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LAWMAKERS PEREIRA COUTINHO AND RON LAM CALLED FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CONCERNING COMMITTEES' WORK

P3

HONG KONG TO TIGHTEN COVID-19 RULES, SEEKS TO OPEN TO CHINA

P6

BEGINNING NOV. 8, US OPENS BORDERS TO FOREIGN VISITORS WHO ARE FULLY VACCINATED DROPPING INBOUND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS IN PLACE

P8



Japanese Princess Mako quietly married a commoner without traditional wedding celebrations yesterday and said their marriage "was a necessary choice to live while cherishing our hearts." The marriage to Kei Komuro cost Mako her royal status. She received her husband's surname — the first time she has had a family name. Most Japanese women must abandon their own family names upon marriage due to a law requiring only one surname per married couple.



Iran A cyberattack targeted gas stations yesterday across the country, shutting down a government system managing fuel subsidies and leaving angry motorists stranded in long lines at shuttered stations. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, though it bore similarities to another months earlier that seemed to directly challenge Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as the country's economy buckles under American sanctions.



Russia The daily number of COVID-19 deaths hit another high yesterday amid a surge in infections that forced the Kremlin to order most Russians to stay off work starting this week. Sluggish vaccination rates have allowed the coronavirus to spread quickly across Eastern Europe. Ukraine and Bulgaria also reported record daily death tolls yesterday. Russia's national coronavirus task force reported 1,106 deaths in 24 hours.

More on backpage

IT'S THE ECONOMY

ANTHONY LAM



Anticipating the Policy Address, legislators use first plenary to send a strong combined message to the Chief Executive to improve economic support to residents, SMEs P3

GAMING
CASINO REVENUES TREND UPWARD AS BORDER RESTRICTIONS EASED

P4



THE USE OF PHYSICAL YUAN WILL PHASE OUT HKD IN CASINOS: BEN LEE

P5

THE CONVERSATION

THE FUTURE OF WORK IS HYBRID

ALANAH MITCHELL
DRAKE UNIVERSITY

CCOVID-19 has changed the way we work.

Even before the pandemic, the U.S. workforce increasingly relied on remote collaboration technologies like videoconferencing and Slack. The global crisis accelerated the adoption of these work tools and practices in an unprecedented way. By April 2020, about half of companies reported that more than 80% of their employees worked from home because of COVID-19.

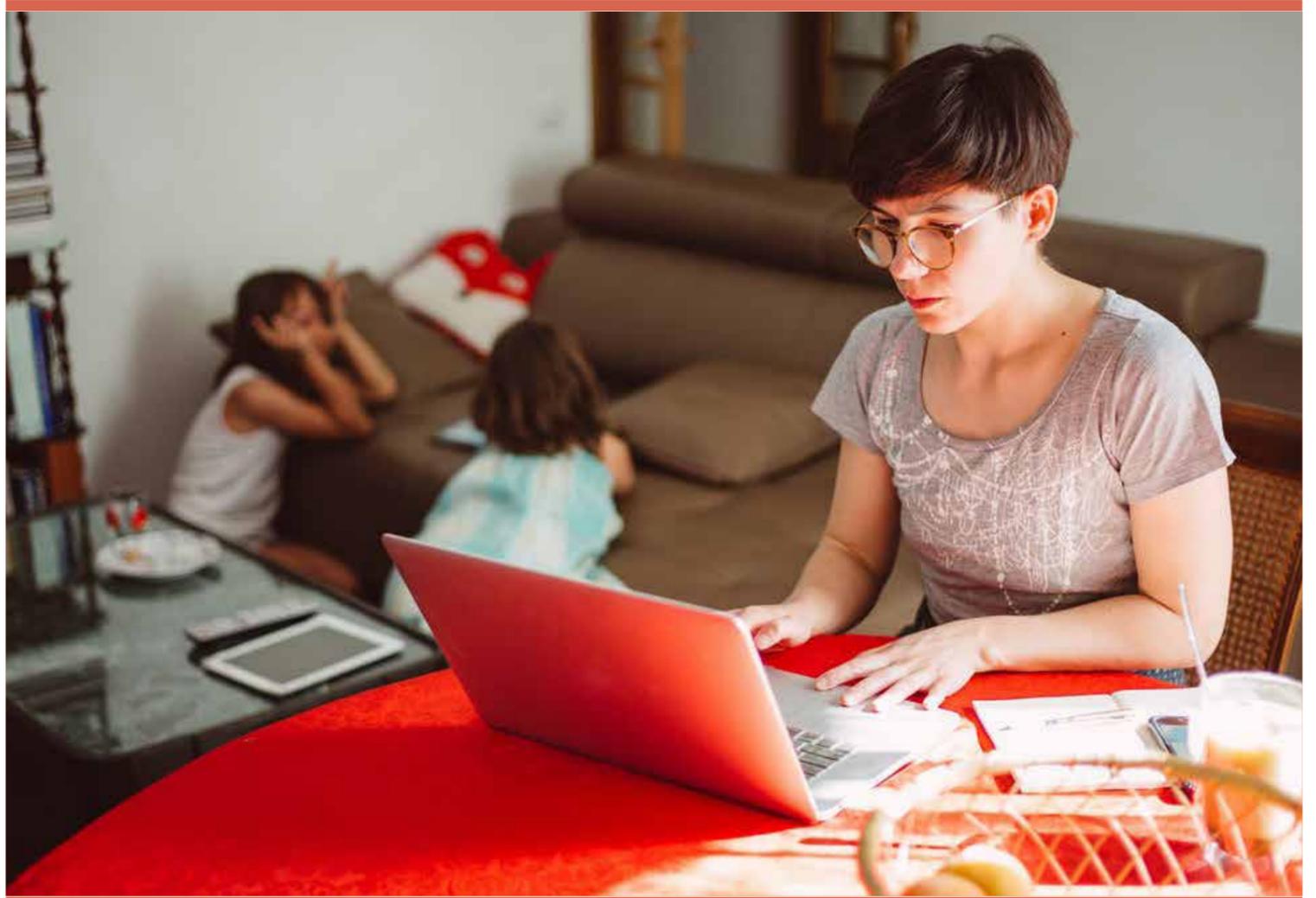
That shift was made possible by decades of research into, and then development of, technologies that support remote work, but not everyone uses these technologies with the same ease. As early as 1987, groundbreaking research identified some of the challenges facing women working from home using technology. That included the difficulties of child care, work-home separation and employee growth opportunities.

Since that time, we have learned much more about virtual collaboration. As an associate professor of information systems, I'm interested in what we can expect as we eagerly anticipate a post-pandemic future. One thing stands out: Hybrid work arrangements – that is, employees who do some tasks in the office and others virtually – is clearly going to be a big part of the picture.

One survey from April 2021 shows 99% of human resources leaders expect employees to work in some kind of hybrid arrangement moving forward. Many have already begun. As just one example, Dropbox, the file hosting service, made a permanent shift during the pandemic, allowing employees to work from home and hold team meetings in the office.

The definition of “hybrid” varies in other organizations. Some workers might be in the office a couple days a week or every other day. Other businesses may require only occasional face-to-face time, perhaps meeting in a centralized location once each quarter.

Either way, research does show many companies fail in their implementation of a virtual workforce.



REMOTE WORK VERSUS IN THE OFFICE

In-office work promotes structure and transparency, which may increase trust between management and workers. Developing an organizational culture happens naturally. Casual office conversations – a worker walking down the hall for a quick and unscheduled chat with a colleague, for instance – can lead to knowledge-sharing and collaborative problem-solving. That's difficult to replicate in a virtual environment, which often relies on advance scheduling for online meetings – although that's still feasible with enough planning and communication.

But if you look at different metrics, in-office work loses out to working from home. My recent research discovered remote workers report more productivity and enjoy working from home because of the flexibility, the ability to wear casual clothes, and the shortened or nonexistent commute time. Remote work also saves money. There is a significant cost savings for office space, one of the largest budget line items for

organizations.

Hybrid arrangements attempt to combine the best of both worlds.

IT'S NOT PERFECT

It's true that hybrid work faces many of the same obstacles of face-to-face work. Poor planning and communication, ineffective or unnecessary meetings and confusion about task responsibilities happen remotely as well as in-person.

Perhaps the largest issue when working at home: technology and security concerns. Home networks, an easier target for cyberthreats, are typically more vulnerable than office networks. Remote workers are also more likely to share computers with someone else outside of their organization. Hybrid organizations must invest upfront to work through these complicated and often expensive issues.

With hybrid work, managers cannot see the work taking place. That means they must measure employee performance based on outcomes with clear performance metrics rather than the tradi-

tional focus on employee behavior.

Another potential pitfall: Fault lines can develop within hybrid teams – that is, misunderstandings or miscommunication between those in the office and those at home. These two groups may start to divide, potentially leading to tension and conflicts between them – an us-versus-them scenario.

ESTABLISHING A HYBRID ENVIRONMENT

Numerous recommendations exist on the best way to develop a hybrid model. Here are a few of the best ideas.

Meeting too often or with little purpose – that is, meeting for the sake of meeting – leads to fatigue and burnout. Not everyone needs to be at every meeting, yet finesse from management is required to make sure no one feels left out. And meeting-free days can help with productivity and allow employees a block of uninterrupted time to focus on complex projects.

Listening to employees is cri-

tical to making sure the hybrid environment is working. Continually seeking feedback, through one-on-one conversations, focus groups or human resources surveys, is important too. So is recognizing and rewarding employees with in-person or virtual kudos for their achievements. Performance incentives, such as financial rewards or tokens of appreciation including food delivery, help develop a supportive culture that increases employee commitment.

Finally: Both managers and employees must be transparent in their communication and understanding of hybrid plans. Policies must be in place to define what tasks happen in the office and remotely. Access to reliable communications is essential, particularly for remote work. All employees must receive the same information at the same time, and in a timely manner. After all, whether in the office or online, workers don't want to feel they're the last to know.

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New AL kicks off with speeches directed to Policy Address

RENATO MARQUES

THE first plenary session of the new Legislative Assembly (AL) was held yesterday with the issues of the Covid-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis cutting across all spoken inquiries during the period before the agenda.

Anticipating the Policy Address for 2022, expected to be delivered in mid-November, lawmakers took the opportunity to send a combined message to the Chief Executive on continuing economic support to the general population, as well as to local companies, especially those of smaller size and in sectors that have been severely affected by the lack of tourism.

A total of 26 spoken inquiries were delivered, each touching in one way or another on the topic of the pandemic and the need for more decisive action to tackle the economic downturn affecting the population.

Most of the inquiries called for continuation of the Wealth Par-taking Scheme also known as the "government cheque," as well as a new round of consumption vouchers. Most lawmakers called for residents' consumption cards or

RENATO MARQUES



vouchers to be reloaded with a further 8,000 patacas.

Going even further, lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho called for an increase to consumption vouchers of 10,000 patacas for the "most vulnerable families, such

as the elderly, the disabled, single-parent families, informal caregivers, orphans, the bedridden and the unemployed."

Picking up where Pereira Coutinho left off, Che Sai Wang, the second lawmaker elected by New

Hope List and a newcomer to the AL, also called for an additional special allocation of 15,000 patacas to all civil servants who have been working at the forefront of the Covid-19 pandemic response as a "morale boost" and a reward

for their work and dedication.

A large number of lawmakers also addressed concerns over the unemployment situation and layoffs, calling on the government to address the matter seriously and amend labor laws as soon as possible to regulate the matter.

Leading this call were lawmakers linked to the Macao Federation of Trade Unions, with Ella Lei calling on the government to also consider a new mechanism for supporting companies in difficulty as well as workers who have been systematically laid off.

Lei expressed a view that the eight measures previously presented by the government, which aim to support companies in obtaining financing, do not work as companies will continue to drown themselves in loans, thereby increasing the risk of bankruptcy.

She also called for special measures to address specific professional sectors, such as tutoring centers and businesses related to the arts and culture, among others that have been repeatedly forced to suspend operations due to fears of potential outbreaks.

Leong Sun Iok had earlier addressed critics of the "zero cases policy," noting that, while it safeguards the population's health, it is eventually the bigger obstacle to economic reactivation. Leong called for the establishment of a new socio-economic model to operate in the context of the pandemic to reduce the impact on employment and economic activities.

Pereira Coutinho, Ron Lam call for better committee meetings

RENATO MARQUES

LAWMAKERS José Pereira Coutinho and Ron Lam called for improvements yesterday in the Legislative Assembly (AL) in relation to the meetings of the several AL committees.

In the first official plenary session of the seventh AL, the two lawmakers took the opportunity presented by agenda items related to the establishment of new AL committees to raise concerns about the functioning of these committees.

Lam reiterated a regulation which states that all lawmakers, even those who are not a member of a specific committee, can participate in committee meetings.

"I have been paying attention to this matter and I have seen that in the past the AL has had several committee meetings running concurrently. This clearly [...] prevents lawmakers [having the chance] to join

ANTHONY LAM



Ron Lam

the meetings and keep up-to-date with the matters being discussed," Lam said. He called for better scheduling so that lawmakers can participate in the meetings as well as receive all relevant documents for discussion.

Speaking on the matter, AL president Kou Hoi In explained that proposals distributed to lawmakers and being voted on are

developed by the AL Executive Board and take into account lawmakers' backgrounds and specialties as well as the different election methods.

Regarding access to documents, Kou left it up to each committee's chairperson to decide whether or not it is possible to distribute all the documentation.

"I think it might be possi-

ble to [distribute documentation] but the final decision will be from the chairperson of each committee," Kou said, adding that in most cases this requires a lot of paper and noting that the chair might refuse to do so under the justification of "saving resources."

Responding to the issue raised about the scheduling of meetings, the AL president remarked that this is being tentatively addressed but noted that there are many factors to be taken into account, such as the availability of members of the government.

In the same session, Pereira Coutinho reiterated his call for committee meetings to be open to the public or at least the media, noting that not all topics require secrecy and that meetings should only be held in camera in very specific cases.

As with the document issue, Kou replied that the matter is an "internal de-

cision" of the committees and should be debated within each committee, reaffirming that the rules allow it as long as committee members reach consensus.

After the approval of all proposals from the Executive Board concerning the establishment of the Standing, Follow-up, and House of Rules committees,

lawmakers were called to vote for a representative to be part of the AL's Administrative Council.

Lawmaker Angela Leong was elected for this post with a total of 30 votes. Chui Sai Peng received two votes and one ballot was considered void as a lawmaker had voted for two different people.

RON LAM WANTS GOV'T TO REPLICATE HK POLICY ON DOMESTIC WORKERS

AT the start of his first term in the Legislative Assembly, lawmaker Ron Lam has called on the government to adopt the same system being used in the neighboring region of Hong Kong to allow the entry of non-resident workers, specifically those engaging in domestic work. Lam explained that the current policy in Macau, which does not allow these workers to enter, is causing severe difficulties for families. In the lawmaker's opinion,

local authorities should replicate the policy of Hong Kong and allow non-resident workers to enter the city as long they undergo quarantine in isolation. He added that the easing of border restrictions would also potentially allow the resumption of flights to several Southeast Asian countries, including the Philippines and Indonesia, helping to repatriate workers from those countries who remain stranded in Macau.

GUIA HILL PEDESTRIAN TUNNEL DRILLED THROUGH

The pedestrian tunnel beside the Guia Hill vehicle tunnel has recently been drilled through, with polishing works now underway. Like the parallel vehicle tunnel, the new pedestrian tunnel connects Horta e Costa District with the NAPE District. Two footbridges are being built on the NAPE side of the tunnel. The 400-meter-long tunnel will be equipped with automated pedestrian movers and elevators reaching the Guia Hill Trail. As part of the walkway system, sidewalks on the NAPE side will be revamped as well.

CHILD'S FINGER INJURED BY DEPARTMENT STORE ELEVATOR

A 2-year-old girl, a resident of Hong Kong, was injured by an elevator yesterday at the New Yaohan Department Store, according to the Fire Services Bureau (CB). The CB said her family had indicated that the girl's finger had been trapped by the elevator door. She went to the private Kiang Wu Hospital with her family. Technicians ruled out a malfunction as the cause of the incident and believed the accident was caused by the girl pressing her finger against the door. No arrests have been announced by the police as of press time.

GOV'T TO ANNOUNCE TAIPA HOSPITAL OPERATOR TODAY

The government is set to announce the future operating entity of the Island Hospital at a dedicated press conference today. The hospital is now under construction and located on the south side of Cotai, next to the Seac Pai Van Reservoir. The Health Bureau had previously announced, after hints from a third party, that the facility will be operated as a public-private partnership, an arrangement described by bureau head Alvis Lo as having greater flexibility. The Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine at the University of Hong Kong has been commissioned to study the partnership model.

GAMING

CASINO REVENUES TREND UPWARD AS BORDER RESTRICTIONS EASED

LYNZY VALLES

MACAU'S gross gaming revenue (GGR) doubled from October 18 to 24, in line with the surge in tourist arrivals as border restrictions were eased following over a week of no new Covid-19 cases in the city.

Brokerage firm Sanford C. Bernstein estimated a daily GGR of MOP157 million, raising hopes for gaming operators.

The week prior, when strict border measures were implemented in the face of a new series of Covid-19 outbreaks starting in the last week of September, the city recorded a total GGR of just MOP79 million.

During that week, arrivals from Macau to Zhuhai were required to undergo quarantine, discouraging tourists from visiting the city. The measure was dropped on October 19 and Macau has recorded a steady rebound in visitor arrivals which have been trending upward for four consecutive days, with 25,252 visitor arrivals on Friday. This figure was the highest daily number of arrivals recorded since the city tightened its Covid-19 measures on September 25.

"We forecast October GGR to



be down over 80% [this month] vs October 2019 and expect GGR improvement (which has just begun) to continue in November-December, but more significant travel impediment removals are not likely until next year," said analysts Vitaly Umansky, Louis Li and Kelsey Zhu.

"Longer term, IVS eVisa and group visa restart and Hong Kong travel resumption will be necessary to drive GGR upwards," the brokerage added.

Bernstein said that revenue for the first 24 days of the month plun-

ged to MOP2.9 billion, down 86% compared with October 2019.

Previously, Bernstein had expressed optimism toward the recovery of the gaming sector in 2023, despite forecasting that the industry will only recover to pre-pandemic levels in 2025.

However, estimates for the VIP gaming segment are only set to recover to 46% of 2019 levels as this segment "fades away."

The analysts noted that gross gaming revenue will only reach 31% of 2019 levels this year, which

stood at MOP292.5 billion.

This means that the city will only record some MOP91 billion in gaming revenues, about MOP40 billion less than the government's goal of MOP130 billion.

Current GGR expectation for this year are set to be revised again, given the economic downturn caused by the pandemic.

Meanwhile, the analysts forecast that gradual growth in revenue will reach 59% in 2022, 87% in 2021, 96% by 2024 and 106% by 2025.

EXHIBITION SHOWCASES WET MARKET DESIGNS THROUGH HISTORY

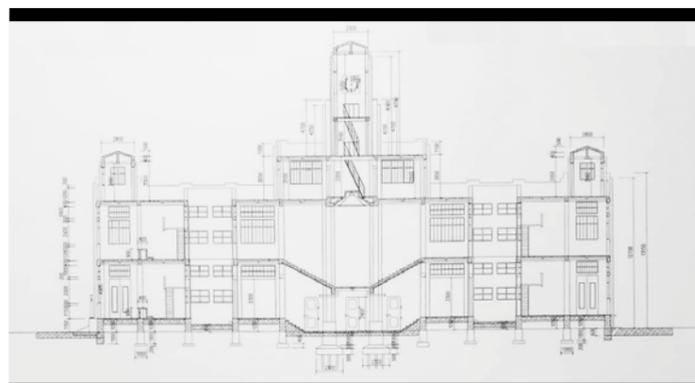
AN exhibition featuring drawings and diagrams of antique and contemporary wet markets is now open to the public.

The event has been organized by The Heritage Society, which has previously conducted a study of the old wet markets of Macau. In 2020, the group published a book that covers the markets' history from 1750 to 1950, as well as the construction features of several local markets.

In this exhibition, architectural drawings of more fami-

liar structures such as the Red Market and the Horta de Mitra Market will be on display, as well as the unrealized designs from 1920 of the S. Domingos Market and the S. Lourenço Market. The organizers expect viewers to gain an understanding of the transformation of local markets over time.

The exhibition is now open in the ground floor gallery at the Academia Jao Tsung-I, and runs until November 23. It is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesdays to Sundays, as well as on public holidays. Entry is free. **AL**



ONE SHOT NEWS



With the Beijing 2022 Winter Olympics approaching, a 100-day countdown timer to the event kicked off at Leal Senado last night. The Olympics, also known as Beijing 2022, are scheduled to take place from February 4 to 20, 2022 in Beijing and towns in the neighboring Hebei province in China.

GAMING

Expert: E-currency a means to dam and trace gambling outflow in Macau

ANTHONY LAM

BEIJING is using digital currency to close the “black hole” that local casinos have dug over the past two decades, said Ben Lee, managing partner of IGamiX Management & Consulting, at a business event.

Lee gave a talk on the topic at yesterday's breakfast briefing hosted by the British Chamber of Commerce in Macao (BritCham).

Experientially, the city's gross gambling revenue (GGR) peaked in 2013 at USD45 billion. Lee stressed that this was the amount received by local casinos, not the actual amount of cash that gamblers had brought into Macau.

Statistically, the GGR is about 20% of total money flow into Macau. From the 2013 GGR figure, it can be calculated that about USD135 billion cash flowed into Macau that year. Lee also discussed side-betting or under-the-table betting, which accounted for between double to 50 times the GGR in 2013 and 2014. Altogether, casinos in Macau has generated a USD600 billion “black hole,” which upset Beijing.

In this context, Lee says that the introduction of the e-RMB and set up of Macau as an international RMB clearance center starts to make sense.

According to the expert, the e-RMB is nearly omnipresent. Now, even without internet access, the digital yuan can be used for transactions in a wide variety of circumstances. For example, he said, the Chinese government has prepared strategies to allow



foreign spectators at the Winter Olympics next year to make digital payments directly, regardless of the type of gadget or technology used.

Universalization of the e-RMB and its applications in Macau will be inevitable and likely happen in the next three years, Lee said.

In his estimation, the rollout in Macau of the e-RMB, which is officially known as the Digital Currency Electronic Payment (DCEP), will have two phases.

In the first phase, there will be a trial launch of the currency in Macau, in which Chinese banks, such as the Macau branches of the Bank of China, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the China Construction Bank will be allowed to act as local ex-

changes.

The Bank of China has previously announced the establishment of the Bank of China (Macau), a subsidiary of the parent company in mainland China.

The use of physical Chinese yuan will phase out HKD in local casinos

With the support of Macau branches of these Chinese banks, as well as the “conditioning” of Macau residents to use digital payments regularly and habitually, the DCEP will gain acceptance in the local community.

The use of physical Chinese yuan, meanwhile, will phase out Hong Kong Dollars (HKD) in local casinos, Lee opined. At the same time, he stressed the fact

that Secretary for Economy and Finance Lei Wai Nong had announced that the legal tender in Hengqin is the Chinese yuan.

Logically, if the yuan is to fully migrate to the DCEP, it will be only digital currency that will be used on the island.

In the rollout's second phase, the DCEP will be fully rolled out in Macau. It will be permitted in and accepted by local casinos.

The HKD, which currently represents 50% of the city's money supply, will be phased out as a major currency, according to the expert.

Lee added that the local currency pataca only makes up 35% of Macau's money supply, with the rest being Chinese yuan.

Lastly, local banks will be allowed to clear DCEP internationally, which will close the entire loop in introducing the DCEP in Macau.

The expert's analysis on the pros and cons of the digital currency rollout in Macau is that the city will lose the majority, if not the entirety, of VIP and premium mass gambling clientele, because authorities will be able to levy tighter supervision and controls on transactions. Furthermore, the e-currency is subject to foreign exchange and capital controls.

However, there are a number of advantages as well. Local casinos will see a larger mass market. The city's real estate, insurance and stock markets will enjoy focus from a wider audience.

With the digital RMB running

in Macau, inflation will be more easily controlled.

Other advantages include business owners having their revenue transferred virtually instantaneously with lower transaction costs. In the latest trial platform in China, no bank account or internet connection is required to realize a payment.

It is also beneficial for smaller companies because accounting is conducted on a daily basis automatically.

When questioned about the future of banks, Lee believes that banks will continue to exist even if digital currency becomes the legal tender of the world. They will still have the opportunity to market a wide range of investment products to their customers.

In addition, he expects there will be even fewer barriers to investment. “You'll be able to trade in [mainland] China; you'll be able to trade in Macau. So [banks] will have the ability to earn money from you through all these kinds of products on the side of the Chinese yuan,” Lee foresees.

On cryptocurrency, Lee gave a straight “no” when he was asked about the possibility of the commodity arriving in Macau. He stressed that the mainland has “very definitively” banned cryptocurrency, and although Macau did not do so by law, it has asked several cryptocurrency traders to remove their machines.

He added that the main reason behind the ban is that the authorities want to have the ability to trace all transactions.

COVID-19

Vaccination rate surges to 66% after new cases and border policies

STAFF REPORTER

AS of 4 p.m. October 25, a total of 790,170 Covid-19 vaccine doses have been administered to 451,006 people, 107,776 of whom have received their first dose and 343,230 who have received both doses, bringing Macau's vaccination rate up to 66%.

By the end of September, only around half of Macau's population had

received at least one dose of a vaccine.

The recent spike in the vaccination rate has been attributed to Zhuhai's border restrictions where authorities requested that travelers provide proof that they had received at least one dose of a Covid-19 vaccine.

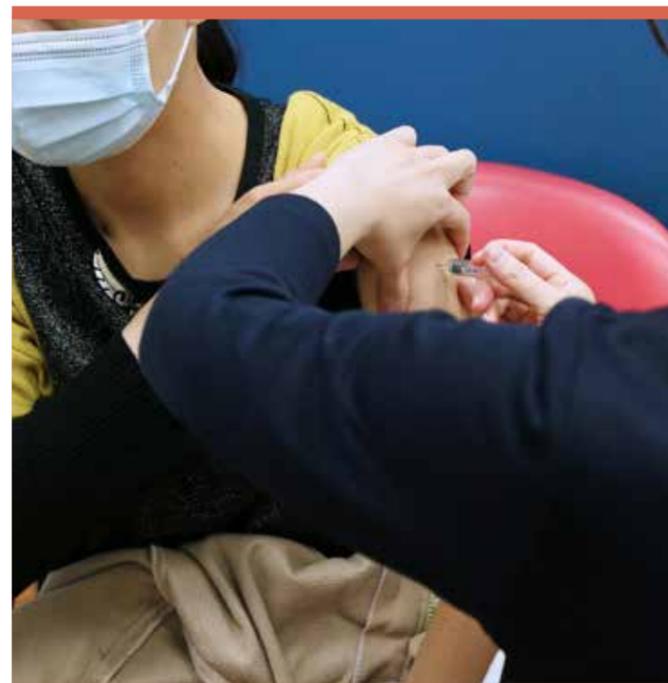
Although the measures have since been lifted, the situation still spurred a surge in vaccination

appointments.

The local public administration and all six gaming concessionaires have also imposed guidelines whereby staff must choose between getting vaccinated or getting tested every seven days. The Health Bureau (SSM) and the Education and Youth Development Bureau have also imposed the same requirement for higher education students, tea-

chers and staff members. Non-tertiary education teachers and relevant staff members are also included in the measure.

The SSM noted that the vaccination rate of 45.8% in people between 12 and 19 years old is still low, and urged parents to get their children vaccinated as soon as possible. The bureau also hopes to increase the vaccination rate of elderly residents.



HONG KONG TO TIGHTEN COVID-19 RULES, SEEKS TO OPEN TO CHINA

HONG Kong will tighten COVID-19 restrictions despite a lack of local outbreaks to better align with China's policies and increase chances of quarantine-free travel between the territory and mainland, leader Carrie Lam said yesterday.

It will step up contact tracing, such as requiring the use of its LeaveHomeSafe app in government premises to record the coming and going of visitors. It will also tighten quarantine rules to exempt only emergency workers or those in essential industries such as logistics. Currently, those exempt from quarantine include airline crew, banking and insurance executives, directors of public companies, as well as crew members on cargo and passenger ships, among others.

Hong Kong has not had a major local outbreak since the beginning of the year, with virtually no local transmission in recent months. But it is largely closed to international travel, and travelers from countries deemed high-risk such as the U.S. must serve a



Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam wearing an arm brace after suffering fracture from fall at home

21-day quarantine.

Authorities say resuming quarantine-free travel with the mainland is the top priority, compared to reopening travel internationally.

Lam said tightening restrictions to be "more in line with mainland practices" is necessary to give Chinese authorities confidence to resume quarantine-free cross-border travel.

"If Hong Kong were to loosen the border controls for people arriving from overseas or adopt what other countries have done ... to live with the COVID-19 virus, then the chances of resuming travel with the mainland will be reduced," she said at a weekly news conference where she wore a brace after recently breaking her arm.

She dismissed concerns that Hong Kong's restrictions

will make it less attractive as an international business hub. "Hong Kong's primary advantage lies in being the gateway to the mainland of China," she said.

The mainland government has maintained a zero-tolerance policy toward the pandemic, using lockdowns, quarantines and compulsory testing to stamp out COVID-19 outbreaks quickly. **MDT/AP**

WUHAN POLICE SEARCH FOR MAN WHO KILLED 7, JUMPED OFF BRIDGE

POLICE in Wuhan, China, say they are searching for a man who killed seven people then jumped off a bridge in the city.

The suspect, surnamed Gao, 39, killed a family of five and two more people while escaping, Wuhan police said in a statement yesterday.

Gao had visited the home of a man whose last name was Zhang, in a village near Wuhan, on Sunday evening, local media reported. Zhang was serving temporarily as the village's Communist Party secretary, and the man had claimed to have some business he needed to resolve.

Zhang and his wife were found dead at the scene, along with their daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. One child found at the scene was still breathing and was sent to the hospital, local media reported. The man then killed a passerby and a driver, whose car he stole to make his escape.

The suspect fled until he reached a bridge over the Yangtze River bridge and jumped off the bridge early Monday morning, police said. **MDT/AP**

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OBITUARY

Ex-South Korean President Roh Tae-woo dies at 88

FORMER South Korean President Roh Tae-woo, a major player in a 1979 coup who later became president in a landmark democratic election before ending his tumultuous political career in prison, died in hospital yesterday in the capital of Seoul. He was 88.

Roh, who ruled South Korea as president from 1988-1993, died of complications from various illnesses after his condition worsened while dealing with a degenerative disorder, Kim Yon-su, head of Seoul National University Hospital, told a news conference.

Roh was a key participant in the December 1979 military coup that made his army friend and coup leader Chun Doo-hwan president after their mentor, dictator Park Chung-hee, was assassinated following 18 years of rule.

Roh led his army division into Seoul and joined other military leaders for operations to seize the capital. In the following year, the military under Chun and other coup leaders launched a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in the southern city of Gwangju, killing about 200 people, in one of the darkest moments in South Korea's turbulent modern history.

Roh was Chun's hand-picked successor, which would have assured him the presidency in an easy indirect election. But a massive pro-democracy uprising in 1987 forced Roh and Chun to accept a direct presidential election that was regarded as the start of South Korea's transition to democracy.

Despite his military background, Roh built a moderate and genial image during the campaign, calling himself an "average person." He eventually won the hotly contested election in December 1987, largely thanks to a split in liberal votes between opposition candidates Kim Young-sam and Kim Dae-jung, who both later became presidents.

During his five-year term, Roh aggressively pursued ties with communist nations under his

AP PHOTO



In this Dec. 22, 1997, file photo former South Korean President Roh Tae-woo, with his wife Kim Ok-sook standing beside him

"Northward Diplomacy" as communism fell in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union dissolved.

South Korea was then deeply anti-communist because of its rivalry with North Korea, but under Roh it opened diplomatic relations with a communist nation for the first time — Hungary in 1989, the year when the Berlin Wall fell and communism crumbled across Eastern Europe.

Roh's government established relations with the Soviet Union in 1990 and with China in 1992. Relations with North Korea improved under Roh, with the two sides holding their first-ever prime ministers' talks, adopting a landmark joint statement on denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and joining the United

Nations at the same time.

Earlier, Roh oversaw the hosting of the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul, the final Olympics of the Cold War era that showed how South Korea had rebuilt itself from the ashes of the 1950-53 Korean War. North Korea boycotted the 1988 games.

Ties between the two Koreas have since suffered ups and downs. Despite numerous denuclearization pledges — including one made during Roh's presidency — North Korea still maintains its nuclear weapons program which it views as a means of survival.

On domestic politics, Roh was seen by many as lacking charismatic and aggressive leadership. His nickname, "Mul (Water) Tae-

woo," implied his administration had no color and no taste. He still brought more openness by allowing more political criticism, in contrast with his authoritarian predecessors, Park and Chun. The governments led by Park and Chun often used security laws to suppress political opponents and restrict speech under the pretext of guarding against civil disorder and North Korean threats.

After his successor, Kim Young-sam, investigated the coup and military-led crackdown, Roh was arrested, convicted of mutiny, treason and corruption and received a 22-year and six-month prison term. Chun was sentenced to death.

The Supreme Court reduced

those sentences to life imprisonment for Chun and 17 years for Roh. After spending about two years in prison, both Roh and Chun were released in late 1997 under a special pardon requested by then President-elect Kim Dae-jung, who sought national reconciliation amid an Asian financial crisis.

Roh had stayed mostly out of the public eye following his release from prison, refraining from political activities and speeches. In recent years, he suffered prostate cancer, asthma, cerebellar atrophy and other health problems.

Last April, his daughter, Roh So-young, wrote on Facebook that her father had been bed-bound over the past 10 years without being able to speak or move his body. She said her father sometimes made eye gestures for communications but looked to "have a tearful face" when he failed to express his feelings and thoughts properly.

Roh's son, Roh Jae-heon, repeatedly offered an apology over the 1980 crackdowns and visited a Gwangju cemetery to pay respects to the victims buried there on behalf of his bed-ridden father.

But unlike Roh's family, Chun, who reportedly suffers Alzheimer's disease and a blood cancer, has yet to apologize over the crackdowns.

Last August, Chun appeared at a Gwangju court to defend himself against charges that he defamed a now-deceased Catholic priest who had testified to seeing Chun's troops shooting at protesters from helicopters in Gwangju. Chun left the court after 20 minutes, complaining of breathing problems. In his memoir, Chun called the priest "a shameless liar."

Both Roh and Chun were earlier ordered by a court to pay back hundreds of millions of dollars they collected illegally. Roh has paid back his shares but Chun hasn't done so, according to South Korean media reports.

Roh is survived by his wife and their two children. **MDT/AP**

DIPLOMACY

Myanmar skips ASEAN summit after its military ruler excluded

SOUTHEAST Asian leaders began their annual summit without Myanmar yesterday amid a diplomatic standoff over the exclusion of the leader of the military-ruled nation from the group's meetings.

Myanmar skipped the summit in protest after the Association of Southeast Asian Nations shut out its top general from its meetings.

ASEAN's refusal to allow Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing to represent Myanmar at the summit was its harshest rebuke yet of the country's military rulers since they ousted civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi in February.

Brunei, who is this year's chair of the 10-member bloc, invited Myanmar's highest-ranking veteran diplomat, Chan Aye, as a

"non-political" representative, but she didn't attend the meeting, Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi told reporters in Jakarta.

Marsudi said President Joko Widodo told the summit that ASEAN's unprecedented downgrade of Myanmar's participation "was a tough decision but it had to be done."

Despite ASEAN's bedrock principles of non-interference in other members' affairs and decisions by consensus, Widodo said it is "also obliged to uphold other principles in the ASEAN charter such as democracy, good governance, respect for human rights and constitutional government," Marsudi said.

"As a family, ASEAN's

helping hand must still be offered to Myanmar ... Indonesia consistently hopes that democracy through an inclusive process can be quickly restored in Myanmar," he quoted Widodo as saying.

Myanmar's military takeover triggered widespread protests and a violent crackdown by authorities. Security forces are estimated to have kil-

led almost 1,200 civilians, though the government has claimed a lower death toll.

Myanmar's absence at the summit followed the refusal of its military leaders to allow an ASEAN special envoy, Brunei Second Foreign Minister Erywan Yusof, to meet with Suu Kyi and other detained civilian leaders. **MDT/AP**



PANDEMIC

US details new international Covid-19 travel requirements

ZEKE MILLER & DAVID KOENIG, WASHINGTON

CHILDREN under 18 and people from dozens of countries with a shortage of vaccines will be exempt from new rules that will require most travelers to the United States be vaccinated against COVID-19, the Biden administration announced.

The government said yesterday [Macau time] it will require airlines to collect contact information on passengers regardless of whether they have been vaccinated to help with contact tracing, if that becomes necessary.

Beginning Nov. 8, foreign, non-immigrant adults traveling to the United States will need to be fully vaccinated, with only limited exceptions, and all travelers will need to be tested for the virus before boarding a plane to the U.S. There will be tightened restrictions for American and foreign citizens who are not fully vaccinated.

The new policy comes as the Biden administration moves away from restrictions that ban non-essential travel from several dozen countries — most of

Europe, China, Brazil, South Africa, India and Iran — and instead focuses on classifying individuals by the risk they pose to others.

It also reflects the White House's embrace of vaccination requirements as a tool to push more Americans to get the shots by making it inconvenient to remain unvaccinated.

Under the policy, those who are vaccinated will need to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test within three days of travel, while the unvaccinated must present a test taken within one day of travel.

Children under 18 will not be required to be fully vaccinated because of delays in making them eligible for vaccines in many places. They will still need to take a COVID-19 test unless they are 2 or younger.

Others who will be exempt from the vaccination requirement include people who participated in COVID-19 clinical trials, who had severe allergic reactions to the vaccines, or are from a country where shots are not widely available.

That latter category will cover people from countries with vaccination rates

below 10% of adults. They may be admitted to the U.S. with a government letter authorizing travel for a compelling reason and not just for tourism, a senior administration official said. The official estimated that there are about 50 such countries.

The U.S. will accept any vaccine approved for regular or emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration or the World Health Organization. That includes Pfizer, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca and China's Sinopharm and Sinovac vaccines. Mixing-and-matching of approved shots will be permitted.

The Biden administration has been working with airlines, who will be required to enforce the new procedures. Airlines will be required to verify vaccine records and match them against identity information.

Quarantine officers from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will spot-check passengers who arrive in the U.S. for compliance, according to an administration official. Airlines that don't enforce the requirements could be

subject to penalties of up to nearly \$35,000 per violation.

The new rules will replace restrictions that began in January 2020, when President Donald Trump banned most non-U.S. citizens coming from China. The Trump administration expanded that to cover Brazil, Iran, the United Kingdom, Ireland and most of continental Europe. President Joe Biden left those bans in place and expanded them to South Africa and India.

Biden came under pressure from European allies to drop the restrictions, particularly after many European countries eased limits on American visitors.

"The United States is open for business with all the promise and potential America has to offer," Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo said after the announcement.

The main trade group for the U.S. airline industry praised the administration's decision.

"We have seen an increase in ticket sales for international travel over the past weeks, and are eager to begin safely reuniting the countless families, friends and colleagues who have not seen each other in nearly two years, if not longer," Airlines for America said in a statement.

The pandemic and resulting travel restrictions have caused international travel to plunge. U.S. and foreign airlines plan to operate about 14,000 flights across the Atlantic this month, just over half the 29,000 flights they operated during October 2019, according to data from aviation-research firm Cirium.

Henry Harteveltdt, a travel-industry analyst in San Francisco, said the lifting of country-specific restrictions will help, but it will be tempered by the vaccination and testing requirements.

"Anyone hoping for an explosion of international inbound visitors will be disappointed," he said. "Nov. 8 will be the start of the international travel recovery in the U.S., but I don't believe we see full recovery until 2023 at the earliest."

The Biden administration has not proposed a vaccination requirement for domestic travel, which the airlines oppose fiercely, saying it would be impractical because of the large number of passengers who fly within the U.S. every day. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1950 HUNT FOR MISSING ATOMIC SCIENTIST



The British intelligence service MI5 has been brought into the hunt for the missing atomic scientist Bruno Pontecorvo who has not been seen for about seven weeks.

Professor Pontecorvo and his family arrived in Finland at the beginning of September but they have since disappeared. There is speculation the family may have gone to the Soviet Union.

The professor had recently left his post as a principal scientific officer at Harwell atomic research station in Oxfordshire and was due to begin a new job at Liverpool University in January.

His disappearance comes just 10 months after another Harwell scientist, Klaus Fuchs, confessed in January to spying for the Soviet Union.

The Minister of Supply, George Strauss, has told MPs the professor had had only limited access to "secret subjects" for some time.

But he admitted it would have been possible for the professor to gather information, at Harwell or while he was in Canada, which could be of value to the enemy.

He said Professor Pontecorvo had been screened several times in the last few years by security officers.

Professor Pontecorvo was born in Italy, moved to France in 1936 and from there to the United States in 1940.

In 1943 he became a member of the joint Anglo-Canadian atomic energy team at Montreal.

He was posted to Harwell in January 1947.

Information on Professor Pontecorvo's disappearance has been passed to the United States.

The professor's sister, Anna Pontecorvo, who lives in Hampstead in north London, travelled with her brother, his wife and three sons to France and Italy in July.

She said her brother had not mentioned any plans to go to Russia during the time she spent with them.

However, a passenger in the airliner which took the family from Stockholm to Helsinki said that during the flight the Pontecorvos' five-year-old son Antonio had told him they were going to Russia.

There are direct flights from Helsinki to Leningrad and Moscow.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Bruno Pontecorvo's post as Professor of Experimental Physics at the University of Liverpool was cancelled. Confirmation he had fled to Moscow came in March 1955 when he appeared at a news conference in Russia.

He wrote an article in the Soviet newspapers Pravda and Izvestia saying his family had been granted refuge in the Soviet Union, where he was working with the Institute of Physical Problems of the Soviet Academy of Science.

He said he was involved in research into the use of atomic energy for peaceful purposes and had left the West because in his view it was intent on "new war using atomic and nuclear weapons as a means for achieving world domination".

Documents released by the Public Records Office under the 50-year rule revealed an administrative blunder had led to Professor Pontecorvo being given security clearance to work at Harwell — even though a search of his home in 1943 had uncovered many documents on communism.

He was awarded the Lenin prize for nuclear research in 1963. He died in 1993.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
The family-focused Cancer moon spends the day in a sharp-tongued opposition with renewal-seeking Pluto, increasing the likelihood of intense encounters around the home or in the office.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Mental tensions are likely to be brewing beneath Wednesday's cosmic landscape, Taurus. Aim to let off some steam rather than let your brain act like a pressure cooker.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
It's natural for you to automatically rationalize whatever reveals itself before you. Today's skies challenge you to deepen your connection to your feelings, minus the crutch of the mental overlay.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Luna's tense opposition with truth-revealing Pluto helps you sweep important truths out from under the rug. Aim to clear the air rather than keep tensions bottled up.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your workflow is likely to encounter some turbulence today. Let yourself lean into the messy feelings that are emerging as the deep-feeling Cancer moon locks into an opposition with truth-telling Pluto.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
This potent pairing is likely to unearth any touchy topics around sex, creative power, and romantic bonding. Work to clear the air rather than busy yourself with distractions.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
Your home life has become an ongoing place of change, Libra. You've needed to deepen your understanding of your roots, experience of family, and dismantle nagging emotional issues.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
The universe has been pushing you to develop a healthier relationship with your mental world, Scorpio. Have you been allowing yourself to develop new ways to alleviate mental tension?

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Wednesday's cosmic landscape beckons you inward to a private world of your own making, Sagittarius. You're craving intimate connections, honest conversations, and restorative activities.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
The gentle Cancer moon locks into a difficult encounter with brooding Pluto, bringing unresolved issues straight to the surface. Look problems in the eye rather than sidestep them.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Be mindful of Luna's opposition with emotionally raw Pluto, as this potent pairing draws up ancient feelings from the deep. Give them an outlet by channeling them into creation.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
The emotional heaviness you've been swimming through finally eases up today, Pisces. You've been digging up ancient relationship issues and addressing them head-on.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

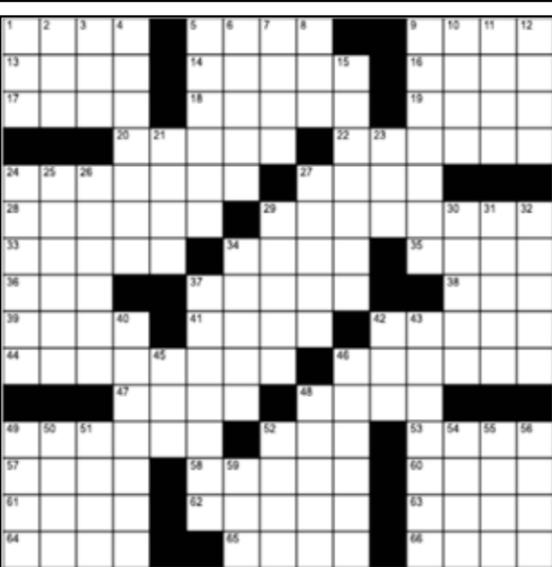
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	12	14	rain
Harbin	5	14	cloudy
Tianjin	19	31	cloudy
Urumqi	17	20	rain
Xi'an	22	29	overcast
Lhasa	11	15	rain
Chengdu	24	32	cloudy
Chongqing	24	35	fine
Kunming	27	36	cloudy
Nanjing	19	29	fine
Shanghai	25	30	thunderstorms
Wuhan	22	31	rain
Hangzhou	4	14	cloudy
Taipei	20	27	cloudy
Guangzhou	8	13	rain
Hong Kong	12	15	rain
WORLD			
Moscow	-1	11	overcast
Frankfurt	8	13	rain
Paris	11	16	overcast
London	10	14	rain
New York	16	21	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1-War god; 5- Islamic chieftain; 9- Type of school or cook; 13- Actress Hatcher; 14- Brand name for a copying machine; 16- Unit of currency in Iran and Yemen; 17- Opposite of odd, especially when applied to numbers; 18- Declaim; 19- "___ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 20- Training group; 22- Swayed to and fro; 24- Smart aleck; 27- Ballot choice; 28- Idolizes; 29- Like a close neighbor; 33- Doled (out); 34- Dreadful; 35- Writer Bombeck; 36- Bit of butter; 37- Head lock; 38- ___-X; 39- Western Native Americans; 41- Texas city; 42- Idealized concept of a loved one; 44- Tonic; 46- Island in the South China Sea; 47- Carson's successor; 48- They're all charged up; 49- Director's shout; 52- Male cat; 53- Burt's ex; 57- Camaro model; 58- Delight; 60- North Carolina university; 61- Emperor of Rome 54-68; 62- Sticker; 63- Culture medium; 64- High schooler; 65- ___-bitsy; 66- Matron;

DOWN: 1- Had a little lamb; 2- Accelerate; 3- Poet's preposition; 4- Genuine; 5- Second book of the Bible; 6- Joyous; 7- Dies ___; 8- Nonsense; 9- Come before; 10- Hazard; 11- Facilitate; 12- Answered a charge; 15- Copies; 21- Elderly, matured; 23- Polo Grounds hero; 24- Native American beads; 25- Think; 26- Drunken; 27- Left-hand page; 29- One who cries "uncle?"; 30- Church instrument; 31- Last Greek letter; 32- Blathered; 34- Pipe cleaner; 37- Paired; 40- Nonmetallic element; 42- McKellen or Holm; 43- Deceive; 45- Boardroom bigwig; 46- Plain; 48- Little bits; 49- ___ She Sweet; 50- Manitoba native; 51- Raced; 52- Sensitivity; 54- Gymnast Korbut; 55- Linguist Chomsky; 56- As to; 59- Wreath of flowers;



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
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- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Ref: 2104 6001 1,386 ft² 4 3 3

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Ref: 2005 1002 1,269 ft² 2 2 2

Rain Dance Property
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NEW
Hellene Gardens **HKD 7,980,000**
Ref: 2109 6001 1,663 ft² 3 2 1

AD

TECH

YOUTUBE, TIKTOK, SNAP EXECS FACE SENATORS ON KIDS' SAFETY

MARCY GORDON,
WASHINGTON

BEARING down on hugely popular social media platforms and their impact on children, the leaders of a Senate panel have called executives from YouTube, TikTok and Snapchat to face questions on what their companies are doing to ensure young users' safety.

The Senate Commerce subcommittee on consumer protection is fresh off a highly charged hearing with a former Facebook data scientist, who laid out internal company research showing that the company's Instagram photo-sharing service appears to seriously harm some teens.

The panel is widening its focus to examine other tech platforms, with millions or billions of users, that also compete for young people's attention and loyalty.

The three executives — Michael Beckerman, a TikTok vice president and head of public policy for the Americas; Leslie Miller, vice president for government affairs and public policy of YouTube's owner Google; and Jennifer Stout, vice president for global public policy of Snapchat parent Snap Inc. — are due to appear at a subcommittee hearing today [Macau time].

The three platforms are woven into the fabric of young people's lives, often influencing their dress, dance moves and diet, potentially to the point of obsession. Peer pressure to get on the apps is strong. Social media can offer entertainment and education, but platforms have been misused to harm children and promote bullying, vandalism in schools,



eating disorders and manipulative marketing, lawmakers say.

"We need to understand the impact of popular platforms like Snapchat, TikTok and YouTube on children and what companies can do better to keep them safe," Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., the subcommittee's chairman, said in a statement.

The panel wants to learn how algorithms and product designs can magnify harm to children, foster addiction and intrusions of privacy, Blumenthal says. The aim is to develop legislation to protect young people and give parents tools to protect their children.

The video platform TikTok, wildly popular with teens and younger children, is owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. In only five years since launching, it has gained an estimated 1 billion monthly users.

TikTok denies allegations, most notably from conservative

Republican lawmakers, that it operates at the behest of the Chinese government and provides it with users' personal data. The company says it stores all TikTok U.S. data in the United States. The company also rejects criticisms of promoting harmful content to children.

TikTok says it has tools in place, such as screen time management, to help young people and parents moderate how long children spend on the app and what they see. The company says it focuses on age-appropriate experiences, noting that some features, such as direct messaging, are not available to younger users.

Early this year after federal regulators ordered TikTok to disclose how its practices affect children and teenagers, the platform tightened its privacy practices for the under-18 crowd.

A separate House committee has investigated video ser-

vice YouTube Kids this year. Lawmakers said the YouTube offshoot feeds children inappropriate material in "a wasteland of vapid, consumerist content" so it can serve ads to them. The app, with both video hosting and original shows, is available in about 70 countries.

A panel of the House Oversight and Reform Committee told YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki that the service doesn't do enough to protect children from potentially harmful material. Instead it relies on artificial intelligence and self-policing by content creators to decide which videos make it onto the platform, the panel's chairman said in a letter to Wojcicki.

Parent company Google agreed to pay \$170 million in 2019 settlements with the Federal Trade Commission and New York state of allegations that YouTube collected personal data on children without their parents' consent.

Despite changes made after the settlements, the lawmaker's letter said, YouTube Kids still shows ads to children.

YouTube says it has worked to provide children and families with protections and parental controls like time limits, to limit viewing to age-appropriate content. It emphasizes that the 2019 settlements involved the primary YouTube platform, not the kids' version.

"We took action on more than 7 million accounts in the first three quarters of 2021 when we learned they may belong to a user under the age of 13 — 3 million of those in the third quarter alone — as we have ramped up our automated removal efforts," Miller, the Google vice president, says in written testimony prepared for the hearing.

Snap Inc.'s Snapchat service allows people to send photos, videos and messages that are meant to quickly disappear, an enticement to its young users seeking to avoid snooping parents and teachers. Hence its "Ghostface Chillah" faceless (and word-less) white logo.

Only 10 years old, Snapchat says an eye-popping 90% of 13- to 24-year-olds in the U.S. use the service. It reported 306 million daily users in the July-September quarter.

The company agreed in 2014 to settle the FTC's allegations that it deceived users about how effectively the shared material vanished and that it collected users' contacts without telling them or asking permission. The messages, known as "snaps," could be saved by using third-party apps or other ways, the regulators said.

Snapchat wasn't fined but agreed to establish a privacy program to be monitored by an outside expert for the next 20 years — similar to oversight imposed on Facebook, Google and Myspace in privacy settlements in recent years. **MDT/AP**

CORPORATE BITS

The Venetian Macao wins accolades at World Travel Awards



The Venetian Macao has taken out the 'Macau's Leading Hotel Suite 2021' and 'Macau's Leading Casino Resort 2021' titles in the 28th annual World Travel Awards, announced recently at the Asia and Oceania Winners' Day.

The 'Macau's Leading Hotel

Suite 2021' plaudit for The Venetian Macao's Presidential Suite follows wins in the same category at last year's awards.

With panoramic views over Cotai Strip, the magnificent 720-square-meter Presidential Suite offers two king and four queen

beds. A private bar for entertaining, along with a grand piano, sauna, Jacuzzi and hair salon, as well as media, massage and fitness rooms, provides the ultimate staycation.

The Venetian Macao was also honored as 'Macau's Leading Casino Resort 2021.' Kris Kaminsky, senior vice president of hotel operations at Sands China Ltd., said: "This accolade goes to our passionate and dedicated team members, who all played their part in achieving these prestigious awards. Receiving this recognition, especially during such a challenging time, is particularly meaningful."

Melco organizes mentorship program for youth entrepreneurs



Melco Resorts and Entertainment's management team has offered mentorship and skills to young local entrepreneurs through the company's 'Adopt a Micro-Enterprise' program.

Organized in collaboration

with Junior Chamber International (JCI) Macao, China, Macao Young Entrepreneur Incubation Centre (MYEIC) and the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center (CPTTM), the program aims to cultivate young

local entrepreneurs through leveraging expertise from Melco.

In September, representatives from six nominated micro-enterprises and members of MYEIC were invited to a City of Dreams experience tour and procurement technique sharing session. During the experience tour, participants were met by professionals with diverse skills from Melco's various business units, including Warehouse, Wardrobe, Guest Experience and Events and Promotion.

The procurement technique sharing workshop was hosted by Melco's Supply Chain team, which highlighted tips for successful business pitching through effective marketing and business management skills.

BOXING

Whyte planning to fight Fury for world heavyweight title

BRITISH heavyweight Dillian Whyte wants his next fight to be against Tyson Fury for the world title instead of rescheduling his canceled bout with Otto Wallin.

Whyte last week pulled out of his scheduled fight with Wallin this Saturday, citing a shoulder injury.

Whyte holds the WBC interim title and is next in line to fight Fury, the WBC champion who retained his belt by beating Deontay Wilder this month to complete their trilogy.

Asked if he will fight Fury in early 2022, Whyte told the BBC: "That'll be the plan."

Wallin and his promoter, Dmitry Salita, are pushing for the fight against Whyte to be rescheduled, with the Swedish boxer wanting an independent doctor to look at whether the British heavyweight's injury is genuine.

In a statement to The Associated Press, Salita called on the WBC to "make a fair decision relating to this fight and for boxing fans worldwide."



"Otto Wallin vs. Whyte should be rescheduled," he said. "Whyte should not be allowed to forego the fight with Otto and fight Fury next as a mandatory challenger."

The WBC has already announced plans to order Fury to de-

fend his belt against its interim titleholder.

Oleksandr Usyk holds the WBA, IBF and WBO belts after beating Anthony Joshua on points last month. They are due to have a rematch early next year. **MDT/AP**

TENNIS

DJOKOVIC, MEDVEDEV HIGHLIGHT ROSTERS FOR DAVIS CUP FINALS

TOP-RANKED Novak Djokovic and U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev headline the rosters announced yesterday [Macau time] for the Davis Cup Finals that begin next month.

Djokovic, a 20-time major champion who fell one win short of a calendar-year Grand Slam in 2021, is joined on Serbia's squad by Filip Krajinovic, Dusan Lajovic, Laslo Djere and Miomir Kecmanovic.

Medvedev, who is ranked No. 2 and claimed his first Grand Slam title by beating Djokovic in the final at Flushing Meadows

in September, leads a Russian team that includes No. 6 Andrey Rublev, No. 19 Aslan Karatsev, No. 30 Karen Khachanov and Evgeny Donskoy.

Eighteen countries will participate in group-stage matches starting Nov. 25 on indoor hard courts in Madrid; Innsbruck, Austria; and Turin, Italy. After quarterfinals in those cities, the semifinals and final will be held in Madrid.

Spain is the reigning champion thanks to its 2019 title; the Davis Cup was called off last year because of the coronavirus pandemic. **MDT/AP**



AP PHOTO

Daniil Medvedev of Russia



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



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OPINION

World Views

Amanda Harrist, Oklahoma State University, MDT/The Conversation



KIDS WITH OBESITY NEED ACCEPTANCE FROM FAMILY AND FRIENDS, NOT JUST BETTER DIET

Hundreds of programs over the past four decades – from the removal of junk food from school vending machines to Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign – have tried to get kids in the U.S. to eat healthier food and exercise more often.

But none of these efforts lowered national child obesity rates. In fact, child obesity has continued to increase. This has been particularly true during the pandemic.

We think we know why. Most programs that seek to lower children’s body mass index, or BMI, focus on healthy food and physical activity. But as child obesity researchers who specialize in human development and family science, we know that slimming down requires much more than attention to diet and exercise.

Those factors are important, but we found that acceptance from family and friends also plays a critical role in slowing the rate of weight gain for children with obesity.

To reach this conclusion, we collaborated with colleagues to follow almost 1,200 children in first through fourth grades in rural Oklahoma to find out more about the lives of kids who are overweight or obese. Our intervention programs allowed us to compare a traditional food and exercise approach to managing child obesity with approaches that also targeted the social and emotional aspects of children’s lives.

We conducted a randomized controlled trial in 29 Oklahoma schools. More than 500 first graders who were at-risk for obesity – meaning their BMI was above the 75th percentile – were assigned to either a control group or a group that received a combination of three interventions.

These interventions focused on family lifestyle, family dynamics and the peer group.

The family lifestyle intervention focused on healthy food and physical activity. Participants learned to use a color-coded food reference guide similar to this one when selecting food. Parents tracked their children’s food consumption and physical activity, and also learned how to avoid conflict over food. This conflict might involve arguing about how much the child is eating, whether the child can have dessert or whether the child has eaten enough of everything else on the table to get a second helping of a favorite food.

The family dynamics intervention added parenting skills and healthy emotion management. Children’s emotion regulation and emotional eating are significantly related, so teaching children to manage their feelings may reduce their tendency to eat when they are stressed out or upset. Children were taught how to deal with negative emotions, express their feelings and value their uniqueness. Parents were taught to value their children’s emotions, provide comfort and understanding, support children’s problem-solving and accept their children as they are.

The peer group intervention taught social acceptance in the children’s school classrooms. Our research has shown that the more children weigh, the more their classmates tend to dislike them. However we’ve also demonstrated that we can decrease the rejection that happens in elementary school classrooms by teaching children to be more accepting of one another.

We measured children’s heights and weights at the beginning of first grade and then after the intervention – in first, second, third and fourth grades. Only those children with obesity who received all three interventions – family lifestyle, family dynamics and peer group – had significant decreases in BMI gains compared with the control group.

Ongoing analysis indicates that the peer group intervention was particularly important for children who were severely obese, with a BMI in the 99th percentile.

Our results show that to reduce BMI gains in the early school years, kids need more than healthy food and physical activity. They need parents who encourage their healthy choices and accept their emotions. Knowing you can come home and talk about how angry and sad you are is essential to healthy physical and mental growth. And children must also have friends and peers who accept them for who they are – regardless of how much they weigh.

CHINA, PAKISTAN URGE WORLD TO SEND HUMANITARIAN AID TO KABUL

THE BUZZ

In a rare joint appeal, the leaders of Pakistan and China yesterday urged the international community to swiftly send humanitarian and economic aid to Afghanistan, where people are facing food and medicine shortages in the shadow of winter.

A government statement said Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan and Chinese President Xi Jinping discussed Afghanistan by phone, saying afterward that people there need international help “to alleviate their suffering, prevent instability” and rebuild after the United States withdrew and the Taliban seized power in August.

The latest development came a day after Chinese Foreign Mi-

nister Wang Yi met with the Taliban representatives in Qatar to discuss a range of issues.

Pakistan and China are a longtime allies and along with other countries, they’ve sent humanitarian aid to Kabul over the past two months.

Pakistan wants the world community to unfreeze Afghanistan’s assets to enable Kabul use its own money to avert the deepening crisis.

Currently, the Taliban government does not have access to the Afghanistan central bank’s \$9 billion in reserves, most of which is held by the New York Federal Reserve.

FACEBOOK PAPERS

FACEBOOK FROZE AS ANTI-VACCINE COMMENTS SWARMED USERS

DAVID KLEPPER & AMANDA SEITZ. WASHINGTON

IN March, as claims about the dangers and ineffectiveness of coronavirus vaccines spun across social media and undermined attempts to stop the spread of the virus, some Facebook employees thought they had found a way to help.

By subtly altering how posts about vaccines are ranked in people’s newsfeeds, researchers at the company realized they could curtail the misleading information individuals saw about COVID-19 vaccines and offer users posts from legitimate sources like the World Health Organization.

“Given these results, I’m assuming we’re hoping to launch ASAP,” one Facebook employee wrote in March, responding to the internal memo about the study.

Instead, Facebook shelved some suggestions from the study. Other changes weren’t made until April.

When another Facebook researcher suggested disabling comments on vaccine posts in March until the platform could do a better job of tackling anti-vaccine messages lurking in them, that proposal was ignored.

Critics say Facebook was slow to act because it worried it might impact the company’s profits.

“Why would you not remove comments? Because engagement is the only thing that matters,” said Roger McNamee, a Silicon Valley venture capitalist and early investor in Facebook who is now a vocal critic. “It is not a fluke. It is a business model.”

Typically, Facebook ranks posts by engagement — the total number of likes, dislikes, comments and reshares. That ranking scheme may work well for innocuous subjects like recipes, dog photos or the latest viral singalong. But Facebook’s own documents show that when it comes to divisive, contentious issues like vaccines, engagement-based ranking only emphasizes

Facebook’s internal discussions were revealed in disclosures made to the Securities and Exchange Commission and provided to



AP PHOTO

Congress in redacted form by former Facebook employee-turned-whistleblower Frances Haugen’s legal counsel. The redacted versions received by Congress were obtained by a consortium of news organizations, including The Associated Press.

The trove of documents shows that in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Facebook carefully investigated how its platforms spread misinformation about life-saving vaccines. They also reveal rank-and-file employees regularly suggested solutions for countering anti-vaccine misinformation on the site, to no avail. The Wall Street Journal reported on some of Facebook’s efforts to deal with antivaccine comments last month.

The inaction raises questions about whether Facebook prioritized controversy and division over the health of its users.

“These people are selling fear and outrage,” said Roger McNamee, a Silicon Valley venture capitalist and early investor in Facebook who is now a vocal critic. “It is not a fluke. It is a business model.”

Typically, Facebook ranks posts by engagement — the total number of likes, dislikes, comments and reshares. That ranking scheme may work well for innocuous subjects like recipes, dog photos or the latest viral singalong. But Facebook’s own documents show that when it comes to divisive, contentious issues like vaccines, engagement-based ranking only emphasizes

polarization, disagreement and doubt.

To study ways to reduce vaccine misinformation, Facebook researchers changed how posts are ranked for more than 6,000 users in the U.S., Mexico, Brazil and the Philippines. Instead of seeing posts about vaccines that were chosen based on their engagement, these users saw posts selected for their trustworthiness.

The results were striking: a nearly 12% decrease in content that made claims debunked by fact-checkers and an 8% increase in content from authoritative public health organizations such as the WHO or U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Employees at the company reacted with exuberance, according to internal exchanges.

“Is there any reason we wouldn’t do this?” one Facebook employee wrote in response.

Facebook said it did implement many of the study’s findings — but not for another month, a delay that came at a pivotal stage of the global vaccine rollout.

In a statement, company spokeswoman Dani Lever said the internal documents “don’t represent the considerable progress we have made since that time in promoting reliable information about COVID-19 and expanding our policies to remove more harmful COVID and vaccine misinformation.”

The company also said it took time to consider and implement the changes. MDT/AP



Germany’s newly elected parliament has held its first meeting. The 736-member lower house, or Bundestag, yesterday elected as its new speaker Baerbel Bas of the center-left Social Democrats, which emerged from last month’s election as the strongest party. German Chancellor Angela Merkel attended the meeting although she is no longer a lawmaker. She was sitting on the visitor stands of parliament. Later in the afternoon, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier will formally dismiss Merkel and her Cabinet, though they will be asked to stay on in a caretaker capacity until a new government is in place.

EU ministers met yesterday for emergency talks focusing on energy amid deep divergences between the 27 member countries on how to tackle a crunch that has seen consumers’ bills skyrocket this year. The wave of price hikes is not set to abate before next spring, and ministers discussed a set of short-term measures that have been put forward by the European Commission to help consumers and businesses weather the shock.

Netherlands’ biggest pension fund announced yesterday that it will stop investing in companies that produce fossil fuels, saying the move was prompted by recent climate reports by the United Nations and International Energy Agency. The ABP fund is a wealthy and influential investor that manages the pension savings of more than 3 million Dutch workers in the government and education sectors. It has some 15 billion euros invested in fossil fuel production, almost 3% of its assets.

Canada A Toronto-based human rights organization says it is launching a private sponsorship program to resettle North Korean refugees in Canada, which will become the third country after South Korea and the U.S. to accept North Koreans. Sean Chung, executive director of HanVoice, said yesterday the pilot program created in partnership with Canada’s government aims to bring five North Korean refugee families from Thailand to Canada within the next two years.