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**FORMER CHINESE DEPUTY CONSUL-GENERAL TO LOS ANGELES LIU XIANFA WAS APPOINTED COMMISSIONER OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN THE MACAU SAR**

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**CRIME: CASINO MAINTENANCE WORKER ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLING HKD270,000**

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**LAWMAKER COUTINHO SUBMITTED A MOTION TO DEBATE THE FALLING TILES IN PUBLIC HOUSING, A SCENARIO HE SAID HAS EXISTED FOR TWO DECADES**

▲ P4



AP PHOTO

**China** The government defended its use of Twitter and Facebook yesterday, following a report that it had used its growing social media presence to spread disinformation about the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. When asked about the report, the Foreign Ministry's top spokesperson, Hua Chunying, didn't directly address the allegation, however, she called the report hype and said China should have the right to use social media too.



AP PHOTO

**India** Thousands of protesting farmers blocked trains yesterday by sitting on railroad tracks in parts of northern India to press their demand for the repeal of new agricultural reform laws that have triggered months of massive protests. Joint Farmers' Front organized four-hour blockades of trains at two dozen locations. Railroad authorities halted train movements in the affected areas.

**Afghanistan** NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that the military alliance will only leave Afghanistan when security conditions allow, as a deadline for withdrawing troops set out in a peace deal with the Taliban nears. NATO has just under 10,000 troops in the war-ravaged country helping to train and advise the Afghan security forces.

**Australia** In a surprise retaliatory move yesterday, Facebook blocked Australians from sharing news stories, escalating a fight with the government over whether powerful tech companies should have to pay news organizations for content. Australia's government condemned the step, which also blocked some government communications, including messages about emergency services, and some commercial pages.

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# PROM DELAY

Completion of the city's waterfront promenade delayed due to Covid-19, IAM told the Times ▲ P3



LYNZY VALLES

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AP PHOTO



# INQUIRIES REGARDING MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES CLIMBED IN 2020: IAS

HONEY TSANG

**T**HE number of phone inquiries relating to mental health matters the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) has received in 2020 is higher vis-à-vis 2019, Sou Chi Kuan, head of Rehabilitation Service Division of IAS, said.

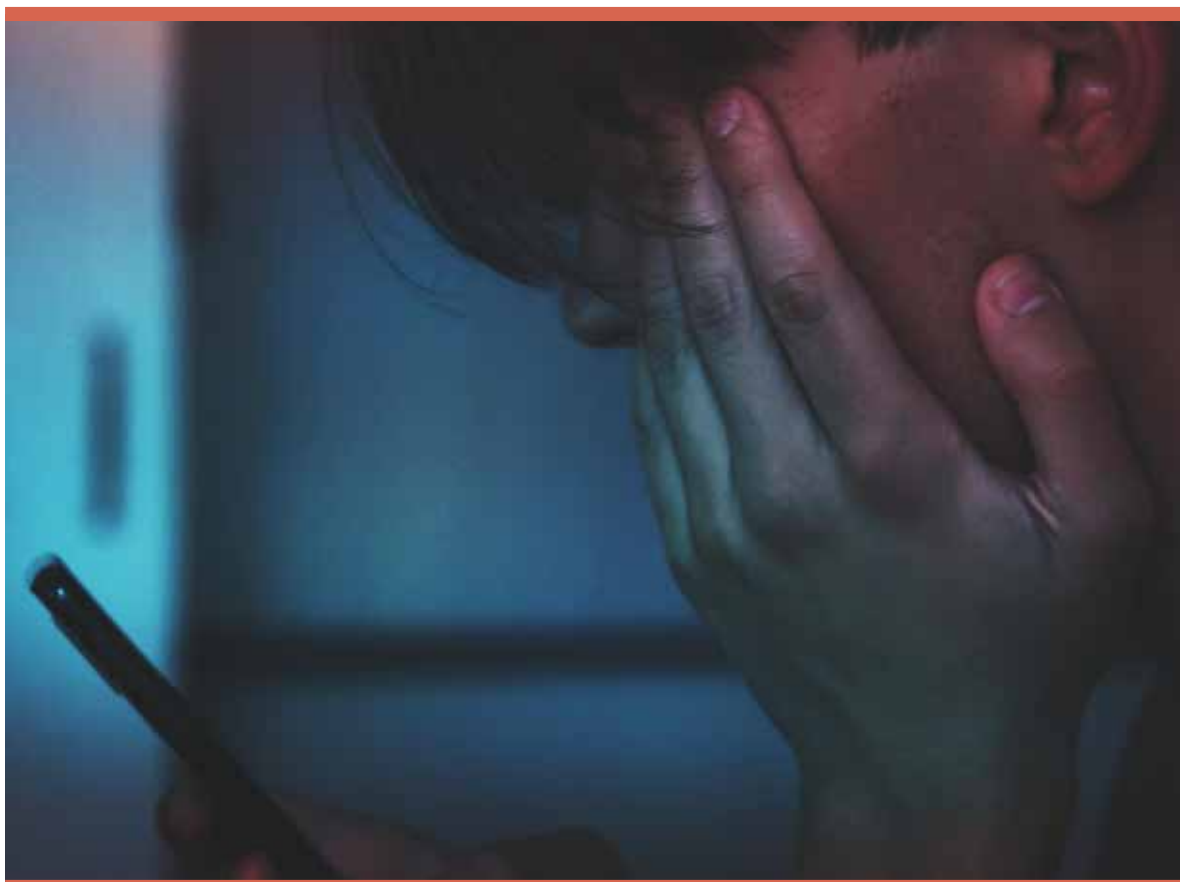
“We received some feedback from the facility [units], saying that most [of the phone inquiries] are linked to the cases of the emotional problems and confiding in [the consultants on the hotline],” Kuan said in an interview with TDM.

However, Kuan did not provide a yearly tally of the phone queries in 2019 and 2020, nor the growth rate between the two years.

Macau's health experts have ascribed the worsening state of mental health among locals to the increased stress associated with living amid the pandemic.

A recent survey conducted from August to November 2020 by the University of Macau (UM) delved into the status of mental wellness amongst locals during the epidemic. The results were

ADRIAN SWANCAR



released recently in February 2021, and disclosed that 11.5% and 6.3% of respondents said

they experienced moderate to severe symptoms of depression and anxiety respectively due to

Covid-19.

More than that, the UM researchers found 26.4% claimed

that they were experiencing moderate to severe fatigue, whilst 6.4% said they were suffering moderate to severe insomnia symptoms during the later stages of the pandemic.

Due to the onset of the pandemic, IAS established an around-the-clock hotline on January 26, 2020, in a bid to offer instant services, such as counseling and referrals, to locals who have been experiencing mental health issues and emotional distress.

According to the most recent official statistics, IAS received approximately 240 phone inquiries as of March 25, 2020 since its launch.

If consultants find that callers are exhibiting symptoms of mental ill-health, they will intervene and offer medical treatment where appropriate, Kuan added.

“The most worrying thing is that there are many people in the community, who are aware of their [mental] problems, but will still be indisposed to reach out to the hospitals or health centers, or to associations like us,” Jennifer Chau, director of the Fuhong Society of Macau, previously said.

Aside from IAS, Caritas Macau also runs a 24-hour hotline offering mental health-related support to those in need.

## FIRST TROPICAL CYCLONE OF THE YEAR DEVELOPS

The first tropical cyclone of the year, named Dujan, developed yesterday above the Northwest Pacific. It was located, as of 2 p.m. yesterday, 1,460 km from Manila, the Philippines. It bears an intensity level 8, which is equivalent to a tropical storm. It has a windspeed of 18 m/s. The China Meteorological Administration is forecasting that the storm to move west at 5 to 10 km/h and that it will approach the coast of the Philippines. The storm is expected to make landfall tomorrow evening with an intensity level of 10, with windspeed at about 25 to 28 m/s.

## OM TO PRESENT TANGO MUSIC

On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Argentinian composer Astor Piazzolla, the Macao Orchestra (OM) will present the concert “The Tango Legends – A Tribute to Piazzolla” on March 6 at 8p.m. at the Dom Pedro V Theatre. As several overseas artists programmed to participate in the concert are unable to travel to Macau due to the pandemic, the programme of the concert will be altered. The orchestra will present Piazzolla's famous works including Libertango, Oblivion and excerpts of Las Cuatro Estaciones Porteñas.

# Jazz Club to hold live sessions tonight

**J**AZZ Club de Macau is set to hold its “Jazz Club Live Sessions #01” tonight at Sofitel Macau, presenting the musical acts The Bridge, Groove Ensemble II and a special set featuring Tomos Griffiths.

The performances will be followed by a blues and jazz jam session.

According to a statement, doors will open at 7:30 p.m. and performances will kick off at 8 p.m. Griffiths is a producer, performer and creative director.

He has performed in productions of “Chess” and “The Far Pavilions,” and he most recently played the Phantom in Andrew Lloyd Webber's “Phantom of the Opera” in London's West End. Griffiths has produced and promoted the international tours of shows such as “Cats,” “The Sound of Mu-

GIFT HABESHAW



sic,” “Blue Man Group,” “Beauty and the Beast” and “Riverdance.”

He has also taken part in the acts such as “Stomp” and

“Tap Dogs,” among others.

In October last year, a two-night jazz festival took place at D2 Club featuring over 20 artists that perfor-

med an eclectic musical selection, ranging from well-known jazz standards to more modern compositions. LV

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# Completion of waterfront 'promenade' delayed due to Covid-19

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HE completion of the new leisure area and promenade that the government is building at Macau's waterfront has been delayed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) has told the Times.

The area is encompassed by a more ambitious project aiming to reshape the whole coastal area from the Macau Science Center to Barra. It also aims to renovate and reopen the "The Gate of Understanding" monument to the public. The project has been delayed and does not yet have a concrete date for completion, IAM said.

In a written response to the Times, the bureau noted that the construction of the leisure area comprises of two different phases. The second one, "which includes the installation of children's playground areas and physical maintenance equipment," has been delayed.

IAM justified the delay as "part of this equipment has been imported from abroad, such as from Europe, and the pandemic has had an impact in both the production and transportation of the equipment to Macau, causing delays," as stated in the written response.

The bureau also noted that while some of the equipment has already been



LYNZY VALLES

installed, the project conclusion now depends on the arrival of the remaining equipment, which will be installed as soon as it arrives.

The new promenade was one of the many government projects announced during the Policy Address of the government for 2020, led by Ho Iat Seng. The conclusion of this phase was initially expected before the end of 2020.

The promenade project includes sports and leisure facilities, playgrounds, restaurants, cafes, and garden areas, as the Secretary for Administration and Justice, André Cheong, announced the details on April 24. The construction started less than one month after, on May 15.

The government also announced that it would be investing some 60 million

patacas into this project, aiming to create some 200 jobs.

In a previous statement from IAM at the time of the announcement of the project, the bureau said, "IAM will build, in a phased manner, a green corridor on the south bank of Macau, connecting the Macau Science Center to Goddess Kun Iam and Barra, providing a diversified coastal leisure space and building a healthy city for the people of Macau."

This first phase of the project spans an area of 15,000 square meters, from the Science Center to the Statue of Goddess Kun Iam, and includes a children's playground, a walking and jogging track, an esplanade, multisport fields, physical exercise equipment, a gate-ball field, and a skating rink, among other things.

Preparations to build a

cycling path linking this area to Barra will begin in the first phase and will subsequently be completed in the second phase.

The project is one of the many construction projects and developments launched by the government in response to the pandemic, following the government policy of "work instead of subsidies." The goal of this is to create more jobs and business opportunities for people and private companies instead of promoting the uptake of government subsidies.

As the Times previously reported, the Land, Public Works, and Transport Bureau has also acknowledged some delays to the revamping of the Gate of Understanding, noting that the works are expected to conclude during the second quarter of this year.

# Liu Xianfa appointed new Foreign Ministry Commissioner

**T**HE former Chinese Deputy Consul-General to Los Angeles, Liu Xianfa, has been appointed head of the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macao Special Administrative Region, the commissioner's office announced in a statement yesterday.

Born in April 1963, the incoming commissioner is a native of Qingdao, Shandong Province. He holds a doctorate degree in management.

His career started in mainly state institutions and companies. During his early years, he taught at the then-Huadong Petroleum Institute, before obtaining a master's degree in petroleum refi-

nery from the institute, which has since been renamed the China University of Petroleum. Liu spent most of his years in fossil fuel research and development until 2011, when he started his career in diplomacy. He has held positions such as Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya and has acted as a representative for UN offices.

Prior to arriving in Macau, he was the Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It was announced last year that outgoing commissioner, Shen Beili, would return to Beijing. She is now a deputy head at the International Department of the Communist Party of China. **AL**



XINHUA

Liu Xianfa

## 90,615 TOURISTS RECORDED DURING CNY, DOWN 65.3% YOY

**M**ACAU has registered an aggregate of 90,615 tourist arrivals over the Spring Festival Golden Week period in 2021, representing a drop of 65.3% compared to the same period last year, the preliminary statistics gathered by Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) revealed yesterday.

The fresh data, which was released by the Public Security Police Force at midnight yesterday, revealed that 13,232 tourists

visited Macau on the seventh day of Chinese New Year (CNY) on February 17, translating to a year-on-year decline of 26.1%.

Overall, the average daily arrival numbers during Golden Week stood at 12,945, falling short of the MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes's previous forecast of around 16,000 to 20,000 arrivals.



On a positive note, the seventh day of the Golden Week holiday on Febru-

ary 17 saw a double-digit growth of 22.8% in mainland tourist arrivals.

It marks the second consecutive day of increases — following a 5.3% increase on February 16 — as well as the highest growth rate in mainland visitor numbers during the Golden Week from February 11-17.

In total, the city welcomed 82,190 mainland tourists during the CNY Golden Week, down 44.9% year-on-year. **HT**

AD

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<b>Date of Interview/ Admission Exam</b>	PK - Grade 11	PK group interviews: March 13, 2021, 9:00am -12noon JK- Gr 3 group interviews: March 8 - 26, 2021 Gr 1 - 6 mock class (compulsory) : March 6, 2021, 9:30 -11:30 am Gr 1 - 3 admission interviews: March 8 - 26, 2021 Gr 4 - 6 admission exam: March 13, 2021, 1:00 - 4:00 pm Gr 7 - 11 admission exam: March 6, 2021, 1:00 - 4:00 pm					
<b>Open House</b>	PK to Grade 12	February 27, 2021, 9:30am - 12noon					
	Main Lobby	Registration 9:30 - 9:45 am					
	Black Box Theatre (Rm 3480)	Information Session (PK-Gr 12) 9:45-10:15 am Displays & Campus Visits 10:15 am - 12:00 noon					
<b>Results Notification</b>		April 9, 2021 via email and SMS					
Scan QR code to apply online		Address: Avenida Wai Long, Macau University of Science and Technology, Block K, Taipa Tel: +853 2853 3700 Email: admission@tis.edu.mo Website: www.tis.edu.mo					



## INT'L ASSETS IN LOCAL BANKING SECTOR DROPPED IN Q4

The share of international assets in total banking assets declined to 85.1% at end-December 2020 from 85.8% at end-September 2020, official data shows. The Hong Kong dollar, US dollar, renminbi and other foreign currencies, took up 34.7%, 44.0%, 15.2% and 5.3% of total international assets respectively, as the dominant denomination in international banking transactions. The pataca in total international assets only contributed 0.7%.

## BUREAUS JOIN FORCES TO COMBAT HOUSING SCAMS

The Economic and Technological Development Bureau and the Macao Consumer Council have collaborated with the municipal governments of Zhuhai, Zhongshan and Jiangmen to establish a joint prevention and control mechanism over residential sales in China, designed to safeguard the consumer rights of locals. Through the website, potential local buyers can check whether a residence on the mainland market possesses the five required certifications before purchasing it to minimize the risk of being scammed.

## EMPLOYMENT

# OVER 3,800 LOCALS LAND JOBS IN 2020 THROUGH DSAL

HONEY TSANG

**T**HE Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) helped over 3,800 locals secure jobs throughout 2020 and is pledging to continue to review and adjust the number of foreign workers in Macau.

DSAL said that they will prohibit foreign workers from signing up for certain vacancies — provided that there are sufficient and competent local job-seekers in Macau to take up the roles.

The aforementioned pledges have been made by DSAL in response to written queries raised earlier by lawmaker Leong Sun Iok.

Since 2020, DSAL authorities have vowed to offer vocational support to locals to help them land jobs. It will be running a recruitment fair, jointly hosted with the Grand Lisboa Palace, today as part of this mission.

In 2020, DSAL organized a total of 15 job-matching fairs, with 354 finding employment from the events, according to the official data.



Of the participants who failed to secure jobs at these job-matching fairs, around 75% of them lacked the necessary language skills, technical skills or knowledge required by the jobs for which they applied, DSAL explained.

DSAL stated that they would offer them counseling services in a bid to encourage the jobseekers following their failed attempts. Meanwhile, authorities will help them explore other career opportunities.

Another 21% of participants were unable to find employment at DSAL's job fairs as the jobs offered fell short of their expectations.

The remaining 4% lost their chance as the vacancies they applied for had

already been filled.

Macau's unemployment rate of local residents stood at 3.8% from October-December in 2020, representing a mild drop of 0.2 percentage points from September-November last year.

There were 177,663 non-resident workers registered in Macau as of December 2020, down 9.6%, or 18,875 year-on-year, according to the latest statistics released by DSAL.

Earlier, the bureau vowed that it would explore job opportunities offered by Macau's large enterprises and require companies to prioritize hiring locals if they are deemed fit for the position, with an intention to safeguard the job entitlements of locals.

# IPIIM REPORTS 101 SUSPICIOUS IMMIGRATION CASES TO PROSECUTION OFFICE

ANTHONY LAM

**A** hundred and one cases of suspicious immigration processed by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIIM) have been reported to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) for investigation, the institute told a parliamentary committee yesterday.

The 101 suspicious cases involved alleged false declaration and documents. The defendants in eight of these cases have filed separate appeals to the government.

It was at a session of the Legislative Assembly's (AL) Public Administration Affairs Follow-up Committee that the IPIIM was asked to make a clarification. An investigation on the immigration process has been conducted by the Commission Against Corruption.



President of the parliamentary committee, lawmaker Si Ka Lon, revealed that, according to some lawmakers, the rigidity and time taken by the IPIIM to process each application has had an impact on the visa renewals of certain professors and medical doctors, among other professionals.

These professionals have requested the AL follow up the matter.

Furthermore, due to the investigation by the corruption gatekeeper, the IPIIM has included stricter stipulations into the requirements, making the process more rigorous. However, Si said that the IPIIM has not explained

the updated requirements to previous applicants.

Si said the committee requested that the IPIIM explain why requires applicants to stay in Macau for at least 183 days per year.

Meanwhile, committee secretary, Zheng Anting, disclosed that the IPIIM received 94 new applications last year. Speaking on behalf of the committee, Zheng wanted the IPIIM to clarify the most updated stipulations governing immigration procedures.

In terms of improvements, the IPIIM has so far made six, as disclosed by Si. For example, the IPIIM has digitized parts of the application procedure. It has also started pre-reviewing applications when they arrive at the counter. It has also hired more people to increase the pace of the process, among three other measures.

## LAWMAKER CALLS FOR DISCUSSION OF FALLING TILES AT PARLIAMENTARY PLENARY

**L**AWMAKER José Pereira Coutinho submitted a motion on February 10 to debate the falling tiles in public housing, a scenario he said had existed for two decades.

The lawmaker feels the conditions are so severe that a debate is needed to identify the root of the problem in a timely fashion in order to prevent these problems from occurring in public housing projects in future.

It is also a way to ensure residents' safety, the lawmaker added.

In recent years, news about falling tiles from walls in public housing estates has been heard, usually when the winter chill strikes Macau. The issue has prompted not only lawmakers to raise the alarm, but also unit owners or tenants, who have called for a government response.

Previously, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Arrais do Rosário, brushed off public concerns by saying that most of these cases took place in estates with an expired warranty, suggesting that the cons-



tractors did not have an unfulfilled responsibility in the matter.

Coutinho, on the other hand, said in a statement that the poor quality of public housing constructions has been an issue for the last 21 years. He pointed out that his office "has [...] long been receiving complaints about serious quality problems in public housing estates."

Such problems, as stated by the lawmaker, include small rooms, poor partitioning and problematic materials, among other flaws.

"Recently, we have re-

ceived complaints [about] falling tiles in public corridors at Edifício do Lago and Edifício Ip Heng," the lawmaker pointed out in the statement. "We were told the incident [has been happening] every year."

He blamed the builders for simply fixing the tiles without seriously addressing the problem. He noted this would be dangerous for residents inside.

"But this [issue] has only happened in public housing estates," the lawmaker noted, implying that he has not heard about similar occurrences in private housing estates. **AL**



**I**N 2009, Wynn became the first local integrated resort to establish an F&B Academy, and over the last decade the Academy has invested significant resources to create diversified training programs that have continually provided exceptional training opportunities for young practitioners in Macau. Not only does the Academy cooperate with different organizations and institutions across the world to launch internationally accredited professional license programs, it also provides internal training courses that guides students to gain an appreciation of the heritage and innovation that suffuses the catering culture in Macau. By participating in international events and competitions, the Academy expands the horizons of local talents and enhances their core competitiveness. Together, these efforts promote Macau's rich and diverse food culture, deepening its position as a "UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy," enhancing the sustainable development of the tourism sector, and establishing Macau as a travel destination of international repute.

**LAUNCHING INTERNATIONALLY-RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS TO NURTURE CULINARY MANAGEMENT TALENTS**

The Wynn F&B Academy is committed to promoting a systemic approach to the training of catering and culinary talent through a diverse range of programs, ranging from trainee courses, masterclasses, lectures, and online courses. The Academy collaborates with different institutions and colleges around the world to provide students with accredited qualifications, thereby facilitating the training of even more young local catering practitioners and chefs to an internationally-recognized standard with organizations like the Culinary Institute of America (CIA), the Sino-American Logistics Council, the Macao Institute for Tourism Studies and the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center. Furthermore, the Academy has joined hands with the CIA to introduce a CIA-Certified Mentor program, which



# Wynn F&B Academy Enables Local Talents to Achieve Global Standards

provides students who have not graduated from the Institute the opportunity to obtain a culinary skill certification. It is through these concerted efforts that Wynn hopes to establish a diverse base of culinary talents in the local catering industry.

In addition to this, the Academy also provides a series of vocational training courses which are available to any local resident looking to enter the industry. These courses include the F&B Internship Program, F&B Service Management Trainee Program, Culinary Management Trainee Program and Career Advancement Program. After enrolling on one of these courses, students are assigned to various F&B departments and restaurants at Wynn where they undergo comprehensive professional training, giving them the means to develop a career in the F&B industry.

**PASSING ON LOCAL FOOD CULTURE AND PROMOTING NATIONAL SPIRIT**

In order to preserve and pass on the culture of Macanese cuisine, the Academy has prepared various programs wherein senior chefs in the industry are invited to host



masterclasses. Students are given the opportunity to experience and learn traditional Macanese recipes first hand, and benefit from invaluable practical cooking experience.

The Academy regularly holds a series of masterclasses entitled "China's Regional Cuisines", which systematically introduces students to the eight culinary cuisine traditions of China. Through detailed explanations and demonstrations of culinary skills by experienced lecturers, students can refine their knowledge of Chinese gourmet culture. The academy also provides Chinese Tea Training Courses which allow students to acquire the professional qualification "National Certified Tea Sommelier - Beginner" level,

thereby improving the skills of local professionals and allowing the public to get a taste of China's artistic tea culture.

**HOSTING INTERNATIONAL EVENTS BROADENS THE HORIZONS OF UPCOMING TALENTS**

To promote international exchange within the F&B industry and bolster the international reputation of Macau as a "UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy", Wynn actively hosts and participates in various international F&B events. This includes accepting the honor of acting as venue sponsor for "Asia's 50 Best Restaurants" for two consecutive years; regularly hosting the "Guest Chef Dining Series", inviting world-renowned sommeliers, chefs and culinary professionals to Macau; and inviting celebrity chefs to host masterclasses for team members. All these events provide a vast array of rare learning opportunities for local chefs and catering managers to broaden their horizons and equip themselves with the tools necessary to become international culinary professionals. In addition, these events also promote and support

the sustainable development of the catering, hospitality and tourism industries in Macau and the wider Greater Bay Area.

**PARTICIPATING IN INDUSTRY COMPETITIONS SHOWCASES THE TANGIBLE OUTCOME OF CULTIVATING TALENT**

Over the years, the Academy has actively encouraged and supported students to participate in various competitions in order to enrich their experience and sense of pride for their profession, thereby opening the path to success. Over the years, many catering students representing Wynn have achieved outstanding results, including winning the 11th Macanese Cooking Competition, the 2019 Macao Occupational Skills Recognition System (MORS) Gold Pin Competition, and the 2nd Macau Integrated Tourism and Leisure Enterprise Vocational Skills Competition. Interacting with their peers during these events, students can demonstrate the fruits of their hard work and give play to their developing professional skills, fostering a sense of professional pride and showcasing their achievements.





CRIME

# CASINO MAINTENANCE WORKER ACCUSED OF EMBEZZLING HKD270,000

RENATO MARQUES

A casino worker in charge of the maintenance of slot machine games is being accused by his employer, a casino operator, of embezzling a total of HKD270,000, the Judiciary Police (PJ) has reported.

The unlawful scheme also involved at least two gamblers from the mainland, the PJ added.

The case was first discovered on January 21, when the casino filled a complaint with PJ reporting unlawful behavior.

According to the casino, the worker, who had access to two keys that are used to maintain the slot machines, was spotted opening the machine and resetting it every time a certain player would lose a large sum of money. When resetting the machine, the worker would return all the credit previously lost to the player.

Since casino security has detected the operation, they have sustained a loss of at least HKD217,513, according to calculations.

The PJ then launched an operation to catch the worker red-handed.



On February 14, PJ officers, together with casino security guards, spotted the man performing the act on two occasions, causing an immediate financial loss to the casino in the amount of HKD12,456.

After being detained and questioned, the 27-year-old local man confessed to the crime.

The PJ also detained the

player, who was accused of conspiring with the crime.

Further investigation revealed that there was a second player, also from the mainland, involved in the scheme. However, the PJ has been unable to find him for the time being and suspect that he is not currently in Macau.

The two suspects were referred to the Public Prosecutions Office on February 15 to be charged with the respective crimes.

The PJ spokesperson also noted that the force will continue to investigate the case, determining the whereabouts of the second player as well as others potentially involved in the case.

### 3 CASES OF RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY OVER CNY

The PJ has over the last couple of days reported three cases of burglary occurring in Macau apartment buildings over the Chinese New Year (CNY) holiday.

In total, among the three cases reported, the PJ noted that residents have lost over 430,000 patacas in cash of various currencies, as well as jewelry and watches.

This type of case is not a new phenomenon during the festive season. Thieves take advantage of the fact that homeowners are away to breach their apartments, taking all valuable and easily-traded items.

Regarding the latest reported case, the PJ informed media yesterday that it had detained two men from the mainland suspected of being involved in

one of the burglary cases, with the damage amounting to more than 150,000 patacas.

According to the PJ, the two men also entered Macau illegally.

### GAMBLER PRETENDS TO LOSE STOLEN MONEY

A man from the mainland who was traveling to Macau with a friend to gamble is being accused of stealing HKD370,000, the PJ has revealed.

The case occurred last weekend, when the two men arrived in Macau to play in the local casinos. After playing for some time, the pair decided to return to their hotel room and take a rest, but when the victim woke up he realized that all his cash (HKD370,000) was missing.

Heading to the casino, he found his friend, who told him that he had taken all the money and lost it at the gaming tables.

After reporting the theft to the PJ, an investigation revealed that the suspect was lying as footage from the casino surveillance system revealed that he had only gambled and lost HKD60,000.

As for the remaining HKD310,000, he had opened an account in the casino where he had deposited the cash in the hopes of retrieving it later.

He is now being charged with aggravated theft.

AD

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- 馬天龍 Nuno Sardinha da Mata °
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- 馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins
- 宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção
- 巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
- 莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
- 安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
- 歐文傑 Miguel Evaristo
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- 潘卡莉 Candice Pun
- 斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

COVID-19

# SENEGAL TO GET 200,000 DOSES OF SINOPHARM VACCINE

SENEGAL is to receive 200,000 doses of the Chinese COVID-19 vaccine Sinopharm yesterday [Macau time].

President Macky Sall will preside over a ceremony to mark the arrival of the vaccines that the West African nation purchased for about \$3.8 million, according to Senegal's finance ministry.

Since the start of the pandemic, Senegal has recorded more than 31,000 cases, including 760 deaths, and contaminations have increased in the past few months.

On Feb. 10 Sall announced that vaccinations would begin at the end of February, starting with medical personnel and people at risk. He asked the Minister of Health and Social Action to take all the health, logistical, financial and social mobilization arrangements necessary for launching vaccination campaigns throughout the country.

Senegal is also expecting nearly 1.3 million vaccine doses through the COVAX initiative.

Senegal has already received 1,117 freezers approved by the World Health Organization for the storage of vaccines and cold rooms have been installed, according to the health ministry. **MDT/AP**

ALICE FUNG, HONG KONG

PROMINENT Hong Kong democracy advocate and newspaper publisher Jimmy Lai was again denied bail yesterday ahead of his April trial on charges of colluding with foreign forces.

Lai is one of several activists facing charges and possibly lengthy prison terms under the sweeping National Security Law that Beijing imposed on the semi-autonomous southern Chinese city last year following massive anti-government protests in 2019.

Critics at home and abroad say the legislation amounts to a crackdown on political dissent and free speech that is eroding the rights and freedoms promised to Hong Kong under the "one country, two systems" framework following the handover from British colonial rule in 1997.

Arrested and charged in early December, Lai was at first denied bail then granted it on appeal under strict conditions amounting for a form of house arrest. That prompted a withering attack on the Hong Kong judiciary by the ruling Communist Party newspaper People's Daily. Lai was then returned to prison under a provi-

AP PHOTO



Jimmy Lai

HONG KONG

# Activist publisher Jimmy Lai denied bail again

sion of the law that allows a judge to deny bail in cases where the person may again commit the crime for which they are already facing charges.

Lai's latest appeal yesterday to Hong Kong's High Court was based on separate legal grounds.

He also faces fraud charges related to the use of office space by his Apple Daily newspaper and other media holdings, which reported he was also arrested Wednesday on suspicion of aiding dissidents to flee Hong Kong.

Along with Martin Lee, an

82-year-old veteran of Hong Kong's democracy movement, Lai is one of the most senior critics of the current Beijing-backed government and has long faced legal and commercial retaliation for his statements and activism. **AP**

AD

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**Galaxy Macau Phase 3: Macau's hottest MICE Destination?**  
Speaker: Mr Joey Pather, SVP MICE Operations & Sales, Galaxy Macau

**FMCC Breakfast Meeting**  
Wednesday, 24 February 2021

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**Date: Wednesday, 24 February, 2021**  
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**Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16**  
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U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres

UNITED NATIONS

# Guterres urges global plan to reverse unfair vaccine access

EDITH M. LEDERER,  
UNITED NATIONS

**U**.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sharply criticized the “wildly uneven and unfair” distribution of COVID-19 vaccines yesterday [Macau time], saying 10 countries have administered 75 percent of all vaccinations and demanding a global effort to get all people in every nation vaccinated as soon as possible.

The U.N. chief told a high-level meeting of the U.N. Security Council that 130 countries have not received a single dose of vaccine and declared that “at this critical moment, vaccine equity is the biggest moral test before the global community.”

Guterres called for an urgent Global Vaccination Plan to bring together those with the power to ensure equitable vaccine distribution -- scientists, vaccine producers and those who can fund the effort.

And he called on the world's major economic powers in the Group of 20 to establish an emergency task force to establish a plan and coordinate its implementation and financing. He said the task force should have the capacity “to mobilize the pharmaceutical companies and key industry and logistics actors.”

Guterres said Friday's meeting of the Group of Seven major industrialized nations -- the United States, Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Canada and Italy -- “can create the momentum

to mobilize the necessary financial resources.”

Thirteen ministers addressed the virtual council meeting organized by Britain on improving access to COVID-19 vaccinations, including in conflict areas.

The coronavirus has infected more than 109 million people and killed at least 2.4 million of them. As manufacturers struggle to ramp up production of vaccines, many countries complain of being left out and even rich nations are facing shortages and domestic complaints.

The World Health Organization's COVAX program, an ambitious project to buy and deliver coronavirus vaccines for the world's poorest people, has already missed its own goal of beginning coronavirus vaccinations in poor countries at the same time that shots were rolled out in rich countries. WHO says COVAX needs \$5 billion in 2021.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken told the council the Biden administration “will work with our partners across the globe to expand manufacturing and distribution capacity and to increase access, including to marginalized populations.”

President Joe Biden has rejoined the WHO and Blinken announced that by the end of February the United States will pay over \$200 million in previously assessed and current obligations to the U.N. agency, which Washington will seek to reform.

America's top diplomat said the U.S. also plans to

provide “significant financial support” to COVAX through the GAVI vaccine alliance, and will work to strengthen other multilateral initiatives involved in the global COVID-19 response. He gave no details.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi criticized the growing “immunity divide” and called on the world to “come together to reject ‘vaccine nationalism,’ promote fair and equitable distribution of vaccines, and, in particular, make them accessible and affordable for developing countries, including those in conflict.”

At WHO's request, he said, China will contribute 10 million doses of vaccines to COVAX “preliminarily.”

China has donated vaccines to 53 developing countries including Somalia, Iraq, South Sudan and Palestine, which is a U.N. observer state. It has also exported vaccines to 22 countries, he said, adding that Beijing has launched research and development cooperation on COVID-19 with more than 10 countries.

India's External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar also called for a halt to “vaccine nationalism” and encouragement for internationalism. “Hoarding superfluous doses will defeat our efforts towards attaining collective health security,” he warned.

Jaishankar said India has been at the forefront of the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, initially providing medicine, ventila-

tors and personal protective equipment and now directly sending made-in-India vaccines to 25 nations across the world, with 49 additional countries from Europe and Latin America to Africa, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Islands slated to receive vaccines “in the coming days.”

Two vaccines, including one developed in India, have been granted emergency authorization, the minister said, and as many as 30 vaccine candidates are in various stages of development.

Jaishankar announced “a gift of 200,000 doses” of vaccine for about 90,000 U.N. peacekeepers serving in a dozen hotspots around the world.

Mexican Foreign Minister Marcelo Ebrard, whose country is currently president of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, called for speeding up COVAX and stopping the “undue hoarding” and “monopolization of vaccines.”

He urged that priority be given to countries with limited resources, saying “it's been pointed out that these countries won't have generalized access until the middle of 2023 if current trends persist.”

“What we are seeing is a huge gap,” Ebrard said. “In fact, I don't think we've ever seen such a huge division affecting so many in such a short space of time. That is why it's important to reverse this.”

He urged the international community not to establish mechanisms that could prevent the speedy delivery of vaccines but instead to strengthen supply chains “that will promote and guarantee universal access.”

British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, whose country holds the Security Council presidency this month and presided at the virtual meeting, urged the U.N.'s most powerful body to adopt a resolution calling for local cease-fires in conflict zones to allow the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines.

“Cease-fires have been used to vaccinate the most vulnerable communities in the past,” he said. “There's no reason why we can't... We have seen it in the past to deliver polio vaccines to children in Afghanistan, just to take one example.”

Britain says more than 160 million people are at risk of being excluded from coronavirus vaccinations because they live in countries engulfed in conflict and instability, including Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Somalia and Ethiopia. AP

## this day in history

### 1997 CHINA'S REFORMIST DENG XIAOPING DIES



China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping has died at the age of 92.

He had been suffering from failing health for several years and was last seen in public three years ago.

The country's official news agency said his death was the result of advanced stages of Parkinson's Disease complicated by a lung infection and that he had failed to respond to emergency treatment.

Although he was officially retired, no important decision affecting China was made without Deng Xiaoping's approval.

He was known internationally as the leader who crushed the Tiananmen Square protests in 1989 but also as the man credited with opening up China to economic reform.

Chinese radio's shortwave English language service praised his “outstanding” leadership as a “great Marxist and the true architect of China's socialist reforms and modernisation”.

A funeral committee has been announced, to be headed by Jiang Zemin, which regional experts say makes him the most likely candidate to gain the leadership.

Meanwhile Tiananmen Square the symbolic heart of China and the communist party is reported to be peaceful, with no sign of extra security.

The BBC's Beijing Correspondent Humphrey Hawksley said that given Deng Xiaoping's stated disregard for the “cult of the personality” it was unlikely there would be any grand state funerals.

Humphrey Hawksley said: “Deng wished to hand over rule to a collective leadership of modern thinking technocrats and not a god-king that China has traditionally been accustomed to.”

International reaction to the news has been complimentary about the dead dictator and his contribution to the world economy.

US Secretary of State Madeline Albright said he was “an historic figure” and that the US would continue to pursue a “multi-faceted relationship with China”, based on issues of trade, the environment and human rights.

The UK's Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind expressed his hope economic and political reforms would gather speed, not only for China but to protect Hong Kong's future.

The British colony is due to be handed back to the Chinese in June and the Chinese leadership has already said it intends to dismantle a recently-implemented democratic system.

But Hong Kong Democratic Party Chairman, Martin Lee, says if the Chinese leadership tries to control Hong Kong “freedoms will be eroded”.

“The rule of law will be whittled down. And that cannot be good because Hong Kong's freedoms are a foundation for a bright future,” he said.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

When Deng took power in 1978 he announced a new era of reform.

He dismantled collective farming and allowed private enterprise including special free market zones.

Politically, Deng had a reputation as a hardliner, and repeatedly ordered crackdowns on dissidents.

He drew global condemnation when he used the army to crush student demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in June 1989.

China is a military superpower, the world's most populous country, and has a vast economy experiencing both growth and diversification.

But political freedom remains heavily suppressed, and even the Chinese Communist Party's guarantee of liberal freedoms in Hong Kong is becoming questionable.



**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Can you hear your inner engine revving up? You're raring to go, and today is the perfect time for you to take off! The runway is clear and the skies are cloudless. Head off into the wild, blue yonder!

**TAURUS**  
Apr. 20-May. 20  
Your self-discipline is stronger than ever, so you're in the best frame of mind to start a new fitness routine, join a gym, or invest in some new exercise equipment.

**GEMINI**  
May. 21-Jun. 21  
Give things time to sink in, and you'll come to a conclusion about how you feel. They really care about your honesty, so be ready to deliver them the good or bad news with compassion.

**CANCER**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
If your attention is being divided between your home life and your public life, the best choice is to focus more on the issues that are going on around your home.

**LEO**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
If you shop around a bit, you'll find some great bargains. Don't worry that you're wasting your money. From time to time, you have to invest in things now that will help you earn more tomorrow.

**VIRGO**  
Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
Don't focus on the fact that you don't know exactly what they're thinking now. Focus instead on the fact that they're integrating you into their everyday life.

**LIBRA**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
It's going to be a super day for you, so get ready to smile and enjoy yourself. You deserve some easygoing energy, and the universe is sending a whole lot of it your way!

**SCORPIO**  
Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
If waiting for the other person to make the first move makes you feel too passive today, then grab the power back! If you want things to move forward, take the first step and see if they follow you.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
This is a great day for dreaming big, but you have to make a point of figuring out what it is that you really want. Don't forget to let the world know what your hopes and wishes are.

**CAPRICORN**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You can reach an important compromise with an authority figure. It's all about sharing the same goal. If you have a different way of reaching it than they do, just explain yourself.

**AQUARIUS**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Some people think that being an intellectual is the same as being a snob, but you aren't one of those. Your mind is hungry for input, and it's seeking stuff that it has never even considered before.

**PISCES**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Your patience (not surprisingly) might be running awfully thin right now, so feel free to tell them that you need to see a little bit more progress in order to feel as though you've been adequately heard.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

**EASY**

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

**EASY+**

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

**MEDIUM**

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

**HARD**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-5	14	cloudy
Harbin	-15	0	snow shower
Tianjin	0	16	clear
Urumqi	-7	9	clear
Xi'an	2	21	clear
Lhasa	-4	9	cloudy
Chengdu	10	18	cloudy
Chongqing	12	20	cloudy
Kunming	8	18	cloudy
Nanjing	3	20	clear
Shanghai	2	16	clear
Wuhan	4	21	clear
Hangzhou	3	19	clear
Taipei	11	17	clear
Guangzhou	11	24	clear
Hong Kong	16	22	clear
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-19	-12	cloudy
Frankfurt	2	10	overcast
Paris	7	10	drizzle
London	5	10	cloudy
New York	-2	0	sleet

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS** 1- Aristotle's A; 6- Sprechen \_\_\_ Deutsch?; 9- Delight; 14- Rest atop; 15- Bambi's aunt; 16- Taboos; 17- Statute; 19- Attempts; 20- Feline; 21- Mil. addresses; 22- Back in; 23- Weaponry; 25- Pertaining to the moon; 26- Two-piece bathing suit; 29- Wall St. debuts; 31- Lazy; 32- Ecstasy; 36- Son of Adam and Eve; 37- Musical gift; 38- Delhi wrap; 40- Plain; 43- Monetary unit of Tonga; 45- Sat on the back of a horse; 46- District; 47- Rocky debris; 50- An apple or a planet will have this at the centre; 51- Siouan speakers; 52- No \_\_\_!; 54- Month after avril; 57- Nostrils; 58- Recalls; 61- Rub out or remove from memory; 62- One \_\_\_ million; 63- Devoured; 64- Tennis's Monica; 65- Parisian possessive; 66- This is only \_\_\_.

**DOWN:** 1- A Baldwin brother; 2- Director Wertmuller; 3- Heating fuel; 4- Ad follower; 5- Hill insect; 6- Oozes; 7- \_\_\_ uncertain terms; 8- Chow; 9- Confide; 10- Sophia of the screen; 11- Writer Loos; 12- Start of a saying on forgiveness; 13- Canadian gas brand; 18- Jackie's predecessor; 23- Garlic sauce; 24- Hosp. staffers; 25- Cut (off); 26- Feather scarf; 27- Let \_\_\_; 28- Capital of the Ukraine; 29- Steamed; 30- Average; 33- Grammarian's concern; 34- Wife of a rajah; 35- As a result; 37- Football lineman; 39- Singer Janis; 41- Dons clothes; 42- Fair-hiring abbr.; 43- Investigation; 44- \_\_\_ Lingus; 47- Blank look; 48- Reef material; 49- Actress Witherspoon; 50- Unconscious states; 51- Change for a five; 52- Prissy; 53- Actress Russo; 54- Allot; 55- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 56- \_\_\_ She Lovely?; 59- Give \_\_\_ break; 60- Hit.

**Yesterday's solution**

A	M	A	S	S	I	N	E	R	T	A	H	A			
P	A	M	P	A	S	A	U	T	E	G	A	B			
R	E	P	A	I	A	I	R	E	D	A	V	A			
I	T	A	L	O	I	D	I	O	T						
O	C	E	A	N	I	C		N	U	A	N	C			
F	R	I	N	G	E			W	O	R	M	I			
T	A	D	A		R	A	I	S	A		N	V	D	S	
L	E	V	E	L		C	C	L		R	I	O	T		
H	E	R	O		P	E	K	O	E		K	E	L	L	A
Q	U	E	S	S		R	E	A	L	L	I				
A	S	S	I	G	N		J	A	C	K	A	S			
D	E	C	C	A		W	R	A	T	H					
E	W	E		N	A	R	E	S		O	M	I	T	S	
L	E	N		O	R	A	N	O		E	A	M	E	S	
A	D	E		A	S	P	E	N		S	T	A	R	E	

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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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AP PHOTO



Frances McDormand in a scene from the film "Nomadland"

DRIVE IN

# A DIFFERENT KIND OF AMERICAN ODYSSEY IN 'NOMADLAND'

LINDSEY BAHR,  
MDT/AP FILM WRITER

**T**HE great recession didn't just eliminate jobs, it also erased an entire town. Six months after U.S. Gypsum closed its doors in Empire, Nevada, a company town since 1948, its zip code was retired and its inhabitants forced to leave. It's this brief history that opens Chloé Zhao's extraordinary "Nomadland," which follows one of those residents, Frances McDormand's Fern, on a journey through the American West to nowhere in particular.

Fern is a wanderer, partially by choice and partially by cir-

cumstance — the shuttering of Empire, the costly and slow death of her husband and a deep-seated desire for solitude and exploration have left her with few connections and even fewer possessions, which she whittles down to the essentials and the most sentimental. Everything else is left in a storage unit off a desolate, snowy highway that looks like it is quite literally in the middle of nowhere. It might as well be on the moon.

We don't hear much from Fern at the beginning, or ever really. An Amazon factory floor manager speaks more words than she does in the first few scenes. It's one of the beauties

of "Nomadland," which is based on Jessica Bruder's book about the invisible casualties of the modern economy. This is a quiet, somewhat romantic, but mostly realistic exploration of aging workers and recent retirees who are living out the rest of their days wandering, picking up odd jobs and paychecks as seasonal workers at National Parks, South Dakota's Wall Drug and in massive Amazon warehouses through something called the CamperForce program.

McDormand disappears into Fern, which is no small accomplishment for an actor

as recognizable as she is. She doesn't have a show-stopping monologue railing against the system that's left her with so little, or a tear-filled admission about why she has taken to the road. You pick up things here and there about her in normal conversation which helps propel her journey along to its quiet conclusion. But otherwise Fern is there to listen and to learn. She is the vehicle through which we meet the Vietnam vet with PTSD, the woman who watched her parents die of cancer and the corporate America exile who saw a friend deteriorate in a desk job with a retirement boat in his driveway that he

never got to use. Many are authentic nomads too, like Linda May, a main character in Bruder's book, and the vandwelling evangelist Bob Wells, a mini celebrity in his own right.

There is always a lingering tension that things might take a turn. But for this most part, this is a film full of kind souls. They're just not the ones we're used to seeing on film. Zhao has since her first film been drawn to non-actors, who she uses exceedingly well. But "Nomadland" is no doubt elevated thanks to the addition of seasoned performers, including David Strathairn in a great supporting role, who know how to inhabit the frame.

Zhao is a spiritual descendent of another cinematic poet, Terrence Malick, and there are a handful of shots that look straight out of "The New World." But she also goes beyond Malick in some ways. He keeps the interesting and real people on the fringes and the glamorous movie stars at the center of his films. She stays unapologetically on the fringe.

I'll admit, I had a bit of anxiety over revisiting "Nomadland" after naming it my top film of 2020 just over two months ago. You never know what will happen on a second watch, whether your appreciation will grow or diminish, whether you'll be as invigorated as the first time or, in a worst-case scenario, bored. It's not the kind of film you'll want to turn on every week, but two months was the perfect amount of distance to fall in love with "Nomadland" again.

Don't let words like Oscars frontrunner and awards darling get in the way of your openness, either. This film is a small miracle and a uniquely meditative experience.

**"Nomadland," a Searchlight and Hulu release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some full nudity." Running time: 108 minutes. ★★★★★**

## Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



### THE HAPPINESS 1500 METRES TURF 2021-02-20|Sat|15:45

**K**UNG Hei Fat Choi to all racing fans in Macau, may the year of the Ox bring you winners all through non-stop. Hope we can kick off with our first winner in tomorrow's meeting. My best bet of the day goes with Stanley Chin's charge **Money Link** in race 4. **Money Link** narrowly missed his win last start; this Saturday he should be obliged with a good barrier draw and the booking of T. Tanaka. I have been closely watching his impressive morning works before the holidays, everything that I saw indicates that, he is ready to go for one better in this first meeting in the year of the Ox for Stanley Chin. Let's give him a big hand when Stanley lead him in with his owners.

**Race 4 | Horse no. 10 Money Link Win & Place bets**





MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

BOOK IT

# An insider's look behind the '60 Minutes' stopwatch

**L**ONG-TIME multi-award-winning producer Ira Rosen has written a sometimes sad, often funny, always revealing portrait of American television's most famous and successful news show, "60 Minutes."

Rosen certainly had reporting time for this book – he was a producer at the CBS show for nearly 25 years.

In anecdotes and conversations, Rosen offers an engaging tutorial on how "60 Minutes" signature high-quality mini-documentaries are produced but perhaps the book's most important contribution comes in ratifying the essential role of skilled, tenacious journalism in maintaining a democracy.

In 2007, for example Rosen produced a piece on how members of Congress sold stock based in information learned in closed meetings – insider trading.

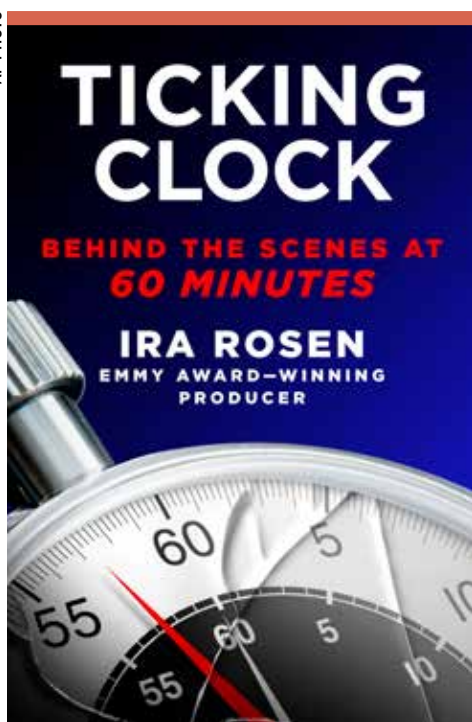
"The more you know about politicians, the worse they appear," Rosen writes.

Misdeeds of our elected representatives provided a steady stream of story topics for "60 Minutes" in the Rosen years, less so now as more show segments appear to be linked to the news and fewer pieces are investigative.

"60 Minutes" emerges as a less-than-great place to work, at least in the era of founder Don Hewitt. He shunned staff meetings and essentially let producers and correspondents fight it out for stories and airtime. Correspondent Mike Wallace thrived in that untamed workplace, poaching stories from his fellow correspondents, berating producers and abusing women staffers.

Rosen produced for Wallace for nine years but never truly learned to manage the star correspondent's outbursts and general bad behavior.

Rosen related how Wallace once barged into Rosen's offi-



"Ticking Clock: Behind the Scenes at 60 Minutes," by Ira Rosen (St. Martin's Press)

ce, demanding to know who was on the phone. Rosen said nothing, handed the phone to Wallace and left the room. Rosen had been talking to his mother.

Wallace never again interrupted Rosen's phone calls.

And for critics who consider the news media as collectively left-leaning, consider this: In a post-presidency interview with Jimmy Carter, Wallace avoided asking Carter a question the answer to which likely would reflect badly on the Reagans. Wallace was a "friend and defender" of the Reagans, the book notes.

A fundamental journalism tenet is that a principled reporter cannot be friends or have relationships with people or institutions in their reporting orbit.

By contrast, Lesley Stahl, Bill Whitaker and Anderson Cooper emerge as stand-out reporters and polite, considerate, caring people. Ed Bradley was a producer favorite.

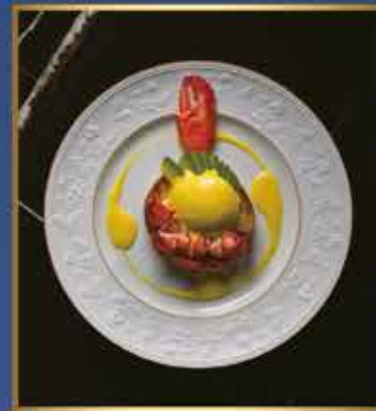
Rosen produced "60 Minutes" pieces into the Trump presidency, a traumatic time for journalists everywhere. He retired in 2019 and misses the powerful investigative pieces of the program's glory days.

"We were not dismissed as fake news," he said. "We solved problems [...] our reporting uncovered crooked congressmen [...] we got the wrongfully convicted out of prison" (and we) persuaded "whistleblowers, con men and mob bosses to tell their stories." **JEFF ROWE, MDT/**

AD

## THE PERFECT GETAWAY AT THE LONDONER HOTEL

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OPINION

World Views

Elisa Martinuzzi, MDT/Bloomberg



THE REAL BATTLE FOR THE CITY OF LONDON

Britain's departure from the European Union has left a visible mark on the City of London. Almost overnight at the start of January, the world's preeminent financial center lost about half of the share trading it used to handle, and a chunk of the buying and selling of derivatives. Next could be clearing, the market plumbing that guarantees the smooth matchmaking of buyers and sellers.

Clearing is a vital piece of financial infrastructure in which London dominates. Its sheer size — trillions of dollars of derivatives are cleared every day — make it an even grander political target for the EU than share trading. But it would be a mistake to consider this the most valuable chip still on the table.

The tug-of-war with Europe over where to base the finance industry's key risk-takers, managers and decision-makers is worrying some City grandees just as much as the potential loss of swaps clearing. That's why the EU's increasingly hard-line position on giving regulatory "equivalence" to U.K. finance, which would let bankers work unhindered in Europe, has become the biggest fear right now. Europe is also looking at possibly forcing asset managers who handle portfolios for EU entities and citizens to do so on the continent.

Monitoring the number of banker moves isn't easy, and neither side will be able to declare victory any time soon. But London's future is tied inextricably to its senior traders and dealmakers, as well as professional services such as lawyers and accountants. Their departure across the Channel would put a large dent in U.K. tax revenue, far more than the low-margin (and potentially high-risk) clearing activity.

Since Britain completed its EU exit in December, Brussels has been tightening the screws. Only about 7,500 or so positions have shifted to Europe since then. But the leeway granted by regulators during the pandemic is ending. France has warned that finance firms face criminal charges if they don't have enough locally based staff to ensure prudent risk management. And the European Securities and Markets Authority has warned of "questionable practices" by firms finding workarounds for the rules separating the U.K. from Europe. TP ICAP Plc, the largest interdealer broker, has been prevented from serving some of its EU clients because it hadn't completed its staff relocation to the continent.

Setting aside the political and business gains, the EU is justified in taking action. Without the permission to handle most European business from London — withdrawn in January — banks should be managing things from their regulated entities on the continent. International banks have agreed to shift 1.2 trillion euros (\$1.4 trillion) of assets to European units, which is significant for financial stability. Take Ireland: Britain's Barclays Plc is now the country's biggest bank by assets having shifted about 15% of its balance sheet there post-Brexit.

On the continent, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Morgan Stanley and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. have units that are supervised directly by the European Central Bank (the ECB oversees 117 financial institutions in total). Regulators have an obligation to ensure that if any of these businesses blows up, the individuals responsible are sitting in Frankfurt, Paris or Dublin, where they can be held accountable.

The threat to London from this brain drain is so serious that some are wondering whether it might be better to give up clearing in order to secure equivalence for other finance business. Britain and the EU are hammering out a memorandum of understanding that should create a framework for financial regulation, which could pave the way for granting London more access — or at least that's the hope in the U.K.

London losing its stock-trading crown to Amsterdam is the type of news that draws headlines, and the loss of clearing equivalence would be similar. But the real game is being fought elsewhere. The more meaningful changes to London's dominance will be subtler and less noticeable — until they aren't.

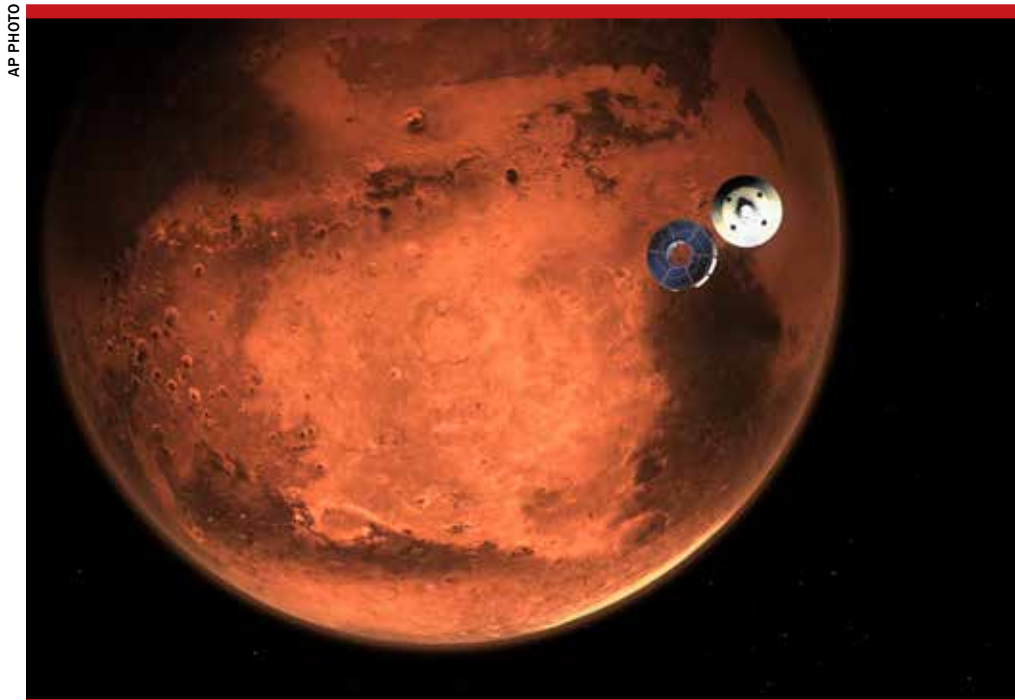
The Justice Department has charged three North Korean computer programmers in a broad range of global hacks, including a destructive attack targeting an American movie studio, and in the attempted theft and extortion of more than \$1.3 billion from banks and companies, federal prosecutors said.

The newly unsealed indictment builds off an earlier criminal case brought in 2018 and adds two additional North Korean defendants. Prosecutors identified all three as members of a North Korean military intelligence agency, accusing

them of carrying out hacks at the behest of the government with a goal of using stolen funds for the benefit of the regime.

Alarming to U.S. officials, the defendants worked at times from locations in Russia and China.

Law enforcement officials say the prosecution highlights the profit-driven motive behind North Korea's criminal hacking, a contrast from other adversarial nations like Russia, China and Iran who are generally more interested in espionage, intellectual property theft or even disrupting democracy. **More on macaudailytimes.com**



AP PHOTO

NASA ROVER STREAKS TOWARD A LANDING ON MARS

MARCIA DUNN, CAPE CANAVERAL

A NASA rover streaked toward a landing on Mars today (Macau time) in the riskiest step yet in an epic quest to bring back rocks that could answer whether life ever existed on the red planet.

Ground controllers at the space agency's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, settled in nervously for the descent of Perseverance to the surface of Mars, long a deathtrap for incoming spacecraft. It takes a nail-biting 11 1/2 minutes for a signal that would confirm success to reach Earth.

The landing of the six-wheeled vehicle would mark the third visit to Mars in just over a week. Two spacecraft from the United Arab Emirates and China swung into orbit around the planet on successive days last week.

All three missions lifted off in July to take advantage of the close alignment of Earth and Mars, traveling some 300 million miles in nearly seven months.

Perseverance, the biggest, most advanced rover ever sent by NASA, stood to become the ninth spacecraft to successfully land on Mars, every one of them from the U.S.

The car-size, plutonium-

powered rover was aiming for NASA's smallest and trickiest target yet: a 5-by-4-mile strip on an ancient river delta full of pits, cliffs and fields of rock.

Scientists believe that if life ever flourished on Mars, it would have happened 3 billion to 4 billion years ago, when water still flowed on the planet.

Percy, as it is nicknamed, was designed to drill down with its 7-foot arm and collect rock samples that might hold signs of bygone microscopic life. The plan called for three to four dozen chalk-size samples to be sealed in tubes and set aside on Mars to be retrieved by a fetch rover and brought homeward by another rocket ship, with the goal of getting them back to Earth as early as 2031.

Scientists hope to answer one of the central questions of theology, philosophy and space exploration.

"Are we alone in this sort of vast cosmic desert, just flying through space, or is life much more common? Does it just emerge whenever and wherever the conditions are ripe?" said deputy project scientist Ken Williford. "Big, basic questions, and we don't know the answers yet. So we're really on the verge of being able to potentially answer these enormous

questions."

China's spacecraft includes a smaller rover that also will be seeking evidence of life — if it makes it safely down from orbit in May or June.

Perseverance's descent has been described by NASA as "seven minutes of terror," in which flight controllers can only watch helplessly. The preprogrammed spacecraft was designed to hit the Martian atmosphere at 12,100 mph, then use a parachute to slow it down and a rocket-steered platform known as a sky crane to lower the rover the rest of the way to the surface.

Mars has proved a treacherous place: In the span of less than three months in 1999, a U.S. spacecraft was destroyed upon entering orbit because engineers mixed up metric and English units, and an American lander crashed on Mars after its engines cut out prematurely.

NASA is teaming up with the European Space Agency to bring the rocks home. Perseverance's mission alone costs nearly \$3 billion.

The only way to confirm — or rule out — signs of past life is to analyze the samples in the world's best labs. Instruments small enough to be sent to Mars wouldn't have the necessary precision. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

**Belarus** A court yesterday sent two female journalists to prison on charges of violating public order after they covered a protest against the nation's authoritarian president. They were arrested in November when police broke down the door of an apartment in Minsk from which they were doing a live stream of a protest and charged them with "organizing actions rudely violating public order," accusations they have denied.



AP PHOTO

**Germany** Hundreds of police and other investigators raided more than 20 buildings in Berlin and the surrounding state of Brandenburg yesterday in a crackdown on two feuding organized crime families, authorities said. Berlin prosecutors said on Twitter that two people were arrested in the raids targeting illegal drug and weapons trafficking.



AP PHOTO

**Spain** More than 50 people were arrested and dozens injured during a second night of protests that turned violent in several Spanish cities. The protests were sparked by the imprisonment of a rapper who had insulted the monarchy and praised terrorism. The protests began peacefully, but as the evening wore on they turned violent, with rioting, impromptu barricades made from trash containers and fires, and damage to shops.

**Peru** Public indignation over secret coronavirus vaccinations for the wealthy and well-connected in Peru grew, a day after the Vatican's ambassador to the South American nation admitted he was inoculated ahead of health care workers and the poor. The surreptitious vaccination of nearly 500 people, including a then-president, his wife and brother, has roused anger over inequality.