



**The Macao SAR Government urges:**

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

Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE HAS STATED IN THE POLICY ADDRESS THAT AN AMENDMENT WOULD BE MADE TO MACAU'S NATIONAL SECURITY LAW**

**PUBLIC PROSECUTOR APPEALS FOR A HARSHER SENTENCE ON JACKSON CHANG**

**CRACKDOWNS EVERYWHERE SHOW XI JINPING STRENGTHENING COMMUNIST PARTY GRIP ON CHINA**

**Japan** U.S. retailer Walmart is selling off 85% of its wholly owned Japanese supermarket subsidiary Seiyu, while retaining a 15% stake, in a deal valued at 172.5 billion (\$1.6 billion), the companies said yesterday. KKR & Co., a global investment firm, will purchase a 65% stake, while Japanese online retailer Rakuten will acquire a 20% stake from Walmart, they said in a statement.



**Syria's** longtime Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem, a career diplomat who became one of the country's most prominent faces to the outside world during the uprising against President Bashar Assad, died yesterday. He was 79. Al-Moallem, who served as ambassador to Washington for nine years, starting in 1990 during Syria's on-and-off peace talks with Israel, was a close confidant of Assad known for his loyalty and hard-line position against the opposition.

**Turkey's** government submitted a motion to parliament yesterday seeking its approval to deploy peacekeepers to monitor a cease-fire agreement between Azerbaijan and Armenia, the state-run news agency reported. The country has been engaged in talks with Russia for a role in monitoring the cease-fire.



**Israeli** protesters shouted down a group of European diplomats yesterday who were visiting the site of a planned settlement expansion in east Jerusalem that would make it even harder to establish a viable Palestinian state and could anger the incoming U.S. administration. The new construction would further sever east Jerusalem from the nearby Palestinian town of Bethlehem and the southern West Bank.

More on backpage

# THE WORST OF TIMES

**In his Policy Address, Ho Iat Seng warns residents to brace themselves for 2021, comes short of economic relief**



**VIP BACCARAT REVENUE SEES 56% UPTICK**

**BLOOMBERG**

POLICY ADDRESS

# HO IAT SENG ADMITS FLAWS IN BUREAUS' RECENT GUIDELINES

ANTHONY LAM

**C**HIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng admitted that several bureaus have committed flaws in their decision to ban local sporting activities last week.

The Health Bureau (SSM), the Sports Bureau (ID) and the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) issued contradicting notices over the weekend on the arrangements of local sports events.

The government head admitted that the flipping of guidelines have generated confusion among the general public, specifically the sports circle.

It was valuable that the SSM changed its mind after getting feedbacks from the ID and the DSEJ on the new guidelines' impracticality, Ho explained.

The CE praised SSM, noting, "Since early this year, the workload of the SSM has been enormous."

"If someone should be held accountable, it would be me because I'm the head of the Covid-19 Center."

Ho inaugurated the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center during the peak of the local outbreak. While SSM is part of the Center, Ho is its head.

However, he hoped that in the



future, different bureaus can have better coordination.

At the press briefing where the top official answered queries from the media, cash handouts for next year were discussed, among several questions.

The CE assured in the Policy Address that it will remain at the level of MOP10,000, only that the form of distribution will be determined later.

The government head said that the amount has been included in the next year's public budget. It will be issued, if everything goes well, in July as in normal times. However, the government is still considering which form of distri-

bution will be helpful for the economy. The distribution form will only be determined by July next year.

Ho explained that consumption expenditure did not increase in April this year when the cash handout was distributed. However, he pointed out that the consumption card, which was issued in May, did boost consumption.

He acknowledged that distribution in the form of cash is preferred by most residents, as it helps people pay bills and repay mortgages. However, if people keep the cash in their pockets, it will not help the economy recover, the CE explained.

The current consumption card is not applicable in getting medical services, settling public utility bills, taking cross-boundary transports, or making payments to financial institutions.

Meanwhile, the CE hopes that Hong Kong people can enter Macau without undergoing quarantine once its Covid-19 situation has stabilized. The neighboring city is the region's second largest source of tourists.

Recently, Hong Kong has been seeing stalled Covid-19 cases which has stopped Macau authorities from delisting it from low-risk areas. "We have to follow national guidelines," the

CE stressed.

Yet, he suggested Hong Kong people to enter mainland China, where they will be quarantined with a smaller price tag for 14 days, before coming to Macau. In this case, they will be exempted from quarantine in Macau.

Later, when he was asked to lift quarantine on people coming in from Taiwan, where no local cases have been recorded in the past 200 days or so and is the third largest source of tourists in Macau, he stressed that Taiwan cannot yet be considered free from risks.

Meanwhile, he was displeased about how Taiwan treats entrants from Macau. "We have seen more than 200 days without a case," Ho said. "Even with that, Taiwan is not opening its borders to us, how can we consider them an area with low risk?"

In addition, a group of Macau students studying in Taiwan is calling on the government, under the assistance of lawmaker Sulu Sou, to lift quarantine measures, so that they can return to Macau to spend time with families during holidays.

When asked about its exit strategy for non-resident workers and the employment of local residents, Ho urged people to work in the construction or catering industries because they are lacking workforce.

With many local residents holding university degrees, it is unclear how the private sector will be convinced to take them in to work in strength-demanding positions.

## Governance is constantly happening: HIS

**I**T is the government's responsibility to make progress in its work and such works cannot wait, Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng said yesterday in his reply to questions from the Times.

A lot of work needs to be concluded in the next four years in the transport and public works sector. This includes the 4th Macau-Taipa Bridge, the New Urban Zones and the planning of the civil aviation industry after 2022, when the monopoly of Air Macau will expire.

Ho was asked how he

would ensure the public that the works in these areas would be conducted satisfactorily.

The government head first admitted that there is a lot to work on in this aspect, keeping the transport and public works sector busy. However, the government's works have never been halted.

The CE stressed that even when the first cases of Covid-19 emerged in the city, the "top government officials - which included Secretary Raimundo do Rosário from the sector - continued while

other civil servants were exempted from work."

"Whether works will be satisfactory, different people have different views," he explained.

In this Policy Address, the CE said that the government will encourage private entities, including hotels and integrated resorts, to hold more world-class sports events and attempt to develop sports tourism.

As to how the private sector can be encouraged to do so, the CE disclosed that the government's sports collaborations

with hotels and resorts for the next 12 months are underway.

He did not let go of the chance to compliment the private sector on its contribution this year. "We are holding the Macau International Marathon, an international table tennis tournament and an e-sport car-racing competition over the next few months," Ho said. He stressed that work has never been halted amid the Covid-19 pandemic. The fact that people from foreign countries could not enter Macau does not

mean plans are halted, the CE stressed.

Last Friday, the Times reported that there are three public consultations that have been running for the past three months. Commentators noted that it may cause "consultation fatigue" among the public.

The Times attempted to clarify if the CE will, in the coming year, polish the procedure to make better arrangements on public consultations. In response, the CE stressed that it was pacing up the governance. In turn,

many bureaus had to commence public consultations for their policies.

However, the top official said that it is irresponsible to "put things there and do nothing."

"It is impossible to put off these consultations," Ho said, pointing to the Master Urban Plan and the Sandwich-class Housing consultations, adding that people have been waiting for these policies.

"Work that should be done must be done," the government head remarked. He admitted that it may be overwhelming to residents with so many consultation plans within a short period of time. **AL**

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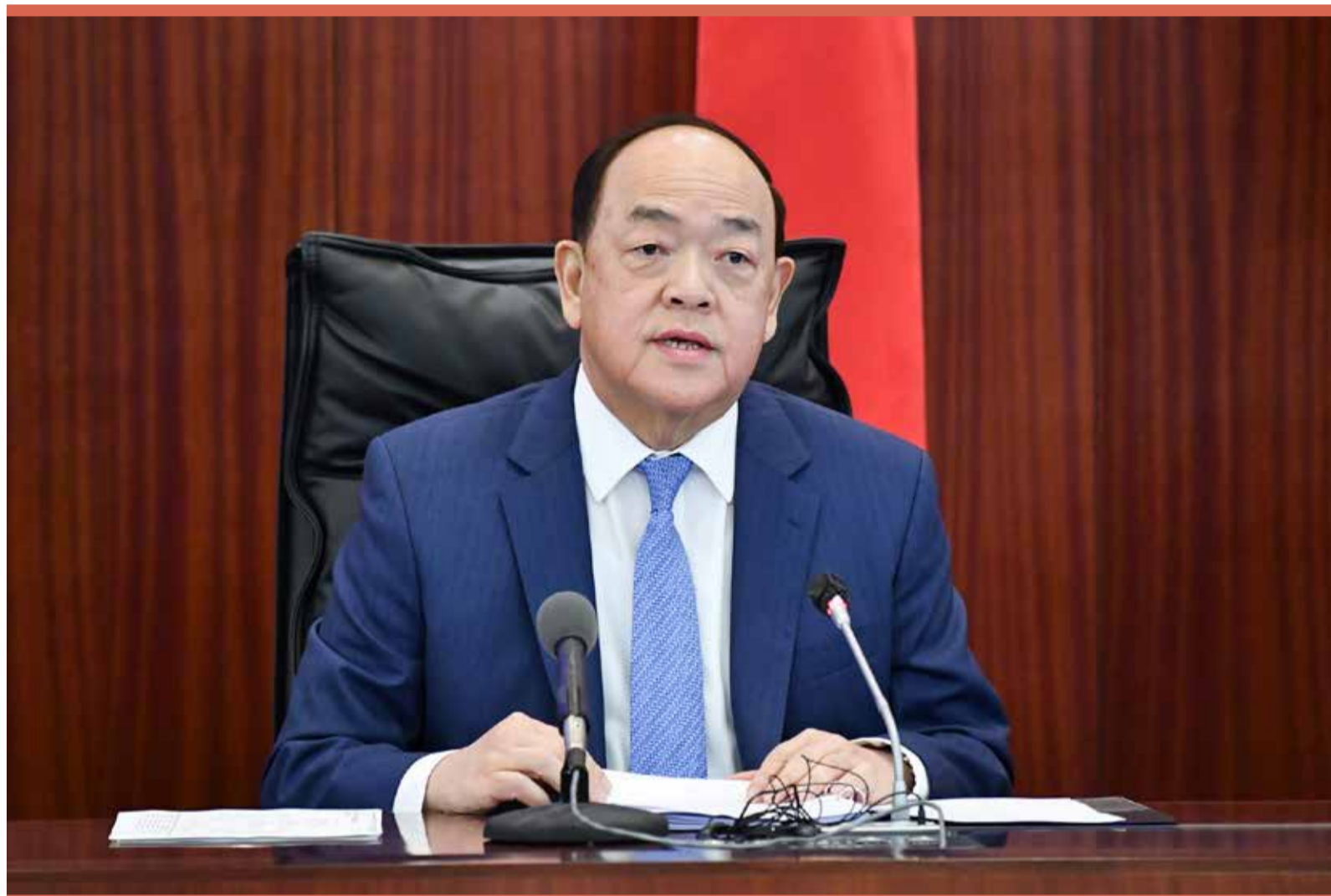
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POLICY ADDRESS

# CE warns residents to brace themselves for 2021

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE current economic and social situation is not likely to show significant improvement in the next year, forecasted Chief Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng during yesterday's presentation of the government's Policy Address for 2021 (LAG2021).

Without being extremely pessimistic, Ho warned the population not to expect a fast economic recovery, especially during 2021, and to take into account that the economic recession caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is expected to continue for a relatively long period and will likely result in additional hassles to the population.

"The time required for economic revitalization will be long, which will result in significant pressures on the employment and the lives of the population," Ho said, adding, "As time progresses, job and life pressures on the population will gradually increase and profound problems and conflicts, previously covered by the accelerated economic growth, will arise, and the accumulated needs of the population will become more highlighted."

These strong words by Ho aimed to act as a wake-up call

regarding the fragilities of the local economy which, almost exclusively depending on just one sector, the gaming industry, is a serious risk.

For Ho, the days of solutions encountering a "vertical diversification" based on the tourism and gaming sectors are numbered, with it becoming necessary to "find and explore new directions to the achievement of economic diversification," as "time does not wait."

Also contributing to this not so optimistic scenario for the coming year is the government forecast that Macau's gross domestic product (GDP) will fall by 60.9% this year, Ho said during the presentation of the LAG2021 report.

"It is expected [that there will be] a real contraction of the GDP by 60.9% for 2020," Ho said, forecasting an even deeper drop than that forecasted by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in mid-October this year. At the time, the IMF predicted the contraction of the local GDP by 52.3%.

To tackle the great difficulties and challenges that are also causing a significant drop in government revenues, Ho has called for collective resilience, noting that although many cuts are expected,

the government's top priorities will be the protection of the lives, health, and the jobs of the residents.

On this topic, Ho announced that in 2021, the government will continue to reinforce measures oriented toward the well-being of the population, ensuring that the cuts to public expenditure would not affect these areas.

"We will continue to implement measures oriented to the well-being of the population, such as the wealth partaking scheme [cash handouts], the refund of the professional tax, the exemption from the payment of property tax for the residential units of residents and the continuation of the subsidy for water and electricity bills," Ho said, adding, "We will also continue with the health care benefits and the special support to the most vulnerable households."

According to the LAG2021 report, all the subsidies and tax reductions will remain the same as in previous years. The only novelty is in regard to the cash handouts as the government has not yet decided on how the money will be distributed. This could be through common bank checks, banking transference into the residents' accounts or making use of a different method.

Addressing the employment topic, Ho ensured that it is the intention of the government to continue to grant residents priority in access to work to keep the unemployment rate as low as possible.

"We will supervise the job market and offer employment services to provide residents with more job posts and career progression opportunities," Ho said, adding that the government aims to further reduce the number of non-resident workers.

"We will optimize the management system of the non-resident workers, strictly implementing the mechanism of entry and exit to control their number according to the progress of the epidemic situation and the economic development."

## 10 PRIORITIES

For the year 2021, the government has a list of 10 priorities that will be part of the government's mission for the year. The government's priority is to normalize the epidemic prevention and control, as well as to make a vaccine available to the population as soon as possible. Included in the same efforts, Ho announced that the government

will also prepare a preliminary project for a field hospital to enter into operation to accommodate possible future needs.

The acceleration of the economic recovery comes second as the government announced developing works on infrastructure and economic diversification. The East line of the Light Rapid Transit (LRT), the extension of Taipa line to Hengqin, and the Forth link Macau-Taipa are part of this effort. Ho also promoted the Airport expansion and the transformation of part of the Taipa Maritime Terminal into the Airport's Terminal 2, as well as the construction of the roads and other infrastructures on Zone A of the new landfills.

On the promotion of economic diversification, the government aims to step forth with the work on establishing a bond market as well as developing the conventions and exhibitions industry, cross-border e-commerce, and the industrialization of the cultural and sports sectors.

On the people's well-being, the government proposes to finalize the work of separating public housing into classes and continue to work on housing projects for senior citizens at Lot P of Areia Preta and promote several works on social housing at Areia Preta, Tamagnini Barbosa, and Mong-Há areas.

On the reform of public administrations, the government aims to develop the digitalization of official services to enhance administrative effectiveness. At the same time, Ho said that it is necessary to develop the mobility mechanism of civil servants to efficiently manage the number of these professionals in each public service.

Ho also promises a closer look at the audit of public spending to ensure a "no waste policy."

Importing talented people is also on the government's plan.

Ho pledged to support youth entrepreneurship, as well as to enable young people to work and live in mainland China; and participate in the overall national development.

The government also said that it is aiming to promote culture and sports in Macau with the creation of new cultural and sports tourism programs.

Last but not least, the CE says that Macau needs to grab the opportunities arising from the 14th National Five Year Plan to boost cooperation with Hengqin as well as the regional cooperation and integration in the Greater Bay Area. In this chapter, Ho promised to better facilitate the access and cross-border procedures for people, vehicles, and goods between Hengqin and Macau.

### CORPSE WASHED ASHORE AT HAC SA BEACH

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has reported the discovery of a corpse yesterday morning, according to a message sent out by the police department. The person was a mainland resident in his 50s. He was found lying on the Hac Sa beach. No superficial injuries were found to indicate any suspicious criminal activity. The police authority did not find any notes or documents on or near the corpse. Cause of the death will be determined after a forensic procedure.

### WORKER INJURED IN CONSTRUCTION SITE ACCIDENT

A 30-year-old mainland worker sustained injuries in an accident that took place on a construction site located in New Urban Zone A yesterday morning. The lifting hook of a crane fell and hit the operators' cab. The operator was hit on his head and back. After the accident, he crawled out of the vehicle. He was then sent to the hospital and remained conscious during the transportation.

### ANOTHER 66 TREES LISTED AS ANCIENT PLANTS

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has classified another batch of 66 trees as ancient trees, according to a statement released yesterday. Together with previously listed ancient trees, Macau now has a total of 584 ancient trees. In June, IAM renewed the list of protected ancient trees. For the first time, it has included four trees owned by the private sector. Some 53 trees in the list are being planted in different religious sites and in the city's heritage sites. IAM plans to renew the name tags of the ancient trees including adding a QR code for each of the trees.



### GAMING

## VIP BACCARAT REVENUE SEES 56% UPTICK IN Q3

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE gross gaming revenue (GGR) from VIP baccarat was recorded at MOP2.34 billion in the third quarter (Q3) of 2020, a sharp increase of nearly 56% from MOP1.5 billion in the previous quarter.

The jump in Q3 has brought the year-to-date revenue of VIP baccarat to MOP18.7 billion — the largest share of overall profits generated from games of fortune in the first three quarters of 2020. This is followed by MOP15.1 billion from mass-market baccarat, MOP2.36 billion from slot

machines, and MOP927 million in Cussec.

However, the Q3 figure in VIP baccarat is still not on par with the great gains of MOP14.8 billion collected in the first quarter of this year, when the impact of Covid-19 on gaming revenue had not yet been realized.

The latest statistics were released by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DIC) yesterday.

The recovery in the VIP segment follows the reinstatement of Individual Visit Scheme (IVS) permits for all mainland tourists since September 23.

Following the resumption of tourist flow between Macau and China, a large volume of high-value bettors from the mainland have gravitated towards the city's gaming tables, Cloee Chao, president of the New Macau Gaming Staff Rights Association, mentioned to the Times in an earlier interview.

The rise in VIP income in Q3 coincided with a jump in GGR in October, which totaled MOP7.27 billion, equivalent to a rapid month-over-month increase of 229% from MOP2.21 billion in September.

However, the uptick could not offset the fall caused by the pandemic. The GGR in October registered a huge drop of 72.5% from the same month last year.

The SAR government is expecting the annual GGR to be around MOP130 billion by the end of 2021.

### POLICY ADDRESS

## Gov't studying ways to refine national security law

STAFF REPORTER

**C**HIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng has stated in the Policy Address yesterday that an amendment would be made to Macau's national security law, with a view to filling the voids in the "procedural matters" within the legislation.

At the press conference where the top official answered questions from the media, Ho acknowl-

edged that the city's national security law has been deficient in "procedural matters" to some degree, adding that the SAR government is now studying ways to refine the law. Such move is to offer a higher degree of security to the city.

The city's top leader has placed 'Safeguard national security and social stability' as one of the ten policy focuses for the Fis-

cal Year 2021.

According to the Policy Address, the government is now engaging in endeavors designated to enhance the Judiciary Police's internal operational mechanism to perform law enforcement in full force.

Macau's national security law was passed in February 2009 and came into effect in March that year. The law criminalizes

acts of treason, secession, subversion, sedition, theft of state secrets, and acts by foreign political organizations or Macau groups found to endanger national security.

The decision on amending Macau's national security law came after the neighboring city, Hong Kong, introduced its wide-ranging national security law on June 30.

The bill in Hong Kong

was enacted to restore stability to the society, following the year-long social unrest against the debated yet now-withdrawn extradition bill — which would allow criminal suspects to be extradited to China.

Analysts and experts commented that the national security law in Hong Kong was stricter than that introduced in Macau over a decade ago.

## MP APPEALS FOR A HARSHER SENTENCE ON JACKSON CHANG

**T**HE Public Prosecutions Office (MP) has lodged an appeal against the sentence acquitting former president of the Macau Investment Trade Promotion Institute (IPIM), Jackson Chang, of bribery charges.

Despite him being exculpated from serious charges, in October the Court of First Instance (TJB) sentenced Chang to two years behind bars.

The latest move by the MP is intended to appeal against the TJB rulings, seeking to see the former president sentenced to more than two

years, the MP said in a reply to Portuguese news outlet Hoje Macau.

In the ruling, Chang was convicted of leaking confidential information concerning IPIM's criteria in granting residence permits to investors or skilled professionals to another defendant, Ng Kuok Sao.

Sao was also sentenced to 18 years for leading criminal syndicates which represented several other defendants to process illicit immigration applications and forge documents.

Chang was also found

guilty of inaccurately declaring his wealth.

Earlier, the presiding judge, Leong Fong Meng, criticized Chang for showing no remorse and failing to act as a role model as the highest leader of the IPIM.

In the ruling, Glória Batalha Ung, a former executive board member of the IPIM, was also found guilty of violating confidentiality and abuse of power, which carries a sentence of one year and nine months.

Miguel Ian Iat Chun, the former chief of the IPIM's residency application and

legal affairs division, was sentenced to four years' imprisonment.

Chang's wife and daughter were found not guilty of money laundering as there was not enough evidence, the court ruled.

The window for filing appeals against the TJB's ruling spans for 20 days from October 30 to November 18. Earlier, Álvaro Rodrigues, Chang's defense lawyer, told the media after the court session that he was only "partially pleased" with the ruling and intended to file an appeal.



(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2021 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

# STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATION FOR CONSOLIDATION TACKLING CHALLENGES HEAD ON

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Epidemic prevention and control

Revitalising the economy

Caring for people's livelihoods

Promoting economic diversification

Facilitating reform

Innovative development

### 1 Normalise epidemic prevention and control

- Persist with the epidemic prevention strategy of "preventing imported cases and a rebound of the epidemic in Macao".
- Establish a region- and risk-specific epidemic prevention management system.
- Reinforce regional joint prevention and control.
- Strive to expedite vaccine supplies.
- Prepare for a contingency mobile cabin hospital.

### 2 Expedite economic recovery and revitalisation

- Actively participate in the country's dual economic cycle.
- Expedite recovery and development of the tourism industry.
- Increase investments in infrastructure.
  - Implement the construction of transport infrastructure such as the Light Rail Transit (LRT) East Line, the LRT Hengqin Port Connection, and the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour route.
  - Implement expansion of Macao International Airport and remodel part of Taipa Ferry Terminal into the second airport passenger terminal.
  - Commence construction of roads and infrastructure in the New Urban Zone Area A.
- Promote stable and healthy development of the gaming industry.
  - Commence preparatory and preliminary work for the new gaming concessions.

### 3 Promote adequate economic diversification

- Facilitate repositioning of industrial development.
  - Effectively implement an incentive scheme to encourage business upgrading and development.
- Expedite development of modern financial services industry and establishment of a bond market.
- Promote industrialisation of traditional Chinese medicine.
  - Expedite legislation regarding the registration and supervision system for Chinese patent medicines.
- Facilitate professional and market-oriented development of the convention and exhibition industry.
  - Attract more large-scale, high quality international conventions and exhibitions to Macao.
- Gradually foster cross-border e-commerce businesses.
- Promote cultural and sport industrialisation.
- Enhance support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).
  - Implement various assistance schemes to support SMEs with solving human resources problems.
  - Support e-commerce development by micro, small and medium-sized enterprises.
  - Perfect technological innovation mechanisms and systems, and facilitate integration of the industrial, academic and research and development sectors.

## Major welfare measures for 2021

### All Macao residents

#### Non-mandatory individual accounts of the Central Provident Fund

Start-up fund of 10,000 patacas (for eligible residents)

#### Wealth Partaking Scheme\*

10,000 patacas (permanent residents)  
6,000 patacas (non-permanent residents)

#### Healthcare voucher

600 patacas per person (permanent residents)

#### Birth allowance

5,418 patacas (both parents may apply at the same time)

#### Continuing Education Programme (Phase 4)

Maximum 6,000 patacas per person (for eligible residents)

#### Electricity bill subsidy for residential units

200 patacas per month (each residential unit)

#### Continuous water tariff subsidy

Water tariff subsidy for residential and general non-residential users

#### Bus fare concessions for members of the public

For people holding top-up cards, student cards, senior cards, disability cards approved by the Transport Bureau, or people using electronic payments approved by the Transport Bureau

#### Real estate tax for all real estates

Deduction of first 3,500 patacas of tax (Macao residents)

#### Waiver of real estate stamp duty

First three million patacas of a residential unit's value (Macao permanent residents purchasing residential property for the first time)

#### Incentive for the increase of supply in the real estate rental market

Reduction of the property tax rate for leased properties to eight percent; property tax rate for non-leased properties remains at six percent

### Students

#### Textbook allowance for non-tertiary education

3,550 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)  
3,000 patacas per school year (each primary school student)  
2,400 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil)

#### Tuition fee subsidies, meal allowance and stationery allowance for students from families with financial difficulties

##### Tuition fee subsidies:

Maximum 9,000 patacas per school year (each senior secondary school student)  
Maximum 6,000 patacas per school year (each junior secondary school student)  
Maximum 4,000 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil or primary school student)

##### Meal allowance:

3,950 patacas per school year (for each kindergarten pupil or primary school student or secondary school student)

##### Stationery allowance:

3,350 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)  
2,600 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil or primary school student)

#### Tuition fee subsidies and stationery allowance for Macao students studying in Guangdong province

##### Tuition fee subsidies:

Maximum 6,000 patacas per school year (each primary or secondary school student)  
Maximum 8,000 patacas (each kindergarten pupil)

##### Stationery allowance:

1,700 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)  
1,450 patacas per school year (each primary school student)  
1,150 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil)

#### Study allowance for tertiary education

3,300 patacas (Macao residents)

### The elderly

#### Old age allowance

9,000 patacas per year

#### Pension

3,740 patacas per month

#### Incentive for employment for senior citizens

The basic allowance for personal income tax is 198,000 patacas for elderly employees over 65 years of age

### New measures:

#### Housing for senior citizens

- Follow up on the construction of housing for senior citizens
- Lay out a plan for the provision of smart elderly services

#### The first multi-service centre for patients with dementia will commence operation

Enhance community support and provide centralised services for elderly patients with dementia and their families.

### Disadvantaged families

#### Minimum subsistence index

4,350 patacas per one-person household

#### Financial assistance

- Continue disbursing 13 months of financial assistance per year
- Disburse an additional month of financial assistance to eligible families (financial assistance amounting from 4,350 patacas for one-person household per month to 20,270 patacas for eight-person household per month)

\*Remark: The form of disbursement will depend on the actual circumstances

## Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2021 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

### Special subsidy for three categories of disadvantaged families

- **Learning activity subsidy:**  
From 300 patacas to 750 patacas per month
- **Medical subsidy:**  
From 1,000 patacas to 1,200 patacas per month
- **Subsidy for the disabled:**  
From 750 patacas to 1,000 patacas per month

### Special living allowance under the Social Inclusion Scheme

Two disbursements per year. Each disbursement ranging from 2,650 patacas for one-person households, to 10,100 patacas for eight-person households. The income ceiling of the eligible households is 1.8 times the minimum subsistence index (households of single parents, the disabled and patients with chronic illness).

### Short-term Food Assistance Programme

For a maximum of 10 weeks. The income ceiling of the eligible households is 1.8 times the minimum subsistence index.

### Public housing tenants

Tenants whose income does not exceed the income ceiling are eligible for a rent waiver of up to 2,000 patacas per month.

### Temporary subsidies for families on the waiting list of 2017 for public housing

Families with one or two persons: 1,650 patacas per month. Families of three or more persons: 2,500 patacas per month. The scheme will last for one year.

### Positive Life Programme

If a benefit recipient is re-employed, when assessing the household income of the family receiving financial assistance, the household is entitled to an income exemption of up to 6,530 patacas per month, for up to 18 months.

### Community Employment Assistance Scheme

Participants of this scheme will receive a monthly subsidy of up to 2,000 patacas, subject to individual work situations.

## People with disabilities

### Disability gratuity

9,000 patacas per year (ordinary)  
18,000 patacas per year (special)

### Employees with disabilities

Subsidise to minimum wage level

### Employers hiring people with disabilities

A tax deduction of up to 5,000 patacas on profit tax or personal income tax per employee with disabilities.

### Employment incentives

The personal income tax allowance for eligible employees with disabilities is 198,000 patacas.

### New measures:

#### Pilot Financial Support Scheme for the Acquisition of Assistive Equipment and Household Devices for the Disabled

Under the scheme, people with disabilities meeting the financial criteria may receive financial assistance of up to 30,000 patacas for acquiring assistive equipment or special household devices.

#### Carers Allowance Pilot Scheme

2,175 patacas per month.

### Early treatment for children with development disorders

Increase quotas for early treatment services and provide further early training services for children with development disorders and their families.

## Employees

### Personal income tax deduction and tax rebate

30 percent reduction in personal income tax, with the basic allowance for personal income tax is 144,000 patacas for general employees; 60 percent rebate of personal income tax payable by each Macao resident for the year 2019, subject to a ceiling of 14,000 patacas.

### Subsidised training scheme

- Eligible unemployed local residents and fresh graduates enrolled in the employment-oriented training programmes offered by the Government are entitled to a subsidy of up to 6,656 patacas, and employment referral and matching services upon completion of the training.
- For eligible local employees enrolled in the career-oriented training programmes provided by the Government, the employees or their employers are entitled to a subsidy of 5,000 patacas.

## Business owners and related persons

- Profit tax allowance will remain at 600,000 patacas.
- Waivers of all business taxes, hawkers licence fees, wet market stall rents, inspection and quarantine fees for live food, stamp duty on life or non-life insurance, and bank service charges, and stamp duty for auctions.
- Waivers of signboard taxes for businesses and exemption from tourism tax for restaurants.
- Waivers of stamp duty on entrance passes and tickets for cultural and arts performances, exhibitions and entertainment programmes.
- Waiver of profit tax on dividends and investment income from local bonds issued in Macao; and exemption of stamp duty for issuing, transaction or compensable transfer of such bonds.
- Profit tax waiver for Macao businesses for income or profits received in Portuguese-speaking countries.
- Enterprises can enjoy extra reduction in profit tax for eligible research and development expenditure.

## 4 Continue optimising work for people's well-being

- Welfare and livelihood expenditures will not be affected by the Government's austerity measures.
- Continue implementing existing basic beneficial measures for the public.
- **Safeguard prioritised employment for local citizens.**
  - Strictly implement the entry and exit mechanism for imported workers, and adjust the number of non-resident employees on a timely basis.
  - Expand the target groups for on-the-job paid training programmes.
- **Ensure the basic living conditions of local residents and orderly implementation of the housing ladder policy.**
  - Commence the process for detailed assessment of the applications for the first batch of 3,011 Home-Ownership Scheme housing units.
  - Expedite the design and construction of the housing project for senior citizens at Lot P of Areia Preta.
  - Implement the Venceslau de Moraes and Tamagnini Barbosa public housing projects, and complete the Mong Ha public housing project.
- **Improve medical and health care facilities and systems.**
  - Facilitate the construction of the Islands District Medical Complex and the Public Health Specialist Building.
- **Gradually launch policies and measures in response to the ageing population.**
  - Review and publicise the Carers Allowance Pilot Scheme.
  - Expand outreach specialist medical services to more homes for the elderly.
- **Gradually develop a sustainable social security system with comprehensive coverage.**
- **Protect the rights of women and children, and facilitate implementation of family-friendly policies.**
- **Protect consumer rights, and ensure stable supplies and pricing of basic commodities.**

## 5 Deepen public administration reform

- Facilitate development of digital government, to enhance administrative effectiveness.
- Continue to implement restructuring of public departments.
- Amend the laws and regulations related to the delegation of authority mechanism.
- Review the current deployment system of public servants and implement management of government human resources.
- Enhance the mechanism for nurturing management talents in public administration.
- Enhance the standard of electronic public services.
- Strengthen legislation on major areas.
- Optimise the legal system for corporations with public capital.
- Strengthen supervision of autonomous funds, and reform the management funding approval systems, and information disclosure system of Macao Foundation as well as other autonomous funds.
- Combat corruption and bribery in the public and private sectors.
- Strengthen auditing and supervision, and encourage public departments to optimise the use of public funds.

## 6 Develop Macao through cultivating and importing talented people

- Formulate the Medium-to-Long Term Plan for Non-tertiary Education (2021-2030) and the Macao Youth Policy (2021-2030).
- Pragmatically facilitate industrialisation based on research results of tertiary institutions and establishment of the University Industrial Park.
- Leverage Macao's functions as a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area tourism education and training base, and a cradle for cultivating talented individuals who are bilingual in Chinese and Portuguese.
- Leverage Macao's function as a patriotic education base for young people.
- Formulate the overall strategy on talent development and the laws and regulations related to importing talented people, and develop an innovative mechanism for talent assessment.
- Support youth entrepreneurship and innovative development, enable young people to learn, work, exchange ideas and knowledge, and live in mainland China; and participate in the overall national development.

# Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2021 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## 7 Promote the development of a smart and liveable city

- Promote modernisation of urban governance system and governance capacity.
- Announce Macao's Urban Master Plan (2020-2040), and commence the detailed planning for all functional zones.
- Expedite the legislative process for the Legal System Governing Urban Renewal.
- Improve cross-harbour traffic between Macao and Taipa.
- Commence the Macao Road Traffic and Transport Planning Study (2021-2030).
- Establish a new entry system for Macao's air transportation market.
- Study marine zoning based on functions, and planning of maritime areas.
- Strengthen prevention of and responses to disasters, and improve flood control and resilience in the Inner Harbour.
- Intensify environmental protection and waste reduction.
- Construct a round-the-island leisure walkway on Coloane island, in phases.

## 8 Establish a base for cultural exchanges and cooperation

- Set up the Committee for Establishment of a Base for Cultural Exchanges and Cooperation.
- Facilitate legislation on protection and management of the Historic Centre of Macao.
- Merge the Culture Fund and the Cultural Industry Fund.
- Support development of sports; and revise the planning of and optimise selected sports facilities.

## 9 Safeguard national security and social stability

- Strive to perfect the legal system and law enforcement system for safeguarding national security.
- Enhance promotion of national security education.
- Continue promoting the Constitution and the Basic Law of the Macao SAR.
- Ensure a fair, impartial, open and clean seventh Legislative Assembly election of the Macao SAR.
- Enhance law enforcement capability to maintain law and order in the Macao SAR.
- Strengthen cybersecurity protection capability.
- Strengthen regional police collaboration mechanism.
- Prevent infiltration and interference by external forces.

## 10 Proactively integrate into the overall national development plan

- Proactively align with the country's 14th Five-Year Plan.
- Facilitate the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.
- Expedite the establishment of the Macao New Neighbourhood project in Hengqin.
- Commence operations of the Macao border crossing area at the Hengqin Port and part of the phase-two adjoining areas, by the end of 2021.
- Pragmatically promote the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.
- The new Guangdong-Macao border crossing checkpoint (Qingmao Checkpoint) will be inaugurated in 2021.
- Study allowing Macao vehicles to enter and travel in Guangdong via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge.
- Improve measures enhancing the convenience of Macao residents wishing to work and reside in mainland China cities of the Greater Bay Area.
- Participate in and support the development of the "Belt and Road" initiative.
- Facilitate the establishment of a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and spare no effort in assisting with organising the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries.

### THE MACAO SAR GENERAL INTEGRATED BUDGET FOR 2021

| REVENUE ITEMS                           | Proposed budget for 2021 | REVENUE ITEMS                               | Proposed budget for 2021 |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>RECURRING REVENUE</b>                | <b>65,903,870,800.00</b> | Contribution to Social Security System      | 85,531,700.00            |
| Direct tax                              | 7,572,127,400.00         | Other recurring revenue                     | 101,107,300.00           |
| Indirect tax                            | 3,675,278,300.00         | <b>CAPITAL REVENUE</b>                      | <b>30,159,228,700.00</b> |
| Fees, fine and other monetary penalties | 1,597,376,600.00         | Sale of facilities and equipment            | 851,100.00               |
| Asset revenue                           | 887,750,000.00           | Financial assets                            | 705,456,600.00           |
| Franchise and concession revenue        | 50,414,434,500.00        | Sale of stocks and other equities           | 101,000.00               |
| Financial revenue                       | 384,156,900.00           | Other capital revenue*                      | 29,452,820,000.00        |
| Sale of items and labour                | 938,146,300.00           | <b>General integrated budget of revenue</b> | <b>96,063,099,500.00</b> |
| Transfer                                | 247,961,800.00           |                                             |                          |

\*Other capital revenue includes utilization of an excessive amount of 28,381,855,900.00 p.p.m. from the local reserve.

| EXPENSES ITEMS                                                                                                                                     | Proposed budget for 2021 | EXPENSES ITEMS                                                    | Proposed budget for 2021 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Macao SAR Government                                                                                                                               | 22,305,500.00            | Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World Trade Organization   | 11,587,000.00            |
| Office of the Chief Executive                                                                                                                      | 316,019,300.00           | Macao Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan                      | 16,337,300.00            |
| Executive Council                                                                                                                                  | 25,765,000.00            | Higher Education Bureau                                           | 107,005,100.00           |
| Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice                                                                                             | 44,183,700.00            | Investments and Development Expenses of the Administration        | 18,510,892,300.00        |
| Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance                                                                                                    | 46,910,900.00            | Pension and retirement compensation                               | 7,752,400.00             |
| Office of the Secretary for Security                                                                                                               | 36,907,100.00            | General expenses                                                  | 16,965,784,100.00        |
| Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture                                                                                             | 61,653,200.00            | Designated appropriations, shared allocations and transfer budget | 4,678,395,000.00         |
| Office of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works                                                                                             | 26,820,000.00            | Health Bureau                                                     | 8,626,257,800.00         |
| Judiciary Police                                                                                                                                   | 1,104,435,200.00         | Social Welfare Bureau                                             | 3,549,765,200.00         |
| Finance Services Bureau                                                                                                                            | 607,855,400.00           | Government Printing Bureau                                        | 92,569,000.00            |
| Macao Economic Services Bureau                                                                                                                     | 242,321,800.00           | Housing Bureau                                                    | 480,265,900.00           |
| Identification Bureau                                                                                                                              | 283,800,000.00           | Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute                    | 652,207,800.00           |
| Statistics and Census Service                                                                                                                      | 240,978,000.00           | Civil Aviation Authority                                          | 88,499,700.00            |
| Cartography and Cadastre Bureau                                                                                                                    | 85,956,300.00            | Macao Polytechnic Institute                                       | 841,367,000.00           |
| Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau                                                                                                          | 304,442,200.00           | University of Macau                                               | 2,577,073,500.00         |
| Macao Government Tourism Office                                                                                                                    | 369,302,300.00           | Co-ffier of Legal Affairs                                         | 200,383,000.00           |
| Labour Affairs Bureau                                                                                                                              | 512,447,500.00           | Consumer Council                                                  | 50,290,000.00            |
| Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau                                                                                                            | 466,106,400.00           | Macao Institute for Tourism Studies                               | 413,089,000.00           |
| Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau                                                                                                     | 472,222,100.00           | Public Security Police Force Welfare Association                  | 54,487,900.00            |
| Government Information Bureau                                                                                                                      | 153,768,100.00           | Fire Services Welfare Association                                 | 8,314,800.00             |
| Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau                                                                                                              | 159,267,000.00           | Commission of Audit                                               | 162,115,700.00           |
| Judicial Council                                                                                                                                   | 311,000.00               | Office of the Prosecutor General                                  | 445,747,600.00           |
| Legal Affairs Bureau                                                                                                                               | 277,471,600.00           | Office of the President of the Court of Final Appeal              | 643,896,700.00           |
| Unitary Police Service                                                                                                                             | 48,076,000.00            | Commission Against Corruption                                     | 346,766,600.00           |
| Transport Bureau                                                                                                                                   | 2,752,525,000.00         | Legislative Assembly                                              | 183,787,300.00           |
| Environmental Protection Bureau                                                                                                                    | 960,430,200.00           | Customs Welfare Association                                       | 3,462,500.00             |
| Talents Development Committee                                                                                                                      | 14,789,900.00            | Marine and Water Bureau Welfare Association                       | 2,117,300.00             |
| Medical Incident Assessment Committee                                                                                                              | 8,076,700.00             | Judiciary Police Welfare Association                              | 5,629,600.00             |
| Medical Dispute Arbitration Centre                                                                                                                 | 2,766,600.00             | Municipal Affairs Bureau                                          | 3,068,733,900.00         |
| Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau                                                                                                    | 72,218,000.00            | Industrial and Commercial Development Fund                        | 988,405,400.00           |
| Infrastructure Development Office                                                                                                                  | 76,565,500.00            | Fund for Home Ownership Scheme Housing Loans                      | 1,883,500.00             |
| The Supporting Office to the Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries | 208,767,800.00           | Student Welfare Fund                                              | 386,754,000.00           |
| Financial Intelligence Office                                                                                                                      | 34,379,300.00            | Sports Fund                                                       | 944,227,000.00           |
| Office for Personal Data Protection                                                                                                                | 48,633,500.00            | Culture Fund                                                      | 360,878,400.00           |
| Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office                                                                                             | 67,166,900.00            | Tourism Fund                                                      | 671,270,700.00           |
| Office for the Planning of the Supervision of the Public Assets of the Macao Special Administrative Region                                         | 24,985,000.00            | Macao Public Administration Welfare Fund                          | 46,830,700.00            |
| Cultural Affairs Bureau                                                                                                                            | 1,033,118,000.00         | Correctional Service Fund                                         | 5,171,600.00             |
| Sports Bureau                                                                                                                                      | 248,095,300.00           | Science and Technology Development Fund                           | 361,568,900.00           |
| Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon                                                                                                          | 12,763,300.00            | Education Development Fund                                        | 697,997,500.00           |
| Public Security Forces Affairs Bureau of Macao                                                                                                     | 5,816,315,900.00         | Fisheries Development and Support Fund                            | 10,000,000.00            |
| Education and Youth Affairs Bureau                                                                                                                 | 7,469,802,800.00         | Property Maintenance Fund                                         | 44,525,100.00            |
| Marine and Water Bureau                                                                                                                            | 942,128,600.00           | Gian Pando Foundation                                             | 3,172,000.00             |
| Macao Economic and Trade Office to the European Union in Brussels                                                                                  | 4,390,500.00             | Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Fund             | 12,537,800.00            |
| Correctional Service Bureau                                                                                                                        | 678,553,100.00           | Cultural Industry Fund                                            | 208,758,800.00           |
| Office of the Macao SAR in Beijing                                                                                                                 | 24,503,300.00            | Labour Creditor's Rights Protection Fund                          | 23,635,800.00            |
| Macao Customs Service                                                                                                                              | 1,041,776,200.00         | Higher Education Fund                                             | 202,067,800.00           |
|                                                                                                                                                    |                          | <b>General integrated budget of expenditure</b>                   | <b>95,216,342,800.00</b> |

### General integrated budget balance

|                                                         |                |                                                          |                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Central budget balance                                  | -              | <b>General integrated budget balance</b>                 | <b>846,756,700.00</b>    |
| Balance of budget implementation of autonomous entities | 846,756,700.00 | <b>General integrated budget expenditure and balance</b> | <b>96,063,099,500.00</b> |

### SUMMARISED BUDGET AND INVESTMENT BUDGET OF SPECIAL ORGANISATIONS FOR 2021

| REVENUE ITEMS                           | Proposed budget for 2021 | REVENUE ITEMS                                             | Proposed budget for 2021 |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>RECURRING REVENUE</b>                | <b>15,405,795,800.00</b> | Sale of items and labour                                  | 577,987,900.00           |
| Fees, fine and other monetary penalties | 626,613,100.00           | Transfer                                                  | 4,682,888,000.00         |
| Asset revenue                           | 86,217,100.00            | Contributions to Social Security System                   | 1,891,196,700.00         |
| Franchise and concession revenue        | 1,570,880,000.00         | Other recurring revenue                                   | 13,941,700.00            |
| Financial revenue                       | 5,956,071,300.00         | <b>Summarised budget revenue of special organisations</b> | <b>15,405,795,800.00</b> |

| EXPENSES ITEMS                           | Proposed budget for 2021 | EXPENSES ITEMS                                                                                             | Proposed budget for 2021 |
|------------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau | 573,805,700.00           | Macao Foundation                                                                                           | 2,672,408,400.00         |
| Postal Savings Office                    | 61,681,900.00            | Deposit Protection Fund                                                                                    | 3,010,000.00             |
| Macao Pension Fund                       | 3,022,113,400.00         | <b>Summarised budget expenditure of special organisations</b>                                              | <b>15,347,417,000.00</b> |
| Monetary Authority of Macao              | 2,681,439,700.00         | Net value of operational profit and loss of special organisations                                          | 58,378,800.00            |
| Social Security Fund                     | 6,324,242,100.00         | <b>Summarised budget expenditure and net value of operational profit and loss of special organisations</b> | <b>15,405,795,800.00</b> |
| Automobile and Maritime Security Fund    | 8,715,800.00             |                                                                                                            |                          |

### Investment budget of special organisations

|                                          |                |                                                              |                       |
|------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau | 136,403,000.00 | Automobile and Maritime Security Fund                        | -                     |
| Postal Savings Office                    | -              | Macao Foundation                                             | 6,646,700.00          |
| Macao Pension Fund                       | 1,150,500.00   | Deposit Protection Fund                                      | -                     |
| Monetary Authority of Macao              | 343,395,700.00 | <b>Summarised investment budget of special organisations</b> | <b>501,775,900.00</b> |
| Social Security Fund                     | 14,180,000.00  |                                                              |                       |

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## Major Policies on Various Areas

### Administration and Justice

Looking to the year ahead, deepening public administration reform will remain the major task in the area of administration and justice. We will promote e-governance as an entry point for public administration reform, to facilitate e-services development for commonly used public services.

We will review the functions and related legal system regulating public funds; improve the systems for ranking, recruiting and training civil servants; review the regulations on the powers and responsibilities of management-level officials; optimise civil servant management; and strengthen civil servants' service awareness.

Meanwhile, we will continue enhancing the effectiveness of the legislative coordination mechanism, and prioritise legislation work that is closely related to people's livelihoods and social and economic affairs. We will intensify the promotion of the Constitution, the Basic Law, and the laws and regulations for safeguarding national security, enabling the public to fully understand the social and practical significance of "One country, two systems", thus proactively safeguard national sovereignty, safety and development interests.

To build a healthy city is another important task in the area of administration and justice. We will strengthen the inspection, dredging and maintenance of the drainage network, and develop new green leisure walkways in Islands District.

To normalise disease prevention, we will continue strengthening inspection and quarantine of refrigerated and frozen food, to prevent food contaminated by the novel coronavirus from entering Macao. We will also continue improving wet market management, to establish a new image for wet markets that are clean and tidy with transparent pricing.

#### Public administration

- ▶ Improving power and responsibility system and departmental structure
- ▶ Comprehensively deepening the development of e-governance
- ▶ Enhancing civil servant management and training
- ▶ Establishing a system to optimise inter-departmental collaboration
- ▶ Facilitating the seventh Legislative Assembly election

#### Legal work

- ▶ Ensuring effectiveness of legislative coordination
- ▶ Facilitating legislation in major areas
- ▶ Continue reviewing existing laws
- ▶ Exploring new strategies for effectively raising legal awareness
- ▶ Promoting regional and international exchanges

#### Municipal services

- ▶ Facilitating municipal development and improving the urban environment
- ▶ Strengthening food safety supervision in concert with epidemic-control effort
- ▶ Optimising wet market regulation and facility management
- ▶ Beautifying urban environment and increasing leisure spaces
- ▶ Enhancing quality and quantity of urban greenery



### Economy and Finance

Our goals in the area of economy and finance are to stabilise the economy, safeguard employment, care for people's livelihoods, expand domestic demand, and integrate into the country's overall economic cycle. Our strategic policies are to protect and stimulate major market vitality, maintain financial and monetary stability, promote adequate economic diversification, protect local residents' employment, improve and create environment to enhance the driving force of tourism and convention and exhibition industries, and participate in the establishment of the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin.

#### Fiscal and financial policy

- ▶ Implement vigorous fiscal policies, and allocate 18.5 billion patacas to boost domestic demand;
- ▶ Implement austerity measures to control public expenditure while ensuring people's livelihoods and social welfare are unaffected;
- ▶ Facilitate legislative process regarding the public procurement system, in phases; and
- ▶ Maintain financial security and stability.

#### Tourism and gaming

- ▶ Deepen "Tourism Plus" crossover, to foster the development of smart tourism and quality tourism;
- ▶ Perfect laws and regulations related to gaming; and
- ▶ Strengthen monitoring of the gaming industry by using high-technology.

#### Employment and micro, small and medium-sized enterprises

- ▶ Introduce quotas for 60,000 paid training positions, to enhance the skills of local employees and maintain stable employment;
- ▶ Follow up regarding the formulation of the Trade Union Law and other labour-related regulations, to safeguard workers' rights and interests; and
- ▶ Popularise mobile payment and application of technology among small and medium-sized enterprises, to improve the quality of goods and services.

#### Adequate economic diversification

- ▶ Enhance support for innovation and technology, to facilitate adequate economic diversification;
- ▶ Make good use of the beneficial measures offered by the country, to strengthen Macao's modern financial industry;
- ▶ Develop the traditional Chinese medicine industry, in accordance with the Chinese patent medicine registration and supervision system; and
- ▶ Explore business opportunities and driving forces for development of the convention and exhibition industry.

#### Regional cooperation

- ▶ Seize opportunities to actively participate in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and the Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin; and
- ▶ Through regional cooperation, integrate into the country's overall economic cycle.

#### A platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries

- ▶ Follow up regarding the Sixth Ministerial Meeting of the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries; and
- ▶ Develop digital commerce between China and Portuguese-speaking countries and cross-border electronic commerce.

#### Youth and livelihoods

- ▶ Support youth entrepreneurship, innovation and employment; and
- ▶ Ensure a stable supply of basic commodities.



Seizing on the opportunities in Greater Bay Area development and proactively taking part in the development of Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone in Hengqin

### Public Security

The Government actively participates in developing a system to safeguard national security, and enforce the new Civil Protection Law. We will enhance the effectiveness of public safety governance through consistent and efficient law enforcement, progressively construction of a smart policing system, deepening of the modern policing model, and improvements to various systems and measures, to consolidate further protection for Macao's security and safety.

#### Overall national security

- ▶ Establish a national security law enforcement unit, improve the enforcement mechanism, and develop long-term planning; and
- ▶ Strengthen publicity and education, and actively address risks, to ensure overall safety.

#### Proactive law enforcement

- ▶ Study and analyse research data, promote forward-looking deployment, and strengthen precautionary and preventive measures; and
- ▶ Deepen coordination in the Greater Bay Area, pay attention to hazards and risks, and initiate legislation and control.

#### Civil protection innovation

- ▶ Restructure the Unitary Police Service, implement civil protection laws and legal system and joint defence planning; and
- ▶ Continue promoting smart civil protection, strengthen publicity and drills, and enhance the effectiveness of collaboration.

#### Tough but caring management

- ▶ Improve internal and external supervision, promote caring management, and enhance team recognition; and
- ▶ Provide up-to-date training, conduct high-quality seminars, and promote innovative policing.

#### Smart policing

- ▶ Expedite construction and initial applications required to facilitate smart policing; and
- ▶ Optimise the distribution of "Sky Eye" CCTV system, strengthen cybersecurity management, and make good use of the marine surveillance system.

#### Joint force between the police and the public

- ▶ Actively listen to opinions, promote positive interactions, and perfect implementation in detail; and
- ▶ Optimise police public relations, and attach importance to the relationship between the police and journalists, to enhance the effectiveness of cooperation.

#### Border crossing facilitation

- ▶ Facilitate border crossing clearance at Qingmao checkpoint, and optimise the clearance process at Hengqin Port, to relieve pressure on border crossing clearance; and
- ▶ Strive to complete legal amendments, to ensure border crossing security, and continue providing convenient public services.

#### Cooperation in correctional services

- ▶ Continue strengthening prison administration, strictly enforce personnel discipline, and optimise the correctional services ranking system; and
- ▶ Promote prison projects, strengthen security management, and strive to facilitate social rehabilitation.

#### Financial law enforcement

- ▶ Evaluate movements of funds in a timely manner, and strengthen public-private cooperation, to spare no effort in preventing and combating money laundering; and
- ▶ Expand exchanges and cooperation, make accurate use of information, and achieve efficient law enforcement.



The Chief Executive inspects the facilities and equipment at the new Hengqin Port.



(TRANSLATED VERSION)

## Major Policies on Various Areas

### Social Affairs and Culture

The Government will prioritise social stability, emphasise “consolidation with revitalisation”, and improve people’s livelihoods in the area of social affairs and culture. We will insist on “making progress while ensuring stability” to make concerted efforts in development and lay a solid foundation for Macao’s prosperity and stability, through healthcare, education and youth development, social welfare, social security, and culture and sports.

#### Normalise epidemic prevention and control

- ▶ Reinforce regional joint prevention and control;
- ▶ Plan and construct a sanitation and quarantine station at the Qingmao checkpoint;
- ▶ Develop a region-specific and multi-level disease prevention and control proposal; and
- ▶ Prepare for a contingency mobile cabin hospital.

#### Public facility construction

- ▶ The first multi-service centre for patients with dementia will commence operation;
- ▶ Strive to complete the interior construction of the Seac Pai Van Health Centre, Coloane;
- ▶ Implement preliminary arrangements for the operation of the Islands District Medical Complex;
- ▶ Expedite the design of the new Macao Central Library;
- ▶ Complete the design of the black box theatre in Macao Cultural Centre; and
- ▶ Develop a management model for commencing operation of Mong-Ha Sports Centre.



The Chief Executive inspects medical facilities.

#### Optimise education and talent cultivation

- ▶ Launch the Medium-to-Long Term Plan for Non-tertiary Education (2021-2030);
- ▶ Promulgate the Macao Youth Policy (2021-2030);
- ▶ Implement smart campus construction;
- ▶ Coordinate tertiary institutions to increase the proportion of admission of students from mainland China;
- ▶ Promote application and transformation of technological achievements; and
- ▶ Continue implementing the Continuing Education Programme.

#### Improve effectiveness of social services through technology

- ▶ Introduce an artificial intelligence assistive speech therapeutic system for children;
- ▶ Formulate smart retirement plans for senior citizen housing;
- ▶ Introduce advanced identification technology for proof of life; and
- ▶ Refine the Non-Mandatory Central Provident Fund electronic system.

#### Development of culture and sports

- ▶ Host “Art Macao: 2021 International Art Biennial of Macao”;
- ▶ Partially revitalise and open up regions of the former Iec Long Firecracker Factory site, in phases;
- ▶ Present the first batch of cultural industry awards;
- ▶ Organise participation in various major multi-sport events; and
- ▶ Organise the “U20 Futsal Football Invitation for Sino-Portuguese Speaking Countries and Regions”.

### Transport and Public Works

Policy implementation regarding transport and public works will be guided by the principle of serving the public and striving to satisfy the public’s needs. The Government will devote its greatest efforts to public housing, transport, environmental protection, urban planning, urban renewal and public infrastructure.

#### Urban planning

- ▶ Announce the summary report of the public consultation on Macao’s Urban Development Master Plan;
- ▶ Facilitate follow up work on the Legal System Governing Urban Renewal;
- ▶ Implement land management in accordance with the Land Law; and
- ▶ Facilitate the legislative process for enacting the Law on Use of Maritime Areas.

#### Public work investment

- ▶ Expedite construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge;
- ▶ Expedite construction of public housing units;
- ▶ Proceed with construction of the LRT system, according to the schedule; and
- ▶ Complete construction of the new Guangdong-Macao border crossing.



Expediting the infrastructure construction at New Urban Zone A

#### Housing

- ▶ Fully allocate newly completed and renovated public housing units to eligible families in the 2017 scheme; and
- ▶ Complete the preliminary screening and computerised ballot drawing for the three Home-Ownership Scheme housing projects (3,011 units) in the New Urban Zone Area A, and compile the priority list.

#### Transport

- ▶ Launch the Macao Road Traffic and Transport Planning Study (2021-2030);
- ▶ Optimise bus services operated through contracts that recently came into effect;
- ▶ Continue constructing the walking route network, to encourage green commuting; and
- ▶ Expedite implementation of the Master Development Plan for Macao International Airport.

#### Environmental protection

- ▶ Promote sorting and recycling through multiple channels, and perfect and expand community recycling networks;
- ▶ Deepen kitchen waste reduction and recycling, and facilitate on-site kitchen waste treatment in hotels with suitable conditions;
- ▶ Implement improvement work at wastewater effluent black spots along the coast of Macao; and
- ▶ Continue expanding and optimising the weather and air quality monitoring network.

#### Public supplies management

- ▶ Complete the main project for increasing the capacity of Ka Ho Reservoir;
- ▶ Commence construction of the cross-harbour natural gas pipeline network; and
- ▶ Review and reformulate tiered pricing for electricity, and the pricing scheme of the public charging service for electric vehicles.

### Commission Against Corruption

The seventh Legislative Assembly election of the Macao Special Administrative Region will be held in 2021. The Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) will perform its function of monitoring the Legislative Assembly election in accordance with the law, devote its full effort to combat vote-buying, and adopt a multi-pronged approach to maintaining a clean election.

#### Bribery prevention to build a corruption-free society

- ▶ Together with the long-term anti-corruption publicity campaign, promote clean elections through various channels; and
- ▶ Continue with various integrity education activities, to raise integrity awareness in families, schools and the community.

#### Anti-corruption and monitoring of use of public funds

- ▶ Establish an anti-bribery group, set up an online platform and hotline for reporting vote-buying, and monitor high-risk bribery venues; and
- ▶ Continue cracking down on bribery in the public and private sectors, and fraud related to public funds.

#### Integrated review and departmental collaboration

- ▶ Encourage the public to report complaints using real names;
- ▶ Implement the reinvestigation mechanism and review the Corruption-free Management Programme;
- ▶ Promote cooperation with audit departments on specific regulatory scopes involving public assets; and
- ▶ Facilitate cross-departmental collaboration in handling complaints to the ombudsman.

#### Exchanges with Greater Bay Area to broaden horizons

- ▶ With regard to the development plan of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area and Macao’s development positioning of “One Centre, One Platform, One Base”, strengthen in-depth communication and exchanges with the National Supervisory Commission and relevant executive authorities of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area; and
- ▶ Optimise information technology to support the country in deliberations by the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

#### Systems creation, consolidation and innovation

- ▶ Cooperate with the development of electronic public administration, and establish a CCAC electronic case filing system;
- ▶ Introduce online appointments for reporting complaints in person and submitting property and interest declaration forms, for the convenience of the public;
- ▶ Attach great importance to training staff regarding professional knowledge and skills; and
- ▶ Review the legal system regarding organisational structure, and the organisation and operation of the commission, and strive to propose legislation and amendments to laws in a timely manner.

### Commission of Audit

In 2021, the Commission of Audit (CA) will closely follow the Government’s policy vision, and uphold the principles of working independently and conducting audit in accordance with the law, to ensure government accounts are compiled in compliance with the law and regulations. The CA will focus on the implementation of major policies, and strive to expand the breadth and depth of auditing and supervision.

#### Audit and “Auditor Office”

- ▶ According to the Budget Framework Law and the requirements and practice of its related regulations, and its implementation during the previous fiscal year, the Commission of Audit will again review the workflow of audit and optimise the details of each item of work.
- ▶ The Commission of Audit will comprehensively examine and operate the upgraded and modified “Auditor Office (Macao version)”, and make good use of all functions of the system.

#### Performance audit and special audit

- ▶ The Commission of Audit will encourage public departments to optimise the use of public resources through different audit projects, to avoid wastage of public resources, improve performance and enhance transparency. The CA will reveal potential risks and urge related sectors to face up to their duties, to effectively solve problems and enhance the quality of public services.

#### Promoting optimal use of public resources

- ▶ The Commission of Audit will continue to promote deepening the audit culture and awareness of conserving resources through the “Fundamental Training Programme for Civil Servants”, and hold seminars for public departments on “Introduction to Audit Culture”, in order to strengthen two-way communications and exchanges of opinions.

#### Auditing team

- ▶ The Commission of Audit will strengthen internal training to improve staff capabilities regarding information technology and macro policy analysis.

#### Exchanges on auditing work

- ▶ The Commission of Audit will participate in international audit conferences and exchange activities in accordance with established arrangements, and apply new knowledge in its daily operations.

## ON THE ROAD TO GP INTERVIEW | NICHOLAS LAI

# Living a childhood dream

RENATO MARQUES

**A**N illustrious unknown for those unfamiliar with the local motorsports' panorama, Macau's Nicholas Lai is set to move from the virtuality of the racing simulators to the reality of the streets of Macau this year.

Behind the wheel of a BMW M4 GT4 from the Son Veng Racing Team, Lai is living a childhood dream with the opportunity to participate in the notorious Macau Grand Prix event.

To learn more about Lai's path in motorsports and his expectations for this year's race, the Times spoke to him in an exclusive interview.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) – Tell us a little bit about how you started racing.**

**Nicholas Lai (NL) –** I started race driving back in 2015 after proper training with Asia Racing Team (ART). It took me three years to build my confidence in controlling the car.

In 2018, I finally had enough confidence to move forward into racing so I joined the "Radical Challenge Series" in Shanghai. It was my first-ever race and I think I made a mistake in the last half of the last lap, where the engine stopped and I couldn't restart the car after it stopped. I missed a place in the podium on that first race because I didn't know how to restart the car. After all, it had some kind of "power lock" in the gear.

This happened with the Radical SR3 car. It took me over 30 seconds to restart the car and although I had some advantage over the next driver, I saw him pass through.

After that race, I decided to engage in proper physical training as I knew I wasn't prepared for races. It took me some six months of training in a gym to reach the level of fitness I needed and at the same time, I also started to do some [racing] simulator sessions as well.

Last year, I also raced in Formula 4 (F4). It was something that I always wanted to do – to race in a formula car. I raced in Shanghai in April 2019 in one of the support races for the F1 event [F1 Chinese Grand Prix]. We only had one race that weekend and I got only 14th position so it didn't go so well. I experienced a lot of problems with the car. It had several engine failures during both practice and qualifying sessions so I had to start from the back.

Later in 2019, I raced in Zhuhai and I managed to score some good results. I was awarded a rookie trophy; I was really happy with that as it was my first time racing in Zhuhai.

Then the championship moved to the next race in Ningbo [Zhejiang province] and I was improving a lot and could see my progress but after the Ningbo event, the car problems reappeared. I guess it was the Engine Control Unit that became wet due to the heavy rain.

I was disappointed as I had started 4th from the grid but by Turn 5, I was already leading the race but the engine died on me.

I then started thinking that maybe it was time to change again as the F4 car was not reliable. I thought it was time to move forward to something better so I joined the Asian Formula Renault (AFR) series in Sepang, Malaysia.

I found it interesting that it was

not that difficult to learn the car and track as I thought it would be. In Sepang, there is a lot of gravitational force (g-forces) that results from high-speed cornering, braking, and acceleration, but since I had been physically preparing, it wasn't that difficult.

I attained three podium finishes after that and I was thinking to join this year's AFR series as I was interested in race in the brand-new Hanoi circuit [in Vietnam] but eventually, that race never happened [due to the Covid-19 outbreak that halted the motorsports calendar].

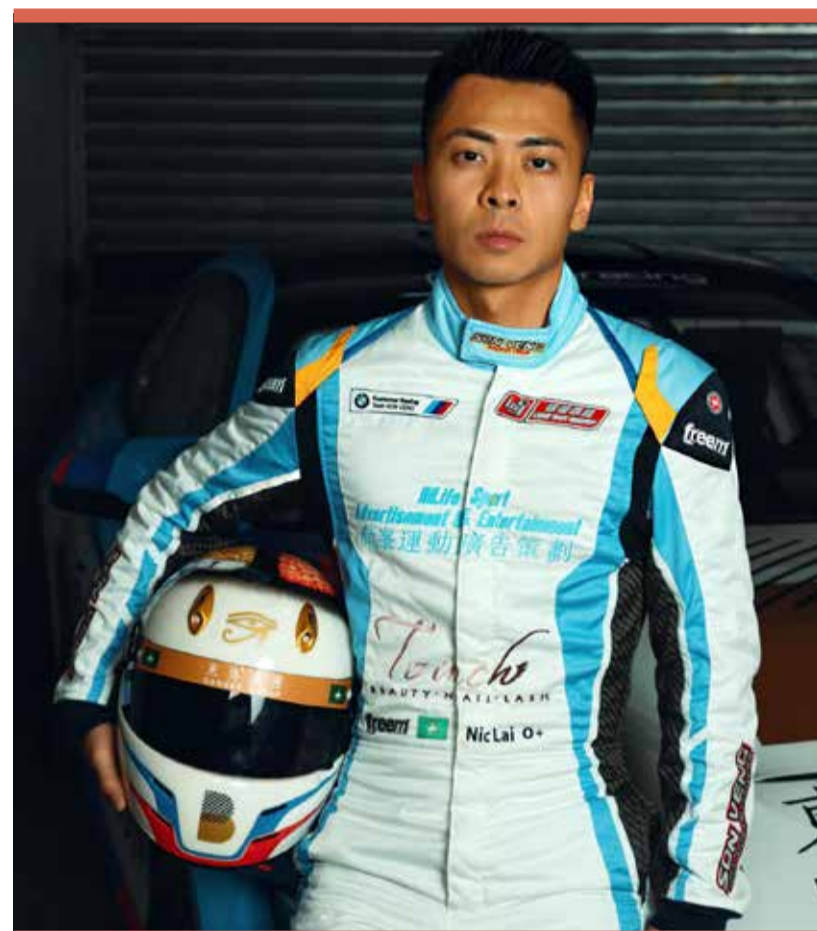
**MDT – How did you get the opportunity to participate in this year's Macau GP?**

**NL –** In March this year (amid all the complications), I got an invitation from Son Veng Racing Team, asking me if I wanted to join the Macau race as they were planning to have two races on the Mainland in preparation for the Macau event.

And I thought this was my chance to race in Macau and even be able to get any kind of support from the government as I have been spending my own money for the past five years without any support.

It took me a lot of sacrifices and spending of all my savings to reach here.

I only started to join racing activities and training in 2015 because that is when I finally had the money for it. Also, I learned these skills from my job roles, where most of my duties included 'set targets and building goals'. I did apply the same concept to myself. I have been always fascinated by the F1 and its drivers.



I need to had that fortunately and although the many difficulties I found support from Donngo Group that is sponsoring my race this year, to which I am very thankful.

**MDT – For the Macau GP, you will be racing in a completely new and different type of car. How do you feel about that change?**

**NL –** Yes, I am both excited and a little anxious about it. I have always been racing formula cars (single-seat, open-wheel, and open-cockpit cars) and I never raced any touring cars (modified road cars). I only had a practice session in Zhuhai in an Audi RS3 TCR car and I didn't quite like it as I felt it was very slow in the car and like driving in a shell without seeing the wheels.

I still prefer the formula cars. It's a different experience where you can feel everything that is going on and you feel like being

part of the car. In a touring car, you don't feel a lot as all the forces are transferred to the cage [roll cage] and chassis.

One of the scariest parts of driving in Macau and especially with a touring car is that if you don't drive carefully, it is very easy to 'total' the car [destroy completely]. This is what makes me more nervous and anxious about.

**MDT – What are your expectations for the Macau GT Cup race event, in which you are participating?**

**NL –** This is a very unusual year for everyone and as we speak it's not even possible to know or even forecast who is going to participate in this race as [at the time of the interview] the entry list has not yet been published. There were a lot of changes and I was initially to race in the Greater Bay Area GT Cup, but then finally we decided to change my entry

## GUIA CIRCUIT – ALMOST UNTOUCHED GP TRIVIA

**ORIGINALLY** lengthened by a little over 6.28 km (3.9 miles), the final layout of the Guia Circuit was 6.2 km since the fifth edition of the Macau Grand Prix, in 1958. Many years later, in 1993, the start-finish line, which was originally located a few meters before the Mandarin bend, was moved to its current location at the Outer Harbor.

This was the most significant change ever made to the circuit. The line, the control tower, and all the support facilities, including the pit garages and the spectators' stands, were moved to the new location. The Grand Prix headquarters was also moved to the new location, marking the 40th edition of the Grand Prix.





to the Macau GT Cup.

Since there were no qualification races this year, it is impossible to know who will be racing and in which car.

I only had a very short session to try out the car and the next time I'll be jumping in the M4 GT4 will be to race in Macau.

**MDT – How are you coping with the lack of opportunities to practice and gain routines? Are you using simulators to practice?**

NL - What I am doing to prepare for the race is mostly to build up my [physical and psychological] strength.

The simulator is important but I

don't practice on the simulator every day because, in my opinion, if you get too attached to the simulator and use it every day, you soon start treating it as a game. But, if you try to use it like once a week, this will be just like your real practice session.

I don't focus so much on the race simulator; I prefer to focus more on

the physical training as we know many older racers in Macau do not usually focus on the physical part of the training but they know the track quite well as they have been racing here for many years.

I think I can compensate my lack of track experience with better physical preparation as I feel that physi-

cal preparation plays a very important role.

**MDT – Do you agree with the introduction of more junior or support races to Macau GP?**

NL – I think so. Macau GP should accommodate people like myself. It is not easy to get to [race] in Macau because you need to spend a lot of money. Unless you come from a rich family [that can support you], which I am certainly not.

I think if there is such support especially for the youngsters, so that they can focus just on one thing, which is racing and practicing for the sport itself.

It takes a lot of strength to get to the position of being able to race in Macau.

Then, if you can't race in Macau, you are barred from applying for support from the government. Current regulations state that for racers to get a subsidy from the government, they must participate in the local racing event and should be included in the final classification list

I hope that the government and the sport entities will find a way to encourage new drivers to get more exposure and support in Macau as this is our race and our track, we somehow have the duty to promote it.

**THURSDAY:  
F4 - The first step into the limelight**

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Learn More

CRIME

# WOMEN FALSIFY POLICE REPORT AFTER RMB500,000 LOSS TO GAMBLING

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ) has charged two mainland women with filing a false police report, the police department said yesterday during the joint police press conference.

The two suspects, Wang, who is unemployed, and Jiang, who is a self-claimed student, are in their 20s.

Police information shows that in October, the two met a mainland man, surnamed Xia, in Shenzhen.

Wang and Jiang invested 300,000 yuan and 200,000 yuan, respectively, to Xia so that he could gamble in Macau on their behalf.

On November 5, Wang and Jiang travelled to Macau to meet the two victims in this case, both surnamed Meng, who are mainland residents. The four met in a hotel room at a casino located in Cotai.

On November 11, after meeting with the two victims, Wang and Jiang filed a police report



claiming that both Mengs were fraudsters.

The two women told police that, in October, Xia had tricked them into investing a total of half million yuan into Macau's casino projects. They also accused the two victims of signing an agreement regarding the made-up investment fraud.

However, during interrogation, police officers learned, from Wang and Jiang's WeChat conversation records, that the half million Chinese yuan was invested to trustee Xia to find

people to gamble in Macau in hopes of profiting.

On November 13, PJ forwarded the two to the prosecution authority.

In addition to this case, PJ also reported four fraud cases involving counterfeit notes. Across the four cases, PJ apprehended four suspects, all mainlanders, who claimed they were paid to deliver fake notes to the victims.

In total, five victims reported a total loss of approximately HKD500,000.

## SUSPECT OF MULTIPLE CRIMES APPREHENDED

**T**HE Judiciary Police (PJ) has apprehended a suspect accused of committing multiple crimes, including robbery, assault, and usury, the PJ said during yesterday's joint police press conference.

The suspect is a 48-year-old mainland man, surnamed Wang, who has identified himself as a businessman.

Wang is accused of committing crimes in January. The alleged victim is a mainland woman in her 40s.

Police intelligence shows that, on January 29, the victim borrowed 1.2 million Hong Kong dollars from the suspect to gamble in local casinos. The victim then lost all this money.

Later, on the same day, Wang and the victim dined together in a restaurant in Macau. During the meal, the victim drank alcohol to the point of unconsciousness.

On January 30, when the victim woke up in a hotel room within a casino located in the NAPE area, she realized that she had been beaten up, injured, and robbed. Afterwards, she immediately reported the crime to the police authority.

The victim claimed that one of her rings, which was worth HKD1.23 million, had been stolen, in addition to HKD130,000 in cash.

On the same day, she was taken to hospital to receive medical treatment after she reported the case to the police authority. The medical treatment process lasted seven hours.

However, due to the outbreak of the pandemic, Wang had to leave Macau soon after the woman received medical treatment in the city.

On November 9, the victim returned to Macau and visited the PJ to assist the police investigation in her case.

The police authority found out that the suspect was also in Macau on November 9. On the next day, at 5 p.m., when the suspect was crossing the border to mainland China, the police authority intercepted him.

Wang admitted that he had taken the victim's money and ring as payment for the money the victim had borrowed from him.

The suspect refused to cooperate with the police authority in regard to the usury charge. **JZ**

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HONG KONG

# Fire in apartment building kills 7, injures 11

**A**UTHORITIES in Hong Kong said at least seven people were killed and 11 injured in a fire at an apartment building that may have started at a gathering of people from the city's Nepalese community.

The blaze broke out Sunday night in Yau Ma Tei, a usually bustling area in Kowloon packed with old apartment blocks, shops and businesses.

The apartment where the fire started may have been operating as an unlicensed restaurant, according to the area's district council member, Leslie Chan.

The Hong Kong government said those who died were four men and three women, with the ages of those killed and injured given as between 8 and 48. Chan said the dead and injured were from the Nepalese community.

Fire officials said at a news conference early yesterday that the cause of the blaze was still unknown. The building lacked a sprinkler system and people were trapped in the back of the kitchen, according to fire services department officer Cheung Kwong-yuen.

Local media reports said that people in the restaurant were celebrating Diwali, a Hindu festival, as well as a birthday when the blaze occurred. Lit candles had set soundproofing materials on fire, according to the media reports.

Residents in the neighborhood said those caught in the fire were from Nepal. Many Nepalese live in the area and work in Hong Kong's finance, retail and security businesses.

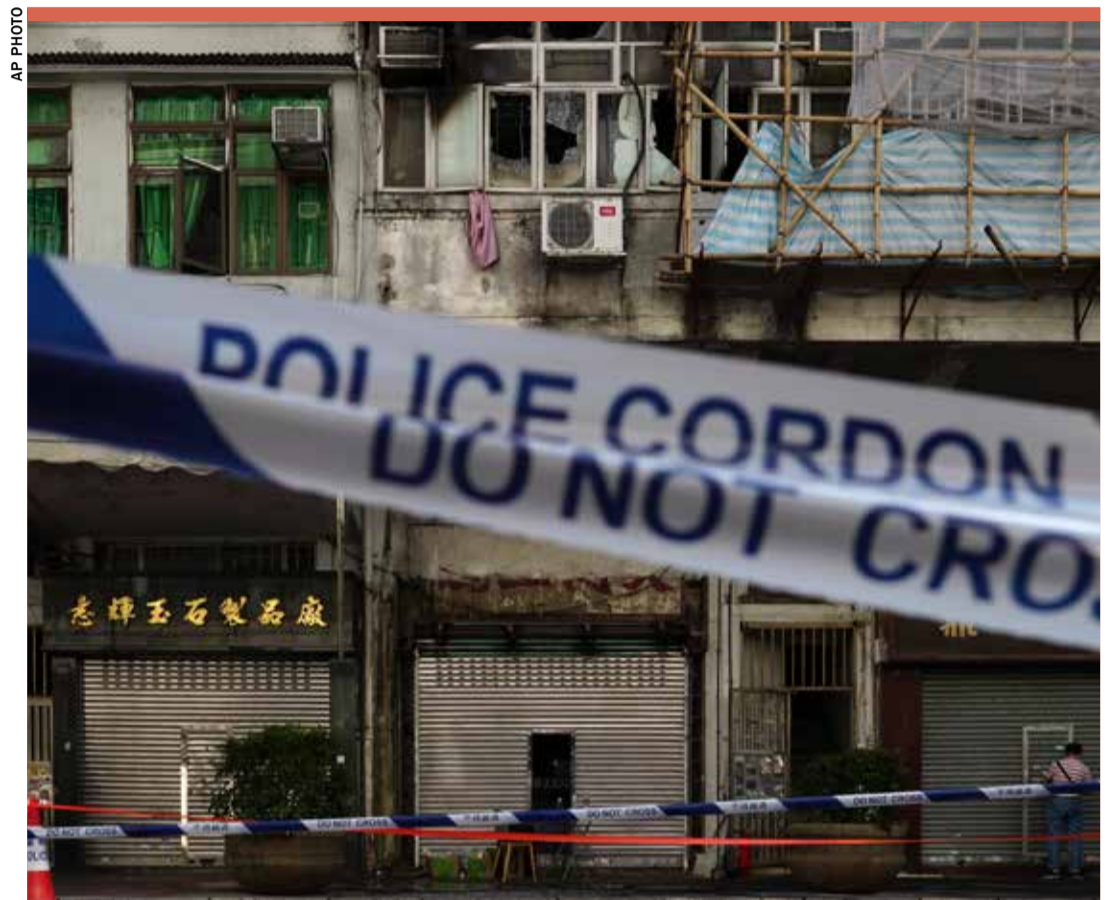
The apartment in the low-rise building where the fire broke out had some of its windows blown out and exterior walls were charred with soot. The building was cordoned off while police stood guard.

Chan said the district council is providing assistance to those evacuated from the building and some will need to stay temporarily in hostels while the fire is investigated.

Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam issued a statement shortly after midnight saying she was "deeply saddened that the fire in Yau Ma Tei last night caused a number of deaths and injuries." She also visited the site of the fire yesterday morning.

Local media said the fire was the deadliest since a 2011 blaze that killed nine people.

The incident highlights fire safety issues in older buildings in the city, home to some of the world's most expensive real estate. Deadly fires used to be a regular occurrence in Hong Kong, one of the world's most densely populated cities, but have dwindled in recent years as the government implemented stricter fire safety measures. AP



The blaze broke out in Yau Ma Tei, a usually bustling area in Kowloon

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ANALYSIS

# CRACKDOWNS EVERYWHERE SHOW XI STRENGTHENING PARTY GRIP ON CHINA

**T**HE past few weeks have shown that Chinese President Xi Jinping can move extremely fast when he hones in on long-term threats to the Communist Party. And right now they revolve around the convergence of technology, finance and Hong Kong.

Since unveiling a goal last month to double the size of the economy by 2035, China has embarked on a sweeping crackdown of some of its most valuable companies. The shock suspension of Ant Group Co.'s \$35 billion initial public offering was quickly followed by more anti-monopoly rules to rein in former tech darlings Tencent Holdings Ltd. and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., leading to a \$290 billion equity sell off last week.

At the same time, he's moved to further snuff out any opposition in Hong Kong's legislature, the most democratic institution under Chinese rule. And authorities are forcing bond investors to take more responsibility for risk in a debt market where defaults have been historically rare, helping to deflate a potential debt bubble while also avoiding an inadvertent funding crunch.

The moves reflect an increased urgency among China's top leaders to stem growing threats to their rule, whether it be a 2008-style financial crisis, a color revolution or a new class of billionaires becoming more powerful by the day. And while some of the measures are prudent steps to de-risk the economy, one common thread runs through them all: The need for the Communist Party to control all the levers of power.

"Xi Jinping certainly seems to be cracking the whip with a purpose and a force that, if not new, is certainly designed to impress upon the party, entrepreneurs, citizens and the rest of the world his authority and determination," said George Magnus, research associate at Oxford University's China Centre. "I don't see much that is pre-emptive or getting ahead the curve here. If there were, Xi would be channeling his inner 'reform and opening up' appetite. The point is that he doesn't really have any."

Last month's unveiling of the Communist Party's latest five-year plan came at a crucial time. The West began to see China's rise more as a threat than an opportunity over the past four years, and President Donald Trump took a series of steps to cut the country off from key technologies to thwart its growing economic and military might.

The U.S. has pressured allies to shun equipment from Huawei Technologies Co., barred dozens of China's largest tech companies from buying American parts, and even slapped bans on ByteDance Ltd.'s TikTok and Tencent's WeChat. While Chinese leaders are calling for enhanced cooperation as President-elect Joe Biden prepares to take office, the Trump administration is planning more steps before leaving office in January that could further sour ties between the world's biggest economies.

Those trends, exacerbated by the pandemic, prompted a shift in Beijing's strategy toward greater self-reliance. Party leaders vowed to build their own "core technologies" to avoid relying on the U.S., while also focusing more on revving up domestic growth as part of Xi's "dual circulation" model. His ambition of doubling the size of the economy would imply an annual average growth rate of 4.7%-5%, according to a range of forecasts from economists

## 'SHARE THE GROWING PIE'

Still, it will take years for local companies to match foreign counterparts in both basic manufacturing and design expertise: China imports more than \$300 billion worth of integrated circuits each year and its semiconductor developers rely on U.S.-made chip design tools and patents.

**"Making it clear that the ultra-rich can be brought to heel is important symbolically."**

RANA MITTER  
PROFESSOR, UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

Fostering the right environment requires striking a delicate balance between limiting the powers of the giants and nurturing home-grown innovation. The new draft rules, for instance, aim to minimize over-concentration of user data and algorithms, which are crucial to leveraging artificial-intelligence applications that drive the modern economy.

"It is about how best to share the growing pie of economic development and tech innovation," said Hong Hao, chief strategist for Bocom International in Hong Kong.

While it's unclear how harshly the new anti-monopoly rules will be implemented, the draft released last week gives the government wide latitude to rein in tech entrepreneurs like Jack Ma who until recently were given relatively free

BLOOMBERG



rein to keep expanding their empires. That era of light touch oversight is now ending.

Ma's Ant Group typifies the convergence between Big Tech and finance that sounded alarms in Beijing. Chinese regulators said Ant's business model effectively allowed it to charge higher fees for transactions while state-run banks took on most of the risk, all while making China's second-richest man even wealthier.

An official with China's top banking regulator over the weekend pledged to lower the risk of companies becoming "too big to fail" in financial innovation while saying they "shouldn't form oligopolies, reap excessive returns and harm public interests." Companies like Alibaba and Tencent had become as powerful in China as the likes of Facebook Inc. and Apple Inc. in the U.S., according to Rebecca Fannin, author of "Tech Titans of China" and founder of Silicon Dragon Ventures.

"Startups will welcome any decline in their monopolistic power because these huge Chinese companies have stifled them, and used their leverage and size to out-innovate them quickly or buy them out," she said.

Beijing is walking a similarly fine line in demonstrating that even government-backed institutions won't automatically be rescued from financial missteps. A state-owned coal miner defaulted on a 1 billion yuan note last week, while



Xi (top) and Ma

the finances of a prominent state-owned chipmaker - an industry seen as strategically important for Beijing - are also under scrutiny.

Such defaults mark a step-change for China's onshore bond markets, where debt sold by state-owned enterprises has traditionally been backstopped by local governments. China's most influential billionaires are also on notice.

In explaining his 2035 vision last month, Xi emphasized that "common prosperity" is the ultimate goal for China's socialist economy. The country's state-run media have featured a slew of articles on Xi's push to end extreme rural poverty - those who earn less than 11 yuan (\$1.63) per day - by the end of this year.

## 'NOBODY IS BIGGER THAN THE PARTY'

"Making it clear that the ultra-rich can be brought to heel is important symbolically," said Rana Mitter, professor of Chinese po-

litics at the University of Oxford. "However, it also seems likely that the CCP is concerned that major business figures may have political ideas about power, beyond mere wealth. So the use of regulators is in part to reinforce the message that nobody is bigger than the party."

Hong Kong illustrates the extent to which the Communist Party doesn't want to allow dissent on any territory it controls. China's legislature in Beijing passed a resolution last week establishing a loyalty test for elected lawmakers in Hong Kong, leading to disqualifications that prompted the opposition to resign en masse.

"The party values stability over everything," said Kendra Schaefer, head of digital research at the Trivium China consultancy in Beijing. "They value it over competition, over fairness, over money. Maybe the only thing they value more than stability is power, and it's stability that maintains their power." **BLOOMBERG**

# Covid pushes steep drop in foreign college students

JOHN SEEWER & COLLIN BINKLEY, TOLEDO (OHIO)

**J**UST two semesters short of earning a cybersecurity master's degree in the U.S., Sai Naini is stuck in India, unsure what his future holds.

He rushed home this summer after learning that his father was in failing health after being diagnosed with COVID-19, making it to his hospital bedside only four hours before he died.

"He was emotional; he was in tears," Naini said. "I was fortunate to see him. I think he was waiting to see someone who would take care of my mother, and then he left."

Two months later, when the 28-year-old was ready to return to the University of Toledo, his visa application was denied even though he had letters from his college advisers explaining why he had gone home and that he already was enrolled in classes. The only explanation he got, he said, was that he was turned down "based on guidelines they received from the White House."

"Everything changed," he said. "The goals I had changed. The milestones I had changed."

Complications and new policies brought on by the coronavirus pandemic have stopped thousands of international students from attending universi-



ties in the U.S. this fall, raising concerns that the steep decline could foretell a long-lasting shift for universities that have come to rely on attracting international students. At risk are millions of dollars in tuition for the universities and some of the world's brightest minds for U.S. employers.

While the number of new international enrollees has been on the decline during the past few years because of new rules limiting student visas and competition from other countries, the pandemic has been a crushing blow.

This fall, new international students enrolled at U.S. uni-

versities online or in person fell by 43%, according to a survey of more than 700 schools released Monday. That's the largest decrease recorded by the Institute of International Education, which has been publishing data on international enrollment since 1954.

Including both new and returning students, total international enrollment fell by 16%. The survey found that among those who did enroll at U.S. colleges, about one in five were studying online from abroad.

Some of the nation's largest universities saw big losses. The number of undergraduate and graduate international students

at Michigan State University was down 20% and the University of Texas fell by 17%, while Arizona State University and Ohio State University each reported declines of 15%.

Administrators agree the pandemic caused a wide variety of hurdles for students, ranging from financial strains brought on by job losses to worries over a Trump administration proposal that sought to force international students to leave if their schools held online-only classes.

With American consulates closed in many countries, quite a few first-time students were unable to get visas, while others were stranded because of travel restrictions and flight cancellations.

Universities were flooded with questions from worried parents who wanted to know where their children would live if schools closed their dorms and what would happen if they got sick. Some decided to stay home because of those unknowns.

"At a human level, we can all relate to that," said Barbara Kappler, assistant dean of International Student & Scholar Services at the University of Minnesota, which saw a 15% decline.

It all has forced to students make tough choices. One University of Toledo student deci-

ded not to go home even though two relatives had died of COVID-19, said Tracey Hidalgo, the school's assistant director for international student services.

"They just bawl their eyes out and tell me 'no' because they're worried they're not going to be able to come back," she said.

Compounding the problems of the pandemic is a growing belief that the U.S. is no longer as welcoming for international scholars because of President Donald Trump's repeated moves to curb immigration.

"The confluence of the pandemic and these policies has created an incredibly tough situation," said Leonardo Villalon, dean of the University of Florida's International Center. "International higher education is under the greatest stress it has been in decades."

The sudden drop in enrollment will be felt in budgets at colleges because foreign students typically pay higher tuition rates. The University of Illinois alone estimates it will lose about \$26 million this semester. But the impact goes beyond that.

High-tech companies depend on foreign-born people who come to the U.S. for training, Villalon said.

U.S. President-elect Biden has proposed giving foreign graduates of U.S. doctoral programs a pathway to citizenship.

But U.S. universities are facing increased competition from countries, including Canada and Australia, that are trying to woo more foreign students. And China is heavily investing in its colleges. AP

## JAPAN

# Pandemic-hit economy returns to growth July-September

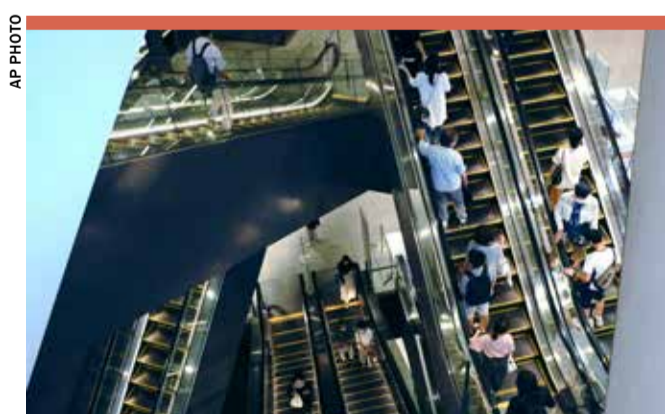
YURI KAGEYAMA, TOKYO

**J**APAN'S economy grew at an annual rate of 21.4% in the last quarter in a recovery from the shocks of the pandemic driven by both private spending and exports.

The world's third largest economy had logged three straight quarters of contraction and was already in recession by the time the crisis hit. Preliminary data from the Cabinet Office released yesterday show a distant road to a full recovery.

News that the economy returned to growth in the July-September quarter sent share prices higher in Tokyo. About an hour after the market opened the Nikkei 225 index was up 1.6%.

Japan, like the rest of the world, is suffering from the



A shopping building in Tokyo

slowdown brought on by business closures, plunging tourism and travel and social distancing measures for COVID-19.

On a quarterly basis, the economy grew 5.0%. The annual rate measures how much the growth would have been if that had continued for a year.

The data showed im-

provements in private consumption, the main driver of growth, and exports, including vehicles and auto parts. The rebound was expected, although analysts warn it won't be enough to mark a return to normal.

The economy shrank 8.2% in the April-June quarter; 0.6% in January-March and 1.8% in October-No-

vember 2019, according to yesterday's data. Growth was flat in July-September 2019, underscoring stagnant conditions even before the pandemic.

"The Japanese economy for July-September 2020 is still in a severe situation due to the COVID-19, but it is showing movements of picking up later in the quarter," the government said in a statement.

The decline earlier this year was the worst the government had on record, at least since it began keeping comparable records in 1980. Japanese media reports characterized it as the worst since World War II.

Junichi Makino, chief economist at SMBC Nikko Securities, said the GDP data reflect a halfway recovery that is expected to con-

tinue at a gradual pace.

"The driver of growth will shift to the service sector," Makino said in a recent report, stressing consumption growth in that sector tends to be moderate, compared to the consumption of goods.

"The momentum for growth on the macroeconomic level is therefore expected to slow down," he said.

Japan has never had a total lockdown but incoming tourism has largely vanished. Many stores and restaurants are still open, and schools and government offices are mostly running as usual, despite widespread efforts in the private sector for remote working. Some shopping districts are packed, although nearly everyone

wears masks.

The administration of Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga has been trying to balance the need to curtail the infection's spread with keeping the economy going. That has prompted some criticism over policies such as the government's "GoTo campaign" of discounts for domestic travel that some believe may have caused surging cases in rural areas, such as on the northern main island of Hokkaido.

Japan has had fewer than 2,000 deaths related to COVID-19.

Some companies have sunk into losses, mostly those related to travel and exports. Others like Nintendo Co. have held up relatively well, as people staying home turn to video games. AP

MOLDOVA

# Pro-Western candidate Sandu wins presidential election

**M**AIA Sandu, a former World Bank economist who favors closer ties with the European Union, has won Moldova's presidential runoff vote, decisively defeating the staunchly pro-Russian incumbent, according to preliminary results released yesterday.

Sandu captured over 57% of the vote, leaving the incumbent, Igor Dodon, behind by over 15 points, according to preliminary data from the Central Election Commission, CEC, that said nearly 100% of the vote has been counted.

Sunday's election was seen as a referendum on two divergent visions for the future of the small Eastern European nation sandwiched between Ukraine and Romania. Sandu and Dodon, who Russian President Vladimir Putin identified as his preferred candidate, have been rivals since he narrowly defeated her in the 2016 presidential race.

"People voted in very large numbers ... they voted because they care, because they want their voices to be heard," Sandu, who promised during the campaign



Maia Sandu, former prime minister and World Bank economist

to secure more financial support from the EU, said late Sunday after it became apparent she was leading. "People want the ones in power to offer solutions to their problems."

On Monday, Dodon conceded after the results were published and congratulated Sandu.

"I call for calm and peace, absolutely no disturbances or protests, we must not allow any destabilization of the country," he said.

The current pro-Russian

government controls only 51 of 101 seats in the parliament. The new president can dissolve parliament if the prime minister resigns and there are two failed attempts to find a successor.

Commenting on Sandu's win, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday that Moscow respects "the choice of the Moldovan people" and hopes to establish "a working relationship" with the new president.

"We know that Maia Sandu said she would work in

the interests of the Moldovan people, and we're convinced that building good and close relations, cooperation in all areas with our country, Russia, is in the interest of the Moldovan people," Peskov told reporters.

Ever since gaining independence a year after the Soviet collapse in 1991, Moldova has been divided between those favoring closer relations with Europe and those who prefer stronger links with Moscow.

Moldova is one of the poorest countries in Europe with nearly 1.2 million of its people estimated to be living abroad. It relies heavily on remittances, and closer ties with the EU are generally seen as more likely than those with Moscow to lead to a long-elusive political stability and economic recovery.

Yet in this election, those choices might have been overshadowed by the heavy social and economic toll inflicted on Moldova by the coronavirus pandemic. So far, the nation of 3.5 million people has tallied close to 89,000 virus cases and over 2,000 deaths. On Saturday, it reported a record 1,411 new daily infections. **AP**

UK

# Boris in quarantine but declares himself fit, working

**B**ritish Prime Minister Boris Johnson said yesterday he is as "fit as a butcher's dog" after being instructed to self-isolate for 14 days because he recently came in contact with someone who has since tested positive for the coronavirus.

In a video message posted on Twitter from his London apartment at Downing Street, Johnson said it didn't matter that he has already endured COVID-19 and is "bursting with antibodies."

The quarantine requirement comes at the start of a crucial week for Johnson's Conservative government that includes discussions

over a post-Brexit trade deal with the European Union. Negotiators are meeting in Brussels this week with time on a deal fast running out.

Johnson contracted the virus in April and spent three days in intensive care as his symptoms worsened.

He met with a small group of lawmakers for about a half-hour on Thursday, including one, Lee Anderson, who subsequently developed symptoms and tested positive.

Johnson was notified by the National Health Service's Test and Trace system Sunday and told he should self-isolate because of fac-

tors including the length of the meeting.

"We've got to interrupt the spread of the disease and one of the ways we can do that now is by self-isolating for 14 days when contacted by Test and Trace," Johnson said.

Health Secretary Matt Hancock said it was right that the prime minister goes into self-isolation even though he's already had coronavirus as people "can catch it twice."

"The prime minister is following exactly the same rules as every other person in the country," Hancock told BBC Radio.

Hancock also brushed

aside suggestions that Downing Street is not following the advice it preaches as pictures emerged of Johnson and Anderson posing for a photograph seemingly less than two meters apart and without face coverings. In the early days of the pandemic in the spring, many in the heart of government contracted the virus, including Hancock.

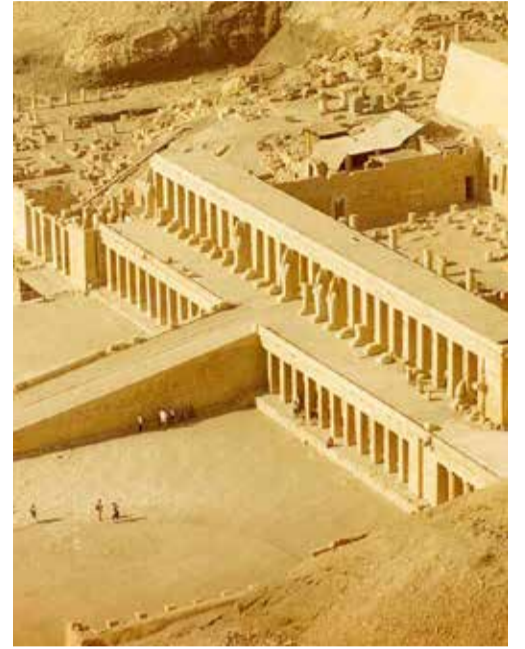
Danny Altmann, professor of immunology at Imperial College London, said the self-isolation rules "probably are sensible."

He told BBC Radio there have been more than 25 confirmed cases of COVID-19 reinfection globally, but that he thought the actual rate of reinfection is "quite a lot higher than that, but not enormous."

"I think my bottom line is not to be alarmist because whatever the risk is, it is low," he said. **AP**

## this day in history

### 1997 EGYPTIAN MILITANTS KILL TOURISTS AT LUXOR



More than 60 people have been killed after an attack on a group of foreign tourists visiting a temple in southern Egypt.

The tourists' bus was fired on as they visited the temple of Hatshepsut, one of the main attractions in the town of Luxor in southern Egypt.

An Egyptian police spokesman said most of the dead were Swiss and Japanese tourists.

The spokesman said the six gunmen were killed in an ensuing two-hour gun battle with police.

According to initial figures released by Egypt's interior ministry, 57 tourists, a local guide and two policemen died in the attack.

Other reports say the number of people who have been killed could rise to 75 with up to 85 people injured.

An Islamic extremist group, the outlawed al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, is reported to have said it carried out the attack.

It came as 65 alleged members of the Islamic group went on trial in Cairo accused of conspiracy to murder.

Islamic militants have targeted tourists since beginning a campaign in 1992 to topple the government of Hosni Mubarak and set up a strict Islamic state.

Two months ago, nine Germans and an Egyptian driver were killed when gunmen opened fire on a bus in Cairo.

Two men have since been sentenced to death for the shootings.

Luxor, about 310 miles (500 km) south of Cairo, is visited by about two million tourists a year.

It has not previously been attacked by militants who have strongholds in other parts of southern Egypt.

In the past five years, attacks by militants have seen 34 foreign tourists killed and cost a total of more than a thousand lives.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The final number of people known to have died in the Luxor attack was 68. It devastated the tourism industry and the Egyptian economy. The Egyptian authorities said they believed it was carried out by members of the Egyptian Islamic extremist group al-Gamaa al-Islamiya and financed by Osama Bin Laden and his al-Qaeda network. Several people were arrested for the attack but none stood trial. Al-Gamaa al-Islamiya declared a cease-fire in 1999 after the government agreed a prisoner amnesty.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 Talk to someone you trust in order to see the whole picture. Don't count on correspondence to clear up major problems. You can elaborate on your creative ideas and get involved in groups that relate to the arts.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Make sure that you have all the pertinent information before any reprisals or making any moves. Travel will stimulate your need to experience exciting new things.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 Expect to have more people on your domestic scene. Spend some time with the one you love. Pleasure trips will be satisfying. Your emotions are soaring and if you don't get your way, look out world.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 Don't say things that could be damaging later on. Cut loose. You will have a little more energy than usual. Look into some form of physical recreation.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 Your ability to take hold of a situation will surely bring you popularity and leadership. Accept the inevitable and continue to do your job. You can make adjustments in your domestic scene today.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 Don't get involved in idle chatter that will hurt your position. Be prepared to deal with groups and organizations of greater magnitude. You need to be inspired and have your spirits lifted.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 Efforts made to improve yourself will turn out to your satisfaction. Do the necessary chores and then do things that please you. Try to visit friends or relatives you don't get to see often.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been well. Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why. Ease the anguish by offering assistance.

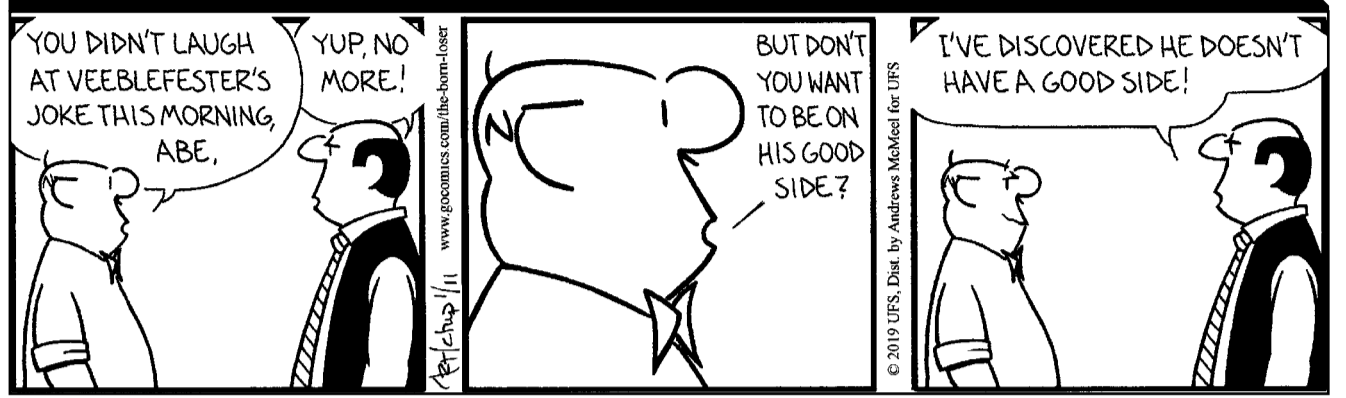
**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 You can enjoy your involvement in organizations that make charitable contributions. Rather than making a scene, communicate quietly about the way you feel. Your family needs to spend some time with you, too.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 You can complete any projects efficiently, especially if you put the effort in yourself. You can stabilize your situation if you compromise. Get busy doing the things you have been putting off for so long.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 It would be in your best interest to stay away from any intimate involvement with a client or coworker. Health problems may prevail if you don't take care of them immediately.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 You should visit a friend or relative who hasn't been feeling up to par. You might have a problem hanging on to your money today. Try not to get upset or angry without having all the facts.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

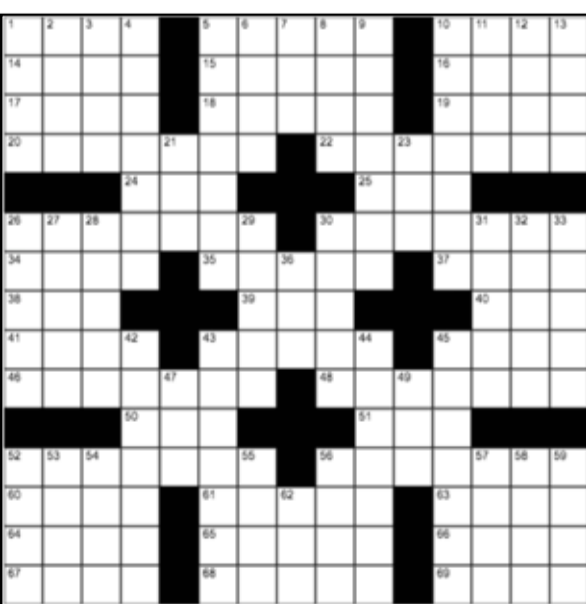
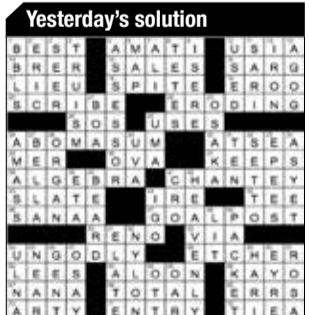
**WEATHER**

|              | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|-----------|
| <b>CHINA</b> |     |     |           |
| Beijing      | 8   | 13  | overcast  |
| Harbin       | -2  | 6   | drizzle   |
| Tianjin      | 9   | 15  | overcast  |
| Urumqi       | -4  | 0   | flurry    |
| Xi'an        | 11  | 15  | drizzle   |
| Lhasa        | -1  | 13  | cloudy    |
| Chengdu      | 15  | 21  | cloudy    |
| Chongqing    | 16  | 25  | clear     |
| Kunming      | 11  | 20  | clear     |
| Nanjing      | 16  | 25  | overcast  |
| Shanghai     | 17  | 25  | cloudy    |
| Wuhan        | 14  | 24  | shower    |
| Hangzhou     | 16  | 28  | cloudy    |
| Taipei       | 22  | 25  | cloudy    |
| Guangzhou    | 20  | 29  | cloudy    |
| Hong Kong    | 23  | 27  | cloudy    |
| <b>WORLD</b> |     |     |           |
| Moscow       | -5  | -1  | clear     |
| Frankfurt    | 8   | 11  | cloudy    |
| Paris        | 9   | 10  | overcast  |
| London       | 10  | 13  | drizzle   |
| New York     | 5   | 10  | clear     |

**CROSSWORDS**

ACROSS 1- Cornerstone abbr.; 5- Sight-related; 10- Nope; 14- Architect Mies van der ...; 15- Mikhail's wife; 16- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 17- Got it; 18- Come about; 19- Pond organism; 20- Vie; 22- Thief; 24- Poker legend Ungar; 25- A Gershwin; 26- Like a headstrong teenager; 30- Food fish; 34- "Jeopardy!" name; 35- Inhibit; 37- Switch back?; 38- Flee; 39- Escort's offering; 40- ThinkPad maker; 41- Other name for taro; 43- Bendable twig, usually of a willow tree; 45- Archipelago part; 46- Merit; 48- Nor's partner; 50- Owing; 51- Compass dir.; 52- Socks of any kind; 56- Endless; 60- Hanging to one side; 61- Utah's \_\_\_ Mountains; 63- Saab model; 64- Course list?; 65- Issue forth with force; 66- License plates; 67- Puts into words; 68- Creepy; 69- Piccadilly Circus statue;

DOWN 1- Actor Stoltz; 2- Indifferent; 3- Not us; 4- Burial at sea; 5- Pompous; 6- Step; 7- Personal quirk; 8- The jig \_\_\_; 9- Porter; 10- Unconscious; 11- Hades; 12- Prod; 13- Icy coating; 21- Hellenic vowel; 23- Bruins great Bobby; 26- Ventured; 27- Give the slip; 28- Wards (off); 29- Fluff, as bangs; 30- Macho guys; 31- Whiskey type; 32- High-minded; 33- Private Pyle; 36- Part of TNT; 42- Legendary king of Thebes; 43- Employ too often; 44- Say again; 45- Do repeatedly; 47- Be contrite about; 49- British verb ending; 52- Poor actors; 53- Olive genus; 54- PlayStation maker; 55- Holy moly!; 56- Sewing case; 57- At hand; 58- Jason's craft; 59- A pitcher may take one; 62- And not; Help



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



**FOR SALE**

**2 bedroom Villa de Mer, Macau**  
 HK\$9,400,000 841 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1/2 1

**FOR RENT**

**Houston Court, Coloane Village**  
 \$10,500/mth 980 ft<sup>2</sup> 1 1/2 1

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

**Renovated Duplex, Macau with Amazing View**  
 HK\$4,200,000 817 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1/2 2

**PROPERTY LIST**

- [Taipa] *Wa Bao* 2 1/2 2 1/2  
 1,071 ft<sup>2</sup> \$7,995,000 (ref: 18115568)
- [Taipa] *Taipa Village (2 units)* 4 1/2 2 1/2  
 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,380,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] *Villa da Taipa* 3 1/2 2 1/2  
 1,450 ft<sup>2</sup> \$13,000/mth (ref: 20101002)
- [Taipa] *Great View Apartment* 4 1/2 2 1/2  
 2,060 ft<sup>2</sup> \$28,000/mth (ref: 20031001)

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AD

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# KOREAN AIR AIMS FOR TOP-10 WORLD RANKING WITH ASIANA DEAL

**S**OUTH Korea's two biggest airlines plan to merge, with Korean Air Lines Co. acquiring Asiana Airlines Inc. for 1.8 trillion won (\$1.6 billion) following an injection via its parent, Hanjin Kal Corp.

The main goal of the acquisition is to stabilize South Korea's aviation industry amid the coronavirus pandemic and improve its competitiveness, said Hanjin Group, which operates airlines and logistics businesses through its subsidiaries. It expects Korean Air to be ranked as one of the world's top 10 airlines once the deal is completed.

"In general, countries with a population less than 100 million have a single full service carrier," Hanjin said in a statement. "However, Korea has two full service carriers, which gives it a competitive disadvantage compared to countries like Germany, France and Singapore with a single major airline."

The merger should streamline route operations and lower costs, while the consolidation of slots at Seoul's Incheon International Airport may increase joint ventures with global airlines and demand for transit flights, the parent company said. That should also spur growth in the domestic aviation industry.

"Korean Air's acquisition and the expansion of its routes, fleet and capacity will give the airline the competitiveness to compete with global mega airlines," Hanjin said.

Asiana and Korean Air both soared on the stock exchange yesterday. Asiana's shares rose just under 30% to their highest since Dec. 26, while Korean Air closed with a gain of over 12% after earlier jumping as much



as 26%, the most on record. The pair are back above where they were at the pandemic's onset in January. Hanjin Kal rose 5.7%.

Korean Air plans to issue new shares in early 2021 to raise 2.5 trillion won. Hanjin Kal will par-

ticipate in the issue after receiving 800 billion won from Korea Development Bank, which it will transfer to Korean Air. The airline will invest 300 billion won of that to buy perpetual convertible bonds from Asiana

and another 300 billion won as a down payment on a 1.5 trillion won contract to buy new Asiana shares, according to the statement.

"Korean Air's initial investment will enable Asiana Airlines

to secure the funding needed for operations until the end of the year, as well as improve its financial position by adding 300 billion won worth of perpetual convertible bonds to its capital assets," Hanjin said.

State-run Korea Development Bank said earlier yesterday that it hopes to complete the transactions this year and seek approvals from antitrust bodies globally by the end of 2021. The bank will likely own about 10% of Hanjin Kal, according to Hanjin Group.

Kumho Industrial terminated talks to sell a 31% stake in Asiana to HDC Hyundai Development Co. in September after the parties failed to agree terms as the pandemic threw valuations into doubt.

Airlines around the world have been plunged into crisis because of the coronavirus and its impact on travel. Founded in 1988 to compete with Korean Air, Asiana flew to 61 cities in 21 countries prior to Covid-19. It has two budget carriers, Air Seoul and Air Busan.

Korea Development Bank said Hanjin may look at consolidating low-cost carriers after the Asiana acquisition. Hanjin Kal is the parent of budget operator Jin Air Co. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**



## CORPORATE BITS

### MGM donates MOP600,000 to Tung Sing Tong



MGM presented another year of support by donating MOP600,000 to the Macau Tung Sing Tong Charitable Society's annual fundraising campaign, the gaming ope-

erator announced in a statement.

To date, MGM has donated an accumulated total of MOP6 million for 13 consecutive years to the society

in contribution towards its provision of local social welfare services at large.

On top of taking part in the society's annual fundraising campaign, MGM also provides support to their other charity works. Earlier this year when the pandemic situation was severe, MGM donated temperature guns, hand sanitizers and other anti-epidemic supplies to the society. The donation aimed to strengthen the anti-epidemic measures for their day-care centers, primary and secondary schools as well as elderly activity centers before they could resume services.

### St. Regis Macao launches festive offerings



The St. Regis Macao is celebrating the festive season with a suite package offer, as well as a range of culinary delights available until end of

the year.

Especially for the festive season, guests are being invited to indulge with the 'Celebrate Exquisitely at

St. Regis' stay package, which includes a one-night stay in an Empire Suite or Presidential Suite, a festive dinner served in-suite, as well as complimentary breakfast the following morning.

At the hotel, the artisans at The Manor have prepared a selection of festive menus for both lunch and dinner to celebrate Christmas and New Year's Eve.

During December, The Manor will offer 'The St. Regis Classic Afternoon Tea Set' every Monday to Thursday and The St. Regis Bar will be offering 'The St. Regis x Royal Albert 100 Years Afternoon Tea Set' every Friday to Sunday.

FOOTBALL | NATIONS LEAGUE

# Belgium ends England's Nations League hopes with clear win

**BELGIUM 2, ENGLAND 0**

**D**RIES Mertens scored a superb free kick as a resilient Belgium ended England's hopes of reaching the Nations League finals with a 2-0 win yesterday [Macau time].

With one round of games left, Belgium has a five-point lead over third-place England in the top tier's Group 2 but has not yet secured qualification. Top-ranked Belgium will host second-place Denmark on Wednesday with a place in the finals next year at stake. A draw will be enough for Belgium, which leads Denmark by two points.

Held without fans because of coronavirus restrictions, the match got off to a promising start with both teams determined to play with intensity. England pressed high throughout and enjoyed long spells of domination but la-



Belgium's Youri Tielemans celebrates after scoring his team's first goal

cked efficiency in the final third. Belgium, in contrast, defended well and had that finishing touch.

"I'm very satisfied to keep a clean sheet against a team like

England," Belgium coach Roberto Martinez said.

Belgium took the lead in the 10th minute after captain Jan Vertonghen made the most of a

loose pass from Eric Dier to recover the ball and ignite a quick move. Romelu Lukaku set up Youri Tielemans, whose low shot from the edge of the box took a deflection, hit the post and ended in the back of the net.

Harry Kane, making his 50th appearance for England, was dangerous throughout. He came close two minutes after England had conceded but his goal-bound header was cleared off the line by Lukaku.

Mertens made it 2-0 with his 21st international goal. After Kevin De Bruyne won a free kick close to the area in the 23rd minute, Mertens expertly curled his kick above the English wall — which mostly failed to jump — and lodged the ball into the left corner.

England coach Gareth Southgate called the free kick "a turning point" and said he did not think it should have been awarded.

"They are a top team who

defended very well," Southgate said. "In a top-level game we had a fair proportion of chances at goal. I can only praise the players who were here tonight."

With a 2-0 lead, the hosts then let the opposition have the ball as England pushed hard to pull one back but could not find a cutting edge.

England continued to apply pressure in the second half and still wasted chances, notably from set-pieces. Despite enjoying possession and winning nearly all the duels in midfield, England remained ineffective. Kane's low effort was stopped by Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois following a good combination near the hour mark, shortly before Aston Villa midfielder Jack Grealish fired over the bar from inside the area.

"We were dominant. We were unlucky to concede the two goals," Kane claimed.

Belgium finally created its first second-half chance with 15 minutes left following a team move between De Bruyne, Mertens and Lukaku, only for Lukaku to shoot straight at England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford.

Inter Milan striker Lukaku had another chance to add more luster to the win but shot wide at the conclusion of a fast counterattack in added time. **AP**

AD

## ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

**Languages:**  
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PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,  
KOREAN, SPANISH,  
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OPINION

Our Desk

Anthony Lam



**BEEF OR NO BEEF, THAT IS THE QUESTION**

I was walking by a fast food chain the other day when my attention was caught by a drop-down banner hanging on the window, facing the street. The restaurant was highlighting their three new – but not quite new – burgers, all featuring a prime type of beef from the US.

The chain has always restlessly pushed its beef products, while inventing – or introducing – new hamburgers made with this kind of prime beef. Whether the beef tastes good isn't much of a concern, but having the chance to consume, or abuse, the beef type bearing that prime name at a cost of little more than pennies, when compared with steak houses in casino-resorts, is a steal for many, especially when they get off from a tough day's work near midnight and their appetite has them craving for protein and carbs.

Anyway, seeing the banner that day, I was prompted to dig through my memories to see if the chain has ever marketed new burgers with prime types of pork or chicken. Feel free to remind me but my memories yielded no trace of such occasions.

To be fair to the chain – because it has not been rare that journalists get sued by people about whom they write – I didn't have to look far for pork-related burger innovations pushed by the chain. Should my memory serve me well, when it revealed the rice-burger, the chain did infuse it with pork cooked according to eastern recipes, although mental pictures are vague now as to how exactly it was completed.

Back to the point of introducing burgers made with higher-grade pork – I was thinking, at the moment I saw the banner that day, that the fast food chain could have marketed burgers made with Agu pork from Ishigaki, Japan or Jinhua Ham from mainland China. The former is by itself a type of sumptuous pork, while the latter is one of the icons of the cuisine.

On the other hand, the fast food chain could have offered an African Chicken Burger or a Portuguese Chicken Burger to, firstly, expand its market and, secondly, provide localized fusions for local residents and the many tourists eager to visit Macau.

Localization is not new to the fast food chain. The idea of rice burger has come up in this part of the world because the company found burgers were not appealing to people when it touched ground. Rice is the main staple food in this part of the world – although the culinary culture is diverse and colorful across the region – which is why the franchisee decided to make rice burgers.

Another chain that sells coffee has not been innovative too. As I remember, in the past decade or so, it has posted the same three Christmas-themed drinks, with the slightest alterations at the most, for example adding mint syrup, turning liquid drinks to crushed ice, among others.

Well, maybe I'm not fair to them. The most traditional types of mooncakes have proved most popular across all these years, so maybe we can confirm that making changes is not a must, at least not all the time. If it sells, it remains.

Correct. But if there has been no change in the past decade, what else can people choose? From its existing menu, maybe. In this case, consumers have no way to express that they want something else, unless they, like I did, fill in a comment card to make a stance.

UAE NATIONAL CARRIER TO START FLYING TO TEL AVIV NEXT SPRING

THE BUZZ

Ethihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, announced yesterday it would start operating daily nonstop flights to Tel Aviv next spring, a move that deepens ties between the UAE and Israel after the two countries agreed to normalize relations.

Direct flights on Etihad between the emirates' capital of Abu Dhabi and Tel Aviv will begin March 28, giving "Emiratis and UAE residents the opportunity to discover Israel's historical sites, beaches, restaurants and nightlife," the state-owned carrier said in a statement. Tickets are already available on Etihad's website.

The announcement comes after Dubai's budget carrier flydubai said it would begin offering direct flights between Dubai and Tel Aviv later this month.

The UAE and Israel signed a U.S.-brokered accord establishing formal diplomatic ties on the White House lawn in September.

The deal marked a diplomatic achievement for President Donald Trump ahead of his reelection campaign and reflects a changing Middle East, in which shared enmity of Iran has largely overtaken traditional Arab support for the Palestinians.

TRUMP CAMPAIGN RETREATS FROM KEY CLAIM IN PENNSYLVANIA SUIT

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump's campaign is withdrawing a central part of its lawsuit seeking to stop the certification of the election results in Pennsylvania, where Democrat Joe Biden beat Trump to capture the state and help win the White House.

Ahead of a hearing today in the case, Trump's campaign dropped the allegation that hundreds of thousands of mail-in and absentee ballots — 682,479, to be precise — were illegally processed without its representatives watching.

The campaign's slimmed-down lawsuit, filed in federal court yesterday [Macau time], maintains the aim of blocking Pennsylvania from certifying a victory for Biden in the state, and it maintains its claim that Democratic voters were treated more favorably than Republican voters.

The Associated Press on Nov. 7 called the presidential contest for Biden after determining that the remaining ballots left to be counted in Pennsylvania would not allow Trump to catch up. Trump has refused to concede.

The remaining claim in the lawsuit centers on disqualifying ballots cast by voters who were given an opportunity to fix mail-in ballots that were going to be disqualified for a technicality.

The lawsuit charges that "Democratic-heavy counties" violated the law by identifying mail-in ballots before Election Day that had defects — such as lacking an inner "secrecy envelope" or lacking a voter's signature on the outside envelope — so that the voter could fix it and ensure that the vote would count, called "curing."

Republican-heavy counties "followed the law



and did not provide a notice and cure process, disenfranchising many," the lawsuit said.

Cliff Levine, a lawyer representing the Democratic National Committee, which is seeking to intervene, said it's unclear how many voters were given the chance to fix their ballot.

ne said. "The goal should be making sure every vote counts."

Pennsylvania's top election official, Secretary of State Kathy Boockvar, a Democrat, responded in court, asking the judge to dismiss the case.

More than 2.6 million mail-in ballots were reported received by counties, and there has been no report by state or county election officials or a prosecutor of fraud or any other problem with the accuracy of the count.

A key theme of Trump and his supporters has been their claim that Philadelphia — a Democratic bastion where Trump lost badly — had not allowed Trump's campaign representatives to watch mail-in and absentee ballots processed and tabulated.

However, Republican lawyers have acknowledged in a separate federal court proceeding that they had certified observers watching mail-in ballots being processed in Philadelphia. Gov. Tom Wolf's administration has said that ballot watchers from all parties had observers throughout the process and that "any insinuation otherwise is a lie." MDT/AP

**Trump campaign's slimmed-down lawsuit maintains its claim that Democratic voters were treated more favorably than Republican voters**

But, he said, it is minimal and certainly fewer than the margin — almost 70,000 — that separates Biden and Trump.

"The numbers aren't even close to the margin between the two candidates, not even close," Levine said.

In any case, there is no provision in state law preventing counties from helping voters to fix a ballot that contains a technical deficiency. Levine said the lawsuit does not contain any allegation that somebody voted illegally.

"They really should be suing the counties that didn't allow (voters) to make corrections," Levi-



**Belarus** A human rights group said more than 900 people were arrested yesterday (Macau time) in protests around the country calling for authoritarian President Alexander Lukashenko to step down. The demonstrations continued the wave of near-daily protests that have gripped Belarus since early August. In the capital Minsk, police wielded clubs and used tear gas and stun grenades to disperse thousands of demonstrators.



**Germany** A fire broke out in a subway station in Berlin, injuring four people, one seriously, the news agency dpa reported yesterday. The fire broke out late Sunday and 120 firefighters were still fighting the flames the next day, but said the fire was mostly under control.



**US** SpaceX's second crew has two military officers who played college football, a former space shuttle flight controller, and the first person in decades to launch aboard three kinds of rockets. The three Americans and one Japanese reached the International Space Station yesterday for a five- to six-month stay, following Sunday's liftoff from NASA's Kennedy Space Center.



**Peru**'s interim president resigned this weekend as the nation plunged into its worst constitutional crisis in two decades following massive protests unleashed when Congress ousted the nation's popular leader. In a short televised address, Manuel Merino said Congress acted within the law when he was sworn into office as chief of state last week, despite protesters' allegations that legislators had staged a parliamentary coup.