

13
Y·E·A·R·S
A-CHANGIN'
Double Down!
ADVERTISE WITH US
+853 287 160 81

Follow
CTM 5G
latest update
FREE Data
CTM 澳門電話

ADELSON'S EMPIRE PASSES TO WIDOW WHO CONTROLS THE BULK OF SHARES OWNED BY THE FAMILY THROUGH A SERIES OF TRUSTS

P2-3

US CANCELS AMBASSADOR'S CONTROVERSIAL TRIP TO TAIWAN

P6

G2E ASIA: ESPORTS BETTING LACKS REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS MOSTLY DUE TO 'FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN,' EXPERT SAYS

P3

China said yesterday that it would defend itself against a British government demand that companies ensure their supply chains are free from forced labor linked to the northwestern Chinese region of Xinjiang or face punishing fines. The British government intends to exclude suppliers and review export controls to prevent the shipping of any goods that could contribute to such violations in Xinjiang.

More on p6



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un vowed all-out efforts to bolster his country's nuclear deterrent during a major ruling party meeting where he earlier laid out plans to work toward salvaging the broken economy. Separately, Kim's powerful sister criticized South Korea's military for saying it had seen an apparent military parade taking place in Pyongyang. Kim Yo Jong, said yesterday that such close tracking proved Seoul's "hostile approach" toward its rival.



Indonesian President Joko Widodo yesterday received the first shot of a Chinese-made COVID-19 vaccine after Indonesia approved it for emergency use and began efforts to vaccinate millions of people in the world's fourth most populated country. After Widodo, top military, police and medical officials were vaccinated.



India's top court temporarily put on hold the implementation of agricultural reform laws and ordered the creation of an independent committee of experts to negotiate with farmers who have been protesting against the legislation. The Supreme Court's ruling came a day after it heard petitions filed by the farmers challenging the legislation.

More on backpage

POORS' BANKRUPTCY



Industry and commerce association forecasts fresh wave of small business shutdowns this year

P5

ANIMAL CRUELTY POLICE LOOKING INTO SUSPICIOUS CAT DEATHS AT OCEAN GARDENS

P5



MGTO LOWERS TOURIST ARRIVAL EXPECTATIONS FOLLOWING MAINLAND TRAVEL WARNINGS

P5

Adelson's empire passes to widow, lieutenant

ROBERT Goldstein had just been offered a good job to run a casino in Atlantic City, New Jersey, when Sheldon Adelson called to pitch him on a new opportunity.

Over Chinese food, the younger executive listened to Adelson's vision for a Las Vegas resort focused on convention goers and business travel. "Sheldon never questioned himself - he never blinked," Goldstein recalls. "When I hesitated, he said: 'You can't not do this. You can't not join me.'"

Goldstein went on to help run the billionaire's casino empire, but few entrepreneurs held as tight a grip on their business as Adelson.

While Adelson was never one to give up control, he made it clear who will be dealing the cards from here, according to regulatory filings and conversations with company insiders.

Adelson's wife Miriam, 75, already controls the bulk of the shares owned by the family through a series of trusts. In some

cases, she shares that authority with her husband's longtime friend and business associate, Irwin Chafetz, 84. In total, the family owns just under 57% of the stock, a stake worth some \$24 billion.

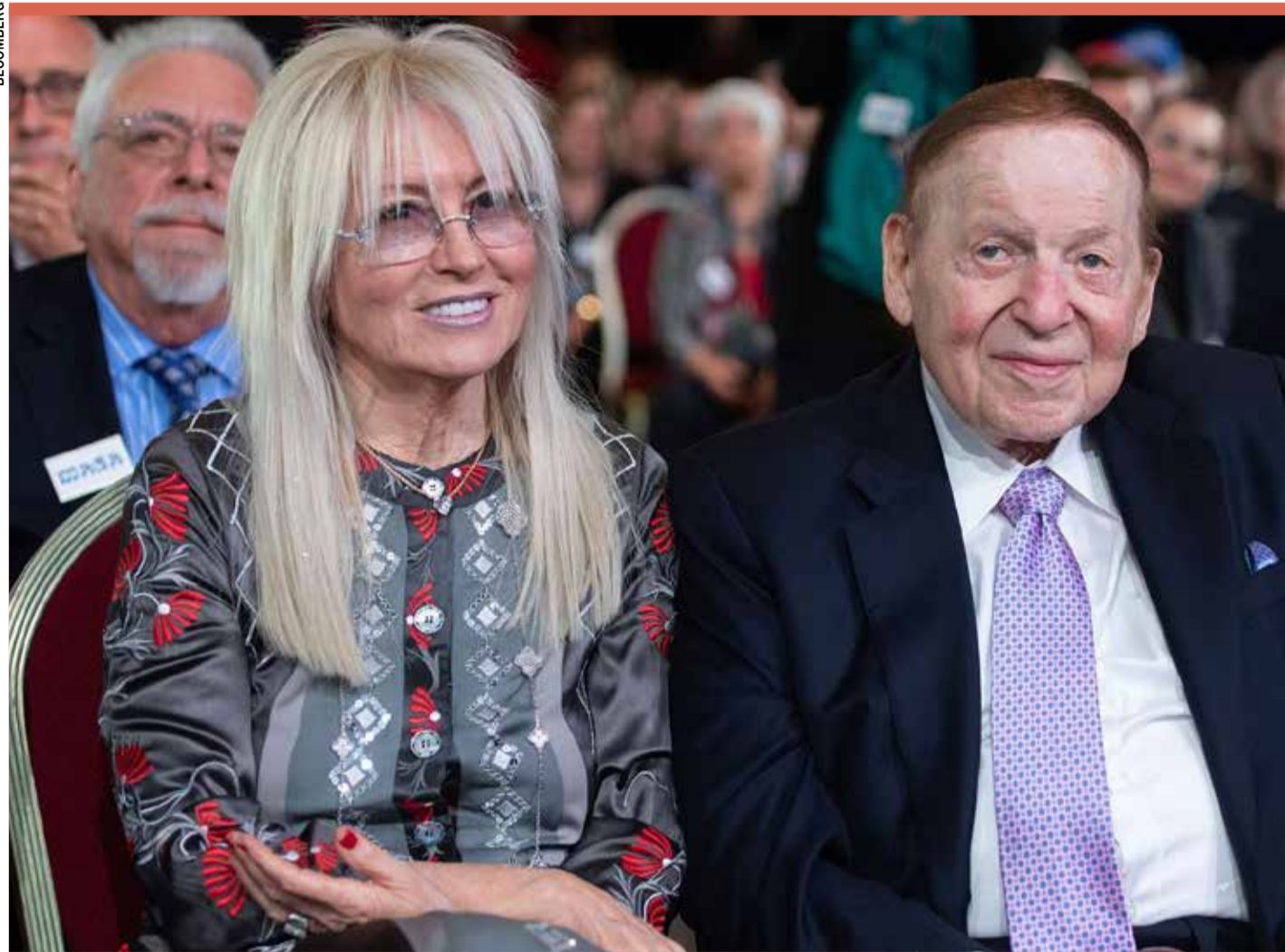
TAX STRATEGIES

The family won't have to sell Sands shares to pay estate taxes since they won't be levied until Miriam dies, according to John Pantekidis, chief investment officer of the multifamily office TwinFocus. And even then, Adelson planned for years to minimize the impact. The mogul had been an active user of a type of trust that allowed him to transfer stock to his family and avoid gift taxes.

"How many times do you have to pay taxes on money?" he said in a 2013 interview with Bloomberg.

The 65-year-old Goldstein, a Sands employee since 1995, stepped up as interim CEO last week. He's expected to be given the job on a full-time basis after years of serving as Adelson's No. 2.

Right behind him will be Patrick Dumont, 46, who



Dr. Miriam and her late husband Sheldon Adelson (2019)

has been chief financial officer for the past five years. Dumont is married to Sivan

Ochshorn, one of Miriam's two children from her first marriage. He's being

groomed as a successor to Goldstein.

"Patrick is a leader and

effective in the role that he has," said Jason Ader, an investor and former Sands

Higher odds for Sands to venture into online gambling

HONEY TSANG

LAS Vegas Sands Corp (LVS), the parent company of Sands China Ltd, may venture into sports betting — an arena its founder and CEO Sheldon Adelson who passed away at 87 on Tuesday — had long been at odds with.

The business proposition was first mentioned in Bloomberg's report on January 9, which quoted people "familiar with the situation". The news came two days after LVS released a statement about Adelson stepping aside from the helm for cancer treatment.

Robert Goldstein has taken the reins as acting CEO. It is

said that Goldstein had already engaged in discussions with potential partners to push the group onto the sports betting stage.

The new venture may involve using "the Sands brands" or "the broader development of a betting platform by the company," according to Bloomberg.

Carving out a platform for sports betting necessitates the means of online gambling. The late Adelson had a long history speaking against online wagering based on altruistic justifications, claiming that the practice is too easy for betters to lose money and will ultimately jeopardize the society.

To this end, the casino mogul

had launched public campaigns against online gambling since 2012, and enlisted lawyers and lobbyists to impel the United States Congress to ban online wagering.

Back in 2013, the CEO vowed he was "willing to spend whatever it takes" to stop online gambling in the United States.

It sounds like paradoxical behaviour for a billionaire, the head of the U.S.'s largest casino, who made money off gamblers to ban online gaming — especially when most of his competitors like MGM Resorts believe online gambling, if well regulated, can be safe and a boon to the industry.

"I am in favor of [gambling]

as a form of entertainment, but I am not in favor of it exploiting the world's most vulnerable people," he said in 2014 during a talk at a university in Las Vegas.

By far, Sands is the only major U.S.-based player without a sports-betting strategy in the pipeline.

Unlike Sands, many industry players have been eager to secure a slice of the pie from online wagering, particularly after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 2018 that states beyond Nevada can introduce online wagering.

Online gambling has been blossoming at a rapid pace ever since.

Since the ruling, 19 states have brought sports betting into

force, whilst six more have legalized it and are in the implementation process, according to the American Gaming Association.

The pandemic has propelled the Sands group to a huge financial loss. In October 2020, LVS announced a plan to sell off its Las Vegas properties for some USD6 billion.

Some say it is a logical choice for LVS to take up online gambling to generate much-needed cashflow during the economic fallout.

The casino mogul passed away on January 12 at his home in Las Vegas owing to complications related to the treatment of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, according to the Jerusalem Post.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+20,000

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR Lynzy Valles SENIOR WRITER Honey Tsang
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

in charge



question. Sands will have to negotiate with the Macau government on a concession that expires next June. That could result in substantial additional payments in licensing fees or commitments to invest more in the region.

One big strategic change afoot is the company's position on online gambling. Adelson had been a staunch opponent on moral grounds, believing that games such as online slot machines made it too easy for problem gamblers to lose money. It's a battle he largely lost. Sports betting and other online wagers have exploded since the U.S. Supreme Court allowed states outside of Nevada to offer wagers on athletic contests.

Goldstein has already been talking to potential partners about a role for Sands in sports betting, either by licensing its brands or building its own platform. Adelson's death could prompt the company to make a bigger push into online wagering as a whole.

board member. "He's young and very good. One of the best CFOs in the industry."

RELATIVE CALM

At another company, the death of a controlling shareholder might prompt a big move in the stock price - either in anticipation of a sale or out of concern for the future - but Sands barely budged Tuesday

"They have a plan - they've been thinking about this," said David Katz, an analyst with Jefferies & Co. "I think they can move along just the way they are for a while, continuing to crank out cash for them to do stuff with."

Even so, Adelson's passing comes at a tumultuous time for Sands and the casino industry as a whole. The company's resorts around the world closed for several weeks last year due to the coronavirus. And business at its casinos in Las Vegas, Singapore and Macau remain well below pre-pandemic levels.

The company is also dealing with a federal probe into its money-transfer practices tied to its Marina Bay Sands resort in Singapore. And in Macau, which accounted for almost two-thirds of company revenue in 2019, there's a looming

SEVERAL HEIRS

Adelson leaves behind a number of potential heirs. These include two surviving children from his first marriage; Miriam's two daughters from her first husband; and two sons she and Adelson had together, who are now in their 20s. There's no indication of any kind of squabbling among the clan - unlike the decades of infighting surrounding the family of media mogul Sumner Redstone, who died in August.

Miriam, a physician born in Israel, has devoted much of her life to the science of drug abuse, operating clinics for addicts in Las Vegas and Tel Aviv. She also shared her husband's passion for Republican candidates in the U.S. and for politics in her native Israel. The pair, who met on a blind date set up by one of Miriam's friends, were the single largest contributors to U.S. politicians last year, giving some \$215 million, according to the Center for Responsive Politics.

"I expect her to be quietly able to keep things moving in a positive way," said Sig Rogich, a longtime political strategist in Las Vegas who once worked for Sands. "She'll rely on people she trusts." **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

ESPORTS UNREGULATED DUE TO 'FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN'

RENATO MARQUES

ACTIVITIES involving esports and consequently betting on esports lack regulatory frameworks in many jurisdictions mostly due to "fear of the unknown," said Chris Kissack, head of esports for Digital Isle of Man, during a webinar for the 2021 edition of Gaming Global Expo Asia (G2E Asia).

Kissack, who runs the executive agency for the Isle of Man government's Department for Enterprise, explained that the lack of regulatory frameworks for esports and betting on esports in many jurisdictions, including Macau, "ultimately is about [regulators] being afraid to dive in. There is this fear from decision-makers to jump into these [kinds of] games." He added that to remedy this "fear of the unknown," regulators need to be exposed to these games and be a part of them.

"They need to see it and they need to play it to get over that fear," Kissack said.

Addressing how the Isle of Man has been able to come up with regulations much faster than any other jurisdiction around the globe, Kissack noted that the fact that the territory is a relatively small island played a decisive role, as this makes it easier to seat all stakeholders at the negotiation table and explain the advantages and the potential challenges such activities might have.

The webinar, which was moderated by Hai Ng, a co-founding

partner at technology strategy and management group Neomancer, featured several experts in the field who shared opinions on how regulating esports can contribute a "pandemic-proof" option for gross gaming revenue for certain jurisdictions.

As Ng mentioned when introducing the topic, "Most jurisdictions that didn't have online and alternatives to physical sports games were basically shut down for at least the second quarter of the year [2020] if not up to the third quarter of the year." Ng also noted that the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic has not yet ceased its effects.

"Even right now there are a lot of disruptions in sports here in the U.S., where activity comes and goes. Every time somebody tests positive, games stop and schedules change," he said.

Acknowledging the advantages of esports, Ng said that the fact that the organization of such events is mostly online-based, even if some events are physically held at a venue, means that situations such as the Covid-19 pandemic will not only have a minimal effect on these kinds of activities compared to sports activities, and that they also have the advantage of being much easier and faster to adjust to ever-changing conditions and last-minute restrictions related to the pandemic.

Michael Keown, head of operations of Askott Entertainment, added, "Covid-19 brought [above all]

a new attitude to the larger companies [which have disregarded esports in the past]. Now they are paying added attention to esports and I think that will be a permanent change."

For Keown, this additional attention and allocation of resources from large corporations might "push regulators to pay attention to this," accelerating the process of regulating the area.

During her turn, Brett Abarbanel, a director of Research at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas International Gaming Institute, noted the regulatory framework created by the Isle of Man was a good example. She said that a problem that often arises during attempts to address esports regulation is the definition, as "most of the time, the word is used to define a large number of activities that, in a way, fall under the umbrella of esports."

For Abarbanel, in the process of regulating the activity, it is of great importance to come up with a regulatory system that includes several other aspects that are being discussed at the moment, such as the possible use of cryptocurrencies. Above all, regulators need to understand that this is an area that is far more dynamic than other forms of gambling or betting, so regulation needs to be flexible enough to allow for constant changes and upgrades to remain up-to-date with the developments in the field.

G2E Asia is scheduled to resume in-person events in Macau from May 25 to 27 this year.



REAL ESTATE

JLL OPTIMISTIC ABOUT 2021 MARKET DESPITE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

ANTHONY LAM

INTERNATIONAL real property management firm and agency JLL's Macau office announced at a press conference yesterday that its outlook for the city's recovery is positive, despite estimating that about half a year will be needed to return to full throttle after the pandemic is under control.

In the meantime, Mark Wong, director of Valuation Advisory Services at JLL Macau, added that the market outlook for 2021 should be optimistic, for two main reasons.

First, Wong sees the emergence of the Covid-19 vaccinations as shot in the arm to not only contain the spread of the virus, but also to save the real estate market. He predicts the vaccine will stabilize the Covid-19 pandemic.

Second, the interest rate in Macau remains low. For example, the prime lending interest rate from the Bank of China Macau Branch, which was last updated in March 2020, is 5.25%. Meanwhile, HS-BC's Macau branch is offering the same prime interest rate on loans.

"Impacted by the Covid-19



(From left) Mark Wong, Oliver Tong, Gregory Ku, Aggie Lam

pandemic, all property sectors experienced an adjustment in their price levels. If the pandemic can be kept under control globally in 2021 and the low interest rate environment persists, Macau's property market will hopefully see a recovery in 2021," said Wong.

"However, the unemployment rate and underemployment rate will continue to cast a shadow on the outlook of the city in the short term, as a number of livelihood is-

suces may occur when the government's anti-pandemic relief measures and subsidies are no longer available."

Commenting on the underemployment rate, Oliver Tong, JLL's head of Leasing, noted, "The employment rate is another area where, compared to other cities, it is not very high. But in terms of Macau, it is already very high. Underemployment is also very high [in Macau], it's over 4% already.

This will definitely influence the real state market if this continues in 2021. [...] Rentals might also be impacted if these elementary factors continue."

Although government data has shown no significant fluctuations in property prices in the previous year, Gregory Ku, managing director of the JLL Macau, has pointed out that large, premium residential properties have been massively impacted.

He cited a freestanding house on the Penha Hill as example. The 4000+ sq. ft. property was first put on sale in 2019 with a price tag of HKD120 million. The transaction was not cleared by 2020 so, due to the pandemic and other factors, the seller lowered the price to HKD80 million.

Ku listed several policies responsible for this phenomenon and called for the suspension of them.

Currently, repeated property purchases will incur a special stamp duty. Moreover, first-time property buyers of property less than MOP3 million can enjoy a 90% loan from banks, with the government backing up. First time buyers purchasing a property between MOP3 million and MOP6 million can enjoy an 80% loan with government backing.

Ku said that the policies imply that high-end or large properties will have no market, as individuals need to pay about half of the price upfront.

Meanwhile, Tong said that although leasing has decreased, brands and companies from Japan and Korea are showing interest in opening or expanding in Macau.

Last year a new megastore from Japanese fast-fashion brand Uniqlo opened at St Paul's Square. In addition, Japanese brand Don Quijote's debut in Macau was announced.

CRIME

PJ ARRESTS FOUR FOR COUNTERFEIT CASINO CHIP SCAM

RENATO MARQUES

FOUR local men were arrested by the Judiciary Police (PJ) and are suspected of being involved in a scam that involves HKD1.5 million in counterfeit casino chips, a PJ spokesperson said yesterday during a special press conference organized by the police force.

The arrests occurred on Tuesday, January 12, after an operation prompted by a call from a staff member at a casino in the NAPE area.

The case revealed itself when in the early hours of January 11, two local men were stopped by casino security after a staff member of the cage noticed that the gaming chips they were trying to exchange for others of lesser value were counterfeit.

A total of 15 gaming chips with a face value of



HKD100,000 each were on the line.

Questioned by the PJ, the men told the police that they had gotten the chips from a man they met in November. He said that he had chips belonging to a client in his possession and that he would sell them for a slightly lower price (HKD1,471,500).

Since they wanted to acquire the chips for a

similar amount, the victims accepted the deal and went to meet the man in a VIP room at the casino and complete the transaction.

After the transaction was completed, the main suspect and the three men who were with him left the room. The two victims then went to the casino to exchange the chips to play, which was the mo-

ment they were caught.

After investigation, the PJ was able to detain the main suspect in the Northern District, along with the three men who are considered accomplices to the crimes.

The main suspect confessed to the PJ that he had been in contact with the victims, but denied selling them the counterfeit chips. The other three refused to cooperate with the police and maintained their silence.

According to the victims, of the HKD1,471,500 lost in the scam, HKD392,500 belonged to the first victim, while the remaining HKD1,079,000 was from the second one.

The PJ is still investigating this case to locate the cash the victims paid. They suspect it is in the possession of a fifth suspect.

MACAU, ZHUHAI COLLABORATE TO DEFEND RIGHTS OF PROPERTY-BUYERS FROM SAR

ANTHONY LAM

CONSUMER rights groups in Macau and Zhuhai have come to a consensus about building a joint prevention and control mechanism for Macau residents purchasing real properties in Zhuhai.

The Consumer Council and the Economic Bureau of Macau, market supervision entities and the Consumer Rights Protection Council of Zhuhai recently met in the southern Chinese city to negotiate on the matter.

Topics such as sales and marketing, supervising regulations and policies on the mainland, new and expanded collaborations, sharing of information, the dissolution of infringement of rights, as well as inauguration of a long-term cooperative mechanism were on the agenda.

To support its implementation, consumer rights groups from both cities made specific plans for the enactment of the mechanism at the meeting.

First, a joint preventive mechanism concerning real pro-

perty advertisements will be inaugurated between Macau, Zhuhai and Hengqin. Zhuhai groups will start upstream by meeting with real property developers, agencies and advertisers.

Second, a verification mechanism on the "Five Licenses" will be built. The Five Licenses is a collective term referring to the licenses needed to starting building and selling real properties in mainland China.

Third, the Macau Consumer Council has set up a section on its website to highlight information about purchasing mainland real properties. The section is connected to the Zhuhai online platform for real property trading, where users can look for the number of a particular development's Commercial Real Property Presale License, as well as verifying the use of the property as registered with the government.

Meanwhile, the Macao Economic Bureau has also pledged to monitor advertisements for mainland real properties in Macau to prevent local residents from falling for scams.

MGTO lowers tourist arrival expectations following mainland travel warnings

JULIE ZHU

THE local government has adjusted its predictions for tourist arrival numbers during the upcoming Chinese New Year holiday as a result of mainland China issuing travel warnings to its citizens.

Yesterday, the deputy director of the Macao Government Tourism Office, Ricky Hoi, informed the media on the sidelines of the Smart Tourism Symposium 2021 at the University of Macau.

According to statistics from the Public Security Police Force (PSP), tourist arrivals in the Macau SAR stood at around 39,000 for the first two days of the year, with the majority arriving on January 1. Macau had 22,000 visitors on the first day of the year, while there was an influx of 17,000 tourists on the second day.

Based on past tourism numbers, Macau normally records a higher number in tourist arrivals during the Chinese New Year holiday compared with the New Year



MACAU PHOTO AGENCY

holiday.

Previously, Andy Wu Keng Kuong, president of the Macau Travel Industry Council, had anticipated that the tourist arrivals on a single day could reach 35,000

during the Chinese New Year.

However, speaking to the media, Hoi said that the government has actually lowered its expectations for tourist arrivals during Chinese New Year, especially

following mainland China's recent travel warning to its citizens.

"We all know that there is a slight return of Covid-19 cases in mainland China recently. Mainland China has also tightened its pandemic countermeasures. Mainland China does not really encourage its people to travel too much during the Spring Festival," said Hoi.

"As a result of this measure [the mainland's travel warning], we believe that tourist arrivals will be lower than our previous expectations," said Hoi.

During a press conference held earlier this month, Wang Bin, a

National Health Commission of China official, advocated that "throughout the Spring Festival travel season, try to avoid unnecessary trips. If you must travel, pay attention to traffic and tourism information. At the same time, you must also pay attention to the [routes] to avoid the peaks. During travel, individuals should protect themselves during the whole process and should avoid going to crowded places as much as possible."

Hoi reiterated that at current stage, the Macau government's priority is to prevent the occurrence of Covid-19 cases in Macau.

PACKAGE TOUR RESUMPTION UNCERTAIN BUT STILL UNDER DISCUSSION

"WE have been discussing [this] with the cultural and tourism authority of mainland China. Temporarily, based on the message we received last time, only when the pandemic situation is stabilized will we consider resumption

of package tours," said Hoi. According to Hoi, the government is not expecting international tourism to recover within this year and is largely depending on the mainland China market.

EXPERT FORECASTS FRESH WAVE OF BUSINESS SHUTDOWNS IN 2021

HONEY TSANG

MACAUI may see a fresh wave of business shutdowns in 2021, Lei Cheok Kuan, the president of the Industry and Commerce Federation of Macau Central and Southern District, told Chinese media outlet, Chengpou.

Lei's pessimistic forecast for the first quarter of 2021 is predicated on several factors, including the termination of the second round of fiscal stimulus, the deteriorating Covid-19 situation in nearby cities and an expected lowering of travel intentions during winter.

In 2020, the SAR government rolled out two rounds of financial aid to help the city's residents and businesses weather the economic storm.

However, Lei argued

that the actual grants small and medium enterprises (SMEs) receive from the government are of an insignificant amount. But it is better than "nothing," he added.

For now, local SMEs are struggling either to shut down their businesses or press ahead despite so many unfavorable conditions.

Lei commented that the ending of the last round of stimulus in the end of December 2020 is the key reason for the forthcoming wave of shutdowns.

As a solution, he suggested the government enter a closer partnership with the Great Bay Area cities to further expedite and foster the bilateral tourist flow by enabling tourist groups from the GBA to enter Macau.

Lei also called on the authorities to facilitate the provision of

loans to cash-strapped SMEs.

The unemployment statistics, which are showing improvement, do not show a complete picture of Macau's economy. Hence, locals should not be too optimistic about the overall situation, he stressed.

The unemployment rate of local residents was 4.0% from September to November, down by 0.1 percentage points compared to the previous three-month period from August to October, according to the Statistics and Census Service.

Earlier, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong remarked that Macau's economy will be "stable and improving" in 2021. He is also confident in the city's ability to bring in MOP130 billion in gross gaming revenue this year.

OCEAN GARDENS REPORTS 'SUSPICIOUS' CAT DEATHS

ANTHONY LAM

THE bodies of five cats, which are suspected to have died after falling at Ocean Gardens in Taipa, were reported on a notice. The notice was dated January 11 and had the letterhead of the real estate management entity.

The notice concerns residents in the Syringa, Cherry and Kapok Court buildings of the residential estate.

Showing a picture of the lightwell of the three buildings, the notice stated that "several cats" have fallen or been thrown from an apartment in the residential estate. The picture shows four dead cats, circled and masked, lying in the lightwell.

Since cruelty towards animals is a punishable crime in Macau, estate management stated in their notice that the case has been reported to the police and the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM). They also pledged to provide surveillance camera footage to the authorities upon request.

In a statement issued last night, the IAM stated that it was told by the management entity that the sighting of the dead cats took place on December 29, but



they only reported the case to the authority on January 5.

As the sighting and the report occurred over half a month apart and the location has been cleaned, the IAM noted that it could not conduct further investigation.

However, the Public Security Police (PSP) said that it has "immediately dispatched officers to the scene" when it was informed. However, upon arriving to the scene, the carcasses have been removed. The PSP has established a case for investigation.

Meanwhile, lawmaker Sulu Sou called for an explanation from the management entity of the residential estate on his social media page.

Pursuant to the Animal Protection Law, cruelty towards animals is subject to a maximum of one year in prison or a 120 days' monetary fine.

Although cruelty towards animals has not been rare since the promulgation of the law in 2016, only a handful of prosecutions have been made. The authorities have justified this by citing a "lack of evidence."

AP PHOTO



U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Kelly Craft

US CANCELS AMBASSADOR'S CONTROVERSIAL TRIP TO TAIWAN

HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

THE U.S. State Department canceled the planned Taiwan visit by its U.N. ambassador that has drawn strong opposition and a warning from China.

The department announced it was canceling all senior-level overseas travels, including Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's planned trip to Belgium, in a decision to assist with the transition to the next administration.

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N.

Kelly Craft was due to begin a three-day visit yesterday, which would have involved meetings with Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen and Foreign Minister Joseph Wu as well as delivering a speech.

Craft's trip was one of two moves in the twilight days of the Trump administration that increases official exchanges with the self-ruled island while also provoking China, which claims Taiwan as part of its territory.

The U.S. and China have clashed on everything from the

origins of the pandemic to Hong Kong. China had already warned the U.S. would pay a "heavy price" in response to the planned visit.

It follows an announcement from Pompeo on Saturday that the U.S. would remove longstanding restrictions on how its diplomats and others have contact with their Taiwanese counterparts.

Under the Trump administration and bipartisan support from Congress, relations with Taiwan has warmed up considerably, with

the government increasing the frequency and quality of weapons sales to the island's government. Craft herself had a public lunch with Taiwan's top official in New York, James K.J. Lee, director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York, a meeting she called "historic."

She would have been the third high-level U.S. official to visit Taiwan in recent months. In August last year, U.S. Health Secretary Alex Azar became the highest-level U.S. Cabinet official to visit

since the U.S. switched formal relations from Taiwan to China in 1979.

Taiwan is a sensitive issue for China's ruling Communist Party, which considers the self-governing island democracy of 23.6 million people a renegade province that should be brought under its rule.

Under the "One China" policy, the U.S. recognizes Beijing as the government of China and doesn't have diplomatic relations with Taiwan. However, it maintains unofficial contacts including a de facto embassy in Taipei, the capital, and supplies military equipment for the island's defense.

In Beijing, the Cabinet's Taiwan Affairs Office declined to say whether the cancellation of Craft's visit was a positive sign for China-U.S. relations.

"Our position is very clear. We resolutely oppose all official exchanges between the U.S. side and the Taiwan area, demand the U.S. immediately cease their wrong approach," spokesperson Zhu Fenglian told reporters at a biweekly news briefing.

An expert said the visit would have also presented a dilemma for the Taiwanese government.

"This is also a headache for Taiwan. If you welcome them in a large way, with high norms, then you are expressing that you are very very close to the Trump administration, and in the eyes of the coming Biden administration, that's not good for Taiwan," said Yu-Shan Wu from Academia Sinica, a top research institution on the island.

Wu also noted that current policy moves could be reversed, pointing to the historic meeting between former Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou and Chinese leader in 2015. "Back then, although Taiwan and China's leaders met, this seemed to be a climax, but then the situation was completely reversed."

In 2016, Taiwan elected independence-leaning Tsai Ing-wen as president, and China broke off contact with the government shortly after. **AP**

Beijing says will defend self over UK Xinjiang labor measures

CHINA said yesterday that it would defend itself against a British government demand that companies ensure their supply chains are free from forced labor linked to the northwestern Chinese region of Xinjiang or face punishing fines.

The comment came after British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab said officials have issued guidance to British firms with ties to Xinjiang on how to carry out

due diligence checks.

The government intends to exclude suppliers and review export controls to prevent the shipping of any goods that could contribute to such violations in Xinjiang, where China is accused of widespread rights violations against Uighurs and other Muslim minority groups.

China denies allegations of rights abuses and forced labor, saying it aims only to raise incomes among mino-

rities and stamp out radicalism.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said that China would "take all necessary measures to defend national interests and dignity and firmly safeguard its sovereign, security and development interests."

"Individual countries including the U.K. have funded, concocted and deliberately spread lies and rumors to smear and dis-

credit China on the pretext of so-called human rights issues," Zhao told reporters at a daily briefing. "It fully exposes their hypocrisy and sinister intentions to curb the development and progress of Xinjiang and interfere in China's internal affairs."

In his announcement, Raab said Britain sought to ensure that "no company that profits from forced labor in Xinjiang can do business in the U.K., and that no

U.K. business is involved in their supply chains."

He said mounting evidence, including first-hand testimony and reports from nonprofit groups, supports claims of unlawful mass detention in internment camps in Xinjiang, widespread forced labor and forced sterilization of women on an "industrial scale."

The evidence "paints a harrowing picture" and showed the practice of "barbarism we had hoped lost to

another era," Raab said.

China has denied mass internments of Uighurs, saying it merely operated voluntary centers for de-radicalization and job training and that all participants have since "graduated." China says its policies in the vast, resource-rich region abutting several Central Asian countries have put an end to anti-government violence that claimed thousands of lives over recent years. **AP**

Pandemic control goes rural ahead of Lunar New Year

CHINA is concentrating its pandemic prevention efforts in the rural areas as officials urge people to not travel home for the Lunar New Year festival while the country combats its most serious latest outbreak of COVID-19.

Authorities said yesterday local clinics and hospitals in villages need to strengthen their vigilance for any new COVID-19 cases, and local governments must take responsibility at every level — from county to town to village.

The government is bracing for the world's largest annual migration in which hundreds of millions travel home for Lunar New Year break in February, many of them workers from cities going back to their home villages.

"In the period leading up to Lunar New Year, we urge the public that those who do not need to travel, should not travel, and if one must travel, please observe all travel information and try to stagger travel to off-peak times," Wang Bin, an official with the National Health Commission, told a news conference. "And to do personal protective measures and avoid crowded places with lots of people."



Meanwhile, millions of people are lining up in freezing temperatures to receive a second round of coronavirus tests in a city south of Beijing that is at the heart of the latest outbreak.

The health commission yesterday announced another 90 confirmed cases in Hebei province, whose capital Shijiazhuang has accounted for the vast majority of the recent surge. Another 16 cases were reported in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang and one

in the northern province of Shanxi.

China had largely contained domestic spread but frigid winter temperatures have brought new outbreaks, even as China pushes to vaccinate 50 million people by mid-February. The Hebei outbreak is of particular concern because of the province's close proximity to Beijing. Travel to and from three cities — Shijiazhuang, Xingtai and Langfang — has been suspended and residents of some

communities have been told to stay home for the next week.

All of Shijiazhuang's roughly 10 million people have been ordered to undergo a second round of testing as authorities seek to isolate the sources of infection, some of which have been tentatively linked to wedding gatherings.

Similar measures have been ordered around the country, particularly in Wuhan where 11 million people were placed under lockdown for 76 days last winter

during the early days of the pandemic.

The increased numbers come as World Health Organization experts prepare to fly on Thursday to Wuhan at the start of their investigation into the origins of the pandemic. Chinese officials said they would cooperate "closely" with the WHO in the investigation following rare criticism of the WHO head that Beijing was dragging its feet in issuing the necessary permissions.

China has strictly controlled all research into the origins of the coronavirus and have used state media to promote theories that the virus may have actually been brought to China from outside.

On Dec. 15, China started a mass vaccination campaign for select groups. Health workers have given over 10 million doses of one of the domestically produced COVID-19 vaccines, officials said. Currently, China has only approved one vaccine for general use in populations aged 18-59 — an inactivated virus shot from state-owned Sinopharm.

It has also approved three vaccines for emergency use, including two from Sinopharm and one from Sinovac, a private company.

Sinovac's CEO announced at the same news conference that they have supplied more than 7 million shots to provinces across the country. Its vaccine has not yet been sent to regulators for final market approval. AP

CASA DE PORTUGAL EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會
Escola de Artes e Ofícios 工藝美術學校
School of Arts and Crafts
CERÂMICA . 陶瓷 . CERAMICS

A Arte do Figurado Popular Português
葡萄牙民間具象藝術
The Art of Portuguese Popular Figures

monitora/導師/monitor: **Elisa Vilaça**

Segundas e Quartas
逢週一和週三
Mondays and Wednesdays
18h30 - 21h30

início/開課日期/starts: 18/01/2021
fim/結課日期/finishes: 24/02/2021
total/課程時長: 36 horas/小時/hours
12 sessões/節課/sessions

propina/費用/fee: MOP1200 *
sócios/會員/members

MOP1400 *
não sócios/非會員
non members

língua/語言/language: Português e Inglês/葡文和英文/Portuguese and English **
patrocínio/贊助/sponsor: **Fundação Macau/澳門基金會**

local/會場/venue: Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado nº 431-487 Edif. Industrial Nam Fung 13º andar A, sala 1, Macau
澳門馬禮遜博士大馬路, 431-487號南豐工業大廈, 13樓A座 1號課室

número máximo de participantes/每班最多收生人數/maximum number of participants: 10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
10 (根據報名付費順序錄取)
10 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

* Contactar a sede da CPM para informações sobre modalidades de pagamento. 報名付費詳情請諮詢澳門葡文之家。/Please contact CPM's headquarters for payment information.
** Aulas com tradução em Cantonês sempre que o número de alunos o justifique. 根據相關學生人數或配備專語即時翻譯。/Sessions with Cantonese translation when the number of students justifies it.

morada/協會會址/address: Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva, nº 28, R.A.E. de Macau/澳門伯多祿局長街二十八號
tel/電話: (853) 28 724 828 fax/傳真: (853) 28 726 818 portugal@macau.ctm.net

britcham 澳門英國商會
British Chamber of Commerce in Macao

The Growth of the Chinese Vineyard

Join our first Brews & Buzz evening in 2021 with **Karen Gaignon, Sommelier and Senior Area Sales Manager at EMW Fine Wines** as she shares the buzz of China's evolving wine industry and introduces the tasting of selected wines from Ningxia and Xinjiang Province. Thereafter, we will continue with a free flow selection of drinks and bites.

EMW Fine Wines is the distributor for The Legacy Peak Wines and Tiansai Wines. The vineyard of the former is located in the beautiful scenic area of the Xixia King Tombs (Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region) and is one of very few vineyards in China with vines over 18 years old. Tiansai Wines has the utmost modern facility located at the foot of Tianshan Mountain in the Gobi Desert and has received special honour as China's Model Site for Grape Cultivation and Fermentation.

Brews & Buzz Evening
Date: 28 Jan 2021 (THU)
Venue: Davidoff Room - Macallan Bar, Galaxy Macao, 2/F
Time:
1830: Registration
1900: Presentation, Wine Tasting, Brews & Buzz
2100: Close

Enquiries and RSVP:
info@britchammacao.org
Tel +853 6331 1124

Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation Policy applies

Britcham Members – MOP250
Non-Members – MOP400

RUSSIA

Kremlin foe Navalny says he will fly home despite threats

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV,
MOSCOW

TOP Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny says he plans to go home to Russia next weekend despite the authorities' threats to put him once again behind bars.

Navalny, who has been convalescing in Germany from an August poisoning with a nerve agent that he has blamed on the Kremlin, charged that Russian President Vladimir Putin was now trying to deter him from coming home with new legal motions. The Kremlin has repeatedly denied a role in the opposition leader's poisoning.

"Putin is stamping his feet demanding to do everything so that that I don't return home," Navalny said yesterday while announcing his return on Instagram. "The people who tried to kill me got offended because I survived and now they are threatening to put me behind bars."

He said he will fly home from Germany on Sunday.

At the end of December, the Federal Penitentiary Service warned Navalny that he faced a real prison term if he fails to immediately report to its office in line with the terms of a

AP PHOTO



Russian opposition activist Alexei Navalny, published in his Instagram account

suspended sentence he received for a 2014 conviction on charges of embezzlement and money-laundering that he rejected as politically motivated. The European Court for Human Rights had ruled that his conviction was unlawful.

In a parallel move just before the New Year, Russia's main investigative agency also opened a new criminal case against

Navalny on charges of large-scale fraud related to his alleged mishandling of \$5 million in private donations to his Anti-Corruption Foundation and other organizations. Navalny has also dismissed those accusations as crudely fabricated.

"They are doing everything to scare me," Navalny said in his Instagram video. "The only thing left for Putin to do is to

put up a giant billboard on top of the Kremlin saying "Alexei, please don't return home under any circumstances!"

Navalny fell into a coma while aboard a domestic flight from Siberia to Moscow on Aug. 20. He was transferred from a hospital in Siberia to a Berlin hospital two days later.

Labs in Germany, France and Sweden, and tests by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, established that he was exposed to a Soviet-era Novichok nerve agent.

Russian authorities insisted that the doctors who treated Navalny in Siberia before he was airlifted to Germany found no traces of poison and have challenged German officials to provide proof of his poisoning. They refused to open a full-fledged criminal inquiry, citing the lack of evidence that Navalny was poisoned.

Last month, Navalny released the recording of a phone call he said he made to a man he described as an alleged member of a group of officers of the Federal Security Service, or FSB, who purportedly poisoned him in August and then tried to cover it up.

The FSB dismissed the recording as fake. AP

this day in history

1994 DUCHESS OF KENT JOINS CATHOLIC CHURCH



The Duchess of Kent has become the first member of the Royal Family to convert to Catholicism for more than 300 years.

The duchess was received into the Catholic church in a private service conducted by the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume.

An act of parliament in 1701 banned heirs to the throne from being or marrying a Roman Catholic.

The duchess' husband is the queen's cousin and 18th in line to the throne.

The duke's office said the duchess' conversion would have no constitutional implications as she was an Anglican at the time of her marriage.

In recent years both the duchess' brother-in-law, Prince Michael of Kent and her son, George, have married Roman Catholics and renounced their right of succession to the throne.

A spokesman for the duchess stressed that her conversion had nothing to do with current issues facing the Anglican church.

He said: "This is a long-pondered personal decision by the duchess and it has no connection with issues such as the ordination of women priests."

But some priests believe interest among the aristocracy has been spurred by recent Anglican departures from tradition.

Father Charles-Roux of St Ethelreda's in Holborn, central London, said many were not happy with the direction the Anglican church was taking.

"There's been a major change in their tradition and the people who belong to that tradition go back to what they are familiar with. They look for support in Rome," said Father Charles-Roux.

But in a statement Cardinal Basil Hume stressed the duchess' decision was a private matter.

"We must all respect a person's conscience in these matters, and I know that the duchess recognises how much she owes to the Church of England for which she retains a genuine affection," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

USA

Trump on verge of second impeachment after Capitol siege

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is on the verge of being impeached for a second time in an unprecedented House vote today [Macau time], a week after he encouraged a mob of loyalists to "fight like hell" against election results just before they stormed the U.S. Capitol in a deadly siege.

While Trump's first impeachment in 2019 brought no Republican votes in the House, a small but significant number of leaders and lawmakers are breaking with the party to join Democrats, saying Trump violated his oath to protect and defend U.S. democracy.

The stunning collapse of Trump's final days in office, against alarming warnings of more violence ahead by his

followers, leaves the nation at an uneasy and unfamiliar juncture before Democrat Joe Biden is inaugurated Jan. 20.

"If inviting a mob to insurrection against your own government is not an impeachable event, then what is?" said Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., a drafter of the article of impeachment.

Trump, who would become the only U.S. president twice impeached, faces a single charge of "incitement of insurrection."

The four-page impeachment resolution relies on Trump's own incendiary rhetoric and the falsehoods he spread about Biden's election victory, including at a White House rally on the day of the

Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, in building its case for high crimes and misdemeanors as demanded in the Constitution.

Trump took no responsibility for the riot, suggesting it was the drive to oust him rather than his actions around the bloody riot that was dividing the country.

"To continue on this path, I think it's causing tremendous danger to our country, and it's causing tremendous anger," Trump said yesterday, his first remarks to reporters since last week's violence.

The outgoing president offered no condolences for those dead or injured, only saying, "I want no violence."

At least five Republican lawmakers, including third-

-ranking House GOP leader Liz Cheney of Wyoming, were unswayed by the president's logic. The Republicans announced they would vote to impeach Trump, cleaving the Republican leadership, and the party itself.

"The President of the United States summoned this mob, assembled the mob, and lit the flame of this attack," said Cheney in a statement. "There has never been a greater betrayal by a President of the United States of his office and his oath to the Constitution."

Unlike a year ago, Trump faces impeachment as a weakened leader, having lost his own reelection as well as the Senate Republican majority. AP

IN CONTEXT

The Church of England's decision in 1992 to allow the ordination of women priests sparked several high profile conversions to Catholicism including Conservative politician Ann Widdecombe. In recent years there have been several calls by MPs and Lords to repeal the 1701 Act of Settlement barring Catholics from the throne but the government has repeatedly insisted such a move would be too complex. But there has been a growing public rapprochement between the monarchy and Catholic church. The Queen greeted the Pope at Buckingham Palace in 1982 and in 1995 became the first monarch since the 17th century to attend a Catholic service.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

When you combine time and perseverance, you can create some amazing things — although the longer the time, the harder it is to maintain that perseverance.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Flattery, generosity, and confidence could get you exactly where you need to be — in either your career or your romantic life. Get cozy with the people.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

No one likes to be in conflict with a friend - least of all you - but getting into a verbal battle might not be such a bad thing right now. When you get things out into the open, you can start to clear them up.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Positive possibilities are all around you, so it's a very good time to initiate any major projects you've been considering - especially social ones.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your local government or another type of bureaucratic organization is a necessary part of your day today, but it's not an experience that you should worry about too much.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Emotions are running high, and people all around you are acting out in very spur-of-the-moment ways today. Luckily, you are in a very analytical phase.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

If you are traveling today, your traveling companions will be especially chatty - if you want to avoid getting stuck in a long conversation, bring along a thick book you can bury your head in.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Sometimes having an open mind requires having a brave personality - and you have the necessary courage today! Stay in the room when the conversation gets controversial.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Moving toward a more mature lifestyle might not sound appealing at first, but if you shift your focus to what's really important, you'll be able to see things a lot more clearly. Don't worry...



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You shouldn't even bother trying to understand why. You have far too many important, rewarding things to do to start wasting time on trying to help them figure out how to act like grownups.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Just because someone is much older than you is no reason to think that they don't have a lot of valuable information to share with you. Different generations have different experiences.

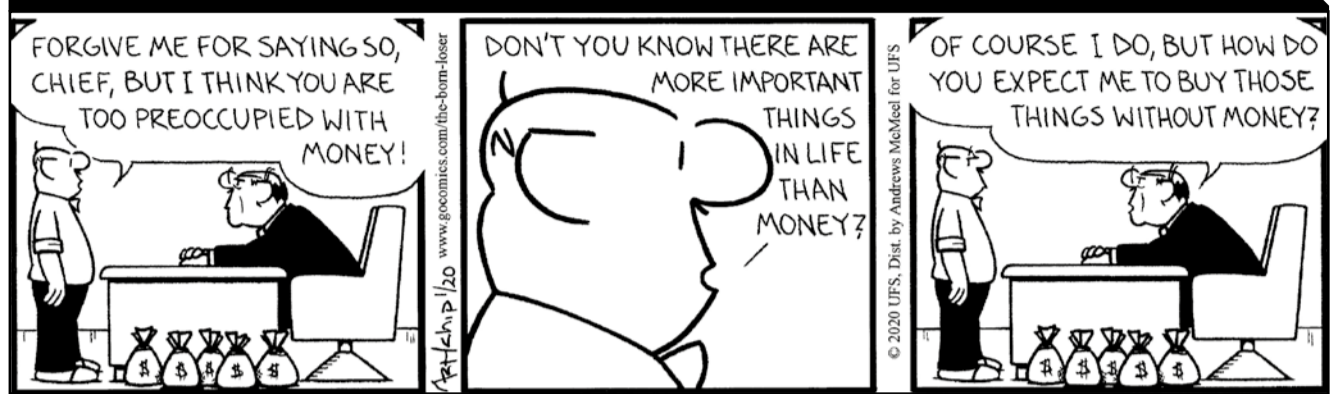


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Have you ever heard the expression "You can attract more flies with honey than you can with vinegar"? Well, it's true - especially today! So show your softer side.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

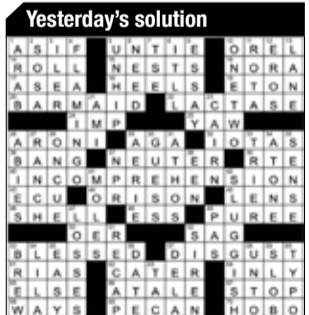
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-6	4	overcast
Harbin	-25	-14	clear
Tianjin	-1	4	cloudy
Urumqi	-13	-8	flurry
Xi'an	-2	15	clear
Lhasa	-5	15	clear
Chengdu	1	12	clear
Chongqing	3	13	clear
Kunming	3	16	clear
Nanjing	1	17	cloudy
Shanghai	4	15	cloudy
Wuhan	0	18	cloudy
Hangzhou	4	18	clear
Taipei	12	19	clear
Guangzhou	7	19	cloudy
Hong Kong	13	18	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-15	-10	heavy snow
Frankfurt	0	2	cloudy
Paris	9	10	drizzle
London	3	7	sleet
New York	1	4	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Fit to be eaten; 7- Made a hole; 10- Become dim; 14- Closer; 15- Feeling of self-importance; 16- Pub offerings; 17- Apportions; 18- Day...; 19- Just right; 20- Pool where animals drink; 23- Concerning; 26- Crosses (out); 27- Leases; 28- Prepare for takeoff; 29- Caviar; 30- ___ capita; 31- Saturated; 33- Green shade; 34- Comics bark; 37- Musical ability; 38- Large flightless bird; 39- Cooling units, for short; 40- Stutz contemporary; 41- High-pitched; 42- Lisa, to Bart, briefly; 43- Unhappy; 45- Polo Grounds hero; 46- More, in Mexico; 47- Fertility goddess of Egypt; 48- Intervening, in law; 51- On the ___ (fleeing); 52- Steak order; 53- Bug killer; 56- Somewhat; 57- P.m.; 58- Not impressed; 62- Math course; 63- Agnus ___; 64- Revolve; 65- Having a sound mind; 66- Sounds of hesitation; 67- States as fact;

DOWN: 1- Bambi's aunt; 2- Singer Shannon; 3- Proverb ending?; 4- Chocolate chewy cake; 5- Free to attack; 6- Formerly, formerly; 7- Extent; 8- Citrus hybrids; 9- Continue; 10- Sire; 11- Crazy as ___; 12- Distributed cards; 13- Politico Kefauver; 21- Second book of the Bible; 22- Oily; 23- Puzzled; 24- Birth-related; 25- Apply, as pressure; 29- Pardon; 30- Rio Grande feeder; 32- Bug; 33- Kind of party; 34- You ___ right!; 35- Pine sap; 36- "Damn Yankees" choreographer; 44- Collection of books; 45- Jumpy; 46- Predaceous insect; 48- Deli offerings; 49- Newsboy's cry; 50- Stigma; 51- One in prison for good; 52- Skater Harding; 54- Created; 55- Pulls; 59- Has been; 60- Aliens, briefly; 61- ___ gratias (thanks to God);



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



FOR SALE

Simplex Apartment w/ Outdoor Terraces
HK\$16,900,000 4,080 ft² 2 3

FOR RENT

Large 3 Bedroom- Hellene Gardens
\$21,800/mth 2,530 ft² 3 2 2

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

Apartment in the Historical Centre
HK\$3,900,000 840 ft² 2 1 1

PROPERTY LIST

- [Macau] Seaview Garden 3 2 2
1,420 ft² \$10,900,000 (ref: 20016004)
- [Taipa] Manhattan 3 2 2
1,720 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] Houston Court 1 1 1
980 ft² \$10,500/mth (ref: 20091001)
- [Taipa] One Central balcony 3 4 4
2,332 ft² \$29,800/mth (ref: 20101001)

jml 卓雅物業
property Since 1994

(853) 2835 2699
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty



IPHONE ASSEMBLER FOXCONN SETS UP AUTO ARM AS APPLE CAR LOOMS

DEBBY WU

APPLE Inc.'s Taiwanese manufacturing partner Foxconn Technology Group is setting up a car venture, strengthening its automotive capabilities at a time when technology companies including its California ally are looking to expand in vehicles.

Foxconn is joining forces with Chinese carmaker Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co. to provide production and consulting services to global automotive enterprises, according to a statement from the companies yesterday.

Amid reports of Apple considering making its own electric vehicles, Foxconn has been bulking up its automotive muscles swiftly. Such moves may help the company become a major contender to make cars for its largest customer.

With development work still at an early stage, Apple will take at least half a decade to launch an autonomous electric vehicle, people with knowledge of the efforts have told Bloomberg News. That suggests the company is in no hurry to decide on potential auto-industry partners. Last week, Hyundai Motor Co. backed away from a state-

ment confirming it is in talks with Apple, saying it had been contacted by potential partners for the development of autonomous electric vehicles.

Foxconn, whose main listed arm is Hon Hai Precision Industry Co., in October unveiled its first-ever EV chassis and a software platform aimed at helping automakers bring models to the market faster. It plans to deliver its first development kit in April, with Hon Hai Chairman Young Liu saying EV-related business in the first half will be "very good". Meanwhile, Foxconn's key unit Foxconn Technology Co. is reportedly expanding a plant to develop automotive metal parts.

Earlier this month, Foxconn signed a manufacturing deal with embattled Chinese electric-vehicle startup Byton Ltd. with the aim to start mass production of the Byton M-Byte by the first quarter of 2022.

An Apple car would rival electric vehicles from Tesla Inc. and offerings from companies such as upstart Lucid Motors and established manufacturers like Daimler AG and Volkswagen AG. Setting up a car plant can cost billions of dollars and take years, likely the reason why Apple is talking to potential manu-

facturing partners.

Apple has continued to investigate building its self-driving car system for a third-party auto partner rather than its own vehicle, the people familiar have said, and the company could ultimately abandon its own car efforts in favor of this approach.

Other technology companies seeking to expand into the autonomous driving space have also sought partnerships. Alphabet Inc.'s self-driving unit Waymo has worked with Chrysler, while Amazon.com Inc. has tapped Rivian Automotive Inc. for cooperation over delivery vans.

This week, billionaire Li Shufu's Geely struck a pact with search-engine giant Baidu Inc. to set up a venture to make intelligent electric vehicles.

Li, who is also Daimler's largest shareholder, has championed partnerships and consolidation as a way for automakers to pool resources for initiatives like self-driving cars and electrification. He's built a global carmaking empire over the past two decades, securing stakes in European legacy brands such as Lotus as well as investing in Malaysian auto company Proton. **BLOOMBERG**

Amazon starts \$1.20 mobile video plan to target India's millions

SARITHA RAI

AMAZON.COM Inc. is starting its first mobile-only Prime Video plan, targeting the hundreds of millions of entertainment-hungry smartphone users in India as the country's streaming market surges.

The single-user plan is available to wireless carrier Bharti Airtel's prepaid customers for as low as 89 rupees (USD1.20) a month after a 30-day free trial. The streaming plan comes with 6 gigabytes of data, which can also be used on other services. Customers can recharge on Airtel's app and at the carrier's more than 1 million outlets.

Amazon and rivals Netflix Inc., Google's YouTube and Walt Disney Co. are ramping up streaming services in the world's second-biggest smartphone market, where mobile internet prices are among the lowest on the planet. The companies are plowing hundreds of millions of dollars into creating original shows in multiple languages and buying rights to Bollywood film

premieres and cricket games.

"We want to democratize the access to content and through this unique offering reach hundreds of millions of users," Gaurav Gandhi, director and India head for Amazon Prime Video, said in a phone interview. About 85% of internet access in India is via mobile devices and nearly 90% of all mobile users that access data are on prepaid plans, he said.

Prime Video already has customers in more than 4,300 cities and towns in India and the new plans will help Amazon push deeper into the hinterland. In the next few years, India will have as many streaming-service users as TV viewers and that calls for innovation on the product and distribution fronts, Gandhi said.

The Seattle-based e-commerce giant's streaming service is available in about 240 countries and territories while its Prime membership with shopping and shipping is available in 19 countries including India. **BLOOMBERG**



CORPORATE BITS

The Ritz-Carlton offers CNY promotions



Dining destinations at The Ritz-Carlton, Macau have curated a range of Chinese New Year promotions to welcome the Year of the Golden Ox, in addition to a staycation package to set intentions for the coming year.

At the traditional Cantonese restaurant in Macau, Lai Heen, award-winning chefs have prepared Chinese New Year lunch and dinner menus that will be available from February 11-21. The "Lai Heen Chinese New Year Lunch" is a 6-course affair

filled with auspicious Chinese New Year staples such as the cabbage roll stuffed with sliced pork and hairy mousse accompanied with air-dried oyster, symbolizing prosperity and success.

The Ritz-Carlton Café also offers the Chinese New Year "Family Reunion" dinner set, available on February 11 to 21. Guests are also invited to The Ritz-Carlton Bar & Lounge where two new festive cocktails have been created to encourage hope and fortune for the new year. The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Macau, meanwhile, offers "Chinese New Year Spa Indulgence Package," which is available throughout February.

Wynn properties present series of CNY dishes



Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace Cotai present a series of specially crafted Chinese New Year dishes to usher in the Year of the Ox. The Michelin two-starred Wing Lei restaurant at Wynn Macau

will prepare classic Chinese New Year dishes, while Wing Lei Palace will present Cantonese Chinese New Year classics that feature a blend of traditional and modern flavors in celebration of a

prosperous year ahead.

One of the most celebrated dishes on the menu at Wing Lei is the steamed egg white with Hokkaido scallops, fresh crab meat and roe. The Chinese name of this dish is also symbolic – "Flowers in Bloom Welcome Prosperity" – signifying good fortune and a new year full of hope. Two more popular Chinese restaurants, Red 8 at Wynn Macau and 99 Noodles at Encore, will also be serving festive Chinese New Year dishes.

The highlight of this year's menu at Wing Lei Palace is the Wok-fried French blue lobster with water chestnuts and celery.

OLYMPICS

To cancel or not? IOC, Japan press ahead with Tokyo Games

PRIME Minister Yoshihide Suga declared a state of emergency last week for Tokyo and surrounding areas. Amid the surging virus, he again promised the postponed Tokyo Olympics would be "safe and secure" and tried to disconnect the state of emergency from the fate of the games.

But opposition to the Olympics is growing with calls mounting for a cancellation. The International Olympic Committee and local organizers have already said another postponement is impossible, leaving cancellation — or opening on July 23 — as the only options.

Two polls published in the last few days by the Japanese news agency Kyodo and Japanese broadcaster TBS show that just over 80% want the Olympics canceled or postponed, or believe they will not take place. The negative responses are up 15 to 20 percentage points from polls published just last month.

"The Japanese public are al-

AP PHOTO



ready more and more inclined to oppose the hosting of the Olympics this summer, and the state of emergency reinforces the perception that it is a lost cause," Koichi Nakano, who teaches politics at Tokyo's Sophia University, said in an email to The Associated Press.

As a fearful public asks to call off the Tokyo Games, it faces the reality of Olympic finances, geopolitics, and face-saving.

Japanese taxpayers have sunk

billions into the Olympics, the IOC lives off the television money and has seen its income stalled by the postponement, and China is waiting in the wings to hold the Beijing Winter Games in 13 months if Japan stumbles.

"Japan's standing in Asia and in the world matters a great deal, particularly in view of its rivalry with China," Nakano said. "It would be a nightmare for them (Japan's political leadership) if Ja-

pan fails to be the host of the first 'post-COVID' Olympics and the title goes to China."

Nakano said the government wanted to avoid the emergency order, which could be extended beyond Feb. 7 and to other parts of the country. This could further embolden skeptics and imperil the games.

Organizers have promised strict "anti-virus" measures to pull off the Olympics. Here's what they face — vaccine or no vaccine.

They must bring 15,400 Olympic and Paralympic athletes, from more than 200 nations and territories, safely into Tokyo and still protect Japanese citizens. Add to this, tens of thousands of judges, coaches, officials, VIPs, sponsors, volunteers, media and broadcasters. And hundreds of thousands of fans — perhaps some from abroad — if any are allowed to attend.

Organizers have speculated about myriad measures to counter the virus, but firm answers

probably must come by March 25 when the torch relay with 10,000 runners begins crisscrossing Japan, headed to Tokyo and the opening ceremony.

It was also in late March last year when the Olympics were postponed after organizers insisted they would happen.

For Japan, hosting the Olympics has to do with justifying at least \$25 billion in "sunk costs," satisfying domestic sponsors who have pumped a record of \$3.5 billion into the games driven by giant ad agency Dentsu, and gaining in the geopolitical contest with neighboring China.

For the Switzerland-based IOC, it's a question of stabilizing its shaky income, 73% of which comes from selling broadcast rights — getting the Olympics on television. Another 18% is from sponsorships.

American broadcaster NBC will pay more than \$1 billion for the Tokyo rights, and its payments over a four-year Olympic cycle — including the Winter Games — account for about 40% of the total IOC's income.

Unlike the NBA, English soccer or other sports businesses, the IOC has only two major events — the Summer and Winter Olympics. Dozens of international sports federations and many of the 200 national Olympic committees live off the IOC income. **MDT/AP**

AD

OT & T
CARGO

WE THINK DIFFERENTLY ...

**NOT IN
NOT OUT
JUST THE BOX**

28 years experience in shipping your goods across the ocean

Direct Service Macau - Lisbon

**Don't Miss Out
Next Sailing SOON**

+853 630083130 onthemove@ottcargo.com

OPINION

Our Desk

Honey Tsang



THE VEIL OF STATISTICS

It appears that things in Macau have gone down the right path — locals are splurging through their e-vouchers and vacationing in mainland cities. Most importantly, there is no specter of any of it being affected by Covid-19.

Official data showed that tourism businesses were heading in the right direction as well.

Visitor arrivals to Macau hit an 11-month high on December 31, totaling 30,747 visitors. The occupancy rate sharply improved too. It stood at 67.2% from December 31, 2020 to January 3, 2021, up 15.1% from December.

However, these dazzling statistics can never tell us the gospel truth.

There are still many in this city afflicted by deep adversity, desperation and destitution.

Earlier, the government made an appeal, asking locals to scrap their travel plans and stay in town during the Spring Festival. This prefaces a lot more suffering for local tourism practitioners.

I interviewed Wu Wai Fong, the chairman of the Macau Tourist Guide Association, to try and make out what's really going on in the tourism industry.

I knew life had always been harsh for tourism practitioners during the pandemic, but I didn't know how nightmarish and poignant the experience had been until Wu revealed to me the naked truth.

She told me over 50% of local tour guides from the association had to change their careers begrudgingly, otherwise they would have wound up "dead broke."

Their change was not a proud change either, I would say. Some dismissed tourist guides had no choice but to enter whatever industry brought them on board out of desperation.

Some tourist guides have managed to set aside their pride to work as taxi drivers, renovation workers, or mascots disguised as the god of wealth at hotels.

I believe all occupations, be they blue or white collar jobs, are worthy of respect from every one of us, as they all serve roles in the community.

But jumping from a realm where you took joy in, specializing in, to another career just to scrap by in life will strip away all the "amour propre".

Wu told me that there are actually a lot of them lining up for one just mascot position.

It was even more heartbreaking to hear that beleaguered tourism practitioners in Macau had failed to compete for an entry-level position in a well-known fast-food chain, as most of them are middle aged.

A job is not just a source of income. It is also an identity, a stabilizer of self-worth and the promise of plans for the future. But in the age of the Covid-19, a state of joblessness destroys all of these.

Often, we easily come to conclusions based on what we see and hear. But not all financial sufferings are laid bare — most of them are tucked away and hidden, especially during the pandemic.

In 2020, nine travel agencies collapsed, while 17 others were suspended and closed their businesses. They accounted for almost 12% of the city's 220 registered travel agencies last year, according to MGTO.

The travel warning by the government is going to deal local tour guides a severe blow, or even the final straw for some of them.

Experts say that a fresh wave of shutdowns and layoffs are on the horizon this year.

Wu hopes the government can create more job opportunities for the affected tourist practitioners. A third round of the stimulus package can be a lifeline, but she knows that this is just a stopgap solution.

The number of Macau's licensed tourist guides reduced by two to 1,970. One passed away as the individual was unable to afford treatment for his illness, while the other died of depression exacerbated by unemployment.

Wu cried whilst speaking about this.

Compared to the tourist arrival figures, this is a sordid number.

US CARRIES OUT ITS FIRST EXECUTION OF FEMALE INMATE SINCE 1953

THE BUZZ

A Kansas woman was executed yesterday for strangling an expectant mother in Missouri and cutting the baby from her womb, the first time in nearly seven decades that the U.S. government has put to death a female inmate.

Lisa Montgomery, 52, was pronounced dead at 1:31 a.m. after receiving a lethal injection at the federal prison complex in Terre Haute, Indiana.

She was the 11th prisoner to receive a lethal injection there since July when President Donald Trump, an ardent supporter of capital punishment, resumed federal executions following 17 years without one.

As a curtain was raised in the execution chamber, Montgomery looked momentarily bewildered as she glanced at journalists peering at her from behind thick glass.

As the execution process began, a woman standing over Montgomery's shoulder leaned over, gently removed Montgomery's face mask and asked her if she had any last words. "No," Montgomery responded in a quiet, muffled voice. She said nothing else.

She tapped her fingers nervously for several seconds, a heart-shaped tattoo on her thumb, showed no signs of distress, and quickly closed her eyes.

AP PHOTO



ECONOMY

CHINA'S 2020 AUTO SALES FALL FOR THIRD YEAR AMID CORONAVIRUS

CHINA'S sales of SUVs, minivans and sedans fell for a third year in 2020 as the coronavirus hurt already weak demand in the industry's top global market, an industry group reported yesterday.

Sales declined 6% compared with 2019 to 20.2 million, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. Sales of commercial vehicles rose 18.7% to 5.1 million.

In December, sales rose 7.2% over a year earlier to 2.4 million, down from November's 11.6% growth. Sales of trucks and buses rose 2.4% to 456,000.

Even before the coronavirus hit, demand was hurt

by consumer unease about possible job losses due to a slowing economy and Beijing's tariff war with the United States.

The downturn hurts global manufacturers that are looking to China to drive revenue at a time of flat or declining demand in the United States, Europe and Japan.

It squeezes cash flow for global and Chinese automakers that are pouring billions of dollars into developing electric vehicles under government pressure to meet sales quotas.

Dealerships and factories were closed in February to fight the coronavirus outbreak that began

in China's southwest in late 2019.

The auto industry was among the earliest to revive after the ruling Communist Party declared the disease under control the following month and allowed businesses to reopen.

Full-year results were an improvement over the January-November period, when sales were down 7.6% from a year earlier.

Sales of electric and gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles rose 10.9% in 2020 over a year earlier to 1.4 million, according to CAAM. December sales rose 49.5% from a year ago to 248,000. AP

AP PHOTO



Iran's navy began a short-range missile drill in the Gulf of Oman yesterday and inaugurated its largest military vessel, state TV reported, amid heightened tensions over Tehran's nuclear program and a U.S. pressure campaign against the Islamic Republic. The two-day missile drill was being held in the gulf's southeastern waters and two new Iranian-made warships joined the exercise.

Israeli warplanes carried out intense airstrikes on eastern Syria yesterday, apparently targeting positions and arms depots of Iran-backed forces. Dozens of fighters were killed or wounded, according to an opposition war monitor. A senior U.S. intelligence official with knowledge of the attack said that the airstrikes were carried out with intelligence provided by the United States.

Russia Top Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny says he plans to go home to Russia next weekend despite the authorities' threats to put him once again behind bars. Navalny, who has been convalescing in Germany from an August poisoning that he has blamed on the Kremlin, charged that Russian President Vladimir Putin was now trying to deter him from coming home with new legal motions. More on p8

Italy A maxi-trial opened yesterday in southern Italy against the 'ndrangheta crime syndicate, arguably the world's richest criminal organization that quietly amassed power in Italy as the Sicilian Mafia lost its influence. The hearing against more than 300 defendants opened in a specially constructed bunker on the sprawling grounds of an industrial park in Calabria, the "toe" of the Italian peninsula.

Mexico's election regulatory agency announced yesterday it will ban media outlets from transmitting at full length President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's daily morning news conferences. The temporary ban is aimed at ensuring equity in the country's June congressional and state elections, after opposition parties complained that López Obrador uses the conferences to tout his public works projects and criticize opponents.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

MDT/Julie Zhu



Sands China honors its Chairman and CEO, Sheldon Adelson, who passed away on Tuesday.