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Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

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ACADEMICS AT A UNIVERSITY OF MACAU SEMINAR AGREED THAT PANDEMIC CONTROL MUST NOT COME AT THE PRICE OF A SHATTERED ECONOMY P4

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AP PHOTO



Hong Kong A 22-year-old university student says she has been given refugee status by Germany after demonstrating against the city's extradition law. She said that she fled Hong Kong in November while free on bail after being arrested on allegations of rioting and violating the semi-autonomous Chinese territory's law banning masks, introduced last year as anti-government protests became increasingly violent.

AP PHOTO



Thailand's government yesterday canceled a state of emergency it had declared last week for Bangkok in a gesture offered by the embattled prime minister to cool massive student-led protests seeking democracy reforms. The decree had banned public gatherings of more than four people and allowed censorship of the media, among other provisions. It was challenged in court by an opposition party and a group of university students. [More on p11](#)

AP PHOTO



Philippines Pope Francis' endorsement of same-sex civil unions drew mixed reactions yesterday in the country, Asia's bastion of Catholicism, with a retired bishop saying he was scandalized by it while an LGBT group welcomed the pontiff's remarks with relief. President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman said the Philippine leader has long expressed support to same-sex civil unions but added it needed to pass through Congress.

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW | RODRIGO BRUM

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ELEVEN ILLEGAL FISHERMEN CAUGHT ON HKZMB

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Q&A RODRIGO BRUM
DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL OF FORUM MACAO

'Forum Macao has accomplished much, but

RENATO MARQUES

RODRIGO Brum, Deputy Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macao appointed by the Portuguese-speaking countries, completed his extended term at the organization this week.

In his final days at Forum Macao, Macau Daily Times spoke to Brum to learn about the challenges and developments at the organization over the past three years and his perspective on its future.

Brum is a believer in Forum Macao's development in the context of the Greater Bay Area, but he recognizes that there are challenges ahead "in coordinating member states."

Brum was born in Mozambique, but moved to London in 1974, where he studied Civil Engineering at the University College London until 1978. He then graduated with a degree in Business Administration from University of Lisbon's Faculty of Economics in 1983 while working for the Research and Studies Department of the Foreign Investment Institute (FII).

After graduating with an MBA from the New University of Lisbon, in 1987 he became a project manager for FII's U.S. Desk, one of the first efforts by the Portuguese government aimed at attracting foreign direct investment from a selected market.

Brum remained in Lisbon until 1990, where he developed his career in management. He then moved to Macau to work as Chief of Office for the Secretary for Economy and Finance for the last government under Portuguese administration, and later served as President of Sociedade do Parque Industrial da Concorde, as well as in other non-executive board member positions.

Brum was also involved in private equity and venture capital roles while lecturing at the Faculty of Economics of Lisbon's Technical University, and other consulting assignments. He finally returned to Macau in 2017 for a three-year term as Deputy Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macao, after being appointed by the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – What is your evaluation of the work done by Forum Macao over

the last few years? What has been the most significant achievement?

Rodrigo Brum (RB) – I believe that the regular visits organized by Forum Macao to the different Portuguese-speaking countries are, in fact, the main point that allows for better understanding and knowledge from Macau, the Portuguese-speaking countries, and the general public of Forum Macao's main duty and purpose - because we do realize that most of our work is not well known by the public.

The promotion of opportunities in China and Portuguese-speaking countries is the main goal of the Forum Macao, as it increases commerce and trade relations between these two big groups.

What Forum Macao does is these so-called "missions," which in the first years had a great emphasis on the mainland due to the interest of Chinese entities, but also a lot of interest from the Portuguese-speaking countries. These visits allowed delegates from the different Portuguese-speaking countries to present the conditions and investment opportunities in each of the countries, disclosing information that even government agencies from those countries cannot do most of the time because, as we know, China is a huge country and is not easy to reach high-level decision-makers at the municipal, regional and provincial levels.

It is this capacity to do these missions at the higher levels and with high performance that Forum Macao has been developing, especially in the first 15 years since its creation.

In March 2018, it was proposed by the former Secretary-General, Xu Yingzhen, that besides missions to the mainland, the Forum would also do yearly missions to every one of the Portuguese-speaking countries.

From a structural point of view, this was a very big difference and a very important one. [The missions] started immediately that year and continued in 2019.

This was particularly important. For instance, I remember that in 2018, the Forum conducted a mission to East Timor. That was the first time we had visited the country in over five years. So we can see how important this measure was in establishing annual visits to all of the countries. Unfortunately, 2020 was

RENATO MARQUES



a very unusual year and we were unable to travel.

MDT – We have been hearing a lot, especially from the new government of Macau, about Hengqin and the opportunities that it will generate. Will these opportunities also extend to the Forum Macao countries?

RB – Hengqin is already creating - and will create even more in the future - not just local opportunities, but it will be a huge access link to the mainland and the Greater Bay Area (GBA) in particular.

The vision of what has been planned for Hengqin far surpasses what we could ever have imagined in the past.

If we pay attention to the developments that have been occurring, we can see that although Macau had six times the gaming revenue of Las Vegas, we also had six times fewer hotel rooms than Las Vegas. The hotel capacity that Macau needs is being built on the other side of the border [in Hengqin]. It is in Hengqin that we have theme parks and the

Marine Museum, among others.

But more importantly, we need to look at future border developments. Not just this border post that was recently inaugurated, which is already a single-post and is located on the Hengqin side, but plans that include direct links to trains to Zhuhai Airport and also the integration of the mainland railway system with Macau's Light Rapid Transit system.

According to estimations from central government authorities, the number of people that are expected to use this system and the train links in the future is immense. This is roughly three times the number of tourists that were expected to visit Macau and that everyone was afraid was too much.

This has to do with the fact that the planning is based on the idea of a very dynamic and almost seamless cross border system that allows people to interact and use both sides of the border in an interconnected way.

Even for the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park, which Macau has

been investing a lot in, people have no idea how big, how technologically evolved and scientific it is.

Forum Macao has been working on creating this network, which also includes a lot of people that work in this field in Mozambique, Guinea-Bissau and other countries. What is difficult is coordinating all this, because [the Forum represents] several countries with different ideas, different ways of doing things and different cultures. In some ways, I can say that we lack a bit of organization in how to do things in an alliance.

I do believe that after Covid-19, this connection with Hengqin will become a bigger gate to and from Macau.

MDT – You are finishing your term as Deputy Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macao appointed by the Portuguese-speaking countries, and your successor has already been officially announced. What message do you have for him?

RB – I wish my successor a lot of success and I hope that he can do

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

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challenges remain to coordinate member states'



the things that I could not do, namely the coordination of work between the different delegates or to coordinate better between the different countries.

From now, he will have the duty

of responding to the demands and goals of Forum Macao, namely the ones that were highlighted during the last Ministerial Conference. I think that he has both diplomatic experience and the knowledge of

Macao and China, due to his previous experience in the relations of São Tomé and Príncipe with China.

I think the bigger challenge will be the coordination of the different countries, and preparing future pro-

posals and action plans that will be taken to the next Ministerial Conference.

MDT – How does the Portuguese Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition-Macao (PLPEX) relate to the new exhibition area of the new building of Forum Macao?

RB – The two things are complementary, or it might be better to say that they do not overlap each other. This issue is perhaps a little different and has to do with the fact that the Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF), as well as the PLPEX have had some positive developments, but they have never really become a place for business where contracts are signed, like what happens in Hong Kong for example.

This has to do with the fact that Macao is not a logistics base for the passage of products, so there is some confusion when we talk about bringing products from Portuguese-speaking countries or any other place in the world. They are not able to be brought into Macao and from here to the mainland.

What Macao can be is a link. It is a city that has a special advantage with the Portuguese-speaking countries. This is not exactly the Portuguese language or even the English language (which are both spoken here), but it is the fact that in Macao the “business language” is spoken.

It is possible to arrive at a banking institution and find financing. You can go to any law office and set up a company immediately with the same ease as we do in Portugal and other places. The process is very similar, fast, and efficient.

Sometimes we fail to disclose the advantage that Macao has, in which we can go through a dozen important contacts and people in just two days. This should be advertised as the advantage of Macao because it is really an advantage for an investor.

MDT – Is that also one of the big advantages of the GBA?

RB – The majority of the businesses will come to the neighboring markets – and I like to say markets because there is not one Chinese market, but many different markets. I would say that there is a huge attraction potential here.

Speaking only of the GBA, I think there is enough market for us to sell out all of our export capacity. This does not mean that the company should abandon other businesses they already have, but what it means is that those who want to can approach just this market. If [this market] was a country, it would be one of the biggest countries in the world in both area and population.

The GBA is for sure one of the possibilities with more potential for companies from Portuguese-speaking countries.

Former Secretary-General appointed China Ambassador

THE former Secretary-General of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macao), Xu Yingzhen, has been appointed as the new Ambassador of China to São Tomé and Príncipe, the Times has learned.

Xu had left her position at the Forum Macao in early September. At the time, the Times heard from several delegates who hinted that she was preparing to secure a diplomatic mission position.

Xu's new post on the Portuguese-speaking island nation in the Gulf of Guinea was confirmed just days after the announcement that ambassador Paulo Jorge Espírito Santo from São Tomé and Prin-



Xu Yingzhen

cípio was being appointed to the position of Deputy Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macao. He was

appointed by the Portuguese-speaking countries. This was previously held by Rodrigo Brum, who just ended his three-

-year term.

Espírito Santo was confirmed on Wednesday during the annual meeting of the Forum in the presen-

ce of the ambassadors from the Portuguese-speaking countries in China, the eight delegates from the Portuguese-speaking countries to Forum Macao, and officials from mainland China.

ESPÍRITO SANTO MADE NEW DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL

Ambassador Paulo Jorge Espírito Santo – from São Tomé and Príncipe – this week became the new Forum Macao deputy secretary-general.

Espírito Santo was confirmed during the annual meeting of the Forum in the presence of the ambassadors from the Portuguese-speaking countries (PSCs) in China, the delegates in the Forum of the eight and Mainland Chinese officials.

Deputy secretary-general Espírito Santo will represent the Portuguese-speaking countries within Forum Macao.

China's Ministry of Commerce (MOFCOM) has not yet appointed the new Forum Macao secretary-general following the departure of Xu Yingzhen – who headed Forum Macao for four years – last September.

Ding Tian, the deputy secretary-general appointed to Forum Macao by China, replaced Xu following her departure.

Tian, also from MOFCOM, was appointed to Forum Macao in 2017.

The Forum Macao structure also includes Casimiro Pinto as third deputy secretary-general, who was appointed by the Macau government.

MDT/MACAUNews

ACADEMICS SAY PANDEMIC CONTROL SHOULD NOT COME AT PRICE OF ECONOMY

ANTHONY LAM

A group of academics that gathered yesterday at a University of Macau seminar to discuss suggestions for the upcoming Policy Address agreed that the success of pandemic control in Macau should not come at the price of a shattered economy.

At the seminar, Lau Pun Lap, President of the Macau Economic Association, suggested that the government negotiate with the central government in Beijing to relax the restrictive measures on travel to Macau.

Currently, mainland residents can only travel to Macau on the Individual Visit Scheme. Tour groups and hotel-flight ticket packages are still banned on the mainland. Travel has become easier between Macau and the mainland though.

Lau also disclosed that the requirement for negative Covid-19 nucleic acid tests has hindered the desire of mainland residents to visit Macau. In contrast, mainland residents do not need to do the test when they travel within the mainland, which explains why Hengqin was popular during the long holiday.

Lau estimated that Macau needs at least three years before it recovers to 2019 levels of economic output.

He also suggested the government should not cut social welfare. "Although we don't expect a raise, we don't desire a cut either," the association president said. "Especially next year, there will be the legislative election. Cutting social welfare may [be unwise]."

Richard Hu, Dean of the university's Faculty of Social Science, recommended the government to



"hold the umbrella with one hand and work with the other," implying that it should control the disease while reviving the economy.

Hu suggested that society should find the balance between disease prevention and normality.

During the first few months of Covid-19 control measures in the city, all non-local residents were banned from entering the city. At that time non-resident workers from the mainland who had returned home for the long holidays were not even allowed in.

Today, anyone not a resident of the greater China region is still prohibited from entering, except those racing in the Macau Grand Prix this November.

This October 1, the eight-day-long Golden Week, which usually sees an influx of tourists from the mainland, registered only 156,000 tourist arrivals in Macau, a plunge of 86% compared to last year's holiday.

The daily average visitor ar-

rivals during the eight-day holiday, which coincided with the Mid-Autumn Festival, stood at 19,538, according to data released by the Macao Government Tourism Office.

With few tourists coming in, the city, which relies heavily on the export of services, failed to find an economic recovery in the holiday period.

Comparatively, the Hengqin

district of Zhuhai received nearly three times as many visitors as Macau during Golden Week this year, with 450,000 in total. This was up 36% compared to the same period last year.

SCHOLARS SUGGEST HYBRID DISTRIBUTION OF CASH HANDOUT

A scholar has told a local radio show that the government's cash handout program should be distributed in a hybrid manner involving both physical and electronic cash. Another has told the same show that it is difficult for the government to determine the eligibility of each individual.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng has previously hinted that the government would reconsider the necessity for the cash handout next year. After meeting with several traditional associations, he confirmed the handout would remain, but that further studies were needed to determine the manner in which it would be distributed. This has stirred up some debate in society.

Loi Hoi Ngan, Vice Director-General of the Ma-

cau Development Strategy Research Centre, told the show that the efficiency of e-payment is beneficial in lowering the costs of the distribution of the handout. However, he added that the general public has the right to comment on the manner of distribution.

The Chief Executive hinted that people regularly living outside of Macau might be deprived of the cash handout in future. However, he stressed more studies were needed.

Professor Matthew Liu from the Faculty of Business Administration of the University of Macau said that it is hard to overlook the contributions people living outside of the city make to the local economy. **AL**

Finance secretary currently working on two gov't budgets

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said yesterday after a public event that he is working on both the amended version of this year's budget and the budget for next year. He also said that his team is trying to submit both to the city's legislature in November.

Normally each budget is submitted to the Executive Council for review before being submitted to the Legislative Assembly, the city's parliament, for approval and lawmaking. Only after these procedures can the bill be implemented.

This year, due to the



economic downturn brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic, the government has had to amend the bud-

get passed last year by the parliament in order to implement the subsidies and economic relief measures it

later announced.

Previously, the government wrapped up an amendment to the budget

in the parliament. The tax refunds scheme for eligible individuals from the working population was expanded to include a greater amount and increase coverage, meaning government spending would increase.

The tax exemption, including the tourism tax which is mainly funded by hotel guests and bar goers, has also been expanded to shrink the tax impact on businesses as there were fewer tourists arriving.

Yesterday, Lei was talking about an extra amendment to the budget. The finance official is striving to submit it to the parliament for

approval in November.

The government has repeatedly said that it would not rule out the possibility of using extra funds from the fiscal reserve.

The budget for next year, on the other hand, is racing to be submitted to the Executive Council by the end of this month. Once the Executive Council passes the budget, it will be submitted to the parliament for legislative procedures.

As for next year, Lei hinted that the government would invest more in infrastructure as part of its tactics to maintain a growing and dynamic economy. **AL**



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TWO MEN SENTENCED TO JAIL ON PROBATION FOR DRUNK DRIVING

The court has recently sentenced two men to prison time with probationary periods on charges of drunk driving, along with suspending their driving licenses. In the early morning on October 18, a 34-year-old man crashed his car and damaged some public facilities. Police who arrived at the scene smelt alcohol on him. A test showed he had a blood alcohol level of 1.8 g/L. He was sentenced to three months in jail with one year's probation, in addition to a one-year license suspension. The other man, who is 31 years old, was intercepted at a roadblock in the early morning on October 19 and also had a blood alcohol level of 1.8 g/L. He was sentenced to four months in jail or made to pay a MOP24,000 fine, in addition to one-year license suspension.

MAN SCAMS THOUSANDS OF PATACAS' WORTH OF LIQUOR

A 32-year-old local man, who reported to work as a hotel banquet supervisor, has defrauded his friend and stolen MOP140,000-worth of premium liquor. He resold the liquor to liquor stores in the northern district of Macau before reporting the loss of the liquor to the Judiciary Police. However, the police discovered that the reports conflicted with one another after viewing footage from surveillance cameras. The man later confessed to the police that he had sold the liquor and used the money to repay gambling debts. He has been passed onto the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation.

70% OF INTERNS UNDER LABOUR AFFAIRS BUREAU PROGRAM RECEIVE JOB OFFER

The Labour Affairs Bureau has revealed that 70% of the students who joined an internship program managed by large enterprises and gambling concessionaires in Macau, have obtained job offers from their companies. There were 436 interns in the program. Those who received job offers have an average salary of MOP15,000 per month. The program received a total of 1,618 applications, with 1,350 people meeting the requirements. A total of 720 internship opportunities were offered by local enterprises. The bureau also said that a job matching session will be held at the end of this month, with over 300 vacancies on offer.

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



The area near the Macau Science Center where an opera house is reportedly being planned

INVESTMENT IN PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE SHOULD PROCEED AMID BUDGET CUTS, SAY COMMENTATORS

LYNZY VALLES

ALTHOUGH the budget of nearly all government bureaus is being reduced due to the economic downturn caused by Covid-19, commentators say that now is still a good time for the government to build public infrastructure.

An opera house will reportedly be built next to the Macau Science Center, TDM Radio reported in an unsourced report. The project is set to be announced by the Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng in his 2021 Policy Address at the Legislative Assembly on November 16. It will allegedly be located on NAPE's waterfront, a location the government's plan hinted at transforming into a culture and tourism hub.

Since the SAR has no opera house, Chinese and Western opera performances have been held at several public sites and facilities, as well as at the Macao Cultural Center.

Although the rumor was good news for the city's cultural sector, some may see timing of the large-scale project during the current economic downturn as unusual.

The 2021 budget cut is the consequence of the Covid-19 impact. The CE has already ordered an aggregate 10% decrease in public administration expenditure next year. Some public departments are cutting their spend by more than 10%.

For the Macao Government Tourism Office, the board has proposed a 35% decrease to its budget and will seek only 1.45 billion patacas next year. Public departments have been asked to be even "more cautious" when analyzing budget allocations for each project, and should only register the budget when the department has received authorization to proceed.

However, for the commentators the Times spoke with, now is the right time for the government to build projects that will benefit the public and make Macau more attractive to tourists.

Architect Carlos Marreiros told the Times that an opera house will enhance the city's cultural offerings, noting that the city is already hosting the Macau International Music Festival, which is well known in Asia.

"Why not [build an opera

house]? Before the Portuguese administration left, they built a fine cultural center. The first CE finished the Macau Science Center, [...] so now the third CE, I think, wants to produce something meaningful," said the architect.

"With an opera house, the International Music Festival can be upgraded even more as there is no sufficient venue for [these kinds of events]."

Marreiros noted that with all the feasibility studies that had to be made, as well as gathering international and local experts for the study, the construction of the alleged project can only be concluded in two CE terms.

"For sure it won't, in principle, be concluded in the first term of the CE. So it's good to start now," he said.

Marreiros thinks the government should be willing to spend money and invite first-class architects from around world to be a member of the jury in order to produce a world-class project, if the opera house project really pushes through.

He proposed an international competition to design the ope-

ra house should be held prior to building the project.

Social commentator Larry So is also positive about building public infrastructure despite the city's current economic situation.

Although the SAR is facing a downturn in its economic revenue and is unsure whether tourist spending will be higher next year, he believes that the government should invest in public works that will be useful in the future to encourage more revenue to come in.

"The government should invest in the infrastructure of society by investing in public works. [...] An opera house can be a kind of investment, but the most important thing to determine is who are these people who are willing to work [in building these kinds of projects]?" So asked.

"Investing in public construction will, to a certain extent, provide job opportunities for locals who are facing underemployment. I would say that the government should do these kinds of investments provided that the workers participating in these projects are locals - or at least 90% of them," he said.



MELCO Resorts & Entertainment has generated more than MOP 2.6 million since January 2020 for local small and medium enterprises (SMEs) through its innovative roadshows with colleagues as part of the company's commitment to enhancing SME prosperity and helping local businesses succeed.

Hosted at City of Dreams, Studio City and Altira Macau's employee-only Heart of House areas, the roadshows collaborate with local SME vendors to offer goods including electronics, foods, household goods, personal care, skin-care items and accessories.

Ms. Akiko Takahashi, Executive Vice President and Chief of Staff to Melco Chairman & CEO, said, "Melco's Heart of House pop-up booth roadshows for local vendors have been hosted since 2016 to support SME prosperity in Macau. Under the pandemic situation, the roadshow has helped generate record-breaking sales of over MOP 2.6 million for participating vendors so far this year, serving as an effective platform for increasing revenue and market exposure for our SME partners. Further roadshows will take place to support SMEs from now until the end of the year, including a Christmas Bazaar."

One SME participant of a Melco Heart of House roadshow, Mr. Lam Chin Pang of AA Worldwide Trading Company, said, "Thank you to Melco for providing local SMEs

MELCO: Supporting local SMEs through times of challenge



like ourselves with this sales platform during the pandemic to offer the company's employees some special deals. It really does make a difference for us under the current economic situation."

Fellow SME participant Mr. Chang Kin Keong of Cyber Technology Computer added, "Melco inviting us over really does make a difference to our business – especially in relieving cash flow pressures and raising brand awareness by allowing more clients to know about our company and products."

Melco's commitment to SMEs is also implemented through ongoing programs at the Melco SME Academy – offering training and business development opportu-

nities for SMEs to become better equipped in the face of challenge. Over the past few months, close to 150 representatives from nearly 100 local SMEs comprising both food and non-food business categories have joined the Academy's targeted training and business development sessions.

During the sessions, representatives from Melco's Hygiene & Food Safety, Property Services, Compliance and Supply Chain teams shared the latest industry updates and related information. Food Safety & Hygiene program topics covered experiences and best practices on food traceability, food safety enhancement and compliance with international standards. The

Melco sustainability strategy 'Above & Beyond' was also introduced while promoting the importance of collaboration between local SME businesses and corporations such as Melco for Macau's sustainable growth.

Ethics training presented details of the company's code of business conduct, while Supply Chain team colleagues shared details of Melco's 14-day Express Payment Scheme. Launched in August, the fast track payment initiative ensures Melco's SME partners will be paid within 14 days of receipt of deliverables with aim to ease cash flow pressures and help local suppliers overcome the challenges of recent unprecedented times.

Mr. Clarence Chung, Board Director of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, said, "We hear, understand and appreciate the present needs of local SME vendors and pledge to stand by their side as we weather through these never-before-encountered times of challenge. We are confident Melco's fast track payment initiative, together with the programs and activities available at the recently relaunched Melco SME Academy, will help alleviate liquidity pressures of our local SME partners and better prepare SMEs with targeted, technical knowledge to help strengthen them to overcome the challenges of today for a better tomorrow."



GAMING

Sands China records net loss of \$562 million in Q3

LYNZY VALLES

GAMING operator Sands China has reported a net loss of \$562 million in the third quarter of this year, up from the \$549 million loss recorded in the second quarter.

During the third quarter, the gaming operator's revenue stood at \$167 million, according to results published by parent company Las Vegas Sands.

As cited in the financial report on its website, the U.S. casino and hotel operator's operations in Macau were the biggest contributor to the group's overall net losses which stood at \$731 million in the July to September period.

"Our greatest priority as the recovery continues remains our deep commitment to supporting our team members and to helping those in need in each of our local communities of Macau, Singapore and Las Vegas. We remain optimistic about the eventual complete recovery of travel and tourism spending across our markets, as well as our future growth prospects," said Sheldon Adelson, chairman and chief executive officer.

The casinos operated by Sands China reported an adjusted EBITDA loss of \$233 million. This includes the \$68 million net revenue loss at The Venetian Macao, the \$22 million loss at Sands Co-

tai Central and the \$40 million loss in revenue at The Parisian Macao, among others.

As previously reported, the gaming operator has reportedly borrowed \$404 million from its revolving credit facility to help cover the nearly \$200 million per month it takes to keep the company's Macau venues running.

According to a note seen by GGRAsia, brokerage Jefferies Group LLC said that the losses posted by the company were "not a surprise," noting that it was already expected by investment analysts.

"However, management appear relatively positive on the outlook," noted analyst Andrew Lee.

11 ARRESTED FOR ILLEGAL FISHING ON HKZMB

ELEVEN "fishing enthusiasts" were recently arrested for unauthorized fishing on a pier of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB). Twenty-six fishing rods and five foam boxes of fish have been seized by the mainland law enforcement authority.

The individuals conducted the act on a pier in the jurisdiction of Zhuhai.

Video footage shows fishing rods protruding from the steel boxes on the pier, exposing the group's illegal actions.

Local authorities said that fishing seriously affects the navigability of the Qingzhou waterway, while posing a danger to the bridge and to the anglers.

As for how the anglers arrived at the pier, they chartered a boat that took them there. It took two boat trips to bring them all to the pier.

According to the relevant provisions of the Public Security Administration Punishment Law, the public security entities imposed a five-day administrative detention on the boat operator and fined him 500 Chinese yuan, on top of confiscating his illegal income of 500 Chinese yuan.

The 11 anglers, on the other hand, were given only a warning as this was their first violation and because of their cooperation with the investigation.

Law enforcement officials stated that, in accordance with the relevant provisions of



the Law of the People's Republic of China on Public Security Administration Penalties, if a ship enters or docks without authorization in waters or islands that are prohibited or restricted by the country, the person in charge of the ship and the responsible persons will be fined 500 to 1,000 Chinese yuan, in addition to being detained for up to five days. **AL**

AD



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Charter

Anti-graft body detects three cases of residency obtained through deception

THE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) has detected three cases involving the use of forged documents to apply for residency through investment immigration.

The applicant in one of the cases was found to take the opportunity of his relative purchasing a flat in Macau to register himself as an owner some years ago. He then, as the owner, applied for temporary residency to the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM).

After investigation, the CCAC found that the flat was actually purchased by the relative of the applicant who lived there. To guarantee the rights and interests of his relative, the applicant conferred the right of disposition to the former, who would sell the flat upon the latter becoming a permanent resident of Macau.

In another case, the applicant was

suspected to have been involved in the bogus purchase of two flats so as to apply for temporary residency to the IPIM some years ago. After investigation, the CCAC found that the flat had all along been owned by the relative who lived there. The relevant transactions were found to be bogus.

After becoming a permanent resident of Macau, the applicant transferred the ownership of one flat back to his relative. The other flat was put on sale by the relative whom was conferred the right of disposition.

The CCAC also found that a resident from the Chinese mainland was suspected to have obtained residency in Macau by means of providing false academic records during his application for temporary residency through purchasing immovable property.

After investigation, the CCAC found that the academic records submi-

tted by the said person were factually incorrect – neither did he study at the secondary school or graduate from it as claimed.

The applicants in the three cases allegedly committed document forgery provided for in Law on Illegal Entry, Illegal Stay and Deportation. The CCAC has completed the relevant investigations and referred the cases to the Public Prosecutions Office for follow-up work.

The CCAC discovery of the three cases comes just weeks after a former president of IPIM was sentenced to a two-year jail term for breach of secrecy and inexact asset declaration. Former president Jackson Chang had been accused of abuse of power, corruption and criminal association charges but was acquitted during the trial. According to his lawyer, Chang is now appealing the decision reached by the Court of First Instance. **DB**

T1 HOISTED AS TYPHOON MOVES CLOSER TO MACAU

THE Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) hoisted Typhoon Signal No.1 at 6 p.m. yesterday, and anticipates that it is reasonably likely that it will raise that to Signal No.3 today.

Typhoon Saudel is located over the northern part of the South China Sea. It is moving north-westwards and is expected to make landfall in Hainan or central Vietnam.

It is expected to be closest to Macau today, though the typhoon will remain about 450 kilometers away from the region.

The possibility of issuing Typhoon Signal No. 3 early in this morning is “medium to relatively high.”



At the same time, the northeast monsoon is also affecting Macau. “The northerlies are expected to strengthen in the next following days. It will cool slightly with a

few light patches of rain,” the bureau warned.

The bureau warned earlier that the northeast monsoon would affect Macau later this week.

The public is advised

to pay attention to the change in weather and the latest information.

The Hong Kong Observatory also issued Typhoon Signal No.1 yesterday at 5:40 p.m. **LV**

WOMAN SENT TO HOSPITAL AFTER STRUCK BY FALLING CANOPY

A falling piece of a building exterior struck a woman yesterday afternoon who was walking on a street in the ZAPE area.

The incident occur-

red on a pedestrianized street adjacent to I Keng Kok Building.

The woman, who was aged around 30, was sent to the public hospital for

emergency treatment, the police said. She was unconscious when she was being sent to the hospital.

The detached part of

the building was reported to be a piece of the canopy that had rusted. Rock debris littered the floor in the street area affected by the incident.

Media reports cite the Fire Services Bureau as saying that the building parts fell from the 21st floor. **DB**

ADVERTORIAL

GREAT TIMES

MGM Hosts Cheers, Macau! in a Bid to Lift Spirits in Town

It's that time of year again when malts turn golden and air gets crisp. Now through November 1, MGM presents Cheers, Macau! – a reinvented experience that appreciates specialty beers and German comfort foods, in a bid to lift spirits in town! Cheers, Macau! is held at Anytime, the atrium area situated under the world-record holder Spectacle roof of MGM COTAI, every night from 6pm to 11pm. With just as much fun guaranteed, it offers Happy Hour free-flow beer along with an array of authentic German gastronomies to pay homage to the Bavarian carnival vibe. Come along, kick back under the glazed roof as you sip and savor your way to this one-of-a-kind, fun and alive bierfest!



Say “Cheers” under the Spectacle at Anytime

Taking place in a meticulously engineered space surrounded by 25 LED screens, Cheers, Macau! is set to bring you a unique and awe-inspiring entertainment experience. Guests will get to soak up the energetic atmosphere curated by the dynamic music and astonishing visual projections, alongside some exclusive bierfest decorations.

This spectacular occasion is complemented with the free-flow draught beer offer, where guests may enjoy unlimited steins of Paulaner or Heineken from 6pm to 8pm every night, starting from just MOP190*. An extensive lineup of German comfort foods, such as the ever-popular roasted pork knuckles, pretzels, cold cut platters and more, will be served to your table. To double the joy, exclusive discounts are also applicable for Mlife Members, Macau locals and users of selected payment platforms.

Bringing the Fun to Your Home and Beyond

What's more, MGM has partnered with local food delivery service company Aomi to present a takeaway menu for Cheers, Macau! You may now satisfy your craving with food and beer from Cheers, Macau! at home or anywhere you want.

Book your table now to enjoy the relaxed hospitality and fun atmosphere! For reservations and enquiries, please call (853) 8806 2338 or visit www.mgm.mo.



HSBC'S ICONIC HONG KONG LIONS MAKE RETURN IN SUBDUED CITY

ALFRED LIU

DAMAGED and defaced during tumultuous protests at the start of this year, the two bronze lion statues standing guard outside HSBC Holdings Plc's main office in Hong Kong have made their return to the public in a city subdued by a Chinese crackdown on dissent.

The lions, nicknamed "Stephen" and "Stitt," were unveiled yesterday following an almost 10-month restoration project after they were splashed with spray paint and partly set ablaze during a mass march at the start of this year.

"Stephen and Stitt have watched over HSBC Main Building for 85 years," Peter Wong, the bank's Asia Pacific chief executive officer, said in a statement. "Through good times and bad, they have been an enduring part of Hong Kong's story."

Pro-democracy protests rocked the city for months last year, but have all but disappeared after China imposed a new security law on the city and strict social distancing rules were put in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Most recently, attempts at protests on China's national day earlier this month were quickly stamped out by thousands of riot police, who swept up scores of people before they could mobilize.

HSBC, which counts Hong Kong as its biggest market, has



been caught in a tough spot. The attack on the lions came after the bank closed an account linked to the city's pro-democracy movement in November. It has also seen some of its branches attacked.

Under pressure from Beijing, the lender also this year publicly endorsed China's new security law, drawing further ire from activists in the city. The London-based lender's relationship with China has become increasingly tense, with Chinese media blasting it

over its role in the U.S. investigation of Huawei Technologies Co. Last month, the ruling Communist Party's Global Times newspaper reported that the bank could be put on an "unreliable entity" list that aims to punish firms that damage China's national security.

China is crucial in HSBC Chief Executive Officer Noel Quinn's plan to boost profits. Quinn is speeding up shakeup of its global operations, pivoting further into Asia as its European operations lose money and it struggles with

ballooning bad debt and low interest rates. The bank was this month for the first time since 2017 not part of a group of banks arranging China's sovereign dollar debt sale.

But there are now indications the standoff with China could be easing. The Global Times on Oct. 20 in a post on Twitter highlighted comments HSBC Chairman Mark Tucker made to a conference in Shanghai about the bank's plans to expand in China. The tweet was then followed up on by China's

U.K. ambassador, Liu Xiaoming.

The two lions - animals the Chinese believe bring good fortune and prosperity to those they guard - were first placed to watch over its Shanghai office in 1923. They were replicated in 1935 and shipped to Hong Kong, where one was named "Stephen" - after A.G. Stephen, who commissioned the sculptures and served as the bank's chief manager from 1920 to 1924 - and the other "Stitt," after G.H. Stitt, its then-manager in Shanghai. **BLOOMBERG**

China criticizes US media controls as 'political oppression'

CHINA'S government yesterday demanded Washington stop "political oppression" of Chinese media after more were ordered to register as foreign missions but gave no indication how Beijing might retaliate.

The order Wednesday, which requires Chinese media to register their employees in the United States, adds to conflict over technology and security that have plunged U.S.-Chinese relations to their lowest level in decades.

A foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian, called the move "political oppression."

"China firmly opposes and strongly condemns unreasonable U.S. actions," Zhao said at a regular news briefing. "China urges the United States to change course, correct its mistakes and stop the political oppres-

sion and unreasonable restrictions on Chinese media."

The latest steps apply to six Chinese newspapers and other media and raise the total number of outlets affected to 15.

Earlier, the Trump administration imposed limits on how many people Chinese media can employ and put them on 90-day visas. Beijing retaliated by expelling reporters for The New York Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal and has given remaining American reporters two-month visas.

The Trump administration contends that Chinese employees of state media act more as propagandists and agents for the Communist Party than journalists.

The latest measures apply to Yicai Global, Jiefang Daily,

Xinmin Evening News, Social Sciences in China Press, Beijing Review, and Economic Daily. Controls announced earlier affect the Xinhua News Agency, China Global Television Network, China Radio International, China Daily Distribution Corp., Hai Tian Development USA, China Central Television, China News Service, the People's Daily and the Global Times.

Also this year, Washington ordered China's consulate in Houston closed. Beijing responded by closing the U.S. Consulate in the western Chinese city of Chengdu.

The Trump administration also has announced sanctions on Chinese officials, companies and government agencies for their actions in Tibet, Taiwan, Hong Kong and the South China Sea. **AP**

US APPROVES \$1 BILLION IN NEW ARMS SALES TO TAIWAN

MATTHEW LEE,
WASHINGTON

THE Trump administration has approved the sale of more than a billion dollars worth of advanced weaponry for Taiwan in a move that will enrage China and further exacerbate tensions between Washington and Beijing that have already heated over issues such as trade, Tibet, Hong Kong and the South China Sea.

The State Department announced Wednesday it had greenlighted the sale of 135 precision land attack missiles, associated equipment and training to Taiwan to

improve its defense capabilities. The package is worth just over a billion dollars, it said in a statement. The missiles are made by Boeing.

"This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability," it said in a statement. "The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability" as well as military balance and economic progress in the region.

"The recipient will be able to employ a highly reliable and effective system to increase their warfighting effectiveness as needed, which can counter or deter aggressions by demonstrated precision against surface targets," it said.

China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and has reacted furiously to previous U.S. arms sales to the island. The Trump administration has stepped up military and diplomatic support for Taiwan in recent months, including offering significant backing for its efforts to combat the coronavirus pandemic. **AP**

THAILAND

Gov't cancels emergency decree in bid to calm protests

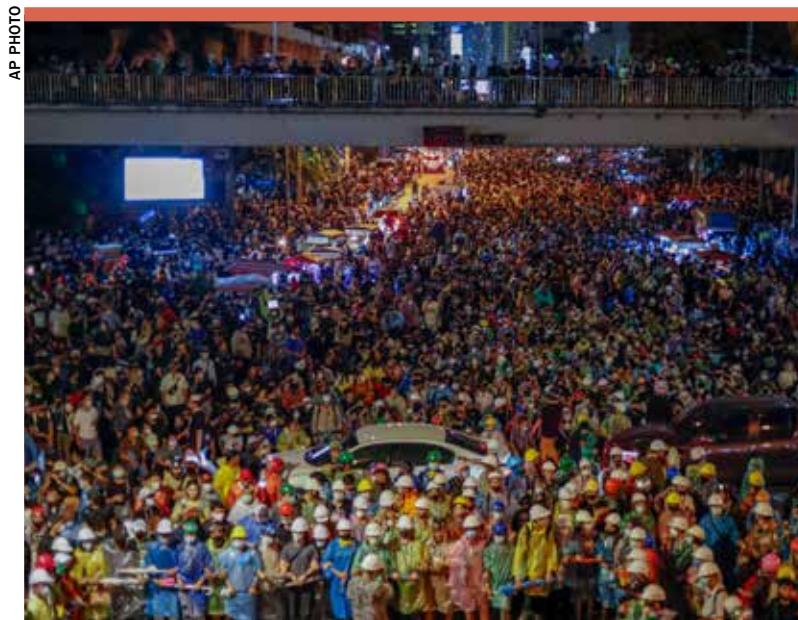
GRANT PECK, BANGKOK

THAILAND'S government yesterday cancelled a state of emergency it had declared last week for Bangkok in a gesture offered by the embattled prime minister to cool student-led protests seeking democracy reforms.

The decree had banned public gatherings of more than four people and allowed censorship of the media, among other provisions. It was challenged in court by an opposition party and a group of university students.

The revocation of the emergency decree, effective at noon yesterday, declared that the situation had been mitigated and could now be dealt with by existing laws.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha went on national television on Wednesday night to appeal to the protesters to reduce political tensions and promised to lift the emergency



Pro-democracy activists march to the Government House, prime minister's office during a protest march in Bangkok, Thailand this week

measure.

"I will make the first move to deescalate this situation," he said. "I am currently preparing to lift the state of severe emergency in Bangkok and will do so promptly if there are no violent incidents."

As he was speaking, protesters marched near Government House, his office, to demand he step down. They also asked for the release of their colleagues who were arrested in connection with earlier protests.

They said that if their demands

were not met, they would return in three days. Although the protesters pushed their way through police lines, neither side resorted to violence.

There were no large demonstrations yesterday, as some protesters said they were taking a rest day. Wednesday had marked the eighth straight day of rallies.

The protesters are pressing for a more democratic constitution and reforms to the monarchy. The implicit criticism of the royal institution has stirred controversy because it traditionally has been treated as sacrosanct and a pillar of national identity.

On Wednesday, royalists held rallies in several cities, in many cases led by civil servants, in what they said was defense of the monarchy. At a small rally in Bangkok, there were fights between anti-government protesters and palace supporters.

Friday could see the royalists turn out again, as it is Chulalongkorn Day, a public holiday honoring one of the country's most revered kings.

Prayuth, in the taped speech, pleaded with his countrymen to resolve their political differences through Parliament.

The government on Tuesday approved a request to recall Parliament to deal with the political crisis in a special session from next Monday to Wednesday.

The appeal for a solution in Parliament was unlikely to win over protesters, as some of their core complaints are that the constitution and the political structure it created are undemocratic, in part because it was written after a 2014 military coup. Prayuth himself led that coup, which toppled an elected government during political unrest that featured widespread street protests.

The cancellation of the state of emergency came as Bangkok Civil Court was preparing to rule on motions to revoke the decree on the basis that it illegally abridged freedom of assembly.

The opposition Pheu Thai party had been one of the complainants, and the head of its team at the court said that he was not impressed that Prayuth had lifted the decree.

"He's really doing it to protect himself. Why? Because if he didn't lift the emergency decree today, and the court ordered the temporary protection of the protesters, it would mean all his orders and announcement relating to this were illegal," said lawmaker Cholanan Srikaew. AP

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Mondays	fim/finishes:	09 sessões	
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VIEWERS' GUIDE

After chaotic debate, Trump, Biden try again

AFTER meeting last month in perhaps the most chaotic debate in modern history, President Donald Trump and his Democratic rival, Joe Biden, will take the stage this morning [Macau time] to give it another go.

The bar to improve upon their last prime-time meeting is low: Their first debate was punctuated by frequent interruptions, mostly from Trump, leaving the two men talking over each other and Biden eventually telling the president to "shut up." A planned second debate didn't happen after the Republican president was diagnosed with the coronavirus and refused to participate in a virtual format. Biden and Trump instead participated in dueling town halls on competing television networks.

Today's debate, starting at 9 a.m. [Macau Time], from Nashville, Tennessee, marks the candidates' second and final face-to-face meeting, with Election Day less than two weeks away.

Here's what to watch:

MUTED MICROPHONES

After viewers of the last presidential debate bemoaned the moderator's inability to cut off the candidates' microphones, the nonpartisan Commission on Presidential Debates responded with an announcement this week that each candidate's microphone will be turned off while his opponent gives a two-minute answer to an initial question on each debate topic.

After those initial replies, the microphones will stay on during open discussion, leaving it likely there will still be lots of crosstalk during rebuttals.

CORONAVIRUS

Since the last debate, Trump was diagnosed with and hospitalized for COVID-19. The Republican has cast the virus and his own infection in positive terms, resumed holding large campaign rallies and attacked the government's top infectious-disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci. Biden, who has portrayed the Trump administration's response as an abject failure,

AP PHOTO



Trump, Biden

re, has taken a much more cautious approach. He regularly wears a mask, holds small in-person campaign events and releases his COVID-19 test results, which have been negative. Look for them to focus on personal choices as much as their differing policy plans.

FAMILY AND PERSONAL ATTACKS

The president for months has been making accusations of corruption against Biden and has lately intensified his focus on unverified claims about Biden's son Hunter. During the last debate, the president did not shy away from bringing up Biden's family, targeting the former vice president's son for his history of substance misuse, and attacked Biden's intelligence.

Biden aides anticipate Trump will again level searing personal attacks during the debate. The Democrat is expected to try to redirect to his core argument that Trump is unfit for the job.

RACE

Following a summer marked by protests across the country over racial injustice, Trump has repeatedly portrayed himself as a greater champion for Black Americans than Biden is while emphasizing a law-and-order theme. But during the last debate, Trump gave a reluctant answer when asked if he would condemn white supremacists, and he refused to outright condemn a far-right fascist group, instead telling them to "stand back and stand by."

Biden, who frequently acknowledges systemic racism, has accused the president of encouraging

a rise of white supremacy and armed militias and cites Trump's comments that there were "very fine people" on both sides of a 2017 white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, as the impetus for his presidential run.

Look for the Democrat to continue hitting those themes while Trump casts Biden as responsible for helping send millions of Black Americans to prison with a 1994 crime law when Biden was a senator.

LEADERSHIP AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Look for Trump to continue promoting his "America First" policies, which have pulled the U.S. out of multilateral agreements that he maintains were not in the country's interests. He's also likely to highlight construction of more than 200 miles (320 kilometers) of his promised wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and recently brokered deals normalizing relations between Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates and Israel.

Biden has accused the president of alienating long-standing U.S. allies. Expect him to focus on Trump's efforts to sustain a relationship with Vladimir Putin's Russia despite warnings from U.S. intelligence agencies that Russia interfered in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and allegations that Russia offered secret bounties for American deaths in Afghanistan.

IMMIGRATION

Immigration isn't among the featured topics expected during the debate, but look to whether Biden seeks to raise the issue on the heels of a report this week that

court-appointed lawyers have been unable to find the parents of 545 children separated at the U.S.-Mexico border early in the Trump administration. Biden has repeatedly slammed Trump's immigration policies, something that Trump featured prominently in his 2016 campaign.

MODERATOR AND FORMAT

The debate will be moderated by NBC News White House correspondent Kristen Welker. Welker will be the first Black woman to serve as the moderator of a presidential debate since Carole Simpson in 1992.

The debate be divided into six 15-minute segments, each on a topic selected by Welker: "Fighting COVID-19," "American Families," "Race in America," "Climate Change," "National Security" and "Leadership."

Trump and Biden will each have his microphone cut off while his rival delivers an opening two-minute answer to each of the six debate topics, the commission announced. The mute button won't figure into the open discussion portion of the debate.

HOW TO WATCH

The 90-minute debate will start at 9 p.m. EDT [9 a.m. today, Macau time] and will be aired on major networks and cable news channels including ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox, Fox News Channel, Fox Business Network, PBS, NBC, MSNBC, Noticias Telemundo and C-SPAN. Most of the networks will offer a way to watch the debate live online, through their apps and accounts on YouTube and other social media channels. MDT/AP

this day in history

1951 CHURCHILL DENIES 'WARMONGER' CLAIMS



The Conservative leader, Winston Churchill, has wound up his election campaign with a hard-hitting speech in which he vigorously denied accusations of warmongering.

The former prime minister, who is bidding to return to office after six years in opposition, was speaking in Devonport in Plymouth, on the final day of the five week campaign.

Labour has been in power since the end of World War II in 1945. Labour leader Clement Attlee was returned to government in February 1950 - but his administration has been hampered by a strong opposition and splits within his own party.

His decision to go to the polls now in the hope of increasing his majority comes at a time of worsening oil dispute with Persia and Egypt's attempt to regain control of the Suez Canal.

Labour has concentrated its attack on Mr Churchill and the Conservatives saying their return to government would make a third world war more likely.

"Whose finger on the trigger?" has become the slogan for this campaign after the Daily Mirror coined the phrase for a front-page headline.

Mr Churchill firmly rejected the charge of warmonger in today's speech: "This is a cruel and ungrateful accusation. It is the opposite of the truth."

"If I remain in public life at this juncture it is because, rightly or wrongly but sincerely, I believe that I may be able to make an important contribution to the prevention of a third world war, and to bringing nearer that lasting peace settlement which the masses of the people of every race and in every land fervently desire."

Mr Churchill said he had sought to prevent war ever since his speech at Fulton in the United States in March 1946, in which he spoke of an "iron curtain" descending across the continent of Europe and the need to reach agreement through the auspices of the United Nations Organisation.

Mr Churchill went on to attack Mr Attlee and his government's track record.

"Nothing could be worse for our country and nothing could be more injurious to the cause of world peace than for Mr Attlee to be returned dependent upon a sham reconciliation between the main body of the Socialist Party and the powerful and turbulent left-wing forces whom Mr Bevan represents," he said.

Mr Bevan resigned from the government in protest at a decision to raise funds for rearmament by charging for spectacles and dentures, which had previously been free on the NHS - established during his period as minister of health.

He is seen by some on the left wing of the party as a leader in waiting

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Winston Churchill won the election, returning to the post of prime minister for the first time in peacetime at the age of 77.

The Conservatives took 321 seats to Labour's 295. The Liberals had not even been able to put up a candidate in every constituency and consequently lost out to the Conservatives.

However, Labour polled the highest share of the vote, gaining 12,948,605 votes, 200,000 more than Churchill received and higher than any of its landslide victories in 1945, 1966 or 1997.

Mr Churchill was knighted in 1953.

He served as prime minister until 1955 when he resigned due to poor health. He returned to the backbenches until his death in 1965.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

The universe is amplifying your charm right now, and many people are intrigued by what you have to offer! This doesn't necessarily apply to your romantic life.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Today, if you're feeling stressed at any point, your imagination will rescue you! Just close your eyes and try to pretend you're drifting along a quiet stream on a sunny day.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Instead of trying to plan out every minute of your busy day today, why not just let things unfold naturally? That way, you'll find more surprises along the way.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Has your energy been getting more unpredictable lately? Your domestic bliss might be challenged right now. The people you live with are not trying to annoy you, but inevitably they are starting to.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

If you can't have all your needs met by others, don't feel neglected. Just make sure that you fill in the blanks. Give yourself what other people won't give you.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

There could be one or two people who cause some minor setbacks in a project. If that happens, you can rely on your charm and empathy to nullify the negative effects.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

As long as you aren't making promises to someone that you don't intend to keep, there is absolutely nothing wrong with putting a smile on their face in order to make them highly amenable to what you want.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Giving others the benefit of the doubt is a habit you should get into more often. You might be dismissing people who could add a lot of richness to your world.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

There could be a lot of laughter throughout the day. Oddly enough, it might all get started by an embarrassing situation that everyone involved chooses to see as funny.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Some even bigger challenges are coming up for you, so consider this day to be good practice. If you want things to be stress-free, preparation is crucial.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Getting involved with something or someone from a different cultural is a great idea today. Even if you just eat some foreign food, you should do something that involves a culture that is very different from yours.

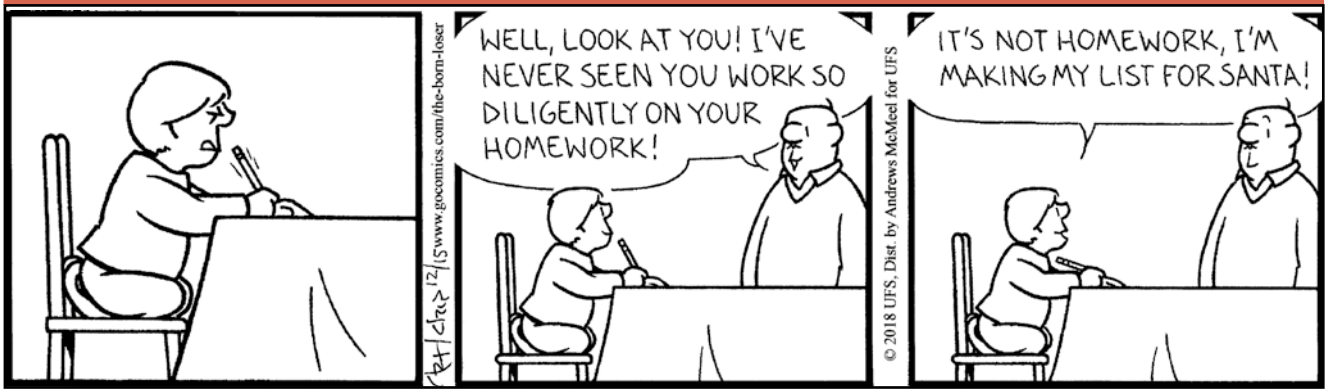


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Curious about how wine is made? Research it. Interested in worldwide politics? Spend time reading news sites from other countries. It's a big, diverse world. Explore it!

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

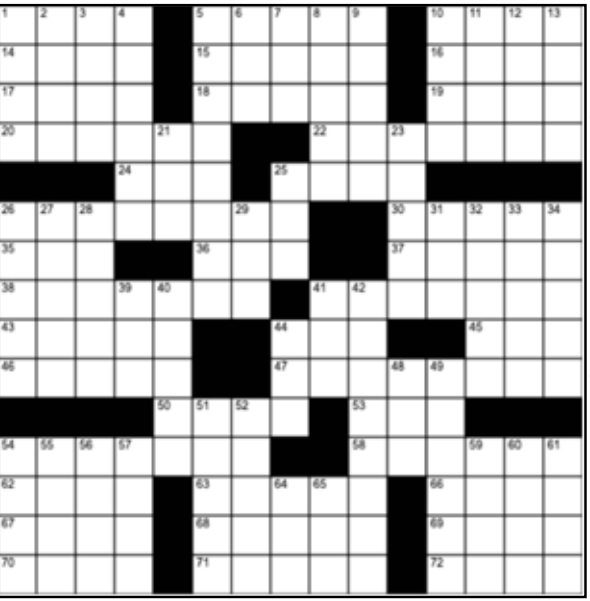
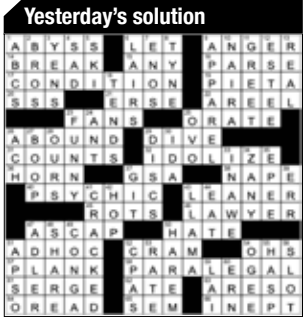
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	3	16	clear
Harbin	-3	6	cloudy
Tianjin	6	17	clear
Urumqi	5	15	clear
Xi'an	7	18	cloudy
Lhasa	4	20	cloudy
Chengdu	12	21	overcast
Chongqing	13	24	clear
Kunming	9	18	cloudy
Nanjing	8	18	clear
Shanghai	14	20	cloudy
Wuhan	10	22	clear
Hangzhou	11	20	clear
Taipei	19	23	drizzle
Guangzhou	19	27	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	26	cloudy

WORLD			
Moscow	6	13	drizzle
Frankfurt	10	14	drizzle
Paris	13	16	drizzle
London	10	14	drizzle
New York	16	19	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Prehistoric sepulchral tomb; 5- Flat contract; 10- Gregory Peck role of 1956; 14- Engrave with acid; 15- Great Lakes tribesmen; 16- Latvian capital; 17- Golfer Aoki; 18- Peaks of Peru; 19- Quod ___ demonstrandum; 20- Maze runner; 22- Final course; 24- Powdery residue; 25- Match up; 26- Linseed; 30- Citrus hybrids; 35- Former nuclear agcy.; 36- Hosp. workers; 37- Juke; 38- Squinting eye; 41- Puncture; 43- Matriculate; 44- Corn unit; 45- Miss-named?; 46- Fluff, as bangs; 47- Sot; 50- Members of the Felidae family; 53- Filled pastry crust; 54- Loser's request; 58- Aztec god of rain; 62- Frozen rain; 63- Capital on the Red River; 66- Ike's ex; 67- Creamy-beige color; 68- Dicembre follower; 69- Prophetic sign; 70- Excuse me; 71- Attack; 72- Agrees tacitly;

DOWN: 1- Overlay with wood; 2- ___ boy!; 3- Strike breaker; 4- Chest; 5- Like overly tanned skin; 6- Directional ending; 7- Help; 8- Like a fleabag; 9- Ruhr city; 10- Mars, to the Greeks; 11- Employ; 12- Food thickener; 13- Inner layer of a quilt; 21- Donkey; 23- Scrape with one's foot; 25- Radical '60s org.; 26- Aspect; 27- Sierra ___; 28- Capital of Ghana; 29- Hydrocarbon ending; 31- Hair goop; 32- Woody vine; 33- Bury; 34- War horse; 39- Floors; 40- Opt; 41- ___ es Salaam; 42- Outburst; 44- Begley and Wynn; 48- Goose egg; 49- Film comedian and director Michael; 51- Pains; 52- Macbeth, for one; 54- Ostrichlike bird; 55- A pop; 56- Where to wallow; 57- Homecoming guest; 59- Big wheel's wheels; 60- Like a line, briefly; 61- Metal containers; 64- New Jersey cager; 65- Guadalajara gold;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

FOR SALE

Nova City Apartment for Sale
HK\$12,880,000 1,494 ft² 3 2 2

FOR RENT

Large 3+1 bed High floor & balcony
\$29,800/mth 2,332 ft² 3 4 2

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

Renovated Duplex, Macau with Amazing View
HK\$4,200,000 817 ft² 2 2 2

FOR SALE/ RENT

[Macau] Seaview Garden	3 2 2
1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)	
[Cotai] One Grantai	4 2 2
2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)	
[Taipa] Great View Apartment	4 2 2
2,060 ft² \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)	
[Taipa] Private house	2 3 3 3
4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 19055006ST)	

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BOOK IT

'A SONG FOR THE DARK TIMES' CONTAINS TWO MYSTERIES

IAN Rankin's best-known character, John Rebus, typically resides in the dark world of the human soul and things are no different in "A Song for the Dark Times," Rankin's newest Inspector Rebus novel.

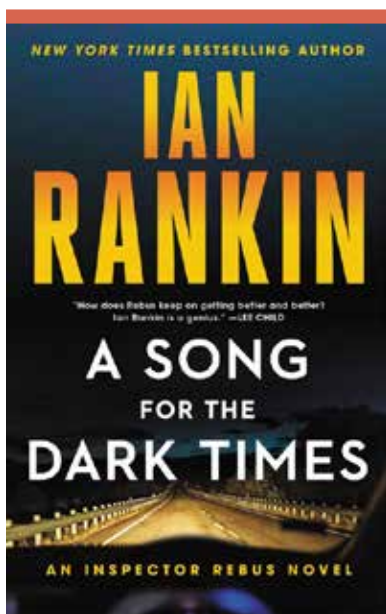
However, Rebus is an inspector no more and in fact the well retired copper is moving apartments in the opening of the story to a ground floor flat, due to ill health, assisted by trusted friend Detective Inspector Siobhan Clarke.

With a dog named Brillo to mind and boxes — including stacks of old case files — to unpack, the reader might be forgiven for thinking Rebus will be relegated to the sidelines. Not so. The murder of a wealthy Saudi student in Edinburgh, followed by a mysterious missing person case, one with a close family connection to

Rebus, has the retiree heading to the Scotland Highlands to investigate.

Rankin's plot whips between the two cases, like a Scottish gale, with Clarke and team investigating the murder — the case touches on recent real-world events such as Brexit, anti-immigrant violence and the murder of Adnan Khashoggi. Rebus, meanwhile, attempts to mend fences with his partially estranged daughter, Samantha, as he searches for her missing partner and probes possible links to a local commune and an abandoned World War Two internment camp.

The Rebus of "A Song for the Dark Times" is a slightly diminished one — he is drinking less, nor do we find him sparring with local Edinburgh gangster Ger Cafferty, though he



"A Song for the Dark Times," by Ian Rankin (Little, Brown)

does play a role in the drama. The retired detective is a wee bit less enjoyable to read, but he is a familiar character with whom the reader will feel comfortable.

Rebus is still the dogged investigator, able to make intuitive leaps about the dark places that inhabit the human soul and lead some to commit murder, whether in the distant past or in more recent times. Rankin will in time, likely retire Rebus for good, so we should appreciate him while we still have him. JONATHAN ELDERFIELD, AP

tTUNES

Seventeen offer fleeting distraction with new EP

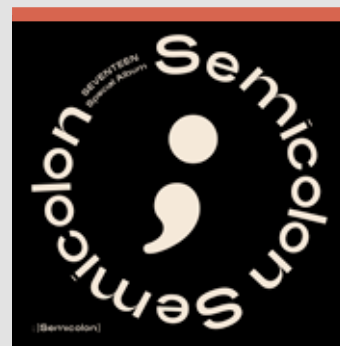
IS it a "Homerun" for Seventeen?

With special album "(Semicolon)," Seventeen offer some comfort pop.

Punctuation can be difficult, as is putting together a great album. Semicolons

are notorious little bumps in the road of run-on sentences. Do they join or do they separate? K-pop's "self-producing idols" Seventeen take the orthographic challenge of bridging their 2020 with a third extended play but not a full-blown fourth studio album.

The six-track record's strategy is to offer easily palatable fare for this difficult period and what better way than to burrow in nostalgia? First



"Semicolon," by Seventeen (Pledis Entertainment)

single "Homerun" is an upbeat poppy lindy hop that gets the energy up in the room, followed by a slow burn trap bass line with "Doremi"; "Hey Buddy" has a playful '80s instru-

mentation vibe that pairs well with the easy listening aura of "Ah!Love!"; "Light a Flame" has the whole orchestra pitch in with a Latin-flavored tune while "All My Love" catches a whiff of one of those '90s boyband hooks.

"(Semicolon)" sums up the entire year perfectly: a little entertainment, a little distraction and, as the hours pass, a little forgettable. CRISTINA JALERU, AP

AD

合夥人 PARTNERS:

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山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues[®]
馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata[®]
趙魯 Zhao Lu[®]
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康靜雅 Viviana Hong
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張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
陳健雄 Eurico Chan
吳霆鋒 Ng Teng Fong

法律專家 JURISTS:

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潘卡莉 Candice Pun
麥彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
羅嘉慧 Emily Lo
陳子健 Chan Chi Kin



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WELLNESS TIME TO SHINE

LIFE in a urban environment like Macau can be hectic. To reduce stress and anxiety, getting a massage is one of the best ways to relax and unwind. Shine Spa at Sheraton Grand Macao is a unique oasis that offers treatments tailoring to individual needs.

Paying homage to the five elements of traditional Chinese medicine, treatments at Shine Spa spoil guests with Elemental Herbology products that incorporate the restorative benefits of the five elements of Feng Shui – Wood, Fire, Earth, Metal and Water – and focus on skin nutrition to increase vitality and youthfulness.

“At our spa, products are

tailored specifically to clients’ needs and preferences. From the pressure to the music or room temperature, one can tell us to adjust anytime. In regards to the massage, we can usually feel where our client would need more work and make recommendations,” says Senior Therapist Michelle Shi.

Extremely well-trained and attentive to every detail, the therapists at Shine Spa are well-known for their superb service and excellent massage skills. From now until the 19th of December, a new range of great value offers and treatment packages are available. It is indeed the perfect way to pamper oneself. **IS**



IRENE SAM, MDT

TASTE OF EDESIA

MANY city dwellers do not have patience for a long lunch during most days. While eating fast food is cheap and saves time, nutritional values might have to be compromised. In Macau, it is difficult to find high quality and delicious rice dishes that have good value for money and nutritional integrity, but one eatery goes the extra mile to prepare simple food.

Take Eat Easy is a to-go establishment that prides themselves in providing healthy

Taste of home

lunches and dinner at a low price. Their Hainanese master chicken rice can compete with any chicken rice available at 5-star integrated resorts, only at a fraction of their price.

“Our sauces are made according to the original Hainan tradition, with garlic and chili. The right amount of spice with a little acidity makes the entire experience of appre-

ciating the flavours fresh and memorable,” says Chef Mickey.

Japanese miso grilled fish rice is another must-try item. The skin is crispy and aromatic while the fish remains juicy.

Made daily without any artificial enhancers, rice dishes at Take Eat Easy are just like homemade meals, but better.

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu



THE SALISBURY 1510 METRES SAND 2020-10-23|Fri|21:05

FANTASTIC FRIENDS was very impressive in his track work in the working, his trainer **KM Chin** took him out for some fast work and he responded well to his asking. **Fantastic Friends** has the ability to perform well on the sand track, he has proven that in his races before. You can ignore his poor performance in his last race, it wasn't his day in that outing. **Fantastic Friends** is looking to end his run of outs with a breakthrough success. In his work under a tight hold you can see him coming to hand expecting some improvement here from him, he drawn well in gate 1, I reckoned he is still on the upside and he still appear to have a number of rating points in hand. **Fantastic Friends** is capable of grabbing another win tonight. Happy Weekend.

**Race 5 | Horse no. 5 Fantastic Friends
Win & Place bets & banker for your quinella**



OPINION

World Views

Tim Duy, Bloomberg



THE LACK OF FISCAL AID WON'T WRECK US CONSUMER SPENDING

In the world of investing, self-storage properties are about as bland as it gets. Then again, U.S. consumers are going to need a place to store the mountains of stuff they bought during the pandemic. Retail sales soared 1.9% in September, more than doubling analysts' estimates of a 0.8% gain. The surge came despite the end of enhanced unemployment benefits at the end of July. Although concern is rising that the absence of a new fiscal aid package will cause retail sales to falter, such worries give too much importance to fiscal aid in supporting retail sales and not enough importance to the changing composition of household spending.

The fiscal aid from earlier this year, tax rebates, forgivable loans to businesses and enhanced unemployment benefits are widely believed to have saved retail spending. Although those moves helped, what seems to have been forgotten is that the drop in aggregate spending — which accounts for about two-thirds of the economy — early in the crisis actually exceeded the drop of incomes after excluding transfer payments. In short, saving rates would have risen even without the extra fiscal aid.

But with the fiscal aid, savings accumulated even faster and household balance sheets dramatically improved. Indeed, spending growth since June has been tracking income growth excluding transfer payments, suggesting that consumers can maintain the pace of consumption even without another fiscal aid package.

Notice, too, that aggregate spending remains below pre-pandemic levels while retail sales are now above pre-pandemic trends. This is because a change in the composition in household spending is the driving force supporting retail sales more so than fiscal aid. Retail sales are mostly goods (excluding food services of course) while overall household spending is mostly about services. Moreover, goods spending has been a steadily decreasing portion of overall spending for decades, at least until this year.

In the 2007-2009 recession, the proportion of spending on goods fell. This year, the proportion rose sharply. Goods spending now exceeds pre-pandemic spending as suggested by the retail sales numbers while services spending remains severely depressed.

In the 2007-2009 recession, households had a choice over how to curtail spending and opted to prioritize services. This year households really didn't have a choice because much of the service economy, leisure and hospitality in particular, remains encumbered by the pandemic. Consequently, even as overall spending fell in-line with incomes excluding transfer payments and remains depressed, households are still effectively forced into spending more on goods. The only other option is to save even more but households have already been saving well above their pre-pandemic preferences.

I had been thinking that retail sales would soon fall back to its pre-pandemic trend. Now after thinking through the situation as outlined above, I am less sure that retail spending will quickly revert back to trend. A full rebound of the services sector will not occur before we get a widely available vaccine or herd immunity which means that households will continue to tilt spending toward goods, holding that sector strong even if the overall economy remains in a hole. To be sure, perhaps consumers will eventually become satiated with goods spending, but even in these partisan times there remains a unifying force that binds all Americans together: The love of shopping.

When the pandemic eases, spending will shift back toward services. Don't panic when that happens; the eventual slowdown in spending on goods won't be a sign the economy is faltering but instead it is part of the healing process. Until then, households will continue to fill basements, attics and garages with the accumulated purchases of the pandemic era. They will eventually need to find new places to store their treasures and I expect they will turn to another feature of the American landscape — the self-storage center.

BANKSY ARTWORK SELLS FOR ALMOST \$10 MILLION AT AUCTION

Banksy's playful take on a famous Impressionist painting has sold at auction for 7.6 million pounds (\$9.8 million), the second-highest price ever paid for a work by the British street artist.

"Show Me the Monet" sold to an unidentified bidder at Sotheby's in London, surpassing its upper pre-sale estimate of 5 million pounds.

In the 2005 work, Banksy added abandoned shopping carts and an orange traffic cone to Claude Monet's image of water lilies in his garden at Giverny.

Alex Branczik, Sotheby's European head of contemporary art, said the work was one of the "strongest and most iconic" Banksy works to appear at auction.

Banksy, whose real name has never been officially confirmed, began his career spray-painting buildings in Bristol, England, and has become one of the world's best-known artists.

Another Banksy work, "Devolved Parliament," sold last year at Sotheby's in London for 9.9 million pounds. Earlier this month, his graffiti-style piece "Forgive Us Our Trespassing" sold for \$8.3 million at Sotheby's in Hong Kong.

THE BUZZ

CELEBRITIES UNITE TO VARIOUS GET-OUT-THE-VOTE EFFORTS

AP PHOTO



This combination photo shows Justin Bieber (from left) Dua Lipa and Demi Lovato who will take part in various planned events urging Americans to vot

MARK KENNEDY, NEW YORK

In the final days before the U.S. election, celebrities from Kerry Washington to Billie Jean King and Danai Gurira are urging Americans to vote. Here are some of the free, nonpartisan efforts:

— Stars like Demi Lovato, Justin Bieber, Amy Schumer, Chelsea Handler, Mark Ruffalo, Dua Lipa, Vic Mensa, Uzo Aduba, Mandy Moore, Russell Westbrook, Katy Perry, Jack Black and Common are backing a virtual rally on Saturday called "Vote With Us." The three-hour event will stream at 3 p.m. ET/Noon PT on www.votewith.us and simulcast across YouTube. Parkland school shooting survivors and "March For Our Lives" activists Emma González and David Hogg will also attend.

— The hourlong "Every Vote Counts: A Celebration of Democracy" will be hosted by Alicia Keys, America Ferrera and Kerry Washington. There will be appearances by Amy Schumer, Chris Rock, Cobie Smulders, Coldplay, Condoleezza Rice, Eva Longoria, Jennifer Lopez, John Kasich, Kelly Clarkson, Leonardo DiCaprio, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Natalie Portman, Shaquille O'Neal, Tan France, Wilmer Valderrama, and performances by Keys, Dan + Shay, Offset and Shawn

Mendes. It's on CBS and CBS All Access on Oct. 29 at 9 p.m.-10 p.m. ET/PT.

— The theater world has its own push with "Act Out: Vote 2020," a night of music and short monologues. It's being led by playwright and "The Walking Dead" star Danai Gurira, Tony Award-winning director Stephen Daldry and two-time Pulitzer Prize winner playwright Lynn Nottage. There will be performances by Yvette Nicole Brown, Ryan J. Haddad, Brian Tyree Henry, Lloyd Knight, Sandra Oh and Ephraim Skyes. The event will be available to stream for free on Oct. 29 at 9 p.m. ET and then live on YouTube until Nov. 2.

— The NFL's voting campaign includes Seattle Seahawks head coach Pete Carroll and quarterback Russell Wilson, San Francisco 49ers tight end George Kittle and Atlanta Falcons running back Todd Gurley. There's also an "Latinos Vote" extension campaign with NFL legends and celebrities encouraging the Latino community to vote that includes Victor Cruz, Roberto Garza and Wilmer Valderrama.

— Theater producer Dale Mott and composer Nolan Williams Jr. have tapped their contacts to create a rousing musical video to encourage voter participation. "I Have A Right To Vote" video fea-

tures "Hamilton" original cast member Christopher Jackson, tennis great Billie Jean King, entertainer Billy Porter, chef Carla Hall and others reciting the words of voting rights icons including John Lewis, Frederick Douglass and Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

— Even Donald Duck is championing voters. The musical animated short "Everybody Gets a Vote" debuts Oct. 25 on Disney Junior YouTube and DisneyNOW and Nov. 1 on Disney Junior. It's designed to encourage kids aged 2-7 to develop positive attitudes about themselves and as a member of a community. In the video, Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck, Mira, Vampirina and baby Kermit determine that a vote is the fairest way to choose a playtime game.

— Virgin Hotels, Sir Richard Branson's lifestyle hotel brand, has launched a "Don't Sleep on Voting" campaign in partnership with The Source. The social media based campaign will roll out daily video messages on Instagram from the likes of rapper, singer and record producer Vic Mensa, singer-songwriter Cassadee Pope and comedian and actor Felonious Munk. Influencers were encouraged to create a video in their own, personal style to ensure a powerful call-to-action. AP

AP PHOTO



Indonesia Intense rains caused a landslide at a coal mine on Indonesia's Sumatra island that killed 11 miners, authorities said yesterday. The slide occurred in a mine tunnel about 20 meters deep at Tanjung Lalang village in Muara Enim district of South Sumatra province. Rescuers have recovered all the bodies.

AP PHOTO



Russia A trio of space travelers safely returned to Earth yesterday after a six-month mission on the International Space Station. The Soyuz MS-16 capsule carrying NASA astronaut Chris Cassidy, and Roscosmos' Anatoly Ivanishin and Ivan Vagner landed on the steppes of Kazakhstan southeast of the town of Dzhezkazgan. After a brief medical checkup, the three will be taken by helicopters to Dzhezkazgan from where they will depart home.

AP PHOTO



US The Trump administration has approved the sale of more than a billion dollars worth of advanced weaponry for Taiwan in a move that will enrage China and further exacerbate tensions between Washington and Beijing that have already heated over issues such as trade, Tibet, Hong Kong and the South China Sea. The State Department announced Wednesday it had greenlighted the sale of 135 precision land attack missiles, associated equipment and training to Taiwan to improve its defense capabilities.

More on p10

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Tuesday October 27. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.