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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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P3

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

MELCO RESORTS EXPERIENCED A MODERATE REVENUE RECOVERY IN THIRD QUARTER DUE TO IVS

REINSTATEMENT

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys

GOV'T REPORTS LOW BUDGET EXECUTION EFFICIENCY IN 2019

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN"

500 FILIPINO NATIONALS STILL WAITING FOR FLIGHTS **HOME AFTER 197 WERE** REPATRIATED YESTERDAY



Indonesian authorities raised the danger level for the volatile Mount Merapi volcano on the densely populated island of Java vesterday and ordered a halt to tourism and mining activities. Indonesia's geological agency raised Merapi's alert level, which had been at the thirdhighest level since it began erupting last year, to the second-highest level after sensors picked up increasing activity.

Pakistan A guard shot and killed the manager of a local bank in eastern Punjab province after accusing him of insulting Islam's Prophet Mohammad, police said. As the guard, Ahmad Nawaz, was being arrested, he started chanting slogans of love for the prophet. It drew the attention of local Islamists who rushed to the scene and started hugging the guard in support.



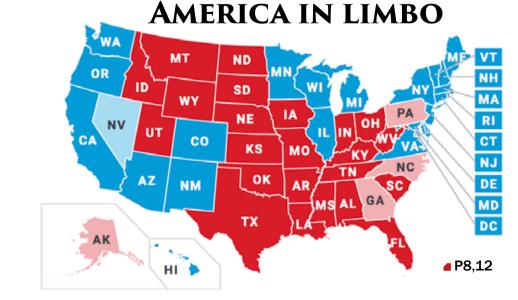
US App-based companies like Uber, Lyft and Doordash have dodged a potentially devastating blow to their industry by carving out an exemption from a California law that required them to classify their drivers as employees instead of contractors. California voters passed Proposition 22 and delivered a stinging rebuke to state lawmakers and labor leaders who were fighting for better working conditions for a growing number of people who drive for ride-hailing and food delivery services.

Mexican airline Interjet resumed flights and pledged to pay back wages owed its employees, after the carrier suspended flights for three days, citing cash flow and maintenance issues. Interjet has said it has suffered because of a drop-off in revenues due to the coronavirus pandemic. In a statement, the company pledged to pay back wages "as soon as possible."

More on backpage



NEARLY 60% **OF CASINO WORKFORCE FURLOUGHED WITHOUT PAY**



P4



■ MacauDaily 澳門每日時報。

OVER 1,000 TAXIS **EQUIPPED WITH MONITORING DEVICES**

A total of 1,060 taxis have been equipped with monitoring devices, according to a statement released by the Transport Bureau (DSAT). These are used for recording. navigation and other functions. These devices were installed on 13 types of vehicles and as of last Tuesday, have registered over 710,000 transactions and reported 91 malfunctions. The DSAT has asked the device supplier to continue to investigate the problems and improve the system, and to compensate the affected drivers for issues that are confirmed to be caused by the supplier's manual errors or setting

GOV'T CONCLUDES DRAFTING TRADE UNION LAW CONSULTATION TEXT

The Macau SAR government has completed the drafting of the Trade Union Law consultation text, according to a statement released by the Office for the Secretary for Economy and Finance. As the Trade Union Law is a major labor policy and the law is closely related to the rights and interests of both employers and employees, the government has sent the consultation text to the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs to ensure that they hear the opinions of employers and employees. The content conceived in the consultation text not only includes a trade union registration system, but also a collective consultation system.

PHONE FRAUD SUSPECT **GRANTED BAIL**

A university student suspected of phone fraud has been set free on bond, according to a statement released by the prosecution authority. Recently, the police authority apprehended a mainland youth because he was a suspect of phone fraud. He is currently studying at a Macau university. The man is accused of co-conspiring to trick a middle-aged Macau woman into transferring more than HKD2 million to other unidentified suspects. After receiving the case from the police department, the prosecution authority conducted a preliminary interrogation of the man. Considering the severity of the case, the criminal court issued an order to set the man free under strict bail conditions and banned him from leaving the city.



GOV'T REPORTS LOW BUDGET EXECUTION EFFICIENCY IN 2019

JULIE ZHU

THE government budget **■** execution efficiency in 2019 was low due to authorities' inability to invest in various projects, according to the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Yesterday, the Second Standing Committee of the AL discussed the budget implementation efficiency of 2019 with several government representatives, including the Financial Services Bureau (DSF), the Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Fund, the Industrial and Commercial Development Fund, the Welfare Association of the Public Security Police Force (Obra Social da Polícia de Segurança Pública), the Mortgage Loan Scheme, and other organizations.

In 2019, the DSF paid East Asia Airlines Limited 220 million patacas as compensation for the company having to relocate its helicopter maintenance depot to Macau International Airport. In total, the compensation amounted

to 535 million patacas. The remaining balance is expected to be settled this year.

That year, the finance authority used 2.4 billion patacas of a joint expenditure budget of 3.2 billion patacas. A 1.2 billion patacas, meanwhile, is reserved for the Jiangsu-Macau Cooperation Zone project, which is currently awaiting approval from the central government.

As for the Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Fund, the budget implementation rate last year was only 14%. The fund only spent 3.5 million patacas of their 24.5 million pataca budget. According to AL committee chairman Chan Chak Mo, the department received 49 applications for subsidies last year, 35 of which were not approved.

In addition, the environmental protection fund reserved 19 million patacas for the recycling industry as subsidies for the purchase of vehicles. However, only 190,000 patacas was spent. They received 12 applications in total for subsidies from this specific fund, but only one was approved. The government explained that many recycling business operators were not using legal land, and that if the government subsidized those businesses they would be supporting illicit operations.

The Industrial and Commercial Development Fund budget for last year was 2.3 billion patacas.

The department explained that 1.42 billion patacas from the budget was paid as subsidies for the China-Portuguese Speaking Country Development Fund.

In 2019, the PSP Welfare Association had a budget of 50 million patacas, but the execution rate was approximately 40%. The association has over 6,000 members. Approximately 7 million patacas was reserved for procurement, management, shopping and transportation for the association's canteen.

However, the association was unable to implement the plan. In 2019, the association planned to develop two of its own properties into clubs for the association but eventually these two projects were not approved. In addition, the association had also planned to rent six of its shop properties but was unable to rent them.

Regarding the fund for the Mortgage Loan Scheme, the government had reserved a budget of more than 2 million patacas last year. This fund is under the administration of Macao Postal Savings. One part of the budget was designated to sponsoring civil servants to purchase houses.

However, the city's new Affordable Housing law suspended the relevant application. The fund is currently handling the last 199 applications.

The Building Maintenance und had a budget of more than 40 million patacas in 2019, with an execution rate of 58%. They only received a small number of applications asking for money to subsidize illicit building demolitions. In addition, the building maintenance fund received no applications for money from the low-rise building inspection subsidy scheme.

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MACALI'S LEADING NEWSDADEL

Nearly 500 Filipino nationals still waiting for flights home

LYNZY VALLES

repatriation flights to Manila, the Philippine Consulate General in Macau is still dealing with a record number of nearly 500 Filipino nationals who wish to return home after being laid off from their jobs.

Yesterday, the consulate's 11th repatriation flight carried a total of 197 passengers, as well as two infants and three bodies. Some of the passengers had medical conditions or were pregnant.

The majority of the passengers were former blue card holders who had been laid off, mostly by gaming operators.

"From our list last Wednesday, there were still around 688 nationals that wish to be repatriated. We're deducting 197 from the list, so there is about 400 more," said Lilybeth Deapera, Consul General of the Philippine Consulate in the SAR.

The consulate again communicated with a local travel agency, who then collaborated with



Passangers queueing at the airport yesterday

Philippine Airlines to arrange the flight.

Passengers who were repatriated did not have to pay a fee for the first few repatriation flights arranged by the consulate and the Philippine government. However, the recent repatriation flights have cost between 1,400 to approximately 1,800 patacas.

"We were previously told that some commercial airlines will already be flying commercially but since then, it didn't [eventuate] so we approached a travel agency and they were the ones who negotiated with Philippine Airlines, as well as collected ticket fees," Deapera explained.

The passengers are chosen by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and the Philippine Overseas Labor Office in Macau.

These two offices prioritize people who are pregnant or have

medical conditions, and senior citizens.

Yesterday, passengers who were in wheelchairs and needed assistance due to their medical conditions were seen at the local airport.

Filipino nationals are required to fill out an online form to request a chartered flight back home. This also serves as a list for the consulate's records.

Many of Macau's migrant

workers were dismissed due to the economic downturn and continuous plunge in the city's gross gaming revenue due to the pandemic. The situation has persisted since February.

The Macau SAR recorded a total of 181,697 non-resident workers in September, down nearly 9,700 from the start of the pandemic in February and almost 12,000 since the start of the year.

A data release from the Public Security Police Force implied that there had been continuous cuts to and non-renewals of non-resident workers' permits since start of the pandemic.

Several repatriation flights were also conducted for nationals from Nepal, India and Myanmar earlier this year, particularly during the second quarter.

Meanwhile, when questioned about the employment law amendment on non-resident workers, Deapera remarked, "I guess it is also for the benefit of the workers, as they will now be [formally] coming through the Philippine government [to work abroad]."

Normally, a Filipino national would have to go through the country's overseas employment administration to work abroad and ensure that they are recorded in their system as an overseas Filipino worker.



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STAFF REPORTER

THE majority of casino workers **⊥** in Macau are wrestling with financial hardship, with 59.6% of them forced to take unpaid leave, according to a recent survey released by the Macau Gaming Enterprises Staff Association yesterday.

Of those furloughed, 90.7% were asked to take unpaid leave in the form of compassionate leave, while another 6.6% were forced to be off on assigned days.

The survey also indicates that length of service is a key deciding factor – the longer the employee has spent at a job, the more likely it is that they will be placed on leave without pay.

In general, around 80% of respondents view their career prospects with trepidation, ranging from "worried" to "very worried." Despite that, merely 8% said that they are planning to change jobs or industry this year.

The association proposed four suggestions to safeguard the entitlements of affected employees. It called on the Macau government to introduce legislation to regulate unpaid leave, implement measures for a rapid economic rebound, provide training incentives to upskill employees and adjust the foreign employment quota to protect job opportunities for locals.

The survey was conducted both online and on the streets in August, and polled a total of 611 staff from casinos.

Recently, one of the gaming associations has alleged that the underemployment rate among casino workers is "far more" se-

Nearly 60% of Casino Workforce FURLOUGHED WITHOUT PAY



rious than suggested by the statistics presented by the local go-

Previously, the New Macau Gaming Staff Rights Association pointed out that over 20,000 gaming industry employees are now underemployed, by which the association means the workers are subject to unpaid leave as well as other welfare cuts.

The group notes that gaming companies have estimated an increase in service demand following the resumption of travel permits by mainland China. However, despite the possibility of small-scale business recovery, casinos may continue implementing their unpaid leave poli-

With global tourism at a standstill, the gaming industry in particular has been reeling from the repercussions of Covid-19. The casino gross gaming revenue in Macau dropped sharply by 90% year-on-year in September to 2.21 billion patacas, according to the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Although the figure rose 228.8% month-to-month in October to 7.27 billion patacas, the monthly tally was still down 72.5 percent from the 26.44 billion patacas achieved in October 2019.

The resumption of the Individual Visit Scheme for all Chinese visitors since September 23 has been a boon, slowly uplifting the sagging industry. The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) projects that Macau will see some 24,000 daily arrivals from mainland China as a best-case scenario until the year's end.

Overall, the MGTO is expecting a plunge of over 90% in tourist arrivals for 2020, indicating that the casino industry may take some more time to return to pre--Covid-19 levels.

Meanwhile, Macau's unemployment rate is on the rise amid the Covid-19 pandemic, with the latest figure - which covers the period from June to August - rising to 4% for the resident workforce and 2.8% overall.

The unemployment situation for the resident workforce is worsening, as a 0.2% increase from the previous May to July period was recorded. Meanwhile, the overall unemployment rate increased 0.1% compared to the May-July period.

Melco Resorts attribute slight business recovery to IVS reinstatement

LYNZY VALLES

MEntertainment operating revenues was Limited experienced a moderate recovery in business levels during the third quarter, benefiting from the partial resumption of casino operations in Cyprus and Manila, as well as the gradual resumption of visa issuances by the mainland Chinese authorities under the Individual Visit Scheme.

Yesterday, the gaming operator announced that the total operating revenues for the third quarter of 2020 were USD0.21 billion, representing a decrease of approximately 85% from \$1.44 billion for the comparable period in 2019.

primarily attributable to softer performance in all gaming segments and non-gaming operations as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in a significant decline in inbound tourism in the third quarter of 2020.

Operating loss for the third quarter of 2020 was \$275.0 million, compared with operating income of \$175.2 million in the third quarter of

Melco generated negative Adjusted Property EBITDA of \$76.7 million in the third quarter of 2020, compared with

Adjusted Property EBI-TDA of \$418.2 million in the third quarter of 2019.

Lawrence Ho, Chairman and CEO, commented, "Covid-19 and the subsequent travel restrictions continue to have a significant negative impact on our operating and financial performance."

"Melco also fully supports the Macau SAR government's newly launched scheme for tourists from mainland China with the aim to expand the number of visitors, boost the economy and protect local jobs," he added.

Amid the economic downturn caused by the pandemic outbreak, Ho

said that Melco remains committed to its global development program, noting that the construction on the expansion of Studio City is

Upon completion, Studio City will offer approximately 900 additional luxury hotel rooms and suites, an indoor and outdoor water parks, a Cineplex, fine--dining restaurants and an art MICE space.

Turning to Japan, Ho remarked, "The process in Japan has been substantially delayed and remains complex. We will continue to be patient as we evaluate the landscape to ensure that Melco pursues the right opportunity."

OVER 1,700 NEW FIRMS established in Q3

new companies were incorporated in the third quarter of 2020, an increase of 294 year--on-year, according to the Statistics and Census Service.

Newly incorporated companies operating in Wholesale & Retail Trade and Business Services totalled 646 and 417 respectively. However, the total value of registered capital fell by 80.5% year-on-year to 105 million patacas.

Meanwhile, there were 165 companies in dissolution in the third quarter, and the value of registered capital of these companies amounted to 64 million patacas.

In terms of origin of capital, Macau contributed 66 million patacas to the capital of newly incorporated companies, accounting for 62.6% of the total.

Capital from Hong Kong amounted to 17 million pa-

AMID the slow growth of the tacas. Capital from mainland china totalled 12 million patacas, of which 57.4% came from the mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area. Analysed by combination of shareholders, 1,477 new companies were established solely by Macau shareholders, while 86 were joint ventures between shareholders from Macau and other countries or regions.

> In the first three quarters of 2020, a total of 4,158 new companies were incorporated, down by 11.6% year-on-year; total value of registered capital fell by 88.2% to 464 million patacas. Number of companies in dissolution totalled 503, and the value of registered capital of these companies amounted to 170 million patacas. At the end of the third quarter of 2020, number of registered companies in the SAR totalled 75,095, an increase of 4,852 from a year earlier. LV



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Encontra-se aberto o processo da pré-qualificação do concurso público para a "Prestação de Serviços de Segurança para 11 Estações da Linha da Taipa do Metro Ligeiro de Macau em 2021".

Os interessados podem exigir, através do envio de um e-mail, para procurement@mtr.com.mo, até 21 de Novembro de 2020, a documentação da pré-qualificação do referido concurso, e devem enviar os documentos, devidamente preenchidos, para o mesmo endereço de e-mail, antes das 18h00 do dia 21 de Novembro de 2020.

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IFTM OPENS NEW BUILDING FOR ITS SILVER JUBILEE

'N the year marking its Silver yesterday. **■** Jubilee, the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies (IFTM) unveiled its Silver Jubilee Building in Taipa

The building was originally built and owned by the University of Macau before it was relocated

to Hengqin. When it was first launched, the building was intended to celebrate the university's 25th anniversary.

In her speech, President of the IFTM Fanny Vong disclosed that building is not fully operational for the time being. Further refurbishment is necessary before it can be completely handed over to the IFTM. However, two floors of the building were opened yesterday.

The government previously assigned the old library building of the University of Macau before they relocated to the IFTM, who renamed it the Forward Building.

The IFTM president noted that the Taipa campus has so far enriched the institute's overall facili-

Furthermore, the president also disclosed that the government has assigned another land plot in the old University of Macau campus as a land reserve of the IFTM. It may be used to further expand the facilities of the institute to cope with its development.

The president expects that the new land plot will be used for an international tourism education complex. It is hoped that the prospective building will serve as an icon of the IFTM in the future.

As for the facilities to be housed under the roof of the complex, Vong foresees that there will be simulation classrooms, study rooms, cultural and artistic exhibition spaces, activity and leisure areas, as well as administrative spaces.

The IFTM president said, "The future building will help improve the institute's quality of teaching, in turn nurture more professional talents for the local tourism industry."

Before the launch ceremony of the new IFTM building, an opening ceremony was held at the IFTM's STDM Auditorium for a culture and tourism development training course covering the Greater Bay Area.

In her opening speech, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Elsie Ao Ieong U, pointed out that the course is a "top-notch project to actualize the Greater Bay Area Tourism Education Training Base."

The course will focus on the current state of the tourism industry, future development trends, the characteristics of Macau's tourism industry, as well as the integration of culture and tourism. The secretary hopes that students will be inspired by the course. AL

AL SEEKS PUBLIC OPINION ON SECURITY FORCE GENERAL CLAUSE



JULIE ZHU

CTARTING today, the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) will seek public opinions on the security force and security department manpower general clause for a 30-day consultation period.

Yesterday, the AL standing committee held the first meeting to discuss each of the prescriptions.

Committee chairman Vong Hin Fai said that the AL committee had received a letter from one local group which complained that the AL committee did not consult the group regarding the law.

According to Vong, the local government had previously presented documents which included written opinions

submitted by two local groups, including the aforementioned

Vong reiterated that, this time the AL committee was giving the public 30 days to voice their opinions, but it is not consulting with members of the public in regards to the bill.

Any group can now submit its opinions to the AL via email or mail. The committee will forward the opinions to the government.

In total, the security force bill has 227 articles, considerably fewer than the current legislation, which has 330 articles.

During yesterday's committee meeting, some lawmakers questioned the fact that articles related to individuals' rights had been removed from the bill. The committee will invite government representatives to respond to these con-

The security force and security department manpower general clause proposes more opportunities for concerned officers to receive promotions. For example, once it comes into effect, the government can establish a special committee to review promotion procedures.

The law also allows the Public Security Police Force to recruit personnel with professional skills to fill specific positions needed at the Force.

In addition, the general clause also suggests that non--security forces and non-security department personnel may be appointed as pre-auditors in disciplinary procedures.

GOV'T TO PILOT CARER'S ALLOWANCE FOR A YEAR

THE Social Welfare **▲** Bureau will launch a pilot scheme for caregiver's allowance, which will be tested by the government for a year, from December 2020 till November 2021. The application period will start next Monday and last until November 2021.

The reason for its one--year validity is that this allowance is emerging as a pilot scheme.

As per the current plan, the allowance covers individuals who suffer from severe to extremely severe intellectual disability, or those who cannot stand or sit by themselves, meaning that they are forced to lie flat most of the time.

The allowance will be issued to their carers as livelihood support amounting to MOP2,175 per month. The allowance will be

issued on a partial basis under certain conditions, the government stated. When the ill individual is not in Macau, is hospitalized or is urgently accepted into any accommodation facility other than their own home for more than 30 days, the allowance will be issued in part, based on the number of days exceeding the 30-day threshold.

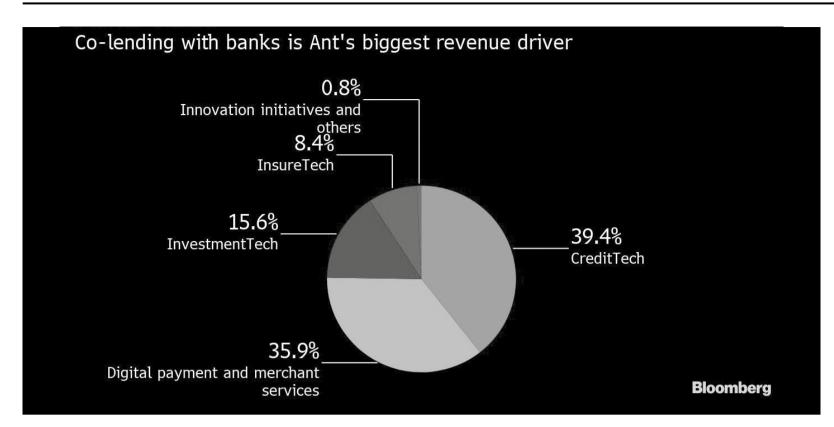
The scheme requires eligible beneficiaries to

be Macau permanent residents and reside in Macau with their family members.

The household's financial status, including bank savings, cash and valued securities, will be taken into account and should not exceed set amounts for respective household sizes. In addition, the scheme also stipulates that each household should not own more than one residential property and one car parking space for personal use both in and out of Macau

This evaluation process is similar to that for subsidized housing applicants. AL





ANT GROUP

Inside the chaotic unraveling of Jack Ma's \$35 billion IPO

HE mid-level bureaucrats left China's richest man waiting as they prepared for a meeting that would send shockwaves across the financial world.

It was Monday morning in Beijing, and Jack Ma had been summoned to a conference room at the China Securities Regulatory Commission just days before he was set to take Ant Group Co. public in the biggest stock-market debut of all time.

When the bureaucrats finally turned up, they skipped over pleasantries and delivered an ominous message: Ant's days of relaxed government oversight and minimal capital requirements were over. The meeting ended without a discussion of Ant's IPO, but it was a sign that things might not go as planned.

The subsequent unraveling of the \$35 billion share sale has thrust Ma's fintech giant into turmoil, offering a stark reminder that even China's most celebrated businessman isn't immune to the whims of a Communist Party that has steadily tightened its grip on the world's second-largest economy under Xi Jinping's leadership

Among the questions that linger as international investors try to make sense of a chaotic 72 hours: Why would China scuttle Ant's IPO at the last minute after months of meticulous preparation? And what does the future hold for one of the country's most important companies?

Interviews with regulators, bankers and Ant executives offer some answers, though even insiders say only China's top leaders can be confident of what happens next. Most of the people who spoke for this story did so on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive matters.

Ma's meeting in Beijing on Monday triggered a behind-the-scenes scramble by Ant and its bankers for more clarity from Chinese regulators. While CSRC officials signaled at the time they weren't aware of any changes to the IPO plans, the regulator's cryptic social media post later that day about a "supervisory interview" with Ma set tongues wagging from Hong Kong to New York.

By Tuesday afternoon, the mood had worsened as whispers of a delay began circulating in Shanghai. At around 8 p.m., the city's stock exchange called Ant to say the IPO would be suspended.

When the official statement landed less than an hour later, it cited a "significant change" in the regulatory environment but offered few additional details on why authorities would scupper the listing two days before shares were expected to start trading.

Later that evening, at a hastily arranged meeting between Ant's bankers and the CSRC, officials pointed to the company's need for more capital and new licenses to comply with a spate of regulations for financial conglomerates that had begun taking effect at the start of November. There was no discussion of how quickly the IPO could be restarted.

An Ant spokesman said the need for more capital and new licenses wasn't discussed in the meeting but declined to provide more details.

THE PROSPECTUS

One concern among regulators was that the stricter rules may not have been fully disclosed in Ant's prospectus. On top of the new financial conglomerate regulations, the government had on Monday released stringent draft rules for consumer loans that would require Ant to provide at least 30% of the funding for loans it underwrites for banks and other financial institutions. Ant currently funds just 2% of its loans, with the rest taken up by third parties or packaged as securities.

Several officials said it was better to stop the listing at the 11th hour than to let it proceed and expose investors to potential losses.

That sentiment was shared by at least one institutional money manager, who said he had practically begged an Ant executive for an IPO allocation during a meeting at the Mandarin Oriental hotel in Hong Kong. Now that he has a clearer idea of the regulatory risks, he's relieved the share sale was shelved.

The CSRC said in a statement on Wednesday that preventing a "hasty" listing of Ant in a changing regulatory environment was a responsible move for the market and investors.

Still, some China watchers have an alternative theory for why Xi's government acted the way it did: it wanted to send a message.

STATE MEDIA RANT

Ma, a former teacher who's widely revered in China, faced an unusual amount of criticism in state media after he slammed the country's financial rules for stifling innovation at a conference in Shanghai on Oct. 24. His remarks came after Vice President Wang Qishan - a Xi confidante - called for a balance between innovation and strong regulations to prevent financial risks.

"It appeared that, intentionally or not, Ma was openly defying and criticizing the Chinese government's approach to financial regulation," Andrew Batson, China research director at Gavekal Research, wrote in a report.

The weekend before Ma was summoned to Beijing, the Financial Stability and Development Committee led by Vice Premier Liu He stressed the need for fintech firms to be regulated.

In one sign authorities may keep up the pressure on Ant, people familiar with the matter said on Wednesday that regulators plan to discourage banks from using the fintech firm's online lending platforms. The directive strikes at the heart of Ant's commission-based lending model, which generated about 29 billion yuan (\$4.4 billion) of revenue in the six months ended June.

Any suggestion that banks will stop using its platforms is unsubstantiated, Ant said in a response to questions from Bloomberg.

Some investors are bracing for tougher times at both Ant and the rest of Ma's business empire. Shares of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., which owns about a third of Ant, tumbled more than 8% on Tuesday in New York for the steepest drop in five years. The slump cut Ma's wealth by almost \$3 billion to \$58 billion, dragging him down to No. 2 on China's rich list behind Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s Pony Ma.

BROADER CONCERNS

The IPO debacle has raised broader concerns about China's commitment to transparency as it tries to lure international investors.

On Tuesday, confusion over the suspension triggered a flood of calls to Ant's bankers from baffled money managers. The sense of whiplash in some cases was stark: Just an hour or two before the suspension was announced, Ant's investor relations team was still trying to confirm attendance at a post-IPO gala in Hong Kong. One of the company's biggest foreign investors predicted the episode could do lasting damage to confidence in China's capital markets.

It may also have spillover effects on Hong Kong, whose status as a premier financial hub has already come under question amid increased meddling from Beijing. Nearly a fifth of the city's population by one estimate had signed up to buy Ant shares; many who had planned on a windfall were instead stuck paying interest expenses on useless margin loans.

"The lack of transparency reminds us that the 'Chinese way' remains fraught with issues," said Fraser Howie, author of "Red Capitalism: The Fragile Financial Foundation of China's Extraordinary Rise."

ANT'S SAFE

As for Ant itself, it's unlikely that the IPO suspension will deal a fatal blow. The company had 71 billion yuan of cash and equivalents as of June and is one of China's most systemically important institutions. The last thing authorities want is a destabilizing loss of confidence in a business that plays a key role in the nation's financial plumbing.

The more pertinent risk for Ant is a decline in its breakneck pace of growth and lofty valuation. China's new regulations will force the company to act more like a traditional lender and less like an asset-light provider of technology services to the financial industry. That will almost certainly mean a lower price-earnings ratio for the stock if it eventually lists.

Also looming is the introduction of China's central bank digital currency, which threatens to erode Ant's dominance in payments. That could have implications for the company's other businesses as well. Ant's credit platform, for instance, utilizes its huge trove of payments data to assess the financial strength of borrowers who often lack collateral or formal credit histories.

All of that will be bad news for shareholders who propelled Ant's valuation to \$315 billion - higher than that of JPMorgan Chase & Co. But it may suit regulators and party leaders who worry that Ma's creation has grown too big, too fast. MDT/BLOOMBERG

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報。

US ELECTION DAY(S)

Biden rebuilding 'blue wall' in race for the White House

E M O C R A T Joe Biden was pushing closer to the 270 Electoral College votes needed to carry the White House, securing victories in the "blue wall" battlegrounds of Wisconsin and Michigan and narrowing President Donald Trump's path.

With just a handful of states still up for grabs, Trump tried to press his case in court in some key swing states. It was unclear if any of his campaign's legal maneuvering over balloting would succeed in shifting the race in his favor.

Two days after Election Day, neither candidate had amassed the votes needed to win the White House. But Biden's victories in the Great Lakes states left him at 264, meaning he was one battle-ground state away — any would do — from becoming president-elect.

Trump, with 214 electoral votes, faced a much higher hurdle. To reach 270, he needed to claim all four remaining battlegrounds: Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Georgia and Nevada.

With millions of votes yet to be tabulated, Biden already had received more than 71 million votes, the most in history. At an afternoon news conference yesterday [Macau time], the former vice president said he expected to win the presidency but stopped short of outright declaring victory.

"I will govern as an American president," Biden said.
"There will be no red states and blue states when we win. Just the United States of America."

It was a stark contrast to the approach of Trump, who earlier falsely claimed that he had won the election.

Trump's campaign engaged in a flurry of legal activity to try to improve the Republican president's chances and cast doubt on the election results, requesting a recount in Wisconsin and filing lawsuits in Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia. Statewide recounts in Wisconsin have historically changed the vote tally by only a few hundred votes; Biden led by more than 20,000 ballots out of nearly 3.3 million counted.



For four years, Democrats have been haunted by the crumbling of the blue wall, the trio of Great Lakes states — Michigan, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania — that their candidates had been able to count on every four years. But Trump's populist appeal struck a chord with white working-class voters and he captured all three in 2016 by a combined total of just 77,000 votes.

The candidates waged a fierce fight for the states this year, with Biden's everyman political persona resonating in blue-collar towns while his campaign also pushed to increase turnout among Black voters in cities like Detroit and Milwaukee.

It was unclear when a national winner would be determined after a long, bitter campaign dominated by the coronavirus and its effects on Americans and the national economy. But even as Biden's prospects improved, the U.S. set another record for daily confirmed coronavirus cases as several states posted all-time highs. The pandemic has killed more than 233,000 people in the United States.

Trump spent much of the day in the White House residence, huddling with advisers and fuming at media coverage showing his Democratic rival picking up battlegrounds. Trump used his Twitter feed to falsely claim victory in several key states and amplify unsubstantiated conspiracy theories about Democratic gains as absentee and early votes were tabulated.

Trump campaign manager Bill Stepien said the president would formally request a Wisconsin recount, citing "irregularities" in several counties. And the campaign said it was filing suit in Michigan and Pennsylvania to halt ballot counting on grounds that it wasn't given proper access to observe. Still more legal action was launched in Georgia.

At the same time, hundreds of thousands of votes were still to be counted in Pennsylvania, and Trump's campaign said it was moving to intervene in existing Supreme Court litigation over counting mail-in ballots there.

In other closely watched races, Trump picked up Florida, the largest of the swing states, and held onto Texas and Ohio while Biden kept New Hampshire and Minnesota.

Beyond the presidency, Democrats had hoped the election would allow the party to reclaim the Senate and pad its majority in the House. But while the voting scrambled seats in the House and Senate, it ultimately left Congress much like it began — deeply divided.

The candidates spent months pressing dramatically different visions for the nation's future, including on racial justice, and voters responded in huge numbers, with more than 100 million people casting votes ahead of Election Day.

Trump, in an extraordinary move from the White House, issued premature claims of victory and said he would take the election to the Supreme Court to stop the counting.

Senate Majority Leader

Mitch McConnell discounted the president's quick claim of victory, saying it would take a while for states to conduct their vote counts. The Kentucky Republican said that "claiming you've won the election is different from finishing the counting."

Vote tabulations routinely continue beyond Election Day, and states largely set the rules for when the count has to end. In presidential elections, a key point is the date in December when presidential electors meet. That's set by federal law.

Dozens of Trump supporters chanting "Stop the count!" descended on a ballot-tallying center in Detroit, while thousands of anti-Trump protesters demanding a complete vote count took to the streets in cities across the U.S.

Protests — sometimes about the election, sometimes about racial inequality — took place yesterday in at least a half-dozen cities, including Los Angeles, Seattle, Houston, Pittsburgh, Minneapolis and San Diego.

Several states allow mailed-in votes to be accepted after Election Day as long as they were postmarked by Tuesday. That includes Pennsylvania, where ballots postmarked by Nov. 3 can be accepted if they arrive up to three days later.

The Trump campaign pushed Republican donors to dig deeper into their pockets to help finance legal challenges. Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel, during a donor call, spoke plainly: "The fight's not over. We're in it." MDT/AP

this day in history



1996 'COMEBACK KID' WINS SECOND TERM



Bill Clinton is basking in a resounding victory over Republican Bob Dole and the prospect of four more years in the White House.

He is the first Democratic President in US history to be re-elected since Franklin D Roosevelt, taking 49.2% of the popular vote to Mr Dole's 40.8%.

With voter turnout at its lowest in nearly 70 years at just over 49%, Democrats took 379 electoral votes and 31 states and the District of Columbia, including former Republican strongholds of Florida and Arizona.

Republicans got 159 electoral votes and just 19 states while billionaire Ross Perot, standing as an independent. took no states at all.

But it was not all good news for the Democrats as Republicans retained control of both houses of Congress which they won during the congressional elections two years ago. They increased their hold on the Senate by one seat

where they now have a 54-45 lead.

Republican Party Chairman Haley Barbour said the re-election of President Clinton was, in fact, a victory for his

"On taxes and on a balanced budget and on crime, Bill Clinton sounded like a Republican. This election was a validation of the Republican Congress," he said.

However, the Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, who led a highly unpopular Republican "revolution" that blocked the budget last year, was conciliatory today saying his party had a duty to "reach out" to the president.

President Clinton has once again earned his nickname of the "Comeback Kid", undeterred by the recent Whitewater real estate scandal still under investigation.

In a speech to 40,000 supporters at his home town of Little Rock alongside his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, the former governor of Arkansas said the voters "are sending us a message - work together, meet our challenges, put aside the politics of division and build America's community together".

He added: "It's time to put country ahead of party."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Bill Clinton's presidency ended in 2001.

His most enduring legacy is likely to be the economic boom which began shortly before he took office in 1992. During the eight years of the presidency, the economy expanded by 50% in real terms, and by the end of his tenure the US had a gross national product of \$10,000bn - one quarter of the entire world economic output.

His second term was dogged by the Monica Lewinsky sex scandal which he first vehemently denied and then admitted in a televised speech to the Grand Jury.

After Kenneth Starr's report into Bill Clinton was published in September 1998, the House Judiciary Committee decided to impeach him and he became only the second

in September 1998, the House Judiciary Committee decided to impeach him and he became only the second president in American history to face such an indictment. His trial ended on 12 February 1999 when senators voted to acquit him of the impeachment charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.

In September 2000, the Clintons were cleared of wrongdoing in the Whitewater land deal, a failed Arkansas property venture that involved Hillary and Bill Clinton when he was governor of the state in the 1980s and Mrs Clinton was a partner in a local law firm.

page 9



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Patience has never been your strong suit, especially when it comes to anything you want. If there's something out there you have a hankering for, you won't be willing to wait until it's half price.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Some quality time alone, or, if you're attached, with your one and only, is definitely in order. And that means doing something that's particularly tough for you: disconnecting the electronic devices.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Upcoming events that you fear might be dangerous actually hold no real threat to you or your current lifestyle, so don't spend any time worrying today. Your fears right now are not warranted at all.



LIBRA

Sep.23-Oct. 22

There's a tender, affectionate energy in the heavens above you, the kind that's tailor-made for an evening in. Order some rich, sinful takeout, open a nice bottle of wine, and stream some romantic movies.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you add to that energy, you'll miss the mark by a mile. Slow down, step out of the action, and wait for what you want to come your way. It won't be too long.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Clearly, you adore your family. And your friends are very, very special to you, too. They're always there for you, and vice versa, and you undoubtedly share an awful lot of memories.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Speaking of making a move, if you don't do it first, someone else will. Enough with thinking about it, mulling it over, and trying to decide which moment would be best.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

But if you do decide to go, start making your plans. It's a terrific time to look into travel deals. And weren't you just wishing for a break from your routine? Well,



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Don't hold back your feelings for a second longer. Everyone wants to hear all about them, especially the person who's inspired your current happiness.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You may have superhuman abilities when it comes to focusing on the task at hand, but you also know when it's time to quit. After days of pounding away at a project, it's finally done.



CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you can, align yourself with the people who can make positive changes in your life. Stick to them like glue and suggest some extracurricular activities for the two of you.



PISCES

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Each and every word you utter right now has a solid, grounded tone to it. So when you're asked for your opinion (and even if you're not), you'll be more than

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

EASY+

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WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA -			
Beijing	4	18	clear
Harbin	-3	10	clear
Tianjin	9	18	clear
Urumqi	0	8	clear
Xi'an	10	19	clear
Lhasa	1	15	clear
Chengdu	13	19	clear
Chongqing	15	19	overcast
Kunming	12	21	cloudy
Nanjing	13	23	clear
Shanghai	16	24	clear
Wuhan	13	22	clear
Hangzhou	13	24	clear
Taipei	23	27	drizzle
Guangzhou	20	30	cloudy
Hong Kong	22	29	clear
WORLD -			
Moscow	6	8	drizzle
Frankfurt	1	4	cloudy
Paris	3	7	clear
London	4	8	overcast
Now York	12	16	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Sudden outpouring; 6- Dallas-to-Houston dir.; 9- Bridge declaration; 14- Horse race venue in England; 15- Dot follower; 16- Scruffs; 17- Art of tent setting; 19- Bridges; 20- ___-Foy, Quebec; 21- Some nest eggs; 22- Folded food; 23- Beginning; 25- Conger catcher; 26- Instructed; 29- Retain; 31- Spots; 32- Annoying; 36- Moderately cold; 37- Hydrocarbon ending; 38- Churn; 40-Rollerblader's protector; 43- Bathhouse; 45- Autos; 46- Kaput; 47- Arrogant; 50- Departed; 51- Ornamental coronet; 52- Region; 54- ___-Cone; 57- Out of favor; 58- Agitation; 61- Cool!; 62- Australian bird; 63- Esther of "Good Times"; 64- Banana oil, for one; 65- Sun. talk; 66- Helicopter part;

DOWN: 1- Pouches; 2- H.S. exam; 3- Pinnacle; 4- Outdo; 5- Catchall abbr.; 6-Muffler; 7- Parlor piece; 8- CPR experts; 9- Parts of feet; 10- Pertaining to Benedict XVI; 11- Expeditiously; 12- Spanish Mister; 13- Flat sound; 18- Tumults; 23- Quick

and nimble; 24- Female pronoun; 25- A mouse!; 26- Shamus; 27- "Dilbert" intern; 28- On top of; 29- Varieties; 30- Bard's "before"; 33- Regular course; 34- Lament; 35- Mozart's "___ kleine Nachtmusik"; 37- Sympathetic attention; 39- Stripling; Republic in South America; 42-Cushion; 43- Fatty part of milk; 44- ____ Wiedersehen; 47- Languishes with longing; 48- Capital of Morocco; 49-Declaim; 50- Mammal of Madagascar; 51-Fork feature; 52- Breezes through; 53-Capital of Italy; 54- Riverbank component; 55- ___ contendere; 56- Doozy; 59-Bobby of hockey; 60- Also;



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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

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Simplex Apartment w/ Outdoor Terraces HK\$18,800,000 4,080 ft² 2 🖛 3 🕨

FOR RENT Manhattan, Luxury 3 Bed, Taipa \$19,800/mth 1,720 ft² 3 km 2 km

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



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FOR SALE/ RENT

[Taipa] Wa Bao (ref: 18115568) 1,071 ft² **\$7,995,000** [**Taipa**] Taipa Village (2 units) 4 🛌 2 🖢 1,404 ft² **\$8,380,000** (ref: 19096006)

[Taipa] Taipa Village Apartment 2 🛏 1 🖢

600 ft² \$9,900/mth (ref: n/a) [Macau] One Central 1,269 ft² **\$25,000**/mth (ref: n/a)



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ROOK IT

PETER FRAMPTON LOOKS BACK IN A GENTLE MEMOIR

MARK KENNEDY, MDT/AP

WHEN Peter Frampton was a child, he busted his father on Christmas morning giving him an acoustic guitar dressed as Santa. "And from 3:30 in the morning on Christmas when I was 8 years old, I haven't stopped playing since."

So recalls the singer-songwriter and guitarist whose album "Frampton Comes Alive!" became a monster hit in the mid-1970s in his new memoir, "Do You Feel Like I Do?"

The breezy and polite look back follows an important musical figure's rise in the 1960s, triumph and fall in the '70s and resurrection in the '80s. It's a tale of talent, mismanagement, drugs, loss and redemption.

"Who else has had the career arc, the crazy ups and downs, that I've had?" he writes. "I've been to the moon and back without a rocket. But I've always managed to stay optimistic."

Frampton finds himself at fascinating moments in rock 'n' roll history, a pal of both Eric Clapton and Mick Jagger, aided by David Bowie and, at one point, a potential member of the Rolling Stones. He hung out with The Kinks and recorded with Small Faces.

He was dangled out a fourth floor window by Keith Moon and John Entwistle from The Who. He was serenaded by Eddie Van Halen. He was friendly with Beatles. "I have to say your knees do buckle a bit the first time you meet 'one," he writes.

A profile emerges of an earnest and perfectionist musician — "I'm my own worst critic" — who suffered long-term clinical depression and was a binge drinker. Frampton explains how he came to champion the talk box and how he had three wives.

Frampton began his career as the lead singer and guitarist for the Herd at age

16 and then co-founded Humble Pie. His good looks turned him into a heart-throb. He calls his looks the "bane of my existence" and "it always got in the way."

He was enjoying some modest success as a solo artist when he followed up his four studio albums with a double live album, buoyed by the hits "Show Me the Way" and "Baby, I Love Your Way." (He did his first bump of coke while making that live LP.)

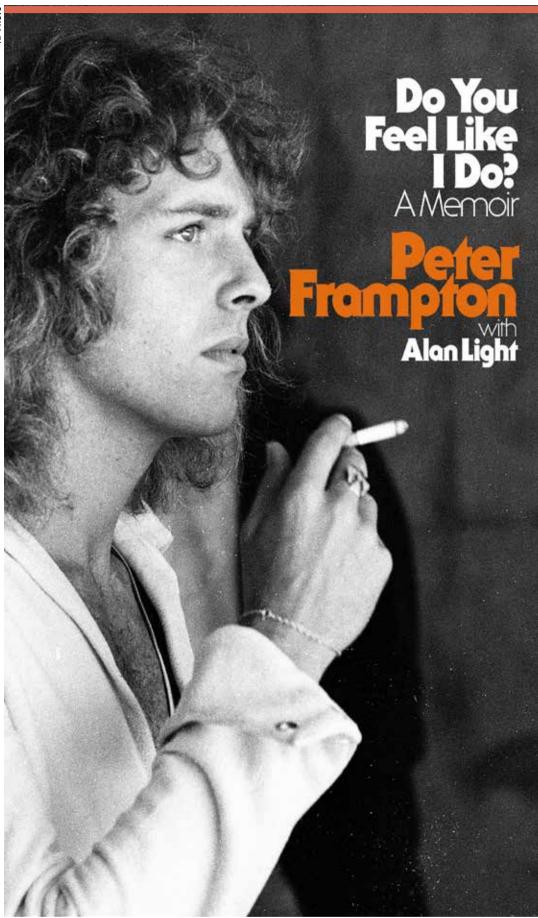
Frampton's prose often suffers from an inability to recognize the wheat from the chaff, spending three times as much time on a few performances with the Cincinnati Ballet as it does on his times with Jagger. He also has a odd lack of curiosity, often ending an anecdote with "I don't know what happened there" or "I don't know why."

His inner guitar geek is on display as he peppers his memories with references to gear — P90 type pickups, Studer 2-track, 3M M79 24-track analog machine. He reveals that he wore satin pants because each pair sold helped fuel his girlfriend's drug habit. But he's remarkably diplomatic — bland even — describing his contemporaries.

What was Keith Moon like? "Keith was a lovely man — not when he was out of it, but the rest of the time he was a lovely guy, a very warm person." What about Jimi Hendrix? "He wasn't just good, he was amazing."

He's a compelling figure on the way down, when he was urged to push out an album too soon to capitalize on "Frampton Comes Alive!" Writes Frampton: "It was so hurtful when everything crashed" and "I should have used the word 'no' a lot more."

He ends the book with his battle with inclusion body myositis, a progressive muscle disorder which threatens to weaken his fingers and, in turn, silence his guitar. But he faces it with the optimism he's always managed.



Peter Frampton, "Do You Feel Like I Do?" (Hachette Books)

Macau Racing Tips



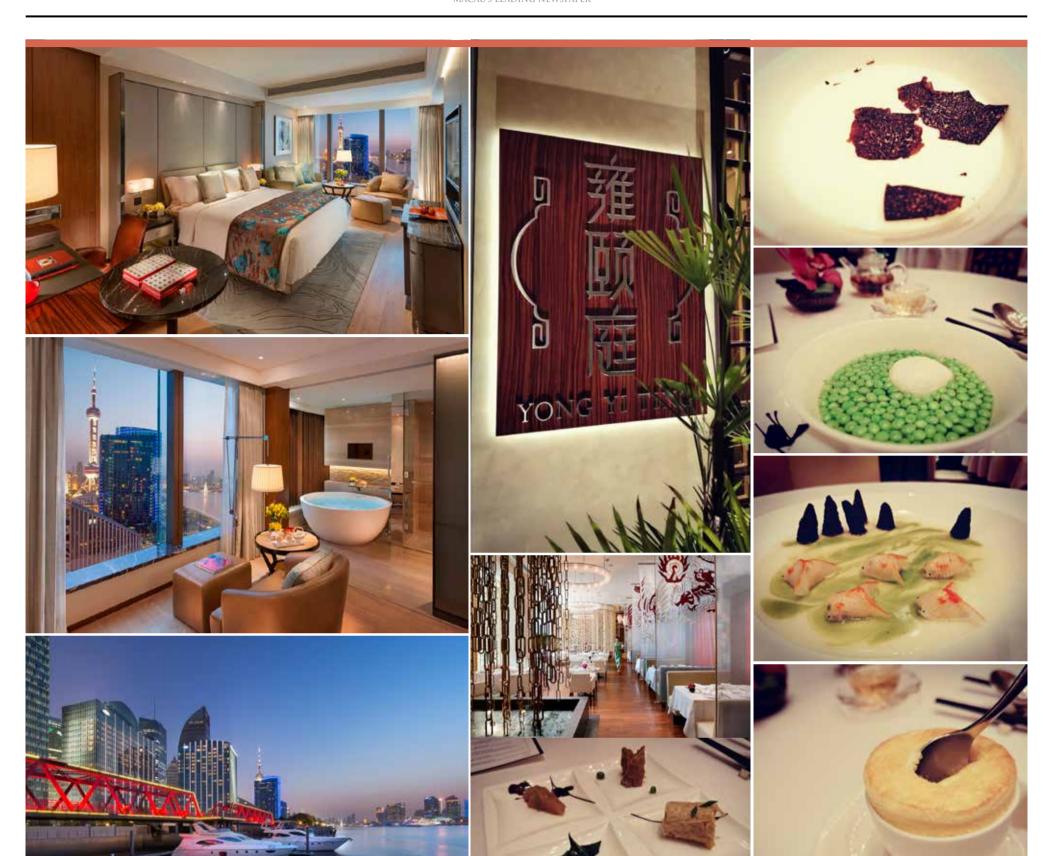


THE ASHLEY 1510 METRES SAND 2020-11-07|Sat|16:20

THE standout horse in this field is **Still So Cute**, L. Corrales his winning jockey last race took him out for two pieces of impressive works in the morning; I like his turn of foot very fluent, smooth and full of energy in stretching out. His last race was on the same 1510 Metres sand, it looked so easy for him to roll it along in front and leads all the way and win. This time he drawn the gift gate in barrier one and he only have 118 lb on his back, L. Corrales again will be riding him. I would not be surprise that he can grab another impressive win again this Saturday. His challenge may come from **Oriental Profit** who also has a good prep coming into this race following his defeat in his last outing of 1510 Metres sand, it is also his pet distance. The race would open up nicely for **Still So Cute**, and **Oriental Profit** will fight for a strong finish with **Still So Cute**. Take a quinella and quinella place bets on them, and cheer yourself with glass of wine when one or both of them leads in the winner's enclosure for the winning photo.

Race 5 | Horse no. 7 Still So Cute & Horse no. 3 Oriental Profit, Quinella & Place Quinella bets





IRENE SAM, MDT

HE dramatic skyline of the Lujiazui financial district in Shanghai is one of the most unique sights of modern China. A masterpiece of contemporary luxury on the Pudong waterfront, Mandarin Oriental Pudong, Shanghai takes its place within Harbour City, a 25-hectare mixed-use development comprising office towers, residences, high-end retail and dynamic entertainment, plus extensive landscaped gardens. It is ideally situated within walking distance of corporate offices and tourist sites, and offers direct access to the idyllic Huangpu riverside promenade. The Shanghai Metropolitan Marine Yacht Club is on the hotel's doorstep, enabling guests to enjoy sunset cruises along the river.

Upon arrival, guests are greeted by friendly and attentive TASTE OF EDESIA

Luxury with more than a view

Mandarin Oriental butlers is on hand right away to provide personalised service for every

Designed by world-renowned architect Bernardo Fort--Brescia of Arquitectonica, the suites embody both modern elegance and supreme comfort, featuring guest-centric technology and sweeping views over the Huangpu River, the Bund and the Shanghai skyline.

Expressing style and artistry, the establishment houses the most extensive hotel collection of Chinese contemporary art in the city. A total of 4,000 original artworks are on display throughout the hotel's public spaces and guest rooms, more than half

staff. An experienced team of of which are bespoke commis- Signature oven-baked hairy rieties, plus a handcrafted Jiang sions by local Chinese artists.

At Mandarin Oriental Pudong, foodies are in for a treat. From the impressive in-room dining menu that resembles a dictionary to celebrity chefs and cutting-edge epicurean experiences, it is clear that the hotel is an establishment made for discerning gourmets.

Leading the world class dining choices is the one Michelin-star Yong Yi Ting, which offers exquisite Jiang Nan Chinese cuisine. The restaurant serves authentic Shanghai cuisine, embracing the culinary styles of Shanghai and its neighbouring provinces, Jiangsu and Zhejiang. The latest seasonal menu includes a delicious crab meat souffle that blends the umami characteristic of the sea with sumptuous texture of egg protein. For dessert, guest must not miss the Double-boiled milk custard with black sesame and black truffle.

The elegant restaurant, inspired by Chinese Imperial culture, has six opulent private dining rooms, some of which open directly into a landscaped courtyard. Yong Yi Ting also has a Chef's Table with a show kitchen for special degustation meals and cooking demonstrations, plus a wine cellar with a global selection of fine wines and a tasting table.

Twenty premium Chinese teas, including several rare vaNan dim sum lunch menu are additional highlights.

Finally, a luxurious stay at one of the most distinctive hotels in Shanghai is not complete without a spa treatment. At the spa, guests can enjoy signature therapies, advanced beauty and holistic wellness treatments within a soothing Zen oasis.

The comprehensive range of massage and beauty treatments incorporates the latest techniques and products for anti-aging, body firming and skincare therapies. In addition to 13 private spa and beauty suites, the incredible spa also has a private consultation space offering Visia complexion analysis.

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®

OPINION World Views Cathy O'Neil, MDT/Bloomberg



POLLING FAILED

POLLING FAILED. IT'S TIME TO KICK THE ADDICTION

For the second time in a row, polling has failed to correctly assess the mood of the nation heading into a U.S. presidential election. The debacle will inevitably engender recriminations, soul-searching and efforts to do a better job next time around.

I'm beginning to think that we'd be better off if we kicked the habit.

For many Americans, following polls has become a sort of addiction. We nervously refresh polling sites, hoping to get a sense of the range of possible outcomes, what our compatriots are thinking, so we can worry, act or abdicate accordingly. This might be fine and even useful if the polls were at all reliable. Unfortunately, I don't think they can be. They will all too often lead us to operate on a deeply flawed set of expectations.

My skepticism stems in part from my experience of the 2008 credit crisis. I worked in finance, where — much like pollsters — we used statistical models to assess the range of possible outcomes, in this case for mortgages and related investments. I witnessed the devastation that ensued when those models proved horribly wrong, and I initially believed that better modeling could help. It took me quite a while, and lots of calls with banks and hedge funds, to realize that doubling down on math wouldn't solve the problem. The issue was bad data: People throughout the system, from borrowers to bank executives, just had too much incentive to lie and dissemble.

Doubling down on models hasn't helped in other areas, either. Consider the way artificial intelligence helps spread misinformation and radicalize Americans on Facebook and other social networks. Time and again, executives have sought to fix the problem with more artificial intelligence, and failed. It's not going to work. The issue is people, not technology.

Fast forward to the 2020 presidential election. The post-mortem of the polling failure has already begun. Experts want to double down — go deeper, more granular, understand how Latinx communities diverge and so on. Let's just do it more and better!

No, let's not. It's no longer reasonable to assume that we can get better. For all the effort that a lot of smart people have put into it, polling is just hard. There's too much problematic, biased and missing data. People who don't trust the polls don't talk to pollsters. Sometimes they flat out lie.

Let's detox instead. Our national obsession with knowing what other people think is getting in the way of understanding what 'we' think — or whether we should bother to vote, or how we should go about working for change. Sure, campaigns and policy makers need to know these things. But the extent to which the rest of us have become versed in how other slivers of population plan to vote (or don't, depending on whether they're lying) is a sign of toxicity, a desperate attempt at gaining control and minimizing uncertainty in a situation that is inherently uncertain and uncontrolled

Step one of recovering from an addiction is to admit you have a problem. After last night, I think we can reasonably say we do.

CHINA SUSPENDS ENTRY FOR RESIDENTS OF BRITAIN

China is suspending entry for most foreign passport holders who reside in Britain, reacting to a new surge of coronavirus cases in the United Kingdom.

The suspension covers those holding visas or residence permits issued prior to Nov. 3, with exceptions for diplomats and some others. Foreign nationals wishing to visit China for emergency needs may apply for special case visas.

The Chinese Embassy in London says the suspension will be "assessed in accordance with the evolving situation and any adjustment will be announced accordingly."

China has largely contained the spread of coronavirus within the country but continues to record imported cases, including another 20 reported yesterday. Chinese officials require all people arriving in China to undergo two weeks of quarantine.

US ELECTION

CLAIM THAT SHARPIE PENS RUIN ARIZONA BALLOTS MISSES THE MARK



Maricopa County elections officials count ballots

BEATRICE DUPUY

As states across the U.S. release vote totals for the presidential election, some social media users are falsely claiming that ballots are being invalidated in Arizona. The supposed culprit: Sharpie markers.

In what's come to be known as #Sharpiegate, social media posts suggest that election officials in Maricopa County provided voters with Sharpie pens, which interfered with ballots being recorded, specifically those for President Donald Trump.

Arizona election officials say that voting with a Sharpie would have no impact on the votes being recorded by tabulation machines, and if there was an issue, there is a process that would keep the ballots from being canceled out.

Arizona election officials confirmed that Sharpies were used in voting, but they said that would not invalidate a ballot. The Maricopa County Elections Department tweeted on Election Day that voting centers use Sharpies so that ink does not smudge when ballots are counted.

"New offset columns on the ballots means bleed through won't impact your vote!" they tweeted in an informational video.

One video with more than 821,000 views showed a woman speaking about

#SHARPIEGATE

CLAIM: Votes were eliminated in Arizona because people were made to use Sharpie pens to mark their ballots. This caused the tabulation machine to cancel the vote.

THE FACTS: As Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden was declared the winner of the presidential vote in Arizona, social media posts circulated falsely suggesting that votes for Trump were canceled because people were told to use Sharpies to fill out their ballots.

how four different polling places were using Sharpies and a man asks her if "those ballots are not being counted" and "are invalid."

"They are invalidating votes is what they are doing," the man says. He went on to suggest voters use a ballpoint pen instead.

"People are coming here to vote for Donald Trump, and all those votes are getting invalidated," he says in the video.

Sophia Solis, public information officer for the Arizona Secretary of State, said in an email that votes would not be canceled if there was an issue with the ballot.

"If a voter's ballot is listed as canceled, it usually means the voter made an additional ballot request if they needed to have their original ballot replaced," Solis said. "Depending on

when they returned their replacement ballot, that ballot is most likely still being processed by the county."

Clint Hickman, the Republican chairman of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, and Steve Gallardo, the board's only Democrat, published a letter to voters expressing concern about misinformation. They said officials tested a wide variety of pens with their vote-tabulation equipment and "Sharpies are recommended by the manufacturer because they provide the fastest-drying

According to the state's election procedures manual, a ballot review board duplicates ballots that cannot be read by the machine in cases where they are damaged or smudged with ink

Videos making the false claim about Sharpies were also widely shared on Tik-Tok. TikTok said the claims on invalidated ballots violated its policy against misleading information around the elections and would be removed. Facebook said it has blocked the Sharpiegate hashtag on its platform and pointed to fact checks on the matter by its outside fact-checkers, including The Associated Press.

While election officials took to social media to debunk the Sharpie rumors, others in Arizona were not convinced. AP

Greece's prime minister has announced a nationwide three-week lockdown starting tomorrow, saying that the increase in coronavirus infections must be stopped before the country's health care system comes under "unbearable" pressure. The main difference between this lockdown and the one Greece imposed in the spring is that kindergartens and primary schools will remain open. High schools will operate by remote learning. The lockdown goes until Nov. 30.



Serbia The patriarch of the Serbian Orthodox Church has been hospitalized after testing positive for the new coronavirus, days after leading prayers at a large public funeral for the head of the church in Montenegro, who died after contracting the virus. The Serbian Orthodox Church said that the 90-year-old Patriarch Irinej was hospitalized, but has no symptoms and is in "excellent general condition."

Austrian leaders called yesterday for more legal options to fight extremism and for an overhaul of the country's domestic intelligence agency in the wake of this week's deadly attack blamed on a known Islamic radical who Austrian authorities had been warned had tried to buy ammunition in neighboring Slovakia.

Kosovo's President
Hashim Thaci, a guerrilla
leader during Kosovo's
war for independence
from Serbia in the 1990s,
resigned yesterday in
order to face charges for
war crimes and crimes
against humanity at a
special court based in
The Hague. He said he
was taking the step "to
protect the integrity of the
presidency of Kosovo."



Ethiopia approached civil war yesterday as its Nobel Peace Prize-winning prime minister ordered the military to confront the country's well-armed Tigray regional government, accusing it of a deadly attack on a military base and declaring "the last red line has been crossed" after months of alleged provocations.