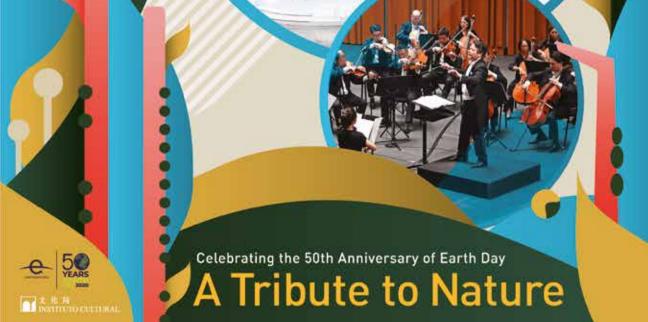
Yang, a Politburo member of the Chinese Communist Party's powerful Central Committee, promised "constant communication and cooperation" with South Korea while supporting efforts to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and stabilize peace, according to the Blue House, which didn't provide further details.

Moon's government is eager to resume engagement with North Korea, which has virtually cut off all inter-Korean cooperation amid nuclear negotiations with the Trump administration that have stalled over disagreements in exchanging sanctions relief for nuclear disarmament. China, North Korea's major ally and economic lifeline, had endorsed the easing of U.S.-led sanctions and pressure to induce denuclearization steps from the North.

During the Busan meeting, Yang also briefed Suh on China's position regarding its intensifying row with the Trump administration that has expanded from trade issues and now includes Hong Kong, Chinese Muslims, spying accusations and control of the South China Sea. Suh said "co-prosperity and friendly cooperation" between Washington and Beijing are critical for the interests of Northeast Asia and the world, the Blue House said.

Rising U.S.-Chinese tensions have rattled South Korea, which worries about being squeezed between its main military ally and biggest trading partner. **AP** 







#### Programme

Beethoven : Symphony No. 6 in F Major, Op.68, "Pastoral"

#### **Outreach Programme**

Guided Tour for Earth Day X Nature's Art Symphony Afternoon Tea Moss Ball Planting Workshop

#### Free Admission

Learn more





#### **TRADE WAR SPILLOVERS**

## US faces back-to-school laptop shortage

#### JOCELYN GECKER & MICHAEL LIEDTKE, SAN FRANCISCO

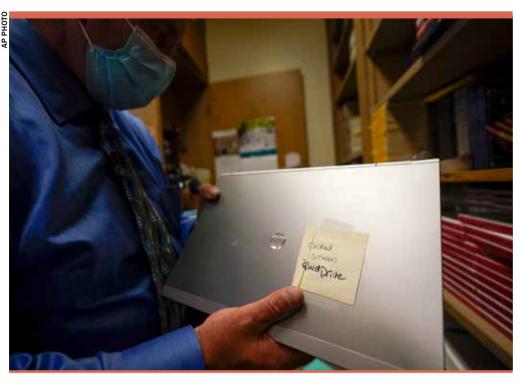
**S**CHOOLS across the United States are facing shortages and long delays, of up to several months, in getting this year's most crucial back--to-school supplies: the laptops and other equipment needed for online learning, an Associated Press investigation has found.

The world's three biggest computer companies, Lenovo, HP and Dell, have told school districts they have a shortage of nearly 5 million laptops, in some cases exacerbated by Trump administration sanctions on Chinese suppliers.

As the school year begins virtually in many places because of the coronavirus, educators nationwide worry that computer shortfalls will compound the inequities and the headaches for students, families and teachers.

"This is going to be like asking an artist to paint a picture without paint. You can't have a kid do distance learning without a computer," said Tom Baumgarten, superintendent of the Morongo Unified School District in California's Mojave Desert, where all 8,000 students qualify for free lunch and most need computers for distance learning.

Baumgarten ordered 5,000 HP laptops in July and was told they would arrive in time for the first day of school Aug. 26. The delivery date then changed to September, then October. The district has about 4,000 old laptops that can serve roughly half of students, but what about the rest, Baumgarten asks rhetorically. "I'm very concerned that I'm not going to be able to get everyone a computer." Chromebooks and other low-cost PCs are the computers of choice for most budget-strapped schools. The delays started in the spring and intensified because of high demand and disruptions of supply chains, the same reasons that toilet paper and other pandemic necessities flew off shelves a few months ago. Then came the Trump administration's



July 20 announcement targeting Chinese companies it says were implicated in forced labor or other human rights abuses. The Commerce Department imposed sanctions on 11 Chinese companies, including the manufacturer of multiple models of Lenovo laptops, which the company says will add several weeks to existing delays, according to a letter Lenovo sent to customers.

School districts are pleading with the Trump administration to resolve the issue, saying that distance learning without laptops will amount to no learning for some of the country's most vulnerable students.

"It's a tough one because I'm not condoning child slave labor for computers, but can we not hurt more children in the process?" said Matt Bartenhagen, IT director for Williston Public Schools in North Dakota. The district has been told its order of 2,000 Lenovo Chromebooks will "hopefully" arrive sometime in the fourth quarter. There are no nationwide tallies on the numbers of laptops and other devices that schools are waiting for but the shortages and backorders are affecting school districts in more than 15 states, according to interviews with school districts around the country, suppliers, computer companies and industry analysts.

schools across the state are waiting on at least 300,000 backordered computers, said Mary Nicely, a senior policy advisor to the state superintendent.

The Denver Public Schools district, the largest in Colorado, is waiting for 12,500 Lenovo Chromebooks ordered in April and May. The district has scrambled to find machines and settled for whatever is available. Still, when school starts Wednesday, they will be about 3,000 devices short, says Lara Hussain, an IT director for the district.

Lenovo had informed Denver and other customers months ago of supply chain delays. In late July, Lenovo sent a letter to say the Commerce Department's "trade controls" would cause another slowdown. The letter listed 23 Lenovo models made by their Chinese supplier, Hefei Bitland Information Technology Co. Ltd. "Effective immediately, we are no longer manufacturing these devices at Bitland," the letter said, adding that Lenovo is shifting production to other sites. A Lenovo official told California's Department of Education the company has a backlog of more than 3 million Chromebooks, said Daniel Thigpen, the department's spokesman.

ces delayed.

The Department of Commerce said it added Hefei Bitland to its so-called Entity List, which restricts the export and in-country transfer of items by sanctioned companies. "It does not apply to the importation of Chromebooks from China," the department said in a statement, adding, however, "we should all agree that American school children should not be using computers from China that were produced from forced labor."

Tom Quiambao, IT director for the Tracy Unified School District in Northern California, said he and his vendor contacted HP to ask why his July order for 10,000 HP laptops would take three months. He was told, "HP is short 1.7 million units of laptops" because of production shortages in a variety of



**1993 MICHAEL JACKSON** ACCUSED OF CHILD ABUSE



Police in Los Angeles are investigating allegations of child abuse made against singer Michael Jackson.

They have refused to give details but it has emerged that two of Mr Jackson's homes were searched at the weekend following allegations of child abuse.

It is reported that the father of one boy befriended by Mr Jackson has alleged the singer seduced the child and performed sex acts with him.

Detectives are said to have interviewed the boy and other youngsters who visited Mr Jackson's Neverland ranch in Santa Barbara.

They include 12-year old actor Macaulay Caulkin, star of the Home Alone films.

The singer who is currently on tour in Thailand is aware of the allegations and issued a statement through his lawyer, Harold Weitzman.

"I am confident the police department will conduct a fair and thorough investigation and that the result will demonstrate that there was no wrong doing on my part," Mr Weitzman read.

The singer's security adviser, Anthony Pellicano, has said the allegation is part of a \$20m extortion plot. Around 30 such blackmail attempts were made against Mr Jackson each year, Mr Pellicano added.

#### **Courtesy BBC News**

IN CONTEXT

A recent poll of California's 1,100 districts showed Lenovo declined to respond to repeated questions from AP seeking confirmation of the backlog and details on the numbers of devicomponents made in China, Quiambao said.

An HP spokeswoman declined to confirm or deny that number, saying only "we are continuing to leverage our global supply chain to meet the changing needs of our customer."

Dell offered a similarly opaque response to detailed questions about a backlog.

"We can't comment on demand and supply specifically," Dell said in an emailed statement, adding the company was seeing increased orders due to virtual learning and trying "to fulfill orders as efficiently as possible." **AP**  Michael Jackson vehemently denied the accusations made by the father of 13-year old Jordie Chandler - and he was never charged.

A civil case was settled out of court in early 1994 when he paid Jordie Chandler a reported \$20m (£14m). Three years later Jordie Chandler's account of the relationship was detailed in a book by a journalist, Victor M Gutierrez.

The book was said to be based on a diary the boy had kept at the time and included details of alleged sexual encounters between the pair.

In 1996 Jordie Chandler's father, Evan, started a claim for around \$60m (£38.5m) from the singer claiming Michael Jackson had breached an agreement never to discuss the case.

In 1999 a court ruled in Michael Jackson's favour and threw out the lawsuit.

Then in November 2003, he was arrested and charged with child abuse after British journalist Martin Bashir had made a documentary in which Jackson admitted sharing his bed with children.

Dubbed the trial of the century, it lasted four months and ended in June 2005 when Michael Jackson was cleared of all charges.

# 🛛 🛋 MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 🍭

page 9 資訊/娛樂 INFOTAINMEN

#### **YOUR STARS**



You will need to spend extra time sorting through your work. You easily lose your temper at could work. Don't push your opinions or ideas on others. Take a look at your legal position.



Be prudent and don't be led down the garden path. A passionate encounter with your mate should help alleviate that pent-up energy. Consider making pleasure trips.

LEO



#### Jul. 23-Aug. 22

LIBRA

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Concentrate on your career and on making money. Your sensitive nature will allow others to read you well. You should be looking into making changes around the house.



#### You are best to listen for the time being. You might find that coworkers will support your endeavors. You need a day to rest and relax with the ones you love.



Don't let coworkers get wind of your ideas or they might try to take credit for your hard work. A romantic dinner, followed by a quiet evening with the one who is enticing you, should be most satisfying.



The danger of minor accidents will increase with the turmoil. Sentimental feelings may make it difficult to get much done at work. Don't be disappointed if you don't get your way emotionally.

#### **CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS: 1- Swedish auto; 5- Shakers et al.; 10- Flurries; 14- Gillette brand; 15-Prufrock's creator; 16- Dreadful; 17- Robert of "The Sopranos"; 18- In bad shape; 19-Turbine blade; 20- Capital of Iowa; 22- Conger catcher; 23- Draft choice; 24- Done, to Donne; 25- Least difficult; 29- Premier player; 33- Food and water; 34- Frozen rain; 36-Classic railroad name; 37- Uris hero; 38- 18th letter of the Greek alphabet; 39- Curve; 40- Motion picture; 42- Draft classification; 43- A trainee in a profession; 45- Abounding; 47- Underwater missile; 49- Goddess of dawn in Greek mythology; 50- Weightlifter's unit; 51- Enhance; 54- Suitable; 60- Suspended; 61- Bubbling; 62- Defeat decisively; 63-French friend; 64- Judges' garments; 65- Actress Raines; 66- Musical group; 67- Sheer fabric; 68- Recline;

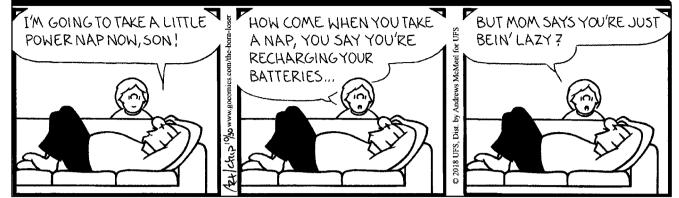
DOWN: 1- Stated; 2- Salt tree; 3- Bellicose deity; 4- Waitress; 5- One thing after another; 6- Gusto; 7- Quote; 8- Small children; 9- Hog's home; 10- Unfavorable; 11- Clock face;

\_Jewett; 13-Psychic; 21-12-Writer Sarah\_ Corrida cries; 22- Grown elver; 24- Earthen pot; 25- Perform or portray; 26- Eagle's home; 27-Paris divider; 28-Inanimate object; 29- Draw a bead on; 30- Commerce; 31-Broadcasted; 32- Right-hand page; 35- Get



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

#### The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



#### **SUDOKU**

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#### WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	21	31	cloudy
Harbin	19	22	moderate rain
Tianjin	21	26	shower
Urumqi	19	32	clear
Xi'an	20	29	cloudy
Lhasa	11	23	shower
Chengdu	20	31	shower
Chongqing	26	35	drizzle
Kunming	17	23	moderate rain
Nanjing	26	36	cloudy
Shanghai	27	36	clear
Wuhan	27	35	shower
Hangzhou	27	37	clear
Taipei	26	32	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	35	cloudy
Hong Kong	27	32	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	14	23	overcast
Frankfurt	16	22	drizzle
Paris	14	22	cloudy
London	13	18	cloudy
New York	25	29	cloudy

#### **USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

**Emergency calls 999** Fire department 28 572 222 PJ (Open line) 993 PJ (Picket) 28 557 775 PSP 28 573 333 Customs 28 559 944 S. J. Hospital 28 313 731 Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333 Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283 Water Supply - Report 2822 0088 Telephone – Report 1000 Electricity - Report 28 339 922 Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



AD

If it can make you extra cash, it will be even better. You will attract potential lovers, but be sure that they're unattached. Your involvement in organizational events could open doors to new opportunities. **SCORPIO** 

**TAURUS** 

Apr. 20-May. 20

CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

VIRGO

CAPRICORN

PISCES

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Insurance pay outs, tax rebates, or just plain luck. Trying to deal with your mate will be

unproductive and possibly hurtful. You don't want to give

Don't be too quick to judge

partners or those you work with. Make a point of working on yourself. Be sure not to

reveal private information to

the wrong individuals.

anyone fuel for the fire.

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Before you proceed be sure to talk your plans over with those they will affect. Show what a

dedicated person you can be. Keep important information to

Social events will be rewarding. You'll find love and you'll get into tiptop

shape at the same time. Escapist tendencies may lead to overindulgence.

yourself.

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escalating.

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Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Try to spend time with those having similar interests. Be sure to take care of the needs of your immediate loved ones first. Family responsibilities are

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on; 38- Juniors, perhaps; 41- Appeared; 43-Manitoba native: 44- Garments; 46- Charged particle; 48- Ultimatum ender; 51- Gregory Peck role of 1956; 52- Russian parliament before 1917; 53- Getting \_\_\_\_ years; 54- Peek follower; 55- Mongolian desert; 56- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 57- String tie; 58- Soothe; 59- Catchall abbr.; 61- This was produced by Van Gogh, for example;

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**Commission Against** 

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

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Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

FOR RENT FOR SALE FOR SALE FOR RENT 雅 [Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 🛏 1 🖢 [Macau] One Oasis modern studio 2 1 -600 ft<sup>2</sup> \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a) 691 ft<sup>2</sup> \$6,357,000 (ref: n/a) [Taipa] Taipa Village (2 units) [Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 🛏 1 🖢 4 🛤 2 🖢 property 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006) 710 ft2 \$20,460/mth (ref: 20021002) (853) 2835 2699 [Taipa] Manhattan Dunit 4 km 2 km [Macau] One Central 2 4 2 4 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> \$17,980,000 (ref: n/a) 1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a) hello@jmlproperty.com [Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 🛤 2 🖢 [Macau] 2 Shops downtown www.jmlproperty.com Hoi Wan Garden, Taipa Waterfront Duet Studio, Macau 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$20,800,000 (ref: 19015573) 2,060 ft2 \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001) \$9,000/mth 469 ft<sup>2</sup> 1 HK\$4,900,000 900 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 🖛 1 🖢 🖬 jmlmacau 🔘 jmlproperty



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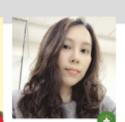


elda@jmlproperty.com



+853 6611 0975

sam@jmlproperty.com



Kitty Lou +853 6630 0730 kitty@jmlproperty.com

#### Property of the Week



#### Hoi Wan Garden, Taipa HK\$4,900,000 900 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 🛌 1 🚽

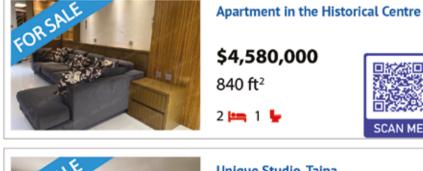
Easy access to the bridge to Macau, Taipa shops and restaurants, the Cotai Strip and of course schools with bus stops immediately outside and surrounding the building. Situated next to Macau Anglican College the apartment is ideal for a couple or family and has open views towards Macau. With a modernized kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The well-planned layout gives the property a spacious feel.

Viewing by appointment, please call or email the agents below.

### **Property Hotlist**

+853 6680 9804

juliet@jmlproperty.com



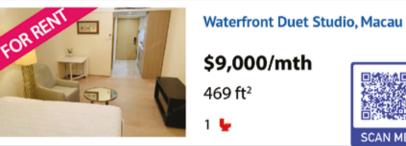






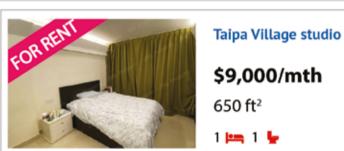














#### More Listings

For Sale				
[Coloane] One Od	isis modern stud	io 1 🖢	691 ft²	\$6,
[Taipa] Taipa Ville	nae- two connected	4 🏣 2 🖢	1.404 ft <sup>2</sup>	\$8.

#### For Rent

[Coloane] One Oasis modern studio 1 691 ft <sup>2</sup> \$6,357,000 (ref: n/a)	[Taipa] Old Taipa Village Apartment 2 1 600 ft <sup>2</sup> \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a)
[Taipa] Taipa Village- two connected 4 🛤 2 🖢 1,404 ft <sup>2</sup> \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)	[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 🛤 1 🖢 710 ft <sup>2</sup> \$20,460/mth (ref: 20021002)
[Taipa] Manhattan D unit 4 2 2,305 ft <sup>2</sup> \$17,980,000 (ref: n/a)	[Macau] One Central 2 = 1,269 ft <sup>2</sup> \$25,000/mth (ref: n/a)
[Macau] 2 Shops downtown 1,404 ft <sup>2</sup> <b>\$20,800,000</b> (ref: 19015573)	[Taipa] Great View Apartment 4 🛤 2 🖢 2,060 ft <sup>2</sup> \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)
[Cotai] One Grantai 4 = 2 2,556 ft <sup>2</sup> \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)	[Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 🛤 4 🖢 3,700 ft <sup>2</sup> \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 ®

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

#### JEROME PUGMIRE, PARIS

TTH Paris Saint-Germain looking to become only the second French club to win the Champions League, around 3,000 police will be deployed on the Champs-Élysées and outside the club's stadium today to prevent wild fan celebrations amid coronavirus concerns.

Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin announced the plans yesterday. To encourage preventative measures, 2,000 masks will be distributed to fans who arrive without them. Those who then refuse to wear them will be issued with fines.

In a bid to keep the numbers down, 17 subway stations will be shut and three ring road entry points into Paris will be closed off. A further 300 members of the fire brigade will provide backup to the police in Paris.

"Not only so things take place in the best way possible in terms of public security, but obviously so that the wearing of masks can be ensured," Darmanin said.

PSG faced five-time champion Bayern Munich in Lisbon (after press time), but all eyes will be on the game in bars and cafés back home. With virus cases increasing, authorities want to avoid scenes like Tuesday, when raucous fans celebrated reaching the final for the first time in the club's 50-year history.

# Extra security measures in Paris for PSG's big game



Thousands poured onto the famed Champs-Élysées, some on scooters or hanging out of cars, lighting up the night sky with flares as they danced and cheered wildly. Many were without face masks as social distancing disappeared entirely amid the hugging and jubilation.

Police arrested 36 people after throngs at the foot of the Arc de Triomphe degenerated into scattered violence and shop windows were smashed. But police authorities were also widely criticized for not anticipating the situation properly and deploying only a dozen vans.

The avenue will be for pedestrians only from 9 p.m. — kick off time in France — with no vehicles allowed to enter. This rare measure is usually reserved for New Year's Eve.

PSG is beaming the match on a giant screen at its Parc des Princes stadium in western Paris, where 5,000 fans will be allowed — the maximum number that can attend soccer games in France.

All fans entering the stadium have to wear masks and wash their hands, and police are being deployed outside to prevent a repeat of the widespread gathering on Tuesday.

On the outskirts of the city, 500 people will be allowed to watch the game at the club's training ground at Saint-Germain-en--Laye.

There is more than just victory at stake for PSG, which is trying to end decades of gloating from bitter rival Marseille — the only French club to have won the competition in 1993.

The game is massive for the club, which had never got past the quarterfinals since 2011 despite huge backing from Qatari investors QSI estimated at more than 1.5 billion euros (\$1.77 billion).

That includes a massive transfer outlay of 400 million euros (\$472 million) alone on star forwards Neymar and Kylian Mbappé.

The world's two most expensive players were under big pressure to make history for PSG. **AP** 





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#### **OPINION World Views** Noah Feldman, Bloomberg

#### Let Bannon arrest be THE CODA ON TRUMP'S CORRUPT PRESIDENCY

Steve Bannon's arrest on fraud charges is hardly a tragedy in the traditional sense of the word. Sure, the fall of a hero is the hallmark of tragedy, and Bannon considers himself an American hero - a self-perception that comes through very clearly in Errol Morris's brilliant and edgy interview film with Bannon, "American Dharma".

But Bannon's fall from grace happened a long time ago, when President Donald Trump fired him from his role as chief political strategist in 2017, much less than a year into his presidency. After his arrest, Trump was quick to say that he "hadn't been dealing with him for a very long period of time."

So Bannon's arrest is best understood as a kind of coda. The extraordinary last four years of U.S. history are going to conclude not with a bang, but with a whimper.

Corruption has hounded Donald Trump's presidency and his associates from the start. Now it seems to be catching up with him. The same day as the Bannon arrest, a federal district court ruled that Trump must turn over his tax returns to the New York district attorney as part of an ongoing investigation. Once Trump is out of office, he could be liable to criminal charges in New York state for business dealings dating back to before his presidency.

The bizarre scheme in connection with which Bannon and several others have been indicted is, symbolically, almost too perfect: an online fundraising effort to raise money for a border wall to be built not by the government of the United States, but by a private foundation. The patsies? Trump-sympathetic conservatives.

How could this idea not be a fraud, even if its promoters hadn't promised to spend 100% of the proceeds on construction while (allegedly) siphoning off proceeds for themselves? Sections of the actual wall are wildly expensive. There was literally no way a private organization was going to be able to build more than a few feet, even if the money had been intended for that purpose.

Trump himself said on Thursday that he disapproved of the project, which he considered "showboating." When it comes to showboating, he knows what he's talking about: The wall — the actual wall — was always an instance of political showboating, with little credible chance of meaningfully reducing illegal border-crossing. The private wall-building scheme was the shadow of a shadow.

The indictment filed by the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York says that Bannon and others defrauded donors by lying to them about how their donations would be spent. Then they took money from the donations. Bannon's own nonprofit got roughly \$1 million from the wall donations. Some of that allegedly went to pay Bannon's expenses and bills. Bannon has

### **EU TRADE CHIEF UNDER PRESSURE FOR GOLF EVENT**

The EU's trade commissioner is coming under intense pressure to step down after attending a golf event despite a ban on public gatherings during the pandemic.

The job of Phil Hogan, an Irishman who is expected to play a key role in trade talks with the U.K., is under threat amid a growing crisis stemming from a golf society dinner in the west of Ireland that was attended by more than 80 people. A surge in coronavirus cases recently prompted Ireland to reimpose restrictions on public gatherings that were eased in early summer.

The agriculture minister and deputy speaker of the Senate resigned last week after confirming they were at the event. Hogan offered a "fulsome and profound apology" over the incident.

The deputy head of government, Leo Varadkar, said he shared the public's anger at the golf event, but said the apology helps. He told RTE that Hogan may not have been as familiar with the coronavirus situation in Ireland because he was not based in the country.

### **ALEXI NAVALNY** Comatose Russian DISSIDENT VISITED BY wife, aide in Germany



A stretcher is taken from special aircraft with the Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny on board at Tegel Airport in Berlin

#### DAVID RISING, BERLIN

LEXI Navalny's wife and Aa top aide visited him yesterday in a Berlin hospital where the comatose Russian dissident is being treated by German doctors after a suspected poisoning.

Navalny was flown to Germany Saturday from Siberia after doctors determined he was stable enough to be brought to the capital's Charité hospital for treatment.

his After arrival, hospital spokeswoman Manuela Zingl said the 44-year-old would be undergoing extensive diagnostic tests and

that doctors wouldn't com-

him to Germany.

back to Moscow from Siberia and was taken to the hospital after the plane made an emergency landing.

While his supporters and family members insist that Navalny was poisoned, doctors in Omsk have denied that, theorizing a metabolic disorder was the most likely diagnosis and that a drop in blood sugar may have caused Navalny to lose consciousness.

Navalny's supporters believe that tea he drank was laced with poison... Doctors in **Omsk have denied that** 

Russian health authori-



volcano in western Indonesia on Sundav unleashed an avalanche of scorching clouds down its slopes. Authorities are closely monitoring Mount Sinabung on Sumatra, one of Indonesia's main islands, after sensors picked up increasing activity in past weeks.



**Finland**'s Prime Minister Sanna Marin has assumed the leadership of her own party eight months after taking the top job in the Nordic nation in December, when she became the world's youngest serving head of government at 34. The Social Democratic Party, Finland's largest party, unanimously elected Marin yesterday as the second female chair in its history

Turkey Four people have died in floods caused by heavy rain along Turkey's Black Sea coastline, the interior minister said yesterday. A further 11 people were missing after flooding around the mountain town of Dereli in Giresun province.

Berlin Traffic was

backed up for as much as 12 hours on Austria's southern border after new coronavirus safety measures were imposed on all travelers entering the country, authorities said yesterday. Amid a rise in coronavirus cases attributed in a large part to returning tourists, Austria imposed new rules this weekend requiring that the personal details of all travelers be recorded at the border.

groups. In 2017, he was at-

that it was purely a medical Navalny fell ill on a flight decision. However, the reversal to allow him to leave came as international pressure on Russia's leadership

mounted. Navalny's own doctor, Yaroslav Ashikhmin, who has treated him since 2013, said the politician has always been in good health, regularly went for medical checkups and didn't have any underlying illnesses that could have triggered his

# condition.

a tough road ahead of him to claim that he didn't participate in the fraud — or that he didn't benefit from it. There are no guarantees, but the odds are that Bannon will have to plead guilty or be found guilty.

If Trump loses to Joe Biden in November, the Bannon arrest will bookend his term in office. Corruption didn't bring down Trump's presidency. But with close associates like Paul Manafort and Michael Cohen convicted and jailed, corruption will be the watchword of the presidency's aftermath. And no one will forget that Trump commuted the sentence of political adviser Roger Stone; or that his attorney general, William Barr, retracted the charges against his former national security adviser, Michael Flynn.

If Trump wins re-election, corruption will still swirl around his administration. But with a little luck, we will have moved on to a new phase of enforcement — like the state charges brewing in the New York district attorney's office.

We are all exhausted by the last four years. It's time for the clean-up to begin.

ment on his illness or treatment until they were able to evaluate the results.

Yesterday, Navalny's wife, Yulia Navalnaya, and aide Leonid Volkov visited the Russian opposition leader in the hospital, making no comments to reporters.

Navalny, a politician and corruption investigator who is one of Russian President Vladimir Putin's fiercest critics, was admitted to an intensive care unit in the Siberian city of Omsk last week. His supporters believe that tea he drank was laced with poison — and that the Kremlin is behind both his illness and a delay in transferring ties on Saturday said that tests done so far haven't shown any poisons in his system.

When German specialists arrived aboard a plane equipped with advanced medical equipment Friday morning at his family's behest, Navalny's physicians in Omsk initially said he was too unstable to move. The dissident's supporters suggested that was just a ploy to delay his departure until the poison was

out of his system. The Kremlin denied that resistance to the transfer was political, with spokesman Dmitry Peskov saying

tacked by several men who threw antiseptic in his face, damaging an eye.

Like many

other opposi-

tion politicians

in Russia, Na-

valny has been

frequently de-

tained by law

enforcement

and harassed

by pro-Kremlin

Last year, Navalny was rushed to a hospital from jail where he was serving a sentence on charges of violating protest regulations. His team also suspected poisoning then. Doctors said he had a severe allergic reaction and sent him back to detention the following day.

If he was poisoned, it would not be the first time a prominent, outspoken Russian was targeted in such a way — or the first time the Kremlin was accused of being behind it. AP

Peru Thirteen people died in a stampede at a disco in Peru after a police raid to enforce the country's lockdown during the coronavirus pandemic, officials said yesterday. People tried to escape through the only door of the secondfloor disco, trampling one another and becoming trapped in the confined space, according to authorities.