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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

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THE TIMES HAS LEARNED OF TWO NEW HOTELS PREPARING TO OPEN INSIDE INTEGRATED RESORTS IN COTAI

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ZONE D RECLAMATION ZONES NOT DROPPED, MERELY UNDER REVIEW

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THE GOVERNMENT HAS WITHDRAWN ITS DESCRIPTION OF A PLANNED AMUSEMENT PARK IN HAC SA AS 'WORLD-CLASS'

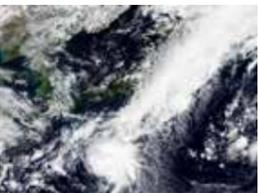
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AP PHOTO



South Korea An official who disappeared off a government ship near the disputed sea boundary with North Korea this week may be in North Korea, South Korea's Defense Ministry said yesterday, explaining the 47-year-old official was aboard a government vessel that was checking on potential unauthorized fishing near a South Korean border island. Colleagues noticed the man was missing at lunch time and found only his shoes still on the vessel, prompting a so-far fruitless search involving aircraft and ships.

AP PHOTO



Japan A tropical storm in the Pacific Ocean is slowly approaching the Tokyo region, and officials are urging residents to take precautions early from expected heavy rain and gusts. Tropical Storm Dolphin headed north over waters south of the Hachijo island, packing sustained winds of up to 108 kilometers per hour, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

AP PHOTO



Philippines The president got rare praises yesterday from his key critics for invoking before the United Nations a 2016 arbitration ruling that invalidated China's vast territorial claims in the South China Sea, in a surprise move that will likely pique Beijing. President Rodrigo Duterte made one of his strongest defenses of the Philippine victory in the arbitration case in his first address before the annual U.N. General Assembly.

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DANIEL BEITLER



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Q&A JAMES LIANG JIANZHANG

'The data says we should be optimistic about

DANIEL BEITLER

THE chairman and co-founder of Trip.com Group, China's largest online tour agency, co-hosted a special livestreaming event yesterday at The Venetian Macao integrated resort hoping to draw mainland visitors back to visiting Macau ahead of a major public holiday next week.

Dressed in the iconic striped shirt and straw hat of the traditional Venetian gondolier, Chairman James Liang Jianzhang led a two-hour live broadcast in Mandarin promoting the Macau SAR as a travel destination.

The promotion was aired on the same day that applications for travel endorsements to Macau resumed across China, a watershed moment that many in Macau are hoping will mark the beginning of the city's tourism recovery. That hope is shared by Liang, who told Macau Daily Times yesterday that although Chinese travelers would not make it in time for Golden Week, a more meaningful recovery was to be expected by November or December this year.

Headquartered in Shanghai, Trip.com Group owns and operates some of the biggest brands in the online travel agency market, including Trip.com, Ctrip and Skyscanner.

In partnership with integrated resorts managed by Sands China, Trip.com is offering "steep discounts" on local tourism products to help reignite the visitor market.

"We want to offer the best products and the best deals for the first wave of consumers," Liang told the

DANIEL BEITLER



media just hours before yesterday's broadcast. "Next year when the full recovery is in process, they won't get the best discounts. But in the first few months, we will offer very steep discounts via our Trip.com platform."

Liang is famous for dressing in the traditional clothing of the city or region he visits for the livestreaming events. He has completed more than 20 broadcasts so far, he said, but admitted yesterday to being "very excited" to host his first livestream show outside of mainland China.

As a tourism sector veteran, Liang is also prized for his insights into China's travel market.

Not only is China the world's largest outbound travel market and its biggest spender, but it might be the only country to see domestic tourism restored to pre-Covid-19 levels before the end of the year. Already, the business is "about 80% or 90% back to normal," according to Liang.

Macau Daily Times sat down with Liang to learn more about the what the Chinese traveler wants in 2020 and how Macau's battered

tourism sector will fare in the remainder of the year.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - What kind of destinations is the Chinese traveler looking at in 2020?

James Liang Jianzhang (JL) - I think that Chinese travelers are looking for leisure and high-end destinations. For these kinds of destinations in the mainland, we are already at about 80 or 90 percent [of the pre-Covid-19 level]. The best-selling products on our platform right now are resort hotels in an open natural space, for example in the mountains, or near hot springs. There is also a lot of interest in places that are very far away [from large population centers], for example Tibet, Yunnan and Hainan. These places around the border [of China] are very popular right now. But if you travel just two or three hours from Shanghai, there are many historical towns that are also popular. Some of them are [authentic] old towns, but others are newly recreated in the style [of imperial China]. It is a kind of pseudo-historical experience, because it is not really a historical place, but they make it feel like one.

MDT - Tourism in Hainan Province has not only recovered, it is booming. What is drawing so many visitors to the tropical island?

JL - Business in Hainan has already more than recovered! It is actually seeing about 20 to 30% year-on-year growth. That's because

this is really the only tropical destination that China can offer, and if people cannot go to Thailand, they will go to Hainan. There are not many tropical alternatives to Hainan within China and so it is kind of unique. [However, some of that tourism demand] might even spillover to Guangxi and maybe some of the Guangdong beach resorts. But that is just the nature of their natural resources.

MDT - If Covid-19 travel restrictions persist into next year, will small tourism-dependent economies have to rethink the makeup of their economies?

JL - It is going to be very tough for some of the small destination-countries. It is hard to say what the future will look like. If Covid-19 lasts for just one or two years, the recovery process will [take us back to where we were]. But if it's longer than two years, then destinations will have to adjust. It will be painful. They will have to cater to domestic travelers. They will have to adjust to some other industries. But if this lasts for just one year or two, the situation of the travel industry should remain the same.

MDT - Does Macau fall into that bracket?

JL - I think Macau doesn't have to worry about that. The China government always tries to treat Macau as a domestic city so as long as the pandemic situation is basically similar [between the two places], the tourists will be allowed to come back to Macau.

GROUP TOURS LIMITED TO HKZMB OR HENGQIN PORT

Group tour visa holders, will only be allowed to enter Macau either by crossing the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge or the Hengqin Port, according to a bulletin published by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

Starting yesterday, mainland China resumed issuing travel permits to all main-

land visitors to Macau.

In order to cope with the possible swift growth in visitor arrivals, which in turn may impact Covid-19 pandemic control measures, the Macau SAR government has reached a consensus with the Zhuhai government to implement a special travel management policy.

Members of group tours can only cross the bor-

der at the HKZMB port or the Hengqin Port. Visitors under the Individual Visa Scheme can also join a group tour. However, if they choose to be part of a group tour they can only enter Macau through the aforementioned two immigration checkpoints.

Individual travellers can choose to use the HKZMB port, Hengqin Port, WanZai Port or the Border Gate. JZ

FEW PACKAGE TOURS AVAILABLE

As of yesterday, there are barely any package tour products available on most of mainland China's major travel service platforms, including Taobao and Tuniu.

On Fliggy, another travel platform owned by Alibaba, various Hong Kong-Macau package tour products are still available.

The Macau Daily Times contacted some of these products' suppliers, and were informed that there are currently no package tours avail-

able for visiting only Macau, and that it is most likely that travel agencies will only organize SARs package tours when mainland visitors can travel to Hong Kong.

Besides the fact there are no relevant tourism products, Macau should also set low expectations for package tours.

It is a common practice among mainland companies, both public and private, to enroll their workers in group tours to Macau.

However, due to cautiousness regarding Covid-19, mainland companies may limit this arrangement to only domestic group tours this year.

Aside from that, some companies on the mainland, including state owned companies, have also issued explicit instructions to their workers to not travel outside mainland China, and employees must first gain company approval if they wish to do so. JZ

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Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

November, December'

MDT-What does the data from your travel platforms indicate about visitor arrivals to Macau this upcoming Golden Week?

JL - Right now the data is saying that it will take a few weeks [for interest in Macau to pick up]. The reason is that not many people have realized that Macau is open. We are trying to communicate this message to our potential customers through our livestreams and our marketing programs next month. [But Chinese travelers] still think of Macau and Hong Kong as a single package. Macau has a very rich experience to offer [on its own], so people can spend a few days just in Macau during the National Holiday. If they want to combine it with another destination, there is Zhuhai or Hengqin, and it can be an even richer experience. We expect a fast recovery of tourism-related business in Macau, although it takes about a week to pro-

cess the visa application [for travel endorsements] so most people will not have their visa approved in time for Golden Week. But after Golden Week, I think we should be more optimistic about November and December.

MDT-There is a lot of talk about pent-up tourism and gaming demand across the border. What types of visitors will be the first to return?

JL - The small group of loyal casino customers will definitely be among the first people

to return to Macau, but in terms of numbers, they are very few. I think Macau is not just a destination for casino visitors, but for young travelers and family entertainment too. The families will probably come later because they will have to wait for the right vacation period, probably in the winter. But the young [adult] travelers will find it very attractive to come here. The majority might be coming from Guangdong, but some also come from Beijing and Shanghai, and other major cities.



CHINA'S DOMESTIC TRAVEL HAS RECOVERED 90%, SAY EXPERTS

ANTHONY LAM

THE tourism industry of mainland China has returned to about 90% of pre-Covid-19 levels, according to tourism experts who convened yesterday on a webinar hosted by PR Newswire.

One indicator of this recovery is the daily number of domestic flights across China. Data from the Civil Aviation Administration of China shows that the number of flights nationwide in August had returned to 90% of pre-pandemic levels, amounting to nearly 20,000 flights per day.

Moreover, the press release dissemination service provider counted the keywords used by the tourism industry so far in 2020 and discovered that "China," "brand," "guests" and "service" topped the list of most frequently used words.

In contrast, announcements made yesterday showed that Macau's booking rate for hotels over

the Golden Week holiday season ranged between 10% and 20% of total capacity. Airline activity in Macau is trending at a similar level.

The webinar invited four speakers from the tourism industry in mainland China, all of which are tourism writers and marketers. They expressed their views on how the tourism industry can recover from the current impact of the pandemic.

Xu Yue, lead editor of the tourism section of Phoenix New Media, cited data that supports a bright recovery for the Chinese tourism market. She pointed out that the fact that several areas of the industry, including flight and hotel bookings, have returned to 90% of their pre-pandemic levels, indicates a general recovery is underway.

Xu also pointed out that the mode of tourism in China would likely become localized, meaning that tourists will travel within their

vicinity and neighboring cities, rather than between provinces.

Xia Han, vice-president of tourism portal lv mama.com, which focuses on brand building and tourist site development, said that there are a lot of tourist sites that spend millions on construction but struggle to attract tourists. This year has not been any easier, he said. Xie recommended that the industry work on brand values and offering experiences to tourists.

Similarly, Wang Dandan, deputy editor-in-chief of Chinese hotel portal meadin.com, noted that customers today are value-oriented. In response, hotels should focus more on the realization of values.

Zhou Qiyi, partner at Tripvid.com, another tourism portal, pointed out that current tourism trends focus on the integration of experience and services. He also noted that small brands should have a greater role in the industry.

AD

2021
Macao Guangzhou Products Fair
15-17/1
Poly World Trade Expo Centre
Guangzhou, China
Organizer: Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute
Guangzhou Municipal Commerce Bureau

This event is a major economic and trade co-operation event between Macao and Guangzhou. Products for sale are mainly Made-in-Macao products, Macao brand products, products from Portuguese-speaking countries and overseas products under franchise in Macao. The categories of exhibited products include: souvenir, cultural and creative products, youth creative products, consumer products, food, wine, household products and apparels.

Macao companies are welcome to actively participate in this event. Products manufactured in Macao, Macao brand products and foreign-brand products represented by an agent in Macao (priority will be given to products from Portuguese-speaking countries).

***The preferential scheme for companies from Macao (MOP\$2,000.00/booth or MOP\$1,800.00/raw space) includes the following items:**

- ⊙ A standard 3m x 3m booth (with basic facilities)
- ⊙ One double room (four nights)

- ⊙ Round-trip transportation to Guangzhou for two people
- ⊙ Basic round-trip freight transportation from Macao/Zhuhai to the exhibition site in Guangzhou (4 CBM. Custom duties and freight for excess part are borne by the exhibitors)
- ⊙ Provision of a public storage area (Insurance not included)
- ⊙ Subsidy for half the cost of two local temporary staff

(* Exhibition registration fee is MOP\$ 10,000. Exhibitors having completed the exhibition according to relevant regulations will be refunded MOP\$8,000 or MOP\$8,200.

Registration Period:

23/9/2020-7/10/2020
Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.,
2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
(From Monday to Friday)

Registration Venue:

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Promotion Institute (IPIM)
Avenida de Amizade, 918, World Trade
Centre Building, 4th Floor, Macao

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ITALIAN DESIGNER SEEKING LEGAL LIABILITY OVER 'RABBITS AND MOON' COPYCAT

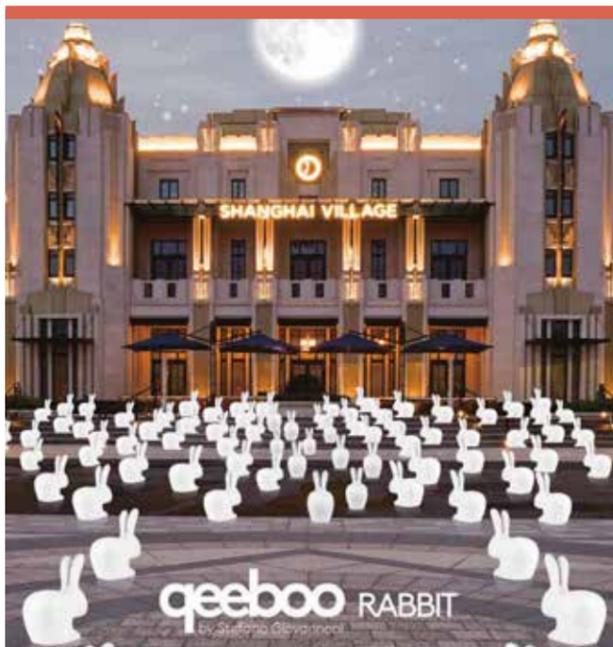
RENATO MARQUES

THE Italian designer Stefano Giovannoni, founder and CEO of design company Qeeboo, wants a company that he says unlawfully produced the rabbits used in the installation for the Mid-Autumn Festival in Macau to be identified and held liable.

As the Times reported on Tuesday, the exhibition has been removed from Praça de Jorge Álvares garden in central Macau after being criticized by netizens, especially those involved in art and design, for replicating a famous Qeeboo installation held in Beijing a few years ago.

Giovannoni told the Times that his firm did not give permission to a Macau entity to reproduce the concept in the SAR.

"We have requested information from the only company [to have] bought the rabbit lamps for the purpose of creating installations, which created the first



A poster for an exhibition at Shanghai Village in Shanghai in September 2016, showing the rabbit lanterns in question

installations on the bridge in Beijing in 2017 and in Shanghai Village [retail mall] in 2016. They informed me they are not responsible for this installation in Macau which was obviously created with counterfeit copies [thereby] infringing our co-

pyright."

According to Giovannoni, Qeeboo is now seeking information that will lead them to the company that produced the counterfeit items.

"We would like to file a lawsuit against the com-

pany that produced the copies," the designer added.

Giovannoni believed that the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) was not aware that the products were counterfeit when they acquired them but that they should have taken precautions to prevent it.

"Of course [the government entity] should have requested information about the authenticity of the products before buying [them]," he said.

After facing criticism from netizens, the "Rabbits and the Moon" installation was removed from the garden due to suspected copyright infringement, an anonymous source told the Times this week.

The Times attempted to reach the IAM for comment several times, but as of press time yesterday, the bureau had provided no official clarification regarding the exhibition's removal, nor whether the products were acquired directly by the IAM.

Zone D reclamation plans not dropped, but under review

JULIE ZHU

THE government has once again reiterated that the New Urban Zone D reclamation project is not yet abandoned, according to Mak Tat Io, head of the Urban Planning Department of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT)

Yesterday, Mak spoke about the Zone D reclamation plans during a TDM radio program, where he felt compelled to reiterate the stance of the government.

Earlier this month, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário surprised the city by announcing that the SAR government had already scrubbed the reclamation project.

However, DSSOPT Director Chan Pou Ha informed the media that she did not receive any news related to the abandoning of the plan for Zone D. Rather the current arrangement of the reclaimed lands is under review.

During yesterday's TDM radio program, Mak said that the government is asking the public to choose between several options involving changes to the proposed Zone D and Zone A development plans.

Starting from September 4, local government has been collecting public opinions on the Urban Master Plan. As of today, DSSOPT only received 60 completed opinion forms and most of them are related to housing issues and green space topics.

GOVERNMENT RETRACTS 'WORLD-CLASS' DESCRIPTION FROM HAC SA PROJECT

JULIE ZHU

THE Municipal Affairs Bureau has retracted part of a public release made earlier in the week in which the bureau claimed it would build a "world-class" amusement park.

Lawmaker Lam Lon Wai recently asked the government to provide an update on Hac Sa village. The IAM had previously said that the bureau had begun engineering works at a land plot near Hac Sa King Hung Shing Temple in Hac Sa village, which would transform the area into a "large-scale integrated leisure zone."

Replying to Lam's interpellation, the IAM explicitly remarked that the aforementioned leisure zone was part of the government's aim to build

a "world-class adventure and amusement park zone."

Yesterday, the Administration Council Vice-Director of the IAM, Lo Chi Kin, decided to retract the term "world-class," indicating that the expression was exaggerated and that the amusement park was intended as a youth adventure camp.

Lo said that the term "world-class" was "a bit improper" and that the bureau had only used the expression because the IAM "didn't want people to think the facilities were too simple."

According to Lo, the IAM was worried that members of the public would not accept its proposals if the bureau did not use the term "world-class."

EDITION, W TO OPEN HOTEL PROPERTIES IN MACAU SOON

ANTHONY LAM

THE Times has recently learned that two luxury hotel brands, the Edition and the W, have made plans to open their respective first properties in Macau.

According to sources that requested anonymity because they are not authorized to speak to the media, the Macau Edition will be located within the Galaxy Macau, very likely in the high-rise building opposite the Taipa Barracks of the People's Liberation Army Macao Garrison.

Meanwhile, the Times has also learned that W Hotels and Melco Resorts and Entertainment have signed a letter of intent on a project that involves a new W Hotel at the Studio City integrated resort in Macau.

The development plan of an earlier Studio City project, before

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



it was acquired by Melco, included a W Macao Hotel, alongside several other international hotel brands.

A representative of

Melco, Chimmy Leung, Executive Director of Corporate Communications, said in an email to the Times, "we have no announcements to make

on the matter at the moment."

Leung signaled that the company would keep the media posted on any updates about the resort.

Meanwhile, asked to comment on the Edition hotel project, a representative of Galaxy Entertainment Group, said they were unaware of such plans. However, the representative said that a new hotel project, the Andaz Macau, was being constructed by the main entrance to the existing JW Marriott Macau.

Managed by Marriott International Inc., the Edition brand is one of the hotel chain's luxury hotel brand and shares the same status as the Ritz-Carlton. It was under Starwood before its acquisition by Marriott. The Edition brand is known for its lifestyle focus.

The W brand, also managed by Marriott, is a luxury hotel brand focusing on a clientele looking for chic, hip or even postmodern designs.

GEG Hosts M-Mark Sharing Session to Foster Development of Made-in-Macau Brands

As the proverb goes, "Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime," throughout the years, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) has been empowering and fostering the development of local small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) via supporting the "Large Businesses Leading Small Businesses" cooperation model, which aims at sharing the fruits of Macau's economic prosperity and helping the city's economy move towards moderate diversification. Recently, GEG held the GEG SME Series: M-Mark Enterprise Sharing & SME Business Matching Session to introduce the quality certification to its suppliers whilst enhancing their networking and knowledge exchange. During the sharing session, two GEG suppliers that have acquired the M-Mark certification – Carmen and Choi Heong Yuen, were invited to share with the audiences on how M-Mark has benefited to their business.



Mr. Alan Wong

Mr. Alan Wong, Managing Director of Choi Heong Yuen, believes that M-Mark sustains the long-term business development of his company. "As a present-day food manufacturer, Choi Heong Yuen can't just focus on taste. We need to pay attention to the quality of our products," said Mr. Wong. "M-Mark encourages us to stay up-to-date on quality management, and with our products certified, we represent quality excellence in made-in-Macau products. I'm delighted that GEG has taken the lead to support M-Mark certified products and to raise public awareness for homegrown



brands, which is a huge encouragement for local businesses that have obtained the M-Mark."



Ms. Ana Lei

Ms. Ana Lei, Manager of Account Executive Marketing of Carmen also shared, "I still remember the time when President Xi Jinping, who, back then was Vice President of the state, had visited our factory during his Macau visit in 2009. At that time, he encouraged us to manufacture made-in-Macau products. We kept his encouragement in mind and years later, helped GEG manufacture its uniform, which was the first product that became M-Mark certified. We truly thank GEG for partnering with us and putting the 'Large Businesses Leading Small Businesses' model into practice. We believe that the M-Mark certification

has helped increase the competitiveness of locally-made products."



Mr. Ian Daniels

Mr. Ian Daniels, Senior Vice President of Procurement and Warehousing of GEG, said, "SMEs are a key driver to Macau's economic diversification and at GEG, we consider them as our key partners and prioritize them in business cooperation. We are committed to helping local SMEs and actively provide tailor-made training courses and activities to help them further develop and grow their business with us."

GEG takes M-Mark as one of the main considerations and prioritizes M-Mark enterprises in the procurement process by inviting them to join the list of GEG's business partners. At present, all companies that have acquired M-Mark certification have been included in the list. Moving forward, GEG will continue to help SMEs optimize their business operations and create more win-win scenarios with its business partners.

E-PAYMENT INITIATIVE

In addition, GEG has been optimizing the

cooperation and communication with its SME partners. To fulfil its commitment to environmental protection and develop an efficient procurement process, GEG recently launched an electronic payment initiative for eligible suppliers. The initiative has received plenty of positive feedback from GEG's SME partners as it has simplified payments to SMEs and improved their cash flow.

Earlier this year, GEG organized the Chinese New Year Market and the Healthy and Fun Carnival at Galaxy Macau™ and Broadway Macau™ respectively, which provided around 150 booths for local SMEs and NGOs to help SMEs seize business opportunities, as well as promote local cultural development.



Business Matching Session

M-MARK INCREASES LOCAL PRODUCTS' QUALITY AND COMPETITIVENESS



Mr. Lei Si Tai

"M-Mark makes quality a top priority," said Mr. Lei Si Tai, Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Industrial Association of Macau. "M-Mark creates a safe, high-quality and credible image for local products. GEG has acquired the first M-Mark certification for its staff uniform, and has been proactively supporting the scheme since its launch. We thank GEG for organizing the sharing session and supporting the made-in-Macau brands on expanding their business opportunities to other regions."

Mr. Shuen Ka Hung, Director General of the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center, said, "GEG has provided a platform for local brands to showcase their products through this event, and played a leading role for the industry. Since Macau's manufacturing industry is relatively stable and less affected by external factors, the industry helps drive the economic diversification of Macau. With the support of large businesses such as GEG, many opportunities lay ahead for M-Mark brands to promote their products to tourists. In addition, GEG's prioritizing of M-Mark products has increased the demand and sales of local products and helped diversify the Macau's economy."



Mr. Shuen Ka Hung

HOMEGROWN BRANDS FLOURISH ALONGSIDE GEG

The event attracted the participation of over 100 local SMEs. Following the sharing session, members from GEG's Procurement team met with the SMEs specialized in different fields to explore future cooperation opportunities.

Mr. Jeff Chan, Managing Director of Lei Kei Limitada, a long-term partner of GEG, expressed his interest in applying for the M-Mark and said, "As a supplier that has been cooperating with GEG for many years, I attended the Food Safety Sharing Session that GEG held previously and realized that GEG strengthens its quality management standards continually while offering suppliers different initiatives so that we can improve our product quality. I think that for GEG, we're more like partners rather than suppliers."

Mr. Harris Wong, General Manager and Ms. Mia Lei, Manager of Ever Bright EPT (Macau), said, "GEG organizes a variety of business matching sessions and SME events every year, which bring us get closer to GEG by knowing more about what they need and learning more about market trends. We're pleased to cooperate with GEG and to join such events that strengthens our business partnership."



銀娛GEG

FACE MASK RULE TO APPLY TO CASINO WORKERS FOR SIX MORE MONTHS

The requirement for all casino employees to wear facemasks while working, established by the government in January, has been extended for another six months until March next year. The extension was published on the government's Official Gazette. The director of the Health Bureau, Lei Chin Ion, justified the need for continuing the mandatory rule because of concerns regarding the prevention of potential infections. When it was first implemented, the rule was valid for only one month. It was then renewed on a monthly basis until now. The new extension comes in preparation of the resumption of travel endorsements to Macau for all residents of the mainland, which started yesterday. Since mid-July, people that wish to enter any gaming facility need to provide a negative result of the nucleic acid test in addition to the existing requirements of undergoing a body-temperature check and presenting a Macau health code.

SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY CLOSES FOR MAINTENANCE

The artworks included in the Treasure of Sacred Art of Saint Joseph's Seminary are closing temporarily to the public due to maintenance works, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) informed in a statement. The artifacts will not be available for public visits from tomorrow and until an estimated date in late December. The closure comes to allow the performance of maintenance and repair works in the building facilities, including repairing leakages in the ceiling and walls.

RESTAURANTS, RETAILERS BUSINESS PERFORMANCE FELL IN JULY

The performance of restaurants and retailer businesses in Macau continued to fall in July, but according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), both sectors were expecting a slight improvement in August. The latest report from DSEC indicated that 83% percent of the interviewed restaurants and similar establishments recorded a year-on-year decline in revenue in July, while just 12% of the interviewed restaurants reported a year-on-year rise. A similar proportion of interviewed retailers (84%) registered a year-on-year sales drop in July, a slight increase from the month before. Operators in both industries were expecting a slightly better situation for their businesses in August, according to the DSEC data release.

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BUS SERVICE CONTRACTS EXTENDED TO 2026

RENATO MARQUES

THE new public bus service contracts were published yesterday in the government's Official Gazette. The new contracts for operators Transportes Urbanos de Macau S.A.R.L. and Sociedade de Transportes Colectivos de Macau, S.A.R.L., retain most of the existing conditions from previous contracts and extend the service period for another six years, until December 31, 2026.

Changes to the contracts include new requirements for the operators regarding the new vehicles to be added to the concession.

It is now stated that, from the first day of the new contract on January 1, 2021, "all vehicles to be registered for the first time must be 'environmentally friendly' and, except for small buses, must be of low-floor, with only one step at the entrance and exit

of vehicles." The contract adds an exception for vehicles with more than two doors, which may have more than one step at their last rear door.

Of note, the reference to "environmentally friendly" standards is not explained or clarified elsewhere within the contract. It is not clear if it refers to the type of fuel used by the vehicles, pollutant emission standards, or other factors such as the materials used and the percentage of recyclability.

The only reference to this part is where the government defines a progressive system for the inclusion of more buses using "environmentally friendly energies."

It states that within the first year of the contract, with the exception of small and medium-sized buses, all other buses operating on the routes that do not pass over Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge must use "envi-

ronmentally friendly energies" as fuel in at least 50% of the fleet. That is, they need to be powered by either natural gas, electricity, or a hybrid of the two.

This requirement will then be rolled out to the entire bus fleet (with the same exceptions) by August 1, 2024.

The requirement to replace public buses with a more environmentally friendly fleet does not apply to small and medium-sized buses. As soon as environmentally friendly buses with an identical size to those used in Macau are available in the market, they will be subject to the same requirement while retaining the exception for the routes crossing the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge.

Regarding the fines that operators could face for infringing the rules of the new contracts, some infractions are punishable by a fine of MOP500,000, including cases of traffic accidents

resulting in death in which the operator is found to be at fault.

The same fine also applies to the acceptance of electronic payment systems not approved by the MSAR, and the running of routes not attributed to the concessionaire.

Fines of MOP100,000 can also be issued for charging a different fare from the fare authorized by the government, performing any actions without prior authorization, and not complying with the minimum number of operational vehicles in the fleet. The minimum has now been set to 490 vehicles and a fine of MOP100,000 can be issued for each vehicle falling short of that number.

As in previous contracts, the government will continue to subsidize the operators for trips made by students, senior citizens, and people with disabilities, as well as the trips made by those using the Macau Pass payment system.

Across both subsidies, the government plans to spend about MOP900 million, an amount that will then be subjected to a mid-contract review, to be adjusted according to the evaluation.

COURT ALLOWS CASINO CAMERA FOOTAGE AS EVIDENCE

THE Court of Second Instance has ruled against an appeal filed by the suspect in a case which resulted in a sub-chief of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) being punished with 25 days of fine for two instances of unauthorized gambling in a casino.

Considering the evidence provided to be reliable, the Court has ruled against the police sub-chief's appeal.

On April 19, 2017, the Disciplinary Supervision Commission of the Security Forces received a complaint filed by a local resi-

dent, who reported witnessing a PSP officer gambling in a Taipa casino. The PSP officer even disclosed to other gamblers that he was with the Third Policing District of the PSP.

During the investigation, the police obtained surveillance camera footage from the casino. After cross-referencing the faces of people captured by the videos, it was confirmed that the sub-chief had entered the Taipa casino between 1 and 2 p.m. on both April 17 and 19, without approval from his superintendent.

The security force's supervisory entity found the act to be a violation of the Duty of Obedience in local laws governing the PSP. The director of the PSP therefore imposed a 25-day fine on the sub-chief. The police sub-chief filed an appeal to the Secretary for Security, who denied the appeal.

He then filed a judicial appeal to the middle court. However, the court deemed that the casino providing surveillance footage was consistent with the Personal Data Protection Law, as discipli-

ne of civil servants concerns the public interest. The court further explained that the discipline of civil servants is part of public order.

As such, the court ruled against this argument as grounds for appeal.

In addition, the identification process was conducted by two other police officers, whom the court considered more familiar with the face of the suspect and therefore trustworthy.

Based on these facts, the court ruled against the suspect. **AL**



Chinese President Xi Jinping's pre-recorded message is played during the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Xi says Covid reveals isolationism as a futile pursuit

CHINA'S leader took oblique potshots at the United States and its foreign policies yesterday [Macau time], cautioning in a U.N. address that the world must "not fall into the trap of a clash of civilizations" — remarks played minutes after delegates heard the American president insist that the United Nations "hold China accountable" for how it handled the emergence of the coronavirus.

"Major countries should act like major countries," Xi Jinping said in a speech to the U.N. General Assembly, a speech made remotely and recorded in advance because the pandemic prevented leaders from convening as they have for decades. The virus first emerged in China early this year and has spread around the world, killing nearly 1 million people.

Xi, China's president and the leader of its Communist Party, cast the fight against the virus as an important exercise in international cooperation, an opportunity to "join hands and be prepared to meet even more global challenges."

"COVID-19 reminds us that the economic globalization is an indisputable reality and a historical trend," Xi said. "Burying one's head in the sand like an ostrich in the face of economic globalization or trying to fight it with Don

Quixote's lance goes against the trend of history. Let this be clear: The world will never return to isolationism."

Such remarks, while not naming U.S. President Donald Trump, are highly critical of him and his "America First" philosophy, which goes against China's public stance on how diplomacy should be managed. In reality, China often acts unilaterally in affairs both domestic and international.

Earlier in the day, Trump used his own U.N. speech to roundly condemn Xi's government for what the American president frequently calls "the China virus," a term he used again yesterday. He referred to the virus as the "invisible enemy." Many consider the very term "China virus" to be racist.

Though Trump had lavish praise for Xi early in his term, two key issues — a tariff dispute and the emergence of coronavirus — have helped cause his administration to take a more hardline attitude toward the Chinese government.

"The United Nations must hold China accountable for their actions," Trump said in his own speech.

China has a longtime practice of reflexively rejecting any criticism of its policies. Yesterday was no exception. While Xi, being prerecorded and not the-

re, could not rebut what Trump said, his U.N. ambassador was on site in the General Assembly chamber and responded directly while introducing the Xi video.

"At this moment, the world needs more solidarity and cooperation, and not a confrontation," Zhang Jun said. "We need to increase mutual confidence and trust, and not the spreading of political virus. China resolutely rejects the baseless accusation against China."

Xi spoke at a historical moment in which China is working to manage its staggering — and staggeringly complex — military, economic and political rise while confronting the aggressive containment strategies of the world's current superpower, the United States, and its friends and allies.

"Xi Jinping has his work cut out for him at the General Assembly," said Mike Mazza, a China analyst at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington. He pointed to tensions with Europe over trade and investment, climate and human rights, in addition to the Trump administration's more consistently confrontational approach to China.

Xi has failed to leverage ill feelings between many European leaders and Trump, while a potential detente with Japan has stalled. **MDT/AP**

AD

2020 澳門
MACAO 光影節
Light Festival
Festival de Luz de Macau

26/9 - 31/10/2020

光影嘉年華
LIGHT CARNAVAL
CARNIVAL DE LUZ

Organizer
澳門特別行政區政府旅遊局
DIRECÇÃO DOS SERVIÇOS DE TURISMO
MACAO GOVERNMENT TOURISM OFFICE

Co-organizers
文化局
INSTITUTO CULTURAL
澳門特別行政區政府
Macao SAR Government

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

World leaders who skipped past meetings get their moment

CHRISTINE ARMARIO,
BOGOTA

HE'S not recognized as a head of state by the country he'd be visiting. His diplomatic immunity is granted by the United Nations, not an unfriendly American administration that could decide to pick him up on drug-trafficking charges if he sets foot in the United States. Then there's the \$15 million U.S. bounty for information leading to his arrest.

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has good reason not to travel to New York for the annual United Nations gathering of world leaders. But this year's virtual U.N. General Assembly format means he can be heard without having to come to New York — or risk an uprising back home if he left the country.

Instead, Maduro will speak from the comfort of the presidential palace, renewing his place on the international stage after missing out on last year's event.

"This opens up an opportunity that Maduro doesn't usually have," Venezuelan analyst Luis Vicente Leon said. "On a net scale, he comes out winning."

He's not alone. A virtual General Assembly knows no national borders, incurs no travel expenses and allows even the most cautious, prickly or paranoid leaders to have their say without leaving their at-home security bubbles.

Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte spoke to the General Assembly for the first time in his four years in office. Saudi Arabia's King Salman's speech marks only the second time in more than six decades that a sitting monarch from the kingdom addresses the gathering. And Tanzania's populist president, who rarely leaves the country, will get his 15 minutes, too.

Whether a short online speech will give them a leg up at home remains to be seen. After months of lockdown, much of the world is effectively Zoomed out.



António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

But these leaders' voices will almost certainly travel farther than in years past. The opposite is true for their opposition foes, who generally rely on side events to get their message out as leaders came together in New York.

"The virtual speeches do give an opening," said Shannon O'Neil, a vice president at the Council on Foreign Relations, said as the assembly got underway. "But the virtual format puts them on the same platform as your regular Zoom, too."

Venezuela's situation is a case in point: The nation is in the midst of a power tug of war between Maduro and U.S.-backed opposition leader Juan Guaidó. Last year, both men sent representatives who carefully avoided crossing paths at the U.N.. While Vice President Delcy Rodríguez got the main stage, the opposition commanded a powerful presence on the sidelines. U.S. President Donald Trump personally hosted one of four high-level meetings on the country's crisis.

This year, Maduro will give his country's official address and Guaidó will deliver online remarks on a separate platform. His aides will attend some side U.N. events — none of which are specifically about Venezuela. The lack of face-to-face meetin-

gs is expected to make things more complicated for the opposition, which has been losing momentum over the last year.

"Without a doubt this format makes it much more difficult to focus just on Venezuela," said Miguel Pizarro, who represents the opposition's humanitarian efforts in Washington.

The opposition's lessened visibility also packs an emotional punch.

"I think in general for Venezuelans every time that Maduro talks trying to represent us all, it's an insult," the exiled Venezuelan lawmaker said.

But the online speech also is unlikely to win Maduro any new friends.

A recent United Nations Human Rights Council report accuses Maduro's government of committing crimes against humanity, including grisly cases of torture and killings supposedly carried out by security forces. Their method: electric shocks, genital mutilation, asphyxiation and more. The allegations are likely to be brought up repeatedly at the virtual assembly.

"I don't believe he is going to have any added benefit," said retired U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Burns, a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School. "If he is speaking on Zoom it might as well

attract additional criticism."

All leaders making an appearance on the U.N. screen could see diminished returns.

"Most of the leaders are going to see this as a purely domestic exercise," said Philip Alston, a law professor at New York University. "That is always the case to some extent, but given there is no opportunity for photo ops, for meetings with other presidents and so on, the only real value is getting speech out there which restates certain positions for domestic consumption."

Duterte used the platform Tuesday to defend his drug crackdown that has left more than 5,700 mostly poor people dead. Tanzania's John Magufuli will speak as he seeks a second term in an election next month in which opposition leaders say they've faced government obstruction at every turn. And King Salman's speech will be the first since his brother addressed the General Assembly in 1957. The 84-year-old monarch has generally relied on his foreign minister.

In a short speech Monday to commemorate the U.N.'s 75th year, Maduro came out guns blazing, charging that the world is facing a critical choice between a multipolar world and one dominated by imperialism. AP

this day in history

1980 IRAQ BOMBS IRAN AS HOSTILITIES INCREASE

Iraqi planes have bombed and set on fire Iran's Kharg Island crude oil export terminal.

Iranian officials have confirmed oil exports from the terminal, off the north-west coast of Iran, have been halted and given no indication when they may be resumed.

The fighting began three days ago when the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, ordered a bomb attack against Iran following months of border clashes.



Tension between the two countries has been rising since Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was hailed the leader of the Islamic revolution in Iran and took control from Shah Reza Pahlavi in February 1979.

Appeals for an end to the violence from the United Nations Security Council, the secretariat of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the European Economic Community have all gone unheeded.

The worst fighting has been close to the disputed Shatt al arab waterway, which forms Iraq's only access to the Persian Gulf.

The strategic Iranian cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan are said to be holding out against heavy Iraqi pressure, which has been mostly directed at oil facilities there.

Baghdad is demanding recognition of its sovereignty over the Shatt al arab waterway, the lower reaches of which also mark the border between Iraq and Iran.

It has torn up the 1975 Algiers agreement under which Iraq agreed to shift the border with Iran to the middle of the estuary.

Speaking in Baghdad tonight, Iraq's deputy commander in chief of the armed forces, General Adnan Khairalla, left no doubt Iraq would extend the war to achieve its aims, regardless of international or other pressures.

The Foreign Office is advising British ships not to visit Iraqi or Iranian ports and is also discouraging British citizens from visiting Iraq.

Although no general order has been given for the evacuation of British subjects from Iraq, many British families have been fleeing the country and the first have arrived back in the UK today.

Western oil industry officials say there is no immediate threat of a world shortage because the non-Communist world has about 100-days worth of oil in stock.

However, there are fears war between the two sides could lead to the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, the narrow passage which forms the gateway to the Gulf, through which much of the oil from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and other smaller states is transported.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The war between Iraq and Iran did not initially appear likely to be a prolonged one — owing to the limited military capabilities of the two sides.

The two superpowers, the USA and the USSR, declared neutrality. The US, under President Jimmy Carter was committed to keeping the Hormuz Strait open. The Soviets had paid to arm Iraq and shared a common border with Iran.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini was seen as the spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution. He regarded Saddam Hussein, a Sunni Muslim, as the infidel head of the country that had expelled him in 1978.

Iraq sought to take advantage of the political confusion in Iran by demanding the amendment of the Algiers agreement over the Shatt al arab waterway. When the demands fell on deaf ears, it culminated in the bombing of Iran which began on 22 September.

Iraq's superior military equipment gave it initially the upper hand in the fighting, but Iran fought back and even advanced to occupy some Iraqi territory in 1984 and 1986.

Both sides eventually agreed to a ceasefire in August 1988. Official reports say more than 400,000 were killed and 750,000 wounded in eight years of fighting.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Yes, seeing is believing, and it's also reassuring. The transition you're about to go through won't be nearly as tumultuous as you feared it would be, so get ready for a pleasant surprise.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Why not put yourself first every once in a while? Your happiness should be your first priority today. After all, if you aren't happy in your life, how can you be a good sibling, friend, partner, or employee?



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

If you work consciously to put yourself in a couple of different challenging situations, you will be greatly rewarded in terms of romance. Get ready for a lot more action in your love life!



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Being part of a group doesn't really count unless you're an active member. Are you contributing all that you can, or are you sitting in the background hoping no one ever enlists your help?



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Their unique view of the world is something you've been missing for a while, and it's a wonderful feeling to have it back again. People come and go in life. Celebrate it when someone returns!



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Boredom simply can't be tolerated right now. You need stimulation and you need it now! Deep and meaningful conversations are nice to have, but today you're itching for more of an interaction.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

You have an extra-strong appreciation of beauty today, so it's a wonderful time to enjoy those things you find most beautiful. Flowers, art, and nature will be especially welcome to your wide-open, receptive eyes.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You might be a passive audience member, but your laughter and applause will be critical in keeping all the fun going. You're also in the right frame of mind to see your surroundings in a whole new way.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It's important for you to be loved by your friends, but make sure you aren't compromising who you are in order to make them happy. Take stock of a friendship that has been frustrating you lately.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Initiate a conversation with someone you don't usually talk to, or strike up a chat with someone with whom you don't usually see eye to eye. Listen to this person, and work hard to respect what they say.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If you really want to, you can connect with someone you normally wouldn't connect with. All it takes is a bit of patience. And with any luck you'll have that in abundance today.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

It's important for you to devote some serious energy to finding a balance between your internal life and external life. You may be depriving yourself of the attention you need to be happier.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

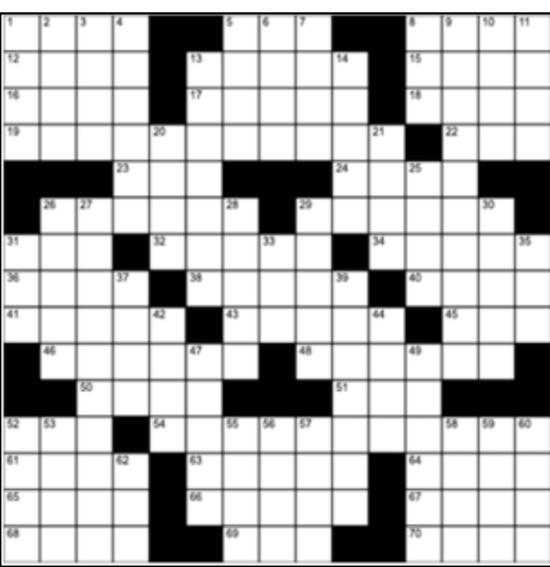
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	16	23	cloudy
Harbin	8	21	clear
Tianjin	16	23	overcast
Urumqi	11	26	clear
Xi'an	13	27	cloudy
Lhasa	10	22	cloudy
Chengdu	18	20	shower
Chongqing	18	26	cloudy
Kunming	15	23	shower
Nanjing	17	26	cloudy
Shanghai	20	26	cloudy
Wuhan	15	26	clear
Hangzhou	19	25	cloudy
Taipei	23	27	drizzle
Guangzhou	25	30	cloudy
Hong Kong	25	30	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	10	22	cloudy
Frankfurt	14	27	drizzle
Paris	11	23	drizzle
London	9	18	drizzle
New York	17	28	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Roman censor; 5- Lamb's mom; 8- Earth Day subj.; 12- Actress Lena; 13- Taj ___; 15- Presidential battleground state; 16- "Twittering Machine" artist; 17- Aggregate of qualities that make good character; 18- Back talk; 19- Pottery of hardened clay; 22- Wedding page word; 23- Existed; 24- Designer Cassini; 26- Gradual increase; 29- Deprived of life; 31- 100 square meters; 32- Basic monetary unit of Denmark; 34- Killed; 36- Firecracker sound; 38- Bendable twig, usually of a willow tree; 40- Busy as ___; 41- Dart; 43- Ribbons; 45- Inc., overseas; 46- Turns inside out; 48- Steeples; 50- Buck follower; 51- Old vitamin bottle abbr.; 52- Well-put; 54- Skeptical; 61- Clubs, e.g.; 63- Taken in; 64- Son of Adam and Eve; 65- Old Testament book; 66- Assault; 67- Fence opening; 68- Window piece; 69- Microwave; 70- Limerick language;

DOWN: 1- King of pop?; 2- ___ breve; 3- A wedding cake may have three of these; 4- Ring combo; 5- Pull down; 6- That was close!; 7- I could ___ horse!; 8- Aurora's counterpart; 9- Variable; 10- River to the Seine; 11- Shake; 13- Conductor; 14- Vive ___!; 20- Bird of prey; 21- Building wings; 25- Raines of film; 26- Elegance; 27- Restoration; 28- Emcees; 29- Hangs on to; 30- Eats to a plan; 31- Bodybuilder's pride; 33- Vardalos of "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"; 35- Homer's neighbor; 37- Attendee; 39- Later edition; 42- Drop ___ (moon); 44- Team; 47- Shades; 49- Do ruinous damage; 52- Quickly, quickly; 53- Cougar; 55- Folk singer Joan; 56- Blues singer James; 57- Jump; 58- Girder type; 59- Devices for fishing; 60- Exultation; 62- "The Waste Land" monogram;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE

Buckingham, Taipa High floor & Large terrace
HK\$11,770,000 1,439 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR RENT

Manhattan, Taipa Luxury Residence
\$19,800/mth 1,720 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2

Rain Dance Property
"We dance until it's SOLD!"

One Central 2 Bedroom Views Over Nam Van Lake
HK\$11,580,000 1,269 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2

FOR SALE/ RENT

[Macau] Apartment Historical Centre 2 1/2 1 1/2
840 ft² \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)

[Macau] One Oasis modern studio 2 1/2 1 1/2
691 ft² \$6,357,000 (ref: n/a)

[Taipa] Va Fat 2 1/2 1 1/2
950 ft² \$9,900/mth (ref: 20081003)

[Coloane] Grand Coloane Resort 1 1/2 1 1/2
710 ft² \$16,500/mth (ref: 20021002)

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CHINA THREATENS TO KILL TIKTOK DEAL OVER 'DIRTY' TRUMP TACTICS

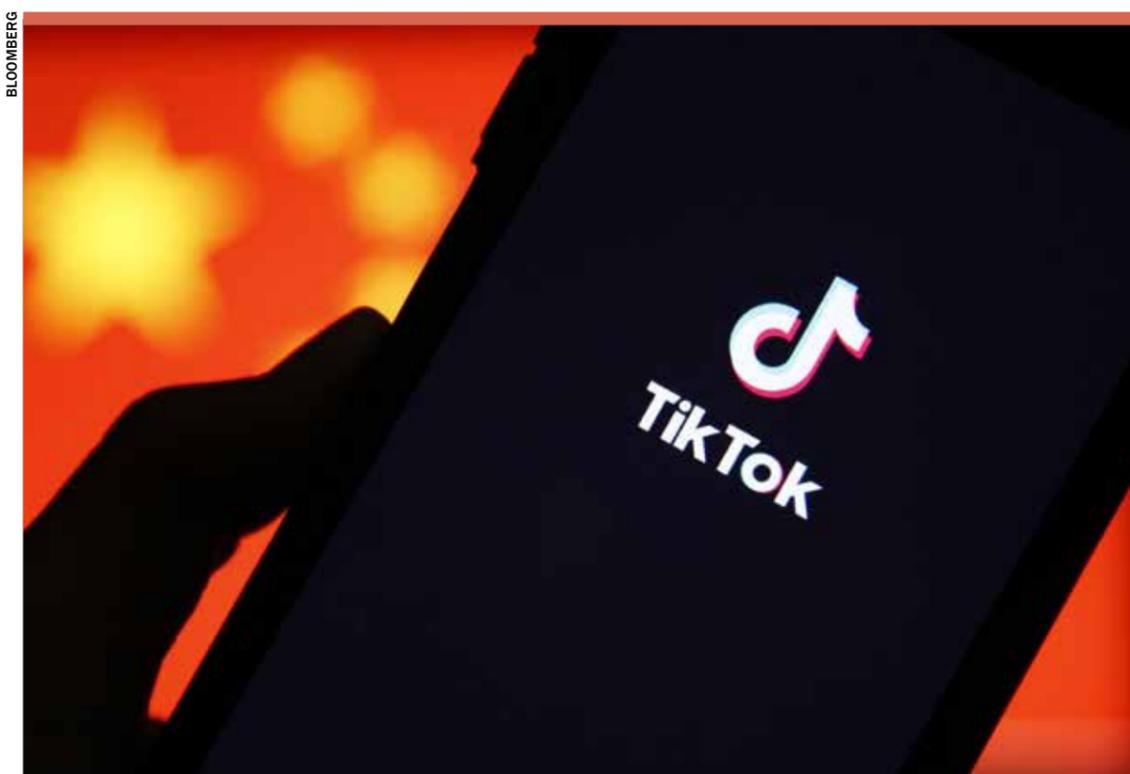
JUST a few days ago, the TikTok deal looked like a win for China. Now its state-run media are denouncing it as "an American trap" and a "dirty and underhanded trick."

The quick shift in sentiment shows the complications of concluding an agreement that is about much more than finding a proper valuation for an addictive video app that has enthralled teenagers around the world. It also has big ramifications for how the world's biggest economies handle security threats related to new technologies that will drive growth over the next few decades.

For China, the political stakes are similar to the marathon trade talks that ended with a phase-one deal in January. Any agreement that makes it look like the Trump administration forced China's hand could hurt President Xi Jinping, who has repeatedly hailed the Communist Party's emergence as a great power in contrast to the humiliations suffered under colonial powers centuries ago.

"Beijing basically doesn't want to set a precedent where the U.S. can be allowed to unilaterally flex in this way," said Kendra Schaefer, head of digital research at the Trivium consultancy in Beijing. "Having some role to play in the decision balances things out a bit."

Over the weekend, Oracle Corp. and Walmart Inc. agreed to take 20% of a new U.S.-based entity called TikTok Global that would ringfence the app's international operations and data, said to be worth up to \$60 billion. ByteDance Ltd. appeared to get most of what it wanted, including getting to keep the valuable artificial intelligence algorithms for its short-video app.



That appeared to appease both Donald Trump, who declared victory and called off a ban on TikTok, as well as China's most nationalistic media. Hu Xijin, the influential editor-in-chief of the Party-run Global Times, said the deal was "still unfair but it avoids the worst result."

By Monday, signs of trouble emerged. ByteDance asserted that it would remain in control of TikTok Global, appearing to contradict Trump's earlier comments about how Americans would direct the new entity. Oracle issued a statement backing Trump's view, and the American president warned he could still torpedo a deal if U.S. parties didn't have a majority hold.

"They will have nothing to do with it, and if they do, we just won't

make the deal," Trump said, referring to ByteDance, which owns TikTok. "It's going to be controlled, totally controlled by Oracle, and I guess they're going public and they're buying out the rest of it -- they're buying out a lot, and if we find that they don't have total control then we're not going to approve the deal."

On Wednesday, two of China's most prominent state-backed media mouthpieces denounced the deal.

"What the United States has done to TikTok is almost the same as a gangster forcing an unreasonable and unfair business deal on a legitimate company," the state-run China Daily wrote in a Wednesday opinion piece. Hu from the Global Times tweeted that Beijing likely wouldn't approve the cur-

rent agreement as it endangered China's national security.

The saga has sparked "complete disbelief" among Chinese leaders, said Gao Zhikai, a former diplomat and translator for late leader Deng Xiaoping who is now chair professor at Soochow University. "China wants to emphasize that the Chinese companies' legitimate rights cannot be violated without consequences."

It's unheard of for the major parties to a mega-deal to diverge so drastically on its basic contours. While Trump has yet to give his final sign-off and the deal therefore remains in flux, Beijing will intervene if it feels ByteDance risks giving up too much, Trivium said in a Tuesday note.

How exactly that would happen is unclear. The Commerce Minis-

try or the Ministry of Science and Technology could step in if they have concerns over technology transfer. Several others could get involved for antitrust issues. And reservations around national security could involve any body from the State Council or cabinet on down.

"The decision could be well out of the hands of the Ministry of Commerce and decided by top leadership from both sides," said Xu Ke, a law professor at the University of International Business and Economics. "The TikTok case needs to be seen in the context of the trade war, tech decoupling and wider competition on technology between China and the U.S."

While Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin remains confident that Trump will sign off on the transaction, U.S. national security officials are raising concerns that the data of American TikTok users would remain with a Chinese company, Bloomberg reported. TikTok's algorithm could also potentially still be used to influence public opinion - particularly ahead of the Nov. 3 elections.

China is getting ready to hit back. The Commerce Ministry on Saturday said it could restrict trade, investment and visas for companies on an "unreliable entity list" without naming anyone specifically.

It's still possible a deal gets done. ByteDance has made clear its AI technology remains in Chinese hands, while TikTok's data on more than 100 million Americans will be stored by Oracle on U.S. servers.

Now it appears to be more a question of the political feasibility, both for Trump and Xi.

China's leaders "don't want to play in favor of Trump for nothing," said Ding Chenling, a tech entrepreneur who said he has known ByteDance founder Zhang Yiming for over five years. "That will also anger nationalists in China." **BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China Inaugurates SME Suppliers into Sands Procurement Academy



Sands China inaugurated the latest cohort of local SME suppliers into the Sands Procurement Academy Wednesday, at a ceremony at The Venetian Macao's Adelson Advanced Education Centre. It is the seventh group of local SME suppliers to enroll in

the complimentary training initiative to date.

Co-organized with the Macao Chamber of Commerce and the Macau Productivity and Technology Centre (CPTTM), the Sands Procurement Academy promotes the development of

small businesses by sharing business knowledge and skills. The academy's goal is to help the SMEs gain experience and capacity for working with large-scale international corporations like Sands China.

Wednesday's latest group of 25 suppliers comprise a mix of Sands China suppliers and those that are potential new suppliers. Among them, 19 had run complimentary booths at the Sands Shopping Carnival in August.

Close to 180 local SME suppliers have graduated from the academy to date. Graduating suppliers receive a certificate and are given preferential procurement opportunities under otherwise equal circumstances.

Shoppes at Four Seasons, DFS Group partner to launch exclusive offers



Shoppes at Four Seasons and DFS Group have partnered to launch a range of exclusive offers aimed at bringing one of the finest high-end shopping experiences to Macau locals and

visitors to Sands Resorts Macao.

During the 'Rediscover Shoppes at Four Seasons' campaign throughout October and November, exclusive promotions, pro-

ducts and offers will be available from luxury fashion, accessory, watch and jewelry brands including Alexander McQueen, Balmain, Bottega Veneta, Chloé, Emporio Armani, Ermenegildo Zegna, Jimmy Choo, Hugo Boss, Louis Vuitton, Giuseppe Zanotti and many more within DFS' T Galleria by DFS store.

Customers who meet eligible spending levels at Shoppes at Four Seasons can enjoy Shopping Rewards and earn complimentary stays at Four Seasons Hotel Macao. Each shopper can claim up to 20 redemptions throughout the promotion, earning rewards up to MOP120,000 per person from October 1 to November 30.

FOOTBALL

West Ham plays despite virus cases, Spurs game called off

WEST HAM 5, HULL CITY 1

THE coronavirus dominated the English League Cup schedule yesterday [Macau time] as West Ham played despite its coach and two players having tested positive, while Tottenham's game was called off.

West Ham said manager David Moyes and players Issa Diop and Josh Cullen only found out their test results after they had arrived at the London Stadium to play against Hull. Diop and Cullen had been named in the starting lineup.

"The manager and both players immediately left the stadium and have returned home," West Ham said. "All three, who are asymptomatic, will now follow Public Health England and Premier League guidelines and protocols."

Assistant coach Alan Irvine took charge of West Ham in Moyes' absence. West Ham won

AP PHOTO



the game 5-1 as Robert Snodgrass scored the opening goal before Sébastien Haller and Andriy Yarmolenko scored two each.

West Ham did not say when its players and coaches gave their samples to be tested or how much contact Moyes and the two players had with the rest of the team since then. West Ham's last game was a

2-1 loss to Arsenal on Saturday.

The Premier League coronavirus protocols state Moyes, Diop and Cullen will have to isolate for 10 days. That would mean they miss the Premier League game against Wolverhampton on Sunday.

Earlier, the match between Tottenham and Leyton Orient was

called off two hours before kickoff because Orient players contracted the coronavirus.

"Discussions are ongoing between the relevant stakeholders in regards to the implications of the fixture not taking place," the English Football League, which organizes the competition, said in a statement.

Orient, a London-based team in the fourth division, may have to forfeit the game if the club is deemed to be unable to fulfil the fixture.

Manchester United got its first win of the season by beating second-division Luton 2-0, but it was a far from dominant showing after losing 3-1 to Crystal Palace in the league on Saturday.

Juan Mata gave United the lead from the penalty spot after Brandon Williams was tripped in the 44th minute. However, United struggled to break down Luton's otherwise disciplined defense and only a good save from goalkeeper Dean Henderson in his first competitive game for United stopped Luton leveling the score with a header in the 81st.

Marcus Rashford made sure of the win with a goal on the counterattack seven minutes later and Mason Greenwood scored another in added time. United faces either Brighton or second-tier Preston in the next round.

Newly promoted Premier League club West Bromwich Albion lost 5-4 on penalties against second-tier Brentford after the game ended 2-2, with goalkeeper David Raya making the deciding save in the shootout. Defender Branislav Ivanovic made his West Brom debut in the game. Newport produced another surprise result to beat Watford 3-1. AP

AD

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OPINION

World Views

Bobby Ghosh, Bloomberg

HOW BIDEN COULD
AVOID OBAMA'S
BIGGEST IRAN MISTAKE

In March 2015, as nuclear negotiations between Iran and the world powers entered the home stretch, 47 Republican senators wrote an open letter to Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei, warning that a future president could revoke any deal signed by President Barack Obama "with the stroke of a pen." Since Obama was negotiating without congressional approval, the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, would be only an executive agreement, subject to alteration or abrogation.

The warning was ignored. The lead Iranian negotiator, Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, who claimed an acute understanding of American politics, made no effort to engage with the Republicans. The other negotiating powers, their eyes on the billions of dollars in anticipated trade deals with the Islamic Republic, pretended not to notice that Obama was acting without the imprimatur of the Senate.

At home, the GOP senators were accused of treason for having gone over the president's head. Obama and Secretary of State John Kerry brushed off objections from the other side of the aisle and made the deal, declaring they had achieved peace for our time.

And the signatories all affected shock and horror three years later, when the next president did exactly as the senators had predicted, pulling the U.S. out of the agreement with the stroke of a pen.

The letter has been forgotten, along with the lesson. Joe Biden, now aspiring to Obama's office, is proposing to bring the U.S. back into the JCPOA if Iran returns to compliance. Since Trump's withdrawal, Tehran has ratcheted up uranium enrichment, and now has a stockpile 10 times the limit set in the agreement.

In an op-ed about his Iran policy, the Democratic candidate says he "will offer Tehran a credible path back to diplomacy," and use that "as a starting point for follow-on negotiations." Like his former boss, Biden seems to think he can do this by executive fiat, which is the more remarkable, coming from a man with his legislative experience.

There is no acknowledgment in Biden's op-ed about the Republican objections, much less an effort to address them. It is as if Trump, and Trump alone, was the reason why the U.S. withdrew from the JCPOA.

This misconception is not limited to the Biden campaign. The other signatories — and especially the European trio of Britain, France and Germany — seem to hold the same view. In London, Paris and Berlin, fingers are tightly crossed in the hope that Trump will lose to Biden on Nov. 3, reviving the hopes of billion-dollar deals with the theocrats in Tehran.

The Iranians, too, are rooting for a Biden victory: The regime has reportedly instructed its proxy militias in Iraq to cut down on their rocket attacks against American targets, to deprive Trump of an issue around which he can rally support. Iran's online influence operations, too, are directed at defeating the president.

Under other circumstances, Republicans in Congress might have used this moment to fire off another open letter, this time to Biden, as a reminder of their objections to the JCPOA and to serve notice that they will fight any effort to return to the deal. But to issue such a warning would be to acknowledge the possibility of Trump losing the election; given his fragile ego, no GOP grandee would dare suggest it.

There is, of course, always the chance that Biden and the Democrats can attain the trifecta: the presidency and majorities in the Senate as well as the House of Representatives. In that case, the new president could conceivably get congressional approval to bring the U.S. back into the nuclear deal, giving it the weight of a treaty rather than a mere executive agreement.

But it would be good for all the parties — Biden, the Europeans and the Iranians — to be reminded that resistance to the JCPOA runs deep in American politics. Ignoring that reality brought us to this sorry pass. That mistake should not be repeated.

China lashed out at the passage of a bill by the U.S. House of Representatives that threatens sanctions over the alleged use of forced labor in China's Xinjiang region, calling the accusation a lie.

Foreign ministry spokesman Wang Wenbin said the bill "maliciously slandered the human rights situation in Xinjiang" and sought to curb development and progress in the region while stirring up ethnic divisions and interfering in China's internal affairs.

"The so-called problem of forced labor is totally a lie fabricated by some organizations and personnel in the United States and

the West," Wang told reporters at a daily briefing.

The House voted 406-3 to declare that any goods produced in Xinjiang are presumptively made with the forced labor of detained Uighurs and other ethnic minorities, and therefore banned from being imported to the U.S.

If enacted into law, it could force companies to avoid a region that produces 80% of the cotton in China, one of the world's top producers of the fiber, as well as tomatoes and manufactured goods.

HONG KONG DISNEYLAND
STRIPPED OF RIGHT TO
EXPAND THEME PARK

SHIRLEY ZHAO

WALT Disney Co.'s Hong Kong Disneyland Resort will be unable to expand its site after local authorities decided not to renew an agreement with the amusement park to develop a neighboring plot of land.

Hong Kong won't extend the 20-year purchase option, which expires today, due to "the current economic conditions," according to a statement yesterday on the government website. A 60-hectare patch of land next to the theme park was reserved since 2000 to allow for possible expansion.

It would be more "prudent" for the theme park operator to focus on developing the existing resort, a spokesman for the Commerce and Economic Development Bureau said in the statement.

The move underscores changing priorities for Hong Kong as it tries to revive its economy battered first by



the anti-government protests and then by the coronavirus outbreak. Waves of challenges have badly hurt the city's tourism sector and major attractions such as Hong Kong Disneyland have been closed for most of the year.

Disney "will continue investing in the current expansion plan, however, we are extremely disappointed with the Hong Kong government's decision not to extend the phase 2 land expansion option," a Hong Kong-based company spokesman said in an email.

The theme park in Hong Kong is run by a firm that's

jointly owned by the local government and Disney. It's scheduled to reopen on Friday with reduced capacity and enhanced health and safety measures.

In January, Hong Kong's Secretary for Transport and Housing Frank Chan said that he wanted to build temporary residential units on this site, urging Disney to consider its "corporate social responsibility."

Some local tycoons, criticized by state-run media for helping drive up home prices, offered to donate land or cash to the government to avert any backlash from Beijing. **BLOOMBERG**

LEBANESE TEEN FROM BEIRUT
JOINS GLOBAL POP BAND

A teenage singer from Lebanon this week became the latest to join a global pop band formed by Simon Fuller, the man behind the Spice Girls and "American Idol," which aims to transform young unknowns into internet superstars.

That may seem a grandiose ambition during a global pandemic. But Now United, with over a dozen teenagers drawn from across the world, is plowing ahead, recording and filming new music in the skyscraper-studded city of Dubai this week.

Nour Ardakani, 18, told The Associated Press during her visit yesterday to the United Arab Emirates that she's "honored" to represent Lebanon.

"Arts and music are so important in times like these," she said. "Lebanon is going through so much."

Beirut, Ardakani's home-



Singer Nour Ardakani

town, has been grappling with an array of crises: an economic collapse, a worsening coronavirus outbreak and a massive explosion that demolished businesses and homes across the capital last month.

Ardakani scored the 16th spot in the band after a series of Zoom auditions from quarantine that drew talented contenders from the Middle East. The band, similar to Fuller's previous projects

in show business, represents a career kick-starting platform for those dreaming of being catapulted from obscurity to teen pop fame.

The group, which includes aspiring singer-dancers from across the world, including Russia, India, China, Mexico and Finland, has attracted over 100 million fans on social media and this year got a nomination from MTV Video Music Awards. **MDT/AP**

India Senior military commanders from India and China have agreed to not add more troops along their fast-militarizing disputed border in the mountainous Ladakh region where the two Asian giants are locked in a bitter months-long standoff, the sides said. The joint statement released after talks said the two sides also agreed to "strengthen communication on the ground" and "avoid misunderstandings and misjudgments" along the lengthy contested border known as the Line of Actual Control.



Saudi Arabia said Muslims will be allowed to perform the smaller, year-round pilgrimage starting Oct. 4 as the kingdom gradually begins lifting restrictions that had been in place on Islam's holiest site for the past seven months due to the coronavirus. State media reported the government plans to allow up to 6,000 visitors a day at the sprawling Grand Mosque in Mecca, which will be open to Saudi citizens and residents only during this first phase.

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny has been released from a Berlin hospital after more than a month's treatment for poisoning, with doctors now believing that a "complete recovery" from the Soviet-era nerve agent is possible for him, the hospital said yesterday. Navalny spent 32 days at Berlin's Charite hospital, 24 of them in intensive care.



Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko assumed his sixth term of office yesterday during an inauguration ceremony that officials did not announce in advance after weeks of mass protests against the authoritarian leader's reelection, which opposition activists maintain was rigged. State news agency Belta reported that the swearing-in ceremony took place in the capital of Minsk with several hundred top government officials, lawmakers, representatives of media organizations and other prominent figures present.