

For your health and the health of others
Get vaccinated against COVID-19

Vaccination booking system



Please scan QR code or visit website
<https://eservice.ssm.gov.mo/covidvacbook>
Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre

321 GO

"321" Monthly Plan FREE
Mainland China Mobile No.
service for 12-month

Details



Note: CTM reserves the right to make the final decision in case of any disputes.

CTM 40th ANNIVERSARY

THE MAJORITY OF LAWMAKERS AT THE AL PLENARY VOTED DOWN NINE PROPOSALS ON SOCIAL ISSUES AND LIVELIHOOD OF THE POPULATION

P4

YUAN ERASES YEAR'S GAINS AGAINST DOLLAR WHILE PBOC STEPS ASIDE

P6

GOV'T SHOULD LOWER THE APPLICATION THRESHOLD FOR SUBSIDIZED VOCATIONAL PROGRAM TO WIDEN ASSISTANCE TO UNDEREMPLOYED, UNEMPLOYED RESIDENTS: FAOM

P5

FAREWELL MACAU

60 STRANDED PASSENGERS TAKE CHARTERED FLIGHT TO MALAYSIA FOR TRANSIT

P2



South Korea's conservative opposition party has won sweeping victories in mayoral by-elections in the country's two biggest cities, a blow to President Moon Jae-in ahead of next year's presidential vote. Oh Se-hoon (pictured) of the opposition People Power Party won 57.5% of the votes cast in the election in Seoul, the capital city, according to the final vote tally released by the National Election Commission. Park Young-sun of the ruling Democratic Party won 39.2% of the votes.



Tokyo has asked Japan's central government for permission to implement emergency measures to curb a surge in a rapidly spreading and more contagious coronavirus variant, just over three months before the start of the Olympics. Tokyo came out of a state of emergency on March 21. Its governor, Yuriko Koike, told reporters yesterday that she asked the government to allow her to issue binding orders under a new virus prevention law enacted in February that include penalty for business owners who defy measures and compensation for those who comply.



Myanmar's ambassador to the United Kingdom, who has criticized the military coup in the country, says he has been locked out of his London office by colleagues. Kyaw Zwar Minn said he was barred from entering the embassy by diplomats loyal to the military regime.

More on backpage



MACAU BUSINESS TRAVEL EXPECTED TO REBOUND: CHINA

P3



UK COVID CASES DROP 60% DUE TO VACCINES, LOCKDOWN

P8

REPATRIATION

60 STRANDED PASSENGERS TAKE CHARTERED FLIGHT TO MALAYSIA FOR TRANSIT

LYNZY VALLES

SOME 60 stranded former non-resident workers in the Macau SAR were repatriated yesterday via AirAsia, some of them having medical conditions requiring urgent care.

The return flight will bring in 12 local residents from Malaysia who were in transit from different regions.

One of the key persons involved in organizing this flight, Agnes Goh, said that many of the stranded workers have been waiting for a long time for this chartered flight, given the absence of direct flights from the city due to entry and border restrictions.

“Those terminated do not have Hong Kong IDs and so going to Hong Kong for a flight was not an option,” said Goh.

Unlike the first batch from the repatriation flight from Hong Kong to Malaysia, the Malaysian Consulate had negotiated with Hong Kong authorities to exempt former non-resident workers from Macau to carry out the quarantine measures.

“On this flight, we have four heavily pregnant women and also a few who have medical issues. [Many] of them do not have consulates here in Macau so we helped to organize them together, as well as coordinate in finding them resources and short-term accommodation,” Goh said.

With the ongoing border restrictions and the suspension of commercial flight services, the repatriation flight came as a blessing for dozens of foreign nationals who have also been stranded in Macau as they decided to join the flight to transit in Kuala Lumpur.

Many of them are of different nationalities, coming from Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, South Africa, Korea, Kazakhstan, India, Turkey, China and Japan.

Currently, Malaysia allows a 12-hour transit.

However, a special exemption was made by Malaysian authorities as many of those transiting passengers are only able to catch the next flight after the 12-hour period, due to the limited number of flights going back to their home countries, according to Ce-



lia Lao, CEO of AirAsia Hong Kong and Macau.

Yesterday's flight landed in the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) Main Terminal.

As current travel restrictions in Malaysia only allow transit within the same terminal for international passengers, arrangements were made for all guests to disembark at the KLIA Main Terminal

to enable foreign national guests to connect to their next flights home.

“KLIA Terminal 2 does not have any connecting flights. So in order to bring more passengers home and bring back overseas to Macau, we moved the arrival of the flight to Terminal 1 for them to transit early. For this movement, we needed to get approval

from our headquarters in Malaysia,” Lao told the Times.

“[Another challenge was] to discuss and negotiate with the [Malaysian] government to relax the passenger transit hour limit to match the connecting flight of passengers in their next flight,” she added.

Meanwhile, there are still hundreds of stranded workers in the

region who are waiting for chartered flights back home.

Therefore, Goh hoped that while these stranded workers are not capable of being financially resourceful – as it is illegal to work without a permit – the government would provide short-term assistance for these former workers.

“I feel that the Macau government should set up some financial support for these people who have previously made a tremendous contribution to the prosperity of Macau. Now that the pandemic is happening, they should also help and offer support financially,” Goh expressed.

“They can extend their immediate help to those people who are suffering financially and medically. The hospitals charge them [more than] the local residents and it is not fair because they are already jobless with medical conditions and they cannot go to the hospital because they are financially unable to do so,” she added.

AIRASIA OPTIMISTIC ABOUT TRAVEL BUBBLE DESPITE CITY'S ENTRY RESTRICTIONS

LOW-COST airline AirAsia has been optimistic about Macau establishing travel bubbles with different ASEAN countries, particularly those that are considered low risk.

Previously, Celia Lao, CEO of AirAsia Hong Kong and Macau, wants the region to negotiate a travel bubble with Thailand, an initiative she views as feasible given the Covid-19 situation has stabilised both in Macau and Thailand.

Yet this time, Lao said that she would like to see a travel bubble with more ASEAN countries, but is counting on the government to lift entry restrictions.

Currently, only Macau residents and Greater China residents can come to Macau.

“We're positive and working closely with relevant governments in ASEAN countries such as Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and India as well. We also hope that the travel bubble will be built with Malaysia, Thailand or Singapore. There are certain conditions under which we hope the travel bubble will be built very soon,” said Lao.

Recently, Thailand launched an Open Thailand Safely campaign, which will allow Thailand to reopen its borders from July 1.



Celia Lao (left) during the inauguration of the Macau-Phuket route in January 2018

Prospective travelers must have had a Covid-19 vaccination from their home country, have health insurance, and demonstrate proof of a negative Covid-19 test within 72 hours of departure, among other conditions.

Lao also believed that the aviation industry will slowly return to normal, yet stressed that it needs to work closely with the government

in determining the most feasible time to relax the city's entry restrictions.

“That's a key reason blocking people from coming back here or from going overseas. With the quarantine lasting for 14 days, it's difficult for local residents to make decisions [to travel out of mainland China],” Lao concluded. LV

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+20,500

Like us on facebook.com/mdtimes



MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times
DIRECTOR & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR_Lynzy Valles SENIOR WRITER_Honey Tsang
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Albanjo Martins, Annabel Jackson, Anthony Lam, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Juliet Risdon, Linda Kennedy, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS_Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, Bloomberg, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua
SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao amy@macaudailytimes.com

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

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

Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Macau business travel expected to rebound: Beijing

HONEY TSANG

THE business travel of both Macau and Hong Kong has shown signs of recovery, Xie Jinying, director-general of the Bureau of International Exchanges and Cooperation of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of China (MCT) confirmed yesterday at a plenary meeting held by CYTS Alliance.

In his opening speech, Xie stressed that the global tourist number and overall tourism receipts in 2021 are expected to hit around 60% to 80% of 2019's pre-pandemic levels.

Among all regions, the Asia Pacific is forecast to be the fastest-growing region when it comes to tourism revival. This, he said, will create a boon to boost the business travel for both Hong Kong and Macau.

"The global tourism industry will



soon enter a new phase with greater room for development, but, it will also be faced with a greater demand for quality tourism products [requested by travellers]," Xie said.

He urged tourism practitioners to grasp the opportunities from within and forge new quality products in the future.

Director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Ma-

ria Helena de Senna Fernandes also attended the event.

Fernandes pledged that the MGTO will double down on attracting mainland holidaymakers to visit Macau through a set of channels.

One of the approaches includes hosting a Macau-themed tourism promotional week in six mainland cities before the Golden Week Holiday in May, which she believes can

lay a solid foundation for the upcoming tourism rebound.

Another tactic will be accelerating the implementation of the "Tourism+" concept, to foster the collaboration between tourism and other sectors.

According to a key official from Zhuhai, the plan of the Hengqin Guangdong-Macao Intensive Cooperation Zone will be promulgated soon. The Plan will lay down the direction for both Macau and Hengqin in Zhuhai to co-develop a world-class tourism and leisure island.

According to the official data, Macau registered a total of 99,568 visitor arrivals, with an average daily volume of almost 20,000 visitors, during the five-day holidays of Easter and Ching Ming Festival from April 2 to 6.

Fernandes said earlier that she is eyeing the Golden Week in May to further advance the city's arrival number.

DSAL DEPUTY DIRECTOR TOOK OFFICE

The Deputy Director of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) Chan Chon U took office yesterday. The inauguration ceremony was held at the office of DSAL, attended by the DSAL Director Wong Chi Hong and other supervisors of various DSAL units. Chan will be responsible for leading the Labour Inspection Department, the Occupational Safety and Health Department, and the Research and Information Department.

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENT FOR PRESCHOOL EDUCATION

The Education and Youth Development Bureau and local kindergartens will simultaneously announce the student admission list today. Parents must confirm their children's admission on a dedicated webpage (www.dsedj.gov.mo) from April 9 to 12. After that, parents should visit the respective schools to complete the enrolment procedures between April 15 to 17.

RESIDENTIAL PRICES DROP 1.7%

The overall residential property price index for December 2020 to February 2021 decreased by 1.7% to 263.1, compared to the previous period from November 2020 to January 2021, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). The indices for the Macau Peninsula (262.8) and Taipa & Coloane (264.5) dropped by 1.7% and 1.5% respectively. The index for existing residential units (282.3) went down by 1.4%, with the index for those in the Macau Peninsula (274.1) falling by 1.9% and the index for those in Taipa and Coloane (316.6) rising by 0.5%.

HOTEL OCCUPANCY RATE STOOD AT 53% DURING RECENT HOLIDAYS

LYNZY VALLES

LOCAL hotel establishments saw an average occupancy rate of 53.1% between during Easter and Ching Ming Festival, a figure that represents an increase of 4.5% compared to the Spring Festival, according to data published by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

The occupancy rates of 3-star, 4-star, and 5-star hotels were 59.0%, 53.4%, and 53.2% respectively.

The average room rate of hotel establishments in the city stood at MOP953.2 during the five-day holiday, which is a 23.3% plunge compared to during the Spring Festival Golden Week.

During the holidays, Macau welcomed nearly 100,000 visitor arrivals, with an average daily volume of nearly 20,000 visitors.

Provisional figures revealed that the SAR registered 99,568 visitor arrivals during the five-day holiday, due to Easter and Ching Ming Festival together this year, including a total of 90,491 mainland visitors.

The average daily visitor

arrival numbers registered a 53.8% increase when compared to the average daily volume during the Spring Festival Golden Week – yet a 17% decrease compared to Macau's average arrivals in March which was 23,989.

During the Chinese New Year, the city only recorded a daily average of 12,947 visitors as Chinese authorities have encouraged domestic travel in order to contain the recent spread of Covid-19.

According to the MGTO, more promotional efforts will be rolled out for the upcoming May 1 Labour Day holiday in a bid to attract more mainland visitors to Macau on vacation and increase spending.

The hotel industry is eyeing the seven-day holiday, starting May 1, on the mainland for a further boost as the previous holiday did not lead to a significant change in the local hotel occupancy rate, according to the local hotel industry.

However, with the May 1 holidays taking place in less than a month, the industry is forecasting a 20% rise on the basis of the occupancy rate in March.

TOURISM VOCATIONAL COMPETITION 2021 TO UNDERSCORE GBA INTEGRATION

HONEY TSANG

THE upcoming third edition of the Macao Integrated Tourism and Leisure Enterprises Vocational Skills Competition, jointly organized by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM), will feature an augmented element to showcase a closer integration between Macau and mainland cities in the Greater Bay Area (GBA).

In yesterday's press briefing, Choi Kam Fu, director of the organizing committee of the competition, said that the organizers had invited representatives from GBA's mainland cities to be guests and judges for this year's competition.

They include leaders from the Guangdong Federation of Trade Unions, Shenzhen Federation of Trade Unions, and Zhuhai Federation of Trade Unions.

"To cultivate local talents with high caliber and competence has become a core task for Macau to integrate itself closer into the



GBA and grasp ensuing opportunities arising from within," vice-president of the FAOM Fong Ka Fai remarked yesterday.

Alongside the above representatives from China, local scholars and tourism professionals, who are representatives from the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), the Macao Institute of Tourism Studies (IFTM) and the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM), will also constitute the panel of judges.

The event will take place on April 14 at Conrad Macao. The championship will be divided into three types of matches, namely the Gaming and Entertainment Vocational Skills Competition, the Hotel Service Vocational Skills

Competition, and the Culinary Vocational Skills Competition.

Since its debut in 2019, the competition has been deemed a platform for local tourism practitioners to build good rapport and exchange industry know-how.

The city's six concessionaires — Sands China, Galaxy Entertainment Group, Melco Resorts & Entertainment, MGM China, Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, S.A. (SJM) and Wynn Macau — will send their employees to participate in contests.

Fong hopes the event will provide contestants with a sense of job satisfaction and foster public awareness to honor labour, knowledge, talent and industry innovation.

FIVE LAWMAKERS CRITICIZE AU KAM SAN'S SPOKEN INQUIRY

RENATO MARQUES

IN a Legislative Assembly (AL) session yesterday, five lawmakers rounded on lawmaker Au Kam San to criticize him on his position in a spoken inquiry during the period before the agenda.

Si Ka Lon, Chan Hong, Chui Sai Peng, Vong Hin Fai, and Ho Ion Sang interrupted the session to question the statements made by Au during a spoken inquiry, early last month, in which he addressed the decision of the National People's Congress (NPC) to promote changes to Hong Kong's electoral system.

In his inquiry, Au had said, "The central government got its hands on the Hong Kong electoral regime and 'perfected it,' under the pretext of ensuring that 'Hong Kong is governed by patriots,' correcting the policy defined by Deng Xiaoping – that is, 'Hong Kong governed mostly by patriots.' Most importantly, by destroying Hong Kong's democracy, it is also destroying the Hong Kong people's hopes for universal suffrage." He



added later, "The complete destruction of Hong Kong's democracy under the pretext of 'perfecting' [it] is to ruin the 'One country, two systems' policy. I deeply disagree with this policy. Apparently, this event in the neighboring region has nothing to do with Macau, but since there are only two special administrative regions in the People's Republic of China, and they are geographically close, in the face of the failure of the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy in Hong Kong, the road to demo-

cratization in Macau will be more difficult."

While lawmaker Si called for patriotism, noting that the words of Au have "no fundament since Hong Kong is part of China," lawmakers Chan added that Au cannot say that the NPC has "ruined the One Country, Two Systems values in Hong Kong," since the NPC decision "has the purpose of safeguarding national security and maintaining the stability of Hong Kong."

Lawmaker Chan also added

that "all changes performed [by NPC] are absolutely legal," adding that the policy of "patriots ruling Hong Kong" is "perfectly in line with the central government policies in which the body always has the right to have the last word."

Agreeing with Chan, lawmaker Chui said that Au considering the intervention of the NPC to be "destroying the democratic regime in Hong Kong" was unacceptable.

Lawmaker Vong took a legalistic approach to the case, saying

that Au's words violated both the rules of the AL and the duties of lawmakers.

"In our rules and regulations, it says clearly that we need to be faithful to the Macau SAR and the country," Vong said, urging Au to remove the two more polemic paragraphs from his inquiry.

Lastly, lawmaker Ho reaffirmed some of the opinions previously expressed, adding that the topic raised by Au "is not suitable to be discussed here [at the AL]," adding that the NPC is a "top body of the central government and if there are flaws [in the Hong Kong election system], they have a duty to find solutions for those flaws."

In his reply, Au did not agree that he has breached his "oath of fidelity" in any way. In relation to continuing to fight for democracy in Hong Kong, Au said, "I am not calling for separatism. We need to continue to defend the democracy."

The lawmaker also added that the changes to the neighboring region's composition of the Legislative Council are a "complete change, because from the current 70 lawmakers, 35 are regional lawmakers and there are a total of 40 elected lawmakers. This system was completed changed, and to me, this is a destruction of the democratic system," he concluded.

AL votes down nine debate proposals

RENATO MARQUES

THE majority of the lawmakers at the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday voted down nine proposals on topics related to social issues and the livelihood of the population.

All the proposers of the nine proposals were directly elected lawmakers including José Pereira Coutinho, Sulu Sou, Ella Lei, Song Pek Kei, Agnes Lam, Leong Sun Iok, and Mak Soi Kun.

Four of the nine proposals were related to the third round of government economic stimulus. Another two concerned the need to improve the system to facilitate the reemployment of resident workers who lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The proposals did not convince the appointed and indirectly elected lawmakers who voted down all proposals one

after the other – in some cases without expressing a justification or initiating discussion on the topic.

Upon completion of the voting process, lawmaker Pereira Coutinho, who was responsible for two of the nine topics, said, "Today is a historical day. Nine proposals from lawmakers were all voted down. This [fact] certainly deserves a study by scholars and also a reflection by the Chief Executive."

Addressing the coldness with which the government-appointed lawmakers addressed most of the topics, Coutinho added, "all topics were significant concerns of the population and affect the daily livelihood of the residents."

By way of reply, lawmaker Wu Chou Kit attempted to explain the reasons adopted by those who voted against the proposals saying, "When there is no con-

troversy, there is no place for debate," adding that the topics chosen by the lawmakers were either those that the lawmakers could question the government on via other methods (such as spoken or written inquiries) or "topics that the government is already working on," remarking that in such cases, it is useless to debate.

Siding with Coutinho was lawmaker Sou who also saw three proposals – one for debate, one on a law amendment, and one on issuing of votes – being voted down in a single day, yesterday.

"When there is controversy in society, the topic cannot be discussed. When there isn't, it also cannot. We need to understand what is happening here," Sou said after Wu's response.

The proposals achieved a maximum of 12 to 14 votes in favor, a number insufficient to beat the 18 to 20 votes against.

LAWMAKERS AGAINST VOTE OF SALUTATION TO PRESS



RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou's aspiration to issue a vote of salutation by the Legislative Assembly (AL) for the work and role of the press in Macau was voted against by 24 out of the 29 lawmakers yesterday.

The proposal was in relation to the situation at the public broadcaster Teledifusão de Macau (TDM), which led to a series of terminated contracts of several journalists, claiming that the new editorial rules were against press freedom.

Sou only managed to ga-

ther three votes in favor of his proposal.

Explaining his decision to vote against the proposal, lawmaker Davis Fong accused Sou of trying to take advantage of the TDM case to promote a vote at AL against the decision of the Executive Committee of the company.

"TDM is a private company that has a concession for public service. It's a company which is completely autonomous. I oppose this proposal," Fong said.

Other lawmakers, including Lao Chi Ngai, agreed with Fong, stating that the

government always showed support for freedom of press in Macau.

Lao also claimed that the problem in TDM is an "internal matter."

"We cannot claim that there is lack of freedom of press just because one journalist quits claiming it is so," Lao said.

The same lawmaker also added that the Chief Executive, Ho Iat Seng, has already publicly stated that the government has never interfered with the work of public broadcasters or its journalists.

Gov't should lower bar for vocational program: FAOM

HONEY TSANG

THE government should lower the application threshold for the Subsidized Vocational Upskill Program to offer assistance for more underemployed and unemployed residents in Macau, Choi Kam Fu, director of the Rights Committee of the Macao Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM), told the press on the sidelines of an event yesterday.

Choi's proposition came on the same day that the 8th round of the Program, organized by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), kicked off its application process yesterday.

"[We learned that] some laid-off participants who enrolled in the previous rounds [of the program] still haven't secured a job up to now," Choi told the media.

These concerned individuals have been jobless for a prolonged period, he said, which has dragged them deep into financial suffering.



"[As such, I] suggest the SAR government allow this group of people to enroll into the training program for one more time," Choi stressed.

The program was first launched in 2020, with the inten-

tion to help locals weather the economic fallout and land a job during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It was designed to incentivize employers to sign their staff up for training courses to

upskill their vocational skills. Upon the completion of the program, each employer will be granted MOP5,000 for each employee graduating from the Program.

The prerequisites for recei-

ving the endowment are that the employers must not have lowered the basic stipend of employees nor arranged any unpaid leave for them.

If an employer refers employees who are already on unpaid leave to join the Program, the subsidy of MOP5,000 will be given to the staff themselves.

According to official data, the previous round of the Subsidized Vocational Upskill Program registered 30 people from including 19 enterprises and three freelancers assessed as eligible for the program. Meanwhile, a total of 35 individuals had enrolled in the training course in March.

Earlier, the government pledged to set aside MOP334 million for the government-initiated Vocational Training Scheme, part of the third round of the stimulus package.

This year's Scheme is enhanced, with no limit on the number of participants and an additional expansion to allow those who are on unpaid leave to apply even without a referral from their employers, the director of the DSAL, Wong Chi Hong, said earlier.

The upcoming scheme, with its scope extended to also benefit casino staff, will commence in May.

CRIME

TWO MEN BECOME VICTIMS IN MESSAGE SCAM

ANTHONY LAM

TWO men were involved in two separate cases of message-related scams, with one of them losing nearly MOP73,000.

In the first case that took place on March 31 evening, the 30-year-old victim came across another man on an instant messaging system. The latter told the victim that he could provide massage services for MOP500 per hour.

Following the suspect's directions, the victim bought the same worth of online gaming voucher and sent the suspect the activation code. He was later instructed to wait at the entrance of a building on Avenida de Horte e Costa, where he was told through the instant messaging app to buy more vouchers, which amounted to MOP10,000.

He immediately felt that he was being scammed and reported the case to the Judiciary Police (PJ) the following evening.

The other victim, a

29-year-old male, also came across a man over an instant messaging system at the end of March. Similar to the first case, the victim was told that the massage service was available at the price of MOP500 per hour.

The session that the victim paid for was scheduled for April 1 in Taipa.

Before the service, the suspect asked the victim for his phone number. Later, a Putonghua-speaking man called the number and asked the victim for more gaming vouchers.

The victim fell for it and sent 14 activation codes, amounting to MOP72,462, to the suspect. On the 15th occasion, the victim declared that he had no money but was threatened by the man on the other side, who claimed that the victim's location was GPS-tracked.

After losing nearly MOP73,000, the victim decided to report the case to the police.

In another case, a mainland tourist was arrested by the Public Security Po-

lice Force (PSP) on allegations of sexual harassment against a Filipino housekeeping worker at a hotel.

The case took place last Saturday at a room in a Cotai hotel. The female housekeeping worker was conducting routine room cleaning when the suspect, a 51-year-old self-reported businessman, returned to the room.

Before the suspect came in, the housekeeper was alone in the room.

According to victim's statement, the suspect said something to her. However, she did not understand what he said due to the language barrier.

Later, the suspect started rubbing his chest. Seeing the scene, the victim felt disturbed and tried to leave the room. It was reported that at the moment, the suspect touched the victim's breast.

The suspect has denied the allegations, saying that the two only had shoulder-to-shoulder contact.

仁德 *CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER*
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

General Surgery : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

Breast Surgery : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

Urology : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

CURRENCY

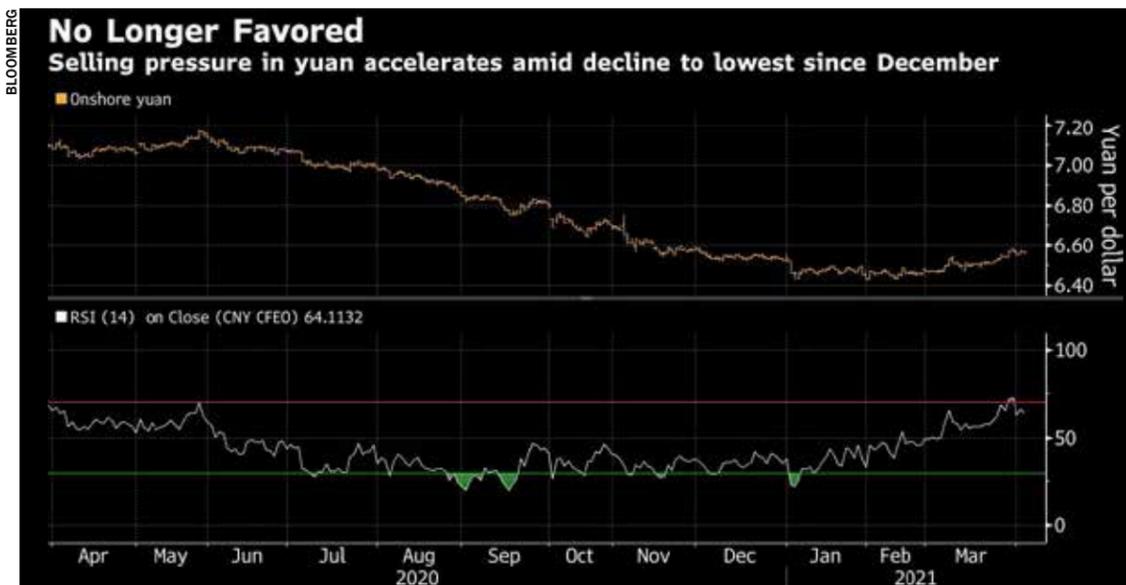
YUAN ERASES YEAR'S GAINS AGAINST DOLLAR WHILE PBOC STEPS ASIDE

CHINA'S yuan is hurting after months of standing tall against the dollar.

In March, the currency gave up all its 2021 gains and then some. There are signs a short-term retreat may be starting as the drivers that lifted the yuan last year - a quicker economic rebound from the pandemic and investors seeking yields - get eroded, dimming the currency's appeal.

Investors flooded into Chinese bond markets in 2020, boosting yuan usage and furthering China's ambitions to internationalize its currency. But, a spike in Treasury yields is now cutting into the yuan's yield premium, while an FTSE Russell index inclusion will now take place over a much longer period, slowing inflows. Throw in tensions between Beijing and Washington, and all these are speed-bumps for a currency that jumped almost 7% against the dollar last year.

"Last year, 10-year U.S. versus Chinese government bonds were glaringly attractive whereas that's compressed now," Thu Ha Chow, a portfolio manager at Loomis Sayles Investments Asia in Singapore, said of yield spreads.



"Dollar-yuan can go up a bit, but not to the worrying levels like what we saw" previously, she added.

Foreign investors boosted their holdings of Chinese bonds by more than 1 trillion yuan (\$153 billion) last year to a record 3.3 trillion yuan, according to data from the central bank. The funds were driven by a yield spread that touched a record of around 2.5% in November, and a resilience that

made China's debts a haven.

So far, the current bout of weakness doesn't seem to be worrying the People's Bank of China. Two weeks ago, it vowed to increase currency flexibility, a sign that Beijing will allow the yuan to drop against the dollar. Another policy maker recently expanded the quota for outgoing investments.

"The PBOC will have tools to deal with any sharp depreciation,

and it looks to be comfortable with the yuan correction for now," said Ken Cheung, chief Asian currency strategist at Mizuho Bank Ltd.

The yuan's decline in March, its biggest monthly drop in a year, has arrested a steady advance that saw it head toward 6.4 from a low of 7.18 against the dollar last May. The onshore currency fell 0.1% to 6.5503 as of 5:44 p.m. in Shanghai.

This year, a relentless climb in

Treasury yields has narrowed the yield gap of Chinese government bonds by around 1 percentage point from the record high. That advantage looks set to erode further with some on Wall Street forecasting that U.S. yields will climb to 2%.

Foreign funds trimmed their holdings of Chinese government debt in March, the first time in two years, according to the latest data.

Adding to the strains is an extension of the inclusion period for Chinese bonds into FTSE Russell's flagship index to three years rather than the 12 months envisioned.

"The yuan will likely keep weakening in the near-term, as none of the key developments in global markets is good news for the currency," said Tommy Xie, head of Greater China research at Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp., adding the yuan may drop to 6.6 per dollar soon. "But the depreciation will be temporary, with the currency steadying in the second half, as the dollar rise will lose steam."

There's also evidence that Chinese corporates and individuals have become less willing to own the yuan. They cut buying for two months as of February, the first back-to-back reduction in more than two years. At the same time, onshore banks became more active dollar buyers via the swaps market. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

AD

CASA DE PORTUGAL
EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會

Escola de Artes e Ofícios
工藝美術學校
School of Arts and Crafts

Multimédia
多媒體
Multimedia

Ilustração Digital
數碼插畫
Digital Illustration

nível . 級 . level I
≥ 10 anos/歲/years old

monitor/導師: **David Lopo**

<p>Terças 逢週二 Tuesdays 17h00 - 19h00</p>	<p>total/課程時長: 22 horas/小時/hours 11 sessões/節課/sessions</p>	<p>propina/費用/fee: MOP1,100 sócios/會員/members</p>
	<p>início/開課日期/starts: 13/04/2021 fim/結課日期/finishes: 22/06/2021</p>	<p>MOP1,300 não sócios/非會員/non members</p>

língua/語言/language:
Português e Inglês/葡文和英文/Portuguese and English

patrocínio/贊助/sponsor:
Fundação Macau/澳門基金會

local/會場/venue:
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n° 431 - 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fong 14° andar A, sala 3, Macau
澳門馬禮遜博士大馬路, 431-487號南豐工業大廈, 14樓A座 3號課室

número máximo de participantes/每班最多收生人數/maximum number of participants:
10 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
10人 (根據報名付費順序錄取).

10 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

Pré-requisitos: Caneta e Mesa Gráfica (Graphic Tablet)
上課先決條件: 自備數位板和感壓筆/Prerequisites: Pen and Graphics Tablet

morada/協會會址/address: Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva, n° 28, R.A.E. de Macau/澳門伯多祿局長街二十八號
tel/電話: (853) 28 726 828 fax/傳真: (853) 28 726 818 portugal@macau.ctm.net

HOLIDAY RENTAL HOUSES

Lugar das Letras Casa de Gouvães

The houses are set in the heart of the World Heritage Site of the Douro Valley and its famous winery landscape where the worlds Ports are produced. Both restored relics overlooking the Rio Douro, these eight rooms houses have been blessed with gorgeous wooden floors, plush queen beds and marble baths; the best have dazzling river views. But it is the welcome that makes this place stand out from the crowd.

visit us at www.lugar-das-letras.com visit us at www.casadegouvães.com

BOOK NOW!
info@lugar-das-letras.com
Mobile: +351 917921 320
Praça de Gouvães, apartamento 20,
5085-242 Gouvães do Douro, Sabrosa
CASA DE GOUVÃES - DOURO - PORTUGAL
TURISMO NO ESPAÇO RURAL

BOOK NOW!
info@casadegouvães.com
Mobile: +351 917921 320
Praça de Gouvães, apartamento 20,
5085-242 Gouvães do Douro, Sabrosa
CASA DE GOUVÃES - DOURO - PORTUGAL
TURISMO NO ESPAÇO RURAL

China protests transit of US destroyer through Taiwan Strait

CHINA yesterday protested the passage of a U.S. destroyer through the Taiwan Strait in the latest move as both nations increase their naval activity in the region.

China tracked and monitored the USS John S. McCain throughout its passage on Wednesday, Zhang Chunhui, spokesperson for the Chinese military's eastern theater command, said in a statement.

The U.S. move sent the "wrong signal" to Taiwan's government and "willfully disrupted the regional situation by endangering peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait," he said. China firmly opposed the move and Chinese forces will respond with "strict precautions and vigilance," he added.

China threatens to invade Taiwan to assert its claim over the self-governing island democracy, which enjoys strong U.S. support.

In a one-sentence statement, the U.S. Navy said the McCain "conducted a routine Taiwan Strait transit April 7 (local time) through international waters in accordance with international law."

The McCain's transit follows China's announcement Monday that its aircraft carrier Liaoning and associated vessels were holding drills near Taiwan meant to help it "safeguard national sovereignty, security and development interests," terms often interpreted as being directed at Taiwan's leadership that has refused to give in to Beijing's demands that it recognize the island as part of Chinese territory.

AP PHOTO



An F/A-18E Super Hornet lands on the flight deck of the USS Ronald Reagan as USS Nimitz steams alongside in the South China Sea, last June

Meanwhile, the U.S. Navy announced the carrier Theodore Roosevelt and its strike group reentered the South China Sea on Saturday to "conduct routine operations," the second time the strike group has entered the strategic waterway this year.

China claims the South Chi-

na Sea almost in its entirety and strongly objects to foreign naval activity in the resource rich and heavily transited waters, especially the U.S. practice of sailing naval vessels close to Chinese-held features in what it terms "freedom of navigation operations."

na Sea almost in its entirety and strongly objects to foreign naval activity in the resource rich and heavily transited waters, especially the U.S. practice of sailing naval vessels close to Chinese-held features in what it terms "freedom of navigation operations."

While the Taiwan Strait lies in international waters, its transiting by U.S. naval vessels is seen as a partly symbolic show that Washington will not permit Beijing's forces to dominate the waterway.

Along with military exercises, China has been sending warplanes on practically a daily basis into Taiwan's air defense identification zone to pressure the administration of President Tsai Ing-wen and advertise its threat of military action.

That prompted a statement from Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu on Wednesday that Taiwan would "fight a war if we need to fight a war, and if we need to defend ourselves to the very last day, then we will defend ourselves to the very last day."

The vast improvements in China's military capabilities and its increasing activity around Taiwan have raised concerns in the U.S., which is legally bound to ensure Taiwan is capable of defending itself and to regard all threats to the island's security as matters of "grave concern."

At a regular briefing on Wednesday, U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price reiterated that, "Our commitment to Taiwan is rock-solid."

"We think and we know that it contributes to the maintenance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and within the region as well," Price said. "The United States maintains the capacity to resist any resort to force or any other forms of coercion that would jeopardize the security or the social or economic system of the people on Taiwan." **MDT/AP**

Beijing blasts Taiwan over efforts to help ally Paraguay get vaccines



A healthcare worker administers a Covid-19 vaccine in Asuncion, Paraguay, on March 26

CHINA slammed Taiwan over its efforts to help one of its few remaining allies get coronavirus shots, the latest squabbling over vaccines between the two sides of the strait.

"We have to warn the Taiwan authorities that the vaccine is a weapon to fight the pandemic and save lives, not a tool for political maneuvers," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhao Lijian said at a regular press briefing yesterday in Beijing.

"Any attempt to seek Taiwan independence through vaccines or money diplomacy will not succeed," he added.

On Wednesday, Taiwanese Foreign Minister Joseph Wu said Taipei had been

talking to "like-minded countries," including India, the United States and Japan about sending vaccines to Paraguay. India had already shipped 100,000 doses to the South American nation, Wu said, and would deliver 100,000 more.

The Paraguayan government said last month that it was approached with offers of Chinese-made vaccines in exchange for breaking ties with Taiwan. The offers came from individuals "whose legitimacy and ties to the government of the People's Republic of China are not proven," Paraguay's foreign ministry said.

Wu said China had been "flexing its muscles" with vaccine diplomacy. Paraguay is one of just 15 nations that recognizes the government in Taipei.

A shipment of vaccines made by Sinovac Biotech Ltd. arrived Tuesday in El Salvador, the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The

Central American country stopped recognizing the government in Taipei in favor of Beijing in 2018.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in March that the Asian nation is "always honorable and above board" with its offers for vaccine help. She characterized the episode involving Paraguay as "a typical malicious piece of disinformation."

India is a member of a grouping known as the Quad, which also includes the U.S., Australia and Japan. Leaders from those four nations met last month, in part to discuss ways to counter China's growing economic and military influence.

China's ruling Communist Party sees Taiwan as its territory, which must be seized by force if necessary. Taipei rejects the claim, saying Taiwan is already a de facto sovereign nation. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

UK

Covid cases drop 60% due to vaccines, lockdown

BRITAIN'S COVID-19 vaccination program is beginning to break the link between infection and serious illness or death, according to the latest results from an ongoing study of the pandemic in England.

Researchers at Imperial College London found that COVID-19 infections dropped about 60% in March as national lo-

ckdown measures slowed the spread of the virus. People 65 and older were least likely to be infected as they benefited most from the vaccination program, which initially focused on older people.

The study also found that the relationship between infections and deaths is diverging, "suggesting that infections may have resulted in fewer hospitalizations

and deaths since the start of widespread vaccination."

But researchers also urged caution, saying that infection rates leveled off at the end of the study period as the government began to ease the national lockdown and children returned to school.

The next step in lifting England's third national lockdown is scheduled

for April 12, when non-essential shops will be allowed to reopen, along with hair salons, gyms and outdoor service at pubs and restaurants.

The Imperial College study conducts swab tests on a random sample of people across England each month. The latest round tested more than 140,000 people from March 11 to March 30. **MDT/AP**

NORTHERN IRELAND

Leaders call for calm after night of rioting

RIOTERS set a hijacked bus on fire and hurled gasoline bombs at police in Belfast in the fourth night of violence in a week in Northern Ireland, where Brexit has unsettled an uneasy political balance.

Youths threw projectiles and petrol bombs at police on Wednesday night (yesterday, Macau time) in the Protestant Shankill Road area, while rioters hurled objects in both directions over the concrete "peace wall" separating the Shankill Road from a neighboring Irish nationalist area.

U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson condemned the unrest, and Northern Ireland's Belfast-based government was holding an emergency meeting yesterday on the riots.

Johnson appealed for calm, saying "the way to resolve differences is through dialogue, not violence or criminality." Northern Ireland First Minister Arlene Foster, of the pro-British Democratic Unionist Party, and Deputy First Minister Michelle O'Neill of Irish nationalists Sinn Fein both condemned the disorder and attacks on police.

The recent violence, largely in pro-British loyalist areas, has flared amid rising tensions over post-Brexit trade rules for Northern Ireland and worsening relations between the parties in the Protestant-Catholic power-sharing Belfast government.



The latest disturbances followed unrest over the Easter long weekend in unionist areas in and around Belfast and Londonderry, also known as Derry, that saw cars set on fire and projectiles and gasoline bombs hurled at police officers.

Authorities have accused outlawed paramilitary groups of inciting young people to cause mayhem.

Britain's economic split from the European Union at the end of 2020 has disturbed the political balance in Northern Ireland, a part of the U.K. where some people identify as British and some as Irish.

A new U.K.-EU trade deal has imposed customs and border checks on some goods moving between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K. The arrangement was designed to avoid checks between Northern Ireland and Ireland, an EU member, because an open Irish border has helped underpin the peace process built on the 1998 Good Friday accord.

The accord ended decades of violence involving Irish republicans, British loyalists and U.K. armed forces in which more than 3,000 people died. But unionists say the new checks

amount to a new border in the Irish Sea between Northern Ireland and the rest of the U.K.

Unionists are also angry at a police decision not to prosecute Sinn Fein politicians who attended the funeral of a former Irish Republican Army commander in June. The funeral of Bobby Storey drew a large crowd, despite coronavirus rules barring mass gatherings.

The main unionist parties have demanded the resignation of Northern Ireland's police chief over the controversy, claiming he has lost the confidence of their community. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

2003 SADDAM STATUE TOPPLES WITH REGIME



There have been scenes of jubilation in Baghdad as US tanks rolled into the very heart of the Iraqi capital, confirming that the government of Saddam Hussein has been ousted from power.

In the main square in Baghdad, a group of Iraqi men attempted to pull down a massive statue of Saddam Hussein in an unprecedented show of contempt for the Iraqi leader.

The metal plaque at the base of the statue was torn off and the statue's marble plinth attacked with a sledgehammer.

The men scaled the statue to secure a noose around its neck but were unable to pull it down.

Then US troops joined in, and used an armoured vehicle to gradually pull down the statue.

The extraordinary scenes were watched by millions across the world live on television.

The square is opposite the Palestine Hotel, used as a base by the world's media during the war in Iraq.

A little before the statue came down, a US soldier climbed up and draped the face with a US flag.

The crowd did not welcome the move, seeing it as a step too far towards American triumphalism, and the flag was quickly removed.

A few minutes later, it was replaced by the old Iraqi flag, to roars of approval.

As the statue fell to the ground at last, the crowd surged forward and jumped on it.

Chanting and jeering, they danced on the fallen effigy, kicking it and hitting it with their shoes in a symbolic gesture of contempt as it was torn to pieces.

They then severed the head, tied chains around it, and dragged it through the streets.

As news of the events in the square spread, more and more Iraqis gathered to watch, with women and children joining the crowds of men.

There were similar scenes across the capital, as the many hundreds of statues and pictures of Saddam Hussein that came to symbolise his regime were attacked and torn down.

The military campaign will continue, although the US Army has delivered its most upbeat assessment yet of the gains it is making in Iraq.

"Much of Iraq is free from years of repression," said Brigadier-General Vincent Brooks, the US Central Command spokesman in Qatar.

"With every day that passes, we are breaking the grip of the regime."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue became one of the enduring images of the war in Iraq. Although there has since been some speculation that it was staged by US forces.

One BBC correspondent, who was in Paradise Square and watched the statue being pulled down, said his impression was of "a newly free people" expressing their "overwhelming joy".

US troops continued to advance north for another week, taking key towns such as Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit, before President Bush declared victory on 1 May.

The honeymoon period for US troops was short. In the power vacuum which followed the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime, law and order broke down and US troops became targets for many Iraqis resentful of the continuing occupation.

In the six months after the war ended, more US soldiers died in guerrilla attacks and suicide bombings than during the whole of the war.

Saddam Hussein himself was captured in December 2003. He was tried by an Iraqi court, sentenced to death and was hanged on 30 December 2006.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You might not be feeling all that great at the start of the day, but other people sure think you're looking great! This confirmation of your attractiveness will do wonders for your physical and mental health.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

All of the unresolved romantic issues in your life aren't as confusing to you as they once were, probably because you're getting a handle on what you want and don't want.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

It would be good for you to set a few goals today, but try to keep them as simple and attainable as possible. Right now, you need to remind yourself how capable and smart you are!



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Make time for old friends as well as new friends. Send a thank-you note to that teacher or mentor who inspired you. Realize that your life is not just about the future.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Give them space for a few days and then make another effort to connect. This is definitely not the right time to make anyone feel under any type of pressure.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Today, even a slight change in your daily routine could put a major crimp in some future social plans. Your schedule might be flexible, but your friends' schedules may not be.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Move these emotions up into your head and turn them into logical thoughts that you can see in a more analytical way. Getting your emotions organized will help.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Keep an eye out for someone who seems to be putting on an act. Being in such a strong intuitive space will enable you to reach out with the right words to cheer them up.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you think you're completely in charge of your day today, you're in for a big surprise! It won't be another person, an unpleasant occurrence, or even inclement weather that mucks up the works;



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today, keep that open mind, especially when someone says something that rubs you the wrong way. There is something there that's worth investigating.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

It might not be easy to open up and let someone new into your life, but things worth doing are often difficult. You sense that you should let down your guard a little, and you should trust yourself this time.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

There are lots of opportunities coming your way right now, and you'll definitely want to get involved in many of them, even though they might require a bit of hard work.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

WEATHER

CHINA

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

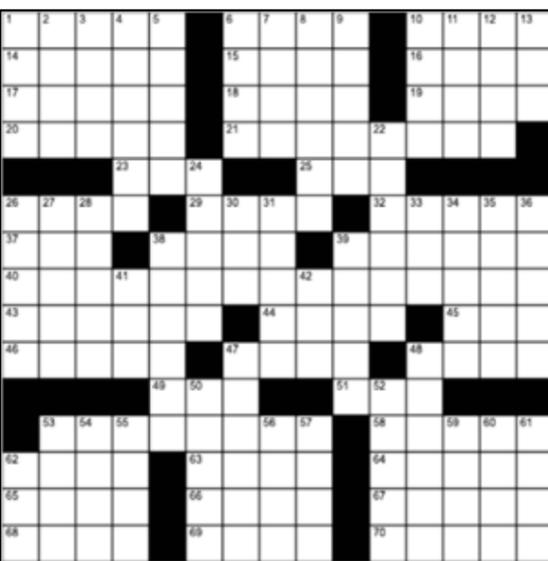
WORLD

Moscow	-5	-4	flurry
Frankfurt	-1	4	sleet
Paris	0	3	sleet
London	0	5	sleet
New York	0	7	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- One of the Baldwins; 5- Adlai's running mate; 10- Small amounts; 14- Den of wild animals and dragons; 15- Everyday; 16- Brio; 17- Longfellow's bell town; 18- Actress Witherspoon; 19- Delhi wrap; 20- Takes care of; 22- Most strange; 24- AOL, e.g.; 25- ___ silly question...; 26- Unfinished detail; 30- Golf clubs; 35- 1970 Jackson 5 hit; 36- Battery size; 37- Singer Yma; 38- Ryot; 41- Run; 43- More wan; 44- Eight-time Norris Trophy winner; 45- Photographer Goldin; 46- Apportion; 47- Digital tool; 50- Japanese wrestling; 53- Done, to Donne; 54- Shut in; 58- Checked; 62- Make angry; 63- Part of Hispaniola; 66- St. Petersburg's river; 67- Final Four org.; 68- Director Lubitsch; 69- Singer Stefani; 70- The ___ the limit; 71- Irritable; 72- Gas burner or Sicilian volcano;

DOWN: 1- Dear, dear; 2- Overdue; 3- Green land; 4- Turning point; 5- Continental inhabitant; 6- Compass dir.; 7- Datebook abbr.; 8- Relaxes; 9- Streamlined; 10- Ricky's portrayer; 11- Winglike parts; 12- Keeps out; 13- Agitated state; 21- Half a fly; 23- Elevate; 25- Nabokov novel; 26- Reindeer herders; 27- Belief involving sorcery; 28- Florida citrus center; 29- Writer Hentoff; 31- Capek play; 32- Muscat native; 33- Birth-related; 34- View; 39- Sun. talk; 40- You ___ right!; 41- Man-mouse connector; 42- Precedence; 44- Lennon's love; 48- Bruce ___ was a famous kung-fu movie star; 49- Outer edge; 51- Doorkeeper; 52- Funny Anne; 54- Sea eagles; 55- Small notch; 56- Pottery material; 57- Grazing sites; 59- Salamander; 60- Level; 61- Comic Carvey; 64- Officeholders; 65- Medicinal amt.;



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



YOUR PROPERTY HERE

Call us for more info

(853) 2835 2699

hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com

f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty

FOR SALE

Central Taipa 2 bedroom apartment
HK\$14,000,000 2,105 ft² 3 2 1

FOR RENT

Charming apartment, Macau
\$9,000/mth 1 1 1

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

Taipa 3 bedroom apartment
\$17,500/mth 1,626 ft² 3 2 2

ONE GOOD THING

NEPAL'S GOD OF SIGHT EYE DOCTOR TO EXPAND WORK BEYOND BORDER

BINAJ GURUBACHARYA, LUMBINI

JUST next to the Mayadevi temple where Buddha was born more than 2,600 years ago, hundreds of people lined up outside a makeshift hospital on a recent hazy day, hoping their fading eyesight could be restored.

A day later, these saffron-robed Buddhist monks, old farmers and housewives were able to see the world again because the nation's renowned eye surgeon Dr. Sanduk Ruit was there with his innovative and inexpensive cataract surgery that has earned him many awards.

At the visitor center turned into eye temporary hospital in Lumbini, located 288 kilometers south west of Nepal's capital Kathmandu, the assembly line surgery made it possible for the nearly 400 patients to get Ruit's surgery in just three days.

"The whole objective, aim

AP PHOTO



and my passion and love is to see there remain no people with unnecessary blindness in this part of the world," Ruit said, also known as Nepal's "God of Sight." "It is important that the people do receive equitable service and not that have receive and have not don't receive it. I want to make sure that everybody receives it."

Many people in Nepal, most of them poor, have benefited from Ruit's work where he founded the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology in Kathmandu and regularly visits remote villages high in the mountains and low lands of the Himalayan nation, taking with him a team of experts and equipment bringing surgery to their villages.

Ruit has already performed some 130,000 cataract surgeries and is now aiming to expand his work, taking it to as many countries as possible through a foundation he has formed with a British philanthropist Tej Kohli which targets 500,000 surgeries in the next five years.

Ruit said the idea of the Tej Kohli Ruit Foundation is to make cataract surgeries in Nepal affordable and accessible to all.

"We will scale it up globally to other parts of the world where it is needed," he said.

Ruit began his work in 1984 when the surgery was done by removing the entire cloudy cataract and giving thick glasses. He found that most people would not wear these glasses and chances of complication were very high. So he pioneered a simple technique where he removes the cataract without stitches through small incisions and replaces them with a low-cost artificial lens.

Ruit's average surgery costs about \$100. The surgery is free for those who can't afford it. Patients rarely have to spend the night at the hospital.

Nepal has limited number of hospitals and health workers and services are out of reach of most people.

Cataracts, which form a white film that cloud the eye's natural lens, commonly occur in older people but also sometimes affect children or young adults. The condition first causes vision to blur or become foggy because the eye is unable to focus properly. As the cataract grows and matures, it can eventually block out all light. Exposure to harsh ultraviolet radiation, especially at high altitudes as in Nepal, is a major risk factor.

At the surgery camps in Lumbini, patients and family were all praise for the doctor.

Some who have already benefited from Ruit's cataract surgery likened him to a god. **MDT/AP**

AD

合夥人 PARTNERS:

官樂怡 Rui José da Cunha*
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:

高文軒 Adelino Correia*
羅善齡 Zelina Rodrigues*
白秀蘭 Susana Batalha
馬潔冰 Maria João Marques
陶義德 António Isóo de Azeredo
白穎怡 Icília Berenguel
冼玲鳳 Mariana Afonso Esteves
薛明恩 Maria Antónia Giestas
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira*
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo
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
陳芷喬 Joana Chan
顏曉蓉 Teresa Xiaorong Yan
諾瑪莉 Maria Noras
康靜雅 Viviana Hong
梁淑嵐 Ana Leon

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:

黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong
張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
李莉 Lei Lei
陳健雄 Eurico Chan
吳霆鋒 Ng Teng Fong

法律專家 JURISTS:

羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
潘卡莉 Candice Pun
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
羅嘉慧 Emily Lo
陳子健 Chan Chi Kin



To protect the health and safety of our Clients and Staff, we continue implementing prevention measures at the office entrance, as recommended by the local Authorities.

為了保護客戶和員工的健康和安全，我們將繼續按照本地政府的建議在辦公室入口處實施預防措施。

A: Av. da Praia Grande 759, 3-5 Floors Office hours:
Macau SAR, China Mon-Thu: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:30
地址:澳門南灣大馬路759號3-5樓 Fri: 9:30-13:00, 14:30-18:00
Tel: (853) 2837 2642 / 2837 2623 Sat: 9:00-13:00

WWW.CCADVOG.COM

律師事務所



C&C
LAWYERS
& NOTARIES
SINCE 1996

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



CAR REVIEW

Upgraded luxury Mercedes S-Class now in town

ANTHONY LAM, MDT

REPRESENTING exquisite luxury cars since the brand was born, the all-new Mercedes-Benz S-class has recently arrived in Macau, with improved facilities and technology inside and out.

Considered enchanting by the brand, the S-Class is not only the pride of Mercedes-Benz but also of many of its users. The vehicle is not to be experienced by one sense but four: sight, smell, hearing and touch.

Equipped with the latest Mercedes-Benz User Experience (MBUX) system, the carriage can be extensively voice-controlled, whether it be driven by the owner or chauffeur. It supports 27 languages and has 31 loudspeakers.

There are up to five screens on board, some with OLED technology. At the touch of a button, the new 3D driver display allows spatial perception of the surrounds with the introduction of genuine 3D effect for the first time: a feat made possible by eye-tracking. A similarly impressive feature is the large heads-up display with augmented reality content.

The new S-Class is so comfortable that it offers 10 different massage programs. The user can unwind and revive fully before making each critical decision. Comfort has always been a promise from Mercedes-Benz.

Technically, the new S-Class is equipped with the EQ Boost technology. When the vehicle accelerates, the 48-volt electric system complements the petrol engine with an additional

22 horsepower and 250 Newton-meters of energy output. This means that the vehicle is more eco-friendly without sacrificing volatile acceleration.

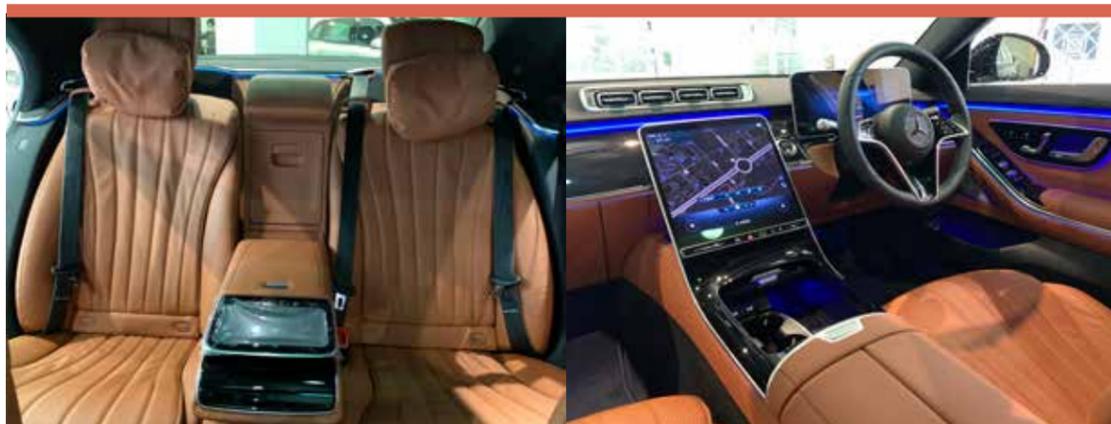
Depending on which model – the S450 or the S500 – the new S-Class can reach 100km/h from idle in around five seconds: we are talking about a

car with all the luxurious facilities you can imagine.

Michael Gu, General Manager of Zung Fu Macau, said, “The new S-Class has set new standards in comfort, luxury, safety as well as technology. The vehicle has perfectly represented Mercedes’s continuing commitment to explore

what’s possible for the future of driving. Knowing Macau has always been an important market for S-Class, we at Zung Fu are very honored to bring the vehicle to Macau as early as possible.”

Visit Zung Fu’s showroom in Taipa to view or test drive the new wonder of Mercedes-Benz.



Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



Last Week Tip



YINGS FANS last Saturday returned a generous dividend of MOP34 (Place) – per MOP10 bet. Our tipster has been picking good value bets for three weeks in a row (1 Win & Place, 2 Places).

THE SHAOXING 1050 METRES SAND

2021-04-09|Fri|21:25

Iam hopeful that my pick on an outsider this Friday evening may prevail, hopefully that again he will offer us good handsome pay outs after the long Easter break. **Golden Rose** from the CWC’s yard has not performed well in his races this season; but watching at his track work he seems quite ready in taking his upcoming races, checked on his past record he slipped from the benchmark rating of 83 to a low of 53 as of today. **Golden Rose** is a good-looking horse, he should find his competitive edge in this Friday’s 1050 sand race, the 126 lbs allotment plus the good 7 barrier draw could also enhance **Golden Rose**’s chances to run into the money. His ideal distance was also 1050 metres on the sand track, he also scored three wins in the same distance in his past outings. Let’s back him up this evening and with a little bit of luck he may also enter into the winning enclosure.

Race 5 | Horse no. 7 Golden Rose Win & Place bets



OPINION

World Views

The Editors, MDT/Bloomberg

FINANCIAL COOPERATION CAN HELP FIGHT THE PANDEMIC

The IMF's new economic forecast offers encouragement to the world's rich countries. They're on track to recover strongly from the pandemic. For many poorer countries, the opposite is true: The end is not in sight, the pandemic is still getting worse, and their economic losses are mounting. Their debts, in many cases, will prove unsustainable.

Rich countries should be doing more to help in all kinds of ways, above all with the production and distribution of vaccines. But designing a more resilient system of financial cooperation, through the International Monetary Fund and other institutions, remains an essential part of the task.

Up to now, improvisation has played a bigger role than systemic innovation. With the agreement of President Joe Biden's administration, for instance, governments have decided that the IMF should issue a big new tranche of special drawing rights (SDRs) to its members. That will give valuable financial help to many countries struggling to cope with the pandemic. But it isn't ideal.

SDRs are a reserve asset created by the IMF and allocated to its members broadly in proportion to their weight in the global economy. They can be cheaply converted into dollars or other hard currency — acting, in effect, as a low-cost line of credit that financially stressed governments can access quickly. Their original purpose was to ensure that a shortage of dollar liquidity wouldn't constrict international transactions. At the moment, that concern is beside the point: There's a glut of global dollar liquidity, not a shortage. Even so, an injection of new SDRs will bolster the finances of many poor countries.

The new allocation of \$650 billion is, to be sure, a scatter-shot device. It'll boost the reserves of all IMF members. In absolute terms the poorest will get least, though as a proportion of their diminished reserves, they'll feel a bigger benefit. The maneuver is also technical and opaque. For many governments, that's a virtue, because they hope what might otherwise be a controversial plan will fly below the political radar. Relatedly, the U.S. has a veto on SDR allocations, and \$650 billion is (roughly speaking) the biggest injection that the Treasury Department can agree to without seeking approval in Congress.

In addition to promoting the SDR plan, the IMF and some of its member governments have cobbled together other relatively modest arrangements. One idea gaining support is worth adding to this list. The new SDR allocation could be improved if the rich countries agreed to donate some of their new reserves to COVAX — the United Nations-led effort to accelerate vaccine distribution in the developing world — and similar initiatives.

Yet off-the-cuff flexibility only goes so far. The IMF and its partner institutions should also create new facilities capable of delivering substantial assistance under extreme circumstances — like today's — where financial distress isn't the result of irresponsible economic policies. The fund's standard operating procedure is to make loans conditional on programs of economic reform. Negotiating those schemes is often a protracted and politically fraught process. The economic-policy response to a pandemic needs to be broader, faster and less concerned with prescribing new fiscal strategies.

Arrangements for sovereign debt relief also need work. They have for years, in fact, but the pandemic underlines the point. Covid-19 rightly led the G-20 governments to devise the Debt Service Suspension Initiative — but this is temporary and partial. Efforts are underway to build on this scheme, but for now the world still lacks a system that's comprehensive, fair to creditors, transparent and capable of delivering sufficient relief when necessary. It's a complex job, but it should be a priority.

Starting with their discussions this week, the world's finance ministers should look into more deliberate changes to their arrangements for international financial cooperation. With a couple of bolder innovations, they could handle the consequences of Covid-19 a lot more effectively — and they'd do well to remember that this pandemic is unlikely to be the last.

Philippine health officials are temporarily suspending the use of the AstraZeneca vaccine for people below age 60.

The Department of Health and the Food and Drug Administration said experts are reviewing information about AstraZeneca's side effects to prepare a recommendation on the vaccine's use.

AstraZeneca and a vaccine developed by China-based Sinovac Biotech are the only COVID-19 vaccines received so far by the Philippines and are being used in an immunization campaign

that has been saddled with delays.

"I want to emphasize that this temporary suspension does not mean that the vaccine is unsafe or ineffective — it just means that we are taking precautionary measures to ensure the safety of every Filipino," FDA Director General Eric Domingo said. "We continue to underscore that the benefits of vaccination continue to outweigh the risks and we urge everyone to get vaccinated when it's their turn."

ANALYSIS

ARE SOME COVID-19 VACCINES MORE EFFECTIVE THAN OTHERS?

LAURAN NEERGAARD, MDT/AP MEDICAL WRITER

ARE some COVID-19 vaccines more effective than others?

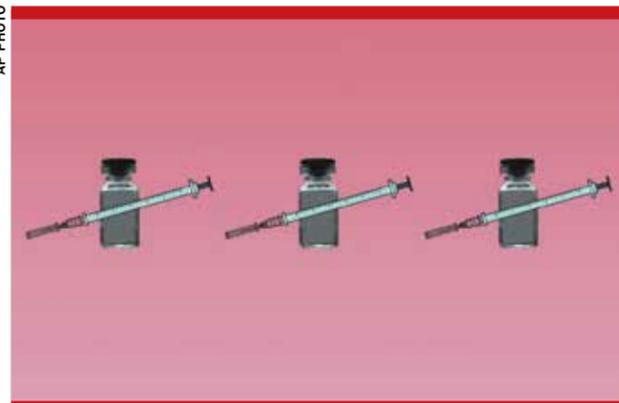
It's hard to tell since they weren't directly compared in studies. But experts say the vaccines are alike on what matters most: preventing hospitalizations and deaths.

"Luckily, all these vaccines look like they're protecting us from severe disease," said Dr. Monica Gandhi of the University of California, San Francisco, citing study results for five vaccines used around the world and a sixth that's still in review.

And real-world evidence as millions of people receive the vaccines show they're all working very well.

Still, people might wonder if one is better than another since studies conducted before the vaccines were rolled out found varying levels of effectiveness. The problem is they don't offer apples-to-apples comparisons.

Consider the two-dose vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, found to be about



95% effective at preventing illness. Studies for those shots counted a COVID-19 case whether it was mild, moderate or severe — and were conducted before worrisome mutated versions of the virus began circulating.

Then Johnson & Johnson tested a single-dose vaccine and didn't count mild illnesses. J&J's shot was 66% protective against moderate to severe illness in a large international study. In just the U.S., where there's less spread of variants, it was 72% effective. More importantly, once the vaccine's effect kicked in it prevented hospitalization and death.

AstraZeneca's two-dose vaccine used in many

countries has faced questions about the exact degree of its effectiveness indicated by studies. But experts agree those shots, too, protect against the worst outcomes.

Around the world, hospitalizations are dropping in countries where vaccines have been rolling out including Israel, England and Scotland — regardless of which shots are given. And the U.S. government's first look at real-world data among essential workers provided further evidence that the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines are highly protective -- 90% -- against infections whether there were symptoms or not.



UK The government said yesterday it is setting up a 43 million pound fund to help migrants from Hong Kong settle in the country as they escape increasing political repression in the former colony. The offer extends to holders of British National passports who have been offered special visas, opening a path to work, residency and eventual citizenship to up to 5 million of Hong Kong's 7.4 million people.

Albania's infrastructure minister Belinda Balluku said that essential flights — humanitarian, emergency, health, diplomatic, state and military — resumed yesterday following a strike by air traffic controllers, while commercial flights will start today. The minister did not say whether air traffic controllers have resumed work or officials have hired foreign ones to replace them.



Norway Despite heavy seas, a joint Norwegian-Dutch salvage operation has managed to get an abandoned Dutch cargo ship under control off the coast of Norway and was towing the ship to port yesterday. Norwegian officials said the rescue operation of the Eemslift Hendrika, a Netherlands-registered ship designed to carry large boats, was completed yesterday and the ship is slowly being towed to the western city of Alesund.

Spain's prime minister is embarking on a mini-tour to two African nations that are key in the European country's new push to bolster ties with the neighboring continent and mitigate the migration flows that many fear could increase as a consequence of the coronavirus pandemic. Pedro Sánchez is scheduled to meet Angola's President João Lourenço during his stop in Luanda and with Senegal's Macky Sall in Dakar.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Natacha Pisarenko



So close and yet so far. Unable to leave, Victor Triplana, 86, reaches out to touch the hand of his daughter-in-law Silvia Fernandez Sotto, separated by a plastic sheet to prevent the spread of COVID-19 at the Reminiscencias residence for the elderly in Tandil, Argentina.