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FRANCIS LUI, VICE CHAIRMAN OF GALAXY ENTERTAINMENT RECEIVED THE INSIGNIA OF OFFICER OF THE ORDER OF ARTS AND LETTERS FROM FRENCH GOV'T

P2

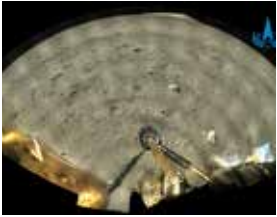
TWO SESSIONS: HO IAT SENG SAYS MACAU DESERVES TO GET MORE MAINLAND TOURISTS

P5

GAMING TRADE ACTIVIST CLOEE CHAO IS PLANNING TO RUN FOR A SEAT AT THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY THROUGH DIRECT ELECTION ON SEPTEMBER 12

P3

AP PHOTO



China and Russia said they will build a lunar research station, possibly on the moon's surface, marking the start of a new era in space cooperation between the two countries. A statement posted on the website of the China National Space Administration yesterday said the International Lunar Research Station would also be open to use by other countries, but gave no timeline for its construction. [More on p7](#)

Hong Kong Former pro-democracy lawmaker and activist Ted Hui Chi-fung said he had relocated to Australia. The 38-year-old fled Hong Kong for Europe in December while he was free on bail on protest-related charges. Hui yesterday thanked the Australian government for intervening so that he was allowed to travel from London to Australia.

AP PHOTO



Bangladesh A satellite television station has hired the country's first transgender news anchor, saying it hopes the appointment will help change society. Tashnuva Anan Shishir, who previously worked as a rights activist and actress, debuted on Dhaka-based Boishakhi TV on Monday, International Women's Day.

Armenia Thousands of opposition supporters blockaded the Armenian parliament building to press a demand for the country's prime minister to step down. Nikol Pashinyan has rejected the opposition's pressure to resign over a November peace deal that ended six weeks of fierce fighting over the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

[More on backpage](#)

A HEALTHY PASSPORT

BLOOMBERG

China's vaccine passport may be a boon to tourism but its benefits will take time to surface in Macau: MGTO

P5



COMMUNIST PARTY SEEKING CHINA'S REJUVENATION

AP PHOTO



P6

POLICE BUST DRUG TRAFFICKING CASE USING COMPUTER KEYBOARD

Following the receipt of intelligence, the Judiciary Police (PJ) has intercepted a syndicate that used a computer keyboard as a camouflage to traffic cocaine worth MOP35,000. The suspects – traffickers surnamed Ng, Ma and Wong and drivers surnamed Leong and Wong – were believed by the police to have received drugs delivered by a courier company. The parcel was declared to be a computer keyboard, but it contained narcotics. The two drivers denied the accusations, saying that they were “only driving friends.” The other three suspects have been charged with drug trafficking offences.

APPLICATIONS FOR HUSH! CONCERT OPEN

The “2021 HUSH! Summer Concerts” will take place from June 26 to July 11 at coastal performance sites, including the Macao Science Centre Square, the Navy Yard No. 2, and the Ponte 9 Rooftop. This year, the event will feature a “HUSH! Kids” stage for the first time, in addition to a number of concerts, thematic performances, booths hosted by local practitioners, art installations and online music competitions. The Cultural Affairs Bureau is now calling for the participation of local bands and musicians in the event.

ART MACAO CALLS FOR PARTICIPANTS

The “Art Macao: Macao International Art Biennale 2021” is slated to be held from June to October, with the hopes of continuously promoting the cultural image of Macau. Themed “Advance and retreat of globalization,” the event reviews globalization in the Covid-19 pandemic era through various forms of visual art. The Cultural Affairs Bureau is now inviting local artists to submit their visual artworks for the Biennale. Selected artworks will be exhibited at venues under the bureau.

TOP UK DIPLOMAT TO BEIJING SUMMONED OVER ‘INAPPROPRIATE’ ARTICLE

LYNZY VALLES

THE UK’s envoy to China is under fire following an article she wrote on Chinese social media last week defending the role of an independent foreign press as a “watchdog,” adding that criticism levelled by the foreign press in relation to Chinese authorities does not imply that the press dislikes China.

A principal official of the European Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday summoned UK’s top diplomat to China Caroline Wilson, lodging solemn representations over her “inappropriate” signed article on social media, Xinhua reported.

Wilson, the former British Consul General to Hong Kong and Macau, wrote the article last week, which defends recent international media coverage on China amid the UK-China tensions on recent issues including Hong Kong, Xinjiang and the media.

“The whole article is full of ‘lecturer’ arrogance and ideological prejudice [...] and is seriously in-



consistent with the status of diplomats and the functions of diplomatic institutions,” the principal official at the foreign affairs ministry said.

The official also remarked that the article had caused widespread dissatisfaction among the Chinese public and was strongly criticized immediately after it had been published, decrying the article as “propaganda.”

On Tuesday, the British diplomat issued a statement on her Twitter account saying, “I stand by my article. No doubt the outgoing Chinese Ambassador to the UK stands by the 170+ pieces he was free to place in mainstream British media.”

She was referring to China’s departing ambassador to the UK, Liu Xiaoming, who wrote over 170 articles for UK news publications in

his 11 years at the post.

These includes op-eds defending the controversial Huawei 5G network in the Telegraph.

In Wilson’s article, the UK envoy explained that foreign media criticizing the Chinese authorities does not mean that they do not like China.

“On the contrary, I think they act in good faith and play an active role as a watchdog over government actions, ensuring that people have access to accurate information, and protecting those who have no voice,” she wrote in the article.

The ministry noted that the Chinese government and people have never opposed foreign media, but those who wrongly create fake news under the banner of “freedom of the press” and “freedom of speech” and maliciously attack China, the Communist Party of China, and the Chinese system. Although the article is still available on the WeChat platform, the “share” option of the article has been blocked.

COVID-19 ELDERLY SUFFERS FROM ACUTE CORONARY SYNDROME FOLLOWING FIRST JAB

A 67-year-old man who recently received his first dose of the mRNA vaccine (BioNTech) on March 5 suffered from acute coronary syndrome yesterday, the Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Center announced in a statement last night.

The senior resident initially suffered from pain in his left chest but the discomfort subsided after resting.

Yesterday, similar pain occurred and he was sent to the public hospital.

An electrocardiogram was performed and results showed that he was suffering from an acute coronary syndrome. Currently, the patient is still in the hospital and is in a stable condition.

This serious adverse case

has already been analyzed by the Health Bureau’s (SSM) special task force and an evaluation meeting will be held tomorrow.

All cases of illness or death after vaccination are defined by WHO as “adverse events after vaccination.”

The occurrence of adverse events after vaccination, however, does not mean that the event was caused by the vaccine, the center clarified in a statement.

In response to the development of vaccination against Covid-19, the SSM has set up a task force composed of medical specialists from different areas who are responsible for analyzing cases and verifying links when serious adverse events from vaccinated residents occur. **LV**

FRANCIS LUI DECORATED WITH FRENCH CULTURAL HONOR

FRANCIS Lui, Vice Chairman of Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), has received the insignia of Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters from the French Government for his contribution to promoting the arts and culture of France.

The official was awarded for supporting arts and culture, recreation and sports development by “continually exploring and introducing different culture, arts and sports offerings to Macau’s tourism industry and facilitating the city’s diversification,” the gaming operator announced in a statement.

Lui was decorated with the insignia by Alexandre Giorgini, the Consul General of France in Hong Kong and Macau, during a ceremony held by the consulate.

The Order of Arts and Letters (Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) was established in 1957 by the Minister of Culture of France to recognize



ze eminent artists and writers, as well as people who have contributed to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world.

The Order is recognized as France’s highest cultural honor and is made up of three ranks, namely, Commander, Officer and Knight. **LV**

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ELECTIONS 2021

News report or electoral propaganda: CAEAL clarifies distinction in media seminar

RENATO MARQUES

THE Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) hopes that this year's elections can run smoothly and without any hassle, regarding media reports that may be considered as electoral propaganda.

To avoid such problems and clarify any questions and doubts from media outlet representatives, the CAEAL organized a seminar to debate on what constitutes a breach of the electoral law provisions regarding electoral propaganda, providing to the media some insights on how the media can protect itself from unwanted consequences.

At the start of the seminar, which took place behind closed doors, the president of the CAEAL, Tong Hio Fong, explained that the major concern regarding media re-



ports on the topic of the elections is related to the separation between what is considered a news report or a feature from what is considered electoral propaganda, noting that the CAEAL is only concerned with the latter.

"According to Article 75A, it is clearly defined that electoral propaganda is any activity carried out, by any means, to disseminate a message that cumulatively mee-

ts the requirements of 1) Direct the public's attention to one or more candidates; 2) Suggests, expressly or implicitly, that voters vote or stop voting for a given candidate or candidates.

With this undoubted definition and the professionalism of the media outlets, the CAEAL believes that the media can distinguish the difference between a news report and electoral propaganda," Tong

said. He noted that the CAEAL "respects rigorously the press freedom that is protected by the Macau Basic Law, as well as the electoral law."

On this topic, Tong also highlighted that the media plays an important role, being "essential to elevating the culture of the impartiality, equity, integrity, and justice of the elections."

The president of CAEAL appealed to the role and duties of the media, as stated in Article 76 of the election law, saying, "the media outlets will disclose their information with impartiality and they exercise their duties with professionalism, objectivity, and impartiality so the elections will take place in an environment of equity, integrity, and justice."

Tong also remarked that interviews and other media reports are part of the work of the media and are "unavoidable" but, while doing

an interview, the media need to pay special attention to the fact that some candidates or people have an interest in a certain candidates list, adding, "These people can be interviewed, as long as the content of the interview, reflects only on the opinion on the questions asked by the interviewer and there is no intention (expressly or implicitly) of elevating the image of this person to achieve votes for this person or to a certain candidates list," adding, "In this way, there will be no problem."

As a special note, the CAEAL president also reaffirmed that it is a duty of the media outlets to control and to delete comments or messages, namely on their digital platforms, which could be considered as electoral propaganda, by calling on a vote for a certain candidate or, on the contrary, an attempt to call for a vote ban on a candidate.

ELECTIONS 2021

Cloe Chao plans to run for AL race

CLOEE Chao, the president at the helm of the New Macau Gaming Staff Rights Association, confirmed that she is planning to run for election at this year's Legislative Assembly poll. "As a candidate of this year's election, I aspire to communicate opinions among casino workers upon the matter of casino license renewal process to the SAR government," Chao told the Times when asked about what the key directions will be for her intended electoral campaign.

The city's casino operators are going to make some "ravishing commitments" to the welfare benefits of casino workers in this fierce competition for a casino license. Chao stressed she would seek to ensure "the casino operators would keep their promises" to safeguard the rights of casino staff, through the electoral process.

Once elected, she wishes to enhance the legal framework regarding the renewal of casino licenses and fight for better employment entitlements for casino workers.

"All I want is to get the voices of our casino workers in Macau heard," she said.

In addition, she is seeking to



convey public concern about the city's high housing prices, which has put affordable housing out of sight for many residents, to the government.

However, Chao disclosed that she has not yet decided on campaign details, such as who will constitute her team.

Yesterday, Tribuna newspaper reported that Chao will run alongside Ng Kuok Cheong.

The AL election will take place on September 12. Nomination forms are required to be submitted by June 15. The campaign period will take place between August 28 and September 10. HT

EMPLOYMENT

DSAL URGED TO SAFEGUARD JOB RIGHTS FOR LOCAL CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

HONEY TSANG

A group of lawmakers delivered a letter of petition to the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) yesterday morning, urging the authorities to safeguard and prioritize the employment entitlements of local construction workers — who have allegedly been forced out by blue cardholders.

As stated in the letter, some locals who engaged in construction painting and other professions in the industry have been dismissed lately by reason of, the relevant firm claimed, the completion of the construction project. However, the firm was found to have been employing foreign workers afterward.

In addition to the aforementioned incident, local construction workers had reported every now and then that they had encountered some unjust situations within their job-seeking process, ranging from promised employment going south at the last minute without just cause, to actual salary or work duties failing to be delivered as promised.

Recently, the number of local job-seekers pursuing a po-

sition within the construction industry in Macau has been surging. As of March 1, there were 465 locals who had signed themselves up with DSAL to apply for a job in the sector, according to the official data.

"It is displeasing that there are 26,984 foreign workers approved by the SAR government to engage in the construction industry, but local employees [are still] unemployed," the petition letter said.

As a result, four Lawmakers, namely Ella Lei, Leong Sun Iok, Lam Lon Wai and Lei Chan U, together with representatives from the Macao Construction Industry General Union and the Macao Federation of Trade Unions, convened a meeting with DSAL on March 10 to address the hardship they say is being faced by local construction workers.

They urged DSAL authorities to conform to the principle of prioritizing employment for local citizens, especially during the pandemic, which is considered as a difficult time for the job market. The authorities should sign off on a quota of bluecard holders in a more prudent manner,

and enhance the mechanism for withdrawing non-resident workers, they suggested.

In addition, the DSAL is advised to oversee local construction firms to check whether they have suspended local employees, whilst still retaining employment contracts with foreign workers.

Considering the government has put aside MOP18.5 billion for public construction projects in 2021, securing a job in the construction industry "should not be a problem," Lei Chan U stated earlier in a written query.

Lei suggested that the government consider setting up a regulation and stipulating it in the future tender document for the public construction projects, which requires the selected company to hire a certain proportion of local workers in order to protect local employment rights.

DSAL also released a statement yesterday saying it has helped 79 local construction workers to secure jobs, from among 194 who had attended the job interviews at job-matching events. This translates to a successful matching rate of 40%.

GOV'T APPOINTS NEW DSEPDR DIRECTOR

Cheong Chok Man, the advisor to the Chief Executive's Office, has been appointed the new Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau (DSEPDR) director, according to the Official Gazette dispatch. The official will start his new position on March 15. Cheong is an economic graduate from Wuhan University and has also worked as an advisor to the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance between 2004 and 2019.

INSTITUTIONS REMINDED TO ENFORCE STRICT PREVENTIVE MEASURES

The Novel Coronavirus Response and Coordination Centre is calling on institutions to strictly implement preventive measures against the pandemic, stressing that the absence of Covid-19 cases in Macau should not deter people from following the prevention measures that are in place. The center said in a statement that some institutions have recently been slack on measures such as inspecting health codes and measuring temperatures. The center also stressed that only hospitals can accept yellow and red health codes, while other institutions should only accept green codes.

DSED TO SUBSIDIZE F&B INDUSTRY'S DIGITALIZATION

The Economic and Technological Development Bureau (DSED) is set to launch a scheme to fund the city's food and beverage enterprises in order to help them digitalize their daily operation and improve business efficiency. Through the scheme, participating catering enterprises can install e-systems to digitalize everyday procedures, such as order placement, back-end notification and payment. The Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center is being appointed to screen suppliers, process the application documents etc. to ensure the scheme runs smoothly.

FDCT SEEKS SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION THROUGH LOCAL PROJECTS

ANTHONY LAM

THE Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) shall make adjustments to its subsidy details to focus more on the transfer and application of subsidized projects, the fund announced yesterday in a press conference.

The session was held to review the annual work done by the FDCT last year.

The FDCT will introduce "technological maturity" as an apparatus to evaluate a project's eligibility for subsidies. The new apparatus will mainly be used to evaluate applied research and experimental development projects.

The fund hopes that through the new introduction, Macau can develop projects with the aim of scientific innovation.

When questioned about applications for research projects in Macau, the fund's Executive Council member, Ip Kuai Lam, revealed that the city is lacking investors. Many projects, he admitted, are being deve-



loped in Hengqin, so the fund hopes to collaborate with Mainland authorities to attract larger enterprises to Macau.

With regards to human resources, Hengqin has more talented personnel available for research and development, which Ip said is beneficial to project applications. Marketization is also a challenge in Macau. The

lack of which, according to Ip, is disadvantageous to project applications.

Last year, the FDCT received a total of 885 applications for subsidies, totaling to a monetary amount of MOP870 million. From all applications, the fund approved 553 projects, equating to a total subsidy of MOP210 million.

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak, which later deteriorated into a pandemic, quite a portion of the fund's subsidies has been assigned to Covid-19-related projects.

The FDCT disclosed that a batch of such projects have already gone to the application process and reached an expected outcome.

For example, a system testing vehicle sterilization against SARS-CoV-2 and a sterilization system using nano-silver technology have entered marketization already. Moreover, a project aimed at developing robots to conduct cleaning and sterilization has also started test applications.

On the other hand, the fund stressed that it has also subsidized local scientific research projects and facilities last year. The fund subsidized the State Key Laboratory for Traditional Chinese Medicine Quality Research, as well as two other State Key Laboratories for analog and mixed signals and astronomical sciences.

ANIMAL PROTECTION LAW

LOCAL ALLIANCE URGES GOV'T TO STRENGTHEN LAW

HONEY TSANG

THE Society for Abandoned Animals (SAA) is urging the government to review and amend the current Animal Protection Law, saying it has failed to meet its initial intention to safeguard physically-abused animals in Macau.

"The law has only been centering the focus on pet owners, with most publications finding their ways to them," vice president of SAA Josephine Lau told TDM. She stressed that the law has charged pet owners for minor issues, such as failing to keep a dog on a leash and clean up waste in public areas.

However, it has been rare to see the efforts of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) to safeguard animals who have been sub-

jected to perilous conditions, including physical abuse, which warrants swift action by the SAR government to halt.

Lau stated that since the law came into effect in September 2016, it has had little success in protecting animals from maltreatment.

The Animal Protection Law criminalized any treatments against animals through "cruel, violent or torturous means with intent to inflict suffering on them, which leads to severe physical disability, loss of important organs or death."

Under the regulation, an abuser is subject to a maximum imprisonment of one year or a fine of up to 120 days. It ranges from slaughtering, abandoning, inciting animals to fight with other animals or humans, to

selling dogs aged under 3 months old.

The Community Services Advisory Committee, established in 2008, which serves as a platform to help communicate the public's concerns to the government, suggests the government strengthen education in a bid to raise public awareness of animal protection.

Kou Ngon Fong, a member of the committee, stressed that legal punishment should be considered as the last resort to rectify the problem. The community should bank on heightened public awareness to preclude any abusive treatment of animals.

Over the past months, Macau saw several killings of cats. The cases have been passed to IAM and police officials for further follow-up and investigation.

NEW COMMISSIONERS SWORN-IN AT COLOANE PRISON



PANG Chi Fai, Leong Kun Lim, Fan Ka Man, Lei Fu On, Chan Sio Pan, and Ko Sai Hou are the new six commissioners that have been sworn-in at the Coloane Prison in a ceremony presided yesterday by the Correctional Services Bureau (DSC) director Cheng Fong Meng.

The new commissioners concluded a five-month training course according to the prison guards' promotion regime.

At the ceremony, Cheng noted that today's society and environment are complex and changing, and the challenges and tests

that prison guards need to face are increasing day by day. Therefore, "DSC must keep in pace with the times and turn challenges into opportunities." The promotion of the new commissioners was said to contribute to the improvement of the prison management team.

The director also encouraged those in charge to always adhere to the correctional services missions and principles, "to be loyal and to serve as a good example, to be responsible and to develop law enforcement skills without fear of challenges." **RM**

TWO SESSIONS

CE suggests Macau deserves more mainland tourists

IN an interview with Chinese state media agency China New Service, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng has cited Macau's performance in containing Covid-19 and suggested that Macau deserves more mainland Chinese tourists.

Sharing the same view are the Macau representatives at the National People's Congress (NPC), which is having its annual plenary session in Beijing. Comparatively, they are asking mainland authorities to resume online applications for travel endorsement to Macau.

They founded the proposal upon Macau's success in containing the spread of the pandemic.

The 12 Macau delegates pointed out that some of the key problems discouraging mainland tourists

from visiting Macau are the inconvenience of applying for the endorsement.

Besides, mainland airports consider arrivals from Macau to be coming from riskier areas. Mainland tourists returning home will, therefore, experience the process as time-consuming.

Furthermore, the duty waiver amount for entrants from Macau to the mainland needs to be updated to attract more mainland shoppers in Macau, the representatives said. For instance, the NPC representatives pointed out that the duty waiver level currently in place is from a decade ago. They cited Hainan Province, which has had its waiver level eased, to show the same should be done for Macau, as it is a Special Administrative Region. **AL**

TDM PORTUGUESE CHANNEL HEADS' TERMS RENEWED FOR 6 MONTHS ONLY

The director and adjunct-director of the Portuguese channel of the public service television network, Teledifusão de Macau (TDM), were reappointed to their positions by TDM's Executive Committee for a period of just six months, Tribuna newspaper revealed yesterday.

According to sources, the decision was communicated to João Francisco Pinto and Gilberto Lopes on Tuesday. Yesterday, the heads of Portuguese Information and Programs Channels had a special meeting with the TV and radio

newsrooms to brief them about the situation and editorial matters, the Times has learned.

On previous occasions, the tenures of the heads of Portuguese TV and radio channels were renewed systematically for one-year periods.

The Times reached out to the journalists who confirmed the decision of the board, but declined to provide comments on "TDM's internal matters."

The Times has also attempted to obtain a clarification from TDM's Executive Committee but no reply was received as of press time. **RM**

Benefits of China's vaccine passport to take time to surface in town: MGTO

HONEY TSANG

THE announcement of the roll-out of China's international vaccine health certificate, also known as a vaccine passport, has offered a much-needed boost to the local tourism industry. However, its stimulating effects may take time to surface, the tourism expert said.

On March 7, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during the Two Sessions, the annual parliamentary meeting in China, that the country is rolling out a vaccine passport, with the intention of fostering global economic recovery and resuming international travel cautiously and gradually during the Covid-19 pandemic.

A dedicated WeChat mini program for Chinese citizens to register for a health certificate was launched the next day, March 8. It is a platform used to display a holder's Covid-19 test results, vaccination stats and serum IgG antibody test results. The health passport comes with an encrypted QR code for governments to access the holder's information and can be accessed in both digital and paper formats.

Following the launch, director of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said in a media briefing that the "vaccine passport" is projected to be a rapidly growing trend implemented by other countries and regions to enable safe international tourism activity.

When asked whether Macau would roll out relevant measures to align with China's vaccine passport, Fernandes said she still has to communicate the matter with the Health Bureau.

Considering that Macau has just commenced the vaccination scheme, Fernandes believes that it may take some more time before a relevant policy can be introduced.

According to a report by news outlet exmoo published yesterday, Andy Wu, Chairman of Travel Industry Council of Macau, stated that the introduction of Chi-



na's vaccine passport will be a boon for Macau's tourism industry. However, the city may reach a certain vaccination rate no earlier than the third or fourth quarter of 2021, he said.

Wu projects that once the vaccine passport scheme is enacted to facilitate travel between Macau and China, it will offer extra reassurance for mainland holidaymakers

to visit Macau. The vaccine passport may also provide favorable conditions to extend the validity period of the nucleic acid test, possibly resulting in a longer length of stay among mainland visitors.

As of now, China is the world's first country to issue a national vaccine passport. Some other countries such as Denmark and Sweden are

also developing their own health passports.

Meanwhile, Singapore International Airlines was the first to trial a digital health passport app developed by the International Air Travel Association (IATA), the global airline industry body. The app is designed to display a traveler's Covid-19 test result and vaccination status for seamless travel during the pandemic.

However, the World Health Organization (WHO) earlier advised against the use of vaccine passports for international travel due to "practical and ethical considerations."

"Vaccination is just not available enough around the world and is not available certainly on an equitable basis," WHO Health Emergencies chief Michael Ryan said at a press briefing on March 8.

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.

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ANALYSIS

COMMUNIST PARTY SEEKING CHINA'S REJUVENATION

KEN MORITSUGU, BEIJING

THE catchword “rejuvenation” has been tucked into the major speeches at China’s biggest political event of the year, the meeting of its 3,000-member legislature.

It encapsulates the ruling Communist Party’s overriding long-term objective: To build the nation into a truly global power, one that commands respect from the rest of the world.

That goal is intertwined with another one: retaining a hold on power. The party keeps a tight grip by censoring the digital space, controlling the news media and locking up those who publicly challenge its line. But it also tries to woo the public by stoking national pride in the country’s growing global clout to justify its continued rule after more than 70 years at the helm.

“By enabling the Chinese nation to make another giant stride toward rejuvenation, the (Communist Party) Central Committee has delivered impressive results that our people are happy with and that will go down in history,” Li Zhanshu, the party’s No. 3 official, told lawmakers this week.

Rejuvenation is repeated like a mantra, even woven into a sprawling exhibit at the national art museum marking the Year

of the Ox in the Chinese zodiac. The exhibit’s introduction invokes the diligent ox and credits party leader and head-of-state Xi Jinping for deepening “the understanding of the great striving of the Chinese nation.”

That perspective is an important dynamic as policymakers in Washington and other capitals work out how to navigate China’s rise and the global changes in its wake.

Chinese leaders are bent on developing a more sophisticated economy and a more powerful military, and accelerating growth of the domestic market and high-tech capabilities in the face of U.S. tariffs and restrictions. They are looking for opportunities to demonstrate global leadership, from the COVID-19 pandemic to climate change. And they are less willing to accede to the demands of others on issues such as human rights.

That presents a multitude of challenges for U.S. President Joe Biden. There is room for cooperation on climate change. There are differences on trade and technology to try to hash out. Their navies are jockeying for position in the western Pacific. And deep divisions remain over Taiwan, Hong Kong and China’s largely Muslim Xinjiang region, where both sides are digging in their heels.

TWO CENTENNIALS

In its march to hoped-for rejuvenation, the Communist Party is marking two centennials. This July will be the 100th anniversary of its founding. And 2049, that of its taking power in 1949.

For this year, the goal was creation of a “moderately prosperous” society. Per capita GDP has topped \$10,000, putting China solidly in the ranks of upper middle-income countries, though the wealth gap between urban rich and rural poor is huge and widening.

The goal for 2049 is grander. The aim, Xi told the 19th party congress in 2017, is achieving basic common prosperity for all Chinese so they enjoy happier, safer and healthier lives. China would also be a global leader in national strength and international influence.

As an interim goal, Xi has said that the economy could double in size by 2035, which would take per capita GDP to about \$20,000.

To that end, the National People’s Congress, at its annual meeting that wraps up today, is expected to endorse the party’s next five-year plan, laying out its economic, military and other goals.

There are potential bumps in the road. China’s population

is aging before the economy is fully developed, an outgrowth of its once harsh one-child policy. It’s unclear if the party’s rigid system can manage an increasingly complex society and economy that increasingly depends on creativity instead of central planning for growth.

The term “rejuvenation” harkens back to the peak of China’s imperial era, when it was a technological and cultural leader in Asia. The Qing Dynasty later weakened in the 19th century, and western nations that had become more militarily powerful forced it to make a series of territorial and trade concessions.

The idea of rejuvenation underpinned not only the appeals of the communists but other revolutionaries and reformers in the early 20th century. But as various forces vied for power and China descended into chaos, Japan invaded and occupied much of the country through the end of World War II.

The Communist Party often invokes this “century of humiliation” in its bid to make China strong again. After decades of rapid economic growth, it is closer to achieving its ultimate goal than ever before.

“The Chinese nation, which since modern times began had endured so much for so long, has achieved a tremendous transformation: It has stood up, grown rich, and is becoming strong; it has come to embrace the brilliant prospects of rejuvenation,” Xi said in his 2017 party congress speech.

THE MEANING OF REJUVENATION

The question is what China’s rejuvenation would mean for the rest of the world. Is it a driver of global economic growth, the world’s biggest consumer market and a source of investment for other countries? A military and industrial threat that will bully smaller neighbors and steal technology? Will its success encourage some other countries to pursue authoritarian governments and turn away from the democracy espoused by America?

“China’s got the wind at its back as it heads towards a position of greater power and eventual, from their perspective, prominence in the global balance of power,” said Bonnie Glaser, director of the China Power Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. “And that’s a huge challenge for the Biden administration.”

Biden and his deputies have signaled a tough line on China. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, in a recent speech, called China “the only country with the economic, diplomatic, military, and technological power to seriously challenge the stable and open international system – all the rules, values, and relationships that make the world work the way we want it to.”

The public posturing may give way to diplomacy, but China’s ultimate goals — whether to become a technology leader or extend its naval reach in the South China Sea — are unwavering. As America struggles with recession and the pandemic, China and its leaders grow more confident about its rejuvenation. **MDT/AP**

No information now on possible China-US 'high level' meeting: spokesperson

A Foreign Ministry spokesperson yesterday responded to a possible "senior-level" meeting between China and the United States, saying he has no information to provide at present.

The South China Morning Post cited a source late Tuesday as saying that China and the United States were in discussions about a meeting in Alaska between U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, U.S. National Security Advisor Jake

Sullivan and Yang Jiechi, a member of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and director of the Office of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPC Central Committee as well as Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

When asked about the report, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian told a press briefing that Chinese President Xi Jinping held a telephonic conversation with U.S. President Joe Bi-

den on the eve of the Spring Festival, and both sides agreed to keep communication channels open.

"As for the specific issue you mentioned, I have no information to provide you at present," Zhao said.

It is also reported that White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki told a regular news briefing earlier that the administration was "directly engaged" with China, but that she didn't have "any details finalized or confirmed at this point." MDT/XINHUA

Beijing, Moscow agree to build lunar research station

CHINA and Russia said they will build a lunar research station, possibly on the moon's surface, marking the start of a new era in space cooperation between the two countries.

A statement posted on the website of the China National Space Administration yesterday said the International Lunar Research Station would also be open to use by other countries, but gave no timeline for its construction.

It described the project as a "comprehensive scientific experiment base with the capability of long-term autonomous operation."

The station would be "built on the lunar surface and/or on the lunar orbit that will carry out ... scientific research activities such as the lunar exploration and utilization, lunar-based observation, basic scientific experiment and technical verification," the statement said.

It said a memorandum of understanding on the project



was signed Tuesday by Zhang Kejian, administrator of the China National Space Administration, and Russian space agency Roscosmos chief Dmitry Rogozin.

China drew heavily on Russian expertise in the early years of its space program, but has largely forged its own path since launching its first crewed mission in 2003. Despite that, China's Shenzhou spaceships closely resemble Russia's Soyuz capsules and the CNSA has worked with countries around the world, apart from the U.S. Congress bans almost all contacts be-

tween NASA and China over concerns about technology theft and the secretive, military-backed nature of China's space program.

Russia and China will "adhere to the principle of 'co-consultation, joint construction, and shared benefits,' facilitate extensive cooperation in the ILRS, open to all interested countries and international partners, strengthen scientific research exchanges, and promote humanity's exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purpose," the Chinese statement said. MDT/AP

AD

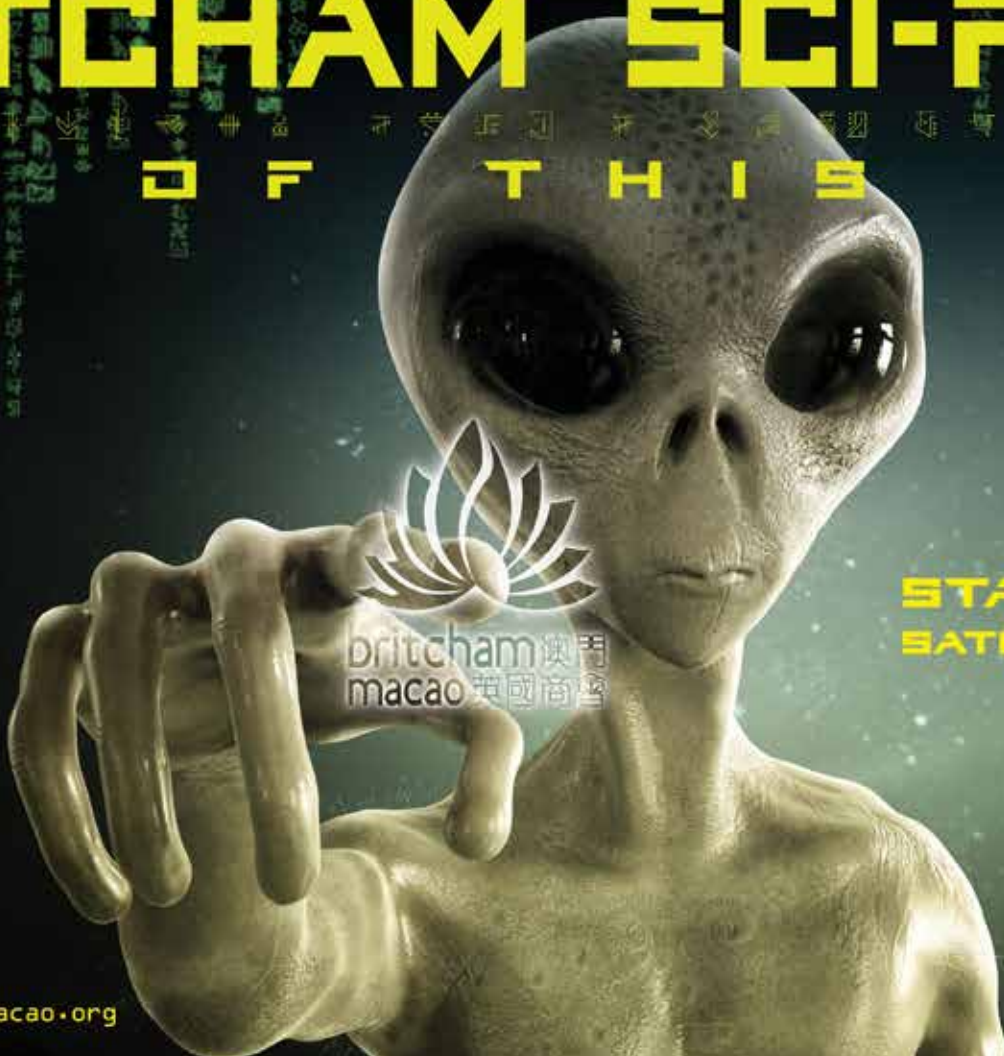
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Galaxy Entertainment Group

銀娛 GEG

BRITCHAM SCI-FI BALL

OUT OF THIS WORLD



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7:00PM TILL LATE
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DRESS CODE: Sci-Fi or Party Attire
Tickets: MOP/HKD 1,500
Tables of 6 or 8 or multiples thereof

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COVID-19

Mexico to rely heavily on Chinese vaccines

MEXICO announced a huge bet on Chinese vaccines, without making public any information about their efficacy.

Foreign Relations Secretary Marcelo Ebrard said the Mexican government has signed agreements for 12 million doses of the yet-unapproved Sinopharm vaccine and increased to a total of 20 million doses its contracts for the Coronavac

dose made by China's Sinovac.

Deliveries of Sinovac have already started, with the full 20 million doses expected by July. The Sinopharm vaccines are to be delivered between March and June.

The total of 32 million doses, plus at least 4 million doses of the CanSino shot, would dwarf the estimated 5 million vaccine doses Mexico has acquired so far from other sources.

However, Ebrard's office has repeatedly refused to answer questions about the efficacy of the Chinese shots.

Sinopharm has claimed its vaccine was 79% effective based on interim data from clinical trials, but like other Chinese firms, it has not publicly released its late-stage clinical trial data.

Experts in Hong Kong have assessed the efficacy of the Sinovac vaccine at about 51%. That shot has

already been approved for use in Mexico.

The CanSino vaccine has been approved in Mexico and reportedly has an efficacy rate of around 65.7%.

A total of six vaccines have been approved for use in Mexico, which has received relatively small amounts of each. Mexico has administered only about 4.7 million doses of all vaccines, a tiny amount given the country's population of 126 million.

The government policy sets up the odd situation in which some Mexicans, mainly in urban areas, will receive the Pfizer vaccine, which has around 95% efficacy, while most will get one of the Chinese vaccines with a much lower effectiveness. Mexico has contracts for a total of about 34 million doses of the Pfizer shot, but deliveries have been slow, with less than a tenth of that amount delivered so far.

Inoculations with Chinese vaccines already have begun in more than 25 countries. None of China's three vaccine candidates used globally have publicly released their late-stage clinical trial data.

Mexico has suffered almost 190,100 confirmed deaths. However, Mexico does so little testing that government excess-death figures suggest the real toll was well above 220,000 at the start of January, when the government stopped releasing that data. Test-confirmed cases total over 2.1 million. **AP**

sign of softening Trump's confrontational measures on trade, technology and human rights.

"That President Biden has made this one of his earliest multilateral engagements speaks to the importance we've placed on close cooperation with our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific," said White House press secretary Jen Psaki.

She added that the leaders are expected to discuss everything from the threat of COVID-19 to economic cooperation between the nations and climate policy.

Biden, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison will all participate in the summit. **AP**

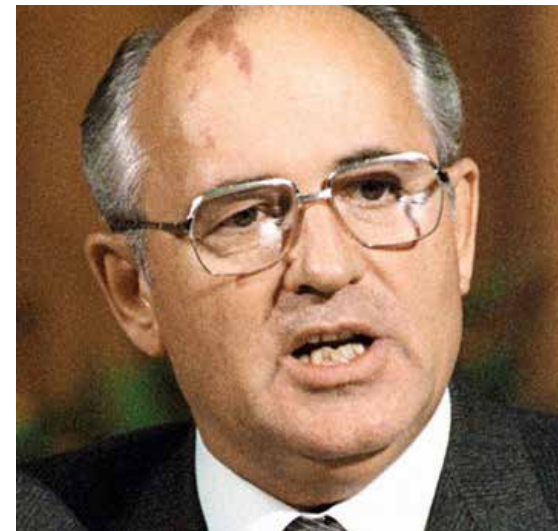


Biden himself has said that he sees cooperation with U.S. allies in the region as a central focus of his strategy to deal with

China's growing economic and military strength. While Biden has said he wants a more civil relationship with Beijing, he's shown no

this day in history

1985 GORBACHEV BECOMES SOVIET LEADER



There is a new man in charge at the Kremlin - Mikhail Gorbachev has taken over following the death of Konstantin Chernenko.

Chernenko, 73, died yesterday after a long illness - but his death was only announced to the Soviet people this morning. Sombre music preceded the news on radio and television and scheduled programmes were cancelled.

The speed of naming of his successor - at 54 the youngest man to take over as general secretary of the Soviet communist party - has taken people by surprise.

In another break with tradition, Mr Gorbachev has announced arms talks with the Americans in Geneva will go ahead tomorrow.

Chernenko lasted only 13 months in the top job. He was in poor health when he was appointed and his death was caused by heart failure brought on by problems with his lungs and liver.

He is the third Soviet leader to die in just over two years. Leonid Brezhnev died in 1982 after 18 years in power. He was 75. Yuri Andropov died 18 months later aged 69.

The British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will attend Chernenko's funeral on Wednesday - but the United States President Ronald Reagan will not be going.

The BBC's Moscow correspondent, Tim Sebastian, says Mr Gorbachev's appointment marks a dramatic change in leadership in Moscow.

He says Mr Gorbachev is a dynamic figure who has moved rapidly through the Soviet hierarchy.

"There seems little doubt the Gorbachev administration will look different. More outgoing, more approachable, more concerned with its public image," he reported.

"But its aims and its approach seem likely to be familiar. Despite his lively and flexible manner, Gorbachev is still a strict, orthodox Marxist in no sense has he shown himself to be a liberal."

Mr Gorbachev's acceptance speech gave a hint of the changes to come. He spoke of his desire to freeze the deployment of weapons and reduce the international nuclear weapons stockpiles.

Mrs Thatcher has already indicated her approval at his appointment. Following his recent visit to Britain, she said: "I like Mr Gorbachev. We can do business together."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mikhail Gorbachev radically changed the course of Soviet foreign policy, signing a number of agreements with the United States on nuclear disarmament.

He introduced a policy of openness or "glasnost" and he was also the architect of "perestroika" or deep political and economic reforms. But his reforms led to severe economic hardship at home. Growing nationalist movements spearheaded by the Baltic states led him to propose a loose federation of Soviet states.

Gorbachev is now president of the Green Cross - an organisation concerned with the clean-up of chemical and biological weapons.

His wife Raisa, the only wife of a Soviet leader to become a public figure in recent times, died of leukaemia in 1999.

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You've been sailing along nicely and capably navigating the most threatening waters for a good long while. You should be proud of how you've handled yourself recently.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Right now, you need to give yourself a lot of compassion, because soon you could be in the middle of things, and it could get pretty hot in that kitchen. The only way to keep cool is to stay confident.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Money issues may be weighing heavily on your mind right now, although there's no reason to be nervous about it. You're merely more aware of the reality of your financial situation, which is a good thing.



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Getting involved in new projects or relationships isn't the best use of your time, so decline any invitations today, even if the opportunity seems promising.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Let your generosity and compassion play the leading role in any type of bargaining today. In the end, what you give up will be surpassed by the goodwill you gain.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

Are you nervous about an upcoming family gathering? You shouldn't be. The stars say that there will be much more acceptance coming your way than you anticipated and way less judgment than you feared.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Now is the time to take your craziest germ of an idea and show it to the world. You are well positioned to gather up many different types of admirers who think that your way of doing things is pretty special.



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

Your instincts are right on target, and if you can muster up enough bravado to get you through the day, you'll soon be riding on a wave of genuine confidence.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

What are your plans for today? If you don't have an answer, you need to get to work! Find out what's up with your friends, and then find out how you can get involved.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Getting to know someone is an art form you've mastered. Today, put in some time to make this tenuous new connection more solid. It's as easy as asking questions and listening to the answers.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You should realize that just like you can change your life through certain acts and deeds, you can also change your body through how much or how little you exercise.



PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

You could be forced to rethink your health when a typical activity leaves you a bit more winded than expected. Frustration will lead you to make declarations of dramatic change.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	8	14	smoggy
Harbin	-7	5	clear
Tianjin	9	17	cloudy
Urumqi	-2	7	clear
Xi'an	5	17	cloudy
Lhasa	-1	14	overcast
Chengdu	11	17	overcast
Chongqing	12	19	overcast
Kunming	11	23	clear
Nanjing	9	12	drizzle
Shanghai	9	13	drizzle
Wuhan	10	16	overcast
Hangzhou	10	13	drizzle
Taipei	17	23	clear
Guangzhou	18	26	drizzle
Hong Kong	19	22	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-21	-7	clear
Frankfurt	6	9	drizzle
Paris	6	8	drizzle
London	9	12	drizzle
New York	5	15	overcast

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS 1- Pale; 6- "Lou Grant" star; 11- Fond du ___; Wis.; 14- Fish covering; 15- Tally; 16- Gone by; 17- 18th letter of the Greek alphabet; 18- Heals; 19- ___-la-la; 20- Streetcar; 22- Projecting window; 24- Manage to find; 28- Resembling a horse; 30- A sacramental anointing; 31- Short journey; 32- Draw a bead on; 33- Home; 37- HST's successor; 38- Stitched; 39- Alley-___; 40- Calming medicines; 43- Sip; 45- Filbert; 46- Arthropod appendage; 47- Journey; 49- Night lights; 50- Investigation; 51- Reindeer herder; 52- Mus. slow-up; 53- Pave over; 56- ___ salts; 61- John Lennon's middle name; 62- Peachy!; 63- Roman goddess of the moon; 64- ___ capita; 65- Pilgrim John; 66- Western;

DOWN: 1- Pompous person; 2- "Nova" subj.; 3- Old crone; 4- Spreading tree; 5- Most tidy; 6- Songwriters' org.; 7- Worthless person; 8- And not; 9- Bard's "before"; 10- Echo; 11- Caesar's tongue; 12- Come to terms; 13- Lumpy fuel; 21- Grog ingredient; 23- Ceremony; 24- Lots; 25- Reproach; 26- Equipped; 27- Narrow inlet; 28- Relaxes; 29- One pound sterling; 31- Gem; 33- Have a ball; 34- Polite refusal; 35- Terra ___; 36- Sporting blades; 38- Dimensions; 41- Gregory Peck role of 1956; 42- Restaurant in Greece; 43- Underwater missile; 44- Stir; 46- Young dog; 47- Triple; 48- Helicopter part; 49- Biblical brother; 50- Play thing; 51- Like the White Rabbit; 54- It's a moray; 55- Bit; 57- Actress Zadora; 58- Posed; 59- United; 60- Scratch the surface of;

Yesterday's solution

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

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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CYBERSECURITY

HACKERS BREACH THOUSANDS OF SECURITY CAMERAS, EXPOSING TESLA, JAILS, HOSPITALS

WILLIAM TURTON

A group of hackers say they breached a massive trove of security-camera data collected by Silicon Valley startup Verkada Inc., gaining access to live feeds of 150,000 surveillance cameras inside hospitals, companies, police departments, prisons and schools.

Companies whose footage was exposed include carmaker Tesla Inc. and software provider Cloudflare Inc. In addition, hackers were able to view video from inside women's health clinics, psychiatric hospitals and the offices of Verkada itself. Some of the cameras, including in hospitals, use facial-recognition technology to identify and categorize people captured on the footage. The hackers say they also have access to the full video archive of all Verkada customers.

In a video seen by Bloomberg, a Verkada camera inside Florida hospital Halifax Health showed what appeared to be eight hospital staffers tackling a man and pinning him to a bed. Halifax Health is featured on Verkada's public-facing website in a case study entitled: "How a Florida Healthcare Provider Easily Updated and Deployed a Scalable HIPAA Compliant Security System."

Another video, shot inside a Tesla warehouse in Shanghai, shows workers on an assembly line. The hackers said they obtained access to 222 cameras in Tesla factories and warehouses.

The data breach was carried out by an international hacker collective and intended to show the pervasiveness of video surveillance and the ease with which systems could be broken into, said Tillie Kottmann, one of the hackers who claimed credit for breaching San Mateo, California-based Verkada. Kottmann, who uses they/them pronouns, previously claimed credit for hacking chipmaker Intel Corp. and carmaker Nissan Motor Co. Kottmann said their reasons for hacking are "lots of curiosity, fighting for freedom of information and against intellectual property, a huge dose of anti-capitalism, a hint of anarchism -- and it's also just too much fun not to do it."

"We have disabled all internal administrator accounts to prevent any unauthorized access," a Verkada spokesperson said in a statement. "Our internal security team and external security firm are investigating the scale and scope of this issue, and we have notified law enforcement."

A person with knowledge of the matter said Verkada's chief information security officer, an internal



team and an external security firm are investigating the incident. The company is working to notify customers and set up a support line to address questions, said the person, who requested anonymity to discuss an ongoing investigation.

"This afternoon we were alerted that the Verkada security camera system that monitors main entry points and main thoroughfares in a handful of Cloudflare offices may have been compromised," San Francisco-based Cloudflare said in a statement. "The cameras were located in a handful of offices that have been officially closed for several months." The company said it disabled the cameras and disconnected them from office networks.

Tesla said that, "based on our current understanding, the cameras being hacked are only installed in one of our suppliers, and the product is not being used by our Shanghai factory, or any of our Tesla stores or services centers. Our data collected from Shanghai factories and other places mentioned are stored on local servers."

Other companies identified in this story didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. Representatives of the jails, hospitals and schools named in this article either declined to comment or didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

A video seen by Bloomberg shows officers in a police station in Stoughton, Massachusetts, questioning a man in handcuffs. The hackers say they also gained access to the security cameras of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, where a

gunman killed more than 20 people in 2012.

Also available to the hackers were 330 security cameras inside the Madison County Jail in Huntsville, Alabama. Verkada offers a feature called "People Analytics," which lets a customer "search and filter based on many different attributes, including gender traits, clothing color, and even a person's face," according to a Verkada blog post. Images seen by Bloomberg show that the cameras inside the jail, some of which are hidden inside vents, thermostats and defibrillators, track inmates and correctional staff using the facial-recognition technology. The hackers say they were able to access live feeds and archived video, in some cases including audio, of interviews between police officers and criminal suspects, all in the high-definition resolution known as 4K.

Kottmann said their group was able to obtain "root" access on the cameras, meaning they could use the cameras to execute their own code. That access could, in some instances, allow them to pivot and obtain access to the broader corporate network of Verkada's customers, or hijack the cameras and use them as a platform to launch future hacks. Obtaining this degree of access to the camera didn't require any additional hacking, as it was a built-in feature, Kottmann said.

The hackers' methods were unsophisticated: they gained access to Verkada through a "Super Admin" account, allowing them to peer into the cameras of all of its customers. Kottmann says they

found a user name and password for an administrator account publicly exposed on the internet. After Bloomberg contacted Verkada, the hackers lost access to the video feeds and archives, Kottmann said.

The hackers say they were able to peer into multiple locations of the luxury gym chain Equinox. At Wadley Regional Medical Center, a hospital in Texarkana, Texas, hackers say they looked through Verkada cameras pointed at nine ICU beds. Hackers also say they watched cameras at Tempe St. Luke's Hospital, in Arizona, and were also able to see a detailed record of who used Verkada access control cards to open certain doors, and when they did so. A representative of Wadley declined to comment.

The hack "exposes just how broadly we're being surveilled, and how little care is put into at least securing the platforms used to do so, pursuing nothing but profit," Kottmann said. "It's just wild how I can just see the things we always knew are happening, but we never got to see." Kottmann said they gained access to Verkada's system on Monday.

Verkada, founded in 2016, sells security cameras that customers can access and manage through the web. In January 2020, it raised \$80 million in venture capital funding, valuing the company at \$1.6 billion. Among the investors was Sequoia Capital, one of Silicon Valley's oldest firms.

Kottmann calls the hacking collective "Advanced Persistent Threat 69420," a light-hearted reference to the designations

cybersecurity firms give to state sponsored hacking groups and criminal cybergangs.

In October 2020, Verkada fired three employees after reports surfaced that workers had used its cameras to take pictures of female colleagues inside the Verkada office and make sexually explicit jokes about them. Verkada CEO Filip Kaliszan said in a statement to Vice at the time that the company "terminated the three individuals who instigated this incident, engaged in egregious behavior targeting coworkers, or neglected to report the behavior despite their obligations as managers."

Kottmann said they were able to download the entire list of thousands of Verkada customers, as well as the company's balance sheet, which lists assets and liabilities. As a closely held company, Verkada does not publish its financial statements. Kottmann said hackers watched through the camera of a Verkada employee who had set one of the cameras up inside his home. One of the saved clips from the camera shows the employee completing a puzzle with his family.

"If you are a company who has purchased this network of cameras and you are putting them in sensitive places, you may not have the expectation that in addition to being watched by your security team that there is some admin at the camera company who is also watching," said Eva Galperin, director of cybersecurity at the Electronic Frontier Foundation, who was briefed on the breach by Bloomberg. **BLOOMBERG**

FOOTBALL

Juventus knocked out of Champions League by 10-man Porto

JUVENTUS 3, PORTO 2

JUVENTUS — and Cristiano Ronaldo — crashed out of the Champions League round of 16 on away goals for the second successive year as the Bianconeri were eliminated by 10-man Porto yesterday [Macau time].

Sérgio Oliveira scored in extra time to send Porto into the quarterfinals of Europe's premier club competition despite a thrilling 3-2 loss in Turin after Federico Chiesa's two goals had given Juventus hope.

Porto, which played most of the second leg at a numerical disadvantage after Mehdi Taremi's sending off, advanced on away goals after the matchup ended 4-4 on aggregate.

"There's great disappointment and sadness, I'm pretty much speechless," Chiesa said. "We managed to get back into the match and we deserved to go through. Instead, we're here talking about something else and I really don't know what to say."

"We had all the cards in our hand to go through, just we didn't show it. We only performed in the second half today and we almost did it ... the disappointment is so great. It's all pretty much meaningless, even my two goals or my performance, because we haven't got anything out of it."

Juventus went out in the round of 16 on away goals to Lyon last season.

Sérgio Oliveira also netted Porto's first goal, from the penalty spot, but Chiesa scored twice in the second half to level the tie for Juventus and send the match into extra time.

Porto appeared to have all but won it before Adrien Rabiot reduced the deficit three minutes from time to set up a tense finale.

Both sides also hit the woodwork in an end-to-end match in which the momentum kept changing.

"These games are marked in the history of the club," Porto coach Sérgio Conceição said. "I have a group of brave players who interpreted what we wan-



Porto players celebrate after the Champions League, round of 16, second leg

ted in the best way, against a great team with players of a very high level.

"After Taremi's sending off, we showed the Porto DNA. We never stopped believing — this is the true DNA of Porto."

Juventus needed to overturn a 2-1 deficit from the first leg. It had conceded early in Portugal and almost did so again in Turin as Taremi's header bounced off the bar in the sixth minute after Bianconeri defender Leonardo Bonucci had blocked Zaidu Sanusi's effort.

Taremi was also involved in Porto's goal as he won the penalty when he was fouled by Merih Demiral and Sérgio Oliveira converted into the bottom left corner.

Juventus appeared transformed after the break and drew level four minutes into the second half as Ronaldo controlled a Bonucci ball over the top and knocked it on for Chiesa to curl into the top right corner.

Juve's hopes of turning the tie around grew further five minutes later when Taremi was sent off after he kicked a ball away and received a second yellow card moments after his first booking.

Chiesa hit the post befo-

re completing the comeback when he headed a Juan Cuadrado cross into the top left corner in the 63rd minute.

Juventus almost won it in stoppage time as Álvaro Morata had a goal disallowed for offside before Cuadrado fired an effort off the bar.

The Bianconeri were made to regret those wasted opportunities as, five minutes from the end of extra time, Weston McKennie fouled Sérgio Oliveira, who dusted himself off to fire a free kick under the wall and into the bottom left corner.

Rabiot was partly at fault, although he came close to atoning for his error by heading in a corner two minutes later.

The Italian champion's exit from the competition last season ultimately cost Maurizio Sarri his job. First-year coach Andrea Pirlo may come under similar pressure this time.

Juventus was eliminated by Ajax in the 2019 quarterfinals, in Ronaldo's first season at the club. The latest loss is another disappointing Champions League ending for the 36-year-old star, who was accustomed to raising trophies during his Real Madrid days. AP

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OPINION

World Views

Tara Lachapelle, Bloomberg



NETFLIX NEEDS A BABY YODA

Chess sets commemorating a recently popular television series are selling for upwards of \$99. But “The Queen’s Gambit,” Netflix Inc.’s hit miniseries about a fictional chess prodigy, isn’t the theme. It’s HBO’s “Game of Thrones,” a fantasy drama that has nothing to do with the game:

Why did “Game of Thrones” fandom warrant the making of official series-themed chessboards, yet “The Queen’s Gambit” — a story that’s said to have inspired a whole new generation of chess players — didn’t? The short answer: “Game of Thrones” captivated TV viewers for nearly a decade; “The Queen’s Gambit” was over and binged in just 6.5 hours.

This is the curse of Netflix and the signature evanescence of its content library. While sales of chess sets did spike immediately after the Oct. 23 release of all seven episodes of “The Queen’s Gambit,” Netflix didn’t benefit from the enthusiastic shopping it stoked. And this isn’t the only way Netflix cedes profits to other companies. Take advertising: The Netflix app doesn’t sell ads, but its content regularly sparks interaction on ad-driven social-media businesses such as Facebook Inc. when hits such as “Tiger King” and “Cobra Kai” go viral. From meme makers to retailers, Netflix is supplying material for free.

Netflix executives appear to be firmly opposed to adopting ads (for now), so I’ll stick with the other more palatable argument: If the company were to invest in fewer limited series and more can’t-wait-for-next-season, water-cooler-worthy storylines, it could probably make a lot of money selling consumers a lot of stuff. This would pay dividends to Netflix by also fostering loyalty to its app at a time when it’s running out of Americans to sign up and searching for new growth avenues.

A TV franchise needs to have staying power to lend its trademarked characters and logo to merchandise sales. HBO can slap an image of its iconic iron throne or dragons on pretty much anything and people would buy it — even now, almost two years after the show’s run has ended. There were even “Game of Thrones” eyeshadows and Night King ice cube trays. Hardly any series owned by Netflix is given the chance to reach such legendary status. “Stranger Things” was perhaps its most notable effort, but even that doesn’t measure up.

Of course, no company has maximized the virtuous cycle of merchandise licensing more masterfully than Walt Disney Co. When Disney releases a new film, it profits from box-office tickets, then the various methods of home viewing, all the while generating a separate stream of recurring revenue from toys and visits to its theme-park attractions. The effect compounds, igniting fan excitement for the next film. It’s why Disney fanatics can find everything from “Frozen” jewelry boxes and princess-inspired wedding gowns, to Millennium Falcon waffle makers and Mandalorian Adidas sneakers. And then there’s “baby Yoda,” the first retail golden goose to come out of Disney+, which now has more than 100 million users, gaining on Netflix’s more than 200 million.

For Disney, consumer products are the earnings gifts that keep on giving — even during a pandemic. While revenue tied to its theme parks and cruise ships tumbled more than 40% in the fiscal year that ended in early October, merchandise licensing and retail revenues were down just 7%. In the latest quarter, Disney earned about 55 cents in profit for every dollar of consumer-product sales. This line of business consistently contributes more than \$1.5 billion of operating income per year, and licensing carries much higher margins than producing a series that viewers binge in one sitting. In 2012, the Hollywood Reporter said that lifetime sales of “Star Wars” licensed goods had reached \$20 billion, and that was before Disney acquired it.

Consumer products are a logical area of investment for Netflix, especially if it’s going to keep resisting advertisers’ money. But the first step is developing a series that has legs — be it dragon legs, baby alien legs, whatever works.

Greenpeace activists landed on the roof of a European Central Bank building yesterday to drop a banner protesting the financial institution’s loans policy, which climate activists say favors heavily polluting industries.

Activists used a powered paraglider to reach the roof of the reception building at the ECB’s Frankfurt headquarters before unfurling their banner reading “Stop funding climate killers.”

Greenpeace said that a recent study showed the bank gives companies that produce large amounts of greenhouse gases better risk ratings, while climate-friendly industries are burde-

ned with a greater margin between the market value of their assets and the value ascribed to it by the ECB.

The environmental group accused the bank of “systematically undermining climate protection.”

The ECB confirmed the activists had landed on its roof and said police were called.

“Climate change is one of the greatest challenges faced by mankind this century,” the bank said. “The ECB is contributing to the response within its mandate as a central bank, acting in step with those responsible for climate policy.”

AP PHOTO



Chef Hung Ching Lung at his beef noodle restaurant in Taipei yesterday

CHINA’S BAN ON TAIWAN’S PINEAPPLES INSPIRES CREATIVE DISHES

HUIZHONG WU, TAIPEI

TAIWAN’S classic beef noodle soup has taken on a sweet and sour twist.

Hung Ching Lung, a Taipei chef, has created a pineapple beef noodle soup at his eponymous restaurant Chef Hung, in what he says is a modest attempt to support Taiwanese pineapple farmers.

The spiky fruit became a politically charged symbol after China banned the import of Taiwan’s pineapples on March 1, citing pests. In response, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen kicked off a social media challenge called “Eat Taiwan’s pineapples until you burst,” calling on people to support the island’s farmers.

The campaign has kicked off a pineapple media frenzy, as Taiwanese politicians sought to demonstrate their support for farmers as well as Taiwanese agriculture. Politicians from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party and the opposition Nationalist Party flocked to farms to post pictures with pineapples.

Taiwanese restaurateurs like Hung rushed to make pineapple-infused dishes. Pineapple shrimp balls, a betel nut pineapple salad and classics like fried rice with pineapple are just some of the dishes being pushed out by restaurants

and hotels on the island.

Hung said he and his team spent three days testing out ways to incorporate pineapple into beef noodles. It took about 10 attempts.

“The first time we tested it when we cooked it in the soup, it was very sweet, it was inedible and tasted completely of pineapple,” he said. The successful attempt was based on separating the juice from the fruit during cooking, which removed the sweetness that would otherwise overpower the beef flavor.

China denied that its move to ban Taiwanese pineapples was politically motivated

China has denied that its move to ban Taiwanese pineapples was politically motivated, with a spokesperson for Beijing’s Taiwan Affairs Office saying that the decision was a “normal biosafety measure, and entirely reasonable and necessary.” Taiwan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs has called the move one that “flies in the face of rules-based, free and fair trade.”

China has most recently leveraged its immense market in a trade war with Australia. It stopped or reduced imports of beef, coal, barley, seafood, sugar and

timber from Australia after that country supported calls for a probe into the origin of the coronavirus pandemic, which is believed to have begun in China in late 2019.

Despite the hubbub, the pineapple ban may not drastically impact Taiwanese farmers.

A day after the ban was enacted, Taiwanese Premier Su Tseng-chang told local media that the amount purchased by domestic businesses and citizens exceeded the amount that would have been sold to China.

The government also promised subsidies worth 1 billion New Taiwan dollars (\$35 million) to help out farmers.

The government said it has also received orders from Japan, Australia, Singapore, Vietnam and Middle Eastern countries.

Annually, Taiwan produces about 420,000 metric tons of pineapples, 90% of which are sold on the island itself, according to the Council of Agriculture. Some 10% of that annual production is sold abroad, and China makes up the vast majority of those purchases.

It is unclear whether the recent surge in domestic orders and orders from foreign countries will make up for China’s ban in the long run. **MDT/AP**

US A former executive for a Singapore-based defense contractor linked to a sweeping corruption scandal that cost the Navy some \$35 million appeared yesterday in a California courtroom to face federal charges. Pornpun “Yin” Settaphakorn appeared before a judge in San Diego and was ordered detained pending another hearing next month. Last week, she pleaded not guilty to conspiracy and making false claims.

Gaza Strip The Islamic militant group Hamas yesterday held a leadership election in its Gaza Strip stronghold, a race with deep implications for its relations with Israel and other regional players, as well as upcoming Palestinian elections. A Hamas official said the field had narrowed down to a tight race between Yehiyeh Sinwar, the group’s current firebrand leader, and Nizar Awadallah, a co-founder of the movement.

Germany A court in Berlin has convicted a former employee of the government press office of spying for Egypt and given him a suspended prison sentence of one year and nine months. Federal prosecutors have said the suspect, a German citizen with family roots in Egypt whom they identified only as Amin K., took up his espionage activity from July 2010 on instructions from the Egyptian embassy in Berlin.

AP PHOTO



Greece’s prime minister appealed for calm after youths protesting an incident of police violence attacked an Athens police station with firebombs and severely injured one officer. The violence came during a demonstration by about 5,000 people, according to a police estimate, in the southern Nea Smyrni district.

Tunisia Thirty-nine African migrants, including several children, perished off the Tunisian coast after a boat carrying 93 people sank, authorities said. Their bodies were recovered by relief units in the waters off the Mediterranean port city of Sfax in southern Tunisia, the spokesman for the Tunisian National Guard, Houssameddine Jebabli, told The Associated Press.