

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

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

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THE JUDICIARY POLICE REPORTED A ROBBERY CASE IN WHICH THE VICTIMS WERE ALSO THE SUSPECTS AND MADE FOUR ARRESTS P4

MERRIAM-WEBSTER'S TOP WORD OF 2020 NOT A SHOCKER: PANDEMIC P8

MONETARY AUTHORITY TO ROLL OUT AN INTEGRATED PAYMENT PLATFORM NEXT QUARTER WHICH ENABLES AN ALL-INCLUSIVE PAYMENT DEVICE P5

Japan Organizers of the delayed Tokyo Olympics have declined to confirm widely circulated reports in Japan that the costs of the one-year postponement will be about \$3 billion. The estimates have been published in the last several days by some of Japan's top-circulation newspapers, the national broadcaster NHK, and the Japanese news agency Kyodo. All are citing similar figures and unidentified sources close to the games.



Sri Lanka Six inmates were killed and 35 others were injured when guards opened fire to control a riot at a prison on the outskirts of Sri Lanka's capital, officials yesterday. Two guards were critically injured, they said. Pandemic-related unrest has been growing in Sri Lanka's overcrowded prisons. Inmates have staged protests in recent weeks at several prisons as the number of coronavirus cases surges in the facilities.



Pakistani police arrested hundreds of supporters of opposition parties ahead of a planned rally calling for the country's prime minister to resign, a move the government defended as necessary to combat the coronavirus pandemic. Police acknowledged arresting over 370 people, while opposition groups put the number at more than 1,800 in Multan, a city in central Pakistan where authorities had switched off the area's mobile phone network.

US Wisconsin finished a recount of its presidential results yesterday [Macau time], confirming Democrat Joe Biden's victory over President Donald Trump in the key battleground state. Trump vowed to challenge the outcome in court even before the recount concluded.

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ON WONG'S PAGE

Heated debate at the Legislative Assembly after Secretary Wong Sio Chak presented his views on National Security with the majority standing on the government's page P3



INFLUX OF ARRIVALS MAY INCREASE RISK OF IMPORTED CASES: GOV'T P2



ANIMA URGENT CALL TO ADOPT P5

HOTEL GUESTS NEARLY DOUBLE IN OCTOBER

October hotel guests from mainland China surged by 168.1% month-to-month to 358,000; however, the figure still showed a year-on-year drop of 56.1%. According to data provided by the Statistics and Census Service, a total of 438,000 guests checked into hotels and guesthouses in October, indicating a decline of 62.8% year-on-year. Meanwhile, the number of local guests grew by 13.6% year-on-year to 57,000. In addition, outbound residents using services of travel agencies totalled 6,900, 6,600 (95.7%) of which went to mainland China. From January to October 2020, a total of 258,000 package tour visitors were recorded, a decline of 96.5% year-on-year.

CONSULATE TO REPATRIATE 120 STRANDED MYANMAR NATIONALS

The Myanmar Consulate General in Hong Kong and Macau announced that it will repatriate a total of 120 of its citizens back to the country this Thursday at 3:30 p.m. As cited in a TDM report, the upcoming flight will depart Macau International Airport for Yangon via Myanmar National Airlines. The Consulate had already arranged two repatriation flights in June and August via Hong Kong to accommodate those that were stranded in the region due to unemployment and the absence of flights from the city.

INFLUX OF ARRIVALS LAST WEEK MAY INCREASE RISK OF IMPORTED CASES

STAFF REPORTER

MACAU saw a deluge of arrivals coming from high and mid-level risk areas last week between November 23-29, which may increase contagion risks emerging from imported cases, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center said in yesterday's media briefing.

"We will not rule out any possibilities that the arrivals, who returned last week and are now undergoing quarantine, may develop symptoms in the meantime. This may result in new imported Covid-19 cases in Macau," said Medical Director of the Conde de São Januário Hospital Dr. Alvis Lo.

From Monday to Sunday last week, a total of 685 people entered Macau from locations classified as high risk for Covid-19. Among all of them, 400 were non-Macau residents while the remaining 285 were local residents.

The daily arrival number saw a sharp surge particularly on November 29, registering a total of 190 arrivals — 3.3 times the 57 arrivals reported on the previous day.

The team speculated that the sudden climb in arrivals and returnees was due to the commencement of school holidays in some overseas countries.

Most arrivals recorded last week were students who came to



Macau from the United Kingdom or Australia by transiting through Taiwan, said Leong Iek Hou, Coordinator at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Due to the worsening pandemic situation in some high-risk countries, the risk for the possible emergence of imported cases in Macau will be subsequently higher as well," Leong said.

The team pledged to heighten preventative efforts, especially among front-line staff, to minimize the possibility of imported cases.

SIX ENTRY AUTHORIZATION REQUESTS APPROVED

Relaxed entry regulations for foreigners have allowed non-Macau residents who have stayed in the mainland for more than 14

days to enter the city since December 1.

Foreigners satisfying certain criteria can apply to the Center for permission to enter macau.

The SAR government has received a total of 84 applications involving 102 people so far.

However, only six applicants were approved, while the rest are under review or waiting for supporting documents to be submitted. The team disclosed these figures when asked by media about the details of the scheme.

Leong further revealed the breakdown of the statistics: "26 of applicants are relatives of Macau residents, while 56 of them are blue cardholders. Another 20 people were categorized in 'other' segment, including students."

The city's weekly tourist traffic,

including arrivals and departures, displayed growth of 1.29% week-on-week in November 23-29, totaling approximately 322,100.

As of November 30, there were 1,216 people observing the mandatory 14-day quarantine in the designated quarantine facility.

The majority, or 714 of those undergoing quarantine, were tourists. 466 of them were Macau residents and another 36 were foreign workers.

By the end of yesterday, the city has had no new imported cases of Covid-19 for a consecutive 157 days. The last one was reported in June.

Since the outbreak, the city registered a total of 46 confirmed cases. All of them were recovered, and no deaths from the disease have been reported.

GTEF 2020 to highlight tourism reshape in new normal era

STAFF REPORTER

THE Global Tourism Economy Forum - Macao 2020 (GTEF) will take a hybrid format which encompasses virtual and physical events for its first time ever due to Covid-19, Chief of Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance Ku Mei Leng said on a video conference yesterday.

This year's GTEF, themed "Solidarity and Innovation: Reshaping Tourism in the New Global Economy," will focus on around the topic of how to capitalize on innovative technology and online platforms to drive a rebound



GTEF 2019's business matching & exhibition

in global tourism in the new normal era.

"The pandemic has gone rampant and devastated the world and global economy. The tourism industry par-

ticularly stands in the forefront to weather the massive impact. Solidarity and innovation are especially important at this moment," said Ku.

She also attributed Macau's early signs of recovery to the effective control measures against the pandemic and a set of stimulus packages implemented by the government.

Macau, a city that has stayed virus-free for many months, is well-positioned to promote itself as a "safe destination" — a strategy believed to be effective in regaining confidence among travelers.

Vice Chairman and Secretary-General of GTEF Pansy Ho also delivered her speech at yesterday's video conference.

"In the face of the global

health crisis, innovative technology has been a crucial engine to turbocharge tourism rebound," said Ho.

Ho cited the 5G network, biotech, health code and vaccine development as some exemplars of advanced technology being employed to accelerate the recovery of the tourism industry.

Despite the unprecedented challenges faced by the industry, Ho believes an intensified collaboration between authorities and the travel industry can unlock new opportunities. These will open up new source markets, prop up new in-

dustries and to breathe new life into the industry.

The GTEF is in its ninth edition this year since first debuting in Macau in 2012. The event will bring together around 30 government and industry leaders from China, Macau and overseas countries, who will communicate and exchange insights and strategies regarding tourism development, recovery strategies, destination marketing, etc.

As a core city of the Greater Bay Area, the GTEF in 2020 will also be centered on the region's latest developments and its upcoming development plans.

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POLICY ADDRESS

National security in spotlight sparking divergent opinions

RENATO MARQUES

NATIONAL security was one of the topics that sparked debate and opinions from the lawmakers during the debate on the Policy Address 2021 (LAG2021) for the Secretariat of Security.

Many lawmakers raised questions and voiced their opinions and concerns on the topic, specifically on the need to update local laws and regulations on national security.

On one side, the pro-establishment lawmakers were calling for more laws and work. But on the other side, pro-democracy lawmakers were questioning the need to treat the matter as urgent

and as a state of "imminent risk." This "imminent risk" was mentioned previously by the Chief Executive (CE) and was used to justify the creation of the National Security Commission and four national security units, which started operating in October this year under the Judiciary Police (PJ) force.

Replying to both arguments, Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak sided with those calling for a revision of the National Security Law in Macau, claiming that "there must exist a homogeneity on the laws" in force on the mainland as well as in the Special Administrative Regions of Macau and Hong Kong. For Wong, national security, "is a

duty and a task to be carried on by every Chinese citizen," noting that the local government has "the obligation to do so."

Wong also replied to lawmaker Sulu Sou, who was the most active voice airing concerns over the need to review the local laws to model those enforced in the neighboring region of Hong Kong.

"There are external forces that want to influence the government and the local politics, and there are anti-government parties from Hong Kong and especially from Taiwan, that come to Macau to try to exercise their influence," Wong said, adding, "We have these cases all recorded, we know exactly who those people have contacted in Macau."

He had also replied to Sou earlier, saying that the lack of application of the provisions of the current National Security Law in Macau during the 10-plus years of its existence proves that locally

there is no high risk, despite what many people are trying to extrapolate. Wong said, "Regulating with homogeneity does not mean that the application [of the law] will have the same consequences [as in Hong Kong], the same way that the low application of the law in the past does not mean it is unnecessary." Wong added,

"We are evaluating risks of internal security especially regarding the events [that have] occurred in Hong Kong. We need to prevent the same parties from Hong Kong from coming to Macau and putting us at risk. Is it always better to prevent than to solve the problem, as to enforce remedy measures means that we were too late [in addressing the issue]."

In reply to lawmaker Lam Lon Wai, who directly called for the revision of the law, Wong expressed his agreement with the idea but noted that the decision is one that the CE alone can make.

"Such an obligation [of promoting the law revision] is under the exclusive powers of the Chief Executive. Only he can decide when this should be done," Wong said.

The National Security Law emerged as a topic of heated debate in the LAG2021. However the Secretariat of Security did not present any new policies or work, pursuing instead the continuation of their work started in previous years.

DISALLOWING JUNE 4 VIGIL WAS MAINLY DUE TO PANDEMIC

WHEN called by lawmaker Sulu Sou to explain why the gathering planned at Senado Square on June 4 this year did not receive the approval of the police authorities, Secretary Wong Sio Chak said that the timing in which it was to occur played a very important role. "In June the pandemic was not yet

stabilized. This was the main factor for the decision to not authorize the gathering. At the time we were appealing every day for people not to gather," Wong said in an attempt to refute the idea Sou aired that the police authorities had hidden a political decision in the guise of a public health-related measure.

POLICY ADDRESS

Crime to be tackled with education and technology

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKERS are concerned about the increase of some types of crimes over the past nine months. Topping the concerns are the sexual abuse of children as well as crimes conducted over the Internet, namely scams.

Questioned on the topic during the debate on the Policy Address 2021 for the sectorial area of Security, Wong Sio Chak noted that his office aims to tackle such types of criminal activities with education and as a state of "imminent risk."

On the first issue, Wong said it is necessary to continue to insist on educating the population to increase the citizens' awareness of several new types of crimes, such as the ones occurring via the Internet.

In reply to several questions, namely those from lawmakers Ella Lei, Si Ka Lon, and Angela Leong, Wong said, "Prevention and education is essential, especially when we are talking about crimes against minors [such as sexual abuse] in which the perpetrators are often people that are familiar

and close to the victims."

Wong also noted that with new scams on the Internet involving fake investments among other elements, education and information to make the public aware of such practices is the best method for tackling a problem that often has roots outside Macau, meaning it is very difficult for police to find criminals and bring them to justice.

"We need to continue to reinforce education and information disclosure to reinforce the awareness of the citizens. This is the best way to prevent

these crimes from happening," Wong said, noting that the police have already an alarm mechanism to prevent local citizens from transferring large amounts of money to accounts abroad when it is suspected that a citizen might have fallen victim to a scam.

The Secretary said that the mechanism has already prevented the loss of 9 million patacas from local residents in 2020 alone, and that together with a refund mechanism in a cooperation system with the neighboring regions, has been able to recover

over 3 million patacas to the rightful owners in 16 different cases.

Questioned also on the growth in fake marriage and fake employment recruitment cases, Wong said that a new bill that aims to amend the immigration law includes new provisions as well as the definition of crimes such as fake marriage and fake recruitment that also apply to agents and intermediary people that can be charged with co-authorship of the crimes.

"This draft bill will be presented to the Executive Council and then to the

Legislative Assembly for appreciation, early next year," Wong concluded.

As for technology, Wong insisted on the advantages of the "Eyes in the Sky" public surveillance camera system that has been "performing well to verify the truth and the facts," noting that this is "their purpose."

The Secretary also said he was hoping that more Intelligent Policing technologies can be enforced soon to ease the workload of security forces that constantly battle with a lack of human resources.

GOV'T TO FORMULATE COMMISSION OF ACCOUNTANTS

The city's Professional Commission of Accountants will be led by representatives from public administration organizations. Alongside other accounting professionals and experts, the commission will have a maximum of 13 members. "The number of professionals and academics of the private sector inside the commission cannot be larger than the number of representatives of the public administration," the decree reads. The mandate of the members of the commission is two years and is renewable.

STYROFOAM FOOD CONTAINERS TO BE BANNED FROM 2021

The Macau SAR government will ban the importation of styrofoam food containers starting from January 1 of next year, according to a Chief Executive Decree published yesterday in the Official Gazette. "Single use food containers, single use bowls and cups, single use plates, all made with styrofoam are the target of this ban," the decree reads.

GOV'T'S CHAUFFER CURSES AT POLICE OFFICER

A driver who was operating a vehicle with a government car plate reportedly cursed at a traffic police officer after he was asked not to block traffic, according to a report by Exmoo. Yesterday at 8 a.m., a government car was spotted parked along R. do Alm. Costa Cabral in the driving lane during rush hour. The vehicle was blocking traffic. The traffic police officer allegedly tried to persuade the driver to drive the car to another place and return later to pick up his boss. However, the driver not only rejected the suggestion, he also cursed at the police officer.



FRAUDSTER BEATEN UP AND ROBBED BY HIS VICTIMS

JULIE ZHU

YESTERDAY, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported a robbery case in which the victims were also the suspects.

The police arrested four suspects; three who were allegedly members of a money exchange gang, and one who tried to defraud the other three. All four are both suspects and victims.

The three alleged money exchange gang members surnamed Hu (29), Shang (28), and Yuan (22), are all mainland residents. The fourth suspect is

39-year-old mainland man surnamed Zhao.

The three claim to be victims of the final suspect, and the last suspect claims to be the victim of the other three.

On November 28, Zhao informed the security guard of a Macau casino that he had been beaten up inside a bathroom of the casino. Zhao claimed he had tried to exchange money with his attackers (the other three suspects). In addition, Zhao accused the other three of taking possession of his phone, ID card, bank card, and Hong

Kong dollar banknotes. He also had photos taken of him in the nude.

Later, PJ police officers arrived at the casino to investigate the case and found two of the three suspects. The two admitted to the accusation.

According to the two, Zhao scammed them into transferring 40,000 yuan to him but Zhao didn't give them HKD50,000 in return. The two felt that they were defrauded, thus they attacked Zhao.

The final suspect was located on November 29 in hotel in Taipa.

Police officers were able to confirm Zhao's scam based on the suspects' phone chat records.

PJ forwarded all four to the prosecution authority.

Hu, Zhao and Yuan are accused of robbery, assault, threat, illicit filming and other crimes. Zhao is facing fraud charges.

TNR FACES THEFT CHARGES FOR NOT REPORTING MISSING MACAU PASS

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) also reported a theft case during yesterday's joint police press conference. A non-resident worker (TNR) is facing theft charges after he took possession of other people's missing Macau Passes.

The suspect is a 37-year-old man, surnamed Ng, who is a blue-card worker in Macau. He identified himself as the director of the technology department at a science and technology company in Macau.

On November 26 at 1:45 p.m., the PSP received a report from a local supermarket regarding a theft case.

When police officers arrived at the scene, they spoke to the victim who reported the crime. The victim said he had visited the supermarket earlier to charge his Macau Pass and he forgot his card there. In total, his Macau Pass had over 500 patacas on it.

Later, police officers reviewed CCTV surveillance footage of the supermarket and were able to identify the suspect.

That same day at 5 p.m., police officers intercepted Ng in the vicinity of the supermarket. Ng admitted to the crime as he was carrying the card when he was detained.

The police authority has charged Ng for not reporting a missing item.

Infrastructure forum to tackle challenges faced by sector

JULIE ZHU

THE 11th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF) is themed "Responding to Challenges and Promoting Global Infrastructure Development," the organizers announced yesterday.

Held at The Venetian Macau from December 2 to 3, the forum will use both online and offline resources to discuss the latest opportunities and challenges faced by the infrastructure sector, trends in international infrastructure markets in the post-pandemic era, and sustainable global infrastructure development, among other topics.

This year, more than 30

forums and thematic events will be arranged. The "Belt and Road Infrastructure Development Index (2020)" and the "Annual Report on the Belt and Road Infrastructure Development Index (2020)" will also be published at the same time in a bid to provide the necessary statistical support and references for the relevant parties to participate in the infrastructure investment and construction under the Belt and Road Initiative.

President of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), Lau Wai Meng, said at the press conference that in order to further support the sustainable development of the infrastructure sector in Macau, more Macau ele-



ments would be featured in the IIICF.

Infrastructure will also be a key area for Macau's economic development in the next few years. As such, one of the forums this year will focus on "Construction of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area — Challenges and Opportu-

nities of Macau Construction Industry" to explore the opportunities brought about by regional economic development for infrastructure cooperation, as well as how Macau can play an active role in

To properly carry out pandemic prevention and control throughout the IIICF

and ensure the health and safety of all parties, the IPIM official said that the event would strictly follow the relevant local regulations and national plans for pandemic prevention and control.

The IIICF is organized by IPIM and the China International Contractors Association.

Anima calls on public to adopt as overhead costs increase and donations dwindle

LYNZY VALLES

ANIMAL rights group Anima Macau is continuing its campaign for residents to adopt and support their cause as its overhead costs have increased amid the reduction of financial support it has received as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The President of the Board of Directors, Billy Chan, disclosed that overall financial donations have been reduced to one third of what they were initially receiving due to a decrease in the support acquired from gaming operators.

This comes after the cost cutting initiatives that gaming operators have implemented due to the significant loss of income they have experienced following the low tourist arrival numbers the city is recording.

In a press conference yesterday, Chan said that as of October, the association was already in 1.5 million pataca of debt, noting that they will fully revise their budget next year to align with the cuts to financial support it will receive.

"It will be a big challenge to dramatically reduce our budget. We don't want the animals to be affected by the [cost cutting]. We



also have our staff [to pay] so we really have to find ways," he said.

"We all understand how Covid-19 has affected society. However, I would say that there are some problems that we cannot delay. We are all trying to save money but we have to prioritize them [the animals]. We don't want to send them to the Municipal Affairs Bureau to have them euthanized."

Chan assumed his position in July, replacing former President,

Albano Martins.

The past few months were challenging for the new president – particularly due to the lack of resources.

Until October, the association has rescued 136 dogs this year and has desexed 57. Only 38 have been adopted, a decrease of 53.8% compared to the same period last year.

70 dogs were returned to the shelter, which Chan assumed was due to the large number of non-

residents leaving Macau due to unemployment.

A total of 18 cats were returned this year, a surge of 350% compared to the same period last year.

"We are estimating that there will be more," he said, citing a recent massive layoff of non-permanent workers.

As the process to bring a pet out of the region takes three months, the executive implied that many do not prefer to undergo the long procedure.

"We are also reviewing our responsibility to see what exactly we need to do. For the future, we really want to collaborate with other associations and work together," said Chan.

The government remains one of its main partners. Despite the sponsorship given to them, "It is never enough."

Last year, former president Martins revealed that the government funding for animal rights group Anima Macau had increased from 3.8 million patacas to 5 million patacas.

The association's current estimates suggest that there are about 500 stray dogs in the city, most of which are in Coloane.

The association is continuing work on convincing dogs' owners to have them neutered.

However, the question of whose responsibility is it for these stray dogs and cats to be taken care of remains.

"How much more should we take? The responsibility [to take care of them], is it just for us or does it also belong to the government? Should we all work together [with animal rights group] and solve the problem and not fight for resources such as a land, money and other support?" asked Chan.

AMCM to launch an integrated e-payment platform in Q1 2021

STAFF REPORTER

THE Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) may roll out an integrated payment platform in the first quarter of 2021. This will enable an all-inclusive payment device to perform transactions made with all e-payment tools in the city.

Member of the Board of Directors of the AMCM Lau Hang Kun unveiled the scheme at yesterday's TDM radio program Macau Forum.

The project has been long planned, said Lau, adding: "Banks and other financial institutions have embarked on works regarding the integration of payment platforms between each other, and also between merchants."

Until now, the AMCM has launched over 10 mo-



bile payment tools. By the end of October, there were about 67,000 mobile payment devices at local stores, up 1.8 times from the end of last year.

The scheme will require local retailers to upgrade their payment terminals to a device that allows them to receive electronic payments from customers and make some amend-

ments to their operations.

Macau has seen a rapid surge in mobile payment transactions this year. According to Lau, the value of mobile payment transactions exceeded MOP4.7 billion in the first 10 months of this year. This is 3.8 times the annual tally reported in 2019 and 52.5 times that of 2018.

She also disclosed that

the AMCM started discussions with the Transport Bureau in June to study possibilities for enabling bus fares to be paid by various e-payment tools.

In the next stage, the AMCM will examine ways to tie bus-related sub-transactions, such as interchanging discounts, in with the proposed mobile payment channel.

SERIOUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENT LEAVES MOTORCYCLIST, 12-YEAR-OLD BOY, INJURED

STAFF REPORTER

A serious traffic accident was reported on Av. do Aeroporto yesterday, leaving a male motorcyclist severely injured and a 12-year-old boy with brain hemorrhage.

The accident was caused due to the teenager's street-crossing misbehavior. He traversed the road without using the crossing facilities designed

for pedestrians, as stated by the Public Security Police Force.

In the accident, the motorcyclist was thrown to the Jersey barrier on the side and bounced back to the lane, suffering severe head injuries, fractures and several bruises on the body.

The boy was found lying on the road with bruises on the left calf and laceration on the right ear.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

NICK PERRY, WELLINGTON

AUSTRALIAN LEADER MORRISON SLAMS BEIJING'S 'GRAPHIC TWEET'

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Scott Morrison said yesterday a tweet by a Chinese official which shows a fake image of an Australian soldier appearing to slit a child's throat is "truly repugnant."

Morrison said he is seeking an apology from the Chinese government. The incident is further increasing tensions between the two nations in a relationship that was already under strain.

The graphic image was posted yesterday by Zhao Lijian, a spokesperson for China's foreign ministry. It shows a grinning soldier holding a bloodied knife to the throat of a veiled child, who is holding a lamb.

Zhao wrote a caption with the

tweet saying: "Shocked by murder of Afghan civilians & prisoners by Australian soldiers. We strongly condemn such acts, & call for holding them accountable."

Zhao was referring to a disturbing report by Australia's military earlier this month which found evidence that elite Australian troops unlawfully killed 39 Afghan prisoners, farmers and civilians during the conflict in Afghanistan.

The report recommended 19 soldiers be referred to federal

police for criminal investigation.

Morrison said the tweet was "utterly outrageous" and a terrible slur against Australia's military.

It "is truly repugnant. It is deeply offensive to every Australian, every Australian who has served in that uniform," he told reporters in Canberra. "The Chinese government should be totally ashamed of this post. It diminishes them in the world's eyes."

Morrison said it had contacted Twitter asking them to take the post down. The post had a warning tag on it yesterday afternoon but was still able to be viewed. Zhao's account comes with a Twitter label stating that it's a Chinese government account.

Despite China blocking Twitter and other U.S. social media platforms within the county, Chinese diplomats and state media have established a strong presence on them.

Zhao was criticized by the U.S. in March after tweeting a conspiracy theory that U.S. soldiers may have brought the coronavirus to China. He is con-



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison

sidered a leading representative of China's high-pitched new strain of assertive foreign relations.

Morrison acknowledged there were tensions between China and Australia.

"But this is not how you deal with them," he said. "Australia has patiently sought to seek to address the tensions that exist in our relationship in a mature way,

in a responsible way, by seeking engagement at both leader and ministerial level."

The rift between the two nations has been growing this year after the Australian government called for an independent inquiry into the origins of the coronavirus pandemic. China has since imposed tariffs on a number of Australian exports. AP

CHINA SLAPS 200% TAX ON AUSTRALIA WINE AMID TENSIONS

CHINA last week added wine to the growing list of Australian goods barred from its markets in a trade war against Australia over disputes including its support for a probe into the origin of the coronavirus. The Ministry of Commerce imposed import taxes of up to 212.1%, effective Saturday, which Australia's trade minister said make Australian wine unsellable in China, his country's

biggest export market. China increasingly is using its populous market as leverage to extract political concessions and increase its strategic influence. Earlier, China stopped or reduced imports of beef, coal, barley, seafood, sugar and timber from Australia after it supported calls for a probe into the origin of the coronavirus pandemic, which began in China in December.

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China sanctions leaders of US groups over Hong Kong actions

CHINA yesterday said it is sanctioning leaders of U.S. government-affiliated bodies that promote democracy around the world in response to what it calls practices that "blatantly meddle in Hong Kong affairs."

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said the measures would cover the senior director for Asia at the National Endowment Democracy, John Knaus, the regional director for the Asia-Pacific at the National Democratic Institute, Manpreet Singh Anand, and two of the institute's officials responsible for Hong Kong.

Hua gave no details and the institute said in a news release that it had no further information but that it "remains steadfastly committed to these core principles and to continuing our work in support of democracy worldwide."

China has long accused such groups of encouraging dissidents who built grassroots movements to push for greater direct democracy in

Hong Kong. Those burst out into street protests in 2014 and again last year, prompting a harsh crackdown from authorities.

The U.S. has imposed sanctions on Chinese and Hong Kong officials over the passage of a National Security Law that imposed strict penalties for critics of the Beijing-backed government that has ruled the former British colony since it returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

The sanctions ban the officials, including the head of Hong Kong's local government, Carrie Lam, from traveling to the U.S. and freezes all dealings with American financial institutions.

Hua told reporters that "the relevant U.S. practices blatantly meddle in Hong Kong affairs, grossly interfere in China's internal affairs, seriously violate the international law and basic norms governing international relations."

"The U.S. should immediately cease interfering in Hong Kong affairs and China's in-

ternal affairs and avoid going further down the wrong path," Hua said at a daily briefing.

Hong Kong is just one area where tensions between Washington and Beijing have risen over recent years.

The Trump administration has cut off Chinese tech giant Huawei's access to most U.S. components and technology on security grounds, part of a feud over trade and technology that has led the White House to press the Chinese owner of video service TikTok to sell its U.S. operation, which American officials say is a security risk.

U.S. accusations of Chinese human rights abuses, particularly against Muslim minority groups in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, have resulted in frequent angry exchanges between the sides. Frictions have also built over Washington's support for Taiwan, which China claims as a breakaway province to be recovered by force if necessary, along with China's territorial claims in the South China Sea. AP



ECONOMY

MANUFACTURING ACCELERATES IN NOVEMBER

CHINA'S manufacturing activity accelerated in November as its rebound from the pandemic gained strength, a survey showed yesterday, while the United States and Europe struggled with rising infections and renewed controls on business.

The monthly purchasing managers' index issued by the state statistics agency and an industry group rose to 52.1 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show an expansion. That was up from October's 51.4.

Business conditions have largely returned to normal since the ruling Communist Party declared the outbreak that began in southwestern China under control in March.

Factories, stores and offices have reopened, though restrictions on visitors entering the country remain. Retail spending, auto sales, factory output and other activity have rebounded to above

pre-pandemic levels.

"The pace of economic growth picked up in November on the back of a broad-based improvement in both services and manufacturing," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report.

In November, an indicator of factory production rose to 54.7 from October's 53.9, the National Bureau of Statistics and the China Federation of Logistics & Purchasing reported. The new orders index rose 1.1 points to 53.9.

The measure of new exports rose to 51.5 from the previous month's 51.0.

Chinese exporters have benefited from the relatively early reopening of their economy and demand for masks and other medical supplies. They are taking market share from foreign competitors that still face anti-virus restrictions.

Employment contracted again in November but at a slower pace. The employment index gained 0.2 points to 49.5. AP



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The houses are set in the heart of the World Heritage Site of the Douro Valley and its famous winery landscape where the world's Ports are produced. Both restored relics overlooking the Rio Douro, these eight rooms houses have been blessed with gorgeous wooden floors, plush queen beds and marble baths; the best have dazzling river views. But it is the welcome that makes this place stand out from the crowd.



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AP PHOTO



Merriam-Webster's top word of 2020 not a shocker: pandemic

LEANNE ITALIE,
NEW YORK

IF you were to choose a word that rose above most in 2020, which word would it be?

Ding, ding, ding: Merriam-Webster yesterday announced "pandemic" as its 2020 word of the year.

"That probably isn't a big shock," Peter Sokolowski, editor at large for Merriam-Webster, told The Associated Press.

"Often the big news story has a technical word that's associated with it and in this case, the word pandemic is not just technical but has become general. It's probably the word by which we'll refer to this period in the future," he said.

The word took on urgent specificity in March, when the coronavirus crisis was designated a pandemic, but it started to trend up on Merriam-Webster.com as early January and again in February when the first U.S. deaths and outbreaks on cruise ships occurred.

On March 11, when the World Health Organization declared the novel coronavirus outbreak a global

pandemic, lookups on the site for pandemic spiked hugely. Site interest for the word has remained significantly high through the year, Sokolowski said.

By huge, Sokolowski means searches for pandemic on March 11 were 115,806% higher than lookups experienced on the same date last year.

Pandemic, with roots in Latin and Greek, is a combination of "pan," for all, and "demos," for people or population. The latter is the same root of "democracy," Sokolowski noted. The word pandemic dates to the mid-1600s, used broadly for "universal" and more specifically to disease in a medical text in the 1660s, he said.

That was after the plagues of the Middle Ages, Sokolowski said.

He attributes the lookup traffic for pandemic not entirely to searchers who didn't know what it meant but also to those on the hunt for more detail, or for inspiration or comfort.

"We see that the word love is looked up around Valentine's Day and the word cornucopia is looked up at Thanksgiving," Soko-

lowski said. "We see a word like surreal spiking when a moment of national tragedy or shock occurs. It's the idea of dictionaries being the beginning of putting your thoughts in order."

Merriam-Webster acted quickly in March to add and update entries on its site for words related to the pandemic. While "coronavirus" had been in the dictionary for decades, "COVID-19" was coined in February. Thirty-four days later, Merriam-Webster had it up online, along with a couple dozen other entries that were revised to reflect the health emergency.

"That's the shortest period of time we've ever seen a word go from coinage to entry," Sokolowski said. "The word had this urgency."

Coronavirus was among runners up for word of the year as it jumped into the mainstream. Quarantine, asymptomatic, mamba, kraken, defund, antebellum, irregardless, icon, schadenfreude and malarkey were also runners up based on lookup spikes around specific events.

Particularly interesting to word nerds like Soko-

lowski, a lexicographer, is quarantine. With Italian roots, it was used during the Black Death of the 1300s for the period of time a new ship coming into port would have to wait outside a city to prevent disease. The "quar" in quarantine derives from 40, for the 40 days required.

Spikes for mamba occurred after the January death of Kobe Bryant, whose nickname was the Black Mamba. A mass of lookups occurred for kraken in July after Seattle's new National Hockey League franchise chose the mythical sea monster as its name, urged along by fans.

Country group Lady Antebellum's name change to Lady A drove dictionary interest in June, while malarkey got a boost from President-elect Joe Biden, who's fond of using the word. Icon was front and center in headlines after the deaths of U.S. Rep. John Lewis and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg.

The Merriam-Webster site has about 40 million unique monthly users and about 100 million monthly page views. AP

this day in history

1990 TUNNEL LINKS UK AND EUROPE



Construction workers have drilled through the final wall of rock to join the two halves of the Channel Tunnel and link Britain to France.

The momentous breakthrough links the UK to Europe for the first time since the Ice Age, about 8,000 years ago.

To a throng of cheers, construction workers celebrated with champagne - the only time alcohol has been allowed underground on the work site.

French worker, Philippe Cozette, and his British counterpart, Graham Fagg, waved flags and shook hands as the first men able to walk between the two countries.

Only moments earlier at 1100 GMT, a half-metre wall of rock separated Britain from mainland Europe.

The men continued drilling until a hole was created big enough to allow vehicles through.

The first Britons walked through the tunnel to have their passports stamped in France.

There were similar scenes on the other side as a French party which drove into Folkestone, Kent, headed straight over to customs and immigration officers.

Transport secretary Malcolm Rifkind was among the first through.

Speaking to the BBC, he said: "The physical contact that has been achieved between Britain and France today is symptomatic of many changes that we have been experiencing in the last 20 years.

"It is all happening and it is continuing to happen at an accelerating pace."

Downing Street called the event a "tribute to private enterprise".

The Channel Tunnel venture is expected to lead to the construction of a high speed train link across Kent, to match one France has already built.

Work on the Channel Tunnel began in 1986 and it is due to be completed by 1993.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Channel Tunnel was first formally proposed in 1963 although the concept had long been under discussion. Its cost ballooned to £12bn - more than double original estimates and construction finished a year late in 1994. Original expectations of public enthusiasm for the project proved over-optimistic and Eurotunnel, the tunnel operator, unveiled a loss of £925m in 1995 - one of the biggest in UK corporate history. A fire in the tunnel which led to freight traffic being suspended for more than six months in 1996 added to its woes. It eventually caught on as a mode of transport and Euro-tunnel announced its first net profits in 1999.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You might be feeling a little bit slow today, although your emotions will be quick to act up.

TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20 Some smart folks have been telling you that you must put a piece of yourself into everything you do, but today you need to remove your emotions from the equation.

GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21 It's time to be a little bit more calculating about where you're going in your life. Just going with the flow is fine and all, but right now you need to form a strategy and plan things out a bit more.

CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Things are going quite well for you now, but it wouldn't be wise to get too comfortable where you are. There are still a few potential pitfalls out there.

LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Listen to the most controversial speakers with special care today, because there is more to what they are saying than you may at first think. It's in everyone's best interest to find out what is really going on.

VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22 There's a restless confidence deep inside you, waiting for a bright spark to bring it out into the world. You are just itching to show everybody what you are made of!

LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You will know when you need to step back today—so listen to your gut when it tells you to run and hide. It's important for you to always be able to find a place where you can be by yourself.

SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 This will be a very rewarding day; you will be able to take something you don't like and turn it into something you'll cherish forever. Important transformations and innovations are easier than they have ever been before.

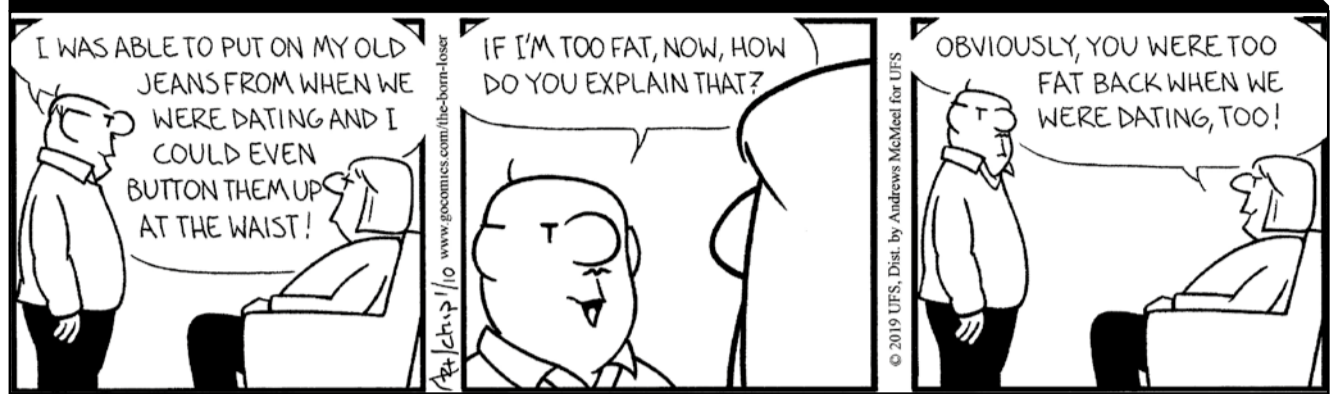
SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Have you been experiencing some bizarre dreams lately? Don't worry—they aren't predictions of your future. They are simply signs that you have an extremely active subconscious right now.

CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 It's time for you to organize the different elements of your life and get things on a coherent schedule. Your work, your friendships, and your romantic relationships are all pulling you in different directions.

AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 When you think about where one of your relationships is going today, you need to look away from logic and tune in to your deep feelings about who this person is and what they bring to your life.

PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20 You'll be full of an endless supply of warm and fuzzy feelings today, and it would be wise for you to share them with the world. Let them lead you through the day.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

5x5 grid for EASY Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

EASY+

5x5 grid for EASY+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

MEDIUM

5x5 grid for MEDIUM Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

HARD

5x5 grid for HARD Sudoku puzzle with numbers 1-5.

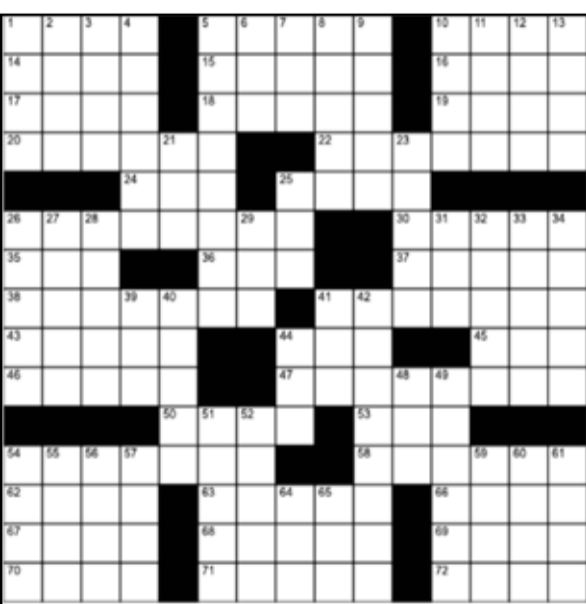
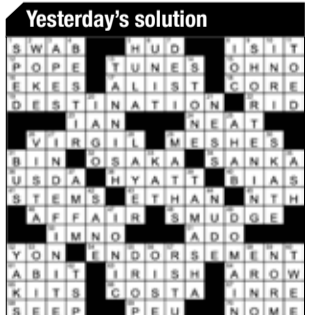
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Meager; 5- Carousel; 10- A party to; 14- I did it!; 15- Accord maker; 16- Sand hill by the sea; 17- Garden of ___; 18- Stair part; 19- Ornamental fabric; 20- Lipton rival; 22- Like some mail; 24- Babysitter's handful; 25- Green stone; 26- Capital of Finland; 30- Antianxiety drug; 35- Guido's high note; 36- Hosp. readout; 37- Residence; 38- On in years; 41- Compelling emotion; 43- Feudal vassal; 44- Hair goo; 45- Hindu title; 46- Spanish Mister; 47- Blue-green algae; 50- Chemical used on trees; 53- Old cloth; 54- South American Republic; 58- Metamorphosed limestone; 62- ___ even keel; 63- Capital of Vietnam; 66- Greek goddess of strife; 67- Comics canine; 68- Rows; 69- Bridge seat; 70- Agrees tacitly; 71- Like helium; 72- Like a noted Norwegian Blue parrot?;

DOWN: 1- Type of gun; 2- Put aboard; 3- Bad day for Caesar; 4- Predaceous insect; 5- Artillery fragments; 6- Luau chow; 7- "ER" extras; 8- Accumulation of fluids; 9- Having auricular protuberances; 10- Out of work; 11- At hand; 12- On a single occasion; 13- Requirement; 21- U.K. record label; 23- State not to "mess with"; 25- Dance; 26- Backs of feet; 27- "Dallas" matriarch; 28- Weighted down; 29- Door opener; 31- Bodybuilder's pride; 32- Racket; 33- Enhance; 34- Ohio city; 39- Swelled head; 40- Aired again; 41- Corral; 42- Scaremonger; 44- Long-jawed fish; 48- Noise made by a sheep; 49- Consented; 51- Christine of "Chicago Hope"; 52- At full speed; 54- In a jiffy; 55- Word processing command; 56- Incursion; 57- Supermodel Sastre; 59- Highland hillside; 60- One of the Simpsons; 61- Cornerstone abbr.; 64- Maiden name preceder; 65- Bruins great Bobby;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE Top Floor Flat- Hellene Gardens HK\$7,900,000 1,663 ft² 3 2 1

FOR RENT Villa da Taipa, Taipa \$13,000/mth 1,450 ft² 3 2 1

Rain Dance Property "We dance until it's SOLD!" Amazing View Renovated Duplex apartment HK\$4,200,000 817 ft² 2 2 2

PROPERTY LIST [Macau] One Oasis modern studio 2 1 1 691 ft² \$6,357,000 (ref: n/a) [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 2 1 1,344 ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001) [Taipa] One Central balcony 3 4 1 2,332 ft² \$29,800/mth (ref: 20101001) [Taipa] Private house 2 3 3 4,266 ft² \$45,000/mth (ref: 190550065T)

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JPMORGAN DOUBLING SINGAPORE PRIVATE BANKERS FOR RICH CHINESE

JPMORGAN Chase & Co. plans to double the number of private bankers serving Chinese clients from Singapore over the next two years, signaling its ambition to tap growth from Asia's second-largest wealth market.

The U.S. bank currently has more than a dozen relationship managers serving Chinese residents and those on the mainland from the city-state, said James Wey, the new head of Southeast Asia private banking. "With rapid wealth creation in China, there is a need for insightful advice around how to manage the new-found wealth," he said in an interview.

JPMorgan, ranked seventh among private banks in Asia excluding onshore China, competes with Credit Suisse Group AG and Morgan Stanley in attracting Chinese entrepreneurs who become billionaires after listing their companies' stocks.

Singapore is popular among the world's rich to park funds, buy property and set up family offices. While the New York-based bank has a large team of wealth managers in Hong Kong, Singapore is the only Asian center where clients can book assets.

"Singapore is a natural hub for wealth management because of the very clear and investor-friendly regulation," Wey said. "The wealthy, not just from China, but all over the world, view the country as a stable hub."

The China team is the latest addition to JPMorgan Private Bank in Singapore, which has traditionally focused on local clients and those in Indonesia and has more than 50 relationship managers, Wey said.

Last week, Wey also announced



plans to merge the team serving the Indian diaspora with those handling Singapore residents, effective from Dec. 1, he said.

While the private bank will expand all of its teams in Singapore, the rate of growth for the China group will be faster given that it's the smallest and was set up less than two years ago, he said.

"Many large Chinese companies are using Singapore as their international headquarters," Wey said when asked about target clients. "With that come a lot of senior people who have concentrated wealth holdings. They look at how to build that in a smart way for generations to come."

Among major Chinese firms building up in Singapore are Tencent Holdings Ltd., Alibaba Group Hol-

ding Ltd. and ByteDance Ltd.

JPMorgan's balance sheet enables the private bank to grow its relationship with clients via lending, as well as providing other market activities, Wey said. Last year, the bank said it was starting a trust entity in Singapore.

The number of millionaires in China grew 11% to 1.3 million last year, a faster rate than Japan, home to 3.4 million millionaires, according to a report published in July by Capgemini SE.

Wey moved to Singapore in August to take on the current role from Hong Kong, where he was market manager for Taiwan from 2018. He joined the bank in 2008. Before that he was a management consultant with McKinsey & Co. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**



HSBC contemplates complete exit from US retail banking

HSBBC Holdings Plc is considering offloading its struggling retail network in the U.S., a market the British bank has called one of its biggest strategic challenges.

The bank's management is looking at a complete withdrawal from its retail operations in the country, although a full exit from other businesses in the U.S. is unlikely, according to a person familiar with the matter. The recommendations are expected to be presented to the board as soon as this week.

The review is also likely to suggest reducing investment banking activities to concentrate on international clients with a focus on Asia and the Middle East, according to the Financial Times, which earlier reported the news.

A spokesman for HSBC declined to comment.

HSBC unveiled a sweeping restructuring earlier this year, announcing job cuts of about 35,000 over three years as the lender navigates geopolitical tensions in China and Hong

Kong, markets that are key earnings drivers. The bank said it would announce a further revision to its overhaul when it reports full-year figures next year, with fresh details on capital deployment and costs.

Obvious targets for improvement include the U.S., where HSBC is weighed down by a costly coast-to-coast branch network, and Europe, which accounted for almost half of its assets in 2019 but generated operating losses. The London-based bank, which is seeking to expand in China, earns almost all of its profit in Asia.

Analysts at Bloomberg Intelligence said opting for a turnaround instead of a sale might be too much of a struggle. "HSBC's U.S. franchise remains challenged by inefficiencies that we struggle to see management adequately resolving, notably in the retail and wealth management arena, suggesting to us that a disposal remains preferable," they wrote. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands launches festive promotions



Sands Resorts Macao and Sands Macao have kicked off the festive season with promotions on accommodation, retail, dining and spa treatments. Celebratory offers can be enjoyed from

now until March 31, 2021.

According to a joint statement, Sands Resorts Macao's Le SPA'tique at The Parisian Macao, V Retreat at The Venetian Macao and Bodhi Spa at

Conrad Macao are offering "pampering treatments to beat the winter blues and get guests festive-fresh this season."

Meanwhile, three signature restaurants – La Chine, Brasserie and Copa Steakhouse – will launch festive dining promotions this Christmas and New Year.

The resorts are also launching the "Macao Endless Fun Package," with savings of up to 50% on accommodation, dining vouchers and entertainment. Guests can choose to stay at The Venetian Macao, The Parisian Macao, Conrad Macao, Four Seasons Hotel Macao or Sands Macao with rates starting from just MOP988 for two adults.

MGM partners with MSO to organize lion dance performance program



With the aim of introducing lion dance and the inheritance of Lingnan culture to the younger generation, MGM partnered with Macau Special Olympics (MSO) to

organize a series of school performances for the MSO Lion Dance Team.

Highlighting the theme of "Exercise for stronger physique to fight the epide-

mic", the Lion Dance School Performance program series has already kick-started in October and left its footprints at Escola Kai Chi and Escola Caritas de Macau.

To date, the MSO Lion Dance Team comprised of more than 20 members with intellectual disabilities have performed their lively lion dance moves for over 300 students and teachers at the two schools.

Hetzer Siu, Chief Executive Officer of MSO, said, "Through discovering their interest in lion dance, they have become more confident. More importantly, they have established strong bonding among the team, which forms a social platform that embraces social inclusion."

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

FORMULA One champion Lewis Hamilton won a crash-marred Bahrain Grand Prix where Romain Grosjean somehow escaped with only minor burns after his car exploded into a fireball.

The 34-year-old French driver slid off the track yesterday [Macau time] at high speed on the first lap and his Haas car burst into flames after being sliced in two by a barrier. Grosjean clambered out with the fire roaring behind him and his race helmet singed. He was conscious and stable and then taken by helicopter to a military hospital.

Governing body FIA said in a statement that Grosjean was staying overnight in a military hospital to have treatment for burns on the back of both hands, but that he did not have any fractures despite hitting the barriers at an estimated speed of at least 200 kph (125 mph).

Later on, F1 posted a video of a smiling Grosjean speaking from his hospital bed.

"Just wanted to say I am OK," Grosjean said. "Thank you very much for all the messages."

The crash happened

FORMULA ONE

Hamilton wins Bahrain GP, Grosjean escapes burning car



A part of Haas driver Romain Grosjean's car is taken after the crash at the start of the Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix in Sakhir, Bahrain

with seven-time F1 champion Hamilton leading from Red Bull's Max Verstappen and Racing Point's Sergio Perez.

Hamilton, who secured his title at the Turkish GP on Nov. 15, was subdued and did not celebrate his

win after climbing out of his car, other than a brief fist-pump with the Red Bull drivers.

"It was such a shocking image to see ... horrifying. It could have been so much worse," Hamilton said. "I respect the dangers

that are in this sport."

Moments after the race restarted about 90 minutes later, on Lap 3 of 57, there was another incident as Lance Stroll's Racing Point clipped the AlphaTauri of Daniil Kvyat and flipped over.

Stroll joked about hanging upside down in his car, before squirming out. The Canadian driver was unharmed.

Kvyat was involved in both crashes but not at fault.

The first accident happened

when Grosjean lost grip and slid to the right, where his back wheel clipped the front of Kvyat's car and he flew off into the barrier.

"At first I was angry that he had turned across me in the way he did, but that changed as soon as I saw the flames and what happened in my mirrors," Kvyat said. "I was really worried. It was a scary moment."

Hamilton's record-extending 95th win saw him finish ahead of Verstappen, who took his 41st career podium and a bonus point with the fastest lap.

The 35-year-old Hamilton looked drained at the end.

"It's physical, this track has always been physical. We've got lots of high-speed corners so I was definitely feeling it," he said. "I managed to just about reply to him (Verstappen) when I needed to but I was sliding around a lot out there and I wasn't really quite sure how it would play out at the end."

Perez looked set to finish third and clinch his 10th career podium, but his engine blew with three laps left and flames poured from the back of his car as he pulled over to the side. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Clash of heads raises concerns as Wolves beat Arsenal

ARSENAL 1, WOLVES 2

THE sound of the thud from a clash of heads just added to concern.

The game was only five minutes old at the Emirates Stadium when Wolverhampton forward Raul Jimenez and Arsenal defender David Luiz collided while jumping for the ball.

The emptiness of the Emirates Stadium — with fans still excluded until next week due to the pandemic — made the troubling sound all the more audible.

Concerns grew as Jimenez appeared motionless and was eventually wheeled off the field with an oxygen mask on.

"I knew straight away that something was wrong," Wolves manager Nuno Espirito Santo said. "Everyone called 'red, red,' which means it's a bad situation. You see the panic in their eyes."

By the time the Premier League game ended — with



Wolverhampton Wanderers' Raul Jimenez receive treatment from medical staff after a head clash with Arsenal's David Luiz

Wolves beating Arsenal 2-1 — there was a more encouraging update from the London hospital with Jimenez said to be conscious and talking.

One of the lingering concerns, though, was why a bandaged and bloodied Luiz played on until the interval at a time when there is growing scrutiny into the long-term impact of head injuries. Trials of concussion substitutes are only due to begin in 2021.

Arsenal maintained that Luiz never lost consciousness.

"They have some tests they have to do before they put him back on the pitch, and then

David was just concerned about the cut, nothing else," Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta said. "They will continue to do some checks in the next few hours but he was fine."

The result was not fine for Arteta, with Arsenal languishing in 14th place and eight points off the lead after 10 games. That leader, unusually, is Tottenham, which drew 0-0 at Chelsea.

Another former Premier League champion avoided a day as miserable as Arsenal's. Manchester United fought back from two goals down to win 3-2 at Southampton. **MDT/AP**

CASA DE PORTUGAL EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會

Escola de Artes e Ofícios
School of Arts and Crafts

JOALHARIA/珠寶店/JEWELLERY

Montagem de Colares de Pérolas Tipo Chanel

串珠珍珠項鏈 - 小香風

Pearl Necklace Assembly - Chanel Style

≥ 18 anos/歲/years old
monitora/導師/monitor: **Cristina Vinhas**

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OPINION

World Views

Karl W. Smith, MDT/Bloomberg



LIKE TRUMP, BIDEN IS TRANSACTIONAL. THAT'S NOT A BAD THING

Joe Biden ran as the antithesis of Donald Trump: an experienced, dignified and empathetic leader who could bridge America's political, racial and class divides. The success of the Biden administration, however, may depend on something he has in common with Trump: a transactional approach to politics.

Biden is no one's idea of a demagogue. But even admiring chroniclers of his career acknowledge that his entry into politics was, like Trump's, driven more by ambition than by principle. As Even Osnos, author of "Joe Biden: The Life, the Run, and What Matters Now," explains, Biden entered the Senate when the polarization of U.S. politics was at a low point. The most powerful senators weren't those who could galvanize the base with high-minded rhetoric or, alternatively, venal demagoguery.

Instead, power and respect accrued to those who could forge deals among legislators with sharply divergent views. Biden, for example, typically cites the fight for civil rights as one of his reasons for entering politics. At the same time, he often recalls his close working relationships with die-hard segregationists as among his most valuable experiences.

"You'd get up and you'd argue like the devil with them. Then you'd go down and have lunch or dinner together," Biden once said, referring to Democratic segregationists such as the late Senator James Eastland of Mississippi. "The political system worked."

This ideological flexibility hampered Biden's previous runs at the presidency. Even this year, in the Democratic primary, his then-rival-now-partner Kamala Harris criticized him over his opposition to busing.

Biden pulled off a commanding victory in the end. Yet it was his ability to beat Trump, not enthusiasm for his policy vision, which Democratic voters cite as their reason for supporting him.

A little less vision might be precisely what America needs right now. Faulty polls lulled Democrats into believing that hatred for Trump, and his administration's disastrous handling of Covid, would finally deliver them the mandate they needed to carry out a progressive agenda. Instead, Republicans gained seats in the House and — after the Georgia special elections are decided — will almost certainly retain their majority in the Senate.

In today's polarized environment, the temptation is the same for both parties: Stick with the kind of ideological hardball they have been playing since the Obama years, in the hopes that they can gain a decisive majority needed to govern in 2022 or 2024.

The flaw in this strategy is that, in order to fully recover from the pandemic, America needs a functioning federal government now. It can't wait four or even two years. The human and economic toll from this winter's wave will be large.

Biden's Cabinet nominees show he still favors pragmatism over principle: Facing an outcry about fraud from one party and over a potential coup from the other, Biden has not only stayed above the fray, but has judiciously chosen people he knows will get through the Senate.

The argument isn't that his nominees are perfect (they aren't), or that a Covid relief deal will be (it won't). But to guide a divided nation through the end of the pandemic, both Republicans and Democrats need to avoid making the perfect the enemy of the good.

To make that happen, the U.S. will require, well, a skilled politician — someone who understands that the art of the legislative deal requires a calm, unruffled public image and a brass-tacks approach in private negotiations.

That's where Trump failed. His experience as a flamboyant dealmaker in the private sector taught him the latter but left him woefully unprepared to deliver the former. Biden, in contrast, has precisely this kind of public and private demeanor — and it's why he may actually be able to deliver the pragmatism that Trump long claimed to be selling.

[Abridged]

Oil dropped below \$45 a barrel as a consensus within OPEC+ to postpone an output hike planned for January remained elusive ahead of a meeting of the cartel's power brokers today [Macau time].

Futures in New York declined 1.7%. Most participants in an informal online gathering of OPEC+ ministers yesterday supported keeping production curbs at current levels into the first quarter, said one delegate, although there was opposition from the United Arab Emirates and Kazakhstan.

Oil is still set for the biggest monthly gain since May as Covid-19

vaccine breakthroughs raised optimism for a long-term rebound in fuel consumption. Yet failure by OPEC+ to agree on extending output curbs would see producers restore about 1.9 million barrels a day in supply, potentially pushing the global market back into surplus.

While a majority of OPEC-watchers are expecting a three-month delay to the planned output increase, a recent price rally may complicate talks. Some producers such as Iraq — which is seeking cash upfront for a long-term crude-supply contract — are keen to pump more.

BIDEN CHOOSES AN ALL-FEMALE SENIOR WHITE HOUSE PRESS TEAM

PRESIDENT-ELECT Joe Biden will have an all-female senior communications team at his White House, reflecting his stated desire to build out a diverse White House team as well as what's expected to be a return to a more traditional press operation.

Biden campaign communications director Kate Bedingfield will serve as Biden's White House communications director. Jen Psaki, a longtime Democratic spokeswoman, will be his press secretary.

Four of the seven top communications roles at the White House will be filled by women of color, and it's the first time the entire senior White House communications team will be entirely female.

President Donald Trump upended the ways in which his administration communicated with the press. In contrast with administrations past, Trump's communications team held few press briefings, and those that did occur were often combative affairs riddled with inaccuracies and falsehoods.

Trump himself sometimes served as his own press secretary, taking questions from the media, and he often bypassed the White House press corps entirely by dialing into his favorite Fox News shows.

In a statement announcing the White House communications team, Biden said: "Communicating directly and truthfully to the American people is one of the most important duties of a President, and this team will be entrusted with the tremendous responsibility of connecting the American people to the White House."

He added: "These qualified, experienced communicators bring diverse perspectives to their work and a shared commitment to



State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki

building this country back better."

Bedingfield and Psaki are veterans of the Obama administration. Bedingfield served as communications director for Biden while he was vice president, and Psaki was a White House communications director and a spokesperson at the State Department.

Others joining the White House communications staff are:

Four of the seven top communications roles at the White House will be filled by women of color

— Karine Jean Pierre, who was Vice President-elect Kamala Harris' chief of staff, will serve as a principal deputy press secretary for the president-elect. She's another Obama administration alum, having served as a regional political director for the White House office of political affairs.

— Pili Tobar, who was communications director for coalitions on Biden's campaign, will be his deputy White House communications director. She most recently was deputy director for America's Voice, an immigration reform advocacy group, and was a press staffer for Senate Minority

Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

Three Biden campaign senior advisers are being appointed to top communications roles:

— Ashley Etienne, a former communications director for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, will serve as Harris' communications director.

— Symone Sanders, another senior adviser on the Biden campaign, will be Harris' senior adviser and chief spokesperson.

— Elizabeth Alexander, who served as the former vice president's press secretary and his communications director while he was a U.S. senator

from Delaware, will serve as Jill Biden's communications director.

After his campaign went virtual due to the coronavirus pandemic, Biden faced some of his own criticism for not being accessible to reporters. But near the end of the campaign, he answered questions from the press more frequently, and his transition team has held weekly briefings since he was elected president.

The choice of a number of Obama administration veterans — many with deep relationships with the Washington press corps — also suggests a return to a more congenial relationship with the press. AP

Russia came under renewed pressure yesterday to explain the nerve agent attack on opposition figure Alexei Navalny as the annual meeting of the global chemical weapons watchdog got underway amid measures aimed at reining in the spread of coronavirus. Navalny fell ill on Aug. 20 during a domestic flight in Russia, and was flown to Germany for treatment two days later. His allies accused the Kremlin of poisoning its fiercest opponent.



French President Emmanuel Macron's government is pushing a new security bill that makes it illegal to publish images of police officers with intent to cause them harm, amid other measures. Critics fear the new law could hurt press freedoms and make it more difficult for all citizens to report on police brutality.



UK Wireless carriers won't be allowed to install Huawei equipment in their high-speed 5G networks after September 2021, the British government said yesterday, hardening its line against the Chinese technology company. The deadline is part of a roadmap the British government is laying down to remove "high risk" equipment suppliers with draft legislation that aims to tighten telecommunications security requirements.



Nigeria Suspected members of the Islamic militant group Boko Haram killed at least 40 rice farmers and fishermen in Nigeria as they were harvesting crops in the country's northern state of Borno, officials said. One said the death toll could rise to about 60 people. The attack Saturday in a rice field in Garin Kwashebe came on the same day that residents were casting votes for the first time in 13 years to elect local councils, although many didn't go to cast their ballots.