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CTM 40th ANNIVERSARY

ADVISOR URGES THE GOVERNMENT TO SUBSIDIZE DISMISSED BLUE CARD HOLDERS TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMETOWNS

▲ P3

TWO TOKYO FLIGHT RETURNEES TESTED POSITIVE FOR ANTIBODIES

▲ P3

WHO TEAM IN WUHAN SAID THAT THE CHINESE SIDE HAS PROVIDED A HIGH LEVEL OF COOPERATION

▲ P10

AP PHOTO



South Korean and U.S. presidents agreed on the need for a comprehensive strategy on North Korea as they push to work together to achieve denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula, officials said. Biden said it's important for Washington and Seoul to have the same position and that his government will closely cooperate with South Korea to achieve joint objectives.

AP PHOTO



Philippines An ammonia leak from an ice plant in the Philippine capital region left two dead and more than 90 others injured or sickened while hundreds of residents fled to safety, an official said yesterday. Ammonia, which is used as a refrigerant, can be toxic to people in large amounts.

Myanmar's new military government blocked access to Facebook as resistance to Monday's coup surged amid calls for civil disobedience to protest the ousting of the elected government and its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. Facebook is especially popular in Myanmar and is how most people access the internet.

AP PHOTO



Nepal A general strike organized by a splinter group in the governing Communist party paralyzed life in Nepal yesterday, shutting schools, transportation and markets. Highways were deserted and shops were closed by the strike, called to protest Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli's decision to dissolve Parliament and announce new elections. Authorities stepped up security across the Himalayan nation, but there were no reports of violence.

More on backpage

PUZZLING LEGAL PROCEDURES



A shopkeeper was fined by the IAM for disposing wastewater in a public place to clean up dog excrement . P2

TEMPORARY RESIDENCY PERMITS

TUI FAVORS RESIDENCY CANCELLATION OF CROSS BORDER WORKERS

▲ P7

THE LONDONER MACAO

A BOON FOR THE TOURISM INDUSTRY

▲ P5

QINGMAO PORT EXPECTED TO OPEN IN 2H OF 2021

Qingmao Port, another immigration facility located next to the Border Gate, is expected to be operational in the second half of this year, according to Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak. The construction is expected to be completed in April. After that, the security authority will test the capacity of the facility before the local government and Zhuhai government enter into a discussion regarding the opening of the port.

THEATRE ALEGRIA TO SCREEN FOUR FILMS

Theatre Alegria is prepared to screen four films to audiences during the approaching Spring Festival Holiday. The four films include mainland flicks "New Gods: Nezha Resborn," "Assassin in Red," and "Detective Chinatown 3," as well as Korean film "New Year Blues." Theatre Alegria is unable to bring Hong Kong films to Macau since last December because Hong Kong film companies have released new films directly to streaming sites. These films will be streamed on the same day in both mainland China and in Macau.

FIRE ON FISHING VESSEL INJURES ONE

Local authorities disclosed that a person was injured in a fishing vessel fire at sea, in the Inner Harbor on Wednesday at approximately 6:30 p.m. The person was in a stable condition when was sent to hospital for treatment. Authorities have urged fishermen to stay alert to emergencies as more fishing vessels return to Macau for Chinese New Year. The cause of the accident is under further investigation.

SHOPKEEPER LEFT CONFUSED OVER LEGALITIES AFTER IAM FINE

ANTHONY LAM

THE Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has allegedly left a shop owner puzzled with regard to the legal procedures with which residents must abide while cleaning the exterior of their properties.

The Times has become aware that a small local shop has not long ago been fined by the IAM for disposing foul water in public spaces.

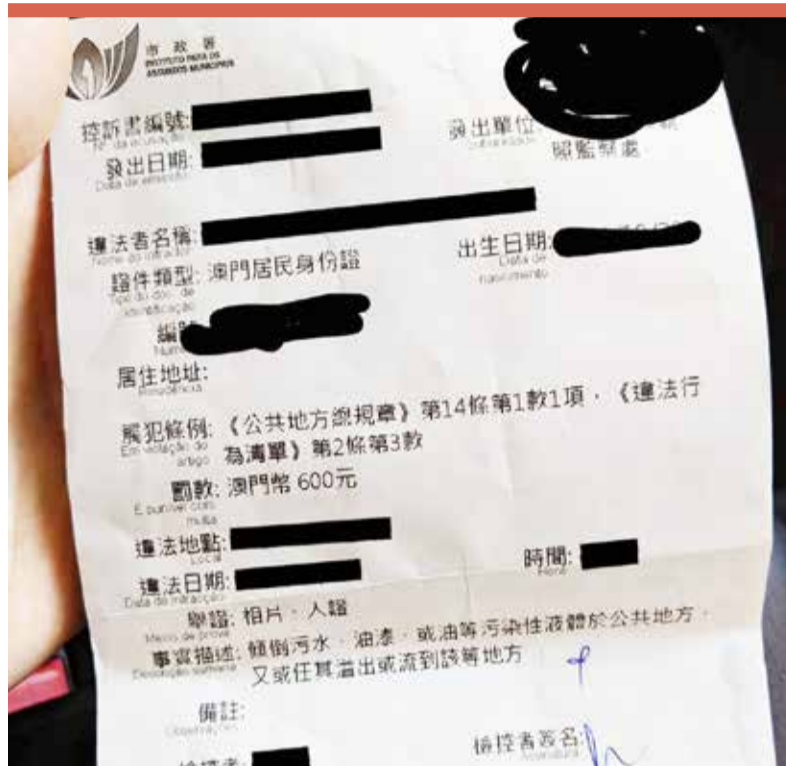
According to the female owner, who requested to stay anonymous, the dog excrement was not from her dog. In fact, she does not own one. "It's my first time dealing with a dog stool. I really didn't have any idea," she explained.

She clarified that she wanted to clean the dried and malodorous excrement which had even been stepped upon, with flies flying around. "Given the condition, it couldn't be just picked up or swept away," she explained.

That is why, according to the woman, she needed to splash water on it in order to clean it. While she was about to retrieve other tools to clean the area, two IAM officers approached her and issued her with a fine ticket.

Feeling perplexed about why the IAM officers could not instruct her on the correct method of cleaning, the shop owner filed an appeal to the IAM. It was also stressed that, as per her understanding, she was doing something positive and acting in good faith.

"I'm feeling quite helpless about the matter," the shop owner noted. "If I only want to clean up the place but got fined, it will confuse residents on the definition of 'good practice.'"



At the IAM, the officer told her that in such a situation, she should have used the IAM Connect app to notify the bureau. But she was confused by this requirement, as she understands the bureau staff may be busy and cannot attend to each case right away.

"The IAM team may not handle each inquiry immediately," said the shop owner. "Is it implied that operations should be halted until the IAM team handles the situation?"

The shop owner highlighted that IAM staff, when questioned on the suggestion of more practical ways, did not provide her with any advice.

It seems a situation of "lesson failed, lesson learned" to her. It was only after this incident that she was "educated" that the IAM should be notified to clean up in such a situa-

tion. Therefore, she suggested the bureau work more on the promotion of the "legal procedures."

The IAM told the shop owner that the appeal will take about two months to conclude.

"To a common resident, the two-month period will generate mental stress," the shop owner remarked.

Should the result of the appeal stand against her, she may consider filing a judicial appeal against the decision, and her justification is simple: she was acting in good faith with good intentions.

She stressed that she is not trying to seek revenge against the government entity. Instead, running a takeaway food establishment, the shop owner complimented the bureau for its diligence in safeguarding

food hygiene. "I have been trusting their judgments and professionalism," the shop owner stressed.

Comment from the IAM on the matter was sought, but no reply was received by press time.

PUBLIC PLACES UNDER GOV'T'S MANAGEMENT

Lawyer Vitor Tang has pointed out that, according to the law, public places are under the management of the government. This means that, in general, shop owners, despite standing adjacent to their business establishments, have no responsibility for restoring the cleanliness of the public space not within their establishments, although Tang stressed that keeping public places clean is a legal requirement.

When asked by the Times about what the law actually says, Tang provided the clause which he found relevant. Stipulations in the General Regulations Governing Public Places, originally in Chinese and Portuguese only, state that business operators "should keep the location(s) under their occupation and the public space(s) adjacent and connected to which clean, including [ensuring] the absence of residues such as grease and oil generated by the economic activities."

There can be tricky situations, such as when there are dirty materials outside a commercial establishment and the situation discourages customers from entering, in which case it is logical that the owner or the operator wants to clean it away, to which Tang agreed.

Tang reminds people to view and abide with the law when in such situations.

CONTROL MECHANISM FOR PROPERTY ACQUISITION IN THE MAINLAND CREATED

RENATO MARQUES

THE government has created a control mechanism for property acquisition in the mainland aiming to prevent the deception of local residents when buying property across the border, the Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) and the Consumer Council (CC) announced in a joint statement.

The mechanism includes, for now, the cities of Zhuhai, Zhongshan, and Jiangmen. It aims to supervise compliance with the legal provisions regarding the publication of property listings located on the mainland, and includes a specific page for the verification of information pertaining to the sale of the mainland real estate to offer added protection to consumers by creating awareness of the risks associated with the purchase of properties, namely housing units, across the border.

In pursuing this goal, the CC established a connection to the online platforms of Zhuhai, Zhongshan, and Jiangmen for monitoring real estate transactions. Interested parties should enter the specific page for "Information on the acquisition of properties located in the mainland," on the CC's website (www.consumer.gov.mo), and access the relevant platforms to verify the authenticity of the num-

bers of the "5 licenses" of buildings, as well as other information such as the promoter of the development, the area, and the zoning. In the period between January 2020 and February 1, 2021, DSED opened 136 inspection procedures regarding real estate advertising. Among these cases, sanctioned proceedings have been launched in relation to 18 of them, relating to the illegal advertisement of buildings located across the border.

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STRANDED MIGRANTS

Advisor urges gov't to subsidize dismissed workers to return home

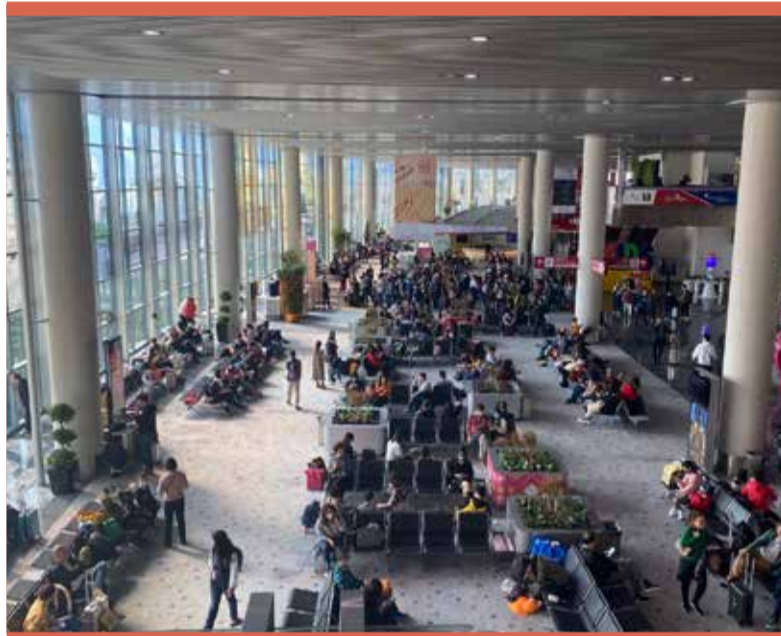
JULIE ZHU

THE deputy-coordinator of the advisory body of the central district, Jacky Chui Ming Man, has urged the local government to fund flights for stranded blue card workers who want to return to their hometowns.

After the pandemic hit Macau, thousands of non-local workers were laid off – which led to a sharp drop in the number of non-resident workers in the city.

In December 2020, Macau was home to 112,214 mainland blue card holders, 10,140 fewer than the figure of the same period in 2019, 122,354. This decline was mainly driven by the reduced number of workers coming into Macau from the mainland.

However, many non-resident workers are still stranded in the region without employment, as some of the dismissed workers are not only unable to return home, but are also prohibited, by



law, from being employed.

As cited in a report by Macao Daily News, Chui made a proposal to the government to help such former blue card workers who are confronting severe difficulties.

Chui specifically recommen-

ded that the government allocate money from the social security fund to subsidize these stranded workers.

According to the law on the employment of non-local workers, employers are required to contribute 200 patacas per

month to the social security fund for each non-resident employee. However, employers of domestic helpers are exempted from this obligation.

The community advisor argued that the majority of the non-mainland-China laid-off blue-card workers have been unable to return to their home country, as there are no flights.

He said that these laid-off workers need to renew their staying permit while they are still in Macau.

In Chui's opinion, without an income, it is difficult for these workers to afford rent and to live in the city.

Chui acknowledged the tremendous contributions blue-card workers have been making to the prosperity of the Macau SAR. As a result, he proposed that the government should fund trips home for laid-off workers who are financially disadvantaged.

Recently, Secretary for Securi-

ty Wong Sio Chak reported that, in 2020, the local immigration authority issued a temporary staying permit to 241 individuals, including some laid-off blue-card workers who were stranded in the city.

At the end of 2020, 22 passengers onboard a flight to Vietnam were in possession of the temporary staying permit.

Chui is not the first advisor to advocate for more government help for stranded dismissed workers.

Previously, lawmaker Agnes Lam also sought answers from the government, hoping that the administration authority could take special measures during exceptional circumstances to facilitate the rehiring of stranded workers. Another lawmaker, Wang Sai Man, also expressed hope that the SAR government would set up a temporary mechanism to allow SMEs and local families to hire dismissed and stranded non-resident workers.

SARS-COV-2

Two Tokyo returnees tested positive for antibodies

JULIE ZHU

TWO local residents who returned to Macau on a flight from Tokyo have tested positive for SARs-CoV-2 antibodies, according to a statement released yesterday by the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center.

The serology test results came out on Wednesday (February 3). The two individuals, who are men aged 30 and 43 years old, respectively, were on the same Tokyo flight, which landed at Macau International Airport on January 21.

In the case of the 30-year-old man, since his return, the center has carried out three viral tests, with all three tests returning negative results. On Wednesday, the center carried out an antibody check, which tested positive for antibody IgG and negative for antibody IgM.

The 43-year-old man, meanwhile, tested positive



for IgM but negative for IgG. He also received three viral tests, with all results negative.

The center is not categorizing these two cases as confirmed Covid-19 infections.

A 20-year-old woman also tested positive for antibody IgM but, when re-tested, results came back negative for the same antibody. The center will arrange a

second antibody test and another viral test for this woman.

Antibodies are proteins that develop when the immune system responds to a pathogen, such as a virus.

IgM is the first antibody that develops after someone has an acute viral infection. This is followed by the development of IgG antibodies. Once IgG antibodies have been developed, if a person

comes into contact with the same virus again, the IgG antibodies help the immune system respond faster and more effectively than it did the first time, and may also prevent illness.

With the emergence of new variants of coronavirus with high transmissibility, and the epidemic situation in the regions in which the returnees resided before returning to the city, the risk of infection is high.

Therefore, the center is carrying out two Covid-19 antibody blood tests for the 109 returnees, in addition to the four nucleic acid tests that are being conducted within the quarantine period.

The first blood test was carried out by the Health Bureau (SSM) personnel in the medical observation hotel at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, while the next one will be on February 10 at 9:30 a.m. Failure to complete the blood tests on time will result in a delay in the completion date of medical observations.

In a note to the returnees, authorities remind them to prepare a chair from the hotel room and place it in the doorway for the SSM personnel to conduct the blood test.

GOV'T URGES CIVIL SERVANTS TO AVOID TRAVEL

LYNZY VALLES

THE government is urging civil servants to avoid traveling during the upcoming Chinese New Year due to the new outbreak in the neighboring regions.

In an announcement, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre said that civil servants at all levels of government should cooperate with the SAR's epidemic prevention arrangements, safeguard the public interest, and ensure the provision of public services.

Public servants are being called upon to stay put in the region as much as possible during the Spring Festival holiday and at the peak of the holiday travel season in the mainland, and are being asked to avoid going outside of Guangdong Province.

If such civil servants are absent from work in

Macau or places outside of Macau due to changes in the local epidemic situation, the absence may be deemed unjustifiable.

At the peak of the pandemic last year, civil servants who work in non-essential services were exempted from work for a period of time.

Heads of different government departments were responsible for making a decision on the number of civil servants to be included in the exemption.

Meanwhile, in Zhuhai, the authority doled out special allowances for their employees to encourage them to stay in town during Chinese New Year, which starts on February 12.

Such moves aligned with the municipal government's travel advisory, which strongly advises residents and workers from other provinces in Zhuhai to avoid unnecessary travel during the festival.

HOTEL OPERATION LAW

PROPERTIES ON NON-HOTEL-ZONED LAND ALLOWED TO CONTINUE OPERATION

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



JULIE ZHU

THE local government has proposed new changes to the rules governing hotel operations. The new rules specifically concern hotels situated on land that is not designated for hotel operation, according to the Second Standing Committee of Legislative Assembly (AL).

Yesterday, the AL Second Standing Committee discussed the newest amendment of the bill submitted by the local government.

According to Chan Chak Mo, chairman of the AL Second Standing Committee, the government intends to set up administrative regulations to oversee hotels situated on non-hotel-zoned land.

The government proposes that operators of these kinds of hotels must apply for permission from the government to change the utilization purpose of

the concerned land. The government may or may not approve the land being used for hotels. The application must be made within five years of the law coming into effect.

If the operators fail to obtain a government approval, then the authority will not renew the license associated with the hotel operation.

In the case of the government declining to approve a change of land zone, the authority may still renew the license for the hotel. However, the concerned operators will not be allowed to open any new facility that would require a new license on the same land plot.

The operators will also be banned from remodeling the existing property, but maintenance will be permitted.

The new proposal also says that no change should be made to license owners of the concerned hotels.

Citing the government, Chan disclosed that Macau has 30 to 40 hotels that are currently built on non-hotel-zoned land.

The law does not concern accommodation provided by religious groups, universities, and non-profit organizations.

In February 2019, the AL approved the amendment of the hotel operation law. The Second Standing Committee of AL conducted se-

veral readings in April and May of 2019.

The bill prescribes that a hotel should have a minimum of 10 guestrooms. The current law says that a hotel must operate at least 40 guestrooms. The new law allows hotels to be opened inside historically and culturally significant buildings that have been granted historic status. The law also permits the operation of hostels.

37 HOTELS UNDERWAY

MACAU currently has 17 hotels that are under construction and some 20 hotel projects are still in the design phase, according to data released by the Department of Land, Public Works and Transport. The hotels under construction will increase the current hotel room number by 8,607 rooms. The nearly two dozen hotel devel-

opments that are being planned will provide another 2,268 rooms. In terms of residential buildings, 10 buildings with 1,083 units have obtained a license to operate between October and December, while another 66 housing blocks have not yet been completed or still subject to inspection. These will provide 4,058 apartments.

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A slice of London on Cotai Strip expected to be a boon: experts

HONEY TSANG

MUCH-anticipated resort The Londoner Macao is set to roll out the red carpet to commemorate its first phase opening on February 8, strategically scheduled in time for Lunar New Year. Experts expect the newcomer to be a great boon for the city's tourism industry.

The new mega integrated resort on the Cotai Strip, rebranded and remodeled from Sands Cotai Central, is a replica of London. It represents a new addition not only to Sands China Ltd.'s (SCL) hotel arsenal, but also to Macau's tourism appeal.

The opening of The Londoner will make Macau more attractive to tourists and gaming customers, as they all seek new travel experiences, Wang Changbin, director of the Centre for Gaming & Tourism Studies at the Macao Polytechnic Institute, told the Times.

Sands China has so far invested MOP15.2 billion into the projects of The Londoner Macao — a resort imbued with a London-themed concept and attractions.

In an interview with the Times, Ben Lee, managing partner of IGamiX Management & Consulting, commented: "The Londoner is a rejuvenation of a property that never really had a distinctive market positioning. The face-lift and rejigging of the rooms to target the premium mass market may have, in better times, [given] them [SCL] a better chance of a significant improvement in market share."

The first-phase opening on February 8 marks the lead-off curtain-raiser, featuring new hotspots, including the all-suite The Londoner Hotel, Crystal Palace atrium, new eateries, and many interactive London-themed attractions.



A KNACK FOR CITY-THEMING

Sands China has notable credentials in managing city-themed resorts in Macau, considering the accomplishment in its two other hotel brands, The Venetian Macao and The Parisian Macao.

The London theme itself is a key drawcard to attract visitors, as "properties with European style are desirable to most of the Asian customers, who like to see something different from home," Wang commented.

"The practice of country-theming had already run its course in Las Vegas, and by the time Macau's borders open up, there is a real possibility that the same evolution in visitors' preferences may occur in China or Macau," Lee projects.

Meanwhile, Wang forecasts that The Londoner, with The Venetian and The Parisian, "will strengthen the leading position of Sands in [the] Macau mass market, both in gaming and shopping."

However, Lee thinks the future still presents some challenges for the new resort. "With the uncertainties surrounding China

outbound travel as it looks to curb international travel to focus on improving its own economy, it is difficult to see The Londoner theming having a huge, major impact in the next couple of years," he said.

In an official statement released in December 2020, Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China said: "London is an iconic city and we anticipate this addition will further raise the profile of [Macau] while increasing the number of visitors, as our other flagship properties have done."

Robert Goldstein, the chairman and chief executive officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp (LVS), the parent company of SCL, said: "Our investment in The Londoner Macao is a clear signal that we believe [Macau's] future as one of the world's most important leisure and business destinations remains on course."

WHAT'S NEW?

The Londoner Hotel will be the first all-suite accommodation to open at The Londoner Macao resort. The new hotel, with its interiors designed by

Hong Kong's Steve Leung Design, features around 600 suites.

The Crystal Palace atrium will be another new attraction. The entrance to the resorts is embellished with glass and iron, emulating Victorian design. Its interiors are inspired by ancient classical architectural orders, which offered inspirations for many great historical pieces of architecture in England.

In terms of food and beverage elements, two eateries, the British restaurant Churchill's Table and North Palace, which offers North Chinese cuisine, will launch on February 8, according to a SCL staff member.

To coincide with Chinese New Year (CNY), SCL will offer a string of festival entertainments from February 13 to 21 to uplift the visitor experience, including 10 streetmosphere performances, the Gentleman Magician show, Acappella Choir, and so on.

During the festival, several interactive installations will pop up in the resort, such as the Black Cab Escape, offering a virtual taxi ride with David Beckham in London.

The surprise factor will not end with the first opening in February. Sands China confirmed earlier that other official openings will "launch progressively throughout the year of 2021." They include the 14 Suites by David Beckham, the city's first celebrity-designed suites, as well as Beckham's first worldwide; Londoner Court, another all-suite hotel inside the resort; the rethemed Shoppes at Londoner; and Londoner Arena.

GOOD TIMING

The first-phase opening of The Londoner Macao comes in good time, as it arrives after Sands China posted positive adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) of USD47 million in the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2020.

The figure represents a noticeable advancement from the EBITDA loss of USD312 million and USD233 million in the second and third quarter of 2020, respectively — a sign of the recovery of SCL's businesses during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

On the back of the positive tally, Goldstein has been assured of the promising prospect of SCL, and said earlier: "There is no doubt in my mind that our business will rebound to pre-Covid levels in the future."

As stated in SCL's financial report, The Venetian Macao raked in a positive USD73 million adjusted EBITDA in Q4 2020 — the most lucrative among SCL's five hotel brands in Macau.

Meanwhile, The Londoner Macao registered a negative EBITDA of USD34 million. The other two brands, namely The Parisian Macao and Sands Macao, also reported a negative EBITDA of USD7 million and USD18 million, respectively.

The Londoner Macao is one of the key projects of the late Sheldon Adelson, the founder of LVS, who passed away at 87 on January 12 this year, after battling with lymphoma.

In 2017, Adelson said he wanted to transform the resort into recognizable landmarks, adding: "If you think about London, it's iconic in so many ways; [from] the buses to the Beefeaters, and there's just so many opportunities there."

Pereira Coutinho concerned about local internet service

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKER José Pereira Coutinho is concerned about the quality of the Internet service in Macau, he noted in a written inquiry submitted earlier this month to the government.

Under discussion is the optical submarine telecommunications cable Sou-

th-East Asia - Middle East - Western Europe 3 (SEA-ME-WE), on which local internet supply depends and which, according to the lawmaker, is reaching its end-of-life period.

Pereira Coutinho is worried, as the "internet is a paramount service that is used daily by the population, the banking and finance sector,

official entities, education institutions, as well as tourists, who [desire] stable, safe, fast and reliable [internet] services," he wrote as part of the inquiry to which the Times had access.

The lawmaker also claims that, more than 20 years since the activation of the cable, Macau needs more underwater cables to

make regional and international connections with the neighboring region of Hong Kong, which possesses several connections and links.

The proposed solution would have several connections directly to Macau or, alternatively, would link Macau through "Cable Landing Points" using the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Brid-

ge for such a purpose.

Pereira Coutinho is also arguing that the local government should invest in local infrastructure, allowing all the telecommunications operators to request convergence licenses to allow the provision, to the general public, of lower cost services.

With this inquiry, the

lawmaker wishes to know about the government's plans in this field and whether the authorities are planning to allow all operators to use the assets of the current concession to increase the quality and efficiency of the services as well as reducing costs to people, companies and institutions.



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Top court in favor of temporary residency cancelation of cross-border workers

RENATO MARQUES

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has ruled in favor of government authorities that had canceled the temporary residency permits of two people who were working in Macau but living outside the borders of Macau.

The two similar cases involve residency permits granted under the scheme for technical and specialized staff and higher managerial staff, who are under the capacity of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM).

In a statement from the TUI, the court notes that, according to the rules and laws into force, such workers "cannot be considered formally residents, those that by motives unrelated with their job duties stay overnight out of Macau for long periods."

The individuals in question are a woman, a resident from the neighboring region of Hong Kong, and a man resident from the mainland, who had acquired

RENATO MARQUES



the right of temporary residency under the IPIM scheme for higher managerial staff and technical and specialized staff, respectively.

While the first person was officially registered as being a high-ranked manager in a construction materials company in Macau but continued to have her usual residence in Hong Kong, the second, a technical staff working for an airline company, although

working daily in Macau, was living in the city of Zhuhai, crossing the border every day.

In both cases, the top court noted that the status of a resident implies having a home-base in Macau and having a real intention of moving into Macau, if not permanently, at least for a long period, a reason that justifies the issuing of the residency permit.

The court also noted that absence from the region for long

periods can be disregarded as absence, if that absence is directly related to work duties that force the person to be away for considerable in cases where the person has a real and proven intention of returning to Macau.

PROCEDURE TO EXPEL MACAU-BORN TEENAGER HALTED

The same court also ruled in favor of a 19-year-old woman, born and raised in Macau, who filed a precautionary action against the Identification Bureau (DSI), which called for the cancellation of her permanent residence permit and her expulsion from the region, the TUI also informed in a different statement.

The case involves a paternity dispute in which the resident was involved. When her birth mother, a resident from the mainland, registered the child as being the daughter of a permanent resident of Macau, this led the then-child to acquire the same status as her father.

Around 15 years later, in 2016, information from the civil regis-

try noted that the mother at the time of the registration of the child's birth had made false declarations as to the father of the child, a fact that was later proven via a police investigation.

In light of such a fact, the DSI decided to cancel the permit of the resident, a fact that the TUI considered inadequate, since it would have as a direct consequence the illegality of the woman's stay in Macau and make her liable to expulsion.

The judges noted that the government authorities cannot ignore the fact that what is on the line is a fundamental right "of continuing to reside legally in Macau, a place where she was born and where she has been living since birth."

In the ruling, TUI's judges also note that the decision of the DSI would directly force the woman to move to an unknown place where she has no references.

For the time being, the decision to cancel the residency permit of the youngster is postponed until a final decision is reached.

AD

合夥人 PARTNERS:

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山度士 Álvaro Rodrigues °
馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata °
趙魯 Zhao Lu °
馬傑安 João Nogueira Marques

大律師 ASSOCIATES:

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羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues *
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馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
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羅嘉慧 Emily Lo
陳子健 Chan Chi Kin



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C&C
LAWYERS
& NOTARIES
SINCE 1996

" Mr. Adelson's Sands Macao opened in May 2004 as the city's first Las Vegas-style casino. The introduction of integrated resorts – highlighted by the completion of The Venetian Macao ... [contributed] significantly to the growth of the city's tourism industry.

EDMUND HO HAU WAH

VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE CHINESE PEOPLE'S POLITICAL CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE, AND FORMER CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE MACAO SAR (IN MACAO DAILY NEWS ON JAN 14, 2021)

" The leadership of the late Mr Adelson has promoted the development of Sands China in Macao. The Macao SAR Government expresses its deepest sorrow on the passing of Mr Adelson, and extends its most sincere condolences to his family."

MACAO SAR GOVERNMENT

" He was a person with a big heart who will be greatly missed by all. We will always remember his generosity, kindness and support to the work of Caritas Macau.

PAUL PUN CHI MENG
 SECRETARY GENERAL OF CARITAS MACAU

" The Adelson Family Foundation has been a generous supporter of us for more than 10 years, allowing us to bring more services to people with intellectual disabilities.

HETZER SIU
 NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF MACAO SPECIAL OLYMPICS

SHELDON G. ADELSON

The man who successfully turned his vision for Cotai to reality



THE passing last month of Sheldon Adelson, Las Vegas Sands' and Sands China's founder, chairman and CEO, provides an opportunity to reflect on his company's impact on the development of Macau and to examine Adelson's personal values, which have shaped both the company's business strategy and its relationship with the local community.

On Feb 8, the Macao SAR is set to see the first-phase opening of The Londoner Macao, Sands China's British-themed reimagining of its Sands Cotai Central integrated resort. After bringing Venice and Paris to Macau, the company's unveiling of The Londoner Macao represents the latest fulfillment of Adelson's vision for the integrated resorts on the Cotai Strip.

As a pioneer, entrepreneur, visionary and philanthropist, Adelson's commitment to the SAR and the local community helped transform Macau into what it is today.

For over a decade, Sands China has dynamically invested in bringing global landmarks to the city, providing a unique experience for local residents and tourists – totaling more than USD14

billion of investment in Macau to date.

And despite the economic crisis brought forth by the Covid-19 pandemic, Sands China has provided reassurance and affirmed its continued reinvestment in non-gaming development in the SAR, in line with not just Adelson's vision, but also the Macau government's vision of developing a world center of tourism and leisure.

Adelson's contributions to Macau's tourism industry are well known. But for him, it was never just about gaming. Rather, he decided to begin his Macau venture by bringing the first Las Vegas-style casino and entertainment complex to the city in 2004 with the Sands Macao. He then chose to follow that unparalleled success not with another property on the peninsula, but instead took the gutsy move of choosing the undeveloped land on Cotai for introducing Macau to his game-changing integrated resort concept with The Venetian Macao in 2007. The iconic property became an instantly recognizable landmark in Macau, and set the stage for the further development of the Cotai Strip by Sands China and Macau's other concessionaires –

bringing millions of tourists to the region.

This particular approach of using the integrated resort model has reshaped the city's gaming and tourism industries, including by bringing in international standards of customer service and operations across the spectrum of the integrated resort business pillars: accommodation; retail; meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE); entertainment; dining; and gaming.

The integrated resort model has likewise had a tremendous economic and human resources impact in Macau, creating a diver-

se range of employment opportunities with new types of jobs in industries new to Macau, such as MICE and entertainment – which has in turn developed the pool of local professional talent and attracted millions of tourists each year to a diverse business and leisure destination.

PHILANTHROPY AS A CORE PRINCIPLE

Adelson's vision for Cotai was not limited to the growth of economy and industry. Rather, he brought his spirit of philanthropy with him to the SAR, setting an example for corporate social responsibility.



From Left: Manny Pacquiao vs Algi

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



For instance, Sands China was the first gaming operator to form a volunteer team in 2009, now known as the Sands Cares Ambassadors, totaling over 3,300 team members at present.

The platform serves the local community by organizing and supporting activities and initiatives which help create a better Macau.

The integrated resort operator was also the first to support the Peng On Tung Tele-Assistance program 12 years ago, aiming to engage with the local community and the elderly in particular. The company has so far donated a total of MOP2.3 million to the program, benefiting nearly 9,700 live-alone elderly to date.

Sands China has often expres-

sed the sentiment that the company's growth and success should go hand-in-hand with that of the wider community's.

That mission finds expression through the company's charitable giving and community engagement program, Sands Cares, which is rooted in Adelson's spirit of philanthropy and focuses on four key areas: community problem solving and collaboration, finan-

cial giving, in-kind donations, and team member volunteerism.

Sands China's relationship with Fuhong Society of Macau is one example of how Adelson's philanthropic aims have helped boost the quality of life for some of society's vulnerable groups.

"We've never failed to sense the dedication and hard work contributed by Mr. Sheldon Adelson," the association expres-

sed. "We fully appreciate the fact that his inspiring leadership and pursuit of excellence have created a company with an enviable reputation for production quality both here and abroad."

Isabel da Silva, director of Development of Orbis Macau, also expressed the organization's gratitude, noting that "Following in Mr. and Mrs. Adelson philanthropic footsteps, we have

always been most grateful for the generous support extended to the sight-saving programs and vision of Orbis by Sands China Group, allowing for us to carry on our long-term mission to fight avoidable blindness and helping the many visually impaired people around the world."

The Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau also shared the sentiment, remarking, "He touched the lives of others in great ways, especially people with intellectual disabilities as well as their families. He has left behind many fond memories among all of us."

Adelson also ensured his firm was having an impact on educational institutions.

In 2018, the Adelson Family Foundation presented the University of Saint Joseph with a donation of more than USD1.9 million (approximately MOP15.4 million) to assist with recovery efforts following Typhoon Hato and subsequent storms that caused major damage to the new campus.

Recalling the much-needed assistance, rector of the University of Saint Joseph, Reverend Professor Stephen Morgan remarked, "At this university, we will never forget the way in which the Adelson Family Foundation came to our rescue after Typhoon Hato destroyed so much of our new campus in August 2017."

"As it is, our campus was able to open and be inaugurated with minimum delay. Today the Ilha Verde Campus stands, in part, as witness to Mr. Adelson's benevolence. For us, his memory will always be a blessing," he added.

TEAM MEMBERS COME FIRST

Notwithstanding the challenges brought about by the current pandemic, Sands China's commitment to Macau has remained unwavering throughout this difficult period – something that Adelson was firm about.

Amid the economic and business crisis, the late founder was adamant that the company should do all that it can to support team members, their families, and the Macau community at large.

And next week, the company is paying a discretionary allowance to more than 26,000 eligible full-time team members, as it has done many times prior, providing them with up to an additional month's salary in gratitude for their dedication and contributions in 2020 – benefitting 99% of Sands China's total employment.

So as Macau prepares to greet the Year of the Ox, Cotai's integrated resorts are getting ready to bring new attractions to the city, with The Londoner Macao the first on the horizon. And with Macau set to welcome tourists with more non-gaming offerings, the city looks ahead with optimism for post-pandemic recovery.



eri at the Venetian Arena, a gondolier in the Grand Canal Shoppes inside The Venetian, Rolling Stones concert and MICE Expo

COVID 19

WHO TEAM IN WUHAN SAYS DISCUSSIONS OPEN, MEETINGS FRANK

EMILY WANG FUJIYAMA,
WUHAN

WORLD Health Organization investigators looking for clues into the origin of the coronavirus in the central Chinese city of Wuhan said that the Chinese side has provided a high level of cooperation, but cautioned against expecting immediate results from the visit.

"I keep saying that we need to be realistic, a short mission like this one will not have all the answers but it helps advance the understanding of the #virusorigin #wuhan," Hung Nguyen-Viet, co-leader of the Animal and Human Health Program of the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya, said in a tweet yesterday.

In an earlier tweet, zoologist and team member Peter Daszak praised Wednesday's meetings with staff at the key Wuhan Institute of Virology, including with Deputy Director Shi Zhengli, a virologist who worked with Daszak to track down the origins of SARS that originated in China and led to the 2003 outbreak.

"Extremely important meeting today with staff at WIV including Dr Shi Zhengli. Frank, open discussion. Key questions asked & answered," Daszak tweeted.



Peter Ben Embarek of the WHO team (at left) arrives for a field visit at the Service Center for Party Members and Residents of Jiangxinyuan Community in Wuhan

The team yesterday spent around two hours meetings with managers and residents at the Jiangxinyuan community administrative center in Wuhan's Hanyang District. No details were given.

Official statistics shows that there were at least 16 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the community last year among nearly 10,000 people living there when the virus broke out.

Earlier, Daszak tweeted images of media outside the virology institute, saying: "Thanking the press for their patience and interest in getting this news out to the world. The work is moving ahead & we look forward to being able to talk about the results as soon as possible."

The Wuhan Institute of Virology has collected extensive virus samples, leading to unproven allega-

tions that it may have caused the original outbreak by leaking the virus into the surrounding community. China has strongly denied that possibility and has promoted unproven theories that the virus may have originated elsewhere.

Along with the institute, the WHO team that includes experts from 10 nations has visited hospitals, research institutes, a traditional market tied to the outbreak and

other sites.

Members of the team have met with institute researchers and management, experts, vendors, residents and media representatives, the spokesperson for China's National Health Commission, Mi Feng, told reporters at a briefing.

It is likely to take years and multiple investigations in many parts of the globe to confirm the origins of the virus because of the exhaustive research, including taking animal samples, genetic analysis and epidemiological studies required to pin down an outbreak's animal reservoir. One possibility is that a wildlife poacher might have passed the virus to traders who carried it to Wuhan but that has yet to be proven.

The first clusters of COVID-19 were detected in Wuhan in late 2019, prompting the government to put the city of 11 million under a strict 76-day lockdown. China has since reported more than 89,000 cases and 4,600 deaths — the bulk of them in Wuhan — with new cases largely concentrated in its northeast and local lockdowns and travel restrictions being imposed to contain the outbreaks.

New cases of local transmission fell to just 17 yesterday as Chinese heed government calls to skip family visits and stay put during the Lunar New Year holiday later this month.

China has also pushed ahead with a plan to vaccinate 50 million people for COVID-19 by the middle of this month. As of Wednesday, more than 31 million doses had been administered, Mi told reporters. **MDT/AP**

Taiwan opens trade office in Guyana in diplomatic effort

TAIWAN has established a trade office in the South American country of Guyana, a diplomatic win for the island that has continued to lose allies in an aggressive poaching campaign from China in recent years.

China's Foreign Ministry responded swiftly, demanding that those concerned "avoid setting up any official institutions with each other, and take practical measures to correct mistakes and eliminate negative impacts."

"We admonish the DPP authority that any attempt to seek support of foreign forces to engage in secessionist activities around the world will never succeed," ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin told reporters, referring to the initials of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party that rejects Beijing's demands for political unification.

The Guyana facility will



In this image made from video, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Joanne Ou points at a map of Guyana at a weekly press conference yesterday

focus on cooperation in areas like agriculture, education and trade, Taiwan's Foreign ministry said in an announcement yesterday. It does not represent the establishment of formal diplomatic ties.

Taiwan has been the subject of a massive pres-

sure campaign from China that claims the island as part of its territory — to be conquered by military force if necessary — and says it has no right to official exchanges with any foreign governments or multinational organizations such as the United Nations.

Taiwan has just 15 formal diplomatic allies left, after two countries chose to switch diplomatic relations to China in 2019 from Taiwan.

Taiwan also has a network of trade offices around the world that act as de-facto embassies, inclu-

ding in the United States, Japan and most other major nations.

Also last year, Taiwan exchanged representative offices with the breakaway Somali territory of Somaliland to focus on trade and security in the Horn of Africa. China responded by accusing Taiwan of "undermining Somali sovereignty and territorial integrity."

China has frequently sought to scupper such arrangements in the past and has been using its massive economic resources to win over Taiwan's remaining allies.

China has refused all direct contacts with Taiwan's government since the election of independence-leaning DPP President Tsai Ing-wen in 2016. Tsai was reelected last year to a second four-year term.

Despite that, Taiwan enjoys strengthening U.S. support as an unofficial ally. Bipartisan support

for the island has grown in recent years under the former Trump administration, including a visit from the highest-level U.S. government delegation since the U.S. switched relations from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

The U.S. applauded the move, with both the embassy in Guyana and the de-facto U.S. mission in Taiwan issuing statements of support.

"Deepening ties between Guyana and Taiwan will advance their shared goals of prosperity and security," said the statement from the U.S. Embassy in Guyana.

"The United States remains committed to supporting Taiwan as it expands its international partnerships and works to address global challenges, including COVID-19," the American Institute in Taiwan said in its statement. **AP**

STEPHEN WADE

BUILDING elaborate venues for Beijing's 2022 Winter Olympics is the easy part for China, just as it was for the city's Summer Olympics in 2008. The competition venues are ready, and non-competition sites will be completed this summer with the Games set to open one year from Thursday on Feb. 4, 2022.

But these Olympics are already scarred by accusations of rights abuses including genocide against more than 1 million Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim ethnic groups in the western Xinjiang region. And unlike 2008, a new generation of Olympic athletes is speaking out on social issues and discrimination and challenging IOC rules against using the Olympics as a stage.

Hanging over all of this is the COVID-19 pandemic that has already delays and still threatens the Tokyo Summer Olympics in six months.

China says its ability to control the virus through lockdowns, quarantines, contact tracing and mask wearing should alleviate any concerns. The Winter Olympics are also much smaller than the Summer Games with about 3,000 athletes instead of 11,000.

"We are full of confidence to hold an excellent and outstanding Winter Olympics," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Wang Wenbin said this week.

While a full-blown boycott seems unlikely, athletes and the IOC's 14 leading sponsors are a possible target. Household names such as Coca-Cola, Airbnb, Procter & Gamble, Samsung, Panasonic, Visa, Toyota and others together pay the IOC a total of \$1 billion over a four-year Olympic cycle.

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab has said a boycott by his country is a possibility, and new U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken has said he believes genocide was being committed in China.

Chinese President Xi Jinping "will not be deterred by threats of a boycott," Steve Tsang, director of the SOAS China Institute at the University of London, said in an email. "Instead, Xi's government will make threats to ruin the economic future of any

Human rights, Covid at issue one year before Beijing Olympics



AP PHOTO

sportsperson who may be involved in a boycott and try to deter anyone from doing so."

The World Uyghur Congress has labeled them the "Genocide Games" and asked the IOC to move the Olympics from China. A coalition of 180 rights groups sent an open letter on the eve of the one-year-to-go date calling for a diplomatic boycott. The coalition is composed of groups representing Tibetans, Uighurs, Inner Mongolians, Hong Kong residents and others.

Asked about the letter, Wang said that "attempts to interfere with and disrupt the normal preparation and holding of the Olympic Games out of political motives are highly irresponsible. Such a move will not be supported by the international community and will never succeed."

The International Olympic Committee has largely ignored the demands, issuing laudatory statements praising Xi. Last week, IOC President Thomas Bach told Chinese state media the preparations for the games were "almost a miracle."

The IOC says its business is running sports events, although the body is highly political and has observer status at the United Nations. It has said in repeated statements that awarding the Olympics "does not mean that the IOC agrees with the political structure, social

circumstances or human rights standards in the country."

Beijing is the first city to hold both the Winter and Summer Olympics. The IOC awarded it the Winter Olympics in 2015 when several Europe bidders, including Oslo and Stockholm, backed out for political or financial reasons. Eventually the IOC chose Beijing in a 44-40 vote over Almaty, Kazakhstan.

"It really is a safe choice," Bach said at the time. "We know China will deliver on its promises."

Athletes face tough choices, both from a political and health perspective. Most Olympians and Paralympians typically get only one chance at the big event, and many compete in niche sports that offer little financial future.

Athletes' voices are sure to be louder than ever in Tokyo — if those games can open on July 23 in the midst of a pandemic — and even in Beijing, where free speech, right of assembly and other civil liberties are severely curbed.

The IOC's present Rule 50 states that "no kind of demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda is permitted in any Olympic sites, venues or other areas."

The rule is being challenged globally and the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee has said it will not punish its athletes for raising

fists or kneeling on the Olympic medal podium.

The IOC's Athletes Commission is expected

to make changes to the rule but is unlikely to satisfy Olympic athletes that want to use their pulpit to

speaking out about discrimination and human rights issues. The Black Lives Matters movement in the United States has argued that human rights are not a political issue.

"When we come to China, we would hope that the IOC would see the importance of raising awareness of the social and racial injustice and the genocide happening in China and to say it's not acceptable," Rob Koehler, general secretary of the advocacy group Global Athlete, said.

"The IOC should welcome that. We can't oppress athletes. We need to support them. We need to promote them and if they have a voice they have to be allowed to use it." AP

AD

SUPER BOCK

DD3 VERANDAH
GRAND OPENING
Feb 13th, 2021

ULTRA LOUNGE

live performance by
BETCHY BARROS
DJs
M@NOYB / ABELX / D-HOO
DJ GORDON / ZARAH

DD3 Upper Floor
180 MOP / 2 DRINKS
10 PM till late

asylum

MOMA
Macau Dance Music Association

AP PHOTO



Scott Morrison

DIPLOMACY

Australian prime minister says he invited Biden Down Under

ROD MCGUIRK,
CANNBERRA

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister said he invited President Joe Biden to visit in September during a "very warm and engaging" phone call between the two leaders yesterday.

"He sees the Australia-U.S. relationship as providing the anchor for peace and security in our region," Prime Minister Scott Morrison said. "And that is true. We share that view. In terms of our relations between Australia and the United States, there's nothing to fix there, only things to build on."

The White House later said Biden described Australia as an anchor of stability in the "Indo-Pacific and the world."

"They also agreed to work together, alongside other allies and partners, to hold to account those responsible for the coup in Burma," the White House statement said, referring to the country also known as Myanmar.

"The leaders affirmed their commitment to working together to advance our shared values, global

security and prosperity," it added.

Morrison invited Biden to visit Australia to mark the 70th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty, a defense agreement that once included New Zealand and was signed on Sept. 1, 1950.

Morrison said Biden reacted positively to the invitation.

"He told me he needs no special reason to come to Australia, he loves the place," Morrison said. "But they (Biden and first lady Jill Biden) would very much like to be in Australia at some point, and we'll see how that progresses."

American presidents making the 15,900-kilometer (9,900-mile) flight between the two national capitals typically incorporate visits to Asia or Southeast Asian capitals.

Diplomatic travel has been virtually halted around the world by the coronavirus pandemic, but success in vaccinating people would allow for such trips to resume.

Australia has made exemptions to its own strict

travel restrictions for important allies.

Australia's defense and foreign ministers highlighted the importance of the U.S. relationship by flying to Washington, D.C., for an annual bilateral meeting in July. They had to quarantine in a hotel for two weeks on their return.

Morrison's only overseas trip of the pandemic was to meet Japan's new Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga in November. He also had to quarantine on his return.

The White House said Biden described Australia as an anchor of stability in the 'Indo-Pacific and the world'

Morrison said his conversation with the president also covered the alliance the two nations share with Japan and India known as the Quad as well as the Five-Eyes intelligence-sharing partnership that includes, Canada, Britain and New Zealand. They also discussed the pandemic and cli-

mate change.

Morrison said he did not expect a change in U.S.-direction on China under the Biden administration.

"I think in the United States, Australia has, and remains to have, a very, very strong and effective partner on these issues of Indo-Pacific security," Morrison said.

The last U.S. president to visit Australia was Barack Obama.

Australia had an occasionally troubled relationship with President Donald Trump's administration, with friction over an Obama-era deal for the U.S. to take Muslim refugees refused entry to Australia and differences over U.S. steel tariffs.

Australia's then-Prime Minister John Howard was in Washington, D.C., marking the 50th anniversary of the ANZUS Treaty when terrorists struck the Pentagon and New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

Australia responded by committing combat troops to the U.S.-led invasions of Afghanistan in 2001 and Iraq in 2003. AP

this day in history

1974 NEWSPAPER HEIRESS KIDNAPPED



The daughter of the millionaire American publisher, Randolph Hearst, has been kidnapped.

Patty Hearst, aged 19, was with her fiancé, Steven Weed, in her flat in Berkeley, California, at 2100 local time yesterday (0500 GMT) when there was a knock on the door.

When Miss Hearst answered it, two men and a woman burst in to the room.

In a violent exchange, Mr Weed was forced to lie on the floor, and then hit on the head repeatedly with a wine bottle and tied up.

A neighbour who heard the commotion and tried to help was also tied up and beaten.

The kidnapers carried Miss Hearst off, kicking and screaming, and put her in the boot of a white car.

Another car was also used, and as they sped off down the street they fired several shots at people in the street, although nobody was injured.

Police said no ransom demand had yet been made, although this is thought the most likely motive for the kidnapping.

Miss Hearst is an heiress to the multi-million dollar Hearst publishing empire, founded by her grandfather, William Randolph Hearst.

Mr Hearst senior was a flamboyant newspaper proprietor whose career inspired Orson Welles in making his film, Citizen Kane.

He built the spectacular and whimsical castle on the 127-acre family estate in San Simeon, California, from the proceeds of his empire, which includes popular magazines such as Cosmopolitan, Good Housekeeping and Harper's Bazaar.

The company also publishes newspapers in a number of major American cities, including the San Francisco Examiner. Its president is Patty Hearst's father, Randolph Hearst.

Mr Hearst was in Washington when the kidnap took place, but left immediately for California on hearing the news.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The kidnap was carried out by a little-known revolutionary group, the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA). Over the following weeks, they apparently brainwashed Patty Hearst into accepting their ideas, until in April 1974 she was caught on closed circuit television helping them to rob a bank. She went on the run, but was caught by the FBI. After a sensational trial, she was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment, but was released, in 1979, after three years. She was pardoned in January 2001 by President Clinton. Hearst married her police bodyguard, Bernard Shaw, shortly after her release, and now lives in Connecticut with two daughters.

The SLA is thought to have only ever had about 12 members. Six, including the group's leader, Donald DeFreeze, were killed in a police shootout later in 1974.

The remaining five members lived quietly under assumed names for over 20 years, until the FBI tracked them down. The last SLA fugitive, James Kilgore, was arrested in Cape Town in South Africa in 2002. All are now in jail.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Take things where you want them to go today, whether anyone else is on board with your idea or not. You don't need other people's permission to live your life.

TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Expand your music collection with things from other cultures. Voices singing in unfamiliar languages will transport you to another place and time.

GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

It's time for you to get a little more creative with the things you do for fun. Your entertainment budget was blown long ago! You don't need things to be first class, top shelf, or super exclusive to be enjoyable.

CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Why pressure yourself into taking on more than you can handle right now? Sure, you may feel up for the challenge, but you're not seeing all of those small details, and they can add up to quite a workload!

LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Today you might find yourself in an introverted mood as the day gets started. You won't be too interested in connecting with other people until later in the day when you're feeling more confident.

VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

If you are trying to start any kind of new relationship today, whether business, friendship, romantic, or otherwise, you need to make sure you're not putting too much pressure on yourself.

LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Due to a higher level of uncertainty in your life, you could become a bit overwhelmed today. This isn't exactly an ideal day to venture out into a lot of new situations.

SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Secrets are for keeping, so if you are privy to any private information today, keep it to yourself. Avoid the people who can get you to spill your guts, and zip your lips.

SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Although they're not trying to hold you back on purpose, they will be an obstacle. The good news is that this pause in the action will make the end result that much better.

CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Think about what you want for your future and give it more weight than whatever gadget or new toy you want right now. Delayed gratification is something to explore.

AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

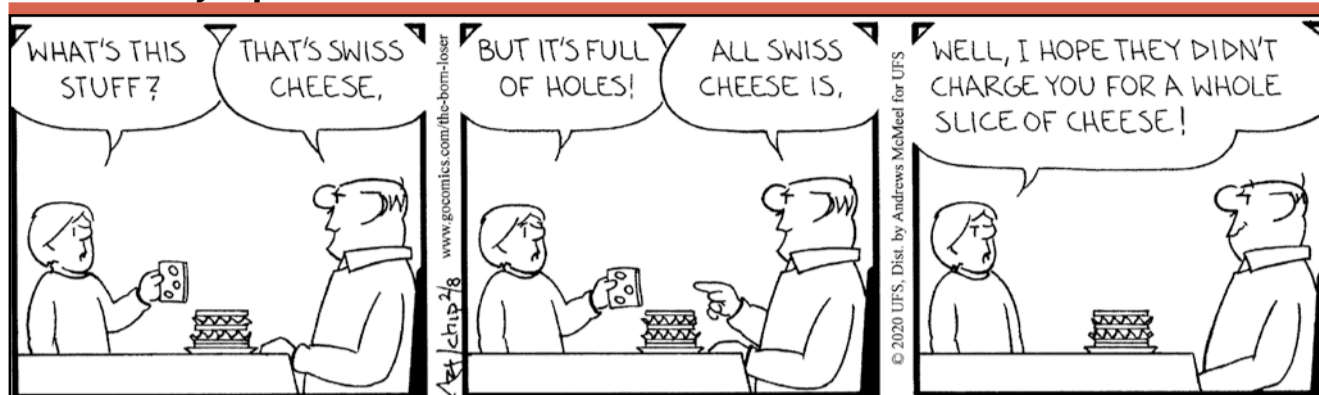
At least you enjoyed that happiness and anticipation. Plus, you will feel more grounded and comfortable about not knowing every little thing in the future.

PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Are you being too critical of yourself? Giving yourself grief accomplishes nothing. It doesn't help build your ego, it doesn't solve any problems, and it most certainly doesn't help make you happier.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | 7 | 5 | | | | | | |
| | | | 8 | | 5 | 1 | | |
| | 4 | 8 | 6 | | | | | |
| 7 | | | 2 | | 6 | 5 | | |
| 9 | | | 3 | | 5 | | | 8 |
| | 1 | 5 | 4 | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | 4 | 7 | 9 | | |
| | 5 | 6 | | 3 | | | | |
| | | | | 8 | 3 | | | 4 |

EASY+

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | | | 4 | | | | 8 | |
| | | | | 2 | 7 | 9 | | |
| | 4 | | | | | | 6 | |
| | 4 | 7 | | | | 1 | | |
| 3 | | | | | | | | 6 |
| | 8 | | | 3 | | | 5 | |
| 6 | | | | | | 2 | | |
| | 5 | 9 | 3 | | | | | |
| 8 | | | 6 | | | | | 5 |

MEDIUM

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| 9 | | 2 | | | | | | 7 |
| | 8 | 5 | | 6 | | | | |
| | | | | | 5 | 8 | | |
| | 4 | | 2 | | | | | 1 |
| | 7 | | | | 6 | | | |
| 9 | | 1 | | | 4 | | | |
| | 7 | 3 | | | | | | |
| | | | 6 | 5 | 1 | | | |
| 1 | | | | 9 | | | | 3 |

HARD

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | 1 | | | | | | | |
| | | | 6 | | | | 7 | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | | | |
| 8 | 2 | | 3 | | | | 4 | |
| | | | 5 | | | | | 6 |
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| 7 | 4 | | | | | 3 | | |
| | | | | | | 1 | | 5 |
| | | | | | | | | |

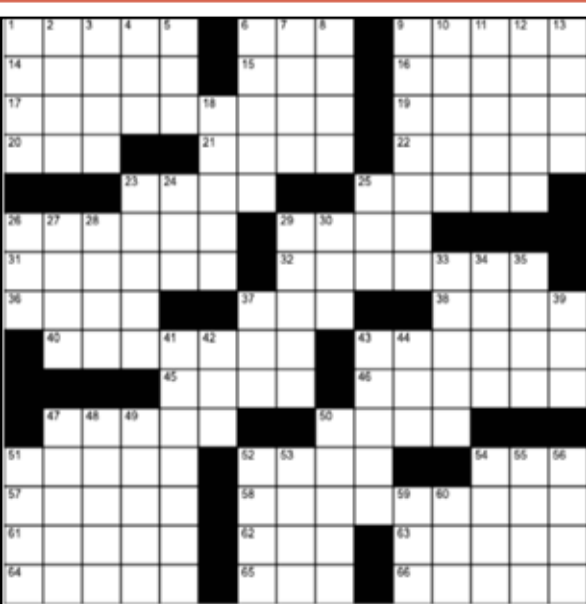
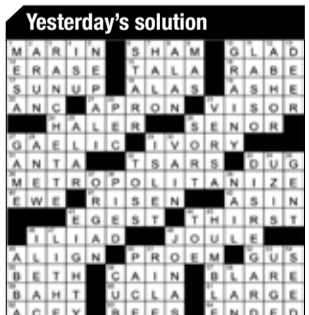
WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | -5 | 12 | clear |
| Harbin | -22 | -7 | cloudy |
| Tianjin | 0 | 12 | cloudy |
| Urumqi | -9 | 1 | clear |
| Xi'an | -1 | 15 | clear |
| Lhasa | -4 | 9 | cloudy |
| Chengdu | 9 | 16 | clear |
| Chongqing | 10 | 14 | overcast |
| Kunming | 6 | 19 | clear |
| Nanjing | 7 | 10 | overcast |
| Shanghai | 8 | 11 | drizzle |
| Wuhan | 7 | 12 | drizzle |
| Hangzhou | 8 | 14 | drizzle |
| Taipei | 16 | 21 | clear |
| Guangzhou | 14 | 28 | clear |
| Hong Kong | 18 | 25 | clear |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | -9 | -3 | heavy snow |
| Frankfurt | 4 | 6 | overcast |
| Paris | 7 | 8 | overcast |
| London | 6 | 9 | drizzle |
| New York | -3 | 3 | sleet |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Debris; 6- Hit on the head; 9- Allotment; 14- Capsize; 15- Employ; 16- Square; 17- White-headed raptor; 19- Novelist Calvino; 20- Hot time in Paris; 21- Swill; 22- Wearies; 23- Quote; 25- Collection of maps; 26- Lure; 29- French clergyman; 31- Relinquishment of a right; 32- Traveler; 36- ... saw Elba; 37- Youth org.; 38- Churn; 40- Political boss in Spain; 43- Bean; 45- "Chicken of the sea"; 46- Congenitally attached; 47- Stroll; 50- Congress, e.g.; 51- Yogi; 52- Economist Smith; 54- Pub preference; 57- Concert venue; 58- Outer boundary; 61- Sublease; 62- Chang's twin; 63- Be of use to; 64- Clear the boards; 65- How about that; 66- Rigid;

DOWN 1- Rustic; 2- ___ the crack of dawn; 3- Capri, for one; 4- Aussie outlaw Kelly; 5- Sault ___ Marie; 6- Brass wind instrument; 7- Kon-Tiki Museum site; 8- Quick look; 9- Deserter; 10- Before; 11- Butler's love; 12- Roofing items; 13- Mil. addresses; 18- Fall flower; 23- Honda model; 24- Hot diamonds; 25- "Aladdin" monkey; 26- Ram's mate; 27- DEA agent; 28- ___ yellow ribbon...; 29- Flummoxed; 30- Fur scarf; 33- O. Henry device; 34- Fizzy drink; 35- Slant; 37- Round bread roll; 39- Bruce ___ was a famous kung-fu movie star; 41- Do repeatedly; 42- Status follower; 43- Model Campbell; 44- Eccentric; 47- Kitchen gadget; 48- Pack leader; 49- Trig functions; 50- Vessel; 51- Payment for travel; 52- Take down ___; 53- Sandy tract; 54- ___ impasse; 55- Hula hoops?; 56- Della's creator; 59- Slip preventer; 60- 12/24 or 12/31;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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

Lakeview Tower Lovely apartment, Central Macau
HK\$11,000,000 1,344 ft² 3 2 2

FOR RENT

Split Level Commercial Space, Taipa Village
\$42,000/mth 2,000 ft²

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

- [Taipa] *Buckingham* 2 2 2
1,439 ft² **\$11,770,000** (ref: 19045004)
- [Taipa] *Manhattan D unit* 4 2 2
2,305 ft² **\$15,980,000** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] *Designer 2 bedroom* 2 1 1
900 ft² **\$11,500/mth** (ref: 20121001)
- [Taipa] *One Central balcony* 3 1 4
2,332 ft² **\$29,800/mth** (ref: 20101001)

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TASTE OF EDESIA

Raising the bar

IRENE SAM, MDT

IMBUED with a New York heritage synonymous with the St. Regis brand, **St. Regis Bar** is well known to spoil guests with specially crafted artisan cocktails and beverages, a menu of finely crafted culinary fare, in an elegant, yet contemporary setting inspired by the House of Astor. A unique jazz vibe, complete with live music as the sun sets every evening, creates an unmistakably exquisite setting elevated by impeccable service.

Designed by Hong Kong architect Steve Leung, the interior design is cozy, cutting edge, yet sophisticated. Rich timber, supple fabrics and the earthiness of stone combine with crystal highlights bathed in soft light to create an unmatched sense of luxury.

At the centre of the bar, the mural depicts a lush vision of the city, celebrating its history as a trading port under a rich golden sky. As a traditional symbol of eternity and youth in Chinese culture, a crane overlooks the growth of the city, with lotus flowers – a ubiquitous symbol of Macao – blooming in the water. A closer look at the verdant edges of the mural reveals the Barcelos Rooster, an armillary sphere, astrolabe and other navigational tools that pay homage to Macau's Portuguese and British colonial influence.

On the menu, signature cocktails include Maria do Leste, an interpretation of the iconic Bloody Mary forged drawing inspiration from Macau's unique east-meets-west culture. The Maria do Leste tantalises with intense flavours of chorizo from Portugal, pink peppercorn and limes from Brazil, piri piri from Africa, cinnamon and paprika from India, lobster and sea salt from the seas, black vinegar and black peppercorns from China, and lastly, the egg tart of Macau.

Offered to guests in virgin form, the Maria do Leste is served with a miniature bottle of premium vodka, a single-serve tabasco sauce bottle and a mélange of sea salt and crushed pink peppercorns. It's a unique presentation that can only be found at The St. Regis Bar, giving the guest free rein to invent a classic cocktail to their discerning tastes. Another personalised experience can also be created with a selection of in-house infused gin and tonics served directly from the gin trolley, tailored to guests' preferred taste.

For foodies, an array of small snacks, light meals, and more substantial fare on the dining menu would be the perfect accompaniment to an afternoon or evening. Fresh oysters from France, crisp Sicilian calamari, a Boston lobster slider, or a glittering 24K fried chicken with edible gold leaf are some lighter choices. For something more substantial, a dry-aged beef burger made with Rangers Valley beef direct from the Australian countryside, Boston lobster, fried baby calamari, and crispy potato fries would be more appropriate.

Seafood lovers could order the seafood platter, which features a whole Maine lobster and a half dozen of seasonal oysters. Vegetarians will be pleasantly surprised by the Impossible satay burger. One-of-a-kind items are Asian-inspired beef char siu and Chilean sea bass in Sichuan pepper pot, presenting flavours that can only be found in Asia.

At the end of the bar experience or when one wishes to fully indulge without reluctance, intricately handcrafted desserts are readily available. The signature "Rose" overwhelms with a raspberry and mascarpone mousse, almond and lemon accents while "Forest Berries" thrills the senses with a five-spice sabayon and seven vanilla bean ice cream infused with rose.



Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE BUFFALO 1050 SAND

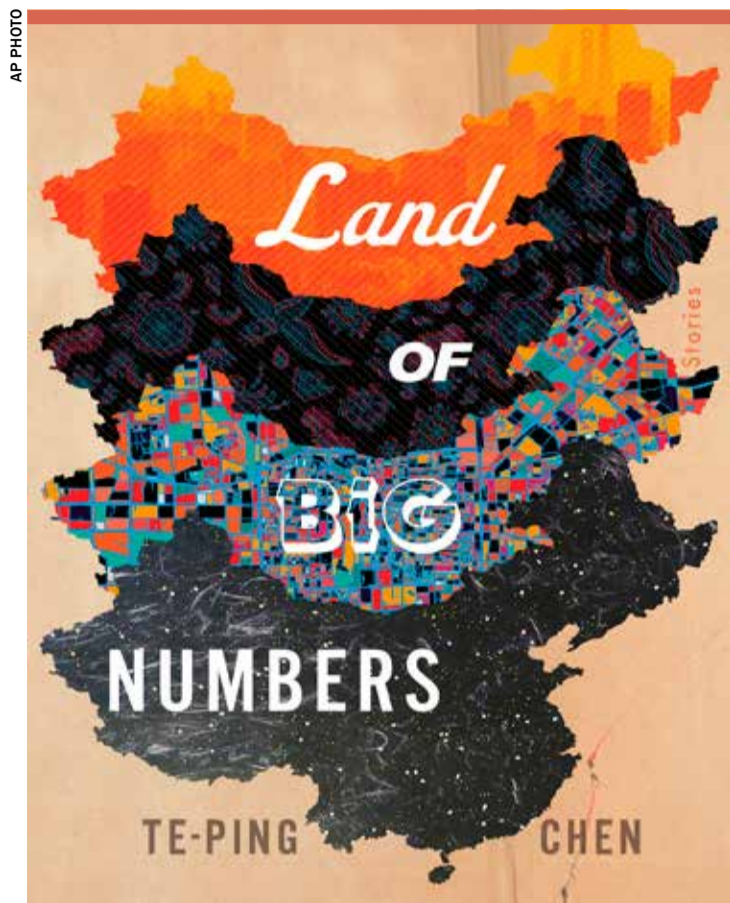
2021-02-05 | Fri | 20:15

THERE is a sand freak in this race; he never performed well on turf but on the sand track he can put his best foot forward and fly. Yes I am talking about **Golden Conqueror** in race three this evening. Looking at his career starts in MJC - eight wins in nine sand races; this is really an achievement in himself in racing, what more do you need to find a bet today. He also has K.H Yu a strong jock's booking for the race, as well as with a gift draw in barrier one. You don't need to go any further to find a solid banker in your quinella and quinella place bets here. There is another runner that I would like to put into my reckoning in **Rock To Road** in the same race. Hope these two can oblige for us.

**Race 3 | Horse no.5 Golden Conqueror Win & Place bets
Q & PQ bets with Horse no.6 Rock To Road**



From left: Golden Conqueror and Rock To Road



"Land of Big Numbers," by Te-Ping Chen (Mariner Books)

BOOK IT

JOURNALIST'S FIRST COLLECTION OF FICTION EXCELS

ANN LEVIN, MDT/AP

A Chinese tech company recently made headlines for its use of "smart" cushions in office chairs to monitor its employees' workplace performance. It's the kind of creepy surveillance you'd expect in the dystopian fiction of George Saunders — and now, the blazingly talented newcomer Te-Ping Chen.

The daughter of Chinese immigrants, Chen is a reporter for The Wall Street Journal who spent several years covering Hong Kong and Beijing for the newspaper. In her debut story collection, "Land of Big Numbers," she moves effortlessly between the two countries, illuminating the lives of ordinary, often damaged, people on both sides of the Pacific.

Some of her characters are depicted as victims of the cruel conditions of their society, whether it's the totalitarian rule of Communist China or the rampant consumerism of capitalist America. Others are just wounded souls.

In "Field Notes on a Marriage," an American anthropologist with gauzy, romantic notions of China visits the parents of her Chinese husband, who has committed suicide, and learns terrible truths about both him and the government. In "Beautiful Country," a Chinese-born nurse in Tucson, Arizona, settles for a narcissistic, condescending American boyfriend because she wants to start a fa-

mily and bring her parents over from China.

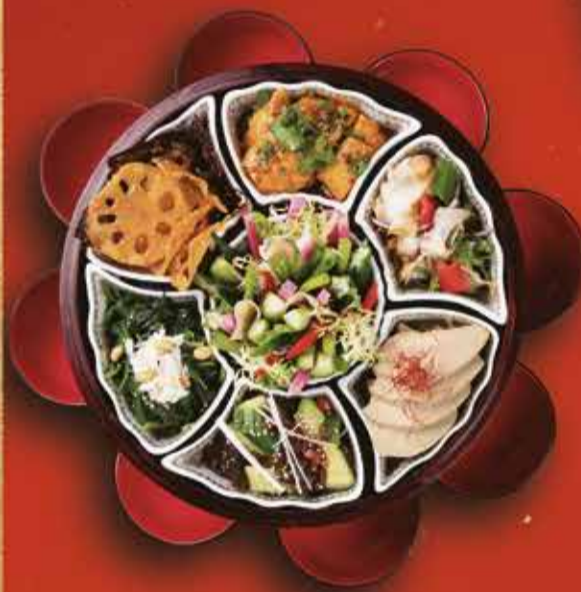
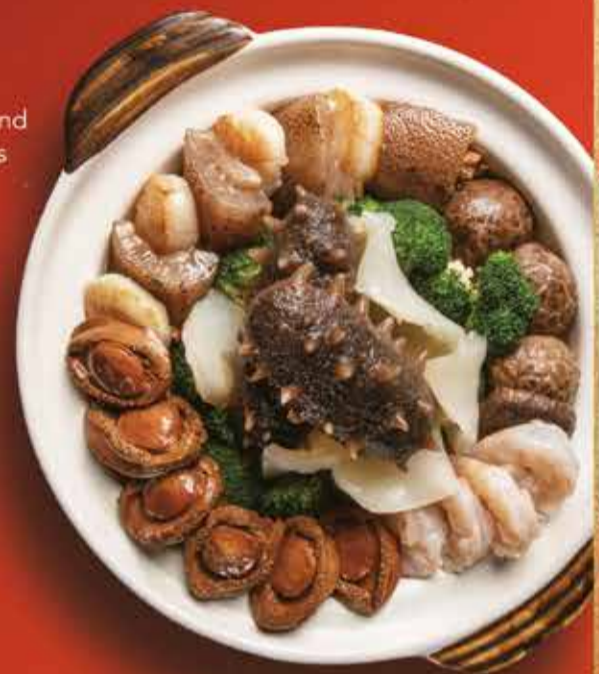
Sometimes, the stories take a turn for the surreal, as in "Gubeikou Spirit," when a group of Beijing subway riders is trapped for months in an underground station. "New Fruit" is a strange and beautiful allegory about a nectarine-like hybrid that initially produces euphoria in anyone who eats it, followed by bitterness and despair. Is it a commentary on the arc of political revolutions — or just a beguiling story?

Chen has said she's interested in the trade-offs people are willing to make to prosper under repressive regimes, yet she is the least didactic of writers. Her characters are finely etched, often quirky, sometimes wonderful, like the lovable old man of "Flying Machine," proud inventor of a noodle-slicing robot, determined to build an airplane out of flotsam and jetsam — even though he doesn't know how to fly — to gain admission to the Chinese Communist Party.

In an interview with the New Yorker, where her first published story "Lulu" appeared in 2019, Chen was asked to reflect on her dual-track career. "Journalism is like writing in a bright, sunlit room," she said. "Fiction is much more solitary, a kind of walking in the dark." These stories combine both — the unadorned clarity of the very best newspaper writing and the inspired, weird, poetic inventions of fiction. Chen is the real deal.

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Complementing the gastronomic indulgence, you can shop til you drop at Sands Shoppes to fill your wardrobe for the new year. Your retail spend can earned you a luxurious night stay at our hotels, including the exclusive SkyView Villa at The Grand Suites at Four Seasons!

A series of themed activities including Lion Dances and God of Fortune meet-and-greet are planned to bless you with health and prosperity!

Join us to ring in the Lunar New Year!



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OPINION

World Views

The Editors, MDT/Bloomberg

EUROPE MUST STAND WITH NAVALNY

For a second consecutive week, tens of thousands of Russians have taken to the streets to protest the imprisonment of opposition leader Alexey Navalny. Judging from the government's heavy-handed response, Russian President Vladimir Putin views the movement as a serious political threat and means to snuff it out. Western leaders should prepare to act against Putin and his allies unless he relents.

The most immediate concern is the fate of Navalny himself. This week, a Russian court sentenced the activist to three years in prison for violating the terms of a previous suspended sentence. (He failed to check in while under probation — because he was in Germany recovering from being poisoned with the nerve agent Novichok.) Russian authorities also detained Navalny's wife and brother and raided the offices and residences of his associates.

The Kremlin's response betrays growing anxiety about his support among younger Russians. Having long feigned indifference toward his critics, Putin has been forced to deny the findings of Navalny's investigation into his extravagances, which has received more than 100 million views on social media. For the moment, Navalny's supporters appear undaunted. Protests have spread to more than 100 cities, from St. Petersburg to Vladivostok. Russia's security services have used batons, tear gas and tasers to subdue demonstrators armed with snowballs and detained 10,000 people, including leading journalists and musicians. With parliamentary elections scheduled for September, it's possible Putin will resort to greater force to contain public outrage.

The world's democracies should do what they can to discourage him. President Joe Biden has already shown greater willingness to condemn Russia's leader than Donald Trump ever did, but the new administration's national-security team might hesitate to confront Moscow more squarely so soon. Europe's leaders should step up. They have more at stake in moderating Putin's behavior and should dial up the pressure to that end.

The EU's chief foreign-policy official, Josep Borrell, who is visiting Russia this week, should insist on meeting with Navalny and his key supporters. Borrell should warn Russian officials not to make indiscriminate arrests of political activists or use violence to put down protests. If the crackdown continues, the EU should heed Navalny's call to impose sanctions against Putin's financial backers under the recently adopted European Magnitsky law, which gives the EU the authority to freeze assets of individuals complicit in human-rights abuses.

Over the longer term, the EU should work with the U.K. and U.S. to strengthen systems for tracking illicit money flows that allow Russian interests to evade sanctions and buy influence in Western countries. European governments should invest in new energy sources to reduce their dependence on Russian gas imports — particularly Germany, which should also halt further work on the Nord Stream 2 pipeline until Navalny is released. Where feasible, Europe should provide support to independent Russian-language media outlets and expand exchange programs to allow more young Russians to study and work in the EU.

A productive relationship with Russia is in the interests of Europe and the world — but not at the expense of Europe's democratic values, the rule of law and the rights of Russian citizens. Europe's leaders should make it clear whose side they're on.

A UK trial to see if giving people different Covid vaccines for first and second doses works as well as giving them the same one twice concluded that the mix returns better results.

People's immune response "could be enhanced" by combining the vaccines, England's deputy chief medical officer, Prof Jonathan Van-Tam, told the BBC yesterday.

More than 10 million people in the UK have now received a first dose of a coronavirus vaccine.

According to the British public broadcaster, the number of

Covid-19 cases in England is down 29% week-on-week, the lowest number since the week to 16 December.

A total of 196,257 people tested positive for Covid-19 in England at least once in the week to 27 January, according to the latest 'Test and Trace' figures, health authorities announced.

Globally, there have now been more than 104 million Covid cases, and more than 2.2 million deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University.

HONG KONG

FLOWER FARMS SEE THEIR LUNAR NEW YEAR SALES WILTED BY VIRUS

THE Lunar New Year holiday is usually a busy period for flower farms in Hong Kong, which gear up to sell plum blossoms, orchids and daffodils at flower markets during the festive season. But the pandemic and restrictions on such festive markets this year has taken a toll on many farms, who worry that they may be left with an oversupply of flowers.

Traditionally, Lunar New Year fairs — known as "flower markets" in Cantonese — are held before the holidays, with thousands of florists and festive goods vendors hawking their wares to the public. This year, the Hong Kong government will implement restrictions on such markets, which can only run at half-capacity and shortened business hours.

The policy has prompted concerns from farm owners like Yeung Siu-lung, who runs one of Hong Kong's largest orchid farms. To prepare for the festive season, he had grown over 30,000 pots of orchids in 10 greenhouses at Hong Kong's rural New Territories.

Yeung, who had initially planned to have 16 stalls



in flower markets, is now planning alternative arrangements to sell his supply of orchids, including selling them online or encouraging buyers to visit the farms directly.

Lunar New Year is traditionally a boost for some businesses in Hong Kong, especially retail businesses. There is usually a big seasonal sale of festive items such as holiday snacks, gifts and household decorations, which often include flowers.

Flower farms like Yeung typically make about 50% of their profits from the Lunar New Year season alone, according to business

analyst Francis Lun.

Pinky Chan is one of Yeung's customers who drove an hour to his farm to buy orchids. Amid the ongoing pandemic, Chan thought it was still important to create a festive atmosphere amid difficult times.

"We Chinese people feel happier if our homes are filled with red and green during the Lunar New Year," Chan said. "Because of the pandemic, we are all not very happy, we are not able to meet with our families. So I hope buying a pot of flowers for my parents can make them feel a bit happier." MDT/AP



Sri Lanka's president said yesterday that he has received the final report of an inquiry commission investigating the 2019 Easter Sunday bomb attacks and vowed he will not allow anyone responsible for the deaths of more than 260 people escape justice. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa did not disclose what's in the report, saying only that he had already given instructions to implement its recommendations.



USA Scores of Roman Catholic dioceses in the U.S. had more than \$10 billion in cash and other readily available funds when they received at least \$1.5 billion from the nation's emergency relief program for small businesses slammed by the coronavirus, an Associated Press investigation has found.

More on macaudailytimes.com



UK has stripped China's state-owned TV channel of its broadcasting license in the country, after an investigation found the license holder lacked editorial control and had links to China's ruling Communist Party. China Global Television Network, or CGTN, an international English language satellite news channel, had been available on free and pay TV in the U.K..

Greece A large nighttime explosion leveled a three-story lakeside hotel just outside the town of Kastoria yesterday. The hotel was closed and empty at the time, and no injuries were reported. The reason for the blast, which destroyed the 80-room facility, was unclear, but authorities said they suspected a gas leak.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Henning Sac (via AP)



One good thing. Bonifaz Diaz rides through the streets of Quetzaltenango, Guatemala. Diaz has pedaled thousands of miles to carry books that people can barter for bags of a cereal mix aimed at providing relief to families suffering chronic malnutrition.