

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

Let's Play Together

Add \$30 get extra 30 GB Data Usage

Notes: CTM reserves the right to make the final decision in case of any dispute.

CTM 40th Anniversary

GALAXY POSTED A NET REVENUE OF HKD10.7 BILLION IN THE FIRST HALF OF THE YEAR, A SURGE OF 71% YEAR-ON-YEAR

P2

HUMAN RIGHTS: CHINA HIGHLIGHTS PROGRESS THROUGH MODERATE PROSPERITY ATTAINMENT

P7

PHILIPPINE CATERING CHAIN JOLLIBEE TO CLOSE A DEAL TO ACQUIRE MICHELIN-STARRED CANTONESE FOOD CHAIN TIM HO WAN: REPORT

P5



AP PHOTO

Japan A key medical adviser to Japan's prime minister said yesterday that surging infections in the Tokyo area are severely affecting medical systems, and urged the government to take stricter measures to drastically reduce people's activity. "If the infections continue to surge at the current pace, we won't be able to save the lives that can be saved," Dr. Shigeru Omi said at a news conference. "The situation is like a disaster."



AP PHOTO

Indonesia Human rights groups welcomed Indonesia's decision to stop abusive "virginity tests" on female army recruits seven years after the World Health Organization declared they had no scientific validity. Army Chief of Staff Gen. Andika Perkasa said the army will no longer subject women to invasive tests in which the inspectors used their fingers to assess whether the hymen was intact.



AP PHOTO

India Rescuers resumed their search yesterday for survivors and victims of a large landslide that swept across a highway in the mountains of northern India a day earlier, killing at least 13 people. A bus, a truck and two cars were smashed in the landslide in Himachal Pradesh state's Kinnaur district. Dozens of people are still feared trapped in the bus, which was buried by the debris, a police statement said.

More on backpage



NEW MASS TESTING READY

P4

XINHUA

NO U-TURN TRIP NEEDED FOR SKILLED TNRS TO CHANGE JOBS

P5

MACAU PHOTO AGENCY



STATEMENT

Liu Xianfa*



UPHOLD THE SPIRIT OF SCIENCE IN COVID-19 ORIGIN-TRACING

As variants of COVID-19 are now triggering new waves of infections around the world, anyone who is not prejudiced will respect a basic fact, which is the international community needs to join hands to fight against the pandemic with science instead of political manipulation. Regrettably, a growing unhealthy trend of politicization of the origin-tracing of the coronavirus by certain countries has seriously undermined the global combat against the pandemic, instigating the WHO Secretariat to unilaterally put forward a second phase probe plan into the origins of coronavirus, without the consent of its member states. Many countries have raised concerns and objections to the move.

Political manipulation must be opposed in origin-tracing. We have seen that from openly calling the virus the "Wuhan virus" last year to withdrawing from the WHO and hyping up the so-called "lab-leak theory", the US has, from the very beginning, tried to politicize the pandemic, stigmatize the virus, and use origin-tracing as a tool to attack China. From suppressing scientists who are making objective and rational voices, to asking the US intelligence community to conclude the origin-tracing investigation in 90 days, and pressuring the WHO to initiate the unilateral Phase II origin study against the principle of science and cooperation, the purpose of the US is obvious to all: to shift responsibility for their botched pandemic response, and achieve the political purpose of discrediting and suppressing other countries.

The spirit of science must be upheld in origin-tracing. It is an arduous task for the international scientific community to explore the origin, transmission and evolution of COVID-19. Efforts need to be made in the search for early cases in many countries and regions under the guidance of science. For some time, more and more reports have pointed to separate outbreaks in multiple places in the world in the latter half of 2019, and at least five states in the US alone had earlier COVID-19 infections before the first officially reported confirmed case. A host of studies show that traces of the virus appeared in the US, Spain, France, Italy, Brazil and other countries earlier than the first case in Wuhan, proving that COVID-19 origin-tracing is a complex scientific issue and calls for a global collaboration of scientists with a global perspective.

Conclusions and recommendations of authoritative reports should be respected in origin-tracing. China has always participated in international cooperation in origin-tracing in an open manner. China has for two times invited WHO experts to China to conduct joint research on origin-tracing. The experts

went wherever they wanted to go and met all the people they wanted to meet. After a 28-day field visit to China early this year, the WHO-China joint expert group composed of 34 experts from multiple countries issued a joint report this March, with the conclusion that "it is extremely unlikely that a laboratory leak caused the first COVID-19 cases". It also put forward important suggestions such as "searching for possible early cases worldwide" and "studying the possibility of cold chain transmission of the virus." The conclusion of the report is based on a wealth of serious and meticulous research by international experts. It has been recognized by the international scientific community and constitutes an important foundation for subsequent global origin-tracing efforts. The second phase study should not repeat what has already been conducted, especially where conclusive findings were already reached.

The voice of justice from the international community should be heard in origin-tracing. Attempts and acts to stigmatize other countries through origin-tracing will lead to nowhere but firm opposition by the international community. In a letter published in The Lancet journal on July 5, two dozen prominent international scientists repeated their view that the virus evolved in nature instead of a lab leak. Recently, nearly 70 countries including Russia, Portugal and Finland wrote to WHO to uphold the results of the first phase origin-tracing and oppose politicizing origin-tracing. British foreign affairs writer Tom Fowdy said in his article that "If the world wants a WHO that functions properly, America has to stop scapegoating it." And according to an online poll in six languages by CGTN Think Tank, 83.1% of the respondents supported an origin-tracing study be conducted in the US by WHO. An online petition calling for the WHO to investigate US' Fort Detrick lab has garnered over 25 million signatures. These calls for justice shall be heard and valued.

To date, the covid-19 pandemic is still raging worldwide with its variants posing threats to various places including Macau. China has provided fresh impetus to the global anti-pandemic cooperation by hosting the First Meeting of the International Forum on COVID-19 Vaccine Cooperation on 5 August 2021. I am convinced that through solidarity and mutual assistance, through science-based origin-tracing and international collaboration, we will prevail over this pandemic and embrace a brighter community of shared future for mankind.

*Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the Macau Special Administrative Region

BLOOMBERG



GAMING

GEG SEES REVENUE GROW TO HKD10.7B IN H1

LYNZY VALLES

GALAXY Entertainment Group (GEG) posted a net revenue of HKD10.7 billion in the first half (H1) of the year, a surge of 71% year-on-year, with Adjusted EBITDA of HKD2.0 billion.

The group's total gross gaming revenue (GGR) on a management basis in H1 was HKD9.7 billion, up 62% year-on-year as total mass table GGR was HKD5.9 billion, up 100% year-on-year and total VIP GGR was HKD3.5 billion, up 26% year-on-year, GEG said in its quarterly results announcement yesterday.

Total electronic GGR was HKD333 million, up 27% year-on-year.

Meanwhile, GEG'S non-gaming performance has improved in the second quarter (Q2) this year due to "a strong performance in retail, which bodes well for the overall recovery prospects for Macau," the group said in its quarterly results announcement yesterday.

The net revenue of HKD5.6 billion in Q2 improved relative to HKD1.2 billion in the same quarter in 2020 and HKD5.1 billion in Q1, 2021.

As of 30 June 2021, cash and liquid investments of the group were HKD43.0

billion and net cash was HKD31.6 billion. Total debt was HKD11.4 billion at 30 June 2021, including HKD10.9 billion associated with the group's treasury yield enhancement program and HKD0.5 billion of core debt.

"This provides us with valuable flexibility in managing operations and supporting our development initiatives. Given the ongoing impact of Covid-19, today the Board of Directors has decided not to declare a dividend," said GEG chairman Lui Che Woo.

Galaxy Macau improved the most in net revenue during the H1, recording HKD7.2 billion, up 88% year-on-year, while StarWorld Macau recorded HKD1.9 billion, a surge of 80% year-on-year.

Broadway Macau had revenue of HKD29 million, versus its HKD65 million revenue in H1 last year.

In the same announcement to the press, Lui gave development updates that reiterated the opening of Raffles at Galaxy Macau in early 2022, featuring an all-suite tower, with approximately 450 rooms.

"We intend to follow this with the opening of the Galaxy International Convention Center and

Andaz Macau in anticipation of the recovery of the MICE and entertainment markets. [Additionally], we are proceeding with the construction of Cotai Phase 4, our next generation integrated resort, which will complete our ecosystem in Cotai," he said. GEG, together with Monte-Carlo SBM from the Principality of Monaco and its Japanese partners, remains interested in bringing its brand in Japan despite the pandemic crisis.

Regarding its development plan in Hengqin, the group is awaiting updates from the government and would "welcome the opportunity to contribute to the evolving role of Hengqin in Macau's future development."

GEG said that it continues to remain confident in the medium to longer term outlook for Macau. "In Q2 the Macau market experienced its fourth consecutive quarter of GGR growth despite sporadic outbreaks of Covid-19 in mainland. We are driving every segment of our business by enhancing operational efficiencies and exercising prudent cost control especially under the current market conditions," the statement read.

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_Alban 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, 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

Telephone: +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

Industry prepared for further suspension of local tours

THE tourism industry is psychologically prepared and does not rule out the possibility that the local tour campaign will only return in September.

The local tour campaign is officially known as "Stay, Dine and See Macao."

A number of tour groups have been organized, with tours planned to start during the summer holiday. However, current pandemic control measures have put them on hold due to the need for people to avoid gatherings and interactions.

Wong Fai, executive director of the Travel Industry Council of Macau, told local Chinese newspaper Macao Daily News that pandemic control measures have suspended tours for about half of the month.

Daily tour departures had been planned prior to August, involving several hundred local tourists.



He stressed that industry practitioners were taking the suspension in stride as they understand the need for disease control. They are also actively complying with the government's disease control measures.

Wong added that the developments in the pandemic are closely connected to the tourism industry. Promotional campaigns can only be based on a safe and healthy

environment, he said. Therefore, there is no other way but to follow the government's guidelines and policies.

Where hotel accommodation packages are concerned, local buyers have tended to postpone their stays because facilities such as swimming pool and spas in hotels have suspended operations, and also because buyers are concerned for their own health.

Wong explained that bringing the Covid-19 outbreak in the city under control is critical to the resumption of the local tour campaign, in addition to boosting local residents' confidence in returning to the tours.

He noted that the all-negative results from the recent city-wide Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction testing should inject greater confidence into the community. **AL**

BANKS APPROVE MORE LOANS TO SMES IN H1

LOCAL banks have approved about 27% more new loans to local small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in the first half (H1) of this year when compared with the same period last year, the Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) announced yesterday.

In absolute figures, MOP19.4 billion worth of new loans have been approved in this period. Compared with the second half of last year, the amount was more than double, equating to about 137%.

In the meantime, the outstanding balance of SME loans rose while the share of SME loans to major industries remained stable.

The collateralized ratio, which indicates the proportion of the credit limit secured by tangible assets, was 78.8%, up 20.4% when compared with the last survey period or 30% when compared with the same period in 2020.

At the end of June 2021, the outstanding balance of SME loans increased 8.3% from the end of 2020, or 6.4% from a year earlier, to MOP94.5 billion.

Compared to the last survey period, outstanding SME loans to "manufacturing industries" and "wholesale and retail trade" increased at respective rates of 49.2% and 13.9% whereas those to "restaurants, hotels and similar" dropped 8.7%.

The utilization rate, reflecting the proportion of outstanding credit balances to the credit limit granted, fell slightly to 82.4%. **AL**

AD

**STAY, DINE AND SEE
MACAO PACKAGE**

Include accommodation for two and MOP300 Resort Vouchers
Guarantee late check-out at 2:00pm

BOOK NOW!
For any enquiries, please contact participating travel agents

**THE PARISIAN
MACAO**

COVID-19

POTENTIAL SECOND ROUND OF NAT MASS TESTING IS READY

RENATO MARQUES

A potential second round of nucleic acid testing (NAT) for the whole population of Macau has been prepared and can be implemented at any time, health authorities said yesterday during the daily Covid-19 pandemic briefing for Macau.

In response to a question from the media during the press conference, Dr. Tai Wa Hou, medical director of the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center and coordinator of the Health Bureau's (SSM) Covid-19 Vaccination Operation, said, "we would not like to have a second round of mass testing but [...] if there is one positive result [among the people under observation for having been in contact with an infected family], we might have to do it."

He added, "we are analyzing all conditions and preparing for this possibility. If there is a second mass testing [round], we will for sure improve a lot on our work [when compared with the first round that occurred between August 4 and August 7]."

Tai explained that after the first mass testing process, the health authorities started to gather support from medical staff from the private sector who could help with similar operations in future.

"We have already some 500 people from the private sector that can help us in a future testing operation. They are now undergoing the necessary training. This is one of the things we will improve for a second



round: the inclusion of more medical staff," he remarked.

According to the same official, a number between 300 to 500 people is all that is needed to allow the local authorities to add more staff at NAT sample collection points, opening more booths at each collection point to make the process quicker and smoother.

"We think if we have 300 [to 500] people it will be enough to have NAT running smoothly, also taking into account the improvements that we have already implemented during the first operation."

Asked to comment on rumors circulating that the second round of mass testing was being readied for implementation as soon as this weekend, Tai replied that "no decision has been made on having a mass test for this Saturday and Sunday. We are just preparing. If there is a need to do it, we can start immediately and we trust we can do it in a much better way."

Adding to Tai's statement, the coordinator of the local center for disease control and prevention, Dr. Leong Iek Hou, added that, for the time being, the efforts of health authorities are

focused on clearing the possibility of infection of close contacts, as well as in ensuring that all the routes taken and places visited by the family of four during the period they were considered

red infectious have been traced, and that people of primary and secondary contact levels have been found and put under observation.

UNDER TWO-DAY QUARANTINE

Leong also advised that people that are considered of close contact in two venues frequented by one member of the family have been ordered to undergo medical observation quarantine for 48 hours.

In response to media questions, she explained that visits to such facilities had occurred already on July 29, i.e. over 14 days ago, and that these people had already participated in the first mass testing, all delivering negative results.

She added that the authorities are just being "extra careful" and keeping them under medical observation for this short period in which they need to undergo two more nucleic acid tests.

"If they take the new tests and are all negative there is no problem," Leong said.

She added that, of the approximately 600 workers from the Public Administration Building, almost all had already been tested a second time and, so far, all the results obtained are negative.

Also negative were the results of the fourth round of NAT conducted for the people living in the so-called "red zone," leading Leong to express confidence that there is a very low risk of more cases surfacing.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION BUILDING TO REOPEN ON MONDAY

THE Public Administration Building located at Rua do Campo will reopen to the public on Monday (August 16). The building has been closed to the public since yesterday because it had been

visited by one of the infected residents. The public services venue will reopen to the public as normal on Monday, following a thorough cleaning and disinfection.

VACCINATION PROGRAM EXTENDED TO SCHOOLS FROM SEPTEMBER

RENATO MARQUES

THE Health Bureau's vaccination outreach program will be extended to schools from September, according to Dr. Tai Wa Hou, coordinator of the bureau's Covid-19 Vaccination Operation.

Speaking yesterday during the health authorities' Covid-19 press briefing, Tai announced that the Health Bureau has been in talks with the Education and Youth Development Bureau (DSEDJ) to coordinate the procedures necessary for the outreach

vaccination program to be extended to schools.

Tai did not elaborate on which school levels will be targeted with the program at this stage, but reaffirmed that, following negotiations with DSEDJ, the Health Bureau will initiate the program in schools in September this year, following similar procedures enacted in local higher education institutions earlier this year.

The goal is to increase the vaccination rate in the 12 to 18 year old group, which Tai noted is currently too low, standing at only approximately 20% of

the population in this age group.

When questioned about the only vaccine approved for this age group and available in Macau being the Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA vaccine, Tai noted that "the BioNTech vaccine is very good and very safe. It underwent many tests worldwide and we can ensure that this is a high-quality vaccine and is safe to be used on this age group," he remarked, calling for parents not to wait until the Sinopharm vaccine is approved for younger age groups.

CRIME

ELDERLY MAN APPREHENDED FOR ALLEGEDLY RIPPING OPEN MOTORBIKE SEAT

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) has arrested a man for ripping open the seat of a parked motorbike.

The man is in his 80s and a local resident.

At about 10:30 p.m. on July 31, the PSP received a report from an individual, believed to be the owner of the motorbike, saying that the seat of the bike had been cut open and claiming a loss of MOP500.

After reviewing sur-

veillance camera footage, the police managed to make a connection between the case and an elderly man who passed by and had contact with the motorbike that morning.

Not only did the man have contact with the vehicle, surveillance cameras also filmed him taking out an object from the bag that he carried and motioning towards the seat.

He was also filmed leaving the scene.

On August 9, the police questioned the man at his residence. The man moved his bag from the living room to the bedroom, but retained a foldable knife in his hand.

The man defended himself by claiming that he only used the motorbike for physical support that day and denying any other actions. He claimed that the knife was for him to cut food into bite-sized pieces. **AL**

No immigration loopholes for unskilled TNRs, skilled can avoid U-turn

RENATO MARQUES

NON-RESIDENT workers (TNRs) engaging in skilled professional activities are exempt from the requirement to exit and then return to Macau if they want or need to change employer, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) confirmed in a written reply to the Times.

According to the PSP, "if the new job belongs to specialized work, [...] [the worker] can apply [for a new blue card] in Macau and be granted a 'work permit'".

Nevertheless, this exemption only applies if the worker has not terminated his or her contract without just cause, expiration of previous work contract, or contract termination by mutual agreement. Otherwise, "a new authorization cannot be issued in favor of the same non-resident before a period of six months has passed," the PSP also clarified.

The PSP also remarked that following the current epidemic control and prevention measures enforced by the Macau SAR government by order of the Chief Executive, "foreigners (including foreign workers) have been prohibited from entering Macau since mid-March 2020. [These measures] were adjusted from January 31, 2021 [to allow] people who have obtained a permit to remain as a worker, or an entry permit for work purposes, to apply for the exemption from the entry ban if they had stayed on the mainland in the 21 days before entering Macau".



The PSP also noted to the Times that it "will continue to maintain close contact with institutions and services, to monitor the situation regarding the issuing of visas to the mainland for non-resident workers who are currently stranded in Macau."

DIFFICULTIES FOR UNSKILLED TNRs

In the same response to the written inquiry, the PSP reaffirmed that when a TNR is engaged in professions classified as unskilled or domestic work, to change employer, "they need to enter from a place outside the Macau SAR, [in order to be granted] the 'work permit' and

provide services to the employer."

The rule applies both to people who were already working in Macau and to new workers. In the second case, the rule requiring a stay of 21 days in the Mainland before entering Macau also applies.

OBTAINING MAINLAND TRAVEL VISA THE MOST DIFFICULT STEP

According to several TNRs engaged in unskilled jobs who have or are currently undertaking this process, the most difficult step is being granted a travel visa to the mainland.

The TNRs who requested not to be named in this story told the Times that once their visa to the mainland is granted, the process of getting a Macau work permit is neither long nor very complex.

Conducting the process through a local employment agency, they explained that after they received the travel visa to the mainland, they just needed to book a hotel in Zhuhai (usually for about two nights) and then follow the exit procedure from Macau.

After arriving in Zhuhai, they waited at their hotel for the employment agency to inform them of the approval of their work permit, before being able to reenter Macau and begin working immediately.

As for the granting of the "blue card", the process takes a lot longer, they said, with TNRs booking appointments to collect the documents two to four months in advance.

SINOPHARM VACCINE IS A MUST

The same group of TNRs also said that to see a travel visa approved, a complete vaccination against Covid-19 using Sinopharm's inactivated virus vaccine is a must. They noted that there are cases of people vaccinated with the BioNTech mRNA vaccine, whose visa requests have been rejected on the grounds of "not being considered as vaccinated."

381 APPLIED FOR PSP BORDER MOVEMENT RECORD IN JUNE

ACCORDING to statistics provided to the Times by the PSP from June this year, 381 foreign nationals have applied for a Certificate of Personal Movement Record from the PSP. This certificate is for the purpose of applying for a visa to the mainland.

The document certifies that the holder has not left Macau during the 28 days before the date of issue. Thus, the holder is exempt from the period of medical observation in quarantine on arrival on the mainland.

NO CAMPAIGN COMMENCEMENT EVENT THIS ELECTION

The Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau announced that no campaign commencement event will be held for this election. In previous elections, such events were held for candidates to reveal their campaigns and for photo opportunities. Additionally, in response to lawmaker Agnes Lam's questions, the bureau confirmed that this election will continue practices used in previous elections to accommodate the physically challenged, such as accessible ramps and the use of braille on sample ballots.

PJ WARNS PUBLIC OF TELEPHONE SCAMS

The Judiciary Police (PJ) has urged the public to be wary of telephone scams that purport to be collecting important documents for the Health Bureau (SSM). In a statement, the PJ said that it has received reports in relation to an unknown telephone call allegedly from the SSM, with pre-recorded messages in both Cantonese and Putonghua. The PJ reminds the public never to give out personal information to strangers, nor to wire money or send remittances to strangers. So far no members of the public have fallen prey to the scam, the PJ confirmed.

GOV'T TO STUDY INTRODUCTION OF SMART RAT BAIT BOXES

In response to lawmaker Lam Lon Wai's enquiry, the Municipal Affairs Bureau said that it has continued to increase the number of rat bait boxes across the city, reaching a total of 1,300. In the first half of this year, complaints related to the installation dropped 14% year-on-year. The bureau is also studying the possibility of smart rat bait boxes, which will monitor the number of rats using technology such as smart counters. The bureau added that construction projects usually contribute to an increase in rats.

Jollibee to acquire Tim Ho Wan; impact on Macau stores unclear



PHILIPPINE catering chain Jollibee Foods Corporation (JFC) will soon close a deal to acquire Hong Kong-born Michelin-starred Cantonese food chain Tim Ho Wan, according to Philippine media reports.

The Hong Kong chain operates stores at the Broadway Macau and the Londoner, in addition to one food court outlet at The Venetian Macao. The im-

act on its Macau operations from the deal is still unclear.

Initial reports in 2018, when JFC first emerged as a potential buyer, stated that the deal would concern operations in Asia and the Pacific, such as Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand and the Philippines.

The Times has contacted the landlords of the chain's two stores in Macau, namely Galaxy Entertainment

Group and Sands China for information, but no reply was received by press time.

"Its wholly-owned subsidiary Jollibee Worldwide Pte. Ltd. which already owns an 85% participating interest in the fund shall pay 71.56 million (Singaporean dollars) to purchase the remaining 15% interests of other investors in Titan Dining LP," said the fast food giant in a recent regulatory filing.

The brand Tim Ho Wan is owned by Titan, a private equity fund.

Under the terms of the deal, JFC will not take over the brand's home-base operations. **AL**

TAIWAN, US COAST GUARDS MEET DESPITE CHINESE PRESSURE

OFFICERS from the U.S. and Taiwanese coast guards have met to discuss improving cooperation and communication despite efforts by China to isolate the self-governing island democracy.

The virtual meeting held Tuesday came amid moves by the U.S. and others to defy Beijing's pressure campaign aimed at compelling Taiwan to accept its view that the island is part of China.

While the U.S. maintains only unofficial relations with Taiwan in deference to Beijing, it is the island's key arms supplier and closest political ally.

The American Institute in Taiwan said in a statement that at Tuesday's meeting, the sides "discussed ways to improve joint maritime responses to search and rescue, disaster relief, and environmental missions, as well as opportunities to improve communication and continue personnel educational exchanges."

"They also continued work

on the common objectives of preserving maritime resources; reducing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing; and participating in joint maritime search and rescue and maritime environmental response events," the statement said.

"The United States supports Taiwan's meaningful participation and contribution to issues of global concern," it said.

The meeting follows the announcement of plans by the U.S. to sell 40 self-propelled howitzers to Taiwan in a deal valued at \$750 million that drew strong condemnation from Beijing.

Amid deteriorating ties with China, the former administration of Donald Trump boosted relations with Taiwan, a stance thus far maintained by President Joe Biden.

China had no immediate response to the meeting of the two coast guards, but last week denounced the howitzer sale as having "severely interfered

in China's internal affairs, sent wrong signals to 'Taiwan independence' separatist forces and endangered the stability across the Taiwan Strait."

"The Chinese (People's Liberation Army) will take all necessary measures to firmly safeguard China's national sovereignty and territorial integrity and make continuous efforts to advance national reunification process," Defense Ministry spokesperson Wu Qian said in an Aug. 6 statement.

Along with the sharp downturn in relations with Washington, China's increasingly assertive foreign policies have put it at odds with a number of Western democracies, particularly Canada and Australia.

China yesterday dismissed Canada's protests of harsh sentences recently handed down by Chinese courts to Canadians whose cases are seen as linked to the arrest in Vancouver of a top executive at Chinese tech giant Huawei. **MDT/AP**

TAIWANESE MAN GETS SIX YEARS IN US PRISON IN COVID-19 FUND FRAUD

A Taiwanese man was sentenced to six years in prison after admitting to defrauding a program designed to keep small businesses financially afloat during the coronavirus pandemic.

Sheng-Wen Cheng, 25, was sentenced in Manhattan federal court by Judge Alison J. Nathan for multiple fraud schemes, including some frauds that occurred before the coronavirus surfaced.

The Manhattan resident pleaded guilty in April to major fraud against the U.S., along with bank, securities and wire fraud charges.

Authorities say he applied for over \$7 million in aid for small businesses, saying he had over 200 workers and \$1.5 million in monthly payroll when his companies actually had no more than 14 employees. He received



nearly \$3 million from the program and sent over \$1 million abroad, prosecutors said.

In sentencing papers, lawyers for Cheng, who entered the United States on a student visa before attending Pennsylvania State University, had requested leniency and no more than two years behind bars, citing their client's abusive childhood and other setbacks.

"Justin is extremely remorseful," the lawyers wrote, using the first name Cheng was more commonly known as. They said he has agreed to be deported to Taiwan after he serves his prison term.

Prosecutors said Cheng, as part of his fraudulent loan applications, included a payroll summary of one of his companies that listed the names of more than 90 purported employees, though some names were of current and former athletes, artists, actors and public figures, including a prominent deceased former Penn State football coach.

Once he received money, Cheng spent hundreds of thousands of dollars on personal expenses including an 18-carat gold Rolex watch, rent and furnishings for a luxury condominium and a Mercedes, they said. **MDT/AP**

AD

Safety precautionary measures for Storm Surge

Take preventive measures, for example, placing the objects in a place away from the water

Avoid areas affected by floods, such as basements or low lying areas

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

新陽光清潔服務有限公司
NEW SUNSHINE CLEANING SERVICES LTD.

Carpet Cleaning

Call: 2883 3008

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



GU GUOMING FORMER ICBC SHANGHAI BRANCH CHIEF GETS LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR BRIBERY

A court in Shanghai yesterday sentenced Gu Guoming, former head of Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (ICBC), Shanghai branch, to life in prison for taking bribes of over 136 million yuan (USD21 million).

All of Gu's personal property was ordered to be confiscated and his illegal gains from bribery should be recovered and turned over to the state treasury, according to the verdict issued by the Shanghai No. 1 Intermediate People's Court.

Gu was found guilty of taking over 136 million yuan in bribes between 2005 and 2019 when he served as vice president, president and Party chief of ICBC's Shanghai branch, the court said.

He received bribes from entities and individuals for helping them get loans and construction contracts, it added. XINHUA

WHITE PAPER ON HUMAN RIGHTS

China highlights progress through moderate prosperity attainment

CHINA yesterday issued a white paper to elaborate on how its realization of all-round moderate prosperity represents comprehensive progress in ensuring universal human rights in China, and a new contribution to the world's human rights cause.

Titled "Moderate Prosperity in All Respects: Another Milestone Achieved in China's Human Rights," the white paper was released by the State Council Information Office.

The white paper said under the Communist Party of China (CPC) leadership, the Chinese people "completed the historic transformation from poverty to secure access to food and clothing, to a decent life, and finally to moderate prosperity."



AP PHOTO

Moderate prosperity in China, according to the document, is evident in all respects: a buoyant economy, political democracy, a flourishing culture, social equity, and healthy ecosystems; balanced development between urban and rural areas

to the benefit of all the people; and high respect for and comprehensive protection of human rights.

China's realization of moderate prosperity serves as a solid foundation for human rights, the white paper said.

It expounded on the topics in five aspects: achieving

moderate prosperity and advancing human rights; ending extreme poverty and securing the right to an adequate standard of living; boosting human rights with development and securing economic, social and cultural rights; protecting civil and political rights with law and governance; promoting social equity and protecting the rights of special groups.

The white paper hailed the realization of moderate prosperity in China, a country with a population about one-fifth of the world's total, as a milestone in the history of global human rights.

"China's approach and experience have provided a distinctive path forward for human progress," it said. XINHUA

AD



CESL Asia
盛世集團
How to grow a city.
悉心共樹新城市。

► HOW TO GROW CESL Asia CITY

CESL Asia Website
盛世集團網址



CESL Asia Facebook Page
盛世集團Facebook專頁



Smartly
&
Sustainably



Architecture,
Engineering &
Planning Consultants
建築、工程及規劃顧問

FOCUS

Facilities Management
設施管理

People, Asset & Resource
Management Platform
智能化人員、資產及資源
管理應用平台

Monte
do PASTO
— VIDA AO NATURAL —

Agriculture & Food
可持續農業和食品



CSII
CESL Asia Social Investment Initiative

Investment in Social
Community
共建美好社區



AFGHANISTAN

Taliban take 10th provincial capital, squeezing Kabul

TAMEEM AKHGAR, KABUL

THE Taliban captured a strategic provincial capital near Kabul yesterday, the 10th the insurgents have taken in a weeklong sweep across Afghanistan just weeks before the end of the American military mission there.

Seizing Ghazni cuts off a crucial highway linking the Afghan capital with the country's southern provinces, which similarly find themselves under assault as part of an insurgent push some 20 years after the foreign troops arrived to oust the Taliban government.

While Kabul itself isn't directly under threat, the loss of Ghazni tightens the grip of a resurgent Taliban estimated to now hold some two-thirds of the nation, and thousands of people have fled their homes.

The latest U.S. military intelligence assessment suggests Kabul could come under insurgent pressure within 30 days and that, if current trends hold, the Taliban could gain full control of the country within a few months. The Afghan government may eventually be forced to pull back to defend the capital and just a few other cities.

The onslaught represented a stunning collapse of Afghan forces and renews questions about where the over \$830 billion spent by the U.S. Defense Department on fighting, training those troops, and reconstruction efforts went — especially as Taliban fighters ride on American-made Humvees and pickup trucks with M-16s slung across their shoulders.

It also raised fears that the Taliban would turn back the clock on the country and reimpose a brutal regime. Already there are reports of repressive restrictions on women and revenge killings.

Afghan security forces and the government have not responded to repeated requests for comment over the days of fighting. President Ashraf Ghani is trying to rally a counteroffensive relying on his country's spe-



A Taliban flag flies at a square in the city of Ghazni

cial forces, the militias of warlords and American airpower ahead of the U.S. and NATO pullout at the end of the month.

The militants raised their white flags imprinted with an Islamic proclamation of faith over the city of Ghazni, just 130 kilometers (80 miles) southwest of Kabul. Mohammad Arif Rahmani, a lawmaker from Ghazni, said the city had fallen to the insurgents. Ghazni provincial council member Amanullah Kamrani also told the AP that but added that the two bases outside of the city remain held by government forces.

Kamrani alleged that Ghazni's provincial governor and police chief made a deal with the Taliban to flee after their surrender. Taliban video and photos purported to show the governor's convoy passing by Taliban fighters unstopped as part of the deal.

Later yesterday, Afghanistan's Interior Ministry said the governor and his deputies had been arrested over that alleged deal. The officials could not be immediately reached for comment.

Militants crowded onto one seized Humvee and drove down one main road in Ghazni, with the golden dome of a mosque near the governor's office visible behind them, yelling: "God is great!" The insurgents, cradling their rifles, later gathered at one roundabout for an impromptu speech by a commander. One militant carried a rocket-propelled grenade launcher. They smiled as children and the curious gathered around them.

The loss of Ghazni —

which sits along the Kabul-Kandahar Highway that connects the Afghan capital to the southern provinces — could complicate resupply and movement for government forces, as well as squeeze the capital from the south.

Already, the Taliban's weeklong blitz has seen the militants seize nine other provincial capitals around the country. Many are in the country's northeast corner, pressuring Kabul from that direction as well.

Angry at pan-Arab satellite news network Al-Jazeera for reporting on troops earlier surrendering in Kunduz, Gen. Ajmal Omar Shinwari said the channel would be investigated by authorities. Al-Jazeera, based in Qatar where the Taliban has a diplomatic office, said as it didn't "have a correspondent currently in Kunduz, we rely on reputed international news agencies" and used that material in its reports on the surrenders.

Fighting meanwhile raged in Lashkar Gah, one of Afghanistan's largest cities in the Taliban heartland of Helmand province, where surrounded government forces hoped to hold onto that provincial capital.

On Wednesday, a suicide car bombing marked the latest wave of violence to target the capital's regional police headquarters. By Thursday, the Taliban had taken the building, with some police officers surrendering to the militants and others retreating to the nearby governor's office that's still held by government forces, said Nasima Niazi, a lawmaker from Helmand.

Niazi said she believed the Taliban attack killed

and wounded security force members, but she had no numbers. Another suicide car bombing targeted the provincial prison, but the government still held it, she said. The Taliban's other advances have seen the militants free hundreds of its members over the last week, bolstering their ranks while seizing American-supplied weapons and vehicles.

Niazi criticized ongoing airstrikes targeting the area, saying civilians likely had been wounded and killed.

"The Taliban used civilian houses to protect themselves, and the government, without paying any attention to civilians, carried out airstrikes," she said.

With the Afghan air power limited and in disarray, the U.S. Air Force is believed to be carrying out strikes to support Afghan forces. Aviation tracking data suggested U.S. Air Force B-52 bombers, F-15 fighter jets, drones and other aircraft were involved in the fighting overnight across the country, according to Australia-based security firm The Cavell Group.

The U.S. Air Force's Central Command, based in Qatar, did not respond to a request for comment yesterday.

The success of the Taliban offensive also calls into question whether they would ever rejoin long-stalled peace talks in Qatar aimed at moving Afghanistan toward an inclusive interim administration as the West hoped. Instead, the Taliban could come to power by force — or the country could splinter into factional fighting like it did after the Soviet withdrawal in 1989. **MDT/AP**

this day in history

1961 BERLINERS WAKE TO DIVIDED CITY



Troops in East Germany have sealed the border between East and West Berlin, shutting off the escape route for thousands of refugees from the East.

Barbed wire fences up to six feet (1.83 metres) high were put up during the night, and Berliners woke this morning to find themselves living in a divided city.

Train services between the two sectors of the city have been cut, and all road traffic across the border has been stopped.

Thousands of angry demonstrators quickly gathered on the West Berlin side of the divide. At one crossing point, protesters tried to trample down the barbed wire, only to be driven back by guards with bayonets.

The West German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer, appealed for calm, saying in a broadcast to the nation this evening: "Now, as always, we are closely bound to the Germans of the Russian zone and East Berlin.

"They are and remain our German brothers and sisters. The Federal Government remains firmly committed to the goal of German unity."

There has been outrage from the international community at the abrupt decision to cut off one side of the city from the other.

A Foreign Office spokesman in London said the restrictions were contrary to the four-power status of Berlin, and therefore illegal.

The American Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, called it a "flagrant violation" of East-West agreements, and said there would be a vigorous protest to Russia.

The tide of people fleeing East Germany has grown to a flood in recent days, as the Soviet Union has taken an increasingly hard line over breaking away from the three Allied powers and forming a separate peace treaty with East Germany over Berlin.

Nearly 12,500 people left East Germany this week - over 2,000 more than the previous week.

The East German government has been taking desperate measures to stem the flow. Yesterday, border guards were intercepting trains near Berlin and interrogating passengers. Those who arrived in Berlin said only one in 10 was allowed through.

There had been rumours of a decisive crackdown on refugees since the East German parliament met yesterday and approved new, unspecified measures against them.

The rumours provoked an even more frantic exodus. Just before the borders were closed, the numbers more than doubled, with some 3,000 East Germans fleeing to the West in just 24 hours.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Within days troops began replacing the barbed wire with concrete blocks, and the wall became a permanent structure.

The concrete section eventually reached nearly 12 feet (3.6m) high and 66 miles (106km) long. There was a further 41 miles (66.5km) of wire fencing, as well as more than 300 watch towers.

Nearly 200 people died trying to cross the wall, and another 200 were injured.

As the Iron Curtain over Eastern Europe began to lift in 1989, thousands of East Germans found another escape route, via Hungary and Austria.

On 7 November 1989, the Communist government of East Germany resigned, and two days later a jubilant crowd tore down the Berlin Wall piece by piece.

The following year, East and West Germany were finally reunited.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

As an Aries, you receive cosmic directions from the fearless warrior planet, Mars. Today's skies find courageous Mars in an uncomfortable aspect with wall-building Saturn.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

You're capable of getting ahead on the career front today, Taurus. While that's true, you may find yourself deeply aware of what's standing in your way.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Frustration may feel like it's coming to a head on the home and family front, as go-getter Mars locks into an uncomfortable contact with wall-building Saturn.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Lean into the sense of optimism brewing within you, Cancer. Your ruling planet, the shapeshifting moon, finds itself drifting through balance-bringing Libra today.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

On the other hand, the civil Libra moon's alignment with big-hearted Jupiter makes it easy to have uplifting, heartfelt conversations in intimate one-on-ones.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It's easy to feel like you're grinding to a halt today, Virgo. Be gentle with your body and energy levels, as you're likely to encounter health issues if you push yourself beyond your means.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Today's skies offer a variety of stories to sink into. The moon's presence in your sign helps you actively prioritize your own needs, but her morning square with unsettled Pluto may prompt frustrations around family matters.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

The path forward may not feel particularly clear today. Your ruling planet, go-getter Mars, locks into an uncomfortable aspect with limitation-setting Saturn.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Today's skies summon you away from society, Sagittarius. The moon's presence in deep-feeling Scorpio pushes you to explore the emotional undercurrent in your life.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today's skies hold some minor frustration in store, Capricorn. Your ruling planet, self-disciplined Saturn, receives a hostile visit from aggressive Mars today.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Try to cultivate patience when dealing with stressful situations today, Aquarius. Your ruling planet, grounded Saturn, receives an uncomfortable visit from hot-headed Mars.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

What self-defeating mechanisms are getting in the way of true relating? Fortunately, the balance-seeking Libra moon reaches out to big-hearted Jupiter, offering up ample room for healing.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

EASY

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

EASY+

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

MEDIUM

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

HARD

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

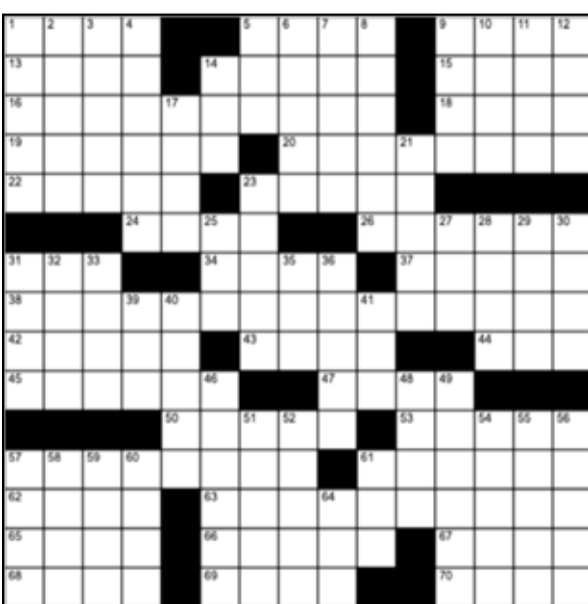
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	22	29	cloudy
Harbin	18	23	rain
Tianjin	25	30	rain
Urumqi	21	29	showers
Xi'an	24	29	rain
Lhasa	22	29	fine
Chengdu	27	34	thunderstorms
Chongqing	26	33	thunderstorms
Kunming	27	33	showers
Nanjing	21	26	rain
Shanghai	25	34	thunderstorms
Wuhan	24	27	rain
Hangzhou	17	23	cloudy
Taipei	23	26	rain
Guangzhou	15	30	fine
Hong Kong	22	31	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	14	24	overcast
Frankfurt	16	31	overcast
Paris	17	31	overcast
London	13	22	overcast
New York	26	35	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Office fill-in; 5- Ersatz; 9- Chair; 13- Switch back?; 14- ___ having fun yet?; 15- Skelton's Kaddiehopper; 16- Greek philosopher; 18- Yorkshire river; 19- Apathy; 20- Hold back; 22- Elegance; 23- Member of a motorcycle gang; 24- Gas burner or Sicilian volcano; 26- Italian sausage; 31- From ___ Z; 34- Likewise; 37- Ditto; 38- Boundary; 42- Rips; 43- White House staffer; 44- NFL scores; 45- Cured, in a way; 47- Formerly, formerly; 50- Stream of water; 53- Really bother; 57- Tom Sawyer was one; 61- Took steps; 62- Langston Hughes poem; 63- Estate; 65- Lacking; 66- Express alternative; 67- Swiss peaks; 68- Tolkien tree creatures; 69- Art Deco artist; 70- Network of nerves;

DOWN: 1- State not to "mess with"; 2- Construct; 3- Medium of exchange; 4- Breed of dog; 5- Madrid Mrs.; 6- Artist Rousseau; 7- Eight Days ___; 8- Untidy states; 9- Sign of injury; 10- "East of Eden" director Kazan; 11- Ethereal; Prefix; 12- Revenuers, for short; 14- Found it!; 17- Painter Mondrian; 21- Chaplin persona; 23- Light wood; 25- Where some vets served; 27- Permit; 28- Arguing; 29- State of mind; 30- Charged particles; 31- Plays are divided up into these; 32- ___ yellow ribbon...; 33- Unwritten; 35- Chem., for one; 36- Cry from the bench; 39- PC component; 40- Software buyers; 41- Occupational suffix; 46- Cheek depression; 48- Bristle; 49- Tooth deposit; 51- Boldness; 52- Make into a statute; 54- Sheer fabric; 55- Take as one's own; 56- Rigid; 57- Increase in height or number; 58- ___ impasse; 59- Typeface; 60- Chuck; 61- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 64- Dundee denial;



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



SELL INVEST RENT
MORE INFO
(853) 2835 2699

jml property 卓雅物業
hello@jmlproperty.com
www.jmlproperty.com
jmlmacau jmlproperty

FOR SALE
Taipa Village **HKD 3,780,000**
650 ft² 1 1 1

FOR RENT
REDUCED
One Central **HKD 16,500/mth**
1,292 ft² 2 2 2

Rain Dance Property
"We dance until it's SOLD!"
Traditional apartment **HKD 2,680,000**
788 ft² 2 1 1

AD

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

IN DUBAI, FILIPINA PULLS NO PUNCHES IN JOKES ON MIDEAST LIFE

JON GAMBRELL, DUBAI

PEERING out into the darkened audience of a Dubai bar, comedian Imah Dumagay leaned into the microphone and addressed the mistaken perception that many people have across the Middle East when they see a Filipina at a nightclub.

"I am from the Philippines but I am not taking any orders tonight," she said, drawing chuckles as her countrymen served beers and bar food at this rooftop bar in sight of Dubai's sail-shaped Burj Al-Arab luxury hotel. "Where is that guy asking for water earlier? Sir, we are not all waitresses."

She waited a beat and added: "But if you're looking for a maid, I'm available on Saturdays. I'm very good at cleaning; I clean from the ceiling down to your jewelry box."

Tucked within her slightly risqué set, Dumagay's rapid-fire punchlines offer an unfiltered glimpse into the life, sly triumphs and slights faced by her 2.2 million compatriots. They care for children, wait tables and



otherwise power economies across the wider Middle East. Those Filipinos provide billions of dollars in remittances back to their families still living in the Philippines, but face abuse and isolation in countries that often treat them as a disposable, low-paid workforce.

"I want to kind of be a voice for them," Dumagay told The Associated Press before her recent set. "When you use your

platform, you send a message to people. Comedy is a great method to send your message across."

Dumagay, 38, of Mindanao, Philippines, worked in Dubai for years before deciding to leave her job to pursue comedy full time. That's not an easy task in this skyscraper-studded tourist destination where most bars and nightclubs focus more on drinks and music than variety shows.

The city-state also focuses more on importing A-list American, British and Indian comedy acts given the city's vast foreign workforce. Some topics remain taboo in this hereditarily ruled country of seven sheikhdoms, where speech is strictly governed.

But there is a burgeoning local scene here, as seen on Sunday at the Hi Five Restaurant & Lounge. A United Nations of amateur comedians took the stage to varying degrees of success in sets touching on the scatological to the societal. An Emirati with dyed blonde hair even had 10 minutes, referring to his tight ripped jeans and tattoos instead of the traditional robes and ghutra headdress as the rebellious "Emirati starter kit."

Then there's Dumagay, who took the stage in a giggling whirlwind and drew laughter when she described being first married to a Syrian, then her current husband, an Egyptian, before shouting: "Hello Lebanese!"

"I like to tease, like sexual innuendos, but it's not really direct. [...] I won't say that's cross-

sing the line because it's funny. I can make people laugh without offending anyone," Dumagay said. "And I'm aware of what I can talk about. Like, we don't talk about religion, we cannot do politics or the UAE government or any discrimination towards any group of people. So we're very aware of that."

Dumagay's comedy springs from her experiences working across Dubai, from advertising to banking to being an executive secretary. That earlier crack about not being a waitress? It's a real experience she had before taking the stage at one of her 200-odd appearances.

Sunday's open-mic appearance comes as Dubai slowly revives its live entertainment scene amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. When venues largely shut down over the virus, Dumagay turned to social media, offering performances such as a never-flustered Filipina answering emergency services calls, telling someone reporting a murder that they only "need four cleaners" for the mess.

But there's a darker side to the Filipino experience in the Gulf Arab states.

"My fellow Filipinos sacrifice their time to be spent with their family back home," she said. "They are here struggling to just provide for them." **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
馬秀文 Sofia Mendes Martins
飛嘉華 Carlos dos Santos Ferreira °
杜力信 Nelson de Azevedo
宋哲言 João Gonçalves Assunção
莫永誠 Rui Velez de Moura
安東尼 António Manuel dos Santos
巴慧雅 Vera Bastos
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
黃瀚賢 Frederico Vong

實習律師 TRAINEE LAWYERS:
張偉鴻 Cheong Wai Hong
陳健雄 Eurico Chan
吳霆鋒 Ng Teng Fong
戴博晴 Tai Pok Cheng
吳佩愉 Ng Pui U
法律專家 JURISTS:
羅成軒 José J. Rodrigues
斐彥德 Gonçalo Figueiredo
潘卡莉 Candice Pun
陳子健 Kimi Chan
伍福賢 Domingos Ng

° 私人公證員 Notary Public * 中國委託公證人 China Appointed Attesting Officer * 顧問 Of Counsel



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



Chef Leung Sui Ming from Ah Yat Harbour View



Chef Nicolas Boutin from Épure Restaurant

TASTE OF EDESIA

Cook with Michelin chefs

IRENE SAM, MDT

THIS year, the gas Company Towngas has invited five Michelin Star Chefs, who are also commercial customers of Towngas, to star in a video series to educate the public about signature dishes on its Towngas Cooking YouTube Channel.

Last year, Towngas proudly rolled out YouTube Channel **Towngas Cooking**. The company invited a team of chefs to demonstrate their cooking skills, enabling audiences to follow the recipes at home. Meanwhile, this year, Towngas continues its effort to invite several chefs from restaurants selected by the MICHELIN Guide Hong Kong Macau 2021.

The line-up includes

Adriano Cattaneo from three-Michelin-starred restaurant L'Atelier de Joël Robuchon; Paul Lau Ping-lui from two-Michelin-starred restaurant Tin Lung Heen; as well as representatives from three one-Michelin-starred restaurants such as Ming Leung, Executive Chef of Ah Yat Harbour View Restaurant, Chef Sze, chef of yè shanghai; and Nicolas Boutin, executive chef of ÉPURE.

All of them will talk about their experiences in cooking and stories of their careers, as well as showcase their skills in front of the camera to allow audiences to reproduce their recipes at home. The videos can be exclusively viewed on Towngas Cooking until September.

Daniel Fung, Head of Strategy & Innovation and Commercial - HK Utilities at Towngas said, "We all

know that flame cooking is essential to Chinese cuisine that requires 'wok hei'. However, no matter what types of cuisine they are, flame cooking plays an important part."

He added, "Actually, many renowned restaurants that offer different types of cuisine chosen by the MICHELIN Guide Hong Kong Macau 2021 are business clients of Towngas, with the Star Chefs agreeing that flame cooking is an indispensable part of curating delicacies. Their endorsement is a recognition and excitement to us at Towngas, pushing us to take a step forward to reach new heights after becoming MICHELIN's official energy partner this year in Hong Kong and Macau, and we all share the same vision of innovation and sustainability."



Chef Adriano Cattaneo from Atelier de Joël Robuchon Restaurant



Chef Paul Lau from Tin Lung Heen Restaurant



Chef Sze Man Sui from Ye Shanghai Restaurant

Macau Racing Tips

By Davy Chiu, MDT



THE SANYA 1050 METRES SAND 2021-08-15 | Sun | 17:45

THE highlight of MJC weekend meeting is the abovementioned race this Sunday. This is a race that attract all sand freaks to enter. I am bullish on the chance of **Golden Conqueror**, he's carrying only 121 lb and his major challenger Fasuba has the top weight of 133 lb to carry. It will be a good chance for Golden Conqueror to turn the table with Fasuba. **Golden Conqueror** has the good barrier draw of gate 2, while Fasuba has drawn barrier 8. Although Fasuba recently came back to his good racing form since coming back from Meydan, it is going to be very challenging for him in fighting a tough battle with the other in form sand freaks in the race. I am very confident that K.H. Yu jockey of **Golden Conqueror** will run a big race for his connection this Sunday.

Race 4 Horse no. 3 GOLDEN CONQUEROR Win & Place bets



OPINION

World Views

Mark Satta, Wayne State University
 MDT/The Conversation



ORWELL'S IDEAS REMAIN RELEVANT 75 YEARS AFTER 'ANIMAL FARM' WAS PUBLISHED

Seventy-five years ago, in August 1946, George Orwell's "Animal Farm" was published in the United States. It was a huge success, with over a half-million copies sold in its first year. "Animal Farm" was followed three years later by an even bigger success: Orwell's dystopian novel "Nineteen Eighty-Four."

In the years since, Orwell's writing has left an indelible mark on American thought and culture. Sales of "Animal Farm" and "Nineteen Eighty-Four" jumped in 2013 after the whistleblower Edward Snowden leaked confidential National Security Agency documents. And "Nineteen Eighty-Four" rose to the top of Amazon's best-sellers list after Donald Trump's Presidential Inauguration in 2017.

As a philosophy professor, I'm interested in the continuing relevance of Orwell's ideas, including those on totalitarianism and socialism.

For Orwell, totalitarianism was a political order focused on power and control. The totalitarian attitude is exemplified by the antagonist, O'Brien, in "Nineteen Eighty-Four." The fictional O'Brien is a powerful government official who uses torture and manipulation to gain power over the thoughts and actions of the protagonist, Winston Smith. Significantly, O'Brien treats his desire for power as an end in itself. O'Brien represents power for power's sake.

Much of Orwell's keenest insights concern what totalitarianism is incompatible with. In his 1941 essay "The Lion and the Unicorn," Orwell writes of "The totalitarian idea that there is no such thing as law, there is only power" In other words, laws can limit a ruler's power. Totalitarianism seeks to obliterate the limits of law through the uninhibited exercise of power.

Similarly, in his 1942 essay "Looking Back on the Spanish War," Orwell argues that totalitarianism must deny that there are neutral facts and objective truth. Orwell identifies liberty and truth as "safeguards" against totalitarianism. The exercise of liberty and the recognition of truth are actions incompatible with the total centralized control that totalitarianism requires.

Orwell understood that totalitarianism could be found on the political right and left. For Orwell, both Nazism and Communism were totalitarian.

Orwell's work, in my view, challenges us to resist permitting leaders to engage in totalitarian behavior, regardless of political affiliation. It also reminds us that some of our best tools for resisting totalitarianism are to tell truths and to preserve liberty.

Orwell elaborates on what he means by socialism in "The Lion and the Unicorn." According to him, socialism requires "approximate equality of incomes (it need be no more than approximate), political democracy, and abolition of all hereditary privileges, especially in education."

In fleshing out what he means by "approximate equality of incomes," Orwell later says in the same essay that income equality shouldn't be greater than a ratio of about 10 to 1. In its modern-day interpretation, this suggests Orwell could find it ethical for a CEO to make 10 times more than their employees, but not to make 300 times more, as the average CEO in the United States does today.

But in describing socialism, Orwell discusses more than economic inequality. Orwell's writings indicate that his preferred conception of socialism also requires "political democracy."

As scholar David Dwan has noted, Orwell distinguished "two concepts of democracy." The first concept refers to political power resting with the common people. The second is about having classical liberal freedoms, like freedom of thought. Both notions of democracy seem relevant to what Orwell means by democratic socialism. For Orwell, democratic socialism is a political order that provides social and economic equality while also preserving robust personal freedom.

I believe Orwell's description of democratic socialism and his recognition that there are various forms socialism can take remain important today given that American political dialogue about socialism often overlooks much of the nuance Orwell brings to the subject. For example, Americans often confuse socialism with communism. Orwell helps clarify the difference between these terms.

With high levels of economic inequality, political assaults on truth and renewed concerns about totalitarianism, Orwell's ideas remain as relevant now as they were 75 years ago.

[Abridged]

The frequency of anti-Asian incidents — from taunts to outright assaults — reported in the United States so far this year seems poised to surpass last year despite months of political and social activism, according to a new report released Thursday.

Stop AAPI Hate, a national coalition that became the authority on gathering data on racially motivated attacks related to the pandemic, received 9,081 incident reports between March 19, 2020, and this June. Of those, 4,548 occurred last year, and 4,533 this year.

Since the coronavirus was first reported in China, people of Asian and Pacific Islander descent have been treated as scape-

goats solely based on their race.

Lawmakers, activists and community groups have pushed back against the wave of attacks.

There have been countless social media campaigns, bystander training sessions and public rallies. In May, President Joe Biden signed the bipartisan COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, expediting Justice Department reviews of anti-Asian hate crimes and making available federal grants.

"When you encourage hate, it's not like a genie in a bottle where you can pull it out and push it back in whenever you want," said.

K-POP STAR SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PROSTITUTION CASE

A South Korean military court sentenced disgraced K-pop star Seungri to three years in prison yesterday for crimes including providing prostitutes to foreign businessmen.

The Defense Ministry said the former member of the boy band Big Bang was also fined 1.15 billion won (\$989,000). He was taken into custody after the ruling by an army court in Yongin, near Seoul.

Seungri, whose real name is Lee Seung-hyun, was indicted in January 2020 on multiple charges, including arranging illegal sexual services for business investors from Taiwan, Japan and Hong Kong from 2015 to 2016. He was also convicted of embezzling funds from a Seoul nightclub he ran and violating laws prohibiting overseas gambling by betting heavily at foreign casinos from 2013 to 2017. He denied most of the charges.

His case was transferred to a military court after he enlisted in the army in March last year for 21 months of military service, a requirement for most



Seungri, a former member of a popular K-pop boy band Big Bang

able-bodied men in South Korea because of the threat from rival North Korea.

Yonhap news agency reported that Seungri appeared in court in a combat uniform and shook his head repeatedly as the judge announced the verdict.

Before his fall from grace, Seungri was one of the biggest stars in K-pop because of the success of Big Bang, which attracted huge followings in Asia and other parts of the world after its debut in 2006. Forbes magazine reported in 2016 that

the group had made \$44 million in pretax earnings the previous year.

Seungri left the group in 2019 after the media reported the prostitution accusations. His case is one of several scandals that have roiled South Korea's entertainment industry in recent years.

In 2019, singer Jung Joon-young received a six-year prison term and former boy band member Choi Jong-hoon a five-year term after they were found guilty of illicit sexual relations with a woman who was unable to resist. MDT/AP



Russia A helicopter carrying tourists plunged into a deep volcanic crater lake on the Kamchatka Peninsula in far eastern Russia yesterday. Eight people have survived the crash, while eight others were missing and feared dead. The Mi-8 helicopter sank in Kurile Lake, which was formed in a volcano caldera and crater and is located in the Kronotsky nature reserve. The water temperature in the lake was 5-6 degrees Celsius, and the survivors had to swim about 9 meters up to the surface from the sinking helicopter, spokespeople for the reserve said.



Turkey Severe floods and mudslides triggered by torrential rain in northern Turkey have left at least six people dead and another person missing, the country's Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency said yesterday. The floods battered the Black Sea coastal provinces of Bartin, Kastamonu, Sinop and Samsun on Wednesday, demolishing homes and bridges and sweeping away cars. Helicopters scrambled to rescue people stranded on rooftops.

Greece All 18 people who were on board a British-flagged yacht that sank off the Greek island of Milos have been rescued, Greece's coast guard said yesterday. The passengers and crew members of the 30-meter yacht, all Greeks, were picked up from the sea by a passenger boat, a nearby cargo ship and a launch, and were transported to the main port on Milos.

Danish lawmakers have agreed to evacuate 45 Afghan citizens who worked for Denmark's government in Afghanistan and to offer them residency in the European country for two years. The plan applies to people who worked at the Danish Embassy in Kabul and as interpreters for Danish troops. Denmark, like other Western nations including the U.S., recently pulled its remaining troops out of Afghanistan. Denmark opened its embassy in Kabul in 2006.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo



Firing blanks. The Earth Observation satellite, while taking off from Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, India, failed in the third and final ignition stage, and because of it has not attained the velocity which would keep it in orbit. It will fall back to Earth sometime soon.