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SHOP LOCAL

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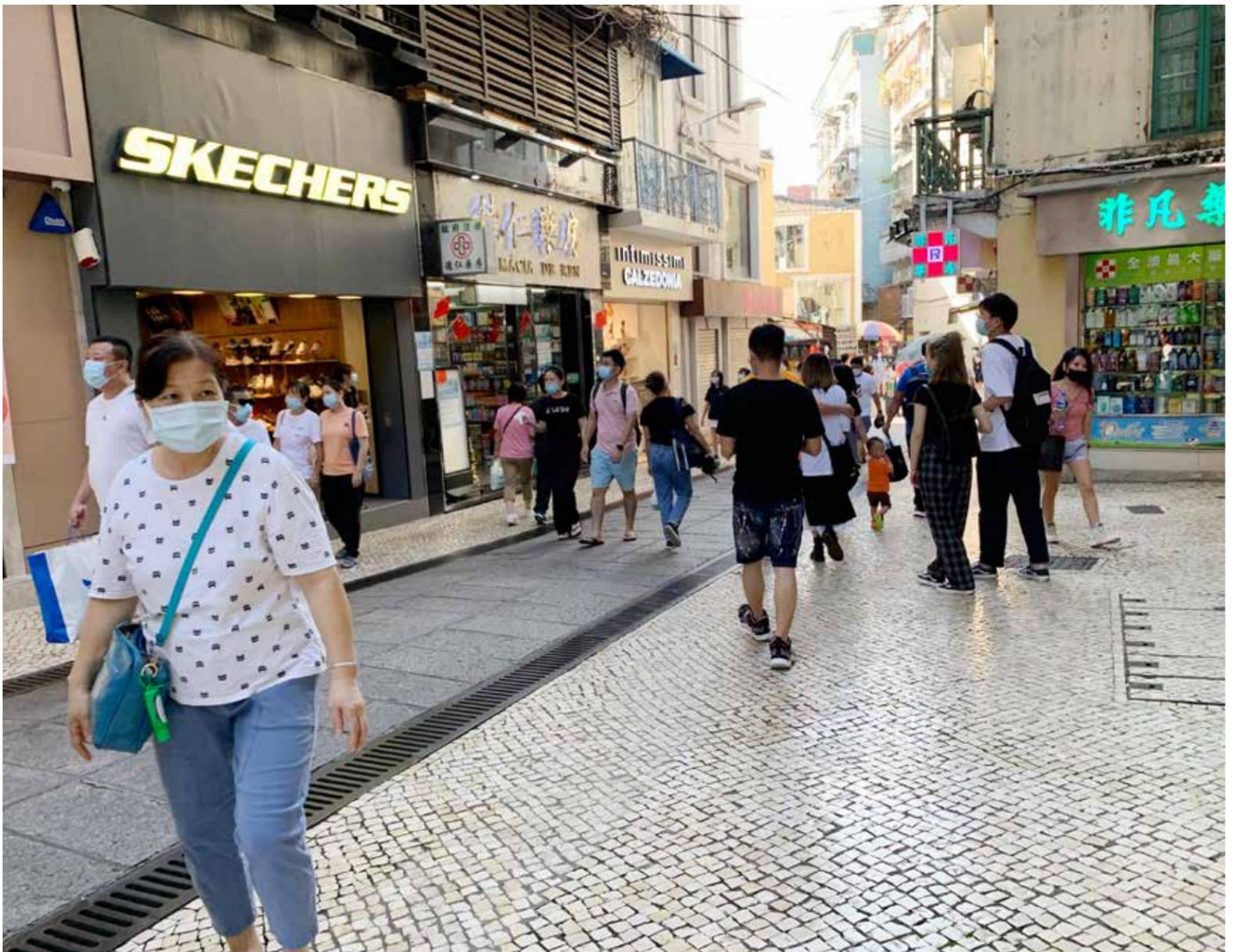


North Korean Central News Agency reported the country is mobilizing more anti-virus units and establishing strong steps to “completely remove uncivilized and unhygienic elements that could help make room for the spread of an epidemic” at winter. Some experts say the coronavirus can spread more broadly during cold weather when people typically spend more time indoors.



India Protesting farmers yesterday rejected the Indian government’s offer to hold immediate talks if they ended their blockade of key highways they’ve held as they seek the scrapping of legislation they say could devastate crop prices. The thousands of farmers will continue camping out on highways in Punjab and Haryana states until three new agriculture laws are withdrawn. Jaskaran Singh, a leader of the Kisan Union, or Farmers’ Union, told reporters.

Afghanistan At least 34 people were killed yesterday in two separate suicide bombings in Afghanistan that targeted a military base and a provincial chief, officials said. There were no immediate claims of responsibility for the attacks, which took place as Afghan government representatives and the Taliban hold face-to-face talks in Qatar for the first time to end the country’s decades-long war.



SUN YINGSHA, MA LONG CROWNED WTT MACAO CHAMPIONS

MGTO TO PUSH ‘TOURISM+ MICE+ SPORTS’ DEVELOPMENT IN 2021

MGTO TO PUSH 'TOURISM+MICE+SPORTS' DEVELOPMENT NEXT YEAR

STAFF REPORTER

THE SAR government will pursue a strategic focus of merging the tourism; meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE); and sports sectors next year to broaden the city's tourism appeal, Director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said.

"The integrated strategy for tourism development has been a travel trend that shines through lately," said Fernandes, adding, "Thus, [the government will help] the city's tourism set off more collaborations with other industries in the future."

Fernandes's remarks came after Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong, on the Legislative Assembly's (AL) debate over Economy and Finance policies in 2021 on November 27, underscored the importance of pushing a new "Tourism+MICE+Sports" approach — a catchphrase that symbolizes the integration of tourism and other



business sectors.

Regarding the MICE sector, Lei said the government will promote "Tourism+MICE", through an intensified collaboration between MGTO and Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) to beckon more high-yield tourists.

The amalgam of "Tourism+MICE+Sports" strategic development is intended to support local travel trade to develop more tourism offerings — that help inject "novelties and diversities" into Macau's tourism scene and meet

the increasingly varied needs of today's tourists, he concluded.

Lei regarded Macau's MICE industry as "internationally recognized," which is reflected by the large number of MICE events that have been held in the last few years.

In 2019, there were a total of 1,536 MICE events held in Macau, up 7.6% from the 1,427 recorded in 2018. Meanwhile, the number of MICE participants and attendees totaled 2,003,000 in 2019, down 5.4% year-on-year, official data shows.

In 2020, a whole slew of MICE events were canceled, postponed or migrated to a virtual format due to Covid-19, greatly undermining the industry.

But since the third quarter (Q3) of this year, Macau's MICE sector has gradually resumed business, prompting the number of MICE events in Q3 to increase 66% to 63 quarter-on-quarter. Still, this represented a significant drop of 82% when compared to the same period last year.

The tally of MICE participants and attendees amounted to 297,000 in Q3, surging 1,281% quarter-over-quarter, but dropping 49% year-on-year.

President of the Macau Federal Commercial Association of Convention & Exhibition Industry Wu Kam Hon agreed that the "Tourism+MICE" hook can unlock new opportunities for the city's tourism as it helps expand tourist sources.

More importantly, he stressed, "MICE tourists can generate a greater [boost] to tourism as they are relatively high-yield consu-

mers who generally spend more than ordinary travelers."

Meanwhile, he regarded it as "necessary" for the government to provide incentives and funding to local MICE organizers to accelerate development.

Regarding the "Tourism+Sports" development, Lei said sports tourism has been ongoing, which has been corroborated by the example of many local running enthusiasts who regularly jaunted around the world to attend marathons and traveled for leisure in the host destination.

Earlier this month, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng also acknowledged that "Tourism+Sports" has great potential. He disclosed that talks between the government and the six gaming operators to hold 12 sports events in 2021, one event per month, have been underway.

Each of the six gaming operators, who are now in discussions to run the 12 staggered throughout 2021, will be responsible for hosting two events next year.

POLICY ADDRESS

ECONOMY CHIEF CALLS ON PUBLIC TO SPEND CASH HANDOUTS LOCALLY

JULIE ZHU

THE Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong has encouraged local residents to use the money from next year's cash handout scheme to boost the local economy.

During Friday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting, lawmaker Ho Ion Sang asked the local government to confirm that cash will be given out in next year's cash handout scheme.

Earlier this year, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng mentioned adjusting next year's cash handout scheme, especially in the way the money will be distributed. The public has been concerned that the SAR government may hand out

the equivalent amount in the form of e-vouchers instead of cash, which will limit the ways people use the money.

"The public has different opinions regarding how we are going to use the 10,000 patacas. Eventually, the society decided that the 10,000 patacas will be given in cash," Lei remarked.

"If the 10,000 patacas can enter Macau's market, there would be a positive impact on the market because our consumption is directly linked to our jobs. I encourage the public to leave the money in Macau, to support Macau SMEs and to support ourselves," Lei said.

As of today, the Macau SAR government has lau-

nched two rounds of financial assistance to help stimulate the local economy. The public, including lawmakers, has been calling for a third round.

Responding to society's opinions, Lei only commented that the government will not "close the door" on the possibility of a third round of financial assistance. However, Lei made it clear that the third round of the financial support scheme will only be launched when there are "unique" economic conditions requiring government assistance.

The SAR government hopes that the developing financial assistance mechanism for special times does not become a routine.

POLICY ADDRESS

IPIM CASE HALTED OVER 600 APPLICATIONS FROM PROGRESSING

RENATO MARQUES

The court case involving the unlawful granting of residency by several high-ranked officials from the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) has caused over 600 other applications to be stopped, the Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong admitted on Friday at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

At the plenary session dedicated to the sectorial presentation of the Policy Address for 2021 (LAG2021), Lei said that there are currently over 600 applications regarding residence renewal pending at the IPIM.

The Secretary acknow-

ledged this while presenting the results of the work done by the IPIM.

"Since October 29, we have analyzed over 127 applications. It is taking some time to adjust our procedures [since the case involving the officials] and we still have over 600 applications that have been accumulating," Lei said, adding that the IPIM, under the leadership of the Secretariat for Economy and Finance, will accelerate the pace of the analysis of the applications as much as possible "without compromising on the analysis criteria."

Lei also aims to clear IPIM's image of the controversy, following Jackson Chang's, the former

head of the bureau, case of breach of secrecy and inexact asset declaration.

Henceforth, all applications which satisfy conditions for deferral will be deferred, and that the institute will also have quicker procedures for communicating about any irregular applications to the appropriate authorities.

Questioned on the topic, Lei revealed that as of the end of October this year, the IPIM has forwarded a total of 24 cases suspected of containing irregular information or documents on applications for residency renewal. Such cases have all been sent to the Public Prosecutions Office for further investigation and clarification, he said.

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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

JULIE ZHU

POLICY ADDRESS

SECRETARY for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong said that he has not “conducted an in-depth review” of a Macau Stock Exchange in Hengqin.

The National Development and Reform Commission of China is considering setting up a Macau Stock Exchange in Hengqin, Zhuhai, according to a number of major mainland news outlets, including Sina. Several lawmakers asked the secretary questions regarding this topic.

News outlets are saying that the National Development and Reform Commission of China has recently replied an inquiry from members of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. In the reply, the Chinese authority said that “the Commission will actively participate in the relevant work of research on setting up a Macau Stock Exchange in Hengqin.”

During the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting on Friday, lawmakers, including Agnes Lam and Fong Ka Chio, asked questions regarding Macau Stock Exchange and the mainland authority's statement.

Lawmaker Fong asked “If the Macau Stock Exchange is located in Hengqin, what are the advantages for Macau? Will there be any influence on Macau's gross domestic product (GDP), financing industry, or our legislative work?”

During the government's Policy Address, the Chief Executive laid out Macau's ambition to expand its financing industry.

Lei: No in-depth review of Macau Stock Exchange in Hengqin



Fong, who is an economist, raised more questions concerning the financing industry.

“How [will the government] increase the percentage of revenue from the financing industry in the GDP? How much does an industry have to represent in order to become a key industry? What kind of human resources do we need in order to develop a bond market?” Fong asked.

Replying to the lawmakers, Secretary

Lei remarked that he will “not rule out any possibilities.”

“Regarding Hengqin, I have not conducted an in-depth review. My overall thought is for Macau to develop a bond market, but where is the market? Where are the connections with the neighboring regions? Macau needs a market, investment banks, funds, and talented human resources. Are we ready? [Macau will] first do what the city is confident about,

[which is] doing the bond market well first. [The government] is always open. Macau does not rule out any possibilities as long as they are good for its future,” said Lei.

Elaborating on this, Lei said that Macau needs the State's support for financing policies.

According to the Secretary, Macau must be dependent on its major market, mainland China, and must take advantage of the

One Country, Two Systems policy and the free port market of Macau.

Statistics revealed by the secretary showed that, the financing industry in Macau is currently growing 18.1% annually, higher than the gaming industry, which is at 8.6%.

The SAR government believes that there is “big room” for the financial industry to expand in the future.

ECONOMY

Gov't: 2020 GDP expected to shrink by over 50%

JULIE ZHU

GROSS domestic product (GDP) for the entirety of 2020 is expected to temporarily shrink by over 50%, according to Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong.

During Friday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting, the Secretary stated that the advance estimates on GDP for this year suggest that it may decrease by approximately 56.8%, “a shrinking rate of over 50%.”

According to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), GDP has dropped by 48.7%, 67.8%, and 63.8% year-on-year in the first, second and third quarters respectively.

Previously, the government forecast that Macau's



GDP would fall by 60.9% this year.

Regarding the different predictions, Lei stated that Macau's short-term economic outlook is subject to uncertainties and the government will continue to monitor the situation and

make adjustments according to the estimated GDP.

In response to the sluggish economy, the Macau SAR government has invested its hope largely on mainland tourists and domestic demand, which the Secretary admitted is cur-

rently Macau's major economic driving force.

“Basically, our economy is supported by domestic demand, which represents approximately 66% [of GDP currently],” Lei remarked while reiterating that the SAR government

is strengthening public investment and stabilizing employment.

Economist Albano Martin previously told the Times that he expected to see a two-digit growth in GDP during 2021.

With the resumption of travel endorsements for mainland residents to travel to Macau, visitor arrivals leapt to 750,204 in the third quarter of this year, still representing a decline of 92.4% year-on-year, despite a 1,408.6% jump quarter-to-quarter. Visitor arrivals of the first three quarters decreased 86.7%.

Although the number has not met the government's estimations, Lei believes that Macau's economic recovery has already hit a turning point.

Yet the official noted that the city's jobs are also

at risk. DSEC's statistics show that the general unemployment rate and the unemployment rate of local residents held steady at 2.9% and 4.1%, respectively between August and October. Employees from the gaming and retail sector are the majority among those unemployed.

Meanwhile, as the SAR government has maintained its expenditure on preventing the Covid-19 pandemic in the region and continued providing economic relief measures, the government's final consumption expenditure recorded a larger increase of 18.6% compared to the 16.3% growth in the previous quarter. Net purchases of goods and services rose by 33.9% while compensation of employees went up by 2.7%.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

PEDRO CHIANG'S LAWYER SAYS NEWS OF DETENTION FOR EXTRADITION IS A FALLACY

RENATO MARQUES

THE lawyer representing businessman Pedro Chiang has clarified the news aired that was on some local media outlets that his client had been arrested in Portugal and is waiting to be extradited to Macau.

João Miguel Barros said in a statement that such information, besides being false, is based on a mistaken belief that has no legal ground.

According to Barros, who confirmed that Chiang was briefly detained in Portugal last week due to a failed procedure by Macau's Judiciary Police (PJ), Chiang was almost immediately released from custody "because he is a free man with no dues to settle with the Justice [of Macau or any other jurisdiction]"

"Even if he had any conviction to carry out, which he does not, the extradition to Macau would not be possible as he is a Portuguese citizen. And Portugal does not extradite its nationals except in very specific and exceptional cases," Barros reaffirmed.

According to the lawyer, the case is underscored by a series of



MACAU PHOTO AGENCY

incorrect procedures and lack of action by local judiciary authorities, followed by delays and lack of awareness from both Interpol and the Portuguese PJ.

Barros noted that the problem started when the Macau Courts did not request the return of the arrest warrant from Interpol, after the declaration of the expiration of the pending process related to Chiang. This flaw was then com-

pounded by Interpol, which kept a "Red Warning" for the detention of Chiang when the accusations against him were overdue.

The lawyer also noted that it is very strange that Interpol's last update on the warrant was in September 2020, when the case is expired in 2017.

Barros says that all the hassle could have easily been avoided if the Macau PJ had notified Inter-

pol of the expiration of the process back in 2017, rescinding the order for Chiang's international arrest.

Summarizing Chiang's situation with the Macau Courts, Barros explained that his client was a defendant in two processes tried at the Court of First Instance (TJB). Both sentences were never subjected to appeals in any of the higher courts.

The first case, which reached a verdict on January 22, 2010, was "declared as a prescribed crime where Pedro Chiang was being accused [for Corruption and Money Laundering]." The first crime expired in March 2018 and the second in March this year. The lawyer noted that regarding the second crime, Chiang had previously been cleared of the charges by the TJB. Regarding the second court case, the trial began October 17, 2012, but on October 6, 2017, Chiang's legal responsibility was declared extinct, with the final decision made on November 1, 2017. Barros noted that Interpol's "Red Warning" was for the second process.

The lawyer also noted that the TJB has formally ordered the local PJ to remove all the warrants issued over Chiang on two occasions, the last being on November 19 which was two days before the incident in Portugal.

Barros also blames the Portuguese PJ for attempting to execute an expired order and insisting on publicly communicating the case even after they knew they were detaining him unlawfully, which the lawyer states "only dishonors the institution."

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SME grows with Sands China's platform

FOR small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and micro-enterprises, having products of good quality is not enough; they need a solid platform as a stepping stone to grow and expand their business. Sands China, one of the leading integrated resort operators and a large-scale international corporation in Macao, has been playing an active role in providing such a platform for local SMEs.

Seng Kuong Ltd., a long-established trading company in Macao, has been dedicated to importing products from Portuguese-speaking countries for many years. Seng Kuong's deputy sales manager, Mike Feng, said that the company has been working with Sands China for more than 10 years, from whom they have learned many effective management methods.

Established in Macao more than 50 years ago, Seng Kuong is committed to offering premium Portuguese products. To date, the company has successfully intro-

duced dozens of brands of food and beverages to Macao. Seng Kuong is the city's sole agent for Super Bock beer, Compal juice, wine from Quinta da Bacalhoa, Mimosa milk, and other products. Meanwhile, the company is also introducing to Macao the finest brands from Southeast Asia, mainland China and Hong Kong.

A RELIABLE PARTNER

Since the opening of Sands Macao in 2004, Seng Kuong has been its supplier. Sands Macao was looking for products with "Portuguese elements" and Seng Kuong has been a veteran agent. The company provides Portuguese beverages to hotel rooms and ingredients to kitchens.

The cooperation was logical, according to Sands China's procurement and supply chain senior manager Rachel Zheng and assistant manager Bella Pun. Seng Kuong knows how to make full use of its advantages. Mr Feng points out that Portugal has had a strong

influence on Macao's culture and dining habits, meaning that Portuguese products are well received by locals and the Macanese. The company has also recruited a younger team. With clearer job allocation, it has also enhanced efficient logistics and raised work efficiency, making the SME stand out among its competitors.

As explained by Feng, the clearest advantage of working with Sands China is sales improvement. As one of the leading enterprises in Macao, Sands China has a large number of employees and visitors; therefore, order volume is relatively significant. In addition, SMEs can learn systematic and modern management methods and tools via cooperation, which enables SMEs to grow rapidly.

Sands China agrees that Seng Kuong is a reliable partner. According to Ms Zheng and Ms Pun, "Every year, Seng Kuong will introduce new products for us. After [a] bidding and sampling process, we update our product catalog

accordingly. Sands China and Seng Kuong are in a working relationship based on mutual trust over the years."

RESILIENT THROUGH THE GLOOM OF COVID-19

During its partnership with Sands China, Seng Kuong has taken proactive measures in order to maintain a stable supply. "We used to arrange clients' products to arrive in Macao a few months before the actual required delivery time to ensure the delivery will be on time and the supply will be sufficient." The measure is also appreciated by Sands China: "It's rare and valuable for SMEs to prepare stock for customers in advance."

However, the outbreak of the coronavirus interrupted the supply and demand balance of the market. As a lot of the products they supply are for local hotels, Macao's sharp decrease in hotel guests led to a great reduction in purchase orders. Now that the epidemic in Macao is under control,

the number of visitors is bouncing back, which brings hope to local SMEs, including Seng Kuong.

FUTURE EXPECTATIONS

Growing from a traditional SME to a veteran company, Seng Kuong has set up different sales branches for different customers, and even dedicates a sales team especially to integrated resort operators. The business future for Seng Kuong is clear. Mr Feng said the company will try its best to provide more premium Portuguese products to Macao, building a bigger team and expanding its business. At the same time, he expressed the hope that the official Commercial and Trade Co-operation Service Platform between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries would be used as another means of increasing sales channels and exploring more opportunities in mainland cities, allowing more people to become acquainted with premium brands from Portugal.

Sands China recognizes that allocating dedicated teams to dedicated clients can result in attentive service. The integrated resort operator also suggests that proactive communication and premium products and services can help suppliers build trust and long-term partnerships with their clients.

Sands China's long-standing effort to support local suppliers is in line with the Macao government's initiative to "buy local." The company's partnership with local SMEs creates a mutually supportive environment in which SMEs gain business and experience while allowing Sands China to benefit from having local expertise, customer service and delivery.



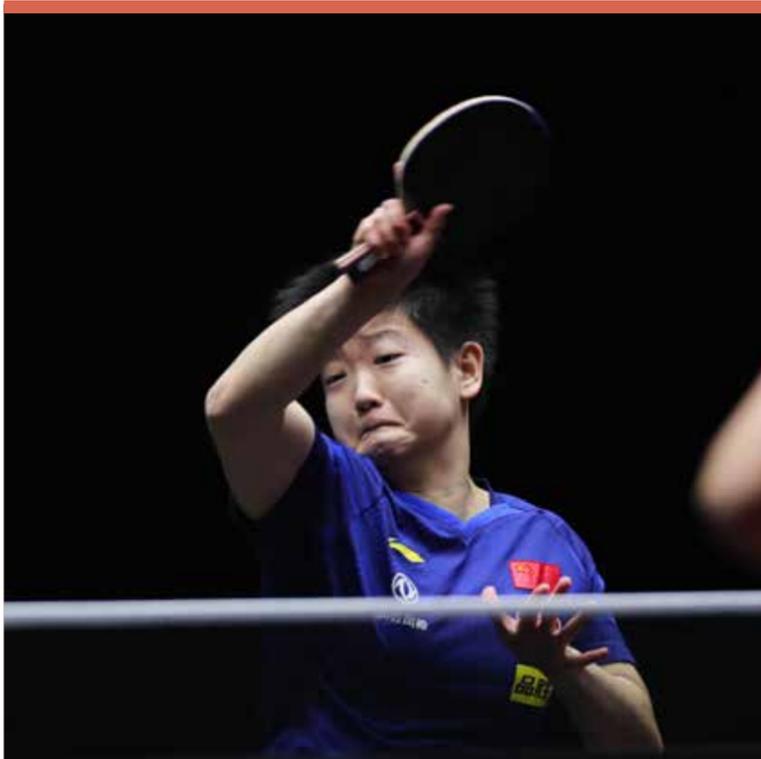
FROZEN MEAT FROM BRAZIL AND VIETNAM TESTED NEGATIVE FOR COVID-19

The Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has confirmed that frozen goods imported to Macau from a Brazilian meat export company and Vietnamese seafood factory have tested negative for Covid-19. The IAM carried out the inspection shortly after the exterior package of the frozen beef and fish fillets exported by the two companies tested positive for Covid-19 in Wuhan on November 28. The authorities tracked and examined the frozen goods and conducted Covid-19 nucleic acid tests on randomly selected products.

OVER 2,200 STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM UM THIS YEAR

The Congregation 2020 of the University of Macau was livestreamed, with doctoral degrees, master's degrees, postgraduate certificates/diplomas, and bachelor's degrees presented at the same time. Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao leong U represented the Chief Executive and UM chancellor at this year's ceremony. She noted that UM adopted a series of anti-epidemic measures to "ensure the smooth progress of teaching and research activities." This year, a total of 2,256 students graduated from the university.

SUN YINGSHA AND MA LONG CROWNED IN WTT MACAO



Sun Yingsha (left) and Ma Long

RENATO MARQUES

SUN Yingsha in the female section and Ma Long in the male category won the World Table Tennis Macao (WTT Macao) event yesterday evening.

After five days of competition at the Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion, Sun and Ma took home the win of the first-ever WTT event that debuted a new competition format with a new scoring system and more attractive venue design.

In the Finals, held on Sunday evening, Sun and Ma edged their opponents, respectively Chen Xingtong and Wang Chuqin for comfortable wins of five games against one, taking the trophy

and making history as the first winners of the WTT event.

SUN YINGSHA (5-1) CHEN XINGTONG

In the first match of the evening, Sun, currently World Number 3, started better than Chen and won the first game by only a slight difference (11-10).

With an almost flawless performance, Sun swiftly won the first three games straight (11-8 and 11-6) as if the match was just "a walk in the park."

But Chen, which eliminated several important names of the tournament in the early stages including the World Number 1 Chen Meng, made her way back into the match on the fourth

game, winning by 11-9. The result might even be deceiving for those who did not follow the match as Chen had a very comfortable lead in the scoreboard most of the time with Sun and only managing to balance the score at the end of it.

After that, Sun turned the attack mode back on and won the last two games (11-6 and 11-4) showing clearly that she was the best competitor in the women's section.

WANG CHUQIN (1-5) MA LONG

During the final match of the event, Ma entered at full steam crushing Wang's pretensions to surprise the master by winning the first four games (5-11, 9-11,

4-11, and 5-11).

On the fifth, and potentially the last game for Wang, Ma relaxed a little too much and let Wang show why he had reached the Finals, edging Ma by only a point (11-10).

But Ma was committed not to let Wang taste victory, closing the match with a win (8-11) in the sixth and last game.

Despite a few imposed restrictions to combat Covid-19, the audience was in good spirits and supported the players that put on a great show and talent display.

The event was also an opportunity for table tennis fans to see live performances of the worlds' best at this sport.

Aug-Oct unemployment unchanged at 2.9%



STAFF REPORTER

THE city's general unemployment rate was at 2.9% in the August to October period in 2020. This stayed unchanged from the previous period between July to September, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) revealed.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate of local residents also remained the same, standing at 4.1% between August to October.

The DSEC's latest statistics indicated that the city's unemployment rate has been stable so far. The ongoing economic fallout

brought about by the Covid-19 left thousands of people in the city unemployed since its outbreak.

Compared to the August to October period in 2019, the underemployment and unemployment rate increased by 4.7 and 1.1 percentage points respectively.

Among all the industries, the tourism and gaming sectors have been hit the hardest by the pandemic. The number of people involved in gaming and junket activities and hotels and similar activities shrank from August to October.

Meanwhile, the majority

of the unemployed people who were searching for new jobs from August to October were previously engaged in gaming and junket activities and retail trade, the DSEC indicated.

The one industry which bucked the trend was transport and storage, which experienced an increase in its labor force during the latest surveyed period.

Recently, locals have been perturbed that Macau may soon descend into another wave of economic distress as a number of economic relief measures will expire at the end of 2020.

This presentiment has prompted locals and lawmakers to press the SAR government to roll out the third stimulus package.



Apple suppliers' exodus from China won't slow down under Biden

DEBBY WU

THE splintering of the global tech supply chain that began during President Donald Trump's watch looks set to persist under his successor.

Apple Inc., the largest of the many tech giants that rely on Chinese factories to make their gadgets, will move some production of its iPads and MacBooks to Vietnam. Key assembly partner Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., known also as Foxconn, has allocated \$270 million in new investments to the Southeast Asian country. Those moves presage a larger and longer-term migration that may have ramifications for the iPhone maker as well as China's role as workshop to the world.

Foxconn founder Terry Gou coined the term "G2" to describe the trend of a unified supply chain splitting into at least two. Company Chairman Young Liu said in August that the likes of India, Southeast Asia and the Americas could each in the future end up with a dedicated manufacturing ecosystem of their own. The trend now looks irreversible as other countries including India and Vietnam are boosting their infrastructure and efforts to lure manu-

facturers through lower costs and fewer geopolitical worries.

"As China gets more expensive, and as U.S. politics have been unpredictable, companies have shifted production of some goods out of China. That trend will continue as China gets more expensive and as Vietnam and India improve their competitiveness," said Dan Wang, a technology analyst at Gavekal Dragonomics.

Trump's trade hostilities against China caused many manufacturers to shift production capacity to neighboring countries like Vietnam and further afield to sites in Mexico and India, in order to avoid being slapped with punitive tariffs and to mitigate future sanctions risk. Apple, whose Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook orchestrated the creation of its current Chinese-centric production chain, has resisted a large-scale move but in recent years has increasingly explored alternatives.

The Cupertino, California-based company is continuing to add iPhone capacity in India through its assembly partners, aided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's policy to attract top-tier smartphone companies to make their gadgets locally for

export. Pegatron Corp., the last of the major iPhone assemblers to arrive in the country, announced earlier this month it is injecting 11 billion rupees (\$150 million) into its Indian unit and will start production there as soon as late 2021.

Back at home, the iPhone maker has been lobbying the U.S. government to support local chip production with tax breaks. Its key supplier Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. is planning a chip fab in Arizona, though the modest scale and technology of that facility would suggest it will service smaller customers, at least to begin with.

Meanwhile, Trump's tariffs on Chinese-made products have also forced other international companies to rethink their manufacturing operations. Nintendo Co. now has some of its Switch console production handled by Sharp Corp. in Malaysia, after it asked its main assembly partner Foxconn Technology Co. to offer geographic alternatives to its core China operations. Foxconn Tech, a major entity of the Foxconn Technology Group and a Sharp shareholder, made the connection between the two Japanese firms.

BLOOMBERG

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Screens "My People, My Homeland" for Team Members

Part of company's ongoing professionalism education efforts

Sands China team members viewed a screening of the film "My People, My Homeland" at Cinema Alegria Oct. 27, hosted by Sands China as part of the company's ongoing effort to build professionalism and deepen understanding of national development among team members, aiming to develop their understanding of China's history and culture.

"Sands China is pleased to give this opportunity to our team members to continue their professionalism education and enhance their understanding of the nation's development," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. "We hope the viewing of 'My People, My Homeland' can help reinforce our team members' national identity, enabling them to continue making contributions to support the advancement of the nation."

Over 120 team members attended the screening, including Winky Tsang, a human resources officer, who said: "Thanks to the company's arrangements, I was able to learn about China's achievements in an interesting way with this film. The session definitely helped me learn even more about our country's culture, history and development. This year I participated in two seminars, which helped me understand the importance of One Country, Two Systems and has given me confidence and pride in the future development of Macao and the Greater Bay Area."

Sands China Ltd. has been committed to improving the professionalism of its team members, launching its professionalism training series in July 2016. It has since cooperated with government authorities, associations and others to organise over 20 initiatives for team members, interns and recent university graduates. Activities have included professional literacy training courses, professional lectures, a Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area Visit, professionalism training in Beijing for executive team members, film screenings, visiting the National Security Education Exhibition, and a distinguished guest speaker series, covering topics of economics, culture, and technology.

Through various initiatives and promotional panels at back-of-house team member areas, the company helps deliver professionalism training and knowledge to enhance team members' professional knowledge. In addition, the company also invites members from local associations to participate in the activities, to learn the development of Macao, the Greater Bay Area and the country together.



UK set to be first to clear Pfizer-BioNTech Covid vaccine

DEIRDRE HIPWELL
& NAOMI KRESGE

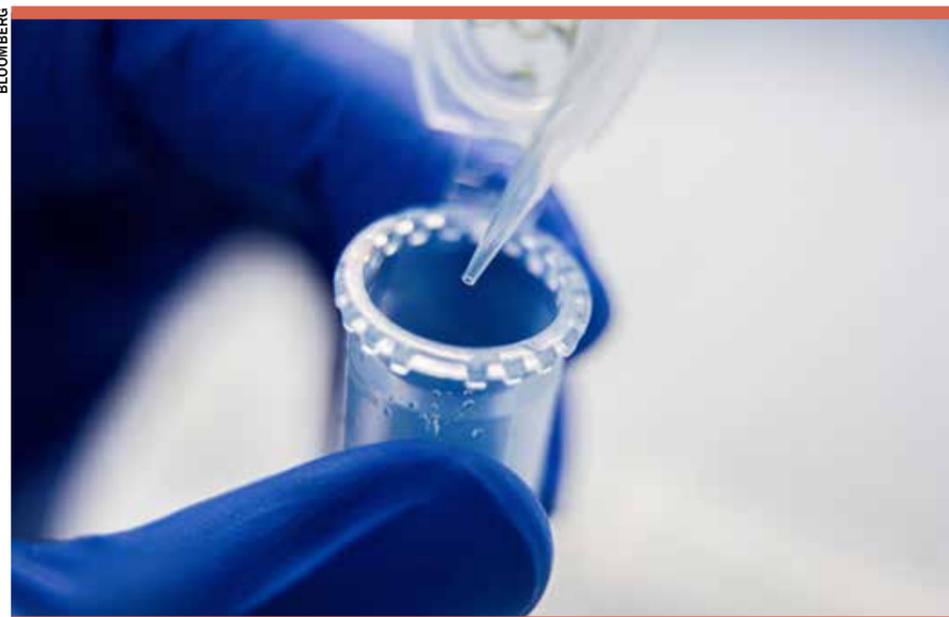
THE U.K. is poised to become the first country to approve Pfizer Inc. and BioNTech SE's Covid-19 vaccine, ahead of a long line of countries waiting for protection from the coronavirus.

Clearance is possible as soon as early next week, according to a person familiar with the situation, who asked not to be identified because the process is confidential.

The U.K. had long signaled it would move fast on any promising vaccine candidate. Russia and China have cleared vaccines for general use, but they're unlikely to be adopted in the U.S. and Europe.

British doctors were put on standby for a possible rollout before Christmas. The government invoked a special rule allowing the U.K. drug regulator to bypass its European Union counterpart as the country prepares for the Brexit transition period to conclude at the end of this year. And the U.K.'s Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency started its own accelerated review.

Earlier this week, the MHRA said it had the data



it needed to assess whether the Pfizer vaccine meets required standards and would "make a decision in the shortest time possible, without compromising the thoroughness of our review." The shot was 95% effective in a clinical trial of almost 44,000 people, with no significant safety problems so far.

Over the weekend, an MHRA spokesperson declined to comment. A BioNTech representative didn't immediately have a comment. Pfizer said in a statement that it doesn't speculate on how long the review process will last or how it will end.

VACCINE MINISTER

The first injections could take place from Dec. 7, the Financial Times reported earlier.

The news that the U.K. could approve a vaccine comes as Nadhim Zahawi, a junior minister for the Department of Business, was appointed as minister overseeing the rollout of Covid-19 vaccines.

The U.K. has ordered enough doses of the two-shot Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine to immunize 20 million people, though that volume almost certainly won't be available right away. The companies also have deals to supply hundreds of millions of

shots to Europe, the U.S., Japan and elsewhere.

The Pfizer-BioNTech shot has raced to the head of the line after delays to trials of a vaccine from AstraZeneca Plc and the University of Oxford, which has also shown some promising signs in preliminary results from broad studies. Another one, from Moderna Inc., has also demonstrated effectiveness in late-stage trials.

According to the U.K. Press Association yesterday [Macau time], the government has secured another 2 million doses of Moderna's vaccine, talking its total to 7 million.

BLOOMBERG

Court orders France to rethink 30-person limit on worship

FRANCE'S highest administrative court yesterday ordered a rethink of a 30-person attendance limit for religious services put in place by the government to slow down the spread of coronavirus.

The measure took effect this weekend as France relaxes some virus restrictions, but it faced opposition by places of worship and the faithful for being arbitrary and unreasonable. Even before the ruling, several bishops had announced they would not enforce the restrictions and some churches were

expected to defy it.

The Council of State has ordered that Prime Minister Jean Castex modify the measure within three days.

French churches, mosques and synagogues started opening their doors again to worshippers this weekend — but only a few of them, as France cautiously starts reopening after its latest virus lockdown.

Many people expressed irritation outside several Paris churches where priests held services for groups that numbered over 30.

To attend Mass, they had to book tickets online and

give their names on their way in. However, the church's protocol didn't seem to help limit the number of people inside the building.

Asked whether they would stay if the crowd was too large, most said they would.

For some, the new rules stirred up fears. French Catholics were sharing rules and recommendations on social media for how to behave if the police arrive at a church for a head count.

Farid Kachour, secretary general of the group running the mosque of

Montermeil, a heavily immigrant suburb northeast of Paris, says that his mosque simply wouldn't open with too few people permitted.

"We can't choose people" allowed to enter for prayer. "We don't want to create discontent among the faithful," he said.

Kachour noted that Muslims pray five times a day, further complicating the situation. To respect the rules, the mosque would need 40 services a day to allow all the faithful to pray, he said.

Places of worship were allowed to continue during France's latest nationwide lockdown, which is coming to an end in December, but regular prayer services were banned due to health concerns. **AP**

this day in history

1962 US SPACEMAN ORBITS EARTH



The first American to orbit the Earth has landed safely in the Atlantic Ocean.

Marine Lieutenant John Glenn, 40, travelled about 81,000 miles (more than 130,000km) as he circled the globe three times at more than 17,000 mph (27,000kph).

Lieutenant Glenn controlled nearly two of the orbits himself after reporting "minor difficulties" with the automatic altitude control system as he completed the third circuit - the maximum anticipated.

Messages from the astronaut were transmitted by radio stations across the United States and United Kingdom and his progress was monitored by 18 ground stations around the world.

As he re-entered the atmosphere after his four-hour and 56-minute journey Lieutenant Glenn said: "Boy, that was a real fireball."

His spacecraft, Friendship Seven, landed at 2040 GMT 240 miles north-west of Puerto Rico, where it was picked up by the US destroyer Noa.

Altogether, 24 American ships were ready to pick up the astronaut and his craft from various locations across the globe.

The capsule was launched from the flaming Atlas rocket at 1447 GMT from Cape Canaveral, Florida.

President Kennedy followed the mission on television and telephoned the astronaut afterwards.

"We are really proud of you. You did a wonderful job," he said.

The Queen and British Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, also cabled their congratulations.

Technical problems had delayed the mission 10 times - a total of 61 days.

The US has spent over £142m on the man-in-space programme so far and Nasa has planned another three manned orbital flights this year.

The US Earth orbit took place 10 months and 10 days after Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space, making one circulation of the globe.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

John Glenn became an overnight celebrity. He was promoted to the rank of colonel in 1964.

He went into politics and was a democrat senator for Ohio - his home state - for 24 years.

He campaigned on space and defence issues in particular.

It was his interest in space medicine that led him to persuade Nasa to send him into space at the age of 77 in November 1998.

He completed the nine-day mission on the space shuttle with another six astronauts to become the oldest man in space.

Over 250,000 people - including President Clinton - gathered at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida to watch the launch.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Don't spend too much on products that promise amazing cosmetic results. Lovers will be demanding. You are best to sign your partner up for activities that will be tiring.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 You will back yourself into a corner if you are baited and your stubbornness will only make matters worse. Lowered vitality could affect your work. Travel will be to your advantage.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 You can come into money that you don't necessarily work for. You are best to be discreet. Be aware that minor accidents or injury may prevail if you are preoccupied.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Coworkers may not be giving you all the pertinent information. Listen to the problems of others and offer suggestions where possible. Arguments may flare up in your home.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Emotional disputes will only end in sorrow. Your need to put great detail into everything you do may cause you to miss the overall picture. Opportunities for romance will develop through group endeavors.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 You can make extra cash by moonlighting. Don't let your emotions take over. Don't avoid your true feelings. Your determination and sheer desire to do your own thing will be successful.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Most partner problems are a result of both people not living up to their promises. Pleasure trips will be a form of healing for your emotional state of mind.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Your ability to be practical in business will help. Reciprocate by offering helpful hints. Job changes are in order. Go for interviews or send out resumes. Investments are best left alone today.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Problems with ear, nose, or the throat are likely. Try not to use emotional blackmail; it will only make matters worse. Make plans to do something special with the one you love.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Not the best day for business trips. If you're looking to do something worthwhile, consider volunteer work. Secret affairs will eventually backfire on you.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Your health may have suffered due to neglect or abuse. Be sure to take care of the needs of youngsters. You can get into self awareness groups or look into physical enhancement programs.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Get busy making those changes to your home. Be careful of the groups you join or the people you associate with. Entertainment should include sports events or physical activities.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	4	clear
Harbin	-19	-10	cloudy
Tianjin	-1	4	clear
Urumqi	-5	-3	flurry
Xi'an	0	4	overcast
Lhasa	-4	12	clear
Chengdu	7	9	drizzle
Chongqing	9	13	cloudy
Kunming	8	18	cloudy
Nanjing	3	11	clear
Shanghai	8	13	overcast
Wuhan	3	13	clear
Hangzhou	5	13	cloudy
Taipei	18	20	drizzle
Guangzhou	14	23	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	23	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	1	2	sleet
Frankfurt	-3	4	clear
Paris	0	7	cloudy
London	4	9	drizzle
New York	3	17	moderate rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Do the deck; 5- 1963 Paul Newman film; 8- ___ soup yet?; 12- Bishop of Rome; 13- Melodies; 15- Horrors!; 16- Supplements, with "out"; 17- Elite group; 18- Heart; 19- Goal of a journey; 22- Free (of); 23- McKellen or Holm; 24- Tidy, without fault; 26- Roman poet; 29- Interlocks; 31- Coal container; 32- Honshu port; 34- Decaf brand; 36- Meat-grading org.; 38- Hilton competitor; 40- Prejudice; 41- Stalks; 43- One of the Allens; 45- Ultimate; 46- Amorous relationship; 48- Dirty mark; 50- ___ expert, but...; 51- Without further ___; 52- Hither's partner; 54- Approval; 61- Slightly; 63- Whiskey type; 64- Get one's ducks in ___; 65- Sets of equipment; 66- ___ Rica; 67- As to; 68- Leak slowly; 69- Little, in Lille; 70- City on Norton Sound;

DOWN 1- Exceeded the limit; 2- Roused; 3- Simians; 4- Rouse to action; 5- Dance that tells a story; 6- Curriculum section; 7- Lucie's father; 8- Summer Games org.; 9- Reducing in length; 10- Calvary letters; 11- Nailed obliquely; 13- A little brown; 14- Rock; 20- Othello villain; 21- Scottish loch, home to a monster!; 25- Gregory Peck role of 1956; 26- Panorama; 27- Vague; 28- Stratum; 29- Course with pluses and minuses; 30- Glide along smoothly; 31- Clear tables; 33- Crazy ___; 35- Tough wood; 37- Radio switch; 39- Old entertainment; 42- Fit to be tried; 44- Unclothed; 47- Grecian architectural style; 49- Realm; 52- Tibetan oxen; 53- Drama award; 55- Plummet; 56- River to the Seine; 57- Queue after Q; 58- Cube creator Rubik; 59- Standard; 60- Affectedly dainty; 62- Cookbook abbr.;

Friday's solution

A	M	A	S	T	E	S	T	S	C	L	E	F
T	O	R	O	A	R	I	S	E	A	E	R	O
O	V	E	R	I	N	L	E	T	R	A	S	E
P	E	A	C	E	N	I	K	C	A	R	T	S
E	T	T	E	T	R	O	N					
M	A	C	R	O	S	R	I	L	A	N	K	A
A	S	H	E	N	I	L	L	A	M	A	A	N
S	O	A	R	S	O	A	P	S	S	T	A	L
O	N	O	E	A	R	N	S	G	U	A	V	A
N	E	S	T	L	I	N	G	A	R	L	E	S
S	I	D	E	S	I	L	O					
E	N	S	U	E	B	I	G	A	P	P	L	E
N	A	I	R	T	W	I	R	L	E	Y	E	S
Z	I	T	I	M	A	T	E	O	A	R	E	S
O	L	E	S	C	R	E	D	O				
N	E	R	O									

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



<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Top Floor Flat- Hellene Gardens HK\$7,900,000 1,663 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Villa da Taipa, Taipa \$13,000/mth 1,450 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>Rain Dance Property "We dance until it's SOLD!"</p> <p>Amazing View Renovated Duplex apartment HK\$4,200,000 817 ft² 2 1/2 2 1/2</p>	<p>PROPERTY LIST</p> <p>[Macau] One Oasis modern studio 2 1/2 1 1/2 691 ft² \$6,357,000 (ref: n/a)</p> <p>[Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,344 ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)</p> <p>[Taipa] One Central balcony 3 1/2 4 1/2 2,332 ft² \$29,800/mth (ref: 20101001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Private house 2 1/2 3 1/2 3 1/2 4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 190550065T)</p>
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Property of the Week



LEARN MORE

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



Duplex 2 bedrooms
Pearl River view

\$4,200,000

817 ft² 2 2



SCAN ME

Top Floor Flat- Hellene Gardens

HK\$7,900,000 1,663 ft² 3 2 1



SCAN ME

This lovely holiday home has only had one owner who has recently decided to put this flat on the market. The kitchen has been opened up into the living area to make a lovely bright open space great for entertaining. The kitchen itself still has original door to the back stairs, and has modern cabinets with white goods fitted as well as a large storage cabinet. The dining area also houses a built unit with a small second under counter fridge. The living area is a great size with open views to the Coloane trail. The bedrooms are all the original size. The two shower rooms have been renovated and have lovely large walk in showers. The apartment is in excellent condition and ready to move into. The lift lobby outside the flat has been modernised, and the flat come with one parking space on the ground floor of the parking lot not far from the lift.

Viewing by appointment. Find out more on www.jmlproperty.com

Property Hotlist



Lakeview Tower, Central Macau
Lovely 3 bedroom apartment

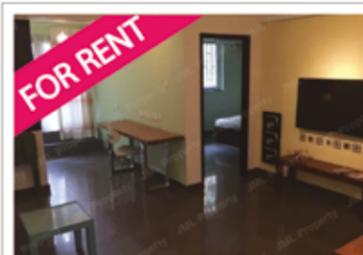
\$11,000,000

1,344 ft²

3 2



SCAN ME



Villa da Taipa, Taipa

\$13,000/mth

1,450 ft²

3 2



SCAN ME



Manhattan, Luxury 3 Bed, Taipa

\$19,800/mth

1,720 ft²

3 2



SCAN ME

More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Apartment, Historical Centre 2 1 840 ft² **\$4,580,000** (ref: 20016003)
- [Coloane] One Oasis modern studio 1 691 ft² **\$6,357,000** (ref: n/a)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 2 1,344 ft² **\$11,000,000** (ref: 19126001)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 1,720 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Coloane] Large 3/4 bedroom 2 3 2 2,530 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096000)

For Rent

- [Coloane] Houston Court 1 1 980 ft² **\$10,500/mth** (ref: 20091001)
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft² **\$25,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] One Central balcony 3 4 2,332 ft² **\$29,800/mth** (ref: 20101001)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 3 3 4,266 ft² **\$45,000/mth** (ref: 19055006ST)
- [Macau] Retail Shop, Barra area 1,968 ft² **\$48,000/mth** (ref: n/a)

Recent Movements

Rented

Old Taipa Village apartment, 2 beds, 1 bath

Rented

Great Venetian View Apartment
Taipa, 4 beds, 2 bath

SOLD



JML Events



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



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Rugby Team



Macau Golf Masters

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Black Friday sees record online as US shoppers stay home

DEE-ANN DURBIN

BLACK Friday online sales hit a new record this year as pandemic-wary Americans filled virtual carts instead of real ones.

Consumers spent an estimated USD9 billion on U.S. retail websites on Black Friday, according to Adobe Analytics, which tracks online shopping. That was a 22% increase over the previous record of \$7.4 billion set in 2019.

Meanwhile, traffic to physical stores plummeted as retailers tried to prevent crowds by cutting their hours and limiting doorbuster deals. U.S. store visits dropped by 52% on Black Friday, according to Sensormatic Solutions, a retail tracker. Traffic was slower in the Northeast and West than in the Midwest and South, said Brian Field, Sensormatic's senior director of global retail consulting.

Jewelry and footwear saw some of the biggest in-person sales declines, according to RetailNext, a shopping tracker. Apparel sales were down 50%, while sales of home goods fell by 39%.



Even with that drop, Black Friday will still likely end up as one of the biggest in-person shopping days in the U.S. this year, Field said. He thinks many people will still shop for the holidays in person, but

will choose mid-week days when crowds are smaller. Heavier in-store discounts and concerns about lengthy shipping times could also draw shoppers closer to Christmas. "Black Friday had a lot to lose,

but some of it is going to be distributed throughout the holiday season," Field said.

One trend that could remain after the pandemic ends is that stores could remain closed on

Thanksgiving Day, Field said. Since 2013, a growing number of stores had opened on Thanksgiving to match their competitors and get a jump start on Black Friday. But it's typically not a big day for retailers, and this year many stayed closed. Thanksgiving store traffic was down 95%, he said.

Field said stores may be rethinking the cost of paying employees and opening on Thanksgiving when they could easily make up for those sales online.

"I wonder, now that we're seeing a season where they were able to cut the cord on it, if it will give them pause," he said.

Adobe expects Monday to be the largest online sales day in U.S. history, with estimated spending of \$10.8 billion to \$12.7 billion.

One reason for the big numbers is that people are shopping online for things such as groceries and alcohol that they bought in person before the pandemic, Adobe said. As for more traditional gifts, Hot Wheels cars, Lego sets, Apple AirPods, Samsung televisions and video games are among the biggest sellers.

Big retailers such as Walmart and Target benefited from the surge, but small retailers did as well, Adobe said. Sales at big stores surged by 403% on Thanksgiving and Black Friday compared to the daily average in October, but sales at smaller retailers also grew by 349%. AP

ALBERGUE SCM 婆仔屋文創空間

Macau University of Science and Technology
Faculty of Humanities and Arts Master in
Communication & Arts Seminar Series

3.8 B artfem

2020 ARTFEM Women Artists International Biennial of Macau

Sharing by Xiang Jing

Speaker

Xiang Jing

ARTFEM 2020 Godmother
Renowned Artist

Date

11 / 12 / 2020 (Friday)

Time

15:00-16:30

Language

Mandarin
(English interpretation)

Venue

Macau University of Science and Technology
Library Building (Block N), Room N214

Free Admission

Seats are limited. Please register in advance.

Registration
QR Code



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OPINION

World Views

Maryclaire Dale, AP



KEY QUESTION IN COSBY APPEAL: DOES DEFENDANT'S PAST MATTER?

In 2016, as Bill Cosby's legal team prepared for trial in his stunning sexual assault case in Pennsylvania, the state Supreme Court quietly heard a death row inmate's appeal.

Lawyers for Charles Hicks questioned whether three women who said he had beaten and choked them in Texas should have testified at his trial in a fourth woman's death in the Pocono Mountains.

Prosecutors hoped to show a pattern of "strikingly similar" conduct, even if only one woman died. The seven Supreme Court justices issued five separate opinions on the use of the "prior bad act" testimony.

And that may explain why they are hearing Cosby's appeal Tuesday.

In taking the case, the justices appear eager to clear up the law on one of the murkiest questions plaguing criminal trials: When should a jury hear about someone's past?

Investigators say it can be crucial to show a signature crime pattern, but defense lawyers say it often amounts to character assassination.

The debate has been central to the high-profile prosecutions of actor and comedian Cosby, movie mogul Harvey Weinstein and a Roman Catholic Church official in Philadelphia charged with protecting predator priests. But it also comes into play for lesser-known people like Hicks, who remains on Pennsylvania's death row.

"The issue is really intriguing because it forces defendants to spend time fighting shadows of uncharged, sometimes unrelated accusations that never really became formal criminal charges," said Philadelphia defense lawyer William J. Brennan, who was involved in the church trial. "It's very distracting. You should focus on what you're criminally charged with."

Cosby has long complained that Montgomery County Judge Steven T. O'Neill let five other accusers testify at his 2018 retrial, when he became the first celebrity convicted of sexual assault in the #MeToo era. His lawyers, and his wife, Camille, have called the women gold diggers and their testimony lies.

But District Attorney Kevin Steele believes the similarities in their accounts were no mere coincidence.

"It is unusual, to say the least, that defendant has been repeatedly [...] accused of engaging in sexual conduct with unconscious or otherwise incapacitated young women," his office wrote in a Supreme Court brief this year.

Cosby, 83, has spent more than two years in prison since he was convicted of drugging and sexually assaulting Andrea Constand, a Temple University employee he had taken under his wing, at his suburban Philadelphia estate in 2004.

By the time her case went to trial in 2017, after a judge unsealed Cosby's long-buried testimony in her 2005 sexual battery lawsuit, dozens of women had come forward to say the star of "The Cosby Show" had mentored and then betrayed them.

O'Neill allowed just one of them to testify at the first trial, in which the jury could not reach a verdict.

But the following year, at the 2018 retrial, the judge let five other accusers take the stand to describe encounters with Cosby in the 1980s. Each believed they had been drugged and sexually assaulted.

Constand, a former professional basketball player from Toronto, said she became incapacitated after taking what she thought was an herbal remedy from Cosby. She said she could not fight back as he put his hand down her pants. Cosby described the penetration that followed as consensual.

An intermediate appeals court last year called O'Neill's decision on the other accusers reasonable. Then the state Supreme Court jumped in when he appealed again.

The Cosby appeal could decide whether courts allow the expansive use of "prior bad act" witnesses that many judges have adopted in recent years or rein it in to preserve the presumption of innocence.

DAVE PROWSE, ACTOR WHO PLAYED DARTH VADER, DIES AT 85

Dave Prowse, the British weightlifter-turned-actor who was the body, though not the voice, of arch-villain Darth Vader in the original "Star Wars" trilogy, has died. He was 85.

Prowse died Saturday after a short illness, his agent Thomas Bowington said yesterday.

Born in Bristol, southwest England, in 1935, Prowse was a three-time British weightlifting champion and represented England in weightlifting at the 1962 Commonwealth Games before breaking into movies with roles that emphasized his commanding size, including Frankenstein's monster in a pair of Hammer Studios horror films.

Director George Lucas saw Prowse in a small part in "A Clockwork Orange" and asked the 6-foot-6-inch actor to audition for the villainous Vader or the Wookiee Chewbacca in "Star Wars."

Prowse later told the BBC he chose Darth Vader because "you always remember the bad guys."

Physically, Prowse was perfect for the part. His lilting English West Country accent was considered less ideal, and his lines were dubbed by James Earl Jones.

Prowse donned Darth Vader's black armor and helmet for "Star Wars" (1977), "The Empire Strikes Back" (1980) and "Return of the Jedi" (1983).

THE BUZZ

MIKE TYSON RETURNS TO RING, DRAWS IN EXHIBITION WITH JONES



MIKE Tyson stepped through the ropes in his signature black trunks and heard the opening bell in a boxing ring for the first time in 15 years.

The former heavyweight champion of the world traded lively punches with Roy Jones Jr. for eight entertaining rounds that ended with two middle-aged legends wearily hugging each other in mutual admiration.

Their fight was only an exhibition, and it ended in a draw. But for Tyson, the experience evoked the joy and excitement he felt so long ago at the start of his boxing career — and it was likely the start of a new chapter in his epic life.

"I'm happy I'm not knocked out," Tyson said. "I'll look better in the next one."

Tyson showed glimpses of his destructive prime Saturday night during the 54-year-old boxing icon's return to the ring against the 51-year-old Jones.

Tyson had the most impactful punches, showing off versions of the footwork and combinations that made him the world's most feared fighter. After eight two-minute rounds, both Tyson and Jones emerged from Staples Center smiling and apparently healthy.

"This is better than fighting for championships," Tyson said of the heavy-weight exhibition, which raised money for various charities. "We're humanitarians now. We can do something good for the world. We've got to do this again."

Tyson's return to the ring for this show attracted international attention, and Iron Mike did his best to demonstrate his months of work to recapture a measure of the form that made him a legend to a generation of boxing fans.

Tyson tagged Jones with body shots, head shots and a particularly nasty uppercut during a bout that was required by the California State Athletic Commission to be a reasonably safe, glorified sparring session.

Tyson was exhausted two hours afterward, but also clearly energized as he recounted his emotions with his wife and team looking on.

"I took my youth for granted," Tyson said. "This event made me find out what I was really made of. ... My body feels splendid. I want to beat it up some more."

Tyson intends to fight in more exhibitions next year, perhaps heading to Monte Carlo next to challenge a European fighter. He didn't close the door on the possibility of a full-fledged comeback, although that would be many fights in the future.

For one night, Tyson and Jones were back at the center of the sports world, and they reveled in it.

"I'm happy to scratch that off my bucket list and move on with my life," said Jones, the former four-division world champion widely considered the most skilled boxer of his generation. "He hit harder than I thought. Everything hurt. His hands hurt.

His head hurts. Everything hurt when I made contact. He's an exceptional puncher still. He can do anything he wants next."

Neither fighter was deceived by the quality of the bout. While both came out throwing punches that evoked echoes of their glorious primes, they also tied up frequently on the inside, and their occasionally labored breathing could be heard on the microphones in the empty arena.

Hip hop star Snoop Dogg's witty television commentary was among the loudest noises inside Staples, and he had a handful of zingers: "This is like two of my uncles fighting at the barbecue!"

But Tyson and Jones were the headliners in the most improbable pay-per-view boxing event in years, engineered by social networking app Triller and featuring fights interspersed with hip hop performances in an empty arena.

Tyson said he no longer had "the fighting guts or the heart" after he quit in a dismal loss to journeyman Peter McBride in his final bout.

Finally free of his sport's relentless pressure, Tyson gradually straightened out his life, kicking a self-described drug addiction and eventually succeeding in acting, stage performance, charity work and even marijuana cultivation while settling into comfortable family life in Las Vegas with his third wife and their children. **AP**



Iran's supreme leader demanded the "definitive punishment" of those behind the killing of a scientist who led Tehran's disbanded military nuclear program, as the Islamic Republic blamed Israel for a slaying that has raised fears of reignited tensions across the Middle East. After years of being in the shadows, the image of Mohsen Fakhrazadeh suddenly was to be seen everywhere in Iranian media, as his widow spoke on state television and officials publicly demanded revenge on Israel for the scientist's slaying.



Vatican Pope Francis raised 13 new cardinals to the highest rank in the Catholic hierarchy and immediately warned them not to use their titles for corrupt, personal gain, presiding over a ceremony marked from beginning to end by the coronavirus pandemic. Two new "princes" of the church, from Brunei and the Philippines, didn't make it to Rome because of COVID-19 travel restrictions, though they were shown on giant screens watching it from home in the nearly empty St. Peter's Basilica.



Ethiopia's military has gained "full control" of the capital of the defiant Tigray region, the army announced Saturday, and the prime minister said the taking of Mekele marked the "completion" of an offensive that started nearly four weeks ago. The regional government said the city of a half-million people was "heavily bombarded" in the final push to arrest its leaders. "God bless Ethiopia and its people!" Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed said in a statement. "We have entered Mekele without innocent civilians being targets."