



**JP MORGAN: CRYPTOCURRENCY FOR GAMING TRANSACTIONS WILL ‘DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE NEED FOR JUNKETS’**

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**HAZARDOUS MATERIAL STORAGE TO BE LOCATED IN KA-HÓ**

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**JD.COM INC. WILL BECOME CHINA’S FIRST VIRTUAL MALL THAT WILL ALLOW CUSTOMERS TO PAY FOR CERTAIN ITEMS WITH DIGITAL YUAN**

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AP PHOTO



**China** The state TV says at least 18 coal miners have been killed by high levels of carbon monoxide in the country’s southwest. One miner was found alive following the disaster Friday in the Diaoshidong mine in Chongqing, the report said. Rescuers are looking for five others.

**Japan** A court revoked the operating permits of two nuclear reactors for having inadequate earthquake safeguards, a ruling that challenges safety assessments conducted by the nuclear regulator and could influence the outcome of other court cases. The Osaka District Court revoked the permits of the No. 3 and No. 4 reactors at the Ohi nuclear power plant in Fukui in western Japan.

AP PHOTO



**Indonesia** Torrential rains in the third largest city caused four rivers to overflow, flooding thousands of homes and killing at least five people, officials said. The local disaster mitigation agency said rescuers were searching for two others who were reportedly still missing, including a toddler.

**Pakistan** Seven patients being treated for the coronavirus died after one of the largest hospitals in the northwestern Pakistani city of Peshawar ran out of oxygen supplies, officials said yesterday. Farhad Khan, a spokesman at Khyber Teaching Hospital, said the patients died when the vendor who supplies the hospital with medical oxygen to refill tanks failed to arrive in time.

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# POLICY SHORTAGE

Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário blames the continuous lack of government policies that allow social groups to access public housing ▲ P3



MACAU PHOTO AGENCY

## GRAND COLOANE RESORT TO BE LISTED AS QUARANTINE HOTEL AGAIN

▲ P2

RENATO MARQUES





POLICY ADDRESS

# GOV'T REBUTS COMPLAINTS THAT TAXI SECTOR UNAWARE OF SMART TERMINAL FEES

RENATO MARQUES

**S**ECRETARY for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário refuted the idea that the taxi sector was not made aware of the fees charged on smart terminals, the regulation for which entered into force on Thursday.

Replying to a question from a lawmaker on the topic, Rosário said, "It makes no sense to be calling for a change now on something that was discussed and approved long ago."

"The fees to be paid for the terminals and who is responsible for paying what has been settled and made public since the time that the Executive Council concluded the analysis of the bill. The 5,000 pataca deposit fee is [owed] by the taxi owners, while the 300 pataca per month fee is the responsibility of the driver and was calculated based on a fee of 10 patacas per day. This



was all public and discussed here [at the AL] in several plenary sessions as well as in the [Standing] Committee," he added.

Questions about the fees come after a group of taxi drivers presented a petition to the government on Thursday, demanding the temporary suspension of fees

on the smart terminals installed in their vehicles.

According to the taxi law approved last year, all of Macau's taxis must have a smart terminal installed, otherwise their operation will be considered illegal.

The smart terminal is an update on traditional terminal sys-

tems which had a meter, flag, and receipt printer, and now an additional global satellite navigation system, audio and video recording, and an alarm device.

During the presentation of the petition to the government, a representative of the group supported by lawmaker Agnes Lam complained that the government

did not listen to the concerns of the taxi sector before enforcing the fees. This accusation was refuted by the Secretary on Friday, who noted that even before being discussed at the AL, the bill underwent a public consultation in which all interested parties were invited to express their opinions.

## 100 NEW RADIO TAXI LICENSES POSTPONED TO NEXT YEAR

**T**HE government postponed the issuing of the last 100 new special taxi licenses for Macau Radio Taxi which were expected to be issued by 2020. The announcement was made at the Legislative Assembly (AL) by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, during the debate of the Policy Address for 2021. The 100 new licenses were part of

a group of 200 licenses, which the government tendered in 2019. They were to be implemented in a phased manner right up until the last quarter of this year. The postponement was justified by impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the local taxi industry that is in recession since the number of visitors to Macau dropped drastically.

## JP MORGAN: CASHLESS GAMING MAY UNDERMINE JUNKETS IF IMPLEMENTED

STAFF REPORTER

**I**F Macau employs China's central bank-backed cryptocurrency for gaming transactions in the future, it would pose a threat to the city's junkets, JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) said in its notice last week.

This transactional change would "dramatically reduce the need for junkets," which are businesses that act as middlemen for high rollers from the mainland, GGRAsia cited the brokerage saying.

The brokerage's forecast came a day after Bloomberg stated in a report that it heard from people "familiar with the matter" that Macau's casino operators were approached by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) to study the possibility of digital yuan.

On the same day the report



was issued, the DICJ denied in a statement that it had talks with gaming operators on the feasibility of utilizing digital yuan to buy casino chips in the city's casinos.

Once it is implemented, the new policy will limit the amount of money a mainland player can carry on every trip to Macau to 50,000 Chinese yuan (US\$7,648), JP Morgan said.

"Since gamblers would be able to use e-renminbi from his/her e-wallet to purchase chips, casinos wouldn't have

much, if any, reason to pay hefty commissions to junkets - currently approximately 44% of VIP gross gaming revenue," the brokerage said, shedding light on why a digital currency would undermine the city's junkets.

Following the official statement denying this, the brokerage stressed that "we don't think investors should make anything of this news, at least for now" as it is "highly unlikely in the foreseeable future" that the digital yuan would be introduced to the city.

## GRAND COLOANE RESORT TO BE LISTED AS QUARANTINE HOTEL AGAIN

STAFF REPORTER

**T**HE Grand Coloane Resort is again gearing up to resume its role as a quarantine facility soon and house the foreseeable influx of arrivals in Macau - probably starting this week.

The reason the resort was enlisted again was to ramp up the number of quarantine shelters in the city to prepare for the imminent increase in arrivals in the city.

"Most of them wish to return to Macau this week in the nick of time so that they can come out of quarantine to enjoy Christmas two weeks later," a credible source disclosed to the Times.

However, the representative of the resort's communication team



refused to officially confirm the new policy.

Meanwhile, a social group on Facebook stated that it would have to cancel its upcoming annual event at the hotel, confirming that the resort "has been designated as a quarantine hotel."

The 208-room hotel, located on Coloane island, was the fourth hotel designated as a quaranti-

ne facility since March 20. It has been removed from the city's quarantine facility list since early April this year.

As of now, all arrivals, including local citizens, are required to observe a 14-day quarantine at a designated hotel. Quarantine is free for locals but each non-local is charged a total of MOP5,600.

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Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário (center)

#### NEW BATCH OF HKZMB USER VEHICLES OPEN FOR REGISTRATION

Individuals who own real properties, except parking spaces, work for a salary or own companies in Hong Kong can now apply to use the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge to travel to Hong Kong with their own vehicles. The quota for the permit is 2,000 in total. The new permit will be valid for three years. Applications should be made by 6 p.m. on January 12.

#### TRANSPORT BUREAU: TAIPA BUS CRASH NOT RELATED TO TECHNICAL MALFUNCTION

Lam Hin San, director of the Transport Bureau, announced that the preliminary cause for the bus crash that took place on November 7, in which a bus crashed into a restaurant in Taipa, was maloperation by the bus driver. The bureau has ordered the bus company to give their drivers more rest time. This means that the cause of the accident was not related to a technical malfunction. The official hinted that the fine, yet to be issued to the bus company, will be enormous.

#### DSAMA TO STUDY MARINE ZONING AND PLANNING

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) will conduct research on marine functional zoning and waters planning next year. The groundwork studies will be aligned with the 2020-2040 Macau Urban Master Plan. Director of DSAMA Susanna Wong Soi Man said that the studies will take into account ocean conservation and pledged not to approve plans that undermine ecological reserves like mangrove reserves and green belts.

#### POLICY ADDRESS

# Rosário blames lack of policies for public housing access issues

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE continuous lack of government policies that allow several social groups to access public housing, namely younger people, was one of the topics highlighted on Friday at the debate of the Policy Address for 2021 for the Secretariat of Transport and Public Works.

Replying to the questions of lawmakers at the Legislative Assembly (AL), the Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário heard repeated criticism and concerns raised by several lawmakers.

In his replies, the Secretary admitted that the point system currently in effect for the tendering of public housing and namely on

economic renting does not benefit individual applicants, including the elderly and younger residents.

"I admit that, as you mentioned, an application to public housing that does not include a family household without older people in their care has difficulty getting a housing unit. I know this," Rosário said in reply to a question of lawmaker Ella Lei.

"This is the rule and the law. The public housing regime was made aiming to allow poorer families access to a house," he later added in a reply to lawmaker Sulu Sou, who questioned the continuous difficulties youngsters faced with the government policy.

Sou expressed disagreement with the direction being taken regarding the new type of housing the

government is studying, the so-called "sandwich class," saying, "This is not a solution. The prices of this type of housing will [be dependent on] the private market which is far from the possibilities of any youngster."

"The government should allow youngsters access to a house to live in by renting first, as most of them will never have a chance of buying," Sou added.

Rosário also refuted a point raised earlier by Lei, who said that the progress on the construction of the new public housing units has been slow, saying, "I have to disagree with you on this part. We are doing what we promised, which was the 24,000 units, and we are progressing well and in a phased manner. We have been able to de-

liver more public housing units in these four years than any time before," he remarked, adding that the government and the CE are keen to deliver on all the promises on time. But in order to do so, they would have to request special permission for an exemption from the noise law, he said, referring specifically to next year's project at the Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes (the former land plot of CEM power plant).

"For the time being, we are going to move forward with construction seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. But if necessary, the CE is willing to make special exemptions for the fulfillment of the noise law provisions so we can extend the construction for a few more hours and finish our work on time," Rosário suggested.

#### POLICY ADDRESS

# Hazardous material storage to be located in Ka-Hó

**A**T his policy debate session at the Legislative Assembly last week, Chan Pou Ha, director of the Land, Transport and Public Works Bureau, disclosed for the first time that the much-debated hazardous material storage will likely

be permanently located in Ka-Hó.

It will be housed in the Desafio Jovem, a drug counseling center located on a hill. It means that the transport and public works branch will need to request usage rights from the social af-

fairs and culture branch of the government.

Justifying the decision, Chan's superintendent, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário said, "Locating the permanent storage on the hill and in the center of [nowhere] should

raise no other debate."

Below the proposed permanent storage will sit the new prison of the city, which is now being built, according to a source familiar with the location.

The previously proposed plan of locating the storage on a reclaimed is-

land will be scrapped. In replacement, a mid-way storage for the materials will be built on the island instead.

Oppositions have been heard previously when the government proposed to build a makeshift storage in Cotai. **AL**



**MEDICAL COOPERATION TO FOSTER DEVELOPMENT OF TCM**

The Macau Association of Chinese Medicine Practitioners has partnered with a Zhuhai hospital to co-launch a program empowering Macau's 70 young traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) practitioners to practice in Zhuhai. The scheme aims to foster the local development of TCM – one of the pivots of the government's economic diversification strategy. Association president Shi Chongrong said there are shortcomings in local TCM training and hopes the scheme will help local youngsters gain clinical experience.

**NUMBER, LOCATION OF SANDWICH CLASS HOUSING TO BE DETERMINED AFTER CONSULTATION**

The Housing Bureau (IH) confirmed that the number and location of sandwich housing will be determined after finalizing the consultation. The government will roll out plans for around 24,000 public housing units in phases over the coming four years. In an additional public consultation session, IH authorities have vowed that Macau has enough land for the construction of this type of public housing.

# 55 CALÇADA DA VITÓRIA CAPTURES 1920'S TRENDS: ARCHITECT

ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE Cardinal Newman Performing Arts and Cultural Center, the house on 55 Calçada da Vitória, is a vivid example of East-West interactions captured in the architectural style, explained architect and member of the Urban Planning Committee Lui Chak Keong at a seminar yesterday.

The building was owned by the Macau Diocese for about eight decades and was used by Yuet Wah College for about six or seven of those. The local secondary school was operated by Italian missionaries the Salesians of Don Bosco since 1926. The building has recently been shortlisted by the Cultural Affairs Bureau as a potential piece of local heritage.

A public consultation on the shortlist of 12 real properties that have the potential to be identified as local heritage is in progress. The consultation required as part of a legal procedures.

The inside of the two-floor building is the core of the integration of the Eastern and Western décor styles.

For instance, the architect pointed out most of the rooms in the building have hanging partitions to signal the separation of spaces. This is not only a very Chinese practice, the partitions were also designed with rich Chinese influences.

One of the hanging partitions has bats, deer and wooden knots carved into it, which symbolize bliss, wealth and longevity respec-



tively. These symbols were common decorations in older times.

The ceilings also have carvings of flowers and curves that resemble Baroque décor. In addition, the fireplace in one room was even believed to be pre-made and sent directly from the U.K., with tiles of rose paintings around it.

In contrast, the building has an exterior that is rich with Western architectural influences, such as Baroque staircases and window frame embellishments with curvy shapes and lines, which Lui explained give the impression of movement and thus a sense of vitality.

The window frame embellish-

ments also resemble those used on the windows of towers built during the Middle Ages or styles from that period. The Cardinal Newman Center is not the only building in the city with such embellishments according to Lui, who cited two other buildings on the Guia Hill as examples.

The pillars supporting the balconies were built in a classical eclectic style. Lui explained that they resemble classical Greek or Roman pillars, but with much simpler details and less rigid presentations, meaning they are not even neo-classical pillars.

The main gate of the center is full of signs of French or Dutch

Baroque influences. The red bricks were not a popular material in Macau, according to Lui.

As for a particular meaning the architectural and décor styles may be attempting to imply, Lui admitted that he was not able to tell because information about who designed which part of the building was far from sufficient. Without knowing the identity of the designer, any interpretations cannot be verified.

"Even if I try to explain the implications, it would only be my understanding of the designs instead of the real meaning that the original designer wanted to convey," Lui said.

# Exhibition aims to lift stigma against former drug users

LYNZY VALLES

**A** painting and ceramics exhibition hosted by the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau (ARTM) is the organization's inaugural exposition for its "Annual Arts Showcase of ARTM."

Titled "Pause and Discover Yourself," the exhibition is currently on display at Rui Cunha Foundation. Diverse arts and crafts pieces made by patients in the process of recovery from the rehabilitation program are on show.

ARTM hosts vocational training through recreational activities as part of its program.

The aim of the ARTM treatment center is to promote a "more holistic



lifestyle and to identify areas for change, such as negative behaviors and

emotions which can lead to substance use."

"The main goal is to

show the artworks that we have been creating with our residents during the

year. It's to give value to them and praise them so they can feel appreciated," said ARTM president Augusto Nogueira.

"The aim also is to lift stigma and for the public to understand that they [drug users] should not be judged as they deserve the chance to change their lives," he added.

Through activities such as oil painting, woodworking, clay and ceramics, textile work and sewing, among others, Nogueira said that the association hopes to promote personal growth throughout their recovery process.

The president believes stigma against people undergoing rehabilitation will remain.

"The stigma will continue. There will always be someone who will stigmatize these people," Nogueira said. However, he hopes that local residents will become more aware of the changes the program participants undergo while at the rehabilitation center for a minimum of one year.

Holding the exhibition is a part of its goal of breaking the stigma, the president stressed.

"Pause and Rediscover Yourself" is a collective showcase with works from more than 20 participants.

The pieces being exhibited are also available for sale.

The exhibition will run until Wednesday, December 9.



# Isolation opens up creative windows for artists

STAFF REPORTER

**S**HELTERING at home has not stifled Lam Un Mei's creativity; on the contrary, the Covid-19 pandemic has unlocked new inspiration for artworks, the local award-winning artist told the Times at the opening ceremony of her exhibition.

During the pandemic, Lam, a homegrown female artist famous for her engaging prints, which exude a great sense of whimsy and surrealism, created an art series, named "Small Home in Big City", which was inspired by Covid-19-related confinement.

"The pandemic has helped me re-ponder the relationships between me and those tiny things which have sat at our home for so long but had always been neglected by us," Lam said, when asked about the intention of creating the new series.

The outbreak has opened up new rooms for artistic inspiration, but Lam acknowledged that it has also dealt a blow to the city's art industry. Another five exhibitions of hers, which were originally scheduled to launch in 2020, were all canceled due to Covid-19.

During a long stretch of the stay-at-home period, she resorted to art to communicate the new thoughts and inspirations that Covid-19 brought to her.



Award-winning artist Lam Un Mei

"Art can be inspired by all the things you encounter in life, and the pandemic has put us into a situation where we can see things from a new lens," she said.

Lam, born and raised in Macau, has a knack for printmaking. One of her signature creations — "The Fourth of the Wall" series — was crowned with the Grand Prize of the Jury Award, the Young Artist Award, and the Excellent Artwork Award in the Collective Exhibition of Macao Visual Arts 2018.

A total of 15 prints, including the new pandemic-inspired pieces and previous award-winning works created over the past two years,

were exhibited in the art exhibition, themed "Exhibition of Works by Lam Un Mei and Ye Jiehao – Grand Prize Winners Artists of Jury Award in Collective Exhibition of Macao Artist."

The exhibition, organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, aims to "encourage local artists to continuously explore and advance along the journey of artistic creation," President of the Cultural Affairs Bureau Mok Ian Ian said in the opening ceremony.

The exhibition also features artworks of another local artist, Ye Jiehao, a veteran seal-carving artist who also specializes in Chinese calligraphy and painting.

# Athletes from China win city's int'l marathon



Dong Guojian

STAFF REPORTER

**H**ORDES of the city's enthusiastic runners came together for the 2020 Galaxy Entertainment Macao International Marathon yesterday on December 6.

Chinese runners Dong Guojian and Zhang Deshun were the champions of the men's and the women's divisions of the marathon respectively.

Meanwhile, Bian Qi and Wong San San were crowned as the top runners for the men's and the women's divisions of the half-marathon respectively.

This year's Macao International Marathon, which was its 39th edition, attracted a total of 12,000 participants.

To minimize the risk of Covid-19 infection, all partici-

pants were required to take a nucleic acid test from November 30 to December 4.

The 42.195 km marathon and the half-marathon kicked off at Olympic Sports Centre Stadium at 6 a.m. yesterday.

Earlier in November, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong disclosed at a Legislative Assembly plenary meeting that the SAR government will push sports tourism next year.

Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng also disclosed in November that talks between the government and the six gaming operators to run 12 sports events in 2021, one event per month, have been underway.

The 2020 Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon, a showpiece running event in the neighboring city of Hong Kong, was canceled in January this year due to Covid-19. The organizer announced days earlier that the event, which was originally scheduled for January next year, was further postponed to October in 2021.

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## GREAT TIMES

### The Holly Jolly Feast

**C**HRISTMAS is around the corner! It is the time of gifting, cherishing time spent with dear ones, and most importantly feasting. Join us and savor our festive culinary delights from Dec 1, 2020 to Jan 3, 2021! From the conventional turkey and log cakes, to steak and seafood and everything else in between, our specially curated Christmas menus will surely get you in the holiday mood.

#### MGM MACAU

##### Rossio

Be it a western or local fare, you can kick off the happiest season with a scrumptious feast full of exciting goodies. A grand Christmas lunch and dinner await you at Rossio featuring fresh seafood, authentic Macanese and Portuguese delicacies with a variety of carving. Complete the feast with desserts special for this season: Christmas Pudding, Bolo Rei and more.



#### MGM COTAI

##### Coast

We are talking about Roasted Turkeys, Prime Rib Carving, Seafood on Ice, Christmas desserts and beyond! Treat yourself and your loved ones to a Western themed buffet that spotlights all the festive delights and a tempting array of sweets perfect for this Holiday season at Coast on Christmas day!



#### Grill 58

Take merry-making to new heights with exclusive festive brunch menu featuring Slow-cooked Egg with Asparagus and Herbs, Cold Cuts Board, Snake River Farm U.S Prime Tenderloin and more at Grill 58! Have an unconventional dining experience at the Teppanyaki section and enjoy premium meats and seafood with the 8-course Omakase menu.



The celebration continues the next day with New Year's menu with spectacular spread of Holiday classics at our signature restaurants. Christmas is always made more magical with decadent sweet treats! Check out our festive pastries at Pastry Bar and Anytime to relish or bring home to family and friends.

The Holidays are coming up fast. To warm up this magical season even better, why not bring home our festive staple's takeaway such as Herb-roasted Turkey, Special Homemade Sausage and Pies! What are you waiting for? Scroll through our finest festive dining guide for top picks now! For more information, please go to mgm.mo.





## GOV'T PREPARES LARGE-SCALE ROLLOUT OF CORONAVIRUS VACCINES

HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

**PROVINCIAL** governments across China are placing orders for experimental, domestically made coronavirus vaccines, though health officials have yet to say how well they work or how they may reach the country's 1.4 billion people.

Developers are speeding up final testing, the Chinese foreign minister said during a U.N. meeting last week, as Britain approved emergency use of Pfizer Inc.'s vaccine candidate and providers scrambled to set up distribution.

Even without final approval, more than 1 million health care workers and others in China who are deemed at high risk of infection have received experimental vaccines under emergency use permission. There has been no word on possible side effects.

China's fledgling pharmaceu-

tical industry has at least five vaccines from four producers being tested in more than a dozen countries including Russia, Egypt and Mexico. Health experts say even if they are successful, the certification process for the United States, Europe, Japan and other developed countries might be too complex for them to be used there. However, China said it will ensure the products are affordable for developing countries.

One developer, China National Pharmaceutical Group, known as Sinopharm, said in November it applied for final market approval for use of its vaccine in China. Others have been approved for emergency use on people deemed at high risk of infection.

"We must be prepared for large-scale production," said Vice Premier Sun Chunlan, who has overseen much of the country's response, during a visit Wednes-

day to developers, according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

Sun visited one of Sinopharm's Beijing subsidiary companies; another producer, Sinovac, and a research lab under the National Medical Products Administration, a regulatory agency that approves medical products for public use.

The government has yet to say how many people it plans to vaccinate. Sun said plans call for vaccinating border personnel and other high-risk populations this month.

The companies are using more traditional techniques than Western developers.

They say unlike Pfizer's vaccine, which must be kept frozen at temperatures as low as minus 70 degrees Celsius (minus 94 Fahrenheit), theirs can be stored at 2 to 8 C (36 to 46 F). The Chinese producers have yet to say how they might be distributed.

Health experts question why China is using experimental vaccines on such a vast scale now that the outbreak is largely under control within its borders.

Health officials previously said China will be able to manufacture 610 million doses by the end of this year and ramp up to 1 billion doses next year.

The government of Jiangsu province, where the major city of Nanjing is located, issued a procurement notice for vaccines from Sinovac and Sinopharm on Wednesday for emergency use vaccinations.

Authorities in Sichuan province in the west, which has about 85 million people, announced Monday they were already buying vaccines. An official newspaper in Anhui province, southeast of Beijing, said a local residential committee issued a notice asking whether residents want a vaccine.

The Sichuan and Anhui announcements said the vaccine, given in two shots, would cost a total of 400 yuan (\$60).

Vaccines from Sinovac and Sinopharm were approved for emergency use in July.

In October, Zhejiang province south of Shanghai offered the public vaccination under emergency use authorization. It said people considered high-risk would get priority.

In November, the Communist Party secretary for Sinopharm said almost 1 million people had received its vaccine.

In September, Sinovac's CEO said about 3,000 of its employees had taken their vaccine. He said the company provided tens of thousands of doses to the Beijing city government.

Developers have yet to disclose how effective their vaccines are and possible side effects.

Sinopharm has clinical trials under way in 10 countries including the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, Peru and Argentina with nearly 60,000 volunteers. It has built two facilities in China capable of producing 200 million doses per year.

Sinovac has trials in Brazil, Turkey and Indonesia. Its most recent publicized data, a study in the science journal the Lancet, showed its candidate produced lower levels of antibodies in people than those who had recovered from COVID-19. The company projects it will be able to produce a few hundred million doses of the vaccine by February or March of next year.

Another producer, CanSino, is testing in Russia, Pakistan and Mexico and pursuing partnerships in Latin American countries. Its vaccine, which has been used on an emergency basis with the Chinese military, uses a harmless adenovirus to carry genes into human cells to generate an immune response.

A fourth company, Anhui Zhi-fei Longcom Biologic Pharmacy Co., is conducting final stage trials across China. **AP**

### CRYPTOCURRENCY

## JD.com becomes China's first online mall to test digital yuan

**JD.COM** Inc., China's second-biggest online retailer, will become the country's first virtual mall to use digital yuan, the cryptocurrency backed by the central bank.

JD Digits, the e-commerce giant's fintech affiliate, will launch a pilot program this month, and customers will pay for certain items with digital yuan, it said on its official WeChat account. About

100,000 digital cash vouchers, worth 20 million yuan in total, will be issued to residents of Suzhou city in the eastern province of Jiangsu on Dec. 11.

The digital yuan has been used in more than four million transactions, worth a total of about 2 billion yuan (\$306 million), as of early last month, according to People's Bank of China Governor Yi Gang. The central bank kicked off

tests for the online renminbi in some cities in April to bolster its status as a global currency and to help control the domestic economy as it rapidly goes digital.

In October, Shenzhen's city government gave out a total of 10 million yuan in the digital currency to thousands of randomly selected citizens following President Xi Jinping's visit to the southern coastal city. **BLOOMBERG**





MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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## Australia lacks strategy to deal with China, Labor's Wong says

**A**USTRALIA lacks an overarching approach to handling a "much more assertive" China, and needs a plan for economic diversification and liaising with Asian allies to handle the emerging superpower, opposition foreign affairs spokeswoman Penny Wong said.

"The strategy should be working out how we deal with the effects for Australia and the region of a China which demonstrably is taking a very different stance," Wong told ABC's 'Insiders' program. "The government really does need to stop focusing on splashy headlines and work out what is it doing."

Australia is the world's most China-dependent developed economy and finalized a free-trade agreement with Beijing in 2015. Ties have been fraught since 2018, when Canberra barred Huawei Technologies Co. from building its 5G network, and went into freefall earlier this year when the prime minister called for an independent probe into the origins of the pandemic, leading to trade reprisals.

On Monday, Prime Minister Scott Morrison sought an apology from China after a diplomat in Beijing tweeted an image purporting to show an Australian soldier holding a knife to an Afghan child's throat. That related to an investigation that uncovered alleged war crimes by Australian troops in Afghanistan.

"The relationship is obviously in a very difficult and challenging place," Wong said Sunday. "Going forward, I think we should assume that a more assertive, at times more aggressive China, is here to stay."

Despite the criticism, the oppo-

sition Labor party has sought to maintain a bipartisan response to China's actions, with Wong saying it's important for Australia to "remain unified in our condemnation."

Debate has simmered on whether Morrison was correct to respond so quickly - and in person - to the tweet. A visibly angry prime minister called a press conference 45 minutes after it was posted. Morrison reportedly only spoke with his foreign minister beforehand; Wong said he didn't get in contact with Labor.

"In diplomacy you always have to think carefully about how you calibrate your response," she said. "It is a big call to go directly, escalate directly to the national leader, and I hope that Scott Morrison thought very carefully about that decision. I hope that he took advice."

### OLYMPIC BOYCOTT

China refused to apologise; instead the Foreign Ministry's top spokeswoman shot back, asking whether Morrison lacks "a sense of right and wrong."

Asked whether Australia should boycott the Winter Olympics in China in 2022, Wong said the opposition's view - and she understood this to be government's too - is that the event is an opportunity to focus on China and a legitimate time for questions of human rights.

"China talked about the importance of human rights this week in the tweet," Wong said. "Equally, I assume that they will therefore recognize the right of other nations and other communities to raise the issue of human rights in the context of the Olympics."

**BLOOMBERG**

Create A Better  
**TOMORROW TODAY**  
今天開創明天



### MGM Spreads Positivity to Strengthen Community Bonding

MGM is committed to enhancing social cohesion by raising public awareness of family bonding and social inclusion, spreading positivity all over the community to bring each member closer.



#### MSO Lion Dance Team Promotes Social Inclusion

With the aim of advocating social inclusion, as well as 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 lately. MSO formed the first lion dance troupe of people with intellectual disabilities in 2017 with the support of MGM. Invited to perform at various events organized by different organizations, these opportunities enable the Team to showcase their talent and promote social inclusion with their exhilarating lion dance performances.



Highlighting the theme of "Exercise for stronger physique to fight the epidemic", the Lion Dance School Performance program series kick-started in October and have 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 have performed their lively lion dance moves for over 300 students and teachers at the two schools. During their performances, MGM volunteers cheered for the Team, and provided anti-epidemic information as well as distributed goodie bags for the students.

#### Strengthening Family Bonding through Parent-child T-shirt Design Contest

MGM recently collaborated with The Women's General Association of Macau to launch the "MGM Leo's T-shirt Design Contest" - an activity for local children to unleash their creativity while making a joint effort with parents to design t-shirts for MGM Ambassador Leo Sincere. Launched in September, the contest received overwhelming responses with more than 700 entries. The new T-shirts will serve as a canvas to convey the message of family harmony and the need to build a caring and supportive society.

The winning teams, including participating children and their parents, modeled their own designs at a catwalk show during the award presentation ceremony. The ceremony was rounded off with a joint performance by children and volunteers from MGM and The Women's General Association of Macau, who sang in sign language to highlight the importance of family togetherness and social inclusion. The contest offered the children an opportunity to partner with their parents, in which this parent-child interaction allowed them to better understand each other.



#### Receives "Outstanding Family-Friendly Employer Award"

Earlier, MGM won four awards in the "3rd 2018-2020 Family-Friendly Employers Award Scheme" organized by The Women's General Association of Macau. As the only integrated resort and hotel operator in Macau attaining the "Outstanding Family-Friendly Employer Award", MGM also earned the "Excellent Family-Friendly Employer Award" for the third time, as well as the "Family-Friendly Employer Award" and the "Breastfeeding-friendly Workplace Award". These accolades are a testament to MGM's outstanding performance in implementing the family-friendly employment policy and helping team members build strong bonds with families.



MGM  
Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, NAPE, Macau  
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E sustainability@mgm-macau.com  
W <http://www.mgm.mo/>





# Crunch UK-EU talks on post-Brexit ties resumes

PAN PYLAS  
& RAF CASERT, LONDON

**T**HE European Union and the United Kingdom decided Saturday to press on with negotiating a post-Brexit trade deal, with all three key issues still unresolved ahead of a year-end cutoff.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said after a phone call that their negotiators will return to the table Sunday even though fundamental differences between the two sides remain over the rules for fair competition, legal oversight of the deal and fishing rights for EU trawlers in U.K. waters.

"Significant differences remain," the two leaders said in a joint statement after their tea-time call to assess the state of play over the future EU-U.K. relationship.

While the U.K. left the EU on Jan. 31, it remains within the bloc's tariff-free single market and customs union through Dec. 31. Reaching a trade deal by then would ensure there are no tariffs and trade quotas on goods exported or imported by the two sides, although there would still be technical costs, partly associated with customs checks and non-tariff barriers on services.



AP PHOTO

The talks would surely have collapsed by now, were the interests and economic costs at stake not so massive. But because the EU is an economic power of 450 million and Britain has major diplomatic and security interests beyond its own commercial might, the two sides want to explore every last chance to get a deal before they become acrimonious rivals.

"Whilst recognizing the seriousness of these differences, we agreed that a further effort should be undertaken by our negotiating teams to assess whether they can be resolved," Johnson and von der Leyen said after speaking by phone for about an hour.

"We are therefore instructing our chief negotiators to reconvene tomorrow in Brussels," the pair said in their statement, adding that they would reassess the

chances of success on Monday night.

The two leaders noted that progress has been achieved in many areas but that divisions remain on fishing rights, the "level playing field" — the standards the U.K. must meet to export into the bloc — and how future disputes are resolved.

"Both sides underlined that no agreement is feasible if these issues are not resolved," von der Leyen and Johnson said Saturday.

An EU source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the talks were still ongoing, said the fair competition rules that the U.K. should meet before it can export tariff-free into the 27-nation bloc, were still a major stumbling block.

The main problem at the heart of the negotiations is how to reconcile how Britain wrests itself free of

EU rules and the bloc's insistence that no country, however important, should get easy access to its lucrative market by undercutting its high environmental and social standards.

The politically charged issue of fisheries also continue to play an outsized role. The EU has demanded widespread access to U.K. fishing grounds that historically have been open to foreign trawlers. But in Britain, gaining control of the fishing grounds was a main issue for the Brexiteers who pushed for the country to leave the EU.

With the U.K.'s post-Brexit transition period due to conclude at the end of the year, the discussions are clearly at a crunch point, not least because of the necessary approvals required on both sides after negotiators reach a deal. Without an agreement in place, tariffs will end up being imposed on traded goods at the start of 2021.

Both sides would suffer economically from a failure to secure a trade deal, but most economists think the British economy would take a greater hit, at least in the near-term, as it is relatively more reliant on trade with the EU than vice versa.

The EU's chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, appears ready to go again.

"Work continues tomorrow," he said in a tweet. **AP**

tween it and Israel can only happen alongside a lasting peace deal involving a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The kingdom publicly continues to state its unwavering support for the Arab Peace Initiative, a 2002 Saudi-sponsored deal that offers Israel full ties with all Arab states in return for Palestinian statehood on territory Israel captured in 1967.

Israeli Foreign Minister Gabi Ashkenazi, who spoke immediately after Prince Turki, said: "I would like to express my regret on the comments of the Saudi representative."

"I don't believe that they reflect the spirit and the changes taking place in the Middle East," he said. **AP**

## this day in history

### 1955 ATTLEE STEPS DOWN AS LABOUR LEADER



Clement Attlee has resigned as leader of the opposition Labour Party, following months of speculation.

Tonight the Prime Minister, Sir Anthony Eden, announced in Downing Street that the Queen is to make Mr Attlee an earl.

He is the first Labour leader to accept a hereditary peerage. This will allow him to continue his work for the parliamentary Labour Party from the House of Lords, where the Opposition has little representation.

He made his announcement this morning at the start of a special meeting of the shadow cabinet in the Commons convened to discuss the Middle East.

He said: "After the [1951] general election I intimated that I would continue as chairman of the party meantime.

"It is regrettable, however, that since that date there has scarcely been a week passed without one prominent member of the party or another talking about my impending resignation. That certainly does not help the party."

He then announced his immediate resignation and was thanked for his long service to the party and the country.

Herbert Morrison, deputy chairman of the party, will stand in as leader while a successor is found. There are expected to be three candidates - Mr Morrison himself, Hugh Gaitskell and Aneurin Bevan.

Most Labour MPs believe Mr Gaitskell, at 49 the youngest of the contenders, will be elected leader.

Mr Attlee, who is 72 and has recently suffered a stroke, has led his party for 20 years and has had a seat in the House of Commons for 33 years.

In 1942 he became deputy prime minister in the war cabinet under Sir Winston Churchill.

During his six years as prime minister from 1945 to 1951 he oversaw sweeping changes to the welfare state with the introduction of the National Health Service and the nationalisation of key industries - the Bank of England, civil aviation, coal telecommunications, transport, electricity, iron and steel.

He also pushed through the independence of India and Burma.

Courtesy BBC News

## SAUDI ARABIA

# Prince strongly criticizes Israel at Bahrain summit

A prominent Saudi prince harshly criticized Israel yesterday at a Bahrain security summit that was remotely attended by Israel's foreign minister.

Prince Turki al-Faisal, who led Saudi intelligence for more than two decades and served as ambassador to the U.S. and U.K., said any normalization deals needed to help the Palestinians obtain their own independent state.

He described Israel as a "Western colonizing"

power. He said Israel has "incarcerated [Palestinians] in concentration camps under the flimsiest of security accusations— young and old, women and men, who are rotting there without recourse to justice. They are demolishing homes as they wish and they assassinate whomever they want."

Although the prince does not hold any official position, his stance is seen as closely mirroring that of King Salman. In con-

trast, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has signaled greater willingness to quietly engage with Israel to counter common rival, Iran, and boost foreign investment in the kingdom.

Prince Turki's comments come as neighboring Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates recently moved to normalize relations and establish ties with Israel.

Saudi Arabia has insisted that any normalization be-

## IN CONTEXT

Clement Attlee was the son of a solicitor, was educated at Oxford and trained as a barrister.

He joined the independent Labour Party in 1908 and became Labour MP for Limehouse from 1922 to 1950 and West Walthamstow in 1950 to 1955.

He was elected Labour leader in 1935 and saw his party sweep to victory in 1945 and again with a slim majority in 1950. They lost to the Conservatives in 1951 and from then on his leadership was questioned and his health declined.

A week after his resignation he was succeeded by Hugh Gaitskell.

First Earl Attlee died in 1967.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 Do not let lovers cost you money or take advantage of you. Anger could lead to problems. Jealous colleagues may try to undermine you. Don't let your emotions take over.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 Friendships will be ruined if you let too many people get involved in any disputes. Lovers will be less than accommodating, and decisions regarding personal direction a necessity.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 Don't overlook that fact that someone you care about may be hiding something. Try to spend time with those having similar interests. Your emotional partner will push the right buttons today.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 Don't let your emotions get out of hand. Don't let your partner get you going. Be prepared to encounter new friendships that will provide you with valuable information. Don't hold back.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 Minor accidents could occur if you don't take precautions. You are best to travel or attend lectures or seminars. Talk to an older, established individual about your present situation.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 You may have problems with children. You're undergoing changes. Don't let children or elders put demands on your time. Use your intellectual approach to get the best results.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 Don't let individuals with wild schemes talk you into a financial deal that is not likely to be successful. You can get the attention of important individuals but it might not be the time.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 Someone you care about may let you down or criticize your methods. Spend some quality time with your lover. You will want to take off and have some recreation.

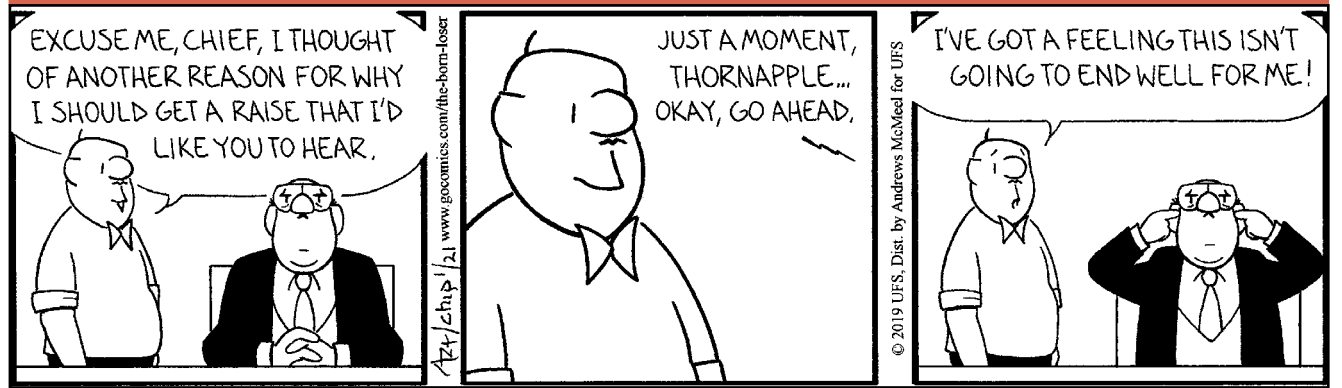
**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 Do not confront situations unless you are sure you have a good understanding of the dilemma. Don't play on your partner's emotions. Don't trust coworkers with important or personal information.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 You need to focus on yourself, not on others. You will be in the doghouse if you are being. You can sell your ideas to those who have the money to back them.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 Don't cause a scene, but when you get home let your partner know how you feel and why. You can help a close friend find solutions to personal problems. You need to spend less time daydreaming.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 Strong willpower will come to your rescue. Social events will be rewarding. Problems with your boss could lead to unemployment.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-4	2	clear
Harbin	-16	-9	clear
Tianjin	-2	2	clear
Urumqi	-14	-9	foggy
Xi'an	-1	6	overcast
Lhasa	-2	10	cloudy
Chengdu	6	9	overcast
Chongqing	9	11	drizzle
Kunming	7	17	cloudy
Nanjing	6	9	drizzle
Shanghai	9	13	cloudy
Wuhan	5	11	cloudy
Hangzhou	8	12	overcast
Taipei	19	22	moderate rain
Guangzhou	12	23	clear
Hong Kong	17	23	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-7	-5	clear
Frankfurt	1	4	sleet
Paris	1	4	overcast
London	3	5	overcast
New York	2	4	cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Dostoyevsky novel, with "The"; 6- Hankering; 10- Seethe; 14- Islamic decree; 15- Sci-fi princess; 16- Mozart's "\_\_\_ kleine Nachtmusik"; 17- Below the level of consciousness; 19- Starting; 20- UK honor; 21- Heavy metal; 22- Graceful; 24- Like some dorms; 25- Squabble; 26- Go with; 29- Vehicle with one wheel; 33- Hydrogen, carbon, oxygen, e.g.; 34- This \_\_\_ outrage!; 35- Queens stadium; 36- 500 sheets; 37- Argus-eyed; 38- Neighbor of Cambodia; 39- Defense grp. since 1949; 40- Sky color; 41- False move; 42- Superficial; 44- Places of contest; 45- Run smoothly; 46- Applaud; 47- Monger; 50- Muffin ingredient; 51- Seasonal beverage; 54- Hip bones; 55- Pertaining to the sense of hearing; 58- Brass component; 59- Capone's nemesis; 60- Beside oneself; 61- Ferrara family; 62- New Ager John; 63- Break off;

**DOWN** 1- Assuming that's true; 2- Paint unskillfully; 3- Let \_\_\_; 4- Nocturnal bird; 5- Suit makers; 6- Greek epic poem; 7- Watch over; 8- The Company; 9- 8 fluid ounces; 10- It's needed to look good; 11- River to the Seine; 12- Get \_\_\_ the ground floor; 13- Took off; 18- Bump into; 23- Varnish ingredient; 24- Ordinary; 25- Capture; 26- Merits; 27- Meat; 28- Raccoon-like carnivore; 29- Deplete; 30- Series of metal rings; 31- Hotelier Helmsley; 32- Bridge positions; 34- Less healthy; 37- Abnormal; 41- Frenzied; 43- Expected; 44- Woeful word; 46- Oppress grievously; 47- Dimensions; 48- New Haven students; 49- Navel buildup; 50- Manager; 51- Final Four org.; 52- Cereal grain; 53- Exultation; 56- Bee follower; 57- Dudgeon;

**Friday's solution**

S	E	R	A	T	E	L	L	E	L	A	N	D
I	R	O	C	O	B	O	E	R	O	T	O	R
C	I	T	E	A	S	P	S	E	A	R	T	O
A	C	E	T	A	T	E	S	E	C	T	I	O
O	M	E	N									
M	E	A	N	I	E	P	L	S	E			
O	T	O	F	E	R	E	A	S	E	T	A	C
A	N	N	S	I	N	G	E	R	E	A	D	A
N	A	E										
B	A	L	B	O	A							
A	M	I	A	B	L	E						
S	A	N	T	O								
T	I	N	K	E								
S	A	S	S									

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>Duplex in Central Macau</b>                  HK\$4,940,000 1,100ft² 2 2 1</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>Macau Riviera Open View</b>                  \$15,000/mth 866ft² 2 2 2</p>	<p><b>Rain Dance Property</b>                  "We dance until it's SOLD!"</p> <p><b>Amazing View Renovated Duplex apartment</b>                  HK\$4,200,000 817ft² 2 2 2</p>	<p><b>PROPERTY LIST</b></p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Unique Studio</i> 1 1 1                  650ft² \$3,780,000 (ref: 20076001)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Buckingham</i> 2 2 2                  1,439ft² \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)</p> <p>[Taipa] <i>Villa da Taipa</i> 3 2 2                  1,450ft² \$13,000/mth (ref: 20101002)</p> <p>[Cotai] <i>One Oasis high ceiling</i> 3 2 2                  2,100ft² \$30,000/mth (ref: 20111002)</p>
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Property of the Week



**Duplex in Central Macau**  
HK\$4,940,000 1,100 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 1



This apartment is hidden just behind the Hotel Royal nestled on a street within five minutes of the Guia Hill. Top floor of a walk up this property has been nicely renovated.

Good size living/ dining area with kitchen in separate room adjacent to the living space with a nice shower room on the same floor. At the back of the living space is a staircase leading up to two bedrooms on the top floor of the duplex, also a good size with built in cabinets. Owner occupied this property can be viewed anytime.

Viewing by appointment. Find out more on [www.jmlproperty.com](http://www.jmlproperty.com)

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



**Duplex 2 bedrooms**  
Pearl River view

**\$4,200,000**

817 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 2



Property Hotlist



**Unique Studio, Taipa**

**\$3,780,000**

650 ft<sup>2</sup>

1 1



**Macau Riviera Open View**

**\$15,000/mth**

866 ft<sup>2</sup>

2 2



**Houston Court, Coloane Village**

**\$10,500/mth**

980 ft<sup>2</sup>

1 1



More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Unique Studio 1 1 650 ft<sup>2</sup> \$3,780,000 (ref: 20076001)
- [Macau] 2 Bed Apartment 2 1 840 ft<sup>2</sup> \$4,580,000 (ref: 20016003)
- [Macau] Unique Loft unit 2 2 2,200 ft<sup>2</sup> \$9,990,000 (ref: 15115464)
- [Taipa] Buckingham 2 2 1,439 ft<sup>2</sup> \$11,770,000 (ref: 19045004)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden Fragrant Court 4 3 3,500 ft<sup>2</sup> \$24,000,000 (ref: 20036001)

For Rent

- [Taipa] Taipa Village 2 1 630 ft<sup>2</sup> \$12,500/mth (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Villa da Taipa 3 2 1,450 ft<sup>2</sup> \$13,000/mth (ref: 20101002)
- [Cotai] One Oasis high ceiling 3 2 2,100 ft<sup>2</sup> \$30,000/mth (ref: 20111002)
- [Taipa] Manhattan Luxury 3 2 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> \$19,800/mth (ref: 19091006)
- [Macau] Retail Shop, Barra area 1,968 ft<sup>2</sup> \$48,000/mth (ref: n/a)

Recent Movements

Rented

Taipa 4 beds apartment, 2 bath



Rented

Traditional apartment, Old Taipa Village 2 beds, 1 bath

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# TikTok sale deadline on hold as talks with US continue

KURT WAGNER, SHELLY BANJO & JENNIFER JACOBS

A deadline set by the Trump administration for the forced sale of TikTok's U.S. assets will come and go Friday without a final deal, according to people familiar with the discussions.

While the deadline has been extended multiple times, TikTok isn't expected to receive a new one, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the decision isn't yet public. TikTok is still in talks with the U.S. government about a sale that satisfies the administration's national security concerns, but Friday's deadline will be allowed to lapse while the discussions continue.

The U.S. Treasury Department told TikTok and Chinese parent company ByteDance Ltd. that they won't face a fine or other punishment for missing the deadline because the sides are still negotiating. The deal, which has



been in the works for months, is close to being finished, and the administration is eager to complete it before President-elect Joe Biden takes office on Jan. 20, according to one of the people.

The fate of TikTok, which has been downloaded more than

100 million times in the U.S., has been caught up for months in President Donald Trump's crackdown on Chinese technology companies and their influence in the U.S. The administration has argued that Americans' private data gathered through the app

could be handed over to the authoritarian regime in China, something TikTok has said it would never do.

Trump had ordered in August that the app be sold to an American firm or face a ban in the U.S. But as the presidential election loomed in November and now with a new president-elect, TikTok seems to have slipped off the top of Trump's agenda.

Trump gave his blessing in mid-September to a preliminary plan in which ByteDance would sell part of TikTok to Oracle Corp., Walmart Inc. and U.S. investors Sequoia Capital, KKR & Co. and General Atlantic, creating a new independent company called TikTok Global. But that deal has been stuck in limbo for months, and was quickly overshadowed by the U.S. election and rising Covid-19 cases.

ByteDance has said its proposal would put American companies and investors in charge of data and content moderation

for U.S. users, a key demand of the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., a panel led by the Treasury Department. The Treasury granted ByteDance its last extension a week ago because the department said it needed time to review a revised submission.

The White House declined to comment. A Treasury spokesperson said Friday night that Cfius was working with ByteDance to finish the divestment to resolve national security concerns.

China also will eventually need to give its blessing to the deal. State media has spoken out against Trump's order, and a foreign ministry spokesman called it "bullying."

TikTok has filed multiple challenges against the ban, which are winding their way through the courts, with deadlines in certain proceedings extending past January. Several judges have already blocked the ban from going into effect and the Commerce Department said it would comply with those court rulings as the government appeals.

Those cases could lapse when Biden takes office in January, unless he decides to enforce the Trump ban and defend the previous administration's orders in court. **BLOOMBERG**

DEC 11

THoDW

**STANDBY**

FAREWELL PARTY

DJ ABELX | JRD | TIMMY KELLY | MATTEO

150 MOP ENTRANCE FEE  
2 DRINKS

50 MOP GO TO ANIMA & MASDAW

anima 澳門新奧麗安館

MASDAW 澳門新奧麗安館

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**Obstetrics & Gynaecology** : Dr. Fong Kuan lo

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OPINION

World Views

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CAN CHINA'S COVID RECOVERY CONTINUE?

In China's post-Covid economy, there may be hope for the struggling private sector made up of millions of small businesses. It needs to stay that way.

Unlike previous recoveries, fixed asset investment in the private sphere is rising, continuing an upward trend by climbing 9.1% in September compared to a year earlier, while growing at a slower pace in the public sector after declining in the previous month. Manufacturers of cars and other industrial equipment, for instance, are consuming more power and their profits are rising, too. That's a turnaround from the lows private enterprises (more so than their state-owned peers) hit in February, when cash was tight and many were pushed to the brink.

There are other signs of improving financial health. A look at the prospectus of credit facilitator Lufax Holding Ltd. shows that in the third quarter, the ratio of overdue loans as well as delinquency rates improved significantly. Lufax, backed by

Ping An Insurance Group Co., is one of the largest non-financial service providers, with about around 300 billion yuan (\$38 billion) of loans outstanding to small firms. At Jack Ma's Ant Group Co., delinquency rates over the past year tapered off and have plateaued at around 2% to 3%.

After plunging earlier this year, employment is beginning to look better. Small and medium firms account for around 80% of urban jobs. This matters. The government is generally thought to be able to engineer recovery for state-owned enterprises. In fact, it can actually do the same for the private sector, which accounts for more than 60% of gross domestic product, 75% of industrial production and 60% of fixed asset investment, according to analysts from HSBC Holdings Plc.

Over the next couple of weeks, Beijing will unveil the latest five-year plan – a blueprint for how it will steer the economy, including an indication of priority sectors and where money will go. Innovation and all things automation will be front and center. The private sphere and small businesses – which are more efficient on a return-on-assets basis – are what's needed here. In keeping with that, robot production volumes are up sharply over the last six months.

Sure, there's the risk that repeated outbreaks and lockdowns will once again derail small companies. The flip-flopping availability of credit could also sap their working capital. They remain financially underserved. But on a monthly basis, capital expenditure financing is growing – for now. New players like Ant and Lufax are playing a larger role.

Can Beijing maintain this momentum? Going by the temporary measures to tide companies through the Covid-19 recovery – like tax exemptions and refunds, and lowering value-added tax, rent and utility bills on small businesses – perhaps. Social security tax cuts amount to around 16% of first-half profits for such companies, according to HSBC analysts. Trouble is, these aren't sustainable. How will the government build its social safety net if exemptions drag on? How long can it go with reduced tax revenues?

State planners now want to match domestic supply with domestic demand. If demand can't be maintained and the private sector recovery fades, it won't work. Many people and small firms have already been displaced by the uneven recovery, and they won't be able to drive demand. If construction slows dramatically, suppliers of materials, machinery and equipment could struggle. As new sectors are pushed to boost productivity, older ones are shrinking. The latter amount to a big chunk of the manufacturing labor market.

Longer-term measures in the form of tax incentives and credits for small companies will be needed to drive a prolonged recovery. Crucially, Beijing must make sure money keeps getting to these firms. Without them, the recent comeback risks going pear-shaped.

ST. NICHOLAS VISITS CZECH CHILDREN WHILE ADAPTING TO VIRUS

Every year on Dec. 5, Nicholas appears in costume on streets across the European country, joined by a winged angel and a masked devil rattling a metal chain.

The trio goes door-to-door visiting children and giving them candy and small gifts.

The Czech health minister insisted the traditional trio needed to follow the government's infection-control measures just like everyone else, which meant wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

A new circus company in Prague offered another option. The troupe set up an imaginary heaven and hell and invited families to come in cars to watch devils jumping, angels flying and Saint Nicholas waving.

A long line of cars at the La Putyka Circus base in Prague formed an eager audience for the drive-thru performance. The kids still hoped to find a stocking filled with chocolates, oranges and nuts on a window, but with the angel, devil and Nicholas in town, they know it won't be long until Christmas.



JAPANESE SPACE OFFICIALS EAGER TO ANALYZE ASTEROID SAMPLES



The capsule, dropped by Hayabusa2 is seen before being retrieved in southern Australia

JAPANESE space officials said they are excited about the return of a capsule that landed safely in the Australian Outback on Sunday while carrying soil samples from a distant asteroid, and that they are eager to begin analyzing the "treasure" inside.

The capsule's delivery by Japan's Hayabusa2 spacecraft completes its six-year sample-return mission and opens the door for research into finding clues to the origin of the solar system and life on Earth.

"We were able to land the treasure box" onto the sparsely populated Australian desert of Woomera as planned, said Yuichi Tsuda, Hayabusa2 project manager at the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA, adding that the capsule was in perfect shape. "I really look forward to opening it and looking inside."

The capsule will be packed in a container as soon as its preliminary treatment at an Australian lab is finished and brought back to Japan this week, Satoru Nakazawa, a project sub-manager, said during an online news conference from Woomera.

Hayabusa2 left the asteroid Ryugu, about 300 million kilometers (180 million miles) from Earth, a year ago. After it released the capsule on Saturday, it

set off on a new expedition to another distant asteroid.

Tsuda said Hayabusa2's successful completion of its inter-planetary round trip is the world's first and that he hoped to use the expertise gained in future planetary exploration, possibly Japan's MMX mission to Mars' moons beginning in 2024.

Scientists say they believe the samples, especially ones taken from under the asteroid's surface, contain valuable data unaffected by space radiation and other environmental factors. They are particularly interested in organic materials in the samples to find out how they are distributed in the solar system and related to life on Earth.

"And then the sample will start to tell its stories and reveal to us some wonderful signs about how water arrived on our Earth and how we even may have been formed, such as our organics, carbon-based animals, humans and plants," said Megan Clark, head of the Australian Space Agency, who was also at the news conference.

The return of the capsule with the world's first asteroid subsurface samples comes weeks after NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft made a successful touch-and-go grab of surface samples from the asteroid Bennu. China, meanwhile,

announced recently that its lunar lander collected underground samples and sealed them within the spacecraft for return to Earth, as space developing nations compete in their missions.

JAXA officials said the Ryugu samples will be handled in clean chambers to avoid any impact on the samples. Initial research is planned in the first six months, and the samples will be distributed to NASA and other key international research groups, with about 40% stored for future technological advancement to resolve unanswered questions.

More than 70 JAXA staff had been working in Woomera to prepare for the sample return. They set up satellite dishes at several locations in the target area inside the Australian Air Force test field to receive the signals.

The pan-shaped capsule, about 40 centimeters in diameter, was found inside the planned landing area and retrieved by a helicopter team from JAXA.

For Hayabusa2, it's not the end of the mission. It is now heading to a small asteroid called 1998KY26 on a journey slated to take 11 years one way, for possible research into planetary defense, such as finding ways to prevent meteorites from hitting Earth. AP

Italian police arrested 19 suspects, dismantling what authorities say was a criminal organization that moved migrants from Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq and Pakistan to Italy and then into northern Europe. The investigation, led by prosecutors in Catania, Sicily, unveiled a network that involved hired or stolen sailboats transporting migrants via Turkey and Greece to Italy. Some then traveled north to the French border and were smuggled by vehicle into France, thanks to human smugglers based in border towns, police said in a statement.



Austria Several communities in the Austrian Alps put mass coronavirus testing on hold yesterday and others were urged to do the same after a storm dumped huge amounts of snow, sending some avalanche warnings to their highest level. Some parts of the province of Tyrol saw 70 centimeters of snow fall overnight Saturday, and another 110 centimeters were expected yesterday.



US The Pentagon said it is pulling most troops out of Somalia on President Donald Trump's orders, continuing a post-election push by Trump to shrink U.S. involvement in counterterrorism missions abroad. Without providing details, the Pentagon said in a short statement that "a majority" of U.S. troops and assets in Somalia will be withdrawn in early 2021.

US A new report by a National Academy of Sciences committee has found that "directed" microwave radiation is the likely cause of illnesses among American diplomats in Cuba and China. The study commissioned by the State Department and released Saturday is the latest attempt to find a cause for the mysterious illnesses that started to emerge in late 2016 among U.S. personnel in Havana.