

14
Y·E·A·R·S
A-CHANGIN'
Double Down!
ADVERTISE WITH US
+853 287 160 81

#YOU DESERVE BETTER
CTM
MOST PEOPLE USE BEST COVERAGE BEST NETWORK SPEED
\$168
15GB
Action NOW
CTM

NO COMPULSORY FOOTPRINT REGISTRATION AT MOUNT FORTRESS CORRIDOR; CULTURE AFFAIRS BUREAU CLARIFIES 'MISCOMMUNICATION' P3

CHINA DENIES US REPORT IT'S RAPIDLY GROWING ITS NUCLEAR ARMS P7

THREE WOMEN PUT A MARK ON TECH P10



China A landslide at a construction site in southwestern China has killed 14 people and injured three others, official reports said yesterday. The cause of the landslide in Bijie city in Guizhou province is under investigation, the reports said. Workers were building a training facility for a hospital at the time of the landslide. More than 1,000 people joined the overnight rescue effort, Xinhua News Agency said.

AP PHOTO



Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida vowed to speed up coronavirus vaccine booster shots, secure imported supplies of drugs to treat COVID-19 and reorganize medical facilities to respond to the fast-spreading omicron variant. Kishida, who took office in October, said he had ordered strict border controls from November to buy time for such preparations.

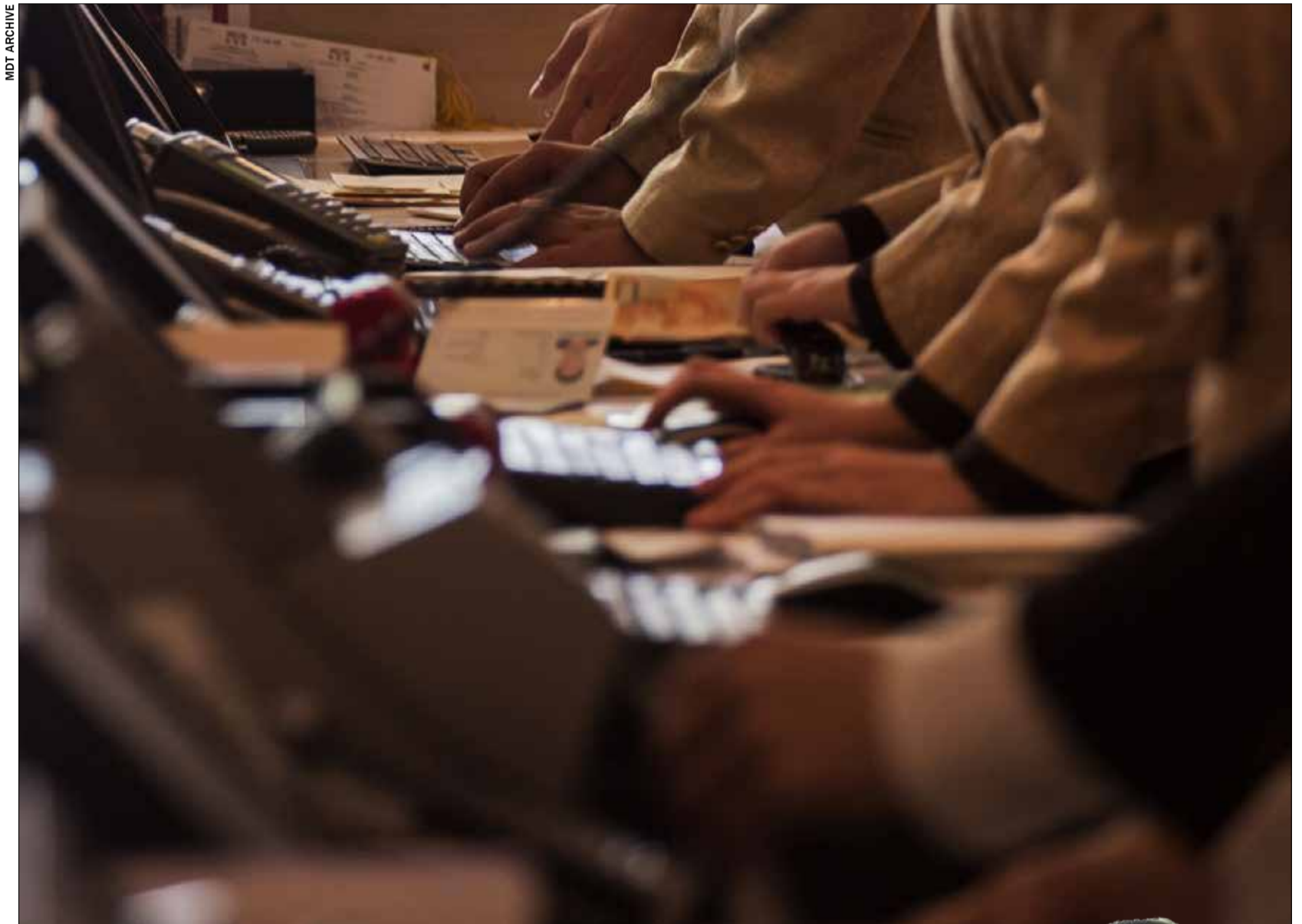
India Police have detained a man and a woman alleged to be involved in the offering for sale of prominent Muslim women on a fake online auction website, according to government officials, in a case that has sparked outrage across the country. The cyber unit of the Mumbai Police detained the two suspects following a complaint from one of the targeted women. It wasn't clear whether the two created the website.

Iraq Two explosives-laden drones targeting an Iraqi military base housing U.S. troops in western Anbar province were destroyed yesterday, a coalition official said. It was the second such attempted attack coinciding with the anniversary of the 2020 U.S. airstrike that killed a top Iranian general near the Baghdad airport. On Monday, two armed drones were shot down as they headed toward a facility housing U.S. advisors at Baghdad airport.

More on backpage

TRY LATER

Quarantine hotel rooms fully booked until Chinese New Year P3



MDT ARCHIVE



2022 TO BE A 'SPORTS-BUSY' YEAR IN THE CITY: PUN P2

GBA INTEGRATION A PRIORITY FOR NEW DRUG ADMINISTRATION CHIEF P5





2022 TO BE A 'SPORTS-BUSY' YEAR: PUN

RENATO MARQUES

THIS year will be packed with sporting events, president of the Sports Bureau (ID) Pun Weng Kun said yesterday on the sidelines of a press conference for the launch of the World Table Tennis (WTT) Champions Macao 2021 China Stars.

When asked about the events, Pun said that the ID is not only preparing a series of local events this year, but also other events to which Macau will send delegations of local athletes, requiring prepara-

tion and involvement of the bureau.

In addition to the previously announced WTT and Macao International Regatta, events to be hosted by Macau include "a tennis event, a basketball event, the marathon and the [Macao] Grand Prix, as well as the Dragon Boat races and [Macao International] 10K run," Pun detailed. The ID president hinted that others might take place later in the year if the Covid-19 situation allows.

Speaking of the government's goal, set in 2020, to

host one major sporting event per month in Macau, Pun indicated that this might not be achieved this year due to border entry restrictions related to pandemic control measures.

"For the time being, there will not be many new events," Pun said, noting that most of the events planned for the year had already been hosted in previous years. "Many of those [new] events are already being hosted in other places outside Macau," he said, remarking that "what is more important is that all people

understand that the hosting of these events is safe [for the community] and contributes to the promotion of sports among the population as well as to the economy."

As well as the big name sporting events, the ID will also organize a series of other activities for local people such as sports festivals and carnivals, and a cycling tour. The cycling tour and one other sports festival will be held next month as part of Chinese New Year celebrations.

Regarding the participation of local athletes in com-

petitions outside of Macau, the highlight will be the 19th Asian Games, taking place in the Chinese city of Hangzhou, Zhejiang province from September 10 to 25.

When asked about the possibility of Macau hosting more Asia-level events, Pun said that this type would not depend exclusively on the wishes of local authorities. Rather, it would need long-term planning and negotiation with Asian and international sporting entities. "This is not just our decision. It needs collaboration between different entities. We will think about this but it is not a decision that we can make on our own," he said.

Seven Olympians among 16-strong WTT Macao field

RENATO MARQUES

SEVEN Olympic athletes, along with other elite players, will compete at the World Table Tennis (WTT) Champions Macao 2021 China Stars tournament to be held between January 19 and 23 at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion. This was announced by WTT Council chairman and president of the Chinese Table Tennis Association Liu Guoliang, in a recorded speech at yesterday's press conference held to launch the event.

Alongside other notable figures from the international table tennis community featured, Liu spoke of the success of last year's event in Macau, and his hope that this year will build on the WTT concept that debuted in Macau.

The five-day tournament will feature 16 players, divided into male and female divisions, as well as a mixed doubles competition.

The Sports Bureau (ID) President Pun Weng Kun confirmed that most of the players will come from mainland China, although he expects that Macau will be represented by one player who will participate in the tournament as a "wildcard."

"We are trying to have some slots for local players to join this tournament. Hopefully, we can have one local player," Pun said on the sidelines of the press conference.

As the Times previously reported, it is expected that China will be represented by seven Tokyo 2020 athletes, namely: Ma Long, Xu Xin, Fan Zhendong, Chen Meng, Sun Yingsha, Wang Manyu, and Liu Shiwen, as well as Wang Chuqin and Liang Jingkun.

Other big names potentially joining the event include Doo Hoi Kem and Ho Kwan Kit from Hong Kong, Li Jie from the Netherlands, and Poland's Li Qian.

Galaxy Entertainment Group is the title sponsor, having contributed MOP16 million to the event.

Organizers also announced that, due to Covid-19-related restrictions, the number of spectators able to watch live at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion will be limited to just 1,500. However, Pun said that he believes this won't interfere with promotion of the sport, as the event will be broadcast worldwide through different channels including social media platforms, providing "a precious opportunity to promote Macau abroad."

Tickets go on sale from 11 a.m. today and are priced at MOP150 for the first three days of the competition and MOP300 for the final two days. Macau residents, students, and senior citizens aged 65 or above can purchase tickets for a special price (with a 33% discount) through a network of Circle K convenience stores.

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

REACHING OUT!

+21,000

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

Advertisement_advertising@macaudailytimes.com

For subscription and general issues:

general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

Quarantine hotel rooms fully booked until Lunar New Year

SOME local residents currently abroad who want to return home to celebrate Lunar New Year cannot book rooms for quarantine, local media reports.

Local Chinese newspaper Exmoo reported that a local resident surnamed Chan could not book a room at either of the two quarantine hotels before Lunar New Year.

With the Lisboaeta no longer operating as a selected quarantine hotel, there are only two remaining, namely the Pousada Marina Infante, a designated quarantine hotel, and the Grand Coloane Resort, a selected quarantine hotel.

From November last year, health authorities have required all arrivals to show proof of quarantine hotel bookings upon commencement of their trip to Macau.

The Times's online search yesterday for rooms at the resort showed that the earliest date with availability on the official website was January 28. Meanwhile, rooms at the Pousada can only be booked by phone. According to the news report, the earliest availability is on January 31.

In light of the situation, Chan called the hotline of the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center. He said that he has been calling since

RENATO MARQUES



December 28 last year and has never been able to speak with a human on the phone.

He told the Chinese media outlet that he has called the center several times a day with each call lasting several minutes.

When the Times tried to call the hotline around 8:50 p.m. yes-

terday, the call was connected in a single attempt.

As part of the Coronavirus Center, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) have been handling matters related to quarantine hotels. It has at several points allowed hotel operators to opt in and out of partici-

pation as quarantine hotels. For example, during high seasons, the Sheraton Grand Macao would opt out as a quarantine hotel.

An MGTO spokesperson told a press conference last week that the Lisboaeta's opting out would not affect local residents making of reservations.

IC: Compulsory footprint registration at Mount Fortress a miscommunication

ANTHONY LAM

REPORTS of the forced registration of visits to the Mount Fortress Corridor with the Macao Health Code app is the result of miscommunication, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) hinted in its reply to an inquiry by the Times.

The corridor is a venue managed by the IC connecting the Lazarus District to Mount Fortress. The revolving corridor also acts as an exhibition space. Tickets are not required for entry to the corridor.

Over the new year holidays, the Times received a picture taken

by a reader showing a handwritten note on a post supporting an electronic thermometer of the kind now widely used across the city. The reader said that the picture was taken at the entrance to the corridor.

The note read: "From January 4, 2022, the entry QR code [the footprint registration code] is to be used."

The reader understood it to mean footprint registration would be mandatory, contradicting the government's previous message.

Officials of the Health Bureau (SSM), including director Alvis

Lo, has reiterated that footprint registration is voluntary. No individual should be coerced into doing so.

The Times paid a visit to the corridor yesterday to confirm. At the upper entrance, no such sign was posted, apart from the health code and body temperature checkpoint.

However, the note was found at the lower entrance of the corridor.

The Times confirmed that entering the corridor through either entrance did not require footprint registration.

We has also visited several public venues – including the Central

Post Office and the Financial Services Bureau headquarters – with none requiring entrants to scan the footprint registration code.

In response to an inquiry from the Times, the IC spokesperson said that the note was not posted by the IC but by security guards at the corridor. The IC has instructed the security service provider to remove the note, and to explain to users that footprint registration is voluntary.

Footprint registration QR codes have been rolled out in all government venues, as announced previously by the SSM.

ANTHONY LAM



NO INJURIES IN FIRE TRUCK ROLLOVER

A fire truck flipped over beside the door of the Macao Daily News Building, at the entrance to a flyover, damaging a seven-seater vehicle underneath. The accident caused no injuries and firefighters crawled out of the truck on their own. A police officer was accused of obstructing journalistic work on the scene. Security authorities have pledged an investigation.

NEW ASYMPTOMATIC COVID-19 CASE DETECTED IN UK ARRIVAL

A 27-year-old resident has tested positive to Covid-19 upon arriving from the United Kingdom on Monday, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center reported. According to the report, the case has currently been recorded as an imported case of asymptomatic infection and is not yet included in the statistics of Macau's confirmed cases. The center said that the woman tested positive to a nucleic acid test performed on arrival in Macau after a stopover in Singapore. She had tested negative before boarding her first flight from the UK on January 2. The resident is fully vaccinated, having received two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine in April and May.

CHINESE AIRLINES CUT DOMESTIC FLIGHT FUEL SURCHARGE

Authorities in China have announced that the fuel surcharge for domestic flights will be suspended for tickets issued from today onwards. The cancellation takes effect at several airlines, such as Hainan Airlines, Tianjin Airlines, Kunming Airlines, Guilin Airlines, West Airlines and Ruili Airlines. The move was triggered by a 2% fall in international fuel prices on December 31 last year. The surcharge was reintroduced on November 1 last year, at a level ranging between 10 and 20 Chinese yuan.



ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

Services

TRANSLATIONS,
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

Languages:

ENGLISH, CHINESE,
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,
KOREAN, SPANISH,
FRENCH, ARABIC,
RUSSIAN

We translate +10,000 words a day

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang

Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo

Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

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

GBA integration a priority for new drug administration head

ANTHONY LAM

CHOI Peng Cheong, president of the newly-established Pharmaceutical Administration Bureau (ISAF), has said that traditional Chinese medicine and Macau's pharmaceutical field entering mainland China are among his most urgent responsibilities.

Choi holds a Ph.D. in pharmacology from Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou. His primary professional background is Western medicine with occasional experience related to Chinese medicine.

To fulfill the latter responsibility, the new official will work within his field to set out measures benefitting Macau in the course of the Greater Bay Area (GBA) construction.

Speaking on the sidelines of his inauguration yesterday, he stressed that, even before taking office, he was working in support of the local pharmaceutical circle entering mainland China. In the future,



re, he will continue to focus on this.

"In the past year, we have provided support to put a locally manufactured pharmaceutical preparation for external use on sale in mainland China," the official said. "The applications of several other products are now in review. That said, I believe there will [soon] be other locally made products to be sold in mainland China."

He added that the ISAF's main responsibility is to ensure the quality of pharmaceutical products made in or

imported to Macau.

The official said that his department – before the establishment of the bureau – was in communication with the Traditional Chinese Medicine Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation between Guangdong and Macao, with a special focus on product incubation. He hopes that ties will grow closer in the future.

The ISAF has authority over Chinese, Western and natural medications. Some Chinese herbal teas that can be used without a prescription – such

as chrysanthemum tea and hemp seed tea – will be under the jurisdiction of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) as food products. Nonetheless, Choi stressed that the bureau has been and will continue to work closely with the IAM in the management of such products.

The newly inaugurated official also pledged to build a reliable team and nurture future professionals to ensure the sustainability of the pharmaceutical administration, especially in the sub-fields of drug vetting and approval, and law-enforcement.

The vice presidents of the ISAF, Ng Kuok Leong and Lei Sai Ian, were also inaugurated yesterday afternoon at the office in the Qingmao Border Checkpoint Building.

Ng has a Master of Medicinal Administration from the University of Macau and Master of Administration from Guangzhou's Sun Yat-sen University. Lei has a Master of Public Administration from Peking University.

TAX BUREAU ROLLS OUT TWO NEW E-SERVICES FOR BUSINESS

BUSINESS users of e-services provided by the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) will now have the option to assign specific authorizations to their registered list of account administrators.

When using the government's single-account platform in the initial version of the DSF's business e-services system, administrators had the option of registering several accounts for a company account to ensure they had independent access to the DSF services portal.

The new upgrade facilitates the granting of specific authorizations. In the new version, the administrator of the company account on the DSF portal will be able to give different authorizations to each team member, allowing them to conduct operations at pre-determined levels.

The feature is similar to the one that has been used for several years to manage Facebook pages.

Another feature made available allows employees of a company authorized to sign and submit digital tax declaration forms on the DSF portal to verify their identity using a personally chosen passcode.

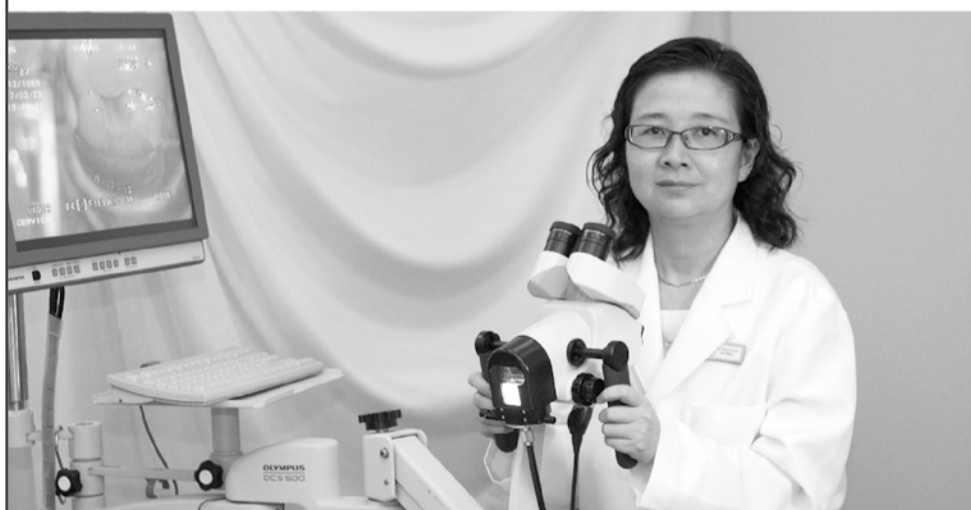
Previously the only option was to wait for an identification text message. This option for verification remains available, with authorized users now able to choose either the passcode or a verification text message when they submit tax declaration forms to the DSF. AL

AD

仁德

CENTRO MÉDICO 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

"TRY THIS"
BY
ALEX TORRAO



COMING SOON

ZEN SOO, HONG KONG

HONG Kong leader Carrie Lam yesterday said the recent closure of two media outlets in the city does not indicate a decline in press freedom as the decisions were made by the outlets themselves.

Her comments came almost a week after authorities arrested seven people associated with pro-democracy online news site Stand News for alleged sedition, with the outlet then announcing it would cease operations. Days later, another online site, Citizen News, also said it would stop operating.

"For none of the media outlets, we did not do anything. They were never approached by law enforcement agencies," Lam said during a news conference.

"But if they decided to cease operation out of their own concerns, I think this is nothing out of the ordinary." She added that Hong Kong authorities do "not seek to crack down on press freedom."

Lam said the government follows the rule of law in Hong Kong, and that when she first assumed office, she opened up government news conferences to online sites and met with the Hong Kong Journalists Association.

In response to charges that the closure of the online media indicates the "extinction" of press freedom in Hong Kong, Lam said she "cannot accept that sort of allegations."

"Nothing is more important

HONG KONG

MEDIA CLOSURES UNRELATED TO PRESS FREEDOM: LAM

AP PHOTO



than the rule of law," she said. She also said that as long as news outlets do not engage in illegal acts, they can continue to report news in Hong Kong.

She said there was an increase of 5.4% in local news outlets registered in the city, and a jump of

9.4% for overseas outlets since a sweeping National Security Law was enacted in the city in June 2020.

"So you cannot say that the freedom of press is eroded due to the closing of the two media outlets," Lam said.

Since the security law came into effect, over a hundred people have been arrested, including many pro-democracy activists and some journalists who previously worked for the now-defunct Apple Daily and Stand News.

Yesterday, a pro-democracy activist and key member of the now-disbanded Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements of China, Chow Hang-tung, was sentenced to 15 months in prison after being convicted of inciting people to join a banned vigil last year in remembrance of 1989's Tiananmen victims.

She was told to serve an additional 10 months of top of a current 12-month sentence she is serving for her role in the vigil in 2020, which was also banned.

Separately, Lam said the city will tighten vaccine requirements to cover not only entertainment venues but also places such as libraries, schools and museums.

The requirement will be tightened from Feb. 24, and will require those entering such venues to have at least one vaccine dose against COVID-19.

The expansion of the vaccine mandate comes days after Hong Kong reported its first omicron COVID-19 cluster, linked to several Cathay Pacific crew members who broke isolation rules and visited dining spots and bars across the city before later testing positive for omicron.

The city was largely able to keep the delta variant from causing local outbreaks through strict quarantine rules. Hong Kong currently designates all countries with local omicron outbreaks as "high-risk" countries, requiring arrivals from those countries to serve a 21-day quarantine. **MDT/AP**

EVERGRANDE

Troubled Chinese developer told to demolish resort

JOE MCDONALD,
BEIJING

A troubled Chinese real estate developer that is struggling with \$310 billion in debt announced yesterday it has been ordered to demolish a 39-building resort complex in a new blow to its finances.

Evergrande Group gave no explanation, but news reports said the government of Danzhou, a city on the southern island province of Hainan, found it was improperly built and violated urban planning law.

Evergrande's struggle to comply with tighter official restrictions on use of borrowed money by China's real estate industry have prompted fears of a possible default and financial crisis. Chinese regulators have tried to reassure investors that any potential impact

AP PHOTO



on financial markets can be contained.

Economists say Beijing can keep Chinese lending markets functioning normally in the event of an Evergrande default, which looks increasingly likely.

However, they say Chinese leaders want to avoid sending the wrong signal by arranging a bailout at a time when they are trying to force companies to reduce surging debt levels.

Evergrande asked Mon-

day for trading of its shares in Hong Kong to be suspended. Trading resumed following yesterday's announcement, gaining 7.6%.

The company gave no indication of the possible loss from the demolition

of the buildings on Ocean Flower Island. It said other buildings on the island weren't affected by the order.

Evergrande, the global real estate industry's most heavily-indebted developer, warned last month it might run out of cash to keep up with debt payments and other obligations.

The company says it has 2.3 trillion yuan (\$350 billion) in assets and 2 trillion yuan (\$310 billion in debt), but it has struggled to sell assets fast enough to keep up payments to bondholders. Construction of some projects was temporarily suspended after contractors complained they weren't being paid.

Tuesday's announcement said buyers in 2021 signed contracts to purchase property worth a total of 442 billion yuan (\$70 billion).

Beijing tightened restrictions on developers last year in a campaign to rein in surging corporate debt that is seen as a threat to economic stability. The ruling Communist Party has made reducing financial risk a priority since 2018.

The Danzhou government's order said Evergrande's project violated a national urban planning law. It said the government will organize demolition if the company fails to act.

The Hainan government ordered an investigation last year of Ocean Flower Island, a complex of hotels, an amusement park and other facilities, according to news reports. They said some building permissions were revoked and fines of 215 million yuan (\$34 million) were imposed for planning and construction violations. **MDT/AP**

DEFENSE

Beijing denies US report it's rapidly growing its nuclear arms

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

A senior Chinese arms control official denied yesterday that his government is rapidly expanding its nuclear arsenal, though he said it is taking steps to modernize its nuclear forces.

Fu Cong, director general of the Foreign Ministry's arms control department, said China is working to ensure its nuclear deterrent meets the minimum level necessary for national defense.

"On the assertions made by U.S. officials that China is expanding dramatically its nuclear capabilities, first, let me say that this is untrue," he said at a briefing in Beijing.

The briefing was held a day after China, the U.S., Russia, Great Britain and France issued a joint statement on preventing nuclear war or an arms race. The statement was supposed to be timed to the start of a global conference on disarmament at the U.N., but the meeting has been postponed because of a surge in COVID-19 cases.



Fu Cong, the director general of the Foreign Ministry's arms control department, attends a press conference on nuclear arms control in Beijing yesterday

The U.S. Defense Department said in a report in November that China is expanding its nuclear force faster than previously predicted and could have more than 1,000 warheads by 2030. The U.S. has 3,750 nuclear weapons.

The U.S. has also raised concern about analyst reports based on satellite imagery that China is building missile silos in its northwestern desert and its test of a hypersonic missile last summer. Fu would not confirm the mis-

sile silos but said the size of China's nuclear force should not be estimated based on the satellite photos.

He said China does need to take steps to make sure its nuclear force is sufficient in light of

a changing security environment in Asia. He cited U.S. talk of deploying intermediate-range non-nuclear missiles in the region. India also has nuclear weapons, as does its neighbor Pakistan.

Fu stuck by the Chinese position that it would not join nuclear arms reduction talks between the U.S. and Russia, as the American side is pushing for. He called on both to reduce their arsenals, by far the largest in the world.

"We will be happy to join if they have reduced to our level," he said, adding that "the two superpowers need to ... drastically reduce their nuclear capabilities to a level comparable to the level of China, and for that matter to the level of France and the U.K., so that other nuclear states can join in this process."

U.S. President Joe Biden's administration is carrying out a review of America's nuclear posture, but major change seems unlikely given the reports of China's growing nuclear force and tensions with China over Taiwan and with Russia over Ukraine.

Fu also called on the U.S. to lift sanctions on Iran, and for Iran to return to its nuclear commitments on that basis. Iran is in talks with the U.S., China, Russia, the U.K., France and Germany on restoring a 2015 agreement that granted Iran sanctions relief in exchange for curbs on its nuclear program. Former President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the deal in 2018. MDT/AP

COVID-19

Conditions hard for residents in Xi'an partial lockdown

AUTHORITIES in Xi'an say they can provide food, health care and other necessities for the residents under a now almost two-week-old partial lockdown.

But in social media posts and over the telephone, some citizens describe difficulties obtaining supplies and frustration with the economic impact on the giant city that is home to the famed ancient Terracotta Army, along with major industries.

"Can't leave the building and it's getting more and more difficult to buy food online," said one Xi'an resident, who posted on the social media platform Weibo under the name Mu Qingyuan Sayno.

Officials defend the measures as appropriate and necessary, and with the Beijing Winter Olympics just a month away, are under intense pressure to stem the outbreak.



A mobile testing site in Xincheng District of Xi'an

The Xi'an restrictions imposed Dec. 23 are some of the harshest since China in 2020 imposed a strict lockdown on more than 11 million people in and around the central city of Wuhan, after the coronavirus was first detected there in late 2019. The measures are an outgrowth of China's "zero COVID-19" policy that includes widespread testing and mask mandates, credited by the government with preventing ma-

major outbreaks.

With a population of 13 million, Xi'an has seen more than 1,600 cases in its latest surge of the delta variant that is less infectious than the newer omicron strain. China has reported a total of 102,841 cases and 4,636 deaths since the pandemic began.

While those numbers are relatively small compared to the U.S. and other countries, they do show the persistence of the virus despite the strict

measures taken by China.

The Commerce Ministry last week said it had contacted nearby provinces to help ensure adequate supplies of everyday necessities for Xi'an. State media reports say at least some residents are receiving free grocery packages, including eggs, rice, green vegetables and either chicken or pork. Residents can also order online.

That came after city authorities tightened restrictions that had allowed people to leave their homes every other day to buy necessities. Travel to and from the city has been suspended, although there are some exceptions and rules have been relaxed slightly in some districts that have few or no cases.

A third round of mass testing has also been ordered, with the city capable of swabbing 10 million people in just seven hours and processing up to 3 millions

results in just 12 hours, according to state media.

While Wuhan's health care system was overwhelmed after the pandemic began there in late 2019, China has not reported any shortages of beds or medical equipment and staff in Xi'an.

Two dozen special teams have been formed to deal with COVID-19 cases and a pair of hospitals have been set aside to provide other types of care, the reports said.

"Xi'an ... is taking efficient and comprehensive measures to curb the spread of the latest COVID-19 resurgence and guarantee its normal function," the official Xinhua News Agency said on Sunday.

Zhang Canyou, an expert with the State Council's epidemic prevention and control team, conceded that under the partial lockdown, "there may be supply pressure in communities."

"The government will go all out to coordinate resources to provide people with daily necessities and medical services," Zhang was quoted as saying by Xinhua.

Chinese have overwhelmingly complied with lockdowns, mask mandates and other restrictions and most of the complaints from Xi'an residents involved difficulties obtaining supplies and other inconveniences.

The head of a tourism firm reached by phone said yesterday that supplies were basically sufficient, but that his business had already been suffering since July.

Outside Xi'an, China has adopted a range of anti-pandemic measures. The financial hub of Shanghai has taken more of a hands-off approach, receiving more than 5 million visitors during the three-day New Year holiday, according to local authorities. MDT/AP



Elizabeth Holmes, center, leaves federal court in San Jose, California

USA

Former Theranos CEO Holmes convicted of fraud and conspiracy

IN a case that exposed Silicon Valley's culture of hubris and hype, Elizabeth Holmes was convicted yesterday [Macau time] of duping investors into believing her startup Theranos had developed a revolutionary medical device that could detect a multitude of diseases and conditions from a few drops of blood.

A jury convicted Holmes, who was CEO throughout the company's turbulent 15-year history, on two counts of wire fraud and two counts of conspiracy to commit fraud after seven days of deliberation. The 37-year-old was acquitted on four other counts of fraud and conspiracy that alleged she deceived patients who paid for Theranos blood tests, too.

The verdict came after the eight men and four women on the jury spent three months sitting through a complex trial that featured reams of evidence and 32 witnesses — including Holmes herself. She now faces up to 20 years in prison for each count, although legal experts say she is unlikely to receive the maximum sentence.

The jury deadlocked on three remaining charges, which a federal judge anticipates dismissing as part of a mistrial ruling that could come as early as next week.

The split verdicts are “a mixed bag for the prosecution, but it's a loss for Elizabeth Holmes because she is going away to prison for at least a few years,” said David Ring, a lawyer who has followed the case closely.

Federal prosecutors depicted Holmes as a charlatan obsessed with fame and fortune. In seven days on the witness stand, she cast herself as a visionary trailblazer in male-dominated Silicon Valley who was emotionally and sexually abused by her former lover and business partner, Sunny Balwani.

The trial also laid bare the pitfalls of a swaggering strategy used by many Silicon Valley entrepreneurs — conveying a boundless optimism regardless of whether it's warranted, known as “fake it 'til you make it.” That ethos helped hatch groundbreaking companies such as Google, Netflix, Facebook, and Apple — the latter co-founded by one of Holmes' heroes, Steve Jobs.

Her conviction might lower the wattage — at least temporarily — on the brash promises and bold exaggerations that have become a routine part of the tech industry's innovation hustle.

The trial's outcome “will send a message to CEOs that there are consequences in overstepping the bounds,” pre-

dicted Ellen Kreitzberg, a Santa Clara University law professor who attended the trial. But she also believes greed will keep hyperbole alive in Silicon Valley.

“Investors are still going to want to make more money on a promising idea,” Kreitzberg said. “They will always go in for the golden ring.”

Holmes remained seated and expressed no visible emotion as the verdicts were read. She bowed her head several times before the jury was polled by U.S. District Judge Edward Davila. After the judge left the courtroom to meet with jurors individually, Holmes got up to hug her partner, Billy Evans, and her parents before leaving with her lawyers.

During a brief break after the verdict was read, a visibly shaken Evans stepped into the courthouse hallway to get a get drink from a water fountain while apparently trying to compose himself.

Holmes did not respond to questions about the verdicts lobbed at her during a three-block walk from the courthouse to the nearby hotel where she has stayed during jury deliberations.

She was to remain free on bond while awaiting sentencing, which will be determined by the judge. The judge indicated

that he is likely to hold off on the sentencing until the completion of a separate trial involving similar fraud charges against Balwani, who was Theranos' chief operating officer from 2009 to 2016. Balwani's trial is scheduled to start next month in the same San Jose courtroom where Holmes' legal saga unfolded.

In a written statement, U.S. Attorney Stephanie Hinds thanked the jury for navigating the case through the pandemic and said Holmes must now be held “culpable” for her crimes.

Although she was convicted of bamboozling investors, Holmes received a reprieve from the jury on the fraud accusations involving patients who submitted to inaccurate blood tests that could have endangered their health.

Ring said the charges related to the patients looked more difficult to prove from the outset because Holmes never directly communicated with them, as she did with investors.

The bold dream Holmes pursued when she founded Theranos in 2003 at the age of 19 had become a nightmare by the time she was indicted on felony charges in 2018.

During that span, Holmes went from an unknown to a Silicon Valley sensation who had amassed a \$4.5 billion fortune on paper to a vilified failure. Her downfall was dissected in documentaries, books, podcasts and will soon be rehashed in a Hulu TV series called “The Dropout” starring Amanda Seyfried in the lead role.

Holmes set out to create a less painful, more convenient and cheaper way to scan for hundreds of diseases and other health problems by taking just a few drops of blood with a finger prick instead of inserting a needle in a vein. She aimed to upend an industry dominated by giant testing companies such as Quest Diagnostics and Labcorp, starting with setting up “mini-labs” in Walgreens and Safeway stores across the U.S. that would use a small Theranos device called the Edison to run faster, less intrusive blood tests. **MDT/AP**

this day in history



1952 CHURCHILL RENEWS 'SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP'



The British Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, has arrived in the United States for an official visit, his first since re-election last October.

He arrived in New York on board the liner Queen Mary earlier today and was welcomed by Mayor Impellitteri before being taken to Long Island for a flight to Washington.

Mr Churchill, who was returned to power last year following six years in opposition, is anxious to maintain what is called the “special relationship” between Britain and the US.

In a brief news conference before boarding his flight, he spoke of his hopes for peace and also of Britain's ties with the US.

He said: “It is of great importance when a new government comes in in our country that those who have the grave responsibility of guiding it, like Mr Eden and myself, should get in touch at an early stage with our American friends and colleagues.

“Our two governments must understand each other's points of view and do all we can to work together for the common cause, trusting we will be able to build up that common understanding and intimacy which enabled us to go through safely in the past and without which no full settlement of new problems can be reached.”

Mr Churchill arrived in Washington where he was welcomed officially by President Harry S Truman.

Mr Truman also spoke of the close ties between Britain, the Commonwealth and the United States.

“Great Britain and the Commonwealth and the United States are the closest of friends and you and I want to keep it that way,” he said.

Mr Churchill thanked the president. “It is always a great joy to me to come to the United States,” he said, “where I have many and ancient connections and I look forward very much indeed to renewing the comradeship which grew up during the struggles of the war.”

The two men then retired for lunch at Blair House. A number of other government officials were present for the meal including Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, US Secretary of State Dean Acheson, and Chief of Staff Admiral William Leahy.

After lunch the prime minister and the president went on board the presidential yacht Williamsburg for informal talks which lasted about two hours.

Reports prior to Mr Churchill's arrival suggested relations between the two leaders may be strained by some differences of opinion over policy in the Middle and Far East, as well as aspects of defence policy and the supply of American steel.

A spokesman said later the talks had “covered a wide range of topics” and “clarified the atmosphere” for the formal discussions which will begin on Monday.

Tomorrow (Sunday) Mr Churchill will have lunch at the Pentagon with the Secretary of Defense Robert Lovett.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A communiqué issued at the end of their talks on Wednesday 9 January spoke of a “broad harmony of views” reached on policy towards the Far East and a “complete identity of aims” in the Middle East.

The statement talked of progress on the question of steel imports and Mr Churchill agreed to allow the US to use British bases for “common defence” of the two countries.

The Times correspondent noted: “The most important result of the trip so far has been the arrest of the decay in mutual confidence between the two Governments which had gone a long way.”

Mr Churchill suffered a stroke in 1953 and resigned from office two years later. He was replaced by Anthony Eden.

The term “special relationship” was first coined to describe the strong ties forged between US President Franklin D Roosevelt and Winston Churchill during World War II.

The special relationship between Britain and the US has been fostered by subsequent leaders. Most recently Prime Minister Tony Blair supported President George W Bush in the 2003 war against Iraq despite opposition from European allies France and Germany.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Mingle with those who can help you get ahead. Disputes on the home front may be hard to avoid. Losses could occur if you haven't been careful when dealing with joint financial ventures.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
Chances are you could get stuck with a colleague's job unexpectedly. You can make amends by taking them somewhere special. Sudden changes will occur through communications with friends or in-laws.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
A little volleyball or other outdoor sports should be on your agenda. Focus on what's important rather than spreading yourself too thin and accomplishing little. You're best to avoid disputes.

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Your obviously unique way of doing things has caught the eye of someone in a higher position. Recognition will be yours if you meet your deadline. Keep your wits about you.

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You will have the stamina and the know how to raise your earning power. You must take care of health problems that have been lingering. You may want to talk to your boss about your future goals.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
Don't let your competition be privy to information that could be incriminating. If you can, try to work out of your home today. You'll be tempted to spend extravagantly today.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You will be able to dazzle others with your obvious charm and your outgoing nature. You are best to sit back and think it through, rather than add to the ranting and raving.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
Travel will be fun, but expect it to cost you. Take care of your personal needs. Use your quick wit to win points with friends. Your partner will be emotionally unable to cope.

SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You must make them stand on their own two feet regardless of how much you want to make things better for them. You like to stay busy and now is your chance to do just that.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Romantic opportunities are evident if you get involved in large groups. Long-term commitments may jeopardize your financial position. Someone you work with may be withholding valuable information.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Opportunities for travel and communication are evident. Electrical problems may be an issue. Don't allow your lover to take advantage of your good nature.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Try to slow down, and take another look. Don't get depressed, get busy. You can accomplish a lot if you're willing to put in a little extra time. Limitations will set in if you haven't followed the rules.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-6	4	fine
Harbin	-19	-5	cloudy
Tianjin	6	8	rain
Urumqi	6	10	overcast
Xi'an	6	13	overcast
Lhasa	-5	2	fine
Chengdu	13	22	cloudy
Chongqing	11	16	rain
Kunming	6	13	overcast
Nanjing	18	23	cloudy
Shanghai	7	11	rain
Wuhan	-22	-8	fine
Hangzhou	3	5	rain
Taipei	-13	2	fine
Guangzhou	15	23	overcast
Hong Kong	18	23	rain
WORLD			
Moscow	-2	-2	snow
Frankfurt	1	4	overcast
Paris	15	18	cloudy
London	-2	6	overcast
New York	1	8	rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Soviet news service; 5- Mantric syllables; 8- Floating vegetable matter; 12- Baseball family name; 13- Salt water; 15- Fit for service; 16- Hero; 17- Charged; 18- Full of unresolved questions; 19- Bougie by-product?; 22- T.G.I.F. part; 23- Rank; 24- Victor's cry; 26- One-fifth of the atmosphere; 29- Like toxic rainfall; 31- Marseilles Mrs.; 32- Cream-filled cookies; 34- Unit of magnetic induction; 36- Trigonometric function; 38- Gossipmonger; 40- Gregory Peck role of 1956; 41- Put away; 43- Judges; 45- Bard's "before"; 46- Steeples; 48- Withdraw; 50- Warmth; 51- Slender bar; 52- Without further ____; 54- Scurilous; 61- Chews the fat; 63- Like some committees; 64- Soft drink; 65- Islamic chieftain; 66- I ___ vacation!; 67- Nailed obliquely; 68- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 69- Part of UNLV; 70- Canonized Fr. women;

DOWN 1- Bath powder; 2- Inter ___; 3- Before long; 4- Various; 5- Like some history; 6- Start of something small?; 7- Hitch; 8- ___-disant (self-styled); 9- Incomplete; 10- Adroit; 11- 24 hour periods; 13- Place for bottling suds; 14- Body of values; 20- Trademark; 21- Tease; 25- Impression; 26- Leaves out; 27- Fear of foreigners; 28- Food and water; 29- Fall flower; 30- Irish county; 31- Ed.'s pile; 33- Half and half?; 35- Jurist Fortas; 37- Classic railroad name; 39- 1981 Neil Diamond hit; 42- Quod ___ demonstrandum; 44- Dundee denizen; 47- One of the Allens; 49- Decrees; 52- "The Morning Watch" author; 53- Beaver creations; 55- Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon; 56- Ostrichlike bird; 57- Lays down the law; 58- Geezer; 59- Away from the wind; 60- Scottish boys; 62- Hindu honorific;

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<p>SELL INVEST RENT CALL US (853) 2835 2699</p>	<p>卓雅物業 hello@jmlproperty.com www.jmlproperty.com jmlmacau jmlproperty</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Wa Bao HKD 7,650,000 Ref: 2106 6003</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Manhattan HKD 15,750,000 Ref: 2005 6001</p>	<p>Rain Dance Property "We dance until it's SOLD!"</p> <p>Hellene Gardens HKD 7,680,000 Ref: 2109 6001</p>
		<p>REDUCED</p>	<p>3 2 2</p>	<p>3 2 1</p>

AP PHOTOS



Frances Haugen



Lina Khan



Elizabeth Holmes

TECH 2021

SCIENTIST, ENFORCER, HIGH-FLYER: THREE WOMEN PUT A MARK ON TECH

MARCY GORDON,
WASHINGTON

THREE bright and driven women with ground-breaking ideas made significant — if very different — marks on the embattled tech industry in 2021.

Frances Haugen, Lina Khan and Elizabeth Holmes — a data scientist turned whistleblower, a legal scholar turned antitrust enforcer and a former Silicon Valley high-flyer turned criminal defendant — all figured heavily in a technology world where men have long dominated the spotlight. Think Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg, Jeff Bezos, Elon Musk.

Haugen, a former product manager at Facebook, went public with internal documents to buttress accusations that the social network giant elevated profits over the safety of users. At 32, Khan is the youngest person ever to lead the Federal Trade Commission, an agency now poised to aggressively enforce antitrust law against the tech industry.

Holmes was once worth \$4.5 billion on paper. Following a 3 1/2-month federal trial that captivated Silicon Valley, she was convicted Monday on four counts of fraud and conspiracy for misleading investors about the accuracy of a blood-testing technology developed at her startup Theranos. Holmes could now face up to 20 years in prison.

The jury found her not guilty of four other felony charges. On the three remaining charges, the jury was deadlocked.

Holmes' story has become a Silicon Valley morality tale — a founder who flew too high, too fast

— despite the fact that male tech executives have been accused of similar actions or worse without facing charges.

HAUGEN

Haugen joined Facebook out of a desire to help it address misinformation and other threats to democracy. But her frustration grew as she learned of online misinformation that stoked violence and abuse — and which Facebook wasn't addressing effectively.

So in the fall of 2021 the 37-year-old Haugen went public with a trove of Facebook documents that catalogued how her former employer was failing to protect young users from body-image issues and amplifying online hate and extremism. Her work also laid bare the algorithms Big Tech uses to tailor content that will keep users hooked on its services.

"Frances Haugen has transformed the conversation about technology reform," Roger McNamee, an early investor in Facebook who became one of its leading critics, wrote in Time magazine.

Facebook the company, which has since renamed itself Meta Platforms, has disputed Haugen's assertions, although it hasn't pointed to any factual errors in her public statements. The company instead emphasizes the vast sums it says it has invested in safety since 2016 and data showing the progress it's made against hate speech, incitement to political violence and other social ills.

Haugen was well positioned to unleash her bombshell. As a graduate business student at Harvard, she helped create an online dating platform that eventually

turned into the dating app Hinge. At Google, she helped make thousands of books accessible on mobile phones and to create a fledgling social network. Haugen's creative restlessness flipped her through several jobs over 15 years at Google, Yelp and Pinterest and of course Facebook, which recruited her in 2018.

Haugen's revelations energized global lawmakers seeking to rein in Big Tech, although there's been little concrete action in the U.S. Facebook rushed to change the subject by rolling out its new corporate name and playing up its commitment to developing an immersive technology platform known as the "metaverse."

Haugen moved last year to Puerto Rico, where she says she can enjoy anonymity that would elude her in northern California. "I don't like being the center of attention," she told a packed arena at a November conference in Europe.

KHAN

A similar dynamic prevailed for Khan, an academic outsider with big new ideas and a far-reaching agenda that ruffled institutional and business feathers. President Joe Biden stunned official Washington in June when he installed Khan, an energetic critic of Big Tech then teaching law, as head of the Federal Trade Commission. That signaled a tough government stance toward giants Meta, Google, Amazon and Apple.

Khan is the youngest chair in the 106-year history of the FTC, which polices competition, consumer protection and digital privacy. She was an unorthodox choice, with no administrative

experience or knowledge of the agency other than a brief 2018 stint as legal adviser to one of the five commissioners.

But she brought intellectual heft that packed a political punch. Khan shook up the antitrust world in 2017 with her scholarly work as a Yale law student, "Amazon's Antitrust Paradox," which helped shape a new way of looking at antitrust law.

For decades, antitrust work has defined anticompetitive conduct as market dominance that drives up prices, a concept that doesn't apply to many "free" technology services. Khan instead pushed to examine the broader effects of corporate concentration on industries, employees and communities. That school of thought — dubbed "hipster antitrust" by its detractors — appears to have had a significant influence on Biden.

Khan was born in London; her family moved to the New York City area when she was 11. After graduating from college, she spent three years as a policy analyst at the liberal-leaning think tank New America Foundation before leaving for Yale.

Under Khan's six-month tenure, the FTC has sharpened its antitrust attack against Facebook in federal court and pursued a competition investigation into Amazon. The agency sued to block graphics chip maker Nvidia's \$40 billion purchase of chip designer Arm, saying a combined company could stifle the growth of new technologies.

In Khan's aggressive investigations and enforcement agenda, key priorities include racial bias in algorithms and market-power abuses by dominant tech

companies. Internally, some employees have chafed at administrative changes that expanded Khan's authority over policymaking, and one Republican commissioner has assailed Khan in public.

"She's shaken things up," said Robin Gaster, a visiting scholar at George Washington University who focuses on economics, politics and technology. "She is going to be a field test for whether an aggressive FTC can expand the envelope for antitrust enforcement."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the leading business lobby, has publicly threatened court fights, asserting that Khan and the FTC are waging war on American businesses.

HOLMES

Holmes founded Theranos when she was 19, dropping out of Stanford to pursue a bold, humanitarian idea. Possessed of seemingly boundless networking chutzpah, Holmes touted Theranos blood-testing technology as a breakthrough that could scan for hundreds of medical conditions using just a few drops of blood.

By 2015, 11 years after leaving Stanford, Holmes had raised hundreds of millions of dollars for her company, pushing its market value to \$9 billion. Half of that belonged to Holmes, earning her the moniker of the world's youngest self-made female billionaire at 30.

Just three years later, though, Theranos collapsed in scandal. Now standing convicted of the fraud and conspiracy charges, Holmes, who is 37, could face up to 20 years in prison for each count.

When young, Holmes was a competitive prodigy who openly aspired to make a vast fortune. She started studying Mandarin Chinese with a tutor around age 9, and talked her way into summer classes in the language at Stanford after her sophomore year in high school.

In her sophomore college year, she took the remainder of her tuition money as a stake and dropped out to run her company.

As Theranos ascended, some saw Holmes as the next Steve Jobs. Theranos ultimately raised more than \$900 million from investors including media baron Rupert Murdoch and Walmart's Walton family.

The company's fairy-tale success started to unravel in 2016, when a series of Wall Street Journal articles and a federal regulatory audit uncovered a pattern of grossly inaccurate blood results in tests run on Theranos devices.

The Holmes trial has exposed Silicon Valley's "fake it 'til you make it" culture in painful detail. Tech entrepreneurs often overpromise and exaggerate, so prosecutors faced the challenge of proving that Holmes' boosterism crossed the line into fraud.

MDT/AP

TENNIS

Djokovic given medical exemption to play at Australian Open

JOHN PYE, BRISBANE

NOVAK Djokovic will get a chance to defend his Australian Open title after receiving a medical exemption to travel to Melbourne, ending months of uncertainty about his participation because of the strict COVID-19 vaccination requirements in place for the tournament.

The top-ranked Djokovic wrote on Instagram yesterday he has "an exemption permission."

Djokovic, who is seeking a record 21st Grand Slam singles title, has continually refused to reveal if he is vaccinated against the coronavirus. The Victoria state government has mandated that all players, staff and fans attending the Australian Open must be fully vaccinated unless there is a genuine reason why an exemption should be granted.

Australian Open organizers issued a statement later yesterday



to confirm Djokovic will be allowed to compete at the tournament, which starts on Jan. 17, and is on his way to Australia. He earlier withdrew from Serbia's team for the ATP Cup, which started last weekend in Sydney.

"Djokovic applied for a medical exemption which was granted following a rigorous review

process involving two separate independent panels of medical experts," the statement said. "One of those was the Independent Medical Exemption Review Panel appointed by the Victorian Department of Health. They assessed all applications to see if they met the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation

guidelines."

Tennis Australia said the process included the redaction of personal information to ensure privacy for all applicants. That means Djokovic was not obliged to make his exemption public.

Australian Open tournament director Craig Tiley said "fair and independent protocols were established for assessing medical exemption applications that will enable us to ensure Australian Open 2022 is safe and enjoyable for everyone."

"Central to this process was that the decisions were made by independent medical experts and that every applicant was given due consideration," Tiley said.

Victoria state Deputy Premier James Merlino last month said the medical exemptions were "not a loophole for privileged tennis players."

"It is a medical exemption in exceptional circumstances if

you have an acute medical condition," Merlino said at a news conference.

The decision will be widely debated in a city which endured months of strict lockdowns and harsh travel restrictions at the height of the pandemic.

Reaction on social media quickly turned to questions about the grounds for Djokovic's exemption, and what quarantine conditions he will have to meet on arrival in Australia.

Last year, all foreign players had to spend two weeks in hotel quarantine before the Australian Open, pushing the year's first major back from its usual mid-January start. There were also strict caps on crowd numbers, and days when fans weren't allowed into Melbourne Park as coronavirus cases surged.

The 34-year-old Djokovic has won nine of his 20 major titles at the Australian Open. He shares the men's record for most majors with Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal.

Djokovic hasn't played at tour level since the Davis Cup Finals in early December, and has recently been practising in Spain. His posts on social media announcing his plans to travel to Australia were accompanied by a photo of Djokovic leaning on a tennis bag at an airport. MDT/AP



HOLIDAY RENTAL HOUSES

Lugar das Letras Casa de Gouvães

The houses are set in the heart of the World Heritage Site of the Douro Valley and its famous winery landscape where the 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.



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

visit us at www.casadeougouvaes.com

BOOK NOW!

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

BOOK NOW!

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

THE ROADHOUSE
MACAU

FAST BIKES
ROCK & ROLL MUSIC
FOOD AND FUN

THE ROADHOUSE MACAU
IS MACAU'S MOST POPULAR BAR FOR BLUES, BOOZE AND ROCK.
COME ON DOWN AND LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL.

OPINION

China Daily
 Editorial, China Daily

**ZERO-TOLERANCE TO
 VIRUS WORKS AND
 WILL PERSIST**

Will China's zero-tolerance policy toward the novel coronavirus continue to work effectively to prevent the breakout of infections on a large scale? This is the question some Western media are asking with Xi'an, capital of Northwest China's Shaanxi province, under lockdown thanks to a sudden flare-up of infections.

It is an approach that the country has taken from the very beginning, and one that has paid dividends.

It is unimaginable how many more people would have been infected and even lost their lives in Wuhan if the city had not been placed under lockdown in early 2020.

It is the lockdown in Wuhan and strict observance of control and prevention measures in other parts of the country where small clusters of infections have been detected that have made it possible for the country's economy to return to normal when an increasing number of countries fell to the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The approach, which involves a partial lockdown or quarantine of neighborhoods where infections are identified and the tracing of contacts of those infected, has kept the major part of the country free from the virus. As a result, residents in most parts of the country lead a normal life without worrying about being infected.

The good job China has done in containing the spread of the virus has allowed economic activities to continue, resulting in its strong foreign trade performance last year. China's foreign trade volume is expected to have exceeded \$6 trillion last year, up 20 percent from the previous year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. It is estimated that the country's total foreign trade in 2021 will account for 16 percent of the world's total, further consolidating its position as the world's largest goods trader.

When other major economies are still struggling to bring the virus under control — the United States recorded 1 million new infections on Monday, as a result of the fast-spreading Omicron variant that is sweeping across the country — it is China that has become a major contributor to the growth of the global economy. And it is China that has supported the world with the majority of commodities many countries need for their fight against the pandemic.

There is no reason for China to give up its zero-tolerance COVID policy.

Of course, it does not mean that the approach it has adopted leaves nothing to be desired. Local governments need to learn the lessons from the outbreak in Xi'an and sum up experience to make control and prevention measures more targeted and arrangements more detailed to make life easier for those placed under a lockdown.

When Kent Albright, a Baptist pastor from the United States, arrived as a missionary to Spain in 1996, he was unprepared for the insults and threats, or the fines from the police for handing out Protestant leaflets on the streets of Salamanca.

"Social animosity was big — they had never seen a Protestant in their life," said Albright, recalling one woman who whispered, "Be thankful we don't throw stones at you."

He couldn't have imagined that 25 years later, he would be pastoring an evangelical congregation of 120 and count about two dozen other thriving Protestant churches in the northwestern city. And there's a distinctive feature to the worshippers: Most

of them are not Spanish-born — they're immigrants from Latin America, including about 80% of Albright's congregation.

The numbers reflect huge surges in Spain's migrant population and evangelical population in recent decades, producing profound changes in how faith is practiced in a country long dominated by the Catholic church.

"The Bible says there are no ethnicities, there are no races. I don't go down the street asking, nor do I ask for passports at the church door," Albright said.

Full story on macaudailytimes.com

AP PHOTO

THE QUESTION

WHY ARE
 SO MANY
 VACCINATED
 PEOPLE
 GETTING
 COVID-19
 LATELY?



LAURA UNGAR,
 SCIENCE WRITER

A couple of factors are at play, starting with the emergence of the highly contagious omicron variant.

Omicron is more likely to infect people, even if it doesn't make them very sick, and its surge coincided with the holiday travel season in many places.

People might mistakenly think the COVID-19 vaccines will completely block infection, but the shots are mainly designed to prevent severe illness, says Louis Mansky, a virus researcher at the University of Minnesota.

And the vaccines are still doing their job on that front, particularly for people who've gotten boosters.

Two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines or one dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine still offer strong protection against serious illness from omicron. While those initial doses aren't very good at blocking omicron infection, boosters — particularly with the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines — rev up levels of the antibodies to help fend off infection.

Omicron appears to replicate much more efficiently than previous variants. And if infected people have high virus loads,

there's a greater likelihood they'll pass it on to others, especially the unvaccinated. Vaccinated people who get the virus are more likely to have mild symptoms, if any, since the shots trigger multiple defenses in your immune system, making it much more difficult for omicron to slip past them all.

Advice for staying safe hasn't changed. Doctors say to wear masks indoors, avoid crowds and get vaccinated and boosted. Even though the shots won't always keep you from catching the virus, they'll make it much more likely you stay alive and out of the hospital. **MDT/AP**

Israel Two pilots were killed when a navy helicopter crashed off Israel's Mediterranean coast yesterday near the northern city of Haifa, the Israeli military announced. The helicopter was conducting a training flight when it crashed. A third crew member, an aerial observer, was moderately injured and evacuated to a hospital, the military said earlier. "After extensive resuscitation efforts, the two pilots were declared dead." The cause of the crash was under investigation.



Lebanon The leader of Lebanon's militant Hezbollah group verbally attacked the king of Saudi Arabia yesterday, saying Riyadh helped spread extremist Islamic ideology worldwide and is taking the thousands of Lebanese who work in the oil-rich Persian Gulf region "hostage." Hassan Nasrallah's statements during a speech in Beirut came in response to comments by King Salman, who called on the Lebanese in a speech last week "to end the terrorist Hezbollah's control" of Lebanon.

Germany Police have reported sporadic violence at demonstrations against the country's pandemic restrictions, with one protester in the eastern town of Lichtenstein biting an officer and another attempting to steal a service weapon. Tens of thousands of people in total took to the streets in scores of German towns and cities for weekly marches that have organizers have labeled "strolls" in an attempt to bypass restrictions on public gatherings. Counter-protests were also held in towns such as Rostock and Trier, the dpa news agency reported.

South Africa The fire that has already destroyed South Africa's main Parliament chamber flared up again yesterday about 36 hours after it started in the 130-year-old complex of historic buildings, authorities said. Firefighters have been sent back to the Parliament precinct in the center of Cape Town after flames re-appeared on the roof of the main Parliament building in the late afternoon. More than 30 firefighters were battling the fire again.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Li Ying



Flying high. An artist attached to a balloon performs in the annual New Year's Day Parade in London.