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MORGAN STANLEY HAS LOWERED ITS 2021 GGR FORECAST BY AROUND 10% TO NEARLY USD23.7 BILLION, OWING TO THE STRONG HEADWINDS AGAINST THE VIP SECTOR P4

THE GOVERNMENT'S PROCUREMENT LIMIT VALUE PROPOSED TO INCREASE SIX-FOLD P3

LAS VEGAS SANDS HAS HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH POTENTIAL PARTNERS IN THE FIELD OF SPORTS BETTING, A MAJOR SHIFT IN THE COMPANY'S STRATEGY P5

China A city in northern China is offering rewards of 500 yuan (\$77) for anyone who reports on a resident who has not taken a recent coronavirus test. Those found noncompliant will be forced to undergo testing and a two-week quarantine at their own expense. The offer from the government of Nangong comes as millions in the city and its surrounding province of Hebei are being tested as part of efforts to control China's most serious recent outbreak of COVID-19.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un threatened to expand his nuclear arsenal as he disclosed a list of high-tech weapons systems under development, saying the fate of relations with the United States depends on whether it abandons its hostile policy, state media reported Saturday.



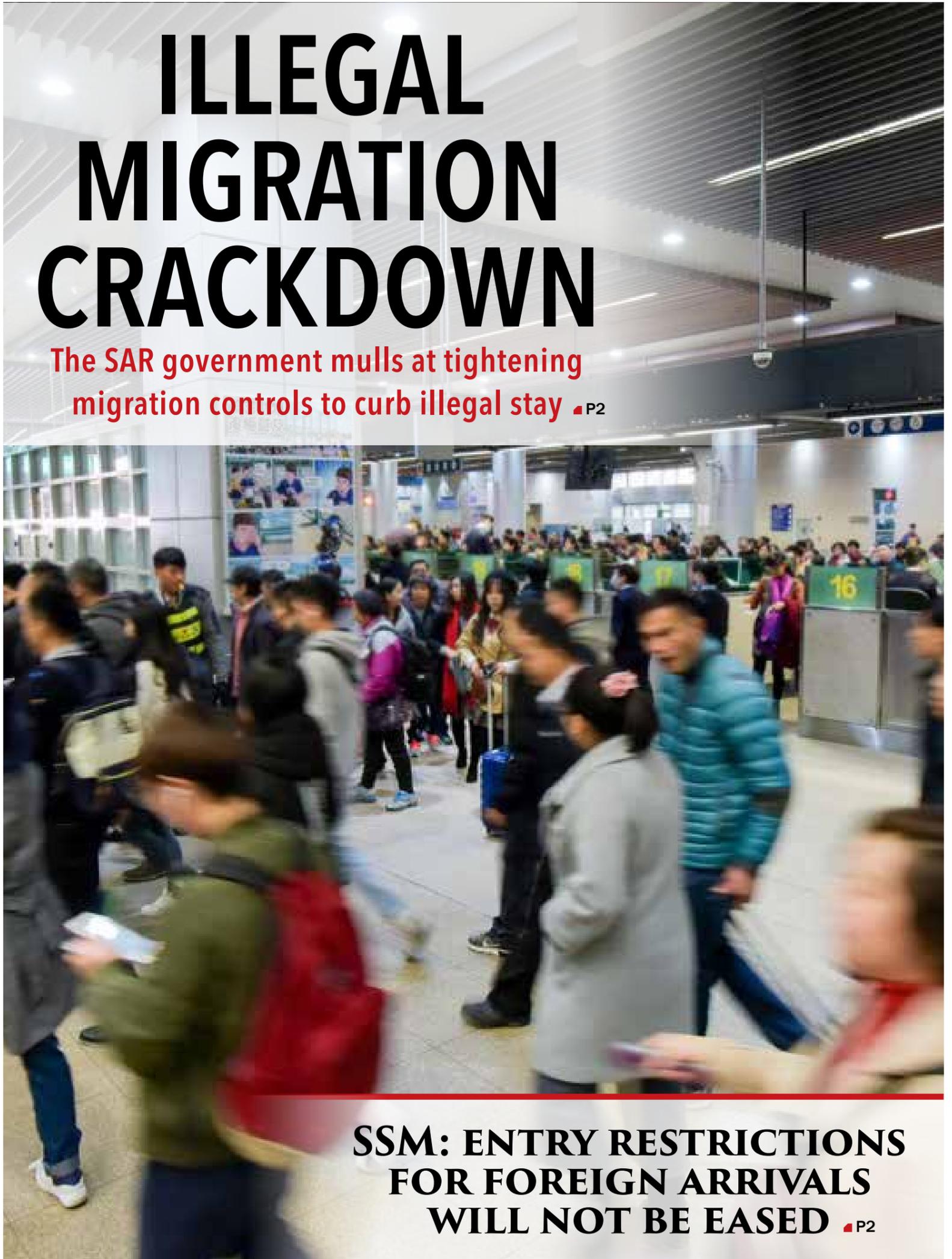
Indonesia Two landslides triggered by heavy rain left at least 11 dead and 18 injured, officials said yesterday. The second landslide in Cihanjuang village in the Sumedang district of West Java province occurred as rescuers were still evacuating people following the first disaster from the day before.

Afghanistan A roadside bomb exploded in the capital yesterday, killing at least three people in a vehicle, the latest attack to take place even as government negotiators are in Qatar to resume peace talks with the Taliban. Tariq Arian, spokesman for the interior minister, said a spokesman for the ministry's public protection forces — a security force — was one of the three killed in the attack. One other person was wounded he said.

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ILLEGAL MIGRATION CRACKDOWN

The SAR government mulls at tightening migration controls to curb illegal stay P2



SSM: ENTRY RESTRICTIONS FOR FOREIGN ARRIVALS WILL NOT BE EASED P2



GOV'T LOOKING TO TIGHTEN IMMIGRATION CONTROL

JULIE ZHU

THE Executive Council (ExCo) has completed its discussion on the amendment of laws relating to immigration control, staying permits and residency, the ExCo said during a press conference on Friday.

In particular, the draft amendment introduces specific conditions to suspend the counting of the 60-day detention period and precautionary detention measures for individuals who enter or stay in Macau illegally, to prevent them from intentionally delaying their stay in the city.

Under the current law, the local government issues these individuals temporary staying Per-

mits. However, the government has reported security problems caused by individuals using this permit to stay.

In addition, the government proposed regarding illegal departure and entry into Macau as an administrative violation in order to effectively manage border control.

"In terms of the penal regime, it is proposed to integrate acts of solicitation and the provision of assistance to others to illegally leave the Macau SAR within the scope of the crimes of 'solicitation' and 'assistance,'" the statement read.

The proposal criminalizes acts that facilitate the assistance and reception of individuals who car-

ry out fraudulent deeds in order to stay in Macau.

This proposed law will be discussed at the Legislative Assembly.

Mechanisms are also introduced to enforce liability of legal persons.

The amendment proposes that hotels should register non-resident guests aged over 16 and registration data must be sent to the immigration authority within 24 hours.

"With reference to common international practice, measures for the collection and verification of biological elements from visitors are [being] introduced to effectively detect false identities and to better prevent and combat

illegal immigration and illegal stay," the Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong said.

"Fingerprints, palm prints, iris and retina scans are all effective in combating fake identity. There are already regulatory laws that oblige hotels to register the guests in case of police inquiry," said Ng Kam Wa, commissioner of the Public Security Police Force (PSP). "We have chosen a very mature technology."

According to Ng, these amendments are made to facilitate the security authority's crackdown on those staying illegally using non-factual marriages and non-factual adoptions.

FAKE MARRIAGE TO BE CHARGED AS FRAUD

Currently, the security authority and the prosecution authority has been charging parties involved in a non-factual marriage with document forgery. Once convicted, offenders will face two to eight years in prison.

"Under the current law, 'fake marriage' is prosecuted under the charge of document forgery. There are difficulties in prosecuting this way," said Ng. "There are different opinions among the judicial organizations."

Once the new amendment is passed and comes into effect, a non-factual marriage will be regarded as a fraudulent act.

"Two to eight years imprisonment is a proper length and it is not lenient," said Ng.

Meanwhile, it is established that non-residents of the Macau SAR should, in due course, deal with travel documents for their children born in Macau SAR and notify the immigration authorities accordingly.

According to Ng, there have been rare cases in Macau of non-resident couples having children in Macau but not registering them. Once the children became adults, the couple then requested the Macau government provide them with staying permit due for humanitarian reasons.

MORE RANKINGS PROPOSED FOR PRISON OFFICERS

THE Executive Council (ExCo) has completed discussion on the amendment of the draft of law no.7/2006. The amendment proposes adding three more rankings for prison officers. The three newly created positions are: prison superintendent, prison sub-intendent,

and superior chief. With the three new positions, there will be 10 categories in total with regards to prison officers. It is proposed that the salary and academic qualifications for these positions will be similar to those for personnel in the security forces.

Health authority confirms entry restrictions for foreign arrivals will not be eased

HONEY TSANG

DIRECTOR of the Health Bureau Lei Chin Ion reiterated the significance of not easing entry restrictions imposed on foreign arrivals, as a heightened risk of spreading infection in the city still remains for foreign nationals.

"It cannot be 100% guaranteed that foreigners will not spread the virus to [Macau's] medical staff and workers in the quarantine hotels," Lei emphasized in a written reply to lawmaker Sou Ka Hou's earlier query

about whether the SAR government will consider relaxing entry for foreigners who are family members of local citizens.

The city's healthcare system cannot handle a large number of Covid-19 cases. Hence, the government has temporarily barred entry for all foreigners until the pandemic subsides. This is intended to "ensure public safety," he added.

All foreign visitors have been banned from visiting Macau since March 18 last year, and the ban was extended to foreign non-

-resident workers the next day. Since then, some locals have been forced to be apart from their spouses or children who are non-Macau residents living overseas.

The situation has been less gloomy since December 1, when the government started to grant exemptions on the entry ban for foreigners who have "essential public interests" to Macau, including those who are important to the city's battle against Covid-19 and emergency services, or those who are influential in

sustaining the daily operation of the city.

The exemption scheme also applies to foreigners who have stayed in China for three consecutive weeks before coming to Macau. However, they must have a justifiable reason for entry.

In the same query made in November 2020, Sou also asked why the government has resumed travel with China since mid-August but not with Taiwan, which has kept their number of locally transmitted cases at zero for months.

"The city's pandemic



situation and preventive measures against Covid-19 are consistent with that of China," Lei explained. Hence, cross-border travel flow between Macau and China can be resumed.

Lei added that Macau's prevention policies against Covid-19 have been in line with China's. As of now, China is still imposing a 14-day mandatory quarantine on all arrivals from Taiwan.

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For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

GBA VISIT

CE meets with Guangdong provincial officials to strengthen cooperation

ANTHONY LAM

CHIEF Executive (CE) Ho Iat Seng is continuing his four-day trip in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area (GBA), making his latest stop at the provincial capital of Guangzhou as of press time.

On Saturday, the Special Administrative Region's (SAR) government head arrived in the provincial capital, where he met with Li Xi, Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Provincial Secretary, and Ma Xingrui, Provincial Governor, in addition to other Guangdong and Guangzhou officials.

The meeting mainly focused on the joint prevention and control of Covid-19, the collaborative promotion of the Guangdong-Macau Intensive Cooperation Zone in



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng meets with the Secretary of the CPC Dongguan Municipal Committee and the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Dongguan Municipal People's Congress, Liang Weidong

Hengqin, and furthering Macau's participation in the GBA.

Both governments agreed that there is no room for complacency in the control of the pandemic.

The SAR government head also

took the chance to stress that Macau is now a safe city, with its residents consciously implementing pandemic control and prevention measures.

Mainland tourists without any

travel history to mid-risk areas in the preceding two weeks are exempt from quarantine when arriving in Macau.

Before arriving in the provincial capital, the CE made a stop

in Foshan. Ho and the SAR delegation visited a pharmaceutical company, where the group was briefed about manufacturing procedures for Patented Chinese medicine drink powders, the formulation of the products and the quality control processes.

The delegation also paid a visit to Foshan Lingnan Tiandi to gain a better understanding of the community regeneration project and its operation model, involving the arts and commercial elements. The delegation additionally visited a Foshan, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan youth entrepreneur base to gather more information about young people starting businesses.

Later, the CE met with the deputy secretary of the Foshan Municipal Committee of the CCP and Secretary of the CCP Shunde District Committee, Guo Wenhai, to exchange views on culture, tourism, scientific technology and traditional Chinese medicine.

During the meeting, Ho proposed a number of methods to deepen bilateral ties, such as bolstering exchanges in gastronomy as both Macau and Shunde are listed as UNESCO Cities of Gastronomy.

On Friday, the CE visited Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing.

Gov't's procurement limit value proposed to increase six-fold

JULIE ZHU

THE Executive Council (ExCo) has completed its discussion on the amendment of law No. 122/48/M, during which the government proposed increasing the limit value of public procurement six times, the ExCo announced at a press conference on Friday.

The council referred to the changes in the prices of local consumer products, raw materials for production and construction materials, as well as wages and salaries paid in recent years.

"The Macau SAR has drafted the present law proposal, proposing the increase by six times the limit values of all procurement procedures defined in the regimes for expenses with works and acquisition of goods and services approved by decree-law no. 122/84/M," the ExCo stated.

"This is to simplify the procurement procedures and increase administrative efficiency, as well as to help the Macau SAR to take advantage of the administration's development investment and expenditure plan, even more effectively with a view to adjust and stabi-

lize the economy, promoting the sustainable development of society."

According to the Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong, this proposed change does not affect open public tenders.

"We all know that the limit value written in the current law reflects the value from the 1980's, which both the public and the government know are incompatible with the current reality," said Cheong.

The city's current law suggests that engineering projects worth over 2.5 million patacas and service and asset projects worth 750,000 patacas must go through a tender process.

Once the amendment comes into effect, the limit for these two types of procurement will go up to 12 million patacas and 4.5 million patacas, respectively.

"As for the overall public procurement, not just the value, the government has received many opinions which it needs to contemplate. We will first adjust the value. As for the improvement of the entire law, we hope we can make a proposal in 2021," said Cheong.

MORE REPATRIATION FLIGHTS ORGANIZED FOR STRANDED MIGRANT WORKERS

RENATO MARQUES

THE Philippine and Indonesian consulates are organizing additional flights for the growing number of stranded non-resident workers in Macau, the Times has learned.

According to information provided by the Consulate General of the Philippines in Macau, two flights operated by Filipino national flag carrier Philippine Airlines will be repatriating Filipino nationals who wish to return home.

In most cases, the stranded migrant workers claim that they have been pleading to return to their country after losing their jobs in Macau as a consequence of contract terminations.

According to Philippine Consul General Lilybeth Deapera, the consulate still has 750 requests for help with repatriation.

TDM radio reported late last week that the first of the two flights will leave Macau on January 15 and is expected to carry a total of 195 people.

Deapera also confirmed that among the 195 passengers, there are several pregnant women and a few children. The consula-

LYNZY VALLES



te has prioritized them, as well as people with medical conditions who need to seek treatment in their homeland.

The two flights will be 14th and 15th charter flights organized by the consulate in Macau since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic respectively.

A new law for the hiring of migrant workers came into force in October and, therefore, prevents the re-hiring of stranded workers.

Due to similar circumstances, the Indonesian Consulate Office in Macau is also currently organizing a flight to repatriate some nationals from Macau.

This will be the fifth time the consulate has as-

sisted Indonesian citizens to leave Macau. On previous occasions, Indonesian nationals have been

authorized to travel from Macau to Hong Kong International Airport to fly to Indonesia.

WORKERS FROM MACAU NOT LIKELY TO BE INVOLVED IN INDONESIAN PLANE CRASH

FORMER workers in Macau who were repatriated to Indonesia are not likely to have been involved in the crash of flight SJ182 from Indonesian airliner Sriwijaya Air, the head of the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (IMWU) in Macau, Yosa Wariyanti, told the Times. After the accident, rumors have been circulating on social media that three of the airplane passengers were former workers in Macau. Wariyanti clarified to the Times that the last repatriation flight organized with the Indonesian Consulate Office in Macau occurred about three months ago, hence there should be no direct link between repatriation efforts and the accident which occurred last Saturday.

NEW ARTICLE ASKS TEACHERS TO REPORT THEIR OWN TARDINESS

The government has included another article in law No.67/99/M requesting teachers submit a written report if they arrive late at work or leave duty early. The law specifically concerns teachers at public schools. The government added the new article to the law so that teachers have to explain to school leadership when they are late or leave work early.

TRAFFIC DETOUR AT GALAXY ROUNDABOUT TO REMAIN FOR AT LEAST SIX MONTHS

Due to the construction of a flyover above the roundabout in front of the Galaxy Macau property, the intersection will have a temporarily detour in place for traffic for at least half a year. The detour will suspend the roundabout, but vehicles going to certain directions will need to make turns at the junction. In order to facilitate the intersecting traffic, the government has installed eight sets of traffic lights near the area.

GAMING

2021 GGR FORECAST CUT BY MORGAN STANLEY DUE TO 'WEAKER VIP' SECTOR

HONEY TSANG

INTERNATIONAL investment bank Morgan Stanley has lowered its projected tally for Macau's gross gaming revenue (GGR) by around 10% to nearly USD23.7 billion, owing to the strong headwinds against the VIP gaming sector.

The financial institution's adjusted GGR is around 65% of the full-year aggregate of MOP292.5 billion recorded in 2019.

Morgan Stanley's latest adjustment to Macau's gaming outlook came the same day Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong reaffirmed the government's forecast that Macau would yield MOP130 billion in GGR in 2021, or around 44.5% of 2019 levels.

Weaker performance expected in the city's VIP gaming sector will be the key dampener to the overall GGR, said Morgan Stanley.

The financial firm forecasts the receipts from the VIP sector in 2021 to reach only 40% of 2019 levels. They also does not expect the figures to rebound to 2019's figures even in 2022, said the

BLOOMBERG



firm's analysts.

Meanwhile, the mass market may perform better than the VIP sector, with its 2021 revenue expected to generate around 80% of 2019's level.

Considering the gloomy outlook for the VIP segment, the city's two leading junket brands, Suncity and Tak Chun, are now "taking stakes in casinos and diversifying away from pure junket business," the analysts pointed out.

China's new and more stringent gambling law, which crimi-

nizes people who organize for Chinese citizens to take part in gambling activities, is also on the horizon. It will come into force on March 1 and is expected to create a huge blow to Macau's VIP market.

The financial firm is also scaling down its forecast for corporate earnings before interest, taxation, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of Macau's casino operators in 2021 from the previous \$7.16 billion to \$6.43 billion, representing a 10.3% drop.

The cost-saving strategies adopted by the city's casino operators during Covid-19 are expected to boost the EBITDA margin higher, stated the analysts.

According to the report, the operating expenses for casino operators in Macau (excluding taxes, VIP rebates and one-off bonus reversal) dropped 39% year-on-year in the third quarter of 2020.

Hence, the institution has raised its 2022 forecast for corporate EBITDA by 4% to almost \$9.97 billion.

Director-General accuses former Global Media Group board for betraying 'Plataforma' project

RENATO MARQUES

THE Director-General of Plataforma, Paulo Rego, has accused the former board of directors of the Portuguese Global Media Group (GMG) for failing to fulfill their contractual agreements, leading the media outlet to halt online operations in Lisbon.

The announcement, which was revealed in an editorial published in Macau's weekly bilingual newspaper Plataforma Macau last Friday, was explained by Rego to the Times in a phone interview. Rego explained the implications of GMG's decision to remove their financial support from the operation.

"A few months ago, we reached 600,000 unique views [on our new online platform] and this was only possible due to the agreements made with Global Media that had a content element, a financial element and even a human



[resources] element, since several journalists from Global Media took part with us in that joint-venture," said Rego.

He added that problems arose when the company started failing its "vision" due to internal issues related to GMG. These "imposed the spin-off of this project that was a joint one and that [Plataforma] and I had to take it on as we were already on a growth path as agreed by all parties during

"Global Media betrayed the project, the agreements, and the vision of a stakeholder."

PAULO REGO
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF PLATAFORMA

the negotiations that occurred [prior]."

"What has happened now," explained Rego, "is that those agreements which allowed the spin-off of the

project are not being fulfilled by Global Media. By not fulfilling those agreements, they also do not satisfy the vision or the requirements of Kevin Ho [leader of

KJN Investment and a 30% stakeholder in GMG]." He also noted that in this sense "Global Media betrayed the project, the agreements and the vision of a stakeholder."

For Rego, GMG's decision has had drastic effects on the project, namely on its international and online arms which were operating in Macau and Lisbon, and were starting in two other cities in Brazil and Angola.

The non-fulfillment of the agreements by GMG forces the expansion to Brazil and Angola to pause, drastically impacting the operation in Lisbon and leaving Plataforma [alone handling] the costs of at least half a dozen of journalists that were [in the past] on the payroll of GMG and have moved to the payroll of Plataforma [according to the agreements made]. We took on the costs but now we must reduce as we cannot continue to produce at that cost, which comes from a contract that is not being fulfilled," he said.

Rego also expressed hope that the new board and stakeholders, comprising of Grupo Bel, which has acquired a 40% stake in the conglomerate, are now integrating into GMG and can reach an agreement with the other major stakeholder, KNJ Investment, to solve the problem.

"Let's see how the new management [handles the] settlement with Plataforma and the vision of internationalization," Rego said.

"One of the changes that Plataforma is preparing, which does not result from financial circumstances but instead of its vision and strategy, is on the strengthening [of contents] in Chinese language and in the proximity to the Chinese community in Macau," Rego added.

Portuguese entrepreneur Marco Galinha, who leads the Portuguese business group Grupo Bel, said in a short statement, "Unfortunately we did not have the time yet to update ourselves on all the matters [related to GMG]."

"There are priorities [already settled] and the relationship with Macau [with Plataforma] is to restart," he revealed.

GAMING

Parent company of Sands China discusses push into sports betting

LAS Vegas Sands Corp., the parent company of Sands China Ltd. has had discussions with potential partners in the fast-growing field of sports betting, setting the stage for a major shift in the company's strategy, according to people familiar with the situation.

Robert Goldstein, acting chief executive officer, is in the early stages of talks, but plans could involve using the Sands brands or the broader development of a betting platform by the company, said the people, who asked not be identified because the discussions are private.

The company announced this week that its founder and long-time CEO, Sheldon Adelson, is taking medical leave. Creating a sports betting platform may mean embracing online wagering - something Adelson has previously opposed. The billionaire has lobbied to prevent its legalization at the local and national level, based on moral grounds. Adelson has said he believes online games such as virtual slot machines make it too easy for patrons to lose money.

Shares of Las Vegas Sands rose as much as 2.8% on the news before retreating.

Sands is the world's largest casino company, but it's the only major U.S.-based player not to develop some kind of sports-betting strategy.

Nineteen states now offer sports betting and six more have approved it and are awaiting implementation, according to the American Gaming Association, a trade group. The market is expected to explode to as much as \$10 billion by 2025 from about \$1.6 billion last year, the consulting firm Vixio Gambling Compliance estimates.



DEAL FRENZY

The casino industry has seen a frenzy of deal-making around sports wagers and online betting, driven in part by the surging stock price of DraftKings Inc., an industry leader. Just this week, MGM Resorts International announced an \$11 billion offer for Entain Plc, parent of the Ladbrokes betting shops and other online wagering businesses.

"There's a real pressure to make sure you're in position to cash in on the pretty substantial thirst for online gambling," said Chris Grove, an analyst at Eilers & Krejcek Gaming LLC. "A lot of companies were caught by surprise by the kind of explosion it's received."

Sands has long offered a sportsbook in its flagship Venetian resort in Las Vegas, but that business was outsourced to Cantor Gaming,

now a part of William Hill Plc, which is being acquired by Caesars Entertainment Inc.

While sports betting has been growing rapidly, other forms of online betting have been as well, and those games are more profitable than sports wagers alone.

Sands, like all casino operators, has been struggling to cope with a steep drop in business due to the global coronavirus pandemic. Betting at the company's casinos in Macau, Singapore and Las Vegas remains well below pre-pandemic levels. Online wagering is seen as a way for land-based casino operators to diversify.

Adelson has also proposed selling the company's Las Vegas resorts if he can get the \$6 billion price he's looking for. That money could be reinvested in new markets, such as New York or Texas, as those states allow expanded casino opportunities, or in the company's existing markets in Asia, which make up the bulk of Sands' revenue. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

ADELSON'S ABSENCE HAS NO IMPLICATIONS ON OPERATION, SAYS ANALYSTS

THE absence of Sheldon Adelson in his roles as chairman-cum-chief executive officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp (LVS) for medical reasons will not adversely affect the group's operation, Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. and JP Morgan Securities (Asia Pacific) Ltd both confirmed.

On January 7, LVS released a statement saying that Adelson, 87, has taken medical leave for treatment of lymphoma.

Adelson has also been chairman and CEO of Sands China Ltd, the Macau unit of the LVS.

In the meantime, Robert Goldstein, the conglomerate's president and chief operating officer, is taking up Adelson's roles as acting chairman and CEO of both LVS and Sands China, the statement said.

Following the announcement, Deutsche Bank Se-

curities Inc. released a statement last week, saying, "We do not believe there will be concerns around a change in strategy in Mr. Adelson's absence."

The financial institution holds confidence that Goldstein "is more than simply well equipped to perform the active duties" during the absence of Adelson.

The same day, JP Morgan Securities said Sands China has always been managed by a "local management team." Hence, it does not anticipate any changes to the Macau unit's operation.

"It's also unlikely that the group's strategic direction changes with this appointment, since we have long viewed Mr. Goldstein as 'the next man up,'" stressed JP Morgan.

This is the second time Adelson has taken medical leave due to lymphoma. **HT**

SULU SOU ASKS GOV'T TO PROVIDE CRUCIAL INFORMATION IN ENGLISH

After receiving inquiries from some second and third-generation Indian residents of Macau, lawmaker Sulu Sou is requesting the government consider providing crucial information, such as that related to Covid-19, in English, alongside Chinese and Portuguese. He added that he was told that the help-seekers were born and raised in Macau, are fluent in English and can manage basic communication in Cantonese. Sou pointed out that nearly 10% of the city's population is of an ethnicity other than Chinese and Portuguese.

NG KUOK CHEONG ASKS FOR KA-HO CHAPEL AREA TO BE RENAMED

Citing the name that the late Friar Gaetano Nicosia gave to the former Ka-Ho leprosarium - now a community facility - lawmaker Ng Kuok Cheong is requesting the government to officially rename the area the Our Lady Village of Ka-Ho and refrain from referring to the ex-leprosarium. He stressed that the new name will show respect for the late priest. He also is asking to transform some of the architecture into galleries which showcase the history of the location.

MGM affirms 'no plans of restructuring' following Snow Lake's open letter

MGM China Holdings Ltd published a statement to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange on January 8 reaffirming that it "has no plans of restructuring."

This statement was in response to an open letter issued earlier by its largest public shareholder Snow Lake Capital which urged MGM Resorts International to sell off 20% of its MGM

China stakes to a leading Chinese consumer or travel and leisure company.

MGM China stated in the statement that the group's board of directors is "aware" of the open letter.

"The Board will continue to communicate with the company's shareholders and operate the company in the best interests of its shareholders and stakehol-

ders, enhancing shareholder value and performance of the Company," the statement stated.

The open letter, issued on January 6 by the Asian investment management firm which holds 7.5% of MGM China Holdings Ltd's 2282.HK shares, had sparked debates about how MGM Resorts International and MGM China would

react to the recommendations of selling MGM China's stakes.

Snow Lake regarded the proposed transaction as a "win-win transaction" that will help MGM China diversify from gaming and secure a new gaming concession in 2022.

Currently, MGM Resorts has a 56% stake in MGM China. **HT**



US EASES RESTRICTIONS ON CONTACT WITH TAIWAN IN JAB AT CHINA

STEPHEN CUNNINGHAM

THE U.S. will remove decades-old, self-imposed restrictions on how its diplomats and other officials interact with Taiwan, a move that may inflame tensions with Beijing just a little over a week before President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in.

"For several decades the State Department has created complex internal restrictions to regulate our diplomats, service members, and other officials' interactions with their Taiwanese counterparts," Secretary of State Michael Pompeo said in a statement Saturday in Washington. "No more."

The announcement was the latest in a series of moves by the Trump administration to reshape the U.S. relationship with Taiwan. Donald Trump accepted a telephone call from Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen weeks before taking office in January 2017, has said his support for the "One China" policy was contingent on getting better trade deals, announced arms sales, and sent senior officials to Taipei.

"While the implications of the announcement are not yet clear, it seems the intent is to nudge unofficial U.S.-Taiwan relations toward something more akin to official ties," said Maggie Lewis, a law professor at Seton Hall Law School who has written extensively on Taiwan and China.

China opposes meetings between U.S. and Taiwanese officials and has made no secret of its displeasure at improving ties between Washington and Taipei.



Secretary of State Michael Pompeo

The Chinese foreign ministry didn't respond to a request for comment on the latest announcement.

Taiwan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Joseph Wu said in a tweet that he was grateful to Pompeo for "lifting restrictions unnecessarily limiting our engagements."

"The closer partnership between Taiwan and the U.S. is firmly based on our shared values, common interests and unshakable belief in freedom and democracy," the minister said.

FUTURE CONTACTS

Going forward, executive branch agencies should consider all "contact guidelines" concerning relations with Taiwan previously issued by the State Department to be null and void, Pompeo said.

The U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Kelly Craft is expected to visit Taiwan this week. That will be the first such visit since Taiwan was excluded from the UN in 1971, and she will meet with senior Taiwanese counterparts.

China's foreign ministry had

earlier called Craft's visit "a breach of the One China principle" and accused Pompeo of "staging a final show of madness" to "sabotage China-U.S. relations."

The announcement by Pompeo is one of a number the administration has launched or strengthened in the final days of its term, including an initiative to punish companies with close ties to the Chinese military.

BEDROCK POLICY

"Best case, the Biden Administration sees this as a blank slate

and starts an internal process to develop what the ideal U.S.-Taiwan engagement structure and process looks like, consistent with the unofficial relationship, shared democratic values, and the benefits the bilateral relationship brings," said Drew Thompson, formerly a U.S. Department of Defense official responsible for Taiwan policy.

Beijing's "One China" principle states that Taiwan and China are part of the same China. While the U.S. recognizes that the government of the People's Republic of China is the only legitimate government of China, it only acknowledges that the PRC claims Taiwan is a part of China.

Why Trump Raising Doubts About 'One-China' Is a Big Deal

Taiwan's government views the island as a de-facto independent, sovereign nation.

HONG KONG STATEMENT

In another action against China, Pompeo on Saturday issued a joint statement with the foreign ministers of the U.K., Canada and Australia in expressing "serious concern" about the arrest of 55 activists and politicians in Hong Kong last week.

Hong Kong's National Security Law is a breach of the Sino-British Joint Declaration and undermines the "one country, two systems" framework, according to the statement. The legislation "has curtailed the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong. It is clear that the National Security Law is being used to eliminate dissent and opposing political views," the governments said.

Hong Kong's government later rejected that criticism. China has repeatedly said no other nations have the right to interfere in its internal affairs, including in Hong Kong. **BLOOMBERG**

Authorities issue rules to stop 'unjustified' use of foreign laws

CHINA issued new rules to block its companies and citizens from having to follow "unjustified" foreign laws and measures, in its latest riposte to U.S. restrictions on businesses like ByteDance Ltd.'s TikTok.

The rules on "counteracting unjustified extra-territorial application" of foreign legislation and other measures are effective immediately and allow authorities to ban the imposition of other jurisdictions' laws on Chinese entities when it deems them inappropriate, the Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on its website on Saturday. China's move aims to protect "normal trade" and other activities, it said.

"The new order will be

enforceable in China primarily through court actions brought by parties who believe they've been damaged by someone else's compliance with a foreign sanction," Nicholas Turner, a lawyer at Steptoe & Johnson LLP in Hong Kong who specializes in economic sanctions, said Saturday.

Still, it remains to be seen whether it "will be effective at discouraging companies from complying with U.S. sanctions in the region or elsewhere," he said.

The Chinese move comes as outgoing U.S. President Donald Trump extends his campaign against Chinese companies in his final days in office, further straining ties between the world's two largest economies.

BANNED TRANSACTIONS

Trump earlier this month banned transactions with Chinese apps like Ant Group Co.'s Alipay and Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s digital wallets, adding to a prior push to force the sale of TikTok by ByteDance. The New York Stock Exchange has also become involved, heeding calls from the Trump administration to delist certain Chinese companies traded on its bourse.

Beijing also repeatedly pressured Canada to release Meng Wanzhou, daughter of Huawei Technologies Co.'s billionaire founder Ren Zhengfei, after she was detained by Canadian authorities over a year ago under the request of the U.S. government.

Many companies will continue to "err on the side of complying with U.S. law because of the U.S. government's history of aggressive enforcement," Turner said. The China order "does not alter U.S. companies' obligations" to comply with sanctions or other laws.

"Companies with significant business interests in China may need to tread carefully to avoid being subject to claims by counterparties in China under prohibition orders issued pursuant to this new framework," according to Turner.

The growing list of improper use of foreign laws overseas has "continuously disrupted the rules-based multilateral trade system and caused negative impact

on the global economic recovery," the commerce ministry said in a separate statement, citing Han Liyu, a law professor at the Renmin University of China.

A new working mechanism involving the commerce ministry and the top planning agency will oversee the assessment of such cases, and decisions will be based on considerations like whether international law has been violated and the potential impact on China's sovereignty and the "legitimate rights" of Chinese entities, according to the statement.

FOREIGN RULINGS

Companies and citizens can sue in Chinese courts for compensation of losses incurred from foreign ru-

lings deemed as unjustified under the new rules, the ministry said.

China isn't unique in using such measures, as similar legislation has been in place in the European Union and countries like Canada and Mexico, Han said.

The finance sector will be among those most affected by the new rules, according to Turner.

"The order could have the effect of causing financial institutions in China to process more transactions involving sanctioned entities than before," he said. "That doesn't mean they would be breaching U.S. sanctions, as long as their activities are not subject to U.S. jurisdiction." **BLOOMBERG**

AP PHOTO



Former Democratic Party legislators Andrew Wan, left, Lam Cheuk-ting, second left, and Helena Wong, right, attend a press conference after being released on bail in Hong Kong

HONG KONG CRACKDOWN

Australia, US, UK, Canada criticize mass arrests

THE foreign ministers of Australia, the United States, Great Britain and Canada issued a joint statement yesterday expressing "serious concern" about the arrest of 55 democracy activists and supporters in Hong Kong last week.

The arrests were by far the largest such action taken under a national security law that China imposed on the semi-autonomous territory a little more than six months ago.

"It is clear that the National Security Law is being used to eliminate dissent and opposing

political views," the four foreign ministers said.

The Chinese and Hong Kong governments say the law is needed to restore order in a city that was rocked in 2019 by months of often violent anti-government protests demanding greater democracy.

"We are appalled by remarks made by some overseas government officials that seemed to suggest that people with certain political beliefs should be immune to legal sanctions," the Hong Kong government said in response to the statement from the foreign ministers.

Most of those arrested last week had taken part in an unofficial primary for a legislative election that was later postponed. Authorities allege the primary was part of a plot to take control of the legislature in order to paralyze government and force the city's leader to resign.

The 55 have not been char-

ged, and all but three have been released on bail pending further investigation. Convictions could disqualify them from running for office.

The four foreign ministers said the next legislative election should include candidates representing a range of political opinions. Only half the city's legislature is elected by popular vote.

"We call on the Hong Kong and Chinese central authorities to respect the legally guaranteed rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong without fear of arrest and detention," they wrote.

The statement was signed by Marise Payne of Australia, Francois-Philippe Champagne of Canada, Dominic Raab of the U.K. and Mike Pompeo of the United States.

Separately, Pompeo announced Saturday that the U.S. is voiding longstanding restrictions on how its diplomats and others have contact with their counterparts in Taiwan, a self-governing island that China says should be under its rule.

The actions on Taiwan and Hong Kong will undoubtedly anger China, which views such moves as foreign interference in its internal affairs.

The Trump administration, which is in its final days, is also sending Kelly Craft, its ambassador to the United Nations, to Taiwan later this week. China has sharply criticized the upcoming visit, while Taiwan's government has welcomed it. **AP**

Gov't is said to censor local media coverage of Alibaba probe

SHIYIN CHEN & COCO LIU

CHINA has ordered its domestic media to restrict their reporting on an antitrust probe into Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. as speculation over the future of one of the country's largest corporations intensified, according to people with direct knowledge of the matter.

A directive issued by the government's propaganda arm toward the end of last year ordered news outlets to strictly echo the official line on the investigation into the tech giant and prohibited them from engaging in original reporting and extended analysis or drawing their own conclusions without authorization, according to the people, who asked not to be identified as the order hasn't been made public. The restrictions also apply to Jack Ma, the company's



co-founder, the people said.

Authorities in Beijing regularly issue propaganda directives and guidelines to domestic media organizations to further the govern-

ment's policy objectives. The Financial Times earlier reported the directive on Alibaba, saying that it signaled how the issue has become a matter of national political sensitivity.

Billionaire Ma's empire has become the most prominent target of China's campaign against the technology industry, which as so far torpedoed affiliate Ant Group Co.'s \$35 billion

initial public offering and led to an antitrust investigation at his e-commerce giant. Ma, who hasn't been seen in public for months, has been advised by the government to stay in the country, a person familiar with the matter told Bloomberg News. Several online blogs that speculated about his whereabouts have been censored, according to the FT.

"It's because the government does not want to see two things: one is people questioning the overreaching intervention, the other is people lashing out at the private sector and discouraging China's economic engine," said Fang Kecheng, a communications professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

At one media company, the restrictions were applied to Chinese language outlets, but not its En-

glish language version, one person said.

In addition to restricting access to global sites such as Google, Facebook and Twitter, authorities in Beijing have long exerted tight control over domestic news coverage of topics deemed to be politically sensitive. During the Covid-19 outbreak last year, social media platforms were scrubbed of posts critical of the government, while information about the Hong Kong protests in 2019 were wiped from the internet even as state media blamed U.S. interference.

An Alibaba-backed media platform that published an editorial warning against excessive punishment of China's tech giants was made to halt its operations for a month, the FT reported.

Alibaba didn't immediately reply to queries for comment. **BLOOMBERG**

FLIGHT SJ182

Indonesian divers find parts of plane wreckage in Java Sea

VICTORIA MILKO & EDNA TARIGAN, JAKARTA

INDONESIAN divers yesterday located parts of the wreckage of a Boeing 737-500 at a depth of 23 meters in the Java Sea, a day after the aircraft with 62 people onboard crashed shortly after takeoff from Jakarta.

"We received reports from the diver team that the visibility in the water is good and clear, allowing the discovery of some parts of the plane," Air Chief Marshal Hadi Tjahjanto said in a statement. "We are sure that is the point where the plane crashed."

He said the objects included broken pieces of fuselage with aircraft registration parts.

Earlier, rescuers pulled out body parts, pieces of clothing and scraps of metal from the surface.

"Hopefully until this afternoon the current conditions and the view under the sea are still good so that we can continue the search," he said.

The break in the search for Sriwijaya Air Flight 182 came after sonar equipment on a navy ship detected a signal from the aircraft at a location that fit the coordinates from the last contact made by the pilots before the plane went missing on Saturday afternoon.

It's still unclear what caused the crash. There was no sign of survivors.

"I represent the government and all Indonesians in expressing my deep condolences for this tragedy," President Joko Widodo said.

"We are doing our best to save the victims. We pray together so that the victims can be found," he said, adding that he had asked the National Transport Safety Committee to conduct an investigation.

Fishermen in the area between Lancang and Laki islands, part of an archipelago around Thousand Islands north of Jakarta's coast, reported hearing an explosion around 2:30 p.m. Saturday.

"We heard something explode, we thought it was a bomb or a tsunami sin-



ce after that we saw the big splash from the water," Solihin, who goes by one name, told The Associated Press by phone.

"It was raining heavily and the weather was so bad. So it is difficult to see around clearly. But we can see the splash and a big wave after the sounds. We were very shocked and directly saw the plane debris and the fuel around our boat."

Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi said Flight SJ182 was delayed for an hour before it took off at 2:36 p.m. It disappeared from radar four minutes later, after the pilot contacted air traffic control to ascend to an altitude of 29,000 feet, he said.

There were 62 people on board, including seven children and three babies.

"We are aware of media reports from Jakarta regarding Sriwijaya Air flight SJ-182," Boeing said in a statement. "Our thoughts are with the crew, passengers, and their families. We are in contact with our airline customer and stand ready to support them during this difficult time."

Authorities established two crisis centers, one at airport and one at port. Families gathered to wait for news of loved ones.

On social media, people

began circulating the flight manifesto with photos and videos of those who were listed as passengers. One video shows a woman with her children waving goodbye while walking through the airport.

Sriwijaya Air President Director Jefferson Irwin Jauwena said the plane, which is 26 years old and previously used by airlines in the United States, was airworthy. He told reporters Saturday that the plane had previously flown to Pontianak and Pangkal Pinang city on the same day.

It's still unclear what caused the crash. There was no sign of survivors

"Maintenance report said everything went well and airworthy," Jauwena told a news conference. He said the plane was delayed due to bad weather, not because of any damage.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago nation, with more than 260 million people, has been plagued by transportation accidents on land, sea and air because of overcrowding on ferries, aging infrastructure and poorly enforced safety standards.

In October 2018, a Boeing 737 MAX 8 jet ope-

rated by Lion Air plunged into the Java Sea just minutes after taking off from Jakarta, killing all 189 people on board. The plane involved in Saturday's incident did not have the automated flight-control system that played a role in the Lion Air crash and another crash of a 737 MAX 8 jet in Ethiopia five months later, leading to the grounding of the MAX 8 for 20 months.

The Lion Air crash was Indonesia's worst airline disaster since 1997, when 234 people were killed on a Ga-

ruda airlines flight near Medan on Sumatra island. In December 2014, an AirAsia flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore plunged into the sea, killing 162 people.

Sriwijaya Air has only has several minor incidents in the past, though a farmer was killed in 2008 when landing plane went off runway due to a hydraulic issue.

The United States banned Indonesian carriers from operating in the country in 2007, but reversed the decision in 2016, citing improvements in compliance with international aviation standards. The European Union has previously had similar bans, lifting them in June 2018. **AP**

this day in history

1973 FIRST OPEN UNIVERSITY DEGREES AWARDED



The first graduates from the Open University (OU) have been awarded their degrees after two years studying from home.

Out of the 1,000 students who sat the final exams, 867 were successful.

The Open University enrolled its first students in 1971 and has since grown to become the biggest university in the country with more than 40,000 students on its books.

The idea of learning from home was designed to appeal to mature students, but from next year the OU will be opening its doors to 18-year-olds as well.

OU Vice Chancellor, Dr Walter Perry, is delighted with the progress of his students - and insists the degrees which have been awarded are on a par with the best universities in the country.

He said: "I always said the one thing we must never do is have a different standard from the standard that pertains throughout Britain."

"To give a student a second-rate degree would be dreadful. It's doing damage not doing good."

For many people, the OU is offering them a second chance to study.

Dr Perry said: "The qualities of our students are often very different, in the first place they are adult, experienced in life and jobs, not just straight out of school. They have achieved their degree by the most difficult method of getting a degree yet devised by the wit of man."

"Therefore they have qualities of determination and staying power that are quite unusual and I think will come to be recognised by industry as very important qualities for employers."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Open University currently has 200,000 students on its books - some 26,000 of them are studying OU courses from outside the UK.

The OU continues to offer high quality teaching. Of the 23 courses assessed by the university course watchdog, the Quality Assurance Agency, 17 were rated as "excellent".

There are no entry qualifications for undergraduates - but about 70% of students successfully complete their courses.

In March 2000, the OU held the UK's first online graduation ceremony. Students from as far afield as Taiwan, Finland and the United States took part.

About a quarter of current students are now doing all or part of their courses online.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Put your energy into home renovations. Beware of someone who is trying to make you look bad. Money problems will get worse if your partner hasn't been playing by the rules.

TAURUS
 Apr. 20-May. 20
 You don't need to pay out in order to have fun. You should look into making some physical changes, such as new hair color or toning up your body. Your involvement in interest groups may bring you popularity.

GEMINI
 May. 21-Jun. 21
 False information is likely if you listen to idle chatter or gossip. Set aside any decisions regarding your personal life today. Get involved in worthwhile endeavors and meet new friends.

CANCER
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 Travel will be in your best interest. You can surprise members of your family, which in turn will bring you a pat on the back. Your tendency to overreact could get you into trouble.

LEO
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 Opportunities to make advancements through good business sense are apparent. Protect your interests legally if necessary. Make a point of working on yourself.

VIRGO
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 Uncertainties about your personal life are probable. Your temper could be short if someone criticizes your efforts. You need adventure and excitement in your life.

LIBRA
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 Do your own thing. Be careful not to reveal private information. You can make it up to them later. Romance will be on your mind, and chances for ideal connections are in the works.

SCORPIO
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 You may not want to spend time around family or your home. Health problems may prevail if you haven't been getting enough rest. Be cautious who you deal with financially.

SAGITTARIUS
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 Put your time and energy into home improvement. Tie up your personal papers or push to have legal settlements completed. Channel your energy wisely and you can score points with the boss.

CAPRICORN
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Changes will not be easy for the youngsters involved. Older family members may take advantage of you by making you feel guilty. Lowered vitality could affect your work.

AQUARIUS
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Express your interest if you want the relationship to progress. You can get into weight loss programs or go out and change your image with a new look in clothing, hairstyle, and attitude.

PISCES
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 Take precautions while traveling; you don't have to get anywhere that fast. Minor health problems will cause setbacks if you haven't taken proper care of yourself.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-19	-6	clear
Harbin	-28	-20	cloudy
Tianjin	-16	-8	clear
Urumqi	-24	-16	clear
Xi'an	-10	-3	overcast
Lhasa	-3	12	clear
Chengdu	0	3	overcast
Chongqing	5	8	drizzle
Kunming	7	19	overcast
Nanjing	-8	-4	cloudy
Shanghai	-6	3	overcast
Wuhan	-4	2	clear
Hangzhou	-4	4	overcast
Taipei	9	15	drizzle
Guangzhou	7	15	overcast
Hong Kong	13	18	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-5	-4	flurry
Frankfurt	-1	4	sleet
Paris	0	3	sleet
London	0	5	sleet
New York	0	7	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Landed proprietor of Scotland; 6- Former monetary unit of Angola; 10- Kofi ___ Annan; 14- Affection of sophisticates; 15- Goes astray; 16- Narrow ledge; 17- Computer key; 18- Pole; 19- Mayberry moppet; 20- Glass container; 21- Blow; 23- Eccentric; 24- Academy award; 26- Melodies; 27- Peculiarity; 29- Paddled; 31- Handle roughly; 32- Take place; 33- Call on; 36- Failure to understand; 40- Driver's aid; 41- Radii neighbors; 42- ___ extra cost; 43- Crazy as ___; 44- Straight downhill ski run; 46- Aspect; 48- Orchestra string; 49- Upbeat, in music; 50- Retreats; 52- Foot digit; 55- Put down; 56- Lubricates; 57- Experiment; 59- Calf-length skirt; 60- Parody; 61- Unfettered; 62- One of the Baldwins; 63- Stiff bristle; 64- Gossipmonger;

DOWN 1- Actor Cobb; 2- Editor Wintour; 3- Acquaint; 4- Wish undone; 5- Administer; 6- Madagascar monkey; 7- Enclose; 8- Formerly, formerly; 9- Believer's suffix; 10- Exist in great numbers; 11- Home on the range; 12- Attempts; 13- From the U.S.; 22- Narrow beam of light; 23- Hand-operated mill; 25- Structure for storing grain; 26- Factual; 27- Pass over; 28- Hamlet, for one; 29- Body of salt water; 30- Dull pain, often in the head or back; 32- Yes ___?; 33- Location; 34- Seemingly forever; 35- Slaughter of baseball; 37- Some hybrids; 38- Scheme; 39- Satirist Mort; 43- Like toxic rainfall; 44- Title of a knight; 45- Expensive; 46- Easily broken; 47- Digression; 48- Panorama; 49- Soprano Gluck; 50- Similar; 51- Dismounted; 53- Kiln for drying hops; 54- Zeno of ___; 56- CIA forerunner; 58- Fish eggs;

Monday's solution

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

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	



<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Simplex Apartment w/ Outdoor Terraces HK\$16,900,000 4,080 ft² 2 1/2 3 1/2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Large 3 Bedroom- Hellene Gardens \$21,800/mth 2,530 ft² 3 1/2 2 1/2 3 1/2</p>	<p>Rain Dance Property "We dance until it's SOLD!"</p> <p>Apartment in the Historical Centre HK\$3,900,000 840 ft² 2 1/2 1 1/2</p>	<p>PROPERTY LIST</p> <p>[Macau] Seaview Garden 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)</p> <p>[Taipa] Manhattan 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,720 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096006)</p> <p>[Taipa] Houston Court 1 1/2 1 1/2 980 ft² \$10,500/mth (ref: 20091001)</p> <p>[Taipa] One Central balcony 3 1/2 4 1/2 2,332 ft² \$29,800/mth (ref: 20101001)</p>
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Property of the Week



Simplex Apartment With Outdoor Terraces, Taipa

HK\$16,900,000 4,080 ft² 2 3



A fabulous and spacious apartment measuring more than 4,000 square feet in a quieter upscale area in Taipa.

Originally designed in a 4 bedroom + plus maid quarters layout, the updated open plan configuration creates different living areas whilst at the same time bringing the space together.

This apartment is an entertainers dream, it must be viewed to be fully appreciated in its current form or as the new owners blank canvass.

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

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



Apartment in Historical Centre

\$3,900,000

840 ft² 2 1



Property Hotlist



Buckingham, Taipa

\$11,770,000

1,439 ft²

2 2



Large 3 Bedroom - Hellene Gardens

\$21,800/mth

2,530 ft²

3 2 2



Manhattan E Unit, Taipa

\$18,500/mth

1,626 ft²

3 2



More Listings

For Sale

- [Taipa] Superb Studio 1 1 650 ft² **\$3,780,000** (ref: 20076001)
- [Macau] Unique Loft unit 2 2 2,200 ft² **\$9,990,000** (ref: 15115464)
- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 2 1,420 ft² **\$10,900,000** (ref: 20016004)
- [Taipa] Manhattan lux 3 2 1,720 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] Jade Garden family home 4 3 3,180 ft² **\$18,000,000** (ref: 19126002)

For Rent

- [Coloane] Houston Court 1 1 824 ft² **\$10,500/mth** (ref: 20091001)
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft² **\$25,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] One Central balcony 3 3 2,332 ft² **\$29,800/mth** (ref: 20101001)
- [Taipa] Private house 2 3 3 4,266 ft² **\$45,000/mth** (ref: 19055006ST)
- [Macau] Retail Shop, Barra area 1,968 ft² **\$48,000/mth** (ref: n/a)

Recent Movements

Sold

Raindance property SOLD!
Renovated Duplex with Amazing View,
2 bed 2 bath

Rented

Va Fat apartment,
2 bed 1 bath



JML Events



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team



Macau Golf Masters

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

Apple, Amazon remove Parler after use in US Capitol riots

MARK GURMAN & MATT DAY

APPLE Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. are removing Parler from their services, part of a growing backlash after the social media network was among those used to organize Wednesday's riots at the Capitol.

Apple dropped Parler from its App Store, while Amazon's cloud unit decided to stop hosting the social media company starting Sunday night. They joined Alphabet Inc.'s Google, which removed the app from its Google Play store on Friday, saying that it created an "ongoing and urgent public safety threat."

Parler, which is popular with extremist groups seeking an alternative to more mainstream social media sites, has come under fire since the storming of the Capitol by a pro-Trump mob. The move by the tech companies will leave Parler ending the weekend without easy access to virtually all of the world's smartphone users, and scrambling to find a new company to host its services.



Apple's decision came a day after the Cupertino, California-based technology giant threatened to remove the app, telling Parler developers Friday they had 24 hours to provide Apple with a plan for moderating and filtering the service.

A letter provided by Apple to Parler indicates that the social media company did offer to make changes in order to remain on the App Store. Parler told Apple that it "has been taking this content very seriously for weeks," that it would

implement a moderation plan "for the time being" and that it would implement a temporary task force, according to the letter.

Apple rejected those efforts as a solution in its explanation for removing the app. "We have continued to find direct threats of violence and calls to incite lawless action," Apple wrote to Parler on Saturday, adding that the measures were "inadequate to address the proliferation of dangerous and objectionable content on your app."

ENCOURAGING VIOLENCE

Also on Saturday, Amazon Web Services wrote to Parler about its decision to suspend its AWS account, according to a letter obtained by Bloomberg. The largest cloud computing provider said it had informed the social media company of 98 instances of posts inciting violence in recent weeks, and that Parler's plans to moderate its content were insufficient.

"We cannot provide services to a customer that is unable to effectively identify and remove content that encourages or incites violence against others," according to the letter, signed by AWS's Trust & Safety Team and addressed to Parler Chief Policy Officer Amy Peikoff.

BuzzFeed News reported Amazon's plans earlier. An Amazon spokeswoman declined to comment.

Apple's removal also means Parler will stay off the App Store on the iPhone, iPad and other devices until it's able to show its "ability to effectively moderate and filter the dangerous and harmful content on your service," Apple added.

Apple's decision to drop the app from its store won't remove versions of Parler already installed on Apple devices. However, Amazon's decision means the app won't be functional unless Parler finds a replacement web host. Parler's Chief Executive Officer John Matze said its services may be affected by up to a week.

Apple's move is arguably more impactful than Google's as Android allows apps to be installed by means other than its Google Play Store, while the iPhone and iPad are much more restrictive.

'COORDINATED ATTACK'

On its App Store page, Parler described itself as a "non-biased, free speech social media focused on protecting user's rights." The service has gained popularity with extremists as Facebook Inc. and Twitter Inc. crack down on users who promote violence. Matze said in a Parler post that most of its users are "non-violent people who want to share their opinions."

"We will try our best to move to a new provider right now as we have many competing for our business, however Amazon, Google and Apple purposefully did this as a coordinated effort knowing our options would be limited," he said. "This was a coordinated attack by the tech giants to kill competition in the market place."

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OPINION

World Views

Cathy O'Neil, MDT/Bloomberg



AMERICA IS MAKING ME FEEL LIKE SARAH CONNOR

Latently I've been thinking about Sarah Connor and motherhood. She's the Los Angeles waitress in the "Terminator" film series who, upon learning that her as-yet-unborn son must survive in a dystopic future and save humanity from destruction by artificial intelligence, dedicates herself to preparing him for the terrifying role.

As a natural-born citizen of what I believed to be a largely benign and prosperous democracy, I have prepared my two sons for nothing of the sort. I'm beginning to wonder whether I should reconsider.

In "Terminator," it takes only a few minutes for a traveler from the future to convince Connor that she's the mother of the savior of the human race. She's like, OK what next? Gullible as this might seem, it's the most believable part of the movie for me. She's ready to do anything to protect her kid. She goes on to teach him how to become a fearless leader and to fight like hell for his beliefs.

In a sense, Sarah was lucky: She knew what was coming. The real world is less certain, but looking increasingly ominous. The past year has brought a global pandemic, life-threatening shortages, ugly hoarding, violent clashes between protesters and police, the spectacle of a U.S. president seeking to undermine the peaceful transfer of power and, most recently, a mob invading the Capitol. Even if vaccination conquers the virus, the country [U.S.] seems woefully unprepared to address the problems that were festering before it arrived. We're deeply divided by race, income, resources and the realities in which people choose to believe.

Where will Americans find common ground when, with the help of social media, it will be all too easy to ignore people waiting in food lines and be glad to finally get back to the opera? Who needs an evil AI when we intentionally program computers to deliver the news we want to hear and the outrage we have become addicted to?

Having kids is an inherently optimistic act. Parents want to believe in a bright future. We tell them tales about studying hard, going to college, getting a good job, and having a good life. We train them to expect reasonable rewards for reasonable work, and to expect others to adhere to shared principles. But that's hardly responsible if we think there's even a small possibility that they will encounter civil unrest, widespread economic strife or even war. In that future, they'd be better off knowing how to use a handgun, build a fire or forage for edible weeds.

My father actually prepared me pretty well for today's world, albeit unintentionally. He was a narcissist, so he bestowed upon me an intuitive understanding of Trump. (Short version: If everyone's talking about him, he's winning his particular game, which is all about attention. Stop looking for deeper meaning.) I predict that the malaise of Trumpism will persist even after the president leaves office, because he's more a result than a cause of our national narcissism — of our relentless pursuit of unenlightened self-interest. This particular personality disorder is really hard to treat, and I'm worried that I haven't prepared my kids for the arbitrary cruelty it inflicts.

Does that mean I'm going to fill up a hangar with automatic rifles, to collect after my son and a robot break me free from the asylum? No, I'm not there yet. I'm not even willing to go pandemic bean dad on my kids. I still hold out hope that the world I've been conjuring their entire childhoods can somehow still exist — that if they do what's expected of them they'll end up OK, with a decent chance at a happy life. I'm not as quick as Sarah Connor was to accept a new vision of the future. I hope I'm not making a mistake.

QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND HUSBAND RECEIVE COVID-19 VACCINATIONS

THE BUZZ

Queen Elizabeth II and her husband, Prince Philip, have received their COVID-19 vaccinations, royal officials said.

Buckingham Palace officials said in a statement that the 94-year-old monarch and Philip, 99, received their jabs during the weekend, joining some 1.5 million people in Britain who have been given a first dose of a vaccine.

The injections were administered at Windsor Castle, where the queen and her husband have been spending their time during the lockdown in England.

Royal officials said they took the rare step of commenting on

the monarch's health in order to prevent inaccuracies and further speculation. The queen "decided that she would let it be known she has had the vaccination," the palace statement said.

On Dec. 8, Britain became the world's first country to begin a mass vaccination drive against the coronavirus. The government says it is aiming to deliver the first vaccine doses to some 15 million people in the top priority groups by the middle of February.

That includes everyone over age 70, as well as frontline health care workers, care home residents and anyone whose health makes them especially vulnerable to the virus.

AP PHOTO



'I LOVE LIFE': OLDEST LIVING OLYMPIC CHAMPION TURNS 100

FOR Agnes Keleti, the oldest living Olympic champion, the fondest memory of her remarkable 100 years is simply that she has lived through it all.

The Holocaust survivor and winner of 10 Olympic medals in gymnastics — including five golds — celebrated her 100th birthday on Saturday in her native Budapest, punctuating a life of achievement, adventure, tragedy and perseverance which, she says, passed by in a flash.

"These 100 years felt to me like 60," she said at a celebration in Budapest on the eve of her birthday.

Leafing through a copy of a new book about her life — "The Queen of Gymnastics: 100 Years of Agnes Keleti" — her trademark modesty was on full display.

"The queen of gymnastics," she said, switching to English. And in Hungarian: "That's an exaggeration."

Keleti, who was born Agnes Klein in 1921, had her illustrious career interrupted by World War II and the subsequent cancellation of the 1940 and 1944 Olympics. Forced off her gymnastics team in 1941 because of her Jewish ancestry, Keleti went into hiding in the Hungarian countryside where she survived the Holocaust by assuming a false identity and working as a maid.

Her mother and sister survived the war with the

help of famed Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg, but her father and other relatives perished at Auschwitz, among the more than half a million Hungarian Jews killed in Nazi death camps and by Hungarian Nazi collaborators.

Resuming her career after the war, Keleti was set to compete at the 1948 London Olympics but a last-minute ankle injury dashed her hopes. Four years later, she made her Olympic debut at the 1952 Helsinki Games at the age of 31, winning a gold medal in the floor exercise as well as a silver and two bronzes.

Despite her achievements — with six medals she was the most successful athlete at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and she is recognized as one of the most successful Jewish Olympic athletes of all time — the still-vivacious Keleti said she most values her health and the simple fact that she has lived.

"I love life," she said. "Health is the essence. Without it, there is nothing."

In an interview with The Associated Press last year, Keleti said the experiences she gained while traveling the world were more precious to her than her 10 Olympic medals.

"I loved gymnastics because it was possible to travel for free," she said.

Those travels would ultimately result in a nearly

60-year absence from her native Hungary. At the age of 35, while she was becoming the oldest gold medalist in gymnastics history in Melbourne, the Soviet Union invaded Hungary following an unsuccessful anti-Soviet uprising. Keleti remained in Australia and sought political asylum. She then immigrated to Israel the following year and worked as a trainer and coached the Israeli Olympic gymnastics team until the 1990s.

After leaving Hungary for the Olympics in 1956, she visited her native country only once before returning to Budapest in 2015.

Keleti was awarded the Israel Prize in 2017 — considered that country's highest cultural honor — and is the recipient of numerous other prestigious awards, including being named one of Hungary's "Athletes of the Nation" in 2004. She holds individual gold medals in the floor exercise, balance beam and uneven bars.

Today, Keleti follows her doctor's recent advice to avoid performing full leg splits, and her near-perpetual smile and infectious laughter are reminders that even in times of great hardship, there remains the immutable potential for perseverance and the joy of life.

"I live well, and it's great that I'm still healthy," Keleti said. "And I love life." AP

Pakistan A major technical fault in the power generation and distribution system caused a massive power outage that plunged the country into darkness overnight, the energy minister said. Hours after the outage, Energy Minister Omar Ayub said on Twitter that power was being restored in phases, starting with Islamabad. He said yesterday that power had been restored to much of the country.



Kyrgyzstan Voters cast ballots yesterday in an early presidential election that will also determine how much power the next president has. The vote follows the ouster of the previous president in October. The ex-Soviet Central Asian nation sank into turmoil after a parliamentary election that was swept by pro-government parties. Opposition supporters accused authorities of rigging the vote and forced President Sooronbai Jeenbekov to step down.



Spain Emergency crews cleared 500 roads and rescued over 1,500 people stranded in vehicles as the country slowly shovels out of its worst snowstorm in recent memory. Madrid's Adolfo Suárez Barajas International Airport remained closed yesterday as it has for two days. Train lines traversing the capital were also shut down and over 150 roads were still impassable.



UK is the epicenter of Europe's COVID-19 outbreak once more, and Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government is facing questions, and anger, as people demand to know how the country has ended up here. More than 3 million people in the U.K. have tested positive for the coronavirus and 81,000 have died — 30,000 in just the last 30 days.