

**The Macao SAR Government urges:**

Implement regular epidemic prevention measures;  
Do our best to persist;  
Wash hands frequently and wear a mask;  
Keep a distance and avoid crowd gathering;  
Perseverance leads to success.

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

www.rcr-macau.com

**RCR** electronics

**THE NEW GUIDELINES GOVERNING CATERING ACTIVITIES HAVE NO JURISDICTION OVER PRIVATELY HELD BANQUETS**

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**WECHAT USERS WHO DOWNLOAD THE CHINESE APP FOR PERSONAL OR BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS WON'T BE TARGETED BY TRUMP'S EXECUTIVE ORDER**

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**China** The remake of “Mulan” struck all the right chords to be a hit in the key Chinese market. Disney cast beloved actor Liu Yifei as Mulan and removed a dragon sidekick popular in the animated original to cater to Chinese tastes. Still, the movie drew decidedly mixed reviews after its coronavirus-delayed release in China last week, with thousands panning it online. The movie was rated 4.9 out of 10 by more than 165,000 people on Douban, a leading website for film, book and music ratings.



**Japan**'s new Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga started his first full day in office yesterday with a resolve to push forward popular reforms. “I’m determined to work hard for the people and get results so we can live up to their expectations,” Suga told reporters as he walked into the prime minister’s office.

**India**'s defense minister said yesterday the country faces challenges in its border dispute with China and urged Beijing to sincerely implement an understanding they reached previously to completely disengage forces from the Ladakh region. Rajnath Singh told the upper house of Parliament that China has amassed troops and weapons in Ladakh in violation of agreements reached in the 1990s

**US** Openly contradicting the government’s top health experts, President Donald Trump predicted Wednesday that a safe and effective vaccine against the coronavirus could be ready as early as next month and in mass distribution soon after, undermining the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and calling him “confused” in projecting a longer time frame. *More on p8*

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# NO ROOM FOR E-RMB ON GAMBLING TABLES

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## THE TOURING DINNER

Sometimes it is boring to eat at just one restaurant for dinner, but there are options in town to dine over three or four restaurants without bracing the weather. MDT’s food writer Irene Sam went for the experience



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## BEIJING ENDORSES MACAU'S COVID-19 PREVENTION RESULTS

The leader of the Central Leading Group on Hong Kong and Macau Affairs, Han Zheng, has endorsed the Macau government's efforts to prevent Covid-19 from spreading across the city. Earlier this week, Han Zheng met with Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak and other high-ranking officials from the Macau security force in Beijing. Han told Wong that the central government has consistently monitored Macau's development, with Beijing noticing the good work of Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng, who immediately took measures to control Macau's Covid-19 situation.

## MELINA LEONG TO JOIN ASIAN GAMING POWER 50 JUDGING PANEL

Casino industry publication Inside Asian Gaming has announced that Melina Leong, managing director of Yeewood Consultancy Ltd, has joined the judging panel for the Asian Gaming Power 50 in 2020. Leong joins an esteemed panel of judges that includes regulators, scholars, consultants and experienced industry commentators. The 13th edition of the annual gaming event will be held on November 6 at the Parisian Macao integrated resort.

## FDCT SUBSIDIZED 16 COVID-19 RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) has subsidized a total of 16 research projects related to Covid-19. Recently, the FDCT held a meeting at which a mid-term report on Covid-19 research was presented. The fund received 74 applications, 26 (35%) of which were given the subsidy. These research projects will take between three months to one year to complete. In total, the FDCT provided 10.07 million patacas in subsidies. All of these projects must be concluded by the first quarter of 2021.

## MACAO FOUNDATION'S NEW SUBSIDY RULES WORRY CULTURAL SECTOR

Changes the Macao Foundation has made to its subsidy approval rules have worried some members of the city's cultural industry. Recently, the foundation announced that it had introduced a competition mechanism to help the Macao Foundation select better projects to subsidize. The president of the Art For All Society Macau, Alice Kok, believes that the new policies will make the operations of the cultural industry more difficult for applicants. Another cultural representative, the CEO of the Theater Farmers, surnamed Lei, worries that this new policy may end up making her theater into a part-time operation, whereas it is now full-time. However, the deputy director of the Macao Cultural Heritage Reinventing Studies Association, Pong Chio Fai, thinks the new regulation sets up clear principles for subsidy applications and believes it will be a good change in the long term.

## COVID-19

# NEW GUIDELINES FOR BANQUETS WILL NOT APPLY TO PRIVATE EVENTS

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE new guidelines governing group catering activities released yesterday by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center have no jurisdiction over privately held banquets, such as wedding receptions or birthday dinners, Dr. Alvis Lo of the center clarified at yesterday's regular press briefing.

He stressed that the guidelines were made to set rules for celebrations during this year's National Day period, starting October 1, as well as possible entries by mainland tourists amid the resumption of travel endorsements to Macau on September 23.

On the other hand, the medical doctor has also seen more local residents circulating across the mainland. "Human mobility, of course, carries risks," Lo explained.

The new guidelines mainly govern receptions organized by groups, organizations or associations, especially those held during the National Day

period, indoors and with an attendance of over 400 people. In addition, the attendees at such events will be given a period of longer than one hour during which they will not have to properly wear a facemask.

Despite the allowance, all attendees should wear facemasks when not eating meals.

Participants at such events should present a negative Covid-19 nucleic acid test result obtained within the preceding seven days upon entry to the event venue. Their body temperature will also be taken and Macau health code checked upon entry. Participants with abnormal body temperatures or respiratory symptoms should not be allowed to enter.

The guidelines also require event hosts to offer alcohol rub at the entrance. Each table at a reception should be placed at least one meter apart from the next. Attendees at each table should not toast with those seated at another table.

Stipulations regarding event services have also been set forth. Condiments, utensils and

straws should not be liberally placed on the table for guests' use. Refreshments offered at a buffet event should be well covered.

Previously, the health authority expressly mentioned that guidelines issued by the Novel Coronavirus Center have legal authority. Violators may be subject to criminal prosecution.

When he was asked whether the new guidelines would apply to private banquets, the medical doctor admitted that coverage would be difficult.

"It is difficult for us to ban banquets," Lo said. "It is also difficult for us to require people to keep their attendance below 400."

But the medical doctor is confident in the sensibility of local residents. He believes that local people will follow the guidelines, even if they are not mandatory.

He also explained that some people may have planned their wedding banquets one year prior to the actual wedding date.

Despite saying that the guidelines should be issued in advance, the health authority pointed out it was too early to say whether the new guidelines would apply to this year's Macau Food Festival, which will be held in November alongside the Macau Grand Prix.

In addition, a new Covid-19 specimen collection and testing venue has been established at the Macau University of Science and Technology. Although the new testing site will start operating on Monday, bookings will open from today. Residents interested in being tested at the new venue will see the option on the centralized booking system.

Each test costs MOP120, identical to those taken at other local venues. Lo explained that since the venue is not a government-commissioned test venue, first-time complimentary tests will not be available at this venue.

During its preliminary phase, the university testing venue will have a daily quota of 500 tests.



# MUST leadership meets with Chinese deputy commissioner

**T**HE leadership team of the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) recently met with Wang Dong, Deputy Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Macau, for a discussion about the future development of the university.

MUST chancellor Liu Chak Wan thanked the commissio-

ner's office for its support of the school over the last 20 years and invited Wang to join a gathering at MUST in November to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the school.

MUST vice president Pang Chuan, who is also a lawmaker, reported MUST's main developments and achievements in recent years to Wang.

Pang said that with the support of the country and the SAR government, the school's overall ranking has risen significantly in recent years.

The educator also remarked that MUST is fully implementing the instructions of Chinese president Xi Jinping and ensuring the school is patriotic in all respects, striving to prime

students to have a strong attachment to the country and to their homes.

Commissioner Wang said that the office aims to promote Macau in developing communications with other regions.

Regarding MUST, Wang said that he has learnt more about the institution after the meeting and that he is full of hope for the future development of the university.

In Wang's opinion, MUST is young and energetic, innovative and progressive, and the school is a leading institute for training talented people who love the country and love Macau.

The commissioner said that MUST would excel further if it took advantage of Macau's 'center and platform' directives, developed the areas in which Macau needs to diversify the economy, supported the 'Macau brand' and made greater contributions to the SAR and the country. JZ

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# Digital RMB to run first on bank ledgers, not tokens

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE electronic renminbi (e-RMB), the world's first state-backed digital currency, will most likely first be used for finance and banking to back interbank money transfers and not as tokens available for regular consumers. This was said by Chris Chan, head of cybersecurity research at UDomain and a specialist in data and digital security, on Wednesday during an online conference on the topic of safety and security as part of the program of Global Gaming Expo (G2E) Asia.

Questioned by conference moderator Michael Grimes, a principal at casino news website GGRAsia, Chan said that in the first phase of implementation, "the e-RMB should be used in [bank] ledgers rather than as tokens, which puts it more at the banking level than ... the consumer level."

However, "in the future, I think it will apply to everything," he said.

Further commenting on the creation and implementation process of the e-RMB, Chan noted that the Chinese cryptocurrency, unlike the others that currently exist, has a strong state-led basis and it has been developed and tested by the Bank of China (BOC).

"These are ideas from BOC, so this has been led by the central government authorities themselves, which



is significantly different from other cryptocurrencies and even from other electronic payment methods such as Alipay and WeChat pay. The fact that [this digital currency] was initiated by the government gives it more credit and probably will [make it] more trustworthy [than other forms of electronic payment]."

For Chan, another big difference that contributes to the credibility of the new digital currency is the fact that the launch is expected to be complemented by regulation that will control its use.

Informed by his familiarity

with the creation and testing process of the e-RMB, Chan noted that the currency is the product of long-term research and development at the highest level that has been taking place on the mainland since 2014.

Chan also said that he believes the implementation process has been accelerated due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

"The [Chinese] government aims to fully replace cash with the e-RMB as this [form of digital currency] has lately been seen as an added advantage, as physical money has been dubbed

as a potential vehicle for the transmission of the virus."

Another advantage of the e-RMB discussed at the conference was the fact that this method of payment and money transfer leaves clear records, unlike cash transfers and payments. This will help central authorities track transfers and those using the currency for potentially unlawful activities.

As Bloomberg News reported previously, China is preparing to test the currency in a pilot program that will span the next three years.

The program will be carried out in several cities and regions, including Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei province, the eastern Yangtze River Delta, the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, and other areas in the central and western regions.

Although Macau is one of the regions taking part in the government trial, Chan said that the use of e-RMB in gaming activities should be completely ruled out for the time being. He noted that the use of the digital currency should be restricted to other areas of the integrated resorts.

Currently, other forms of electronic payment are already used commonly in restaurants and other food and beverage venues, shops, and even for the payment of accommodation expenses at hotels. However, they are not authorized for use in any form of gaming or legal exchange of money for casino chips.

## CRASH AT SAI VAN BRIDGE TAIPA EXIT INJURES ONE

A private light vehicle yesterday violated the give-way signal and crashed into a scooter at one of the Sai Van Bridge's Taipa exits, the Public Security Police Force has confirmed. The crash was first revealed when a video was posted in a social media group. The video was comprised of footage taken by the windshield camera of a taxi. In the video, the scooter was driving along the center lane of the ground-level roundabout on the Taipa exit of the Sai Van Bridge. When it reached the intersection of the exit with the roundabout, a Honda Civic crashed into the scooter, leaving the rider on the ground after being thrown into the air. The scooter rider is a local male of undisclosed age. The police said he was conscious upon being sent to Kiang Wu Hospital. His specific medical condition was unclear as of press time.

## WOMAN MAKES FALSE REPORT AFTER HUSBAND DIVORCES HER

A mainland woman has falsified a report to the police authority out of anger after her husband asked her for a divorce. The suspect is a 40-year-old mainland woman surnamed Wei. In 2017, Wei married her then-husband. After getting married, the man noticed that Wei had a gambling habit. In May of this year, the husband asked Wei for a divorce and married another woman. Since their separation, Wei has felt scorned by her ex-husband. On September 4, the woman falsified a report to the Judiciary Police (PJ) claiming her ex-marriage was a sham because her husband had charged her 100,000 patacas to get married. She added that once she got her Macau ID, she was set to pay another 200,000 patacas to her ex-husband. However, the PJ confirmed that the marriage was authentic and that the woman made a false report.

## 110 TONS OF MOON CAKE INGREDIENTS EXPORTED TO SARs

Over 110 tons of moon cake ingredients have been exported from Gongbei to the SARs, according to the Gongbei customs authority. With the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival approaching, the Hong Kong and Macau markets are demanding moon cake ingredients. According to Gongbei customs, a total of 110 tons of moon cake ingredients and moon cakes have been exported to the SARs through this specific port. The customs authority remarked that, in order to facilitate the export, the department put together a specific tactical team to expedite the transport of the food.

## POLICE CRACKDOWN ON ILLICIT MAHJONG SHOP

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has cracked down on an illicit mahjong operation. Earlier this week, the PSP followed up on a report regarding an illicit Mahjong business located in the northern district and raided the shop in question. The police officers found three automatic mahjong tables, 16 mahjong cohorts and one person suspected of being the owner of the business. All of the apprehended individuals are Macau residents aged between 30 and 66 years old. Thirteen were women and three were men. While the police raid was taking place, two of the people were playing mahjong. The suspected owner is a 61-year-old man. According to the customers, as part of the arrangement they pay the suspect 100 patacas per hour. The owner also admitted that he rents the shop for 15,000 Hong Kong dollars per month and that he has operated the business for two months.

# Macau, Hainan to make better use of free-trade port advantages

**M**ACAU Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng yesterday discussed with officials of the local government in Hainan how to boost bilateral ties via advantages arising from the free-trade port policy of Hainan.

Ho, who is in Sanya City, Hainan Province, met yesterday with the Secretary of the Hainan Provincial Committee of the Communist Par-

ty of China, Liu Cigui, with whom he exchanged views on how to strengthen cooperation in economic and trade matters, tourism and cultural affairs.

Ho said in the meeting that Hainan's strategy for developing its economy was a reference point for Macau in terms of economic diversification.

The Covid-19 pandemic had clearly re-

vealed problems regarding Macau's over-reliance on a single economic sector, he said. The Macau government's intent to pursue economic diversification strategies could benefit from closer ties with partner cities from the mainland, according to Ho.

The Macau Chief Executive also pointed out that the free-trade port policy was a

fresh initiative for the country and a unique opportunity for Hainan.

Liu then briefed the Chief Executive on the economic achievements of Hainan in recent years and effort in accelerating local development as a free-trade port.

Both officials agreed that Hainan and Macau would work closer in order to make better

use of the favorable conditions created under the free-trade port policy – which was put forward by President Xi Jinping and was designed only for Hainan.

Ho is visiting Hainan for the 2020 Pan-Pearl River Delta Regional Cooperation Executive Chiefs Joint Meeting, which takes place today. The Macau SAR delegation arrived in Sanya City on Wednesday and visited the Yazhou Bay Science and Technology City and Sanya International Duty-free Complex. **DB**



# REGULATOR CONFIDENT ABOUT RESTARTING CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAM

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) is confident in the reliability of its continuing education administration e-platform after conducting stress tests, Lou Pak Sang, director of the bureau, said yesterday.

Regulations relating to the decade-long Continuing Education Scheme administered by the DSEJ have become tighter this year. Numerous cases of malpractice have been uncovered by the police, and as the administrator, the bureau is expected to fix the system.

In response, the education bureau will be introducing electronic roll-taking at participating course operations. Both teachers and students will have to sign in and out at each lecture using their ID card on the education bureau's e-platform.

However, the continuing education sector is still describing the e-platform as unreliable, judging by its performance in previous phases of the scheme. The e-platform has regularly frozen or lost connection when students have enrolled in classes in previous phases.

Questioned by the Times about the e-platform's reliability, the DSEJ director disclosed that the bureau has conducted drills relating to roll-taking. In the drill in which the bureau director participated, which simulated a class of 30 people, the time needed for



all to finish taking their registration was 1 minute 40 seconds.

Stress tests were also held to test the durability of the e-platform, the bureau director added. Sessions simulating "a large amount" of students signing in simultaneously recorded satisfactory results, the bureau director revealed, but he did not specify how many people constituted a large amount.

Lou said that a third-party service provider would be hired to offer emergency, in-person support to course operations when the e-platform crashes.

This year's regulations have also narrowed the scope of approved courses. Courses with international recognition or those that are run for licensing or accreditation purposes will be more likely to get approved. In this case, many cou-

se operations will have to make extra investments to purchase new franchises or obtain new accreditations, but have not been allowed by the bureau to increase the prices of courses.

Wong Chi Long, head of the bureau's Division of Continuing Education, said that the regulator determines the approved level of course charges using criteria including the nature of the education venue, the aptitude of teaching staff, the content of courses, among others.

On the other hand, course operators complained about the education bureau requiring them to uninstall facilities essential to teaching just because they are located in the education venue.

Regarding this, Wong explained that the regulator has revoked the license of certain venues or reques-

ted that course operators improve certain facilities due to their depreciation.

"The florescent lights at certain venues may have depreciated over time, making them not bright enough," the division head explained. "For some, the

fire extinguisher might have expired."

He said when they make required improvements, the venues will have their hardware approved.

## SEX EDUCATION STARTS AT HOME

The director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), Lou Pak Sang, has stressed that sex education is a matter for families, schools and the government, in response to recent sex offenses making victims out of minors.

Local police departments have recently busted several sex offenses committed against minors. When questioned what action the education regulator was taking regarding the situation, Lou said that the DSEJ has already updated its teaching materials. However, Lou also argued that the role of parents are as prominent as that of the education regulator.

In a case disclosed Wednesday by the police, the mother was alerted to a sex offense committed against her daughter during a family sex education session. This "exactly reflected the parent's strong awareness [of sex education]," according to the DSEJ head.

Lou further said that the DSEJ's position is that sex education starts in the home, with an emphasis on prevention and education.

The DSEJ has commissioned Chinese technology giant Tencent to offer a centralized online lecture platform in Macau. Regarding worries that private information may be transferred outside of Macau, the education bureau has pledged that every step of the process will abide by the Personal Data Protection Law. Data will be exported with the permission of the users. Using the centralized platform is not mandatory, the education bureau stressed.

## Morton's The Steakhouse to temporarily close

**M**ORTON'S The Steakhouse is closing temporarily, allegedly due to nearby construction.

Known for its fine steaks, Morton's The Steakhouse at The Venetian Macao serves premium USDA grain-fed prime-aged beef, fresh seafood, desserts and 'bar bites'.

The Times contacted the restaurant yesterday

regarding the date of its closure and reopening. However, a staff member was unaware of the details.

A spokesperson at The Venetian Macao confirmed the closure, noting that "it has been closed" and they were also unaware of the official closure date.

In the United States, a number of Morton's res-

taurants have closed permanently due to the impact of Covid-19.

According to reports, the owner of the fine dining restaurant, billionaire Tilman Fertitta, who also owns several other restaurant chains, noted that his 600 restaurants around the world are losing about USD1 million daily on average, blaming the losses on Covid-19. LV

AD

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**CAM reserves the right to reject any Proposal in whole or in part without stating any reason.**



# Light Festival aims to 'make city come to life' post pandemic

LYNZY VALLES

THE "Macao Light Festival 2020 – Light Carnival" will be held earlier than usual this year, starting from September 26 to October 31, with a total budget of 21 million patacas.

The upcoming event will be held a few days after all of China reinstates tourist visas to Macau from September 23.

According to the director of the Macao Government Tourism Office, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, the sixth iteration of the festival aims to be a "happy event to cheer the public up whilst the pandemic is easing off and to make the city come to life."

This is one of the first major public events that the government is holding after several events were canceled due to Covid-19.

The festival will stage a mega-mapping show at Tap Seac Square against a backdrop of four historic examples of architecture,



re, weaving mapping projections and music.

The show will be projected onto the façades of four historic buildings, namely the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Tap Seac Health Centre, the Macao Central Library and the Archives of Macao.

This year, the festival will feature eight additional projectors and will run for an additional number

of days, hence the slight increase in budget.

During a press conference yesterday, it was announced that this festival will be the broadest in terms of programming.

Speaking on the sidelines of the event, the tourism chief said that they are not expecting to see the same number of visitors at the event this year compared

to last year.

"We are not anticipating the number [to be] as many as last year because as we know a major portion of participants in the festival are also our tourists. We're not looking at a very large number of tourists at this moment," she said.

The festival will present light installations and interactive games at 12 locations along four designated routes themed "Circus," "Time Tunnel," "Candy Kingdom" and "Music Box of Lights," located in different parishes. There will be a range of hotspots for selfies and check-ins on social media.

Meanwhile, mapping shows will be staged at Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome and the restaurant Cozinha Pinocchio Taipa at Largo dos Bombeiros in Taipa Village, as has happened in the past. Two new venues will be added, including China Products Company at Largo do Pagode do Bazar and Wong Ieng Kuan Children's Library in Areia Preta Urban Park.

## LOW EXPECTATIONS FOR GOLDEN WEEK ARRIVALS

Commenting on the tourist arrivals expected during Golden Week, Senna Fernandes noted that following the opening of Guangdong's borders, the MGTO is looking at some 12,000 to 16,000 daily visitor arrivals.

"These are not big numbers yet compared to what we used to have, but obviously we won't go back immediately ... we believe it will take a quite long period of time to actually go back and [we are] not even sure if it'll go back to pre-pandemic levels," she said.

Currently, the city's hotel occupancy rate is at 20% to 25%, and some 11% for five-star hotels. The MGTO believes that reaching 50% occupancy for Golden Week would be a "good sign" of recovery.

"We have passed many months where we have had low occupancy, even now. If we're not able to have more tourists staying with us, it means it will also trickle down to all other sectors of industry," she added.

A recent survey conducted by brokerage Morgan Stanley shows that five out of the 23 hotels it surveyed were already fully booked for Golden Week.

These hotels were five-star hotels, including the Ritz-Carlton Macau, StarWorld Hotel, Morpheus at City of Dreams Macau, Studio City and Four Seasons Macao.

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# Adelson's Singapore casino hires law firm to probe \$1 billion in transfers

**L**AS Vegas Sands Corp.'s Singapore casino has hired a law firm to conduct a new investigation into employee transfers of more than \$1 billion in gamblers' money to third parties, according to people familiar with the matter.

Davinder Singh Chambers LLC, which specializes in dispute resolution and international arbitration, was appointed after Singapore police began a probe of third-party transfers at Marina Bay Sands Ltd., said the people, who asked not to be identified discussing private matters.

The review by one of Singapore's best-known law firms adds to scrutiny of the casino by the U.S. Department of Justice and Singapore authorities after a patron sued the firm last year alleging that SGD9.1 million (\$6.7 million) of his money was transferred to other gamblers without his knowledge. The lawsuit was settled out of court in June, with the casino agreeing to reimburse the full amount. There was a "non-admission" of liability from both sides.

Marina Bay Sands said in a statement that when issues regarding the handling of client transfers were raised, the company thoroughly reviewed the matter and concluded that no patron funds were transferred in a manner that was contrary to the client's intent.

"MBS continues to work closely with its regulators to monitor MBS's compliance with all legal obligations," the casino said. Singapore's Casino Regulatory Authority said it has completed investigations into allegations that Marina Bay Sands carried out unauthorized transfers from accounts of former Chinese patron Wang Xi.

In a response to a Bloomberg News inquiry, the CRA said it con-

BLOOMBERG



cluded the casino didn't breach requirements in that case - including those relating to anti-money laundering - though "there were weaknesses in MBS' casino control measures pertaining to fund transfers," it said in a statement, referring to the complaint by Wang.

Las Vegas Sands dropped 4.2% in New York, after earlier plunging as much as 8.9%, the most since March. The shares were down 25% this year as of Wednesday's close.

A representative for Davinder Singh Chambers declined to comment. The Singapore police force said it's inappropriate to comment as investigations are ongoing.

The client lawsuit sparked scrutiny by a slew of authorities into how Marina Bay Sands handled and monitored third-party

transfers. The transactions, when authorized, are legal and used by groups of wealthy gamblers in Asia to pool winnings and losses at different casinos.

The transfers are sometimes made through so-called junket operators, which provide transportation, hotels and credit to high rollers. In Macau, the junkets allow Chinese gamblers to get around strict capital controls by pledging assets on the mainland in exchange for credit at casinos.

While the junkets are generally more strictly controlled in Singapore, an earlier probe by Marina Bay Sands and the Hogan Lovells law firm found instances of employees not complying with proper standards by filling in payment details on pre-signed or photo-copied authorization forms, according to the people. It also uncovered cases in which ori-

ginal documents were destroyed, the people said.

During the Hogan Lovells review covering 2013-2017, more than 3,000 letters of authorization were used to endorse transfers of funds from patrons to third parties worth about SGD1.4 billion, according to the people.

Las Vegas Sands' Singapore unit, among the most profitable in billionaire Sheldon Adelson's gaming empire, called on Hogan Lovells' team that specializes in corporate investigations and contentious regulatory matters after the Casino Regulatory Authority started its probe following the 2019 lawsuit from patron Wang Xi.

The U.S. Attorney's Office meanwhile interviewed a former compliance chief of Marina Bay Sands in July as part of the justice department's probe into whether anti-money laundering procedu-

res had been breached in handling high rollers, people familiar with the matter said.

Of the transactions scrutinized in the Hogan Lovells review, letters authorizing transfers worth SGD365 million from multiple patrons bore signatures that appeared to be similar, facilitating numerous transfers, one of the people said. One group of employees was involved in SGD763 million in transfers. That concentration in just a handful of staff failed to draw the requisite attention, according to the person.

The regulator "takes a serious view of such matters and had directed MBS to strengthen its control measures, which MBS has since undertaken," according to the statement. "CRA will continue to exercise close oversight to ensure that MBS' measures are effective."

Marina Bay Sands told the regulator that it had strengthened its control process in April 2018 to ensure that gamblers authorize each fund transfer, and that the requests are approved by the casino's compliance department, the person said. Employees also receive training to spot and report suspicious behavior and any unlicensed junket-related activities.

Davinder Singh is well known for representing Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong in a number of defamation cases, as well many other high-profile lawsuits over banking, debt restructuring and frauds. Hogan Lovells is known for its investigations and anti-corruption work.

Las Vegas Sands' Asian operations, which also include Macau, contributed about 85% of the company's \$13.7 billion in revenue last year, and have helped make Adelson one of the richest men in the U.S. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD

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It comes into effect on the 1st of September 2020

**Black rainstorm warning signal - level 3**  
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**Red rainstorm warning signal - level 2**  
This warning signal is issued when heavy rain has fallen or is expected to fall over extensive areas, exceeding 50 millimetres in an hour, and is likely to continue.

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AP PHOTO



U.S. Under Secretary of State Keith Krach exits a plane upon arrival at the air force base airport in Taipei

# US envoy begins second recent high-level visit to Taiwan

HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

**U**.S. Under Secretary of State Keith Krach arrived in Taiwan yesterday for the second visit by a high-level American official in two months, prompting a stern warning and threat of possible retaliation from China.

Beijing considers Taiwan its own and opposes all official contacts between other countries and the self-governing island.

Krach arrived at an air force base in Taipei, the capital, for a three-day visit. Wearing a face mask, he bumped elbows in greetings with Taiwanese Deputy Foreign Minister Harry Ho-Jen Tseng.

Krach, the highest-level State Department official to visit the island in decades, is to meet Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and other senior officials, the island's foreign ministry said.

The visit by Krach, who is under secretary for economic growth, energy and the environment, follows a high-profile trip in August by U.S. Health Secretary Alex Azar, the highest-level U.S. Cabinet official to visit since the U.S. switched formal relations from Taiwan to China in 1979.

However, the U.S. has maintained unofficial ties

with Taiwan since the official diplomatic break and is the island's most important ally and provider of defense equipment.

Ahead of Krach's arrival, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Kelly Craft, had lunch Wednesday with Taiwan's top official in New York, a meeting she called historic and a further step in the Trump administration's campaign to strengthen relations with Taiwan.

**“ [The visit] bolsters the separatist forces of Taiwan independence and undermines China-US relations and peace across the Taiwan Strait.**

WANG WENBIN  
CHINESE FOREIGN MINISTRY

Craft said her lunch with James K.J. Lee, director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York, was the first meeting between a top Taiwan official and a U.S. ambassador to the United Nations since 1971, when the China seat at the U.N. was passed from Taipei to Beijing.

“I'm looking to do the right thing by my president, and I feel that he has sought to strengthen and deepen this bilateral relationship with Taiwan and I want to continue that on

behalf of the administration,” she told The Associated Press.

In Taiwan, Krach is to attend a banquet hosted by Tsai on Friday and hold discussions on the creation of a new economic and commercial dialogue, according to Taiwan's de facto ambassador in the U.S., Hsiao Bi-khim. He will also attend a memorial service for former President Lee Teng-hui, who led the island's transition to democracy and died at age 97 in July.

Krach's visit and Craft's lunch with Lee are certain to exacerbate mounting tensions between Washington and Beijing over the coronavirus pandemic, trade, technology, Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

China condemned the visit and warned it could retaliate.

At a daily briefing yesterday, Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said Krach's visit violates U.S. commitments to China and “bolsters the separatist forces of Taiwan independence and undermines China-U.S. relations and peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait,” adding that Beijing had “lodged solemn complaints” with Washington over the matter.

“We urge the U.S. to fully

recognize the high sensitivity of the Taiwan issue ... immediately stop official exchanges and actions of improving substantive relations with Taiwan, and handle Taiwan-related issues cautiously,” Wang said. “China will make necessary responses in accordance with the development of the situation.” AP

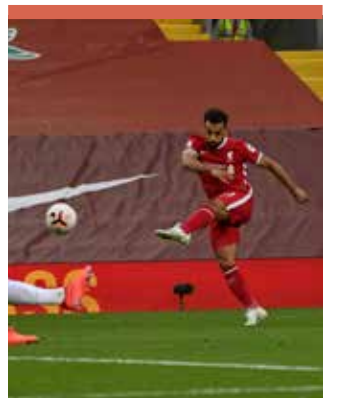
## OUTGOING US AMBASSADOR TO HELP REPUBLICAN CAMPAIGNS

Outgoing U.S. Ambassador to China Terry Branstad said he will help Republicans campaigning in his native Iowa after returning home next month. Branstad also told Hong Kong's Phoenix TV that he considered the “phase one” trade deal between China and the U.S. as the biggest achievement of his three years in China. Branstad, 73, said he will work on behalf of President Donald Trump, Sen. Joni Ernst and others, but not in any official role.



## EPL TO AIR IN CHINA AGAIN THROUGH TENCENT DEAL

The English Premier League has found a new broadcast partner in China, with digital media platform Tencent Sports showing games for the rest of the season. The previous deal with streaming service PPTV was terminated this month due to a financial dispute. More than half of the remaining 372 games will be aired for free by Tencent, with a subscription required for the other matches. The deal was agreed ahead of this weekend's second round of fixtures.



AD

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**Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery :** Dr. Lam U Lin

**Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine :** Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

**ENT :** Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

**Cardiology :** Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

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USA

# Trump disputes health officials, sees mass vaccinations soon

**O**PENLY contradicting the government's top health experts, President Donald Trump predicted yesterday [Macau time] that a safe and effective vaccine against the coronavirus could be ready as early as next month and in mass distribution soon after, undermining the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and calling him "confused" in projecting a longer time frame.

Trump also disagreed with Dr. Robert Redfield about the effectiveness of protective masks — which the president recommends but almost never wears — and said he'd telephoned Redfield to tell him so.

Earlier in the day, the CDC sent all 50 states a "playbook" for distribution of a vaccine to all Americans free of cost when one is proven safe and effective — which is not yet the case. Redfield told a congressional hearing that health care workers, first responders and others at high risk would get the vaccine first, perhaps in January or even late this year, but it was unlikely to be available more broadly, again assuming approval, before late spring or summer.

Redfield, masked at times in a Senate hearing room, also spoke emphatically of the importance of everyone wearing protective masks to stop the pandemic, which has killed nearly 200,000 Americans. He floated the possibility that a vaccine might be 70% effective in inducing immunity, and said, "I might even go so far as to say that this face mask is more guaranteed to protect me against COVID than when I take a COVID vaccine."

Trump would have none of that from the CDC director.

"Vaccine is much more effective than the mask," he declared.

As for vaccinating Americans, Trump said, "We think we can start sometime in October." One of



his recently added advisers, Dr. Scott Atlas, said as many as 700 million doses could be available by the end of March.

Trump made the prediction even though the vaccine is still being tested in human subjects, and some health experts have said they believe a safe and highly effective vaccine is several months away, if not much longer.

CDC sent a planning document yesterday to U.S. states, territories and some big cities. Adding to logistical complications, vaccines likely will have to be given in two doses spaced weeks apart and will have to be refrigerated.

Redfield said states are not ready to deal with the demand for such a distribution and some \$6 billion in new funding would be needed to get the nation prepared.

Unswayed, Trump said, "We're ready to move, and I think it will be full distribution."

Redfield said any vaccine available in November or December would be in "very limited supply," and reserved for first responders and people most vulnerable to COVID-19. The shot wouldn't be broadly available until the spring or summer 2021, he estimated.

After Trump's comments, CDC officials initially sent an email claiming Redfield thought he was answering a question about when vaccination of all Americans would be completed. But then they called back that statement, and did not immediately provide additional comment.

The entire vaccine enterprise faces continued public skepticism. Only about half of Americans said they'd get vaccinated in an Associated Press-NORC poll taken in May. Since then, questions have only mounted about whether the government is trying to rush treatments and vaccines to help Trump's reelection chances.

The Health and Human Services Department announced yesterday that political appointee Michael Caputo would take a leave of absence to "focus on his health and the well-being of his family." The news followed revelations that Caputo had tried to gain editorial control over the CDC's scientific publications on COVID-19, which he contended were hurting the Trump administration.

Redfield said the "scientific integrity" of his agency's reports "has not been

compromised and it will not be compromised under my watch." He also rejected questions about whether the CDC's timeline for states to be ready for a vaccine by Nov. 1 was politically motivated.

"The worst thing that could happen is if we have a vaccine delivered and we're still not ready to distribute," Redfield told Senate lawmakers. "There was absolutely no political thinking about it."

Sen. Patty Murray of Washington, the committee's top Democrat, said political interference from HHS had damaged public trust in the government's health information.

"The Trump administration needs to leave the science to the scientists immediately," Murray said.

Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden said while campaigning that he trusts what scientists say about a potential vaccine — but not Trump.

Biden has said he would take a vaccine "tomorrow" if it were available but he would want to "see what the scientists said" first.

As for the planned vaccine campaign, Redfield said his agency will be working with state health officials to implement the preparations in coming days. **AP**

## this day in history



### 1970 ROCK LEGEND HENDRIX DIES AFTER PARTY

Guitarist Jimi Hendrix has died after collapsing at a party in London.

Police say there was no question of foul play. A number of sleeping pills were found at the house in Notting Hill Gate and they have been taken away for analysis.

Hendrix, 27, was born in Seattle, Washington, but rose to fame in Britain with his band the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

He will be remembered as a key figure in the music world who transformed electric guitar-playing using distortion, feedback and sheer volume to create a revolutionary new sound.

Hendrix had been staying in London since cutting short a European tour with his band after bass player Billy Cox fell ill with stress and exhaustion.

They were among the headline acts at the three-day Love and Peace Festival at Insel Fehmarn in Germany.

The concert was not an entire success. A torrential downpour meant Hendrix postponed his performance by a day and the audience was disrupted by fighting and gunfire between rival German motorcycle gangs who eventually burned the stage to the ground.

It was after this performance the group returned to London and Hendrix sent Cox back to the United States to convalesce.

James Hendrix was part black, part Cherokee Indian and part Mexican. He left school early, having developed a keen interest in music but unable to read it.

He joined the army as a paratrooper but was discharged due to injury and took up work as a session musician.

He was spotted by former Animals' bass player turned manager Chas Chandler who persuaded him to move to London in the autumn of 1966. He changed Hendrix's stage name to "Jimi", and introduced him to drummer Mitch Mitchell and bass player Noel Redding to form the Jimi Hendrix Experience.

The band's first single 'Hey Joe' spent 10 weeks in the UK charts, reaching number six in early 1967.

They enhanced their reputation with flamboyant stage performances. With his long wiry hair and colourful clothes Hendrix kept audiences enthralled with his improvised solos often playing the guitar behind his back or between his legs.

Their performance of 'Wild Thing' at the Monterey International Pop Festival in June 1967, in which Hendrix played the guitar with his teeth, confirmed their success in the US. The Jimi Hendrix Experience became one of the most popular and successful touring acts in the world.

After the Hendrix Experience disbanded he continued performing with a range of musicians - including a memorable rendition of Star Spangled Banner at the Woodstock Festival in 1969.

In 1970 the Jimi Hendrix Experience re-formed and were in the process of recording a new LP when he died.

His final public performance in Britain was with American band War at Ronnie Scott's club in London last week.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A coroner recorded an open verdict on the death of Jimi Hendrix.

The inquest heard he had taken nine sleeping pills but there was no evidence of drug addiction.

The guitarist's father, Al Hendrix, a landscape gardener, was the sole beneficiary of the will, estimated to be worth in the region of \$500,000.

He set up a company, Experience Hendrix, with the aim of preserving his son's musical legacy.

On his death in 2002, the company was inherited by his step-daughter Janie. But Jimi's brother Leon claimed he had been unfairly written out of the will and launched a lawsuit in 2004 to try to overturn it.

In 2003 a survey by the Rolling Stone magazine named Jimi Hendrix the greatest guitarist in rock history.





YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

A family member who has been under a lot of pressure needs some relief, and you could be the one to give it to them. If they live far away and they can't come visit you, see if you can arrange a video chat.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You don't need an excuse to pamper yourself. It's a good day to indulge in a little "me" time. You've been weathering some stressful times, and you deserve a little break.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

The sun feels like it's shining a little bit brighter today, doesn't it? Your mood is lightening. While your thoughts may not be clear, your goals are. Put a plan together so you can make the most of it.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Today you could get a phone call or e-mail that contains crucial information about one of your most precious relationships, and it will cause you to breathe a huge sigh of relief!



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Now is definitely not the time to be modest about how great you are! Someone is curious about one of your recent accomplishments, and they want to know more details about how you did what you did.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Do you want to get your way today? Then speak up early and ask for it! Being aggressive is not a bad thing right now, especially since you know how to be aggressive and agreeable at the same time.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Size isn't nearly as important to you right now as style, and this fresh outlook is something you should cultivate. Too many people are focused on quantity, not quality right now, and they really need to hear what you have to say.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Skip reality TV and instead pick up a good book. You don't have to swear off silly stuff forever, but you do have to remind yourself how smart you are.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you can be flexible with your friends, then you need to be just as flexible with your family. It's important to treat all the people you care about equally.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Your position in your social circle is about to skyrocket, so get ready! You've got the connections and the ideas to make your friends amazingly happy right now, and they know it!



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

People who don't realize what they are doing could exert a major influence over your day, so you need to stay extra aware if you want to keep your cool right now.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Take a little bit of a selfish perspective today, and do something that benefits you and you alone. Just make sure you don't make anybody angry at you!

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	13	26	clear
Harbin	12	16	drizzle
Tianjin	16	27	clear
Urumqi	12	22	cloudy
Xi'an	15	29	clear
Lhasa	9	24	cloudy
Chengdu	15	24	cloudy
Chongqing	18	26	cloudy
Kunming	16	22	cloudy
Nanjing	18	26	cloudy
Shanghai	18	21	drizzle
Wuhan	16	26	cloudy
Hangzhou	19	20	drizzle to moderate rain
Taipei	26	31	cloudy
Guangzhou	26	31	moderate rain
Hong Kong	25	29	heavy rain

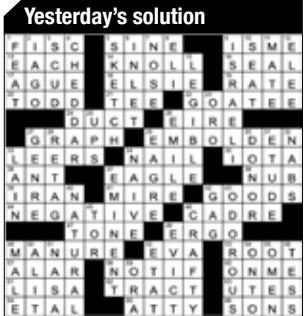
WORLD

Moscow	8	12	drizzle
Frankfurt	4	20	clear
Paris	14	29	cloudy
London	12	21	clear
New York	10	20	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Addict; 5- Brazilian ballroom dance; 10- Expel gas or odor; 14- Network of nerves; 15- Inventor Howe; 16- Fit to be tried; 17- Ladies of Spain: Abbr.; 18- Horn-shaped bone; 19- "Chicken of the sea"; 20- Type of ballot or landlord; 22- Hue; 23- Rock clinging plant; 24- For one; 26- Distrust; 29- Untidy; 33- Discombobulate; 34- Writer Loos; 35- Buckeyes' sch.; 36- Broad; 37- Adonais, Thanatopsis, or In Memoriam; 38- Carry; 39- Wind dir.; 40- Festoon; 41- Aspect; 42- Without a bend; 44- Blessed sound?; 45- Brainchild; 46- Catalog; 48- \_\_\_ of Two Cities; 51- Lacking feet; 55- Monetary unit of Lesotho; 56- Beaming; 58- Catchall abbr.; 59- Go sour; 60- Mikhail's wife; 61- Marsh bird; 62- Not a dup.; 63- Grow to maturity; 64- Catch;

DOWN: 1- Bear in the sky; 2- Novi Sad native; 3- JFK postings; 4- To be similar to; 5- Shakers et al.; 6- Healing plants; 7- Bog; 8- Prohibit; 9- Tempe sch.; 10- Bars legally; 11- Handle roughly; 12- \_\_\_ uncertain terms; 13- Eye drop; 21- Short letter; 22- Nightclub of song; 24- Set straight; 25- Crying shame; 26- Coolidge's weep; 27- Writer of lyric poetry; 28- Milk container; 29- Hagar the Horrible's dog; 30- Moonshine; 31- Bony prefix; 32- Because of; 34- Island greeting; 37- Verge; 38- Undiplomatic; 40- Helper; 41- Swift; 43- Sick; 46- Unfettered; 47- Herbert Hoover, for one; 48- Female choir voice; 49- Travel from place to place; 50- Longfellow's bell town; 51- Turn over; 52- Kind of collar; 53- Poet Teasdale; 54- Scoria; 56- Part of ETA; 57- Moo goo \_\_\_ pan;



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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	



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[Taipa] Hoi Wan Garden	2 1/2 1 1/2
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[Taipa] Wa Bao	2 1/2 2 1/2
1,071 ft² \$7,995,000	(ref: 18115568)
[Macau] Unique Loft	2 1/2 2 1/2
2,200 ft² \$9,990,000	(ref: 15115464)
[Macau] Seaview Garden	3 1/2 2 1/2
1,420 ft² \$10,900,000	(ref: 20016004)

**FOR RENT**

[Taipa] Taipa Village Apartment	2 1/2 1 1/2
600 ft² \$9,900/mth	(ref: n/a)
[Macau] One Central	2 1/2 2 1/2
1,269 ft² \$25,000/mth	(ref: n/a)
[Coloane] Ocean Garden	4 1/2 4 1/2
3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth	(ref: 18040674)
[Taipa] Private house	2 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2
4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth	(ref: 19055006ST)

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# WeChat users won't be targeted by Trump's order, US says

**W**ECCHAT users who download the Chinese app for personal or business communications won't be targeted by President Donald Trump's executive order that will prohibit using the app for some transactions, the U.S. said.

The U.S. Commerce Department plans to clarify by Sept. 20 which transactions will be prohibited. But it doesn't intend to define "the relevant transactions in such a way that would impose criminal or civil liability on such users," according to a government filing Wednesday in federal court in San Francisco.

The U.S. WeChat Users Alliance is seeking a preliminary injunction against Trump's executive order. A hearing on the request is scheduled for Thursday.

"The U.S. uses national security as an excuse and abuses its national



strength to suppress non-American enterprises without reason," China's Foreign Ministry said in reply to a Bloomberg request for comment yesterday. The ministry added that it "supports relevant users to protect their rights by legal means."

On Tuesday, a judge denied a request from a

TikTok Inc. employee to temporarily halt Trump's order, which bars people in the U.S. from doing business with the social media app and its parent company. The judge ruled the request was premature and the U.S. had said the order won't interfere with employees' pay and work at TikTok.

According to the WeChat users group, Trump's Aug. 6 order would sunder the primary and often exclusive channel many U.S. residents use to communicate with family and friends in both China and the U.S. WeChat is also used to run businesses and non-profit organizations, practice religion and as a source news. WeChat is so integral to Chinese and Chinese Americans' lives that a ban would be like "losing a limb" for some users, the group claims.

Trump has said both TikTok, which is owned by ByteDance Ltd., and WeChat, owned by Tencent Holdings Ltd., are a national security threat because the Chinese Communist Party can use the apps to spread misinformation, censor news critical of China, and steal users' private and proprietary information. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Sands Cares Ambassador sets up new committee



The Sands Cares Ambassador program celebrated its 11th anniversary with a ceremony at The Venetian Macao featuring the inauguration of the new Sands Cares Ambassador Working Committee and an award presentation for local winners of this year's Mr. Sheldon G. And Dr. Miriam Adelson Citizenship Awards.

To better cope with the expansion of the company's volunteer service and the growth of its volunteer team, a Sands Cares Ambassador Working Committee has been established. The new committee seeks to recognise talented ambassadors and offer them opportunities for personal development, such as taking on leadership roles at Sands Cares events. It also aims to organize more

community activities, with the overall goal of serving more people in the community.

"Sands China is very proud of our Sands Cares Ambassadors, who have been giving up their free time to do volunteer work to help others, particularly society's more vulnerable groups," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

Additionally, the event featured the presentation of the Mr. Sheldon G. And Dr. Miriam Adelson Citizenship Awards to three winners from the Macau region. They were among nine global winners of the annual awards announced in July, who have exemplified a dedication to giving back to local communities and important causes.

AD

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To protect the health and safety of our Clients and Staff, we continue implementing prevention measures at the office entrance, as recommended by the local Authorities.

為了保護客戶和員工的健康和安全，我們將繼續按照本地政府的建議在辦公室入口處實施預防措施。

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BAR PATUÁ



FIVE FOOT ROAD



GRILL 58

TASTE OF EDESIA

# Enlightening the palate

IRENE SAM, MDT

**S**OMETIMES it is boring to just eat at one restaurant for a dinner. Recently, MGM COTAI had come up with a culinary tour concept in which diners were invited to visit three restaurants and a bar for one night.

The journey started at **Five Foot Road**, the property's traditional Sichuan restaurant. Guests kicked off with a tea blend to soothe the sense and prepare the palate for the appetizer, in which the marinated abalone with rich umami characteristics and fiery spices took centre stage.

Next, Cantonese restaurant **Chún** showcased a wok-fried Boston lobster flaunting its "wok chi" in an air-conditioned environment. Cooked in high temperature oil and stir-fired after with onion trots and aged Hua Diao wine, the lobster's taste was sophisticatedly enhanced in a subtle manner. Moving on to **Grill 58**, the Snake River Farm M9 Wagyu striploin was buttery and robustly beefy.

Final stop at the **Bar Patuá** wrapped up the sumptuous journey. The signature cocktail of the classic yet contemporary bar is packed with elements that celebrate the unique Macanese identity. Local Baijiu Macao Fachau, Porcelain Gin from Shanghai and the 10-year-old Tawny Port were chosen to form a base for the potion alongside with local health remedy "Pei Pa Koa" and in infusion mix of Sri Lankan cinnamon, Indian cardamom, cloves and peppercorns from the Straits of Malacca to pay homage to an almost-forgotten Macanese creole language.

CHÚN



## Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu



### THE HONAN 1510 METRES SAND

2020-09-19|Sat|14:00

**T**HE new MJC racing season kicks off this Saturday with six sand races, I would like to pick for a runner that has already shown improvement in his races and with the off season preps that aim for an early season success coming through on the season opening. The runner is **Modena Best** (pictured) from Wayne Smith's yard, he will get his chance in this particular sand race. Wayne Smith has sat on him in his track work and he is very pleased with **Modena Best's** response in yesterday's work out. **Modena Best** is a consistent sand performer his last race on 1800 metres turf was messy and raced wide without cover throughout, this time he has W.L. Ho on the plate, hopefully through his good pair of hands, **Modena Best** will get good cover from the early stages of the race, and then find a good tactical position in the last 200 metres with the good stamina that he inherited from Medaglia D'Oro and fire on. Wayne Smith is in good form towards the end of last season let's all hope that **Modena Best** will fly the flag early for Wayne's yard this Saturday.

Race 5 Horse no. 9 Modena Best Win & Place





OPINION

World Views

Tim Culpan, Bloomberg

BYTEDANCE IS  
PLAYING CHICKEN  
WITH TRUMP ON TIKTOK

There have been enough leaks over the past few days to get a sense of what the TikTok-Oracle Corp. deal looks like. The details are revelatory, with two aspects in particular worthy of note.

First, TikTok parent ByteDance Ltd. would maintain majority ownership, leaving Oracle and other American partners collectively in a minority, Nick Wadhams and Shelly Banjo of Bloomberg News reported this week, citing people familiar with the matter. Secondly, Oracle would have full access to TikTok's codebase, according to the report.

In summary, Oracle would get the keys to the castle but ByteDance would still own the kingdom.

There's an important caveat: the White House and the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. haven't signed off on the deal. President Trump said he'll get a briefing today [Macau time], and isn't yet prepared to approve it. According to the Wall Street Journal, Trump administration officials remain committed to having TikTok under U.S. control.

ByteDance's determination to hold onto majority ownership seems jarring. Despite being a global phenomenon, TikTok's worldwide revenue last year accounted for about 2% of ByteDance's total sales. The Beijing-based company has plenty more products in its suite, including a domestic version of TikTok called Douyin and news aggregator Toutiao. It would be a small financial sacrifice to let go of TikTok if that means keeping the business alive and operating in the U.S.

I have no doubt Beijing has made its views on a majority sale clear to ByteDance management. After all, the Chinese government would prefer to see TikTok shut down than forced into American hands, according to a Reuters report.

Yet the second aspect of the deal, as it stands now, is also revealing. Giving Oracle full access to TikTok's codebase indicates ByteDance is confident it'll be just fine if the Americans get to peek under the hood at the software that has made the app such a global sensation.

Software and algorithms don't stand still. The TikTok of today is vastly different from the TikTok of a year ago, and the product we'd see next year would be better again. If improvements get slowed, or even halted, under U.S. management then ByteDance probably won't sweat it because it has thousands of engineers tweaking and refining the algorithms at its other products. And since TikTok is only a small part of its business, a certain amount of stagnation won't kill the company.

Of course, that may be a harsh assessment — U.S. software engineers remain the best in the world and would probably do a good job of developing the product. But either way, ByteDance can afford not to care too much as long as it still controls the company and can determine key decisions, such as whether to go for an initial public offering or make an acquisition. It would also remain in the driver's seat should a future U.S. administration reverse course.

That seems to be the Chinese company's endgame. Signing over majority control has a finality that the Chinese company hopes to avoid. Access to the codebase, on the other hand, can be reversed at anytime.

ByteDance is playing chicken with President Trump. Let's see who flinches first.

WHO LEADER IN EUROPE  
WARNS OF VIRUS SPREAD AGAIN

The European head for the World Health Organization is warning of "alarming rates of transmission" of the coronavirus in parts of the continent.

Dr. Hans Kluge says the largest proportion remains among adults ages 25 to 49 but noted increases in cases in older age groups, who tend to be more vulnerable to severe the deadly disease.

"This pandemic has taken so much from us in Europe: 4,893,614 cases of COVID-19 have been recorded and 226,524 deaths, and that tells only part of the story.

He also pointed to a "monumental" impact on mental health, economies, and livelihoods.

"Although these numbers reflect more comprehensive testing, it also shows alarming rates of transmission across the region," he said.

He called for "regional coherence" and says Europe's response has been effective when "prompt and resolute. But the virus has shown (to be) merciless whenever partisanship and disinformation prevailed."

THE  
BUZZ

COUNTRY MUSIC

CARRIE UNDERWOOD,  
THOMAS RHETT TIE FOR  
TOP PRIZE AT ACMS



Carrie Underwood accepts the entertainer of the year award in a tie with Thomas Rhett

KRISTIN M. HALL,  
NASHVILLE (TENN.)

In surprise twist that fit an unexpected year of firsts, Carrie Underwood and Thomas Rhett tied for entertainer of the year at the Academy of Country Music Awards, the first time the top prize has been split between two artists.

Underwood and Rhett seemed equally taken aback after host Keith Urban announced the tie at the awards show held at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tennessee, yesterday [Macau time].

"Keith, what is happening right now?" Rhett asked, astounded, before thanking his family. Underwood appeared right after him remarking, "2020, man?" before adding, "I am more than happy to share this with Thomas Rhett."

The show on CBS had been delayed for months because of the pandemic, moved from Las Vegas to Nashville for the first time and held without audiences in empty venues. There was a lot of anticipation for the show, which featured Taylor Swift making her first appearance at the ACMS in seven years.

Underwood's win is her third total in that category and Rhett's first win. They

beat out other nominees Eric Church, Luke Bryan and Luke Combs. Coincidentally, a woman hasn't won that award since 2011 when Swift last won it. Swift delivered a simple acoustic performance of "betty" from her new album "Folklore," on a darkened Opry House stage.

Combs still went home a winner by picking up album of the year and male artist of the year. After amassing tremendous streaming numbers and nine consecutive No. 1 country radio hits, Combs thanked fans for their support from the Bluebird Cafe.

"This is a lot to process right now, I just can't believe this," Combs said. "I just want to thank everybody in my life, my team, my beautiful wife and the fans. You guys have done everything for me."

Country group Old Dominion won song of the year and group of the year, and band members Matthew Ramsey, Trevor Rosen and Brad Tursi earned additional individual awards as songwriters for "One Man Band."

The awards show aired from empty venues in Nashville with no fans and no applause, even when

winners got up live to accept their awards. Ramsey, the lead singer of Old Dominion, said the empty venue and quiet made him think of friends and family they had lost.

"I can feel them all," Ramsey said. "They are so proud, and it's such an honor to receive this in their presence."

Urban noted all the changes this year for the show and for the country in general, saying 2020 has been an "unpredictable and unsettling year." After noting wildfires on the West Coast, hurricanes in the South, Urban said the country is battling two pandemics: COVID-19 and social injustice.

"Far too many lives have been lost to both," he said. "But the examples set by essential workers, our first responders, along with the voices crying out for equality in all walks of life, have echoed around the world and right here in our country community."

Maren Morris, who was a leading nominee, won two awards, including female artist of the year and music event of the year, for a collaboration with Miranda Lambert, Caylee Hammack, Tenille Townes, Elle King and Ashley McBryde. AP

US The Justice Department has charged five Chinese citizens with hacks targeting more than 100 companies and institutions in the United States and abroad, including social media and video game companies as well as universities and telecommunications providers. The five defendants remain fugitives, but prosecutors say two Malaysian businessmen charged with conspiring with the alleged hackers were arrested in Malaysia this week and now face extradition proceedings.



Greece A police operation was underway on the island of Lesbos yesterday to move thousands of migrants and refugees who have been sleeping on a roadside after a fire destroyed their overcrowded camp into a new facility on the island. Police said the morning operation included 70 female police officers who were approaching asylum-seekers with the aim of persuading them to move to the new camp in the island's Kara Tepe area.



UK British police said that three historically and religiously important bronze sculptures are being returned from the U.K. to a temple in India from which they were stolen more than 40 years ago. Police said in a statement that the works were removed in 1978 from a temple in the Tanjavur district of Tamil Nadu. Although the thieves were caught and convicted in India, the bronzes remained missing for the next four decades.

Spain Two of the country's biggest banks are poised to merge and create the largest lender in the country, with assets of more than 600 billion euros (\$708 billion), bringing the prospect of more job losses amid difficult times for the financial sector. The boards of CaixaBank and Bankia were due to meet yesterday to iron out the final details of a deal, an official at CaixaBank said. The person spoke only on condition of anonymity because the negotiations are confidential.