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THE GOVERNMENT WILL ANNOUNCE TODAY THE AMENDED MEASURES RELATED TO THE ELECTRONIC CONSUMPTION VOUCHERS FOLLOWING CRITICISM FROM THE POPULATION

P4

A 77-YEAR-OLD RESIDENT HAS BREACHED THE QUARANTINE RULES BY ESCAPING THE HOTEL ROOM

P3

CHINA'S TOP DISEASE CONTROL OFFICIAL SAYS THEIR VACCINES' EFFECTIVENESS IS LOW AND THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING MIXING THEM TO GIVE THEM A BOOST

P7

China has approved the third Covid-19 vaccine from Sinopharm Group Co. to start clinical trials, the company said. The green light to begin testing comes after two inactivated vaccines from Sinopharm were approved and widely used both at home and in developing countries. The latest one is a recombinant vaccine that includes parts of the coronavirus's spike protein to stimulate immune response, according to a release posted on the company's official WeChat account.



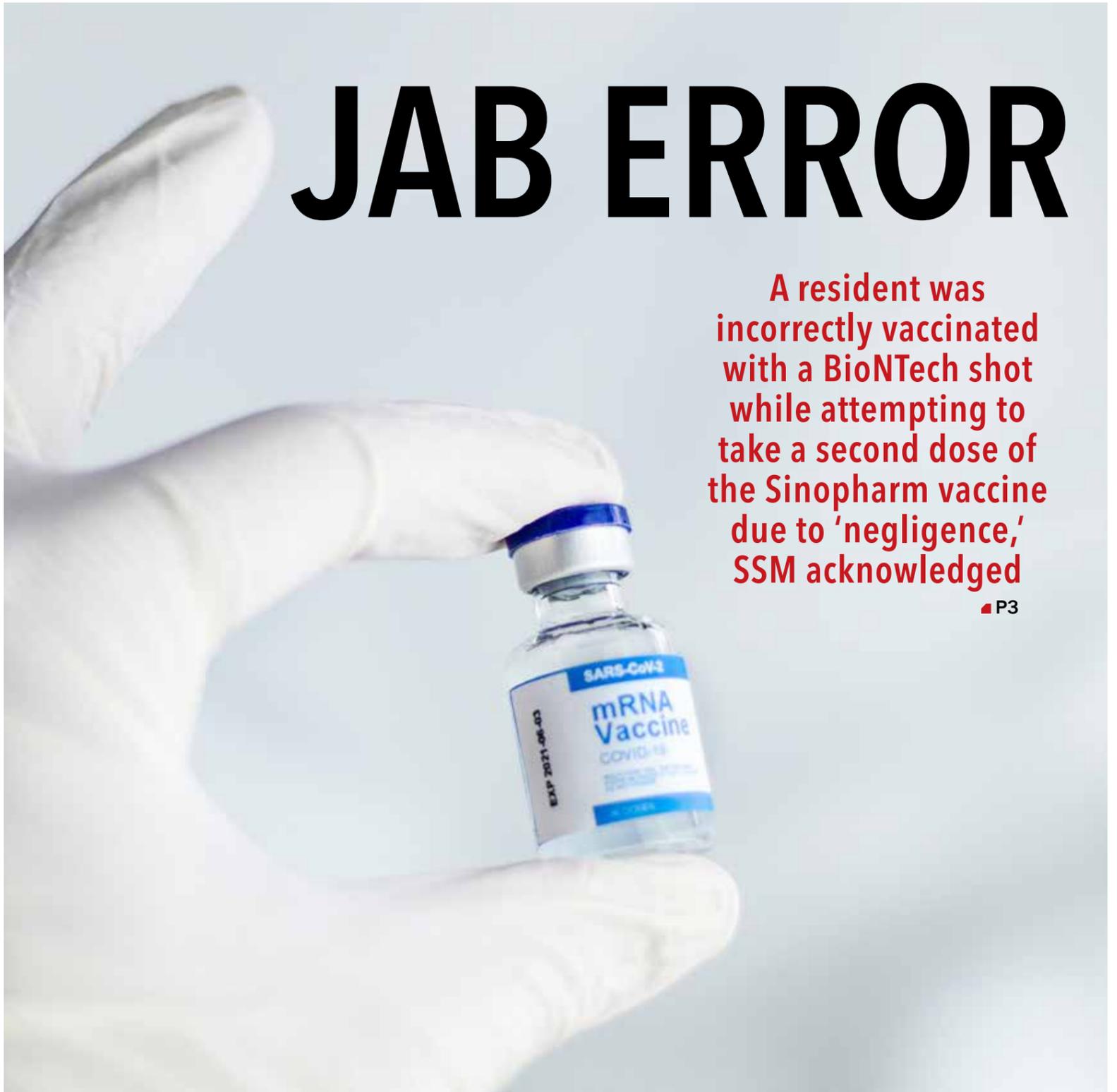
China Rescuers yesterday were trying to reach 21 coal miners who were trapped by an underground flood in China's northwest, a state news agency reported. The mine in Hutubi County in the Xinjiang region flooded at about 6:10 p.m. on Saturday, the Xinhua News Agency said. It said eight people were rescued.



Indonesia A strong earthquake on Indonesia's main island of Java killed eight people and damaged more than 1,300 buildings, officials said Sunday. It didn't trigger a tsunami. The U.S. Geological Survey said the magnitude 6.0 quake struck off the island's southern coast at 2 p.m. Saturday. It was centered 45 kilometers south of Sumberpucung town of Malang District in East Java province, at a depth of 82 kilometers.

Thailand A growing outbreak where local Covid-19 cases hit a new daily record yesterday, threatens to undermine the nation's plan to welcome back tourists. The country saw daily infections surge to 967, bringing its total tally to over 32,600 cases. This could jeopardize the tourism-reliant country's efforts to boost the local travel industry. Thailand is already planning to reopen Phuket from July and waiving quarantine for vaccinated tourists heading there.

More on backpage



JAB ERROR

A resident was incorrectly vaccinated with a BioNTech shot while attempting to take a second dose of the Sinopharm vaccine due to 'negligence,' SSM acknowledged

P3

SANDS CHINA
FIRST-EVER 10KM RUN CONCLUDES WITH OVER 9,000 PARTICIPANTS



P2

GROUP CLAIMS SCRAPPING OF MULTIPLE JETFOILS UNDERWAY

P5

CITY'S FIRST 10KM RUN CONCLUDES IN VIBRANT ATMOSPHERE

ANTHONY LAM

MACAU'S first-ever 10km run competition, the 2021 Sands China Macao International 10K, was held yesterday under bright sunlight. The event was hosted by the Sports Bureau and the General Association of Athletics of Macau, with Sands China Ltd. as the title sponsor.

The occasion had two events, namely the 10km main race and the fun run side race. Runners in the former event started from the Macau Tower Plaza, passing the Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre at NAPE, turning around at the Macao Science Center and moving onto the Sai Van Bridge, before reaching the Macao Olympic Sports Centre Stadium.

Those in the latter event ran straight onto the Sai Van Bridge after starting off at the Macau Tower and headed directly to the stadium through the back of the Macau Jockey Club.

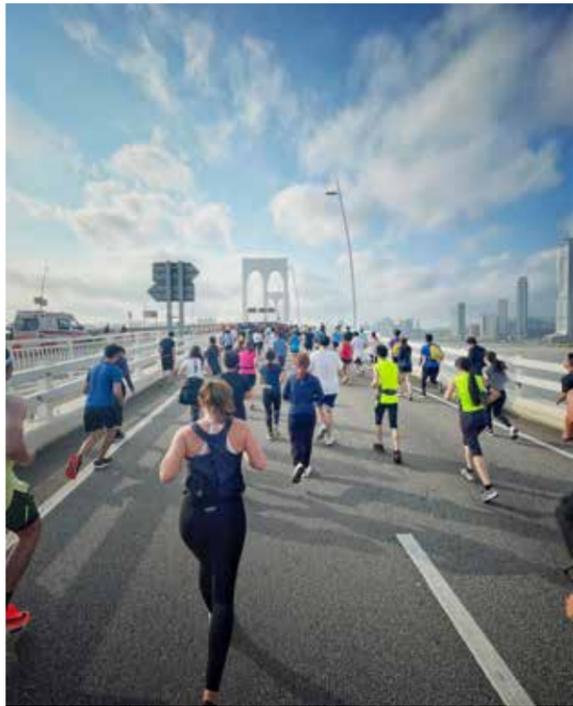
Hongwei Wang and Xiao Yu Yin, both from mainland China, attained the titles in the male and female groups respectively in the main race. Wang won by a time of just past half an hour, at 31"35', while Yin finished at 37"24'.

Local runner Seng Tou Ip and Long Hoi finished sixth and fifth overall ranking in the male and female groups, with respective times of 34"28' and 38"55' in the main race.

As for the side race, Man Hou Kuok from Macau and Kristina Vallesteros from the Philippines topped the lists in the male and female groups, respectively. Kuok finished at 18"52' and Vallesteros at 23"42'.

Some runners even dressed up in special costumes for the run. Local photographer and running enthusiast Hill Kwok participated in the main 10km event, and told the Times that he and his friends liked the energy and atmosphere at the race. With over 9,000 runners participating, the occasion was very enjoyable. He and his friends dressed up as Japanese anime and videogame characters.

The competition was held as part of the city's initiative to hold a major sports event every two months in 2021. The initiative is not just to encourage regular exercise in Macau, but also to



boost tourism and the economy in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.

By title-sponsoring the event,

the gaming operator has invested MOP8 million. Wilfred Wong, president and executive director of Sands China, has highlighted the

company's efforts in promoting sports in Macau. Not only has the company held a number of sporting events in its nearly two deca-

des of operation in the city; it has also chosen renowned English soccer player David Beckham as the company's celebrity endorser.

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COVID-19

Macau records first case of inoculation with wrong vaccine

RENATO MARQUES

A local resident has been incorrectly inoculated with a BioNTech mRNA Covid-19 vaccine while attempting to take a second dose of the Sinopharm vaccine, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced.

According to the records, this person was inoculated previously with a Sinopharm inactivated virus vaccine, and should have received a second dose of the same.

According to the bureau, the case occurred at the Ocean Gardens Health Centre last Friday, with the mistake only detected after the inoculation had taken place.

The SSM added that the resident had not exhibited any



discomfort or health conditions after the second jab. They added that information available wor-

ldwide on this kind of situation has not demonstrated any notable increases in the occurrence of

side effects. Instead, the SSM noted that the only downside of inoculation with a different vaccine

type could be related to a reduction in the efficacy of the vaccine.

A preliminary investigation into the case revealed that the booking system detected that the resident had previously received the first dose of Sinopharm's vaccine. However, "the resident, by his initiative, changed the information from the first dose to the mRNA vaccine, prompting the system to change the second dose to be of the mRNA vaccine," the SSM said.

Nevertheless, the bureau ultimately blamed the SSM staff member who inoculated the resident with the second vaccine. The SSM stated that "the bureau regrets that the health care professional, by negligence, failed to carefully verify the resident's vaccination registration," adding that due to such a fact, the SSM has launched an internal investigation into the incident "aiming to improve the existing procedures."

Meanwhile, the SSM also took immediate measures to amend the vaccination registration system to prevent the possibility of users changing their vaccination record, in order to avoid similar incidents in the future.

RESIDENT ESCAPES QUARANTINE, CAUGHT 10 HOURS LATER

RENATO MARQUES

A 77-year-old resident of Macau has breached the quarantine rules by leaving the hotel room he was staying in as part of the mandatory medical observation period without authorization, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced in a statement.

According to the statement, the man saw an opportunity when a security guard was performing an inspection on another floor of the Pousada Marina Infante Hotel around lunchtime on Friday. After reviewing the footage from the hotel surveillance cameras, authorities report that he escaped the room and made his way to the street through a fire escape staircase.

The health authorities also noted that hotel security only became aware of his absence some four hours later, as the Health Bureau (SSM) unsuccessfully attempted to contact the man by phoning his room twice.

After acknowledging the escape, the authorities launched a manhunt. He was finally found late in the evening on the same day, and was immediately taken to the public hospital

to perform a nucleic acid test and be placed, again, in isolation.

In the statement, the health authorities also added that after the quarantine period in isolation is concluded, the man will be referred to the judicial authorities, which will follow up on the case by pursuing legal liability for such actions.

The center also noted that, following the incident, "the Customs Service, Health Bureau, and the Macao Government Tourism decided to strengthen communication and take appropriate measures to fill security gaps."

According to the information available, the man was placed under medical observation after having attempted to travel to Hong Kong. Upon arrival at the Hong Kong arrival's port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, he was informed that he had to undergo quarantine to enter the neighboring city. As he did not accept the conditions imposed, he returned to Macau. Upon his arrival, local authorities initiated the procedures according to the rules in force and placed the man under medical observation at the designated hotel, from which he later escaped.

GAMING

MELCO RESORTS AWARDS LAWRENCE HO WITH USD10M IN SHARES

LYNZY VALLES

LAWRENCE Ho, chairman and chief executive of Melco Resorts and Entertainment Ltd, has been awarded a restricted stock compensation valued at approximately USD10 million.

Accruing to a filing in the United States last week, the 484,956 restricted depositary shares valued at USD20.68 each, are equivalent to 1,454,868 Melco Resorts shares.

"The purpose of the aforesaid grant of Restricted Shares to Mr. Ho is for incentivizing and motivating him to strive for the future development of the Melco Resorts Group and its business," the US Securities and Exchange Commission filing detailed.

"The directors consider that the terms of the grant [...] are fair and reasonable [...] and that the grant is in the interests of the company and its shareholders as a whole."

The awards will vest in two equal tranches, on April 7, 2023, and April 7, 2024, respectively.

According to the group's financial report released on March 31, the gaming operator posted a net loss of HKD12.38 billion for the full year of 2020. The group's net revenue showed a sharp plunge of 70.2% to HKD13.42 billion. Its adjusted earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortiza-



tion (EBITDA) registered a negative value of HKD1.2 billion. Ho commented that Covid-19 and ensuing travel restrictions significantly impacted the group's financial performance throughout 2020.

Meanwhile, Moody's Investors Service Inc has stated that the business performance of

Melco Resorts is forecast to go downhill in 2021, mainly undermined by its worsened ratio of adjusted debt to EBITDA. The group's adjusted debt/EBITDA will be heightened by "around 10 times or higher in 2021 before improving to around five to six times in 2022 and around four times in 2023."

TICKET OPENS FOR STUDIO CITY WATER PARK

STUDIO CITY Water Park is opening at Studio City on May 22 and tickets will go on sale from today.

The water park includes a towering 20-meter slide complex comprised of five slides. It features "a zero-gravity freefall; a giant bucket that tips out 1.8 tons of water every three minutes; a

child-friendly area boasting a fountain; and a 450-meter river adventure." Splashing Summer Fun Hotel Packages are also offered to different guests with a variety of hotel options, including Studio City Celebrity Tower, Morpheus and NÜWA at City of Dreams, as well as Altira Macau.

RENATO MARQUES

AMENDED E-VOUCHERS PLAN TO BE PRESENTED TODAY

THE government will announce today the amended measures related to the electronic consumption vouchers (e-vouchers) as part of the third round of economic stimulus for Macau.

The announcement is scheduled to take place at 10:30 a.m. in a press conference organized by the Secretariat for Economy and Finance, and will be held at the Economic and Technological Development Bureau.

The amendment aims to allay criticism from the population that was sparked when a new e-voucher system was presented. In this scheme, people had to first spend in order to receive a refund-voucher that they could use in the next acquisition of goods and services.

The system, based on the electronic payment platforms in use in Macau, garnered criticism from all sectors of the population. They considered the measure ineffective and unfair for several groups, leading the government to retract it.

Since then, many sectors of society have expressed their preference for the return of the consumption cards, first presented in

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



2020 as part of the first round of economic stimulus to respond to the Covid-19 economic crisis.

Last week, at the Legislative Assembly, several lawmakers ad-

ressed the topic, calling on the government to bring the consumption cards back, noting that the amount to be loaded onto them should be no less than 5,000

patacas.

Last year, the same cards were rolled out with a loaded amount of 3,000 patacas, and were then reloaded with 5,000 patacas in the

second round, bringing the total amount of government support for every resident of Macau to 8,000 patacas.

CASH HANDOUTS ROLLOUT TODAY

Concurrently, today marks the start of the distribution of the 2021 Wealth Partaking Scheme. The scheme, commonly known as cash handouts, involves the government distributing 10,000 patacas and 6,000 patacas, respectively, to permanent residents and non-permanent residents of Macau.

The scheme, which usually takes place during the summer, has been brought forward to April this year. This is part of the third round of economic stimulus package designed to help the economy and protect people's livelihoods, as previously announced by the government.

According to the plan announced, all residents should receive their cash handouts during the months of April and May, starting with the older citizens and those working for the government or receiving government subsidies.

The last to receive their handouts will be those born between January 1, 2014, and December 31, 2020.

MUST BREAKTHROUGH IN RESEARCH ON SHORTSIGHTEDNESS

ANTHONY LAM

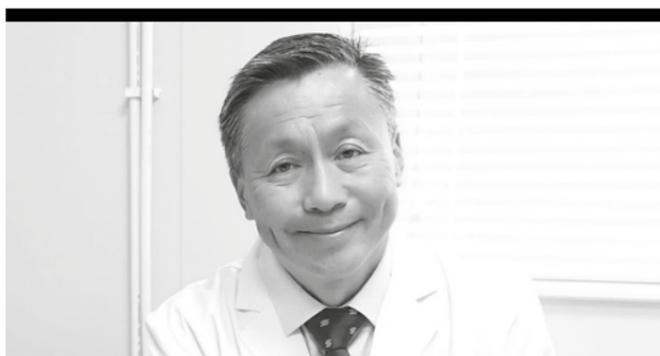
AN innovative piece of research conducted by a scholar at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) has recently been included in the Nature Communications journal.

The journal is a highly regarded peer-reviewed publication. It is a multidisciplinary journal and covers natural sciences, including physics, chemistry, earth sciences, medicine and biology.

In association with the Fudan University in Shanghai, chair professor Zhang Kang of the Faculty of Medicine of MUST successfully published the article, titled "Aberrant TGF-1 signaling activation by MAF underlies pathological lens growth in high myopia."

Manson Fok, dean of the Faculty, outlined how the pioneering research by Zhang used Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to assess the shape of the lens. The research team discovered that the increase in size of the lenses of those suffering from severe myopia is positively correlated to a specific type of lens protein.

According to scholars Holden and team, it is estimated that in 2050 the number of severely shortsighted population will reach 938 million.



Chair professor Zhang Kang of the Faculty of Medicine of MUST

Severe myopia can lead to blindness, and rates of diagnosis are increasing across the world.

There has been a significant amount of research attempting to reveal the onset and developmental mechanism of the disease. However, knowledge of the lens of the eyes, which primarily helps focus images as they are mapped onto the retina, has been scarce.

The development of severe myopia may lead to pathological changes of the lens, and the increase in intraocular lens replacement has caused a series of perioperative problems, such as ectopic intraocular lens.

MUST, PWC SIGN CYBERSECURITY PACT

MUST has recently signed a cooperative agreement on cybersecurity with international consulting firm Pricewa-

terhouseCoopers's (PwC) office in Macau. With the agreement, the two entities shall co-build a joint entity called the Macau Security Operation Centre (SOC).

The SOC shall provide Macau enterprises with all-weather network security monitoring services to support their network and data security. It will play to the strengths of the two parties in network security technology and scientific research capabilities, and use the advantages of the "industry-university-research" cooperation model to integrate the university's research and development results. Students will also be able to learn about the latest network security technology and network security concepts through this platform. The center will become a security information release platform for Macau and the Greater Bay Area.

CTM AWAITS 5G LEGISLATION FOR SERVICE COMMENCEMENT

LOCAL telecom service provider Companhia de Telecomunicações de Macau (CTM) will soon be ready for the provision of 5G services, but needs legislation to be passed to commence the services, Ebel Cham, Vice President of Commercial of CTM has said.

Cham disclosed that the company is aiming to finish the infrastructure of the 5G network by mid-2021. Coverage will be fully indoor and outdoor. Progress to date has been satisfactory. Cham noted that the company has so far achieved indoor coverage of half the area of Macau. She is confident that the goal will be reached in a timely manner.

As for legislation, the government has reiterated that it is moving towards the process. Cham also remarked that the company was told by the government that the procedure is nearing a benchmark. As one of the four telecom service providers in Macau, CTM, despite being very eager, is still waiting for the govern-

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



ment's announcement.

Meanwhile, the telecom company is looking at the versatile applications of 5G technology, such as the Internet of Things. The telecom company has also started a partnership with a local catering e-platform. CTM will assist the catering company with WiFi, online and offline order placing, sales and delivery, e-payment and clearance, and more.

Cham highlighted

this partnership as a corporate social responsibility-oriented project, with the hopes of upgrading local small and medium-sized enterprises.

The telecom company has also achieved a strategic partnership with Bank of China, Macau Branch, to further collaborate in smart finance. Cham noted that the partnership will be comprehensive and will progress Macau in the direction of becoming a smart city. **AL**

Group claims scrapping of multiple Jetfoils underway

LYNZY VALLES

THE Jetfoil Conservation Concern Group said that it believes that TurboJet has arranged the scrapping of recently retired Jetfoils at Wang Tak Engineering & Shipbuilding Company. They have urged TurboJet to preserve the historically important vessels.

In a statement, the group said that vessels "Santa Maria" and "Urzela" were demolished while "Guia" was moved to Wang Tak on Thursday.

"As her name and logo were printed in black, we believe her scrapping will start soon," the concerned group said.

The group's allegation regarding "Guia" is that the vessel was moved to Wang Tak, and as such they assume that the vessel may follow in the footsteps of "Urzela" and "Santa Maria" within days.

"Guia" was launched in 1976 and sold to Sado Kisen in Japan as "Okesa." In 1991, it was acquired by Far East Hydrofoil. In June 13 1995, the vessel travelled from Macau to Hong Kong, carrying



the cash of a Macau bank under the guard of a safeguard company. 20 minutes after "Guia" departed, three robbers dressed as passengers appeared. The robbers stole three bags of cash worth HKD10 million and boarded a speedboat near Qi'ao Island.

In 1996, a movie named "The Great Jetfoil Robbery" was made based on the incident. "Guia" reti-

red in July 2018 and was stored in Tsing Yi with "Urzela" and "Pico" until the end of March 2021.

According to the group, it is also believed that the vessel "Pico," which was launched in 1975, is bound to be scrapped soon. "Pico" serviced Hong Kong and Macau since 1978 until February 2018 and was stored in Tsing Yi until March 2021. Currently the name

at the back and logo were painted black, the group mentioned.

The group is calling on the Jetfoil company to preserve historically important vessels such as "Madeira," as well as parts of the demolished vessels for public display.

Since the launch of "Madeira" in April 1975, the Jetfoil fleet has successfully operated on the Hong Kong - Macau line for

over 45 years, "setting an almost unbreakable record of longevity in this line for a single model."

"We have learned from our followers that some of them wish they could keep important parts from vessels that are going to scrap. These parts include: the name plates, steering wheels, etc. We understand that vessels take up space in the shipyards and it is unreasonable to ask for [the] preservation of all in such difficult times," the group said.

"We believe it would be a welcome move if the public can play a part in the preservation of parts of the legendary fleet," it added.

The group reiterated that the Jetfoils' service has supported the significant growth of Macau's economy for decades, noting that, in their 90s heyday, there were 16 Jetfoils travelling between the cities.

Before the terminals were shut down in 2020, only six Jetfoils remained active, the group said.

The ferry terminals in Hong Kong were forced to close in February 2020 due to the pandemic.

"In addition, the Hong Kong - Macau line has also been undermined over the last two years due to the opening of [the] bridge," the group remarked.

Last October, netizens noticed that the world's first Jetfoil, "Flores," was about to be demolished following the PS-30 "Balsa," raising discussions about the conservation of Jetfoils.

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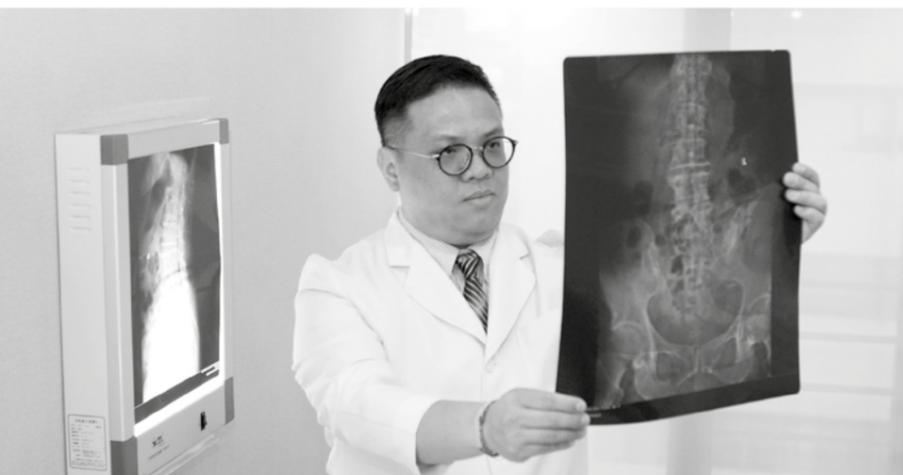
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GOV'T FINES ALIBABA USD2.8 BILLION AFTER MONOPOLY PROBE

CHINA slapped a record \$2.8 billion fine on Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. after an anti-monopoly probe found it abused its market dominance, as Beijing clamps down on its internet giants.

The 18.2 billion yuan penalty is triple the previous high of almost \$1 billion that U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc. had to pay in 2015, and was based on 4% of Alibaba's 2019 domestic revenue, according to China's antitrust watchdog. The company will also have to initiate "comprehensive rectifications," from protecting merchants and customers to strengthening internal controls, the agency said in a statement on Saturday.

The fine -- about 12% of Alibaba's fiscal 2020 net income -- helps remove some of the uncertainty that's hung over China's second-largest corporation. But Beijing remains intent on reining in its internet and fintech giants and is said to be scrutinizing other parts of billionaire founder Jack Ma's empire, including Ant Group Co.'s consumer-lending businesses and Alibaba's extensive media holdings.

Alibaba used its platform rules and technical methods like data and algorithms "to maintain and strengthen its own market power and obtain improper competitive advantage," the State Administration for Market Regulation concluded in its investigation. The company



will likely have to change a raft of practices, like merchant exclusivity, which critics say helped it become China's largest e-commerce operation.

"The high fine puts the regulator in the media spotlight and sends a strong signal to the tech sector that such types of exclusionary conduct will no longer be tolerated," said Angela Zhang, author of "Chinese Antitrust Exceptionalism" and director of Centre for Chinese Law at the University of Hong Kong. "It's a stone that kills two birds."

Alibaba's practice of imposing a "pick one from two" choice on merchants "shuts out and restricts competition" in the domestic online retail market, according to the statement.

The government action sends a clear warning to the tech sector as the government scrutinizes the influence that companies like Alibaba and social media giant Tencent Holdings Ltd. wield over spheres from consumer data to mergers and acquisitions.

The investigation into Alibaba was one of the opening

salvos in a campaign seemingly designed to curb the power of China's internet leaders and their billionaire founders. The company has come under mounting pressure from authorities since Ma spoke out against China's regulatory approach to the finance sector in October. Those comments set in motion an unprecedented regulatory offensive, including scuttling Ant Group Co.'s \$35 billion initial public offering.

Alibaba said it will hold a conference call Monday morning Hong Kong time to address

lingering questions around the antitrust watchdog's decree.

"China's record fine on Alibaba may lift the regulatory overhang that has weighed on the company since the start of an anti-monopoly probe in late December," Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Vey-Sern Ling and Tiffany Tam said, describing the fine as a small price to pay to do away with that uncertainty."

FURTHER ACTION

Still, it remains unclear whether the watchdog or other agencies might demand further action. Regulators are said for instance to be concerned about Alibaba's ability to sway public discourse and want the company to sell some of its media assets, including the South China Morning Post, Hong Kong's leading English-language newspaper.

The Hangzhou-based firm will be required to implement "comprehensive rectifications," including strengthening internal controls, upholding fair competition, and protecting businesses on its platform and consumers' rights, the regulator said. It will need to submit reports on self-regulation to the authority for three consecutive years.

"Alibaba accepts the penalty with sincerity and will ensure its compliance with determination. To serve its responsibility to society, Alibaba will operate in accordance with the law with utmost diligence, continue to strengthen its compliance systems and build on growth through innovation," the company said in a statement on Saturday. **BLOOMBERG**

US sanctions Chinese computer makers in widening tech fight

JOE MCDONALD, BEIJING

CHINA'S government on Friday criticized the Biden administration's curbs on access to U.S. technology for its supercomputer developers and said sanctions "only strengthen China's determination" to invent its own.

The sanctions announced last week are the latest sign President Joe Biden is sticking to the tough line taken by his predecessor, Donald Trump, toward Chinese tech industries seen by Washington as potential threats.

The step adds to conflict over the ruling Communist Party's industrial plans, access to American technology and accusations of computer attacks and theft



of business secrets.

A foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian, accused Washington of misusing phony security warnings to "maliciously suppress" Chinese industry. "Containment and su-

ppression by the United States cannot stop the pace of China's scientific and technological progress, but will only strengthen China's determination and will to innovate independently," Zhao said.

Zhao said Beijing would protect its companies, echoing Chinese warnings after previous U.S. trade penalties that often are followed by no action.

The latest penalties block access to U.S. technology for researchers and manufacturers the Commerce Department said build supercomputers used by the Chinese military in weapons development. They can be used to simulate nuclear explosions and the aerodynamics of high-speed or stealth aircraft and missiles.

Biden has said he wants better relations with Beijing but has given no indication he will roll back sanctions imposed by Trump on Chinese telecom equipment giant Huawei

and other companies.

The Communist Party has responded by declaring that accelerating efforts to transform China into a self-reliant "technology power" will be this year's top economic priority.

Chinese supercomputers have set speed records but use U.S.-supplied processor chips and other hardware. They can support weapons development by simulating nuclear explosions and the aerodynamics of high-speed or stealth aircraft and missiles.

"The United States has implemented a technical blockade of China in the supercomputer field for a long time, but China's supercomputers still lead the world due to independent

innovation," Zhao said.

The U.S. penalties apply to National Supercomputing Centers in the cities of Jinan, Shenzhen, Wuxi and Zhengzhou, Tianjin Phytium Information Technology, Shanghai High-Performance Integrated Circuit Design Center and Sunway Microelectronics.

Meanwhile, American telecom regulators are in the process of stripping three Chinese phone carriers of the right to operate in the United States.

Trump also tried to force the Chinese owner of video service TikTok to sell its U.S. unit and issued an order barring Americans from investing in securities of companies deemed by the Pentagon to be linked to China's military. **AP**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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COVID-19

Official: Chinese vaccines' effectiveness low

JOE MCDONALD & HUIZHONG WU, BEIJING

IN a rare admission of the weakness of Chinese coronavirus vaccines, the country's top disease control official says their effectiveness is low and the government is considering mixing them to give them a boost.

Chinese vaccines "don't have very high protection rates," said the director of the China Centers for Disease Control, Gao Fu, at a conference Saturday in the southwestern city of Chengdu.

Beijing has distributed hundreds of millions of doses in other countries while also trying to promote doubt about the effectiveness of Western vaccines.

"It's now under formal consideration whether we should use different vaccines from different technical lines for the immunization process," Gao said.

The effectiveness rate of a coronavirus vaccine from Sinovac, a Chinese developer, at preventing symptomatic infections has been found to be as low as 50.4% by researchers in Brazil. By comparison, the vaccine made by Pfizer has been found to be 97% effective.

Beijing has yet to approve any foreign vaccines for use in China, where the coronavirus emerged in late 2019.

Gao gave no details of pos-

sible changes in strategy but mentioned mRNA, a previously experimental technique used by Western vaccine developers while China's drug makers used traditional technology.

"Everyone should consider the benefits mRNA vaccines can bring for humanity," Gao said. "We must follow it carefully and not ignore it just because we already have several types of vaccines already."

Gao previously raised questions about the safety of mRNA vaccines. He was quoted by the official Xinhua News Agency as saying in December he couldn't rule out negative side effects because they were being used for the first time on healthy people.

Chinese state media and popular health and science blogs also have questioned the safety and effectiveness of the Pfizer vaccine, which uses mRNA.

As of April 2, some 34 million people have received both of the two doses required by Chinese vaccines and about 65 million received one, according to Gao.

Experts say mixing vaccines, or sequential immunization, might boost effectiveness rates. Trials around the world are looking at mixing of vaccines or giving a booster shot after a longer time period. Researchers in Britain are studying a possible combination of Pfizer and AstraZeneca vaccines. **AP**

Create A Better
TOMORROW TODAY
今天開創明天



Nearly 300 MGM Local Team Members Visit "Loving the Country, Loving Macau Education Base for Young People"

MGM recognizes the importance of national education and persistently fosters patriotism among team members. The Company has arranged three visits and led around 300 local team members to visit the permanent "Roots in China" exhibition at the "Loving the Country, Loving Macau Education Base for Young People".



An Initiative to Deepen Understanding of the Country's Development

Located in the Handover Gifts Museum of Macao, the Base was opened in December as a major venue for patriotic education. The guides of the base provided insights on more than 300 valuable historical photos and multi-media exhibits to MGM team members, enabling them to understand the thousand-year-long inheritance of Chinese culture and how Chinese people forged their national aspiration over a century.

In view of continuously arranging more tours to the Base for team members of different levels from various departments, MGM hopes that the tour would help team members, particularly the younger generation, gain a deeper understanding of China and Macau's developments and cultivate a stronger sense of cultural identity.

Participating team member Regina Ho from Food & Beverage department said, "The establishment of the Base has demonstrated the Macau government's dedication to promote national education. The prolific exhibition not only clearly portrays the path of our country's development, but also gives a detailed account of Macau's history. My colleagues and I are grateful to learn about historical events that we rarely touch upon in daily life. The exhibition offers an access for us to better understand Chinese culture, which strengthens our sense of national pride and allows us to realize that the growth of Macau hinges on the success of our Country."



Fostering Patriotism Through A Wide Variety of Activities

Promoting national education is a basic tenet of MGM's talent development programs. The Company does not only organize visits on national development, but also a wide range of activities such as seminars, forums, exhibitions, and inspection trips to the Mainland, allowing local team members to keep abreast of the latest developments in China. Since 2016, MGM has already hosted 30 diverse programs to over 5,000 of its team members.



Recently, MGM held the "Sharing Session on National People's Congress (NPC) & Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)" for over 300 team members. MGM invited three Macau delegates, including Chui Sai Peng, member of NPC, deputy delegation leader of Macau's NPC delegation and spokesperson, and member of the 6th Legislative Assembly of Macau; Ho Sut Heng, member of NPC and President of Macau Federation of Trade Unions; and Ho Teng lat, Deputy Director of the Committee for Liaison with Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan and Overseas Chinese under the National Committee of CPPCC, Member of the Standing Committee of the All-China Women's Federation and President of The Women's General Association of Macau, to share the highlights and insights of this year's NPC and CPPCC.

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W http://www.mgm.mo/



UK races toward elusive milestone in quest to curb Covid

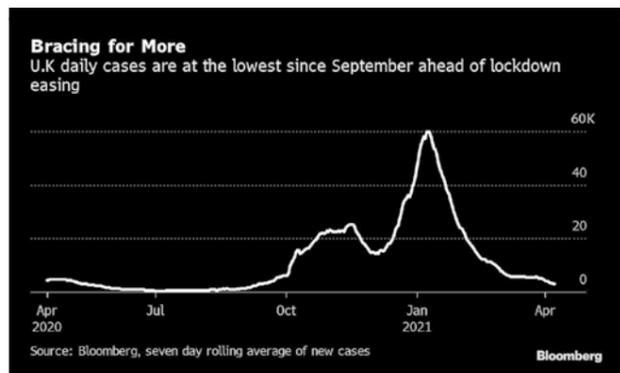
TODD GILLESPIE

THE U.K.'s increased Covid-19 immunity raises prospects of moving on from the worst of the pandemic, with some scientists saying the country could cross a key threshold as soon as Monday.

According to researchers at University College London, that's when so-called herd immunity could be achieved in the U.K. Almost three-quarters of the population will have antibodies against the virus, either through vaccination or past infection, they estimate.

Britain has already seen a plunge in new cases and deaths, and the government will relax restrictions, including on outdoor dining, on Monday. Those developments have fueled hopes that the nation will soon shake off its Covid shackles.

Many other scientists think the U.K. is much further from herd immunity than UCL's model suggests. It's come under fire from some who say it overestimates the strength of vaccines and doesn't adequately account for waning immunity and new virus variants. No more than 44%



of the country has protection from Covid, according to estimates by Imperial College London.

"There's a lot of uncertainty about the length of immunity, both vaccine immunity and natural immunity," said Anne Cori, a lecturer at Imperial. "If immunity is waning, you might lose herd immunity after you reach it."

Still, the progress marks a milestone for the European country hardest hit by the pandemic, with more than 127,000 fatalities, and for Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who was criticized for a slow response to the crisis.

In the early days, his government's chief scientific adviser suffered a backlash after speaking about the U.K.'s apparent ambition to "build up some degree of

herd immunity" - exposing a proportion of the population to the virus - but he has since insisted this was never official policy and claims he was misinterpreted.

Virologists describe herd immunity as the point at which a virus struggles to make inroads into a society because of high immunity levels, either through vaccination or previous exposure to the pathogen. If it's elusive for the U.K., for most of the rest of the world it's still a distant dream. Experts agree that speeding up vaccinations is the surest way to bring the virus under control, and in that regard Britain is out in front of most other nations.

Almost half of Britons have received at least one vaccine dose, compared with just over a third of Ame-

ricans and 14% of EU residents, according to Bloomberg's Vaccine Tracker. Still, after becoming an epicenter of a fresh Covid surge, there are tentative signs that Western Europe is turning the corner.

On Thursday, France hit a target of giving a first jab to 10 million people, a week ahead of schedule. Germany vaccinated 720,000 people that day, a record for the nation, and aims to comprehensively inoculate its population by mid-summer. As supplies ramp up, Europe's largest economy could administer 3.5 million doses a week, according to Health Minister Jens Spahn.

Even so, European nations will likely lag behind Britain in fully vaccinating 75% of their populations, according to analysis by Airfinity Ltd., a London-based research firm. While the U.K. is set to reach that level by early August, Germany won't get there until September and France until October, the firm's current estimates show.

The European Commission is looking to ensure a steady supply of vaccines in coming years, to avoid the shortages that have hobbled immunization campaigns in the bloc.

Shots may be needed for years to come, especially if the virus continues to mutate and circulates at lower levels, much like the flu.

"Longer-term, it's going to be more like an epidemic where there are sometimes outbreaks and you'll need to manage that," said Matt Linley, a senior analyst at Airfinity. **BLOOMBERG**

this day in history



1961 SOVIETS WIN SPACE RACE



The Soviet Union has beaten the USA in the race to get the first man into space.

At just after 0700BST, Major Yuri Alexeyevich Gagarin was fired from the Baikonur launch pad in Kazakhstan, Soviet central Asia, in the space craft Vostok (East).

Major Gagarin orbited the Earth for 108 minutes travelling at more than 17,000 miles per hour (27,000 kilometres per hour) before landing at an undisclosed location.

The Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev has congratulated Major Gagarin on his achievement.

He sent the cosmonaut a message from his holiday home on the Black Sea.

"The flight made by you opens up a new page in the history of mankind in its conquest of space," Mr Khrushchev said.

The Soviet news agency, Tass, made the first official announcement of Major Gagarin's flight at just before 0800BST.

Radio Moscow then interrupted its schedule to give details to a jubilant nation.

Major Gagarin's safe return has laid to rest worries that space flight would be fatal for humans.

It is also a blow to the Americans who had hoped to be the first to launch a man beyond Earth's atmosphere.

However, President Kennedy has congratulated the Soviets on their achievement.

It would be some time before the United States caught up with the Soviets in the fields of rocket boosters, the president added.

Rumours that a Soviet launch attempt was imminent began some days ago.

It was the culmination of two years of highly secretive training for Yuri Gagarin, 27, who beat off thousands of other hopefuls.

The previously obscure army major has returned to earth a national hero.

He has already been awarded the title of "Master of Radio Sport of the Soviet Union" and a big reception for him at the Kremlin in Red Square is being planned.

Courtesy BBC News

COVID-19

Osaka governor warns he may seek coronavirus state of emergency

GO ONOMITSU

THE governor of Osaka prefecture in western Japan warned that he may need to ask the central government to declare a state of emergency if current measures to quell the coronavirus outbreak are deemed insufficient.

The effect of stricter measures imposed earlier this month could start emerging in the week of April 19, and authorities will decide then if an emergency declaration was needed, Governor Hiro-



fumi Yoshimura said in a television program late Saturday. If declared, measures stronger than those taken during a state of emergency earlier

this year would be required, he said.

Osaka, Japan's third-largest prefecture by population with 8.81 million people,

is seeing a steep rise in the number of infections, exceeding that of the capital Tokyo. It registered a daily record of 918 new virus cases on Saturday, compared with 570 in Tokyo.

The central government on April 5 designated Osaka, Hyogo and Miyagi prefectures as areas needing stricter measures to contain outbreaks. The government said on Friday that the quasi-state of emergency would be applied to Tokyo, Kyoto and Okinawa prefectures from today. **BLOOMBERG**

IN CONTEXT

The USSR notched up a series of space firsts beginning with the launch of the world's first man-made satellite, Sputnik, in 1957.

Later the same year they sent a dog called Laika into space.

Valentina Tereshkova became the first woman cosmonaut in 1963 and two years later Alexei Leonov became the first man to perform a space walk.

However, the Americans did beat the Soviets to the Moon with the flight of Apollo 11 in July 1969.

Yuri Gagarin became an international icon but was disappointed to be banned from more space missions because the Soviet state considered him too valuable a propaganda asset to risk his life.

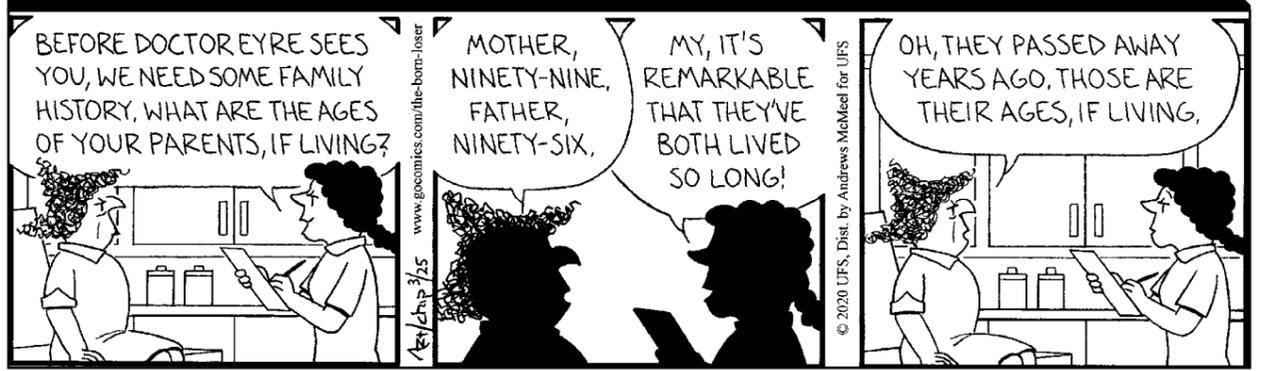
In 1968 he was killed in a plane crash just outside Moscow in what some people believed were suspicious circumstances.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

 ARIES Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Secret enemies will be eager to spread rumors about you. Loans will be attainable and legal matters easily taken care of. Speak of your future goals, intentions, and commitments.	 TAURUS Apr. 20-May. 20 You have to take hold of your life and make some crucial decisions. Make changes to your home that will be pleasing to everyone involved. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions at a group meeting.
 GEMINI May. 21-Jun. 21 Obstacles may stand in your way where career and success are concerned. They will not have the patience to wait for you to complete things that they've asked you to do.	 CANCER Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Mingle with those who can further your goals. Get help setting up a reasonable budget. Look into ways of making extra cash. Try not to be overly generous.
 LEO Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Involvement with prestigious organizations will be to your advantage. You must act quickly. Your emotional partner will push all the right buttons today.	 VIRGO Aug. 23-Sep. 22 Situations in your personal life are moving a little fast lately. Use your energy wisely. Travel could bring you the adventure and excitement you require.
 LIBRA Sep. 23-Oct. 22 You can sort out any differences you have in an amiable manner. You can persuade even the toughest opponents to think your way. Romantic encounters will develop through group activity.	 SCORPIO Oct. 23-Nov. 21 You could experience unusual circumstances and meet eccentric individuals. Difficulties with females you live with could cause emotional stress. Loved ones may be annoyed if they feel restricted.
 SAGITTARIUS Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Don't overspend to impress others. Do not let them in on your plans if you want things to run smoothly. Be careful to avoid wrong doings. New projects may lead you into a dead end.	 CAPRICORN Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can enjoy short trips. Your tendency to vacillate will drive everyone crazy. You can deal with large institutions or government agencies successfully today.
 AQUARIUS Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your tendency to take on too much will end in fatigue. Sudden romantic encounters are quite likely, but discretion will be a must. Use your added discipline to get what you want.	 PISCES Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Do not be surprised if your partner doesn't understand your needs. Loss is evident if you don't consider all the angles. Your disciplined attention to jobs will enhance your position.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	5	20	clear
Harbin	-5	7	clear
Tianjin	8	20	clear
Urumqi	7	16	clear
Xi'an	8	24	cloudy
Lhasa	3	15	cloudy
Chengdu	14	19	drizzle
Chongqing	14	22	overcast
Kunming	11	22	cloudy
Nanjing	10	19	cloudy
Shanghai	12	18	clear
Wuhan	10	19	cloudy
Hangzhou	10	14	drizzle
Taipei	18	23	drizzle
Guangzhou	19	23	moderate rain
Hong Kong	22	25	thundershower
WORLD			
Moscow	3	8	sleet
Frankfurt	-1	4	sleet
Paris	2	8	sleet
London	1	6	cloudy
New York	9	19	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Among; 5- Author of fables; 10- Poet Angelou; 14- Words of denial; 15- Peace goddess; 16- ___ Three Lives; 17- Entrance; 18- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 19- Mutual fund fee; 20- Like some vbs.; 22- Taller and thinner; 24- Gator's cousin; 27- Fourth-down option; 28- Fortress in Paris; 32- Fluff, as bangs; 35- Cantab's rival; 36- Civil rights org.; 38- Break out; 40- Badgers; 42- Meat option; 44- North Sea feeder; 45- Small change; 47- Creates; 49- Tee follower; 50- Umbilicus; 52- Turtle; 54- Flock members; 56- Foreign dignitary; 57- Edible seed parts; 60- Long arm; 64- Sitarist Shankar; 65- Fauvist painter Dufy; 68- Love deity; 69- Russian no; 70- Grocery lane; 71- Mission control gp.; 72- Walkman maker; 73- Govt. security; 74- Ballerina's skirt;

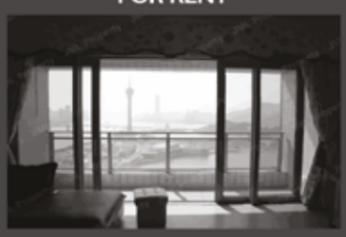
DOWN 1- The King ___; 2- Heath; 3- Like ___ not; 4- Administer; 5- Relief; 6- Prior to; 7- Offer; 8- Available; 9- Goober; 10- Pertaining to war; 11- Moisturizer ingredient; 12- Planetary revolution; 13- Make another point; 21- Sheepish look; 23- Human leg joint; 25- Lemony Snicket's evil count; 26- Assert as a fact; 28- Curve; 29- Actor Delon; 30- 18th letter of the Greek alphabet; 31- Dazzling display; 33- Japanese dish; 34- Sporting blades; 37- Black tea; 39- It transforms carbon dioxide into oxygen; 41- Harshness; 43- Glossary entry; 46- In stitches; 48- Agitate; 51- Ogle; 53- Provide bearings; 55- Killed; 57- Deck; 58- Uniform; 59- Indifferent; 61- German Mrs.; 62- Missing; 63- Biblical birthright seller; 64- "ER" extras; 66- Nth; Abbr.; 67- Bruce ___ was a famous kung-fu movie star;

Friday's solution

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Property of the Week



Traditional 2 bedroom apartment, Macau
HK\$3,300,000 788 ft² 2 1

This apartment is located beside the St. Joseph Primary School and Church in São Lourenço. It is nestled on a street within five minutes from the Rua do Campo.

The unit has a good size living / dining area with an open kitchen adjacent to the living space. Located on the top floor of a walk up, the apartment has plenty of sunlight and overlooks the church and Guia Hill.

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



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



Manhattan E Unit, Taipa
\$17,500/mth
1,626 ft²
3 2



Property Hotlist



Uber modern apartment, Taipa
\$8,998,000
834 ft²
2 2



Large 3+1 bed
High floor apartment & balcony
\$29,800/mth
2,332 ft²
3 3



Lovely 1 bedroom, Taipa
\$9,200/mth
720 ft²
1 1



More Listings

For Sale

- [Macau] Duplex apartment 2 1 1,100 ft² **\$4,680,000** (ref: 20116003)
- [Taipa] Nam Kwai Duplex 4 4 1,746 ft² **\$10,500,000** (ref: 20116001)
- [Taipa] Buckingham high floor 2 2 1,439 ft² **\$11,770,000** (ref: 19045004)
- [Taipa] Manhattan luxury 3 2 1,720 ft² **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] Private House 3 3 4,266 ft² **\$32,000,000** (ref: n/a)

For Rent

- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,269 ft² **\$18,500/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Manhattan spacious 3 2 1,720 ft² **\$18,800/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] One Central w/ balcony 3 3 2,332 ft² **\$29,800/mth** (ref: 20101001)
- [Macau] Retail Shop, Barra area 1,968 ft² **\$48,000/mth** (ref: n/a)
- [Taipa] Commercial office- BCM building 4,100 ft² **\$85,000/mth** (ref: 21011001)

Recent Movements

Rented

Split Level Commercial Space, Taipa Village

Rented

Coloane Village, 1 bed



JML Events



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team



Macau Golf Masters

LET'S CONNECT



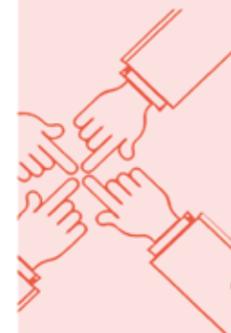
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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

T-wolves owner: A-Rod, partner in agreement to buy NBA club

DAVE CAMPBELL,
MINNEAPOLIS

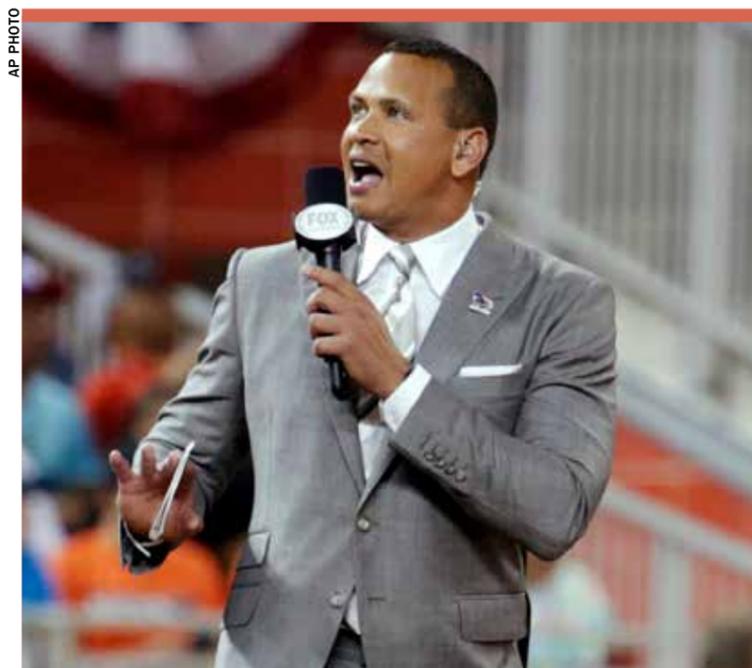
FORMER baseball star Alex Rodriguez and e-commerce mogul Marc Lore signed a letter of intent Saturday to buy the Timberwolves and keep the NBA team in Minnesota, owner Glen Taylor said.

The agreement, which also includes the WNBA's Minnesota Lynx, opens a 30-day window for negotiations to be finalized. If accountants and attorneys for both sides agree, the deal would then need to be approved by the league.

The Athletic first reported the \$1.5 billion sale.

Under the conditions of the deal, Taylor would keep control of the club for the next two years and bring on Rodriguez and Lore as partners until a handover in 2023. In a phone interview with The Associated Press, Taylor said their connection went "terrifically well" and that he was "happy" and "excited" about what's to come.

"They've asked that I would be there for any decisions that would



In this July 11, 2017, file photo, former baseball player Alex Rodriguez reports from the field during the MLB baseball All-Star Game, Miami

need to be made," Taylor said. "I would enjoy that. I love teaching people. These are a couple of very bright guys, and I think it could be helpful to the club and I think I could be helpful to them so that

they feel confident once they take over 100%."

Taylor, who put the teams on the market last year, said he was first approached by Rodriguez and Lore a week ago. The pair tra-

veled to meet Taylor and his wife at their winter home in Naples, Florida. Taylor, who turns 80 on April 20, has spoken with numerous suitors over the years but taken a deliberate approach to finding a buyer he's comfortable with. He said he's done that with Rodriguez and Lore.

"I was concerned if I got ill or something happened to me what would happen to the club. This gives me a path that I know it's going to happen. I feel confident that they'll take care of the franchise and move it ahead," Taylor said.

Throughout the sale process, he told interested parties that keeping the franchises in town was a prerequisite for purchase.

"There was no use talking to them if they didn't agree to that," Taylor said.

The Timberwolves, who entered the league in 1989 as an expansion club, were on their way to New Orleans in 1994 before Taylor, a lifelong Minnesotan who built his fortune from a small commercial printing business, bought the team for \$88 million.

As part of the renovations at

Target Center that were initiated in 2016, the team's lease with the city of Minneapolis carries a \$50 million penalty if it were to be broken prior to 2035.

Rodriguez and Lore are 50-50 partners in the deal, Taylor said.

The 45-year-old Rodriguez hit 696 home runs over 22 major league seasons, with the New York Yankees, Seattle Mariners and Texas Rangers. His last season on the field was 2016, marking the end of marvelous career that was tainted by performance enhancing drug use he later admitted to. Rodriguez was suspended for the entire 2014 season for violating Major League Baseball policy.

Lore became Walmart's e-commerce chief in 2016, when the retail giant bought his Jet.com startup in an attempt to boost online business. Lore notified Walmart on Jan. 31 of his intent to leave the company. The 49-year-old Lore will continue to serve in a consulting role as a strategic adviser through September.

Rodriguez and Lore confirmed the agreement in a statement distributed to ESPN.

"We look forward to entering this phase of the process with Glen Taylor. Our respect for him and the legacy he has built lays an amazing foundation for what is to come. We are excited by the prospect of getting to know the Timberwolves organization," the statement said. **AP**

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OPINION

World Views

Scott Duke Kominers, MDT/Bloomberg



WHERE AMERICA'S VACCINE TRIUMPH FELL SHORT

It's not surprising that pharmacies are turning out to be fantastic at distributing Covid-19 vaccines. As Alex Tabarok and I pointed out in February, they are literally everywhere — 86% of the US population lives within 5 miles of one. And they have significant experience in large-scale vaccine delivery, giving out 40-50 million flu vaccines annually.

But the success of pharmacies raises an important question about another part of the effort: the federally-run mass vaccination sites. Managed by FEMA, staffed by the National Guard and flush with federal funds, they are underperforming the Biden administration's expectations, according to Politico.

There's a broader lesson here about how the government can combine its strengths with those of the private sector to deliver for its citizens during crises and beyond.

When it comes to committing enormous amounts of capital to provide public goods — like developing vaccines as quickly as possible — the U.S. government is hard to match.

The government can also use its authority to get firms working towards a shared goal. In the past few months, the Biden administration has helped coordinate supply chains for vaccines and the manufacturing of personal protective equipment. It also brokered a vaccine production collaboration between competing pharmaceutical manufacturers Merck & Co., Inc. and Johnson & Johnson. (There remains more work to do in this area. As my collaborators and I have argued, existing capacity for both producing vaccine ingredients and manufacturing the vaccines themselves is far below the optimal level.)

The federal government is also well-positioned to set standards for ensuring orderly, transparent and equitable access to public resources — such as figuring out how to stage the vaccine rollout across different groups.

Unfortunately, however, the prior administration mostly left that task to states, leading to inconsistent — and sometimes heavily politicized — vaccine allocation processes. National-level guidance on priority groups, coupled with provider subsidies to ensure equitable access, should have been clear from the outset.

America's Covid-19 response has also suffered from a lack of centralized standards for the vaccination process itself. The government could have provided technology recommendations for appointment registration and eligibility verification, or developed a platform that distribution partners could plug into. Instead, we've ended up with a patchwork of appointment mechanisms — many of them quite difficult to navigate. It's so complicated and chaotic that talented individuals have stepped in to help.

Meanwhile, as the vaccine mega-site experiment shows, the government can struggle to build distribution infrastructure from scratch, at least when compared to existing players in the market. Pharmacies and other medical offices already had the facilities, the staff and the trust and awareness of consumers. But doses that could have been allocated more efficiently through pharmacies and other local institutions were tied up in the mega-sites instead.

This disorganized approach to public-private partnership isn't limited to pharmacies and vaccines. Covid-19 testing and tracking has suffered from similar inability to leverage existing infrastructure and coordinate guidelines and standards.

Beyond established players like pharmaceutical firms (in the context of Warp Speed) and pharmacies (in the context of vaccine delivery), the government should be looking for ways to work with startups. A growing number of marketplace platforms are building supplier networks nationwide. DoorDash, for example, just started offering Covid-19 tests on-demand. Amazon, meanwhile, is experimenting with a large-scale telehealth initiative.

The government could support these efforts — and might even imagine building upon them for other forms of public service delivery in the future. With a flexible enough regulatory framework, delivery services could one day help manage and distribute food aid. Telehealth providers could dramatically expand public health care access.

There's a lot of opportunity here, but only if the government learns to lean on existing service providers to the greatest extent possible. As the nation gets close to turning the corner on vaccine delivery, it shouldn't forget how it got there. [Abridged]

Athletes at the Tokyo Olympics who come down with minor symptoms of COVID-19 could be isolated in a hotel lined up by local organizers of the games.

The Japanese news agency Kyodo yesterday said organizers are working to secure 300 rooms in a hotel near the Athletes' Village. The agency cited unnamed officials with "knowledge of the plan."

The rooms would be for athletes and staff who do not need to be hospitalized. The measures underline the risk of trying to hold the Olympics and Paralympics during a pandemic.

The Olympics are to open on July 23 and face strong opposition from up to 80% of Japanese polled. The Olympics and Paralympics will involve about 15,000 athletes from more than 200 nations and territories, and tens of thousands of other officials, judges, administrators, media and broadcasters.

Organizers and the International Olympic Committee have banned fans from abroad from attending. They have yet to announce the maximum capacity for venues, which is now complicated by rising cases in Osaka, Tokyo and elsewhere.

CHARLES: ROYAL FAMILY 'DEEPLY GRATEFUL' FOR WORLD'S SUPPORT

DANICA KIRKA, LONDON

BRITAIN'S Prince Charles offered a heartfelt tribute to his "dear Papa" on Saturday as Buckingham Palace offered the broad outlines of a royal funeral that will be attended by the family and broadcast to the world.

As Queen Elizabeth II and other relatives mourned, Charles offered a personal video message saying the royal family was "deeply grateful" for the outpouring of support they've received following the death Friday of his 99-year-old father, Prince Philip. The heir to the throne said he was touched by the number of people around the world who have shared his family's loss and sorrow.

"My dear Papa was a very special person who I think, above all else, would have been amazed by the reaction and the touching things that have been said about him," Charles said, speaking from his southwestern England home of Highgrove. "And from that point of view we are, my family, deeply grateful for all that. It will sustain us in this particular loss and at this particularly sad time."

Philip's royal ceremonial funeral will take place April 17 at Windsor Castle — a slimmed-down service amid the COVID-19 pandemic that will be entirely closed to the public. The palace insisted the royals would strictly adhere to national virus guidelines, measures that in theory would entail mask wearing in an enclosed space and social distancing. The palace declined to comment on specifics.

Philip, the queen's husband of 73 years who was also known as the Duke of Edinburgh, took part in planning his own funeral and its focus on family was in accordance with his wishes. The duke also took part in designing the modified Land Rover that will carry his coffin.

"Although the ceremonial arrangements are re-



AP PHOTO

duced, the occasion will still celebrate and recognize the duke's life and his more than 70 years of service to the Queen, the UK and the Commonwealth," a palace spokesman said Saturday while speaking on condition of anonymity in line with policy.

Prince Harry, Philip's grandson who stepped away from royal duties last year and now lives in California, will attend the service at Windsor along with other members of the royal family. His wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, is pregnant and has been advised by her doctor not to make the long journey to the U.K.

Another no-show will be Prime Minister Boris Johnson, whose office said he would not attend because current coronavirus restrictions limit funerals to 30 people, so by staying away that would "allow for as many family members as possible."

The palace appealed to the public not to gather in Windsor or at Buckingham Palace in London to pay their respects to Philip — advice that was roundly disregarded by many.

Earlier Saturday, military teams across the U.K. and on ships at sea fired 41-gun salutes to mark Philip's death, honoring the former naval officer whom they considered one of their own.

Batteries in London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Belfast — the capitals of the four nations that make up

the United Kingdom — as well as other cities around the U.K. and the Mediterranean outpost of Gibraltar fired the volleys at one-minute intervals beginning at midday. Ships including the HMS Montrose, a frigate patrolling the Persian Gulf, offered their own salutes.

"The Duke of Edinburgh served among us during the Second World War, and he remained devoted to the Royal Navy and the Armed Forces as a whole," Gen. Nick Carter, chief of the defense staff, said in a statement. "A life well-lived. His Royal Highness leaves us with a legacy of indomitable spirit, steadfastness and an unshakeable sense of duty."

Members of the Commonwealth, a group of 54 countries headed by the queen, were also invited to honor Philip. The Australian Defense Force began its salute at 5 p.m. outside Parliament House in Canberra, and New Zealand planned to offer its own tribute on Sunday.

Philip joined the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1939 and once had a promising military career. In 1941, he was honored for his service during the battle of Cape Matapan off the coast of Greece, when his control of searchlights aboard the HMS Valiant allowed the battleship to pinpoint enemy vessels in the dark. Philip rose to the rank of commander before he retired from active duty. AP



Myanmar At least 82 people were killed in one day in a crackdown by security forces on pro-democracy protesters, according to reports from independent local media and an organization that keeps track of casualties since the February coup. Friday's death toll in Bago was the biggest one-day total for a single city since March 14, when just over 100 people were killed in Yangon, the country's biggest city.



India At least five people were killed by gunfire in election-related violence at two polling stations in India's West Bengal state, police said. Security forces caused the majority of the casualties — four killed and four wounded — while trying to control a crowd outside a voting center in Cooch Behar district, said senior police officer Vishal Garg. He gave no further details on what sparked the clashes.

India Government forces killed five suspected rebels, including a teenager, in gunfights in Indian-controlled Kashmir, police said yesterday. The back-to-back clashes began late Saturday after troops cordoned off two villages in southern Kashmir's Shopian and Bijbehara areas on intelligence that anti-India militants were hiding there, police said.



Serbia Protesters rallied Saturday demanding that the government protect the environment in a Balkan nation that has seen record levels of air pollution and scores of other ecological problems following decades of neglect. Several thousand people gathered outside the Serbian parliament building in the capital of Belgrade for an "ecological uprising" against what organizers say is a widespread environmental devastation in the nation aspiring to join the European Union.